



Post-2015 Development Agenda Side event at the FAO Conference

**17 June 2013 – 12.30-13.30 – Green Room
Concept note**

Background

With less than 2 years remaining to the end of 2015, the target date for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), a number of processes have been put in place, both within and outside the United Nations system, to capitalize on lessons learned, accelerate progress towards the achievement of the MDG targets, identify emerging challenges and opportunities, and explore innovative ways to shape priorities and agree upon a coherent set of goals beyond the MDG target date.

The intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG), which formed as an outcome of Rio+20, began its work in March 2013, and is currently the primary active Member State-led process examining the shape and form of the post-2015 development agenda, including its goals. Food Security, Nutrition, Sustainable Agriculture, Land, Water, Desertification, and Rural Development were the headline topics at the OWG's 3rd meeting in May 2013. FAO provided a keynote speech at the 3rd meeting of the OWG, co-led the Food Security and Nutrition paper with WFP, the Sustainable Agriculture one with IFAD, and actively contributed to the preparation of all the technical issues papers submitted to the attention of the members.

On the 31st of May the Secretary General's High Level Panel of Eminent Persons, co-chaired by the Prime Ministers of Indonesia and the UK, and the President of Liberia, released their final report on the Post 2015 Development Agenda. The group was convened by the Secretary-General to provide bold but practical recommendations for the post-2015 development agenda, as an input to Member State deliberations and to the Report of the Secretary-General that will be released at the opening of the next session of the UN General Assembly in September 2013.

The HLP report contains a number of very important elements from the perspective of FAO (and of the other Rome Based Agencies), including a high priority for food security and nutrition, natural resources tenure and management, and, sustainable rural development.

Objectives and expected outcomes of the side event

At the recommendation of the participants in the side event organized at the FAO Council in April 2013, a Conference side event is being organized to allow FAO members, RBA representatives and other stakeholders attending the Conference, to review recent developments on the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

The objectives of the side event are to:

1. Highlight key developments and invite the views of FAO Members, RBA representatives and other partners on Post 2015 Development agenda related issues;
2. Explore ways to support and strengthen the contributions of FAO Members, RBAs and stakeholders to the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs, including through close communications with the national governments and country missions in New York, as well as cross-sectoral coordination among various stakeholders throughout the process.

Structure and tentative agenda

The side event will take one hour and will consist of opening remarks by the FAO DG, a short introduction and update on Post 2015 process, followed by general discussion among the participants.

FAO managers will make a short presentation on recent developments in the Post 2015 discussions, focusing in particular on the outcomes of the 3rd meeting of the OWG and salient elements contained in the HLP report. Some leading questions for the general discussion might include:

1. How well are Food Security, Nutrition, Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, social protection, gender, and other messages and areas of interest to FAO members currently reflected in the Post 2015 discussions?
2. What are the best ways to organize FAO Members' engagement in the post-2015 debates?
3. What specific activities can different stakeholders (including RBAs) undertake to advance common objectives in the months and years leading to 2015 and in the implementation of the new agenda?

The tentative meeting agenda is as follows:

12.30 – 12.35	Introductory remarks by the Chair, Mr Jomo Sundaram, Assistant Director-General, ES Department
12.35 – 12.45	Opening speech by FAO Director General
12.45 – 12.50	Outcomes of the 3 rd meeting of the OWG, and the key elements of HLP report by Maria Helena Semedo DDG
12.50 - 12.55	Africa's perspective on how well food security and agricultural development are covered in the post 2015 agenda. Dr. Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD
12.55 – 13.25	Moderated discussion
13.25 – 13.30	Wrap-up and closure by Chair

Additional information and background documents

- Detailed information, including background materials and outcome documents on the 3rd meeting of the Open Working Group are available at the following link: <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1630>
- The report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on Post 2015 is available in all UN official languages at the following link: <http://www.post2015hlp.org/the-report/>
- Other background materials will be made available on the Conference webpage and the Permanent Representatives website.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French, and Spanish.