

Terms of Reference for the
High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

1. The High-level Panel of Eminent Persons will be convened by the UN Secretary-General to advise him on a bold and at the same time practical development agenda beyond 2015.
2. The High-level Panel will consist of 20-25 Eminent Persons, including representatives of governments, the private sector, academia, civil society and youth, with the appropriate geographical and gender balance. Panelists are members in their personal capacity.
3. The panel should conduct its work on the basis of a rigorous analysis of credible shared evidence. The panel should engage and consult widely with relevant constituencies at national, regional and global levels.
4. The Special Advisor of the Secretary-General for Post-2015 will be an ex-officio member of the HLP and serve as link to the UN system.
5. The output of the Panel will be a report to the Secretary-General which will include:
 - a) Recommendations regarding the vision and shape of a Post-2015 development agenda that will help respond to the global challenges of the 21st century, building on the MDGs and with a view to ending poverty.
 - b) Key principles for reshaping the global partnership for development and strengthened accountability mechanisms;
 - c) Recommendations on how to build and sustain broad political consensus on an ambitious yet achievable Post-2015 development agenda around the three dimensions of economic growth, social equality and environmental sustainability; taking into account the particular challenges of countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.
6. To this end, it would be essential for the work of the HLP and of the intergovernmental Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to inform each other in order to ensure both processes are mutually reinforcing. The HLP should advise the Secretary-General on how the SDGs relate to the broader Post-2015 development agenda.
7. To prepare the report, the Panel will take into consideration:
 - a) The Millennium Declaration, The Outcome Document of Rio+20;
 - b) The findings of the Report of the Secretary-General's UN Task Team for the preparation of the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda; as well as lessons learned and best practices from the MDGs.

- c) The findings of the various national and thematic consultations at regional and national levels which are coordinated by the UNDG as part of the preparations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda;
- d) The need to build momentum for a constructive dialogue on the parameters of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and propose innovative ways for governments, parliaments, civil society organizations, the business sector, academia, local communities to engage continuously in such a dialogue;
- e) The ongoing work of the UN Task Team, the Special Advisor to the SG on Post-2015, the report of the Global Sustainability Panel of the Secretary-General and the findings of the Global Sustainable Development Network Initiative; as well as
- f) Any other relevant inputs it may deem appropriate.

8. The HLP will be supported by a dedicated and independent secretariat headed by a senior official (Lead Author of the HLP report). The secretariat will also be able to draw from the wealth of knowledge and expertise made available to it by the UN system.

9. The Deputy Secretary-General will oversee, on behalf of the Secretary-General, the Post-2015 process.

10. The Panel will present its report to the Secretary-General in the second quarter of 2013. The report will serve as a key input to the Secretary-General's report to the special event to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and to discuss the possible contours of the Post-2015 Development Agenda to be organized by the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly in September 2013.

**Questions & Answers on the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons
on the Post 2015 Development Agenda**

Q: Why did the Secretary-General establish the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post 2015 Development Agenda? What is the main task of this Panel?

- The Secretary-General has established this panel in fulfillment of the mandate he received from Member States at the MDG Summit of the General Assembly in 2010 to make recommendations to advance the development agenda beyond 2015.
- By building on and expanding the current MDG framework, the post-2015 agenda will shape the way development policy, and particularly global efforts to eradicate poverty, will be carried out in the years to come.
- The Panel will advise the Secretary-General on a bold and at the same time practical development agenda beyond 2015. The Panel has been asked to contribute to shape an ambitious vision for human progress and sustainable development, based on the fight against poverty and the principles of equity, sustainability, and human rights.
- The Panel will provide concrete recommendations on how the vision can be implemented, its scope, the source of resources needed for its implementation, and the accountability mechanisms required.

Q: How representative is the Panel?

- The Panel includes a total of twenty-six members in addition to one ex officio, the Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning.
- Of the formal members, six are from African states, eight from Asian states, two from Eastern European states, four from Latin America and the Caribbean, and seven from Western Europe and Other States.
- The Least Developed Countries (LDCs), and the Small Islands and Developing States (SIDS) are also represented.
- Civil society, local governments, private sector, academia and youth are also represented.
- Half of the members are women.

Q: How would the HLP and its work relate to the open working group to be established by Member States further to the Rio + 20 conference?

- Member States have given clear mandates on how the post-2015 process will unfold at the GA MDG Summit in 2010 and at the Rio+20 Conference in 2012.
- In fulfilment of the 2010 mandate, the Secretary-General has established the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons (HLP) to advise him on a bold and at the same time practical development agenda beyond 2015. The Panel's proposals and ideas will inform his report to the General Assembly in September 2013.
- At the Rio + 20 conference in 2012, Member States agreed on an intergovernmental process that will focus on designing Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs). A working group of Member States representatives will submit their report on SDGs during the course of the 68th session of the General Assembly.

- While different in their scopes and responsibilities, the two mandates are complementary. The broad vision outlined by the Secretary-General on the basis of the HLP's report will provide a broad framework and inform the work on SDGs to be undertaken by the working group.
- By the closing of the 68th session, Member States will have before them coordinated inputs from both the HLP and the WG to allow them to define a single and comprehensive framework for the post-2015 development agenda.

Q: How would the HLP and the open working group coordinate their work in practice?

- In order to ensure the close coordination of the two mandates, both the timing of the reports and the support provided by the UN system will be aligned.
- On timing: the report of the HLP will be ready in the late spring of 2013 and inform the Secretary-General's report to the membership in September 2013. Both reports will inform the work of the Working Group, whose report is due in the course of the 68th session of the GA in 2013-2014.
- On support: the Secretary-General has established a UN Task Team (TT) to support him on fulfilling the 2010 Mandate. The TT has produced a report to be the first input into the work of the HLP. The same Task Team will also be the "inter-agency technical support team" that Member States have requested to support the Working Group as agreed in Rio, therefore further enhancing the coordination and complementarity of the two mandates.

Q: What arrangements will be put in place to support the post-2015 process? Will the HLP have a secretariat? How about the working group?

- The HLP will be supported by an independent team recruited in direct consultation with the three co-Chairs of the Panel. The team will be headed by a Lead Author and will likely constitute a mix of external recruits and seconded UN staff.
- Support to the "open working group" will come from a "subset" of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. This responds to Member States' request for an inter-agency technical support team for the "open working group", as per the Rio outcome document.
- In addition, the Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Post-2015 Development Planning will lead a team to support her in performing her role as an ex officio member of the HLP, and to coordinate the final output of this work to the 2013 UNGA.

Q: How is the independence of the HLP secretariat ensured?

- The team servicing the HLP will report directly to the panel and its three co-Chairs. No other entity will oversee their work.
- In addition, the team will also include external experts proposed by the co-Chairs.
- The team will be headed by a Lead Author to be externally hired.
- Financing of the team will come from a pool of untied resources.

Q: How does the Special Advisor on Post 2015 fit in this process? How does the Special Advisor relate to the HLP?

- The Special Advisor will represent the Secretary-General in the post 2015 process and will be an ex officio member of the High-level Panel.

Q: Who is in charge of the P2015 at the EOSG?

- The DSG is the highest ranking officer dealing with the process. The Special Advisor of the Secretary-General on Post 2015 development planning will report to the Secretary-General via the Deputy Secretary-General.

Q: When will the first meeting of the HLP take place? How will you prepare for that meeting? How do you intend to organize the work plan between now and then?

- It is proposed that the first meeting of the HLP takes place in New York, at the margins of the General Assembly.
- The SG will first meet with the co-Chairs, and then with the full Panel. Co-Chairs are also expected to have their own preparatory meeting.

Q: How would the HLP relate to the ongoing work of the UN Task Team? Will the HLP work until GA 2013? Or will they work beyond that day?

- The UN Task Team submitted a report for the consideration of the Secretary-General in June 2012. This is the first of the expected inputs into the work of the HLP, and it has already been shared with the co-Chairs.
- The HLP will remain mobilized until the 68th session of the GA in September 2013. Further to the deliberations of the GA, the Secretary-General may consider seeking the advice of the HLP beyond 2013. But is far too early to speculate on such a scenario.

How can regular citizens participate to this process?

- As part of the UNDG project, there is a Global Conversation component to enhance engagement of citizens in the post-2015 process. This has 3 sub-components: production of a post-2015 web platform, crowd sourcing/analytics to pull together and analyze the information, and an outreach to stakeholders. The public soft launch of the platform will take place on August 31st, and can be followed at www.worldwewant2015.org.
- This platform is being developed as a partnership between UNDG agencies, the private sector and a wide range of civil society partners to allow citizens and other stakeholders to contribute to the development of the post-2015 agenda.
