

Concept Note

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

High-level Stocktaking Event on the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Contributions to the Secretary-General's Synthesis Report

Trusteeship Council Chamber, 11-12 September, 2014

Background

Concerted efforts to design the post-2015 development agenda have been under preparation since the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, where Member States tasked a 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly with preparing a proposal on a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs). The outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference "The Future We Want" also recognized the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and subsequently set up an Intergovernmental Committee of 30 Experts on Sustainable Development Financing to prepare a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives. Both groups are expected to submit their reports in September 2014. Member States in Rio also requested the relevant United Nations agencies to identify options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

Additionally, during his acceptance speech in June 2013, the President of the 68th session of the General Assembly announced that the theme for the 68th session would be: "The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage." This theme has been operationalized throughout the current session through three (3) high-level events on: "Contributions of women, the young and civil society to the post-2015 Development Agenda"; "The Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda" and "The Contributions of Human Rights and the Rule of Law to the post-2015 Development Agenda;" and three (3) thematic debates on: "Water, sanitation and sustainable energy in the post-2015 Development Agenda"; "The role of partnerships in the implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda"; "Ensuring stable and peaceful societies in the post-2015 development framework", an interactive dialogue on "Elements for an Accountability Framework for the Post-2015 Development Agenda", and an interactive briefing with civil society.

In preparation for the negotiation phase of the post-2015 development agenda during the 69th session, the President of the General Assembly is convening a High-Level Stocktaking Event to reflect upon the various post-2015 development-related processes which have occurred during the current session of the General Assembly with a view to providing Member States and other stakeholders with an opportunity to identify possible inputs to the synthesis report of the Secretary-General, to the work of the 69th session of the General Assembly, and to the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda itself.

Objective

Participants will have the opportunity to

- i. Reflect on the key messages from all the high-level events/ thematic debates, and interactive dialogue/briefing, convened by the President of the General Assembly
- ii. Discuss the outcomes of the various Rio+20 processes including the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG), the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF), the Structured Dialogues on a Technology Facilitation Mechanism and the updates on the High-Level Political Forum
- iii. Highlight critical internal processes and events that have an impact on the design of the post-2015 development agenda, such as the 2014 substantive session of ECOSOC, including the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum, the 2014 High-level Political Forum under the auspices of ECOSOC, as well as the first session of the United Nations Environmental Assembly.
- iv. Highlight critical external processes and events that have an impact on the design and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda

Format and Outcome

The High-Level Stocktaking Event will be held over a two-day period (11 and 12 September 2014) and will consist of consecutive, interactive, multi-stakeholder presentations and roundtables.

The outcome of the event will be a President's Summary to be presented to the Secretary-General as an input to his synthesis report, transmitted to the President of the 69th session of the General Assembly, and made available to Member States and other stakeholders.

Participants

Member States and Observers are invited to participate at the highest possible level. Representatives of United Nations Agencies, Civil Society Organizations and other relevant stakeholders will also be invited to participate in the event.

Invitations to this high-level event, as well as the program and the details on the issues to be addressed during the round tables will be communicated at a later stage.