ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Sub-regional Workshop on Millennium Development Goals and the Post 2015 Development Agenda for Central and East Asia

26-28 September 2012
Almaty, Kazakhstan

Outcome Document
30 October 2012
Outcome Document

I. Introduction and Background

1. The Secretary General’s 2012 annual report, “Accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals: options for sustained and inclusive growth and issues for advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015”, summarized recent progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and made recommendations to advance consultations towards a Post-2015 development agenda. The Rio+20 Outcome entitled: "The Future We Want" also recognized the need for integrating the three pillars – economic, social and environmental – into a sustainable development framework. In line with these developments, the ESCAP/ADB/UNDP regional partnership has undertaken the task of organizing a series of regional and sub-regional workshops and consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and the post-Rio+20 process, leading to the publication and launch of the next Regional MDG Report (2012/13) - The Post 2015 Development Agenda in Asia and the Pacific: Regional Perspectives. These consultations will seek the views of stakeholders in the Asia and Pacific region on their development priorities for the Report. The first of these sub-regional consultations was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from 26 to 28 September 2012 with government representatives and other stakeholders from Central and East Asian countries. It was organized by the ADB/ESCAP/UNDP partnership and supported by UN-ESCAP’s Sub-Regional Office for North and Central Asia in Almaty, UNDP Kazakhstan, the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) and the Asia-Pacific Community of Practice on Managing for Development Results.

II. General perspectives on the Post 2015 development agenda

2. In their opening remarks, the three partners – ADB, ESCAP and UNDP – highlighted the increased importance of the tripartite partnership in supporting the MDGs in Asia and the Pacific region and its role in articulating a regional perspective on the post – 2015 development agenda. The importance of reflecting the Asia – Pacific views in the regional and global discussions on the post – 2015 development agenda was emphasized. They pointed out that the partnership had played a key role in supporting MDG achievement in the region through knowledge products, capacity building and advocacy activities. The Asia-Pacific region is likely to achieve several important goals and targets by 2015 partly as a result of these efforts. They recognized, however, that important gaps and challenges remained which must be addressed in the post 2015 development agenda, building on the MDGs. The Rio+20 Outcome document can help inform that process.

3. The Minister from Kazakhstan noted the significant contribution the partners have made in supporting the MDGs and in initiating a regional dialogue on the post -2015 development agenda. Important strides have made by Kazakhstan in achieving the MDGs, he felt, which had important lessons. The government committed to work with regional stakeholders in crafting a meaningful post – 2015 development agenda.

4. During the panel discussion several key issues where highlighted which had general relevance for the workshop’s agenda. These included the following:

- Targeted assistance programs were emphasized and had been effective in reducing poverty in Kazakhstan. However, it was pointed out that the low poverty rate achieved was partly the result of keeping the minimum wage very low. It was also necessary to include non income dimensions of poverty. Life expectancy particularly for men is very low.
• Social protection programs with focus on employment to those who are able to work and micro finance programs are being emphasized in Kazakhstan. A safety net is being provided to those with special needs.

• Gender equality measures include establishment of a Commission on Gender and Family; and legislation to promote gender equality and end domestic violence against women.

• Kazakhstan is committed to supporting a green economy with focus on energy efficiency, management of water resources, renewable sources of energy, organic agriculture, ecotourism, and sustainable forestry and fisheries.

• It is important in the Central Asia context to include indicators on democracy, freedom of press and openness on government. It is critical to reflect the voices of citizens and of the people. Also critical is accountability of government and its effectiveness.

III. Lessons from the MDGs

A. Status and experience with the MDGs

Factual description of status and prospects in Central Asia and East Asia

5. The Asia-Pacific MDG Report 2011/12, Accelerating Equitable Achievement of the MDGs: Closing Gaps in Health and Nutrition Outcomes, published by ESCAP, ADB and UNDP in collaboration with UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO in February 2012, found that the region has made impressive, yet uneven, progress in achieving the MDGs. Particular challenges remain in achieving health and nutrition targets. There are large gaps in achievement across countries, which are widening for some targets. Furthermore, within-country disparities are sometimes as large as cross-country disparities.

6. The progress of the Asia-Pacific region is largely mirrored in the progress of the ten countries of Central and East Asia that were represented at the workshop. All countries have achieved gender parity in primary education, while all but one have done so at the secondary and tertiary levels, and most have reached the $1.25 per day poverty. The picture for the prevalence of underweight children, achieving universal primary education and TB is mixed. Most countries are unlikely to meet the targets for child mortality, maternal mortality, HIV prevalence and access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Major issues presented

7. There is still hope for countries currently off track to still meet some of the targets. Each of the four countries of Central and East Asia off track for the prevalence of underweight children, for example, needs to accelerate progress by less than half a percentage point annually to reach the target. Doing so would translate in saving 82,000 children from hunger in these countries by 2015.

8. Despite the fact that most countries are off track for child mortality and maternal mortality, the progress towards the target has in most countries been impressive. Mongolia, for example, halved the maternal mortality ratio from 130 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 65 in 2008.

9. Within-country disparities in health-related outcomes such as malnutrition, stunting and mortality of children, use of maternal healthcare services and access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation tend to be larger in the countries of Central and East Asia with available survey data with

relatively lower levels of attainment. This highlights the need to focus national efforts on disadvantaged population groups in closing remaining gaps to the targets.

10. Within-country disparities are driven by a complex set of interlinked factors. Sometimes, however, addressing only one factor in isolation reduces disparities considerably; these include household wealth, the education of mothers and regional differences (highlighting the importance of policies and programmes of local administration), and castes, ethnic and linguistic groups (stressing the need to remove cultural and institutional discrimination).

11. Furthermore, breast-feeding reduces risk of under-5 mortality considerably MDG 3, gender equality and the empowerment of women, encompasses a far wider range of issues than captured by Target 3, ensuring gender parity at all of levels of education. The ongoing consultations at global, regional, national and thematic level provide on the post-2015 development agenda provide an opportunity to address this limitation.

12. Lack of basic infrastructure was holding back the achievement of MDGs in many instances. Timely and prudent investment in basic infrastructure such as rural roads, electricity, rural schools and clinics was a prerequisite in achieving MDGs.

*Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants*

13. Several countries have adjusted or added goals in line with their own development priorities. As no internationally comparable data is available for indicators used to track progress towards such goals, they cannot, and therefore do not, feature in regional and global progress assessments.

14. The collapse of the social sector after the breakup of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s created a challenge for many Central Asian countries in establishing a baseline year against which progress towards MDGs could be measured.

15. The consultation observed that macroeconomic policies for closing development gaps in the post-2015 development era should be counter-cyclical in nature and strengthen automatic stabilizers with efforts in strengthening domestic resource mobilization to enhance fiscal space.

16. It was felt that the post 2015 agenda (including the poverty reduction strategies) should have the full and productive employment and decent work for all as one of the priorities areas for action. It should provide for development targets and re-affirm international, national and local (and of the whole of society, including workers and employers’ organizations) commitments in regard to decent work as a fundamental human right. Job creation should be pursued by adopting forward-looking macroeconomic policies that promote sustainable development and lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, increase productive employment opportunities and promote agricultural and industrial development.

17. The consultation took note of several other observations made by several participants, including the need to improve data collection for employment. Establishing cross-sectoral responsibility and collaboration to ensure coordination between line ministries/Departments was also highlighted. It was noted that although growth helps in poverty reduction, it should not be pursued at the expense of environment.

18. The consultation observed that a holistic approach with harmonized economic, social and environmental policies was needed. Inclusive development was much broader than pro-poor development or inclusion of socially disadvantaged groups only. It meant addressing vulnerabilities, especially when 80 per cent of the world’s population did not have any form of social protection. In light of increasing economic insecurity and climate change vulnerability, inclusive development would
require countercyclical policies, which in turn needs enhanced fiscal space. Interconnectedness is essential to reach vulnerable groups.

B. Lessons from the MDG acceleration framework in Central and East Asia

Brief description of the acceleration framework

19. Many countries throughout the world have made significant progress in meeting the MDGs, but progress has not necessarily been linear, in that there have been periods of faster and slower progress, and in some cases there have been periods of regression. Also, as progress deepens, there are diminishing returns as it becomes more difficult or requires greater investments or more fundamental systemic changes or restructuring to make further gains. Also, progress can vary within countries, with some parts of the countries making more progress than others, and this is not reflected in national averages. This all means that countries may not meet one or more MDGs by 2015. The MDG Acceleration Framework is not a theoretical framework, but rather a tool which has been applied in selected countries to (i) identify binding constraints on or bottlenecks in MDG achievement, (ii) identify tools or methods which have been tested elsewhere to unblock these bottlenecks; (iii) establish a well-defined division of labour between all relevant stakeholders (national and international); and (iv) design and implement an action plan.

Major issues presented

20. The MAF is already working in 40 countries, including 14 in Asia, and within the Central Asian/Caucasus sub-region, it has applied in Armenia and Tajikistan. One example is the focus on sources of decentralized renewable energy in Tajikistan, since access to energy remains a problem particularly in rural areas, and is a major factor hindering further progress in MDGs 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7. While there has been progress in achieving MDGs in Tajikistan at the national aggregate level, and specific policies have been designed to address MDG targets, there is still a lack of implementation capacity at the local level, especially in rural areas (where, for example low standards of pre-natal and neo-natal care contribute to child mortality).

21. Tajikistan has three key strategic priorities: energy independence; overcoming isolation; achieving food security. The mechanisms for achieving these include the poverty reduction strategy at the national level, as well as sub-national development plans, going down to the community level. The MDG Acceleration Framework has been adopted, and a matrix of activities is being implemented. In Armenia, the focus of the MAF is on youth employment in rural areas. Youth unemployment in rural areas is 22% above average indicators. There are four main areas of intervention to address this challenge: policy; education; business environment; rural development. Kazakhstan did not specifically implement the MAF, but adopted an MDG+ agenda in 2007, and inter alia, adjusted income- and water-related indicators to reflect regional disparities. Further, the Presidential Administration has required all oblast administrations to include MDG indicators in district and town development plans. A special department has been established on MDGs within the National Statistics Agency. Important lessons learned included the need to adapt to the local context; to have inclusive consultations; to link the MDGs to national development strategies, and to see the links strategically, as opposed to formal inclusion of MDG indicators. Resource commitment is also a key, and this was one of the weak points of MDGs when they were being designed.

Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants

22. The problem of decent jobs and informal economy has to be reflected in the post-2015 debate. For youth employment, the experience of other countries, e.g. Germany’s Apprenticeship program, which subsidizes training, creating incentives for employment by increasing the value of the skills that young people offer to employers, may be relevant. In the post-2015 framework, there was need to ensure young people’s voice in decision making. It is important to tackle the issue of youth leaving rural areas through programmes specifically aimed at job creation. To fund social expenditure relevant
for MDG achievement, there is potential to raise more tax revenue, but this requires fostering more enterprises in the formal sector, while not penalizing them too heavily with tax. China has showed that there is no trade off between high tax rates and high economic growth.

23. Kazakhstan’s economy is very vulnerable due to the large roles of the oil and gas sector. The National Oil Fund standing aside, the accumulation of external debt has become a problem in the banking sector. As a result of this unsustainable path, the country’s economy is reaching a bottleneck, facing a risk of so called “Sudden Stop”. This is relevant to its new strategic thinking on transition to green economy.

IV. Suggestions on the post-2015 development agenda

A. Key development questions

24. The Rio+20 outcomes reaffirmed the commitment of member States to the full and timely achievement of the MDGs and recognizes the importance of a set of sustainable development goals to build a sustainable future. It agrees on a set of principles towards a green economy\(^2\) in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and resolves to set up a process on the sustainable development goals. An intergovernmental process has been established with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly. An open working group would be constituted which would submit a report to the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, containing a proposal for sustainable development goals. The sustainable development goals should be coherent and integrated to the post 2015 UN development agenda; global, with universal applications based on different national realities and levels of development; and aspirational but with measurable targets and indicators, which remain a challenge. Regional institutions (such as ADB, UNDP, ESCAP and UNEP) can support by bringing in the lesson learned from MDG implementation and harnessing experience and knowledge on countries’ experience on green growth initiatives. In addition, they can provide support to country public sector management such as national implementation, capacity development (e.g. for data collection and management), and strengthening South-South dialogue to share good practices.

Issues relating to convergence and new priorities presented

25. The Rio+20 outcomes support the full and timely achievement of the MDGs and suggest a framework for action, including a set of thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues (e.g. social protection, food security, migration, green economy, etc.). Issues in crafting the post 2015 development agenda could include:

- converging economic, social and environmental objectives;
- defining the focus whether only on outcomes or should instruments and strategies be also included;
- tackling the constraints financial and human resources; and

\(^2\)In the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, green economy is one of the important tools available for achieving sustainable development and that it could provide options for policymaking. It should contribute to eradicating poverty as well as sustained economic growth, enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare and creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth’s ecosystems. (para 56, Rio+20 Outcome Document).
monitoring framework to be established (how many levels, specific country focus, issue of inadequate data).

**Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants**

26. Issues raised by participants included:

- Sustainable development goals (SDGs) shall include and/or emphasize: promotion of family as a fundamental unit of society that needs to be strongly protected by State.
- Disaster risk management and reduction as offshoot of global climate change;
- Monitoring gender issues is necessary to ensure equal opportunity for men and women.
- Need for efficient institutions, skills, and knowledge to implement new goals such as food security. Development partners could provide models and strategies (such as best practice) that governments could apply.
- On SMEs, there are a number of provisions on this under the green economy such as on sustainable tourism where SME features; but certainly the sector and thematic working groups that will formulate the post-2015 development framework could tackle this. SDGs are universal and applicable to different states, but climate change and climate responsibility is always a sensitive issue. How to design enforcement mechanism? The post-2015 development framework is expressed at different levels - country, regional, global public goods (such as climate change), the latter could be aspirational if you cannot reach specific measures. Certain country responsibility could be lowering emissions.
- Risk in the course of MDG/SDG implementation such as financial crisis. Rebalance domestic consumption; some government do it through stimulus package. These measures buffer the impact of crisis.
- Expenditure prioritization between economic programs and MDGs or social programs. Need efficient governance to raise revenues to devote to social sector.

**Strategies**

_Brief introduction: strategies and their relevance_

27. One of the lessons from the MDGs is that it is not enough to set goals; there is a need for strategies to implement them. In some countries in the sub-region, development strategies have been guided by or incorporated MDG goals and targets. But such strategies to date have not usually reflected an integrated approach to achieving economic, social and environmental goals. Apart from designing such strategies, there is a need for a body at the national level with the capacity and authority to link sectoral policies. Moreover, at present, at the local level, sub-national development strategies have been developed in several countries. While they are useful in identifying root causes of development problems, and prioritizing, there is little capacity and indeed little budget flexibility to implement strategies to achieve localized MDGs.

**Issues relating to inclusive growth and green growth presented**

28. The following is a summary of the main issues presented:

- MDG 3 - improving gender equality - is one vehicle for achieving more inclusive and sustainable growth. Growth will be more inclusive and sustainable if it is based on the participation of all of the country’s human resources.
- Becoming more inclusive should not be seen as implying giving out more money to the excluded: inclusiveness does not necessarily imply spending more resources. Rather it means that countries can benefit from using all of its resources, rather than just a section.
- Exclusion can also lead to heightened risk of political instability, which is a major threat to sustainability.
• Despite advances in Central Asia, the Gender Inequality Index is not high compared to other regions. Girls are falling behind boys in completing secondary education, and in enrolment in the tertiary sector. Men have lower life expectancy, often due to harsh working conditions, including migrant workers, while progress in reducing maternal mortality has been impressive, but not sufficient to meet MDG targets. The share of women in decision making positions is very low, and the pay gap is still evident.

• The Central Asian countries are losing the opportunity to benefit from the capacity of much of their human capital to contribute to their development.

• **Kazakhstan** has a development strategy for 2030, and is now working on how to combine this with transition to a green economy by the same date. Kazakhstan has many achievements over the last 20 years, but it also has many unresolved problems, such as land degradation, water shortage and problems of quality of water, high energy intensity and growth in emissions, and also issues which are of a trans-border nature.

• Kazakhstan is trying to be forward-thinking. The main directions of its proposed strategy to transit to a green economy are re-cycling waste, green energy, and investment in natural capital. It will also try to participate in the growing trade in organic produce.

• Analysis suggests that over the long term, greening the economy will lead to more sustainable economic growth. However, this requires initial investments, and will require some painful restructuring, including job losses in some traditional sectors, which can be compensated by jobs in green sectors.

• In **Kyrgyzstan** progress in achieving MDGs is mixed, and in recent years the government attention devoted to MDGs has decreased, and policy makers tend to look on them as something to think about after they have solved problems of economic growth.

• MDGs are formally integrated into the country’s development strategy, but not all MDG indicators are used. There is a coordinating committee, but there is little link to budget. Localising remains a challenge, because of the lack of real policy and budget flexibility at the local level.

• In Kyrgyzstan it is striking that the only 2 MDGs which are forecast to be met are MDG 1 and MDG 7. However, it is not clear that they are being achieved in an integrated way. The UNEP/UNDP Poverty Environment Initiative has been implemented in selected regions of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. However, combining poverty reduction and environmental sustainable goals at the local level has proved challenging. There is still limited understanding of the poverty and environment links by policy makers, and it is difficult to achieve the links in planning/strategic documents. Moreover, there are lack of data and monitoring indicators to monitor achievements. For example, extreme poverty in mountainous areas could be solved by opening more mines, but this has environmental consequences. Government has given concessions to mines, without enough involvement of local communities in decision making, leading to conflicting situations.

**Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants**

29. Some of the main issues raised by participants include:

• **Tajikistan**: Has had a strategy for the transition to sustainable development since 2007 (for 2007-2015). In the future, there will be a more integrated approach to achieving environmental and social goals. There have been many changes made to legislature to reflect the new approach. However, there is a need for a cross-sectoral coordinating body to implement the strategy.

• **Mongolia**: there is a problem of measurement – how to measure whether economic growth has contributed/is contributing to MDG achievement. There are problems with the quality of the data available, and the relevance/quality of the measurements. We need a more qualitative approach not just a quantitative one.

• For the MDGs, there is a problem of the timeline, in that environmental targets relating to air pollution have only recently been recognized as a problem. It will take time for policies to be implemented and for the impact of policies to be felt. We need strategies to involve the private sector in the transition to the green economy and to promote green products.
• **Uzbekistan**: It is relatively easy for all of us to agree on goals – we all want clean air, healthy populations, participation of youth etc. However, there are differences in the strategies which we may use to achieve them. Different countries and indeed different agencies have different ideas on the most appropriate strategies. We have to think what we want, and how it is possible in practice to achieve this. Unconventional strategies may also produce results which combine economic, social and environmental goals. For green growth, we will need economic policies which allow and encourage the creation of modern technology.

• The post 2015 agenda has to be inclusive and key to this are strategies for achieving full productive employment, and a social protection floor. There is a need to engage public authorities in designing these strategies.

C. **Governance and effective delivery of services**

*Brief introduction – key role of governance for achieving development goals*

30. Governance determines how societies share power through structures, and how they govern individual and collective actions to deliver outcomes. Good Governance provides the fundamental basis for the effective delivery of services on the ground. Discussions on the MDGs and the post 2015 SDG agenda focus on two broad challenges. First, what will be the future nature of the MDGs and the SDGs. Second, and of increasing importance, how to ensure that an internationally agreed set of indicators and targets such as the MDGs and SDGs can be translated into sustained development outcomes at the country level. Governments with sound governance structures will be able to maximize the benefits that the MDGs and SDGs have to offer its citizens.

*Key issues presented on public sector management and with governance in the environment sector as an example*

31. A key element of a good governance structure is the role of the public sector management system where the components of planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation must work in a focused manner to deliver on national objectives. Experience in implementing the MDGs has highlighted challenges of mainstreaming MDGs into national objectives; ensuring that planning process is inclusive and cascades MDG outcomes into actionable items; allocating sufficient resources through the budgetary process to the MDG targets; building implementation capacity to deliver resources on the ground; and undertaking monitoring and evaluation to provide reliable and timely information on achievement of targets.

32. In the context of governance in the environment sector, environment and sustainable development targets must be mainstreamed into national development agenda and integrated into planning, budgeting, and implementation processes. Progress needs to be monitored through relevant and timely data to enable effective evaluation for future policymakers.

33. Green growth/environmental problems cannot be solved at just one level. The fundamental notion of shared ownership of and responsibility for environmental action involving all stakeholders – government, civil society, private sector, individual citizens - must be promoted. Serious attention should be given to building capacity of all stakeholders to understand the environmental issues and its linkages to sector activities. Promotion of innovative and more interactive approaches that increase public ownership of environmental actions is also needed.

*Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants*

34. Participants felt that it is crucial that public sector reform agenda and proposed outcomes be:

• Nationally owned and primarily home-grown with a clear understanding of the deliverables to be achieved These should be expressed in a results framework;
formulated using a bottom-up approach involving all stakeholders including voluntary institutions, trade unions, academia at all levels and implementation should be preceded by social mobilization and change in mindset. Outcomes should ensure inclusivity and equal opportunities for all citizens;

- tailored to the local socio-economic context and demonstrate pragmatic improvisation to make services work;

- mainstreamed into the country’s public sector management system to ensure the outcomes are sustained, financially (with adequate resources, timely released) and administratively (with bureaucratic commitment sustained by champions of reform);

- implemented and monitored with realistic and well-defined targets and goals, that are evolutionary in nature, learning from first-hand and others’ experiences – including non-regional countries; and

- supported by the international community, with efficient, harmonized and predictable support that ensures sustainability through strengthened country public sector management systems.

D. Social protection and social protection floor

Brief introduction of social protection and social protection floor concept

35. This century is marked by financial and economic shocks, natural disasters, disease outbreaks and by climate change related challenges. Building resilience and to mitigate the impact of shocks not just on the poor but on societies as a whole, and to secure recent gains in poverty reduction and political stability achieved confirm the need for a social protection floor. The Rio+20 outcome document stressed the need to provide social protection to all members of society, encourages national and local initiatives aimed at providing a social protection floor (SPF) for all citizens, supports global dialogue and best practices for social protection programs. The SPF calls for the provision of essential guarantees (essential health care, education, water and sanitation, housing), basic income security for children, minimum wage for persons in active age groups unable to earn sufficient income and for people in old age.

Key issues presented

36. International agreements on the need for universal basic protection and the social protection floor exist and should be part in the post 2015 development agenda. More emphasis is needed in Caucasus, Central and East Asia on planning and budgeting of social protection programs, which include universal coverage and targeted interventions. Knowledge sharing and South-South Cooperation can support countries to design and strengthen social protection programs. Universal provision of essential health care needs stronger political commitment to move from a “declarative universalism” to “gradual universalism” (in Central Asia and the Caucasus) and target the most vulnerable population groups. Improving quality of targeted social protection is needed in the country context of existing universal coverage schemes. Governments face challenges in addressing demographic changes such as ageing population, migration, and urbanization (PRC and Central Asia), when designing, implementing and monitoring targeted interventions.

Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants

37. The main issues raised were:

- The Social Protection Floor as defined by ILO and WHO needs to be integrated in the post 2015 development agenda.

- A balanced approach is needed to ensure that government economic reforms come along with social protection reforms, which are tailored to country needs.

- Provision of essential guarantees is important, however, Central Asian and Caucasus countries are moving to targeted social protection intervention compared to other Asian countries, which are moving to universal coverage.
• Financing of the social protection floor has to be recovered from government budget and requires changing priorities of national planning and expenditures.
• Social protection should provide basic coverage for health, education and other essential services, which are in line with the SPF. In addition targeted interventions are needed to achieve a better poverty reduction impact.
• Institutional reforms, which strengthen coordination among line ministries and agencies are needed for effective implementation of SPF and targeted social protection schemes.
• 80% of the global population has no access to comprehensive social protection.
• Social protection programmes tackle multiple dimensions of poverty and deprivation (decent work, education, health and care, food security, income security, etc) and can therefore be a powerful instrument in the battle against the poverty and inequality and can play a fundamental role in creating more inclusive and sustainable development.
• The post 2015 agenda should contain an objective that ensures the inclusion of all groups in development and society through extending adequate social protection.
• A post 2015 agenda should also contain an objective that ensures the inclusion of all groups in development and society through extending adequate social protection. The post 2015 debate needs a renewed and comprehensive focus on poverty, income distribution and social inclusion. Social protection is the ideal conduit.

E. Monitoring framework for the post 2015 development agenda and formulating future development goals

Brief introduction

38. MDGs have been useful in focusing attention of global community on reducing income poverty in developing countries, but have arguably been less successful in addressing non-income dimensions of poverty, and were de-linked from environmental and governance issues. In terms of process (how) they have been criticized for being formulated in a non-participatory manner, and being primarily relevant to low income countries. For the post-2015 agenda, there is a need for a process that is driven by member states, and transparent. The discussion on the post-2015 agenda will also have to consider what monitoring framework to use. While it has been agreed that there should be a set of universal goals (Tier 1), it could be useful to establish global targets, which are linked to regional-specific (Tier 2) and national ones (Tier 3).

Key issues presented on the monitoring framework and future development goals

39. Issues presented in this session included:

• In terms of content, there are two approaches to the post 2015 goals: (i) keep the first 6 MDGs and add on other sectoral ones, including ones which address environmental dimensions better. Or (ii) trying a new approach which integrates all three dimensions of sustainable development in each goal, with a more prominent role for governance issues, i.e. goals should be broader, more universal (relevant to all countries), be able to undergo national adaptation, and be monitorable.
• In terms of process at the global level, a working group on SDGs has been set up, as well as a high level panel of Eminent Persons reporting to the SG, and there will be UN led national consultations over the next 12 months in circa 100 countries. There will also be global thematic consultations, led by UN agencies and sponsored by individual countries.
• In Central Asia and Caucasus the key challenges will be implementation capacity, especially at the local level; statistics – availability and quality of data, budgeting, and ensuring engagement of all stakeholders, including the private sector.
• Overall – the UN system and its development partners have the technical expertise to make the SDGs work; it is now up to the member states to decide which goals they want.

Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants
40. Participants raised the following main issues:

- **Kazakhstan**: has set up an inter-sectoral commission for national consultations, and will work with UNCT on this. It will combine this with its work under the global compact (24 private sector entities are participating in this), and will try to take into account the budget required for future SDGs. There is still a problem of different understanding or ownership of MDGs. Indeed the question was raised as to how important the MDGs have been in contributing to development – a lot may have happened without MDGs.

- **Tajikistan**: will work on a new strategy for post 2015. A Secretariat is being set up under the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade. There is also an annual forum for Development held together by donor community and government. And a consultative council for dialogue with the private sector, as well as with the association of NGOs. Priorities will be identified from strategic development planning activities at the district and community level and fed into the next strategy.

- **Kyrgyzstan**: after 2008, the MDGs did help focus attention on development goals, which resulted implementing policies which had some effect on improvement of indicators. There are institutions in place which can take forward the next stage of developing goals.

V. Country views and suggestions on the post 2015 development agenda

34. Country views presented by the country delegations in the last session are in the Annex.
### Annex

**Matrix on country views on the post 2015 development agenda**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Points raised</th>
<th>Participating countries</th>
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| **Issues with achieving MDGs**             | • MDGs served as a universal agenda and good development framework to focus national and international development efforts  
• MDGs produced mixed results  
• MDGs did not address development issues in a holistic way  
• It took considerable time and efforts to integrate MDGs in national development strategies  
• Resources (budget and human) were not always allocated to MDG programs  
• Sectoral constraints held back progress towards MDGs  
• There is still scope to institutionalize MDGs  
• It was not clear that economic growth linked with progress in the MDGs  
• Poverty reduction strategies need to be in place for accelerated achievement of MDGs These strategies should be linked to employment creation, education, food security and access to safe drinking water  
• Low participation of rural people  
• Gender inequality rose in some instances with low standard of rural health  
• Natural resource base deteriorating  
• Abolition of rural collectives and reforms of the state-owned enterprises facilitated achievement of MDGs in China  
• Baseline data was not always available  
• In many instances, national statistical systems were not adequately equipped to monitor and evaluate MDGs progress | Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, |
| **Development objectives, goals and priorities in the post-215 development agenda** | • The post-2015 development agenda should offer an integrated framework so that synergies between goals, targets and indicators can be utilized  
• In framing the post-2015 development agenda, government capacity and institutional capacity should be kept in mind  
• The special nature of landlocked countries should be kept in view  
• There is no need to reinvent the wheel. Keep and build on the MDG staling due care of its shortcomings. Rio+20 | Armenia, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, |

3 The themes are aligned with the responses received from the countries during the country consultation process
the MDGs with stronger linkages to environmental outcomes?

- Outcome can inform the process.
- Knowledge and experience in achieving MDGs should be utilized in framing post-2015 development agenda
- The post-2015 development agenda needs to be institutionalized including strategies to work closely with CSOs
- Reducing inequalities, disparities, deprivations and exclusions – along social and ethnic groups, gender and geographical locations
- Feminization of gender issues must be avoided
- Improved well-being and living standards for all
- Health and education need to be prioritized including public provisioning of these services for the poor, vulnerable and the marginalized groups
- Specific health issues affecting people living in remote and mountainous regions should be addressed such as mountain fever
- Basic infrastructure needs to be built specially for linking underserved and remote areas
- Post-2015 development agenda must go beyond goals: it ought to identify suitable policies, processes, indicators, implementation and an accountability framework
- Separate social indicators for rural/urban areas
- Link employment, education, food security and access to safe water to poverty reduction strategies
- Promote sustainable jobs that are less vulnerable to natural and external shocks
- Human rights needs to be addressed
- Convergence of economic, social and environmental dimensions
- Sustainable jobs, green technology and transportation/connectivity needs to be integrated
- Access to markets should be part of the post-2015 development agenda.
- Governance at all levels need to be part of the post-2015 development agenda
- Proper institutional architecture needs to be in place, including a clear statement about the role of the government

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategies for the post-2015 development agenda</th>
<th>Content of strategies</th>
<th>Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Should the post 2015 development framework be confined to seeking outcomes, or should there be focus also on the</td>
<td>• Two questions need to be addressed: what should we do after 2015; and what should we do to reach 2015?</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Strategies need to be mid- to long-term rather ad hoc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan,</td>
<td><strong>Economic growth should continue to be emphasized</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Structural transformation of economies based on resource use and export dependence, including diversification of the economy and reducing dependence on oil as a share of GDP</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Issues related to urbanization need to be addressed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>National development strategies (NDS) linked to the new development goals are crucial. Existing priorities should also be reflected.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Post-2015 development agenda should be harmonized and synchronized with national goals and national development cycles</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Some form of incentives to national governments could be considered to own the post-2015 development agenda</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Effective delivery of basic services for the poor and remote communities is needed</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Energy security strategies are important and need to link with basic service provision for the poor</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Transfer of technology is important</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Green economy policies and programs need to be mainstreamed</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Strategies for land use for food security, environmental protection, economy-based on resources are important</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Access to global market is crucial for sustaining growth and structural transformation which in turn required to realize the post-2015 development agenda</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Water resources management including water recycling, Glaciers are disappearing.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Sustainable transport</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Achievement of the post-2015 development agenda will depend on the international environment</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Establishment of an Oil Fund to promote sustainable development</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Establishment of a Green Growth Fund</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Process for strategy development**

- Processes are as important as outcomes. Must be recognized in the post-2015 development agenda
- Make CSOs more active and reliable partners in formulating national goals and roadmaps
- Participation and ownership was missing. In framing post-2015 development agenda, equal participation of developing countries in negotiating the post-2015 development agenda is a pre-requisite;
global, regional and national processes need to coincide and converge
- The post 2015 development agenda needs to be concrete and not abstract
- Participation and consensus important
- Sufficient attention must be paid to localization of issues: local communities opposed to some mining projects as they were not consulted up front.
- Different stages of development need to be taken into account
- A road map is needed for achieving the post-2015 development agenda
- Intergovernmental consultative processes need to be strengthened on cross-border issues (development goals related to water, energy, transport), particularly for the small countries in Central Asia
- Vulnerable groups must have a voice
- Peace and security. Vital for the region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resources, financial and human</th>
<th>Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Should the post-2015 development framework focus more prominently on key inputs such as financial and human resources?</td>
<td>Institutionalize MDGs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are the concrete ways in which the post 2015 development framework can be integrated with a resource framework and firm commitments?</td>
<td>Resources and budgets for post MDGs: every country should allocate a certain percentage of GDP to the realization of the post-2015 development agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding for achieving green growth</td>
<td>Universal/global fund for realizing the post-2015 development agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good governance and effective public service delivery are essential</td>
<td>2015 development agenda to be fully resourced. Each and every country would be required to allocate a certain percentage of their budgets for post-2015 development agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need to invest in health, education and other basic services. Role of government is crucial</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risks and vulnerabilities</th>
<th>Kyrgyzstan, China, Mongolia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Should the post 2015 development framework explicitly account for risks and vulnerabilities?</td>
<td>Develop strategies to address water, energy scarcity and associated vulnerabilities and risks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Should a goal/strategy to address risks and vulnerabilities be explicitly included in the post-2015 development framework?</td>
<td>Address land ownerships and land grabbing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Effective strategies for dealing with natural disasters</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monitoring framework</th>
<th>Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What changes should be brought into the MDG</td>
<td>Happiness or quality of living/life index should be incorporated including new and separate social indicators for rural and urban areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Framework and structure to better address the post-2015 development needs?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Should there be nationally set priorities keeping in mind global aspirations?</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Global agenda needs to be concrete and not abstract</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National level health indicators need to be included</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Localization of goals, targets and indicators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Country-specific monitoring framework with different time lines for targets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Methodology: uniform and easy to use to monitor the agenda</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Measurable indicators are important</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Ensure that data collection at national and international level is in place and methodology is standardized</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Minimum regional social protection floor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Should there be a social protection floor/minimum social guarantees for all Asia-Pacific countries?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Should these be further extended to other basic social and human needs such as food, water and sanitation, decent shelter and so on and made applicable for all countries?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Minimum Social Protection Floor is needed and can be universal with time and experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Targeted interventions for landless, migrant populations and older persons need special attention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Pensions funds including private ones, unemployment benefit schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Protecting the land rights of the rural communities/households</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Regional and global public goods</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• How should the development framework address the issue of global and regional public goods such as (a) CO2 and greenhouse gas emissions; (b) allocation of scarce natural resources such as water; (c) haze and other cross-border environmental issues; (d) pandemics; (e) natural disaster prevention?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Integrating environmental issues in development strategies and outcomes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Indicators and concise methods for monitoring e.g., GHG emission, forest cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Address climate change consequences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Regional water management issues need to be addressed as glaciers are disappearing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, |