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16 October: The UN Post-2015 Development Agenda - What is it? Answers to some FAQs

What is the "post-2015 UN development agenda"? What will become of the MDGs? What is the link to 'SDGs' and to the followup to the Rio+20 Conference? Who is involved in the consultations on the post2015 development agenda? What is the High-Level Panel? How will the voices of the poorest and most vulnerable people be included? What happens next in the post-2015 process? Interest by civil society and other stakeholders is growing in these questions. Answers to these questions are posted in a brief FAQ sheet. With debate on the post-2015 agenda now well on its way, we have developed a little page with some key links on what is being discussed.

<http://csonet.org/?page=view&nr=160&type=230&menu=14>

16 October: A reminder of new procedures for requesting UN grounds passes in New York...

As of August 2012, the DESA NGO Branch has moved to the main Secretariat building and will no longer be based in DC-1. Therefore, the application process for UN grounds passes for NGOs in ECOSOC consultative status has changed. You will no longer be required to visit the DESA NGO Branch for issuance of UN Grounds Passes. Instead, you will be required to pre-register your request online. As before, you will need a letter from your organization (on the organization's letterhead) in order to obtain a pass. This is a mandatory requirement. You will then apply for the pass, with all the necessary documentation, in person, at the UN Pass and ID office, situated at the corner of 45th Street and 1st Avenue, between 9 am and 4 pm, Monday through Friday. Registrations submitted online before 4 pm (New York time) will be endorsed the next business day by the UN Pass & ID office.

<http://csonet.org/?menu=86>

10 October: UNRISD Research and Policy Brief: Inequalities and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Income inequalities between and within countries have worsened in recent decades. Gender inequalities are narrowing at a snail's pace. Citizenship and location continue to determine life chances, despite the increasing integration of economies. Policy instruments to promote equality of outcome have largely been neglected in the name of approaches to claim to create equality of opportunity. This has failed to stem the tide of inequality. Current social discontent and distrust of government highlight the urgency of addressing inequality head-on: it should be high on the post-2015 development agenda, both as a goal in itself and reflected in targets for other goals.

<http://www.unrisd.org/publications>

8 October: Second Committee opens: «Inclusive economic structure depends on effective, centralized state»

An effective centralized State is needed to ensure the existence of an inclusive economic structure, delegates in the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) heard today as they opened the first general debate of the sixty-seventh General Assembly session. Delivering a keynote address to the Committee, James Robinson, David Florence Professor of Government at Harvard University, told delegates how his book, *Why Nations Fail: The Origins of Power, Prosperity and Poverty*, emphasized the relationship between politics and economic institutions, and how his comparative history of economic development provided an historical perspective on the driving forces of inequality within and among nations. While long-run economic growth was driven by new ways of producing things, including innovation and technical growth, society also needed to be organized in such a way as to harness the talents, energy and skills of its people, he said. "Societies that fail, fail to use these attributes," he added.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml>

8 October: Third Committee opens: "Of all remaining development challenges, none are more daunting than rising inequality"

As the target date for the Millennium Development Goals approaches, no challenge is more daunting than the continuing rise in inequality and its impact on vulnerable groups, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs Wu Hongbo told the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) today as it opened its annual session with a debate on social development. "We must tackle rising inequalities and address the impact on vulnerable groups," Mr. Wu said. Ahead of the Goals' 2015 target, he said there had been significant achievements: the proportion of persons living in extreme poverty continues to fall; the population without access to safe drinking water had been halved; the prevalence of diseases had been reduced and access to health care improved; child mortality had been reduced; and more girls had been ensured the same opportunity as boys to attend school.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/third/index.shtml>

26 September: Rio+20 Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform

Rio+20, one of the largest conferences ever convened by the United Nations, ushers in a new era for implementing sustainable development. The Conference was a rare opportunity for the world to focus on sustainability issues - to



examine ideas, forge partnerships and solutions. There were several outcomes to the Rio+20 Conference. The political outcome, The Future We Want, agreed to by all 193 countries, charts the way forward for international cooperation on sustainable development. In addition, governments, businesses and other civil society partners registered more than 700 commitments to concrete actions that will deliver results on the ground to address specific needs, such as sustainable energy and transport. In the follow-up to Rio+20, a new website has been launched; the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform (SDKP), available at <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>. The platform contains information pertaining to the past nineteen years of normative and analytical work of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), a wealth of content from the preparatory process of Rio+20, and is the go to place for the Rio+20 follow-up.

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>

24 September: Dialogue on Post-2015 the High-Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

In conjunction with the September launch of The World We Want 2015, a Civil Society Dialogue on the Post-2015 Development Agenda featuring high level panelists working on the Post-2015 UN processes was held 24 September. More than 200 civil society participants were in attendance, and the event featured lively discussion between the panelists, the members of the High Level Panel, and interventions from those present as well as those engaging in the dialogue online. The discussion was moderated by Rosa Lizarde, Global Coordinator of the Feminist Task Force of the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP).

<http://www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?article4102>

UPCOMING EVENTS

8 October-31 November: United Nations General Assembly, Second Committee

Under the chairmanship of H.E. Mr. George Wilfred Talbot of Guyana, the Second Committee will deal with issues relating to economic growth and development, including macroeconomic policy questions, financing for development, sustainable development, and poverty eradication. It began its substantive work on Monday 8 October. The event is available on archive webcast.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml>

8 October-31 November: United Nations General Assembly, Third Committee

Chaired by H.E. Mr. Henry L. Mac-Donald of Suriname, the Third Committee has commenced its consideration of General Assembly agenda items relating to a range of social, humanitarian affairs and human rights issues that affect people all over the world. It began its substantive work on Monday, 8 October. Background information on the work of the Third Committee, including the provisional programme of work for the sixty-seventh session, is available at the link below. Webcast of the proceedings is also available.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/second/index.shtml>

1-19 October: Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, 53rd session, Geneva

The Committee will examine the reports of the following countries during its 53rd session: Chile, Comoros, Equatorial

Guinea, Serbia, Togo, and Turkmenistan.

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/cedaws53.htm>

15 October-2 November: Human Rights Committee, 106th session, Geneva

At its 106th session, the Human Rights Committee will examine the efforts of the following six countries to implement the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Philippines, Turkey, Portugal, Germany, Ivory Coast (in absence of report). The Committee will also adopt lists of issues on the following countries: Albania, Finland, China/Hong Kong, Ukraine, and Belize (in absence of a report), and Australia.

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrc/hrcs106.htm>

16 October: Conceptualizing a Set of Sustainable Development Goals - Join the conversation

One of the main outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference was the agreement by member States to launch a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will build upon the Millennium Development Goals and converge with the post 2015 development agenda. It was decided to establish an «inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly». The UN General Assembly will on 16 October 2012 hold a special event in order to provide an initial opportunity for all member states and other participants to engage in discussions on how to develop the SDGs, in line with the relevant provisions agreed in the Rio+20 outcome document.

The discussions will be moderated and led by a panel of speakers from the fields of scientific research and policymaking who will contribute their perspectives. Share your views through Twitter and Facebook.

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsevent.html>

17 October: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

The 2012 Commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (IDEP) will be held on Wednesday, 17 October at United Nations Headquarters in New York, focusing on the theme «Ending the Violence of Extreme Poverty: Promoting Empowerment and Building Peace».

<http://www.endpoverty2012.org>

20-21 October: Post-Rio to Post-2015: Planning international stakeholder engagement

The two-day meeting, organised by UNEP in partnership with UNDESA, Stakeholder Forum and The Green Economy Coalition will provide an opportunity for Major Groups and Stakeholders from across the globe to come together to discuss the outcomes of Rio+20, agree on action items to accelerate these outcomes, and address areas where no progress or agreement was made. The meeting will discuss and agree on the input into UNEP's Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum in February 2013, as well as the 20th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD 20) in May 2013.

<http://www.stakeholderforum.org>