



*Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.*

**29 December 2014**

# **UNDP China Global Issues Newsletter**

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## UN Headquarters Updates

### FfD Prep Session Addresses Data Gaps, Global Economic Governance

11 December 2014



UN Member States took up governance issues as part of the current and final

round of substantive informal sessions of the preparatory process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD). Discussions convened in two large, moderated panel sessions on: 'Closing data gaps and strengthening statistical capabilities; and 'Enabling and conducive governance, including global economic governance.'

The co-facilitators for the FfD preparatory process, Geir Pedersen of Norway and George Talbot of Guyana, chaired the meeting at UN Headquarters in New York, US, on 11 December 2014.

In the session on data gaps and statistical capabilities, Haishan Fu, World Bank, noted that

data are an important “liquid asset” as they represent soft infrastructure for sustainable development. She further highlighted the need to invest more and smarter in development data and integrate development data in accounting.

In the session on “Enabling and conducive governance, including global economic governance,” Alexia Latortue, US Treasury, mentioned that conversation around fair representation in global governance usually focuses on voice, vote, and resources. She called for a sharper focus on directing ODA to areas where other funds do not go, and where it can catalyze other flows.

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/events/second-preparatory-process-111214-data.html>

<http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/events/second-preparatory-process-111214-governance.html>

### UNDP Administrator Calls for Synergy Among Development, Disaster and Climate Agreements

7 December 2014



“Coherence across the poverty eradication, disaster reduction and climate agendas is essential for inclusive, low emission and climate-resilient development,” UN Development Programme (UNDP) Administrator Helen Clark said in a session on ‘Zero Poverty. Zero Emissions. Within a generation?’ during the Development & Climate Days at the

20th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 20) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Clark highlighted four lessons that are learned from UNDP's work on integrated, coherent approaches, which she suggested could help UN Member States in finding synergies around the agreements being negotiated on post-2015 development, disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change.

The outcomes of the three negotiation processes “will be more powerful if there is synergy between them,” Clark said, and observed signs of an emerging consensus that these three agendas “must go hand in hand,” partially in recognition of awareness that climate change and disasters can knock development progress off course.

The Development & Climate Days took place from 6-7 December 2014, in Lima, Peru.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2014/12/07/helen-clark-what-will-it-take-to-achieve-coherence-in-the-2015-agreements-speech-at-closing-session-of-the-development-climate-days-event-on-zero-poverty-zero-emissions-within-a-generation-at-the-unfccc-cop/>

## Member States Debate Working Methods, Scope and Timing of Post-2015 Negotiations

3 December 2014



UN Member States convened for an informal plenary meeting on “the organization and modalities for intergovernmental negotiations and remaining issues related to the Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda.” Governments responded to the co-facilitators’ “food for thought” paper of 17 November 2014, which had been issued following the consultations of 4 and 10 November. Member States are expected to meet again next week to discuss a new calendar of eight negotiating dates, circulated by the co-facilitators at the end of the session.

Co-facilitator Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya, opened the meeting at UN Headquarters in New York, US on 3 December

2014. On the potential elements of the Summit outcome, Kamau highlighted the need to consider means of implementation (MOI) and a new Global Partnership; said the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be at the core of the agenda, and that clarity and technical precision will be needed with regards with targets; and called for discussing a framework for monitoring and review of implementation, suggesting the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF) as the most suitable platform for monitoring and review of the post-2015 development agenda. On financing, Kamau said the bulk of the work will be done through the Financing for Development (FfD) process.

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/member-states-debate-working-methods-scope-and-timing-of-post-2015-negotiations/>

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

## FAO Highlights Lessons from 13 Countries Achieving MDG Hunger Target

1 December 2014



The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) recognized 13 countries for their outstanding progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) hunger target to halve the proportion of hungry people by 2015. A total of 63 developing countries have reached the MDG target, with six more expected to reach it by 2015.

Brazil, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Iran, Kiribati, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, the Philippines and Uruguay have achieved the MDG hunger target. FAO notes that their experiences highlight several factors that can contribute to reducing hunger, including political commitment and government policies, economic growth and complimenting agricultural interventions with social protection programmes targeted at vulnerable population groups.

FAO Director-General José Graziano da Silva

recognized the challenges these 13 countries overcame in eradicating hunger at a ceremony at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy, on 1 December 2014. He underscored the need for countries around the world to accelerate progress to continue to address hunger and undernourishment. Graziano da Silva called for continuing to “improve the quality and efficiency of food systems, promote rural development, increase productivity, raise rural incomes, improve access to food and strengthen social protection.”

<http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/270380/icode/>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/fao-highlights-lessons-from-13-countries-achieving-mdg-hunger-target/>

## Global Updates

### EU Ministers Call for Policy Coherence in Post-2015 Agenda

16 December 2014, Brussels, Belgium



The Council of the European Union (EU) discussed and adopted the conclusions of its Foreign Affairs Council on coordination of international aid efforts in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, highlighting the need to approach the issues in a “truly transformative” manner and to promote policy coherence.

The EU Council, a ministerial grouping, met in Brussels, Belgium, on 16 December 2014. They committed to accelerating progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and to ensuring that the post-2015 agenda provides a comprehensive follow-up to the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and addresses the structural causes of poverty, inequality, climate change, and environmental degradation.

They welcomed the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) and the proposal from the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the UN Secretary-General's 4 December presentation of his synthesis report, 'The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet,' calling it a key contribution for intergovernmental processes in the run-up to the September 2015 Summit.

[http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms\\_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/146348.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/146348.pdf)

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/eu-ministers-call-for-policy-coherence-in-post-2015-agenda/274839/>

### Second International Workshop on Urbanisation and the SDGs

16-17 December 2014, Surabaya, Indonesia



On the 16th of December this year the post-2015 project, in collaboration with University of Surabaya (UBAYA), convened the second international workshop to deepen and extend the discussion on urbanization.

The workshop gathered about 30 participants including experts in urban sustainable development from 8 countries representing the academia, international organizations, and the government in Surabaya, Indonesia.

Beforehand, the open working group had introduced a proposal for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) where one of the goals focus on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. In the Surabaya workshop, experts

shared their latest research and ideas on the implementation of the expected SDGs, for example on actions to realize household sanitation, resilient shelters, sustainable management of rainwater, renewable energy projects, development of mass transportation, and the monitoring of SDGs in cities through participatory processes. After sharing ideas through presentations and discussions, workshop participants worked in groups to roadmap the application of SDGs; what needs to be done, how, by whom, when, and how can we monitor progresses.

<http://sdg.earthsystemgovernance.org/sdg/events/2014-11-11/second-international-workshop-urbanisation-and-sdgs>

## African Officials Recommend Actions for Implementing Agenda 2063

15 December 2014, Sandton, South Africa



High-level officials discussed the implementation of Agenda 2063, Africa's vision for economic, human and social development, at the African Union (AU)-Regional Economic Communities (RECs)-UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)-African Development Bank (AfDB) Coordination Meeting of the Committee of Ministers.

including publishing the vision and defining its first phase of implementation.

Lopes also observed that Africa faced similar challenges in aligning its development plans with the post-2015 development agenda, while noting that the “well articulated” Common African Position on the latter agenda would help in this regard.

Speaking at the meeting on 12 December 2014, in Sandton, South Africa, UNECA Executive Secretary Carlos Lopes said Agenda 2063 and its first phase, the ten-year economic plan, must be “credible, realistic and technically sound” for African countries to align their development plans to Agenda 2063. He emphasized the importance of moving from consultations to concrete actions,

<http://agenda2063.au.int/>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/african-officials-recommend-actions-for-implementing-agenda-2063/>

## EU Parliament Outlines Priorities for Post-2015 Development Agenda

27 November 2014, Strasbourg, France



The European Parliament has adopted a resolution defining its collective priorities for the post-2015 development agenda. Priorities include ending poverty and fighting inequalities, a human rights-based approach, and a variety of social, economic, and environmental development issues.

The resolution outlines lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), including their uneven achievement, failure to address structural issues, and limited scope of issues. It calls on the EU to indicate specific actions to which it can commit, in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda, to uphold the agenda's universal nature. flows.

Members of the European Parliament voted to adopt a report on the next development agenda at a plenary meeting in Strasbourg, France on 25 November 2014. The resolution was passed with a majority of 541 votes, with 96 voting against it and 29 abstaining, and follows a June 2014 report of the European Council on negotiating positions for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and post-2015 development agenda.

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P8-TA-2014-0059+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

<http://sd.iisd.org/news/eu-parliament-outlines-priorities-for-post-2015-development-agenda/>



# China Updates

## The Third Economic and Financial Forum of BRICS Countries opens in Beijing

15 December 2014, Beijing, China



The Third Economic and Financial Forum of BRICS Countries, hosted by Economic Daily and organized by China Economic Net, opens in Beijing on 15 December, 2014.

As current global economic situation remains highly complex and complicated, with tough recoveries of advanced economies and growth slowdown in key emerging market economies, the BRICS countries - China, Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa - need to strengthen their solidarity and cooperation, and tap complementary advantages to jointly tackle the risks and challenges. Since the foundation of the BRICS Development Bank and the BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangements (CRA)

in July 2014, the pressing issues to be solved have turned to how to make substantial headway in these two key projects, how to promote cohesion among the BRICS, and how to expand the weight and influence of BRICS in the world.

This year's Forum, themed "Innovation-oriented Development, Complementarity-driven Cooperation", provides in-depth analyses of the role and the operational framework of the BRICS Development Bank, as well as discussions with entrepreneurs and experts on the transformation of economic development models through technological innovations, contributing to the promotion of complementary cooperation of the BRICS countries in areas of finance, trade and technical innovations.

[http://en.ce.cn/main/latest/201412/15/t20141215\\_4122982.shtml](http://en.ce.cn/main/latest/201412/15/t20141215_4122982.shtml)

## Upcoming Events

January 2015



1. Symposium on Sustainable Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda - Current International Discussions and Challenges for Implementation

Date: 16 January 2015

Venue: Tokyo, Japan

Description: The symposium, organized by Tokyo Institute of Technology and the United Nations University - Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, aims to report on ongoing discussions on the post-2015 development agenda, to consider the possible goals and targets towards 2030, and to look into indicators to assess the progress of implementation. Besides, the symposium will also address the challenges of both international and national implementation.

2. Third Annual Conference of the Green Growth Knowledge Platform

Date: 29-30 January 2015

Venue: Venice, Veneto, Italy

Description: The conference, organised by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) in partnership with the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), will address the theme of "Fiscal Policies and the Green Economy Transition: Generating Knowledge - Creating Impact".

<http://sd.iisd.org/events/symposium-on-sustainable-development-goals-and-the-post-2015-development-agenda-current-international-discussions-and-challenges-for-implementation/>

<http://sd.iisd.org/events/third-annual-conference-of-the-green-growth-knowledge-platform/>

## Voices



*“We have also made progress this year towards finishing the job of the Millennium Development Goals, and laying the groundwork for a new agenda, including a set of sustainable development goals and the resources needed to achieve them. ”*

*“In the year ahead, three high-level meetings - in Addis Ababa, in New York and Paris - give us the opportunity to chart a new era of sustainable development.”*

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s speech at a press conference at United Nations Headquarters on 17 December 2014.

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sgsm16430.doc.htm>

*“To build on the foundations in the 2015 summits and agreements, it will be important to draw on the experience of what works in practice. That should inform the finalisation of coherent agendas across the three agreements, and help improve the lives of people everywhere and the health of the one planet we all share.”*

Helen Clark’s speech at closing session of the Development & Climate Days event on “Zero Poverty. Zero Emissions. Within a generation?” at the UNFCCC COP, Lima, Peru on 7 December 2014.

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/speeches/2014/12/07/helen-clark-what-will-it-take-to-achieve-coherence-in-the-2015-agreements-speech-at-closing-session-of-the-development-climate-days-event-on-zero-poverty-zero-emissions-within-a-generation-at-the-unfccc-cop/>



*“All stakeholders, including Governments, the United Nations system, international organisations and civil society actors, must continue to work together towards an integrated and coordinated response to the threat to sustainable development which the Ebola outbreak represents.”*

H.E. Ambassador Martin Sajdik, President of the Economic and Social Council, gave closing remarks at ECOSOC Special Meeting on Ebola: A Threat to Sustainable Development at UN Headquarters on 5 December 2014.

[http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/president/statement\\_2014/closing\\_remarks\\_ecosoc\\_president\\_5\\_dec\\_2014.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/president/statement_2014/closing_remarks_ecosoc_president_5_dec_2014.pdf)





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