



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

13 July 2015

Excellency,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the summaries of the High-level segment of the Economic and Social Council and the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) convened under the auspices of the Council.

This was an important session of the Council which allowed us to take stock of the significance and impact of the Millennium Development Goals and to plan for how best to implement, communicate and review the ambitious and transformative post-2015 development agenda we will adopt in September 2015.

These summaries, which reflect the discussions of the HLPF, held from 26 June to 8



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President's Summaries

of the

High-level segment of the 2015 session
of the Economic and Social Council

and

High-level political forum on sustainable development
convened under the auspices of the Council

13 July 2015

Part I: Summary of the high-level political forum on sustainable development
“Strengthening integration, implementation and review: the HLPF after 2015”

In anticipation of the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda at the UN Summit in September 2015, the HLPF

course and promote non-discrimination and inclusivity. Marginalized and disadvantaged groups, including children, youth, the old, women, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and migrants, among others, need to be given adequate attention.

Implementation should learn from the lessons of the MDGs experience. There also needs to be transparency and accountability, an area in which the HLPF can play an important role. The HLPF should become a forum for sharing national experiences in SDG implementation.

Communication

Communication will be critical for successful implementation. The primary responsibility of communicating the post-2015 development agenda throughout the next 15 years lies with the governments of the member states. The Declaration on the agenda will play a key role in this regard and the messages Heads of State and Government agree on in September should be clear.

Once the SDGs are adopted in September, they must be communicated to inspire billions of people everywhere to take ownership and implement the agenda.

that will yield investment returns as well as ensure broad-based socio-economic benefits and engender

of the review process. The HLPF should become a place for dialogue between all countries and all stakeholders, including parliaments.

The HLPF can host presentations by States of their *national review* and implementation efforts. All countries should be able to report to the HLPF on their progress on all aspects of the post-2015 development agenda.

Science

Technology

Many said that technology could become a catalyst for achieving the SDGs. In order to promote the utilization and advancement of new technological solutions, appropriate policy frameworks need to be established. Many said that transfer of knowledge and technology, particularly for LDCs and Africa, are needed, including gender-sensitive and equitable technology.

Capacity-building, training and learning

To implement the SDGs, there will need to be a focus on building capacity in the developing world, in countries lagging behind in science, technology, statistics and many other areas. Education and awareness-raising are critical to enable ownership of the agenda and its implementation. Interdisciplinary and integrated approaches should be fostered, moving away from single disciplines. Evaluation of education systems should be further improved. Going forward, it is important to keep the learning and training issue on the agenda of the HLPF.

Integration

The SDGs are overlapping and cannot be achieved on a goal-by-goal basis. Synergies are important, as are trade-offs. Integrated policy making will be critical and requires taking into account interlinkages between various sectors from the policy formulation stage.

Integrated planning however remains a challenge. Ingredients of success for integrated approaches have been found to include: bold political leadership; adequate institutional

Part II: Summary of the Annual Ministerial Review of ECOSOC
“Managing the transition from the MDGs to the sustainable development goals: What it will take”

MDG Review

Concurrent with the final Annual Ministerial Review of the ECOSOC High-level Segment, the launch of the final Millennium Development Goals Report—an annual assessment of global and regional progress towards the Goals—highlighted the historic nature of the Goals, the most successful anti-poverty drive in history. The occasion also emphasized the importance of building on the growing momentum for the new sustainable development agenda to be adopted in September 2015.

The 2015 Report confirmed that the MDGs contributed to reducing poverty, empowering women and girls and improving health and well-being. However, in many countries economic growth was not sufficiently inclusive or equitable to reach the poorest. Conflicts remain the biggest threat to human development, with fragile and conflict-affected countries typically experiencing the highest poverty rates and levels of extreme deprivation. Particular attention must be paid to the needs of middle

and civil society, in ways that build trust and accountability for results. With Governments in the lead, all partners should be engaged in the critical work of building statistical capacity, reviewing progress, measuring results and adjusting for significant course correction.

Promoting local ownership of the SDGs, including by local government authorities, is critical to the attainment of their objectives. In particular, young people and citizens in general should be empowered to own the development agenda and be part of the change that is urgently required.