



**Economic and Social Council
Dialogue on the longer-term positioning of
the UN development system
in the context of the post-2015 development agenda**

**Retreat 1
*The Way Forward: Positioning the UN development system
in a post-2015 era***

**Greentree Foundation, Manhasset, New York
29-30 May 2015**

Programme

Day 1, Friday, 29 May

Afternoon

- 2:00 p.m. Arrival of participants, check-in and refreshments
- 3:00 – 3:05 p.m. **Welcome**
Ms. Lisa Orrenius, New York Office Representative, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation
- 3:05 – 3:15 p.m. **Opening remarks**
- H.E. Ms. María Emma Mejía Vélez, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council
 - H.E. Mr. Martin Sajdik, President of the Economic and Social Council
- 3:15 – 3:30 p.m. **Keynote address**
Mr. Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations
- 3:30 – 3:45 p.m. **A brief overview of the ECOSOC dialogue so far**
Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, DESA
- 3:45 – 5:45 p.m. **Roundtable session**
The Post-2015 Era: What are the most important global changes underway, and what are the implications for the UN development system?
- The purpose of this discussion is to look at the implications of the post-2015 development agenda for the UN development system and how these will impact on the interlinkages among functions, funding, governance and organizational arrangements, as well as capacity, impact and partnership approaches.

The structure of the session will include brief interventions by Member States and UN heads to kickstart the dialogue, followed by a roundtable discussion.

Guiding questions:

- What are the one or two of the most important shifts that will take place in the world of development cooperation over the next five to ten years?
- What is the most important implication of these shifts for the UNDS?

Introduction by the moderator, Mr. David Fairman

A UNDG perspective

Ms. Helen Clark, Chair of the UN development Group (UNDG) and Administrator of UNDP

Starter interventions by Member States

- H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Tekeda Alemu, Permanent Representative of Ethiopia to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. E. Courtenay Rattray, Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Olof Skoog, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the United Nations

A UN response

- Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director, UNICEF

Member States' Discussion

5:45 – 5:55 p.m. Wrap up by the moderator, Mr. David Fairman

5:55 - 6:00 p.m. **Closing remarks**
H.E. Ms. María Emma Mejía Vélez, Vice-President of ECOSOC

Evening

6:00 p.m. **Reception**

7:00 p.m. **Dinner**

Guest Speaker

Prof. Robert Chambers
Institute of Development Studies, United Kingdom

Day 2, Saturday, 30 May

Morning

9:00 – 9:10 a.m.

Opening

H.E. Ms. María Emma Mejía Vélez, Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council

Introduction by the moderator, Mr David Fairman

9:10 – 10:15 a.m.

Roundtable session

Repositioning the UN development system to deliver on the post-2015 promise

The purpose of this session is to take the conversation to the next level and explore what new and emerging roles the UN development system will need to perform to respond to the implications and demands of the new reality.

The structure will be a roundtable discussion with a set of interventions and views offered by Member States and UN system representatives, before launching into a discussion among Member States. Guiding questions would include the following, to be further adjusted based on the discussions from Day 1:

- What are the functions that the UNDS will need to provide in a post-2015 world?
- What are the most significant changes needed to ensure the UNDS can deliver these functions well?
- How can the UNDS respond to the differentiated country needs?

Introduction by the moderator, Mr. David Fairman

UN speakers

- Mr. Achim Steiner, Chair of the High-Level Committee on Programmes and Executive Director of UNEP
- Ms. Irina Bokova, Chair of the High-Level Committee on Management and Director-General of UNESCO
- Ms. Rima Khalaf, Coordinator for Regional Commissions and Executive Secretary of ESCWA

Starter interventions by Member States

- H.E. Mr. Fernando Carrera Castro, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Minami, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations
- Mr. Simon Koppers, Head, United Nations Division, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany

UN response

Mr. Robert Piper, UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, incoming Deputy Special Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory and former UN Resident Coordinator for Nepal

Member States' Discussion

10:15 – 10:30 a.m. **Coffee and tea**

10:30 – 12:00pm **Working Groups**
Reaching beyond the low-hanging fruits – Repositioning for a transformative agenda

The purpose of the working groups is to foster a frank discussion on the way forward and identify broad strategic priorities that could constitute key elements of a post-2015 vision for a transformed and transformative UN development system.

The structure will entail that participants break out into different working groups. Each working group will focus on the specific issues discussed over the course of the ECOSOC Dialogue, begin with a short introduction by the PR-moderator, and continue with a round of discussion on one or two guiding questions. A designated PR-rapporteur will report to the plenary.

Guiding questions:

- Key question for all groups: What implications could the strengthened/emerging UNDS functions have on the way the system is funded/governed/organised etc.
- How should the UN development system adjust to a universal agenda with wide-ranging priorities and needs?
- How can the UN development system do to help countries embrace this agenda as part of their national policy frameworks?
- How can the UN development system respond to the differentiated country needs?
- How can the UN truly harness the full power of partnerships?

WG-1 Funding practices

Moderator: Ms. Berit Fladby, Policy Director for United Nations Operational Activities, Department for United Nations and Humanitarian Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway

Rapporteur: H.E. Mr. António Gumende, Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations

WG-2 Governance structures

Moderator: H.E. Ms. Laura Elena Flores Herrera, Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations

Rapporteur: Mr. Samuel Beever, President of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme and Alternate Representative of Australia to the World Food Programme

WG-3 Organizational arrangements and capacity

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Desra Percaya, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations

Rapporteur: Mr. Dominique Favre, Deputy Assistant Director-General, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Switzerland

WG-4 Impact and partnership approaches

Moderator: H.E. Mr. Eugène-Richard Gasana, Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the United Nations

Rapporteur: H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Minami, Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. **Working Groups report at working lunch**

1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

Wrap-up session

The way forward: shaping a strong post-2015 United Nations development system

The purpose of the session is to identify common ground and key elements to lay out a vision which should guide the second phase of the ECOSOC dialogue.

Introduction by the moderator, Mr. David Fairman

Starter interventions by Member States

- H.E. Mr. Oh Joon, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations
- Mr. Philbert Johnson, Chargé d’Affaires and Deputy Permanent Representative of Ghana to the United Nations
- Mr. Geoff Bowan, Director, UN Economic and Development Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia

Member States’ Discussion

2:00-2:05 p.m.

Closing remarks

H.E. Ms. María Emma Mejía Vélez, Vice-President of ECOSOC

2:15 p.m.

Departure from Greentree