



PRESS RELEASE

UN Chief urges world leaders to seize historic opportunity to make strides on sustainable development

2015 will be year of global transformations

8 January, New York – Global leaders have a historic opportunity this year to make transformative economic, environmental and social changes that will have a positive and meaningful impact on people's lives and ensure peace and stability, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said today as he launched a new campaign 2015: Time for Global Action.

The campaign aims to mobilize global support for action on a critical range of issues that affect people's lives, including setting an ambitious agenda that will advance sustainable development, develop new streams of sustainability financing and reach a climate agreement in 2015.

Countries will determine this year how to they will build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which have galvanized action to improve the lives of millions of people.

"We are at a historic crossroads, and the direction we take will determine whether we will succeed or fail in fulfilling our promises," said Mr. Ban in his report "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet," which he presented to the General Assembly.

"With our globalized economy and sophisticated technology, we can decide to end the age-old ills of extreme poverty and hunger. Or we can continue to degrade our planet and allow intolerable inequalities to sow bitterness and despair. Our ambition is to achieve sustainable development for all."

The Secretary-General's new report is meant to provide guidance for Member States to accelerate their path towards sustainable development.

The MDGs were launched in 2000 in areas to focus on key concerns such as poverty reduction, access to education and combating diseases like HIV/AIDS, and in all areas, significant progress has been made, although much remains to be done. The new post-2015 development agenda will seek to reinforce commitment to achieve all MDGs as well as break new ground with a new set of goals on inequalities, economic growth,





decent jobs, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, peace and justice, among others, with the environmental protection cross-cutting across the whole agenda. These goals will be formally adopted at Post-2015 Sustainable Development Summit in New York from 25-27 September.

Countries will also be able to strengthen their support for sustainable development at the International Conference on Financing for Development, which will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in July. The Conference is expected to produce new mechanisms that can unlock financing for sustainable development, particularly in the least developed countries.

In addition, Member States will have an opportunity to act on the commitments made at the Secretary-General's Climate Summit last year, and adopt a new meaningful and universal agreement to reduce carbon emissions during the Climate Change Conference to be held in Paris in December.

In his report, Mr. Ban stressed that leaders have a responsibility to act to end today's global threats, which go beyond national boundaries.

"We have the know-how and the means to address these challenges, but we need urgent leadership and joint action now," he said. "The stars are aligned for the world to take historic action to transform lives and protect the planet. I urge Governments and people everywhere to fulfil their political and moral responsibilities. This is my call to dignity, and we must respond with all our vision and strength."

To read the full report, visit: <http://ow.ly/GTW9B>

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