Updates on ESCWA SDGs Process

“Building a Transformative Approach for the SDGs that Works for the Arab Region”
SDGs – global processes and the need for a transformative agenda
### Key Global Processes on SDGs and Post-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process</th>
<th>Description</th>
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| **OWG - Open Working Group on SDGs** | - prepare SDGs proposal September 2014  
- adopted at global summit in 2015  
- 70 Members on 30 seats: 6 Arab Countries-Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, UAE |
| **HLP - High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda** | - advise on a bold but practical development agenda beyond 2015  
- report to SG in May 2013 proposes 12 goals |
| **UNTT – UN Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda** | - coordinate UN System efforts  
- peace and security as 4th pillar  
- UNTST – UN Technical Support Team on SDGs: issues briefs |
| **SDSN – Sustainable Development Solutions Network** | - help find solutions for pressing environmental, social and economic problems  
- a proposal for 10 goals |
| **HLPF – High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development** | - to follow up and review progress on the SDGs  
- First inaugural meeting September 2013  
- Meeting in July 2014 |
## SDGs: Issues of convergence

### Rio+20 outcome document
- Maintain commitment to full and timely achievement of MDGs
- Respect Rio principles and international law
- Address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages
- SDG implementation driven by Governments
- Action oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational
- Global in nature and universally applicable to all countries
- Take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respect national policies and priorities

### Progress report of OWG (at its first four sessions)
- Single post-2015 UN development framework containing a single set of goals
- SDG proposal to be accompanied by a vision and narrative that frames and motivates the selection of the proposed goals: transformative change needed
- Basic principles: Human dignity, protecting the plant and harmony with nature, well-being of current and future generations
- Focus not merely on desirable outcomes but also on key drivers of sustainable development
- Maintain poverty as an overarching goal
- Substantially strengthened global partnership + targeted multi-stakeholder partnerships for specific goals
- Develop national data collection and statistical capacities
### Positions of selected country groups

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<tr>
<th>Group of 77</th>
<th>European Union</th>
<th>African Group</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Each goal to be linked to its needed MoI</td>
<td>• Decent work &amp; social protection</td>
<td>• Maintain commitment to MDGs</td>
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<tr>
<td>• CBDR</td>
<td>• Governance</td>
<td>• Employment (especially youth)</td>
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<td>• Maintain commitment to MDG8 targets</td>
<td>• Gender equality</td>
<td>• Economic diversification away from primary commodities</td>
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<td>• Reform global financial institutions, allow greater participation by developing countries</td>
<td>• Quality of education</td>
<td>• Social protection</td>
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<td>• Goals related to employment + reducing inequality between countries</td>
<td>• R and D (including in agriculture)</td>
<td>• Protecting culture diversity</td>
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<td>• Removal of agricultural subsidies</td>
<td>• Food consumption &amp; waste</td>
<td>• A goal on water with targets on access, quality, investment, and others.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Relationship between land, food and energy</td>
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<td>Positions of Arab countries</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Egypt</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Combating poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Quality of growth</td>
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<tr>
<td>• CBDR</td>
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<tr>
<td>• MoI in each goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Commitment to MDGs</td>
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<td>• Flexibility in implementation &amp; adaptation to national circumstances</td>
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<td>• Integration of SD pillars within each goal</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tunisia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Global partnership &amp; MoI</td>
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<tr>
<td>• A goal on employment, with linkage to reform of global economic &amp; financial systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Protection against economic shocks</td>
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<td>• Flexible policy space</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saudi Arabia</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Universal goals</td>
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<td>• Poverty as overarching goals</td>
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<tr>
<td>• National differences</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Rio principles</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Trade system reform</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Promoting change in land &amp; resource management</td>
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<td>• Access to water &amp; sanitation</td>
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<td>• SCP</td>
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<td><strong>Palestine</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Goal on water as a human right</td>
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<td>• Condemn occupation and promote equity in access to water</td>
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<td>• Sovereignty over natural resources</td>
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Arab Regional Consultative Dialogues on the SDGs
ESCWA Mandate

- **Global mandate**: RCs to hold Annual Regional Forums on Sustainable Development to prepare for the HLPF meetings
  - Strengthened by a regional mandate by LAS/CAMRE to ESCWA & UNEP to organize a high level Arab intergovernmental meeting to discuss SD and Arab preparations UN ECOSOC session in summer of 2014

- **Regional mandate**: ESCWA & UNEP to support LAS/CAMRE in developing the Arab Strategic Framework for Sustainable Development (the updated Sustainable Development Initiative of the Arab Region) during 2014
  - To be submitted to Arab Summit in 2015
Arab Regional Consultative Dialogues on SDGs

SDGs Consultative Session during the Regional Rio +20 Implementation Meeting (5/2013, Dubai)

SDGs discussions during updating Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region (8/2013, Amman)

Consultations on development of Green Economy investment roadmap (a tool to implement SD programs in the region) (8/2013, Amman)

Arab Expert Consultation Meeting on SDGs (11/2013, Tunis)
Objective: A platform for deliberations on:

- Arab progress on MDGs
- Priorities for SDGs and post-2015
- Perspectives on conceptual issues

Based on ESCWA Discussion Paper

- Arab Principles & Priorities
- Key conceptual issues
  - Universality & national diversity
  - Integrating the three dimensions of SD
  - A new global partnership

Participants: 70 international & regional experts & practitioners (gov., civil society, researchers, UN....)
• For SDGs to work for the Arab region, they need to address regional priorities...
• Priorities and principles for SDGs for the Arab region highlighted through numerous processes, publications, consultations, etc.
SDGs for the Arab region should be underpinned by:

**Principles**

- **Peace and security**, ending occupation, national sovereignty over natural resources
- **Effective governance** (democracy, accountability, voice and participation, transparency, rule of law)
- **Sustainability and resilience** (Rio Principles including common but differentiated responsibilities, SCP, resource efficiency, future generations, & planetary boundaries)
- **Human rights** (freedom, justice, access, opportunity, equity, gender equality and women’s empowerment)
- **Integration** (balanced across the four dimensions of SD, measurable, clear, science-based)
Arab Region Priorities for SDGs

SDGs for the Arab region should be underpinned by:

- Governance
- Equitable growth and jobs
- Peace and security
- Poverty eradication
- Gender equality
- Food
- Energy
- Water
- Means of implementation
- Education
- Health
Discussions: SDGs that work for the Arab region

Universality & national diversity
- Learning from MDGs experience
- CBDR and the right to development
- Importance of national & regional priorities in shaping SDGs
- Adopting a human rights based approach to development
- SD narrowed to SDGs?

Integrating dimensions of SD
- Complexity of integration
- Peace & security: 4th pillar? goal? sustained conflicts!!
- Governance:
  - 4th dimension... enabler... principle.... or outcome?
  - at global..... regional.... national levels
  - separate goal.... integrated..... or MOI?
- Limited integration of human well being in environmental / sustainable development

A new global partnership
- global (corresponding regional and national) monitoring mechanisms (HLPF)
- MOIs as a goal: narrowed to SDGs implementation? Technology, Financing, Capacity building
- Private sector role in SDGs??
- Ensuring accountability!
- Arab financing facilities to support Arab integration
- Donor-recipient relationships
1. Where we are

Mapping and analysis of current situation (Progress in MDGs implementation)

2. Where we want to be

Inclusive and sustainable development for all in the Arab region

3. How to get there

A supportive regional environment
- SDGs that work for the Arab Region
- Regional institutional framework supportive of SD
- Regional integration and global partnerships
The way forward …

Discussion session during the meeting of the ESCWA Technical Committee (Amman, December 2013)

Updating of the ESCWA Discussion Paper (January 2014)

Preparation of an Arab SDG report: Submission to UN Secretariat (early 2014)

SDGs discussions during the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (early 2014) (Intergovernmental, preparatory for HLPF meeting)
Thank you

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