
**THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:
INTERNATIONAL PROCESS AND CANADIAN PRIORITIES**

February 2015 (Version 3)

(This backgrounder is a living document and will be updated periodically)

Issue: As the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, United Nations' member states, civil society, and the private sector worldwide are engaging in discussions to propose a new sustainable development framework to succeed the MDGs in 2015. This paper looks at 1. the process to date, 2. the current state of play towards developing a post-2015 framework, and 3. Canadian priorities for post-2015.

1. THE INTERNATIONAL PROCESS LEADING TO A POST-2015 FRAMEWORK

As the implementation period of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)¹ comes to a conclusion in 2015, discussions are well underway to elaborate a new sustainable development framework that will succeed the MDGs and, like the MDGs, cover a fifteen year period from 2015-2030. Discussions on a successor to the MDGs began in 2012 and led to two different, but related streams of work: one on a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), emerging from the 2012 Rio+20 - United Nations (UN) Conference on Sustainable Development, and another more directly related to considering what would follow the MDGs in 2015. While the processes have historically been separate, there has also been increasing recognition over time that merging the two streams represented a real opportunity to bring back together issues related to the environment and development, two areas of work that have taken parallel paths within the UN system since the major UN conferences of the 1990s. In September 2013, the [High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the MDGs](#) took a significant step towards merging the two streams of work, when governments adopted an [Outcome Document](#) laying out a roadmap for the post-2015 process going forward. The document underscored the importance of establishing a *single framework* and a *universal set of goals* – applicable to all countries but taking into account different national contexts. It urged the Open Working Group

¹ The MDGs include eight goals, namely 1) eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, 2) achieving universal primary education, 3) promoting gender equality and empowering women, 4) reducing child mortality, 5) improving maternal health, 6) combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, 7) ensuring environmental sustainability, and 8) establishing a global partnership to achieve this. United Nations. (n.d.). Retrieved from: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

and the Inter-Governmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing to complete their work by September 2014. And they agreed to a formal intergovernmental negotiation process to develop this common framework starting at the 69th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2014. The following section addresses the key details of these two streams and the process leading up to the start of official inter-governmental negotiation process.

1.1 FIRST STREAM: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)²

This first stream of work emerged out of the [Rio+20 conference](#) in June 2012 and has been looking to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are “coherent with and integrated into”³ the post-2015 development agenda. Under this first stream, three processes were put into place to do the following: 1) elaborate goals and targets for the future framework; 2) discuss how to finance it; and, 3) monitor and evaluate its implementation. These processes have been managed through their own structures: the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, respectively.

A. Open Working Group on Sustainable Development (OWG)

Founded in January 2013, the [Open Working Group](#) (OWG) had 30 member groups. There were 70 states formally represented at the OWG – organized geographically and often in pairs/troikas, with each member group generally representing more than one country. That said, more than 70 member states actually engaged in the process. The OWG was tasked with coming up with options for a set of SDGs, to then be negotiated by United Nations member states. The group initially held a set of exploratory presentations from experts, after which they began to drill down on a set of focus areas. Over 2013-14, and after 13 work sessions, the OWG agreed on an [Outcome Document](#) that was submitted to the UNGA in September 2014 ahead of the official start of intergovernmental negotiations on a post-2015 framework.

The [Outcome Document](#) proposed 17 SDGs and 169 targets for the 2015-2030 period, many of which update and reorient the MDGs (and which Beyond 2015 hopes will serve as “[the floor, not the ceiling](#)”, for the final agreement).⁴ For example, rather than halving poverty and hunger, a goal has been proposed to end poverty in all its forms, while another focuses on food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture. The education goal has been updated to include

² A previous iteration of this backgrounder included details on the contributions of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the InterAgency Technical Support Team.

³ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. (2014). *Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals*. Retrieved from: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html>

⁴ Beyond 2015. (2014). Key Advocacy Message for the 69th General Assembly High Level Segment September 2014. Retrieved from: <http://www.beyond2015.org/sites/default/files/Advocacy%20Messages%20for%20website.pdf>

aspects related to inclusivity, quality, and life-long learning, in addition to completion rates. The proposed goals also expand on the MDGs, most notably by integrating the three pillars of sustainable development – social, environmental and economic – albeit with differing degrees of success. They include provisions to address inequality and inclusion, access to affordable, reliable and sustainable forms of energy, inclusive and sustainable growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all, sustainable consumption and production patterns, combating climate change, sustainable management of biodiversity, and peaceful and inclusive societies.

B. Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF)

The ICESDF is an intergovernmental committee of 30 experts, which is mandated to recommend a financing strategy to mobilise resources and their effective use for the implementation of the SDGs. More specifically, it was tasked to prepare “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.”⁵ The ICESDF coordinated its work with the OWG and adopted, on August 8, 2014, its [final report](#). This was sent to the UNGA for consideration. The report concludes that there is no one simple solution and that a basket of options for policy makers will be necessary to mobilize all sources of financing – public and private, national and international – as well as a global partnership that covers aspects of aid, trade, debt, taxation and financial market stability. This includes better aligning private incentives with public goals; creating a policy framework that encourages for-profit investment in these areas; mobilizing public resources for essential sustainable development activities; reducing corruption; and ensuring that policies and incentives better match investor preference with investment needs.⁶ The ICESDF [report](#) is intended to inform the intergovernmental negotiations for the post-2015 development agenda and in particular the discussions on financing sustainable development.⁷ See below for more details on Financing for Development.

C. High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

The [High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#) is the main United Nations’ platform dealing with sustainable development. It was established in 2012 following the [Rio+20 summit](#), and will ultimately replace the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which itself was originally set up following the 1992 [UN Conference on Environment and Development](#) (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Like its predecessor, the Forum meets every year under the auspices of the UN’s Economic and Social Council, and every four years at the level of Heads of State and

⁵ Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing. (2014, para 1). Retrieved from: <http://www.beyond2015.org/committee-experts-sustainable-development-financing>

⁶ ICESDF Concludes Work, Forwards Report to UNGA. (2014) Retrieved from: <http://post2015.iisd.org/news/icesdf-concludes-work-forwards-report-to-unga/>

⁷ ICESDF. (2014). Report of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing – Final Draft. Retrieved from: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4588FINAL%20REPORT%20ICESDF.pdf>

Government at the General Assembly. The Forum is there to (a) provide political leadership and guidance on sustainable development; (b) follow up and review progress in implementing sustainable development commitments; (c) enhance the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; and (d) address new and emerging sustainable development challenges.⁸ The Forum is expected to steer the implementation, integration and review of the post 2015 development agenda and will meet in June-July 2015 to discuss this issue ahead of the official adoption of the Post-2015 agenda in September 2015. The Forum will have an important role in tracking the implementation of the post-2015 agenda between 2015 and 2030.

1.2 SECOND STREAM: POST-2015

The second stream of work was set up to consider specifically what would replace the MDGs after 2015. Under this stream, multiple consultations were organized to identify the main priority themes for post-2015 by country, by region, and by sector. Some of these consultations were organized nationally while others were global and accessible through online platforms. The various processes also had as an objective to present reports and proposals to help elaborate a post-2015 development framework. The main processes discussed in this section are the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons, and the Independent Advisory Group on the Data Revolution.⁹

A. UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

The [UN System Task Team](#), established by the UN Secretary General in January 2012, gathers more than 60 UN bodies and other international organisations. Co-chaired by the [Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(DESA\)](#) and the [United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#), the Task Team is supporting the process leading up to post-2015 by providing analytical thinking and substantial inputs. It has published two key reports to date: [Realizing the future we want for all](#) (2012) and [A renewed global partnership for Development](#) (2013). The 2012 report reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of the MDGs and suggested that the framework for post-2015 be reorganized along four key dimensions for a more holistic approach: (1) inclusive social development; (2) inclusive economic development; (3) environmental sustainability; and (4) peace and security.¹⁰ The 2013 report looked at the possible features for the global partnership for development in post-2015, and recommended that there be a stand-alone goal on partnership, that the partnership be more inclusive of a range of development stakeholders

⁸ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. (2013). Retrieved from: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556>

⁹ A previous iteration of this background paper included details on the contributions of the Special Adviser to the SG on post-2015, the UN Development Group, the UN Regional Economic Commissions and the UN Global Compact.

¹⁰ UN DESA. (2012). Report of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Retrieved from: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/untt_report.pdf

beyond governments, and that progress be tracked through robust accountability.¹¹

In response to complaints that the MDGs were not developed in a consultative enough manner, the UN Task Team has also supported a number of consultation processes in collaboration with representatives from civil society, the private sector, academia, and governments, creating space for interested stakeholders to contribute ideas and proposals on the implementation of the post-2015 agenda. The web platform [The World We Want](#) provides information on, and access to, these consultations. A first phase started in 2012 and focused on the potential issues and areas to be included in a post-2015 development agenda. These included [national consultations](#) in 88 countries as well as [thematic consultations](#) on eleven themes. In April 2014 a second consultation phase was launched, focusing on [dialogues on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda](#). The results of these two discussion phases were presented at a high-level side event during the 69th session of UNGA in September 2014.

B. High Level Panel of Eminent Persons

The [High Level Panel of Eminent Persons](#) was established by the Secretary General in 2012. It brought together 27 members to provide advice on the 2015 global development framework. The Panel was co-chaired by three Heads of State, and included leaders from civil society, private sector and government. In 2013, it released its report entitled, "[A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development](#)." The Report called for the new post-2015 goals to drive five big transformative shifts, which will 1) leave no one behind; 2) put sustainable development at the core; 3) transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth; 4) build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all; and, 5) forge a new Global Partnership.¹²

C. The Independent Advisory Group on the Data Revolution

The High Level Panel of Eminent Persons also called for a data revolution, arguing that more data is needed to inform policy making, programming, to measure new goals and to enable people to have the necessary information to hold their governments to account. In August 2014, the UN Secretary General established an Independent Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development, with 24 members from civil society, the private sector, academia, governments and international organizations, to provide inputs on how this might be achieved. The November 2014 report, "[A World that Counts-Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development](#)," highlighted two big global challenges for the current state of data: the lack of high quality data ("too many countries still have poor data, data arrives too late and

¹¹ UN DESA. (2013). Report of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. Retrieved from:

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/glob_dev_rep_2013.pdf

¹² High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on The Post-2015 Development Agenda. (2013). A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development. Retrieved from: <http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf>

too many issues [and groups of people] are still barely covered by existing data” and remain invisible); and data that is used and usable (disaggregated to address the problem at hand, and “relevant, accurate, timely, accessible, comparable” and independent of political interference).¹³ The report argues that still today “whole groups of people are not being counted and important aspects of people’s lives and environmental conditions are still not measured”, a problem which can lead “to the denial of basic rights and (...) continued environmental degradation”.¹⁴ The SG echoed this concern in December 2014, calling for “disaggregation of information by gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant to national contexts.”¹⁵ The IEAG Report made several recommendations to address these challenges and increase open and more equitable access to, and sharing of, quality data and information, building literacy in its use. It also recommended establishing a UN-led Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data to bring together “the whole data ecosystem” and a forum to provide feedback loops between producers and users.

2. CURRENT STATE OF PLAY

In a way, the 69th session of the UNGA in September 2014 marked the end of the parallel processes and the official merger of the two streams of work. At that point, all the inputs from the different processes had been handed over to the UN Secretary General to inform the production of his synthesis report, which was expected to guide the official intergovernmental negotiations and provide a vision for a single transformative sustainable development agenda. During that session, states also began to individually identify their respective priorities¹⁶ for any future framework. The session thus kick-started the final year of negotiations that will lead to the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda at a UN Summit in September 2015.

Since September 2014, several major developments have occurred to shape this final year of negotiations: the publication of the SG’s Synthesis report, as well as the adoption of the negotiation modalities – and the beginning of the actual negotiations – on both the SDG framework and the financing for development discussions, and their respective summits. This section discusses these initiatives.

¹³ Data Revolution Group. (2014). ‘A World that Counts – Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development’, Independent Expert Advisory Group Secretariat, p. 11 and pp. 14-15. Retrieved from: <http://www.undatarevolution.org/report/>

¹⁴ Independent Expert Advisory Group on a Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. (2014, page 2). A World that Counts. Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development. Retrieved from: <http://www.undatarevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/A-World-That-Counts.pdf>

¹⁵ UN Secretary General (UN SG) Synthesis Report. (2014, para 46). The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet. Retrieved from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/700&Lang=E

¹⁶ For more details, see : 69th Session of the UN General Assembly (2014). Retrieved from: <http://sd.iisd.org/events/69th-session-of-the-un-general-assembly-unga-69/>

2.1 UN SG's SYNTHESIS REPORT

The SG synthesized all the inputs from the various streams of work and submitted a report to UN Member States in December 2014, entitled "[The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet.](#)" The objective of the report was to provide a framework for sustainable development that will guide the intergovernmental negotiations between January and September 2015 – although states can of course accept or reject the SG's recommendations. The report addresses issues related to the *content*, the *means of implementation*, and the *measurement and monitoring* of the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. Civil society groups have [submitted their responses](#) to the Synthesis Report through a [central online repository](#).¹⁷

In his [report](#), the SG highlighted some essential features of any future framework, common to all of the contributions received:¹⁸ universal in scope; transformative; people-centred and planet-sensitive; integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; grounded in the MDGs, but filling new gaps left by the goals; leaving no-one behind to ensure that human rights principles of equality, equity, inclusion, and non-discrimination are met; and rigorously monitored and reviewed in a participatory manner.

Importantly, the SG Report also emphasizes that "Member States have agreed that the agenda laid out by the Open Working Group will be the main basis for the post-2015 intergovernmental process".¹⁹ This means that the 17 goals and 169 targets developed by the OWG will be the main building blocks of the final goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda, although the SG does remind Member States that they also agreed the goals must also be "concise and easy to communicate."²⁰

Perhaps to achieve this, the Report identifies six essential elements that should frame a universal and transformative post-2015 development agenda:

- a) dignity: to end poverty and fight inequality;
- b) people: to ensure healthy lives, knowledge and the inclusion of women and children;
- c) prosperity: to grow a strong, inclusive and transformative economy;
- d) planet: to protect our ecosystems for all societies and our children;
- e) justice: to promote safe and peaceful societies and strong institutions; and,
- f) partnership: to catalyse global solidarity for sustainable development.

¹⁷ UN NGLS. (2014a.) Civil society engagement in the post-2015 development agenda negotiations. Retrieved from : <http://unnegls.org/index.php/publications/the-2015-post-e-mag/240-civil-society-engagement-in-post-2015-negotiations>

¹⁸ UN SG. (2014, paras. 48-56.)

¹⁹ UN SG. (2014, para 63.)

²⁰ UN SG. (2014, para 62.)

Other key recommendations of the SG Report include committing to a universal approach; integrating sustainability in all activities; addressing inequalities in all areas; ensuring that all actions respect and advance human rights; addressing the drivers of climate change and its consequences; basing analysis on credible data and evidence; expanding the global partnership for means of implementation to maximum effect; and anchoring the new compact in a renewed commitment to international solidarity.

For the September 2015 UN Summit, the SG Report also spells out the four necessary components for a “realistic yet ambitious outcome,” providing recommendations on each:

- a) An inspirational vision made plain in a declaration;
- b) A practical plan for the declaration, laid out in an integrated set of goals, targets and indicators;
- c) Adequate means to implement the plan and a renewed global partnership for development – in terms of financing, investments and technology and an enabling environment that facilitates this; and,
- d) A framework to monitor and review implementation to ensure promises made become promises delivered.²¹

In a nutshell, a) will help frame the conversation, much as the Millennium Declaration did; b) will reflect the final framework negotiated by States based on the Outcome Document of the OWG (an update of the MDGs), with separate conversations on the indicators; c) will be defined largely by the results of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (and build on MDG8); and d) will be implemented by the HLPF on Sustainable Development. The report also considers what will be required of the UN to address this agenda.

2.2 THE 2015 ROAD MAP

In addition to the UN SG’s Synthesis Report, the other major development that followed the September 2014 UNGA was the adoption of the modalities for the intergovernmental negotiations, the start of the negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda and the preparatory process and negotiations for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD3). In this sub-section, we present the 2015 Roadmap which includes the schedule of intergovernmental negotiation sessions on the post-2015 development agenda, the process surrounding FfD3, a series of high-level thematic events, and the UN Summit of September 2015. We also discuss civil society participation in these events and processes.

²¹ UN NGLS. (2014b). Call for responses to the UN Secretary-General’s Synthesis Report on Post-2015. Retrieved from: <http://unngls.org/index.php/publications/the-2015-post-e-mag/166-call-for-responses-to-un-secretary-generals-synthesis-report>

A. Intergovernmental Negotiations on post-2015

Draft decision [A/69/L.46](#) on the modalities for the negotiations laid out the “main components” of the final outcome document for the September post-2015 Summit: “declaration; sustainable development goals and targets; means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development; and follow-up and review.”²² (In the latter case, note it does not reference monitoring, evaluation and accountability.)

The decision also laid out a road map for the intergovernmental negotiations starting in January 2015, facilitated by Ireland and Kenya, and ensuring coordination with the FfD3 process. The zero draft outcome document on the post-2015 development agenda will be prepared by the co-facilitators and presented to Member States by May 2015. See Box 1 for the dates and issues of focus of these negotiating sessions on the post-2015 framework.

i) Stocktaking

At this first intergovernmental session, [governments](#) took stock of the process and inputs to date, and touched upon the themes of the upcoming sessions, with details of the discussion included in the [informal co-facilitators’ summary](#). One of the key elements of the debate was the “technical proofing” of the targets agreed to by the OWG (see iii) below for details). States also discussed the content of the declaration, keen that it be concise, reference previous key documents, focus on people and the planet, and reaffirm core values, including universality and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR). On means of implementation (MOI) and partnership, an ambitious framework will require an even more ambitious MOI, with discussions closely coordinated between the post-2015 and FfD3 processes. In terms of follow-up and review, states want an open, transparent and inclusive framework (but not necessarily one that is binding or focuses on accountability), with the involvement of multiple stakeholders. [Canada](#) raised a range of issues at this meeting.

ii) Declaration

To kick-off the discussion of the declaration, the co-facilitators produced an “[Elements Paper](#),” drawn from issues raised at the Stocktaking session (see i) above). It framed the declaration around the collective vision, what we must do to get there and how, with follow-up and review,

**Box 1. SCHEDULE OF
INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATION
SESSIONS on the POST-2015 FRAMEWORK**

Stocktaking

19-21 January 2015

Declaration

17-20 February 2015

Sustainable development goals and targets

23-27 March 2015

**Means of implementation and global
partnership for sustainable development**

20-24 April 2015

Follow-up and review

18-22 May 2015

Negotiation of the outcome document

22-25 June 2015

Negotiation of the outcome document

20-24 July and 27-31 July 2015

²² General Assembly. (22 December 2014.) Modalities for the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, A/69/L.46. Retrieved from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/L.46&Lang=E

and shared principles and commitments. This was then turned into a [Discussion Document](#) (with no official status), with more detail, reflecting comments made by delegates during the session. Member states generally agreed that the declaration is the key political statement, and must be “concise, visionary, ambitious, actionable, communicable and simple.”²³ It should provide a transformative vision for sustainable development that leaves no one behind, responding to today’s challenges, with poverty eradication as a key objective.²⁴ Delegates debated what transformative change the declaration should reference, and what this entailed at a practical level, “transformation or equilibrium.”²⁵ Many, including Canada, want to reference the unfinished business of the MDGs. Almost all felt it would be important to reference gender equality and women’s empowerment.²⁶ Some also proposed including a reference to “Common but differentiated responsibility” (CBDR) in the declaration, a deal breaker for many developing countries, and a benchmark for how to interpret the notion of universality.²⁷ Others rejected the inclusion of CBDR, opting to reference shared responsibility, leaving everyone to do their own thing, and in turn weakening the notion of universality.²⁸

For its part, [Canada](#) wants a short, inspirational, focused and communicable declaration. It should be rooted in human rights, potentially framed around the SG’s six elements, underscore the importance of addressing the unfinished business of the MDGs, and highlight “what we are committing to, and how we will get there.”²⁹

iii) Goals, targets and indicators

Like the [UN SG Report](#), and echoed in the January Stocktaking session, the draft decision [A/69/L.46](#) on the intergovernmental negotiation modalities reiterated the fact that “the proposal of the OWG shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post 2015 development agenda (...)”.³⁰ Although originally intended as an input to the negotiations, this now makes the 17 goals and 169 targets the *de facto* goals and targets for the

²³ United Nations. (25 February, 2015). Member States and Stakeholders discuss vision for post-2015. Retrieved from:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/6221Declaration%20Session%20overview.pdf>

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ Earth Negotiations Bulletin. (23 February, 2015). Summary of the Second Session of Intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 agenda: 17-20 February, 2015. Vol.32, No. 15. Retrieved from: <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb3215e.pdf>

²⁶ Barbara Adams. (February 3, 2015). 2015 Declaration: Meeting Great Expectations (maybe). Global Policy Watch #2.

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ Government of Canada. (January 19, 2015, p.1.) Statement delivered by Amb. Michael Grant, Deputy Permanent Representative, Canada Stocktaking Session. Retrieved from:

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/12410canada2.pdf>

³⁰ UNGA. (22 December 2014, para 2(d)). Draft decision submitted by the President of the General Assembly. Modalities for the process of intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. Retrieved from: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/L.46&Lang=E

new framework, with the majority of governments (the G77 and the European Union) refusing to open them up to further debate and streamlining, and fewer and fewer states – like Canada – still calling for a limited number of goals and targets.

In the January stocktaking session, there was much debate about the technical proofing of the 169 OWG targets - to ensure they don't lower the level of existing international commitments and standards, duplicate others or are inconsistent with them, and that they are specific, measurable and action-oriented. There was no consensus on whether this should occur or who should be responsible for doing it, since some see this as a backdoor to renegotiate the targets agreed to by the OWG, while others, like Canada, feel this will help ensure that the targets are measurable and achievable, and aligned with (or at least not less ambitious than) other international agreements. That said, at a request made by the co-chairs in December,³¹ the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC), working with the UN Task Team,³² agreed in mid-January to prepare a set of preliminary indicative global indicators to accompany the targets ahead of the March meeting. This process "will necessarily examine the targets contained in the OWG proposal."³³

Not surprisingly, this discussion of indicators – which may be included in the final outcome because numerous governments are underscoring the close connection with the targets, but which is not technically part of the official negotiation process – will likely become a highly contested and political element of the debates. The UNSC is holding its 46th session in early March to discuss establishing a technical inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators and a road map for 2015 to identify appropriate global indicators and to develop an effective and measurable indicator framework.

iv) CSO participation in the process

In addition to producing an Outcome Document proposing goals and targets for post-2015, the Open Working Group process also broke new ground in terms of civil society participation. CSOs hope to build on this process to ensure that the same level of access and engagement will prevail during the intergovernmental negotiations. To that end, the Beyond 2015 campaign launched a "[Call for Participation](#)" in December 2014 in which 865 organizations from 111

³¹ Letter to UNCS Acting Chair from the Co-Chairs. (19 December 2014). Retrieved from: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/broaderprogress/pdf/Letter%20to%20Chair%20of%20Statistical%20Commission_19Dec14%20FINAL.pdf

³² In February, 2015, Policy and Statistical Experts from UN specialized agencies submitted a set of indicators drawing on their specific experience. For details, see https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/GPFEurope/Background_information_on_the_List_of_Proposed_Indicators.pdf

³³ Co-Facilitators of the negotiations. (January 21, 2015.) Summary of Stocktaking meeting of Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Retrieved from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/5913Summary%20of%20IGN%20Stock%20taking%20Mtg%2019_21%20Jan%202015.pdf

countries around the world asked state leaders to ensure the meaningful participation of civil society throughout the whole post-2015 process, including the intergovernmental negotiations.³⁴ Although the modalities reference the rules of procedure and practices of the UNGA, which offers very limited space for CSOs to participate and speak, it also references including all relevant stakeholders, building on the precedent set by the OWG.

Ahead of the first intergovernmental negotiating session, and to establish a constructive dialogue from the outset between civil society, member states and the UN secretariat on the key components of the post-2015 development agenda, a [preparatory forum](#) was organized for major groups and other civil society stakeholders to dialogue with Member States. Such formal exchanges have continued during each of the formal negotiation weeks.

Canada is keen to ensure good CSO participation.

B. International Conference on Financing for Development

In July 2014, the General Assembly [adopted a resolution](#) to hold a Third International Conference on Financing for Development – following similar conferences in [Monterrey](#) in 2002 on financing the MDGs, and a review of progress on this in [Doha](#) in 2008. It will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13-16 July, 2015, ahead of the September 25-27 Post-2015 summit. The outcome of this conference will largely determine the means of implementation³⁵ of the post-2015 development agenda, and hence will coordinate closely around the post-2015 discussions. The Preparatory meetings for this conference are being co-facilitated by the governments of Guyana and Norway, and involve substantive informal sessions, interactive hearings and formal drafting sessions, separate from the post-2015 process, with the facilitators expected to produce a zero draft by early March, 2015. Civil society has produced a [position paper](#) on what it expects from FfD3, endorsed by 130 organizations and networks.

i) Substantive informal sessions

The preparation for this meeting officially started in 2014 with the organization of “substantive informal sessions”. The substantive sessions served to assess progress since Monterrey and Doha, build on this progress, and identify emerging thematic issues and challenges with a strong focus on sustainability and universality. (See Box 2 for details).

³⁴ Beyond 2015. (11 December 2014). Call for participation: results. Retrieved from: <http://www.beyond2015.org/news/call-participation-results>

³⁵ “The notion of ‘Means of implementation’ describes the interdependent mix of financial resources, technology development and transfer, capacity-building, inclusive and equitable globalization and trade, regional integration, as well as the creation of a national enabling environment required to implement the new sustainable development agenda, particularly in developing countries.” This will require “a new and strengthened global partnership for mobilizing” this. UN Technical Support Team, Issues Brief: Means of Implementation; Global Partnership for achieving sustainable development, n.d. Retrieved from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2079Issues%20Brief%20Means%20of%20Implementation%20Final_TST_141013.pdf

In the November informals, participants looked at a range of challenges related to financing development using an array of financing tools, while ensuring positive social, economic and environmental outcomes. Speakers focused on strengthening domestic resource mobilization (DRM) capacity – including strengthening tax administration, broadening the size and scope of tax revenue, tackling tax evasion, growing domestic savings, redistributing revenues, and developing strategies to attract more diverse foreign direct investment (FDI). Discussions also touched upon different ways to make public finance more sustainable – in terms of good governance, energy subsidy reform, social protection systems, gender budgeting, public procurement, and budget transparency. Countless speakers underscored the continued importance of official development assistance (ODA), in particular targeting the poorest. Other speakers talked about new ways to leverage public finance, in particular through blended loans, about the potential of South-South Cooperation, and the need to make private sources of finance more inclusive and ensure investment and business strategies better integrate sustainability criteria. A more complete informal summary is [available on-line](#).

**Box 2. SCHEDULE OF SESSIONS on
FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Substantive informal sessions:
 17 October 2014 – Opening Session
 10 November 2014 – Global Context
 11 -13 November 2014 – Domestic public
 finance; International public finance;
 Private finance
 9-12 December 2014 – Enabling and
 conducive policy environment; Trade,
 investment and technology; Governance;
 Learning from partnerships and follow-up

**Informal interactive hearings with civil
society and the business sector:**
 8-9 April 2015

**Drafting sessions on the outcome
document**
 27-29 January 2015 – First drafting session
 13-17 April 2015 – Second drafting session
 15-19 June 2015 – Third drafting Session

**Third International Conference on
Financing for Development**
 13-16 July 2015

At the December informals, discussions focused on how to establish a broader set of rules and institutions to ensure coherence and stability of the economic, financial and trade systems at the global, regional and national level. It covered existing reforms by global institutions and players, as well as persistent gaps. There were proposals on a range of things: how to enhance international tax cooperation; how to prevent and resolve current and future debt crises; how to transfer and share scientific and technological innovations; how to better integrate sustainable development considerations into existing investment agreements and trade systems; how to enhance data access and use and build national statistical systems; how to strengthen global and national governance and make it more equitable; how to learn from partnerships (with a strong focus on public-private partnerships); and how to follow up systematically on FfD3, while connecting it to the post-2015 process. A more complete informal summary is [available on-line](#).

ii) Drafting sessions and the outcome document

A zero draft “Elements paper” was circulated in late January, just prior to the first drafting

session.³⁶ Building on discussions from the substantive sessions, it touches upon elements related to financing needs and sources, the national and sub-national enabling environment to facilitate effective financing, the scope of partnerships required to realize this, and the unfinished business of Monterrey. It identifies seven building blocks for sustainable financing of development – domestic public finance, domestic and international private finance, international public finance, trade, technology, innovation and capacity building, sovereign debt and broader systemic issues – and the challenges to effectively using and delivering on these. It also looks at the pre-conditions for effecting monitoring of outcomes, data use and follow-up to FfD3. It ends with an annex of indicative policy ideas for each building block, drawing on issues raised in the informals and the report of OWG, ICESDF and SG's Synthesis Report. The January session provided a first opportunity for feedback on this Elements paper, including from [civil society](#) and [Member States](#), ahead of the zero draft.

Informal interactive hearings are scheduled to take place in New York on April 8th and 9th to allow civil society and the business sector to provide initial feedback on the content of the zero draft. This feedback will feed into the next drafting sessions scheduled for April 13-17 and June 15-19. Civil society organizations interested in FfD3 can join the Civil Society FfD listserv.³⁷

iii) Canada and the FfD3 process

On process, to avoid duplication, Canada favours negotiating the MOI under FfD3 and then integrating this into the post-2015 framework.

On the Elements paper, [Canada](#) supports the focus of the building blocks, but feels there are too many policy proposals to generate a coherent document. For each building block, Canada suggested its own areas of focus, including on the following: public financial management and strengthening tax administration; partnering with the private sector to access new resources for infrastructure and investment, strengthening financial inclusion and literacy, as well as enhancing lending infrastructure for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises; enhancing the quality of ODA and its links to the pillars of sustainable development, and using international public finance to leverage more private and innovative finance; completing the Doha round of trade negotiations, and get duty and quota-free access for LDCs; strengthening national debt management strategies; and enhancing global macroeconomic stability through coherence and coordination. For Canada, the final outcome document also needs to place more emphasis on gender issues, including access and availability of financial services for women and sex-

³⁶ Co-Facilitators of the negotiations. (21 January 2015). Preparatory Process for the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development – Elements. Retrieved from: http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/FfD_Elements-paper_drafting-session.pdf

³⁷ The Civil Society FfD listserv is a self-organized platform open to all civil society organizations and serving as a channel of communication and coordination for civil society engaged in the FfD3 process. To join, you can write to the following Google groups address: <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/global-social-economy>

disaggregated tracking and analysis of investment. In terms of monitoring and review, Canada is keen to see how monitoring of both FfD3 and post-2015 will align.

Canada also spoke in the [general](#) and the [domestic and international private sector finance](#) drafting sessions in January. Canada underscored the fact that ODA has increasingly been dwarfed by other sources of finance – albeit noting that this will not reduce its sustained commitment to ODA, essential for least developed countries. (Although in practice Canadian aid has been shrinking at alarming rates since 2011, when it hit a peak.³⁸) Rather, this assessment forces countries to focus on innovative tools and approaches to mobilize additional funding for development. Accordingly, Canada is actively advocating for the use of blended finance (a mix of grants and loans) and Public Private Partnerships.³⁹ Blended finance, often used to invest in the private sector, offers lower than market rates by combining concessional (grants or loans with longer repayment terms and lower interest rates than might otherwise be offered by the market) with non-concessional (loans) funding. Blended finance is central in the discussions of the Redesigning Development Finance Initiative (RDFI) International Committee – a joint project of the World Economic Forum (WEF) and the OECD Development Assistance Committee, and an initiative which Canada chairs. More specifically, the RDFI is working on “a portfolio of innovative finance models; and new blended finance partnerships that will lead to concrete projects and real development results.”⁴⁰ Canada is keen to hold a side event in Addis on blended finance.⁴¹

C. High-Level Thematic Debates

The President of the UN General Assembly (PGA), Ugandan Sam Kutesa, is also convening a series of six high-level thematic debates in 2015 to enable “Member States and stakeholders to have in-depth exchange of views, in an interactive and participatory manner” on issues related to the post-2015 development agenda.⁴² These fall within the theme that the PGA chose for the focus of the 69th session, “Delivering on and implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda.” Each has a concept note, related materials and statements, and will generate a PGA summary that will feed into the negotiations process. CSOs and individuals can submit their input ahead of these thematic debates via the event pages.

³⁸ Blanchfield, Mike. (January 23, 2015). Foreign aid, poverty spending shrinking, says federal budget watchdog. Canadian Press. Retrieved from: <http://www.cbc.ca/m/touch/canada/story/1.2929922>

³⁹ Government of Canada. (January 28, 2015). Preparatory Process for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development – Domestic and International private finance – Statement by Canada. Retrieved from: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/1ds-dipf-statement-Canada-Jan2015.pdf>

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Government of Canada. (n.d.) Comments on Elements Paper. Retrieved from: <http://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/ep-comments-Canada-Feb2015.pdf>

⁴² General Assembly of the United Nations. (n.d.) Post-2015. Retrieved from : <http://www.un.org/pga/post-2015/>

- a) [High-level Thematic Debate on Means of Implementation for a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) (9-10 February).
- b) [High-level General Assembly Thematic Debate on Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) (24 February).
- c) [High-level Thematic Debate on Advancing Gender equality and empowerment of Women in the Post-2015 development agenda](#) (6 March).
- d) High-level Thematic Debate on Promoting Tolerance and Reconciliation (6 or 10 April)
- e) [High-level Thematic Debate on Strengthening Cooperation between the UN and regional and sub-regional organizations](#) (15 May).
- f) [High-level Event on Climate Change](#) (29 June).

D. The 2015 UN Summit

The United Nations Summit on “Transforming the world: realizing the post-2015 development agenda” will be held on 25-27 September 2015. In December 2014, UN Member States informally agreed on draft resolution [A/69/L.43](#) with respect to the Summit modalities, meeting at the level of Heads of State, and with the participation of all UN programmes and agencies and “other relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, academia, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, major groups and the private sector.” The modalities make provisions for two informal interactive hearings with these stakeholders prior to June.

Once the post-2015 development agenda is adopted, it is expected that the High-Level Political Forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of the sustainable development commitments and objectives. The development of appropriate indicators through the UN Statistical Commission, will be critical to ensuring proper monitoring and evaluation of this.

3. CANADA AND POST-2015

In 2010, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper [reaffirmed Canada’s commitment](#) towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) when he spoke at the MDG Summit. He noted that the MDGs are an important framework, “that enable us to measure our collective progress towards building a better future for those most in need.”⁴³ This was a minor, but important, development, since up until that point Harper had been somewhat ambivalent towards the MDGs. Since then, Canada has been paying a lot more attention to the MDGs, and how Canada can support progress towards achieving them.

In September 2013, at a High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the

⁴³ Statement by the Prime Minister of Canada at the Millennium Development Goals High Level Plenary in New York. (2010, para 2). Retrieved from: <http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2010/09/21/statement-prime-minister-canada-millennium-development-goals-high-level-plenary-new>

MDGs, Minister Lynne Yellich, Minister of State (Foreign Affairs and Consular), laid out some guiding principles that have helped inform the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development's (DFATD) work looking ahead to 2015: including goals that are realistic, focused and measurable; focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable, including women and children; creating more jobs and economic growth; and setting out a strong accountability and measurement framework.⁴⁴

Canada also contributed financially to the first round of "thematic" UN consultations organized by the UN System Task Team (see 1.2 A. above) between October 2012 and March 2013 in 88 countries, and it co-sponsored the UN consultation on education. Canada also supported the second round of UN consultations focused on "implementation issues". Canada also participated in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG), where it shared one of the 30 seats available, in a troika with Israel and the United States.⁴⁵

Through the various statements made by Canada's troika at the OWG, speeches and declarations of Canadian government officials, we have identified a list of Canadian priorities for post-2015. In this section, we present this list and provide information on how the post-2015 discussions have been structured within DFATD. Greater clarification and detail around these priorities has begun to emerge and will continue to do so in the coming months, as Canadian government positions become more evident through the intergovernmental negotiations.

3.1 CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TOP PRIORITIES FOR POST-2015

A. Maternal, newborn and child health

The highest priority of the Canadian government for the post-2015 development agenda, not surprisingly, is maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH). Canada has been providing leadership on this agenda since 2010 when it launched the [Muskoka Initiative](#) to mobilize global action on MNCH. Then in the fall of 2013, Prime Minister Stephen Harper co-hosted a [high-level meeting on women's and children's health](#) during which he clearly identified MNCH as Canada's "flagship development priority." In this vein, the ["Saving Every Woman Every Child" global summit](#), held in Toronto in May 2014, was considered by many as Canada's stepping stone towards post-2015. During that Summit, Prime Minister Harper announced [Canada's commitment of \\$3.5 billion](#) to improve the health of mothers and children for the period of 2015–2020. This commitment reflects Canada's position to address the unfinished business of

⁴⁴ Speech for The Honourable Lynne Yellich, Minister of State (Foreign Affairs and Consular Services) at the United Nations General Assembly Special Event: Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Not available on-line.

⁴⁵ For work in the OWG, the Member States decided to use an innovative, constituency-based system of representation in which most of the seats in the OWG are shared by several countries. Of the 30 members of the OWG, Canada, Israel and the United States shared one seat, just like France, Germany and Switzerland or India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka share two others respectively. For the list of groupings, see: Proposal of the Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (n.d.). Retrieved from: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html>

the MDGs – in this case MDGs 4, 5 and 6 – and to ensure MNCH “[remain\[s\] a clear and top priority](#)” post 2015.⁴⁶

B. Job creation and economic growth

Canada is putting a strong emphasis on trade between countries, job creation (including decent work), and economic growth (which in turn, it believes will lead to shared prosperity) to reflect current realities and what was missing from the MDG agenda. This focus also aligns with the current strong push at DFATD on free trade, economic growth and the private sector, including increasingly promoting Canadian commercial interests within this vision. The latter is perhaps best illustrated by new partnerships with Canadian extractive companies, and by the Government’s January 2014 [Global Markets Action Plan](#), which lays out opportunities for Canadian companies in the developing world. The post-2015 vision translates into placing a strong emphasis on private-sector led growth (likely with a strong emphasis on the extractive industries and natural resource management), promoting a favourable business environment to facilitate this, and women’s economic empowerment. Canada’s approach to growth, however, assumes a direct link between growth, development and poverty reduction, and its approach to economic empowerment is somewhat instrumental, rather than necessarily empowering – integrating women into the marketplace, increasing their incomes, and assuming that that brings with it empowerment.⁴⁷

C. Results and accountability

Within the context of any post-2015 framework, Canada is very interested in promoting a robust, effective and efficient monitoring and accountability framework, with achievable and measureable goals and targets, and one that is inclusive and participatory in its implementation.⁴⁸ This will require greater institutional capacity and systems in country to do this. This area of focus can be traced back several years. Canada has been working on strengthening results and accountability notably through its work on the [G8 Accountability Reports](#) and the [UN Commission on Information and Accountability for health of women and children](#). Canada supported a second round of global consultations (on the whole post-2015 agenda) through a contribution to the UNDP. As part of this, in March 2015, Canada sponsored with the Republic of Korea and Peru (with UNICEF and UN Women), a United Nations dialogue on participatory monitoring for accountability.

⁴⁶ PM addresses the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. (2014). Retrieved from: <http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2014/09/25/pm-addresses-united-nations-general-assembly-new-york-city>

⁴⁷ Reilly-King, F. and Tomlinson, B. (2011). The Elusive Quest for Pro-Poor Growth? An Analysis of CIDA’s Economic Growth Strategy. Retrieved from: http://www.ccic.ca/_files/en/what_we_do/2011_12_Pro-poor_growth_paper_e.pdf

⁴⁸ Government of Canada. (January 21, 2015). Statements for the Stocktaking Session - Means of Implementation. Retrieved from: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/12412canada3.pdf>

Canada also supports the idea of a “data revolution,” working in collaboration with Statistics Canada. This idea was put forward by the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons, arguing that more data is needed to inform policy making and programming, to measure new goals and to enable people to have the necessary information to hold their governments to account. Any future accountability framework for Canada will require quality, timely, disaggregated, comparable and open data,⁴⁹ and strengthening national statistical systems to produce more timely and effective data, with a particular focus on civil registration and vital statistics, like birth certificates.⁵⁰

* * *

Canada is conscious that it is important to ensure the post-2015 framework is not a donor-driven agenda with countries like Canada pushing too many issues. The above priorities do not preclude Canada supporting other areas. These include supporting stand-alone goals and targets on food security, education, and peaceful and inclusive societies, including a target on the role of women in peace processes. Canada is also looking to reference in the outcome Child and Early Forced Marriage (CEFM) and Child Protection, growing areas of interest, as well as to ensure that issues of environmental sustainability and gender equality are integrated throughout.

3.2 OTHER POST-2015 ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

A. A limited number of realistic, focused, and measurable goals

While there were eight MDGs, the [Outcome Document](#) of the Open Working Group (OWG) contains 17 goals and 169 targets. After the MNCH Summit in May 2014, Prime Minister Harper “cautioned against adding too many new goals to the list,” saying that could make it more difficult to achieve any of them.⁵¹ For the final post-2015 framework, Canada will actively be seeking the adoption of a framework with “a limited number of priorities”⁵² – limited set of goals with clear and measurable targets and indicators. This is proving increasingly difficult with the growing acceptance (for example by the European Union) that the OWG’s SDGs and targets will form the basis of the future framework, and the refusal by the Group of 77 to open up the OWG’s outcome to further discussion. Canada continues to advocate on this issue, but is increasingly alone. This issue will come to a head in March when the SDGs and targets component of the future framework will be discussed.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ PM addresses the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. (2014). Retrieved from: <http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2014/09/25/pm-addresses-united-nations-general-assembly-new-york-city>

⁵¹ Makrael, K. (2014, para 13). Harper excludes abortion from maternal health plan. *The Globe and Mail*. Retrieved from: <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/harper-urges-united-nations-to-keep-aim-on-improving-maternal-child-health/article18917048/>

⁵² PM addresses the United Nations General Assembly in New York City. (2014, para 72). Retrieved from: <http://www.pm.gc.ca/eng/news/2014/09/25/pm-addresses-united-nations-general-assembly-new-york-city>

B. Universality

Canada accepts the universal nature of the goals⁵³ – that is, that the goals would apply to all Member States, including Canada, while individual countries might develop their own country-specific targets and indicators. But the focus on poverty reduction of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the developing world would suggest that Canada may not see the goals as necessitating commensurate domestic targets and indicators for Canada – although in the international negotiations, Canada is advocating for results to be disaggregated by sex, age, geographic area, etc., allowing for a clearer picture of which groups are being left behind. That said, the government is exploring the implications of the universal applicability of a future post-2015 framework, particularly how these would apply in a federal system such as Canada's; the federal government is also having to be mindful that it is essentially negotiating a final framework on behalf of Canada in many areas over which the provinces have jurisdiction.

In that vein, Ottawa is conscious that it will need to consult the provinces and territories on this process; yet it is still not clear that the Federal government has done anything yet on this front, giving further credence to the notion that the Government does not believe the post-2015 agenda will apply to Canada and Canadians. The province of Quebec, for its part, has begun to more pro-actively engage the federal government on the post-2015 debate, largely in the context of the Francophonie Summit. And Statistics Canada is supposedly undertaking a mapping exercise to identify what data already exists within Canada as relates to potential future goals, and what is missing.

C. Poverty eradication

The first goal of the proposed SDGs is to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere.” Canada strongly supports this focus on poverty eradication for the post-2015 development agenda. In particular, Canada believes – as noted already – that the focus should be on the poorest and most vulnerable people, especially women and children (given the recent shift in countries of focus,⁵⁴ presumably in both Low or Middle Income Countries.) This focus should continue to be at the heart of any post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

⁵³ *The Brussels G7 Summit Declaration*, para. 13, affirms that “We commit to work with all partners to agree an ambitious and universal post-2015 agenda, anchored in a single set of clear and measurable goals.” Group of Seven. Retrieved from: <http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2014/06/pdf/the-brussels-g7-summit-declaration/>

⁵⁴ In July 2014, Canada increased the number of countries of focus where it operates from 20 to 25. It cut Bolivia and Pakistan in the process, but added Burkina Faso, Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (and substituted Sudan for South Sudan) in Africa, Burma, Mongolia, and the Philippines in Asia, and Jordan in the Middle East. For a full list of countries, see Canada updates list of development countries of focus. (2014). Retrieved from: <http://www.international.gc.ca/media/dev/news-communications/2014/06/27abg.aspx?lang=eng>

D. Civil society enabling environment and multi-stakeholder engagement

Canada's [Commitment to Protect and Promote the Enabling Environment for Civil Society](#) was announced by International Development Minister Christian Paradis at the First High Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in April 2014 in Mexico. The statement specifically acknowledges the role that civil society plays in realizing development outcomes and enabling people to hold their governments to account and to participate in decision-making on issues that affect them. And it points to the centrality of governments to promoting and protecting the rights to freedom of association, to peaceful assembly and of expression, amongst others, to reverse this trend. Since then, the government has released an [International Development and Humanitarian Assistance Civil Society Partnership Policy](#), following an extensive consultation process. The policy embodies Minister Paradis' April statement and articulates the government's approach to working with civil society.

It is still unclear how (and whether) this increased focus on issues related to CSO enabling environment will translate into a priority issue for the government in any post-2015 framework. With the adoption of the new CSO policy, it is possible that Canada may specifically advocate for more space for CSOs within the negotiation process, for a reference to the role of CSOs in development and to the importance of an enabling environment. On this issue, they have an ally in the Secretary General, who in his Synthesis Report, noted, "An enabling environment under the rule of law must be secured for the free, active and meaningful engagement of civil society, and advocates reflecting the voices of women, minorities, LGBT groups, Indigenous Peoples, youth, adolescents and older persons."⁵⁵

Multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships – consistent with the government's interest in the private sector and new focus on civil society – is also likely to receive a lot of attention. During negotiations on the OWG [Outcome Document](#), Canada lobbied to include civil society within the sub goal 17.17, notably to, "encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships." Canada has since established a multi-stakeholder Advisory Council to the Minister of International Development.⁵⁶

3.3 POST-2015 DISCUSSIONS IN CANADA

DFATD has set up a structure for discussing post-2015 related issues within and across government departments and has engaged in a few thematic roundtables and informal discussions with some CSOs on various issues.

A. Post-2015 Discussions within DFATD

The Canadian government has set up department-wide DFATD thematic Task Teams to grapple

⁵⁵ UNSG (2014), para. 78.

⁵⁶ See "Civil Society Partnership Policy" for details. Retrieved from http://www.international.gc.ca/media/dev/news-communiqués/2015/02/5a_bg.aspx?lang=eng

with issues related to the post-2015 agenda. These working groups meet on an as-needed basis, and have followed many of the themes emerging from the OWG discussions. See the organizational chart at the end for details.

CSOs who are interested in discussing specific themes related to post-2015 can get in touch with the leads of the various DFATD working groups. There is also an inter-departmental working group at the Director General level. Given the focus on sustainable development, Environment Canada is particularly active in this working group; and given Canada's priorities for post-2015, there have also been a lot of engagements with Health Canada and Natural Resources Canada.

In addition to the thematic working groups, there are also Focal Points for discussions related to program coherence (across global, partnership and geographic programs within DFATD), on legal and trade issues, for liaising on developments at the United Nations in New York, and on consultations with civil society.

To coordinate all of these processes and inputs into the OWG process that concluded in July 2014, DFATD established a Core Coordination Team. Their role was taken over in August 2014 by a Post-2015 Task Force. The Task Force coordinates the inputs of the various Working Groups/Task Teams, consolidates the Canadian government's position on the Post-2015 Agenda, and supports the negotiations at the UN leading up to September 2015.

B. Consultations in Canada on Post-2015

The Canadian government has so far presented a limited number of opportunities for Canadian civil society organizations and citizens to feed into the post-2015 discussions at the national level. There was a consultation in early 2013 on education, ahead of the UN thematic discussion Canada co-sponsored. There have also been periodic consultations around the theme of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health throughout 2013 and 2014. Since April, there have been a number of informal meetings between civil society organizations and DFATD officials.

There have been rumours of official broader consultations in Canada on post-2015 since late 2013, but nothing has materialized yet. If they happen, these consultations are likely to offer a mix of round tables, online consultations, and informal meetings on specific themes. We expect that they would also involve civil society, the private sector as well as the provinces and territories.

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USEFUL REFERENCES

Beyond 2015 Campaign

- [Beyond 2015 Reaction to the Outcome Document of the Open Working Group](#) (Key Comments)
- [Beyond 2015 produced a collective Beyond 2015 reaction to the OWG's 'Zero Draft Rev 1' on SDGs](#) (3 July 2014)
- [The International Process Leading to the Post-2015 Framework at a Glance](#)

High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

- [A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development](#)

High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF)

Millennium Development Goals

Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

- [Outcome Document](#)

Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) entitled "The future we want"

UN Secretary General's Synthesis Report, "The road to dignity by 2030: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet"

POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA – THEMATIC WORKING GROUP

