

Background Guide

United Nations Development Programme





Agenda: Progress pathways for first five Sustainable Development Goals

Message from the Executive Board

Greetings, delegates!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to this session of the United Nations Development Program. The following background guide has been prepared in order to facilitate your research. This document should not by any means bind your research to its limits.

We expect you to be thoroughly researched about your portfolios as well as your country's stand on the current issue and also the agenda at large. Under no circumstances can this document be cited as a substantial proof for any argument put forth, when the committee is in session. The aim of this document is to structure your potential thoughts and ideas and to have a constructive debate.

The Committee has an agenda that places emphasis on the Sustainable Development Goals that the Panel envisaged. The focus of the Committee shall be at discussing and deliberating upon the first five Sustainable Goals, and therefore the research should be focused on those aspects.

It is of great importance that we discover the various facets to the issue and attempt to provide solutions to any technical issues and complexities that come up through the provisions of the same.

Lastly, we wish to emphasise the importance of good research which has to guide what you speak, how you negotiate in a given position while staying true to the country you represent at different international forums.

Hope to see you all ready with innovative solutions to the persisting problems of the world.

Cheers!

The Post 2015 Development Agenda

Background:

The pre-2015 UN development agenda was centered on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). They were established following the Millennium Summit of the UN in 2000. The MDGs encapsulated eight globally agreed goals in the areas of poverty alleviation, education, gender equality and empowerment of women, infant and maternal health, environmental sustainability, reducing HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases, and building a global partnership for development. The overall target for the MDG's was 2015.

The 2010 High Level Plenary Meeting of the UN General Assembly was called to review progress towards the MDGs, wherein governments called for accelerating progress and for thinking of ways to advance the development agenda beyond 2015. After the aforementioned meeting, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon took several initiatives. He established a UN System Task Team, launched a High Level Panel of Eminent Persons and appointed Amina J. Mohammed as his own Special Advisor on Post-2015 Development Planning. These changes are complemented by a set of eleven global thematic consultations and national consultations in 88 countries facilitated by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG).

High-level panel's report:

On 30 May 2013, the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda released "A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development." This report sets out a universal agenda to eradicate extreme poverty from the face of the earth by 2030, and deliver on the promise of sustainable development. It calls upon the world to rally around a new Global Partnership that offers hope and an integral role to every person in the world in this partnership.

The report mentions new post-2015 goals to drive five big transformation shifts:

1. **Leave No One Behind.** After 2015, we should move from reducing to ending extreme poverty, in all its forms. We should ensure that no person, regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race or other status is denied basic economic opportunities and human rights.
2. **Put Sustainable Development at the Core.** We have to integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability. We must act now to slowdown the alarming speed of climate change and environmental degradation, both of which pose unprecedented threats to humanity.
3. **Transform Economies for Jobs and Inclusive Growth.** A profound economic transformation can end extreme poverty and improve livelihoods. This can be achieved by harnessing innovation, technology, and the potential of business. Diversified economies, with equal opportunities for all, can drive social inclusion, especially for young people, and foster sustainable consumption and production patterns.
4. **Build Peace and Effective, Open and Accountable Institutions for All.** Freedom from conflict and violence is a fundamental human entitlement, and the essential foundation for building peaceful and prosperous societies. At the same time, people all over the world expect their governments to be honest, accountable, and responsive to their needs. We are calling for a fundamental shift towards recognizing peace and good governance as a core element of well-being, and not just an optional extra.
5. **Forge a New Global Partnership.** A new spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual accountability must underpin the post-2015 agenda. This new partnership must be based on a common understanding of our shared humanity, mutual respect and benefit. It should be centered on people, including those affected by poverty and exclusion, youth, the aged, disabled and indigenous people. It should include civil society organizations, multilateral institutions, local and national governments,

scientific and academic community, businesses, and private philanthropy.

The Panel was co-chaired by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom. It included leaders from civil society, private sector as well as various governments.

The Panel was part of the Secretary-General's post-2015 initiative. This was mandated by the 2010 MDG Summit. UN Member States have called for open, inclusive consultations involving the civil society, the private sector, and academia and research institutions from all regions, in addition to the UN system, to help in advancing the development framework beyond 2015.

The work of the Panel reflected new development challenges while also drawing on experience gained in implementing the MDGs, both in terms of results achieved and areas for improvement.

The Panel submitted a report containing recommendations to the Secretary-General in May 2013.



Introduction to the SDG's

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as 'Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' is a set of 17 "Global Goals" with 169 targets between them. These goals have been spearheaded by the United Nations through a deliberative process involving its 193 Member States, as well as the global civil society. They are contained in paragraph 54 United Nations Resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015. The Resolution is a broader intergovernmental agreement that acts as the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Background:

The history of the SDGs can be traced to 1972 when governments met in Stockholm, Sweden, for the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. This conference considered the rights of the human family to live in a healthy and productive environment. It was not until 1983 that the United Nations decided to create the World Commission on Environment and Development. This commission defined sustainable development as "meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

In 1992 the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio. The first agenda for Environment and Development, also known as Agenda 21, was developed and adopted in Rio.

In preparation for the Rio+20 Conference, Indonesia held a government retreat in Solo, Indonesia in July 2011. During this event, Colombia proposed the idea of the SDGs. This was picked up by the United Nations Department of Public Information 64th NGO Conference in September 2011 in Bonn, where the outcome document proposed 17 sustainable development goals and associated targets. In the run-up to Rio+20 there was much discussion about the idea of SDGs. At the Rio+20 Conference, a resolution, known as The

Future We Want was reached by member states. Among the key themes agreed on were poverty eradication, energy, water, sanitation, health, and human settlement. Paragraph 246 of the Future We Want document forms the link between the Rio+20 agreement and the Millennium Development Goals: "We recognize that the development of goals could also be useful for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development. The goals should address and incorporate all three dimensions of sustainable development (environment, economics, and society) and their interlink ages in a balanced way. The development of these goals should not divert focus or effort from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals". Paragraph 249 states that "the process needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes to consider the post-2015 development agenda".

Taken together, paragraph 246 and 249 paved the way for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs were officially established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000 and the agreement in the Future We Want outcome document. The Rio+20 summit also agreed that the process of designing sustainable development goals, should be "action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities".

A future process was required as the MDGs were to be achieved by 2015. Discussion of the post-2015 framework for international development began well in advance. The United Nations System Task Team on Post 2015 Development Agenda released the first report known as "Realizing The Future We Want". This report was the first attempt at achieving the requirements under paragraph 246 and 249 of the Future We Want document. It identified four dimensions as part of a global vision for sustainable development: Inclusive Social Development, Environmental Sustainability, Inclusive Economic Development, and Peace and Security. Other processes included the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on the Post 2015

Development Agenda, whose report was submitted to the Secretary General in 2013.

Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Preamble:

This Agenda is a plan of action for people, our planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.

The Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next fifteen years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet:

People

We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all its forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

Planet

We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so it can support the needs of the present and future generations.

Prosperity

We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

Peace

We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

Partnership

We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

The interlinkages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized. If we realize our ambitions across the full extent of the Agenda, the lives of all will be profoundly improved and our world will be transformed for the better.

About The First 5 SDG's

Goal 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere

1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

1.2 By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

1.4 By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance

1.5 By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

1.a Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation, in order to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions

1.b Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions

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

2.1 By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.2 By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons

2.3 By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

2.4 By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality

2.5 By 2020, maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels, and promote access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, as internationally agreed

2.a Increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development and plant and livestock gene banks in order to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular least developed countries

2.b Correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets, including through the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the Doha Development Round

2.c Adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access

to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

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

3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births

3.2 By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

3.3 By 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

3.4 By 2030, reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

3.5 Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

3.6 By 2020, halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs

3.8 Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

3.9 By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination

3.a Strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries, as appropriate

3.b Support the research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily

affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health, which affirms the right of developing countries to use to the full the provisions in the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights regarding flexibilities to protect public health, and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all

3.c Substantially increase health financing and the recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries, especially in least developed countries and small island developing States

3.d Strengthen the capacity of all countries, in particular developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks

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

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills

needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programs, in developed countries and other developing countries

4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

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

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

5.6 Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

Critique of The SDG's

A report by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) of 2013 criticized the SDGs for not being ambitious enough. They cite evidence from the report "An Ambitious Development Goal: Ending Hunger and Undernutrition by 2025" to suggest the emphasis should not be on an end to poverty by 2030, but on eliminating hunger and under-nutrition by 2025. The assertion is based on an analysis of experiences in China, Vietnam, Brazil and Thailand. The report identifies 3 pathways to achieving the goal by 2025. 1) agriculture-led; 2) social protection- and nutrition intervention-led; or 3) a combination of both of these approaches.

The SDGs have been criticized for being contradictory, because in seeking high levels of global GDP growth, they will undermine their own ecological objectives. It has also been noted that, in relation to the headline goal of eliminating extreme poverty, "a growing number of scholars are pointing out that \$1.25 is actually not adequate for

human subsistence", and the poverty line should be revised to as high as \$5.

A commentary in The Economist argued that 169 targets for the SDGs is too many. The article used descriptors like "sprawling", "misconceived", and "a mess" compared to the Millennium Development Goals. Another criticism is that the goals ignore local context and promote "cookie-cutter development policies". That all other sustainable development goals are contingent on achieving SDG 1, ending poverty. The Economist estimated that alleviating poverty and achieving the other sustainable development goals will require about \$2-\$3 trillion USD per annum for the next 15 years. Critics do not think this is feasible. The reduction in the number of people living in abject poverty can be attributed to the growth of China, while the MDGs have been mistakenly credited for this drop. The SDGs have also been criticized due to the inherent shortcomings in the very concept of sustainable development and the inability of the latter to either stabilize rising carbon dioxide concentration or ensure environmental harmony.

Another view is more positive. The SDGs were the first outcome from a UN conference that was not criticized by any major Non-Governmental Organization (NGO). Instead, there was broad support from NGOs. This is in stark contrast to the MDGs which were heavily criticized by NGOs. The MDGs dealt with the problems, the SDGs deal with the causes of the problems. The MDGs were about development while the SDGs are about sustainable development. Finally, the MDGs used a silo approach to problem, while the SDGs take into account the inter-linkages.

Progress Pathways

It is important that the meaning of this term is clear to each and every delegate. This term implies some plan of action which is possible with the given resources and is subject to the acceptance of all parties, can and should be undertaken to move closer to the completion of the SDG's under focus. "Some" plan of action does not necessarily mean any plan of action, but the best possible plan of action, under the prevailing/existing conditions.

NOTE –

This background guide is meant to give an understanding of the topic to the reader.

KINDLY NOTE THAT THIS DOCUMENT IS JUST TO GIVE YOU A HEADSTART AND DOES NOT ESSENTIALLY ENCOMPASS EVERY DOCUMENT THAT THERE IS TO KNOW OF

BEST PRACTICES FOR RESEARCH AND CONDUCT:

- 1. Read the Agenda Guide, least 15 days prior to the conference and make a note of everything that needs to be understood. Do read the Background Guide.*
- 2. Google/Search everything and find relating documents (UN, News articles, Scholarly articles) for whatever was not really understood.*
- 3. After wholly understanding (subject to how in depth you wish to go for the research), try understanding your allotted country's perspective on the agenda.*
- 4. Make the stance in accordance with the country's perspective on the agenda which shall also define your foreign policy.*
- 5. Understand the clues and hints that are given minutely in the Background Guide that may come handy while presentation of*

- contentions in committee. Google them too. Such clues are important contributors to research.*
- 6. Predict the kind of discussions and on what subtopics can they take place, thereby analyzing the subtopic research you have done and prepare yourself accordingly.*
 - 7. Download the United Nations Charter, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and additional protocols there to and other relative treaties.*

(These methods are suggestive in nature, there is no compulsion on the delegates to strictly adhere to these methods, and however it is highly advisable to follow them)

Resources:-

- http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/rio20_outcome_document_complete.pdf
- <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>
- http://www.un.org/disabilities/documents/rio20_outcome_document_complete.pdf
- <http://www.post2015hlp.org/about/>