



2013 SUBSTANTIVE SESSION GENERAL SEGMENT

The road to development in the post-2015 era: Addressing emerging global challenges

Panel discussion organized by the Committee for Development Policy
Geneva, 10:00-11:30 AM
18 July 2013

Concept Note

As 2015 approaches and the international community considers new ways to accelerate the implementation of the millennium development goals (MDGs) by the agreed date, attention is also increasingly being paid to the conceptualization of the agenda that should guide global development efforts beyond that date. This process coincides with a time of multiple changes and challenges. The MDGs and the Millennium Declaration reflect a global consensus that largely translates the political, economic and social realities of the world as the last century came to an end. While the principles expressed in the Declaration remain very much valid, new trends are shaping the international environment and the global partnership that supported that agenda, suggesting that the world that will emerge from the ongoing economic and financial crisis will probably be very different from the one we have known so far.

As old challenges persist – and the still large number of people under poverty is a constant reminder of that – new trends arise. Some of these new trends constitute additional challenges to be addressed. They may also indicate greater complexity of issues at stake (e.g., increased differentiation among developing countries; the management of the various trade-offs among economic, social and environmental priorities). Others developments point to the changing nature of international cooperation for development itself, with the coming out of new actors both in the private (charities, corporations, NGOs, etc.) and the public (emerging countries) domains. These emerging issues demand new concerted responses and new international efforts, which will have to be built through new rules and more democratic and inclusive mechanisms of global governance.

In this regard, the Committee for Development Policy in its annual report recommended that in promoting the exchange of ideas on how the universal policies for the post-2015 era should be shaped, the Council should focus its debate on 3 basic objectives of international cooperation: (i) managing the growing interdependence of countries; (ii) promoting social and environmental standards already adopted by the international community (economic, social and cultural rights, associated conventions,

and access to basic social services for all); and (iii) reducing the large inequalities that remain in the levels of economic development among countries, particularly between advanced and least developed countries. It further suggested that these tasks should be undertaken cognizant of two emerging features of the global economy: (a) the transition to a multi-polar world, and (b) the increasing heterogeneity of developing countries; both require rethinking how to effectively operationalize the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.¹

At a dedicated session during the general segment of its 2013 substantive session, the Council will have the opportunity to further debate these ideas and other recommendations by the CDP on how to address ongoing challenges to strengthen the global partnership for development. Panelists include two CDP members (please see below) who will present their remarks on the issues introduced above (20 minutes each). Subsequently, *H.E. Ambassador Martin Sajdik*, Vice President of the Council, will present his views (tbc) as a way to kick start the exchange of ideas (10 minutes). The floor will be then open for general discussion, observations and comments (30 minutes). During the exchange of ideas, the use of written statements and prepared interventions is strongly discouraged so as to engage all in more spontaneous and fruitful discussion.

- CDP Panelists:

José Antonio Ocampo: CDP Chair, Professor of Professional Practice in International and Public Affairs, and Director, Economic and Political Development Concentration, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University.

Stephan Klasen: CDP Member, Professor of Economics (senior chair) and head of the Ibero-America Institute for Economic Research, University of Göttingen.

- Background documentation:

CDP, *Report on the fifteenth session* (18-22 March 2013), Economic and Social Council Official Records, 2013 Supplement No. 13 (available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/cdp_res_dec/e_2013_33_adv.pdf)

CDP, *The United Nations Development Strategy Beyond 2015*, United Nations publication, Sales No. E.12.II.A.3 (available from http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/cdp_publications/2012cdppolicynote.pdf)

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) is a subsidiary body of the Council. It provides inputs and independent advice to the Council on emerging cross-sectoral development issues and on international cooperation for development, focusing on medium- and long-term aspects. The Committee is also responsible for undertaking, once every three years, a review of the list of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), on the basis of which it advises the Council regarding countries which should be added to the list and those that could be graduated from it.

The Committee is composed of 24 experts, nominated in their personal capacity by the Secretary-General and appointed by the Council, with a (renewable) mandate of three years. In making his nominations, the Secretary-General takes into account the need for the Committee to reflect a diversity of development experience and expertise, geographical and gender balance as well as a balance between continuity and renewal in the membership of the Committee.

The Committee holds its annual plenary meeting in the spring (usually in March). The report of the meeting is submitted to the Council at its substantive session (July). Additional information on the Committee is available at: <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/cdp/index.shtml>