

# Post-2015 and SDGs



## Nourishing people, Nurturing the planet

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Welcome to FAO's e-bulletin on the post-2015 process designed to craft a successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals. In this new issue, we feature FAO's involvement in the final "stocktaking" session of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), present a series of new initiatives in the process and unveil FAO's new webpages dedicated to post-2015 and the MDGs.

– FAO's Post-2015 team

### Natural resources vital to food security, FAO tells UN group

Sustainable management of the planet's oceans, forests, mountains, and biodiversity is "vital to enable future food security, surmount rural poverty, and ensure much-needed environmental services", remarked FAO Assistant Director-General Eduardo Rojas-Briales at the UN Open Working Group (OWG) consultations on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in New York on 4 February.

Speaking in the OWG plenary at UN headquarters, Mr. Rojas-Briales, FAO's forestry chief, warned government, civil society and business leaders that unsustainable management practices were exposing life-sustaining natural resources to "severe stresses".

He listed "inadequate land use planning, weak governance, scant financial investment, and worsening climate change" as dangers to sustainability.

The [8th and final Open Working Group](#) consultative week (3-7 February) also witnessed numerous breakfast, lunch and evening "side-event" meetings.

FAO, collaborating closely with member states, UN-system partners, and various other stakeholders, conveyed the importance of embedding rural women, forestry, mountains, fisheries and oceans into the post-2015 agenda, highlighting the strong linkages that exist between the management of natural resources and food and nutrition security and sustainable agricultural practices.

#### Green Growth, Blue Growth

Also participating in the OWG — which featured debates on oceans, forests, biodiversity gender, peace-building, and governance — were Arni Mathiesen (Assistant Director-General, Fisheries and Aquaculture), Gerda Verburg (Chair, Committee on World Food Security - CFS), and Thomas Hofer (Coordinator, Mountain Partnership Secretariat).

"Major changes in how the planet's marine resources are managed and used are needed to bolster global food security and ensure the wellbeing of coastal and island countries," urged FAO ADG Arni Mathiesen, at a side-event hosted by the German Mission and organized jointly by SIDS nations, Iceland, New Zealand, the World Bank, and FAO.

#### Rural women, agents of change

In another side-event, *Focusing on Rural Women in an SDG Framework* (co-organized by FAO, IFAD, and WFP), Gerda Verburg — CFS Chair and Ambassador of the Netherlands to the UN's Rome-based Agencies — delivered an impassioned call to "fully integrate the needs of rural women into the heart of the SDGs".

"The data," she said, "convincingly demonstrates that women in rural areas are just as efficient as their male counterparts, but suffer from lower levels of access to productive resources and opportunity.

"Rural women are active economic agents who, freed from constraints, could unleash major advancements in hunger eradication and development. Focusing on rural women in the post-2015 framework will bring about tremendous positive change."



The OWG will now move into a negotiation phase to decide on a set of SDGs to propose to the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) during its high-level meetings in September.

### New events to shape post-2015 agenda

A trio of initiatives over the coming months look set to give greater shape to the post-2015 development agenda, the process to design a successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals.

Following the conclusion of their “[stocktaking](#)” sessions (see: Co-chairs report) on 7 February, the United Nations Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals moves into negotiation mode between March and July as it goes about crafting a set of sustainable development goals to propose in its report to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September.



The OWG, a 30-member body with each seat shared between one and four Member States, is set to meet on 3–5 March; 31 March–4 April; 5–9 May; 16–20 June; and 14–18 July.

While the eight thematic consultation sessions of the OWG (February–June 2013; and November 2013–February 2014) were informed by technical issues briefs prepared by UN agencies (See: OWG8 with [briefs](#) co-led by FAO and UNEP) and characterised by side events featuring “Major Groups” and other stakeholders, the new phase will see member states take the lead in fashioning a set of goals.

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Mandated by the Outcome Document ([The Future We Want](#)) of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012, SDGs should be “limited in number, aspirational and easy to communicate, addressing all three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental)”.

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### Stakeholder presence

Civil society, the private sector, academic institutions and other stakeholders will feature prominently in a parallel post-2015 initiative sponsored by John Ashe, President of the 68<sup>th</sup> session of the UNGA (PGA).

Under the theme “[The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage!](#)” the PGA will host three high-level events on:

- Women, youth and civil society (6-7 March)
- South-South cooperation, triangular cooperation and information communication technology (ICT) for development (20-21 May)
- Human rights and rule of law (17-18 June)

And three thematic debates on:

- Water, sanitation and sustainable energy (18-19 February)
- The role of partnerships (9-10 April)
- How stable and peaceful societies can contribute to development (24-25 April)

Among leading UN agencies providing technical guidance for the events, FAO is contributing to the preparation of all three high-level events as well as the thematic debates on the role of partnerships, and on water, sanitation and sustainable energy.

Speaking at an [interactive briefing](#) of global civil society representatives at the eighth session of the OWG in New York, John Ashe underlined the importance of building consensus on post-2015.

“You and your various organizations are the trusted partners of the United Nations” Mr. Ashe said. “As President of the 68th session of the General Assembly, I see no greater task or mandate for my term than to support this vital process of getting the framework and content of the post-2015 development agenda right, so that people everywhere can live in dignity and with opportunities in their societies and economies...”

“I am confident that we can all come together around one global sustainable development agenda, with poverty eradication at its centre and with true ownership from both governmental and non-governmental actors alike.”

## New post-2015 consultations

Meanwhile, civil society and other stakeholders will play a key role in a [second round of consultations](#) on the post-2015 process currently being organised by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). With a focus on “means of implementation”, the new consultations will this time take place at national level with the global leadership of UN entities.

The proposed themes are:

- Localising the post-2015 development agenda
- Helping to strengthen capacities and institutions
- Participatory monitoring, existing and new forms of accountability
- Partnerships with civil society and other actors; Partnerships with the private sector
- Culture and development

FAO will contribute technically to the two themes on partnership as well as the consultation on participatory monitoring, existing and new forms of accountability.

Initial post-2015 consultations had engaged more than 1.3 million people worldwide between August 2012 and April 2013. FAO, with WFP, co-led the Global Thematic Consultation on [Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition](#), which culminated in the [Madrid Statement](#) and fed into the UN report “The World We Want” (See: [A Million Voices](#)).

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## FAO launches post-2015 webpages [www.fao.org/post-2015-mdg](http://www.fao.org/post-2015-mdg)

FAO has launched a collection of [webpages](#) dedicated to the post-2015 development agenda and achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Featuring news, interviews and events, the pages are designed to inform and engage the general public and other stakeholders in the dynamic United Nations-led process to define a successor framework to the MDGs.

The webpages provide a comprehensive overview of FAO’s role and activities in the process, including background and contact information, resources and an exclusive section featuring FAO’s 14 themes in support of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

And with Twitter and other social media channels to be made available, the pages will offer users the opportunity to join discussions, connect and follow the process as it unravels.



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## What is the role of rural women in ensuring food security?

The online discussion focusing on rural women in a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) framework has been extended until 26 February after impressive early pick up.

The consultation, which is linked to the theme Gender equality and women’s empowerment at the eighth session of the [United Nations Open Working Group on SDGs](#) (3-7 February), garnered more than 30 responses in the first week.

The topic provoked vibrant discussion in New York at a side event hosted by FAO, IFAD and WFP, the Rome-based food agencies, on 6 February, with Gerda Verburg (pictured above), chair of the [Committee on World Food Security](#) (CFS), delivering an impassioned keynote address.

And the conversation continues online thanks to your steady flow of comments that have featured in-depth appraisals of the plight of rural women and the rewards that empowerment would bring.

With gender equality high on the agenda at the [58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) next month, we have extended the deadline for comments, inviting you to take advantage of the remaining days to share your views.



>> [Click here to join the discussion or read the comments](#)

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## DID YOU KNOW...?

- While two billion people suffer from one or more micronutrient deficiencies, obesity rates have doubled over the last 30 years. 1.4 billion people are overweight, and 500 million obese.  
(FAO, [The State of Food and Agriculture 2013](#))

## FAST FACTS

- One in four children under the age of five are stunted due to chronic undernutrition. Micronutrient deficiencies or 'hidden hunger' affect an estimated 2 billion people.  
(FAO, [The State of Food and Agriculture 2013](#))

## LINKS

- [FAO webpages on Post-2015 and MDGs](#)
- [UN Women – Post-2015](#)
- [General Assembly of the United Nations - The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage!](#)
- [United Nations Development Programme – Post-2015](#)
- [Post-2015 Policy and Practice](#)
- [FAO-WFP post-2015 Global Thematic Consultation on Food Security and Nutrition](#)