

I. Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda will be held from 25 to 27 September 2015 in New York and convened as a High-level Plenary meeting of the 70th session of the GA (2015)¹.

Concerted efforts to design the post-2015 development agenda have been underway to prepare for this Summit. In follow-up to the (Rio+20) outcome: i) the Open Working Group (OWG) of the GA, after intensive work over a year-and-a-half, proposed 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs). (A/68/970), ii) the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) also prepared a report proposing options for an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives (A/69/315), and iii) the GA held four structured dialogues in 2013 on options for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies².

The President of the GA also held a series of high-level thematic events between February and June 2014 on women, the young and civil society; North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation and ICT for development; human rights and the rule of law; water, sanitation and sustainable energy; partnerships; ensuring stable and peaceful societies; and an accountability framework. From February through June 2015, he also plans to convene additional high-level thematic debates and an event³ on i) means of implementation for a transformative post-2015 development agenda; ii) advancing gender equality and empowerment of women in the post-2015 development agenda; iii) promoting tolerance and reconciliation; iv) strengthening cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations; and v) climate change.

In December 2014, the UN Secretary-General issued a synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda entitled, “The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet” (A/69/700), synthesizing the full range of inputs, including those mentioned earlier in this note, to serve as an input to intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. Member States also agreed on the modalities for this negotiation⁴. Accordingly, the outcome document of the September 2015 Summit may include declaration; SDGs and targets; means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development; and follow-up and review. The negotiations will happen over eight sessions: 19-21 January on stocktaking; 17-20 February on declaration; 23-27 March on the SDGs and targets; 20-24 April on Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Sustainable Development; 18-22 May on follow-up and review. The initial draft outcome should be prepared by the co-facilitators by May 2015, and the negotiations on the outcome document will be done in three sessions from 22-25 June, 20-24 and 27-31 July 2015. The outcome document of the post-2015 development agenda should be adopted by consensus.

II. High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

In July 2013, the UNGA adopted a resolution on the format and organizational aspects of the HLPF (A/RES/67/290). Accordingly, the HLPF shall:

¹Draft resolution on organization of the UN Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda (A/69/L.43)

² Summary report, contained in the letter of the President of the 68th Session of UNGA to All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the UN, dated 13 August 2014

³ Note on the preliminary organisational arrangements for the four High-Level Thematic Debates and one High-Level Event, contained in the letter from the President of the 69th Session of UNGA to All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the UN, dated 2 December 2014

⁴ Draft decision on modalities for the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda (A/69/L.46)

- provide political leadership, guidance, and recommendations for sustainable development;
- follow-up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments;
- enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development; and
- have a focused, dynamic, and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges.

Meetings of the HLPF will be convened: i) every four years under the auspices of the UNGA at the level of Heads of State and Government for two days at the beginning of the UNGA session; and ii) every year under the auspices of the ECOSOC for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment. The HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC will conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda. The regular reviews shall be voluntary and shall include developed and developing countries, as well as relevant UN entities. The regular reviews shall replace the national voluntary presentations held in the context of the annual ministerial-level substantive reviews of the Council.

In June and July 2014, the HLPF convened the first meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC and discussed the overall theme, “Achieving the MDGs and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda, including the SDGs” (E/HLPF/2014/2), and adopted a ministerial declaration (E/2014/L.22–E/HLPF/2014/L.3). The 2015 meeting will be held with the overall theme, “Strengthening integration, implementation and review - the HLPF after 2015” from 26 June through 8 July 2015, with the three-day ministerial segment from 6-8 July 2015.

III. The Third International Conference on Financing for Development

The third International Conference on Financing for Development will be held from 13 to 16 July 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Conference will constitute an important contribution to and support the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The scope of the Conference will focus on (A/RES/68/204 and A/RES/68/279):

- assessing the progress made in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration and identifying obstacles and constraints encountered in the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed therein, as well as actions and initiatives to overcome these constraints;
- addressing new and emerging issues, including in the context of the recent multilateral efforts to promote international development cooperation, taking into account: the current evolving development cooperation landscape; the interrelationship of all sources of development finance; the synergies between financing objectives across the three dimensions of sustainable development; and the need to support the UN development agenda beyond 2015; and
- reinvigorating and strengthening the financing for development follow-up process.

From October through December 2014, three substantive informal sessions were held in preparation for the Conference⁵, discussing the global context; domestic public finance; international public finance, including ODA; private finance and blended finance; enabling and conducive policy environment; trade, technology and capacity building and other non-financial means of implementation; governance; and learning from partnerships and follow-up process. The drafting sessions of the outcome document will be done in January, April and June 2015⁶.

⁵ Preparatory Process for the third International Conference on Financing for Development – Roadmap, contained in the letter from the President of the 69th Session of UNGA to All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the UN, dated 24 October 2014.

⁶ Drafting sessions are scheduled for: 27-29 January 2015; 13-17 April 2015; and 15-19 June 2015.