

CFS OEWG-SDGs Meeting # 1

Date: 21 January 2016

Time: 14:30-17:30

Location: Red Room, FAO (Building A 1st Floor)

Background on the Post-2015 process in New York

1- Background:

In September 2000, world leaders came together at United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration, committing their nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty, and setting out a series of time-bound targets with a deadline of 2015 : the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**. The eight MDGs, the first of which “Eradicate Extreme poverty and hunger”, formed a blueprint and galvanized unprecedented global efforts to accelerate development and meet the needs of the world’s poorest. While results vary by region and are unequal, important progress has been achieved in the fight against hunger.

In 2010, the Millennium Development Goals Summit’s outcome document requested the Secretary-General to initiate thinking on the global development agenda beyond 2015.

2- The Post-2015 Development Agenda Process

The Rio+20 Outcome Document established several workstreams in the form of “an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process” (para 248) with the aim to develop a set of SDGs:

- Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG)
- High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda
- UN System Taskforce on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda
- National, Regional and Global and thematic consultations
- Sustainable Development Solutions Network, “mobilizing scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector in support of sustainable development problem solving at local, national, and global scales”
- UN Global Compact, “A call to companies to align strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and take actions that advance societal goals.”

The OWG, established by decision 67/55 of the General Assembly, met between January 2013 and July 2014, and at the end of a meeting and negotiation process, presented a “zero-draft” proposal with 17 SDGs and suggested targets to the UNGA in September 2014.

The High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda was launched in July 2012 by the Secretary-General, with the task of advising on the Global Development Framework beyond 2015. Comprised of representatives from civil society, private sector, academia

and local and national governments, it issued a report in May 2013 “A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development”, calling for 5 transformative shifts, among others “Leaving no one behind”, “Putting sustainable development at the core” (integrating social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability), and forging a new global partnership, with a new spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual accountability.

National consultations took place online and offline in more than 60 countries. Through the initiative ‘My World’, global consultations asking each citizen to select priorities gathered more than 9 million votes. A set of 11 UN-agency led multi-stakeholder thematic consultations were convened. Regional consultations were organized by the five UN regional Economic Commissions to identify a number of regional priorities and identify key messages.

In December 2014, the Secretary General released a report synthesizing all inputs to the post-2015 process: “The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet”.

3- 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

At the end of 2014, intergovernmental negotiations began on a successor framework to the MDGs, which led to the adoption of the document “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” at the High-Level Summit for Sustainable Development held in New York between 25-27 September 2015. This agenda, taking as guiding principles “People”, “Planet”, “Prosperity”, “Peace” and “Partnership”, includes a declaration expressing governments’ vision (with an acknowledgment of the important role and inclusive nature of CFS in ending hunger, achieving food security and ending all forms of malnutrition¹), taking stock of what has been achieved by the MDGs between 200 and 2015, and laying out new commitments for the next 15 years. 17 Sustainable Development Goals, with a number of targets for each, are presented. The means for their implementation, including financing, as agreed in July 2015 by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, and general principles for their follow-up and review, are outlined at the end of Agenda 2030, stressing the vital contribution which a “robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework”, operating at the national, regional and global levels, can make to the implementation of the Agenda.

4- Follow-up and review of Agenda 2030 implementation and progress on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- According to the **guiding principles** outlined in Agenda 2030, follow-up and review processes should:
 - i. “Be voluntary and country-led, taking into account different national realities
 - ii. “Track progress in implementing the universal Goals and targets” in an integrated manner

¹ 2030 Agenda, paragraph 24 “(...) We are also determined to end hunger, achieve food security as a matter of priority and to end all forms of malnutrition. In this regard, we reaffirm the important role and inclusive nature of the Committee on World Food Security and welcome the Rome Declaration on Nutrition and the Framework for Action. (...)”

- iii. “Maintain longer-term orientation, identify achievements, challenges, gaps and critical success factors and support countries in making informed policy choices”
- iv. “Be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and support reporting by all relevant stakeholders”
- v. “Be people centered, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind”
- vi. “Build on existing platforms and processes, where these exist, avoid duplication and respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs and priorities.””
- vii. “Be rigorous and based on evidence”

- As an outcome of the Rio+20 Conference in July 2012 ([resolution 66/288, “The Future We Want”²](#)), and in light of the need to step up and sustain international political commitment to sustainable development, governments decided to replace the Commission for Sustainable Development with a **High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)**, which would convene Heads of State and Government every four years under the auspices of the UN General Assembly, (annual meetings during the other 3 years are held at ministerial level under the auspices of ECOSOC), with the mandate to *“build on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development”*.

In July 2013, a resolution was adopted by the General Assembly on the [Format and organization aspects of the HLPF \(67/290\)](#). This resolution mandated the HLPF, *“consistent with its universal intergovernmental character”*, to *“provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, follow up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels and have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges”*. A resolution adopted by the General Assembly in December 2014 (69/214) further affirmed that *“the forum, at its 2015 meeting (...), shall discuss its role and ways to implement its functions in following-up on and reviewing the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda”*.

The **2015 meeting of the High Level Political Forum**, in July, was dedicated to “Strengthening integration, implementation and review: the HLPF after 2015”. The [ECOSOC President’s Summary of the High-Level Segment](#) outlines the main discussion points on refining the role and work of the HLPF in relation to the implementation of Agenda 2030, and calls for a “multi-level architecture that can support implementation”, as well as “system-wide coherence and complementarity between the forum and other existing bodies and institutions”.

An effective follow-up and review architecture will include **thematic reviews**, which *“should draw from thematic reviews taking place in the ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies and other fora and international organizations”*. *HLPF thematic reviews should look at nexus of topics or cross cutting issues, moving beyond a silo approach and examining the links between various goals.”* Reviews should also be inclusive and ensure engagement of multistakeholders. In this respect, CFS is cited in the report for its inclusiveness at each stage of its processes³.

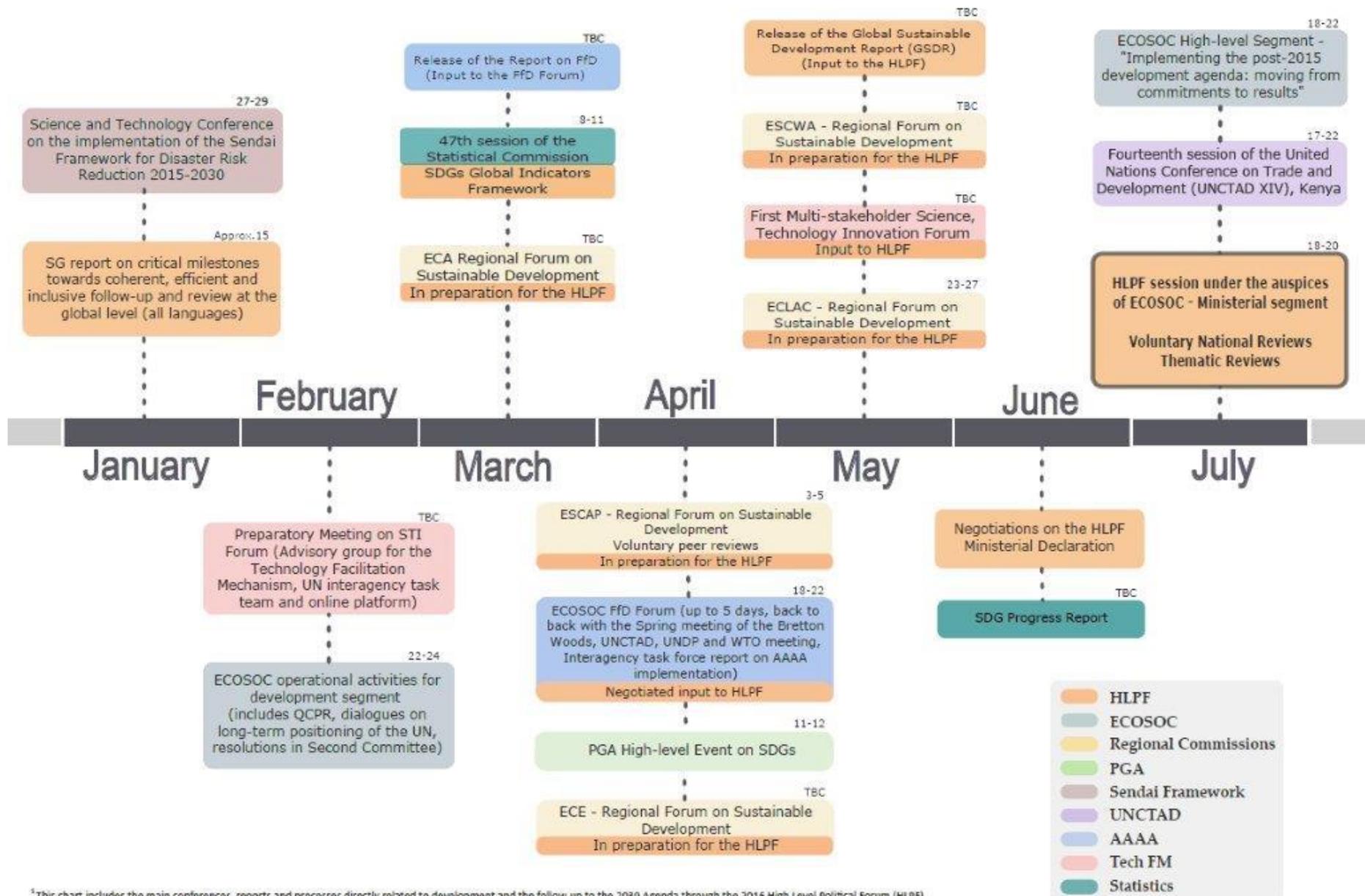
² Paragraphs 84-86

³ *“Reviews should strive to take into account the voices of civil society organizations and citizens at all levels. There are various ways to ensure this engagement. These include institutionalized shadow or other reporting,*

At its **2016 meeting** (11-20 July 2016), the forum is expected to start effectively delivering on its mandates. A report by the Secretary General outlining his vision of an effective follow-up and review framework to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, is expected to be released in the course of January 2016. A questionnaire “Critical milestones towards a coherent, efficient, and inclusive follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the global level” was circulated in October-November 2015 to collect views regarding milestones and the process to Follow-up and Review the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in order to inform the analysis and proposals to be contained in the report of the Secretary-General. Synthesis of Member States, UN System and Major Groups and other Stakeholders’s responses are available [here](#).

engaging civil society at each stage of a process -- as done by the Committee on World Food Security -- or convening focused thematic meetings with relevant actors.” Document cited above.

Timeline of the 2030 Agenda Related Processes ¹



¹ This chart includes the main conferences, reports and processes directly related to development and the follow up to the 2030 Agenda through the 2016 High Level Political Forum (HLPF)