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28 November 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.

Governments Discuss Global Context for FfD, Public and Private Finance | page 1

Regional Commissions Discuss Roles in Achieving Post-2015 Development Agenda | page 1

LAC Regional Meeting Adopts Lima Statement on Education, Post-2015 Agenda | page 2

UNIDO Forum Examines Partnerships for Inclusive, Sustainable Industrial Development | page 2

Second Committee Discusses Post-2015 Accountability Mechanism | page 3

UNGA/ECOSOC Meeting on Renewed Partnership for Development | page 3

Global Updates | Page 4-6

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

G20 Addresses Growth, Energy, Climate Change, Trade and Ebola | page 4

Symposium Reflects on OWG, Identifies Science Needs for SDGs | page 4

Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum 2014: Addressing the social implications of green growth | page 5

2014 ODI CAPE Conference on the role of finance in achieving the sustainable development goals | page 5

UNDP Administrator Discusses Post-2015 Agenda, SDG 16 and “Soft” Means of Implementation | page 6

ESCAP Executive Secretary's Seminar on "Financing for sustainable development" | page 6

China Updates | Page 7

The *China Updates* keep you in touch with the latest MDGs & post-2015 news from China.

G20 Addresses Growth, Energy, Climate Change, Trade and Ebola | page 7

Upcoming Events | page 7

Voices | Page 8

UN Headquarters Updates

Governments Discuss Global Context for FfD, Public and Private Finance

13 November 2014



UN Member States have concluded a series of substantive informal sessions of the preparatory process for the third International Conference on

Financing for Development (FfD). Governments considered 'The Global Context', in a one-day discussion on 10 November 2014, followed by a three-day discussion on 'Mobilization and effective use of resources,' which addressed domestic public finance, international public finance, and private finance, on 11-13 November. The sessions convened at UN Headquarters, in New York, US.

In the consultation on the Global Context, Helen Clark, UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator, gave a keynote address inviting

Member States to think in terms of "Monterrey Plus," stressing the need to: review progress made under the Monterrey Consensus; increase official development assistance (ODA); combat corruption and illicit financial flows; mobilize domestic resources; make trade fairer; and create peaceful and inclusive societies governed by the rule of law.

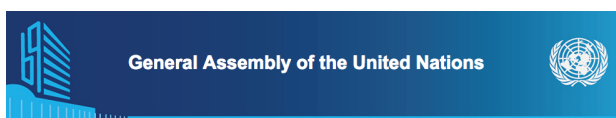
The next substantive informal session will take place on 9-12 December 2014 in New York, US, on the topic of 'Enabling environment, systemic issues, follow-up process and learning from partnerships.'

http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2014/10/241014_financing-for-development.pdf

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/governments-discuss-global-context-for-ffd-public-and-private-finance/269755/>

Regional Commissions Discuss Roles in Achieving Post-2015 Development Agenda

5 November 2014



The Executive Secretaries of the UN Regional Commissions held a discussion with the UN General Assembly's Second Committee (Economic and Financial) regarding the commissions' potential role in mobilizing means of implementation (MOI) for achieving the post-2015 development agenda. The dialogue on 'The Means of Implementation in Support of the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Regional Perspectives' took place on 5 November 2014, in New York, US.

Opening the discussion, moderator Alicia Barceña, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), said that regional commissions are already integrating the three pillars of sustainable development and have the

reports of all subsidiary bodies in regard to planning, statistics and the evaluation of different sectors. Therefore, they could play an essential role in preparing inputs for the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

Barceña identified as priorities for the post-2015 development agenda: equality; poverty eradication; enhancing official development assistance (ODA) and external flows; sustainable consumption and production (SCP); enhancing South-South Cooperation; a new global partnership; and regional frameworks of governance and accountability.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/regional-commissions-discuss-roles-in-achieving-post-2015-development-agenda/268125/>

LAC Regional Meeting Adopts Lima Statement on Education, Post-2015 Agenda

5 November 2014



Ministers and government representatives reaffirmed education as a fundamental right and essential for peaceful, inclusive, equitable and sustainable growth and prosperity in the Latin America region, at a regional Education for All (EFA) UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) meeting. The resulting Lima Statement highlights inequality as a major challenge for the region, and recommends reducing inequality and poverty through inclusive equality education and lifelong learning for all.

The Regional Ministerial Meeting, titled 'Education for All in Latin America and the Caribbean: Current State and Post-2015 Challenges,'

is part of a global conversation on defining the global post-2015 education agenda, and aims to contribute to discussions on the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The priorities agreed upon at the meeting will be presented at the World Education Forum in May 2015.

The Regional Ministerial Meeting took place in Lima, Peru, on 30-31 October 2014.

http://www.unesco.org/new/en/media-services/single-view/news/lima_statement_prioritises_equity_inclusion_and_quality_education/back/9597/#.VHMD7iawrc

UNIDO Forum Examines Partnerships for Inclusive, Sustainable Industrial Development

5 November 2014



The second forum on inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) convened under the theme 'Partnerships to scale up investment for inclusive and sustainable industrial development.' Held on 4-5 November, 2014 in Vienna, Wien, Austria, ISID Forum 2 aimed to extend the impact and outreach of ISID goals by strengthening the partnership dialogue between the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), recipient governments, development finance institutions, development agencies, the private sector and donors in order to scale up investment for ISID in developing countries.

A key focus of the proceedings was on UNIDO'S partnership-based pilot approach to ISID. The Forum showcased UNIDO's ISID Programme for Country Partnerships (PCP) through two pilot countries – Ethiopia and Senegal. Participants then considered the way forward for ISID, focusing on confidence and trust building in

public-private partnerships (PPPs) for ISID, and on benefits of partnerships in terms of reaching economies of scale.

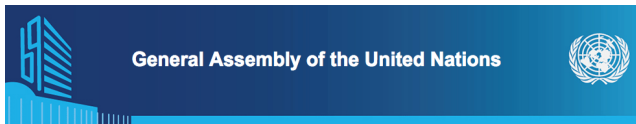
Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General, identified four areas for common action on ISID: economic transition through job creation and greater social inclusion; jobs for young people; climate change, highlighting green technologies to achieve economic growth; and responsible business practices, including companies' engagement through the UN Global Compact initiative.

<http://www.unido.org/en/news-centre/events/isid-forum-2.html>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/unido-forum-examines-partnerships-for-inclusive-sustainable-industrial-development/>

Second Committee Discusses Post-2015 Accountability Mechanism

31 October 2014



The UN General Assembly's (UNGA) Second Committee (Economic and Financial) held a panel discussion on 'Promoting accountability at all levels: monitoring the post-2015 development agenda,' with participants identifying principles for an accountability mechanism for the post-2015 development agenda, and opportunities for its design. The discussion took place on 31 October 2014, at UN Headquarters in New York, US.

Thomas Gass, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), served as the panel moderator. He stressed the need for a framework that is universal, voluntary, state-led, and evidence-based. Gass asked panelists to consider how to make participation attractive and said the framework must support countries' varying

capacity needs. The discussion was then opened to Member State representatives, who raised questions on: the role of regional commissions for post-2015 accountability; mechanisms for exchanging best practices; sustainability of implementation; the nature of non-binding development goals; and multi-stakeholder involvement.

Thomas Gass closed the session, reminding panelists of accountability's ultimate purpose: to render the global partnership for sustainable development strong and effective to achieve this ambitious vision.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/second-committee-discusses-post-2015-accountability-mechanism/>

UNGA/ECOSOC Meeting on Renewed Partnership for Development

28 October 2014



The UN General Assembly (UNGA) Second Committee (Economic and Financial) and the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) hosted a joint meeting, on 28 October 2014, in New York City, US to discuss 'A Renewed Global Partnership for Development'.

"A renewed global partnership for development" builds on the UN System Task Team's first report. The new report indicates that the main role of a renewed global partnership for development in the post-2015 era will be to provide countries with a supportive enabling environment to "ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the world's peoples of present and future generations." To enable such change, it will have to build on existing commitments, accelerating efforts to achieve the goals and targets it had originally set itself, while expanding its scope and depth to address new and emerging global challenges.

A renewed global partnership should aim at making international arrangements for collective decision-making and corresponding government policies that can meet the challenges at hand, the report posits, noting that "This will require a partnership at the global level between all groupings of countries, multilateral organizations and other stakeholders. It should also bring greater coherence to the complex and fracture frameworks covering global issues." Moreover, creating a more inclusive and equitable system of global governance would help strengthen coherence within the global partnership and would contribute to creating an "international enabling environment" for development.

http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=article_s&id_article=4263

Global Updates

G20 Addresses Growth, Energy, Climate Change, Trade and Ebola

16 November 2014, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia



Group of Twenty (G20) leaders have released a communiqué following the conclusion of the G20 Leaders Summit. The G20 Summit took place in

Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, on 15-16 November 2014. The event drew approximately 4,000 delegates and 3,000 media representatives, and provided an opportunity for leaders to discuss global economic issues and use “their collective power to improve people's lives.” The communiqué outlines G20 policy discussions and commitments.

The communiqué highlights the G20 Food Security and Nutrition Framework, which aims to: strengthen growth by increasing investment in food systems; raise productivity to expand food supply; and increase incomes and quality jobs. The communiqué also addresses, inter alia: building a stronger, more resilient global economy; strengthening global institutions; the Ebola

outbreak; trade; and acting together to lift growth and create jobs.

On 15 November, also addressing the press, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said “G20 countries possess not only the political power to set us on a better course, but a political responsibility to do so.” He highlighted the need for global action in promoting inclusive growth and decent jobs, meeting the climate challenge and providing financing for sustainable development. He commended the recent US-China announcement on climate action, and noted Europe's decision on emission reduction targets. Ban called on other leaders, particularly G20 leaders, to follow suit, and urged G20 countries to make “ambitious pledges” towards GCF capitalization.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49351#_VHML6yawrct

Symposium Reflects on OWG, Identifies Science Needs for SDGs

15 November 2014, Tokyo, Japan



At a symposium on ‘Science and the Sustainable Development Goals,’ Csaba

Kőrösi, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the UN and Co-Chair of the Open Working Group on SDGs, and Mark Stafford Smith, Chair of Future Earth Science Committee, Science Director of Climate Adaptation Flagship at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), reflected on the proposed SDGs, and outlined ways for scientists to help shape the goal set going forward.

The symposium was organized by UN University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS), Tokyo Institute of Technology, and the POST2015 Project sponsored by Japan's

Ministry of Environment, and took place at Roppongi Academy Hills in Tokyo, Japan, on 15 November 2014. Kazuhiko Takemoto, Director, UNU-IAS, said the role of science will be increasingly important as the world begins to implement the SDGs.

In a panel discussion and interactive discussion with participants, the keynote speakers and other expert participants addressed institutional needs for the SDGs, the relationship between science and policy, and interaction between legally binding commitments and political commitments.

<http://www.post2015.jp/en/symposium-science-and-the-sustainable-development-goals/>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/symposium-reflects-on-owg-identifies-science-needs-for-sdgs/>

Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum 2014: Addressing the social implications of green growth

13-14 November 2014, Paris, Ile-De-France, France



The 2014 Green Growth and Sustainable Development Forum took place at the OECD Conference Centre on 13-14 November 2014.

The Forum addressed the social implications of implementing green growth strategies. It explored potential impacts of green growth policies on labour markets, income and households, how governments might best design policy frameworks to address distributional consequences, and relevant indicators for measuring progress.

The forum consisted of two sessions. One was a joint session with the International Energy

Agency. It examined energy sector reform's impact on households, with a panel discussion featuring country case studies from the United Kingdom, Germany, Mexico and Indonesia. While the other was a joint session with the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee (ELSAC) and the Committee on Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED), looking at inclusive labour markets for green growth, and presentations focused on both national and local perspectives.

A closing plenary built on the reporting of outcomes from the parallel sessions by the facilitators and scoped priorities for further research.

<http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/ggsd-2014.htm>

2014 ODI CAPE Conference on the role of finance in achieving the sustainable development goals

12-13 November 2014, London, United Kingdom



The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) hosted the 2014 Centre for Aid and Public Expenditure (CAPE) Conference, centered on the theme of: 'Does money matter?: The Role of Finance in Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'. Held on 12-13 November 2014, in London, United Kingdom, the conference drew on lessons from the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) era and explored how various forms of finance can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It brought together research from both the development finance and public financial management spheres to discuss how the SDGs would affect both, and how finance must be channeled to meet the SDGs.

The two-day conference had seven sessions in total. Among them, one session looked back at the successes and challenges of finance in support of the MDGs. Particular emphasis was

placed on reviewing financing choices and what lessons could be learned which will inform the SDGs. Another session highlighted the implications of DRM for post-2015 development framework.

A closing session explored the conditions needed for countries to achieve SDGs with an aim of pulling together the different strands of the financing story. Senior finance and other relevant government officials shared their own experiences of mobilising and managing different types of financing. Official donor and development bank representatives shared their perspective and experience of engaging with traditional and non-traditional flows.

<http://www.odi.org/events/3897-cape-financing-development-sdgs-public-finance-future-development-finance-mdg>

UNDP Administrator Discusses Post-2015 Agenda, SDG 16 and “Soft” Means of Implementation

4 November 2014, Uppsala, Sweden



Giving the 2014 Dag Hammarskjöld Lecture, Helen Clark, Administrator of the UN Development Programme

(UNDP), reflected on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and discussed consultations and negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Clark spoke at the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation in Uppsala, Sweden, on 4 November 2014.

On the post-2015 agenda, Clark described as "very significant" the inclusion of proposed SDG 16 on promoting peace and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. She said Goal 16 is one of the more controversial goals, noting concerns over how to measure progress

toward such a goal and how to translate universal targets and indicators at the national level. She reported that pilot projects are underway in Albania, Indonesia, Rwanda and Tunisia, and that their results are showing that governance can be operationalized in non-controversial ways at national and sub-national levels. Clark stressed that success on proposed Goal 16 could drive progress on all other goals.

The UN Development Group (UNDG) is supporting a second round of consultations on “softer” means of implementation (MOI), according to Clark. Clark also highlighted the central role of the UN in driving the post-2015 development agenda, including ensuring that the UN is ‘fit for purpose.’

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2014/11/04/helen-clark-lecture-on-the-future-we-want-can-we-make-it-a-reality-at-the-dag-hammarskjold-foundation/>

ESCAP Executive Secretary's Seminar on "Financing for sustainable development"

31 Oct 2014, Bangkok, Thailand



The Macroeconomic Policy and Development Division of the UN Economic and

Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) is organizing this event on “Financing for Sustainable Development: Local and Global Perspectives”. This unique seminar brings two distinguished experts to discuss local, regional and global perspectives on how the region can mobilize its financial resources to boost its sustainable development.

José Antonio Ocampo, Professor at the School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, reviewed current debates on multilateral financing, considering the roles of institutions such as the Islamic Development Bank and the new BRICS bank. Naoyuki Yoshino, Dean of the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI), discussed the potential for hometown investment trusts, recently adopted in Japan to finance small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

According to a presentation by Professor Ocampo, global slowdown, which may be long-term in character and new major global imbalances in place are both affecting the emerging/developing world. Besides, despite the major social advance in recent decades including achievement in MDGs, many issues are still pending, notably rising inequality and major gaps in social protection. Finally, there are major global environmental challenges, particularly risks associated with climate change.

In order to deal with this, we need to encourage new long-term investments, particularly in infrastructure, and science and technology. Besides, we need major national actions to provide basic social services and protection, and to reduce inequalities. One thing to note is that there may be synergies between the former two, notably the capacity to induce domestic market dynamics. But this demands new forms of cooperation, particularly to avoid tax competition and tax evasion/avoidance.

<http://www.unescap.org/events/escap-executive-secretarys-seminar-31-october-2014>

China Updates

APEC Leaders Issue Declaration in Beijing

11 November 2014, Beijing, China



The Leaders of the 21 APEC member economies concluded their meeting at Yanqi Lake on Tuesday by issuing the 22nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting Declaration - Beijing Agenda for an Integrated, Innovative and Interconnected Asia-Pacific.

The Declaration outlines new far-reaching measures for advancing regional economic integration, promoting innovative development, economic reform and growth, and strengthening comprehensive connectivity and infrastructure development, with a view to expanding and deepening regional economic cooperation, and attaining

peace, stability, development and common prosperity of the Asia-Pacific.

Additional measures are described in Declaration for strengthening the rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, open and inclusive multilateral trading system as embodied in the World Trade Organization.

Leaders also issued the Statement on the 25th Anniversary of APEC. The Philippines will chair APEC in 2015 and host the 23rd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting.

http://www.apec.org/Press/News-Releases/2014/1111_AELMD.aspx

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/third-conference-ffd/index.htm>

http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2014/11/141114_post-2015-agenda.pdf

Upcoming Events

December 2014



Date: 9-12 December 2014

Venue: New York City, USA

Event: Substantive Informal Session for Third Financing for Development (FFD) Conference

Description: This substantive informal session of the preparatory process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD) will address 'Enabling environment, systemic issues, follow-up process and learning from partnerships'. UN Member States will discuss: the enabling and conducive policy environment; trade, technology and capacity building and other non-financial means of implementation; governance; learning from partnerships; and the follow-up process.



Date: 3 December 2014

Venue: New York City, USA

Event: UNGA Meeting on Post-2015 Development Agenda Negotiations

Description: The co-facilitators for intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda will hold a consultation with UN Member States on 3 December 2014, to discuss the negotiations' scope, working methods, and dates.

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/third-conference-ffd/index.htm>

http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2014/11/141114_post-2015-agenda.pdf

Voices



“Let us advance inclusive and sustainable industrial development for its own sake, and as part of our broader campaign to protect our planet and all people in the future. It is our, and your, moral and political responsibility to work together, to make this world better for all, where nobody is left behind.”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s opening remarks at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Forum on partnerships to scale up investments for inclusive and sustainable industrial development, in Vienna, on 4 November 2014.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sgsm16314.doc.htm>

“The financing needs for the new agenda are high, but there are also more resources and capabilities than ever before to tackle them. As well, globalization and new technologies provide the international community with new opportunities to collaborate and to tap into the pool of global resources of capital and knowledge to pursue sustainable development objectives.”

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, at a Preparatory Session for the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development in New York City, United Nations, on 10 November 2014.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2014/11/10/helen-clark-keynote-address-to-preparatory-session-for-the-3rd-international-conference-on-financing-for-development-united-nations-new-york/>



“Like all international negotiations, those on the SDGs would be connected to long-term political and economic power struggles in international relations. The transition to the SDGs, thus, will require a paradigm shift that cannot be achieved on the basis of current north–south relations.”

Ambassador Csaba Körösi, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations and Co-chair, Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, at a symposium on ‘Science and the Sustainable Development Goals’ in United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan, on 15 November 2014.

<http://ias.unu.edu/en/news/news/experts-discuss-engaging-science-in-shaping-implementing-sustainable-development-goals.html#info>





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