ESCAP/ADB/UNDP Sub-regional Workshop on Millennium Development Goals and the Post-2015 Development Agenda for South-East Asia
21-23 November 2012
Bangkok, Thailand

DRAFT Outcome Document
10 January 2013
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 South-East Asia sub-regional consultation was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 21 to 23 November 2012 with government representatives and other stakeholders from South-East Asian countries. It was organized by the ADB/ESCAP/UNDP partnership.

II. General perspectives on the Post 2015 development agenda

2. The welcome Address was delivered by Dr. Noeleen Heyzer, United Nations Under-Secretary-General & Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It was noted that the eradication of poverty remains the largest global challenge. This sub-region – South-East Asia – has made progress in reducing extreme poverty and in attaining other MDG development goals, despite strong head-winds of on-going global economic crisis and rising food and fuel prices, and earlier setback inflicted by the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis. It was further emphasised that in critical areas, such as food and energy security, infrastructure deficits, financial stability and disaster resilience, solutions have to be sought at the regional or sub-regional level as they are cross-border in nature and hence constitute regional public goods. Dr. Heyzer articulated for a “bold and ambitious” development framework in the midst of a new normal of increased economic insecurity, and vulnerability to sustain the dynamism in the sub-region.

3. In their opening remarks, ADB 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

---

1 Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malyasia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam. The following country delegations were present at the workshop: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malyasia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.
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 in the South-East Asia sub-region which must be addressed in the post 2015 development agenda, building on the MDGs. The Rio+20 Outcome document can help inform that process.

4. For Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP/ADB/UNDP has been organizing a series of workshop and consultation process at the sub-regional level to facilitate a better understanding of the post-2015 development agenda from the regional perspectives. Not just understanding, but shaping the agenda.

III. Lessons from the MDGs

A. Status and experience with the MDGs

Factual description of status and prospects in South-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 greatest progress has been in South-East Asia, which has already achieved ten of the 22 assessed indicators and is on track for another four. 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. For example, Cambodia manages this for only 11 and Lao PDR for only eight – the latter having made slow progress in primary completion, for example, and on gender parity at secondary education.

6. The progress of the South-East Asia sub-region has been highlighted at the workshop. All these 11 countries have achieved gender parity in primary education, while one country has a slow progress in secondary education and one has regressed at the tertiary level, and most have reached the $1.25 per day poverty. The picture for the prevalence of underweight children, under-5 mortality and HIV prevalence is mixed. Most countries are unlikely to meet the targets for forest cover and CO2 emissions.

Major issues presented

7. There are still some countries currently show slow progress or off track to meet some of the targets in the South-East Asia. Four countries in the sub-region have made slow progress for the prevalence of underweight children, and this requires focused policy attention from the governments.

8. Despite the fact that some countries are on track for child mortality, the progress has not been impressive. Furthermore, in the case of maternal mortality, the progress towards the target has been very poor. Viet Nam is the only country on track to achieve the target for maternal mortality in the sub-region.

---

9. Within-country disparities in health-related outcomes such as malnutrition, stunting and mortality of children, and use of maternal healthcare services still exist in the countries of South East Asia. 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 and 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 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. The participants noted that the current economic and financial crisis has slowed down the economic growth which is creating pressures on sustaining economic growth and the achievement of the development progress. There is now a renewed interest about the type of economic growth model and their effectiveness in the age of economic and financial integration of the sub-region with the developed world.

14. Several countries have made progress towards poverty reduction but still there are several challenges with regard to quality of life, economic and climate security, socio-economic inequality in urban and rural areas as well as access to quality social services.

15. The consultation observed that the countries in the sub-region need for strengthening regional consultation and coordinate policy efforts in line with ASEAN, and to continue parallel consultation with civil society organisations.

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. Job creation across sectors should be pursued to promote sustainable development and lead to sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, increase productive employment opportunities and promote agricultural, industrial development and dynamic service sectors.

17. The consultation took note of several other observations made by several participants, including the need to provide essential services in areas such as health insurance, education services for girls, ethnic minority, remote areas; affordable housing, water supply and basic
sanitation facilities and access to modern and new forms of information. It was noted that these services are important drivers of inclusive economic growth for poverty reduction.

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. The increasing trends of economic insecurity including areas of health, and climate change vulnerability resulting in natural disasters and massive economic losses would require regional cooperation and development partnership among countries in the sub-region.

B. Lessons from the MDG acceleration framework in South-East Asia

Brief description of the acceleration framework

19. Many countries in the region 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 several countries in Asia-Pacific region, including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia and the Philippines in the South-East Asia. In the case of maternal health related goals, the MAF has identified most effective actions in sectors (including non-health sectors) that could contribute to accelerating maternal health. In particular, the program engages sectors on how to implement these actions within their mandate and to identify and provide incremental funding for these actions when needed. The MAF is a “living document” to guide interventions, partnerships and resources, and to generate country-specific acceleration plans bringing together all partners for a systematic prioritization of bottlenecks and identifying interventions. The key issue has been to focus on off-track and slow progress targets in the countries in the sub-region and leverage multiplier effects and innovations through cross sectoral synergies, breaking down multiple barriers at once, as well as to scale up integrated local-level initiatives.

21. The South-East Asia sub-region, the MAF has been used in Lao PAD. Lao PDR has made improvements in the areas of poverty reduction, primary school enrolment, and infant mortality, but is now facing a few specific challenges, namely: gender inequity along the dimensions of education as well as a critical need for increased political participation. Through the MAF, the
Lao PDR has identified six priorities to accelerate MDG achievement by reaching the poorest and most vulnerable. The framework targeted public awareness-raising activities about the importance of equal representation of men and women in decision-making, for society as a whole, by working with high-level policy makers and the media. Furthermore, the MAF explore and provide effective incentives, including scholarships, school feeding and safe facilities, to encourage girls to attend primary and secondary school, and technical and vocational education colleges, particularly for girls from remote areas and ethnic communities.

**Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants**

22. The participants suggested that acceleration framework has emphasised public investment in public health, social insurance and other maternal services. Moreover, the programmes should not only focus on incidence for reproductive health services and to promote skilled birth attendance at the local administrative/village level. The issue of enhancing food and energy security as well as to improve social security remain important policy challenges at the national and sub-national level. Moreover, there is urgent need for upgrading learning systems and health care centres to effectively deliver basic social services.

23. The challenges are there in terms of differences in level of development across sub-national, geographical, and ethnicity. Moreover, given the gender related inequalities and violence against women, governments need to invest in gender impact assessment and budgeting. This also requires transfer of resources at the local levels through decentralised planning structure.

**IV. Suggestions on the post-2015 development agenda**

A. **Building on the MDGs in shaping the post-2015 development agenda: Some regional perspectives**

**Brief description**

24. The MDG framework has been instrumental in motivating countries to integrate the development strategies into their national planning process. In particular, the economies in the region are now in the process of reviewing the perspective on MDGs and undertaking consultation to share their views on the strengths and weaknesses of MDG framework and exchange ideas on how the post-2015 development agenda should be formulated. Therefore, post-2015 development agenda should be based on the achievements and experiences of the MDGs. At this stage, the key policy issues at the regional level is to make use of the existing MDGs for building the post-2015 Development agenda by creating a platform for open discussion among wider audience.

**Major issues presented**

25. The MDG framework is based in visionary; human-development centred Millennium Declaration (MD), where the focus is on a limited set of time-bound, common and concrete quantitative development goals and targets. The countries adopted the framework into their national development plans due to their simplicity and transparency, as well as their multi-
dimensionality and emphasis on human development. Due to the clear goals and targets to identify set of indicators to track progress, the countries have been able to plan, monitor, and evaluate the progress within the framework of accountability. Moreover, it helped to shift policy attention well beyond economic growth objectives and helped to set priorities for national, regional and international development priorities, including in areas related to ODA, market access, debt relief etc. The MDGs focus on results/outcomes and not on instruments and policy strategies, which helped rally support for strengthening global partnership for development, e.g., LDCs.

26. The MDG framework, however, suffers from several weaknesses, including the fact that there are no provision of vision on how to address root causes of poverty and unmet basic human needs. The framework also uses the concept of one-size-fits-all goals and targets which are inherently different across countries, and regions. On top of that, the MDG 8, global partnership for development was defined rather imprecisely, thereby weakening accountability for promised international support, and led to limited access to development finance, export markets, technologies and medicines. In particular, the MDGs have not taken into account some of the important components of development issues, namely, sustainability, persisting disparities including income inequalities, social protection, productive employment and decent work, violence against women as well as other universal principles such as peace and security, governance and the rule of law, and human rights and right to development approach.

27. The post-2015 development agenda should reflect the need for transformative change and serve multiple purposes, including advocacy tool, policy guide for national and global policies, and instrument for policy coherence. The new agenda must have a format of time-bound goals, concrete targets and indicators should be retained, so that new targets are realistic and credible, but realism needs to be balanced against the need to be ambitious, for example, in combating climate change and preserving environmental sustainability. At the same time, the agenda must avoid one-size-fits-all approach and targets need to be tailored to regional, national and sub-national realities on basis of consultations in formulating the agenda and adaptation of targets to country and regional contexts. The goals should clearly indicate the extent of within-country disparities, and need to track sub-national progress along lines of administrative regions, urban-rural locations, sex, age, education, ethnicity, caste, language, etc. At the same time, focus on ends should be retained. Every country is different in terms of geography, demography, urbanization, etc., so there can be no blueprints for national development strategies, however, general guidance on policies that foster productive investment, employment and decent work and growth-oriented macroeconomic policies could be considered as enablers, and the agenda could keep long time horizon (say, 10 to 15 years) but add intermediate milestones (say, every 5 years), as well as to define global partnership for developments better and make sure it’s truly “global”

Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants

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

- MDGs framework was able to bring the agenda to the highest national policymaking body, and set common direction and focus outcomes to resolve social development issues, as well as enhanced global and regional cooperation and partnership efforts. The MDGs have been seen as effective policy actions tools that helped shape the institutional reforms and resourcing for achieving such time-bound goals. The countries have used
them as a common platform to combat poverty and hunger by increasing national commitment for poverty reduction objectives and by sharing experiences and best practices for neighbouring countries. The participants noted that MDGs framework have several weaknesses or missing points, especially in areas such as inequality, social protection, disaster risk management, youth empowerment, informal settlers, need for better measurement of vulnerability employment.

- The post-2015 framework should reflect on common outcomes/goals at global and regional level with flexibility given on country specific needs as well as actions must be measured on indicators both in terms of quantitative & qualitative aspects. The new agenda must therefore be common but differentiated requirements and responses. Moreover, for qualitative indicators (income of the poor, employment, skills) and social protection & social protection floors (rights-based vs. program-based) should also be an integral part of the development strategies. In particular, participants observed that issues of vulnerabilities (socio-economic, political & natural disaster shocks) need to feature prominently in the post-2015 discussions. And, the human rights issues must feature as well in the new framework. Therefore, the post 2015 agenda has to be inclusive and key to include these persisting and emerging challenges through active engagement of different stakeholders.

B. Key development questions for the post-2015 development agenda: Convergence of environmental, social and economic pillars

Convergence of Rio +20 outcomes and MDGs

29. The Rio+20 conference renewed political commitments to the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, social development, and environmental improvement. The Rio outcome document reaffirms 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 in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and resolves to set up a process on the sustainable development goals. The challenge ahead is to design coherent sustainable development goals and integrate them into the post 2015 UN development agenda; agree on global goals, with universal applications based on different national realities and levels of development; and aspirational but with measurable targets and indicators. Discussions evolve currently around the questions if the new development agenda should focus on outcomes like the MDGs did or if strategies should be included. If strategies were to be included, consensus has to be found on which ones to prioritize.

Issues relating to convergence and new priorities presented

---

3 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).
30. 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 include:

- converging economic, social and environmental objectives;
- defining the focus whether only on outcomes or should instruments and strategies be also included;
- include new theme such as food security and social protection;
- tackling the constraints financial and human resources; and
- monitoring framework to be established (how many levels, specific country focus, issue of inadequate data).

**Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants**

31. Issues raised by participants included:

- Suggests including outcomes and strategies and supports the convergence of the pillars. Emphasizes the importance to define responsibilities of the private sector and raised the challenge how to make the private sector accountable. Highlights the challenge of data collection and the need to consider which data is available when defining new indicators. Stressed that the timeline for new development agenda should be until 2030.

- Important themes are equity, growth and partnership. At the centre need to be the people, the planet and profit (social, environment and economic development understood as “triple bottom line”). Convergence is necessary. Outcomes and strategies need to be considered.

- Convergence of the three pillars is important and environmental sustainability/green growth should be highlighted. Poverty reduction needs to be at the centre, especially in rural areas. Recognizes the difficulties to identify meaningful environment indicators. MDGs need to be incorporated in the post 2015 development agenda. Strong political will is required to implement the post 2015 development agenda in its new complexity. Important is social protection and education.

- Economic growth should remain as main strategy to achieve poverty reduction. MDGs need to be integrated in the post 2015 development agenda and considered as unfinished business. A new framework goals and indicators need to be realistic and the focus should be on outcomes rather than strategies, which should be left to the countries. Strong governance and accountability mechanisms for the duty bearers are important.

- Support convergence of the pillars but highlights that poverty reduction has to stay at the centre of the post 2015 development agenda. Emphasizes that the MDGs have to be at the core of the post 2015 development agenda as unfinished business. Introduced the ‘Philippine Happiness Index’ and stressed that economic growth alone is not sufficient.
but the well-being and happiness of the population should be the ultimate goal. Expressed that the timeline of the post 2015 development agenda should be at least 15 years.

- Stresses the importance of the environmental pillar and the green growth model and highlights the importance of employment creation for sustainable growth. Emphasizes that reduction of inequality, strengthening of social cohesion needs to be linked with green growth. Fundamental to achieve the new development agenda is good governance.

C. Key development questions for the post-2015 development agenda: Resources for delivery of basic services

Brief introduction

32. One of the lessons from the MDGs is that it is not enough to set goals; there is a need for strategies and resources to implement them. There is now increasing realisation that the resource requirements and existing gaps in achieving MDGs should focus more clearly on the issue of mobilizing, allocating and reallocating resources efficiently for delivery of basic services. Effective deliveries of services are also needed to reflect an integrated approach to achieving economic, social and environmental goals. Apart from designing such resources framework, there is a need for a sustained mobilisation of resources in a proper channel and to link to priority sectors. Given the past experiences, the countries now need to concentrate on how best to use and allocate resources and identify new sources of financing by minimising ‘resource gap’ for meeting the persistent development challenges in the sub-region, and to learn from MDGs experiences for a better utilization resources in the post-2015 development agenda.

Major issues presented

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

- Providing universal access to basic services is critical to achieve not only MDGs but also for any set of goals in the post-2015 development agenda. In the case of economic dimension of the development agenda, countries should ensure equal opportunities to everyone. The following areas can be targeted in this regard including jobs guarantee, access to sustainable public infrastructure and ICT services. In the case of social dimension, the opportunities must be provided in terms of access to social services which may include equal access to education, healthcare, social protection to cover unemployment and disability insurances and protection for informal and migrant workers. While in terms of access to environmental services, the governments should ensure access to sustainable energy for all, access to modern cooking and electricity and green-jobs creation as well policies should be put in place to provide access to clean water, sanitation, as well as access to affordable new technology sources.

- The availability of resources is essential instruments for moving forward the post-2015 development agenda, which broadly include three areas: financial, human and natural resources. In terms of financial resources, it targets three pillars of sustainable development through the channels such as international development assistance, FDI, remittances, building resilient and creative economy, and avail domestic resources both from public and private sectors. The human resources are important to improve the
quality of inputs such as the availability of trained skilled teachers, well trained doctors, nurses and midwives, and qualified young job seekers. For natural resources, the development agenda must ensure low-carbon led development, as well as emphasis on conservation and sustainable use of ecology and promote mutually beneficial and fair sharing of remaining natural resources.

- The new development partnership should be based on targeted approach to obtain international financial support by sourcing ODA from donors, and by tapping new donors and philanthropy to get support for infrastructure and trade-related assistance. The new development agenda should also improve the productive capacity of the economies to increase assistance to the production sector. And, importantly, the countries with special needs (LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS) need to receive sustained international support in production sector to create economic dynamisms and accelerated progress towards development goals.

- The national policies need to strengthen towards expanding the tax base and progressivity in order to expand the fiscal space. The economic policies must find out new sources of financing which focus on productivity of expenditure components, instead of aggregate debt/deficit. And, simultaneously, new global partnerships could consider more delineated responsibilities for all stakeholders to move towards the post-2015 development agenda.

**Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants**

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

- The participants observed that based on the expenditure patterns, countries need to provide more funds for basic public services and to use resources efficiently and local government units should be given more resources to spend more for basic services. The current global economic and financial crisis has reduced the availability of amount of ODA. In particular, with emerging challenges like natural disasters and climate changes impacts, countries require more resources and investments for reducing economic and human losses. Moreover, there are challenges in generating domestic resources due to lower economic competitiveness and lack of participation in global value chain of exporting industries. Hence, more financial resources are required due higher vulnerability and risks of falling back to poverty resulted from climate change effects and other shocks.

- It was suggested that increased regional cooperation through knowledge transfer, financial assistance and strengthen consultation could spur more economic activities and better development outcomes. In particular, generating resources for the countries with special needs are critical. Therefore, countries need to generate resources by improving tax administration. Also, many participants observed that statistical capacity building must be designed, harmonised and implemented at the sub-regional and regional level in coordination with the United Nations and other regional development partners including ADB and ASEAN.
D. Key development questions for the post-2015 development agenda: State capacity, responsiveness and accountability

Brief introduction

35. A new development agenda will depend on effective governance capacities at all levels (global, regional, national and sub-national) and commitment to the rule of law, including political commitment and leadership, and on the empowerment of people, especially those most excluded and vulnerable, to participate in global, national and local decision-making. Accountability is the crucial link that ensures that these individual and institutional capacities are strengthened and root causes of poverty and other development challenges are addressed: If civil society, including individuals, can hold States and other duty-bearers to their commitments through accessible, effective accountability mechanisms at global, national and local levels, it is more likely that those feel compelled to identify and address patterns of inequality, discrimination, exclusion and other structural factors inhibiting human development.

Key issues presented

36. MDGs should be viewed as rights and claims so that the people are not seen as passive and silent beneficiaries but are empowered to participate in the achievement of their right to development, as was first recognized by the UN in 1986 and reinforced in the UN Millennium Declaration. In terms of the two main covenants of the Universal declaration of Human rights, the economic social and cultural rights and the civil and political rights, MDG do not articulate anything under the civil and political rights pillar. The latter assumes salience in the light of the growing ‘inclusive growth’ deficits, the disparities and therefore the need for people to voice their marginalization and call for correctives to be applied through the human rights based approach as framework.

37. In terms of the post-2015 agenda, in order to have sustainable development human security and human protection would be necessary. If the human rights are made more explicit and a democratic space is provided, it would enable a uniform approach and development of specific targets to measure the achievement of human rights in full.

38. Human rights offer principles and tested mechanisms to ensure accountability both at national and global level. In addition, human rights offer standards that help define goals and targets for a global development agenda more precisely. It will therefore be necessary, as part of a broader discussion on governance and accountability, to consider who should be responsible for ensuring the achievement of post-2015 goals, how global goals and targets can be aligned with international commitments and how they can be tailored as needed to the national level.

Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants

39. The main issues raised were:

- The new development agenda should include issues related to human rights, especially which are related to migration and victims of political conflicts. And, these should identify a link from human to social security and subsequent strategies for their implementation.
• The agenda needs to follow bottom up approach with a clear and coherence development agenda that engage local government units and promote strong monitoring and evaluation systems. The framework needs to put in place a space for social association and participation, whereby the development agenda is being carried out through a constructive participation of civil society.

• Also, to strengthen the accountability, it is important that each State has to provide access to information particularly related to how they can get access of basic services. In particular, not only the poor but particularly more the poor women do not really know what exactly the right they can claim in order to get basic services particularly health productive services.

• Strengthen governance that tackles corruption and thereby limits effective utilisation of resource delivery which is essential for decentralisation. Therefore, governance framework identifies participation and cooperation of all stakeholders and promotes development cooperation which is responsible and accountable.

E. Formulating and monitoring the post- 2015 development agenda: Lessons from the MDGs

Brief introduction

40. 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, transparent, and bottom-up. The discussion on the post-2015 agenda will also have to consider what monitoring framework to use.

Key issues presented on the monitoring framework and future development goals

41. Issues presented in this session included:

• Countries have varying capacities to implement the MDGs at the national level. Therefore, some countries have tailored the MDG agenda to reflect their own specific realities, including adding relevant goals (for example, in Afghanistan to enhance security, in Mongolia for governance and in Lao PDR and Cambodia to deal with landmines), targets and indicators, as well as using disaggregated data across regions and vulnerable groups. Whereas some other countries do not have the capacity to do so. The countries should have been given options to implement goals with regard to their own national realities.

• In terms of data, there is a need to generate reliable and accurate information at sub-national levels and facilitate the localization of vulnerable groups. And, countries also need to create sustainable statistical capacity in order to carry out focussed efforts to
obtain data at regular interval, which could reduce discrepancies between national and international level data.

- Furthermore, not all indicators are relevant to all countries, sub-regions and/or regions. The prevalent situation should be important indication for identifying the data issues, especially which are related to quantity vs quality. And, the national statistical systems should be consulted to identify indicators which could be used to track progress towards future goals and targets.

- There is a clear cut need to respond to challenges not explicitly, or inadequately, addressed in MDGs, while making effort to include other aspects of human development. Make the post-2015 agenda more relevant for all developing — including middle income — countries, and consider bringing concepts of well-being of individuals.

Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants

42. Participants raised the following main issues:

- Many participants are supportive of having common goals while they viewed that indicators could reflect difference of challenges, priorities and needs at national / regional levels, and setting multi-tier goals is also an option to reflect regional differences and achievement levels. For instance, 1st tier for global, 2nd tier for regional, and 3rd tier for national target. While views are expressed that different targeting can be set for countries depending on their state of achievement and their need to catch up, global targets should still be maintained for monitoring at global level. In terms of the target setting, there has to be balance between ambitions and realistic monitoring of targets.

- Some participants suggested that new term could be 2030, following the 15 years needed to ensure commitments for the current MDG. 15 years term should be complemented by 5 year review, as well as annual review at national level.

- Participants suggested that commitment of government to monitor the progress is important, and should be an independent activity. However, data collection was problematic as countries did not know what data to be collected and the monitoring activities tend to be technical. The objective of monitoring should be to improve the intervention. The results (data) of monitoring should be utilized for that purpose, rather than stay as administrative information. So, disaggregated data (geographic, gender, etc) are important for policy making. In this context, statistical capacity building of national statistical systems are critical in providing information on emerging concerns (e.g., governance, human rights, sustainable development).

- The statistical methodological issues of calculating baseline and targets are critical in the post-2015 monitoring framework, because the methodologies used have changed from those used at the starting point, creating difficulties in tracking the progress. To ensure that the MDG indicators will translate to actual policy uses for any future development agenda, the inclusion of responsible/accountable agencies in the regular reporting may also be considered. It is almost integrating the new framework with an accountability framework. Therefore a lot of support from development partners is needed.
• Recognizing that countries would have different levels of statistical development, it is expected that there will always be activities on statistical capacity building in the post-2015 development agenda. This should be programmed very early in the framework so that focus would really be on monitoring of the progress made on the development agenda.

• 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). The discussions are also linked to have differential targeting for countries depending on their stage of development, as well as on the new terminal year for the new development agenda.

F. Social protection for the post-2015 development agenda

Brief introduction

43. Apart from ensuring that the Asia-Pacific region reduces extreme poverty significantly and attains basic levels of human and social development, it is necessary to also guard against the various vulnerabilities the region’s citizens are exposed to. A very large proportion of the population of the region subsist at near poverty levels and face the risk of reverting to poverty due to economic shocks, exposure to natural disasters or individual household related events such as death of a breadwinner, loss of employment or catastrophic illnesses. The region is also facing structural demographic changes with growing proportion of the ageing population who need support beyond their own means. Thus social protection is a major issue which was not addressed under the MDGs and needs a place in the region’s future development agenda. This session focused therefore on better social protection coverage in the region; and also advanced the idea of a social protection floor.

Key issues presented

44. On Social Protection (SP) issues, the region’s coverage is inadequate and lags well behind Latin America. However, there are attempts across the region to expand coverage including to the largely uncovered informal sector and particularly to vulnerable groups. Southeast Asian examples include Thailand’s universal health coverage scheme, Indonesia’s and Philippines’ conditional cash transfer schemes etc. A major challenge is to develop better data and good indicators. ADB has developed the Social Protection Index which can provide a reasonably good assessment of countries. Challenges include financing and proper targeting to the vulnerable groups such as children, aged, women and the poor etc. There is a great need for South-South cooperation on SP. In the case of the Social Protection Floor (SPF), there is an attempt to provide minimum guarantees to the informal sector particularly targeting (a) the working age population with income support, skills training etc; (b) children with nutrition and education support; (c) the elderly with income security; and (d) those with disabilities. The Assessment Based Needs Dialogue conducted by ILO in the region has revealed that extending such coverage would require an additional expenditure of about 0.75 -2.45% of GDP in the Indonesian case.
Issues raised and suggestions offered by participants

45. The main issues raised were:

- There was general acceptance that SP including SPF should feature prominently in the post 2015 development agenda and targets should be introduced including on allocation of budgets to SP. The private sector should be involved in expanding SP coverage to the informal sector.

- Viet Nam has already introduced legislation to bring in quite comprehensive coverage by 2020. All others are contemplating expanding coverage quite significantly. ASEAN is developing an SP framework for its member countries. Asia has already strong informal SP provisions and entitlements. This should be strengthened. Singapore has brought in legislation, for example, to encourage children to look after dependent parents.

- There was broad endorsement of the idea that South-South cooperation on knowledge exchanges and best practices should be undertaken with regional institutions taking a lead in this respect. South-South cooperation need not be confined to within the region but should also look at Latin American examples for example.

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

46. Country views presented by the country delegations on post-2015 development agenda are summarised as follows:

- **Cambodia**: Maintaining sustainable development goals (SDG) (referring to goals achieved: 1, 4, 5 & 6); putting more efforts to achieve unfinished goals: (2, 3, 7 and 9); focusing on three core areas of sustainable development: economic development, social development and environment/natural resource management.

- Cambodia aims to achieve it aspirations post 2015 including the maintenance of political and economic stability; the achievement of strong inclusive growth of at least 7% per annum; economic diversification to drive sustainable socio-economic development; further poverty reduction of around 1% per annum; a high GDP per capita; and graduation from aid-dependency (LDCs) and environmental sustainability.

- To achieve these aspirations, Cambodia shall focus on the following priorities: further development of the agriculture sector: production and export promotion, agri-business and both for rice and other crops in the context of “Green Growth”, expansion of industrial manufacturing though SMEs, and improvement of hard and soft infrastructure. The specific focus will be given on diversification of export products and regional markets, attraction of high quality trade-oriented invest; and human resource development to address the mismatch between skills and labour market demands. In the case of environment and natural resource management, the government will incorporate Rio+20 frameworks, as well as put emphasis on water resources management and sanitation, food security and non-chemical products, and sustainable forest and land use.
In next NSDP 2014-2018, the government will make special effort to strengthen sectors like agriculture, food industry, light engineering industry, and other occupational diversification activities with a view to meeting all targets in MDG1, and consequently MDGs 2, 3, 7 and 9 [De-mining, Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) and victim assistance].

**Indonesia:** Looking to the future (post 2015) there is a need for a broader vision and agenda that can embrace the multiple arenas that are necessary for gender egalitarian and right based societies. Not only fundamental civil rights to guarantee zero tolerance for gender based violence. The issue of violence against women is missing from MDGs agenda. Also, a well functioning health systems is essential to provide universal quality health care, include sexual and reproductive health and rights, but also sustainable food systems to ensure the right to food, expanded opportunities for access to quality post primary education investment in infrastructure and care services to reduce and redistribute unpaid reproductive & care work increased opportunities for access paid work, remunerated in social protection, key assets such as land & increased representation in politics at all levels with democratization of governance in different political areas.

The process of new development agenda setting as important as its content. Thus the need to ensure democratic and inclusive process is very important. The process of building momentum towards post-2015 development agenda requires engagement of all stakeholders. The strong urges for recognition of countries’ different context besides establishing globally acceptable standards. Many countries of the world start questioning the effectiveness of separating countries/economies under the category of developed and developing countries within the agenda of post-2015. The post-2015 development agenda needs to properly address the community as institution in between the individual and government (to enable the inclusive process of agenda setting – bottom up process).

The post-2015 development agenda shall be an agenda to foster strong, balanced, inclusive and sustainable growth while maintaining overall focus on poverty eradication. A new ‘compact’ between State, Private Sector and Civil Society Organization needs to be established.

**Lao PDR:** The government plans and programmes will put more emphasis on some key areas including hunger and poverty reduction, education, health, social protection and inclusive and sustainable development.

**Myanmar:** A development framework for post-2015 should incorporate national strategies to ensure wide participation for setting global, national and local goals and targets, through a process of democratic consultation.

**Philippines:** National statistical systems, through official statisticians, should always be involved in the consultations/discussions on the development of the post 2015 development agenda framework. This is to ensure that the next framework can be monitored by most countries, especially the developing countries.
In the development of the post 2015 development agenda, there should be a quick data assessment on the proposed indicators – prior to the implementation/adoption of the agenda. Recognizing that countries would have different levels of statistical development, it is expected that there will always be activities on statistical capacity building. This should be programmed very early in the agenda so that focus would really be on monitoring of the progress made on the development agenda. Ultimately, it is the countries which will spell the difference. Hence, country commitment/participation is very critical.

**Viet Nam:** The national Sustainable Development Strategy (2011-2020) ensures macro-economic stability, food-energy-financial security, growth model renovation, effective use resources (green growth and low-carbon economy).

The synergies among economic, social and environmental pillars are critical to reduce trade-off which is used for achieving goals. The key policy focus areas are the following: employment, sustainable poverty reduction, social protection, rural development, addressing development disparity (inclusive growth & development), good governance, gender equality & women empowerment, green growth, environmental protection, climate change adaptation and disaster risks reduction & management, addressing ageing population issues.

The post-2015 development agenda has to be focused on outcomes, strategies and means to achieve the inclusive and sustainable development goals.