UN Sustainable Development Goals: Preparing for Action
Origin of the SDGs
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• A key outcome of Rio+20 was the decision by Member States to launch a process to define a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a new global framework to re-direct humanity towards a sustainable pathway

• The SDGs were meant to

  – address the three dimensions - economical, ecological and social - of sustainability

  – build upon achievement and lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals

  – include and transcend the Agenda 21 (1992) and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002)
Sustainability Track

The Sustainable Development Goals were meant to be

• Limited in number and easy to communicate

• Universally applicable to all countries

• Action-oriented

• Concise

• Aspirational

With Poverty Eradication as the overarching objective
THE WORLD WE WANT

...what next?
Post-Millennium Development Goals Track

• A separate set of UN consultations were already underway to consider and make recommendations on the development framework, to replace the MDGs when they expire at the end of 2015

• Several high-level and expert panels and stakeholder consultations have been established to gather inputs and recommendations on the Post-MDGs framework, including the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons

• Over one million joined the consultation/campaign THE WORLD WE WANT

• Led by UN Secretary-General
Post-2015 Development Agenda

In September 2013, the world witnessed a historic moment during the General Assembly when Member States recognised the similar aims of these two processes and in order to avoid duplication and facilitate participation, decided to bring together the two tracks and to work towards a single framework and a single set of global goals:

Post-Millennium Development Goals
  Overcoming Poverty and Insecurity
  +
Sustainable Development Goals
  Ensuring Sustainable Development
The UN Sustainable Development Goals
The UN Sustainable Development Goals

• The breadth and depth of the proposed SDGs is unprecedented

• Adopting a rights-based approach, the new agenda is expected to leave no-one behind and promote social inclusion for the most vulnerable groups

• The approach is also expected to set the environmental limits and critical natural thresholds for the use of natural resources, such as biodiversity loss, and land use change

“We are the first generation that can end poverty and the last generation that can take steps to avoid the worst impact of climate change. Future generations will judge us harshly if we fail to uphold our moral and historical responsibilities.”

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon
Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.
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• MDGs relied on voluntary aid and individual promises from countries, perpetuating a dependence on donor-recipient aid relationships

• SDGs should promote:
  - a paradigm shift of financing beyond ‘development aid’
  - multi-stakeholder partnerships
  - good governance
  - ethical trade
  - social investment
  - capacity building
Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - Next Steps
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• In 25 and 26 September at the SDGs Summit the final document ‘Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ will be rectified by all Members States

• As with all intergovernmental agreements, the success or lack of it will be due to the political support governments give to implementation. A key role of stakeholders will be to continually remind governments of their commitments

• These governments will change a number of times in the next 15 years in many countries and the succeeding governments must be educated and reminded of these commitments