



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

**25 August 2014**

# **UNDP China Global Issues Newsletter**

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## UN Headquarters Updates

### ICESDF Concludes Work, Forwards Report to UNGA

8 August 2014



The Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) has concluded its work, adopting its draft report and forwarding it to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) for consideration. The report was finalized during the Committee's fifth and final session, held on 4-8 August 2014, in New York, US.

The Committee used the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development as a basis for its analysis, mindful of the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG), and guided by the resolve of Member States that the post-2015 development agenda should reinforce the commitment of the international community to sustainable development based on a coherent

approach that integrates its economic, social, and environmental dimensions.

The report notes that solutions should include better aligning private incentives with public goals, and creating a policy framework that encourages for-profit investment in these areas, while also mobilizing public resources for essential sustainable development activities. The experts also underline the importance of reducing corruption, and stress that policies and incentives should aim to better match investor preference with investment needs, so that, for example, long-term sustainable development needs are not financed with short-term funds.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/icesdf-concludes-work-forwards-report-to-unga/>

### UNDP Administrator Outlines Long-Term Development View

7 August 2014



UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark stressed the need to “get ahead of the curve of future crises and disasters to avert huge and costly development setbacks and lives lost,” in the Aspen Institute's Third Annual Madeleine K. Albright Global Development Lecture, on 7 August 2014. In 'Making Sense of the World We Live In: The Development Contribution,' Clark highlighted: the work involved in achieving transformational change; the importance of investments in building resilience; challenges in nation building; and progress and next steps on the post-2015 development agenda.

Peace and stability are the foundations for sustainable development, according to Clark. She said to lift people out of poverty and keep them out of poverty, it is necessary to address issues related to: inclusive, equitable, and peaceful societies; inequalities and marginalization; the rule of law, access to justice and

accountable governance; Disaster Risk Reduction; and drivers of conflict. Clark welcomed the inclusion of a proposed goal on peaceful, inclusive societies, access to justice for all, and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, in the outcome document of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs).

Clark recognized the magnitude of the task of negotiating the post-2015 development agenda, noting that world has faced challenges in negotiating outcomes on climate change, multilateral trade and women. She also recognized that many issues involved in building peaceful and cohesive societies and the rule of law are "controversial," and described “ongoing resistance to the full empowerment and equality of women and to sexual and reproductive health and rights” as “disturbing.”

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/undp-administrator-outlines-long-term-development-view/>

## Special Adviser on Post-2015 Outlines Next Steps

29 July 2014



In a letter to stakeholders, the UN Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning highlighted the outcome of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and outlined next steps in the process to agree on the post-2015 development agenda. Amina Mohammed conveys UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's appreciation for the "constructive engagement" of Major Groups and other Stakeholders with the OWG, which she says "significantly contributed to this comprehensive and transformative proposal."

On next steps, Mohammed notes that Ban will soon start preparing a synthesis report that will build on the outcomes of the OWG and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF), among others, "with a view to ensuring that the level of ambition of this transformative agenda is delivered on the ground."

Mohammed further informs that Ban is building on the recommendations from his High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP) for strengthened accountability arrangements and a data revolution, through consultations by the Regional Economic Commissions on accountability, as well as the forthcoming launch of an Independent Advisory Group on Data Revolution for Development.

Mohammed emphasizes that the Secretary-General will continue to rely on Major Groups and other Stakeholders to help Member States to "advance an agenda for people and the planet" and to "advance sustainable development and create a just world where all people live with dignity."

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/special-adviser-on-post-2015-outlines-next-steps/253801/>

## Multi-stakeholder Group Discusses Engagement in Post-2015 Process

25 July 2014



The UN Millennium Campaign organized a meeting and teleconference of the Multi-stakeholder Post-2015 Outreach Strategic Planning Group, to inform participants about next steps in the post-2015 process and opportunities for civil society engagement. The meeting/call took place on 25 July 2014, in New York, US, and was co-chaired by Ingo Ritz, the Global Secretariat Coordinator of Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), and Rosa Lizarde, Feminist Task Force/GCAP.

On the outcome of the Open Working Group (OWG) and the way forward, Nelson Muffuh, Executive Office of the Secretary-General, underlined the distinction between intergovernmental consultations on the modalities of the Post-2015 Summit, and consultations on the preparatory process of the Summit. He said the Summit will comprise plenary meetings and interactive panels that will include

civil society members. He also noted that the incoming President of the UN General Assembly will nominate two co-facilitators of the consultations on the preparatory process, and said these discussions will need to include civil society.

Ritz said reported that 177 global and regional organizations, networks and campaigns have signed up to Action 2015 and begun planning an action on 21 September 2014, before the UN Climate Summit, and on 21 November 2014. The next meeting of the of the Multi-stakeholder Post-2015 Outreach Strategic Planning Group is planned for late August/early September.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/multi-stakeholder-group-discusses-engagement-in-post-2015-process/253777/>

## Global Updates

### 2014 HDR Focuses on Resilience and Vulnerability

24 July 2014 Tokyo, Japan



The 2014 Human Development Report (HDR) finds that reducing poverty, as well as vulnerability to falling into poverty, must be a central objective of the post-2015 development agenda. "Eliminating extreme poverty is not just about 'getting to zero;' it is also about staying there," according to the report. 'Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience' was launched in Tokyo, Japan, on 24 July 2014, by Japan's Prime Minister Shinzō Abe, UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark, and HDR Director Khalid Malik.

The report describes a slowdown in human development growth across all regions, as shown by the Human Development Index (HDI). Central African Republic (CAR), Libya and Syria recorded the steepest decline in HDI values. Latin America

and the Caribbean had the largest drop in overall inequality but still face extensive income inequality. In South Asia, over 71% of the population is poor or near-poor, making it the largest multi-dimensionally poor population.

Even poor countries can afford to implement universal social service provision, the report argues, noting that several countries enacted social insurance measures "when their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita was lower than India's and Pakistan's now." It emphasizes that providing basic social security benefits to the world's poor would amount to less than 2% of global GDP, and recommends inclusion of universal social protection in the post-2015 agenda.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/2014-hdr-focuses-on-resilience-and-vulnerability/253256/>

### Asia-Pacific Ministers Agree on 6 Post-2015 Priorities for Education

6-8 August 2014 Bangkok, Thailand



Education ministers and government officials from 37 Asia-Pacific countries have endorsed a draft statement on Education Beyond 2015, at the Asia-Pacific Regional Education Conference, held on 6-8 August 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand. The Bangkok Statement outlines six priority action areas for the region: lifelong learning for all; equity and equality; skills and competencies for life and work; quality and teachers; information and communication technologies (ICTs) for education; and governance and financing. Thailand's Ministry of Education and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) hosted the conference.

The statement represents one of the region's main inputs into the post-2015 development agenda, according to UNESCO, and is expected to inform the 2014 UNESCO World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development, the UN's Post-2015 Summit, and the 2015 World Education Forum.

According to the Bangkok Statement, the region's overarching goal is to "ensure equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030." It reaffirms education as a fundamental right and an essential condition for peace and inclusive, sustainable development as well as for happiness, well-being and prosperity.

In conclusion, the Statement requests UNESCO, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other Education for All (EFA) agencies to continue leading the coordination of the development of the post-2015 education agenda. Speaking at the conference, UNESCO Assistant Director-General of Education Qian Tang emphasized the importance of all countries participating "in the process of the development of this global agenda in order to ensure that it contributes to the realization of their own vision and ambitions for education."

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/asia-pacific-ministers-agree-on-6-post-2015-priorities-for-education/>

## Pacific Island Forum Focuses on Development Agenda and Cooperation

31 July 2014 Koror, Palau



The 45th meeting of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) was held in Koror, Palau, from 29-31 July 2014. The meeting focused on the role the Forum can play in the post-2015 development agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), calling for an achievable, limited number of SDGs with clear and relevant targets.

Participants highlighted the Forum Compact on Strengthening Development Coordination in the Pacific as a successful partnership to be showcased at the Third International Conference on SIDS to be held in Apia, Samoa, from 1-4 September 2014, and supported the launch of the National Sustainable Development Strategy Partnership Group, the Pacific Ocean Alliance and the Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) Partnership at the SIDS Conference.

Participants also addressed, inter alia: oceans; invasive species; Fiji's readmission to the Forum; Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI); radioactive contaminants in the Marshall Islands; private sector dialogue; the EU-African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Summit; and Dame Meg Taylor's appointment as the first female Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. In addition, Australia announced, and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) welcomed, an AU\$9.6 million funding package to support the sustainable management and conservation of oceanic and coastal Pacific fisheries resources.

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/pacific-island-forum-focuses-on-development-agenda-and-cooperation/>

## LDCs Conference Discusses Building Productive Capacity

28-31 July 2014 Cotonou, Benin



Participants Delegates discussed ways to enhance the ability of least developed countries (LDCs) to overcome structural constraints, including in the post-2015 development agenda, at the Cotonou Conference. Participants agreed on the 'Cotonou Agenda for productive capacity building in LDCs,' which, inter alia, calls for donor countries to allocate at least 50% of their official development assistance (ODA) and Aid for Trade disbursement to LDCs.

The conference focused on how to rapidly enhance support for LDCs to improve their productive and trading capacity, infrastructure development and human resources. It also highlighted the potential of modern technology to help LDCs leapfrog traditional development stages and pursue green economic paths.

“Enhancing productive capacities with value addition on a sustainable basis, improving infrastructure and promoting inclusive growth are key to eradicating poverty and ensuring a prosperous and dignified fu-

ture,” the UN High Representative for LDCs, Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Gyan Chandra Acharya, stressed.

The UN Office for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS (UN-OHRLLS) and the UN Office on South-South Cooperation co-launched a South-South global assets and technology exchange platform, which will be supported by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and hosted by the Government of Benin. The Group of 7 (G-7) launched an initiative on Strengthening Assistance for Complex Contract Negotiations (CONNEX), with an initial focus on extractive industries. Other launched initiatives include: an International Investment Support Center for LDCs; and diaspora bonds for LDCs that will be guaranteed by regional Banks and the International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

<http://post2015.iisd.org/news/lDCs-conference-discusses-building-productive-capacity/>



## Voices



*“The countries of Asia and the Pacific are driving the global economic recovery, achieving remarkable gains in reducing poverty and reaching many other Millennium Development Goals. At the same time, there are clear signs of rising income inequality as well as large gaps in access to transport, information and communications technology, modern energy resources, women’s political and economic participation and other drivers of development. Now more must be done to bridge these divides and ensure that growing prosperity is shared by all.”*

Bangkok, Thailand, 7 August 2014 - Secretary-General's message to 70th Session of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7915>

*“The post-2015 agenda is shaping up to be bolder and more transformational than the MDGs were. There is a desire to go to zero on eradication of extreme poverty, children out of school, and hunger and malnutrition, and to finish other unfinished business of the MDGs. But this will also be a sustainable development agenda: focused on how to pursue economic and social progress within nature’s boundaries.”*

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator Aspen Institute Madeleine K. Albright Global Development Lecture on “Making Sense of the World We Live In: The Development Contribution” in Aspen, Colorado on 7 August 2014.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2014/08/07/helen-clark-aspen-institute-madeleine-k-albright-global-development-lecture-on-making-sense-of-the-world-we-live-in-the-development-contribution/>



*“The Asia-Pacific region is rich with experience and we should take advantage of this, as we, as part of the international community, move towards finalizing the post-2015 development agenda. The formulation of the post-2015 sustainable development goals is a work in progress and we should join hands to work together to ensure that our voices are heard at the highest level. Our role in influencing the new education agenda is critical. And we should be confident, that our collective efforts will be well featured in the future agenda of education.”*

UNESCO Bangkok Director Gwang-Jo Kim said APREC gave the region a strong and unified voice regarding the future of the global education agenda in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 August 2014.

<http://www.unesco.org/new/en/education/themes/leading-the-international-agenda/education-for-all/single-view/news/inclusive-quality-lifelong-learning-for-all-asia-pacific-ministers-outline-priorities-for-regions-education/>



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