

Note on the ECOSOC Briefing on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Background

There are currently two important parallel processes that are taking place within the UN; the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and initial discussions on a post-2015 development agenda. These two processes are interlinked and both have significant implications for ECOSOC, both in terms of its role and working methods and its substantive contribution to the debate. ECOSOC's role is particularly important given its role and mandate on development.

Objective

At the briefing of the General Assembly on “Advancing the United Nations Development Agenda Beyond 2015” in November 2011, Member States heard about the steps being put in place by the Secretary General and the UN system as a whole to coordinate system-wide preparations and to define a roadmap for the new development agenda. Since then, the Secretary General's Task Team has been working in this direction. The objective of the briefing is to update ECOSOC and its observers on the work of the Task Team on the post-2015 development agenda and to give ECOSOC Member States an opportunity to raise substantive and procedural questions. Moreover, they will also have the opportunity to interact with some CDP members on their ideas and proposals for the post-2015 agenda.

Focus

The briefing is expected to present the Secretary-General's timeline and process related to the post-2015 development agenda and some of the key findings and analysis of the UN Task Team. In particular, the briefing is expected to draw from the conclusions of the Experts Group Meeting to support the advancement of the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, held on 27-29 February 2012 as well as to build on the informal briefing for delegations held on Tuesday, 28 February 2012. It is also expected that the briefing will highlight the intersection of the two processes and how they can complement each other.

Format

Participants in the briefing will include: Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Sha Zukang, Mr. Selim Jahan, Director of the Poverty Group, UNDP, Professor Frances Stewart and Professor Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, members of the Committee for Development Policy. Mr. Sha will provide a general overview of the work of the Task Team, the Secretary-General's timeline, the findings of the expert group meeting and the link to the Rio+20 process. Mr Jahan will elaborate on the analytical work undertaken by the Task Team, the UNDG process, country consultations and the implementation aspects of the Post-2015 process on national development strategies and policies. The Members of the CDP will provide their initial reflections concerning the framework and overall process.