

Process overview

Background

The *outcome document of the 2010 MDG Summit* requested the Secretary-General to initiate thinking on the global development agenda beyond 2015. The *outcome document of the 2012 Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development* initiated an inclusive process to develop a set of sustainable development goals. There is broad agreement that the two processes should be closely linked and should ultimately converge in one global development agenda beyond 2015 with sustainable development at its core.

The process of arriving at this new framework is Member State-led with broad participation from external stakeholders such as civil society organizations, the private sector and businesses, academia and scientists. The United Nations has played a facilitating role in this global conversation and has the responsibility of supporting Member States by providing evidence-based inputs, analytical thinking and field experience. The Secretary-General will continue to provide overall leadership to the process with the support of the Deputy-Secretary General and the Secretary-General's Special Advisor on Post-2015 Development Planning.

Work Streams

High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLPEP)

In July 2012 the UN Secretary-General launched his [High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) to advise on the global development framework beyond 2015, the target date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Co-chaired by the Presidents of Indonesia and Liberia and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, the 27-member Panel assembles leading representatives from civil society, private sector, academia and local and national governments.

The Panel is part of the Secretary-General's post-2015 initiative mandated by the 2010 MDG Summit. UN Member States have called for open, inclusive consultations involving civil society, the private sector, academia and research

institutions from all regions, in addition to the UN system, to advance the development framework beyond 2015.

The work of the Panel reflects new development challenges while also drawing on experience gained in implementing the MDGs, both in terms of results achieved and areas for improvement.

The Panel's work is closely coordinated with that of the intergovernmental working group tasked to design Sustainable Development Goals (OWG, see later), as agreed at the Rio +20 Conference. The reports of both groups will be submitted to Member States for their further deliberations.

The HLPEP has met four times out of their five planned meetings. The first meeting was held in [New York](#) at the sideline of UN General Assembly on 25 September 2012. The meeting discussed the platform and work plan of the HLPEP that should have submitted their report to the UN Secretary General by 31 May 2013. The second meeting was held in [London](#), 30 October – 2 November 2012. The London meeting discussed vision and framing questions of the HLPEP report and exchange views focusing on poverty and human development. The third meeting was held in [Monrovia](#), Liberia, 1 February 2013 with the focus on national building blocks in the context of the Post-2015 development agenda. The fourth meeting was held in Bali, Indonesia, 25-27 March 2013, with the focus on global partnership and means of implementation. The last meeting of the HLPEP will be in New York in May 2013, which is a wrap up meeting that will finalize the HLPEP report.

The Panel will submit a report containing its vision and recommendations on a global development agenda beyond 2015 to the Secretary-General in May 2013.

Open Working Group (OWG)

A 30-member Open Working Group of the General Assembly is mandated by the Rio+20 Outcome document to prepare a proposal on SDGs for consideration by the General Assembly at its 68th session (Sept. 2013 – Sept. 2014).

The Open Working Group was established on 22 of January 2013 by decision of the General Assembly. The Member States have decided to use an innovative, constituency-based system of representation that is new to limited membership bodies of the General Assembly. This means that each seat in the Group is shared by 1-4 Member States. These country teams will decide themselves how they will be represented in the OWG meetings.

The Open Working Group on SDGs convened its first session on 14 and 15 March. The Group elected two co-chairs, the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of Hungary. The Group also adopted its methods of work. The two-day meeting was used mainly for general

statements, as well as an interactive panel discussion in the afternoon session of the first day. Overall, poverty eradication emerged as the broad, framing issue of concern. There was near universal agreement that there should be one set of goals in the post-2015 framework, with sustainability at their core.

The OWG intends to engage in an information-gathering phase until early 2014. During this time the OWG will not be in drafting-mode. After this phase, it is anticipated that the group will use the period from about April to August for drafting its report, to be presented to 68th General Assembly in September 2014. The proposed programme would have had the OWG hold four three-day sessions in April, May, June and July featuring a mixture of interactive panels (with members of the civil society, academia, UN entities), keynote addresses and interactive debates.

The second session of the OWG was held from 17 to 19 April and focused on (i) the conceptualization of the SDGs and the SDG process; and (ii) poverty eradication and sustainable development.

The third session of the OWG will be held from 22 to 24 May and will focus on (i) food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, desertification, land degradation and drought; and (ii) water and sanitation.

The fourth session will take place from 17 to 10 June and will focus on: (i) employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth, education and culture; and (ii) health and population dynamics.

The timetable for further sessions will be established later.

More information about the OWG is available at:
<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1549>

UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (UNTT)

Established by the UN Secretary-General in January 2012, the [UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda](#) assembles more than 60 UN agencies and international organizations. Co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme the Task Team coordinates the preparations and supports the process by providing analytical thinking and substantial inputs.

The Task Team published its first report titled [Realizing the Future We Want for All](#) in June 2012. It outlines a vision for the post-2015 development agenda and suggests the four key dimensions of inclusive economic and social development, environmental sustainability and peace and security. Members of the Task Team also prepared a set of [18 think pieces](#) that explore how different themes could potentially be reflected in a new framework.

Three working groups on:

- (i) renewed global partnership on development;
- (ii) **monitoring and indicators**; and
- (iii) financing for sustainable development

were established to further analytical thinking on the post 2015 agenda.

The Task Team published a second [report](#) on *A Renewed Global Partnership for Development* in March 2013. The report provides recommendations on key dimensions and a potential format for a global partnership in the post-2015 era. It advises that the partnership should include universal commitments calling for actions from all countries, according to their national capabilities. It should build on existing commitments such as those reflected in the MDGs, the Monterey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, but must also be broadened and strengthened to address the large array of global challenges we face today.

The **working group on monitoring and indicators** will publish its report at the end of May 2013, focusing on (i) lessons learned from the MDG framework; (ii) monitoring of emerging issues in the post 2015 agenda; (iii) cross-cutting issues; and (iv) global and national capacities and options for data collection and indicators for the post-2015 agenda.

Moreover, the **Technical Support Team (TST)** to provide inputs to the HLPEP and to the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on the SDGs has been established under the umbrella of the Task Team to ensure early convergence of the post-2015 and SDGs processes. The TST has provided issue briefs for the HLPEP meetings and OWG sessions.

National, global and thematic consultations

In order to facilitate an inclusive global conversation, the United Nations Development Group has initiated consultations at the national and global level as well as a set of eleven thematic consultations (<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/sitemap>).

National consultations on a post-2015 development agenda are under way in more than 70 countries. A set of eleven multi-stakeholder [thematic consultations](#) have been convened on the following themes:

- education;
- inequalities;
- health;
- governance;
- conflict and fragility;

- growth and employment;
- environmental sustainability;
- hunger, nutrition and food security;
- population dynamics;
- energy; and
- water.

Each thematic consultation is led by two or more UN agencies who work closely together with representatives from civil society, the private sector and academia as well as with co-hosting governments. The consultations aim to explore the role such themes could play in a new framework, different ways in which they can be best addressed, and the interlinkages between them.

A report with the preliminary findings from the national and thematic consultations was launched in March 2013 (<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/the-global-conversation-begins>).

Regional consultations

The Regional Economic Commissions are engaged in regional consultations which will culminate in a report on regional perspective on the post-2015 development agenda.

Sustainable Development Solutions Network

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), led by Jeffrey Sachs, is a global, independent network of research centres, universities and technical institutions that works with stakeholders including business, civil society, UN agencies and other international organizations. As a first step, the network will establish 10 global expert groups to support global problem solving in ten critical areas of sustainable development. SDSN also provides technical support to the High-level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

UN Global Compact

The UN Global Compact has been actively involved in ensuring that the views and contributions of businesses and the private sector feed into the post-2015 process.

Coordination

In order to ensure coherence across the different work streams an informal senior coordination group of four Assistant Secretaries-Generals (ASGs) has been put in place,

which includes the ASG for Economic Development at DESA, the ASG for Development Policy at UNDP, the ASG for Policy and Programme at UN Women and the Special Advisor on Post-2015 Development Planning. A One Secretariat was established to facilitate the coordination and coherence across work streams, while each of the work streams remains substantively independent.