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Global Issues Newsletter

United Nations Development Programme in China

29 January 2015

Table of Contents

Please Click the Topic

UN Headquarters Updates | Page 1-2

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

Intergovernmental Negotiations on Post-2015 Development Agenda Begin with Stocktaking | page 1

Post-2015 Special Adviser Briefs on Synthesis Report | page 1

UN Secretary-General Outlines Priorities for 2015 | page 2

UNGA Sets Dates for Post-2015 Summit, Preparatory Negotiations | page 2

Global Updates | Page 3-4

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

Leaders announced Davos commitments for a new UN sustainable development agenda | page 3

Stakeholders Address Preparatory Forum on Post-2015 Negotiations | page 3

Summit Stresses Role of Partnerships in Implementing Post-2015 Agenda | page 4

South Africa Chairs G77/China, Committed to Work on Post-2015 Development Agenda | page 4

China Updates | Page 5

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

First China-CELAC Forum ministerial meeting concludes in Beijing | page 5

Upcoming Events | page 5

Voices | Page 6

UN Headquarters Updates

Intergovernmental Negotiations on Post-2015 Development Agenda Begin with Stocktaking

19 January 2015



Intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda began in New York, US, with the President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) opening a three-day session of "stocktaking." President Sam Kutesa reminded UN Member States of their responsibility to finalize the agenda on a strict timeline so that Heads of State and Government can adopt it in September 2015. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) President Martin Sajdik also addressed Member States.

Kutesa said the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a key component of the agenda, are designed to be "holistic, universal, and applicable to all countries, taking into account national

circumstances and levels of development." He added that the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) has been requested to coordinate work on developing indicators and that it will present its work to Member States.

Ban expressed hope that his Synthesis Report could help frame and bring clarity to the process. He highlighted three meetings in 2015 that will "usher in a new era of sustainable development": the third Financing for Development (FfD 3) conference in July; the post-2015 summit in September; and the Paris Climate Change Conference in December. "Seventy years after the founding of the United Nations," he said, "we must answer the call of shared prosperity and a sustainable future for all."

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/intergovernmental-negotiations-on-post-2015-development-agenda-begin-with-stocktaking/>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49842#.VMH0yCawqDZ>

Post-2015 Special Adviser Briefs on Synthesis Report

8 January 2015



During a press conference on the UN Secretary-General's Synthesis Report on the post-2015 development agenda that took place on 8 January 2015,

Amina Mohammed, UN Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, said the report's six essential elements - dignity, people, prosperity, planet, justice and partnership – are interdependent, must be considered as a whole, and are meant to inspire UN Member States and all stakeholders to agree on a transformative and communicable development agenda.

Mohammed noted that the writing of the report, titled 'The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending

Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet' (A/69/700), prioritized intergovernmental inputs, especially that of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF), but also considered inputs from the UN system and the wider community, including the civil society and global citizens at country and global levels.

<http://webtv.un.org/search/amina-mohammed-secretary-general%E2%80%99s-special-adviser-on-post-2015-development-planning-press-conference/3977950277001?term=amina>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/post-2015-special-adviser-briefs-on-synthesis-report/276756/>

UN Secretary-General Outlines Priorities for 2015

8 January 2015



In an informal briefing to UN Member States that took place on 8 January 2015, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon indicated his priorities for 2015,

and discussed UN efforts in the areas of development, peace and security, and human rights.

Speaking at UN Headquarters in New York, US, Ban said 2014 had been a year of turmoil that "pushed UN response capacities to the limit." He honored the unprecedented number of UN peacekeepers, humanitarian workers, and personnel deployed around the world, and asked for more to be done to ensure their security.

Turning to 2015, the "year of opportunity ahead," Ban said the year will include the culmination of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as the adoption of the next international development framework. He also stressed that the development agenda must be supported by a new global partnership that fulfills commitments, disseminates technology, and is made up of all global sources of financing.

With the UN's 70th anniversary in 2015, Ban called for the support, responsibility and leadership of Member States to "work together to make this year a time for global action."

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49752#.VLczPCawqDa>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/un-secretary-general-outlines-priorities-for-2015/>

UNGA Sets Dates for Post-2015 Summit, Preparatory Negotiations

29 December 2014



Taking up the reports of its Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary), the General Assembly (UNGA) adopted the draft texts on the organization of the UN

summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, and on the dates for the meetings of the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. The Assembly decided to postpone action on a draft decision on modalities for the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. The Assembly met on 29 December 2014, in New York, US.

Per resolution A/69/L.43, the UN Summit on the post-2015 development agenda will take place on 25-27 September 2015, in New York, US, with the 70th session of the UN General Debate beginning on 28 September 2015.

The dates for the meetings of the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda have been agreed, per decision A/69/L.44, as:

- 19-21 January (Stocktaking);
- 17-20 February (Declaration);
- 23-27 March (SDGs and targets);
- 20-24 April (Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development);
- 18-22 May (Follow up and review);
- 22-25 June, 20-24 July, and 27-31 July (intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome document).

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/ga11608.doc.htm>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/unga-sets-dates-for-post-2015-summit-preparatory-negotiations/>

Global Updates

Leaders announced Davos commitments for a new UN sustainable development agenda

23 January 2015, Davos, Switzerland



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon attended 2015 World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland to push the United Nations agenda for 2015 which is

set to be a critical year for the Organization and its member States as they confront the imminent deadline for achievement of the landmark Millennium Development Goal (MDG), and work to achieve a meaningful global agreement at the end-of-year Paris climate conference.

As the Secretary-General continued his programme throughout the day, business, entertainment and civil society leaders announced new commitments at the Forum to promote the successful adoption of a new UN sustainable development agenda this September

and climate agreement in December. The Davos announcements followed the launch of major mobilization by civil society, “Action2015.”

Many of the new commitments were announced at an “Action in 2015” dinner hosted by Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates to launch global mobilization effort for the post-2015 sustainable development goals. Countries are presently negotiating a set of new goals that build on the successes of the MDGs in reducing poverty and improving people’s lives.

http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=49884#_VMbvSawqDZ

Stakeholders Address Preparatory Forum on Post-2015 Negotiations

16 January 2015, New York, US



In advance of the launch of the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development

agenda, the UN Division for Sustainable Development (DSD) and the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS), in cooperation with a Stakeholder Steering Committee, held a preparatory forum for major groups and other civil society stakeholders.

Opening the forum on 16 January 2015, in New York, US, Lotta Tahtinen, DSD and Susan Alzner, NGLS, noted that the organizers had called for nominations for the Stakeholder Steering Committee, which led to the establishment of a 16-member committee that was gender balanced, geographically balanced and included a variety of expertise. Neva Frecheville, Catholic Agency for Overseas

Development (CAFOD), stressed the need to build the post-2015 development agenda on collaborative and constructive engagement, and to respond to a global agenda and broader challenges that characterize the post-2015 process.

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/582916%20Jan%20draft%20programme_as%20of%2015%20jan.pdf

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/stakeholders-address-preparatory-forum-on-post-2015-negotiations/277305/>

Summit Stresses Role of Partnerships in Implementing Post-2015 Agenda

16 January 2015, Jaipur, India



Addressing the 2015 Partnerships Summit, UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) Director General Li Yong stressed the essential role of partnerships in successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He said multi-stakeholder partnerships are indispensable, due to the post-2015 development agenda's "heavy demands on financing, accountability, universality, integration and data."

Li said the UN system's post-2015 consultations on private sector engagement, which were co-led by UNIDO and the UN Global Compact, had underscored the potential of multi-stakeholder approaches, and explored how to leverage the creativity and dynamism of private sector actors in achieving sustainable development objectives. He further

highlighted the potential of inclusive and sustainable industrial development (ISID) to eradicate poverty through economic growth, and welcomed its inclusion as proposed SDG 9.

India's Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Government of Rajasthan co-organized the summit in Jaipur, India, from 15-17 January 2015.

<http://www.unido.org/news/press/partnerships-essenti.html>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/summit-stresses-role-of-partnerships-in-implementing-post-2015-agenda/277575/>

South Africa Chairs G77/China, Committed to Work on Post-2015 Development Agenda

8 January 2015, New York, US



At a ceremony held at the UN Headquarters in New York, US, the Group of 77 and China (G77/China) handed over the chairmanship of its group from the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the Republic of South Africa.

Taking place on 8 January 2015, the ceremony concluded Bolivia's year as Chair of the Group. Bolivian President Evo Morales Ayma presented the outcomes of the July 2014 Summit of Heads of State and Governments held in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, which produced the declaration titled 'For a new world order for living well.'

Luwellyn Landers, Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, South Africa accepted the responsibility of Chair at the ceremony. He affirmed South Africa's commitment

to "collectively enhance the development agenda of the South," highlighting priorities such as South-South cooperation, the debt burden, and assistance in adaptation to climate change.

On the post-2015 development agenda, Landers said that the Group would "remain steadfast in promoting the interests of developing countries", including: the full achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the importance of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR); and the creation of a strengthened global partnership that supports means of implementation.

http://www.un.org/pga/080115_statement-handover-ceremony-chairmanship-group77/

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/south-africa-becomes-g77-chair/>

China Updates

First China-CELAC Forum ministerial meeting concludes in Beijing

9 January 2015, Beijing, China



On January 9, 2015, the first ministerial meeting of the Forum between China and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) was concluded in Beijing. President Xi Jinping attended the opening ceremony and delivered an important speech entitled "Jointly Writing a New Chapter of the China-CELAC Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership".

The Forum held the plenary meeting in two sessions. Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed that China is willing to, together with the CELAC, well

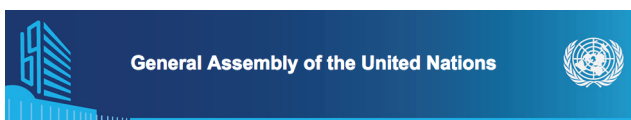
launch and develop the China-CELAC Forum, push forward the parallel development of China-CELAC overall cooperation and relations, strive for early results, translate the concept of both sides into reality as soon as possible and establish a new model for common development and South-South cooperation.

After discussion, both sides reached broad consensus on deepening governmental mutual trust, expanding mutually beneficial cooperation, advancing the construction of the Forum and so on. The meeting adopted three important outcome documents including the Beijing Declaration, the five-year cooperation plan and the operation rules for the Forum.

http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/mfa_eng/zxxx_662805/t1227678.shtml

Upcoming Events

February 2015



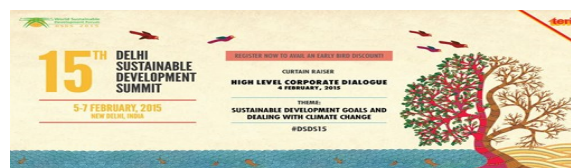
1. UNGA High-Level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda

Dates: 9-10 February 2015

Venue: UN Headquarters

Description: The President of the 69th UN General Assembly (UNGA), Sam Kutesa, will convene this thematic debate, which will focus on how to mobilize resources to turn aspirations for the post-2015 development agenda into realities. It is expected to discuss financing, technology development and transfer and capacity building. The debate will also consider investments in climate financing, rural development, infrastructure, protection of the global commons and social sectors.

<http://sd.iisd.org/events/high-level-thematic-debate-on-means-of-implementation-for-post-2015-development-agenda/>



2. 15th Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS 2015)

Dates: 5-7 February 2015

Venue: New Delhi, Delhi, India

Description: The 15th edition of the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit (DSDS 2015) will focus on 'Sustainable Development Goals and Dealing with Climate Change'. The DSDS, organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), is an international platform to facilitate the exchange of knowledge on all sustainable development-related issues.

<http://sd.iisd.org/events/15th-delhi-sustainable-development-summit-dsds-2015/>

Voices



“2015 can and must be the time for global action.”

“As we look ahead, 2015 is a chance for major advances across the three inter-connected pillars of our work: development, peace and human rights.”

“This year marks the culmination of the Millennium Development Goals. The signal moment of the year ahead will be the adoption of a new framework for development.”

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s speech at an informal briefing to UN Member State at UN Headquarters in New York, US on 8 January 2015.

<http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=8312>

“2015 is providing a unique opportunity for global leaders and people to continue to combat poverty and injustice through progress against the MDGs and a chance to set the world on a path that is universal and transformative. What is new here (is) an integrated agenda, one where the UN is ready to continue to lead with member states and a wider international community in the 21st century to bring dignity and well-being to people and safeguard our planet.”

Amina Mohammed, UN Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning, spoke on the synthesis report by Secretary-General at a Press Conference on 8 January 2015.

<http://webtv.un.org/search/amina-mohammed-secretary-general%E2%80%99s-special-adviser-on-post-2015-development-planning-press-conference/3977950277001?term=amina>



“Today, we embark on the critical task of negotiating an ambitious, inclusive and transformative post-2015 development agenda. We have a heavy but noble responsibility to finalize the new agenda on a strict timeline, so that our Heads of State and Government can adopt it during the forthcoming Summit scheduled for 25-27 September.”

Sam Kutesa, President of the UN General Assembly, delivered a speech at the Stocktaking session of Intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda in UN Headquarters on 19 January 2015.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/12402kutesa.pdf>





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