



New York, 04 June 2014

Excellency,

As 2015 approaches, the interest in the future development framework to replace the Millennium Development Goals is growing. This momentum is fueled by questions on what should the world's priorities be? Is the most urgent task to guarantee everybody a minimum standard of subsistence? To reduce inequality? To combat global warming, perhaps at the expense of economic growth? These issues and others will continue to be deliberated as Member States contemplate how to fit the list of priorities into a tight set of humankind's most pressing challenges.

In anticipation of the twelfth session of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals an event is being organized by UNDP and SDSN for member states and other stakeholders to hear compelling perspectives from prominent thinkers on

- the values and objectives of any future sustainable development goals
- how to frame the broader priorities of the consultations and deliberations
- allowing our common ideals and principles to remain top of mind to facilitate the means to address seemingly different viewpoints

Speakers include:

Monsignor Marcelo Sánchez Sorondo
Chancellor of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and the Pontifical Academy of Social Science
Roman Catholic Church

Dr. Veerabhadran Ramanathan
Director of the Center for Atmospheric Sciences
Scripps Institution of Oceanography, University of California

Professor Jeffrey Sachs
Director of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network
Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the MDGs

In attending this event, you are cordially asked to consider the question of “Why We Care?”

Consider what sustains you at a personal level in times of adversity whether it is a song, a quote, a photo or abstract concept. How are the values inherent in your sustenance reflected in your engagement in these post-2015 deliberations where a multitude of perceptions and stances are vocalized from representatives of constituencies and states to persons living collectively in a global community. If you have personal reflections on this question that you would like to share, it would be most welcomed during the event.

The event will be held on June 12th, 2014 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm at Conference Room 2, in the Conference Building of the UN Secretariat

Kindly RSVP to Céline Varin at celine.varin@undp.org or by calling (646) 781 4069.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

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cc: All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers
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