



Dag Hammarskjöld
Foundation

Post-2015 Intergovernmental Processes and Arab States Positions

**Presentation: Anita Nayar, Senior Policy
Advisor**

Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation

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Intergovernmental Processes

1. Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (**OWG on SDGs**)
2. Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (**ICESDF**)
3. High-Level Political Forum (**HLPF**)
4. Financing for Development (**FfD**)
5. **Post-2015** Negotiations

1. What is the OWG on SDGs?

- **July 2012:** Established at Rio+20.
- **March 2013 - September 2014:** Held 12 of 13 sessions, Comprised of 30 seats shared by 70 Member States.
- **June 2014:** OWG co-chairs (Kenya and Hungary) released a **zero draft** of their report.
- **September 2014:** OWG final report with suggested Sustainable Development Goals.

Arab States in the OWG

- **Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia** share one of the 30 seats;
- **Iran** shares a seat with Japan and Nepal
- **Saudi Arabia** shares a seat with Bangladesh and Republic of Korea; and
- **United Arab Emirates**, shares a seat with Cyprus and Singapore.
- Other groupings in which Arab States actively negotiate:
 - The **Group of 77 and China** (G77) [Bolivia]
 - The **Least Developed Countries** (LDCs) [Benin]
 - The **African Group**
- **Lebanon, Qatar, and Palestine** also speak in their national capacity.

OWG Zero Draft: Proposed Goals

1. Poverty
2. Hunger
3. Healthy life
4. Education
5. Gender equality
6. Water and sanitation
7. Energy
8. Economic growth and decent work
9. Industrialization
- 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries**
11. Cities and human settlements
12. Consumption and production
13. Climate change
14. Marine resources, oceans and seas
15. Terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity
16. Peaceful societies, rule of law, effective and capable institutions
- 17. Means of implementation**

Regional Priority: Reducing Inequality

Standalone Goal on Inequalities

- The **G77/China** call for a single Focus Area on “reducing inequality, including between and within nations.”
- **Arab High-Level Forum** important to address inequity and inequality in the SDGs, and look beyond income poverty.
- **African Group:** Sustain income growth of bottom 40% of each country to reduce income inequalities by 2030.

International Enabling Environment

- **G77/China:** Depart from 'Washington Consensus' to a new set of open macroeconomic policies.
- **Lebanon:** SMEs, entrepreneurship and innovation by 2020
- **Tunisia:** Due to impacts of external factors, need a goal on securing an enabling international environment.
- **African Group:** Regulate financial markets to ensure global financial system stability.

Regional Priority: Reducing Inequality

Democratic Global Governance

- **G77/China:** Reform of the International Financial Institutions, particularly in their governance structures.
- **African Group:** By 2020, reform all international institutions to make them more democratic.
- **LDCs:** Provide continued support for strengthened an effective voice and participation of LDCs
- **Egypt:** Improve democratic global economic governance by:
 - Increasing the voice, representation and voting power of developing countries (G77, 14 Mar 2013)
 - Strengthen the role of the UN in economic and social affairs and in sustainable development issues.

Regional Priority: Taxation + Redistribution

Taxation

- **Egypt:** Strengthen capacities for tax-collection, reducing tax evasion
- **UAE troika:** Improve tax collection and efficiency of public spending, reducing tax evasion and avoidance, improving stolen asset recovery, and strengthening systems to harness domestic savings for investment.
- **Tunisia:** Ensure equitable taxation and redistribution of assets

Remittances

- **LDCs:** Reduce cost of migration and transfer fee of remittance flows
- **Tunisia, Lebanon, Egypt:** Reduce costs of remittances (as standalone target under Mol - Tunisia)

Regional Priority: Taxation + Redistribution

Domestic Resource Mobilization and Savings

- **Egypt:** Improve efficiency of public spending.
- **UAE troika:** For infrastructure investment.
- **LDCs:** To increase the domestic resources to GDP ratio.
- **Iran:** Promote a facilitation mechanism for the economic institutional capacities.

Anti-Corruption Measures

- **LDCs:** Strengthen institutional capacity and regulatory frameworks for preventing corruption, bribery and money laundering, the illegal transfer of funds and other illicit activities by both public and private entities.
- **UAE troika:** By 2030 establish strong effective and independent institutions to combat corruption and develop anti-corruption laws.

Regional Priority: Structural Change

Global Economic Governance

- **G77/China:** Improve global economic governance and strengthen the United Nations' leadership role in promoting development
- **Egypt:** Establish a new international agency with full and equal participation of developing countries in order to regulate systemically important financial institutions and international capital flows (neither IMF nor Financial Stability Board qualify for this)
- **Iran:** Enhance accountability of countries for the trans-boundary negative implications of their financial and economic policies and practices
- **Tunisia:** Review the working methods of the international credit rating agencies and establish transparent standard norms for their work at the global level

Regional Priority: Structural Change

Regulation of the Financial System

- **African Group, Egypt:** Strengthen regulation of financial markets and institutions to ensure global financial stability
- **Iran:** Enhancing comprehensive reform of the international financial system
- **Egypt:** Regulation of capital flows to prevent or minimise destabilising and volatile large cross-border flows of short-term capital, including by encouraging reserve-issuing countries to impose controls over destabilizing capital outflows to developing countries
- **Egypt:** Establish effective regulation and supervision over financial institutions and markets, including control over international capital flows and private sector borrowing abroad.

Regional Priority: Structural Change

Illicit Financial Flows

- **G77/China:** Need effective regulation and supervision of financial markets and capital flows
- **African Group:** By 2020 return all illicit financial resources to countries of origin
- **Egypt:** Cut Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) by 50% by 2020; halt flows by 2030, and repatriate ill-gotten wealth in foreign banks by 2025
- **LDCs:** Promote global cooperation to address illicit capital flows and eliminate safe havens in accordance with IPoA
- **Tunisia:** Enhance international cooperation and information sharing related to foreign stolen assets and facilitate more systemic and timely return of these assets

Regional Priority: Structural Change

Reform of the International Monetary System

- **African Group, Egypt:** Reforming the international monetary system, addressing the shortcomings in the exchange rate and the international reserves systems
- **Egypt:** Developed countries should fully consider the effects of their financial and monetary policies on developing countries
- **Egypt:** Establish mechanisms to bring greater stability to exchange rates of reserve currencies and prevent competitive devaluations and currency wars
- **Egypt:** Increase the share of the SDR in total international reserves.

Regional Priority: Investments for Development

Investment for Sustainable Development

- **LDCs:** Achieve at least 40 per cent investment to GDP ratios in LDCs against the current rate of 22 per cent.
- **LDCs:** Establish an investment promotion regime for LDCs to foster FDI in the infrastructure building of LDCs.
- **LDCs:** Increase the rate of investment in environment friendly infrastructure.
- **Morocco:** The promotion of Foreign Direct Investment [is an] important aspect of the good governance at the international level.
- **Arab High-Level Forum:** Impacts of foreign direct investment, the largest shares of which go into real estate and mining, rather than manufacturing or services, with very low returns in terms of job creation.

Regional Priority: Investments for Development

Financialization/Commodity Sectors

- **G77/China:** The financialization of the food sector and root causes of food price volatility must be addressed, and the commodity sectors must be regulated to serve the real needs of producers and consumers.
- **African Group, Egypt:** Control and regulate speculation in the commodities markets, including through ensuring favourable terms for commodity-dependent Domestic Companies in contracts with Trans-National Companies to enable them to add more value to commodities and obtain more revenues from commodity-related activities.
- **Egypt:** Regulate financial institutions and markets for commodity derivatives to reduce international financial instability and instability of commodity prices;

Regional Priority: Trade

Trade for Development

- **Egypt:** Further progress on development-supportive trade reforms within an open, rules-based multilateral trading system;
- **African Group, Egypt:** Ensure that trade and trade rules work to the benefit of developing countries and to help meet their development objectives
- **Morocco:** Establish of a multilateral trade system that favors development.
- **Arab High-Level Forum:** Post-2015 narrative or goals must explicitly consider the impacts of global trade and global financing, at the following four levels: global, regional, national, local.

Regional Priority: Trade

Market Access for Developing Countries

- **African Group, LDCs:** Duty-free and quota-free market access for all LDCs on a preferential basis with simplified rules of origin and dismantling all non-tariff and para-tariff barriers
- **LDCs, Egypt:** Improve market access for agricultural and industrial exports of developing countries, especially LDCs, at least double the share of LDCs' exports in global exports by 2020, and increase further the LDC export by 3x by 2030 [LDCs addition]
- **African Group:** By 2020 eliminate all trade protectionist measures
- **Tunisia:** At least double the share of exports of LDCs and other developing countries witnessing structural trade deficits in global exports by 2020.

Regional Priority: Trade

Subsidies

- **African Group:** Eliminate harmful subsidies
- **LDCs:** Reshape trade policies to eliminate harmful agriculture subsidies
- **Saudi Arabia:** To be balanced in our approach regarding subsidies, need to address subsidies in developed countries

Aid for Trade

- **LDCs:** Provide at least 50% of total aid for trade disbursement to LDCs
- **LDCs:** Significantly enhance resource allocation for the enhanced integrated framework for trade-related technical assistance to LDCs
- **Iran:** Localization of industrial productive capacities for tradable goods

Regional Priority: Trade

WTO Doha Round

- **G77/China:** Necessity of timely conclusion for the Doha Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which must fully respect its development mandate and take into account the needs and priorities of developing countries.
- **Egypt:** Maintaining the development dimensions and concerns in the Doha Round and on that basis to continue the negotiations in WTO until their successful conclusion
- **LDCs:** Target a) (“a) promote open, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading and financial systems, including complying with the agricultural mandate of the WTO Doha Round”) needs to incorporate non-agricultural services and the need to eliminate harmful subsidies.

Regional Priority: Trade

Trade-Related Capacity

- **Morocco:** Enhance trade related capacities of developing countries including trade-related infrastructure, trade facilitation and trade finance.
- **LDCs:** Increase trade-related capacity building assistance for improving the competitiveness particularly of SMEs and their participation in regional and global value chains
- **Tunisia:** Increase support for trade-related capacity development of developing countries including in trading services; enhance ability of developing countries to diversify their economies and exports, to capture a greater part of value-added production, and to improve their international competitiveness particularly of SMEs

Regional Priority: Trade

Policy Space

- **African Group, Egypt:** Ensuring that trade and investment agreements enable rather than discourage or detract from policy space in developing countries that is required for their development
- **Egypt:** Review multilateral rules and agreements as well as trade and investment bilateral agreements with a view to improving the policy space in developing countries in pursuit of the above national objectives
- **Egypt:** Discouraging proliferation of bilateral FTAs that encroach on policy space of developing countries and divert trade from the multilateral arena
- **Lebanon:** Ensure adequate policy space and a conducive policy environment for industrial development, including encouragement of industrial entrepreneurship and enterprise formation with inclusion of SMEs

Regional Priority: Social Protection

Social Protection

- **LDCs:** Providing and enhancing social protection systems to improve the resilience of all
- **UAE troika:** Develop and promote social protection floors for all members of society
- **Tunisia:** Providing social protection and social protection floors.
- **Arab High-Level Forum:** Adoption of progressive social policies and protection systems. Universal social protection floor that includes all social groups.

Regional Priority: Social Protection

Access to Public Services

- **UAE troika:** Access to basic services such as water and sanitation, education and primary health care
- **G77/China:** Address and minimize international constraints to the ability of developing countries in particular to carry out expenditure in education sectors and for public employees

Capacity-Building for Service Delivery

- **LDCs:** Support LDCs' efforts to establish safety nets, e.g. access to agricultural finance, insurance, other risk mitigating tools
- **UAE troika:** Strengthen institutional capacity for effective delivery of services

Regional Priority: Role of Stakeholders

Partnership vs. Partnerships

- **G77/China:** Meaning of global partnership for development should not be overwhelmed by partnerships in the plural – which refers to engagements with private sector or civil society. Global partnership is principally between governments of developed and developing countries, with developed countries taking the lead in providing resources and Mol.
- **Morocco:** Concept of global partnership is much broader than elements proposed here. Reformulate subtitle “Engagement of other stakeholders for sustainable development.”
- **Morocco:** Role of government should be central in partnership for development.
- **Arab High-Level Forum:** Important to forge a new

Regional Priority: Role of Stakeholders

Regulation of the Private Sector

- **Egypt:** Establish and effectively implement a legally binding multilateral code of conduct for TNCs to secure social responsibility and accountability and prevent restrictive business practices
- **Egypt:** Add mention of transnational or multinational corporations with regard to corporate social and environmental responsibility and reporting
- **Iran:** By 2017, establish a framework for corporate social and environmental responsibility, then by 2030 increase it by x%. The framework is necessary first before outlining elements for a reporting mechanism.

Regional Priority: Role of Stakeholders

Accountability

- **Egypt:** Establish a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the global partnership goal and targets and to operationalise global partnership, as part of the Rio+20 decisions and the Development Agenda post-2015.
- **Morocco:** Enhanced mechanism of accountability should be an integral part of the partnership for development
- **Egypt:** Enhancing accountability in development cooperation based on agreed principles.

2. What is the ICESDF?

- **July 2012:** Established at Rio+20
- **August 2013 – August 2014:** Held four of its five sessions, Comprised of 30 experts nominated by the five UN regional groups, Meetings are closed to all but the experts.

Arab States Participation

- The Asia-Pacific group includes an expert from Saudi Arabia (Khalid Al Khudairy).
- The African group includes an expert from Libya (Ahmed Jehani).

ICESDF Draft Report

- **Taxation, Remittances, Investment, Illicit financial flows, International financial architecture, trade & investment regimes, Reducing inequalities**
- **Private sector**
 - Public policy advocacy for a paradigm shift in financial markets, starting with financial regulatory change that includes sustainable development in policy goals Exploring options to promote voluntary business practices for sustainable development and eventually making them mandatory.
 - Integrating sustainable environmental social and governance considerations on the fiduciary duty of pension fund trustees, on sovereign credit assessments or on insurance underwriting
 - Further increase the commitment of the private sector toward sustainable development
 - Creating new innovative partnerships [...] leading to country-led investments that are fair to tax payers and secure wider stakeholder participation while avoiding excessive proliferation of partnership
 - Making partnerships relevant to SMEs and the informal sector, which are key components of the private sector

3. What is the HLPF?

- **July 2012:** Established at Rio+20
- **September 2013:** Inaugural meeting under UN General Assembly.
- **30 June – 3 July 2014:** Annual eight day meet including a three day ministerial segment (**7-9 July 2014**), under ECOSOC.
- **Two days every four years:** Meet at the level of Heads of State and Governments under the General Assembly.
- The Meetings at both levels will result in a negotiated declaration –submitted to the General Assembly.

Topics the 2014 HLPF will Address

- An integrated post-2015 sustainable development agenda
- **Means of implementation for sustainable development**
- Sustainable production and consumption
- SIDS
- Countries in special situations: building resilience
- Accountability
- Future role(s) of the HLPF
- Side events organized by civil society, the UN system, and the private sector on various topics.

HLPF Regional Preparatory Process

- Each UN Regional Commission to organize a regional preparatory meeting.
- The Arab High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development was held in Amman, Jordan from 2-4 April 2014. It was organized by ESCWA, League of Arab States, UNEP, and UNDESA.

Priorities identified:

- Young Arabs as a catalyst for sustainable development
- Peace and security (with target on ending Israeli occupation of Palestinian land)
- Good governance
- Reducing poverty and inequality
- Securing water, energy, and food

4. What is the FfD process?

- **2002:** Monterrey Consensus adopted
- **2003:** The UN FfD Office established
- 2008: A follow-up conference in Doha, Qatar. Agreed to hold a UN conference on the world financial and economic crisis (**2009**).
- Six high-level dialogues on FfD since Monterrey, approximately every two years. The sixth was held in October 2013.
- **July 2015:** Informally agreement to hold a conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

5. What happens next?

- **September 2014:** The OWG on SDGs and the ICESDF will submit their reports.
- On the basis of these reports and of the Secretary-General's post-2015 report (**November 2014**), all the governments at the UN will begin to negotiate the post-2015 agenda in **late 2014 or early 2015**.
- These negotiations will culminate in a Post-2015 Summit, to be held on the margins of the opening of the 70th Session of the General Assembly, in **September 2015**. The agenda they agree on will go into effect on **1 January 2016**.
- All of the aforementioned processes will contribute to the post-2015 negotiations. The HLPF will be its accountability mechanism.