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Global Issues Newsletter

United Nations Development Programme in China

28 February 2015

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UN Headquarters Updates

ECOSOC Segment Discusses UN Positioning for Post-2015

25 February 2015



At the UN Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) 2015 Operational Activities for Development Segment from 23-25 February 2015 at UN Headquarters in New York, participants discussed ECOSOC's longer-term positioning in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, coherence in the funding of operational activities, fit-for-purpose, and UN effectiveness in supporting national capacity, among other issues. The Group of 77 and China introduced a draft resolution on 'Progress in the implementation of UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolution 67/226 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system' (QCPR), on which the Council will take action at a later date.

In opening remarks, UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson remarked that the UN development

system was valued for its normative role, credibility, impartiality and access to specialized knowledge, with 86% of partner countries considering it as more relevant than two years ago. He noted that more and more countries are adopting the 'Delivering as One' approach, and welcomed the ECOSOC Dialogue on the long-term positioning of the UN development system in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. Eliasson called for: using this year to speed up progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); reaching the youth all over the world; and a UN development system that can change faster to meet rapidly evolving challenges, including through “vigorously” reducing transaction costs associated with programming and reporting. He also suggested a three-pronged approach to make the UN system “fit for purpose”.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ecosoc6671.doc.htm>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/ecosoc-segment-discusses-un-positioning-for-post-2015/280847/>

Member States Seek to “Break with the Past” in Post-2015 Declaration

20 February 2015



The second session of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, which convened from 17-20 February 2015, at UN Headquarters in New York, US, focused on the declaration component of the outcome that will be adopted at the Summit of Heads of State and Government on the post-2015 development agenda in September 2015. A summary of the discussion will be produced by the Secretariat, for reference, while the “discussion document” circulated and discussed during the meeting remains “a document without status” but will assist in creating the zero draft of the Summit outcome, according to the Co-Facilitators David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland, and Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya.

The discussion began with Member States' responses to the 5 February Elements Paper of the Co-Facilitators, after which they produced a “discussion document for the declaration,” which was also discussed.

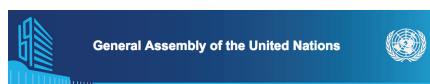
Also during the session, Major Groups and other stakeholders interacted with Member States to offer their suggestions and priorities for the Declaration of the new agenda, and the Director of the UN Statistics Division gave a briefing on the development of indicators for the goals and targets.

<http://esango.un.org/irene/ecosoc.html?page=viewContent&nr=25130&type=8>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/member-states-seek-to-break-with-the-past-in-post-2015-declaration/280668/>

UNGA President Highlights Proposals from Debate on Post-2015 MOI

18 February 2015



On 18 February 2015, the Office of the President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) released a summary of the key messages and proposals from the high-level thematic debate on 'Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda' from 9-10 February 2015, at UN Headquarters in New York, US.

The summary notes that the debate emphasized the need to mobilize scaled-up resources from all sources, and use them effectively to implement an ambitious, transformative, universal and people-centered agenda. It reports that additional financing for poverty eradication is estimated to be US\$66 billion annually while critical infrastructure investments, including energy, water and sanitation and transport will cost up to US\$70 trillion by 2030.

On the plenary session titled 'A renewed global partnership for development,' the President's summary reports that participants stressed the need for coherence and synergy between the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD 3), the post-2015 agenda and negotiations on a universal agreement on climate change, including the need for actionable commitments and concrete deliverables from FfD 3. On domestic resource mobilization, participants recognized the role of good governance and public administration reform in ensuring effective, efficient use of public resources and the importance of broadening the tax base, combating corruption and addressing tax avoidance and illicit financial flows.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11618.doc.htm>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/unga-president-highlights-proposals-from-debate-on-post-2015-moi/280752/>

UNDP Paper Analyzes China's MDG Experience, Suggests Lessons for Post-2015 Agenda

17 February 2015



More than 470 million people were lifted out of extreme poverty between 1990 and 2005, according to a UN Development Programme (UNDP) discussion paper on China's progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The paper assesses challenges and successes encountered by China in achieving the MDGs, with the aim of highlighting issues to consider in the formulation of post-2015 development agenda.

'China, the MDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda' discusses three factors that contributed to China's success in achieving specific MDGs and its overall performance. First, it identifies rapid economic expansion combined with gradual reforms as critical to China's success. It then discusses the role of a proactive, development-oriented government, including national goal

setting, aligning national goals with the MDGs, mobilizing domestic resources and investing in physical and social infrastructure. Third, the report highlights China's specific domestic and social demographic contexts, such as a decrease in population growth through economic growth and government policies. Although the report highlights China's progress on the MDGs, it also describes remaining challenges in China, suggesting that a universal and more comprehensive post-2015 agenda could be a way for China to address such challenges.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/articles/2015/02/17/china-s-success-on-millennium-development-goals-provides-an-example-for-others-to-follow-for-the-post-2015-development-agenda-says-new-undp-report0/>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/undp-paper-analyzes-chinas-mdg-experience-suggests-lessons-for-post-2015-agenda/280552/>

UN Secretary-General Highlights Global Governance for Tackling Poverty, Climate Change

9 February 2015



The success of plans to end poverty and avert the worst impacts of climate change “will depend on accountable and transparent governments that engage people in decisions affecting them,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in his opening remarks at the 2015 Government Summit on 9-11 February 2015. Ban called for a new model of global governance “that is ready for the future, accountable, transparent, inclusive and participatory.”

Addressing the summit taking place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Ban stressed that “trusted institutions that deliver for people equally,” are critical in stability, and leaders should promote greater accountability, democracy and transparency, and cooperate with civil society groups in

designing solutions to development challenges and making policies. Ban said the UN is working to ensure accountability and transparency to better serve governments and people and ensure it is positioned to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ban said the 2015 conferences on Financing for Development (FfD), the post-2015 development agenda and climate change offer governments an opportunity “to make ambitious plans for a more sustainable future.”

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50034#.VNkK5p3F869>

Member States Conclude First Drafting Session on FfD

30 January 2015



As part of preparations for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), UN Member States conducted the first of three drafting sessions on the

Conference outcome document from 28-30 January 2015, in New York, US. The session was devoted to discussing elements of the eventual outcome document, in response to the 'Elements Paper' circulated by the co-facilitators, Geir Pedersen of Norway and George Talbot of Guyana. The Co-Facilitators announced that they will prepare a zero draft for circulation by the end of February, before the second drafting session, in April 2015.

UN agencies, development banks, and business and civil society organizations also participated in the session. Participants commented on, inter alia, domestic public finance, domestic and international private finance, international public finance, trade, technology, innovation and capacity building, sovereign debt, systemic issues, monitoring, follow-up, and synergies with the post-2015 development agenda.

Closing the first drafting session, Co-Facilitator Pederson noted agreement to: build on the Monterrey Consensus, with the addition of a “plus;” balance the three dimensions of sustainable development; pay special attention to infrastructure; and achieve synergies with the post-2015 development agenda. The areas where he said further clarity is needed include the outcome of the conference, in particular its “deliverables,” and the treatment of SDG 17 (on the Means of Implementation (MOI) and the global partnership for sustainable development).

The FfD conference will take place from 13-16 July 2015, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The second drafting session on the outcome document is scheduled for 13-17 April 2015, in New York, US.

<http://www.iisd.ca/vol23/enb2307e.html>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/member-states-conclude-first-drafting-session-on-ffd/>

Global Updates

Governments Advance Revision of Mediterranean Sustainable Development Strategy

18 February 2015, Floriana, Malta



The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the France-based NGO Plan Bleu supported a regional conference from 17-18 February 2015, in

Floriana, Malta, in which stakeholders and Parties to the Barcelona Convention reviewed a revised sustainable development strategy for the Mediterranean region. Participants considered six thematic areas of the revised Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD): seas and coasts; natural resources; rural development and food; climate; sustainable cities; transition towards a green economy; and governance.

The two-day conference was hosted by the Government of Malta in collaboration with the

Coordination Unit of the Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP) and Plan Bleu, which is an NGO specialising in observation, analysis and scenario-building in relation to marine and coastal environmental management in the Mediterranean.

In opening remarks, Leo Brincat, Malta's Minister for Sustainable Development, Environment and Climate Change, observed that while summits can offer strategic direction, governments and the public need to "think, look and act beyond summits," and that "connectivity with the general public" on sustainability efforts must be in place.

<http://www.unepmap.org/index.php?module=news&action=detail&id=177>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/governments-advance-revision-of-mediterranean-sustainable-development-strategy/280635/>

EC Proposes Elements for Global Partnership

5 February 2015, Brussels, Belgium



The European Commission (EC) published a Communication identifying overarching principles and key components of a global partnership to support the

post-2015 development agenda, to inform EU positions ahead of the Third Financing for Development (FfD3) Conference and the Post-2015 Summit, and to contribute to the preparation of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 5 February 2015 in Brussels, Belgium.

agenda. It notes that "the EU and its Member States will continue to develop more detailed common positions during the negotiations, so as to enable the EU to speak with one voice." It is addressed to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions.

https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/communication-global-partnership-poverty-eradication-and-sustainable-development-after-2015_en

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/ec-proposes-elements-for-global-partnership/>

The Communication, titled 'Global Partnership for Poverty Eradication and Sustainable Development After 2015,' is based on previous Conclusions of the EU Council on a transformative post-2015

Delhi Summit Addresses SDGs, Climate Change

8 February 2015, New Delhi, India



The Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS), convening from 5-7 February 2015 in New Delhi, India, for the 15th time, focused on theme 'Sustainable Development Goals and Dealing with Climate Change.' The four-day event brought together Heads of State and Government from approximately 20 countries, together with Nobel laureates, business leaders and academics, to provide inputs to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process and on action on climate change.

The Summit was structured around high-level panel sessions and parallel thematic track sessions focusing on, inter alia: challenges in introducing clean technologies; shaping India's sustainable development pathways under climate change; tackling climate change by legislators; and the contribution of the reduction of

short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) to achieving SDGs and to a successful outcome at the UN Paris Climate Change Conference. The DSDS 2015 also presented the 11th Sustainable Development Leadership Award to José Manuel Durão Barroso, former President of the European Commission, for his efforts to decarbonize the European economy, and promote renewable energy and energy efficiency. The award has been presented since 2005 to individuals engaged in encouraging global sustainable development initiatives.

<http://dsds.teriin.org/2015/>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/delhi-summit-addresses-sdgs-climate-change/>

24th AU Summit Adopts Decisions on Post-2015 Negotiations, Gender Equality, Illicit Flows

31 January 2015, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia



Participants called for women's empowerment in Africa as an important step in achieving the goals of Agenda 2063, at the 24th African Union (AU) Summit on 23-31 January 2015, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, which convened under the theme, '2015 Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063.' Delegates adopted the Agenda 2063 framework document and decisions on climate change, the post-2015 development agenda, trade, health and other issues. The Summit also included a presentation of the final report of the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows.

At the opening ceremony, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for Africa "to help guide the way to a world of sustainability and dignity for all the people, where nobody will be left behind." He underscored 2015 as a critical year for negotiations on climate change, financing for development (FfD)

and the post-2015 development agenda, saying "no continent has more at stake" in these processes than Africa.

UN General Assembly (UNGA) President Sam Kutesa noted upcoming thematic debates on gender equality and women's empowerment, including related issues such as land distribution and access to credit and markets, and on the means of implementation (MOI) for the post-2015 development agenda, including financing and resource mobilization, technology development and transfer and global partnerships.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49956#_VM-U0GjF869

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/24th-au-summit-adopts-decisions-on-post-2015-negotiations-gender-equality-illicit-flows/>

China Updates

Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong Meets with Secretary-General of the UN Ban Ki-moon

4 February 2015



On 4 February 2015, Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong met with Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) Ban Ki-moon at the UN headquarters.

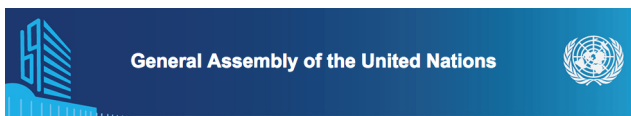
the UN Charter, push forward the construction of the new model of international relations with win-win cooperation at the core and jointly safeguard and promote world peace and development. Both sides exchanged in-depth views on the preparatory work of a series of summits to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of the UN, the Post-2015 Development Agenda, climate change, UN peace-keeping operations, reform of the UN Security Council and other issues.

Li Baodong expressed that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the UN and of the victory of the world anti-fascist war. The UN and its member states should take this opportunity to reiterate their commitment to the purpose and principle of

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/wjbxw/t1236540.shtml

Upcoming Events

March 2015



1. Intergovernmental Negotiations on Post-2015 Development Agenda - Third Session

Dates: 23-27 March 2015

Venue: UN Headquarters

Description: The intergovernmental negotiations on post-2015 development agenda will take place over several sessions starting in January 2015. The third session will take place on 23-27 March 2015, and focus on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets.

<http://sd.iisd.org/events/intergovernmental-negotiations-on-post-2015-development-agenda-third-session/>



2. UNGA High-Level Thematic Debate on Advancing Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Dates: 6 March 2015

Venue: UN Headquarters

Description: The President of the 69th UN General Assembly, Sam Kutesa, will convene this thematic debate on Advancing Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in the post-2015 development agenda. The debate will focus on measures to advance gender equality and women's economic and political empowerment at all levels, including education.

<http://sd.iisd.org/events/high-level-thematic-debate-on-gender-equality-womens-empowerment-in-post-2015-development-agenda/>

Voices



“This new epoch calls for a new governance model – one that is ready for the future, accountable, transparent, inclusive and participatory. Our discussions at this Government Summit can help realize that vision and usher in a life of dignity for all.”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s opening remarks at the 2015 Government Summit in Dubai on 9 February 2015.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50034#.VNkK5p3F869>

“We have already broken new ground getting to this point. We have brought an unprecedented range of views into our preparations for the post-2015 agenda. The process has engaged people from around the world and across a wide spectrum of partners. Member States and others have been joined by millions of citizens worldwide, who are raising their voices for the future they want.”

Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, delivered a speech at the 2015 Operational Activities for Development Segment of the Substantive Session of the Economic and Social Council in UN Headquarters on 23 February 2015.

<http://www.un.org/sg/dsg/statements/index.asp?nid=603>



“We have an once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to change our world for the better, we have to continue accelerating efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the remaining period and carry forward unfinished business. Together, we must spare no effort to formulate and agree on a framework for development and international cooperation that improves the everyday lives of people worldwide and protects the environment.”

Sam Kutesa, Present of the UN General Assembly, delivered a speech at the High-level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda in New York, US on 9 February 2015.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11618.doc.htm>





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