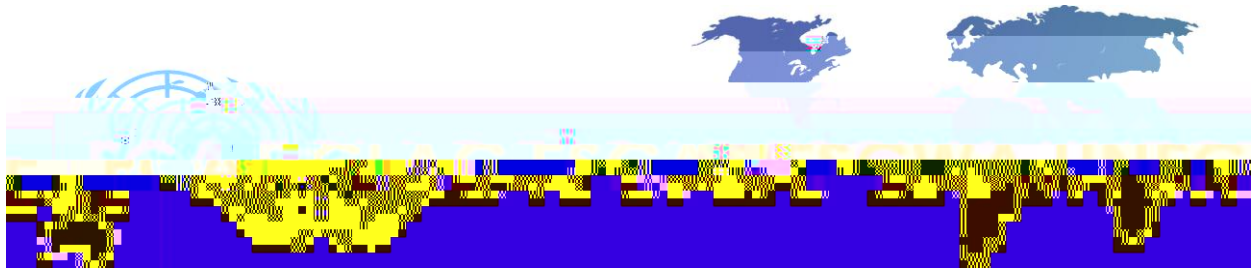


national and regional efforts to move forward with effective implementation and follow up and review of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, including the SDGs.

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Background

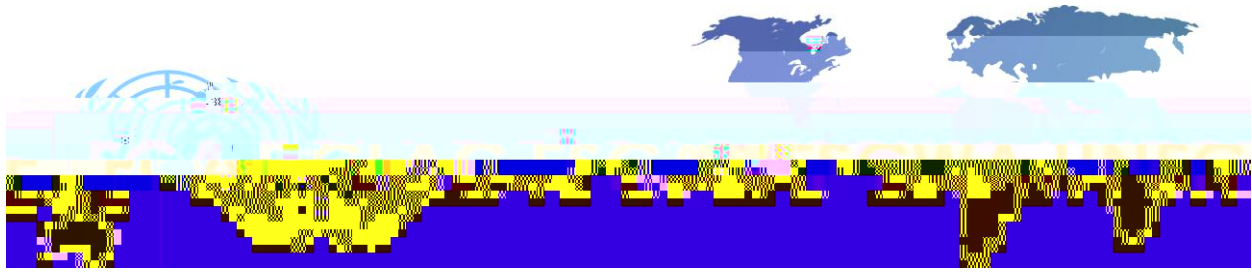
Although the era of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) reached its end in 2015, a number of the MDGs fell short of completion. A comprehensive analysis of the MDGs implementation conducted at both regional and global levels¹ demonstrated that although significant achievements have been made on many of the MDG targets worldwide, progress has been uneven across regions and countries. The MDGs agenda

In comparison with the MDGs, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represents a more robust and comprehensive approach to addressing challenges of sustainable development. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) allow for a broader consideration of the drivers of progress for particular goals and define spaces for wider policy intervention and the formulation of appropriate strategies. The 2030 Agenda includes a strong component on the follow-up and review, which is a prerequisite for more effective implementation. It recognizes the significance of the regional dimension of development and the important role of regional organizations and platform in the implementation, follow up and review.

The UN Regional Commissions² (RCs) provide an important inclusive platform to support their member States to translate global commitments into regional transformative strategies and agendas by driving the integration and inclusivity considerations in national policies, programmes and budgets, and by piloting the 2030 Agenda implementation. The functional structures of the RCs are well-suited to provide countries with integrated policy advice for sustainable development and enhance coherent, effective and efficient system-wide support. The Statistical Committees of the RCs offer a holistic institutional framework to steer the regional statistical agenda. The RCs continue also to provide analyses and policy advice for Member States on alternative and innovative sources of financing for the 2030 Agenda implementation; and promote partnership with other parts of the United Nations and other stakeholders.

As recognised in the 2030 Agenda, the RCs have a key role both in terms of implementation, follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda at the regional level given their universal coverage, convening power, intergovernmental nature and strength, and broad-based cross-sectoral mandate and expertise. They already convene the Regional Fora on Sustainable Development (RFSDs) in their respective regions,

¹ UN Millennium Development Goals Report (2015), http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/; ECA.2016. MDG Report 2015 - Assessing Progress in Africa toward the Millennium Development Goals, <http://www.uneca.org/publications/mdg-report-2015-assessing-progress-africa-toward-millennium-development-goals>; ESCAP.2015. Making it Happen in Technology, Finance and Statistics for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, <http://www.unescap.org/resources/making-it-happen-technology-finance-and-statistics-sustainable-development-asia-and>; ESCWA. 2016. Arab Sustainable Development Report, <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/arab-sustainable-development-report-2015>; ECLAC. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals: an opportunity for Latin America and Caribbean, <http://www.cepal.org/en/node/37170>; UNECE. 2016. Looking Back, Leaping Forward Moving from MDGs to SDGs in Europe and Central Asia, <http://w>



which are inclusive platforms involving member States, regional and international organisations and multiple stakeholders from civil society, private sector, local level and academia. They provide critical bridge in supporting implementation and follow up on the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs, between the