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Resilient nations.*

**29 September 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.

69th UN General Debate Opens, Addressing Post-2015 Agenda, Climate Change | page 1

UN Climate Summit Catalyzes Action | page 1

China Reaffirms Resolve to Fight Climate Change | page 2

Post-2015 Development Agenda Takes Centre Stage as General Assembly's 69th Session Opens | page 2

OWG Report to be “Main Basis” for SDGs in Post-2015 Agenda | page 3

Civil Society Sets Action Agenda to 2015 | 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.

Arab Countries Highlight Regional Priorities for Post-2015 DRR Framework | page 4

European Regional Consultation on Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda | page 4

LAC Officials Discuss Progress on Regional Instrument on Principle 10 | page 5

Pacific SIDS Recommend Data Revolution to Meet Post-2015 Statistical Needs | page 5

ECLAC Consultation Addresses Accountability in Post-2015 Agenda | page 6

African Forum Discusses Post-2015 Accountability Framework | page 6

## *Voices* / Page 7

## UN Headquarters Updates

### 69th UN General Debate Opens, Addressing Post-2015 Agenda, Climate Change

24 September 2014



The UN General Assembly (UNGA) opened its 69th General Debate on 24 September 2014, at UN Headquarters in New York, US. Many Heads of State and Government addressed the post-2015 development agenda, including its architecture and means of implementation (MOI). Many applauded UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's UN Climate Summit the day before, with several calling for future actions, including a legally binding agreement on climate change. Speakers also addressed strengthening international security, reforming the UN and tackling Ebola.

On the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), many highlighted achievements while noting uneven progress and calling for accelerated efforts to achieve remaining targets. UNGA President Sam Kutesa, Uganda, recommended efforts on sanitation and inequalities within and among countries. Many speakers recognized the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda as a unique occasion and a great opportunity to transform development. Secretary-General Ban described an emerging consensus on a universal agenda, applicable to all countries, that aims to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and put all countries on a path towards sustainable development, with transformation as its goal.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/69th-un-general-debate-opens-addressing-post-2015-agenda-climate-change/>

### UN Climate Summit Catalyzes Action

23 September 2014



Climate Summit 2014 has concluded with countries committing to domestic action on climate change and pledging a total of US\$2.3 billion to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The UN Climate Summit was held on 23 September 2014, in New York, US, hosted by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. The aim of the Summit was to

mobilize the political will necessary to reach a global agreement on climate change in 2015. It was attended by over 100 Heads of State, together with government ministers and leaders from international organizations, business, finance, civil society and local communities. During the Summit, government representatives committed to a series of national actions on climate change, including phasing out fossil fuel subsidies and the use of coal, increasing the use of renewable energy source and reducing deforestation. In addition, private sector representatives announced initiatives, such as that by the insurance industry of the industry's intention to create a climate risk investment framework by 2015 in Paris.

Speaking at the Summit, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon emphasized the role of both governments and the private sector in addressing climate change, adding that "as we walk the road to Lima and Paris, let us look back on this as the day we decided as a human family to put our house in order and make it liveable for future generations."

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/un-climate-summit-catalyzes-action/>

## China Reaffirms Resolve to Fight Climate Change

23 September 2014

UN HEADQUARTERS · NEW YORK  
23 SEPTEMBER 2014



China on Tuesday reiterated its commitment

to the common battle against climate change and pledged to help boost South-South cooperation in dealing with the global threat. Speaking at the UN Climate Summit as Chinese President Xi Jinping's special envoy, Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli also urged members of the international community to make concerted efforts so that the 2015 Paris conference will reach an agreement as scheduled.

According to Zhang, China was the first among developing countries to formulate and implement a national climate change program and has recently adopted a national plan to make sure that it will meet the target of cutting carbon intensity by 40 to

45 percent by 2020 from the 2005 level. In 2013, carbon intensity in China was down by 28.5 percent from the 2005 level, which was equivalent to a reduction of 2.5 billion tons of CO2 emissions, the Chinese senior official added.

"China will provide 6 million U.S. dollars to support the UN secretary general in advancing South-South cooperation on climate change," said the vice premier. "China attaches great importance to addressing climate change, and is ready to work with the international community to actively tackle the grave challenge of climate change."

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/n/2014/0924/c90883-8786786.html>

## Post-2015 Development Agenda Takes Centre Stage as General Assembly's 69th Session Opens

16 September 2014



GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations General Assembly opened

its 69th annual session today with the body's new President declaring that it would be a historic opportunity to formulate a post-2015 development agenda that is transformative, brings tangible results in fighting poverty, and leads to improving lives of all people.

The General Assembly President Sam Kahamba Kutesa declared the theme of this year's general debate "Delivering on and implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda" and said the framework must strive to eradicate poverty and hunger and promote sustained and inclusive economic growth. "The General Assembly remains the pre-eminent forum for global debate and cooperation amongst Member States," he said, calling on countries to harness opportunities and to find solutions to the challenges confronting humanity. Calling the coming year a "momentous" one for the UN, Mr. Kutesa said he looked forward

to commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Organization's founding, as well 15 years since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration and 10 years since the 2005 World Summit. It will be critical to craft a new development agenda to succeed the landmark Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), set to expire in 2015.

One of the thematic debates Mr. Kutesa has planned for the session will focus on implementing the new development agenda and on how to mobilize resources. And the second debate, to be held in March 2015, will focus on "advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda." A third thematic debate will address strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations. Secretariat.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48729#.VBk4TCawq1s>

## OWG Report to be “Main Basis” for SDGs in Post-2015 Agenda

10 September 2014



The UN General Assembly (UNGA) has decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) “shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda.” This decision was taken through a resolution adopted in a plenary meeting on 10 September 2014 (A/RES/68/309). By the resolution, as orally revised and adopted by consensus on 10 September, the UNGA: acknowledges the conclusion of the work of the OWG; welcomes its report; and decides that the proposal of the OWG contained in its report shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiating process at the UNGA's 69th session.

In statements following the consensus decision, the Group of 77 and China (G77/China) and the African Group said the OWG report should not be reopened or renegotiated. The Least Developed Countries (LDCs) called for taking reservations into account without challenging the coherence of the document or the substance of the agreements as basis of consensus. Meanwhile, the US called the decision an “important way station on the road to 2015” and “important point of departure” for the work ahead. Australia stressed that the resolution's reference to “the main basis” meant the OWG report will be a “starting point” for intergovernmental negotiations.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/owg-report-to-be-main-basis-for-sdgs-in-post-2015-agenda/>

## Civil Society Sets Action Agenda to 2015

29 August 2014



The 65th Annual UN Conference for NGOs convened on the theme '2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda,' and concluded with a declaration intended to serve as an action agenda for the coming year. The Conference focused on poverty eradication, sustainability, climate justice, human rights, and partnerships and accountability frameworks, with an emphasis on enabling civil society networks and activists to mobilize messaging, advocacy strategies, partnerships and accountability frameworks in the lead-up to intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda.

An estimated 4,000 civil society representatives, from 100 NGOs, and 120 national delegates participated in the Conference, seeking to bring their input to the discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. The Action Agenda adopted at the Conference will enable NGOs and communities across the globe to “speak with a common voice and advocate for ambitious goals,” Jan Eliasson, UN Deputy Secretary-General,

told participants in the concluding session.

The 14-page Action Agenda contains three parts. First, the civil society “Vision” of the post-2015 development agenda calls on governments to take the strongest possible action to address climate change in line with the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR). The second section on 'Monitoring & Accountability' calls for rigorous accountability systems rooted in human rights norms, standards and mechanisms, and for all actors to be held accountable, including high-income countries, international institutions, donors and corporations. And the final section, 'Recommendations around the SDGs,' provides feedback on each of the proposed SDGs.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/civil-society-sets-action-agenda-to-2015/>

## Global Updates

### Arab Countries Highlight Regional Priorities for Post-2015 DRR Framework

14-16 September 2014, Sharm el Sheik, Egypt



The 2nd Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) provided the opportunity for approximately 400 Arab government officials, donors, policy makers, planners, academics, civil society representatives and development experts to discuss DRR in the region. The Conference highlighted progress made in DRR efforts, reviewed implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) 2005-2015 in the region, and discussed regional priorities towards the post-2015 DRR framework.

Laila Iskandar, Egyptian Minister of Urban Renewal and Informal Settlements, emphasized that climate change and population growth exacerbate DRR challenges in a region where millions are already displaced by conflict, adding that managing disaster risk is essential to development and social justice.

Speakers also stressed that: agricultural drought and climate change are changing the Arab region's landscape, affecting food security, rural-urban migration and social stability; a 12.6% decrease in agricultural production over the last 12 years has led to significant losses of arable land; and over 200 million hectares of land are affected by drought and land degradation, leading to displacement and migration and increasing the possibility of conflict.

Participants also discussed proposals to: raise funds from the private sector and other donors to combat flash floods; and establish a fund to manage disaster risk, with the private sector contributing a small percentage based on the construction cost of new properties.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/arab-countries-highlight-regional-priorities-for-post-2015-drr-framework/>

### European Regional Consultation on Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

15-16 September 2014, Geneva, Switzerland



The Regional Ministerial Consultation “Monitoring and Accountability for the Post-2015 Development Agenda –The Regional Dimension” discussed how to give ‘teeth’ to a non-legally binding framework that will formulate an ambitious agenda of transformation towards sustainability for all countries. The focus of the discussions was on the features that are necessary to create a strong accountability and monitoring mechanism, the roles of the local, national, regional and global levels within a multi-layered architecture, and how the wealth of existing mechanisms could be integrated and adapted.

There was a general view among participants that the monitoring and accountability framework should be

an integral part of the post-2015 development agenda and not an “after-thought”. A comprehensive, multi-layered and multi-stakeholder accountability framework is crucial for the success of the post-2015 development agenda. An overall accountability mechanism should ensure linkages between various levels (local, national, regional, global), actors (state and non-state) and sectors.

In follow-up to the consultation, the Chair’s Summary will be submitted to the Secretary-General as an input to his synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda which will be prepared by the end of 2014.

<http://sd.iisd.org/events/european-regional-consultation-on-accountability-for-the-post-2015-development-agenda/>

## LAC Officials Discuss Progress on Regional Instrument on Principle 10

9-11 September 2014, San José, Costa Rica



Representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) countries discussed implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development during two events organized by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Principle 10 recognizes the importance of access to information, participation and justice in environmental matters.

At the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20), LAC countries committed to exploring the feasibility of adopting a regional instrument on Principle 10 in the Declaration on the Implementation of Principle 10 (A/CONF.216/13). As part of this process, countries have approved a road map, a Plan of Action to 2014, and a common view to move towards a regional convention. Both of

the recent ECLAC events aimed to contribute to this process.

The seventh meeting of the Working Group focused on capacity building and cooperation, and access rights and a regional instrument. Participants discussed, inter alia: how to incorporate capacity building and cooperation into the proposed regional instrument; the content and nature of the proposed instrument, including its objective, principles and provisions; and means of implementation (MOI).

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/lac-officials-discuss-progress-on-regional-instrument-on-principle-10/258709/>

## Pacific SIDS Recommend Data Revolution to Meet Post-2015 Statistical Needs

1-4 September 2014, Apia, Samoa



Small island developing States (SIDS) and development partners called for new approaches and additional financing to meet statistical demand to assess and monitor development progress, including on the post-2015 development agenda, at the Forum on Advancing Statistical Development in SIDS in the Post-2015 Era.

The Forum took place on the sidelines of the Third International Conference on SIDS, held in Apia, Samoa, from 1-4 September 2014. The Forum provided an opportunity for producers and users of statistics and other stakeholders to reflect on statistical achievements and common challenges, including the need for additional data to monitor and assess progress on the post-2015 agenda. The Forum recognized statistical achievements of the past decade, including increased availability of national statistics and indicators to measure and assess development progress and greater political awareness on the role of evidence-based policy development and planning. Participants also supported the need for

a data revolution, including the use of non-traditional resources, different methods of data collection and the role of public-private partnerships in data collection and provisions.

Without statistics, it would be impossible to conduct assessments or “have any firm indications of what areas and sectors require further strengthening and more efforts to ensure the long-term sustainability of what has been achieved,” Colin Tukuitonga, Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) Director General, told participants in his keynote address.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/pacific-sids-recommend-data-revolution-to-meet-post-2015-statistical-needs/>

## ECLAC Consultation Addresses Accountability in Post-2015 Agenda

28-29 August 2014, Santiago, Chile



Participants discussed strengthening regional accountability and implementation mechanisms in the context of the post-2015 development agenda at a consultation organized by the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which took place in Santiago, Chile, from 28-29 August 2014. The meeting was part of a series of five regional consultations on accountability in the post-2015 agenda that UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon asked the UN regional commissions to organize, to share perspectives on elements of a regional accountability framework that will be situated within a wider framework with global and national links.

In opening remarks at the August event, ECLAC Executive Secretary Alicia Bárcena highlighted challenges related to monitoring and accountability for the post-2015 agenda. She recommended that the region build on its institutional architecture as much as

possible, noting “there are mechanisms in the region that may be useful for accountability.” On the post-2015 agenda, she said “ECLAC is reaffirming that equality is the aim, structural change is the way and policy is the means.”

UN Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Director, Jessica Faieta, who also serves as Chair of the UN Development Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDG LAC), said the development agenda should be based on multi-sectoral and structural strategies, rather than piecemeal, sectoral interventions. She also emphasized the importance of building local capacities in accordance with specific societal needs.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/eclac-consultation-addresses-accountability-in-post-2015-agenda/257548/>

## African Forum Discusses Post-2015 Accountability Framework

26 August 2014, Washington, DC, US



African stakeholders have identified key elements for an accountability framework for the post-2015 development agenda. Participants at ‘Building an Accountability Framework for the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Africa’ highlighted the need for post-2015 accountability to be based on a set of core principles with bold goals and targets, and a plan for means of implementation (MOI), while also ensuring that the framework is bottom-up and people-centered.

Forum participants highlighted the need for an accountability framework to be implementable across society, and led by a multi-stakeholder partnership. They also emphasized the need to support evidence-based accountability through a strong culture of reporting, based on accurate and timely data, to facilitate measuring progress and enable citizens to hold their governments and others accountable on their commitments.

In remarks at the forum, Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, said the accountability framework must be “fit for purpose” for Africa. She emphasized that “without credible accountability mechanisms at global, regional and national levels, there is little hope that promises made will become promises delivered.” Africa is “not starting from scratch,” on accountability mechanisms, according to Anthony Maruping, AU Commissioner for Economic Affairs. He reminded participants of Africa’s experience with regional, sub-regional and national accountability framework, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).

The Forum’s recommendations on a post-2015 accountability framework are expected to contribute to the UN Secretary-General’s synthesis report to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on the post-2015 development agenda.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/african-forum-discusses-post-2015-accountability-framework/>

## Voices



*“We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity before us. Next year, 2015, will mark the culmination of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). We will define a successor framework in the name of Sustainable Development Goals. And leaders have agreed to finalize a new global climate pact by the end of next year. So, 2015 has all three important priorities which we have to achieve.”*

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Tells United Nations Development Group Event Implementation of Post-2015 Agenda Needs to Include Voices from Marginalized Groups, on 25 September 2014 in New York.

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2014/sgsm16204.doc.htm>

*“Post-2015 is a big opportunity to accelerate human and sustainable development. It’s the opportunity for this generation of world leaders to inspire action which is bold enough to eradicate poverty and put our world on a sustainable path.”*

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator and Chair of the undg Speech at the High-level Stocktaking Event on the Post-2015 Development Agenda United Nations on 11 September 2014 in New York.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2014/09/11/helen-clark-speech-at-the-high-level-stocktaking-event-on-the-post-2015-development-agenda/>



*“As I stand in this newly opened magnificent Assembly Hall, I cannot help but think that we are here at the dawn of a new day. Let us approach this pivotal 69th session with a sense of urgency, hope and greater cooperation.”*

The General Assembly President Sam Kahamba Kutesa said in his opening address to the 193-Member States body, on 16 September 2014 in New York.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=48729#.VBk4TCawq1s>



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