



UNITED NATIONS

WE CAN END POVERTY

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND BEYOND 2015

BACKGROUND

Beyond the Millennium Development Goals: The Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda

Enormous progress has been made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Global poverty continues to decline, more children than ever are attending primary school, child deaths have dropped dramatically, access to safe drinking water has greatly expanded, and targeted investments in fighting malaria, AIDS and tuberculosis have saved millions.

The MDGs are making a real difference in people's lives and, with strong leadership and accountability, this progress can be expanded in most of the world's countries by the target date of 2015.

After 2015, efforts to achieve a world of prosperity, equity, freedom, dignity and peace will continue unabated. The UN is working with Governments, civil society and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the MDGs and carry on with an ambitious post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

At the September 2010 MDG Summit, UN Member States initiated steps towards advancing the development agenda beyond 2015 and are now leading a process of **open, inclusive consultations** on the post-2015 agenda.

To date, over 1.4 million participants – from Governments, civil society, the private sector, academia and research institutions – have already contributed to the process. Nearly 90 national consultations have taken place, as well as 11 thematic consultations on issues such as inequalities, food security and access to water, which will be critical in a post-2015 era. An online platform – The World We Want 2015 – has connected people in a **global conversation**, while MY World, a survey seeking opinions on the issues that matter most, has engaged people from more than 190 countries.

The consultations indicate that people want a global development agenda, backed by national policy action that can empower them to realize the future they want. They want their leaders to take action to create the conditions for a more equitable and safer world. They want to see further progress on education, health, water and sanitation.

These findings were presented to the [Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Post-2015](#) for its consideration. The Panel – formed in July 2012, with members from civil society and the private sector in addition to world leaders – issued its report in May 2013, proposing a bold yet practical sustainable development vision. The Panel's recommendations were presented to the Secretary-General and in an informal meeting to UN Member States.

On 25 September 2013, the President of the 68th session of the General Assembly will host a Special Event towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, during a week of high-level events at UN Headquarters in New York. At the event, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will present to UN Member States his new report, "[A Life of Dignity for All: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015](#)".

In his report, Secretary-General Ban calls for **a new, broader set of targets beyond 2015**, which reflects new global realities and challenges. The goals should be measurable, adaptable to both global and local settings and apply to all countries. He also points to the importance of rule of law and well-functioning institutions. Sustainable development — providing economic transformation and opportunity to lift people out of poverty, advancing social justice and protecting the environment — should lie at the heart of the next steps, backed by enhanced accountability and a sense of shared responsibility.

People are being heard and their call to action is clear, the Secretary-General says in his report. It is ultimately up to UN Member States to adopt a new sustainable development agenda, with accompanying goals, which will guide all countries toward ending poverty and insecurity and achieving sustainable development.

In the outcome document for last June's Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The Future We Want," countries recognized the successes of the MDGs in galvanizing action to eradicate poverty and to promote human development. They agreed to build on the successes of the MDGs by developing a set of **sustainable development goals** that are global in nature and universally applicable. Since Rio+20, the UN General Assembly has established a 30-member Open Working Group to develop the goals, and this work is now ongoing. Member States will also discuss strategy for financing sustainable development and consider options for improved sharing of technology, as a contribution to the post-2015 framework. As one of the outcomes of the September 2013 Special Event towards achieving the MDGs,

Member States are expected to agree on **a roadmap** to integrate all these complementary strands with ongoing efforts to accelerate and review progress towards the achievement of the MDGs.



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