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30 October 2014

UNDP China Global Issues Newsletter

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UN Headquarters Updates

Co-Chairs Release Zero Draft of Post-2015 DRR Framework

21 October 2014



The Preparatory Committee of the Third UN Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction's (DRR) has issued the Zero Draft of the post-2015 framework, prepared by the Committee's Co-Chairs, Päivi Kairamo, Finland, and Thani Thongphakdi, Thailand. The Zero Draft, which builds on the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 (HFA), will be discussed at the PrepCom's Second Session, in November 2014. The final version is expected to be adopted at the March 2015 Conference.

The draft aims to achieve “substantial reduction

of disaster losses, in lives, and in the social, economic and environmental assets of persons, communities and countries” over the next 20 years. It outlines four priority actions: “understanding disaster risk; strengthening governance and institutions to manage disaster risk; investing in economic, social, cultural and environmental resilience; and enhancing preparedness for effective response and building back better in recovery and reconstruction.” For each priority area, the draft includes recommendations at the national and local levels, and the global and regional levels.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/co-chairs-release-zero-draft-of-post-2015-drr-framework/>

Member States Start Preparations for 3rd FfD Conference, SG Announced

17 October 2014



UN Member States held their first substantive informal session of the preparatory process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), on 17 October 2014, in New York, US. Delegations considered the proposed road map and annex circulated by the co-facilitators before the consultation, and exchanged general views on the Conference and related issues. The FfD Conference will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July 2015.

Opening the session, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the outcome of the Conference will be a key stepping stone for the post-2015 development agenda, as financing will be at the heart of the political agreement that governments have to reach. He said the Conference should address the major challenges that have emerged since the Monterrey Conference on FfD, such as the impact of the financial crisis, the growth of middle-income countries, and the additional costs of climate change mitigation and adaptation. Ban also announced his designation of Wu Hongbo,

Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, as the Secretary-General of the Conference to coordinate the UN's support to the intergovernmental preparations.

UN General Assembly President Sam Kutesa noted that the discussions will be guided by the 2002 Monterrey Consensus and the 2008 Doha Declaration on FfD, the outcomes of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF), the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG on SDGs) and the forthcoming Secretary-General's synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda. He stressed the need for fulfilling official development assistance (ODA) commitments especially for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and to find ways to enhance domestic resource mobilization.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/member-states-start-preparations-for-3rd-ffd-conference-sg-announced/264856/>

UNGA President Appoints Co-Facilitators for Post-2015 Negotiations

17 October 2014



The President of the UN General Assembly informed UN Member States that he has appointed David Donoghue, Permanent Representative of Ireland, and Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya, as co-facilitators "to lead open, inclusive, and transparent consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, including the organization and modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations and the remaining issues related to the Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda."

Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade Charlie Flanagan said, "I discussed the possibility of this appointment during my recent visit to the UN in New York and made it clear that the Irish

Government would be strongly supportive. This significant new role will build on Ireland's important work on international development during our EU Presidency in 2013, and on the MDGs at the United Nations. I know that Ambassador Donoghue and his team will take on the challenge with great commitment, and they will have the strong support of the Department and Ireland's entire diplomatic network."

Among the elements of the new development agenda are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The post-2015 development agenda is expected to be adopted during a Summit of world leaders in New York in September 2015.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/unga-president-appoints-co-facilitators-for-post-2015-negotiations/264702/>

Toolkit to Help Investors Support SDGs

16 October 2014



The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Global Compact, and the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) have announced plans to develop a toolkit for institutional investors, companies and foundations to support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with their investments.

The three partners note that the initiative aims to complement and support the intergovernmental negotiations on: the SDGs, a universal agreement on climate change, and a renewed framework to finance sustainable development within the context of UN's post-2015 development agenda. The toolkit will address the relatively low participation of the private sector – particularly in developing countries – in financing sustainability. According to the

partners, responsible investment that deliberately seeks to create positive social or environmental impact, in addition to financial returns, is still modest.

The investment toolkit will help operationalize the UN Global Compact Post-2015 Business Engagement Architecture and UNCTAD's Action Plan for Private Investment in the SDGs, with practical guidance and a set of tools that can help investment stakeholders manage the complexity of global investment chains and maximize their organization's support for the SDGs.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/toolkit-to-help-investors-support-sdgs/265607/>

States, Stakeholders Discuss “Shared Societies” in Implementing Post-2015 Development

8 October 2014



UN Member States and stakeholders discussed how the concept of “shared societies” can contribute to defining and implementing the post-2015 development agenda. Amina Mohammed, Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, Danilo Turk, former president of Slovenia, and Sanjay Reddy, 'Development' Editorial Board, spoke at the policy dialogue on 'Shared Societies Perspectives in the Post-2015 Development Agenda', organized by the Permanent Missions of Italy and Slovenia to the UN, the Club de Madrid and the Society for International Development (SID), on 8 October 2014, in New York, US.

agenda: poverty eradication, social policy making, and the quest for fairness in development by addressing inequalities within societies. He stressed that the UN needs to increase its multi-stakeholder identity, and said he no longer sees the UN solely as an intergovernmental organization. Mohammed said each region of the world has a different understanding of sustainable development. Highlighting the importance of political participation, inclusion and equality, she noted that the issue of global governance, which is essential for a truly shared society, has not been “cracked” yet.

Turk noted three substantive areas where shared societies are relevant to the post-2015 development

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/states-stakeholders-discuss-shared-societies-in-implementing-post-2015-development/>

G77/China Ministerial Declaration Addresses Post-2015 Agenda, Climate Change

26 September 2014



The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77 and China reaffirmed the report of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as the basis for integrating the SDGs into the post-2015 development agenda, at the 38th Annual Meeting of Ministers. They also discussed poverty eradication, means of implementation (MOI) for the post-2015 agenda, South-South cooperation, climate change, trade, and terrorism and occupation, among other issues. The 38th Annual Meeting of Ministers took place on 26 September 2014, in New York, US, and was chaired by Bolivia.

The G77/China Ministers supported poverty eradication as the central, overarching objective of the post-2015 development agenda, and stressed that it should promote inclusive, rapid and sustained economic growth to eradicate poverty and hunger and reduce inequalities. They reaffirmed the following strategic objective for the post-2015 agenda: “developing an international enabling environment for sustainable development, by addressing the questions of trade, reform of the international financial system, global economic governance, debt,

repatriation of illicit funds, cooperation in the fields of finance and technology, in order to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustainable development.”

Climate change is “one of the most serious global challenges of our times,” the Ministers agreed. They called for developed countries to take the lead on responding to climate change within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) principles and provisions, particularly CBDR, equity, respective capabilities (RC) and financial and technical support for developing countries. Ministers stressed that the extent to which developing countries will implement their UNFCCC commitments will depend on developed country implementation of financial and technological commitments, and said economic and social development and poverty eradication are developing countries' first priorities.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/g77china-ministerial-declaration-addresses-post-2015-agenda-climate-change/>

Global Updates

Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Committee Promoted Sustainable Development

22-23 October 2014, Washington D.C., US



ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES
Inter-American Council for Integral Development

The Inter-American Committee on Sustainable Development (CIDS) of the Organization of American States' (OAS) Inter-American Council for Integral Development (CIDI) examined a Secretariat report on the implementation of the 2010-2014 phase of the Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS); discussed the proposed strategic areas of action for a post-2015 PIDS that take into account the work in the UN on the post-2015 development agenda; and adopted decisions necessary for conducting a PIDS review and update, with a view to approval of the post-2015 PIDS at the III Inter-American Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities on Sustainable Development, scheduled for October 2015 in Honduras.

The PIDS establishes the OAS priorities and policy guidelines with respect to sustainable development and environment, covering strategic areas of action such as sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, water resources, natural hazards risk management, and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. The original PIDS was approved by the I Meeting of Ministers and High Level Authorities for Sustainable Development in 2006, extended by the II Meeting in 2010 until 2014, and further extended through December 2015 by the OAS General Assembly in June 2014.

<http://sd.iisd.org/events/iv-regular-meeting-of-the-inter-american-committee-on-sustainable-development/>

World Resources Forum Discusses Economic and Environmental Linkages

19-22 October 2014, Arequipa, Peru



World Resources Forum

The 2014 World Resources Forum (WRF) brought

together over 1,000 participants from 40 countries and international organizations to share knowledge and ideas on how to increase resource productivity, promote sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and mitigate climate change, while still maintaining and improving the quality of life for people everywhere. It featured a wide range of panel sessions and plenaries, from workshops on such topics as low-carbon development and the social dimensions of sustainability to scientific sessions examining recycling industries and cities and decoupling economic growth and natural resource use.

During a workshop on 'Sustainable Recycling Industries for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE),' participants noted the varying

degrees of success across the Latin American region and argued for more regional harmonization to expedite progress. In another panel, companies and organizations shared their experiences in making gold mining more sustainable.

These insights and many others are reflected in the Chairman's draft summary. Additionally, according to the draft summary, the Peruvian Ministry of Environment and the National Council for Science and Technology signed an agreement during the conference to increase inter-agency cooperation to advance sustainable development objectives.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/world-resources-forum-discusses-economic-and-environmental-linkages/265462/>

World Investment Forum Addresses SDG Financing Needs

13-16 October 2014, Geneva, Switzerland



Representatives of governments, the UN and businesses considered solutions for financing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during their discussions at the World Investment Forum

2014. The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which organizes the annual Forum, has estimated that developing countries will face an annual investment gap of US\$2.5 trillion over the lifetime of the SDGs (2016 to 2030), and public resources will not be able to meet the SDG-implied financial demands.

Participants explored how the private sector, as well as investors such as state-owned firms and sovereign wealth and public pension funds, can contribute to achieving the SDGs through financial market

reforms, risk-sharing measures, and tools such as green bonds and specialized investment funds.

Atsushi Saito, Japan Exchange Group, noted the need to change mindsets and mobilize finance into what are perceived to be high-risk sectors in often unfamiliar markets. He suggested adopting regional approaches to infrastructure development, which can help reduce risks for investors through diversification. Zhou Zhongshou, China Minmetal, said transnational corporations should recruit local staff and preserve the local ecosystem.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/world-investment-forum-addresses-sdg-financing-needs/>

WB-IMF Event Addresses Post-2015 Financing for Development

10-12 October 2014, Washington DC, US



Participants recognized the role of financing in implementing a sustainable development agenda, at a meeting on 'Post-2015

Financing for Development' on the sidelines of the 2014 annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Discussions addressed key pillars for a financing approach to the post-2015 development agenda, familiarized Ministers of Finance and Development with discussions on the post-2015 agenda, including the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and shared lessons learned.

“A strong agreement on Financing for Development will lay the groundwork for an ambitious post-2015 agenda and an agreement on climate,” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said in remarks at the event. He stressed the importance of the third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD) in July 2015, saying the Conference outcome either can be a milestone for the Summit on the post-2015 agenda, or “it can undermine the credibility of the

entire enterprise.” Ban noted three contributions of the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF): the development of an analytical framework; a basket of more than 115 policy options; and suggested areas for advancing global partnerships. Ban also highlighted the role of multilateral development banks (MDBs) in unlocking private financing, and noted that banks can help to structure financial instruments to leverage private resources “through public ones to achieve sustainable development.”

Speakers from the MDBs also stressed the role of MDBs in financing the post-2015 agenda. Some underscored accountability, shared responsibility and partnerships as critical means of implementation (MOI). Participants also recommended, inter alia: increasing investments in infrastructure; mobilizing domestic resources; ramping up private finance; and ensuring country ownership.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/wb-imf-event-addresses-post-2015-financing-for-development/>

Second DAC Senior Level Meeting Discusses Expert Reference Group on Development Finance

7-8 October 2014, Paris, France



On October 7-8, in Paris, France, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD-DAC) held a meeting of DAC senior-level officials to discuss, inter alia, the recommendations and conclusions of an independent Expert Reference Group (ERG) on financing for the post-2015 development agenda.

As the development finance landscape continues to broaden and the international community reflects on how to finance the post-2015 development framework, the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) is making progress on the mandate it set for itself – at its High Level Meeting in London, 4-5 December 2012 – to elaborate a proposal for a new measure of Total Official Support for Development (TOSD), explore ways of representing both “donor effort” and “recipient

benefit”, and investigate the need to modernise the official development assistance (ODA) concept.

In the meeting, an independent Expert Reference Group (ERG) was constituted to help shape the analytical work behind this mandate, which is being carried out by the OECD Development Co-operation Directorate (DCD). At its last meeting, members endorsed a set of 22 recommendations and conclusions that include: There is a need to modernise the DAC measurement framework to ensure its continued relevance in an evolving development landscape; the overarching narrative for a new measurement framework should be aligned with and support the attainment of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and a new modernised measurement system should look beyond ODA and include a more representative and comprehensive definition of financing for development.

<http://www.oecd.org/dac/dacnewsseptember2014.htm>

Expert Group Begins Work on Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, Post-2015 Development Agenda

16 October, and 25-26 September 2014, New York, United States



The Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG) agreed on a draft annotated outline of its report, at its first meeting in New York, United States, on 25-26 September 2014. Following the first meeting, a second meeting will be held on 16 October, when the Secretariat will work on drafting the report, and expects to submit recommendations by the beginning of November 2014. The Group is expected to report on its work on 6 November as an input to the UN Secretary-General's synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda.

The report is expected to include: a chapter to define the “data revolution,” an explanation of the need for the data revolution, relating to not only monitoring sustainable development but achieving it, and a framing of the problem to enable the UN to decide on action in the short, medium and long

term. The inaugural meeting of the Group included a discussion of its mandate and important issues, a meeting with UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, and a civil society outreach day. The civil society discussions addressed two topics: Open Data and Accountability; and Measuring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

A representative of the Group told a briefing of Member States on 30 September 2014 that the data revolution requires a “cultural revolution” in how data are collected and used. He also noted the “historical opportunity” to ensure the data revolution underpins and fosters the monitoring of sustainable development. Finally, he said governments' decision-making needs to be aligned with the cycle of data production so that decisions are made in “real time.” In this regard, the SDGs are an opportunity to “leap-frog” and adopt how private companies already use data.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/expert-group-begins-work-on-data-revolution-for-sustainable-development/>

Voices



“Financing is one of the keys to succeed in all these endeavors. It will be at the heart of the political agreement that Governments have to reach for a successful sustainable development agenda. That is why the outcome of the Addis Ababa Conference is so important. The Conference will be a major stepping-stone for the summit on post-2015 in September next year.”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, at the first substantive informal session of the preparatory process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development, in New York on 17 October 2014.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sgsm16264.doc.htm>

“We see the need for a new generation of investment promotion and facilitation. As strange as it may seem, there are investors who are sitting on cash that they cannot invest for lack of adequately packaged or large enough projects. SDG related investment development agencies could be set up to develop, market, and facilitate pipelines of bankable projects in SDG sectors.”



Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, said at UNCTAD World Investment Forum 2014, World Leaders Investment Summit (II), in Geneva on 15 October 2014.

<http://unctad-worldinvestmentforum.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Dr.-M.-Kituyi-Statement-WIF-14-Summit-II.pdf>



“The design of the new Sustainable Development Goals offers the international community an opportunity to unite around an agenda which is truly transformational in nature and universal in application. The ultimate goal should be to eradicate poverty and put our world onto a sustainable path.”

Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator, addressed a speech on “Biodiversity in the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals: Next Steps” at the Side-Event to the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), COP-12, at Pyeongchang Republic of Korea on 14 October 2014.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/>



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