

Towards the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda: “Hasten slowly”

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UN Task Team on Post-2015

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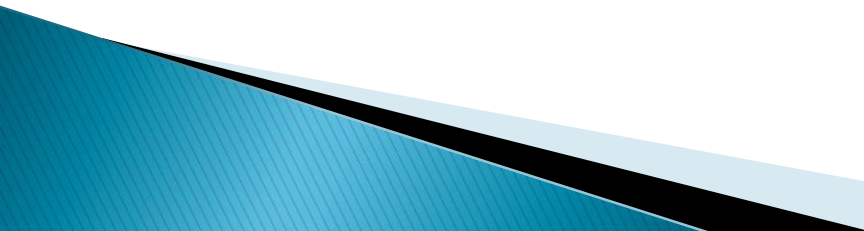
Process at UN

UN Task Team on Post-2015	(First) Report May 2012
Rio+20 <i>(outcome to be taken forward in post-2015 process)</i>	June 2012
SG's High-Level Panel <i>(to be appointed after Rio+20)</i>	To initiate from July 2012
ECOSOC - Annual Ministerial Review <i>("Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting MDGs in 2015 and sustaining development gains in the future")</i>	July 2012
National/regional consultation processes <i>(led by UNDG)</i>	May 2012 - April 2013
UN General Assembly <i>(to discuss MDG progress and define post-2015 preparatory process)</i>	September 2012
UN General Assembly HLPM (MDG Review summit) <i>(still unclear whether post-2015 framework will be negotiated at this point or later)</i>	September 2013
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UN-wide Task Team

- ▶ About 40 UN agencies, plus BWIs, WTO
- ▶ Tasks:
 - Review strengths and weaknesses MDG agenda and implications for post-2015 development agenda
 - What major global trends and challenges need to be better addressed?
 - How should the global partnership for development be redefined?
 - What would be adequate format for post-2015 agenda? Goals and targets only or also “means”?
 - How to ensure broad-based consensus and ownership? Recommendations for consultation process
 - How to come to one unified UN agenda? Alignment and integration of multiple agendas
 - First Report end May; input to HLP

High-level panel

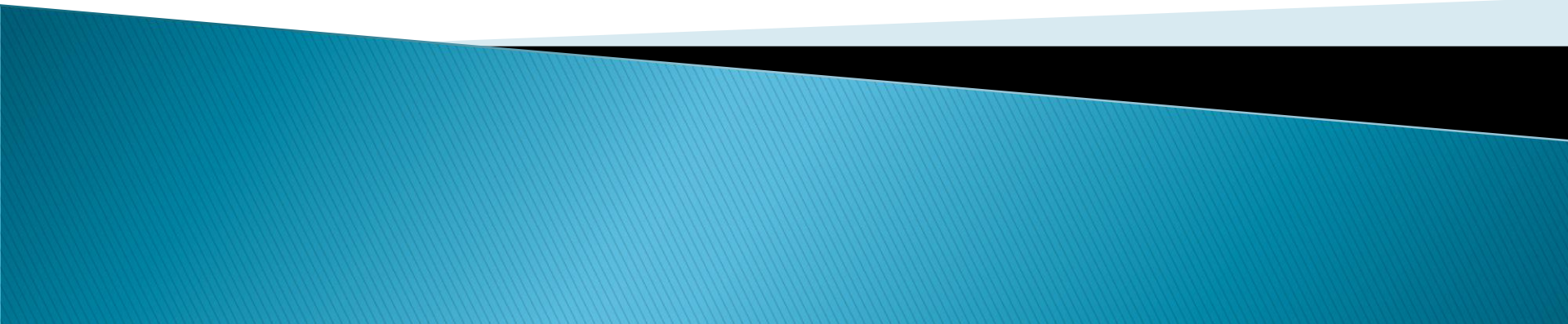
- ▶ To be appointed after Rio+20
 - ▶ Key task to conduct consultations with leaders and broad range of stakeholders to sense concerns and political feasibility of consensus around core elements of One UN development agenda
 - ▶ Take on board inputs of UNTT and national consultations
 - ▶ Report by (around April/May 2013)
 - ▶ Role after that: TBD
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Unified UN Global Development Agenda

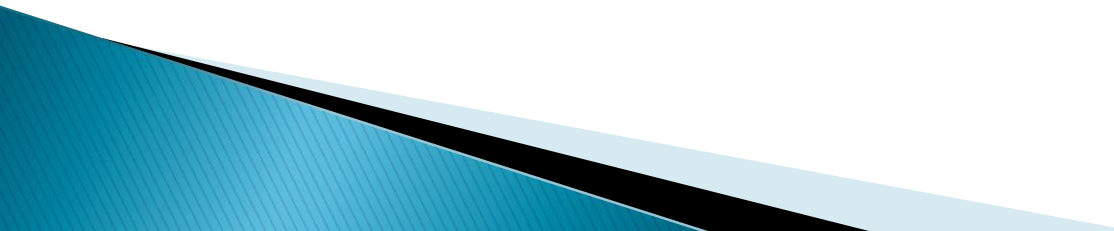
- ▶ **Ongoing processes** (incomplete listing):
 - *Sustainable development*: Rio+20; energy for all
 - *Climate change*: UNFCCC negotiations
 - *Food and nutrition*: L'Aquila Food Security Initiative; ICN+21 (2013)
 - *Jobs and social protection*: ILO Global Jobs Pact
 - *Population*: ICPD Programme of Action
 - *Migration*: High-level dialogue on migration and development (2013)
 - *Sustainable urbanization*: Habitat III (2016)
 - *Countries with special needs*: LDC Istanbul Plan of Action (2011); New Deal on engagement with fragile states
 - *Financing for Development*: DCF 2012, UNCTAD XIII, Monterrey/Doha follow up

→ **Federalism versus centralism?**


Strengths and weaknesses of the MDG agenda:



Strengths

- ▶ Based in visionary, human development-centred Millennium Declaration
 - ▶ Simple, transparent and easy-to-communicate: basis for advocacy
 - ▶ Clear goals, targets and indicators for monitoring and accountability
 - ▶ Agenda setting, but not prescriptive
 - ▶ Helped strengthen global partnership, recognizing needs of Africa and LDCs
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Weaknesses

- ▶ Lack of consultations to underpin ownership
 - ▶ Important issues were left out, such as peace and security, governance and human rights
 - ▶ Inadequate incorporation of other issues (e.g. sustainability, employment, inequality, population dynamics, etc.)
 - ▶ Not a development strategy and not focused on addressing root causes of poverty and other development challenges
 - ▶ One-size-fits-all goals and, thus, targets may have missed the point
 - ▶ Too much focus on ends, too little (or nothing) on processes
 - ▶ Global partnership for development poorly defined
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Implications for Post-2015: Ten Recommendations

1. The core values contained in the **Millennium Declaration** seem to be as valid as an expression of the development challenges of the world today as they were in 2000, but
2. The post-2015 UN Development Agenda would need to build on broad consultations with main stakeholders from its inception.
3. The new agenda should reflect need for transformative change and serve multiple purposes: advocacy tool, policy guide for national and global policies, instrument for policy coherence
4. Keep format of concrete goals, targets and indicators
5. Keep long time horizon (say, 25 years or longer) but add intermediate milestones (say, every 5 years)

Implications for Post-2015:

Ten Recommendations (cont.)

6. Leave great flexibility to tailor goals & targets to national and sub-national realities
 - No one size fits all, but also NOT “everything goes”:
7. Retain clear focus on ends
 - But, also need more attention to processes and resources to achieve results through transformative change
 - → Meaning: (a) ensure adequate national policy space; (b) provide policy “guidance” through global targets and shared principles relating to sustainability, inclusion and equity, people’s empowerment, respect for human rights, etc.
8. Give more prominence to reducing inequalities
9. Account better for demographic dynamics
10. Define global partnership for developments better and make sure it’s truly “global”

Challenges moving forward

- ▶ Process is critical:
 - ▶ Participation for consensus building
 - ▶ Transparency about strategic choices to be made: MDG+, new design, hybrid?
 - ▶ Avoid technocratic “impositions”
 - ▶ Hasten slowly: time is still on our hand
- ▶ Transformative change = thinking out of the box
 - ▶ Yet be cautious about political sensitivities
 - ▶ Agenda should serve as agenda (theory) of change without being prescriptive
- ▶ Avoid the X-mas tree
 - ▶ MDG+ likely not acceptable (nor desirable!)
 - ▶ Keep things transparent
- ▶ Set clear global goals and targets, leave ample space for national level flexibility
- ▶ Framework should be “One World, Many Generations”
 - ▶ Fundamental change of MDG 8 (move away from “donorship” agenda)

Initial focus of UNTT

- ▶ Can all of the above be done while keeping things simple and transparent? Well, why not?
- ▶ Give strong vision (Millennium Declaration), but focus should be on “Future for All”, help change the development discourse
- ▶ More structured approach could be solution (rather than MDG+ or SDG+):
 - a) “End goals” for human development and security
 - b) Defined limits of environmental sustainability
 - c) Intermediate goals for economic development
 - d) Recognize conditioning factors and contours of enabling global partnership (“development enablers”)
 - e) Outline basic principles to guide strategies and policy coherence (without being prescriptive) consistent with equity, sustainability, human rights, democratic governance, security

This forum's contribution?

- Don't run too far ahead of the troops
 - Indicator development is excellent, but note that:
 - the framework is yet to be defined
 - indicators are not value free
 - “perfecting” MDGs runs risk of overloading post-2015 agenda
 - avoid “fuzzy” or non-measurable concepts for targets and indicators
 - a detailed set of indicators cannot serve as starting point to build global consensus around a unified, transformative agenda
 - UNSC wants to see vision and general directives first
- Help UN with technical inputs, but leave consensus building around framework to UN processes