



**Local & Regional
Europe**

A life of dignity for all by 2030

**Overview of the processes and work streams
contributing to the post-2015 development agenda**

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Acronyms

ADP	Durban Platform for Enhanced Action
CEMR	Council of European Municipalities and Regions
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (of the UN)
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
HLP	High Level Panel (of eminent persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda)
HLPF	High Level Political Forum
ICLEI	International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives
LRG	Local & Regional Governments
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OWG	Open Working Group (on Sustainable Development Goals)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
UCLG	United Cities and Local Governments
UNCSD	UN Conference on Sustainable Development
UNDESA	UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSG	UN Secretary General

A LIFE OF DIGNITY FOR ALL BY 2030

Overview of the processes and work streams contributing to the post-2015 development agenda

INTRODUCTION: FOUR CONVERGING PROCESSES FOR LOCAL & REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

From poverty eradication and sustainable development...

Since their adoption in 2000, the **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs) have served to guide international development cooperation policies while influencing developing countries' governments in their national development strategies, on issues from health to gender equality, from environment to education. As such, they have galvanised unprecedented efforts to meet the needs of the global poor. Coming to an end in 2015, the question is **what will replace them** and how will this affect the people.

To answer that question, the international community has initiated several **processes** of discussions and negotiations. Two of them have played a more prominent role.

One first process is the **post-MDG process**, and consists of exploring what should happen after the MDGs expire – should they be replaced, extended or should a new framework be established. Dealing essentially with the **eradication of poverty** in its distinct aspects, this process is led essentially by the UN Secretary-General directly, who was mandated in 2010 to submit an annual report to the UN General Assembly on efforts to accelerate progress in achieving the MDGs and for further steps to advance the agenda beyond 2015.

A second process builds on the outcome of the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, better known as the Rio+20 Summit, where UN Member States agreed to set up an intergovernmental process with a view to developing global **sustainable development goals** (SDGs). It is led by the UN General Assembly and UN Member States, through the so-called Open Working Group on SDGs, which was mandated to present its final report and its proposed SDGs by September 2014.

Given their timing and content, and even though they are currently being managed by separate entities, these two processes are **expected to merge** into one comprehensive and integrated post-2015 sustainable development agenda. As a matter of fact, several stakeholders, including the European Union (EU) and local & regional governments (LRG), have called for this agenda to be *one and only*.

A **constellation of initiatives**, groups or reports has flourished around these two processes, and it is also on these work streams that this overview is focusing on, thereby helping municipalities and regions understand “what is next” in global development.

If a coherent and comprehensive response is to be given to the challenges that the post-2015 debate raises, it will however be important, especially for LRG, to **integrate two additional processes** in the overall picture: the climate change negotiations on the one hand, and the preparation of the UN Habitat III Conference on the other. While this document is centred on the two former processes, a few words must also be said on the two latter.

... to climate change and human settlements

Even though they have been running in parallel to the latter processes, **climate change negotiations** have included several issues that will ultimately form part of the post-2015 development agenda – from the sustainable management of natural resources to the move towards a low-carbon economy, from biodiversity preservation to disaster risk reduction. Hence the need to think of common solutions to both processes at the same time.

In 2011 the international community launched negotiations on a new international agreement to act collectively to protect the earth's climate system. This agreement, which is to be completed by the end of 2015 and to apply from 2020 onwards, is currently being negotiated through a process known as the “**Durban Platform for Enhanced Action**” (ADP).

LRG have organised themselves for a number of years, before even the ADP process started. In 2007, they adopted a **Local Government Climate Roadmap** to make sure they were taken into account and were given the capacities and sufficient resources at multilateral, regional and national levels of governance for implementation once the new regime would be adopted – initially 2009.

With the **next global binding climate change agreement** set to be reached in Paris, in 2015 at the COP 21 meeting, a new phase of the Roadmap is starting this year and will notably imply the establishment of a “Friends of Cities at the UNFCCC” group to support the engagement of LRG in the new global climate regime.

The participation and contribution of LRG is here facilitated by the appointment by the French government of **two special representatives**, Ronan Dantec and Michel Delebarre, mandated to produce a report on the role of LRG in the climate negotiations.

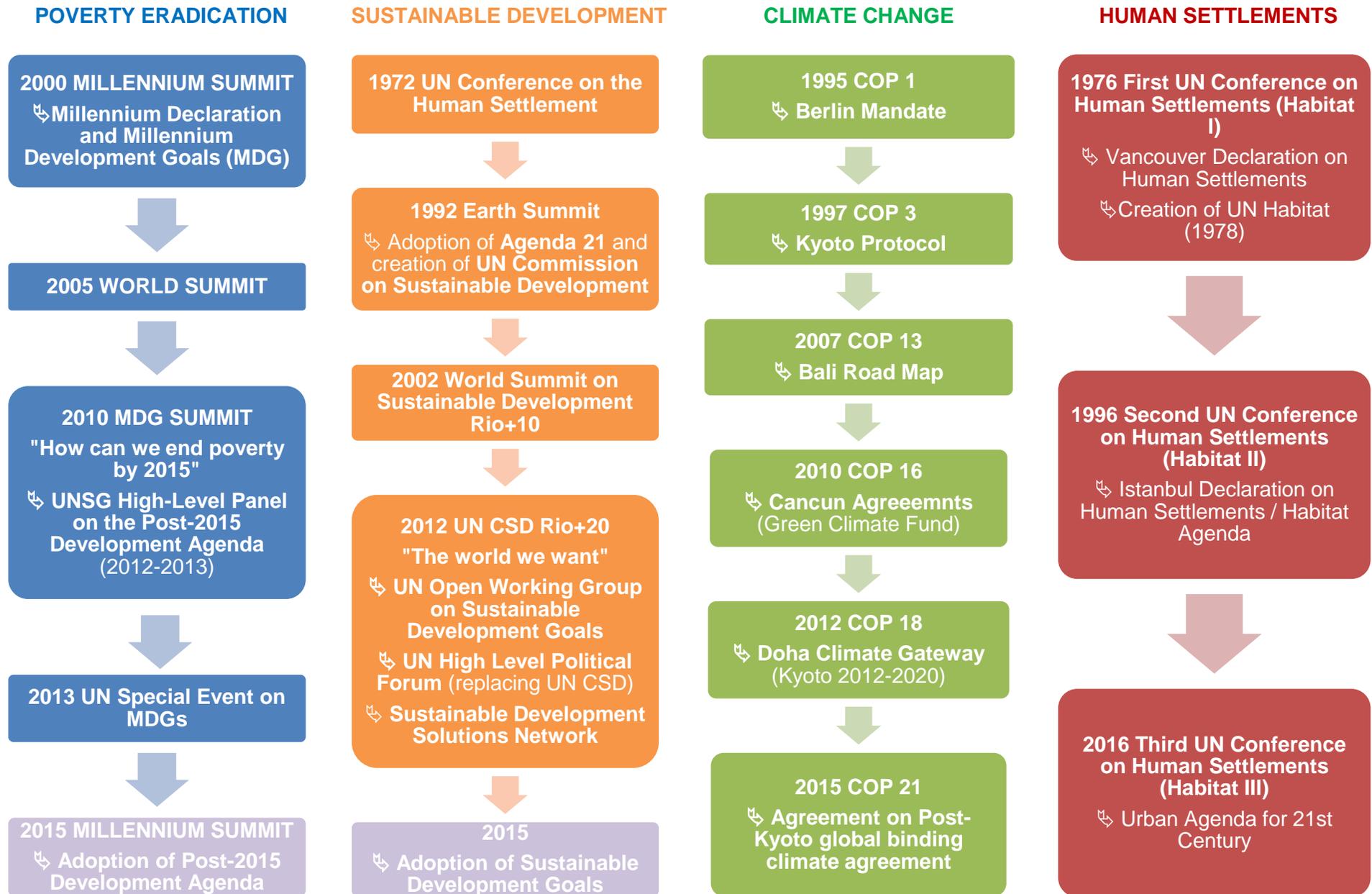
On the other hand, world leaders will meet again in 2016 to review the global urban agenda as well as the mandate, structure and further strengthening of UN Habitat, in what will be known as the **UN Habitat III Conference** (following the first two editions in 1976 in Vancouver, and 1996 in Istanbul).

The calendar and modalities of work for the Conference have not yet been defined but an open and inclusive consultation process of local and regional authorities should be ensured, since UCLG is recognised as the convening organisation of LRG before UN Habitat.

Under the theme “*Sustainable Urban Development: the Future of Urbanisation*”, the **overall objective** of this gathering will be to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable urban development, assessing accomplishments to date, addressing poverty and identifying and addressing new and emerging challenges for urbanisation.

The Conference will result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented **outcome document**, which shall reinvigorate the global commitment to and **support for housing and sustainable urban development** and the implementation of a “New Urban Agenda”.

FIGURE 1. FOUR CONVERGING PROCESSES FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS



1. INTERNATIONAL WORK STREAMS FOR A POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Whether they follow the post-MDG or post-Rio+20 processes, several international work streams have been contributing to the definition of a new global development agenda and what this would imply.

Some of these contributions find their origins in a mandate of the **UN Secretary General** (UNSG), others respond to the wish of the **UN Member States** themselves to address global development challenges collectively. The majority however represent a **stakeholder's desire to contribute** or make a voice heard in the global debate; a debate that will eventually end where it started: at the UN General Assembly.

This section presents two key initiatives of the UNSG – one that follows the post-MDG process, and another the post-Rio process – oriented towards the [report](#) that Ban Ki-moon will present on the advancement of the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda during a special event of the UN General Assembly in September 2013.

This section will then move to the working structures of the UN Member States directly, and finally go over two additional “global” contributions – civil society and the OECD – before turning, in the next sections, to the EU's and the LRG's involvement in the global debate.

A. High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Launched by Ban Ki-moon in July 2012, the **27-member** High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda was mandated to advise the UN Secretary General on the global development framework beyond 2015 (post-MDG process) and in particular draw recommendations on the vision and shape of this framework, what it would entail, how to reach a consensus on it, how to implement it and how to evaluate its progress.

Co-chaired by President Yudhoyono of Indonesia, President Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, and Prime Minister Cameron of the United Kingdom, it included leaders from civil society, private sector and different levels of government – UCLG President and Mayor of Istanbul, Kadir Topbaş, echoed the voices of cities, regions and their associations.

In May 2013, the Panel released its **report** on “[A New Global Partnership: Eradicating Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development](#)” in which it sets out the **five big transformative shifts** that should drive the post-2015 development agenda, and that we must implement all together, each at our level of responsibility:

- ↪ Leave no one behind
- ↪ Put sustainable development at the core
- ↪ Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth
- ↪ Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all
- ↪ Forge a new global partnership

While the Panel believes these changes are “the right, smart and necessary thing to do”, their impact will depend on how they are translated into specific priorities and actions. The Panel has therefore established a **set of illustrative 12 goals** and **associated targets** in order to measure progress and enable possible adjustments over time (see below).

Several issues are not directly addressed through a single goal but **are treated in many of them**: peace, inequality, climate change, cities, youth, girls and women, sustainable consumption and productive patterns.

Even though there is no specific goal on cities or sustainable urbanisation, **LRG** are **recognised as key political actors** throughout the document:

“Cities are where the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost” ... “the most pressing issue is not urban versus rural but how to foster a local, geographic approach to the post-2015 agenda” ... “that this can be done by giving local authorities a bigger role in setting priorities, executing plans, monitoring results and engaging with local firms and communities.”

Bold and practical, the HLP report is one of the major pieces of work on the post-2015 development framework, even though it does not stress certain elements enough for this framework to be the “future we *all* want”.

B. Sustainable Development Solutions Network

To follow-up on the Rio+20 Summit outcome document “*The World We Want*”, and in parallel to the UN-Member States’ initiatives on sustainable development (see below), UNSG Ban Ki-moon launched in August 2012 the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network** (SDSN) with the aim of mobilising global scientific and technical knowledge and expertise on the challenges of sustainable development, including the design and implementation of the **post-2015 global sustainable development goals** (SDGs).

Structured around 12 thematic groups of experts that worked to identify common solutions, the SDSN released its report “[*An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development*](#)” in June 2013, in which it argues that the world needs an operational sustainable development framework that can mobilise all key actors – including local authorities – to move away from the business-as-usual trajectory towards what they call a “**sustainable development path**”.

This path is one that establishes a global framework for cooperation that addresses the **four dimensions of sustainable development** – economic, social, environmental and good governance, including peace and security – and one that relies on four related **normative concepts** – the right to development, human rights and social inclusion, convergence and shared responsibilities and opportunities.

Like the HLP, the SDSN feels that to be effective, this framework must mobilise the world around a small **number of priorities and associated goals** – in this case ten (see below). To the contrary of the High Level Panel, the SDSN chose to give **cities** a specific goal; one that encompasses the four dimensions of sustainable development as mentioned above:

Empower inclusive, productive and resilient cities: Make all cities socially inclusive, economically productive, environmentally sustainable, secure and resilient to climate change and other risks. Develop participatory, accountable and effective city governance to support rapid and equitable urban transformation.

Although more technical, the SDSN’s proposal seems more comprehensive as a basis for a global integrated post-2015 sustainable development framework.

FIGURE 2. MDGs VERSUS HLP POST-2015 GOALS VERSUS SDSN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger
2. Achieve Universal Primary Education
3. Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
8. Global Partnership for Development

HLP POST-2015 GOALS

1. End Poverty
2. Empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality
3. Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning
4. Ensure Healthy Lives
5. Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition
6. Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation
7. Secure Sustainable Energy
8. Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods and Equitable Growth
9. Manage Natural Resources Assets Sustainability
10. Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions
11. Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies
12. Create a Global Enabling Environment and Catalyse Long-Term Finance

SDSN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1. End Extreme Poverty including Hunger
2. Achieve Development within Planetary Boundaries
3. Ensure Effective Learning for All Children and Youth For Life and Livelihood
4. Achieve Gender Equality, Social Inclusion and Human Rights for All
5. Achieve Health and Wellbeing at All Ages
6. Improve Agriculture Systems and Raise Rural Prosperity
- 7. Empower Inclusive, Productive and Resilient Cities**
8. Curb Human-Induced Climate Change and Ensure Sustainable Energy
9. Secure Eco-System Services and Biodiversity, and Ensure Good Management of Water and Other Natural Resources
10. Transform Governance for Sustainable Development

C. UN Member-led initiatives

While a multitude and variety of stakeholders have contributed to the post-2015 debate, it is the UN Member States that will eventually have the final word. They too have been very active, essentially working on the substance and format of a framework of cooperation that addresses the challenges of sustainable development beyond 2015.

An **Open Working Group (OWG) of the UN General Assembly** was specifically mandated by the Rio+20 outcome document to prepare a proposal on sustainable development goals (SDGs) for consideration by the UN General Assembly at its 68th session (Sept. 2013 – Sept. 2014). As such, it is the main leader of the debate on the SDGs at UN level. Formally established in January 2013, the OWG has 30 seats, shared by a group of 70 Member State representatives working in groups of 1-4 countries. The OWG will report its initial findings to the General Assembly in September 2013. **Sustainable cities and human settlements** were included as part of the OWG's working sessions.

It is worth reminding that the UN General Assembly and the UN Commission on Sustainable Development have a mandate to allow multi-stakeholder engagement which they implemented through the establishment of 9 “**major groups**” that facilitate their inputs into the process. These groups are business & industry, children & youth, farmers, indigenous, NGOs, women, science and technology, workers & trade unions, and **local authorities** (led by UCLG, together with ICLEI and nrg4SD).

In addition to the OWG, the local authorities' major group is also associated to the work of the **High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)** which will be replacing the UN CSD this year.¹ Meeting for the first time in September 2013, the HLPF will act as a universal, intergovernmental, open transparent and inclusive negotiation process in charge of a) providing political leadership, guidance and recommendations on sustainable development; b) following-up and reviewing progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments; c) enhancing the integration of the different dimensions of sustainable development; and d) ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges.

As a side note, we should mention that to provide system-wide support to the post-2015 consultation process, UNSG Ban established in January 2012 a **UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda** gathering more than 60 UN agencies and international organisations. Having released its first report on “[Realizing the Future We Want for All](#)” in June 2012, the Task Team continues to be involved in the different work streams, most notably the OWG.

D. Additional contributions

Civil society: The Beyond 2015 Campaign

Beyond 2015 is a **global civil society campaign**, pushing for a strong and legitimate successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals. Formed in 2010, it is built on a diverse, global base, bringing together **over 700 organisations** from all around the world, ranging from small community based organisations to international NGOs, academics and trade unions. A Beyond 2015 European Taskforce was created in 2012 to develop a European position on the post-2015 global agenda, create and implement a European advocacy strategy and interact with the EU institutions and Members States on the matter.

¹ The UN CSD is a functional Commission of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) established in 1992 to follow up on the Earth Summit that took place in Rio that year.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

The OECD played a pivotal role in defining the MDGs. With two years to go, the OECD is increasing its efforts to support the achievement of the MDGs, and at the same time thinking about how it can help the UN in developing a new post-2015 agenda and framework.

At this stage, the OECD has come up with a **preliminary proposal** consisting of 11 different elements intended to help provide a global, holistic, measurable and meaningful development framework. These **elements** are organised into two categories: **A) outcomes**, including principles and underlying future goals; and **B) tools** for achieving existing and developing future goals.

Goal-setting itself should involve a **two-level approach**:

- 1) A **global level** with a small number of high profile goals and targets
- 2) A **national level** consisting of goals, targets and indicators defined and tailored to the diverse starting points, specific contexts, priorities and capacities of each countries



Source: OECD web page (<http://www.oecd.org/dac/post-2015.htm>)

While not coming up with a specific proposal of goals and targets – it is rather a methodology for reaching sustainable development – the OECD puts emphasis on **conditions or enablers** that will eventually serve its own work in the field, i.e. producing evidence-based policies for better lives worldwide. These elements include: aid effectiveness, policy coherence, the strengthening of national statistics and use of big data for development, knowledge sharing, capacity and institution-building, etc. Most of these elements are however included in one way or another in the different reports and outcome documents produced by the work streams mentioned above.

2. THE EUROPEAN UNION'S INPUT IN THE POST-2015 PROCESSES

While EU Development Commissioner Andries Piebalgs was a **member of the High Level Panel on Post-2015** (see above), the EU, as the world's largest collective donor of development aid, has been active on many other fronts to prepare the post-2015 sustainable development agenda as well as the climate change negotiations.

A. Public Consultation: "Towards a post-2015 development framework"

Over the summer 2012, the European Commission (EC) launched an **online public consultation** on "*Towards a post-2015 development framework*" in order to collect views from a wide range of stakeholders on what framework, if any, should guide international development efforts after 2015.

119 organisations and individuals from public authorities, civil society, the private sector and academia contributed to the consultation – **PLATFORMA** being one of them – the results of which are gathered in a final [report](#) released in November 2012.

B. EC Communications

Building upon the public consultation, the EC released in February 2013 a **Communication**, now endorsed by the Council, on "[A Decent Life for All: Ending Poverty and Giving the World a Sustainable Future](#)". The Communication makes the case for an overarching **unified policy framework** with common priority challenges and objectives, so as to ensure a decent life for all by 2030 and give the world a sustainable future beyond it.

In this Communication, the EC does recognise that having a **goal of moving towards sustainable and resilient cities** will help deliver improvements in air quality, water, energy, accessible infrastructure, housing and transport, leading to solutions that link with employment, health, economic development and also address climate change adaptation and disaster prevention and preparedness.

On the other hand, in July 2013, the EC released another **Communication** proposing a **common approach to financing poverty eradication and sustainable development**. The text stresses that the various processes covering financing – including climate financing – should be coherent with a commonly agreed set of principles and be integrated with each other so as to maximise their utility for achieving multiple global policy objectives.

Finally, the EC published in March 2013 a Consultative Communication on "[The 2015 International Climate Change Agreement: Shaping international climate policy beyond 2020](#)" whereby it lays its vision of what the **2015 Climate Agreement** ought to be:

- The 2015 agreement must be **inclusive**, by containing commitments that are "applicable to all" countries, developed and developing alike.
- It must be **ambitious**, by containing commitments that are consistent with limiting global mean temperature rise to 2°C. It must be effective, by enabling the right set of incentives for implementation and compliance.
- It must be widely perceived as **fair and equitable** in the way in which it shares the effort to reduce emissions and the cost of adapting to unavoidable climate change.
- Finally, and most importantly, the 2015 Agreement must be **legally binding**.

C. The European Report on Development

The 2012-2013 **European Report on Development** entitled "[*Development in a Changing World: Elements for a Post-2015 Global Agenda*](#)" is another tool put forward by the EU in navigating our way forward in the years after 2015.

This independent report argues that the new global framework for inclusive and sustainable development must be built around **two axes**:

- **The "Beyond MDGs" axis**, dealing with the **objectives** of the new framework. The report argues that we need to broaden the focus beyond income poverty and human development and include more comprehensive objectives that encompass issues such as employment, human security, sustainability, support to the vulnerable as well as more equitable and predictable trading and financial systems, all of which are fundamental to development.
- **The "Beyond Aid" axis** dealing with the **instruments** for implementation. Achieving the new development agenda will depend on a widened variety of measures such as better international regimes for trade and finance, more and better development assistance, policy coherence and improved governance, it is argued.

As such, the report is consistent with the abovementioned EC communications and with what many stakeholders have put forward.

D. European Parliament resolution

In June 2013, the European Parliament adopted a **resolution** on the "*Millennium Development Goals – defining the post-2015 framework*" urging the EU to lead with one strong voice during the discussions on the post-2015 and to adopt a common, effective and ambitious position on the principles and goals that should be part of it.

The resolution insists that the post-2015 agenda be one and only – integrating both the next MDGs and upcoming SDGs – and tackle the following interrelated challenges:

- Eradication of poverty;
- Health, nutrition education and social protection;
- Good governance, *including* the creation of a participatory environment within which CSOs, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, national parliaments and **local authorities** are able to assume their responsibilities;
- Sustainability.

E. 2015 European Year of Development

The EC has adopted a proposal to **make 2015 the European Year of Development**; a proposal now to be considered for adoption by the Council and European Parliament.

The rationale behind this move is that 2015 will be a pivotal year for development, and even if some 85% of EU citizens say that Europe should continue helping developing countries despite the economic crisis, the European Year of Development 2015 will be a key opportunity to raise awareness of development across Europe, and to show European taxpayers know that every euro spent on development benefits both people living in some of the world's poorest countries, and EU citizens themselves.

3. LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE POST-2015 DEBATE

A. The Global Taskforce of LRG on post-2015 development and Habitat III

The **role of local and regional governments in MDG delivery** has been **increasingly recognised** over the past decade, most notably at the Millennium Summit +5 (2005) and later at the 2010 UN Global Forum on Local Development on “*Pursuing the MDGs through Local Government.*”

However, coming only at a very late stage of MDG implementation strategies, this formal recognition has not yet been adequately reflected in most development strategies which tended to follow a top-down or donor-driven approach.

The post-2015 process striving to be inclusive and participatory, and with the recognition of their contribution to global poverty eradication *and* to sustainable development, LRG have gathered in a **Global Taskforce** to contribute jointly and strategically to this process.²

After a first meeting in March in Istanbul, the group met again in May in New York at the UN premises – another sign of the growing recognition of our voice on the global stage.

While supporting the LRG positions in the global debate and in particular the UN-led initiatives, the Taskforce will be preparing a **Local and Regional Development Agenda with goals and targets** reflecting our vision of post-2015.

Associated to that Agenda, a **full mobilisation and advocacy strategy** will be defined, and in which all relevant players will be expected to play a role.

The Taskforce will also be articulating the voice of sub-national governments to the **Habitat III Conference in 2016** and accompany the adoption of its “**New Urban Agenda for the 21st century**”.

B. CEMR and PLATFORMA

As the voice of European local and regional authorities active in the field of development cooperation, **PLATFORMA** has integrated the post-2015 debate in its work, and will continue to do so in the new phase of the coordination project that has started in 2013.

On the other hand, as European section of UCLG, **CEMR** is a member of the Global Taskforce (see above) and is currently considering other options to make the voice of LRG heard in the different policy debates at stake, both at international and European level. One of these options is for CEMR to play a role in Development Education and Awareness Raising, particularly in the context of the 2015 European Year of Development.

CEMR will also seek to play a leading role in bringing the voice of European LRG in the climate change negotiations and particularly the 2015 Conference in Paris, while at the same time maximise their participation in the UN Habitat III Conference.

²**Members of the Taskforce** are : UCLG and its regional sections (CEMR, UCLG-ASPAC, UCLG-EurAsia, UCLG-MEWA, UCLG-NORAM, FLACMA, UCLGA, Metropolis), AIMF, ATO, CLGF, FOGAR, ICLEI, nrg4SD, UNACLA as well as the following partners of LRG: UN Habitat, UNDP, Cities Alliance, ILO, European Commission, Millennium Campaign, ONE UN Secretariat, HLP Post-2015, DeLog, Suez, DCF, Habitat for Humanity, Slum Dwellers International

CONCLUSIONS AND REMARKS

While many stakeholders are contributing in one way or another to the post-2015 debate, and dozens of reports and policy positions have been produced so far, we can quite easily draw some overall conclusions and find common lines in them.

The first conclusion is that there seems to be a **general consensus** on what has to come next.

Most agree that a future framework should **build upon the strengths and achievements of the MDGs**, while fully **addressing the shortcoming and gaps** of the current framework.

In order to be effective, the post-2015 development framework should be **one and only**, integrating the outcomes of all the work streams active globally.

As such, this new framework ought to be **global and universally applicable** to all countries, yet **taking into account the different national realities**, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities.

Content-wise, while the eradication of poverty should remain the #1 priority to achieve sustainable development, the focus should be put on a limited **number of inter-related priorities and goals** that are key to achieve *all* dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, environmental and good governance). As far as LRG are concerned, it would only seem logical that one of these goals addresses cities' resilience and sustainable urbanisation.

The universal goals should be accompanied with **targets and indicators that respect these different contexts** and that are also **measurable** to assess the progress made in each of them.

To allow good monitoring of progress, the **statistical base** should be strengthened – some even call for a “data revolution”.

The new framework and the process towards its adoption should be **inclusive and participatory** with a great sense of **ownership** and a high degree of **responsibility** and mutual accountability among all stakeholders.

Finally, while the world is expected to mobilise around this framework, it will be vital that **adequate financing** – both traditional and innovative – is made available to implement it properly.

As member of the Global Taskforce on post-2015 development and Habitat III and through the work of PLATFORMA, among others, CEMR is already contributing to this whole process. Whether more should be done and *how* will be up to CEMR members (and likely all European members of UCLG) to decide.

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About CEMR

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the broadest organisation of local and regional authorities in Europe. Its members are over 50 national associations of municipalities and regions from 41 European countries. Together these associations represent some 150 000 local and regional authorities.

CEMR's objectives are twofold: to influence European legislation on behalf of local and regional authorities and to provide a platform for exchange between its member associations and their elected officials and experts.

CEMR is the European section of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the worldwide organisation of local government.

www.ccre.org