

Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General on the Post-2015 Agenda: Briefing Note

“The year 2015 offers a unique opportunity for global leaders and people to end poverty and to transform the world to better meet human needs and the necessities of economic transformation, while protecting our environment, ensuring peace and realizing human rights.”

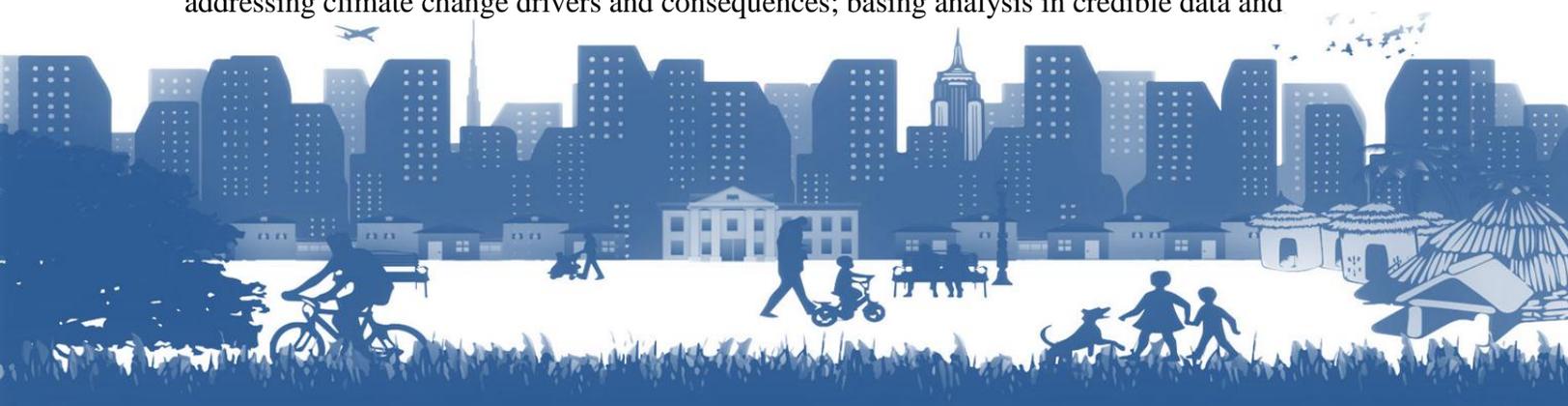
- Ban Ki Moon – SG Synthesis Report on the Post

Calling for inclusive, agile and coordinated action to usher in an era of sustainable development for all, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 4 December presented the UN General Assembly with the advance, unedited version of his “synthesis report,” which will **guide negotiations for a new global agenda centered on people and the planet, and underpinned by human rights.** The report was formally issued in the six official UN languages on 31 December 2014.

The synthesis report by the United Nations Attorney General re-emphasizes the need for the 17 global goals recommended by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, while also introducing a completely new set of six ‘essential elements’ (para 63) as a means to address the challenges of communicating the extensive global framework.

The report also underscores that an integrated sustainable development agenda requires an equally synergistic framework of means for its implementation, including financing, technology and investments in sustainable development capacities. In addition, the report calls for embracing a culture of shared responsibility in order to ensure that promises made become actions delivered. To this effect, the report proposes a framework to be able to monitor and review implementation, based on enhanced statistical capacities and tapping into the potential of new and non-traditional data sources, and a United Nations system “fit for purpose” to address the challenges of the new agenda. Achieving dignity in the next 15 years is possible if we **collectively mobilize political will and the necessary resources to strengthen the multilateral system and our nations.**

In implementing a new agenda, the report recommends: committing to a universal approach with solutions that address all countries and groups; integrating sustainability in all activities; addressing inequalities in all areas; ensuring that all actions advance and respect human rights; addressing climate change drivers and consequences; basing analysis in credible data and



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evidence; expanding a global partnership for means of implementation (MOI); and anchoring the new compact in a renewed commitment to international solidarity.

The report also notes **“the possibility to maintain the 17 goals and rearrange them in a focused and concise manner that enables the necessary global awareness and implementation at the country level,”** regarding the Open Working Group's (OWG) proposal on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets.

A universal call to action to transform our world beyond 2015

The report opens with a call for action and a synthesis of what we've learnt, not only through the last three years of the post-2015 process, but from the two decades that precede it. It expresses: The year 2015 offers a unique opportunity for global leaders and people to end poverty and to transform the world to **better meet human needs and the necessities of economic transformation, while protecting our environment, ensuring peace and realizing human rights.** The report further urges an investment in the unfinished work of the Millennium Development Goals, and use them as a springboard into the future we want, a future free from poverty and built on human rights, equality and sustainability. This is our duty, and it must be the legacy we strive to leave for our children.

A synthesis: Lessons learnt from two years of development experience

The report emphasizes that There is much that is new and, indeed, transformational in the global conversation on a post-2015 sustainable development agenda. But the roots of this conversation are deep, extending to the experience of the development community over the last 20 years and to the visionary outcomes of the global conferences of the 1990s: the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit), the Millennium Summit and the Millennium Development Goals of 2000, the 2005 World Summit, the 2010 Summit on the Millennium Development Goals and the lead-up to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in 2012.



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Lessons learnt from the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda

The report asserts that the international community has come a long way in its deliberations on the sustainable development agenda. In July 2013, further to a request by the General Assembly, the Secretary General submitted his report: A life of dignity for all (A/68/202 and Corr.1). In it, he recommended the development of a universal, integrated and human rights-based agenda for sustainable development, addressing economic growth, social justice and environmental stewardship and highlighting the **link between peace, development and human rights an agenda that leaves no one behind**. He also called for rigorous review and monitoring, better and more disaggregated data and goals and targets that are measurable and adaptable. He further outlined a number of transformative actions that would apply to all countries.

Framing the New Agenda

At this moment, a truly universal and transformational course is being set. From the 2010 Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, to Rio+20 and the report of the Open Working Group of the General Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals, a remarkably consistent vision has emerged. **Because human dignity and planetary sustainability cannot be reduced to a simple formula**, because their constituent elements are so interdependent and because sustainable development is a complex phenomenon, the proposal by the Open Working Group of such a far-reaching set of goals and targets is to be welcomed as a remarkable step forward in the international community's quest for effective solutions to an increasingly complex global agenda. The report also further re-emphasizes the **importance of the 17 goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda**



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Six essential elements for delivering on the sustainable development goals

The following six essential elements would help frame and reinforce **the universal, integrated and transformative nature of a sustainable development agenda** and ensure that the ambition expressed by Member States in the report of the Open Working Group translates, communicates and is delivered at the country level.

