

MenEngage Advisory Document:

HOW TO INFLUENCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA



This document aims to provide valuable information about the Post-2015 Development Agenda in order for MenEngage partners in all regions of the world to influence the process of developing this future development framework. With less than two years before the Post-2015 Development Agenda is agreed, it is important that all MenEngage partners feed into this process with the message that engaging men and boys for gender equality is integral to the new development framework.

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This document was developed in April 2014 by MenEngage, in close consultation with UN Women. The main author was Hanna Jansson, Sonke Gender Justice, South Africa. Grateful thanks for valuable inputs from Tim Shand (Sonke Gender Justice), Marc Peters, (MenEngage) and Julien Pellaux and Sylvia Hordosch, (UN Women).

1. WHAT IS THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA?

The eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were established in the year 2000, aimed to improve the life for the world's poorest and the most vulnerable by the year 2015.

The MDGs have been a milestone in global and national development priorities. In the past 13 years the world has seen great strides towards achieving these goals: global poverty continues to decline; more children (especially girls) than ever are attending primary school; child deaths have dropped dramatically; and targeted efforts in fighting malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis have saved millions of lives.

However, the prospects for achieving all of the eight MDGs differ severely across and within countries and regions and efforts to achieve a world of prosperity, equity, freedom, dignity and peace will need to continue after 2015. The international community has therefore initiated a process to start planning for a new development framework: *the Post-2015 Development Agenda*.

2. THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGAGING IN THIS PROCESS

One of the lessons learned from the MDGs is that they were not developed in a transparent and inclusive way that was truly reflective of the priorities and needs of ALL stakeholders.

In developing the Post-2015 Development Agenda, many efforts have been made to bring the voices and ideas of a diverse group of stakeholders into the deliberations through a variety of mediums (see below under 'Process'). MenEngage should take advantage of this process and engage through as many channels as possible, in order to ensure that the Post-2015 Development Agenda will reflect and support the engagement of men and boys for gender equality.

As soon as it is agreed by Member States, this new Post-2015 Development Agenda will **filter down to the national agendas and processes:**

- The Post-2015 Development Agenda will affect how global resources are spent: **aid and donor funding** to national programmes and projects will most likely be based on this agenda;
- The Post-2015 Development Agenda will have significant influence on national development priorities in the decades beyond 2015: expected to become an **important tool for national priority-setting**;
- The Post-2015 Development Agenda is likely to play an important role in **framing national, regional and global policy**;
- The process of developing the Post-2015 Development Agenda is a real opportunity for governments, communities and civil society, particularly women's movements, to work together to bring about a **transformative change** in the everyday lives of women and girls.

3. WHAT DOES MENENGAGE WANT TO SEE IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA?

MenEngage recognizes that the Post-2015 Agenda must embrace a **human rights-based approach**¹ and believes that **meaningful citizen participation** should be built into every stage of the Post-2015 process, from developing the agenda, to its implementation, all the way through the monitoring and evaluation.

MenEngage stands with UN Women and women's rights NGOs in advocating for a **stand-alone goal on gender equality, women's rights, and women's empowerment** in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We also believe that gender equality and women's and girls' rights must be a **cross-cutting issue** in all other future development goals, targets, and indicators.

To achieve gender equality it is essential to **work with men and boys** given that women's and men's lives are intertwined. Men have not only a responsibility to contribute to transforming oppressive gender systems, but they will benefit from it as well.

Within a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, MenEngage strongly recommends at least including the following **three critical targets on engaging men and boys**, accompanied by suggested indicators:

1. Engage men and boys in preventing and responding to Gender Based Violence;
2. Commit men and boys to equal share in caregiving and household work; and
3. Engage men as supportive partners, clients and positive agents of change in HIV prevention, sexual & reproductive health & rights and maternal, newborn & child health.

For more information see below under 'Available MenEngage Post-2015 tools'.

4. ENGAGE IN THE INTERNATIONAL PROCESS

The Post-2015 Development Agenda will be defined through an intergovernmental process during the 69th session of the UN General Assembly (16 September 2014 – September 2015). This process will involve all governments represented at the UN General Assembly, and will conclude with a Post-2015 Summit, which is currently scheduled to take place in **September 2015**.

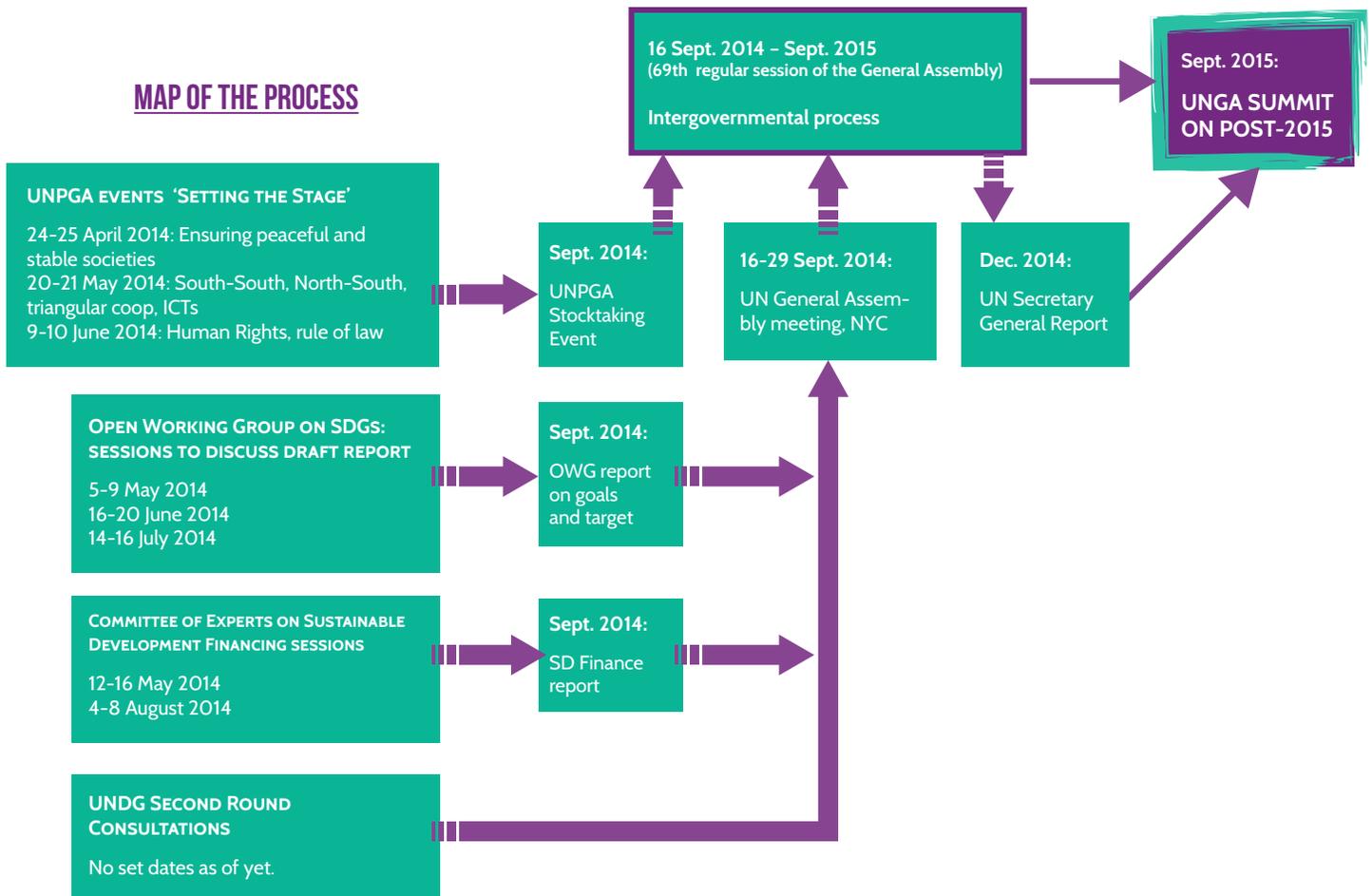
The intergovernmental process, which will take the form of negotiations, will be based on a series of inputs from the following on-going key international processes:

- President of the General Assembly (PGA) high-level and thematic debates,
- Open Working Group (OWG) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing; and
- United Nations Development Group (UNDG) National and Thematic consultations.

These key processes are currently in various stages. While there are opportunities for direct engagement of civil society and other stakeholders in these processes, it is largely limited to those able to engage directly in the proceedings in New York. However, there are still possibilities of **engaging in these processes online and at the national level**.

¹ In a human rights-based approach, every human being is recognized both as a person and as a right-holder. A human rights-based approach strives to secure the freedom, well-being and dignity of ALL people everywhere, within the framework of essential standards and principles, duties and obligations. The human rights-based approach focuses on

MAP OF THE PROCESS



4.1 PGA THEMATIC DEBATES, 'SETTING THE STAGE!'

The role of the PGA is to support governments on building consensus on the agendas debated at the GA, and generate dialogue among governments and stakeholders.

The current president of the 68th Session (September 2013 to September 2014) is John Ashe (Antigua and Barbuda). He has made it a priority of his presidency to help conceptualise the new Post-2015 Development Agenda. The PGA has therefore convened several high level events and thematic dialogues under the title 'Setting the Stage!', to input into the deliberations of the OWG and the Committee on Sustainable Development Financing.

Upcoming events:

- **24-25 April:** Thematic Debate, 'Peaceful and stable societies'
- **20-21 May:** High-Level Event, 'South-South, North-South, and triangular cooperation and ICT for development'
- **9-10 June:** High-Level Event, 'Human rights and the rule of law'

All of these events will take place in New York and will consist of an opening plenary, interactive, multi-stakeholder panel discussions and a closing plenary.

CSO ENGAGEMENT:

Before each event, stakeholders are invited to provide their inputs online:

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/settingthestage/>

4.2 OPEN WORKING GROUP (OWG) ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

This intergovernmental process as a result of the Rio+20 Summit in June 2013. The OWG is mandated to produce recommendations for sustainable development goals that are: few in number; measurable and easy to communicate; build on the MDGs; inclusive; universal, recognising different country priorities and level of development; and integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development.

The OWG is composed of 30 seats. During the negotiations on its composition, member states decided for a constituency-based system of representation comprised of 70 Member States. Therefore, the 30 seats are occupied by 1 to 4 countries from the same region:

AFRICAN GROUP	ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP	LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN GROUP	WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS GROUP	EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP
Algeria Egypt Morocco Tunisia	Nauru Palau Papua New Guinea	Colombia Guatemala	Australia Netherlands United Kingdom	Hungary
Ghana	Bhutan Thailand Viet Nam	Bahamas Barbados	Canada Israel USA	Belarus Serbia
Benin	India Pakistan Sri Lanka	Guyana Haiti Trinidad and Tobago	Denmark Ireland Norway	Bulgaria Croatia
Kenya	China Indonesia Kazakhstan	Mexico Peru	France Germany Switzerland	Montenegro Slovenia
Tanzania	Cyprus Singapore United Arab Emirates	Brazil Nicaragua	Italy Spain Turkey	Poland Romania
Congo	Bangladesh Republic of Korea Saudi Arabia	Argentina Bolivia Ecuador		
Zambia Zimbabwe	Iran Japan Nepal			

The OWG officially started its activities in January 2013 and has divided its programme of work accordingly:

- **Input phase** (March 2013 to February 2014); and
- **Output phase** (March 2014 to July 2014).

The **input phase** was a general stock tacking of topics, perspectives and proposals, which culminated in a document listing 19 “priority areas” for the SDGs.

The **output phase** will see the development of the outcome document to be produced by the OWG. The OWG’s co-chairs have announced that they will have a number of informal meetings to facilitate consultations, and five formal decision-making sessions on:

- 3-7 March
- 31 March - 4 April
- 5-9 May
- 16-20 June
- 14-18 July

The OWG is expected to hand in the final negotiated report to the 68th session of the GA in September 2014, with a proposal for the SDGs. This proposal will be one of the documents used to inform the intergovernmental negotiations in the run-up to the Post-2015 Summit.

CSO ENGAGEMENT:

Although there is not an official stakeholder participation mechanism for processes convened by the General Assembly, the Rio+20 document mandated that the work of the OWG should involve the participation of stakeholders.

Major groups and other stakeholders are coordinated around 23 thematic clusters. There is a steering committee for each cluster, which coordinates inputs and joint position papers. Relevant thematic clusters for MenEngage:

- Employment, decent work and social protection
- Youth, education and culture
- Health and population dynamics
- Human Rights
- Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women
- Conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and the promotion of durable peace
- Sustainable cities and human settlements

Stakeholders can comment and provide input on joint position papers, or upload their own proposals on: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1565>

MenEngage partners from member states which are part of the OWG (see table above), please:

1. Find out who the government focal person is for the OWG (call your Foreign Ministry and ask);
2. Call the focal person and ask whether it is possible to provide CSO inputs; and
3. Share the MenEngage Post-2015 tool, with suggested targets under a stand-alone goal on gender equality (see under ‘Available tools’ below).

4.3 COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

This is an intergovernmental committee, comprising 30 experts nominated by regional groups, with equitable geographical representation, which has been tasked to assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness, consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks, and evaluate additional initiatives, with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives.

The Committee is expected to hand in the final negotiated report to the 68th session of the GA in September 2014.

CSO ENGAGEMENT:

A steering committee has been constituted for the whole duration of the work of the Committee to play the role of interface between the Committee and non-state actors.

Stakeholders are invited to contribute and upload inputs such as reports, briefs, etc., relevant to the work of the Committee, on the UNDESA website:

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1558>

4.4 UNDG NATIONAL AND THEMATIC CONSULTATIONS

The UNDG comprises 32 UN funds, programmes, agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development. UNDG organised a **first round** of web based, national and thematic consultations during 2012 and part of 2013. Inputs and information about these consultations are published on: www.worldwewant2015.org

Based on this information, UNDG has inter alia submitted several issues briefs to the OWG sessions. A synthesis of these consultations has been published in the report: [A Million Voices](#).

These consultations aim to provide a space for people's voices, with a particular view to reaching out to poor and marginalised people. Several countries and organizations have indicated that the consultations have contributed to shaping their positions on the agenda.

The UNDG will undertake a **second round** of consultations during the course of 2014, which will focus on means of implementation. It is envisaged that the outcomes of these consultations will feed into the final report of the OWG and the synthesis report of the UN Secretary General.

Themes for UNDG Second Round of Consultations:

- Localizing the post-2015 development agenda
- Helping to strengthen capacities and institutions
- Participatory monitoring, existing and new forms of accountability
- Partnerships with civil society and other actors
- Partnerships with the private sector
- Culture and development

Each theme will involve six or seven national consultations, with regional diversity. The consultations will be multi-stakeholder involving civil society groups, parliamentarians, business, donors, government officials, academics, think tanks, among others. For each theme, UNDG will seek to identify 2-3

leading agencies and stakeholders, with advisory support structures made up from other UN agencies and external stakeholders including civil society. The co-leading agencies will provide the framework for the discussion, facilitate global activities and help synthesize the results of the national level work.

CSO ENGAGEMENT:

National level consultations will be led by [UN Country Teams](#) and the UN Regional Commissions:

- UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP)
- UN Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC)
- UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

There are no public details of these consultations as yet, so please keep following-up with your UN Country Team.

UNDG also maintains The World We Want Web Platform, which provides an open forum for discussion on the Post-2015 Development Agenda online:

<http://www.worldwewant2015.org>

5. ENGAGE IN THE NATIONAL PROCESS

The decision on what the Post-2015 Development Agenda will look like is **ultimately up to the member states**. As mentioned above, member states will start the intergovernmental negotiations to discuss the Post-2015 Development Agenda in the course of the General Assembly session starting in September 2014. The Post-2015 Development Agenda is supposed to be finalized in September 2015 and adopted at a Summit of Heads of State and Government.

The member states will inform their deliberations on the Secretary General's report, the OWG report and the report of the Committee on Sustainable Development Financing – all reports will be presented before the General Assembly meeting in its 69th session.

It is important that MenEngage partners in all regions engage in national processes, **leading up to the intergovernmental negotiations** that will start in September 2014, with the aim to **advocate for your government's position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to support a stand-alone goal on gender equality, the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all other relevant goals, and the inclusion of language on the engagement of men and boys for gender equality.**

MenEngage partners in each country also need to advocate with their own respective governments **during the negotiations**, and keep track of possible changes in the country's positions.

There are several ways of engaging in this process in your country, with the ultimate goal that your government supports a gender equality goal and adopts language on engaging men and boys for gender equality:

- Find out if other CSOs are engaging in the national process in your country and join in their efforts;
- Find out if your government is planning on convening stakeholder consultations, in order to formalize its position before the intergovernmental negotiations;
- Contact the UN Country Team, to find out what the UN Agencies in your country are doing to support civil society engagement in the national process;
- Contact the UN Women and UNFPA country offices, to find out what is being done to mobilise

women's rights organisations in the country to advocate for a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment; you may also contact members of UN Women's Civil Society Advisory Group where they exist²;

- Call for a meeting with the government department that is coordinating this process in the country (most likely the Foreign Affairs department) to see what activities are planned;
- **Share the MenEngage Post-2015 tools (see below) with as many government departments as possible, preferably the department that is coordinating your country's position.**

5.1 SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES FOR THE NATIONAL PROCESS:

- Identify spaces and collaborative partners to build capacity to understand and engage in post 2015 processes. This could include attending briefing sessions by other CSOs, requesting technical support from local experts working on post 2015 processes, and joining networks/collaborative efforts taking place in the country
- Develop a Briefing paper on engaging men and boys for gender equality, with perspectives from your country, referencing the MenEngage Post-2015 tools (what has been done to date in your country to reach the MDGs and considering the progress made/not made in this regard, what you wish to see as targets in the Post-2015 Development Agenda);
- Consultations with government departments (official and unofficial, in order to discuss the government position, and to provide your government with the MenEngage Post-2015 tools);
- Media advocacy (for example, write about the national process, what your government is doing to engage civil society, what you think is important to include in the agenda to reflect issues in your country – including the engagement of men and boys for gender equality).

5.2 CASE STUDY: SONKE GENDER JUSTICE

Sonke Gender Justice, the global MenEngage co-chair and the MenEngage Africa regional chair, has been engaging in the national process in South Africa since the start of 2014. Examples of Sonke's activities thus far:

- Sonke agreed to work together with UN Women South Africa, with regards to the national Post-2015 process in South Africa;
- Together with UN Women in South Africa, Sonke reached out to the government department in South Africa that is leading on this process, the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO), and asked for a meeting with DIRCO representatives to find out more about the national process. DIRCO was very cooperative and informed Sonke and UN Women that they will hold stakeholder consultations from June 2014, in order to inform South Africa's official position during intergovernmental negotiations;
- Sonke has shared both the MenEngage Call for Action and the MenEngage Suggested Targets with South African government representatives;
- Sonke and UN Women in South Africa asked to convene a session on the Post-2015 process at the South African National Gender Summit, 9-11 April 2014, in Johannesburg, with the aim to inform other CSOs in South Africa about this process. During the session it was decided that interested CSOs will form a task team moving forward, and develop a briefing paper on gender equality in South Africa together, including key policy asks for the Post-2015 Development Agenda for the government to bring to the intergovernmental negotiations;
- Sonke submitted its inputs online to the UNPGA High-Level Event 'The Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda,' which was held in NYC, 6-7 March 2014;
- Sonke shared the MenEngage Call for Action widely at the 58th Commission on the Status of Women in NYC, March 2014 and the 47th Commission on Population and Development in NYC, April 2014;
- Sonke has engaged with the African Union with the aim to influence its Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

² To find out whether your country has a UN Women Civil Society Advisory Group, please visit: http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Partnerships/Civil%20Society/CSAG_status.pdf

6. AVAILABLE MENENGAGE POST-2015 TOOLS

MenEngage has produced two advocacy tools, which can help partners when advocating for the engagement of men and boys for gender equality and women's empowerment in the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

- MenEngage [Call for Action](#); and
- MenEngage [Suggested targets under stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment](#).

Both are available online at www.menengage.org

Please also see **UN Women's position paper**:³

http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/10/UNWomen_post2015_positionpaper_English_final_web%20pdf.pdf

7. CONTACT

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the following persons, depending on what region you are from:

MenEngage region	Contact person	Email address	Organisation
Africa	Hanna Jansson	hanna@genderjustice.org.za	Sonke Gender Justice
North America	Humberto Carolo	hcarolo@whiteribbon.ca	White Ribbon Campaign
Europe	Tomas Agnemo	tomas.agnemo@mfj.se	Men for Gender Equality
Latin America	Douglas Mendoza	duglas.mendoza@gmail.com	Puntos de Encuentro
South Asia	Abhijit Das	abhijitdas@chs.org	Center for Health and Social Justice
Caribbean	Peter Weller	peterdouglasweller@gmail.com	CAriMAN

³ Also available in French: http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/10/UNWomen_post2-15_positionpaper_French_final_web%20pdf.pdf
And Spanish: http://www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/10/UNWomen_post2015_positionpaper_Spanish_final_web%20pdf.pdf

8. USEFUL SITES

- **Millennium Declaration & Summit:**
<http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>
- **Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform:** UNDESA publishes information about the processes of the OWG and the Committee on Finance for Sustainable Development:
<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>
- **IISD reports of OWG sessions:**
<http://www.iisd.ca/vol32/>
- **Beyond2015:** A global civil society campaign. The campaign membership ranges from small community based organisations to international NGOS, academics and trade unions. The 800+ organisations are from the developing, emerging and developed economies in the Northern and Southern hemispheres, with national and regional hubs:
<http://www.beyond2015.org>
- **The World We Want:** A platform created by the United Nations and civil society to amplify people's voices in the process of building a global agenda for sustainable development:
<http://www.worldwewant2015.org>

