



SECOND MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF ECOSOC: 30 JUNE – 9 JULY 2014

The second meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will begin today at the UN Headquarters in New York, US, and conclude on Wednesday, 9 July 2014. The theme of the second Forum is “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda including the Sustainable Development Goals.”

The first week is expected to include Moderated Dialogues on a number of topics from the sustainable development agenda, including: sustainable consumption and production (SCP); means of implementation; the role of science; partnerships; countries in special situations; progress in implementing the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20) outcomes; the future of the HLPF; and the post-2015 development agenda. The second week will feature a High-Level Segment, with Ministerial Dialogues addressing the post-2015 development agenda, implementing Rio+20 outcomes, climate change, poverty eradication, multi-stakeholder partnerships, international cooperation, and preparing the HLPF for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda and reviewing progress.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HLPF

The establishment of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development was called for by Rio+20 in June 2012 in its outcome document, *The Future We Want*. Paragraph 84 states: “We decide to establish a universal intergovernmental high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and subsequently replacing the Commission. The high-level political forum shall follow up on the implementation of sustainable development and should avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner.”

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

The Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) emerged from Agenda 21, the programme of action for sustainable development adopted in June 1992 by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, also known as the “Earth Summit.” Agenda 21 called for the creation of the CSD to ensure effective follow-up of UNCED, enhance international cooperation, and examine progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 at the local,

national, regional and global levels. In 1992, the 47th UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution 47/191, which established the CSD’s terms of reference and composition, organization of work, relationship with other UN bodies, Secretariat arrangements, and guidelines for the participation of Major Groups.

The CSD held its first substantive session in June 1993 and convened annually for 20 years at the UN Headquarters in New York. During its first five years, the CSD systematically reviewed the implementation of all chapters of Agenda 21. The second five-year programme of work was organized around sectoral, cross-sectoral, and economic thematic issues. Following the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), which convened in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2002, and reaffirmed that the CSD was the high-level forum for sustainable development within the UN system, the Commission adopted a new multi-year programme of work to be organized as a series of two-year implementation cycles. Each cycle consisted of a Review Session and a Policy Session and considered a thematic cluster of issues and crosscutting issues.

The CSD held its 20th and final session on 21 September 2013, just prior to the first session of the HLPF. Among the CSD’s accomplishments, participants highlighted, *inter alia*: the innovative, inclusive engagement of Major Groups; its contribution to an improved understanding of sustainable development, particularly by the private sector; and the CSD’s work on SCP. Participants also mentioned shortcomings, including: the lack of means of implementation; clear targets and indicators; a review mechanism; and flexibility in choosing its agenda.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Rio+20):

During ten days in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012—the third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee, Pre-Conference Informal Consultations facilitated by the host country, and the UNCSD—government delegations concluded negotiations on the Rio+20 outcome document, titled *The Future We Want*. The outcome calls for the UNGA to take decisions on, *inter alia*: designating a body to operationalize the 10-year Framework of Programmes on SCP; identifying the format and organizational aspects of a high-level political forum on sustainable development to replace the CSD; strengthening the UN Environment Programme (UNEP); constituting an Open Working Group (OWG) on a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) to be agreed by the UNGA; establishing an intergovernmental process under the UNGA to prepare a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy; and considering a set of recommendations from the UN Secretary-General

This issue of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org> is written and edited by Rishikesh Ram Bhandary, Tallash Kantai, Anju Sharma, and Catherine Wahlén, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Francis Dejon. The Editor is Pamela Chasek, Ph.D. <pam@iisd.org>. The Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James “Kimo” Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The Sustaining Donors of the *Bulletin* are the European Commission (DG-ENV and DG-CLIMATE) and the Government of Switzerland (the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). General Support for the *Bulletin* during 2014 is provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, SWAN International, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Japanese Ministry of Environment (through the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies - IGES), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Specific funding for the coverage of this meeting has been provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. Funding for translation of the *Bulletin* into French has been provided by the Government of France, the Wallonia, Québec, and the International Organization of La Francophonie/Institute for Sustainable Development of La Francophonie (IOF/IFDD). The opinions expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD or other donors. Excerpts from the *Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on the *Bulletin*, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 300 East 56th St., 11D, New York, NY 10022 USA. The ENB team at HLPF-2 can be contacted by e-mail at <anju@iisd.org>.



<http://enb.iisd.mobi/>

for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer, and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

In addition, the outcome document called on the UNGA to take a decision in two years time on the development of an international instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea regarding marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The UN Statistical Commission was called on to launch a programme of work on broader measures to complement gross domestic product. The UN system was encouraged, as appropriate, to support best practices and facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting. The outcome document also includes text on trade-distorting subsidies, fisheries, and fossil fuel subsidies.

UNGA-67: The 67th session of the UNGA adopted a resolution on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of Rio+20 (A/RES/67/203), which outlines the negotiation process for the creation of the HLPF and recommends that the CSD hold a “short and procedural” final session following the conclusion of negotiations on the HLPF. The text also calls for the OWG on SDGs to report to the UNGA at its 68th session and to report regularly, taking into account the convening of the first HLPF. It further calls for a special event in 2013 to follow up on efforts towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

RESOLUTION 67/290: The President of the 67th UNGA called on the ambassadors from Brazil and Italy to conduct informal consultations on the format and organizational modalities of the HLPF. These consultations began in January 2013 and concluded with the adoption of resolution 67/290 on 9 July 2013. Resolution 67/290 decided that the HLPF, consistent with its intergovernmental universal character, will:

- provide political leadership, guidance, and recommendations for sustainable development;
- follow-up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments;
- enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development; and
- have a focused, dynamic, and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges.

The meetings of the Forum will be convened:

- every four years under the auspices of the UNGA at the level of Heads of State and Government—for two days at the beginning of the UNGA session; and
- every year under the auspices of ECOSOC—for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment.

Both meetings will adopt negotiated declarations.

The Forum, under the auspices of ECOSOC, will conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda. The resolution also considers the arrangement of a 2015 HLPF meeting, under the auspices of the UNGA, to launch the post-2015 development agenda.

FIRST SESSION OF THE HLPF: The inaugural session of the HLPF on 24 September 2013 took place under the auspices of the UNGA at the UN Headquarters in New York. The session theme was “Building the future we want from Rio+20 to the post-2015 development agenda.” The session was divided into several segments that featured keynote presentations from Heads of State and Government and Ministers and remarks from the floor on the following themes: “From vision to action,” “Global partnerships for development to create jobs and improve sustainable lifestyles,” and “Mapping the way forward for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development.”

In his inaugural address, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the establishment of a Scientific Advisory Board, to be housed at the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to strengthen the interface between science and policy.

INTERSESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON THE ROLE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK: An Expert Group Meeting (EGM) took place on 30 April and 1 May 2014 at the UN Headquarters in New York, to provide a space for reflection on how the forum could best be shaped to fulfill its role in the context of the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The EGM resulted in a set of key messages on the architecture of the HLPF; the review process for the SDGs; and policymaking, coordination, and the role of science.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FINANCING:

Following a mandate from the UNCSD, the UNGA established an intergovernmental committee to prepare a report by 2014, proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives. The committee comprises 30 experts nominated by regional groups, with equitable geographical representation, and has held four sessions. A Working Group on Financing for Sustainable Development has also been set up under the UN System Task Team to support the work of the Committee.

OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE

DEVELOPMENT GOALS: During Rio+20, governments agreed to launch a process to develop a set of SDGs and in January 2013 the UNGA established an OWG to elaborate a proposal for SDGs. The OWG has met 12 times since March 2013 at UN Headquarters in New York. During its first eight meetings (March 2013 - February 2014), the OWG conducted a “stocktaking” review on a series of issue clusters covering the three dimensions of sustainable development (environmental, economic, and social development), as well as conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding, and the promotion of durable peace, rule of law, and governance.

Based on these sessions, the Co-Chairs released a “stocktaking” document on 14 February 2014 and a “focus areas” document on 21 February 2014, containing 19 focus areas, which were the basis for discussions at OWG-9 (3-5 March 2014). The Co-Chairs released a revised focus areas document for consideration at OWG-10 (31 March-4 April 2014). OWG-10 featured the first extended discussion of possible targets to accompany each focus area, with over 300 targets presented by Member States and Major Groups. Based on the OWG-10 discussions, the Co-Chairs released a “working document” on 18 April, to guide delegates’ preparation for OWG-11. At OWG-11 (5-9 May 2014), delegates commented on a new document containing a list of 16 “focus areas” and approximately 150 potential targets related to each focus area, which the Co-Chairs distributed two weeks before the session. The Co-Chairs also prepared a document they titled “Encyclopedia Groupinica,” which contains all of the proposals presented during OWG-10.

At OWG-12 (16-20 June 2014) and a set of informal consultations held the previous week, delegates met informally and discussed the “zero draft” of the proposed SDGs and targets, containing 17 goals and 212 targets. Delegates worked through the entire document goal-by-goal and target-by-target. The OWG’s final meeting will take place from 14-18 July 2014.



Earth Negotiations Bulletin

HLPF-2

#2

iisd Reporting Services

A Reporting Service for Environment and Development Negotiations

Online at <http://www.iisd.ca/hlpf/hlpf2/>

Vol. 33 No. 3

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Tuesday, 1 July 2014

HLPF-2 HIGHLIGHTS: MONDAY 30 JUNE 2014

The second meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF-2) under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) opened on Monday at the UN Headquarters in New York. Following the opening session, three moderated dialogues took place on: an integrated and universal sustainable development agenda; means of implementation for sustainable development; and the contribution of sustainable consumption and production (SCP) to the sustainable development goals (SDGs). A dialogue with the Chair of the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on SCP also took place.

OPENING SESSION

Following the adoption of the agenda, Ambassador Martin Sajdik (Austria), ECOSOC President, delivered the opening address. He noted that integration is at the core of the Forum's mandate and highlighted the Forum's role in the broader post-2015 agenda; the process of elaborating the SDGs; and charting pathways for futures we want.

Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General (USG) for Economic and Social Affairs, highlighted implementation gaps in the current sustainable development agenda, and noted that the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in September 2015 would mark a turning point.

In statements by major groups and other stakeholders, Peter Davies, speaking for the Major Group on LOCAL AUTHORITIES, the Global Business Alliance, and the International Council of Science, noted the need for an overarching vision on poverty eradication, and the development of partnerships to sustain a strong science-policy interface. Usman Mushtaq, CHILDREN AND YOUTH, underlined the importance of transparency, accountability, recognition of the Major Groups, and support to ensure participation of vulnerable groups. Caroline Usikpedo-Omoniye, speaking for the Major Groups of WOMEN, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, and WORKERS AND TRADE UNIONS, called for a transformative sustainable development agenda that addresses poverty eradication and discrimination, and uses gender disaggregated data and indicators to monitor and evaluate the proposed goals. Bolivia, on behalf of the G-77/CHINA, stressed the importance of strengthening the role of ECOSOC in implementing the sustainable development agenda.

MODERATED DIALOGUE: "FROM RIO+20 TO POST-2015: TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED AND UNIVERSAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA"

The dialogue was opened by Ambassador Sajdik and moderated by Manish Bapna, World Resources Institute (WRI). Noting that the different strands of the post-2015

process are converging, Bapna said the HLPF is a once-in-a-decade opportunity to help frame the next generation of global development goals. He highlighted the need for an integrated and transformative agenda and a universal set of goals.

Ambassador Csaba Körösi, Permanent Representative of Hungary to the UN and Co-Chair of the Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs, called for discipline and cooperation in addressing the post-2015 agenda. He said there will be more political and public support for the agenda if there is a better understanding that change is inevitable; a credible and digestible vision; fair burden sharing; and trust among those bearing the burden.

Bénédicte Frankinet, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN, underlined that the post-2015 agenda should focus on issues that affect both developed and developing countries, including youth unemployment and inequality. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Permanent Representative of Brazil to the UN, recalled that the Rio+20 outcome document acknowledged that market forces themselves cannot provide a solution to poverty eradication, and stressed means of implementation to assist countries to achieve sustainable development. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh, called governance the glue holding the three pillars of sustainable development together, and urged moving beyond aid and instituting a global partnership for systemic changes. The lead discussant, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, USG and Executive Director, UN Women, highlighted the role of women as agents of change while listing discrimination and reproductive rights as priority areas.

In the discussion that followed, countries supported jointly addressing universality and differentiation while considering national circumstances and priorities and the needs of countries in special situations; green economy approaches; mainstreaming the Aichi Biodiversity Targets throughout the UN system; inclusive growth; and a renewed global partnership. SOUTH AFRICA said the post-2015 agenda should be based on the agreed principles of Rio+20, especially common but differentiated responsibilities, and urged inclusion of targets on reforming global economic and political institutions. SWITZERLAND said the SDGs would be the guiding framework, supplemented by country-specific issues, for a new sustainable development strategy being developed in her country. NIGERIA called for the establishment of high-level national offices for the implementation of the SDGs and a focus on the sub-national level. MEXICO called for consistency and synergy among the various post-2015 strands and a strengthened means of implementation. A representative of the International Council on Social Welfare highlighted the dual definition of the term "universality": the inclusion of all member states, and leaving no one behind.

This issue of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org> is written and edited by Rishikesh Ram Bhandary, Tallash Kantai, Anju Sharma, and Catherine Wahlén, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Francis Dejon. The Editor is Pamela Chasek, Ph.D. <pam@iisd.org>. The Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The Sustaining Donors of the *Bulletin* are the European Commission (DG-ENV and DG-CLIMATE) and the Government of Switzerland (the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). General Support for the *Bulletin* during 2014 is provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, SWAN International, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Japanese Ministry of Environment (through the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies - IGES), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Specific funding for the coverage of this meeting has been provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. Funding for translation of the *Bulletin* into French has been provided by the Government of France, the Wallonia, Québec, and the International Organization of La Francophonie/Institute for Sustainable Development of La Francophonie (IOF/IFDD). The opinions expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD or other donors. Excerpts from the *Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on the *Bulletin*, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 300 East 56th St., 11D, New York, NY 10022 USA. The ENB team at HLPF-2 can be contacted by e-mail at <anju@iisd.org>.



<http://enb.iisd.mobi/>

Responding to comments, panelists emphasised the importance of addressing differentiation when considering SCP; inequality within and between countries; and financial flows to incentivize spending in sustainable development. In their concluding remarks, they highlighted the need to abandon “traditional reflexes” and work together, focusing on a few issues that can advance a transformative agenda.

MODERATED DIALOGUE: “MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

This session was chaired by Ambassador Sajdik and moderated by Raymond Saner, University of Basel. Noting that it will not be possible to implement the SDGs without finance, Saner urged delegates to consider both means of implementation and the cost of non-implementation.

Mansur Muhtar, Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, described the changing development landscape with declining official development assistance and increasing importance of the private sector, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Claudio Rachel Rojas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile, said innovative financing, which attracts or generates new resources, and national fiscal policies can contribute to reducing economic and social inequalities, within and amongst countries.

Steve Waygood, Aviva Investors, urged greater financial literacy amongst a broader set of actors including brokers, asset owners, shareholders and citizens. He called for: sustainability reporting by actors; a forum to bring together fund managers and finance ministers; and transparent trading.

Louise Kantrow, International Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the role of trade; enabling environments, including sound legislative frameworks and an educated labour force; and country ownership for sustainable development.

In the ensuing discussion, MOROCCO asked how the profit-driven private sector could contribute to sustainable development in an effective and accountable manner. In response, panelists proposed: incentives; legislation instead of voluntary compliance; standards; transparency; rating and ranking performance by the private sector; and reviewing tax treaties. PERU asked whether innovative finance could be predictable and stable. As an example of a sustainable innovative source, Rojas described a solidarity levy on air passengers to raise sustainable funding to address HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis in developing countries.

Saner summarised the dialogue, saying that people, as the best drivers of their own development, need better data to understand the importance of the financial sector and how the sector functions.

MODERATED DIALOGUE: “HOW COULD SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?”

This dialogue was chaired by Ambassador Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), ECOSOC Vice-President, and moderated by Peter Hazlewood, WRI. Hazlewood reminded delegates that SCP features prominently in the latest draft of the OWG on SDGs.

Ambassador László Borbély, Romania, said implementing SCP requires national policies based on indicators that are decided in a participatory manner. Ulf Jaeckel, Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany, supported the 10YFP as a mechanism to implement SCP and to achieve the SDGs.

Cesar Barahona, Global Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Network, said it is not necessary to create new institutions to address SCP and described the Network’s twenty-year track record at local and global levels. Kaye Ceille, Zipcar, proposed sharing economy services as a way to meet the SDGs, underscoring a shift from an era of ownership to one of access.

Christian Frutiger, Nestlé, stressed the need to keep the private sector ‘on the table’ and noted that a focus on producers’ livelihoods was key to long-term sustainability of companies.

Didier Bergeret, Global Social Compliance Program, said the Program provides common tools, codes, and auditing approaches to scale up sustainability of global supply chains.

During the discussion, delegates highlighted, *inter alia*: access to technology for sustainable production; SCP as essential for the fulfillment of basic needs; the essential linkage between SCP and climate policies; the need for developing countries to leapfrog; and the importance of maintaining SCP as a stand-alone goal despite being a cross-cutting issue. Representatives stressed the need to: take into account “ecological overshoot”; address the transition cost associated with changing lifestyles in the pursuit of SCP; and market and brand 10YFP outcomes.

Closing the session, Borbély called for coherent guidelines moving towards a broader development agenda. Jaeckel said the concepts were in place, but mechanisms were needed to translate them into action. Barahona noted the existing space for dematerialization and the role of small and medium-scale enterprises.

DIALOGUE WITH THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF THE 10-YEAR FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMMES ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION: “SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION IN ACTION: THE WORK OF THE BOARD OF THE 10-YEAR FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMMES ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS”

Peter Hazlewood, WRI, who moderated, said the session offered an opportunity to discuss the possibilities and limitations of the 10-YFP.

Balthasar Kambuaya, Minister of Environment, Indonesia, described the integration of SCP into Indonesia’s national development planning, highlighting efforts on sustainable supply chains, sustainable public procurement, and consumer information.

Ambassador Sylvia del Carmen Treviño Medina (Mexico), Chair of the Board of the 10YFP, stressed, *inter alia*, integration of SCP into the national planning processes; empowerment of 10YFP national focal points; enhancing inter-ministerial cooperation to mainstream SCP; and securing predictable and adequate finance in the 10YFP Trust Fund to enhance implementation.

Lisa Svensson, Ambassador for Oceans, Seas and Freshwater, Sweden, highlighted several key messages on oceans and SCP, including: ending illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; recognizing ocean ecosystem services; addressing ocean energy; and transport issues.

Speaking on the preconditions for successful implementation of the 10YFP, Lewis Akenji, NGO Major Group, urged the inclusion of stakeholders, particularly religious institutions, and creating infrastructure to enhance SCP.

During the discussion, participants highlighted the need to scale up and deliver on SCP, and communicate across sectors.

IN THE CORRIDORS

HLPF-2 entered the realm of twilight zones and magic on its first day, as panelists described the post-2015 process as being in a “twilight zone” between fantasy and reality, moving from *imagining* the future towards *managing* the future. They agreed that magic would not be needed in this transition – one panelist quoted novelist J.K. Rowling: “We do not need magic to transform our world. We carry all of the power we need inside ourselves already.” However, with the *World Investment Report* estimating that the cost of meeting the SDGs in developing countries alone could be US\$4.5 trillion, some magic may come in handy after all, to conjure the means of implementation.



Earth Negotiations Bulletin

HLPF-2

#3

iisd Reporting Services

A Reporting Service for Environment and Development Negotiations

Online at <http://www.iisd.ca/hlpf/hlpf2/>

Vol. 33 No. 4

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Wednesday, 2 July 2014

HLPF-2 HIGHLIGHTS: TUESDAY 1 JULY 2014

The second day of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF-2) under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) started with a presentation of a prototype Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR). Moderated dialogues took place on: how to improve the conversation between science and policy: scope and methodology of a global sustainable development report; ideas and trends that can shape the lives of present and future generations; island voices, global choices: promoting genuine and durable partnerships; and countries in special situations: building resilience.

PRESENTATION OF A PROTOTYPE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik (Austria), introduced the panel, noting the session aims to consider options for the scope and methodology of the GSDR.

Wu Hongbo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, described the preparation of the prototype GSDR and outlined three options for the scope and methodology of future editions. He noted that progress on sustainable development is off track, and special efforts are needed to meet required global investments.

Moderator Claudio Huepe Minoletti, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile, called for a productive dialogue to overcome language barriers and build trust between natural and social scientists.

Manuel Montes, South Centre, Switzerland, recognized differences in scientific approaches between Western societies and developing countries, and suggested the HLPF encourage and facilitate developing country input.

Jill Jäger, Sustainable Europe Research Institute, Austria, called for the GSDR to support individual and societal learning to achieve transformative change, and suggested the Report adopt a systemic approach with a multi-level iterative process.

William Colglazier, Science and Technology Adviser to the US Secretary of State, highlighted the need for the GSDR to, *inter alia*: cover diverse disciplines; be relevant to policy making; and be peer-reviewed. He proposed an expert body to review the scientific quality of a near-final version.

Keola Souknilanh, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan, promoted the use of remote sensing data to recover data lost during "administrative aggregation," and to track changes at high spatial and temporal resolution. Peng Sizhen, Ministry of Science and Technology, China, called for an index system for a comprehensive evaluation of sustainable development; attention to synergies and interaction among different elements

of sustainable development; and the preparation of national sustainable development reports every four years, following the GSDR's time cycle.

In the discussion that followed, many countries stressed that the GSDR should not duplicate efforts by other organizations, but focus on interlinkages between the three dimensions of sustainable development. Moderator Minoletti commented on the importance of: quality data; national efforts; and adequate institutional frameworks. NIGERIA said the GSDR should focus on measuring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) based on an agreed matrix.

SOUTH AFRICA and SUDAN called for building the financial and technical capacity of developing countries to collect and produce reliable data. SWITZERLAND called for the report to focus on cross-sectoral linkages and challenges to SDG implementation.

The US said the role of the GSDR as a monitoring tool for the SDGs needs further discussion, and, with MEXICO, highlighted its role as a tool for synthesis and integration. GERMANY said the report should be part of the accountability framework of the post-2015 development agenda. EGYPT underlined that the report should suggest an integrated vision on enhancing sustainable development. The EU said the report should be aimed primarily at policy makers and key stakeholders. BELGIUM urged that the report view the implementation of the post-2015 agenda from a long-term perspective.

In closing, Montes underlined the aggregating role of the GSDR. Jäger stressed that the process design should be inclusive and build developing country capacity. Colglazier reiterated the call for all countries to prepare country-level reports.

MODERATED DIALOGUE: "IDEAS AND TRENDS THAT CAN SHAPE THE LIVES OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS"

The dialogue was opened by Ambassador Ibrahim Dabbashi (Libya), Vice President, ECOSOC, and moderated by Montes.

Noting the intergenerational and international dimensions of climate change, Gordon McBean, President-elect, International Council for Science, highlighted the importance of managing risks and uncertainties, and retaining information for future generations. Nebojsa Nakicenovic, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, Austria, described how the world might look if we achieve a sustainable transition, emphasizing the need to decrease inequalities.

Peter Davies, Sustainable Futures Commissioner, UK, described how Wales aligned its national, long-term development goals to the SDGs process, to be assessed by a future generations commissioner. Marcel Szabó, Ombudsman for Future Generations, Hungary, recommended referencing future generations at all levels in the SDGs.

This issue of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org> is written and edited by Rishikesh Ram Bhandary, Tallash Kantai, Anju Sharma, and Catherine Wahlén, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Francis Dejon. The Editor is Pamela Chasek, Ph.D. <pam@iisd.org>. The Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The Sustaining Donors of the *Bulletin* are the European Commission (DG-ENV and DG-CLIMATE) and the Government of Switzerland (the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). General Support for the *Bulletin* during 2014 is provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, SWAN International, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Japanese Ministry of Environment (through the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies - IGES), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Specific funding for the coverage of this meeting has been provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. Funding for translation of the *Bulletin* into French has been provided by the Government of France, the Wallonia, Québec, and the International Organization of La Francophonie/Institute for Sustainable Development of La Francophonie (IOF/IFDD). The opinions expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD or other donors. Excerpts from the *Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on the *Bulletin*, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 300 East 56th St., 11D, New York, NY 10022 USA. The ENB team at HLPF-2 can be contacted by e-mail at <anju@iisd.org>.



<http://enb.iisd.mobi/>

Catherine Pearce, World Future Council, welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for a High Commissioner for future generations, with advocacy powers, to be involved in policymaking processes at the international level.

In the ensuing discussion, delegates spoke on, *inter alia*, the need for the HLPF to consider material resource accountability in the post-2015 development agenda; the importance of an intergenerational representative; and considering best practices in the development of policies on climate change, health, and sustainable resource exploitation. Nakicenovic highlighted the role of energy as an enabling mechanism for development and gaps in the understanding of human behavior. McBean stressed the role of the precautionary principle in understanding risks for present and future generations. ECUADOR noted its legal framework, which includes intergenerational solidarity, rights of nature, and a holistic view of sustainability.

MODERATED DIALOGUE: "ISLAND VOICES, GLOBAL CHOICES: PROMOTING GENUINE AND DURABLE PARTNERSHIPS"

This dialogue was chaired by Sajdik and moderated by Ambassador Amanda Ellis, New Zealand. Ellis reminded participants that 2014 is the year of small island developing States (SIDS). Cristina Duarte, Minister of Finance and Planning, Republic of Cape Verde, urged SIDS to effectively manage their exclusive economic zones, encourage inclusive development for long-term sustainability, and promote strong leadership and enlightened "follow-ship." Anjeela Jokhan, University of the South Pacific, Fiji, stressed national and regional capacity building and engaging institutions of higher education to strengthen resilience.

Taholo Kami, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, stressed the importance of natural resources management. Via video link, Letuimanu'asina Emma KruseVa'ai, National University of Samoa, reflected on how to build the resilience of SIDS at national and regional levels and called for a SIDS vulnerability index.

Noting the efforts underway for the Third International Conference on the SIDS in Samoa, in September 2014, Peseta Noumea Simi, Ministry of Finance, Samoa, called for durable and genuine partnerships that are accountable, easy to monitor, and endorsed in the final outcome document. Noelene Nabulivou, Major Group for Women, called for the inclusion of gender equality, reproductive rights, and commitments on climate change in the document.

In the ensuing discussion, FIJI underscored the importance of attracting the private sector to SIDS. CHILE called for a forward-looking Samoa outcome document. The NGO Major Group recommended specific reference to Major Groups and NGOs as critical partners in the document. The RUSSIAN FEDERATION supported taking the needs of SIDS into account in the post-2015 agenda and said it plans to launch initiatives on energy and natural disasters in Pacific SIDS. Delegates also discussed partnerships with multinational companies, the importance of developing tools to address threats due to climate change and weather, and stronger partnerships with the EU.

MODERATED DIALOGUE: "COUNTRIES IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS: BUILDING RESILIENCE"

Ambassador Vladimir Drobnjak (Croatia), Vice-President of ECOSOC chaired, and Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, moderated this dialogue. Two questions framed the discussion: how best to address needs of countries in special situations in the context of universal goals and a universal development agenda; and are we succeeding in building resilience in vulnerable countries and how can these gains be consolidated?

Dasho Sonam Tshering, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan, emphasized the crucial role of infrastructure in building resilience. Fatimetou Abdel Malick, Mayor of Teveragh-Zeina,

Mauritania, highlighted the role of local governments and women in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and SDGs.

Jean-François Zinsou, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Benin to the UN, recommended integrating concepts from the Istanbul Programme of Action, which charts a vision and strategy for sustainable development in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), into the post-2015 agenda. He also emphasized the importance of private sector financing.

Paolo Soprano, Ministry for the Environment Land and Sea, Italy, outlined challenges faced by LDCs, Africa, landlocked developing countries (LLDCs), SIDS, and Middle Income Countries.

Samuel Tumiwa, Asian Development Bank (ADB), informed delegates of an ADB study that found the need for countries in special situations, including SIDS, to overcome the middle-income trap, and to move away from agrarian economies into service economies. He also highlighted the need to address inequality and climate change.

Helen Stawski, Islamic Relief, called for increased dialogue between actors working on the post-2015 development agenda and those working towards achieving the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

Calling on donor countries to consider vulnerability criteria for SIDS, Lino Briguglio, University of Malta, noted that building resilience is multifaceted, expensive, and needs to be mainstreamed into national sustainable development policies.

During the discussion, participants discussed, *inter alia*: the continued value of official development assistance in helping LDCs and SIDS in achieving the MDGs; the need for determined action by the international community to limit negative effects on countries with special needs; the potential for greater value addition by development assistance agencies through strategies such as risk pooling and sharing; and the role of regional integration to promote South-South cooperation. Participants also agreed on the role of strong institutions and quality of governance to allow countries to escape the middle-income trap.

Tshering emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation and regional solutions to address LLDC challenges, such as transportation and logistics, but said triangular cooperation was necessary to tackle climate change. The PHILIPPINES shared lessons learned from Typhoon Haiyan, stressing development partners should focus resources on pre-disaster assistance rather than post-disaster relief.

Delegates also highlighted the need for the international community to assume responsibility to save lives in disaster situations; ethics as a basis for eco-resilience; and the role of women as a force for disaster management. Delegates also acknowledged the need to bridge the gap between policymaking and implementation on the ground.

IN THE CORRIDORS

Participants greeted the prototype GSDR with excitement, but also fatigue at another UN report. Some wondered where it would fit within the existing landscape of assessments with similar ambitions, such as the UN Environment Programme's Global Environment Outlook. Delegates also questioned the balance between peer review and stakeholder engagement: some favored scientific rigor while others said broader stakeholder participation is necessary for transformative change. Form and function seem to be critical questions for the GSDR going forward.

Future generations also featured on the agenda, as participants discussed how to shift public perception from Groucho Marx ("Why should I care about future generations? What have they ever done for me?") to Gandhi ("The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed"). A proposal to appoint a High Commissioner for Future Generations found traction, although some privately questioned how such an appointment would make a difference on the ground.



HLPF-2 HIGHLIGHTS: WEDNESDAY 2 JULY 2014

The third day of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF-2) under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) started with a presentation on natural capital accounting (NCA) for sustainable development. Moderated dialogues took place on two topics: from silos to integrated policy making; and reviewing progress and implementation: making the most of the HLPF reviews after 2015.

PRESENTATION ON NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik chaired this session. Valerie Hickey, World Bank, said the world could no longer afford boom and bust growth built on the back of liquidating natural capital. She described the benefits of NCA in promoting growth without this liquidation, saying it could move the world beyond a GDP matrix towards a focus on long-term growth and well-being. Noting that 70 countries endorsed NCA at the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD, or Rio+20), Hickey supported a global data revolution, saying NCA provides an agreed framework under the UN System of Environmental and Economic Accounting, and can assist countries to plan and develop indicators to achieve and monitor progress towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

MODERATED DIALOGUE: "FROM SILOS TO INTEGRATED POLICY MAKING"

Chair Sajdik introduced the dialogue, saying it will explore how to re-organize traditional institutional arrangements to allow for more collaborative approaches to policy making.

Moderator David Nabarro, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Food Security and Nutrition, underscored the importance of governance and integrated policy making in the post-2015 agenda, urging participants to move from silos to integration to ensure policy making is "fit for governance purpose."

Joel Netshitenzhe, member of the National Planning Commission, South Africa, said silo mentality among States and multilateral agencies reflects the hyper-specialization of education and research institutions. He recommended moving from coordination to integration and from "multi-disciplinarity to trans-disciplinarity."

Ambassador Vladimir Drobnyak (Croatia), ECOSOC Vice President, described the value of integrated approaches in policy making for urban areas, and in the context of climate change. He highlighted: support from national governments; appropriate institutional arrangements and mechanisms; capacity building;

participation of the private sector and other civil society stakeholders; and bottom-up decision-making to ensure a people-centered approach.

Indomatee Ramma, Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, Mauritius, presented a case study on integrated policy planning using the Climate, Land-Use, Energy, Water Resources (CLEW) approach. She highlighted the limited understanding and low government interest in resource linkages, and called for institutional frameworks for accessing, interpreting, and integrating scientific information into planning.

Ambassador Ferit Hoxha (Albania) called for reflection on: measures required to develop socially inclusive, environmentally friendly, and economically viable national development strategies; the role of NGOs in an integrated approach to sustainable development; and whether the UN system is ready to support the implementation of the SDGs. He proposed that the UN develop a common, and possibly single, monitoring and reporting mechanism to measure progress towards sustainable development.

Ousainou Ngum, Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD) International, called for visionary, effective leadership that is willing to make tough decisions on trade-offs to achieve transformative sustainable development. Maria Ivanova, University of Massachusetts at Boston, US, shared her experience in creating a new academic program that crosses disciplines, scales, and geographies.

In the ensuing discussion, Netshitenzhe emphasized the need to integrate concepts and practices rather than only coordinating them and stressed the need for decisive leadership that can generate long-term strategies among diverse stakeholders. Drobnyak highlighted the importance of analyzing information from multiple angles and a simplified approach for decision-making.

KENYA called for a multi-stakeholder approach in development planning, data collection, and monitoring and evaluation to overcome the silo mentality. ZAMBIA noted a problem of nomenclature of terms across disciplines and called for harmonization to promote a common understanding.

SOUTH AFRICA highlighted the country's national development plan, with a 20-year poverty eradication vision, which overcomes traditional short-term planning.

The NGO Major Group called for participatory, multi-stakeholder policies that promote open source-data sharing. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY supported continuous improvements to sustainable development models, calling for sharing of successful best practices. NORWAY highlighted the use of comprehensive planning to balance different interests, and green taxation as successful approaches to integration. COTE D'IVOIRE shared its experience in developing a

This issue of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org> is written and edited by Rishikesh Ram Bhandary, Tallash Kantai, Anju Sharma, and Catherine Wahlén, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Francis Dejon. The Editor is Pamela Chasek, Ph.D. <pam@iisd.org>. The Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James "Kimo" Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The Sustaining Donors of the *Bulletin* are the European Commission (DG-ENV and DG-CLIMATE) and the Government of Switzerland (the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). General Support for the *Bulletin* during 2014 is provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, SWAN International, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Japanese Ministry of Environment (through the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies - IGES), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Specific funding for the coverage of this meeting has been provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. Funding for translation of the *Bulletin* into French has been provided by the Government of France, the Wallonia, Québec, and the International Organization of La Francophonie/Institute for Sustainable Development of La Francophonie (IOF/IFDD). The opinions expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD or other donors. Excerpts from the *Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on the *Bulletin*, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 300 East 56th St., 11D, New York, NY 10022 USA. The ENB team at HLPF-2 can be contacted by e-mail at <anju@iisd.org>.



<http://enb.iisd.mobi/>

national sustainable development strategy to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development. ALBANIA said system-wide coherence is critical for sustainable development.

Panelists emphasized governance and rule of law as essential elements of integrated sustainable development; called for research on institutional arrangements that support integrated national development planning; and called on the UN to be nimble and simple to function effectively.

In conclusion, Nabarro stressed the need to move away from multi-sectoral approaches to trans-sectoral ones; and to integrate political and informational dimensions with the social, economic, and environmental pillars of sustainable development.

MODERATED DIALOGUE: “REVIEWING PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION: MAKING THE MOST OF THE HLPF REVIEWS AFTER 2015”

Ambassador María Emma Mejía, Permanent Representative of Colombia to the UN, introduced the panel, noting that the HLPF would begin to conduct its regular review on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development from 2016 and that the UN General Assembly would adopt an accountability framework for the development agenda in 2015.

Ambassador Masood Khan, Pakistan, moderated the discussion. He emphasized that the post-2015 agenda must learn from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and must involve multi-stakeholders to enhance integration.

Ambassador Christian Wenaweser, Permanent Representative of Lichtenstein to the UN, noted that a key lesson learned from the MDGs was the need for accountability and an effective review mechanism. He called for a mechanism that is voluntary, and based on constructive dialogue and a review of best practices of other review mechanisms. He also raised questions regarding the review’s scope, basis, and the availability of required capacity.

Ambassador Fatuma Ndangiza Nyirakobwa, Chairperson of the Panel of Eminent Persons, African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), described the APRM as an open, inclusive, and broad-based mechanism for reviewing governance. Noting that 34 countries in Africa have acceded to this voluntary mechanism, with 17 having gone through peer review since 2003, she said it has allowed citizens to articulate concerns on, *inter alia*, corruption, governance, natural resource management, and youth unemployment. She also highlighted the involvement of the private sector and civil society in the mechanism.

Christian Averous, Division of Environmental Performance and Information, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), highlighted lessons from the OECD peer review processes. He said the HLPF could improve international cooperation and national processes on sustainable development by drawing lessons from OECD country reviews on implementation. He stressed that the HLPF must go beyond intentions, to actions and results.

Marianne Beisheim, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, proposed a review model that is, *inter alia*, bottom-up with a multi-level design, includes national and regional reviews, and includes broad participation from diverse stakeholders. She recommended compatible reporting requirements to avoid duplication and suggested appointing task managers, following the example of the UN Technical Support Team.

Baba Drame, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal, said the national level is the most appropriate level for evaluating implementation, and shared examples and lessons learned from three sustainable development reviews in Senegal, underscoring the importance of peer reviews.

The WORKERS AND TRADE UNIONS Major Group suggested two minimum conditions for national assessments: full and genuine participation of key stakeholders; and accountability

instruments to guarantee fulfilment of commitments. He offered the supervision mechanism of the International Labour Organization as an example.

A representative of the Major Group for CHILDREN AND YOUTH called on the HLPF to: put volunteers, aging people, and those with disabilities at the center of the development agenda; take a human rights approach to strengthen legitimacy and accountability; and build on existing review processes such as the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review and the Universal Periodic Review process of the Human Rights Council.

Responding to a question on the atmosphere during the APRM peer review process, Nyirakobwa said there was a sense of excitement and ability to discuss issues considered taboo in other forums, including corruption, political succession, and separation of powers. CHILE said the follow-up processes in the OECD’s review mechanism allowed for better formulation of public policy, and supported GERMANY’s proposal of moving forward on means of implementation for SDGs.

KENYA called for: regular reviews with monitoring systems at the national and sub-national levels; mainstreaming SDGs throughout government processes; and the importance of qualitative information in review processes, particularly to facilitate the participation of local communities.

Calling the HLPF the new “hub” in the UN system for sustainable development, SWEDEN called for a bottom-up review structure that is inclusive and urged establishing the Global Sustainable Development Report as a strong pillar in the HLPF’s monitoring system.

The RUSSIAN FEDERATION said the review should not duplicate the efforts of ECOSOC; should maintain its intergovernmental character; be guided by state sovereignty and the principles of equal participation; and not become an instrument of political pressure.

LIBERIA questioned the APRM model of voluntary accession, asking for information on how to encourage more countries to participate in the mechanism.

The NGO Major Group called for a multi-layered, inter-country approach to the review, beginning at the grassroots level, and ending with major unresolved issues being brought to the international-level review process.

Responding to comments, Averous stressed the importance of positioning the reviews in the context of a broader economic understanding of world realities. Nyirakobwa stressed that there is no one-size-fits-all review process, and called on the HLPF to focus its review on the ECOSOC mandate.

Offering concluding thoughts, Khan said there is clear support for the review process to be a voluntary exercise. He also suggested that the HLPF should begin its work, and not wait until the SDGs have been finalized.

Ambassador Mejía concluded the session, thanking the panelists for their contributions.

IN THE CORRIDORS

With integration on the agenda, it was only a matter of time before the mirror turned to the UN, with participants discussing its role in making and breaking silos. Panelists called for a “nimble and simple” UN to lead transformational change. Integration and silo-breaking sometimes encompass redundancy, however, and as one panelist put it, trying to drive transformational change from the top is like “asking a turkey to vote for Christmas.” Is the UN finally ready for transformational change? It is starting to feel the heat, according to some participants, and a lot rides on the success of the post-2015 process – and the success of the HLPF in driving it. They also point out that there is a big difference between “orchestration” and “integration.” As one panelist put it, this is the time for bold leadership from the UN and its Member States.



Earth Negotiations Bulletin

HLPF-2

#5

iisd Reporting Services

A Reporting Service for Environment and Development Negotiations

Online at <http://www.iisd.ca/hlpf/hlpf2/>

Vol. 33 No. 6

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Monday, 7 July 2014

HLPF-2 HIGHLIGHTS: THURSDAY, 3 JULY 2014

On the fourth day of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF-2) under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), a moderated inter-regional dialogue took place in the morning on unlocking and reshaping development and enhancing implementation: the regional context. This was followed by a moderated dialogue on shaping the forum for post-2015 in the afternoon. The first week of the meeting concluded with a wrap-up session on messages for the ministerial segment, which will take place during the second week.

MODERATED INTER-REGIONAL DIALOGUE: “UNLOCKING AND RESHAPING DEVELOPMENT AND ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION: THE REGIONAL CONTEXT”

Introducing the panelists, Ambassador Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), ECOSOC Vice-President, highlighted the importance of acquiring regional perspectives in formulating a bottom-up, inclusive sustainable development agenda.

Moderator Amina Mohammed, Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, invited panelists to share key priorities that have emerged from regional consultations.

Alicia Bárcena, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and current Coordinator of the Regional Commissions, identified eradicating extreme poverty and tackling inequality as key priorities. She also emphasized the importance of natural resource governance in generating resources for education and health.

Rima Khalaf, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, highlighted: achieving social justice by alleviating poverty and reducing inequality and unemployment; and peace and security, including ending foreign occupations and reducing conflict related human suffering. She called for a universal social protection system.

Shamshad Akhtar, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, highlighted the need for ensuring stronger, sustainable, inclusive and resilient economic growth, and for promoting resource efficiency coupled with effective natural resource management.

Carlos Lopes, UN Economic Commission for Africa, stressed that value addition was a key priority for Africa to achieve structural transformation.

Andrey Vasilyev, UN Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), identified key regional priorities as: reducing inequalities, particularly within countries; addressing gender disparities in the labor market; and designing a universal sustainable development agenda with commitments for all countries.

Panelists then described regional policies to address key priorities. Lopes stressed that Africa needs to: revolutionize agricultural productivity to address poverty; transform the

service industry to consolidate gains from urbanization and a growing middle class; and become a solution-provider for climate change.

Akhtar prioritized structural reform and economic diversification; the adoption of demand and supply-side measures to address balanced regional growth; widening social protection; mainstreaming sustainable development into private sector practices; and enhancing science, policy, and innovation in the region.

Khalaf identified four focus areas for the region: addressing vertical and horizontal inequalities; enhancing social protection; economic restructuring towards higher value addition; and regional integration.

Bárcena called for a paradigm shift in consumer patterns, away from purely market-driven policies. She also called for: a fiscal compact to address resource redistribution; an investment compact to increase value addition across the value chain; a natural resource compact focusing on ecosystems and agriculturally biodiverse areas that need protection; and a sustainable cities compact.

Vasilyev listed the critical sectors for sustainable development integration, including sustainable cities, transport, forests, water, and sustainable energy. He urged cross-sectoral cooperation as well as local and sub-regional policies to achieve this integration.

Shahira Wahbi, League of Arab States, drew attention to common priorities among the regions, particularly peace and security, regional integration, technology transfer, job creation, and social protection systems. She highlighted the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

ZAMBIA highlighted poverty as a common issue, noting hunger, unemployment, and land degradation contribute to poverty. He recommended developing a robust monitoring and evaluation system for the post-2015 agenda. Noting industrialization projects have either failed or created “white elephants” in Africa, BENIN urged consideration of how to do things differently in the future.

CUBA emphasized the need to consider how decreased official development assistance (ODA) to Middle Income Countries (MICs) will affect achievement of development priorities. The REPUBLIC OF KOREA said monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the post-2015 agenda is critical.

TANZANIA said priorities for Africa include income generation, enabling the private sector, and governance. The RUSSIAN FEDERATION underlined the important role of regional economic commissions, and expressed concern over attempts to reduce the status of the ECE and weaken its links with ECOSOC.

Mohammed then called on panelists to address means of implementation (MOI), including potential sources of finance.

Bárcena identified global taxes on speculative financial flows, debt swaps, a regional financial security mechanism, and an institution for global financial governance as essential elements

This issue of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org> is written and edited by Rishikesh Ram Bhandary, Tallash Kantai, Anju Sharma, and Catherine Wahlén, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Francis Dejon. The Editor is Pamela Chasek, Ph.D. <pam@iisd.org>. The Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James “Kimo” Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The Sustaining Donors of the *Bulletin* are the European Commission (DG-ENV and DG-CLIMATE) and the Government of Switzerland (the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). General Support for the *Bulletin* during 2014 is provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, SWAN International, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Japanese Ministry of Environment (through the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies - IGES), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Specific funding for the coverage of this meeting has been provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. Funding for translation of the *Bulletin* into French has been provided by the Government of France, the Wallonia, Québec, and the International Organization of La Francophonie/Institute for Sustainable Development of La Francophonie (IOF/IFDD). The opinions expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD or other donors. Excerpts from the *Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on the *Bulletin*, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 300 East 56th St., 11D, New York, NY 10022 USA. The ENB team at HLPF-2 can be contacted by e-mail at <anju@iisd.org>.



<http://enb.iisd.mobi/>

of MOI. Khalaf highlighted the mobilization of domestic resources by: increasing the tax base; migrant remittances with diaspora bonds; Arab sovereign wealth funds coupled with improvements in investment laws in the region; and curbing illicit financial flows.

Lopes drew attention to: illicit financial flows in Africa due to price-fixing; addressing intellectual property rights; and acknowledging the potential sector-specific challenges for African countries.

Noting that the Asia-Pacific region needs up to US\$ 2.4 trillion to address infrastructure gaps and US\$ 750 million to address natural disasters, Akhtar proposed several sources, including taxes.

Vasilyev underscored the potential of well-managed public-private partnerships. He highlighted the establishment of standards for agricultural produce to allow easier entry into the European markets, and the potential of cooperation among the regional economic communities as a channel for MOI.

Daniel Tygel, Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy, emphasized a human rights-based approach. COSTA RICA stressed the need to measure the multiple dimensions of poverty and focus on the needs of MICs. COLOMBIA called for measurements beyond GDP, measuring MICs' capacity, and addressing structural gaps.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the development process and unequal economic growth among countries and social groups, GUATEMALA called for more importance to States than markets.

RWANDA said MOI must be generated locally for human-centered, inclusive and sustainable growth. BENIN said 50% of ODA should be allocated to Least Developed Countries.

On monitoring and accountability for the post-2015 development agenda, Lopes highlighted: efforts to improve data systems; data collection through mobile technology; building networks and capacity; and production of country profiles.

Bárcena emphasized accountability mechanisms at the global and national levels. Akhtar noted that fulfilment of commitments on sustainable development depend on the coherency and consistency of the agenda. Vasilyev noted that while generating disaggregated data is costly, it complements national averages. Osmá Mahomed, Commission on Sustainable Development, Mauritius, called for a human rights-based accountability framework with time bound targets and supportive national plans.

MODERATED DIALOGUE: "SHAPING THE FORUM FOR POST-2015"

This dialogue was chaired by Martin Sajdik, ECOSOC President, and moderated by Amina Mohammed.

Paul Gulleik Larsen, Coordinator for the Post-2015 Process, Norway, stressed that the Forum's agenda should be guided by the SDGs, and identify gaps and challenges in implementation. He said the post-2015 goals and targets must, *inter alia*: be realistic, communicable and capable of mobilising financial support; and address climate change, inequality, and employment.

Elizabeth Thompson, Former Executive Coordinator of the Rio+20 Conference, proposed that the HLPF take on some functions of a think-tank, generating information on relevant issues to be discussed through genuine dialogue in an open setting. She also called for the establishment of a system to translate international sustainable development commitments to national-level policy.

János Pásztor, WWF International, noted that the UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel on Global Sustainability prepared an integrated package to guide the work of the Forum, including, *inter alia*: a basis in science; integrating international and regional financial institutions; and undertaking genuine debate on complex inter-related issues.

Leena Srivastava, The Energy and Resources Institute, suggested the HLPF delegate the review of individual goals to the UN agencies that focus on the subject. Shantal Munro, Executive Coordinator, Caribbean Policy Development Center, stressed, *inter alia*: ensuring national coherence across

ministries; managing expectations, rather than tackling all issues; and providing resources for civil society participation and capacity building.

Michael O'Neill, UN Development Programme, noted the potential of the HLPF to bring together the right stakeholders for a cross-cutting dialogue, and encouraged South-South and triangular cooperation to share best practices.

The CHILDREN AND YOUTH Major Group called for active participation of stakeholders in agenda setting; support for a secretariat and a dedicated bureau for the HLPF; and for the HLPF to adopt ministerial declarations independently from the ECOSOC. The NGO Major Group expressed concern over the integration of the HLPF agenda into the ECOSOC agenda, stating that this could jeopardise the participation of ministers of environment.

ZAMBIA called for an inventory of national processes and coordinated and efficient data collection. The PHILIPPINES identified barriers for the HLPF, including: long-term political commitment; lack of expenditure frameworks to support programming; and data quality. ETHIOPIA stressed the importance of stakeholder engagement at the national level.

SWITZERLAND recommended the Forum be flexible enough to address emerging issues. GERMANY stressed that the Forum will need a strong review and accountability system, and a politically relevant agenda.

In response to comments, Thompson said the Forum should be an innovative body addressing implementation. Larsen underlined domestic resource mobilization as the main source of financing for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Pásztor highlighted integration, participation, accountability, and coordination as important elements for the HLPF.

Mohammed summarized the dialogue, noting calls for, *inter alia*: strengthening the science-policy interface; focusing on results; bringing sectors together; and not overburdening States with multiple layers of complexity. She drew attention to the challenge of ensuring accountability within a voluntary framework.

WRAP-UP SESSION: MESSAGES FOR THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

Chair Sajdik wrapped up the week's meeting, saying the post-2015 agenda should be integrated, transformative, inclusive, and people-centered. On strengthening the science-policy interface, he noted participants supported: evidence-based policymaking; expanding capabilities of future generations; and multi-stakeholder, multi-sector, and multi-scale approaches. He suggested the Global Sustainable Development Report represents an opportunity to strengthen the science-policy interface.

On countries in special situations, including Small Island Developing States, Sajdik highlighted, *inter alia*: national sustainable development plans; vulnerability indices; changing donor-recipient relationships, including South-South and regional coordination; and conditions for building resilience.

On means of implementation, he emphasized creating a conducive environment, including through good governance, to attract finance for the SDGs. He recognized calls for the HLPF to adopt a review function.

He concluded by informing participants that these messages will be presented to ECOSOC's High-Level Segment when HLPF-2 reconvenes on Monday, 7 July 2014.

IN THE CORRIDORS

As the first week of HLPF-2 drew to a close, stakeholders were not convinced the Forum was walking the talk. Throughout the week, many delegations reiterated the need for inclusive, people-centered approaches with strong monitoring and accountability mechanisms. However, the relegation of the Forum's interaction with stakeholders to a morning meeting with the President was viewed as a step backwards from the more progressive practice of the Commission on Sustainable Development, which devoted two full days to dialogue. Several participants also expressed concern over the HLPF's "weak institutional integrity," suggesting the lack of a designated Bureau or Secretariat could compromise its future effectiveness.



Earth Negotiations Bulletin

HLPF-2

#6

iisd Reporting Services

A Reporting Service for Environment and Development Negotiations

Online at <http://www.iisd.ca/hlpf/hlpf2/>

Vol. 33 No. 7

Published by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Tuesday, 8 July 2014

HLPF-2 HIGHLIGHTS: MONDAY 7 JULY 2014

The second High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF-2) under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) began its high-level segment during its second week. The opening session was followed by a high-level policy dialogue on “Macroeconomic policies in support of a post-2015 sustainable development agenda,” and ministerial dialogues on: “A universal integrated policy agenda to implement Rio+20 and realize the future we want”; and “Weaving regional realities and regional priorities into the post-2015 development agenda.”

OPENING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF ECOSOC AND OPENING OF THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

Ambassador Martin Sajdik (Austria), ECOSOC President, formally opened the high-level ministerial segment. He emphasized the need to: complete the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); address persistent poverty and inequality and sustainable consumption and production (SCP) patterns; address good governance, rule of law and decentralization for building resilience; and strengthen review and transparency systems.

UN Secretary-General (UNSG) Ban Ki-moon called for a strong successor framework to address areas not covered by the MDGs, stressing the connections between development, peace, security and the rule of law and the need to tackle inequalities. Launching the new *Millennium Development Goals Report 2014*, Ban said it shows many key targets have been met, but there have been uneven achievements between goals among and within countries, regions, and population groups. He informed delegates that his post-2015 synthesis report will outline a broad vision for the post-2015 development agenda and be influenced by the various post-2015 processes.

Ambassador John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda), UN General Assembly President, lauded the HLPF as a credible umbrella where stakeholders can work towards sustainable development and poverty eradication. He called for the Forum to be nimble in order to be able to address emerging issues.

Esther Agbarakwe, Youth Climate Coalition, Nigeria, underscored the role of youth in producing innovative solutions and their future role in implementing the SDGs.

HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE: “MACROECONOMIC POLICIES IN SUPPORT OF A POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”

Sajdik introduced the panel, noting that while concerted macroeconomic policy should continue to focus on recovery, other actions such as minimizing the risk of recurrent financial crises and ensuring sufficient resources, are available for countries to meet the MDGs.

Moderator Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General, UN Department for Economic and Social Affairs, posed three questions for the panelists: key features of a broad coherent and integrated macroeconomic framework to support the three dimensions of sustainable development; how to ensure economic and financial stability with macroeconomic policies that foster robust, inclusive economic growth; and challenges faced by financial, development, and trade institutions in coordinating policies for the post-2015 agenda.

Noting that financial globalization alone cannot be the basis for a sustainable global economy, Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, proposed: focusing on the real economy instead of intermediate targets like inflation; working towards rebalancing growth with greater emphasis on domestic demand; and initiating an inclusive dialogue on the regulation of financial institutions.

Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UN Environment Programme, highlighted: inequality in the context of access to environmental services; the importance of natural capital accounting and SCP; and social and economic opportunities generated by environmental solutions, such as employment generation by the renewable energy sector.

Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Organization, outlined the importance of, *inter alia*: addressing the needs of the unemployed; social sustainability, including the role of work in self-esteem and social protection floors; environmental sustainability; and appropriate policy packages to reduce poverty and inequality.

Min Zhu, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF), recommended: diversifying trade; strengthening resilience through fiscal and foreign reserve positions and structural transformation; strengthening investment and debt management strategies; and supporting inclusive growth.

Reaffirming the importance of the multilateral trading system in achieving post-2015 goals, Yonov Frederick Agah, Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization (WTO), called for facilitation of technology, entrepreneurship, and technical capacity, and making goods cheaper and more widely available.

Calling for investment in quality data to monitor progress, Mahmoud Mohieldin, Special Envoy on MDGs, the post-2015 process and financial development, World Bank, reiterated the Bank’s commitment to ending extreme poverty, promoting shared prosperity, and supporting partnerships with stakeholders.

In the discussion, SOUTH AFRICA said developed countries must exercise caution when implementing economic policies that affect economic growth in developing countries. SUDAN highlighted restrictions on international movement of labor. CHILDREN AND YOUTH called for ecological tax reform, towards approaches that tax resource degradation and pollution. Kituyi supported internalizing the adverse spillovers of economic policies.

Steiner noted the role of enabling environments to attract capital. Ryder called for a rights-based approach to migration in the post-2015 agenda. Zhu called for greater coordination of

This issue of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org> is written and edited by Rishikesh Ram Bhandary, Tallash Kantai, Anju Sharma, and Catherine Wahlén, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Francis Dejon. The Editor is Pamela Chasek, Ph.D. <pam@iisd.org>. The Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James “Kimo” Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The Sustaining Donors of the *Bulletin* are the European Commission (DG-ENV and DG-CLIMATE) and the Government of Switzerland (the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). General Support for the *Bulletin* during 2014 is provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, SWAN International, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Japanese Ministry of Environment (through the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies - IGES), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Specific funding for the coverage of this meeting has been provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. Funding for translation of the *Bulletin* into French has been provided by the Government of France, the Wallonia, Québec, and the International Organization of La Francophonie/Institute for Sustainable Development of La Francophonie (IOF/IFDD). The opinions expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD or other donors. Excerpts from the *Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on the *Bulletin*, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 300 East 56th St., 11D, New York, NY 10022 USA. The ENB team at HLPF-2 can be contacted by e-mail at <anju@iisd.org>.



<http://enb.iisd.mobi/>

monetary policies to reduce spillover effects. Mohieldin stressed the importance of domestic financial development to achieve the SDGs.

In summary, Wu highlighted the need to learn from past financial crises, and incorporate inequality into the macroeconomic framework.

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE: “A UNIVERSAL INTEGRATED POLICY AGENDA TO IMPLEMENT RIO+20 AND REALIZE THE FUTURE WE WANT”

Opening the dialogue, Sajdik asked delegates to consider how the post-2015 processes can develop coherent, integrated elements that ensure implementation and universality.

Helen Clark, Administrator, UN Development Programme (UNDP), moderated the panel. Noting biodiversity loss and climate change threaten development gains, she said the post-2015 agenda must tackle emerging challenges and reflect the shared aspirations of people and countries while differentiating between countries.

Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment, stressed the importance of SCP for a transformative agenda. He said the global partnership should focus on coherent enabling policy environments; mobilization of all available resources, including private finance; and a strong accountability framework.

Nana Oye Lithur, Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ghana, highlighted, *inter alia*: an effective and efficient coordination mechanism; investment in social development; and inclusion of civil society, youth, the private sector, and women in the planning process.

Yoon Seong Kyu, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea, stressed poverty eradication, ecosystem resilience building, and enhanced gender equality as part of the SDGs. He urged differentiated and customized national approaches, and accountable, effective, and transparent governance.

Silvia Velo, Under-Secretary for Environment, Land and Sea, Italy, noted that the interconnected challenges facing the world require an innovative culture of governance, based on policy coherence, inclusiveness, and accountability. She called for new ways of understanding and measuring progress, beyond GDP.

The dialogue included four lead discussants. Palouki Massina, Minister, Secretary General of Government, Togo, called for a 3-5 year window for countries in special circumstances to build capacity, before implementing a universal development agenda. Federico Ramos de Armas, Vice-Minister for Environment, Spain, called for common global objectives with differentiated national goals; viewing poverty and sustainable development together and focusing on peace, security, good governance, and democracy; and mobilizing financing beyond ODA. Ambassador Liu Jieyi (China) noted the role of the HLPF in monitoring and integration. Martin Chungong, Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union, called for a social contract that leads to development of all, and a democratic governance goal.

In the discussion, AUSTRIA said democratic governance and rule of law should be the backbone of the post-2015 agenda and welcomed the multi-stakeholder approach, especially the inclusion of Parliamentarians. SOUTH AFRICA drew attention to means of implementation.

Potočnik stressed trust building. Lithur prioritised the strengthening of policies that meet the needs of people and preserve the environment. Seong Kyu explained that the “no one left behind” philosophy refers to addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, small island developing States and Least Developed Countries in the present, and the needs of the youth in the future. Velo highlighted universality, integration, and differentiation.

In summary, Clark stressed the importance of global partnerships in implementing the SDGs.

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE: “WEAVING REGIONAL REALITIES AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES INTO THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”

Ambassador Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), ECOSOC Vice President, opened the dialogue, noting it is essential to understand regional perspectives, hindrances, and solutions to attain sustainable development.

Juan Somavía, the UNSG’s Special Adviser on Interregional Policy Coordination, framed the discussion with two questions: what are the commonalities and priorities between various regions and how can we assure their implementation; and how will the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda impact policies and trends.

Olga Marta Sánchez Oviedo, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, Costa Rica, highlighted increasing inequality and vulnerability to climate change, and the need for a new global alliance to achieve sustainable development.

Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, identified regional priorities to complement universal goals, such as population dynamics and natural disasters; the role of regional commissions; and the importance of long-term planning, policy coordination, and the private sector.

Marcin Korolec, Special Envoy for Climate Change, Poland, supported, *inter alia*, addressing SCP in line with the Ten-Year Framework Programme, and engaging city leaders to tackle climate change.

Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union Commission, described alignment between the Common African Position on the post-2015 agenda; Africa’s Agenda 2063; and the SDG process.

The dialogue included four lead discussants. Sihak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Thailand, called for addressing the development gap in the Asia-Pacific region by enhancing development cooperation, and increasing means of implementation. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh, proposed a hybrid regional organization to manage the implementation of the SDGs, stressing connectivity to unlock regional cooperation, and enhance peace, stability, and regional progress. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, noted the urgency of addressing inequalities and peace and security.

Gigi Francisco, Major Group for WOMEN, called for: addressing systemic challenges such as distorted trade balances; binding corporate accountability to share risks and returns of public-private partnerships; and implementation of commitments on women’s rights.

The RUSSIAN FEDERATION emphasized its commitments towards regional initiatives and recommended a prominent role for regional commissions in the post-2015 agenda. CHILDREN AND YOUTH supported the integration of regional concerns into the global agenda even if it led to a greater number of targets.

In closing statements, Akhtar emphasized the importance of integrating regional perspectives into New York dialogues. Korolec said energy efficiency, new technologies, and investments in renewables can help to meet emissions reductions goals. Maruping called for addressing illicit financial flows. Noting the asymmetrical nature of development, Oviedo recommended strengthening institutions, spreading democratic relationships between States and citizens, and fighting corruption.

In conclusion, moderator Somavía highlighted the UN’s “enormous installed capacity” at the regional level.

IN THE CORRIDORS

The HLPF’s convening power has been lauded as an indicator of its potential role as an integrator or orchestrator of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The level of representation sent by the economic dimension for the opening of HLPF-2’s high-level segment, however, did not overly impress participants. They pointed out that while social and environment organizations sent their heads, the IMF, WTO and World Bank sent deputies. A comment by the WTO representative in his address, that sustainable development cannot be achieved when economic growth takes a back seat to social and environmental issues, was seen as an indication that while all dimensions are equal, some may still be more equal.



HLPF-2 HIGHLIGHTS: TUESDAY 8 JULY 2014

On Tuesday, the President of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) addressed the second High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF-2) under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This presentation was followed by two ministerial dialogues on: “Long term measures to make poverty eradication irreversible and reduce inequalities”; and “International cooperation for sustainable development.” A multi-stakeholder dialogue on “Multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments for sustainable development – ensuring accountability for all” took place in the evening, followed by a ministerial dialogue on “Preparing the high-level political forum for post-2015: Steering implementation of the development agenda and reviewing progress.”

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik (Austria) opened the session. Oyun Sangaasuren, Minister for Environment and Green Development, Mongolia, and UNEA President, reported on the first session of the UNEA, emphasizing high-level discussions on: the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the post-2015 agenda, including sustainable consumption and production (SCP); and illegal trade in wildlife. She highlighted the adoption of a Ministerial Outcome Document.

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE: “LONG TERM MEASURES TO MAKE POVERTY ERADICATION IRREVERSIBLE AND REDUCE INEQUALITIES”

ECOSOC President Sajdik encouraged panelists to reflect on: long-term trends that have had the greatest impact on poverty and equality; successful strategies to reconcile the imperatives of eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, strengthening resilience, and preserving natural resources; and policies that can ensure the sustainability of intergenerational gains.

María Angela Holguín, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colombia, identified poverty eradication, reducing inequality, and changing consumption and production patterns as challenges to sustainable development. On the post-2015 agenda, she prioritised strengthening capacities in countries in special situations, promoting quality education, and incorporating SCP.

Underlining that children need to be placed at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda, Sophie Karmasin, Federal Minister for Family and Youth, Austria, highlighted actions in her country, including strengthening children’s rights, mainstreaming these rights in planning processes, and policy dialogues on children.

Bathabile Dlamini, Minister of Social Development, South Africa, said the right to development is critical for building more sustainable societies, and shared her country’s actions to address childhood poverty.

Aida Kurmangaliyeva, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population, Kazakhstan, called for a roadmap to eradicate poverty that includes: productive employment; a stable society sustained by a middle class; access to services including healthcare; and rural development.

Yong Li, Director-General, UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), highlighted the role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development in eradicating poverty given its role in reducing inequality, and ensuring environmental sustainability.

Paola Bustamante, Minister for Social Inclusion, Peru, highlighted efforts to provide basic services such as health and education to women and youth, and progress on poverty reduction by increasing exports and engaging the private sector.

Lead discussant Jim Clarken, Executive Director, Oxfam, highlighted the twin challenges of rising inequality and climate change in reducing poverty.

During the discussion, ZAMBIA said his country has resolved to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. The NGO Major Group said control and access over natural resources is critical for eradicating poverty and reducing inequality. CHINA supported UNIDO’s promotion of inclusive industrial development as well as inclusive social policies and complete health and social protection.

In conclusion, Holguín noted the importance of investing in infrastructure in rural areas to promote sustainable development while Dlamini highlighted a national economic infrastructure programme to improve quality of life. Karmasin stressed investing in children. Kurmangaliyeva proposed the creation of a poverty eradication roadmap.

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE: “INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

Ambassador Ibrahim Dabbashi (Libya), ECOSOC Vice President, opened the session, noting that the Development Cooperation Forum can help identify features of an inclusive global architecture for monitoring and accountability arrangements and provide guidance on implementation in the post-2015 agenda.

Saber Chowdhury, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh, moderated this dialogue.

Fulbert Macaire Amoussouga Gero, Minister of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Policies and Sustainable Development, Benin, stressed that cooperation must be inclusive, based on a shared vision, mutually beneficial, and avoid a donor-recipient relationship.

Børge Brende, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway, lauded achievements in health and poverty eradication. He called for the SDGs to address climate change, biodiversity loss, water and sanitation, education, health, and renewable energy, and noted the need for finance to meet these goals.

Han Seung-soo, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water, recommended a dedicated water SDG with three priorities: universal access to sustainable

This issue of the *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* © <enb@iisd.org> is written and edited by Rishikesh Ram Bhandary, Tallash Kantai, Anju Sharma, and Catherine Wahlén, Ph.D. The Digital Editor is Francis Dejon. The Editor is Pamela Chasek, Ph.D. <pam@iisd.org>. The Director of IISD Reporting Services is Langston James “Kimo” Goree VI <kimo@iisd.org>. The Sustaining Donors of the *Bulletin* are the European Commission (DG-ENV and DG-CLIMATE) and the Government of Switzerland (the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (FOEN) and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). General Support for the *Bulletin* during 2014 is provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, SWAN International, the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Japanese Ministry of Environment (through the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies - IGES), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). Specific funding for the coverage of this meeting has been provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety. Funding for translation of the *Bulletin* into French has been provided by the Government of France, the Wallonia, Québec, and the International Organization of La Francophonie/Institute for Sustainable Development of La Francophonie (IOF/IFDD). The opinions expressed in the *Bulletin* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of IISD or other donors. Excerpts from the *Bulletin* may be used in non-commercial publications with appropriate academic citation. For information on the *Bulletin*, including requests to provide reporting services, contact the Director of IISD Reporting Services at <kimo@iisd.org>, +1-646-536-7556 or 300 East 56th St., 11D, New York, NY 10022 USA. The ENB team at HLPF-2 can be contacted by e-mail at <anju@iisd.org>.



<http://enb.iisd.mobi/>

sanitation and drinking water; strengthened wastewater management; and improved integrated water resources management.

Describing the next 18 months as the most crucial period of global negotiations for the planet's future, Jeffrey Sachs, Special Adviser to UN Secretary-General on the MDGs, highlighted five key building blocks: the SDGs; a comprehensive climate agreement; means of implementation; data, monitoring and updating; and governance and accountability.

Hiroshi Imanaga, Deputy Mayor of Kitakyushu, Japan, said local governments can contribute to sustainable cities through intercity cooperation and partnerships.

There were two lead discussants in this dialogue. Pekka Haavisto, Minister for International Development, Finland, highlighted taxation as a source of finance, including the role of matching funds. Emilia Pires, Minister of Finance, Timor-Leste, called for greater trust and more efficient use of resources.

CHILE questioned whether decarbonization could take place despite an increasing role of coal in the energy mix. Chowdhury summarized the discussions, noting the important role of partnerships in the new global agreement.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE "MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS AND VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ALL"

Ambassador Maria Emma Mejía Vélez (Colombia), ECOSOC Vice President, chaired this session. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UN Population Fund, called for accountable, transparent partnerships and urged creating strategic partnerships, including with the private sector for resource mobilization.

Juan Carlos Lastiri Quirós, Ministry of Social Development, Mexico, highlighted contracts with the civil society aimed at achieving the MDGs.

Dagfinn Høybråten, Chair, Board of GAVI Alliance, shared lessons on leveraging the comparative advantage of partners; creating innovative partnerships and mechanisms to mobilise resources; and partnerships to ensure sustainable change.

Danny Sriskandarajah, CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation, urged the creation of a set of clear, fair, transparent norms and practices to govern stakeholder partnerships to enhance their credibility; and drew attention to civil society innovations that could promote accountability in the post-2015 agenda.

Petra Bayr, Member of Parliament, Austria, said a robust framework is needed for the private sector to play a defined role in achieving the post-2015 agenda beyond the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and recommended core standards, including regulations in the interest of people rather than transnational corporations and binding rules under international law.

There were three lead discussants in this dialogue. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Iceland, said Iceland's experience shows that partnerships must be inclusive, progressive, and dynamic to be successful. Ambassador Pio Wennubst (Switzerland) said partnerships should: draw upon knowledge from multiple actors; avoid silo effects that impede the full benefit of their potential; and be innovative and forward-looking. Myrna Cunningham, former Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, also for the INDIGENOUS PEOPLES Major Group, outlined preconditions for establishing trust in partnerships with indigenous peoples, including: ensuring indigenous peoples' rights to land and natural resources; and measures based on a human-rights approach. She recommended a specific section on indigenous peoples in the MDG Report.

In the ensuing discussion, participants called for an inclusive and bottom-up approach to partnerships, a conscious and visible approach to include marginalized groups, an emphasis on personal liberties, and effective use of social media. CANADA, noting their commitment to civil society engagement, called for greater space for civil society to influence policy at the national level.

Closing the discussion, Moderator Osotimehin underlined the need for transparency, accountability, and building on strengths of stakeholders.

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE: "PREPARING THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM FOR POST 2015: STEERING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND REVIEWING PROGRESS"

Opening the dialogue, ECOSOC President Sajdik emphasized the need to focus on action and implementation. Moderator Thomas Gass, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, asked participants to address ways for HLPF to: review implementation and progress towards future SDGs; and promote integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Rémi Allah Kouadio, Minister for the Environment, Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Development, Côte d'Ivoire, described national efforts to implement sustainable development, and underlined the importance of technology, financial resources, partnerships, and regional approaches.

Calling on the HLPF to draw lessons from other organizations, Attila Korodi, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Romania, said the Forum could serve as a locus for accountability and provide policy direction to ensure consistency between various organizations.

Shinji Inoue, Senior Vice Minister of the Environment, Japan, noted the need to promote sustainable development at the individual and international levels to realize the post-2015 agenda, with stakeholders engaging outside the developing-developed country dichotomy.

Joseph Moser, Secretary-General, International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, described the role of audit institutions in creating accountability at international and national levels, including their potential role in SDG review mechanisms.

Lead discussant Erik Solheim, Chair, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Development Assistance Committee, said the HLPF should be a forum that "digs into" the success stories of government, civil society and business, underlining the existence of hidden success stories. He also recommended establishing peer learning and focusing on coalitions for actions.

Noting the special situation of Least Developed Countries, BENIN called for the mobilization of expertise and resources to achieve post-2015 results. CHINA highlighted the HLPF's roles in: monitoring and evaluating progress; generating coherence in the UN system; and communicating best practices. CANADA called for a strong accountability framework and a robust secretariat to support the HLPF. The WOMEN Major Group noted the need for transformational change and called for ending multiple forms of discrimination. SWITZERLAND supported a robust, inclusive review mechanism to encourage the replication of best practices. The NGO Major Group called for a secretariat and bureau for the HLPF to allow it to effectively fulfill its function.

In closing statements, Kouadio, supported by Solheim, urged stronger political will to ensure the HLPF leads to sustainable development. Inoue underscored the importance of monitoring mechanisms with contributions from a wide range of stakeholders. ECOSOC President Sajdik closed the session.

IN THE CORRIDORS

Can the HLPF adopt decisions? According to experienced delegates, this could be one of the questions holding up progress on the Ministerial Declaration that is being negotiated informally alongside the HLPF. Apparently, the G-77 and China would like a decision to be adopted on the Global Sustainable Development Report. In fact, their statement yesterday mentioned a draft decision they have submitted to the Forum, which includes deliberations on the report for the agenda of the next session. Other delegations did not support this idea, and the informal session dispersed for delegates to consult with their Missions. It is therefore possible that the Declaration, which is expected to be adopted by the HLPF at its closing session on Wednesday, could indicate whether the HLPF will be negotiating more than ministerial declarations in the future.

ENB SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS: The *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* summary and analysis of the HLPF will be available online on Saturday, 12 July 2014, at: <http://www.iisd.ca/hlpf/hlpf2/>



SUMMARY OF THE SECOND MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: 30 JUNE – 9 JULY 2014

The second meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) took place from 30 June – 9 July 2014, at UN Headquarters in New York. The forum was attended by the representatives of 193 Member States, intergovernmental organizations and other entities and representatives of the UN system, as well as representatives of Major Groups and other stakeholders.

The theme of the second meeting of the Forum was “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”

During the first week, moderated dialogues took place on ten topics:

- From Rio+20 to post-2015: towards an integrated and universal sustainable development agenda;
- Means of implementation for sustainable development;
- How could sustainable consumption and production contribute to SDGs?;
- Ideas and trends that can shape the lives of present and future generations;
- Island voices, global choices – promoting genuine and durable partnerships;
- Countries in special situations – building resilience;
- From silos to integrated policy making;
- Reviewing progress and implementation – making the most of the HLPF reviews after 2015;
- Unlocking and reshaping development and enhancing implementation – the regional context; and
- Shaping the forum for post-2015.

During the second week, a Ministerial Segment convened, which included a high-level policy dialogue on macroeconomic policies in support of a post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Ministerial dialogues took place on:

- A universal integrated policy agenda to implement Rio+20 and realize the future we want;

- Weaving regional realities and regional priorities into the post-2015 development agenda;
- Long term measures to make poverty eradication irreversible and reduce inequalities;
- International cooperation for sustainable development;
- Preparing the high-level political forum for post-2015;
- Steering implementation of the development agenda and reviewing progress; and
- Charting pathways to the future we want.

A multi-stakeholder dialogue on “Multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments for sustainable development – ensuring accountability for all” also took place during the second week.

In addition, a dialogue with the Chair of the Board of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes (10YFP) on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) took place; a prototype Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) was presented; a presentation on Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) for sustainable development was made by the World Bank; and keynote speeches were made by the President of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) and the Deputy Administrator of National Administration of Surveying, Mapping, and Geoinformation, China.

HLPF-2 concluded on Wednesday, 9 July, with the adoption of a Ministerial Declaration.

Participants were mostly in a “wait and see” mode at HLPF-2, recognizing that the real work would only begin after the

IN THIS ISSUE

A Brief History of the HLPF	2
HLPF-2 Report	3
Ministerial Segment	9
Closing Session	13
A Brief Analysis of HLPF-2	13
Upcoming Meetings	15
Glossary	16



adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. If all goes according to plan, the Forum could play a lead role in truly integrating the social, environmental, and economic dimensions of sustainable development within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, including the SDGs. Whether the Forum is “high-level” enough and strong enough to live up to these expectations, however, remains to be seen.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE HLPF

Rio+20 called for the establishment of the HLPF in June 2012 in its outcome document, *The Future We Want*. Paragraph 84 states: “We decide to establish a universal intergovernmental high-level political forum, building on the strengths, experiences, resources and inclusive participation modalities of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), and subsequently replacing the Commission. The high-level political forum shall follow up on the implementation of sustainable development and should avoid overlap with existing structures, bodies and entities in a cost-effective manner.”

COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

The CSD emerged from Agenda 21, the programme of action for sustainable development adopted in June 1992 by the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, also known as the “Earth Summit.” Agenda 21 called for the creation of the CSD to ensure effective follow-up of UNCED, enhance international cooperation, and examine progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 at the local, national, regional, and global levels. In 1992, the 47th UN General Assembly (UNGA) adopted resolution 47/191, which established the CSD’s terms of reference and composition, organization of work, relationship with other UN bodies, secretariat arrangements, and guidelines for the participation of Major Groups.

The CSD held its first substantive session in June 1993 and convened annually for 20 years at UN Headquarters in New York. During its first five years, the CSD systematically reviewed the implementation of all chapters of Agenda 21. The second five-year programme of work was organized around sectoral, cross-sectoral, and economic thematic issues. Following the World Summit on Sustainable Development, which convened in Johannesburg, South Africa in September 2002, and reaffirmed that the CSD was the high-level forum for sustainable development within the UN system, the Commission adopted a new multi-year programme of work to be organized as a series of two-year implementation cycles. Each cycle consisted of a Review Session and a Policy Session and considered a thematic cluster of issues and crosscutting issues.

The CSD held its 20th and final session on 21 September 2013, just prior to the first session of the HLPF. Among the CSD’s accomplishments, participants highlighted, *inter alia*: the innovative, inclusive engagement of Major Groups; its contribution to an improved understanding of sustainable development, particularly by the private sector; and the CSD’s work on SCP. Participants also mentioned shortcomings, including: the lack of means of implementation (MOI); clear

targets and indicators; a review mechanism; and flexibility in choosing its agenda.

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (Rio+20): During ten days in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012—the third and final meeting of the Preparatory Committee, Pre-Conference Informal Consultations facilitated by the host country, and the Conference—government delegations concluded negotiations on the Rio+20 outcome document, titled *The Future We Want*. The outcome calls for the UNGA to take decisions on, *inter alia*: designating a body to operationalize the 10YFP on SCP; identifying the format and organizational aspects of a high-level political forum on sustainable development to replace the CSD; strengthening the UN Environment Programme (UNEP); constituting an Open Working Group (OWG) on a set of SDGs to be agreed by the UNGA; establishing an intergovernmental process under the UNGA to prepare a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy; and considering a set of recommendations from the UN Secretary-General for a facilitation mechanism that promotes the development, transfer, and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies.

In addition, the outcome document called on the UNGA to take a decision in two years’ time on the development of an international instrument under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea regarding marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. The UN Statistical Commission was called on to launch a programme of work on broader measures to complement gross domestic product (GDP). The UN system was encouraged, as appropriate, to support best practices and facilitate action for the integration of sustainability reporting. The outcome document also includes text on trade-distorting subsidies, fisheries, and fossil fuel subsidies.

UNGA-67: The 67th session of the UNGA adopted a resolution on the implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of Rio+20 (A/RES/67/203), which outlines the negotiation process for the creation of the HLPF and recommends that the CSD hold a “short and procedural” final session following the conclusion of negotiations on the HLPF. The text also calls for the OWG on SDGs to report to the UNGA at its 68th session and to report regularly, taking into account the convening of the first HLPF. It further called for a special event in 2013 to follow up on efforts towards achieving the MDGs.

RESOLUTION 67/290: The President of the 67th UNGA called on the ambassadors from Brazil and Italy to conduct informal consultations on the format and organizational modalities of the HLPF. These consultations began in January 2013 and concluded with the adoption of resolution 67/290 on 9 July 2013. Resolution 67/290 decided that the HLPF, consistent with its intergovernmental universal character, will:

- provide political leadership, guidance, and recommendations for sustainable development;
- follow-up and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments;
- enhance the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development; and

- have a focused, dynamic, and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges.

The meetings of the Forum will be convened:

- every four years under the auspices of the UNGA at the level of Heads of State and Government—for two days at the beginning of the UNGA session; and
 - every year under the auspices of ECOSOC—for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment.
- Both meetings will adopt negotiated declarations.

The Forum, under the auspices of ECOSOC, will conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to MOI, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda. The resolution also considers the arrangement of a 2015 HLPF meeting, under the auspices of the UNGA, to launch the post-2015 development agenda.

FIRST SESSION OF THE HLPF: The inaugural session of the HLPF on 24 September 2013 took place under the auspices of the UNGA at UN Headquarters in New York. The session theme was “Building the future we want from Rio+20 to the post-2015 development agenda.” The session was divided into several segments that featured keynote presentations from Heads of State and Government and Ministers and remarks from the floor on the following themes: “From vision to action,” “Global partnerships for development to create jobs and improve sustainable lifestyles,” and “Mapping the way forward for eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development.” In his inaugural address, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the establishment of a Scientific Advisory Board, to be housed at the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to strengthen the interface between science and policy.

HLPF-2 REPORT

On Monday morning, 30 June, ECOSOC President Martin Sajdik, Austria, opened the second meeting of the HLPF. Following adoption of the agenda (E/HLPF/2014/1), Amb. Sajdik noted that integration is at the core of the Forum’s mandate and highlighted the Forum’s role in the broader post-2015 agenda. Wu Hongbo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, highlighted implementation gaps in the current sustainable development agenda, and noted that the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in September 2015 would mark a turning point.

In statements by Major Groups and other stakeholders, Peter Davies, Local Authorities, the Global Business Alliance, and the International Council of Science, noted the need for an overarching vision on poverty eradication, and the development of partnerships to sustain a strong science-policy interface. Usman Mushtaq, Children and Youth, underlined the importance of transparency, accountability, and recognition of the Major Groups. Caroline Usikpedo-Omoniye, Women, Indigenous Peoples, and Workers and Trade Unions, called for a transformative sustainable development agenda that uses gender disaggregated data and indicators to monitor and evaluate the

proposed goals. Bolivia, for the Group of 77 and China (G-77/China), stressed the importance of strengthening the role of ECOSOC in implementing the sustainable development agenda.

MODERATED DIALOGUE: “FROM RIO+20 TO POST-2015: TOWARDS AN INTEGRATED AND UNIVERSAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”

This dialogue took place on Monday morning, 30 June, and was chaired by ECOSOC President Sajdik and moderated by Manish Bapna, World Resources Institute (WRI). Amb. Csaba Körösi, Hungary, and Co-Chair of the OWG on SDGs, said there will be more political and public support for the agenda if there is: a better understanding that change is inevitable; a credible and digestible vision; fair burden sharing; and trust among those carrying the burden.

Amb. Bénédicte Frankinet, Belgium, underlined that the post-2015 development agenda should focus on issues that affect both developed and developing countries. Amb. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Brazil, underlined the need for MOI to assist countries to achieve sustainable development. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh, urged moving beyond aid and instituting a global partnership for systemic changes.

Lead discussant Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director, UN Women, highlighted the role of women as agents of change, while listing discrimination and reproductive rights as priority areas.

DISCUSSION: Many countries supported jointly addressing universality and differentiation while considering national circumstances and priorities and the needs of countries in special situations. They also discussed: green economy approaches; mainstreaming the Aichi Biodiversity Targets throughout the UN system; inclusive growth; and a renewed global partnership.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3303e.html>

MODERATED DIALOGUE: “MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

This session took place on Monday afternoon, 30 June, and was chaired by ECOSOC President Sajdik and moderated by Raymond Saner, University of Basel. Saner noted that people, as the best drivers of their own development, need better data to understand the importance of the financial sector and how the sector functions.

Mansur Muhtar, Co-Chair of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, described the changing development landscape with declining official development assistance (ODA) and the increasing importance of the private sector, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Claudio Rachel Rojas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Chile, said innovative financing and national fiscal policies can contribute to reducing economic and social inequalities, within and among countries. Steve Waygood, Aviva Investors, called for: sustainability reporting by actors; a forum to bring together fund managers and finance ministers; and transparent trading.

Lead discussant Louise Kantrow, International Chamber of Commerce, highlighted the role of trade; enabling environments, including sound legislative frameworks and an educated labor force; and country ownership for sustainable development.

DISCUSSION: Delegates discussed how the profit-driven private sector could contribute to sustainable development in an effective and accountable manner; and whether innovative finance could be predictable and stable. They also discussed: incentives; legislation instead of voluntary compliance; standards; transparency; rating and ranking performance by the private sector; and reviewing tax treaties.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3303e.html>

MODERATED DIALOGUE: “HOW COULD SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS?”

This dialogue took place on Monday afternoon, 30 June, and was chaired by ECOSOC Vice President Amb. Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), and moderated by Peter Hazlewood, WRI.

Amb. László Borbély, Romania, said implementing SCP requires national policies based on indicators that are decided in a participatory manner. Ulf Jaeckel, Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany, supported the 10YFP as a mechanism to implement SCP and to achieve the SDGs. Cesar Barahona, Global Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production Network, said it is not necessary to create new institutions to address SCP and described the Network’s 20-year track record at the local and global levels.

The dialogue included four lead discussants. Kaye Ceille, Zipcar, proposed sharing economy services as a way to meet the SDGs, underscoring a shift from an era of ownership to one of access. Christian Frutiger, Nestlé, stressed the need to keep the private sector “on the table” and noted that a focus on producers’ livelihoods was key to long-term sustainability of companies. Didier Bergeret, Global Social Compliance Programme, said the Programme provides common tools, codes, and auditing approaches to scale up sustainability of global supply chains.

DISCUSSION: Delegates highlighted, *inter alia*: access to technology for sustainable production; SCP as essential for the fulfillment of basic needs; the essential linkage between SCP and climate policies; and the importance of maintaining SCP as a stand-alone goal despite being a cross-cutting issue.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3303e.html>

DIALOGUE WITH THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF THE 10-YEAR FRAMEWORK OF PROGRAMMES ON SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

This dialogue on the work of the board of the 10YFP on SCP took place on Monday evening, 30 June, and was moderated by Peter Hazlewood, WRI. Panelists presented country perspectives, the work of the Board of the 10YFP, and specific issues included in the 10YFP.

Balthasar Kambuaya, Minister of Environment, Indonesia, described the integration of SCP into Indonesia’s national development planning, highlighting efforts on sustainable

supply chains, sustainable public procurement, and consumer information.

Amb. Sylvia del Carmen Treviño Medina (Mexico), Chair of the Board of the 10YFP, stressed, *inter alia*, empowerment of 10YFP national focal points; and securing predictable and adequate finance in the 10YFP Trust Fund to enhance implementation.

Lisa Svensson, Ambassador for Oceans, Seas, and Freshwater, Sweden, highlighted several key messages on oceans and SCP, including: ending illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing; recognizing ocean ecosystem services; and addressing ocean energy. Lewis Akenji, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, on behalf of NGOs, urged the inclusion of stakeholders, particularly religious institutions, and the creation of infrastructure to enhance SCP as preconditions for successful implementation of the 10YFP.

DISCUSSION: Participants highlighted, *inter alia*, the need to scale up and deliver on SCP, and communicate across sectors.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3303e.html>.

PRESENTATION OF A PROTOTYPE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT

On Tuesday morning, 1 July, a panel presentation chaired by ECOSOC President Sajdik considered options for the scope and methodology of the GSDR.

Wu Hongbo, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, outlined three options for the scope and methodology of future editions of the GSDR: a traditional model drafted by UN staff with *ad hoc* contributions by experts and peer reviewed literature; a more inclusive model with stakeholder involvement linked to voluntary national reviews; and an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) style model with scientific experts nominated to a writing team by Member States.

Moderator Claudio Huepe Minoletti, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile, called for overcoming language barriers and building trust between natural and social scientists.

Manuel Montes, South Centre, Switzerland, recognized differences in scientific approaches between Western societies and developing countries, and suggested the HLPF facilitate developing country input. Jill Jäger, Sustainable Europe Research Institute, Austria, suggested the report adopt a systemic approach with a multi-level iterative process.

The session included two lead discussants. William Colglazier, Science and Technology Adviser to the US Secretary of State, highlighted the need for the GSDR to, *inter alia*: cover diverse disciplines; be relevant to policy making; and be peer-reviewed. He proposed an expert body to review the scientific quality of a near-final version.

Keola Souknilanh, Institute of Developing Economies, Japan, promoted the use of remote sensing data to recover data lost during “administrative aggregation,” and to track changes at high spatial and temporal resolution. Peng Sizhen, Ministry of Science and Technology, China, called for, *inter alia*, the preparation

of national sustainable development reports every four years, following the GSDR's time cycle.

DISCUSSION: Many countries stressed the GSDR should not duplicate efforts, but focus on interlinkages between the three dimensions of sustainable development. South Africa and Sudan called for building the financial and technical capacity of developing countries to collect and produce reliable data. The US and Mexico highlighted the GSDR as a tool for synthesis and integration.

Switzerland called for the report to focus on cross-sectoral linkages and challenges to SDG implementation. Nigeria said the GSDR should focus on measuring progress on the SDGs based on an agreed matrix. Germany said the report should be part of the accountability framework of the post-2015 development agenda. Belgium recommended the report view the implementation of the post-2015 agenda from a long-term perspective.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3304e.html>

MODERATED DIALOGUE: "IDEAS AND TRENDS THAT CAN SHAPE THE LIVES OF PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS"

This dialogue took place on Tuesday morning, 1 July, chaired by ECOSOC Vice President Amb. Ibrahim Dabbashi (Libya), and moderated by Manuel Montes.

Noting the intergenerational and international dimensions of climate change, Gordon McBean, President-elect, International Council for Science, highlighted the importance of managing risks and uncertainties and the role of the precautionary principle in understanding risks for present and future generations. Nebojsa Nakicenovic, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), described how the world might look if we achieve a sustainable transition, emphasizing the need to decrease inequalities.

This session included three discussants. Peter Davies, Sustainable Futures Commissioner, UK, described how Wales aligned its national, long-term development goals to the SDG process, to be assessed by a future generations commissioner. Marcel Szabó, Ombudsman for Future Generations, Hungary, recommended referencing future generations at all levels in the SDGs.

Catherine Pearce, World Future Council, welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for a High Commissioner for future generations, with advocacy powers, to be involved in policymaking processes at the international level.

DISCUSSION: Delegates spoke on, *inter alia*: the importance of an intergenerational representative; and best practices in the development of policies on climate change, health, and sustainable resource exploitation.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3304e.html>

MODERATED DIALOGUE: "ISLAND VOICES, GLOBAL CHOICES: PROMOTING GENUINE AND DURABLE PARTNERSHIPS"

This dialogue, chaired by ECOSOC President Sajdik, took place on Tuesday afternoon, 1 July, and included participants from Samoa, via a video link. Amb. Amanda Ellis, New Zealand, who moderated the session, reminded participants that 2014 is the year of small island developing states (SIDS).

Cristina Duarte, Minister of Finance and Planning, Cabo Verde, urged SIDS to effectively manage their exclusive economic zones, encourage inclusive development for long-term sustainability, and promote strong leadership and enlightened "follow-ship." Anjeela Jokhan, University of the South Pacific, Fiji, stressed engaging institutions of higher education to strengthen resilience.

Taholo Kami, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), stressed the importance of natural resources management. Via video link, Letuimanu'asina Emma KruseVa'ai, National University of Samoa, reflected on how to build SIDS' resilience and called for a SIDS vulnerability index.

Lead discussant Peseta Noumea Simi, Ministry of Finance, Samoa, called for durable and genuine partnerships that are accountable, easy to monitor, and endorsed in the final outcome document from the Third International Conference on SIDS, which will take place in Samoa in September 2014. Women proposed including gender equality, reproductive rights, and commitments on climate change in the document. NGOs recommended reference to Major Groups and NGOs as critical partners in the document.

DISCUSSION: Delegates highlighted taking the needs of SIDS into account in the post-2015 agenda and attracting the private sector to SIDS.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3304e.html>

MODERATED DIALOGUE: "COUNTRIES IN SPECIAL SITUATIONS: BUILDING RESILIENCE"

This dialogue took place on Tuesday evening, 1 July. ECOSOC Vice President Amb. Vladimir Drobnyak (Croatia) chaired, and Margareta Wahlström, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction, moderated. The discussion focused on addressing needs of countries in special situations as part of a universal development agenda, and building resilience in vulnerable countries.

Sonam Tshering, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Bhutan, emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation and regional solutions to address landlocked developing countries (LLDC) challenges, such as transportation and logistics, but said triangular cooperation was necessary to tackle climate change.

Amb. Jean-François Zinsou, Benin, recommended integrating concepts from the Istanbul Programme of Action, which charts a vision and strategy for sustainable development in least developed countries (LDCs) into the post-2015 agenda.

Paolo Soprano, Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea, Italy, outlined challenges faced by LDCs, Africa, LLDCs, SIDS, and middle income countries (MICs).

Samuel Tumiwa, Asian Development Bank (ADB), described an ADB study on the need for countries in special situations, including SIDS, to overcome the middle-income trap, and to move from agrarian economies into service economies.

Helen Stawski, Islamic Relief, called for increased dialogue between actors working on the post-2015 development agenda and those working towards achieving the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015.

Calling on donor countries to consider vulnerability criteria for SIDS, Lino Briguglio, University of Malta, noted that building resilience is multifaceted, expensive, and needs to be mainstreamed into national sustainable development policies.

DISCUSSION: Participants highlighted, *inter alia*: the continued value of ODA in helping LDCs and SIDS to achieve the MDGs; and the potential for greater value added from development assistance agencies through strategies such as risk pooling and sharing. Delegates also agreed on the role of strong institutions and quality of governance to allow countries to escape the middle-income trap. The Philippines shared lessons learned from Typhoon Haiyan, stressing development partners should focus resources on pre-disaster assistance rather than post-disaster relief.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3304e.html>

PRESENTATION ON NATURAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

On Wednesday morning, 2 July, ECOSOC President Sajdik opened the session on NCA. Valerie Hickey, World Bank, described the benefits of NCA in promoting growth without liquidating natural capital, saying it could move the world beyond a GDP matrix towards a focus on long-term growth and well-being. Hickey supported a global data revolution, saying NCA provides an agreed framework under the UN System of Environmental and Economic Accounting, and can assist countries in planning and developing indicators to achieve and monitor progress towards the attainment of the SDGs.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3305e.html>

MODERATED DIALOGUE: “FROM SILOS TO INTEGRATED POLICY MAKING”

This dialogue took place on Wednesday morning, 2 July. ECOSOC President Sajdik introduced the dialogue, saying it will explore how to re-organize traditional institutional arrangements to allow for more collaborative approaches to policy making. Moderator David Navarro, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Food Security and Nutrition, said moving from silos to integration would ensure policy making is “fit for governance purpose.”

Joel Netshitenzhe, National Planning Commission, South Africa, said the silo mentality reflects hyper-specialization and recommended moving from coordination to integration, and from “multi-disciplinarity to trans-disciplinarity.”

Indomatee Ramma, Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute, Mauritius, called for institutional frameworks

for accessing, interpreting, and integrating scientific information into planning.

Amb. Ferit Hoxha, Albania, proposed that the UN develop a common, and possibly single, monitoring and reporting mechanism to measure progress towards sustainable development.

Ousainou Ngum, Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD) International, called for visionary, effective leadership that is willing to make tough decisions on trade-offs to achieve transformative sustainable development. Maria Ivanova, University of Massachusetts at Boston, US, shared her experience in creating a new academic programme that crosses disciplines, scales, and geographies.

DISCUSSION: Panelists emphasized governance and rule of law as essential elements of integrated sustainable development; called for the integration of concepts and practices rather than only coordinating them; and called on the UN to be nimble and simple to function effectively.

Delegates also called for a multi-stakeholder approach in development planning, data collection including crowd-sourcing, and monitoring and evaluation to overcome the silo mentality. Zambia noted a problem of nomenclature of terms across disciplines and called for harmonization to promote a common understanding. Norway highlighted the use of green taxation as a successful approach to integration. Albania said system-wide coherence is critical for sustainable development.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3305e.html>

MODERATED DIALOGUE: “REVIEWING PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION: MAKING THE MOST OF THE HLPF REVIEWS AFTER 2015”

This moderated dialogue took place on Wednesday afternoon, 2 July. ECOSOC Vice President Amb. Maria Emma Mejía (Colombia), introduced the panel, noting that the HLPF would begin to conduct regular reviews on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development beginning in 2016 and the UNGA would adopt an accountability framework for the development agenda in 2015.

Amb. Masood Khan, Pakistan, moderated the discussion. He emphasized that the post-2015 agenda must learn from the MDGs, and involve multi-stakeholders to enhance integration.

Amb. Christian Wenaweser, Lichtenstein, noted that a key lesson learned from the MDGs is the need for accountability and an effective review mechanism. Amb. Fatuma Ndongiza Nyirakobwa, Chair of the Panel of Eminent Persons, African Peer Review Mechanism, said that 34 countries in Africa have acceded to this voluntary mechanism, and it has allowed citizens to articulate concerns on, *inter alia*, corruption, governance, natural resource management, and youth unemployment.

Christian Averous, Division of Environmental Performance and Information, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), highlighted lessons from the OECD’s country reviews on implementation. Marianne Beisheim, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, proposed a review

model that is, *inter alia*, bottom-up with a multi-level design, includes national and regional reviews, and includes broad participation from diverse stakeholders.

Lead discussant Baba Drame, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, Senegal, said the national level is the most appropriate level for evaluating implementation, and shared examples and lessons learned from three sustainable development reviews in Senegal.

Workers and Trade Unions suggested two minimum conditions for national assessments: full and genuine participation of key stakeholders; and accountability instruments to guarantee fulfilment of commitments.

Children and Youth called on the HLPF to, *inter alia*: take a human rights approach to strengthen legitimacy and accountability; and build on existing review processes such as the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review and the Universal Periodic Review process of the Human Rights Council.

DISCUSSION: Chile said the follow-up processes in the OECD's review mechanism allows for better formulation of public policy, and supported Germany's proposal to move forward on MOI for SDGs. Participants called for: regular reviews with monitoring systems at the national and sub-national levels; mainstreaming SDGs throughout government processes; and establishing the GSDR as a strong pillar in the HLPF's monitoring system.

The Russian Federation said the review should maintain its intergovernmental character; be guided by state sovereignty and the principles of equal participation; and not become an instrument of political pressure.

Responding to comments, Averous stressed the importance of positioning the reviews in the context of a broader economic understanding of world realities. Nyirakobwa said there is no one-size-fits-all review process, and called on the HLPF to focus its review on the ECOSOC mandate.

Offering concluding thoughts, Khan said there is clear support for the review process to be a voluntary exercise. He also suggested that the HLPF should begin its work, and not wait until the SDGs have been finalized.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3305e.html>

**MODERATED INTER-REGIONAL DIALOGUE:
“UNLOCKING AND RESHAPING DEVELOPMENT AND
ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION: THE REGIONAL
CONTEXT”**

This dialogue took place on Thursday morning, 3 July, and was chaired by ECOSOC Vice President Oh, who highlighted the importance of acquiring regional perspectives in formulating a bottom-up, inclusive sustainable development agenda. Moderator Amina Mohammed, Special Advisor of the UN Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning, invited panelists to describe: key priorities that emerged from regional consultations; policies necessary to address these priorities; issues related to MOI, including potential sources of finance; and proposals for monitoring and accountability for the post-2015 development agenda.

Alicia Bárcena, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and current Coordinator of the Regional Commissions, identified eradicating extreme poverty and tackling inequality as key priorities, and emphasized the importance of natural resource governance in generating resources for education and health. On policies, she called for a paradigm shift in consumer patterns, away from purely market-driven policies. She also called for a fiscal compact to address resource redistribution; an investment compact to increase value addition across the value chain; a natural resource compact focusing on ecosystems and agriculturally biodiverse areas that need protection; and a sustainable cities compact. On MOI, she identified global taxes on speculative financial flows, debt swaps, a regional financial security mechanism, and an institution for global financial governance. On monitoring and accountability for the post-2015 development agenda, Bárcena emphasized accountability mechanisms at the global and national levels.

Rima Khalaf, UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, highlighted social justice through alleviating poverty, reducing inequality and unemployment; and peace and security, including ending foreign occupations and reducing conflict-related human suffering. On policies, she identified four regional focus areas: addressing vertical and horizontal inequalities; enhancing social protection; economic restructuring towards higher value addition; and regional integration. On MOI, Khalaf highlighted the mobilization of domestic resources by: increasing the tax base; migrant remittances with diaspora bonds; Arab sovereign wealth funds coupled with improvements in investment laws in the region; and curbing illicit financial flows.

Shamshad Akhtar, UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), highlighted the need for ensuring stronger, sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economic growth, and for promoting resource efficiency coupled with effective natural resource management. On policies, she prioritized structural reform and economic diversification; the adoption of demand and supply-side measures to address balanced regional growth; widening social protection; mainstreaming sustainable development into private sector practices; and enhancing science, policy, and innovation in the region. Noting that the Asia-Pacific region needs up to US\$2.4 trillion to address infrastructure gaps and US\$750 million to address natural disasters, Akhtar proposed several sources, including taxes for MOI. On monitoring and accountability for the post-2015 development agenda, Akhtar noted that fulfilment of commitments on sustainable development depend on the coherency and consistency of the agenda.

Carlos Lopes, UN Economic Commission for Africa, stressed that value addition is a key priority for Africa to achieve structural transformation. On policies, Lopes stressed that Africa needs to: revolutionize agricultural productivity to address poverty; transform the service industry to consolidate gains from urbanization and a growing middle class; and become a solution-provider for climate change. On MOI, he drew attention to illicit financial flows in Africa due to price-fixing; and addressing intellectual property rights and acknowledging the potential sector-specific challenges for African countries. On monitoring

and accountability for the post-2015 development agenda, Lopes highlighted: efforts to improve data systems; data collection through mobile technology; building networks and capacity; and production of country profiles.

Andrey Vasilyev, UN Economic Commission for Europe, identified key regional priorities as: reducing inequalities, particularly within countries; addressing gender disparities in the labor market; and designing a universal sustainable development agenda with commitments for all countries. On policies, Vasilyev listed the critical sectors for sustainable development integration, including sustainable cities, transport, forests, water, and sustainable energy. He urged cross-sectoral cooperation as well as local and sub-regional policies to achieve this integration. On MOI, he highlighted the establishment of standards for agricultural produce to allow easier entry into the European markets, and the potential for cooperation among the regional economic commissions as a channel for MOI. On monitoring and accountability for the post-2015 development agenda, Vasilyev noted that while generating disaggregated data is costly, it complements national averages.

The dialogue also included three lead discussants. Shahira Wahbi, League of Arab States, drew attention to common priorities among the regions, particularly peace and security, regional integration, technology transfer, job creation, and social protection systems. She also highlighted the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR). Daniel Tygel, Intercontinental Network for the Promotion of Social Solidarity Economy, emphasized a human rights-based approach. Osma Mahomed, Commission on Sustainable Development, Mauritius, called for a human rights-based accountability framework with time bound targets and supportive national plans.

DISCUSSION: During the discussion, countries emphasized: the need for a robust monitoring and evaluation system for the post-2015 agenda; consideration of how decreased ODA to MICs will affect achievement of development priorities; and granting more importance to states than markets. Benin called for 50% of ODA to be allocated to LDCs.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3306e.html>

MODERATED DIALOGUE: “SHAPING THE FORUM FOR POST-2015”

This dialogue took place on Thursday afternoon, 3 July. It was chaired by ECOSOC President Sajdik and moderated by Amina Mohammed.

Paul Gulleik Larsen, Coordinator for the Post-2015 Process, Norway, stressed that the Forum’s agenda should be guided by the SDGs, and identify gaps and challenges in implementation. Elizabeth Thompson, Former Executive Coordinator of the Rio+20 Conference, proposed that the HLPF take on some functions of a think-tank, generating information on relevant issues to be discussed through genuine dialogue in an open setting. She also called for the establishment of a system to translate global sustainable development commitments to national-level policy.

János Pásztor, WWF International, noted that the UN Secretary-General’s High Level Panel on Global Sustainability prepared an integrated package to guide the work of the Forum, including, *inter alia*: a basis in science; integrating international and regional financial institutions; and undertaking genuine debate on complex inter-related issues.

The dialogue included three lead discussants. Leena Srivastava, The Energy and Resources Institute, suggested the HLPF delegate the review of individual goals to the UN agencies that focus on the subject. Shantal Munro, Executive Coordinator, Caribbean Policy Development Center, stressed, *inter alia*: ensuring national coherence across ministries; managing expectations, rather than tackling all issues; and providing resources for civil society participation and capacity building. Michael O’Neill, UN Development Programme (UNDP), noted the potential of the HLPF to bring together the right stakeholders for a cross-cutting dialogue, and encouraged South-South and triangular cooperation to share best practices.

DISCUSSION: During the discussion, delegates called for an inventory of national processes and coordinated and efficient data collection; stakeholder engagement at the national level; a strong review and accountability system; and a politically relevant agenda.

Stakeholders called for their active participation in agenda setting; support for a secretariat and a dedicated bureau for the HLPF; and for the HLPF to adopt ministerial declarations independently from the ECOSOC. They expressed concern over the integration of the HLPF agenda into the ECOSOC agenda, stating that this could jeopardize the participation of ministers of environment.

In response to comments, Thompson said the Forum should be an innovative body addressing implementation. Larsen underlined domestic resource mobilization as the main source of financing for the implementation of the SDGs. Pásztor highlighted integration, participation, accountability, and coordination as important elements for the HLPF.

Mohammed summarized the dialogue, noting calls for, *inter alia*: strengthening the science-policy interface; focusing on results; bringing sectors together; and not overburdening states with multiple layers of complexity. She drew attention to the challenge of ensuring accountability within a voluntary framework.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3306e.html>

WRAP-UP SESSION: MESSAGES FOR THE MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

On Thursday afternoon, 3 July, ECOSOC President Sajdik wrapped up the week’s meeting, saying the post-2015 agenda should be integrated, transformative, inclusive, and people-centered. On strengthening the science-policy interface, he noted participants supported: evidence-based policymaking; expanding capabilities of future generations; and multi-stakeholder, multi-sector, and multi-scale approaches. He suggested the GSDR represents an opportunity to strengthen the science-policy interface.

On countries in special situations, including SIDS, ECOSOC President Sajdik highlighted, *inter alia*: national sustainable development plans; vulnerability indices; changing donor-recipient relationships, including South-South and regional coordination; and conditions for building resilience. On MOI, he emphasized creating a conducive environment, including through good governance, to attract finance for the SDGs. He recognized calls for the HLPF to adopt a review function.

He concluded by informing participants that these messages will be presented to ECOSOC's High-level Segment.

MINISTERIAL SEGMENT

On Monday morning, 7 July, ECOSOC President Sajdik formally opened the joint ECOSOC High-level Segment and the HLPF Ministerial Segment. Launching the new *Millennium Development Goals Report 2014*, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said it shows many key targets have been met, but there have been uneven achievements between goals among and within countries, regions, and population groups.

UNGA President Amb. John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda) lauded the HLPF as a credible umbrella where governments and stakeholders can work towards sustainable development and poverty eradication. He called for the Forum to be nimble in order to be able to address emerging issues.

Esther Agbarakwe, Youth Climate Coalition, Nigeria, underscored the role of youth in producing innovative solutions and their future role in implementing the SDGs.

HIGH-LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE – “MACROECONOMIC POLICIES IN SUPPORT OF A POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”: On Monday morning, 7 July, ECOSOC President Sajdik chaired the dialogue, and Under-Secretary-General Wu moderated.

Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General, UN Conference on Trade and Development, proposed, *inter alia*: focusing on the real economy instead of intermediate targets like inflation; and initiating an inclusive dialogue on the regulation of financial institutions. He supported internalizing the adverse spillovers of economic policies.

Achim Steiner, Executive Director, UNEP, highlighted, *inter alia*: inequality in the context of access to environmental services; and social and economic opportunities generated by environmental solutions, such as employment generation by the renewable energy sector.

Guy Ryder, Director-General, International Labour Organization, outlined the importance of, *inter alia*: addressing the needs of the unemployed; social sustainability, including the role of work in self-esteem and social protection floors; and environmental sustainability. He called for a rights-based approach to migration in the post-2015 agenda.

Calling for greater coordination of monetary policies to reduce spillover effects, Min Zhu, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund, recommended: diversifying trade; strengthening resilience through fiscal and foreign reserve positions and structural transformation; strengthening investment and debt management strategies; and supporting inclusive growth.

Yonov Frederick Agah, Deputy Director-General, World Trade Organization, called for facilitation of technology, entrepreneurship, and technical capacity, and making goods cheaper and more widely available.

Mahmoud Mohieldin, World Bank, reiterated the Bank's commitment to ending extreme poverty, promoting shared prosperity, and supporting partnerships with stakeholders. He stressed the importance of domestic financial development to achieve the SDGs.

Discussion: Delegates noted that developed countries must exercise caution when implementing economic policies that affect economic growth in developing countries; and called for ecological tax reform, towards approaches that tax resource degradation and pollution.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3307e.html>

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE – “A UNIVERSAL INTEGRATED POLICY AGENDA TO IMPLEMENT RIO+20 AND REALIZE THE FUTURE WE WANT”:

ECOSOC President Sajdik opened the dialogue on Monday, 7 July, which was moderated by UNDP Administrator Helen Clark.

Janez Potočnik, European Commissioner for the Environment, said the global partnership should focus on: coherent enabling policy environments; mobilization of all available resources, including private finance; and a strong accountability framework.

Nana Oye Lithur, Minister for Gender, Children, and Social Protection, Ghana, highlighted, *inter alia*: an effective and efficient coordination mechanism; and inclusion of civil society, youth, the private sector, and women in the planning process.

Yoon Seong Kyu, Minister of Environment, Republic of Korea, urged differentiated and customized national approaches, and accountable, effective, and transparent governance.

Silvia Velo, Under-Secretary for Environment, Land and Sea, Italy, noted that the interconnected challenges facing the world require an innovative culture of governance, based on policy coherence, inclusiveness, and accountability.

The dialogue included four lead discussants. Palouki Massina, Minister, Secretary General of Government, Togo, called for a three- to five-year window for countries in special circumstances to build capacity before implementing a universal development agenda. Federico Ramos de Armas, Vice Minister for Environment, Spain, called for common global objectives with differentiated national goals; viewing poverty and sustainable development together; and mobilizing financing beyond ODA. Amb. Liu Jieyi, China, noted the role of the HLPF in monitoring and integration. Martin Chungong, Secretary General, Inter-Parliamentary Union, called for a social contract that leads to development of all, and a democratic governance goal.

Discussion: Delegates highlighted that democratic governance and rule of law should be the backbone of the post-2015 agenda, welcomed multi-stakeholder approaches, especially the inclusion of parliamentarians, and drew attention to means of implementation.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3307e.html>

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE – “WEAVING REGIONAL REALITIES AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES INTO THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”: On Monday afternoon, 7 July, ECOSOC Vice President Oh opened the dialogue, which was moderated by Juan Somavía, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Adviser on Interregional Policy Coordination.

Olga Marta Sánchez Oviedo, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, Costa Rica, highlighted increasing inequality and vulnerability to climate change, and the need for a new global alliance to achieve sustainable development. Shamshad Akhtar, ESCAP, identified regional priorities to complement universal goals, such as population dynamics and natural disasters; and the importance of long-term planning, policy coordination, and the private sector.

Marcin Korolec, Special Envoy for Climate Change, Poland, supported, *inter alia*, addressing SCP in line with the 10YFP, and engaging city leaders to tackle climate change. Anthony Mothae Maruping, Commissioner for Economic Affairs, African Union Commission, described alignment between the Common African Position on the post-2015 agenda, Africa’s Agenda 2063, and the SDG process.

The dialogue included four lead discussants. Sihakak Phuangketkeow, Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Thailand, called for addressing the development gap in the Asia-Pacific region by enhancing development cooperation, and increasing means of implementation. Shahidul Haque, Foreign Secretary, Bangladesh, proposed a hybrid regional organization to manage the implementation of the SDGs. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, urged addressing inequalities and peace and security. Gigi Francisco, DAWN, on behalf of Women, called for, *inter alia*: corporate accountability to share risks and returns of public-private partnerships; and implementation of commitments on women’s rights.

Discussion: Delegates recommended a prominent role for regional commissions in the post-2015 agenda; and supported the integration of regional concerns into the global agenda even if it led to a greater number of targets. In conclusion, Somavía highlighted the UN’s “enormous installed capacity” at the regional level.

A more detailed account of this session is available here: at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3307e.html>

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY: This session took place on Tuesday morning, 8 July. ECOSOC President Sajdik opened the session. Oyun Sangaasuren, Minister for Environment and Green Development, Mongolia, and UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) President, reported on the first session of the UNEA, held in late June 2014, emphasizing high-level discussions on: the SDGs and the post-2015 agenda, including SCP; and illegal trade in wildlife. She highlighted the adoption of a Ministerial Outcome Document.

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE – “LONG TERM MEASURES TO MAKE POVERTY ERADICATION IRREVERSIBLE AND REDUCE INEQUALITIES”: This dialogue took place on Tuesday morning, 8 July. ECOSOC President Sajdik encouraged panelists to reflect on: long-term trends that have had the greatest impact on poverty and equality; successful strategies to reconcile the imperatives of eradicating poverty, reducing inequality, strengthening resilience, and preserving natural resources; and policies that can ensure sustainability of intergenerational gains.

Five panelists participated in this dialogue. María Ángela Holguín, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Colombia, identified poverty eradication, reducing inequality, and changing consumption and production patterns as challenges to sustainable development. On the post-2015 agenda, she prioritized strengthening capacities in countries in special situations, promoting quality education, and incorporating SCP into sustainable development.

Sophie Karmasin, Federal Minister for Family and Youth, Austria, called for placing children at the heart of the post-2015 agenda and highlighted actions in her country to strengthen children’s rights and mainstream these rights in planning processes.

Bathabile Dlamini, Minister of Social Development, South Africa, said the right to development is critical for building more sustainable societies, and shared her country’s actions to address childhood poverty.

Aida Kurmangaliyeva, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population, Kazakhstan, called for a poverty eradication roadmap that includes: productive employment; a stable society sustained by a middle class; access to services; and rural development.

Yong Li, Director-General, UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), highlighted the role of inclusive and sustainable industrial development in eradicating poverty, given its role in reducing inequality and ensuring environmental sustainability.

Two lead discussants made remarks. Paola Bustamante, Minister for Social Inclusion, Peru, highlighted efforts to provide basic services such as health and education to women and youth, and progress on poverty reduction by increasing exports and engaging the private sector. Jim Clarken, Executive Director, Oxfam, highlighted the twin challenges of rising inequality and climate change in reducing poverty.

Discussion: NGOs said control over and access to natural resources is critical for eradicating poverty and reducing inequality. China supported UNIDO’s promotion of inclusive industrial development as well as inclusive social policies and complete health and social protection.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3308e.html>.

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE – “INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”: This dialogue took place on Tuesday morning, 8 July. ECOSOC Vice President Dabbashi opened the session and Saber Chowdhury, Member of Parliament, Bangladesh, moderated.

Four panelists participated in this dialogue. Fulbert Macaire Amoussouga Gero, Minister of MDGs Policies and Sustainable Development, Benin, stressed that cooperation must be inclusive, based on a shared vision, mutually beneficial, and avoid a donor-recipient relationship.

Børge Brende, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway, called for the SDGs to address climate change, biodiversity loss, water and sanitation, education, health, and renewable energy, and noted the need for finance to meet these goals.

Han Seung-soo, UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy on Disaster Risk Reduction and Water, recommended a dedicated water SDG with three priorities: universal access to sustainable sanitation and drinking water; strengthened wastewater management; and improved integrated water resources management.

Describing the next 18 months as the most crucial period of global negotiations for the planet's future, Jeffrey Sachs, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the MDGs, highlighted five key building blocks: the SDGs; a comprehensive climate agreement; MOI; data, monitoring and updating; and governance and accountability.

Hiroshi Imanaga, Deputy Mayor of Kitakyushu, Japan, said local governments can contribute to sustainable cities through intercity cooperation and partnerships.

Two lead discussants participated in this dialogue. Pekka Haavisto, Minister for International Development, Finland, highlighted taxation as a source of finance, including the role of matching funds. Emilia Pires, Minister of Finance, Timor-Leste, called for greater trust and more efficient use of resources.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3308e.html>

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE “MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS AND VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT – ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ALL”: This dialogue took place on Tuesday evening, 8 July. ECOSOC Vice President Mejía chaired this session and Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director, UN Population Fund, moderated.

Juan Carlos Lastiri Quirós, Ministry of Social Development, Mexico, highlighted contracts with civil society aimed at achieving the MDGs.

Dagfinn Høybråten, Chair of the Board, GAVI Alliance, shared lessons on leveraging the comparative advantage of partners and creating innovative partnerships and mechanisms to mobilize resources.

Danny Sriskandarajah, CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation, urged the creation of a set of clear, fair, transparent norms and practices to govern stakeholder partnerships.

Petra Bayr, Member of Parliament, Austria, said a robust framework is needed for the private sector to play a defined role in achieving the post-2015 agenda beyond the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, and recommended core standards, including regulations in the interest of people rather than transnational corporations and binding rules under international law.

Three lead discussants participated in this dialogue. Gunnar Bragi Sveinsson, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Iceland, said Iceland's experience shows that partnerships must be inclusive, progressive, and dynamic to be successful. Amb. Pio Wennubst, Switzerland, said partnerships should: draw upon knowledge from multiple actors; avoid silo effects; and be innovative and forward-looking. Myrna Cunningham, former Chair of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, also for the Indigenous Peoples Major Group, outlined preconditions for establishing trust in partnerships with indigenous peoples, including: ensuring indigenous peoples' rights to land and natural resources; and measures based on a human-rights approach. She recommended a specific section on indigenous peoples in the MDG Report.

Discussion: Participants called for an inclusive, bottom-up approach to partnerships and a conscious, visible approach to include marginalized groups.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3308e.html>

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE “PREPARING THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM FOR POST 2015: STEERING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA AND REVIEWING PROGRESS”: This dialogue took place on Tuesday evening, 8 July. Opening the dialogue, ECOSOC President Sajdik emphasized the need to focus on action and implementation. Moderator Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, asked participants to address ways for the HLPF to: review implementation and progress towards future SDGs; and promote integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development.

Rémi Allah Kouadio, Minister for the Environment, Sustainable Cities, and Sustainable Development, Côte d'Ivoire, described national efforts to implement sustainable development, underlining the importance of technology, financial resources, partnerships, and regional approaches. He urged stronger political will to ensure the HLPF leads to sustainable development, noting the experiences from AIDS and polio show what is possible when political will is mobilized.

Attila Korodi, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Romania, said the Forum could serve as a locus for accountability and provide policy direction to ensure consistency between various organizations.

Shinji Inoue, Senior Vice Minister of the Environment, Japan, underscored the importance of monitoring mechanisms with contributions from a wide range of stakeholders.

Joseph Moser, Secretary-General, International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, described the role of audit institutions in creating accountability at the international and national levels, including their potential role in SDG review mechanisms.

Lead discussant Erik Solheim, Chair, OECD Development Assistance Committee, said the HLPF should be a forum that “digs into” the success stories of government, civil society and business, underlining the existence of hidden success stories. He recommended peer learning and coalitions for action.

Discussion: Participants discussed the importance of a robust, inclusive review mechanism to monitor and evaluate progress and encourage best practices. Some suggested a secretariat to support the HLPF.

A more detailed account of this session is available at <http://www.iisd.ca/vol33/enb3308e.html>.

REMARKS BY A KEYNOTE SPEAKER: On Wednesday morning, 9 July, Li Pengde, Deputy Administrator, National Administration of Surveying, Mapping and Geoinformation, China, gave a keynote speech. He presented China's experience with geospatial planning for sustainable development and said China's Global Land 30, a global land cover mapping initiative, will be a major source of data to support the post-2015 development agenda. He called for, *inter alia*, a global geographic census for new data to support sustainable development.

KEY MESSAGES FROM THE PROTOTYPE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT: On Wednesday morning, 9 July, Under-Secretary-General Wu delivered key messages from the prototype GSDR. He highlighted the potential consequences of inaction, including a more crowded world with widespread poverty, and the potential results of achieving sustainable development by 2050. Noting that the GSDR sketches pathways towards a more sustainable world and decent quality life for all, Wu highlighted the importance of technology transfer, finance, and capacity building. Stressing country-led approaches, Wu proposed a transparent and inclusive process to facilitate the participation of scientists from around the world in providing input to the GSDR.

MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE – “CHARTING PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE WE WANT”: Opening the session on Wednesday morning, ECOSOC President Sajdik introduced two questions related to a sustainable future: what is the cost of inaction and what does science tell us about the best policy choices.

Moderator Romain Murenzi, Executive Director, The World Academy of Sciences, highlighted the role of science in dealing with the challenges of a sustainable future, and called on participants to further address how to: build scientific capacity to address these challenges; allow local communities to develop their own solutions; advance the cause of “science for all;” and promote working relationships between scientists, policy makers, and other stakeholders.

Elba Viviana Caro Hinojosa, Minister of Development Planning, Bolivia, called for including Mother Nature as a principal development actor, and underlined the importance of science and technology in promoting sustainable development.

Rita Schwarzelühr-Sutter, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany, underscored the HLPF's role in reviewing collective progress towards an ambitious post-2015 agenda and said a comprehensive GSDR with input from eminent scientists will be key in bringing the HLPF's attention to challenges that are not known today. On the role of governments in bringing about economic transformation, she said it is

critical to, *inter alia*: identify and promote drivers for inclusive, sustainable economic growth; create decent green jobs; respect the Earth's carrying capacity; and use SCP approaches.

Vesna Batistić Kos, Assistant Minister, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Croatia, provided examples illustrating the high cost of inaction, calling for work on prevention and resilience building. She shared key messages from an expert group meeting on the science-policy interface, which resulted in the Dubrovnik Declaration, including on the need to create integrated, inter-disciplinary sustainable development programmes, improve the science-policy interface and support and strengthen inter-ministerial policy coordination for sustainable development.

Three lead discussants participated in this dialogue. Lamenting that only a third of all scientists are women, and that only 0.5% of scientists are from LDCs, Irina Bokova, Director-General, UNESCO, stressed that basic sciences and applied sciences complement each other; science crosses borders and can help lay a foundation for a more sustainable world; science is significant for poverty eradication; and science is a public good and should be considered as such at the national and international levels.

Noting that inclusive sustainable development means eradication of discrimination, including legal discrimination, Irene Khan, Director-General of the International Development Law Organization, called for a level playing field to achieve sustainable development by abolishing all forms of discrimination, ensuring rule of law and access to justice and information for all, and investing in capacity development at institutional and individual levels.

Rolf-Dieter Heuer, Director General, European Organization for Nuclear Research, said the SDGs are useless if not built on a firm scientific and people-centered basis. He urged countries to commit a percentage of GDP to invest in science and scientific education, including possible modulation between developing and developed countries, noting that investments in basic science should be clearly identifiable and directly measurable.

Discussion: Zambia said the cost of inaction is immense. Workers and Trade Unions noted that the path to sustainable development is paved with difficulties but should not preclude a better future.

Hinojosa, supported by Schwarzelühr-Sutter, said the SDGs are unlikely to succeed without solid, measurable indicators, and stressed the importance of property rights. Kos highlighted: access to scarce resources; inequalities, rights-based approaches; and the role of women in science. Bokova called for science, technology, and innovation to be firmly anchored in the post-2015 agenda. Khan emphasized the rule of law in creating access to the benefits of science. Heuer emphasized partnerships between NGOs and academia in early introduction of science to children.

Moderator Murenzi closed the discussion, highlighting the importance of science in promoting critical thinking and changing the way we do business.

CLOSING SESSION

ECOSOC President Sajdik opened the closing session of HLPF-2 on Wednesday, 9 July, thanking all panelists, discussants, and moderators for their participation. He introduced the draft ministerial declaration, as contained in an informal paper circulated in the conference room, informing delegates that the Secretariat will finalize the document.

Delegates adopted the draft Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF convened under the auspices of the Council, entitled “Achieving the Millennium Development Goals and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 agenda, including the sustainable development goals.” The Declaration, *inter alia*:

- calls for the urgent implementation of all commitments under the global partnership for development, to overcome gaps identified in the MDGs Gap Task Force reports;
- emphasizes the need to accelerate progress towards the target of 0.7% of gross national income as ODA by 2015, including 0.15% to 0.20% for LDCs, and also calls upon developed countries to urgently fulfill this ODA commitment;
- commits to establishing a strong, ambitious, inclusive, and people-centered post-2015 agenda that will build on the foundations laid and experiences gained by the MDGs, complete the unfinished business of the MDGs, and respond to new challenges;
- reaffirms all principles of the Rio Declaration, including, *inter alia*, CBDR;
- underlines the need for a coherent approach in the post-2015 agenda that integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development in a balanced manner, and involves working towards a single framework and set of goals, universal in nature and applicable to all countries, while taking account of differing national circumstances and respecting national policies and priorities;
- reaffirms that poverty eradication shall be central to the post-2015 agenda;
- reaffirms the need to achieve sustainable development by, *inter alia*: promoting sustained, inclusive, and equitable economic growth; reducing inequalities; raising basic living standards; fostering equitable social development and inclusion; and promoting the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems;
- stresses the importance of economic growth, and social and economic inclusion, in the context of poverty eradication and sustainable development;
- calls for a transparent intergovernmental process that will include inputs from all stakeholders;
- resolves to strengthen the science-policy interface, including, *inter alia*, through a GSDR;
- reiterates that the HLPF under ECOSOC will conduct regular, voluntary and state-led reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda; and
- recognizes the vital role that science, technology, and innovation, including the transfer and diffusion of

environmentally-sound technologies on mutually agreed terms, can play in achieving poverty eradication and sustainable development and in supporting efforts to address global challenges.

ECOSOC President Sajdik then turned to themes for 2015 and 2016. Delegates adopted the proposed HLPF theme for 2015, “Strengthening integration, implementation and review – the HLPF after 2015,” without amendment. Delegates then adopted the draft report (E/HLPF/2014/L.2).

ECOSOC President Sajdik concluded the meeting by highlighting calls from Member States for the HLPF to be a strong platform for review of the post-2015 development agenda, noting the role of national governments in promoting sustainable development. He closed HLPF-2 at 1:41 pm.

A BRIEF ANALYSIS OF HLPF-2

“It seems very pretty,” she said when she had finished it, “but it’s rather hard to understand! (You see she didn’t like to confess, even to herself, that she couldn’t make it out at all.) Somehow it seems to fill my head with ideas, only I don’t exactly know what they are!”

- *Through the Looking Glass, and What Alice Found There*
Lewis Carroll

Still in relative infancy, the HLPF has the potential to lead the international community into a future that has mostly existed in the world of idealistic fantasy so far, glimpsed occasionally through the looking glass. If all goes according to plan, the Forum could play a lead role in truly integrating the social, environmental, and economic dimensions of sustainable development within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, including the SDGs.

It was perhaps the expectation of all the good things that lie beyond, combined with the uncertainties and lack of understanding that characterize any new institution, that resulted in a somewhat “underwhelming” meeting. While delegates were mostly in a “wait and see” mode, it was apparent that lack of understanding of procedures, practices and accessibility of this new Forum confused and frustrated government delegates, representatives of UN agencies and intergovernmental organizations and Major Groups alike.

Will the HLPF eventually live up to expectations? It is hard to tell at this early stage, especially since the ultimate work and nature of the Forum will not really be clarified until the post-2015 development agenda is adopted. This brief analysis will look at some of the issues that emerged at HLPF-2 and the challenge of translating its potential into action.

IS THE HLPF HIGH ENOUGH?

“The question is,” said Alice, “whether you can make words mean so many different things.”

“The question is, said Humpty Dumpty, “which is to be master—that’s all.”

Situated between the UNGA and ECOSOC, the HLPF is placed in a position to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development. Its architects

deliberately chose to elevate it from the CSD's position as an ECOSOC functional commission to this hybrid structure that would have universal membership and a mandate to promote system-wide coherence and coordination of sustainable development policies. The HLPF is supposed to meet every year under the auspices of ECOSOC and every four years at the highest political level under the UNGA. This unique structure was expected to provide continued momentum in monitoring progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, while attracting the attention of Heads of State, UN agencies, Bretton Woods institutions, and other relevant international organizations.

HLPF-1, under UNGA, did attract this high-level participation, and was attended by Heads of State and leaders of international economic institutions, including the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. At HLPF-2, under ECOSOC, there were ministers of development, planning, foreign affairs, gender, children and social protection present. It should be noted that HLPF-2 preceded the Development Cooperation Forum, which was also part of the same High-level Segment of ECOSOC. Compared to the CSD, this sequencing could prove an advantage in attracting high-level participation from ministries other than environment, and aiding more balanced participation.

Discussions on system-wide coherence and coordination did take place, but participants questioned whether the HLPF would "integrate" or "orchestrate," pointing to the differences between the meanings of the two words. "Orchestrating" an unwieldy sustainable development agenda is unlikely to be as effective as "integrating" it—the latter would encompass both, bringing about effective and meaningful collaboration as well as cutting out duplication. The ability to do the latter, in particular, could be a real test of the HLPF's status.

IS THE HLPF DIFFERENT ENOUGH?

"Well, in our country," said Alice, still panting a little, "you'd generally get to somewhere else—if you run very fast for a long time, as we've been doing." "A slow sort of country!" said the Queen. "Now, here, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!"

UNGA resolution 67/290, which established the organizational modalities of the HLPF after Rio+20, was widely seen as an agreement that built on the twenty years of experience of the CSD, and addressed many of its identified weaknesses. But, as HLPF-2 demonstrated, it is often difficult to change pace, despite good intentions.

As noted above, the low level of political attention received by the CSD was addressed through according a higher status to the HLPF. To improve on CSD's inability to address new and emerging issues as a result of an inflexible agenda, the HLPF was given more flexibility in agenda-setting so as to be "a dynamic platform for regular dialogue and for stocktaking and agenda-setting to advance sustainable development."

Many concerns were raised regarding the CSD review process. While some complained about the lack of tight reporting requirements, developing countries, in particular, pleaded paucity

of data and the lack of capacity to assemble information. Others noted that the lack of systematic monitoring and interaction between national and international levels hampered assessments of how effective national sustainable development strategies and indicators are in supporting the implementation of agreements on sustainable development. Some observers also argued that the CSD had difficulty monitoring implementation of its own decisions. UN programmes and agencies rarely sought guidance from the CSD or drew inspiration from its work, and the links between the CSD and the operating entities under the UN system remained tenuous to the end.

With this in mind, the HLPF was given the GSDR to help with its reviews, monitor progress towards sustainable development, and make mid-course adjustments. The HLPF is supposed to start conducting regular reviews beginning in 2016. As these reviews are to be done within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, it is expected that a wider range of actors, particularly from economic and social institutions, will be involved. However, as the regular reviews will retain their voluntary nature, and there is still lack of clarity on reporting requirements, much work remains to be done for an effective accountability system to take root under the HLPF. Several delegates underlined this point during the multistakeholder dialogue on accountability, when it was recognized that political will will eventually determine the success or failure of the HLPF.

However, the idea of adding yet another sustainable development report to the existing landscape of reports on related subjects, like UNEP's *Global Environment Outlook* and the IPCC's climate change assessment reports, was seen as somewhat contradictory to the stated aims of coherence and integration, particularly when many did not see the value added of the GSDR. Many participants felt that a critical next step will be for the HLPF to strengthen the connections between national level reviews, the GSDR, and review of sustainable development commitments by the broader international community. In the context of the national level reviews, one delegate noted that involving stakeholders at the national level in the preparation for national reports could also improve accountability.

On the other hand, the CSD's stakeholder engagement was seen as a key legacy, and the HLPF was asked to adopt and build on it. However, Major Groups seemed to think that they were losing ground, instead of moving towards the promises made in resolution 67/290, which called for strengthening and improving on the CSD model. Under the resolution, Major Groups are allowed to attend all official meetings of the forum; have access to all official information and documents; intervene in official meetings; submit documents and present written and oral contributions; and make recommendations. However, at HLPF-2, Major Groups found that the two full days of stakeholder dialogue during the CSD were cut down to brief sessions every morning at the HLPF, and they were not given sufficient access to the discussions on the Ministerial Declaration, which were taking place in parallel to the HLPF. They also expressed concern that funds for stakeholder participation were under threat. As one lead discussant said, implementing sustainable development will need stronger and deeper ties with civil

society, going well beyond participation in HLPF meetings, to participation in implementation at the national level. A Major Group representative noted that having to fight to regain lost ground could waste valuable time.

So, is the Forum different enough to be more effective? Some participants noted that this may not yet be the case. For example, the organization of the session around a series of dialogues and panels gave occasion for some participants to use the dreaded epithet “talk shop,” which eventually became the CSD’s epitaph. But even the worst critics were willing to be indulgent this early in the process, and say that this could change once the HLPF has an actual post-2015 development agenda to define its work.

The ability of the HLPF to be more than just “an expensive side-event,” as one participant called it, was put to the test by the G-77/China. Some countries within the Group circulated a draft decision, arguing that the HLPF can take decisions on its own as the rules of procedure allow functional commissions (paragraph 9 of 67/290) under ECOSOC to take their own decisions. They therefore asked for a decision to be adopted regarding the GSDR. Other delegations disagreed, however, saying that the HLPF should forward issues to ECOSOC or the UNGA for consideration, or should simply adopt ministerial declarations, as called for in paragraph 7(g) of 67/290 (which does not call for decisions). The G-77/China eventually withdrew their draft decision amidst internal disagreement over how to move forward on the GSDR on the final day of the meeting. It is not yet clear whether this conclusively indicates that the HLPF will not take decisions anytime in the future, and only adopt Ministerial Declarations.

IS THE HLPF STRUCTURE STRONG ENOUGH?

“And what does it live on?”

“Weak tea with cream in it.”

A new difficulty came into Alice’s head, “Supposing it couldn’t find any?” she suggested.

“Then it would die, of course.”

The HLPF has an enormous task ahead of it, if it is to do all that it has been asked to do. One area of concern, raised by several participants at HLPF-2, is the level of institutional support. While resolution 67/290 says that the Forum will be supported by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) of the Secretariat, it is not yet clear if DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development or DESA’s Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination or a new division will provide the necessary support for the HLPF’s work. Without clarity on the level of Secretariat support to carry out its mandate, some expressed fear that the Forum could be “smothered” under ECOSOC’s and the UNGA’s already loaded agendas. Furthermore, asking the HLPF to do more than the CSD with less than the CSD had, did not strike many participants as an effective business plan, as they called for the Forum to be adequately resourced.

The HLPF does not have much time to get its institutional bearings in place. It is scheduled to begin its review of sustainable development commitments and objectives in 2016. At the same time, the post-2015 development agenda will enter

its implementation phase, demanding the HLPF’s attention. In 2015, it will be critical to gain clarity on how the support system for the HLPF can be bolstered.

Without greater clarity on its level of participation, the role of stakeholders, its review process, its ability to address new and emerging issues, its decision-making modalities, and its institutional support, the HLPF may not be able to live up to expectations, run fast enough to stand still, or escape the epithet of a Forum where they “*talk of many things: of shoes, and ships, and sealing-wax; Of cabbages, and kings; And why the sea is boiling hot; And whether pigs have wings.*”

UPCOMING MEETINGS

OWG-13: The OWG will conclude its consideration of sustainable development goals, targets and indicators. **dates:** 14-18 July 2014 **location:** UN Headquarters, New York **contact:** UN Division for Sustainable Development **phone:** +1-212-963-8102 **fax:** +1-212-963-4260 **email:** dsd@un.org **www:** <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg13.html>

E-Discussion on Building Trust through Enhanced Transparency and Accountability: This online consultation will discuss best practices for companies in measuring their contribution to advancing global sustainability goals, including tools and resources needed to advance standard measurement practices. UNIDO and the UN Global Compact serve as the co-leaders of this consultation. **twitter:** #privatesector2015. **dates:** 14-21 July 2014 **location:** virtual **contact:** Ulla Heher, UNIDO or Kari Pedersen, UN Global Compact **email:** u.heher@unido.org **www:** <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/427654>

UNGA Dialogue 4 on Technology Transfer Mechanism: In General Assembly Resolution 68/210, UN Member States decided to hold a series of four, one-day structured dialogues to consider possible arrangements for a facilitation mechanism to promote the development, transfer and dissemination of clean and environmentally sound technologies. **date:** 23 July 2014 **location:** UN Headquarters, New York **contact:** UN Division for Sustainable Development **email:** dsd@un.org **www:** <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&nr=702&type=13&menu=1822>

Fifth Session of Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing: The fifth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing is scheduled in August 2014. **dates:** 4-8 August 2014 **location:** UN Headquarters, New York **contact:** UN Division for Sustainable Development **fax:** +1-212-963-4260 **email:** dsd@un.org **www:** <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1688>

Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum for Third International Conference on SIDS: The Division of Sustainable Development (DSD) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) is organizing this Forum in collaboration with an 18-member steering committee representing the nine Major Groups, and the Caribbean, Pacific and AIMS (Africa, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea) regions. **date:** 28 August 2014 **location:** Apia, Samoa **contact:** Hiroko Morita-Lou, SIDS Unit, UN Division

for Sustainable Development **email:** morita-lou@un.org **www:** <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=1545> and <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=14>

Third UN Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS): The Third UN Conference on SIDS will focus on the theme “Sustainable Development of SIDS through Genuine and Durable Partnerships.” **dates:** 1-4 September 2014 **location:** Apia, Samoa **contact:** Hiroko Morita-Lou, SIDS Unit, UN Division for Sustainable Development **email:** morita-lou@un.org **www:** <http://www.sids2014.org/index.php?menu=32>

UNGA Stock-Taking Exercise on the Post-2015 Development Agenda: The President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), John Ashe, will convene this stock-taking exercise to pull together events on the post-2015 development agenda. **dates:** 8-9 September 2014 **location:** UN Headquarters, New York **contact:** Office of the President of the UNGA **www:** http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/pdf/statements/6102014HLE%20on%20HR%20and%20the%20RoL_closing_final.pdf

World Conference on Indigenous Peoples: The World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014 will be organized as a high-level plenary meeting of the 69th session of the UN General Assembly and supported by the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, to share perspectives and best practices on the realization of the rights of indigenous peoples and to pursue the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. **dates:** 22-23 September 2014 **location:** UN Headquarters, New York **contact:** Nilla Bernardi **phone:** +1 212-963-8379 **email:** bernardi@un.org **www:** <http://wcip2014.org/>

Special Session of the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Programme of Action of the ICPD: An eight-hour Special Session to Follow Up on the Programme of Action from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) is being organized to coincide with the high-level segment of the general debate at the UN General Assembly. **date:** 22 September 2014 **location:** UN Headquarters, New York **contact:** Mandy Kibel, UNFPA **phone:** +1-212-297-5293 **email:** kibel@unfpa.org **www:** <http://icpdbeyond2014.org/>

UN Climate Summit: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will convene the Summit with the aim of mobilizing political will for a universal and legally-binding comprehensive climate agreement in 2015. **date:** 23 September 2014 **location:** UN Headquarters, New York **www:** <http://www.un.org/climatechange/summit2014/>

World Conference on Education for Sustainable Development: The 2014 Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) World Conference will address, *inter alia*, how ESD can help move sustainable development policy and action forward to meet different global, regional, national, and local needs. **dates:** 10-12 November 2014 **location:** Nagoya, Aichi, Japan **contact:** Secretariat of the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development, UNESCO **phone:** +33-1-45-68-15-89 **fax:** +33-1-45-68-56-26 **email:** esddecade@unesco.org **www:** <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco-world-conference-on-esd-2014/>

Third International Conference on Financing for Development: The third International Conference on Financing for Development will be held in July 2015. **dates:** 13-16 July 2015 **location:** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia **contact:** UN Financing for Development Office **phone:** +1-212-963-8379 **fax:** +1-212-963-0443 **email:** ffdoffice@un.org **www:** www.un.org/esa/ffd

Third Meeting of the HLPF: The next meeting is scheduled to take place in conjunction with the 2015 substantive session of ECOSOC. The theme for the forum will be “Strengthening integration, implementation and review – the HLPF after 2015.” **dates:** July 2015 **location:** Geneva **contact:** UN Division for Sustainable Development **phone:** +1-212-963-8102 **fax:** +1-212-963-4260 **email:** dsd@un.org **www:** <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556>

For additional meetings, see <http://post2015.iisd.org/>

GLOSSARY

10YFP	10-Year Framework of Programmes on SCP
CBDR	Common but differentiated responsibilities
CSD	UN Commission on Sustainable Development
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSDR	Global Sustainable Development Report
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
LLDCs	Land-locked Developing Countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICs	Middle income countries
MOI	Means of implementation
NCA	Natural Capital Accounting
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OWG	Open Working Group
Rio+20	UN Conference on Sustainable Development
SCP	Sustainable consumption and production
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small island developing states
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNGA	UN General Assembly
UNIDO	UN Industrial Development Organization
WRI	World Resources Institute