



INF document on Post-2015 for the Regional Conferences

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – which range from halving extreme poverty and hunger to reducing child mortality and combating the spread of HIV/AIDS – will reach their target date at the end of 2015. The MDGs have been a milestone in global and national development efforts. The framework has helped to galvanize development efforts, guide global and national priorities and promote a culture of accountability based on monitoring and evaluation.

2. Progress in achieving the MDGs has been uneven both among the eight goals and across regions and countries. Further efforts based on a revitalized global partnership for development are needed to devise a successor framework for the post-2015 period, both building on and learning from the experience of the MDGs.

3. The post-2015 process has so far contained two main strands. The first has been a stocktaking exercise focused on assessing lessons learned for the development of goals and to strengthen implementation for the successor framework.. The second has focused on the elaboration of universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and on elaborating financing options for a sustainable development agenda. At the UNGA 68th Opening Session, Member States agreed on a process to finalize an integrated development agenda to be adopted by Member States at a Summit in September 2015.

II. POST-2015 WORK STREAMS

UN coordination and global and national consultations

4. In January 2012, the Secretary-General established the UN System Task Team on Post-2015 UN Development Agenda (UNTT), co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and assembling more than 60 UN agencies and international organizations. The UNTT was created to support the process and, in consultation with Member States, propose a UN system perspective and road map for the definition of a development agenda beyond 2015.

5. Under the umbrella of the UNTT, an inter-agency technical support team (TST) has been established to provide technical support to Member States, including analytical inputs, background material and expert panellists. FAO has been an active participant in both the UNTT and the TST.

6. In order to facilitate an inclusive global dialogue and embrace the voices of all, the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) organized a series of stakeholder consultations at national and regional levels as well as a set of 11 global thematic consultations. The Regional Economic Commissions led similar consultations to discuss regional priorities and identify elements for the new development agenda.

The High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons

7. In July 2012, the UN Secretary-General convened a 27-member High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, co-chaired by the Presidents of Indonesia and Liberia and the Prime Minister of United Kingdom, to advise him on “*a bold and at the same time practical development agenda beyond 2015*”.

8. The High-Level Panel submitted its report to the Secretary-General in May 2013. The report identified a series of “transformative shifts” that had taken place in the international environment since the formulation of the MDGs, and proposed a draft set of goals and measurable targets. Its “illustrative” list of 12 headline goals included commitments to “Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition” and to “Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably”—goals that align well with FAO’s overarching programmatic concerns in the post-2015 process and its new Strategic Framework.

The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

9. A distinctive Member State-led process to design a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a successor to the MDGs was initiated in June 2012. At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro, Member States agreed to form an Open Working Group of 30 countries to formulate a set of sustainable development goals for the post-2015 agenda.

10. The Rio+20 outcome document advised that the new goals should be limited in number and fully reflect the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Between March 2013 and February 2014, the OWG conducted a total of eight sessions on the various themes identified in the Rio+20 outcome document. The discussions of the OWG were informed by background technical documents, known as Issues Briefs, prepared by the UN TST.

11. On 21 February 2013, at the conclusion of the consultation phase, the Co-chairs of the OWG issued a document highlighting 19 focus areas, to serve as a basis for identifying SDGs and accompanying targets. The focus areas included *inter alia*: poverty eradication; food security and nutrition; gender equality and women’s empowerment; water and sanitation; employment and decent work for all; sustainable consumption and production; climate; marine resources, oceans and seas; ecosystems and biodiversity; and means of implementation.

12. From March 2014, the OWG will shift to a drafting mode with the objective to develop a proposed set of goals to be presented to the UN General Assembly in September 2014.

III. FAO AND POST-2015

13. In line with its mandate, FAO has worked and will continue to work with all Members and relevant actors to develop an ambitious but realistic post-2015 development agenda that prioritizes eradicating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition and focuses on ensuring natural resource and ecological sustainability, including sustainable production and consumption.

United Nations Development Group (UNDG) led consultations

14. FAO has played a leading role in supporting the consultations overseen by the UNDG. FAO and the World Food Programme (WFP), with the support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Bioversity International, co-led the Global Thematic Consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition from November 2012 to March 2013, involving non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector.

15. The Consultation culminated in a high-level meeting held in Madrid on 4 April 2013. The Madrid Statement entitled “Food Security and Nutrition for All: A Vision and Building Blocks for a Global Agenda,” recognizing that the goal of ending hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition can be realized within a generation and calling for bold action to achieve that.

16. The results of the global and national consultations were submitted as inputs to the Open Working Group on SDGs and to the Secretary-General’s report on the MDGs and the post-2015 agenda, which was presented at the opening of the 68th session of the UNGA in September 2013.

17. A second round of post-2015 consultations on the means of implementation of the post-2015 development agenda is being launched and will be organized primarily at national level. The consultations will be co-led by UN entities and co-sponsored by UN Member States.

Work of the Open Working Group on SDGs

18. FAO worked with RBAs to co-lead the preparation of the TST Issues Briefs on food security and nutrition (with WFP and IFAD) and on sustainable agriculture (with IFAD). FAO also co-led the preparation of briefs on biodiversity, on forests and on oceans and seas. FAO inputs were also accepted for fifteen other briefs.

19. FAO participated in all of the eight sessions of the OWG on SDGs. Ms. Maria Helena Semedo, FAO Deputy Director-General for Natural Resources, gave the keynote address to the 3rd Session of the OWG in May 2013 on behalf of the Rome-based Agencies (FAO, IFAD and WFP). Assistant Directors-General also participated in various OWG sessions. FAO has also organized and co-organized side events in the margins of the OWG sessions.

Briefing of Members in Rome

20. FAO has organized a number of events to keep Members informed about developments related to the post-2015 process. These included a side event organized during the 146th session of the Council; an information note on the post-2015 process and FAO’s engagement included in the Council agenda item 19 – *Developments in Fora of Importance for the Mandate of FAO*; a briefing side event during the 38th session of FAO Conference in June 2013; and an update on the process at the 148th session of Council (2-6 December 2013).

21. In October 2013, during the 40th session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS), FAO, IFAD and WFP co-organized the CFS Special Event on “Natural resource management for food security in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”. Ambassador Macharia Kamau (Kenya), Co-chair of the OWG on SDGs, and H.E. Néstor Osorio, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) were featured guests.

Other pertinent activities

22. In response to numerous requests from UN Member States for technical support, FAO identified 14 thematic areas where it could offer leadership, knowledge and focused advice. With contributions from an interdepartmental technical working group, 14 thematic briefs have been prepared capturing the Organization’s special expertise in each area and highlighting the linkages between food security and nutrition, poverty eradication, sustainable resource management, biodiversity and rural development.

23. In parallel, FAO is working closely with IFAD and WFP to develop a set of targets and indicators around their common areas of interest – food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture. The agencies have already held two technical workshops for this purpose, and will hold a final workshop in March 2014 to consolidate the list of proposed targets and indicators.

24. Information on the post-2015 process and efforts to achieve the MDGs is now available on dedicated webpages (www.fao.org/post-2015-mdg/) on FAO's corporate website. The webpages provide a comprehensive overview of FAO's role and activities in the process, including news, background information, resources and a section on its 14 themes.

25. FAO also produces a bi-monthly e-bulletin featuring the latest news and events related to post-2015 and the SDGs. The bulletin was launched in November 2013 and is widely distributed to Members and other stakeholders.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

26. Member countries have drawn heavily upon FAO's knowledge, expertise and experience to assist in crafting a new sustainable development agenda that is ambitious but realistic – an agenda that will respond to current concerns while addressing future challenges.

27. The post-2015 process will define priorities and action areas for sustainable development for the next 15 years and beyond. In order for the new post-2015 development agenda to be universal and truly reflect the priorities of countries and regions, it is important to strengthen linkages between the global deliberation and decision-making process in New York and policy-making mechanisms and fora at the regional and national levels.

28. Therefore, FAO Members may wish to:

a) Engage in regional discussions and processes on post-2015, ensuring that the regional priorities discussed and agreed at FAO Regional Conferences are reported and taken into consideration while consolidating regional priorities and positions on post-2015 development agenda.

b) Ensure that ministries and department of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, land and water, rural development and all other relevant institutions are properly involved in national and regional debates on post-2015.

c) Provide FAO Regional Offices and the FAO Corporate Task Team on Post-2015, led by the Assistant Director-General and Coordinator for Economic and Social Development, with information on ongoing activities related to the post-2015 process, ensuring that FAO's corporate contribution reflects national and regional need and priorities.