

Post-2015 and SDGs



Nourishing people, Nurturing the planet

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Welcome to FAO's e-bulletin on the post-2015 development agenda. In this issue, we bring you up to date on what's been happening in 2014 and events planned in 2015 through 10 key elements. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, FAO Assistant Director-General for Economic and Social Development, describes the inextricable link between food security and sustainable development in a video interview. And after rounding up the latest events related to post-2015, we present FAO's themes in sustainable development through an infographic and a photo gallery.

– FAO's Post-2015 team

Post-2015 gears up for defining year

As 2014 draws to a close, the new framework to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the end of 2015 is taking ever greater shape.

Recent months have seen considerable activity in the process ahead of intergovernmental negotiations, which are set to begin in January 2015.

July: Following its 13th session, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) produces a report (linked) proposing 17 goals and 169 targets together with a chapeau.

September: The UNGA adopts a [resolution](#) making the OWG proposal the “the main basis for integrating SDGs into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs will also be considered in this process at the 69th session of the UNGA”.

November: Member States begin to discuss the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. The [informally agreed draft](#) includes dates, working methods, scope, means of implementation, interacting with other conferences, and the continued involvement of major groups.

December: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon releases an advance unedited "[synthesis report](#)" of the post-2015 process so far. Entitled *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet*, the report, to be finalized by 31 December 2014, welcomes the OWG report and proposes a set of six essential elements to “facilitate the deliberations of Member States” ahead of the post-2015 summit. They are: dignity, people, prosperity, planet, justice and partnership.

UNGA President Sam Kutesa reveals dates for high-level thematic debates and events focusing on the theme and priorities for the 69th session [Delivering on and implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda](#).

With new global goals to be announced in a little over nine months, we bring you an overview of the post-2015 development agenda in 10 key points.

[ARTICLE: COUNTDOWN TO THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA](#)



Video: No sustainability without food security – Jomo Sundaram

Jomo Kwame Sundaram, FAO Assistant Director-General for Economic and Social Development, gives an overview of the process to determine successor goals to the MDGs and on what's still to come in the final year of the post-2015 process. He underlines the importance of food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture to a new framework, and explains why a growing global population, diminishing natural resource base and worsening effects of climate change are shaping talks along the lines of future sustainability.

[WATCH THE VIDEO INTERVIEW](#)



Infographic: 14 themes linking food security to sustainable development

Among the most pressing challenges facing the world today is feeding a growing global population projected to increase from over 7 billion currently to over 9 billion by 2050.

This challenge is compounded by the additional threats of climate change, increasing water and land scarcity, soil and land degradation, and a deteriorating natural resource base, threats that will mainly hurt the world's poor and vulnerable, especially those living in rural areas who represent the vast majority of the at least 805 million hungry.

Featuring the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) 14 themes of focus in the post-2015 development agenda, this infographic highlights the powerful interlinkages that exist between food security and the emerging priorities of a sustainable development agenda.

[SEE FULL STORY](#)



CFS considers future engagement in sustainable development goals

The post-2015 development agenda featured prominently among topics discussed at the 41st annual session of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in Rome from 13-18 October.

The world's foremost inclusive intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder platform for food security and nutrition brought together hundreds of representatives from governments, civil society organizations, private sector and research institutions during World Food Week.

Among the major agenda items, Food security and Nutrition in the Post-2015 Framework headlined the global segment of the session on coordination and linkages with CFS. Ahead of government negotiations on a robust post-2015 framework to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the end of 2015, the panel discussion sought to strengthen linkages and explore ways of engaging CFS and other food security and nutrition stakeholders in the implementation of the post-2015 agenda, as well as brainstorming on the possible role CFS could play in the process.

In a vibrant discussion facilitated by CFS Chair Gerda Verburg, participants fielded questions on the role the CFS could play in the finalization of the post-2015 agenda and subsequent monitoring of the SDGs, and the general relevance of the SDGs to CFS areas of work.

[SEE FULL STORY](#)



Rome UN agencies welcome UNGA resolution on SDG report

FAO, IFAD and WFP united in commending the UN General Assembly (UNGA) Open Working Group (OWG) report on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), at a side event held during the 24th session of the Committee on Agriculture at FAO headquarters in Rome on 30 September.

The event, which brought together speakers representing the EU, the Dominican Republic as well as the three Rome-based UN agencies (RBAs), focused on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture in the post-2015 development agenda.

A resolution adopted by the UNGA on 10 September made the OWG report on SDGs “the main basis for integrating Sustainable Development Goals into the post-2015 development agenda”.

“This [the OWG report] is an important achievement that we can all be pleased with,” Jomo Kwame Sundaram, FAO Assistant Director General, Coordinator for Economic and Social Development, and FAO Lead on Post-2015, told an audience that featured ambassadors and ministers.

“It is testimony to the strong collaboration among the RBAs, especially for Goal 2, and to FAO’s dynamic collaboration with the membership in Rome, country capitals and New York, with other UN entities, as well as with other non-state actors, which fostered a deep sense of mutual trust and cooperation.”

The RBAs had supported the post-2015 process from the outset, offering technical support to the OWG through the UN Technical Support Team (TST) that included co-leadership of interagency issues and statistical briefs, proposals for goals and targets, and inputs on the final language of Goal 2 for the SDG report.

[SEE FULL STORY](#)



Events round up: Food for talk in Geneva, rural women in New York and fighting hunger awards in Rome

Nutrition in the post-2015 development agenda was the title of the first in a series of Food for Talk discussions organised by FAO Liaison Office in Geneva (LOG), Switzerland on 30 October. Combining two topical themes - the second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2) and the process to determine successor goals to the MDGs, the event brought together Francesco Branca, Director of Nutrition for Health and Development, World Health Organization; Kaitlin Yarnall, Deputy Creative Director, National Geographic; Marc Van Ameringen, Executive Director, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN); and Ilona Kickbusch, Adjunct Professor & Director of the Global Health Programme, Graduate Institute.

Following a dynamic format, speakers delivered Ted Talks-style presentations before debating questions on food and nutrition from an audience made up of government representatives, the UN, NGOs, academia, media, private sector and the general public. The FAO event, which was organized with the support of National Geographic and the Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, opens a series of Food for Talk events in Geneva. The second, Family farming: feeding the world, caring for the earth, will take place at UN Office on 11 December 2014 before the International Year of Family Farming draws to a close.

[WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

The crucial role of rural women in delivering a truly sustainable post-2015 development agenda was the central message at a special event organised by FAO, WFP, IFAD and UN Women at UN headquarters in New York on 15 October, International Day for Rural Women.

Speakers, including H.E. Talayibek Kydyrov, Kyrgyzstan Permanent Representative to the UN; Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, Sarah Campbell, World Farmers Organization (WFO) and Thomas Yanga, Director, New York Office of WFP, described the essential role rural women play in eradicating poverty, calling for their high priority in the post-2015 development agenda.

[VIEW THE WEBCAST](#)

Thirteen countries have won recognition from FAO for outstanding progress in fighting hunger, an achievement which includes reaching international targets ahead of the end-of-2015 deadline.

Brazil, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Iran, Kiribati, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, the Philippines and Uruguay were awarded diplomas at a ceremony in Rome on 30 November, becoming the latest in a growing list of countries to make great strides in combating undernourishment.

To date, 63 developing countries have reached the Millennium Development Goal 1 (MDG-1) hunger target - to halve the proportion of hungry people by 2015, while 25 countries have also achieved the more ambitious World Food Summit (WFS) target of halving the absolute number of undernourished people by 2015.

[READ THE FULL REPORT](#)

New content



600+ tweet tweet @FAOpost2015

Join more than 600 followers of our fledgling twitter account and get all the latest news on the post-2015 process.

Online in 6 languages

Our collection of webpages dedicated to the post-2015 development agenda and achievement of the MDGs is now in Arabic, Chinese and Russian as well as English, French and Spanish.

[+ MORE](#)

FAO news, Guardian style

Follow the latest news, features and interviews on food security and nutrition related to the post-2015 development agenda in a newly launched FAO-partner page hosted on a special online section of Guardian News and Media. [+ MORE](#)

Picturing a sustainable world

With pictures plucked from the Organization's archives, this photo gallery presents a snapshot of 14 interlinked themes FAO considers critical to ending hunger, achieving food security and ushering in an era of sustainable development. [+ MORE](#)



You may have missed...

MDG hunger target “within reach”- SOFI

September 2014 - [The State of Food Insecurity in the World \(SOFI 2014\)](#) estimates that about 805 million people in the world, or one in nine, suffer from hunger today. Since 1990-92, the prevalence of undernourishment has fallen from 18.7 to 11.3 percent globally and from 23.4 to 13.5 percent for developing countries.

9 out of 10 farms run by families – SOFA

October 2014 - The [State of Food and Agriculture 2014](#) highlights the role of family farmers as potential agents of change in a new sustainable development agenda, reporting that 80 percent of the world's food is produced on the more than 500 million farms managed by families.

Countries commit to tackle malnutrition - ICN2

November 2014 - The Second International Conference on Nutrition (ICN2), organized by FAO and the World Health Organization (WHO), saw over 170 countries adopt the [Rome Declaration on Nutrition](#), enshrining the right of everyone to have access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food, and committing governments to prevent malnutrition in all its forms, including hunger, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Family farms are the custodians of about 75 percent of all agricultural resources in the world, and are therefore key to improved ecological and resource sustainability.

FAST FACTS

A quarter of land is highly degraded and a further 44 percent of land is slightly or moderately degraded due to the erosion, salinization, compaction and chemical pollution of soils.

LINKS

- [FAO webpages on Post-2015 and MDGs](#)
- [UN Open Working Group on SDGs](#)
- [Beyond2015](#)
- [Post-2015 learning hub](#)
- [Millennium Development Goals](#)
- [Sustainable development policy & practice](#)
- [National Geographic's Future of Food series](#)