



## HIV, Gender, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and the Post 2015 Development Agenda

### Introduction

In 2015, the implementation period of the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) will come to an end, and a new sustainable development framework will be ushered in to cover the period of 2015-2030. The Post-2015 development framework provides an opportunity to build on the MDGs and to address its shortcomings. The process leading up to the development of this new paradigm has been complex. This fact sheet aims to shed some light on the process, including civil society involvement and to highlight where HIV, gender and sexual and reproductive health rights fit into the Post-2015 agenda.

*"I am convinced that this 69th session of the General Assembly could be the most consequential in a general – and for a generation. The coming year must be a time for action. A time for results. We have important tests before us – and high expectations across the range of peace, development and human rights challenges."*

- Ban Ki-moon, Opening Session of the 69th UN General Assembly, September 2014<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=7996>

### Overview of the Post-2015 Development Process

Discussions on the Post-2015 Development Framework began in 2012 as two separate but related streams

#### ***The First Stream: Sustainable Development Goals***

The first of the streams, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emerged out of the [Rio+20 conference](#) in June 2012, and had an environmental focus. Within this stream, an Open Working Group (OWG) was tasked to come up with a set of SDGs. The OWG was comprised of 30 'troikas' which were groups of 2 to 3 governments, representing approximately 70 States. Major working groups, including a women's group and a civil society group, also provided input. In 2013-14, after 13 work sessions, the OWG agreed on an Outcome Document that was submitted to the UN General Assembly ahead of the meeting's official start in September 2014. The Outcome Document proposed 17 SDGs and 169 targets for the 2015-30 period. An Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) was also established to think through the dimensions of financing the SDGs.

#### ***The Second Stream: Post-2015***

The second stream, which took place in parallel, was established to consider what would replace the MDGs.

[The United Nations System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) was established by the UN Secretary-General in September 2011 to support UN system-wide preparations for the post-2015 development agenda, and brings together over 50 UN entities and international organizations.

As a complementary process, a set of eleven global thematic consultations and national consultations in over 60 countries were facilitated by the UN Development Group.

A High Level Panel of Eminent Persons also provided key input into the process and in their [May 2013 Report](#), argued that a post-2015 framework needs to be driven by five big, transformative shifts:

- i) leave no one behind;
- ii) put sustainable development at the core;
- iii) transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth;
- iv) build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions; and,
- v) forge a new global partnerships.

The Panel also identified the need for a data revolution to measure the implementation of the SDGs and to improve data collection capacity and data quality. The Secretary General also established an Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, which launched its report [A World That Counts: Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development](#). Finally, a Working Group on monitoring and indicators was also established by the UN System Task Team on Post-2015 UN Development Agenda to think through the challenges of designing a monitoring framework for the Post-2015 framework.

### ***The Merging of the Two Streams***

In September 2013, a High Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the MDGs was convened. At the meeting, governments adopted an Outcome Document, which laid out a roadmap for the post-2015 process going forward. Governments decided that these two parallel streams needed to be brought together. They agreed on two other key points: that the goals were universal and would apply to all countries, and that the OWG and the ICESDF would provide key inputs to shaping the future goals and their financing. They agreed to a formal intergovernmental negotiation process to develop this common framework starting at the 69th session of the United National General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2014. The [OWG Final Report](#) has been affirmed as the main basis for the common framework for post-2015; however other inputs will also be considered. In December 2014, the Secretary General provided a synthesis report, [“The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending](#)

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

- Goal 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- Goal 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- Goal 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
- Goal 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- Goal 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html>

[Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet”.](#)**Looking ahead**

The Post-2015 framework is to be adopted at the 70th General Assembly Summit on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 25-27 September, 2015 in New York. Negotiations for the framework began in January 2015, and negotiations are scheduled to take place at least once a month (for several days at a time) until the end of July 2015. In addition to the negotiations, High-level Thematic Debates are planned, including on Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda (9-10 February) and on Advancing Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in the Post-2015 development agenda (6 March). The third International Conference on Financing for Development will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in July 2015.

**Civil Society Engagement/Points of influence**

A key criticism of the MDG development process was the lack of consultation and there have been efforts to make the Post-2015 process a more inclusive and consultative process. There have been various channels for civil society participation thus far.

The UN has set up two online platforms to seek input on the priorities of the Post-2015 agenda. [“My World”](#) is a global survey that asks people to prioritize issues and has received response from over 5 million people from 194 countries. [The World We Want](#) is a web platform, launched in July 2012, which is co-hosted by civil society and the United Nations and hosts a lively and active exchange of civil society opinions and experiences.

So far, civil society organizations and representatives have been able to engage with Member States in several moments, including during all Sessions of the OWG on the SDGs, in New York. Sam Kutesa, President of the General Assembly has affirmed that civil society will be engaged in an open and transparent manner throughout the intergovernmental process, and the December 2014 decision adopted by the General Assembly on [modalities for the process of intergovernmental negotiations for the post-2015 development agenda](#), states that the co-facilitators will ensure the engagement of relevant stakeholders, including major groups and civil society. An interactive dialogue with major groups and other civil society stakeholders was held as part of the January 2015 intergovernmental negotiations.

Recently, there have been indications that some countries are trying to curtail civil society participation in negotiations. There have also been indications that there is little appetite to re-open negotiations on the goals and targets that were established in the Final Report of the OWG. There are ongoing advocacy efforts to push for meaningful and continued civil society engagement in the process as well as to address the limitations of the OWG Final Report.

Although negotiations around the goals and targets may be limited, some of the remaining points of influence for the final framework are around financing, means of implementation, the accountability framework and indicators. There are opportunities within these areas to push for a stronger human rights approach and to encourage leaders to push for indicators within the health and gender goals to focus on sexual and reproductive health rights and the inclusion of marginalized groups and key populations at the forefront.

In relation to gender and sexual and reproductive health, there are two additional important events taking place in 2015, which could have an impact on the post-2015 development agenda: the 59th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (March 9-20, 2015) will undertake the 20-year global review of the Beijing Platform for Action, and the 48th Session of the Commission on Population and Development (April 13-17, 2015) will focus on integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda.

**Getting Involved**

In mid-December 2014, civil society organizations launched a [“Call for Participation,”](#) to urge leaders and government representatives to ensure that civil society remain engaged during all phases and levels of the post-2015 agenda negotiations.

An [AIDS Advocacy Alert](#) urges civil society organizations to push for:

- Civil society access to all official meetings, information and documents throughout the intergovernmental process;
- Opportunities for civil society to submit written and oral contributions and recommendations; and
- Opportunities for civil society to organize side events

[Beyond 2015](#) is a global civil society campaign, pushing for a strong and legitimate successor framework to the MDGs and brings together more than 1000 civil society organizations from 132 countries all over the world. Beyond 2015 has published a [calendar](#) that includes key advocacy opportunities in the Post-2015 process. Similarly, ICASO hosts an interactive [Post-2015 advocacy timeline](#) that highlights key opportunities for influence, particularly related to HIV.

### HIV, Gender and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights

Of the 17 proposed goals and 169 proposed targets within the Outcome Document, HIV and AIDS is specifically noted under Goal 3 is to 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.' This goal lays out nine substantive targets by 2030, including to:

- ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes
- reduce global maternal mortality to 70/100,000 live births;
- end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases
- research and development of vaccines and medicines, making full use of TRIPS flexibilities

Goal 5 **"Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"** includes proposed targets to:

- ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the ICPD and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of their review conferences;
- end all forms of discrimination, violence, and harmful practices against women and girls, including trafficking and sexual violence, and child, early and forced marriage and FGM

In addition to this stand alone goal on gender equality, gender equality and women's rights are addressed in different goal areas, including those related to poverty (Goal 1), food security (Goal 2), education (Goal 4),

water and sanitation (Goal 6), economic growth and employment (Goal 8), cities and human settlements (Goal 11), climate change (Goal 13) and global partnerships (Goal 17).

The Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) recently released its report [Indicators and a monitoring framework for Sustainable Development Goals: Launching a data revolution for the SDGs](#). This report includes a set of suggested indicators including Indicator 19 "HIV prevalence, treatment, and mortality rates", which is a modified MDG Indicator, and Indicator 47 "Meet demand for family planning", also a modified MDG Indicator.

### *Some critiques*

Concerns have been expressed that the size of the framework is such that it is unworkable and the goals in some cases too aspirational. In other cases there have been criticisms that the goals and targets are not sufficiently bold or transformative. The position of the Canadian government has been to seek the adoption of a framework with a limited set of goals with clear and measurable targets and indicators.

The Outcome Document has been recognized as 'embracing a broader and more human rights-sensitive agenda' than the MDGs, although the human rights language is seen to fall short. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) highlights the need for the targets not to be qualified by 'national law' but ensure consistency with international law.

According to the [Women's Major Group](#), the "SDGs are still not sufficiently ambitious, transformative or rights-based", and the group has raised "[8 red flags](#)" on the OWG Outcome Document, including the absence of human rights and the limitations of sexual and reproductive health targets, namely the absence of any references to sexual rights or SRHR. Many groups have commended the stand alone gender equality goal but have also stressed the need to have gender equality further integrated across other goals and targets.

Some groups have emphasized the need for the health goal to be more ambitious and to address the social and political determinants of HIV and health. The [Civil Society Working Group on AIDS in the Post-2015 Agenda](#) (CSWG) has emphasized the need for the agenda to adequately address stigma, discrimination and human rights violations due to HIV status, as well as sexual orientation and gender identity. The HIV community has been critical

of the absence of any reference to marginalized or key populations throughout the Goals, except under the climate change goal (Goal 13). Other notable absences are references to Comprehensive Sexuality Education and, although youth and young people are mentioned under other targets (employment, education and climate change), they are not mentioned in relation to health, SRHR or HIV.

### Conclusion

The Post-2015 Framework has the potential to be a transformative agenda that will guide the global community to reduce poverty and attain a healthier and more equitable world by 2030. In order for this ambitious agenda to achieve its objectives it must be grounded in principles of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness. This is a critical time for civil society to understand and engage with the processes surrounding the Post-2015 Framework and to shape this global agenda for the next fifteen years.

### Acronyms

- HLTF:** High-Level Task Force for ICPD
- ICESDF:** Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing
- ICPD:** International Conference on Population and Development
- MDGs:** Millennium Development Goals
- OHCHR:** Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- OWG:** Open Working Group
- SDGs:** Sustainable Development Goals
- SDSN:** Sustainable Development Solutions Network
- SRHR:** Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights
- UNGA:** United Nations General Assembly

### Additional sources/resources

Interagency Coalition on AIDS and Development (ICAD), November 2014. Webinar recording of “HIV, Gender, SRHR and the Post 2015 Development Agenda.” [www.youtube.com/icadcisd1](http://www.youtube.com/icadcisd1)

UNAID Programme Coordinating Board, November 2014. *Agenda item 3: Update on the AIDS response in the post 2015 development agenda.* [http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/20141111\\_update\\_AIDS\\_post\\_2015\\_development\\_agenda\\_en.pdf](http://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/20141111_update_AIDS_post_2015_development_agenda_en.pdf)

Canadian Council for International Cooperation (CCIC), October 2014. *Backgrounder: The Post-2015 Process and Canada.* [http://www.ccic.ca/files/en/what\\_we\\_do/2014\\_09\\_10\\_Backgrounder\\_Post-2015\\_Process\\_Canadian\\_Priorities.pdf](http://www.ccic.ca/files/en/what_we_do/2014_09_10_Backgrounder_Post-2015_Process_Canadian_Priorities.pdf)

High-Level Task Force for the International Conference on Population and Development, 2014. *Priorities for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.* (<http://icpdtaskforce.org/post-2015/priorities-for-the-post-2015-development-agenda/>)



*ICAD would like to thank Fraser Reilly-King (Canadian Council for international Cooperation), Sandeep Prasad (High-Level Task Force for the International Conference on Population and Development) and Melissa Ditmore (Civil Society Working Group on HIV in the Post-2015 Development Agenda) for their valuable input on this factsheet.*



Phone: 613-233-7440  
Fax: 613-233-8361  
Email: [info@icad-cisd.com](mailto:info@icad-cisd.com)