



## CONCEPT NOTE SESSION 1

### Youth Engagement in the Transition from MDGs to SDGs

### ECOSOC Youth Forum 2015

**2 February 2015  
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

#### **1. Session background:**

Over the past number of years, young people have been actively engaged in shaping the discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015. For example, the active participation of youth groups and individuals in global, regional and national post-2015 consultations has allowed young people an avenue for participation and input into intergovernmental discussions pertaining to key development issues. The My World Survey also provided an interactive online platform for people all over the world, many of them youth, to tell the UN about their key concerns and priority areas for the upcoming Post 2015 development agenda. Since 1992, the active involvement of the Major Group for Children and Youth in the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and major international review processes, leading up to the Rio+20 Conference, the Open Working Group Process of the Rio+20 and Sustainable Development agenda on sustainable development goals, and the new high-level political forum on sustainable development, has proven a valuable platform for enabling youth voices to be included in UN level discussions and outcome documents, for ongoing consideration in developing the basis of a Post-2015 agenda.

The Global Youth Call on Youth Priorities in Post-2015, presented at the 2014 ECOSOC Youth Forum, presented an emerging global consensus on concrete proposals for priorities and target areas recommended to form part of the Post-2015 agenda in the areas of health, governance and participation, education, employment and entrepreneurship and peace and personal security. The Global Youth Call has been widely endorsed by major global youth-focused alliances and networks and over 1,300 youth organizations from over 140 Member States and has fed into the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development process and outcome and will continue to feed into the Post-2015 Development Agenda processes.



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Following and building on a successful first phase of global and national consultations on the issues that should be part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Post-2015 development agenda, UNDG convened a second round of dialogues that focuses on the challenges of the implementation of the new development framework around 6 key themes: localization of the SDGs, strengthening capacities and building effective institutions, participatory monitoring and accountability, partnerships with civil society, partnerships with the private sector, and culture and development. The dialogues consist of a series of public meetings and on-line discussions, both at global level and national levels in 50 countries, where policy planners, civil society representatives, academics, community and private sector leaders can discuss how to best deliver the next sustainable development agenda that will build on the success of the MDGs.

## **2. Session objectives:**

This session at the ECOSOC Youth Forum 2015 will discuss the views, insights and concrete recommendations of young people on what is needed to shift from the MDGs to the SDGs framework. Based on the outcomes of key processes through which young people have been involved, young people will be asked to make recommendations for transitioning to a new agenda with poverty eradication and sustainable development at its core. They will also be asked to share good practices and actions for implementation at national, regional and global levels as well as proposals for ways to strengthen the implementation and monitoring of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The outcome of the session will be presented by a youth representative to the Commission on Social Development during the Emerging Issues session.

## **3. Session Format**

The session will start with a short introduction in the plenary, by Paul Ladd, Head of UNDP's team on the post-2015 development agenda, who will speak to the inclusion of youth in the post-2015 agenda, and a youth representative (female, from the South, to be identified) who participated in post-2015 consultations, preferably at the national or regional level.

After this introduction, five breakout sessions will be organized and co-moderated by one UN agency and one partner (youth, civil society), maximizing engagement with the Forum's participants, around the following themes:

### **a) Youth participation in the Post-2015 Process and consultations (Room A)**

This breakout session will aim to catalyze reflection, share good practices and brainstorm ways to improve the consultation and participation of children and youth in the process leading to the 2015 Summit. DSD will provide a contextual introduction about youth participation in the sustainable development agenda and how that relates to



the present post-2015 process, and [co-lead] will talk about recent experiences with the intergovernmental process and challenges for the road ahead. The group will then give everyone a chance to say what has worked well in other participatory processes and these practices can be collected on a large sheet of paper. The last part of the session will be an interactive dialogue analyzing and synthesizing this collection of practices to extract 3-5 new concrete initiatives for young people to integrate into their 2015 Summit preparations that will enhance the engagement of children and youth in the process

**b) Accountability (Room B)**

After a short introduction of the thematic issue by UNDP and Restless Development (highlighting the importance of supporting youth participation in accountability mechanisms and frameworks and sharing examples from implementation in the field) and a brief presentation of their partnership around youth-led accountability, participants will be encouraged to discuss ideas, models, best practices and lessons learned on developing and implementing youth-led initiatives to monitor progress against development objectives in different contexts and hold stakeholders to account. Information and lessons learned will also be exchanged on youth participation in and influence on the post-2015 process to date (referring in particular to the ongoing UNDG consultation on monitoring and accountability).

**c) Youth and innovative practices in the area of measurement (Room E)**

In response to the call by the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Secretary-General's recently convened an Independent Expert Advisory Group on the data revolution. Among its recommendations, the IEAG identified the need to promote innovation to fill data gaps, including new data sources. Quite often, youth have been the vanguard of innovations such as social media, crowdsourcing and big data, whether in Silicon Valley or in the global South, as eager adopters of new technology as well as creative entrepreneurs addressing challenges within their communities. The session will discuss lessons-learned from existing youth-led initiatives and explore potential new ideas and the role of young innovators in strengthening data collection, analysis and dissemination to monitor the SDGs.

**d) Partnerships, Capacity Building and Implementation (Room 8)**

The Post-2015 Agenda will have to build on strong multi-stakeholder partnerships - including between governments, civil society, the private sector and foundations - that leverage on stakeholders' strengths and comparative advantages. The present break-out session will look at opportunities of partnerships through a youth-lens and discuss how





partnerships can strengthen youth development, be instrumental to the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda and contribute to innovative solutions to problems faced by young people. After a short introduction by the moderators, participants will be encouraged to present examples of successful partnerships and discuss lessons learned, pitfalls and opportunities of past and ongoing initiatives engaging multi-stakeholder partnerships.

This break-out session will also examine capacities required for the implementation of the new development agenda and the contribution and active role of young people therein. It will look at institutional challenges, innovative approaches and examples of how youth organizations have been involved in such processes to date and how to build upon such work. This session will develop a set of key recommendations on how young people can contribute to strengthened capacities and be involved in the implementation of the new development agenda



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