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Resilient nations.*

23 May 2014

UNDP China Global Issues Newsletter

Table of Contents

Please Click the Topic

UN Headquarters Updates | Page 1-3

The *UN Headquarters Updates* keep you in touch with the latest MDGs & post-2015 updates from the UN headquarters.

Draft Narrative “Chapeau” Released for SDGs | page 1

Experts Conclude Fourth Session on Sustainable Development Financing | page 1

Africa Unites on Reducing Disaster Risk | page 2

Asia-Pacific Countries Chart the Way for an Ambitious Post-2015 Development Agenda | page 2

UNGA President Releases Background Note for Human Rights, Rule of Law Debate | page 3

Resources for Post-2015 Assessment and Advocacy Released | page 3

Global Updates | Page 4-5

The *Global Updates* keep you in touch with the latest MDGs & post-2015 news from all around the world.

Experts Call for Integrating Migration in Post-2015 Agenda | page 4

ADB to Increase Focus on Inequality, Climate Change | page 4

African Conference on Inequalities Results in Accra Declaration | page 5

Voices | Page 6

UN Headquarters Updates

Draft Narrative “Chapeau” Released for SDGs

12 May 2014



The draft "chapeau" for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been released by the UN Division for Sustainable Development (DSD). The Co-Chairs of the UN General Assembly Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs announced on 9 May 2014, while concluding OWG 11, that it would be available imminently.

The two-page text begins with poverty eradication, which it calls the "greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development." It includes reaffirmations of commitment to implement previous international agreements on sustainable development and the needs of countries in special situations.

It reaffirms the importance of peace, security, respect for human rights, good governance, and

democratic societies. It also reaffirms all principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, "including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities," and that developing countries need additional resources for sustainable development. The text also states that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, while recognizing the "need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, in order to promote sustainable development."

Fourteen footnotes cite paragraphs from the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20), 'The Future We Want,' as the sources for options in the draft chapeau.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/draft-narrative-chapeau-released-for-sdgs/>

Experts Conclude Fourth Session on Sustainable Development Financing

16 May 2014



The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) held its Fourth Session, during which expert members discussed the draft report of the Committee. According to a briefing with the Co-Chairs on 16 May 2014, the Committee has reached agreement regarding a structure to mobilize all financial sources – international, domestic, private and public – using the Monterrey Consensus and Doha Declaration as guides for exploring synergies and complementarities between different financial flows. The fourth session took place on 12-16 May 2014, in New York, US.

ICESDF members highlighted key issues with the current international financial architecture, such as a decline in official development assistance (ODA) and the emergence of new actors and financial flows. They said the following require

careful consideration: challenges associated with the global commons and increasing inequalities; limitations related to international trade and debt; enhancing transparency and accountability; and ensuring monitoring mechanisms that are acceptable at both national and international levels. Expert members also identified as main needs to be addressed: incentivizing private flows; mobilizing domestic private flows and local capital markets; mobilizing current global assets and savings; creating an enabling international environment for private investment; and exploring complementary sources such as South-South and triangular cooperation.

The Committee also will continue interactions with the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as its regional consultations, which include meetings in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on 2 June 2014, and Jakarta, Indonesia, on 10-12 June 2014.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/experts-conclude-fourth-session-on-sustainable-development-financing/>

Africa Unites on Reducing Disaster Risk

16 May 2014



Africa today became the first world region to make a comprehensive set of recommendations for a new UN global agreement on reducing disaster risk, recognizing that most disasters in Africa are water-related and that efforts are needed to prevent conflict as part of overall efforts to build resilience to disasters.

On the closing day of the 5th Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (May 13-16), which has been attended by over 900 participants, a minute's silence was observed by representatives from Africa Union members for the safe release of the Nigerian schoolgirls taken hostage a month ago and in memory of all those who have lost their lives in terrorist attacks across the country.

The closing day incorporated the region's 3rd Ministerial Meeting for Disaster Risk Reduction, and saw the adoption of a comprehensive Statement

summarizing Africa's contribution to the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which will be adopted at the Third UN World Conference on.

Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, in March 2015. The Platform was convened by the Africa Union Commission and hosted by the Federal Republic of Nigeria with support from the Economic Community for West African States and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

Under Regional Risk Factors and Institutional Frameworks, there is recognition that rapid urbanization, vulnerable infrastructure, land and environmental degradation and, extreme poverty, food insecurity and disease continue to drive risk and undermine resilience. The Statement observes that the year 2015 will be marked by three landmark agreements: a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction (March), sustainable development goals (September), and a new UNFCCC climate change agreement (December), which should be explicit in mutually supporting outcomes for sustainable development.

<http://www.unisdr.org/archive/37521>

Asia-Pacific Countries Chart the Way for an Ambitious Post-2015 Development Agenda

19 May 2014

Asia and the Pacific today turned a new page in the institutional history of sustainable development, opening the first in a series of annual meetings that will feed regional priorities and perspectives to a high-level global United Nations forum that will monitor and guide the post-2015 development agenda.

The inaugural Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) was convened by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and co-hosted by the Royal Thai Government, bringing together ministers and senior officials from 30 countries, representatives of regional and subregional organizations, United Nations organizations and civil society and private sector organizations to chart the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs) for the Asia-Pacific region.

"Defining the sustainable development priorities is both a sobering responsibility, and an unmatched opportunity to change lives, livelihoods and lifestyles, for a more inclusive and sustainable future," Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP, acknowledged in her welcoming address.

The three-day APFSD, held this year under the theme 'Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)' will serve as the platform for identifying regional perspectives on priority sustainable development challenges and defining how to build an effective regional process to ensure that the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) responds to the needs of people in Asia and the Pacific.

<http://www.unescap.org/news/asia-pacific-countries-chart-way-ambitious-post-2015-development-agenda>

UNGA President Releases Background Note for Human Rights, Rule of Law Debate

14 May 2014



The Office of the President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) has issued the background note for the thematic debate on 'Contributions of Human Rights and the Rule of Law the Post-2015 Development Agenda.' The debate will take place from 9-10 June 2014, in New York, US, as part of a series of UNGA events on the post-2015 agenda.

A plenary session will address three guiding questions on: good practices and lessons learned in integrating rule of law and human rights in development process, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); translating lessons into the post-2015 agenda; and necessary support for a universal approach promoting freedom from want and fear, based on non-discrimination.

The first panel, titled 'Exploring the contributions of human rights and the rule of law in supporting national and international efforts towards poverty

eradication and sustainable development,' will discuss how the rule of law and civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights and the right to development have been integrated into development policies to address freedom from want and freedom from fear; and how human rights and rule of law have addressed discrimination and inequalities.

The second panel, titled 'Towards a transformational development agenda: integrating human rights and rule of law in the post 2015 agenda with a view to improving development outcomes,' will examine how to: include human rights and the right to development into the post-2015 agenda and an accountability framework; integrate the rule of law into the post-2015 agenda, including discussion of key targets on the rule of law; and address inequalities that jeopardize sustainable development prospects.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/unga-president-releases-background-note-for-human-rights-rule-of-law-debate/>

Resources for Post-2015 Assessment and Advocacy Released

8 May 2014



The Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future, CIVICUS and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) have released a series of tools to facilitate assessment and advocacy on the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Stakeholder Forum has developed an assessment tool, titled 'Tests of Success for the SDGs,' while Stakeholder Forum, CIVICUS and UN DESA have published an advocacy toolkit and a companion media guide.

The Stakeholder Forum, CIVICUS and the UN DESA produced the advocacy toolkit and media guide, as part of their collaboration on the Sustainable Development 2015 (SD2015) programme, a multi-stakeholder engagement programme. The toolkit aims to equip civil society and other stakeholders with the

information and tools to develop and implement an advocacy strategy on the post-2015 agenda. The toolkit contains two parts: the first provides background on the post-2015 process and identifies areas for engagement and influence; the second guides users through the steps in developing a post-2015 advocacy strategy. 'Engaging with the Media' is a media companion to the toolkit on the use of media and social media in advocacy on the post-2015 agenda.

Partners involved in developing 'Tests of Success for the SDGs' include the: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Colombia; UN Foundation; Africa Civil Society Platform; Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD); Center for American Progress; Centre for Policy Dialogue; Foundation for Global Governance and Sustainability; Sustainable Development Solutions Network; and WWF.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/resources-for-post-2015-assessment-and-advocacy-released/>

Global Updates

Experts Call for Integrating Migration in Post-2015 Agenda

29 April 2014



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

The Dhaka Global Experts Meeting on Migration resulted in recommendations on integrating migration and migration-related issues into the post-2015 development agenda and ongoing deliberations of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG), according to the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). Hosted by the Governments of Bangladesh and Switzerland, the meeting took place on 28-29 April 2014, in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The experts' recommendations aim to: make migration a more significant and systematic variable in development planning; channel additional attention and resources toward addressing gaps in data and capacities; and positively affect public perceptions of migrants as individuals "seeking out opportunities to contribute, and in most cases doing just that."

The recommendations include: strengthening migration governance to achieve a balanced, cooperative and equitable system that is safe, fair, well-governed and more beneficial for all, that is culturally responsive, that promotes the participation of all migrants in decision-making processes that concern them; promoting full and productive employment and decent jobs in both countries of destination and origin, and non-discrimination in the work place; reducing the transfer costs of remittances; mitigating "brain drain"; facilitating mobility of talents; and deepening work within regional cooperative mechanisms on migration towards facilitating easier mobility of people, especially migrant workers.

The recommendations will be discussed at the forthcoming Seventh Forum Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), which will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, on 14-16 May 2014.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/experts-call-for-integrating-migration-in-post-2015-agenda/>

ADB to Increase Focus on Inequality, Climate Change

4 May 2014



Asian Development Bank (ADB) Governors heard calls to address rising inequality, climate change and other concerns, at their 47th annual board meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Several seminars took place during the board meeting from 2-5 May 2014. One discussed ways to shape the post-2015 development agenda and lessons learned from the progress and setbacks of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the Asia Pacific region. Governors discussed financing a more ambitious ADB development programme to tackle emerging concerns.

In his closing statement, ADB President Takehiko Nakao noted delegates' concern over growing inequalities and gender issues, and he pledged to

expand ADB's operations in education, health and social protection to promote inclusive growth. He also committed to strengthening the ADB's work on disaster risk management, including through innovative approaches such as disaster risk insurance. He said the Bank will explore ways to enable developing countries in the Pacific to have better access to climate change funds, through supporting capacity building and the preparation of projects.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/adb-to-increase-focus-on-inequality-climate-change/>

African Conference on Inequalities Results in Accra Declaration

30 April 2014



The Pan-African Conference on Inequalities in the Context of Structural Transformation agreed on the Accra Declaration on Inequalities in the Context of Structural Transformation. The Declaration will contribute to the Common African Position on the post-2015 development agenda, and will be used to support Agenda 2063, which is the African Union's (AU) strategy for “the future we want for Africa.”

The conference, which took place on 28-30 April 2014, in Accra, Ghana, included over 250 participants representing governments, intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, academia, civil society and the private sector. Delegates took part in four thematic dialogues: African Inequalities in the Global Development Agenda – Past, Present and Future; Understanding African Inequalities: Structures, Drivers and Determinants; Lessons in Addressing Inequalities in Africa; and Policy Actions for Tackling Inequalities in Africa.

The Accra Declaration recognizes that inequality is a critical challenge for Africa, noting alongside growth over the last decade, limited decent job opportunities remain, as well as stark

inequalities in income, wealth and access to social services. It also highlights increased dependency on the export of primary commodities and minerals, leading to increased import of food and manufactured products. The Declaration emphasizes the trend for decreasing African ownership of its assets, highlighting the issue of global inequality.

The Declaration also: notes that promoting increased value addition, economic diversification, inclusive and sustainable industrial development, and people-centered agricultural transformation is necessary for progress in the region; says the further elaboration of the structural transformation agenda should embrace deliberate policies to tackle economic, social and political inequalities; and supports the pursuit of more job-intensive growth. The Declaration also acknowledges policies to promote, inter alia, income and asset equity, political power sharing and access to the benefits of national resources. The Declaration calls for, inter alia: fair and effective taxation regimes to generate the resources necessary for public investments; investment in independent and publicly accountable statistical capacities; and fundamental changes in power relations.

The Government of Ghana organized the conference in partnership with the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA), the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research, the Society for International Development, Third World Network (TWN) Africa, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the UN Millennium Campaign.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/african-conference-on-inequalities-results-in-accra-declaration/>

Voices



“Thanks in large measure to China, we have met one goal, that is cutting in half the abject poverty level in half by 2015. It was already achieved by 2010, according to World Bank statistics. That is owing to China’s great efforts, so we were able to lift out of poverty half of the population. ”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon remarked at the Fudan University in Shanghai on May 22nd, encouraging students and faculty at Shanghai’s Fudan University to help the United Nations as it begins in earnest work on the fundamental challenge of building an inclusive, universal 21st century blueprint “that will steer our world onto a truly sustainable, prosperous and peaceful path”. He especially recognized China’s important position in this process.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7696>

“Activism is what brought the AIDS response to where it is today. We cannot go to the end of the AIDS epidemic without communities at the centre, driving the global community to set a post-2015 development agenda that respects rights and ensures equitable access to services for all, especially people on the margins of society.”

UNAIDS Deputy Executive Director Luiz Loures met with civil society leaders on May 7th in New York at a strategic planning meeting cohosted by UNAIDS in collaboration with the Civil Society Working Group on AIDS in the Post-2015 Development Process. The objective of the meeting was to identify strategies and synergies with the work of governments and civil society partners in order to secure bold targets towards reducing new HIV infections, discrimination and AIDS-related deaths. Dr. Loures stressed the central role that advocates must play in setting the post-2015 agenda.



<http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2014/may/20140509cspost2015/>



“Africa’s focus on people and addressing their vulnerabilities comes through clearly in the summary statement. It also recognizes the need to build on the existing Hyogo Framework for Action and to become more action-oriented and accountable. Africa has made 12 recommendations for the integration of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and recognized the opportunity of 2015 to integrate three agendas around sustainable development goals, a new agreement on climate change and the new framework for disaster risk reduction.”

At the closing day of the fifth Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction on May 16th, the participants adopted a comprehensive statement with recommendations for the post-2015 Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction which will be adopted at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction on Sendai Japan, in March 2015. Africa became the first world region to make a comprehensive set of recommendations for a new UN global agreement on reducing disaster risk, recognizing that most disasters in Africa are water-related and that efforts are needed to prevent conflict as part of overall efforts to build resilience to disasters. The Head of UNISDR, Margareta Wahlström remarked.

<http://www.un-spider.org/about-us/news/africa-joint-statement-post-2015-disaster-risk-reduction>



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