Post-2015 Development Agenda: Realising the convergence of the Post-MDG and SDG decision-making processes

July, 2013

This paper has been produced by Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future and CAFOD as part of their work on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The objective of this paper is to inform the debate about the need for convergence and coherence between the two primary processes which together constitute the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We welcome comments, please contact: Jeannet Lingán, Stakeholder Forum: jlingan[AT]stakeholderforum.org and CAFOD, Neva Frecheville, nfrecheville[AT]cafod.org.uk or Bernadette Fischler, bfischler[AT]cafod.org.uk

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About Stakeholder Forum

Stakeholder Forum is an international non-profit organisation working to advance sustainable development and promote democracy at a global level. Our work aims to enhance open, accountable and participatory international decision-making on sustainable development through enhancing the involvement of stakeholders in intergovernmental processes. More information: www.stakeholderforum.org

About CAFOD

CAFOD is the official Catholic aid agency for England and Wales. We work with partners across the world, wherever the need is greatest, to bring hope, compassion and solidarity to poor communities, standing side by side with them to end poverty and injustice. We work with people of all faiths and none.

CAFOD believes the post-2015 framework should support a vision of the world whereby poor women and men have dignity and are able to flourish through participating in enabling societies and equitable economies that operate within safe ecological boundaries nationally and globally.. More information: www.cafod.org.uk

Summary

Member States at the United Nations (UN) and stakeholders globally are currently mobilised around two important processes: post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Post-2015 Development Agenda has become an umbrella term for both processes.

Both processes, post-MDG and SDGs, have poverty eradication within the context of sustainable development as a primary objective, with the aim of using a global goal framework to achieve this. There is now broad agreement among many Member States that the two processes should be brought together to create **one set of goals**.

This paper proposes that to build on the existing political energy and to avoid confusion and duplication of efforts, one process is needed going forward that will create a **single post-2015 process and lead to a unified sustainable development framework for poverty eradication, characterised by one set of global goals.** This needs to happen from September 2013.

Current concerns with the process

The main concerns about maintaining separate consultations and decision making tracks for the Post-MDGs and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) processes are:

- **It will further entrench the division between the environment and development sectors at all levels, within governments; regional bodies; the UN; and other stakeholders**. Much of the development sector has been engaged from relatively early on, following the post-MDG process since the UN SG was mandated to take this forward at the 2010 MDG Summit. Whereas, much of the environmental/sustainability sector, joined the global goals conversation when SDGs were proposed during the Rio+20 process, and are now engaging in the work of the OWG as an outcome of Rio+20.

- **It will damage efforts to deliver an inclusive, open and transparent process by increasing confusion and creating inefficiencies**. It is not clear for many groups which mechanism has the mandate for decision-making (i.e. how exactly the final global goals will be determined and by which process), nor how inputs from consultations with stakeholders will be used to influence that process. This situation does not create the right environment for open and transparent decision-making that is inclusive of all stakeholders, particularly those who need it most: people experiencing poverty, marginalisation and vulnerability.

Key convergence questions to answer

In order to think about relevant convergence points in both decision making tracks, we need to address the following questions:

- What will happen with all the reports drawn from different consultations, think tanks and panels that inform the UN Secretary General's report after September 2013?
- What will the General Assembly decide for the continuation of the Post-MDG agenda after the MDG Special Event in September 2013?

- What will the modalities of the Open Working Group on SDGs be for the production of the report (between February and September 2014)?
- How will the General Assembly make a decision on the SDGs after the Open Working Group presents its report in September 2014?

Options for the way forward

The paper outlines four possible options for the way forward that address these concerns and outstanding questions, before arguing that a single process will bring the desired results. These processes are:

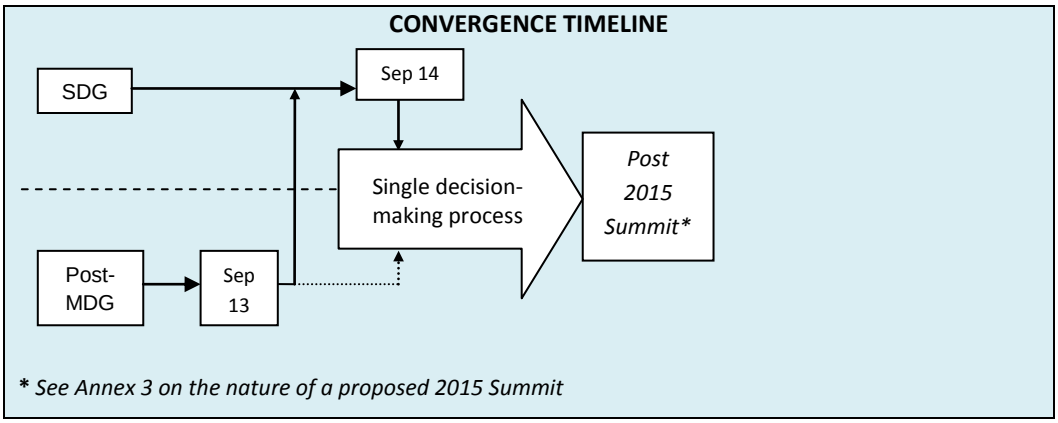
1. The SDG process integrates the post-MDG process: addresses the process and decisions gap;
2. The post-MDG process integrates the SDG process: addresses the process and decisions gap;
3. The post-MDG and SDG processes run parallel and converge in a global Summit: only closes decisions gap; and
4. **Integrating both the post-MDG and SDG processes equally into a new, single process as each sequentially comes to the conclusion of its current activities: addresses process and decisions gap.**

Need for a single process

The paper argues that both processes should converge through integrated sequencing (Option 4), which enables both processes to contribute to the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and ensures the best use of existing stakeholder engagement outputs.

Integrated sequencing could work as follow:

- The **Post-MDG process focuses on feeding into the SDG** Open Working Group.
- The **OWG draws from the outputs of the post-MDG** process and consultations, continuing its work as planned, reporting by September 2014 (likely June/July).
- **The UN GA agrees to launch a new process** (eg. Post-2015 Global Goals) at the 69th Session, integrating the two tracks and leading to a post-2015 global Summit.
- The **Global Summit is held in 2015** which launches the new Post-2015 Development Agenda with one set of global goals.



Advantages of this would include:

- Remove the risk of the two (currently relatively close) agendas diverging;
- Reduce confusion and the risk of losing valuable inputs and progress made to date;
- Increase efficiency and leave time to practice consensus based collaboration; and
- Increase transparency and inclusivity

Integrated sequencing will bring the processes together on an equal footing, most likely to see true integration of development and environment; will likely see the most efficient use of resources (human and financial) and will use most efficiently use the outputs from existing consultations and stakeholder engagement.

The 2015 Global Summit would be the best way to discuss the outputs of both the Post-MDG and SDGs; this will give governments more time to process and deliberate on complex issues such as building a goals and targets framework that aspires to be universal whilst at the same time accounting for national differences.

Introduction

Member States at the United Nations and stakeholders globally are currently mobilised around two important processes: post-Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Post-2015 Development Agenda has become an umbrella term for both processes. While at present the post-MDG process is led by the UN Secretary General (SG), following a mandate from Member States at the MDG Summit in 2010[1], the SDG process is organised through an intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG), following agreement at the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)[2].

Both processes have poverty eradication within the context of sustainable development as a primary objective, with the aim of using a global goal framework to achieve this. The framework is due to come into play after the MDGs expire on 31 December 2015. There is strong consensus that any new goals should build on lessons learned from the MDGs, as well as addressing new development challenges. The Rio+20 outcome document, *'The Future We Want'*, emphasises the need for coordination and coherence between the two processes.[3] The UN SG has echoed this sentiment, saying that the 'MDGs and SDGs are mutually supporting concepts and the SDGs should accelerate and continue the work begun with the MDGs.'[4] He explicitly 'called on the OWG to build on the recommendations of the HLP Report[5] […] and to coordinate elaboration of the SDGs with the Post-2015 Development Agenda.'[6]

At a Special Event on MDGs on 25 September 2013, the UN GA will assess progress made to date and make recommendations for next steps to accelerate progress towards achieving the MDGs and look beyond 2015. The OWG plans to provide a short interim report in September 2013 and is mandated to report by September 2014, with the Co-Chairs Hungary and Kenya expressing a desire to submit in June or July 2014. It is likely that the global goals and targets will be negotiated in an intergovernmental process at the UN General Assembly (GA).

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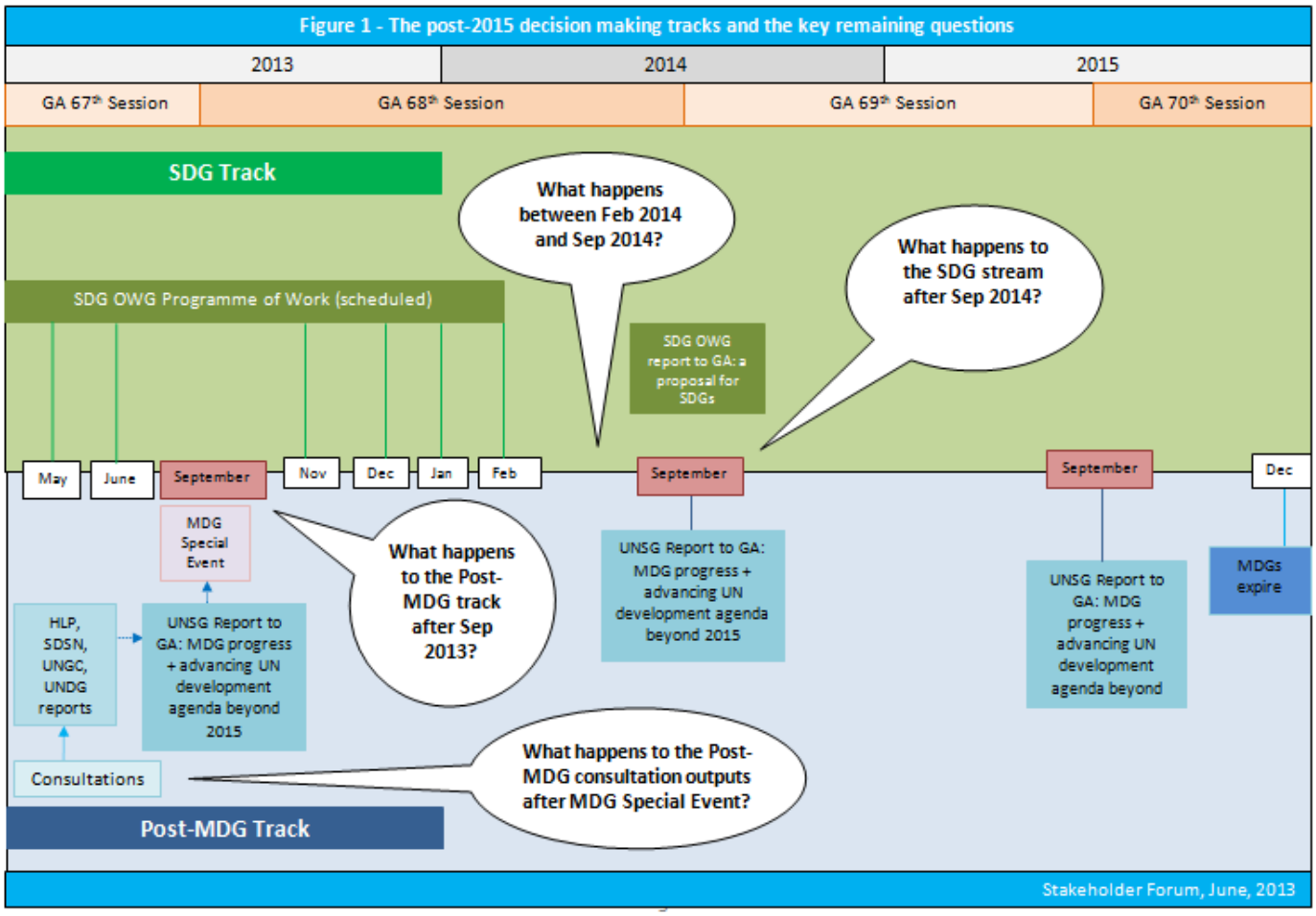
[1] http://www.un.org/en/mdg/summit2010/pdf/outcome_documentN1051260.pdf
[2] See **Appendix 1** for details.
[3] http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/288&Lang=E (para 249)
[4] http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=6654
[5] The recently published Report of the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on Post-2015 is one of the key inputs the UN SG will draw upon when making his recommendations on post-2015 to the UN GA in September 2013. http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf
[6] http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb3201e.pdf

Despite calls for integration, the post-MDG and SDG processes have in practice been running on two parallel decision-making tracks. The post-MDG track has convened extensive consultations to gather inputs from a wide range of stakeholders, many of which took place under the remit of the expert High Level Panel, which references input from some 5,000 civil society organisations alongside business representatives, parliamentarians and academics.[7] The UN Development Group (DG) has held eleven thematic consultations and is supporting 88 national deliberations and the 'Global Conversation.'[8] The results from these are being fed into the UN SG report on achieving the MDGs and the roadmap to achieve the post-2015 agenda which will be delivered to the UN GA ahead of the Special Event on the MDGs in September 2013. The SDG track has seen the OWG engage in preliminary discussions on some of the thematic issues that could potentially form part of a new global framework for sustainable development. **What remains unclear is what happens to these two tracks in the General Assembly once they have reported.**



[7] http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf
[8] http://www.worldwewant2015.org/sitemap

This paper proposes that the post-MDG and the SDG processes should be brought together as soon as possible – preferably immediately after the MDG Special Event in September 2013, creating a **single post-2015 process which will lead to a unified sustainable development framework for poverty eradication, characterised by one set of global goals.** The focus of this paper is on the **procedural convergence** of the processes; it does not discuss how the MDGs and the SDGs can conceptually be integrated.

Problems with continuing two parallel processes

Continuing with two parallel processes will damage efforts to deliver an inclusive, open and transparent process by increasing confusion and creating inefficiencies. Maintaining two separate processes will further entrench division between the environment and development sectors at all levels: within governments; regional bodies; the UN; and other stakeholders. This risk has been explicitly recognised by the HLP Report.[9] The two communities have had different entry points into the post-2015 conversation. Much of the development sector has been engaged from relatively early on, following the post-MDG process since the UN SG was mandated to take this forward at the 2010 MDG Summit. Much of the environmental/sustainability sector, however, only joined the global goals conversation when SDGs were proposed during the Rio+20 process, and are now engaging in the work of the OWG as an outcome of Rio+20.

The current confusion about processes is counterproductive to meaningful stakeholder engagement. It is not clear which mechanism has the mandate for decision-making (i.e. how exactly the final global goals will be determined and by which process), nor how inputs from consultations with stakeholders will be used to influence that process. The consultations of the Global Conversation and the outreach of the HLP have been important efforts led by the UN to collect and synthesise input from thousands of individuals and organisations representing different stakeholder groups from across the globe. Nonetheless, many groups have found the whole process confusing. Several have flagged the risks posed by separate policy process and uncoordinated consultations, with resource-constrained stakeholders finding it difficult to decide which process holds decision-making power and is therefore

[9] http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/HLP_P2015_Report.pdf - Executive Summary: 'the MDGs fell short by not integrating the economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration, and by not addressing the need to promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production. The result was that environment and development were never properly brought together. People were working hard – but often separately – on interlinked problems.'

the most effective to engage in.[10] In a global landscape of stagnant climate talks and stuck trade rounds, these are difficult times for multilateralism. A complicated and confusing process does not create the right environment for open and transparent decision-making that is inclusive of all stakeholders, particularly those who need it most: people experiencing poverty, marginalisation and vulnerability.

Benefits of a single process

Integrating the two processes as soon as possible will:

- **Remove the risk of the two (currently relatively close) agendas diverging**. Maintaining two separate processes will further entrench division between the environment and development sectors at all levels;
- **Reduce confusion and the risk of losing valuable inputs and progress made to date:** The current confusion about processes is counterproductive to meaningful input from Member States and other stakeholders. It is not clear which mechanism has the mandate for decision-making (i.e. how exactly the final global goals will be determined and by which process), nor how inputs from consultations with stakeholders will be used to influence that process;
- **Increase efficiency:** The longer the two processes run in parallel, the greater the resources and energy needed to bring them together. Early convergence will increase efficiency and leave time to practice consensus based collaboration; and
- **Increase transparency and inclusivity:** A complicated and confusing intergovernmental process does not create the right environment for open and transparent decision-making that is inclusive of all stakeholders, particularly those who need it most: people experiencing poverty, marginalisation and vulnerability.

Integrating the processes is a crucial first step towards an agreement on a **single global goals framework** for sustainable development focused on poverty eradication. There is now strong support for this amongst many Member States and stakeholders alike. An official intergovernmental commitment to a single inclusive, transparent process to create one set of goals will boost Member State and stakeholder appetite for engagement, and bring together the environment and development

[10] http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/Beyond%202015%20MDG-SDG%20relationship.pdf; http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201213/cmselect/cmintdev/writev/post2015/m63.htm

sectors at all levels, thereby increasing **ownership** of the goals and potentially reinforcing a progressive **global partnership** between governments and other actors for implementation and monitoring.

Bringing the Processes Together

The two processes that form the Post-2015 Development Agenda should converge as early as possible, to facilitate the proper engagement of stakeholders from both the environment and development communities; to facilitate agreement between Member States through early joint engagement at all levels; to ensure the effectiveness and legitimacy of the process leading to the agreement of a single set of global goals; and for efficient use of limited resources, including political will, to reach agreement through a multilateral process.

There is now broad consensus among Member States that the processes *should* be brought together. The SG recently stated that 'these strands (SDGs and post-MDG) are expected to come together in September 2013. Our goal must be a single, coherent global agenda that can be every bit as successful in inspiring and mobilizing people as the MDGs have been.'[11] The current President of the General Assembly (PGA) Vuk Jeremić (Serbia) has stated that 'the effort of the group of 30 [the OWG] and the High Level Panel [as a key component of the post-2015 agenda] need to be somehow combined,' adding that their efforts should not be separate 'let alone diverging.'[12]

Some steps have been already taken to make this convergence happen. The UN interagency technical support team (TST) was created to support the work of the OWG and operates under the umbrella of the UN Task Team (TT) on Post-2015, representing an initial link between the two processes. The UN TT has suggested that 'the MDG special event could provide an opportunity to lay the foundations for consensus on the post-2015 UN development agenda, ensuring convergence with the process to prepare sustainable development goals.'[13] The UN SG has appointed a Special Advisor, Amina J. Mohammed, on post-2015 development planning, who heads the One Secretariat. The One Secretariat is located within UNDP and headed by the Special Advisor on post-2015 development planning, and also includes Assistant-Secretary-Generals of UNDP, UN-DESA and UN WOMEN, as the Co-Chairs of the UN DG and the UN TT. The One Secretariat is mandated to ensure coordinated and coherent support for the

[11] http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=6650
[12] http://www.un.org/News/briefings/docs/2012/121003_GA.doc.htm
[13] http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/Post_2015_UNTTreport.pdf, p.40

UN to “Deliver as One” by supporting processes related to post-2015. The Special Advisor is an ex-officio member of the High Level Panel and participates in the OWG meetings.

Despite these initial steps, there is currently little agreement within the UN GA how the processes could or should feed into one another. A resolution ratified in February 2013 is an example of an explicit instruction for one process to draw upon the other, stating that the OWG should take into account the special event on MDGs when reporting on its own progress to the UN GA.[14]

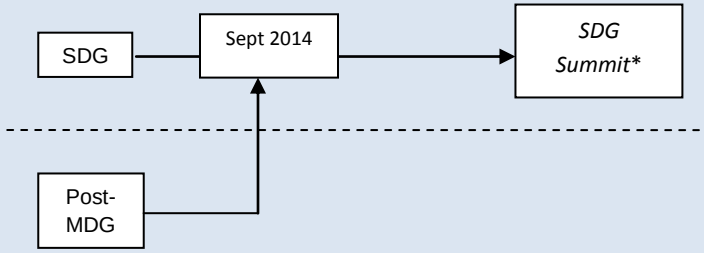
Although this is a positive step forward, coordination and coherence are not the same as bringing together the tracks to create a unified post-2015 process and single set of global goals. At the moment there are no current UN GA commitments to bring the processes together, nor have any proposals suggesting when and how this could happen officially been put forward by a Member State (including the PGA) or UN body (including the SG).

[14] A/RES/67/203: http://www.preventionweb.net/files/resolutions/N1249078.pdf

Scenarios for Convergence of the Post-MDG and SDG decision-making tracks

We have identified four possible scenarios for convergence of the Post-MDG and SDG decision making tracks which are shown in the tables below:

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="2">SCENARIO 1

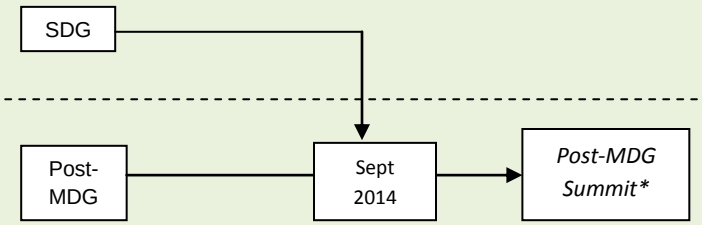
The SDG process integrates the post-MDG process</td><td>CONVERGENCE TIMELINE
 

* See Annex 3 on the nature of a proposed 2015 Summit</td><td>DESCRIPTION
• The OWG extends its current programme of work and integrates inputs from the post-MDG process that have not yet been included (between March and September 2014)
• Post-MDG outputs are fed into the OWG Programme of Work. Consultations are focused on OWG.
• The OWG presents its report to GA in September 2014 based on the results of the extended inputs phase (including those from the post-MDG track) and proposes the start of a negotiation process to agree the goals
• The GA passes a resolution in the 69th Session in (September or December 2014) to launch an SDG Summit and preparatory process to start in 2015 (potentially hosted by one Member State). SDG Summit is held in 2015</td></tr>
<tr><td>PROS
• SDG process is already de facto intergovernmental
• SDG process tasked with integration of three dimensions of sustainable development from the outset
• There is a clear, agreed continuation of SDG process up to September 2014, which post-MDG inputs could feed directly into</td><td>CONS
• Risks disconnection from post-MDG efforts, both political and in terms of content (including inputs from stakeholders via the global conversation), or even rejection by the development sector
• Disconnecting from MDG process and achievements to date and thereby alienating countries that benefitted from the MDGs
• Will likely be difficult for the OWG to formally incorporate post-MDG outputs before it starts its own output phase in Feb 2014</td></tr>
</table>

SCENARIO 2

The post-MDG process integrates the SDG process

CONVERGENCE TIMELINE



** See Annex 3 on the nature of a proposed 2015 Summit*

DESCRIPTION

- The **GA passes a resolution in 69th Session (Sep 2014) mandating the UN SG to make recommendations on the new global framework**, taking into account the OWG report and launching a preparatory process for a Summit to be held in 2015
- **The UN SG waits for OWG to submit its final report** in September 2014 (likely to be in June/July 2014)
- In the meantime, **the post-MDG process could potentially continue consultations** to engage further stakeholders, and these feed these inputs into the OWG sessions
- The GA passes a resolution i**n the 69th Session (September or December 2014) to launch a summit** and preparatory process to start in 2015 (potentially hosted by one Member State). Post-MDGs Summit is held in 2015

PROS

- Primacy of the extensive global consultations lead to higher public awareness, buy in and ownership
- Currently high levels of momentum behind the post-MDG track, regarding the mobilisation of stakeholders in particular
- Post-MDG runs very closely to SDG track which will continue to accelerate until end of 2015.

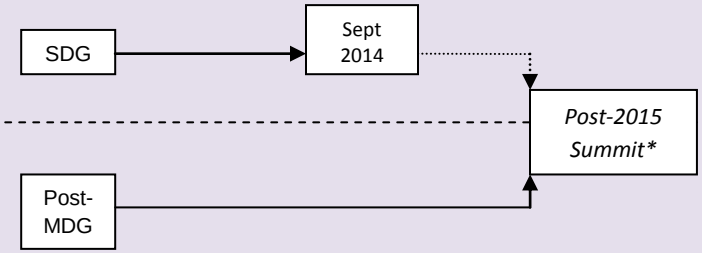
CONS

- The GA is the preferred deliberative body among Member States and Member States have already created the quasi intergovernmental SDG process
- This would be extremely difficult to achieve procedurally given the existing agreed objectives and timings of the two processes (OWG to run until Sept 2014)
- It would not be clear how stakeholder inputs are feeding into the decision-making process (beyond UN SG recommendations)

SCENARIO 3

The post-MDG and SDG processes run parallel and converge in a Global Summit

CONVERGENCE TIMELINE



** See Annex 3 on the nature of a proposed 2015 Summit*

DESCRIPTION

- The UN SG continues with the input phase through a new set of consultations and the integration of new issues
- The OWG continues as planned, reporting its findings by end of UN GA 69th Session (likely June/July 2014) and might carry follow-up activities until summit preparations.
- A global Summit is held in 2015 which brings together the Post-MDG and SDG process and then launching the new Post-2015 Development Agenda with one set of global goals

PROS

- Proceedings require less collaboration with other sectors for decision makers if development and environment stay separate (all levels: government, regional, stakeholder, etc).
- Difficult decisions about integration do not distract the focus from getting the (separate sets of) goals, targets and indicators etc. right

CONS

- Silos at all levels continued or entrenched, likely to lead to inefficient use of resources
- Divergent outcomes are likely, potentially so distinct that they cannot be reconciled
- Increased lack of transparency and confusion about final outcomes of two tracks and which one has ultimate decision making authority
- Very unlikely for a Summit to be successful in integrating two processes and negotiate a coherent outcome at a single event.

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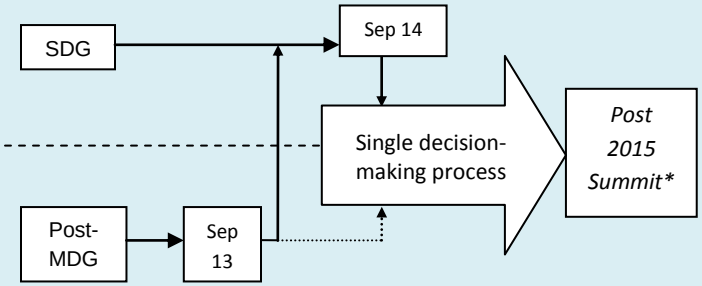
<tr>
<td rowspan="2"><u>SCENARIO 4</u>

Sequentially integrating the Post-MDG and SDG processes into a single process</td>
<td>CONVERGENCE TIMELINE
 

* See Annex 3 on the nature of a proposed 2015 Summit</td>
<td>DESCRIPTION

• The post-MDG process focuses on feeding into the SDG OWG with results of its input phase (2012-2013).
• The OWG draws from the outputs from the post-MDG process and consultations, continuing its work as planned, reporting by September 2014 (likely June/July).
• The GA agrees to launch a new process (eg. Post-2015 Global Goals) at the 69th Session, integrating the two tracks leading into the post-2015 Summit.
• A Global Summit is held in 2015 which launches the new Post-2015 Development Agenda with one set of global goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROS

• Processes brought together on an equal footing, therefore no perception of ‘winners’ and ‘losers’
• Most likely to see true integration of development and environment
• Likely to see the most efficient use of resources (human and financial)
• Most efficient use of outputs from existing consultations and stakeholder engagement</td>
<td>CONS

• The Post-MDG track will be less occupied for a year, potentially decreasing the momentum it generated during 2013.</td>
</tr>
</table>

These four convergence scenarios have both advantages and disadvantages, as we can see in the above table. We believe that the scenario that is most conducive of the integration and stakeholder participation is number 4: **Sequentially integrating the Post-MDG and SDG processes into a single process.**

Integrated sequencing will bring the processes together on an equal footing, most likely to see true integration of development and environment. Furthermore, this scenario will likely see the most efficient use of resources (human and financial) and will use most efficiently the outputs from existing consultations and stakeholder engagement. Stakeholders can then focus on informing governments working at the SDG Open Working Group and prepare for the summit process in 2015.

A proposed 2015 Global Summit (see Annex 3) could be the best way to discuss the outputs of both the Post-MDG and SDGs. This will give governments more time to process and deliberate on complex issues such as building a goals and targets framework that aspires to be universal whilst at the same time accounting for national differences.

Recommendations

- The two processes need to be brought together as soon as possible to deliver a transparent and inclusive process for the creation and delivery of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- The process should converge **through integrated sequencing** (Option 4), which enables both processes to contribute to the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and ensures the best use of stakeholder engagement.
- The Global Summit is the best way to discuss the outputs of both the Post-MDG and SDGs; this will give governments more time to process and deliberate on complex issues such as building a goals and targets framework that aspires to be universal and at the same time accounts for national differences.

Appendix 1. The post-MDG and SDG decision-making tracks

Two main tracks feed into the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

- The **post-MDG track** flows out of the regular reviews on progress towards achieving the MDGs organised by the UN since 2005. In 2010, the MDG Summit led to a UN GA resolution that outlined steps to accelerate progress towards achieving the MDGs which also contained a mandate for the UN SG to report annually on progress to the UN GA and make recommendations for further steps to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015.[15] Following this request, the UN SG established several initiatives to help him define the landscape and priorities for post-2015. Most recently, this has focused around the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons (HLP) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, co-chaired by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono (Indonesia), President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Liberia) and Prime Minister David Cameron (UK). It delivered *'A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development'* at the end of May 2013, emphasising the universal nature of this agenda and the importance of integrating environment with development. Other inputs to the UN SG include the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, convened by economist Jeffrey Sachs, which produced *'An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development,'*[16] as well as reports from the Global Compact and the UN DG report on stakeholder consultations *'The Global Conversation Begins'.*[17]

- The **SDG track** comes out of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20. The concept for a universal set of SDGs was formally tabled in 2011 by the Government of Colombia during the preparatory process for Rio+20. The outcome document from Rio+20, *'The Future We Want'*, outlined a proposal for SDGs that references the Rio Principles, Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation. It suggested a 30 seat intergovernmental open working group (OWG), subsequently ratified by the General Assembly in September 2011. The 30 seats of the OWG are being shared by 70 Member States. OWG representatives are tasked with preparing a proposal for sustainable development goals to be submitted to the General Assembly for consideration by Member States before the end of the 68th Session (September 2014). The OWG began its work in March 2013 and has outlined its programme of work until February 2014, with a series of meetings based on different thematic areas.

[15] 'We request the Secretary-General to report annually on progress in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals until 2015 and to make recommendations in his annual reports, as appropriate, for further steps to advance the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.'
A/65/L.1: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/65/1
[16] http://unsdsn.org/files/2013/06/post-2015-report-recommendations.pdf
[17] http://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/MDG/english/global-conversation-begins-web.pdf

	POST-MDG PROCESS **High Level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs** Resolution adopted during 65th Session of the General Assembly, September 2010 A/RES/65/1	SDG PROCESS **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** Resolution adopted during 66th Session of the General Assembly, September 2012 A/RES/66/288
FOCUS	Poverty eradication, human development, education, health, gender equality and women's empowerment, HIV/AIDs and malaria, environmental sustainability, global partnership.	Sustainable development, poverty eradication, universality, measurability.
MANDATE	The UN SG was mandated by the General Assembly to report annually on MDG implementation to 2015, including recommendations for further steps to advance the UN development agenda beyond 2015. The President of the General Assembly is requested to organise a special event in 2013 on efforts towards achieving the MDGs.	The General Assembly is mandated to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly.
MODALITIES	A UN secretariat-led process culminating in a UN SG report delivered to the General Assembly on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in September 2013. Receives inputs from: • UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 agenda (established September 2011) • High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (established June 2012) • Sustainable Development Solutions Network • UN Development Group (national, regional, global and thematic consultations) MDG Special Event – 25 September 2013, UN Headquarters, New York, USA. Modalities to be confirmed by co-chairs Ireland and South Africa in June.	An intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) composed of 30 representatives (70 countries share 30 seats). The OWG receives technical support from the UN Technical Support Team (TST), the One Secretariat, and input from the UNSG.
CURRENT STATUS	**Output phase:** The UNSG report and the above listed inputs are a first set of outputs from this process.	**Input phase:** OWG has published its programme of work until early 2014. These are a series of meetings when OWG members discuss and exchange ideas on different sustainable development themes with Members States, stakeholders and experts.
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT MECHANISM	Input to national and thematic consultations organised by UN DG, often through shadow civil society processes. The UN General Assembly has no civil society engagement mechanism, except for side events and Summits. At the MDG review Summits in 2005 and 2010, the PGA organized special hearings.[18] No such event is foreseen for the UNGA Special event in September 2015 but it would be an appropriate moment to reinstate this mechanism.	The SDG process has been accessible to stakeholders for participation via the Rio+20 Major Groups[19] process.

[18] http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/09916F545454357BC1256F5C005D4352/$file/A-58-817.pdf

[19] The outcome of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit, Agenda 21, recognised nine constituencies of society as the main channels through which citizens could organise and participate in international efforts to achieve sustainable development through the United Nations. These nine constituencies are officially known as "Major Groups".

Appendix 2. The making of the Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium Declaration, on which the MDGs are based, was signed by all 192 United Nations member states and at least 23 international organisations in September 2000, agreeing to achieve them by 2015. The impetus for this document came from a number of UN conferences during the 1990s, and was further driven by the adoption of the International Development Goals (IDGs) by OECD countries as part of the 1996 report: *'Shaping the 21st Century: The Contribution of Development Cooperation'*. At the turn of the millennium, then UN SG Kofi Annan published *'We the Peoples: The Role of the United Nations in the 21st Century'*, , which proposed a different list of goals and objectives for poverty eradication. However many senior figures within the large development multilaterals felt that the IDGs were more coherent and had better, more technically-sound indicators. As a consequence, they published a new report, *'A Better World for All: Progress towards the international development goals'* which re-iterated the IDGs almost exactly. Both this report and the *We the Peoples* were key inputs to the 2000 Millennium Summit negotiations which led to the **Millennium Declaration – an internationally agreed set of fundamental values and objectives** to guide international relations in the twenty-first century.

In response to the Millennium Declaration, **UNDP and other UN departments, the World Bank, and the OECD, combined efforts to create the MDGs at a 2001 meeting of the World Bank, culminating in the creation of eight distinct goals and 21 targets**. The goals, targets and indicators, were presented to the UN GA by UN SG Kofi Annan in September 2001 in the report '*Road map towards the implementation of the Millennium Declaration'*. The MDGs were given informal approval at the Conference on Development Finance in Monterrey in 2001. Subsequently, the goals were integrated into intergovernmental discussions on development and were officially recognised by the UN GA as *de facto* goals of the Millennium Declaration in the outcome document of the 2005 World Summit. At the 2010 MDG Summit, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the MDGs (along with other agendas such as peace and security), although the specific targets and indicators for each goal are not mentioned.

Appendix 3. What is the nature of a proposed 2015 Summit?

- A summit is formally defined as a 'High Level Meeting' of Heads of States and governments in which member states show ambition and political leadership, seek to galvanise action, generate dialogue, establish international standards and guidelines, build capacity, solicit commitments by member states, among other purposes
- The goal of the Summit is to adopt a (non-binding) outcome document which is typically a Declaration or a Programme of Action
- It can be initiated by the General Assembly or by ECOSOC through a resolution
- Procedures include: the establishment of a conference secretariat, the preparatory committees (member states appointed by President of the GA) to oversee the conference secretariat, expert and regional meetings; the draft agenda and procedure for engagement
- A summit is usually considered more participatory as stakeholders can engage early on in the preparatory process (for example through a special hearing such as those which took place around the Summits in 2005 and 2010) and lead to a negotiated outcome