

What sort of world do we want to live in?

A conversation with people on a post-2015 development framework

In the years up to 2015, the world needs to remain focused on securing as much progress as possible on the current set of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At the same time, discussions have already begun on the goals and targets that could build on and succeed the MDGs.

Discussions on any post-2015 development framework should start with an analysis of the present MDG agenda and its underlying approach, as well as assessment of what has worked and not worked. Any development framework for post-2015 must also take into account how the context for development has changed since the MDGs were agreed. It will be informed by climate change and environmental instability, recent crises and volatility arising from economic globalization, the changing nature of global governance, patterns of inequality between and within countries, as well as trends relating to technology, demography, urbanization, and migration, among others.

It will be critically important that the vision for the world we want to live in – and any ensuing goals and targets – be informed by the perspectives of people from all parts of the world, including poor people. In setting out his vision for developing a post-2015 agenda, the Secretary General has said that the United Nations will seek to be an advocate for and facilitator of a bottom-up and inclusive approach defined by national and local priorities. Within the UN system, the UN Development Group (UNDG) is well placed to make strong contributions to this effort, drawing on the resources of UN country teams.

As Chair of the UNDG, UNDP is currently mobilizing support around an initiative that aims to:

- Build a strategic coalition of partners that can shape the post-2015 development agenda through the broad mobilization and engagement of poor and/or vulnerable people, governments, NGOs and grassroots organizations, the private sector, trade unions and workers, and the academic community;
- Ensure that the post-2015 development agenda is shaped by the changing development context and critical challenges of our time; builds on the momentum of and lessons learned from the MDGs; and is guided by core UN norms, values and commitments.

In order to move the process forward, the following activities are proposed:

- Inclusive national consultation processes to stimulate the debate on the post-2015 development agenda. These country-level outreach exercises would complement the formal consultations on post-2015 led by DESA on behalf of the General Assembly, and other consultation processes the UN is supporting such as those in preparation for Rio+20;
- Meetings with academia, media, private sector, employers and trade unions, civil society, and decision makers to discuss key issues pertaining to the post-2015 development agenda (for example on equity, sustainability, governance etc);
- Production of discussion and position papers on the post-2015 development agenda;
- The creation of a web portal allowing open interaction and information exchange.

The evidence and perspectives generated through the activities listed above will be synthesized in early 2013 so as to feed into the work of the High Level Panel that the UN SG will convene in March 2012, and also to the special event that UN member states have asked the President of the General Assembly to convene in September 2013. It will therefore be a key input into intergovernmental discussions on options for a post-2015 development framework.