

ECESA Plus Meeting of Principals (4 July 2013)
Background Note and Talking Points

Background Note and Possible Q&A

AGENDA ITEM II: Accelerating progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015 and advancing the UN development agenda beyond 2015

I. Post-2015 development agenda

At the 2010 MDG Summit, Member States agreed to initiate thinking on “further steps to advance the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”. They requested the Secretary-General to make recommendations in this regard in an annual report. Over the past year an initial consensus is emerging on the broad contours of a post 2015 development agenda. Support is being expressed for an agenda that preserves the strengths of the MDG framework, with its limited number of inspirational, easy-to-communicate and concrete goals and targets, while addressing emerging challenges. The UN Development Group supports national post 2015 consultations which are complemented by eleven global thematic consultations.

On 31 May, the Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on post-2015 development agenda released, its report “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development,” which sets out a universal agenda to eradicate extreme poverty from the face of the earth by 2030, and deliver on the promise of sustainable development. The report calls upon the world to rally around a new Global Partnership that offers hope and a role to every person in the world. The report takes the ideas behind the MDGs to the next level, addressing any unfinished MDG business and offering a path towards prosperity and the fulfillment of human rights and dignity.

At Rio+20, Member States initiated a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), which are to become an integral part of the post-2015 agenda. The Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs held its fourth meeting on 17-19 June with a focus on employment and decent work for all, social protection, youth, education and culture.

II. Special Event

The President of the General Assembly, H.E. Mr. Vuk Jeremić, appointed the Permanent Representatives of the Republic of South Africa and of Ireland as co-facilitators for the preparations of the 2013 Special Event of the President of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The co-facilitators held informal consultations in February 2013 on the format of the event. The likely format of the Special Event is a short one-hour plenary, four roundtables (2 in the morning, 2 in the afternoon), and a short closing plenary. A third and fourth round of informal consultations on 6 June and 24 June focused on the nature and substance of the outcome document. The following views emerged from the consultations.

On 18 June 2013, the co-facilitators held an interactive Dialogue with representatives from civil society organizations, the private sector and philanthropic foundations to hear their views on MDG progress and achievements to date, ways to accelerate MDG achievement and the overall message of the event. Participants largely echoed the call for a focus of the event

on MDG acceleration. They reiterated the need for an ambitious, transformative and people-centered agenda which also addresses the needs of the most vulnerable.

III. Outcome Document

DESA, in collaboration with UNDP, prepared the draft elements for the outcome document, drawing upon the following documents: High-level Panel report on post-2015; Accelerating Progress towards the MDG and post 2015 SG report (draft); MDG Monitoring Report 2013 (draft); MDG Monitoring Report 2012; MDG Gap Task Force Report (draft); Messages of MAF Columbia Regional Meeting.

In addition, UN system entities contributed to the outcome document (Regional Commissions Office, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), International Labour Organization (ILO), ITU, OCHA, UNCCD, UNEP, , UNISDR, UN-HABITAT, UN Women, , World Bank, World Food Programme (WFP) and the World Trade Organization).

The three-page outcome document consists of five section (1) introduction, (2) Focus on individual goals, (3) Partnership, (4) Post-2015, (5) Roadmap..

- The goals section acknowledges progress made in achieving the MDGs but also renews commitments to intensifying efforts to achieve the Goals, including through specific commitments.
- The partnership section, reaffirms the 0.7% ODA target and underscores the need for the business sector to engage in responsible business practices
- The post-2015 section calls for a global post-2015 agenda, which has sustainable development at its core and which will merge the environmental and developmental strands.
 - The roadmap underlines the need to maintain MDG momentum while call for a launch of an intergovernmental process for the adoption of a post-2015 development.
 - It proposes that the agenda should draw upon the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Group of Experts on Financing and Development which should both submit their reports in September 2014.
 - It proposes a comprehensive stock-taking debate in the General Assembly in Spring 2014 as well as a report by the Secretary-General synthesizing the outputs of the various processes by the end of 2014.
 - It further proposes that the final phase of inter-governmental work be initiated in September 2014 to culminate in a Summit in 2015.

The co-facilitators circulated elements of the draft outcome document to Member States. On 24 June Member States reflected on the draft outcome document.

Side events

As focal points for the side events related to the PGA event on MDGs, OESD/DESA is gathering information on the MDG-related side events in order to have an overview of these events, including their objectives and outcomes, and to promote coherence and coordination to avoid duplication given the large number of events and demands during that time.

Information on side events is available at the UN MDG website

<http://dev.un.org/millenniumgoals/specialevent.shtml>. The DESA focal points for side events are Leslie Wade (wade@un.org) and Sibel Selcuk (selcuk@un.org).

IV. Outreach

Both DPI and PGA have dedicated websites for the event (with cross-links to each other). PGA's webpage is a plain one listing official documentation and letters related to the event (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/67/issues/mdgs/mdgs.shtml>) whereas DPI has a user-friendly webpage on the MDG website (similar to previous MDG events) at <http://dev.un.org/millenniumgoals/specialevent.shtml> with links to the PGA website.

Possible Questions and Answers (MUST ADD)

- ***What would you say is different in this draft compared to the outcome of the 2010 Summit?***

This document is a very succinct document, which includes commitments to specific priority actions to achieve specific Goals by 2015. It gives a sense of urgency and political renewal to achieving the MDGs. It underscores the critical role of global partnerships for accelerating MDG implementation. It provides a roadmap for a seamless transition from MDGs to the new goals. It illustrates the emerging consensus on the desirability of designing a single set of Goals, universal in nature, aimed at achieving poverty eradication within the context of sustainable development.

- ***Are there any divergent views on the outcome document?***

Some Member States had a strong preference for an inter-governmentally agreed text for the outcome document from the start of the consultations (G77 and China and Russian Federation), while other cautioned against lengthy negotiations.

While there was agreement that the document should acknowledge the on-going processes that are taking place, including the Open Working Group on SDGs, and provide a roadmap for bringing convergence of these processes under a single and comprehensive UN post-2015 development agenda, Member States underscored the importance of having a document that does not prejudges the outcomes of the various negotiations.

- ***What have been the views of Member States with regard to having a summit in 2015?***

Many delegations are open to the idea of having a summit in 2015 (G-77 and China, EU, Australia, Japan, Mexico, Nicaragua, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation).

- ***What role can we play during the Special event?***

We have no clarity as yet but assume that the roundtable will include a very limited number of seats for UN principles. It is the prerogative of the President of the General Assembly to decide on the composition of the roundtables. If the President of the General Assembly is requesting our help with the preparation of a background note the UN system can also provide suggestions.

- ***(If the consultations have not concluded on the outcome document) When do you expect the consultations to conclude on the outcome document?***

Some delegations may prefer to wait for the relevant reports of the Secretary-General to be out before agreeing to the text. In this case, the

consultations may continue until early September, when the MDG Gap Task Force report is being launched. We do, however, not foresee that such consultations would involve line by line negotiations between member States.