

Post-2015 Process and the Sustainable Development Goals: Engagement of the Regional Commissions

Briefing Note

The outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference acknowledges the role of Regional Commissions in a broad range of areas, and also provides mandates and guidance for their work. It emphasizes the significant role played by the Commissions in promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and recognizes the need to ensure effective linkages among global, regional, subregional and national processes. More specifically, it entrusts the Regional Commissions, with the support of the UN system, to support the global efforts relating to SDGs through a bottom up approach.

In line with the multidisciplinary nature and expertise of the Regional Commissions, their engagement with the Post-2015 development agenda, including the SG High-Level Panel, and the SDG process is multi-dimensional and at different levels, as elaborated below.

1. Inclusive high-level consultations at the regional and subregional levels:

The Regional Commissions have convened and are planning a series of inclusive subregional and regional consultations to develop and articulate regional perspectives on the post-2015 development agenda and the SDG processes. These perspectives will inform, among others, the deliberations of the SG high-level panel on the post-2015 and the OWG on SDGs, once established. The consultations are held with the involvement of Governments, civil society, business and academia. Many are being held using the platforms of the Regional Coordination Mechanisms (RCMs) some of which bring together the UN system agencies at the regional level with non-UN regional and subregional partners and organizations.

Regional Commissions are also using regional meetings on issues related to sustainable development, including the Regional Implementation Meetings (RIMs) on the post Rio+20 to facilitate convergence with the post-2015 development agenda and build consensus on priority issues. In addition, the Commissions are contributing through their expertise to a number of national and global thematic consultations on the post-2015 development agenda.

A region-wise list of meetings/consultations is attached as Annex I to this brief.

2. Substantive analytical inputs:

The Regional Commissions have produced and coordinated a number of region specific analytical reports and reviews on the gaps in the achievement of the MDGs in preparation for the UN Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio in June 2012. These

have been produced, in many cases, using the RCMs to leverage the policy and analytical capacities of the UN system at the regional level. Multi-stakeholders surveys on the post-2015 agenda have also been conducted by certain Commissions with their outcome synthesized into policy-oriented briefs and papers. These knowledge products provide a good starting point for discussions on the Post-2015 agenda and the SDGs.

Regional Commissions are also repositioning their Commission sessions to become the most inclusive intergovernmental forums for discussion and decision-making on sustainable development and the post-2015 Agenda at the regional level. One way this will be done is through integrating highly interactive, multi-stakeholder round tables and panel discussions, on various aspects of sustainable development and the post-2015 Agenda, in the Commission sessions.

The Regional Commissions are finalizing a joint publication titled “*Beyond 2015: The Future United Nations Development Agenda- Regional Perspectives*” which is expected to be ready by early 2013. It would provide an analytical regional perspective to the Post-2015 development agenda. The background and outcome documents of the regional and subregional preparatory processes would also serve as valuable analytical inputs to the global processes. The Regional Commissions have also initiated work on an interregional report on the global sustainable development agenda, which would present a regional perspective on the global state of sustainable development, including key opportunities and challenges, based on regional approaches, experience and lessons learned.

A list of selected publications and papers by the Regional Commissions on the subject, with available web-links, are provided in Annex-II.

3. Engagement in various task teams and working groups at global level:

The Regional Commissions are actively participating in, and contributing to, the various UN system task teams and working groups established at the global level, including the UN Task Team on Post-2015 development agenda, the three working groups established under the UNTT to support the work of the high-level panel, the Technical Support Group on SDGs, the MDG Gap task Force and the undg MDG Task Force. The Regional Commissions New York Office also acts as focal point for the Commissions at the global level for ensuring accurate reflection of regional perspectives at the global level, and vice-versa.

Annexure 1**Calendar of Regional Consultations on the post 2015 Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals**

Africa		
Event	Date/Location	Remarks
Sub-regional consultations in East and Southern Africa	October 1-2 2012/ Mombasa, Kenya	Completed
5 th African Private Sector Forum	Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire, 5-8 November, 2012	Completed
6th Regional Coordination Mechanism/Africa meeting on post-2015	14-15 November 2012 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Completed
8 th Session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development and the African Regional Implementation Meeting on post Rio+20	19-21 November 2012, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Completed
6 th Meeting of Committee of Director Generals of National Statistics Office: Post 2015 Development Agenda Statistical Requirements	Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, 30 November - 2 December 2012	Completed
Sub-regional consultations on the post 2015 development agenda – Dakar, Senegal	Dakar, Senegal, 11-12 December 2012	Completed
Africa Regional meeting to consolidate sub-regional findings on the post-2015 development agenda	February 2013, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	
Presentation of findings at Joint Annual Conference of African Ministers of Finance and Economic Planning	March 2013	
Presentation of findings at AU Summit	July 2013	
Latin America and the Caribbean		
ITC and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Policy experiences and initiatives seminar	22-23 October 2012, Santiago, Chile	Completed.
First meeting of the focal points appointed by the Governments of the signatory countries of the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development	6-7 November 2012, Santiago, Chile	Completed.
Regional Coordination Mechanism meeting/LAC to discuss joint report on MDGs and post-2015 MDG agenda	24 January 2013, Santiago, Chile	
Regional Consultation on Post-2015 Development agenda, MDGs and SDGs	7-9 March 2013, Bogota, Colombia	

Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) on post Rio+20	10-11 April 2013, Santiago, Chile	
Preparatory Meeting for SIDS Conference	May 2013, Venue: TBD	
Asia and Pacific		
Subregional consultation for Central Asia	Almaty, Kazakhstan, 26-28 September 2012	Completed
Subregional consultation for the Pacific	Nadi, Fiji, 10-12 October 2012	Completed
Subregional consultation for South East Asia	Bangkok, 21-23 November 2012	Completed
Consultation of Asia-Pacific LDCs & LLDCs	Siem Reap, Cambodia, 17-19 December 2012	Completed
Subregional consultation for South Asia	Dhaka, Bangladesh, February 2013	
Inception meeting to launch UNESCAP-ADB-UNDP joint publication on “The Post-2015 development agenda and Perspectives from Asia and the Pacific region” followed by panel discussions on “Future Priorities for the Post-2015 Development Agenda” and “How Should the Post-2015 MDG Framework Respond to the Needs of Developing Asia and the Pacific”	New York, UN Headquarters., 14 January 2013	
International conference on the post-2015 development agenda “Development for all - leave not the bottom 1.5 billion people behind” .	Dili, Timor Leste, 26-28 February 2013	
Almaty Programme of Action regional review meeting – consultation of Asia Pacific’s LLDCs	Laos, 5-6 March 2013	
Soft launch of the ESCAP-ADB-UNDP joint publication “The Post-2015 development agenda and Perspectives from Asia and the Pacific region” at the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons meeting .	Bali, Indonesia, 26-27 March 2013	
Interactive Ministerial Panel Discussion on Sustainable Development and the Post 2015 Development Agenda: Ministerial Segment of the 69th Session of ESCAP	April 2013	
Regional Implementation Meeting (RIM) on post Rio+20	April/May 2013	
Sustainable Development Goals consultation spearheaded by Thailand as a member of the post 2015 Open Working Group	Thailand, June 2013	

Western Asia		
Advisory Board Meeting to review the draft chapters of the joint Regional Commission publication on the post-2015 development agenda	8-9 November 2012, Beirut, Lebanon	Completed
Civil Society and multi-stakeholder session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism/Arab States on post-2015	Mid-February 2013, Beirut, Lebanon	
Regional Sustainable development forum/ RIM on post Rio+20	April 2013, Beirut , Lebanon	
Regional Consultative Meeting on SDGs	Late September/Early October 2013, Cairo, Egypt	
Europe		
Back-to-back meetings of the RCM/ECE and UNDG regional to discuss strategy for addressing Rio+20 and post-2015 development agenda in Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia	October 24/25, 2012, Geneva	Completed
Organizational meeting to outline post-2015 themes in the UNECE region for RCM/ECE and UNDG regional Report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda	December 6-7, 2012, Geneva	Completed
UNECE Biennial Commission Session: Topics include science and technological innovation for sustainable development, Rio+20 follow-up, presentation of initial draft of RCM's Report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda	April 9-11, 2013, Geneva	

Annex II
List of selected publications and papers relevant to the Post-2015 MDG agenda and the SDGs

Publication/Paper	Regional Commission	Remarks
Joint Regional Commissions' Report on "Beyond 2015: The Future United Nations Development Agenda- Regional Perspectives"	Regional Commissions (ESCWA coordinator of publication)	To be finalized by February 2013
Interregional report on the global state of sustainable development	Regional Commissions (ESCAP coordinator of publication)	To be finalized in early 2014
Assessing progress in Africa towards the MDGs: <i>Emerging perspectives from Africa on the post-2015 development agenda</i>	ECA	http://new.uneca.org/mdgreports/mdgreport2012.aspx
Note for the High Level Panel Discussion on "Articulating a Post-2015 MDG Agenda" held as part of Forty-fifth session of the Economic Commission for Africa	ECA	http://new.uneca.org/Portals/cfm2012/CrossArticle/1/Papers/English/COM12Note-for-theHighLevelPanelDiscussion-onArticulating-aPost-2015MDG-Agenda.pdf
Sustainable Development 20 Years on from the Earth Summit: Progress, gaps and strategic guidelines for Latin America and the Caribbean	RCM/LAC coordinated by ECLAC	http://www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/xml/8/46098/riomas20-ingles.pdf
Achieving the Millennium Development Goals with equality in Latin America and the Caribbean: Progress and challenges	RCM/LAC coordinated by ECLAC	http://www.eclac.cl/cgi-bin/getprod.asp?xml=/publicaciones/xml/5/39995/P39995.xml&xsl=/mdg/tpl-i/p9f.xsl&base=/mdg/tpl-i/top-bottom.xsl
"Reflexión global sobre el cumplimiento de los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio en América Latina y el Caribe"	ECLAC	Document available in Spanish prepared for Bogota regional consultation in February, 2013
Accelerating the equitable achievement of the MDGs	ESCAP, UNDP, ADB, UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA	http://www.unescap.org/pdd/calendar/CSN-MDG-NewDelhi-Nov-2011/MDG-Report2011-12.pdf
Growing Together: Economic Integration for an Inclusive and Sustainable Asia-Pacific Century	ESCAP	http://www.unescap.org/pdd/publications/themestudy2012/index.asp
ESCAP/ADB/UNDP MDG Report (2012/13) - The Post-2015 development agenda and Perspectives from Asia and the Pacific region	ESCAP, ADB, UNDP	Forthcoming. Inception meeting in NY in January 2013. Soft launch at the regional High Level Panel of Eminent Persons meeting in Bali, Indonesia, March 2013
Arab Millennium Development Goals Report 2011	ESCWA	http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/E_ESCWA_EDG_D_2011_7_E.pdf
UNECE 2012 Report on Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Europe and Central Asia	ECE	http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/publications/oes/UNECE_MDG_Report_2012.pdf
Report of RCM/ECE and UNDG regional on the Post- 2015 Development Agenda for the ECE region	ECE	Forthcoming, spring 2013