

Concept Note

The Means of Implementation in Support of the post-2015 Development Agenda: Regional Perspectives

Dialogue of the Executive Secretaries of the UN Regional Commissions
with the UNGA Second Committee

5 November 2014, New York

(Conference Room 2, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.)

Objective of the Dialogue

For Member States and other stakeholders to gain a better understanding of how the regional dimension can continue playing a critical role in catalyzing and mobilizing the means of implementation for the achievement of the post-2015 development agenda.

Expected Outputs

Member States and other stakeholders will have a better appreciation of the growing role of regionalism as a strong driver for development and its contributions to bolstering countries' own capabilities and policy space for the achievement of the post-2015 development agenda.

The dialogue will demonstrate through specific examples:

1. The successful mobilization of the means of implementation through regional cooperation, initiatives and mechanisms on financial resources, technology transfer, capacity-building, trade, economic integration and policy coherence.
2. The role of the UN Regional Commissions in supporting regional and inter-regional efforts to catalyse and mobilize the means of implementation for the achievement of the post-2015 development agenda.

Background

In the Stocktaking High-level Event on the post-2015 Development Agenda which was convened by the President of the General Assembly on 11 and 12 September 2014 in New York, Member States acknowledged that the shaping of a visionary, transformative, ambitious, achievable, monitorable and accountable post-2015 development agenda should reflect the results of all processes that originated from Rio+20, namely, the Report of the Open Working Group on the SDGs (OWG), the report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Financing (ICESF) and the summary of the GA structured dialogues on a technology facilitation mechanism. Inputs from other intergovernmental processes, such as the upcoming Third International Conference on Financing for Development, taking place on 3 July 2014 in Addis Ababa, would also be important.

During the Stocktaking event the means of implementation were underlined by many as a critical element for implementation of the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda. The discussion also reiterated that a renewed global partnership should reflect the new agenda and serve as an effective channel for the means of implementation. The OWG outcome document reflects agreements on each of the topics taken individually and also, together, as a whole. Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG-17) was particularly dedicated to the means of implementation and includes the following aspects: finance, technology, capacity-building, trade, as well as systemic issues, including policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, data, monitoring and accountability. In addition to SDG 17, goal-specific means of implementation, also known as “enablers”, were included under each goal.

While the OWG’s outcome document on the SDGs is but a component of the broader post-2015 development agenda, there is a broad recognition that the means of implementation are going to be a critical aspect to both. At issue is the following question: how are the resources and the capacities needed for the implementation of such an ambitious and transformative agenda be mobilized? For example, it is estimated that US \$ 360 billion will be required by 2040 to address major infrastructure needs in Africa. This means that countries will have to tap into a broad range of resources, public and private, national and international to secure the means of implementation for the achievement of the post-2015 development agenda.

The regional dimension

Member States have continued to acknowledge the relevance and importance of the regional dimension for the achievement of sustainable development in paragraphs 100 to 103 the outcome document of Rio +20. They recognized that regional frameworks can complement and facilitate effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at the national level.

While there are some references to the regional dimension in the outcome document of the OWG on the SDGs, the potential of this dimension is broader and deeper than currently reflected, particularly with regards to facilitating and mobilizing the means of implementation and towards helping to consolidate a global partnership for development. Obtaining a better understanding of the contribution and potential of the regional dimension is key in this regard.

Guiding questions for the dialogue with Member States

1. How have existing regional and subregional institutions and mechanisms effectively contributed to making the different means of implementation available and more easily accessible to countries? In this context, what specific examples of facilitative mechanisms for financing, transfer of technology, capacity-building, trade and economic integration are effectively functioning in regions and sub-regions?
2. How can countries strengthen their respective capabilities through regional initiatives and mechanisms to meet the exacting demands of the post-2015 development agenda in terms of implementation, data collection, monitoring and accountability? What can

countries do to participate more actively and, hence, benefit more from these regional mechanisms or facilities?

3. How are the Regional Commissions contributing to strengthen countries' capabilities for the implementation of the ambitious, universal and transformative post-2015 development agenda through their work? How are the Regional Commissions contributing to identify, among others, innovative financial and technology transfer sources and making them accessible to Member States in each region?

Format and structure of the dialogue

The Dialogue will be chaired by the Chair of the Second Committee of the 69th session of the GA, H.E. Mr. Sebastiano Cardi (Italy). It will be moderated by the current coordinator of the United Nations Regional Commissions, Ms. Alicia Bárcena, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ECLAC. Presentations by the Executive Secretaries and other representatives of the UN Regional Commissions will be followed by an inter-active dialogue with Member States and other participants in the dialogue.