



TAFS MUN 2016

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**The Air Force School,
Subroto Park**

Dates: 26th to 28th December, 2016

Venue: The Air Force School, Subroto Park

**United Nations Parliamentary
Assembly -
Background Guide**

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Delegates,

As part of the Executive Board, It is our responsibility to facilitate your educational experience at the simulation of the United Nations Parliamentary Assembly, being hosted at The Air Force School Model United Nations Conference 2016.

This agenda under discussion would be “Working on the Post 2015 Development Agenda”. This agenda would require you to adopt a multidimensional approach and envision the work done for the Post 2015 Development Agenda, the factors affecting it and the subsequent reforms, if any, in a new paradigm.

This background guide will give you an overview of the topic at hand and the work of the Committee. It contains some basic elements on the topic that will guide your research, further specific links that will prime you on your country’s policy, as well as the questions that have to be answered in the draft resolutions that you may propose. However such mentions do not limit the scope of discussion in the committee at all.

We expect from all delegates an active participation in the proceedings of this committee in order to have a fruitful discussion on a pertinent global problem. For that purpose, extensive and thorough research is expected of you over and beyond this study guide. Think of this study guide as merely an initiation to your research, defining the broad aspects.

UNA-USA Rules of Procedure shall be adhered to for the due course of this committee simulation. For all those participating in a model UN conference for the first time, and otherwise, kindly refer to this for understanding the procedure <http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation/rules-of-procedure>

This goes without saying, if you have any questions or doubt regarding your preparation for the committee please feel free to contact any of us. Our email id’s are listed below. We wish you all the best in your preparation for this committee and we are looking forward towards a good debate expectantly.

Yours Sincerely,

Varad Choudhary

Chairperson

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CREDIBILITY OF SOURCES IN THE COMMITTEE

Please note that as a representative of a country's government, you are free to look at all types of sources for your reference or preparation. However, it is advised that you cross-check facts from at least one of the following –

1. News Sources

a. Reuters

It is an independent private news agency, which mostly covers international events of importance.

Website: www.reuters.com

b. State operated News Agencies

In many countries the government itself partially or fully controls the media, and thus the subsequent flow of information. Hence, news reports from such outlets can be used by a participant to substantiate or refute a fact in context of that government's position on the agenda in the council. For examples,

i. RIA Novosti (Russia)

ii. IRNA (Iran)

iii. Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (People's Republic of China)

2. Government Reports

These are reports which various organs, ministries, departments or affiliated agencies of a government release. They can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports. You may visit different governmental websites for the same. For Example,

a. State Department of the United States of America

Website: www.state.gov

b. Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation

Website: www.eng.mil.ru/en/

c. Ministry of Foreign or External Affairs of various countries like India

Website: www.mea.gov.in

3. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations

This portal serves as a one-stop-shop for finding documents which reflect the activity of a country at United Nations or its affiliated bodies. The documents from these individual country websites also serve as a source for finding official statements by that country on various agendas. Do take note that the nature of websites varies a lot from country to country.

Source Link: www.un.org/en/members/

(Click on a particular country to get the website of the Office of its Permanent Representative.)

4. Other Multilateral or Inter-Governmental Organizations

These are international organisations which are apart from the United Nations. Usually one may find these organisation based around a specify region like South Asia, and a specific purpose such as trade, security or cooperation. Documents from the same can be deemed credible; most certainly for the countries which are a part of that organisation. For example,

- a. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)

Website: www.saarc-sec.org

- b. The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

Website: www.nato.int/cps/en

- c. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

Website: www.opec.org/opec_web/en

5. United Nations and Affiliated Bodies

All reports or documents from the United Nations, its organs or affiliated bodies may be considered as a credible source of information.

Website: www.un.org

- a. Organs such as,

- i. UN Security Council

Website: www.un.org/Docs/sc/

- ii. UNGA

Website: www.un.org/en/ga/

- b. UN Affiliated bodies such,

- i. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

Website: www.iaea.org

- ii. The World Bank (WB)

Website: www.worldbank.org

6. Documents from Treaty Based Bodies

These are bodies which are strictly formed for looking after the implementation of an international treaty or agreement. These agreements are pertinent to a specific theme; a document which various countries sign and agree upon. For example,

- a. The Antarctic Treaty System
Website: www.ats.aq/e/ats.htm
- b. The International Criminal Court
It is based on an agreement known as the Rome Statute.
Website: www.icc-cpi.int

ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

Interestingly, the committee up for simulation is one which on technical grounds does not exist as of now.

A United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) is a proposed addition to the United Nations System that would allow for participation of member nations' legislators and, eventually, direct election of United Nations (UN) parliament members by citizens worldwide. The idea was raised at the founding of the League of Nations in the 1920s and again following the end of World War II in 1945, but remained dormant throughout the Cold War. In the 1990s and 2000s, the rise of global trade and the power of world organizations that govern it led to calls for a parliamentary assembly to scrutinize their activity. The Campaign for the Establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly was formed in 2007 to coordinate pro-UNPA efforts, which as of July 2013 has received the support of over 800 Members of Parliament from over 100 countries worldwide and is supported by over 5,000 people

The Campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly is a global network that advocates democratic representation of the world's citizens at the UN and the institutions of global governance. Supporters of the campaign include current and former parliamentarians and officials, representatives of civil society organizations, researchers, and dedicated citizens. The campaign's mandate is based on the international appeal for the establishment of a parliamentary assembly at the UN that was published in 2007 and on subsequent declarations. Five international meetings on a UNPA have taken place so far. The campaign's international action and strategy is coordinated by a secretariat that is hosted by the Committee for a Democratic UN based in Berlin. The secretariat works closely with the campaign's steering committee, the co-chairs of the campaign's advisory group, and partner organizations such as the World Federalist Movement based in New York and The Hague.

The overall goal of the campaign is to mobilize government support for the establishment of a UNPA. While the campaign approaches governments, it simultaneously seeks to establish parliamentary support.

The campaign advocates a UNPA within civil society at all levels, gains support from non-governmental organizations, and works towards achieving popular awareness of a UNPA as a response to the democratic deficit in global governance.¹

The Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly By Andreas Bummel Secretary-General, UNPA Campaign²

Elected representatives who are interested in the affairs of the UN and its entities will discover that there are hardly any formal arrangements in place that allow for the inclusion of parliamentarians into the UN's proceedings. In 1992, governments agreed at the UN Conference on Environment and Development that public participation in decision making is important and defined nine major groups that should be engaged, for example indigenous peoples, local authorities, business and industry, women or non-governmental organizations.

Many UN entities and UN-driven negotiations such as the climate talks give those groups an opportunity to be involved. That of course needs to be appreciated. Nonetheless, it's one of many symptoms for the neglect of parliamentarians in intergovernmental affairs that they are not among them. Another example is that the proposal for the creation of an Elected Representatives Liaison Unit at the UN that was put forward by the Panel on UN–Civil Society Relations in 2004 wasn't ever seriously followed up. To be sure, there is a considerable trend towards stronger interaction of parliamentarians across national borders.

Today, there are more than 150 international parliamentary institutions, one of which, of course, is the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. The oldest such institution is the InterParliamentary Union that was created in 1889. In terms of influence on intergovernmental organizations, the group of now around 26 formal parliamentary organs is the most developed. Examples are the European Parliament, the PanAfrican Parliament or the Parliament of Mercosur. In the UN system, such organs are unknown. This is more and more identified as a substantial democratic deficit. Although the IPU and other networks have slowly managed to establish a working relationship with the UN and other intergovernmental organizations, and despite that they are very important in many respects, the sad reality is that their formal status and their political influence are marginal at best. An international group of lawmakers and representatives of civil society organizations, encouraged by former UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, concluded in 2007 that a bold step forward is required. There should be a parliamentary organ formally embedded into the UN's structure, a UN Parliamentary Assembly. The proposal was already brought up here and there ever since the UN was established. Now, however, the Campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly was finally launched as an informal international platform that brings together all like-minded forces, and coordinates their efforts at all levels. No question, a UNPA is a complex undertaking

¹ <http://en.unpacampaign.org/about/>

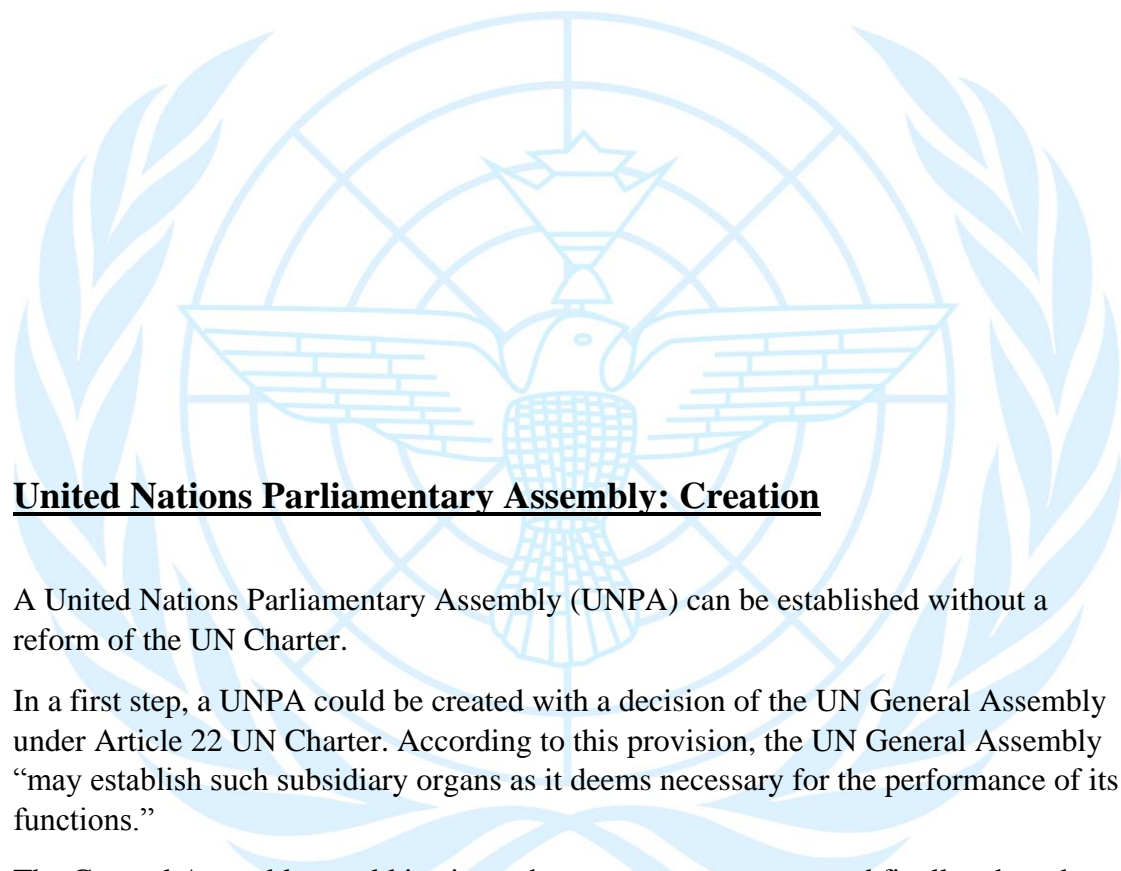
² http://www.bummel.org/wp-content/uploads/Pages-from-NetworkReview13_December2012.pdf

which necessarily means that there are differing opinions at the level of details, for example regarding the apportionment of seats or the best mechanism to establish it under international law. Nonetheless, the campaign's international appeal, a political statement that is endorsed by all campaign supporters, has proven to create focus and unity. Since its publication in 2007, around 1,200 members of parliament signed the document, in addition to thousands of other individuals from over 150 countries, among them innumerable distinguished personalities from public administration, science, civil society and 5 culture. The complete list is available on the internet. Under the roof of the campaign, four international meetings have taken place so far: in the Palais des Nations in Geneva (under the patronage of H.E. Boutros Boutros-Ghali), in the European Parliament in Brussels, in New York and in the Senate of Argentina in Buenos Aires. These meetings provide for an opportunity for exchange and debate and help to create momentum. The next is envisaged to take place in Africa next year. The campaign is decentralized and activities to a large degree depend on the initiative of individual supporters, primarily members of parliament. The international secretariat provides assistance, for example when it comes to drafting resolutions, statements or other documents. Since the campaign's launch pro-UNPA resolutions were adopted, for example, by the Canadian House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, the PanAfrican Parliament, the Latin-American Parliament, the Senate of Argentina, the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the National Assembly of the Seychelles, the European Parliament and the Parliament of Mercosur. The campaign also interacts with governments and always looks for possibilities to expand the pro-UNPA network.

The campaign's policy is that a UNPA could be of a hybrid nature, composed of members who are either sitting members of national or regional parliaments or directly elected for this purpose. Starting as an advisory body, it should be incrementally provided with genuine rights of information, participation and control vis-à-vis the UN and the organizations of the UN system, including the international financial institutions and the World Trade Organization. In the long run, the campaign's supporters believe that it could formally exercise oversight over the system's institutions and have a say in the election of the Executive Directors. In a first step the campaign advocates the establishment of a UNPA by means which do not require a change of the UN's Charter which is either by a decision of the UN General Assembly according to Article 22 of the UN's Charter or by a stand-alone treaty. In the context of a comprehensive UN reform, if it finally comes, a UNPA could become one of the UN's main bodies. Although momentum is building steadily, the campaign nonetheless is still dealing with substantial hurdles. As the subject of a UNPA is not yet part of the official UN reform agenda, it is challenging to convince governments who are faced with many urgent issues on a daily basis to seriously devote time and energy to consider the subject. On the other hand, members of parliament who are interested in international issues are often engaged in an international parliamentary network already and ponder whether to invest into such a long-term project as well. Often enough the question is raised whether a UNPA wouldn't duplicate existing parliamentary efforts.

The intention, however, is quite the contrary. A UNPA would provide for a formal and publicly funded platform within the intergovernmental system that can pool international parliamentary involvement. We would expect a UNPA to carry out most of its work in commissions and sub-commission that would interact with the broader

family of international parliamentary institutions. We envisage that through such commissions, networks such as the Parliamentary Network on the World Bank & IMF would actually gain leverage.”



United Nations Parliamentary Assembly: Creation

A United Nations Parliamentary Assembly (UNPA) can be established without a reform of the UN Charter.

In a first step, a UNPA could be created with a decision of the UN General Assembly under Article 22 UN Charter. According to this provision, the UN General Assembly “may establish such subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions.”

The General Assembly would instigate the preparatory process and finally adopt the UNPA’s Statutes. Limited only by the scope of its own powers, the assembly would be able to vest the UNPA with distinct rights and functions.

Alternatively, the UNPA could be created through a new international treaty. This treaty would consist of the UNPA’s Statutes and would be negotiated by a group of like-minded governments. To enter into force, the treaty would have to be ratified by a certain number of countries as stipulated in the Statutes. Rights and functions vis-à-vis the UN would have to be confirmed by a cooperation agreement adopted by the UN General Assembly. Again, the UNPA’s rights could not exceed those of the General Assembly.

In either case, the UNPA should be open to the participation of all UN member states.

The establishment of a UNPA could be prepared by a United Nations Parliamentary Network set up by individual parliamentarians.

Numerous existing international parliamentary institutions such as the European Parliament or the Pan-African Parliament provide important experience to draw upon.

For the purpose of the simulation, the general assumption on which the committee shall proceed shall be that the UNPA has come into existence by application of Article 22 of the UN Charter which allows the UN General Assembly authority to create subsidiary organs for its functions.



Millennium Development Goals and post-2015 Development Agenda

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing universal primary education – have been a milestone in global and national development efforts. The framework has helped to galvanize development efforts and guide global and national development priorities. While three of the eight goals have been achieved prior to the final deadline of 2015 progress has been uneven within and across countries. Thus further efforts and a strong global partnership for development are needed to accelerate progress and reach the goals by 2015. To learn more about the work of ECOSOC and the United Nations on the MDGs, click on the panel in the upper-right hand corner.

A global development agenda beyond 2015

The outcome document of the 2010 High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs requested the Secretary-General to initiate thinking on a post-2015 development agenda and include recommendations in his annual report on

efforts to accelerate MDG progress. The outcome of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development initiated an inclusive intergovernmental process to prepare a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs). There is broad agreement on the need for close linkages between the two processes to arrive at one global development agenda for the post-2015 period, with sustainable development at its centre.

Building on its success in reviewing progress on the MDGs through the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), the Economic and Social Council will play a major role in the preparations, implementation and follow up of a post-2015 development agenda. The ECOSOC strengthening process and the Council's mandated role in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development should also bolster the Council's role as a monitoring platform in the post-2015 era. In addition, dialogue is being initiated through the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) on the possible features of a renewed global partnership for development, and characteristics of a monitoring and accountability framework. Representatives from governments, civil society, philanthropic organizations, academia and the private sector are being engaged in these conversations, which will also examine the broader implications – for development cooperation – of a post-2015 development agenda.

The Economic and Social Council will play a major role in the preparations, monitoring and implementation of a post-2015 development agenda. This will build on the Council's success in reviewing progress on the MDGs through the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR), as well as its broader support to advancing the UN development agenda. Dialogue is being initiated through the Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) on the possible features of a renewed global partnership for development in the post-2015 setting, and characteristics of a monitoring and accountability framework. Representatives from governments, civil society, philanthropic organizations, academia and the private sector are being engaged in these conversations, which will also examine the broader implications – for development cooperation – of a post-2015 development agenda. The ECOSOC strengthening process and the Council's role coming out of the Rio+20 Conference in the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development should further bolster the Council's role in the post-2015 era.

The Secretary-General established the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. Chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, the team brings together the efforts of more than 60 UN agencies and international organizations.

The Task Team is currently focusing its analytical work on the global partnership for development, monitoring and indicators and financing for sustainable development. Moreover, the Technical Support Team to provide inputs to the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on the SDGs has been established under the umbrella of the Task Team to ensure early convergence of the post-2015 and SDGs processes.

In its first report to the Secretary-General in May 2012, *Realizing the Future We Want for All*, the Task Team outlines a vision for the post-2015 development agenda and suggests four key dimensions of inclusive economic and social development, environmental sustainability and peace and security. Members of the Task Team also prepared a set of 18 think pieces that explore how different themes could potentially be reflected in a new framework.

The Task Team published a second report on *A Renewed Global Partnership for Development* in March 2013. The report provides recommendations on key dimensions and a potential format for a global partnership in the post-2015 era. It advises that the partnership should include universal commitments calling for actions from all countries, according to their national capabilities. It should build on existing commitments such as those reflected in the MDGs, the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, but must also be broadened and strengthened to address the large array of global challenges we face today.

In July 2012, the Secretary-General launched his High-level Panel of Eminent Persons to provide guidance and recommendations on the post-2015 development agenda. The panel is chaired by the Presidents of Indonesia and Liberia and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Its 27 members include representatives from the private sector, academia, civil society and local authorities. The Panel will publish its report in May 2013.

National consultations on a post-2015 development agenda are under way in more than 70 countries. The United Nations Development Group has organized a set of eleven thematic consultations, on conflict and fragility; education; environmental sustainability; governance; growth and employment; health; hunger, food and nutrition; inequalities; population dynamics; energy; and water. A report with the preliminary findings from the national and thematic consultations was launched in March 2013.



Sustainable Development Goals(SDG's)



While the SDGs are not legally binding, governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals. Countries have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review of the progress made in implementing the Goals, which will require quality, accessible and timely data collection. Regional follow-up and review will be based on national-level analyses and contribute to follow-up and review at the global level.

What is sustainable development?

- Sustainable development has been defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- Sustainable development calls for concerted efforts towards building an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and planet.
- For sustainable development to be achieved, it is crucial to harmonize three core elements: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. These elements are interconnected and all are crucial for the well-being of individuals and societies.
- Eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. To this end, there must be promotion of sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems.

Are the Sustainable Development Goals legally binding?

- No. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not legally binding.
- Nevertheless, countries are expected to take ownership and establish a national framework for achieving the 17 Goals.
- Implementation and success will rely on countries' own sustainable development policies, plans and programmes.
- Countries have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, with regard to the progress made in implementing the Goals and targets over the next 15 years.
- Actions at the national level to monitor progress will require quality, accessible and timely data collection and regional follow-up and review.

How will the Sustainable Development Goals be implemented?

- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda³ that came out of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development provided concrete policies and actions to support the implementation of the new agenda.
- Implementation and success will rely on countries' own sustainable development policies, plans and programmes, and will be led by countries. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be a compass for aligning countries' plans with their global commitments.
- Nationally owned and country-led sustainable development strategies will require resource mobilization and financing strategies.
- All stakeholders: governments, civil society, the private sector, and others, are expected to contribute to the realisation of the new agenda.
- A revitalized global partnership at the global level is needed to support national efforts. This is recognized in the 2030 Agenda.
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships have been recognized as an important component of strategies that seek to mobilize all stakeholders around the new agenda.

How will the Sustainable Development Goals be monitored?

- At the global level, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets of the new agenda will be monitored and reviewed using a set of global indicators. The global indicator framework, to be developed by the Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEA-SDGs), will be agreed on by the UN Statistical Commission by March 2016. The Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly will then adopt these indicators.
- Governments will also develop their own national indicators to assist in monitoring progress made on the goals and targets.
- Chief statisticians from Member States are working on the identification of the targets with the aim to have 2 indicators for each target. There will be approximately

³ <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/ffd3/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/07/Addis-Ababa-Action-Agenda-Draft-Outcome-Document-7-July-2015.pdf>

300 indicators for all the targets. Where the targets cover cross-cutting issues, however, the number of indicators may be reduced.

- The follow-up and review process will be informed by an annual SDG Progress Report to be prepared by the Secretary-General.
- The annual meetings of the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development will play a central role in reviewing progress towards the SDGs at the global level. The means of implementation of the SDGs will be monitored and reviewed as outlined in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the outcome document of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, to ensure that financial resources are effectively mobilized to support the new sustainable development agenda.

How much will the implementation of this new sustainable development agenda cost?

- The means of implementation—including how to mobilize the financial resources to achieve the sustainable development agenda—are a core feature of the new agenda.
- In order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), substantial investment will be required, in both developed and developing countries. This agenda will require the mobilization of significant resources—in the trillions of dollars.
- But these resources already exist. There are far more than enough savings in the world to finance the new agenda. How to direct investment so that it supports sustainable development will be crucial for achieving our Goals.
- Resources need to be mobilized from domestic and international sources, as well as from the public and private sectors.
- Official development assistance is still necessary to help the countries most in need, including the least developed countries, to achieve sustainable development.

How does climate change relate to sustainable development?

- Climate change is already impacting public health, food and water security, migration, peace and security. Climate change, left unchecked, will roll back the development gains we have made over the last decades and will make further gains impossible.
- Investments in sustainable development will help address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and building climate resilience.
- Conversely, action on climate change will drive sustainable development.
- Tackling climate change and fostering sustainable development are two mutually reinforcing sides of the same coin; sustainable development cannot be achieved without climate action. Conversely, many of the SDGs are addressing the core drivers of climate change.

How are the Sustainable Development Goals different from the MDGs?

- The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets are broader in scope and go further than the MDGs by addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for development that works for all people. The goals cover the three

dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection.

- Building on the success and momentum of the MDGs, the new global goals cover more ground, with ambitions to address inequalities, economic growth, decent jobs, cities and human settlements, industrialization, oceans, ecosystems, energy, climate change, sustainable consumption and production, peace and justice.
- The new Goals are universal and apply to all countries, whereas the MDGs were intended for action in developing countries only.
- A core feature of the SDGs is their strong focus on means of implementation—the mobilization of financial resources—capacity-building and technology, as well as data and institutions.
- The new Goals recognize that tackling climate change is essential for sustainable development and poverty eradication. SDG 13 aims to promote urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

Sustainable Development Goals

The SDGs were firstly introduced, in “*The future we want*”, the Rio+ outcome document:

“248. We resolve to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly. An open working group shall be constituted no later than at the opening of the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly and shall comprise 30 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 sustainable development goals are the following:

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact

Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Post-2015 sustainable development goals

“The question is not whether to abandon global targets but rather how to improve the MDG architecture and how to adjust them to the priorities beyond 2015.”

The development agenda beyond 2015 is currently being fuelled by two significant policy processes:

1. General Assembly (GA) 2010; focused on the follow-up to the MDGs;
2. UN Conference on Sustainable Development outcome and the resulting sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The 2010 United Nations Summit on the Millennium Development Goals was the first formal step towards a post-2015 development agenda. The GA adopted resolution

65/1 on 19 October 2010, mandating that the Secretary-General initiate a consultation process across the UN system, civil society, academia, think tanks, private organizations and make recommendations in his annual reports for further steps to advance the development agenda beyond 2015. The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) would serve as a principal body for coordination, policy review, dialogue, and development of recommendations on the issues of economic and social development and for the follow up on the MDGs.

The second policy process originated with the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20). This conference, held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, brought together governments, civil society, and private sector to discuss how to achieve global prosperity while protecting the environment. One of the main outcomes of the conference was the agreement by Member States to start the process of developing a set of SDGs, which will build upon the MDGs and align with the post-2015 development agenda. The outcome document, *The Future We Want*, was adopted in GA resolution 66/288 on 11 September 2012. The outcome called for a wide range of actions such as “strengthening the UN Environment Programme

(UNEP), promoting corporate sustainability, taking steps to go beyond gross domestic product in assessing the well-being of a country, developing strategy for sustainable development financing and adopting a framework to tackle sustainable production.” It also stressed the importance of creating an intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals, which would be mandated to prepare proposals on the SDGs and involve relevant stakeholders and experts from civil society, academia, and the UN system in its work. The Secretary-General was also mandated by the resolution to ensure all necessary support in the work of the UN system and establish an inter-agency technical support team and expert panels in developing the SDGs.

In terms of the SDGs, Rio+20 did not elaborate specific goals but highlighted more broadly that they should be “concise, action-oriented, limited in number, easy to communicate and universally applicable to all countries considering their different contexts, capacities and levels of development.” This approach suggests that new goals will potentially be applicable to not only developing countries but to all countries, since human poverty, inequality and exclusion are major challenges facing middle-income and rich, developed countries. However, what is still required is a new approach in setting goals, targets and indicators given that the shift towards sustainable development is going to be complex and difficult requiring clear measurement mechanisms to be in place that would allow monitoring and quantifying the SDGs.

UN Partnerships in the post-2015 Development Agenda

The UN system is uniquely positioned to facilitate an inclusive multi-stakeholder process to advocate for a post- 2015 agenda informed by national and local priorities. Beginning in September 2012, the UN began the consultations, pursuant to GA resolution 65/1 (2010), with a wide range of stakeholders, including government, civil society, private sector, and academia and already has been able to engage approximately 200,000 people in a majority of countries of the world.

Post 2015 development agenda: Initiatives and partnerships		
Name	Date	Description
MY World	2012	Online survey launched in September 2012, in which 75,000 people voted and expressed ideas about how the post-2015 development agenda should be arranged. MY World will continue gathering feedback and suggestions from people on the new set of goals up until 2015.
UN Development Group (UNDG) country-specific consultations	June 2012 – March 2013	Established guidelines for at least 50 countries, promoting inclusive consultations with governments and relevant stakeholders. The outcome of this was a creation of the global UNDG report <i>The Global Conversation Begins: Emerging Views for a New Development Agenda</i> . This report reflects on 83 national dialogues across a range of countries as well as discussions with communities, groups, young people who assume responsibility for the next development agenda.
UN System Task Team	2011	The Task Team brings together senior experts designated by 50 UN system entities and other international organizations to coordinate preparations for beyond 2015 goals. Their report

		highlights that the MDG framework with concrete goals and targets should be retained, but entail key dimensions of a more holistic approach such as “(1) inclusive social development; (2) inclusive economic development; (3) environmental sustainability; and (4) peace and security.”
High-level Panel of Eminent Persons	2012	The High-Level Panel is tasked with providing a vision on how SDGs ought to be formulated and how the post-2015 agenda should be framed. .” It also introduces a list of new goals with targets and indicators to be set for 2030 including: monitoring, accountability mechanisms involving states, civil society, private sector, and international development community.
Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals	2013-2014	Further elaborate on post-2015 SDGs
UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)	2012	Provides technical and scientific expertise from academia, civil society and the private sector to address sustainable development at local national and global scale. The Network entails 12 thematic groups of global experts working to identify best practices and they also have provided technical assistance for the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons in producing the report to the Secretary-General.
Regional consultations with key commissions	ongoing	Mainly: Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Purpose: to prepare a report on regional perspectives regarding the development of post-2015 agenda

It is a well-established principle that sustainable development cannot be achieved by governments alone - it requires the active participation of all people. The Major Groups, representing key sectors of society, help channel the engagement of citizens, economic and social actors, and expert practitioners in United Nations

intergovernmental processes related to sustainable development. The Major Groups structure has provided a platform for interaction with UN Member States, as well as engagement in the follow-up and review of sustainable development commitments. Throughout 2015 and beyond, the role of Major Groups and other stakeholders will be critical to ensure broad participation and inclusion of diverse perspectives, in particular in connection with the negotiation and implementation stages of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in conjunction with the High Level Political Forum (HLPF)⁴

The key areas of global partnerships include the following areas:

- Women
- Children and Youth
- Indigenous Peoples
- Non-Governmental Organizations
- Local Authorities
- Workers and Trade Unions
- Business and Industry
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Farmers

Major Groups and other stakeholders (MGoS) continue to demonstrate a high level of engagement with intergovernmental processes at the UN. The coordination of their input to intergovernmental processes on sustainable development has been led by UNDESA/Division for Sustainable Development (DSD). Also the UN Office for Sustainable Development⁸

Member States ultimately decide upon the modalities of participation of MGoS. Thus, the engagement and participation of MGoS in intergovernmental processes related to sustainable development varies depending on the particular sustainable development topic under discussion.

Critique on SDGs and future steps

Currently there is no universally accepted definition of SDGs or monitoring methodology with clear targets and indicators. The Bellagio Principles for Sustainable Development represent one of the first attempts to outline what could be the principles for monitoring the SDGs. The discussion took place among a group of

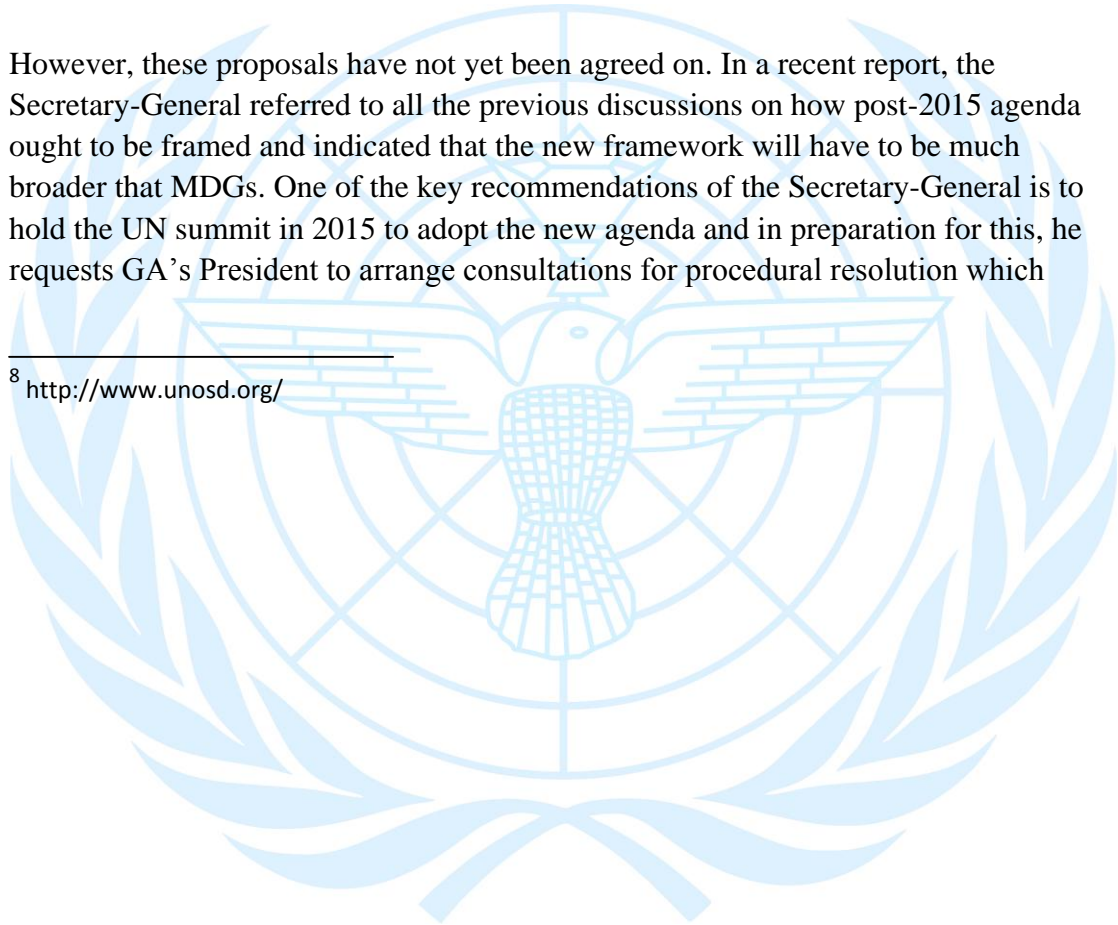
⁴ <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups>

experts focusing on how to frame certain development aspects beyond MDG framework. The key point of the Bellagio Goals is the focus on individual countries and their national contexts in determining global targets to ensure they are applicable and realistic for both developing and developed countries.

According to the High-Level Panel, peer-review process at regional level is essential in assessing the effectiveness of policies regarding the implementation of the SDGs and their impact across various countries. The proposed measurement indicators and monitoring system however have not yet been agreed on. In addition to the work done by the Panel, the Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN) reframed the proposed SDGs and suggested narrowing them down to 10 Goals which have been put forward for consideration by the Secretary-General and the OWG on sustainable development.

However, these proposals have not yet been agreed on. In a recent report, the Secretary-General referred to all the previous discussions on how post-2015 agenda ought to be framed and indicated that the new framework will have to be much broader than MDGs. One of the key recommendations of the Secretary-General is to hold the UN summit in 2015 to adopt the new agenda and in preparation for this, he requests GA's President to arrange consultations for procedural resolution which

⁸ <http://www.unosd.org/>



could call the Secretary-General to prepare a “report on modalities, format and organization for submission to the GA by March 2014.”

Given the continuous discussion on how the post-2015 development agenda should look like, the UN is facing a challenge in developing and determining a set of indicators for the SDGs and their monitoring system. Several suggestions have been put forward by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). In the working paper on Measuring Progress towards SDGs, the IISD recommends designing the process of SDGs indicators and the indicator system itself to be based on a set of purpose-built principles. The main task is to decide how to conceptualize and develop the indicators; by whom and how implementation mechanisms, monitoring and reporting should be crafted⁵. It is important to note that scientific and science policy guidelines will be required in order to selecting indicators, define thresholds and developing pathways that connect present conditions of SDGs with the future targets. In this respect, quantitative indicators revealing trends over time will be needed and will have to be designed in such way that allow illustrating, communicating complex data and trends in a simple form that help to shape policies.

Ultimately, the selection of SDGs, their targets and indicators will present an opportunity to develop national statistical capacities and collect important information regarding ways to enhance sustainable development across the world.

Concluding Remarks

Given the extensive work done by various sectors in discussing the priorities for the post-2015 agenda, further steps now require deciding and finalizing the new set of SDGs with clear indicators, targets, and measurement system. This, however, is not going to be achieved easily, especially in developing the progress measurement system for SDGs. It is also essential to examine the indicators to determine if they capture the long-term conceptual perspective. More work is needed for gathering information through comprehensive surveys at a micro level for each theme of sustainable development, in particular evidence is lacking for a large number of countries on the wellbeing of individuals. Partnerships will continue to play a decisive role in the process of developing the post-2015 sustainable development agenda, but the capacity to coordinate effectively all stakeholders poses a threat in the process.

⁵ A notable example would be the Bellagio Sustainability Assessment and Measurement Principles (STAMP) developed in a multi-stakeholder process organized by IISD and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Questions to consider for further research

- How feasible is it to initiate a peer-review process to monitor the implementation of SDGs across regions?
- Who would initiate such feedback review and consolidation?
- How would it feed into the global review on the SDGs?
- What could be the sources and mechanisms to finance the SDGs?
- How national statistical capacities and information collection systems could be strengthened?
- How the UN multi-stakeholder system can be improved to match the SDG approach? In what way can regional partnerships ameliorate the effectiveness in the implementation of SDGs?

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