



Transparency, Accountability
& Participation in Post-2015

Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations (Follow-Up and Review) 18-22 May 2015:

Background information/documents can be found at:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/followupandreview>

Summary of key highlights:

- Co-Facilitators Ambassador David Donoghue (Ireland) and Co-Facilitator Ambassador Macharia Kamau (Kenya) highlighted some common themes and issues meriting further discussion that have emerged from the two-day discussion which you can find containing preliminary impressions on follow-up and review has been posted at <http://bit.ly/1BaDZin>
- There was a clear divergence of opinions on the “Revised Targets Document.” Many delegates, including the G-77 and China, said they were not in a position to accept the revised targets, noting that the OWG’s proposal on the SDGs had been carefully crafted and was the result of an intergovernmental process, and any attempt to reopen it could affect the entire post-2015 agreement.
- Some thought that the Co-Facilitators’ revisions had strengthened the targets and ensured that they are measurable and are aligned with international agreements. Others commented on specific targets that would benefit from further revisions.
- First meeting of the IAEG-SDGs 1-2 June provisional agenda and ToR is available <http://bit.ly/1eg4le1>.
- Non-exhaustive illustrative list of mechanisms for review as compiled by the UN Technical Support Team (TST) has been posted at: <http://bit.ly/1F1Cofm>
- Co-Facilitator expects to have the zero draft by June 2015.
- Will circulate letter to PGA of proposed titles of themes for the interactive dialogues for the 25-27 September United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda circulated on Wednesday, 20 May 2015 but the document will not have formal legal standing.

Some key highlights:

During the opening session:

Co-Facilitator Ambassador Macharia Kamau (Kenya):

- Opened the meeting on Monday morning noting that only three sessions are left between now and the conclusion of the process.
- He called on delegates to decide how these three sessions will be handled, and expressed hope that the post-2015 process will be agreed by the end of July in order to provide enough time for Capitals to "get themselves ready" for September.
- He noted that "we will not be able to pick and choose which goals to implement and which goals not to" as they are inter-related, and added that the follow-up and review framework must be the point at which "we all keep on track systematically".
- He said the follow-up and review framework should relate to people, the planet, prosperity and partnership, and remarked that the social, economic and environmental components must not be lost.
- He also reminded participants of the need for "vertical" coherence between the community, national, regional and global levels, and horizontal linkages between governments, multilateral agencies, and other stakeholders, amongst others.

Co-Facilitator Ambassador David Donoghue (Ireland):

- Co-Facilitator David Donoghue explained that a number of questions are set out in the Discussion Paper that was shared in advance of the session to facilitate the discussion on follow-up and review, and requested constructive and precise proposals as to how the follow-up and review should be structured.
- He stressed that this will be a voluntary framework not intended to be a burden, but rather a supportive, positive and constructive aid to Member States.

During the Follow-Up & Review:

Statement on behalf of the G77 and China by Mr. Mahlatse Mminele, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Mission of South Africa to the UN:

- The Group maintains that the following guidelines must be taken into account in the 'follow up and review' section of the post-2015 development agenda:
- The follow up and review should be universal in scope and should be owned by each country in accordance with its national circumstances, needs and priorities.
- It must be government-led and voluntary, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants.
- The review should also aim to review the activities of the UN system and stakeholders with regards to the SDGs and their Means of Implementation.

- The follow up and review should encompass all the 17 SDGs and 169 targets in a balanced and integrated manner, including Goal 17 and MoI-specific targets at the international level. The balance and integration of the framework of goals should be preserved, while recognizing the priority for the implementation of Goal 17 and MoI-specific targets under other goals, given their cross-cutting nature and importance for the implementation of the entire framework of Goals. The Group would like to stress that this vision should in no way seek to prejudge the 'review and follow-up' on progress to be determined for the Financing for Development track.
- The Group reiterates its support to the technology facilitation mechanism for the implementation of the SDGs. The Group also believes that follow up and review endeavours should assess the results of such mechanism in catalyzing efforts to promote and transfer of technology to developing countries.
- The 'follow up and review' process should focus on international efforts to promote sustainable development, as well as the national assessment of progress, gaps, achievements and challenges in the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda.
- This process should also include the contribution of the relevant UN entities, including the regional level, at the request of states, in line with their national programmes.
- The 'follow-up and review' should be conducted in a constructive spirit in order to foster positive mutual learning and cooperation to assist governments in their achievement of sustainable development. This means that it should be based on long-term orientation and incentives such as sharing lessons learned and experiences, necessary Means of Implementation, take into account capacity-building and financing needs, facilitate access to technology and other support to be provided by a wide range of actors in a complementary manner to the support provided by developed countries.
- The 'follow-up and review' process should strengthen the follow up and review of the commitments at the international level. In this regard differentiated approach should underpin this undertaking to ensure focus, in particular, on the MOI provided for the attainment of the SDGs. In this regard we stress that the universality of SDGs should enhance consistency with the principle of CBDR, with a view to recognizing different national realities, capacities and levels of development while also emphasizing the importance of national policy space.
- Follow-up and review of the implementation of the SDGs framework at national level should be determined by national governments in accordance with national circumstances and level of development, including the participation of all relevant stakeholders such as civil society, social actors and the UN development system, in accordance with national legislations.
- The envisioned undertaking should ensure coherence between the national, regional and global levels.

- The basis for the follow-up and review of qualitative national information on sustainable development policies at all levels should be robust data drawn from national progress reports. Data and information from existing reporting mechanisms should be used where possible, recognizing the urgent need for transfer of financial resources, technologies and capacity building for developing countries in accordance with national priorities and strategies.

Nigeria on behalf of the Africa Group:

- Identified the HLPF as the most efficient, robust, transparent follow-up and review mechanism for post-2015 implementation.
- Stated the IGN should work to resolve deficits in the HLPF by empowering it to take decisions and be provided a secretariat.
- Stated the follow-up and review mechanism should consider:
 - the review will be voluntary, state-led, involved by ministerial level
 - should include UN system as stakeholders
 - should focus on the assessment of progress made by both developed and developing country
 - conducted in a constructive spirit
 - orientation and incentives, access to best practices, take capacity building, tech transfer needs into account
 - focus on universal goals applicable to all countries while taking CBDR into account and respecting national policies and priorities

Statement on behalf of the European Union and its Member States, delivered by Mr. Americo Beviglia Zampetti Head of the Economic Section Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations:

- Important building blocks of a monitoring accountability and review (MAR) framework for the post 2015 agenda are set out in the resolutions on the strengthening of ECOSOC, on the establishment of the HLPF, and in the Rio outcome document.
- Stated many potential targets in the post-2015 agenda are already addressed by legally binding accountability mechanisms under existing treaty bodies. There are also existing monitoring frameworks which could contribute to monitoring of specific issues. The MAR for the post 2015 agenda should seek to build on and improve these existing mechanisms, rather than set up parallel processes.
- Stated effective monitoring, accountability and review, including data disaggregation and statistics, are beneficial for all and at the heart of leaving no one behind.
- Stated it is each country's responsibility to ensure systems are in place for, and to undertake monitoring, accountability and review at the national level, in the most appropriate way. The framework should thus combine national ownership for the

implementation of the commitments with an inclusive and effective monitoring, accountability and review of the agenda at all levels.

- Within this context see the main purpose of MAR indeed to monitor and collectively review progress towards the universal post-2015 agenda globally, regionally and nationally. By identifying gaps and difficulties the MAR framework will enable more targeted provision of supporting measures (from domestic and international sources) to "get back on track".
- Believe there should be one overarching MAR framework for the whole post 2015 agenda (including the means of implementation pillar to be agreed at the Addis Conference) covering all aspects of the sustainable development goals and targets, and all means of implementation (financial and non-financial), in a comprehensive fashion. Specialised input on the different components should, also, be taken into consideration as appropriate.
- Addis should consider the key issue of monitoring, accountability and review for MoI. However, the outcome from these deliberations will need to be merged into a comprehensive post-2015 monitoring, review and accountability framework with a key oversight role for the HLPF and avoiding duplication of existing mechanisms.
- Stated they see no need, to request the Secretary-General to convene a new inter-agency Task Force as put forward in the Addis draft. Not convinced that the most effective way of keeping implementation issues under review is to foresee a FfD follow-up conference. Instead, the priority must be to streamline and clarify the roles and functions of existing fora in the post-2015 framework, and to strengthen cooperation between existing bodies as appropriate.
- Consideration should be given to reporting of financial MoI including domestic resource mobilisation through existing channels (DCF under ECOSOC, OECD-DAC, GPEDC and others) and how financial flows not covered by these could be accounted for. Further consideration should be given how to monitor non-financial MoI.
- The MAR framework should be a multi-level one operating at local, national, regional and international level in an integrated manner ensuring mutual support and consistency between them without duplicating effort. It should build on relevant existing frameworks, rigorous indicators and sources of reliable, timely information wherever possible, and make use of all relevant analysis and reports that are produced within the UN system and other relevant international and regional bodies. Reports from civil society organisations and other national stakeholders should be encouraged at all levels.
- It will be also essential to assess the contribution of the private sector, including socially responsible enterprises and investors, and public-private partnerships to the implementation of the agenda at all levels.
- Use the lessons from the MDGs process to inform how to build a robust and inclusive monitoring, accountability and review framework, while acknowledging the differences

between the MDGs and the new agenda. Experiences from the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, Agenda 21 and others may also be useful.

Statement of the Permanent Mission of Ecuador to the United Nations on behalf of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States:

- Reaffirmed the role of the Economic and Social Council in achieving a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, and the mandate of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development to enhance such integration and provide as a political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development.
- Recognize the HLPF as the key forum of the UN system for the follow up and review of the post 2015 development agenda.
- Consider the follow up and review of the Post-2015 Development Agenda must cover all the agreed 17 goals and their targets, in a balanced and integrated manner, including Goal 17 and the specific means of implementation targets.
- Recognize the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development and highlight the need to strengthen the cooperation with the United Nations regional commissions and other relevant regional entities, in order to contribute substantially with the work of the follow-up and review framework. In this regard, highlight the decision of ECLAC Member States to launch a regional consultation process aimed to establish the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development, in accordance with the priorities and mechanisms related to sustainable development established by CELAC.
- Believe that in order to have sustainable development at the heart of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, we will need to translate all sustainable development goals and targets into national policies, taking into account national circumstances, capabilities, levels of development and national priorities. To this end, stress the need for an enabling environment at the international levels, as well as continued and strengthened international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, debt, trade, technology transfer, innovation, entrepreneurship and capacity building.
- Reiterate the need to support the efforts of the developing countries to strengthen their national measurement and statistical capacities, in order to achieve an effective follow up and review framework of the Post-2015 Development Agenda at all levels, to be carried out in a transparent, voluntary and participatory way and the full use of statistical information on sustainable development for decision-making on a national level.
- Emphasize that Global indicators of an indicative nature will be developed by the Statistical Commission and could assist us in measuring overall global implementation of Post-2015 Development Agenda. National indicators should be developed in accordance with respective national capacities, institutional capabilities, and development stages, on a voluntary basis. In this regard, the Post-2015 Development Agenda will allow each

country the responsibility to develop and apply its own national indicators, for their follow up, while supporting statistic agencies of developing countries to developed adequate indicators.

- CELAC believes that technology facilitation should support the implementation and the follow up and review of the Post-2015 Development Agenda of all 17 sustainable development goals and targets, not only those related to the environmental dimension of sustainable development.

Tunisia on behalf of Arab Group:

- Arab Group reiterated its position on the creation of a global independent committee to review the development goals, taking place during HLPF and avoid duplication.
- Taking into account existing mechanisms, regional bodies should be able to take decisions with regard to reviewing or amending mechanisms on the basis of peer learning.
- Stated economic commissions should provide technical assistance to organizations.
- Stated the follow-up and review process should be conducted by states, should involve all high level officials and all stakeholders, the UN and stakeholders must be taken into consideration.
- Stated there should be incentives to participating states including exchange of best practices, advice, and capacity building.

Belize on behalf of CARICOM:

- CARICOM reiterates the need for support to strengthening capacity at all levels for the collection and analyses of data.
- Must ensure that the development of indicators adheres to **core principles** including: universality, comprehensiveness (covering all goals and related targets), balance across the three dimensions of sustainable development, integrated, inclusiveness, and providing for timely, high quality, comparable, disaggregated data.
- CARICOM also agreed that the process itself should include the participation of all stakeholders including international organizations and other actors whose actions impact upon the development agenda. Moreover, In order that the process is **not** burdensome particularly for capacity constrained states, it should be adequately supported, build on existing mechanisms and provide for multi-speed reporting as appropriate.
- CARICOM Member States recognize that review and follow-up will be a process of aggregating inputs starting from the national and moving upwards through the regional and international layers in order to develop a global picture of progress. In this sense, it will necessarily be multi-layered.
- At the national level, country ownership will be key; understand this to mean country driven but involving multi-stakeholder input and support.

- With respect to the questions raised in the background paper on the mechanics of the review – who should conduct, how will stakeholders be included – these in CARICOM’s views are outside the scope of the intergovernmental negotiations process. As much space should be given to countries to determine the most appropriate process that will lead to a robust flexible and effective framework for implementation, review and follow-up. It is enough for us here to define the core principles and leave it to countries to determine how to give effect to them.
- Stated there are many details that will have to be elaborated but do not consider that the outcome of the post-2015 summit would have to delve into those details. Think it would be sufficient were the outcome to:
 - Confirm the role of the HLPF set out in resolution 67/290 and reaffirmed in resolution 69/214.
 - Confirm that the HLPF under the auspices of the ECOSOC shall conduct regular reviews on follow-up and implementation of the sustainable development goals and their means of implementation as well as other sustainable development commitments including in respect of countries in special situations such as the small island developing states.
 - Confirm the nature of the regular reviews under the auspices of the ECOSOC as determined in resolution 67/290.
 - Further:
 - Mandate the consideration of additional modalities to facilitate reviews which shall include modalities for the review of the SAMOA Pathway and other outcomes of major conferences.
 - Mandate regional commissions to elaborate modalities: to support the Forum in its review functions, including with the collation and provision of data on respective regions taking into account where appropriate countries in special situations; as well as in relation to promoting and advancing regional best practices in the monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the Post 2015 development agenda.
 - Mandate the availability of adequate resources to support developing countries’ preparation of reports for reviews and in particular to support strengthening of data capacity at national regional and international levels.
 - Mandate the UN system to ensure coordination and systemic coherence in collation and preparation of reports to support the Forum’s review functions.

Statement by the Republic of Maldives on behalf of the Alliance of Small Island States Session on Review and Follow-up of the post-2015 development agenda:

- Stated the follow up and review framework that we seek to establish:

- Must recognise the primacy of national ownership of development, while taking into account that one-size-does NOT fit-all. National priorities, circumstances and capabilities must be taken into account fully.
- It must be one that strengthens accountability at all levels. It must be transparent, inclusive, robust and effective in delivering the ambitious agenda we have set for ourselves
- The follow up and review mechanism must look at development holistically: the economic, social and environmental dimension.
- The review and follow-up mechanism must be informed by reliable and timely data. But at the same time, it should be mindful of heavy reporting burdens, making use of existing mechanisms as much as possible, and provide capacity building for strengthening national data collection mechanisms.
- The review mechanism, must also review the activities of the UN system and stakeholders on their efforts to realise the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- Reiterate our position that the monitoring and review mechanisms for the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the Financing for Development process must be separate in scope and substance.

Tonga on behalf of Pacific SIDS:

- Called for a regional review component for existing mechanisms that would be participatory and multi stakeholder.
- Called for 1 day of HLPF to be devoted to SIDS issues.
- Called for partnerships for SIDS.
- Stressed the Samoa Pathway, should be taken into consideration and ensure coherence.

Norway on behalf of Egypt, Liechtenstein, Pakistan, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Switzerland and my own country, Norway. This joint intervention is a short version of our initial Group of 7 elements paper on the HLPF review mechanism that we sent to the co-facilitators on May 8, 2015 and also builds upon previous Group of 7 letters and statements on the same topic:

- The High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development should be the global focal point for follow-up and review of the post-2015 development agenda including its means of implementation.
- National level reviews will be fundamental to the post-2015 follow-up and review mechanism. The national reviews should include assessment of progress, achievements and challenges identified in the national implementation of the post- 2015 development agenda, including its means of implementation. The submission of these reports should be done by all states on a regular basis, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development.
- At the regional level, regional organizations could work to enhance, upscale or develop regional review mechanisms, including the possibility of peer reviews or peer learning.
- At the global level, the annual meetings of the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC should promote knowledge exchange on the implementation of the post-2015 frame-

work through national and thematic reviews. The thematic review should focus on goals and targets in the context of the annual theme of the HLPF, drawing from existing intergovernmental thematic platforms. The national reviews will be voluntary, State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants, focus on assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries and provide a platform for partnerships.

- The UN entities including UN regional commissions will also play an important role in supporting the reviews at the global level, through the various existing thematic platforms, and the respective reviews undertaken by relevant functional commissions of ECOSOC, international agencies and organizations, as well as other international mechanisms. In addition, the UN entities will need to report on their specific contribution in supporting member states in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda through existing review processes.
- Assessing the quality of development cooperation in support of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda should also be part of the overall follow-up and review framework.
- The reviews should be inclusive and participatory with adequate arrangements for transparency and broad participation, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders, as appropriate.
- The UN General Assembly, ECOSOC, relevant sector- and theme-specific platforms and the HLPF should be coordinated in time, with meetings scheduled in a logical cycle and coordinated in substance.
- The successful implementation of the follow-up and review mechanism will require a thorough definition of the HLPF's working methods and functions and its relationship with ECOSOC, the General Assembly and other UN relevant processes and bodies
- The HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC in 2016 should be mandated to further elaborate the follow-up and review mechanism, inter alia based on sharing experiences and lessons learned between member states. To facilitate this, the UN Secretary General should present for the consideration of member states a proposal on the format of national reports as well as a mapping of and recommendations on how existing mechanisms and intergovernmental thematic platforms in the UN system may be optimally utilized to ensure global and thematic reviews.

Co-Facilitators Ambassador David Donoghue (Ireland) and Co-Facilitator Ambassador Macharia Kamau (Kenya) highlighted some common themes and issues meriting further discussion that have emerged from the two-day discussion which you can find containing preliminary impressions on follow-up and review has been posted at <http://bit.ly/1BaDZin>

- They noted that everyone shared the view that implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) depends on a well-functioning review framework, but there needs to be further discussion on terminology - is this a monitoring, assessment and review process or a follow-up and review process?

- They also noted convergence on the principles that should guide this framework, including universality, voluntary nature, nationally-owned, evidence- and data-based, multi-stakeholder inclusive, transparent, "lean but not mean" as India said, based on an exchange of experience and best practices, and not overburdening.
- Most delegates supported the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) as the main platform for follow-up and review at the global level. Co-Facilitator Donoghue outlined that there is emerging consensus that the HLPF will have to keep track of progress towards the SDGs; identify shortcomings and gaps; make recommendations about what countries should do to stay on track; and discuss emerging issues and challenges.
- He also noted that there is still divergence on how to approach the follow-up and review on both the FfD and post-2015 processes - should there be a single overarching framework under the HLPF or not? Delegates also expressed varying opinions on what the key outcomes of the HLPF's work will be - ministerial declaration, reports on global progress - and what the HLPF should focus on in 2016. The Co-Facilitators also asked delegates to think about how the HLPF will deliver on the multitude of tasks it will need to perform.

During the Goal, targets and indicators:

- There was a clear divergence of opinions on the "Revised Targets Document." Many delegates, including the G-77 and China, said they were not in a position to accept the revised targets, noting that the OWG's proposal on the SDGs had been carefully crafted and was the result of an intergovernmental process, and any attempt to reopen it could affect the entire post-2015 agreement.
- Some thought that the Co-Facilitators' revisions had strengthened the targets and ensured that they are measurable and are aligned with international agreements. Others commented on specific targets that would benefit from further revisions.
- John Pullinger, Chair of the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), via conference call, updated Member States on the work undertaken by the UNSC on developing a global indicator framework to be presented at its 2016 session. He explained that the Independent Expert Advisory Group on SDGs (IEAG-SDGs) will meet on 1-2 June 2015 to discuss the process of developing indicators, its working methods, indicator proposals for different targets, data disaggregation, and crosscutting issues. Pullinger explained that indicators might be organized on three different tiers, indicators for which: methodology exists and data is available; methodology exists but data is not available; and methodology does not exist. He also stressed the need for capacity building to strengthen national statistical systems.
- First meeting of the IAEG-SDGs 1-2 June provisional agenda and ToR is available <http://bit.ly/1eg4le1>.

During the Themes for the Interactive Dialogues:

- Co-Facilitator Ambassador Macharia Kamau (Kenya) introduced the proposal for themes of the interactive dialogues for the Post-2015 Summit. He said he had been advised that there was a measure of consensus on this so Member States may want to consider adopting the theme set.
- Egypt took the floor to say that he didn't support the use of the term "vulnerable groups" in the second theme, "Tackling inequalities, empowering women and girls and leaving no one behind." He preferred the terminology "people in vulnerable situations."
- Co-Facilitator Ambassador David Donoghue (Ireland) announced that no consensus had been reached on the proposal for themes of the interactive dialogues for the Post-2015 Summit and suspended the proceedings, noting that the matter would be revisited on Friday morning.
- Revised proposal on the themes for the interactive dialogues for the 25-27 September United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda available at <http://bit.ly/1Fp6f4P>.

During the way forward:

Co-Facilitator Ambassador David Donoghue (Ireland)

- Expects to have the zero draft by June 2015.
- Will circulate letter to PGA of proposed titles of themes for the interactive dialogues for the 25-27 September United Nations Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda circulated on Wednesday, 20 May 2015 but the document will not have formal legal standing.