Sustainable Development: Post-2015 Implications
A closer look at the SDG and MDG processes

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Synopsis

The objective of this paper was to analyze the emerging scope of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the successor development instrument to the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs) which are scheduled to end by 2015. The top priorities of the stakeholders involved in the processes include poverty eradication, water sanitation, energy, economic growth, green growth, governance, and employment. Current trends appear to favour a progression of the shaping and negotiation process which goes beyond the established MDG goals.

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1. Introduction

Context

Global sustainable development is becoming more and more critical as international community advances forward into the future. Sustainability has been a concern for several decades, and has now gained greater significance with the 2015 deadline of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the lack of significant advancement in the Rio+20 and UNFCCC processes. Two separate processes are underway to determine the successor framework of the MDGs. In addition, the various stakeholder groups and international organizations have begun their own discussions as to what issues and priorities they feel are necessary to be considered for a sustainable future. A single integrated framework is critical in order to successfully progress with sustainable development as well as concentrating resources on key targets for breakthrough development outcomes. The issues and themes that are classified as the top priorities will set the stage for policy choice concerning sustainable development goals and determine the progress of the world.

Key Goal Setting Instruments and Processes of global development agenda

The two processes leading the discussions and methods for determining the MDG successor framework include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which derived from the Rio+20 Principles, and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. It is currently unclear as to how the SDG process and the Post-2015 Development Agenda will be integrated, but there are close linkages between the two.

Objective of this paper

The objective of this paper is to analysis the trends and issues of the Sustainable Development Goals as post MDG response to the development challenges. In addition, this paper establishes a cross-sector overview on the priorities and demands of stakeholders representing the governments, businesses and civil societies.

2. The Rio+20 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

About

The Rio+20 is the short name for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 20-22 June 2012. At the Conference, world leaders, along with thousands of participants from governments, the private sector, NGOs and other groups came together to discuss how to reduce poverty, advance social equity, and ensure environmental protection in order to progress into the future world the future generations would like to live in.

Themes of the Conference

There are two themes the Conference directed its focus towards sustainability.[2] The first is **a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication**. The second is **the institutional framework for sustainable development**.

Sustainable development rests on the integration and the balance of social, economic, and environmental gaols in both public and private decision making. The concept of a green economy focuses primarily on the intersection between the environment and the economy.

Sustainable development has been recognized as an overarching goal for institutions at the national, regional, and international levels since 1972[3]. The institutional framework comprises of the UN General Assembly, ECOSOC, and the Commission on Sustainable Development. There are three mutually reinforcing pillars of sustainable development; social, economic, environmental. Below illustrates a diagram of the concept.
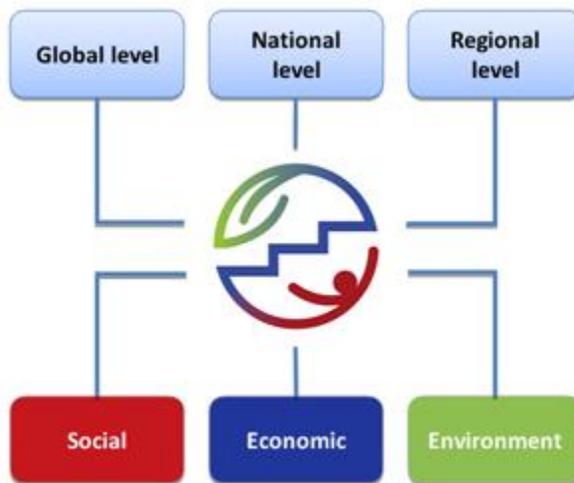
(Rio+20. United Nations. 2011.)

Seven Priority Areas

The 2012 Rio+20 Conference[4] highlighted seven areas which need particular attention. Out of these areas is the creation of the action items. The seven areas of priority[5] are listed below.

1. **Jobs:** Economic recession has taken a toll on both the quantity and quality of jobs. Economic action and social policies to create gainful employment are critical for both social cohesion and stability.
2. **Energy:** Energy is central to nearly every major challenge and opportunity the world faces today. Sustainable energy is needed for strengthening economies, protecting ecosystems, and achieving equity.

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[2] *Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development*. United Nations. 2012
[3] *Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development*. United Nations. 2012
[4] *Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development*. United Nations. 2012
[5] *Rio+20 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development*. United Nations. 2012

3. **Cities:** Cities have enabled people to advance socially and economically. However, they face challenges such as congestion and lack of funds. Overcoming these challenges will allow cities to thrive and grow, while improving resource use.
4. **Food:** Soils, freshwater, biodiversity, oceans, and forests are rapidly degrading. If done right, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry can provide nutritious food for all and generate decent incomes, while supporting people-centered rural development and protecting the environment.
5. **Water:** Water scarcity, poor water quality, and inadequate sanitation negatively impact food security, livelihood choices, and educational opportunities for poor families. There is sufficient freshwater on this planet to achieve clean, accessible water for all.
6. **Oceans:** Careful management of oceans is essential for humankind to inhabit the Earth. Rainwater, drinking water, weather, climate, coastlines, and much food are all ultimately provided by the sea.
7. **Disasters:** Disasters caused by earthquakes, floods, droughts, hurricanes, tsunamis, and more can have devastating impacts on people, environments, and economies. However, resilience remains possible through the smart choices of people as to where we build our homes, how we grow our food, how our financial system operates, and what we teach in schools.

Rio Declaration on Environment and Development on 22 June 2012

Proclaims 27 principles that are needed to guide the way forward in order to ensure sustainability[6]. Listing of these principles are made in the Annex 1 for easy reference.

The 27principles of the Rio Declaration illustrate narrower objectives in achieving sustainable development, opposed to the broader view provided by the MDGs. The majority of these principles encompass practices of the environmental sustainability and global partnership MDGs. The table 1below presents the comparative linkages between MDGs and Rio+20 principles which revealed the convergent points and gaps.

Table 1:
Millennium Development Goals and corresponding Rio+20 Principles

1. End Poverty and Hunger	Rio Principles 1, 5
2. Universal Education	Rio Principle 21
3. Gender and Equality	Rio Principle 20
4. Child Health	NA
5. Maternal Health	NA
6. Combat HIV/AIDS	NA
7. Environmental Sustainability	Rio Principles 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16 17, 22, 23, 24, 25
8. Global Partnership	Rio Principles 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,

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[6] United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. *Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.* Information Habitat. Web. 4 Apr.

	14, 18, 19, 26, 27

Resolution Adopted by the General Assembly: The future we want[7]

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly in its Sixty-Sixth Session on 11 September 2012 achieved the following:

- Reaffirming the Rio Principles
- Assessing the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development and addressing new and emerging challenges -

  "We emphasize the need to make progress in implementing previous commitments. We also recognize the need to accelerate progress in closing development gaps between developed and developing countries, and to seize and create opportunities to achieve sustainable development through economic growth and diversification, social development and environmental protection. To this end, we underscore the continued need for an enabling environment at the national and international levels, as well as continued and strengthened international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, debt, trade and technology transfer, as mutually agreed, and innovation, entrepreneurship, capacity-building, transparency and accountability."

- Sustainable Development - *(citation source needed)*

  "We underscore that the Millennium Development Goals are a useful tool in focusing achievement of specific development gains as part of a broad development vision and framework for the development activities of the United Nations, for national priority-setting and for mobilization of stakeholders and resources towards common goals. We therefore remain firmly committed to their full and timely achievement."

  "...An open working group shall be constituted no later than at the opening of the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly and shall comprise thirty representatives, nominated by Member States from the five United Nations regional groups, with the aim of achieving fair, equitable and balanced geographical representation. At the outset, this open working group will decide on its methods of work, including developing modalities to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience. It will submit a report, to the Assembly at its sixty-eighth session, containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action."

  "The process needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes to consider the post-2015 development agenda. The initial input to the work of the

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[7] United Nations. General Assembly. *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly: The future we want.* New York: United Nations, 2012

3. Post-2015 Development Agenda and MDGs

About

The United Nations Millennium Campaign, started in 2002[8], supports and inspires people from around the world to take action in support of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which were adopted in 2000 by the General Assembly. This project was commissioned by the UN Secretary General. The UN is working with governments, civil society, and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the MDGs and carry on with an ambitious post-2015 development agenda.

At the September 2010 MGD Summit, UN Member States initiated steps towards advancing the development agenda beyond 2015. Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, established a **UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**[9] **(**see Annex .2 for membership**)** in January 2012 to coordinate preparations beyond 2015. The Task Team assembles more than 60 UN agencies and international organizations. It is co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Program. The Task Team published its first report titled *Realizing the Future We Want for All*[10] in June 2012. The report outlined the vision of the United Nations system on the global development agenda beyond 2015.

In July 2012, Ban Ki-moon announced the 27 members of a **High-level Panel of eminent persons of the Post-2015 Development Agenda**[11] (see Annex .3 for membership) to advise on the global development framework beyond 2015. The Panel is co-chaired by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom, and it includes leaders from civil society, private sector, and government. The Secretary General's Panel will reflect new development challenges while also drawing on experience gained in implementing the MDGs, both in terms of results achieved and areas for improvement.

Reflection and Critique of the MDGs

The Millennium Development Goals are approaching their fifteen year deadline quickly. With three years remaining, there has been a mixture of reviews directed toward the Millennium Campaign process. While some are optimistic and praise the achievements the goals have succeeded with, other thoughts are more critical and focus on the short comings and grandiose expectations. Analysis of the MDGs is conducted with regards to the indicators, or targets, set for each goal. These targets assess how well the goal has performed. While some targets have

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[8] *Millennium Development Goals.* United Nations

[9] *UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda.* United Nations System
    Chief Executives Board of Coordination. Web. 16 Apr. 2013.

[10] UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. *Realizing the Future We
    Want for All.* New York: United Nations, 2012

[11]*High-level Panel the Post-2015 Development Agenda.* The World We Want.

been met or are expected to be met by 2015, others have not been met having made insufficient progress or even experienced deterioration.

When looking at the positive results from the goals, targets for poverty and hunger eradication have been attained in various degrees. Extreme income poverty has fallen, with the proportion of people living on less than $1.25 per day declining from 43.1% in 1990 to 22.4% in 2008.[12] The biggest progress was mad in Eastern Asia due to China's success in reducing poverty. In addition, several regions significantly reduced the mortality rate of under-five-year-olds by two-thirds.[13]

However, when speaking of the MDG progression, more attention is paid to the failures and faults of the goals. For example, while the target of reducing poverty by half has been accomplished,[14] there still remain extreme cases of poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia, and Oceania. Simply because a target has been met doesn't affirm that the issue is no longer prevalent. What needs to be done is that upon accomplishing a target; redefine it with new, more specific standards to continue the progression where it is most needed. Most critics express this opinion strongly in their reviews of the MDGs.

Furthermore, critiques display a common idea that the purpose of the MDGs was to distort priorities and to focus attention on a few key goals and targets as a means to improve development outcomes.[15] By focusing on social sectors, the MDGs reduced the importance that donors had attached to infrastructure, agriculture, and industrial development which may have detrimentally effected growth. In addition to distorting priorities, the MDGs have been accused of omitting issues of key importance such as climate change, governance, conflict, migration, and security.[16] While these priorities may not be able to be categorized into specific goals, it is necessary for them to be included in targets and taken into consideration. The most significant criticisms directed toward the MDGs are those expressing concern questioning the fact that the goals may have been too broad and there needs to be a narrower standard applied to them in order for there to be concrete, tangible change and progression.

Themes and Priority Areas for the Post MDGs

The Conference further highlighted particular/more specific areas of focus in its outcome document, *The Future We Want.*[17] The areas are listed:

1. Poverty Eradication
2. Food security and nutrition and sustainable agriculture
3. Water and sanitation

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[12] European Union. European Report on Development 2013, Post 2015: Global Action for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future. Belgium: European Union, 2013.

[13] European Union. *European Report on Development 2013, Post 2015: Global Action for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future.* Belgium: European Union, 2013.

[14] *Millennium Development Goals.* United Nations

[15] European Union. *European Report on Development 2013, Post 2015: Global Action for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future.* Belgium: European Union, 2013.

[16] European Union. *European Report on Development 2013, Post 2015: Global Action for an Inclusive and Sustainable Future.* Belgium: European Union, 2013.

[17] United Nations. General Assembly. *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly: The future we want.* New York: United Nations, 2012.

4. Energy
5. Sustainable tourism
6. Sustainable transport
7. Sustainable cities and human settlements
8. Health and population
9. Promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all and social protection
10. Oceans and seas
11. Small island developing States
12. Least developed countries
13. Landlocked developing countries
14. Africa
15. Regional efforts
16. Disaster risk reduction
17. Climate change
18. Forests
19. Biodiversity
20. Desertification, land degradation and drought
21. Mountains
22. Chemicals and waste
23. Sustainable consumption and production
24. Mining
25. Education
26. Gender equality and women's empowerment

4. Sustainable Development Goals: 2013-2015 Policy Debates

Introduction

In June 2012, governments agreed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio+20) on launching a UN led process to create a set of universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals should be based on Agenda 21[18] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation[19], respect the Rio Principles, be consistent with international law, build upon commitments already made and contribute to the full implementation of the outcomes of all major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields.[20]

This process will run parallel to discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda[21], an initiative of the UN Secretary General, currently undertaking a series of consultations and assessing the options for the successor framework of the Millennium Development Goals. It is currently unclear as to how the SDG process will fit into the Post-2015 Development Agenda, but there must be close linkages between the two.

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[18] United Nations Conference on Environment & Development. *Agenda 21.*
New York: United Nations, 1992
[19] United Nations. *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.*
New York: United Nations, 2002. Web. 4 Apr. 2013
[20] *Sustainable Development 2015*. Stakeholder Forum.
[21] *Sustainable Development 2015*. Stakeholder Forum.

Ideally, both processes, the Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda, will need to be part of a single integrated framework. Therefore, it is important for stakeholders to closely follow both processes. Many governments and stakeholders are already advocating for a single framework coming out of the two processes; so efforts are not dispersed; and the different dimensions of sustainable development are at the heart of this agenda in an integrated way.

Three Dimensions of Sustainable Development

In reading documents and the declarations the phrase, "three dimensions of Sustainable Development" is referred to numerous times. The Rio+20 proposes comprehensive path toward sustainable development comprising of these three dimensions…[22]

- Environmental Sustainability
- Economical Sustainability
- Social (Socio-political) Sustainability

Who is leading the two Processes?

The Post-2015 Development Agenda is led by the UN Secretary General through the UN Task Team and High-level Panel of eminent persons.

The Sustainable Development Goals is led by the UN General Assembly through the Open Working Group.

Difference between Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals

The Post-2015 Development Agenda is a process led by the UN Secretary General, responding to a mandate from the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs to include recommendations for efforts to accelerate MDG progress. He will present his suggestions in a report at the 68th General Assembly in September 2013.

The Sustainable Development Goals process was agreed at the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) where Member States agreed to set up an intergovernmental process with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly in 2015.

Where the Processes Stand Currently before Convergence as of April 2013

One of the main outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), in June 2012, was the agreement by Member States to launch a process to develop a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Rio+20 did not elaborate specific goals but stated that the SDGs should be limited in number, aspirational, and easy to communicate. The goals should address in a balanced way all three

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[22] United Nations. General Assembly. *Resolution adopted by the General Assembly: The future we want.* New York: United Nations, 2012.

dimensions of sustainable development and be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015. A 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) (see Annex 7.3) of the General Assembly is tasked with preparing a proposal on the SDGs.

The OWG was established on 22nd of January 2013 by the decision of the General Assembly.

The Rio+20 outcome document "The Future We Want" states that, "at the outset, the OWG will decide on its methods of work, including developing modalities to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience" (para. 248 p.47).[23]

The first meeting of the OWG on the SDGs was scheduled for 14-15 March 2013.

The primary output from the Group was to prepare a proposal on the SDGs to be presented to the 68th UN General Assembly in September 2013.

The High-level Panel of eminent persons of the Post-2015 Development Agenda will submit a report to the Secretary General containing recommendations in May 2013.

The Secretary General will present his report to the 68th UN General Assembly in September 2013.

Gaps

As expected, gaps exist between the two sustainable development processes. As stated it is unclear as to how the SDG process will be integrated into the Post-2015 Development Agenda.[24] While each process is headed by two different groups some communication does exist between the Open Working Group and the UN Task Team and High-level Panel of eminent persons. The most pertinent gap is the level of sustainability that each process is occurring. The OWG is focusing its attention to a narrower, more specific set of themes and issues, such as water sanitation, green energy, risk reduction, and management of natural resources to name a few. The SGDs are more specific and can be classified under the MDGs in many instances. The UN Task Team and High-level Panel of eminent persons, on the other hand, is directing its attention to the MDG which are a broader set of issues. These MDGs can, and may eventually, encompass the SDGs. The decision will hopefully arrive shortly after the 68th UN General Assembly in September 2013 as to how to integrate the processes.

Global Costs of Inaction

Sustainable development is a critical issue in today's global world. Serious damage has been caused to earth by human behavior with minimum effort to remedy the effects. Inaction is not

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[23] United Nations. *Report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.*
    New York: United Nations, 2012
[24] The 68th Session of the General Assembly will convene Sept. 17-30, 2013. Discussions will be made public shortly following

an adequate response to the issue. There needs to be effort and support to eliminate these harmful effects on the world we live in.

The costs society pays with inaction are numerous. A few identified costs include common and natural resources disappearing, dramatic weather patterns, sea levels rising at monstrous yearly rates, deforestation, health issues spreading, etc.[25] The list of costs that global community pays is uncountable. The most significant cost, however, is directly related to the human race alone. If inaction persists as a dominant mindset amongst citizens of the world, the human progression will begin to wither. The earth is unable to adapt to our changing behaviors and practices. Our actions as humans will and can no longer be supported. There has existed the belief of denial; that our actions and do not have a significant impact on the earth, especially one that is detrimental. Humans will begin to suffer from the effects of their own actions when they cannot provide and sustain the life style they have been accustomed to. Support, encouragement, and initiative are necessary to propel the human population in to action to save all that it has evolved to be.

5. Timeline and Results of Key Meetings toward 2015

Consultation Processes at the Global Stakeholder Levels Time Map

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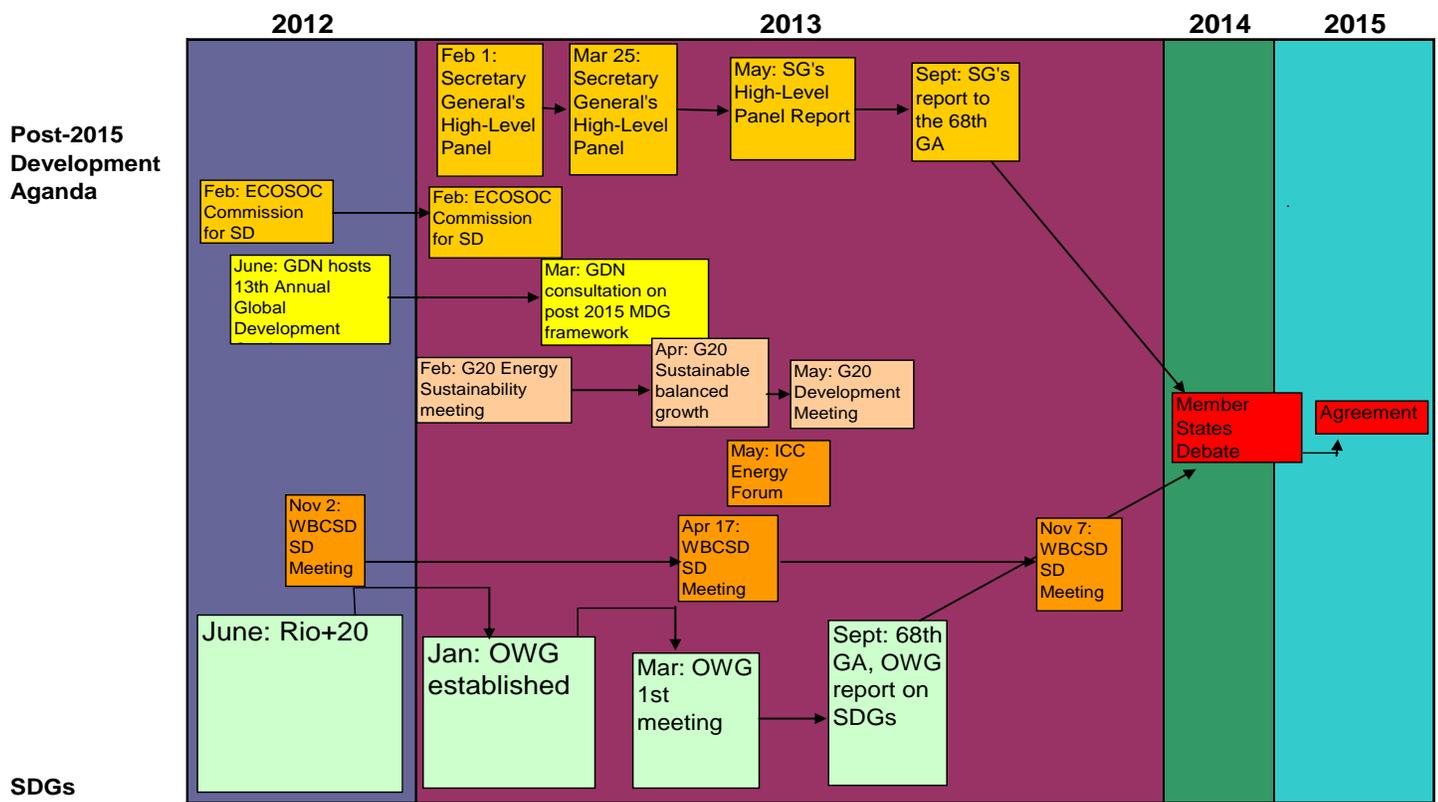
[25] Kanninen, Tapio. *Crisis of Global Sustainability.* New York: Routledge, 2013.

Formal Meetings of the High-level Panel

31 January - 2 February 2013

This High-level Panel of eminent persons of the Post-2015 Development Agenda meeting took place in Monrovia, Liberia and took up the theme of "National building blocks on sustained prosperity." The Panel delved into real issues of development including what and how to prioritize. It enumerated national building blocks for economic transformation, and reaffirmed its vision to end extreme poverty in all its forms, and make poverty eradication gains irreversible. The Panel also agreed that the new agenda should support sustainable development and growth that creates jobs, protect the environment, and ensure peace, security and equity at all levels.

The Panel stated that it will "make every effort to achieve a single, cohesive post-2015 agenda integrating economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection."[26] Economic growth, while crucial, is not sufficient to ensure social justice, equity, and sustained prosperity for all. Changing unsustainable patterns of consumption and production (SCP) is necessary even in high-income countries. The Panel will also explore policy options for green growth, it stated political stability is a recurrent theme, and emphasized the need to build strong, accountable institutions.

It appears there has been an establishment of three pillars in the post-2015 program:
- **Combating poverty**
- **Sustainable development**
- **Growth with employment**

The Panel's next meeting will convene in Bali, Indonesia, from 25-27 March 2013. This meeting will focus on global partnerships and means of implementation.

First Session of the OWG on SDGs

14-15 March 2013

The first session of the UN General Assembly Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) took place at UN Headquarters in New York. The OWG elected Csaba Körösi, Permanent Representative of Hungary, and Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya, as Co-Chairs.[27]

A general discussion was held Thursday morning and all day Friday, and an interactive discussion on "Conceptualizing the SDGs" took place Thursday afternoon. This discussion provided an opportunity for delegates and panel representatives from different sectors to exchanges thoughts and ideas.

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[26] Eminent persons of the Secretary General's High-level Panel on the Post-2015
Development Agenda. *Communiqué from the Meeting of the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Monrovia, Liberia.*
New York: United Nations, 2013
[27] *Sustainable Development 2015*. Stakeholder Forum.

Delegates appeared relieved and excited that the OWG was finally holding its first formal meeting after months of deliberations on the composition of the group.[28] Most of the meeting was dedicated to statements, allowing delegates to position themselves on OWG process and SDG priorities. The theme of all speakers seemed to address the importance of SDGs at the international level.

Participants shared their views on both the process and substance of the SDG framework. Statements included general considerations for the SDG framework, and others outlined priorities for issues to include in the goals. According to Co-Chair Körösi, the main areas of emphasis were:

> **Poverty and hunger eradication**
> **Employment and decent jobs**
> **Sustainable consumption and production (SCP)**
> **Gender equality and empowerment of women**
> **Access to and good management of the essentials of human**
> **well-being (food, water, health, and energy)**
> **Means of implementation**

In addition, numerous delegates expressed their views on integrating the SDGs with the post-2015 development agenda. Many delegates also called for remaining focused on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). A number of other participants highlighted complementarities between MDGs and SDGs and potential for convergence. Others argued that the two approaches should be kept separate.

At the end of the meeting, the Co-Chairs said they would talk with the delegates to finalize the dates of upcoming meetings, ensuring more advanced notice for future sessions.

Final Formal Meeting of the High-level Panel

25-27 March 2013

This High-level Panel of eminent persons of the Post-2015 Development Agenda meeting took place in Bali, Indonesia. The Panel discussed how to build a global partnership and means of implementation for their development agenda. It agreed on the need for a renewed global partnership that enables a transformative, people-centered, and planet-sensitive development agenda which is realized through the equal partnership of all stakeholders. The panel's vision is to "end extreme poverty in all its forms in the context of sustainable development and to have in place the building blocks of sustained prosperity for all."

The Panel stated[29] once again that they recognize the need to promote a single and coherent post-2015 development agenda that integrates economic growth, social inclusion, and

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[28] *Sustainable Development 2015*. Stakeholder Forum.
[29] Eminent persons of the Secretary General's High-level Panel on the Post-2015
　　　 Development Agenda. *Communiqué from the Meeting of the High-level Panel of*
　　　 Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Bali, Indonesia.
　　　 New York: United Nations, 2013

environmental sustainability. It is essential that all post-2015 intergovernmental processes and outcomes, including the Rio+20 outcomes and its follow up, are coherent and mutually reinforcing.

The Panel highlighted five key areas[30] on which progress is needed to achieve their post-2015 vision:

- **Reshape and revitalize global governance and partnerships**
  ...strengthen global governance to ensure it is fit for its purpose; avoid overlap and the duplication of efforts; and encourage joint work to address cross-cutting issues...Enhanced and scaled up models of cooperation among all levels of governments, the private sector, and civil society at global, regional, national, & sub-national levels will be needed.
- **Protection of the global environment**
  ...address global environmental challenges, strengthen resilience, and improve disaster preparedness capacities
- **Sustainable production and consumption**
  There should be a changed behavior in all countries in order to make more efficient use of environmental assets and resources.
- **Strengthen means of implementation**
  Adequate, stable, and predictable financing as well as efficient use of resources is required to support development.
  Cooperative financing around the globe is crucial
- **Data availability and better accountability in measuring progress**
  Substantial improvements in national and subnational statistical systems and the availability, quality, and timeliness of baseline data will be needed.

6. Millennium Development Goals Outlook and Predictions

Current SDG Trends

Sustainable development policy is an ongoing process and is constantly evolving throughout the world. The current SDGs can be linked to and even categorized under one or two of the eight MDGs, i.e., MDG 7: environmental sustainability and MDG 8: global partnership (see Annex 7.5 and 7.6). These SGDs as stated act on more specific areas/themes of the broad MDGs. Trends appear to be favoring a progression that focuses on the SDGs as part of new target areas within the MDGs. Referring to the chart "Priorities and Trends for Post-2015 Development" (Annex 7.5), one can see that the SDGs are priorities of the multistakeholders who are focused on the MDG development process. In addition, post-2015 emerging themes (Annex 7.6) are apparent under the "Outlier" categories for each stakeholder. These emerging themes and SDGs are setting the stage for the post-2015 development process.

Cross Sector View of the Demand of Stakeholders

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[30] Eminent persons of the Secretary General's High-level Panel on the Post-2015
    Development Agenda. *Communiqué from the Meeting of the High-level Panel of
    Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Bali, Indonesia.*
    New York: United Nations, 2013

Economic Themes (jobs, growth)

ECOSOC

GDN   G20   WBCSD

Social Themes — Environmental Themes

OWG

ICC

HLP Eminent Persons

Global Governance Theme

Legend
The scale ranges from 0% (at the center) to 100% (at the endpoints) corresponding to the focus the organization has to the four themes. Each tick-mark represents 20%.
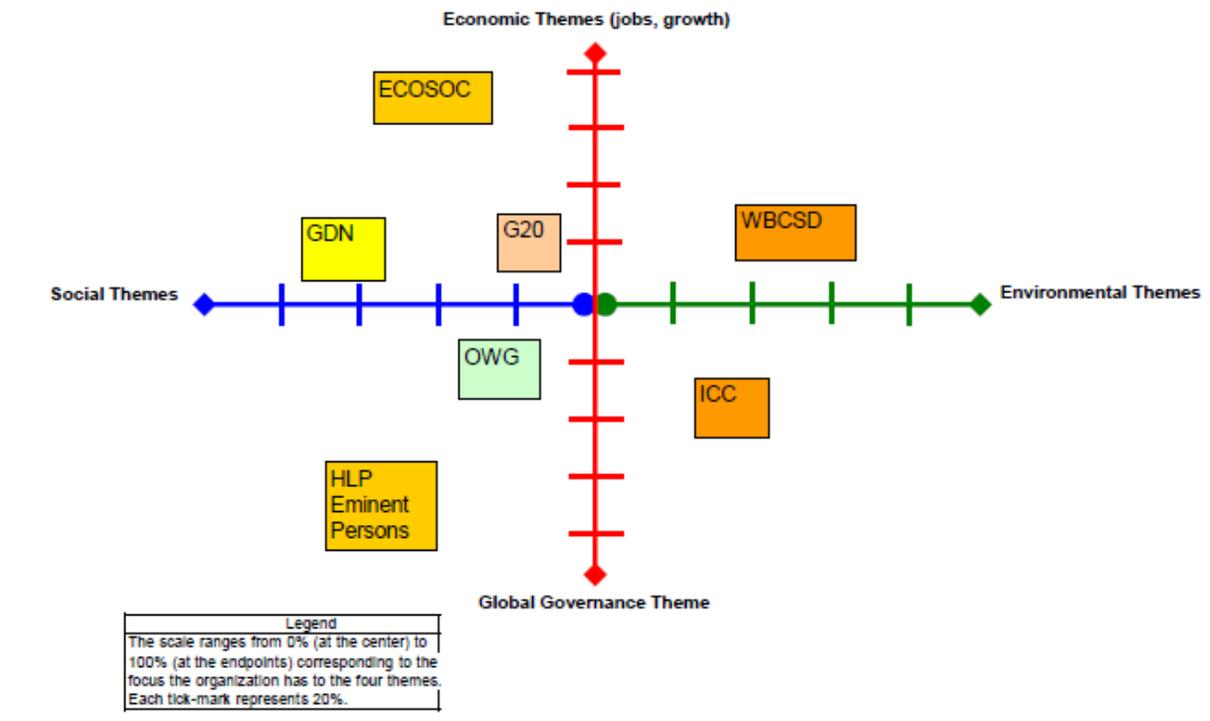
When focusing on the individual stakeholders, it is necessary to draw associations between them and the themes they appear to be favoring based on their development priorities (see Annexes 7.5 and 7.7 for priorities). These thematically relations are displayed in the chart above. Arguably, the most important theme is global governance. Without governance, sustainable development can not be accomplished. There needs to be strong, enforcing leadership to drive the process forward. Those who suffer the most are the poor and developing countries. Sustainable development is needed most in these countries, so without the governance for coherent policy interventions and concerted efforts, poorest and fragile countries will fail.

Top SDG Priorities

Based on current trends and priorities of the multistakeholders, there are several priorities that can be expected to remain into the post-2015 development process (see Annex 7.7). The priorities include poverty eradication, water sanitation, energy, economic growth, green growth, governance, and employment. These SDGs and emerging themes are most apparent across the board when looking at common themes between the stakeholders (Annex 7.5). These seven areas will be seen in future development goals and will drive ongoing sustainable development policy into the future, working to create a sustainable world.

7. Annexes: Tables and Graphs

7.1:   Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

Principle 1

Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature.

Principle 2

States have, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law, the sovereign right to exploit their own resources pursuant to their own environmental and developmental policies, and the responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or of areas beyond the limits of national jurisdiction.

Principle 3

The right to development must be fulfilled so as to equitably meet developmental and environmental needs of present and future generations.

Principle 4

In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.

Principle 5

All States and all people shall cooperate in the essential task of eradicating poverty as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in order to decrease the disparities in standards of living and better meet the needs of the majority of the people of the world.

Principle 6

The special situation and needs of developing countries, particularly the least developed and those most environmentally vulnerable, shall be given special priority. International actions in the field of environment and development should also address the interests and needs of all countries.

Principle 7

States shall cooperate in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the health and integrity of the Earth's ecosystem. In view of the different contributions to global environmental degradation, States have common but differentiated responsibilities. The developed countries acknowledge the responsibility that they bear in the international pursuit of sustainable development in view of the pressures their societies place on the global environment and of the technologies and financial resources they command.

Principle 8

To achieve sustainable development and a higher quality of life for all people, States should reduce and eliminate unsustainable patterns of production and consumption and promote appropriate demographic policies.

Principle 9

States should cooperate to strengthen endogenous capacity-building for sustainable development by improving scientific understanding through exchanges of scientific and technological knowledge, and by enhancing the development, adaptation, diffusion and transfer of technologies, including new and innovative technologies.

Principle 10

Environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level. At the national level, each individual shall have appropriate access to information concerning the environment that is held by public authorities, including information on hazardous materials and activities in their communities, and the opportunity to participate in decision-making processes. States shall facilitate and encourage public awareness and participation by making information widely available. Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings, including redress and remedy, shall be provided.

Principle 11

States shall enact effective environmental legislation. Environmental standards, management objectives and priorities should reflect the environmental and developmental context to which they apply. Standards applied by some countries may be inappropriate and of unwarranted economic and social cost to other countries, in particular developing countries.

Principle 12

States should cooperate to promote a supportive and open international economic system that would lead to economic growth and sustainable development in all countries, to better address the problems of environmental degradation. Trade policy measures for environmental purposes should not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade. Unilateral actions to deal with environmental challenges outside the jurisdiction of the importing country should be avoided. Environmental measures addressing transboundary or global environmental problems should, as far as possible, be based on an international consensus.

Principle 13

States shall develop national law regarding liability and compensation for the victims of pollution and other environmental damage. States shall also cooperate in an expeditious and more determined manner to develop further international law regarding liability and compensation for adverse effects of environmental damage caused by activities within their jurisdiction or control to areas beyond their jurisdiction.

Principle 14

States should effectively cooperate to discourage or prevent the relocation and transfer to other States of any activities and substances that cause severe environmental degradation or are found to be harmful to human health.

Principle 15

In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Principle 16

National authorities should endeavor to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment.

Principle 17

Environmental impact assessment, as a national instrument, shall be undertaken for proposed activities that are likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment and are subject to a decision of a competent national authority.

Principle 18

States shall immediately notify other States of any natural disasters or other emergencies that are likely to produce sudden harmful effects on the environment of those States. Every effort shall be made by the international community to help States so afflicted.

Principle 19

States shall provide prior and timely notification and relevant information to potentially affected States on activities that may have a significant adverse transboundary environmental effect and shall consult with those States at an early stage and in good faith.

Principle 20

Women have a vital role in environmental management and development. Their full participation is therefore essential to achieve sustainable development.

Principle 21

The creativity, ideals and courage of the youth of the world should be mobilized to forge a global partnership in order to achieve sustainable development and ensure a better future for all.

Principle 22

Indigenous people and their communities and other local communities have a vital role in environmental management and development because of their knowledge and traditional practices. States should recognize and duly support their identity, culture and interests and enable their effective participation in the achievement of sustainable development.

Principle 23

The environment and natural resources of people under oppression, domination and occupation shall be protected.

Principle 24

Warfare is inherently destructive of sustainable development. States shall therefore respect international law providing protection for the environment in times of armed conflict and cooperate in its further development, as necessary.

Principle 25

Peace, development and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible.

Principle 26

States shall resolve all their environmental disputes peacefully and by appropriate means in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Principle 27

States and people shall cooperate in good faith and in a spirit of partnership in the fulfillment of the principles embodied in this Declaration and in the further development of international law in the field of sustainable development.

7.2: UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda Membership

Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), Co-Chair
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Co-Chair
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
Department of Public Information (DPI)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)
Economic Commission for Europe (ECE)
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)
Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)
Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)
Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Global Environment Facility (GEF)
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
International Labour Organization (ILO)
International Maritime Organization (IMO)
International Monetary Fund (IMF)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)
Office of the Deputy Secretary-General (ODSG)
Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked DevelopinCountries
and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS)
Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (OSAA)
Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO)
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)
United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women)
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP)
United Nations Global Compact Office
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)
United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
United Nations Millennium Campaign
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)
United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA)
United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination Secretariat (CEB)
United Nations University (UNU)
United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)
Universal Postal Union (UPU)
World Bank
World Food Programme (WFP)
World Health Organization (WHO)
World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
World Trade Organization (WTO)

7.3: Members of the High-level Panel of eminent persons of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

This Panel consist of representatives from governments, the private sector, academia, civil society, and youth, with the appropriate geographical and gender balance. Panelists are members in their personal capacity.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, Indonesia (co-chair)

President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia (co-chair)

Prime Minister David Cameron, United Kingdom (co-chair)

Fulbert Gero Amoussouga, Benin

Izabella Teixeira, Brazil

Yingfan Wang, China

Maria Angela Holguin, Columbia

Gisela Alonso, Cuba

Jean-Michel Severino, France

Horst Köhler, Germany

Naoto Kan, Japan

Queen Rania Al Abdullah, Jordan

Betty Maina, Kenya

Abhijit Banerjee, India

Andris Piebalgs, Latvia

Patricia Espinosa, Mexico

Paul Polman, Netherlands

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Nigeria

Elvira Nabiullina, Russain Federation

Graça Machel, Mozambbique

Sung-Hwan Kim, South Korea

Gunilla Carlsson, Sweden

Emilia Pires, Timor-Leste

Kadir Topbas, Turkey

John Podesta, United States of America

Tawakel Karman, Yeman

Amina J. Mohammed, Special Advosor of the Secretary General on Post-2015 Development Planning

7.4: Member states represented in the Open Working Group:

African Group

Algeria / Egypt / Morocco / Tunisia

Ghana

Benin

Kenya (Co-Chair)

United Republic of Tanzania

Congo

Zambia/Zimbabwe

Eastern European Group

Hungary (Co-Chair)

Belarus / Serbia

Bulgaria / Croatia

Montenegro / Slovenia

Poland / Romania

Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

Colombia / Guatemala

Bahamas / Barbados

Guyana/Haiti/Trinidad and Tobago

Mexico / Peru

Brazil / Nicaragua

Argentina / Bolivia (Plurinational State of) / Ecuador

Asian Group

Nauru / Palau / Papua New Guinea

Bhutan / Thailand / Viet Nam

India / Pakistan / Sri Lanka

China / Indonesia / Kazakhstan

Cyprus / Singapore / United Arab Emirates

Bangladesh / Republic of Korea / Saudi Arabia

Iran (Islamic Republic of) / Japan / Nepal

Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Australia/Netherlands/United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Canada / Israel / United States of America

Denmark / Ireland / Norway

France / Germany / Switzerland

Italy / Spain / Turkey

This Open Working Group comprises of 30 representatives nominated by Member States from the five United Nation regional groups, with the aim of achieving fair, equitable, and balanced geographical representation.[31]

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[31] United Nations. *Report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.* New York: United Nations, 2012.

7.5: Priorities and Trends for Post 2015 Development

Priorities and Trends for Post-2015 Development

MDGs	SDGs			MDGs					
				Business		Civil Society	UN/IO		Nation States
MDGs	Rio+20 Principles	Thematic Areas	OWG	WBCSD	ICC	GDN	ECOSOC	HLP Eminent Persons	G20
1. End Poverty and Hunger	1, 5	Poverty Eradication, Food Security/nutriiton & sustainable agriculture	Poverty eradication, Food security, sustainable agriculture	Food & hunger	Poverty	Poverty, Sustainable agriculture	Poverty reduction	Poverty eradication	Food security
2. Universal Education	21	Education	Education	Universal Education	NA	Education & training	NA	NA	NA
3. Gender and Equality	20	Biodiversity	Gender, Equity, Biodiversity	Biodiversity	NA	Gender, Inequality	NA	Ensure equality	NA
4. Child Health	NA	Health & population	Health	Universal Health	NA	Health	NA	NA	NA
5. Maternal Health	NA	Health & population	Health	Universal Health	NA	Health	NA	NA	NA
6. Combat HIV/AIDS	NA	Health & population	Health	Universal Health	NA	Health	NA	NA	NA
7. Environmental Sustainability	2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 25	Water sanitation, Energy, Oceans & seas, Disaster risk reduction, Cliamte change, Forests, Desertificatoin/land degration/drought, Chemicals & waste, Sustainable consumption & production	Water sanitation, Energy, Climate change, management of natural resources, Sustainable consumption & prduction, Oceans & seas, Disaster risk reduction, Deserticifation, Waste management, Green economy, Forests	Water sanitation, Energy, Maintenance of ecosystem & ecosystem services	Water policy, Energy, Climate change	Water, Energy, Environment, Climate change,	NA	Environment	Energy, Green growth, Climate change
8. Global Partnership	3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 26, 27	Health & population, Small island developing states, Least developed countries, Landlock developing countries, Regional efforts, Disaster risk reduction, Sustainable consumption & production	Means of implimentation, management of natural resources, Sustainable consumption & prduction, Economy & macroeconomic stability, Disaster risk reduciton, Peace & security, good governance, land management, Corporate/social responsibility	Economic growth, Goals relating to good governance & human rights	Economic growth, Governance	Development finance & aid effectiveness, Domestic resource mobilization, Globalization & trade, Governance, Macroeconomics & economic growth, Urban development & global south	Economic development, Trade	Economic growth, Peace & security, Sustainable consumption & production, Governance, Means of implimentation	Economic growth, Strengthen financial systems, Interconnected global economies, Aid fragile states

Outliers	Outliers	Outliers	Outliers	Outliers	Outliers
Sustainable tourism	Tourism	Innovation	Job creation	Job creation	Jobs and employment
Sustainable transport	Transport and infrastructure	International affairs		Data availability	Infrastructure
Sustainalbe cities and human settlements	Cities and housing	Transport			
Promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all and social protection	Employment	Labor & social protections			
		Information and communication technology			
Africa	Information and communications technology	Law & rights			
Mountains	Community culture and spirituality	Migration			
Mining		Private sector development			

7.6: MDGs and SDGs with corresponding post 2015 emerging themes

MDGs and SDGs with corresponding post 2015 emerging themes

Poverty eradication, Food security, Education, Biodiversity, Health, Water sanitation, Energy, Oceans & seas, Disaster risk reduction, Climate change, Forests, Desertification/land degration/dought, Chemicals & waste, Sustainable consumption & production, Small island developing states, Least developed countries, Regional efforts

Sustainable Development Goals

Poverty eradication, Food security & sustainable agriculture, Education & training, Biodiversity & equality, Health, Water sanitation, Energy, Climate change, Environment, Management of natural resources, Sustainable consumption & production, Oceans & seas, Disaster risk reduction, Waste management, Desertification, Green growth, Forests, Means of implementation, Good governance, Economic growth, Trade, Macroeconomics, Financial systems, Interconnected economies, Corporate/social responsibility, Domestic resource mobilization, Urban development & global south, Aid fragile states, Peace & security

Sustainable tourism, Sustainable transport, Infrastructure, Sustainable cities & human settlements, Employment & job creation, Africa, Mountains, Mining, Information and communication technology, Community culture and spirituality, Innovation, International affairs, Labor & social protections, Law & rights, Migration, Data availability, Private sector development

Post 2015 Emerging Themes

1. End Poverty and Hunger
2. Universal Education
3. Gender and Equality
4. Child Health
5. Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS
7. Environmental Sustainability
8. Global Partnership

Millennium Development Goals

7.7 Top Priorities for the Future of Sustainable Development

<u>Top Priorities for the Future of Sustainable Development</u>

Poverty Eradication

Open Working Group
ICC
GDN
ECOSOC
HLP Eminent Persons

Water Sanitation

Open Working Group
WBCSD
ICC
GDN

Energy

Open Working Group
WBCSD
ICC
GDN
G20

Economic Growth

Open Working Group
WBCSD
ICC
GDN
ECOSOC
HLP Eminent Persons
G20

Green Growth

Open Working Group
WBCSD
GDN
G20

Governance

Open Working Group
WBCSD
ICC
GDN
HLP Eminent Persons

Employment

Open Working Group
ECOSOC
HLP Eminent Persons
G20

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