

Summary of Changes - Focus Areas document (21 March 2014)

Focus area 1. Poverty eradication

Eradication of poverty in all its multi-dimensional forms remains the overriding priority and a necessary condition for sustainable development. The pursuit of this ~~would provide a strong nexus to the realization of~~ is critical to realizing the unfinished business of the MDGs. Some areas that could be considered include:

- a. eradicating absolute poverty;
- b. reducing relative poverty;
- c. providing social protection and social protection floors as relevant to reduce vulnerabilities of the poor, including children, youth, the unemployed, migrants, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples ~~and local communities~~, and older persons;
- d. access to property and productive assets, including associated rights, finance and markets for all women and men;
- e. addressing inequalities at both national and international levels;
- f. pursuing sustained and inclusive economic growth;
- g. developing and using evidence-based, high quality, timely, disaggregated data and impartial, internationally established methods for evaluating progress; and
- h. appropriate means of implementation*.

Focus area 2. Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition

Increasing the productivity of agriculture sustainably and improving food systems are important for economic well-being as well as for ensuring food security and nutrition, realization of the right to adequate food and eradication of hunger. Some areas that could be considered include:

- a. ensuring year-round access by all to affordable, adequate, safe and nutritious food;
- b. ending child malnutrition and stunting;
- c. increasing ~~boosting~~ agricultural productivity, including through adequate irrigation, seeds and fertilisers, while in parallel halting and reversing land degradation, drought and desertification;
- d. improving efficiency of water use in agriculture;
- e. eliminating use of toxic chemicals;
- f. enhancing all forms of agricultural biodiversity; ~~conserving plant and animal genetic resources;~~

- g. promoting indigenous and sustainable farming and fishing practices;
- h. strengthening resilience of farming systems and food supplies to climate change;
- i. enhancing adherence to internationally recognized guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests, including full consultation with local communities;
- j. improved access to credit and other financial services, land tenure, and agricultural extension services, for all, including smallholders, women, indigenous peoples and local communities;
- k. increased investment and support to research and development on sustainable agricultural technologies;
- l. reducing post-harvest crop losses and food waste along food supply chains;
- m. ~~addressing eliminating all forms of~~ harmful agricultural subsidies;
- n. addressing price volatility, including through ~~provision of~~ market information and oversight on commodity markets, ~~research and access to modern technology~~; and;
- o. appropriate means of implementation*. ~~creating non-farm rural employment opportunities and promoting rural development.~~

Focus area 3. Health and population dynamics

~~Healthy populations are important assets for sustainable development... Therefore ensuring adequate, affordable and accessible health services for all should be progressively realized. Realizing the right to the highest attainable standard of mental and physical health and~~ improving healthy life expectancy is a widely shared endeavour. Some areas that could be considered include:

- a. universal health coverage;
- b. strengthening health systems, including through increased health financing, development and training of the health workforce, and access to safe, affordable, effective and quality medicines, vaccines and medical technologies;
- c. ensuring affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all;
- d. dissemination of medical and public health knowledge ~~and modern technologies~~, including traditional knowledge;
- e. elimination of preventable child and maternal deaths;
- f. significant reduction of child morbidity;
- g. End the HIV/AIDS epidemic;

- h. preventing and treating communicable diseases, including malaria, ~~HIV/AIDS~~, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases;
- i. addressing non-communicable diseases (NCDs) *inter alia* through promoting healthy diets and lifestyles, including for youth;
- j. tackling environmental causes of disease, ~~such as exposure to harmful pollutants and substances~~;
- k. access to sexual and reproductive health, including modern methods of family planning;
- l. providing for the health needs of persons with disabilities, youth, migrants, and ageing populations;
- m. eliminating harmful practices;
- n. reducing road accidents; and
- o. appropriate means of implementation*.
~~improved indoor and outdoor air quality.~~

Focus area 4. Education

Everyone has a right to education. Achieving universal access to ~~and quality of~~ education is ~~also important in~~ critical to achieving poverty eradication across generations, opens up lifelong opportunities, promotes gender equality and women's empowerment, shapes cultures, values and creates a skilled ~~and productive~~ labour force. Some areas that could be considered include:

- a. universal, free primary and secondary education for girls and boys, ~~significant progress towards ensuring that every child receives at least a secondary education, and lifelong learning opportunities~~;
- b. ensuring equitable access to education at all levels with focus on the most marginalized, including indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities, persons living in rural areas, and migrants; ~~improving access to education for persons with disabilities~~;
- c. achieving high completion rates at all levels of education for both girls and boys;
- d. providing universal ~~extending where needed opportunities for~~ early childhood education;
- e. ensuring effective learning outcomes at all levels and imparting knowledge and skills that match the demands of the labour market, including through vocational training and skills development for youth;
- f. universal adult literacy and lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- g. integrating sustainable development in education curricula, including awareness raising on how ~~diverse~~ cultures advances sustainable development; and
- h. appropriate means of implementation*.

Focus area 5. Gender equality and women's empowerment

Provision of equal opportunities for men and women, boys and girls, is necessary for the full realization of their rights, their potential, and their contribution to sustainable development. ~~Therefore achieving gender equality and women's empowerment is important.~~ Some areas that could be considered include:

- a. ending all forms of discrimination against women of all ages;
- b. ending violence against girls and women in all its forms;
- c. ensuring equal access to education at all levels;
- d. ensuring equal employment opportunities for women and equal pay for equal work;
- e. equal access to assets and resources, including natural resources management;
- f. ensuring equal participation of women in decision-making in public and private institutions;
- g. ending child, early and forced marriage;
- h. reducing the burden of unpaid care work;
- i. sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights;
- j. promoting the availability of gender disaggregated data to improve gender equality policies, including gender sensitive budgeting; ~~promoting gender equality policies supported by gender disaggregated data~~ and
- k. appropriate means of implementation*.

Focus area 6. Water and sanitation

~~Water is an indispensable life sustaining natural resource.~~ For a water-secure world and for the realization of the right to safe drinking water and sanitation, the whole water cycle has to be taken into consideration to tackle water-related challenges ~~including water scarcity and drought, pollution, water borne diseases, and water related disasters, loss of freshwater biodiversity and spread of invasive alien species in water bodies.~~ Some areas that could be considered include:

- a. ensuring access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation ~~systems~~ for all, especially for women and girls, ~~is necessary~~ including in ~~all~~ households, schools, health facilities, workplaces and refugee camps;
- b. providing adequate facilities and infrastructure, both built and natural, for safe drinking water and sanitation systems in ~~rural and urban~~ all areas, ~~including for bulk conveyance and storage of freshwater in rivers, lakes, reservoirs, canals and aquifers~~;
- c. extending wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse;

- d. improving water-use efficiency;
- e. bringing fresh water ~~use~~ extraction in line with sustainable supply;
- f. enhancing effective water governance including catchment area based integrated water resources management and appropriate trans-boundary co-operation;
- g. expanding water-related vocational training at all levels;
- h. protecting and restoring water-linked ecosystems like mountains, watersheds and wetlands;
- i. eliminating the pollution and dumping of toxic materials in water bodies, and protecting aquifers;
- j. eliminating of invasive alien species in water bodies;
- k. investing in water harvesting technologies;
- l. reducing risks and impacts of water-related disasters; and
- m. appropriate means of implementation*.

Focus area 7. Energy

Energy plays a critical role ~~as an engine for~~ in economic growth and social development. Ensuring access to affordable, modern and reliable energy resources for all is also important for poverty eradication, women's empowerment, and provision of basic services. ~~Yet, as energy use presents opportunities, it also presents many sustainable development challenges that need to be addressed.~~ Some areas that could be considered include:

- a. ensuring universal access, for both women and men, to modern energy services;
- b. deployment of cleaner, including low- or zero-emissions energy technologies;
- c. increasing the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, including by providing policy space and necessary incentives for renewable energy;
- d. improving energy efficiency in buildings, industry, agriculture and transport;
- e. phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that encourage wasteful consumption;
- f. building capacity and transferring modern energy technologies;
- g. mobilizing finance to invest in modern energy infrastructure;
- h. sharing knowledge and experience on appropriate regulatory frameworks and enabling environments;
- i. promoting partnerships on sustainable energy; and
- j. appropriate means of implementation*.

Focus area 8. Economic growth

~~Economic growth is necessary for progress on the social and environmental fronts.~~ Achieving sustained and inclusive economic growth for sustainable development remains the surest means of eradicating poverty and attaining shared prosperity. At the same time, growth should be pursued in ways that brings beneficial environmental and social impacts. Some areas that could be considered include:

- a. enhancing macroeconomic policy coordination;
- b. fostering conducive regulatory and fiscal systems to promote sustainable development; including improved design and administration of taxation systems, and resource pricing and fiscal policies that encourage greater energy and resource productivity and a more equitable sharing of the benefits of growth;
- c. encouraging structural transformation towards higher productivity sectors and activities;
- d. substantially improving energy and resource productivity of economic activities;
- e. ~~promoting a climate favourable to investment,~~ entrepreneurship, small and medium scale enterprises s-formation, and innovation;
- f. creating productive, well-paid jobs;
- g. promoting investments in infrastructure such as roads, railways, ports, electricity, and communications;
- h. strengthening productive capacities in all countries with a particular focus on LDCs, including through technological upgrading and value addition;
- i. promoting an open, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system;
- j. promoting trade facilitation and preferential market access for LDCs;
- k. ensuring debt sustainability;
- l. facilitating international technology cooperation and technology transfer, particularly for environmentally sound technologies;
- m. developing and using evidence-based, high quality, timely, disaggregated data sources; and
- n. appropriate means of implementation*.
~~access of all, both women and men, to financial services and to markets.~~

Focus area 9. Industrialization

Structural transformation through sustainable industrialization industrial development is a key driver of growth in productivity, employment creation and improvement of living standards, fostering economic diversification and technological upgrading. Some areas that could be considered include:

- a. ensuring adequate policy space for industrial development;
- b. advancing sustainable industrial development based on energy- and resource-efficient and environmentally sound industrial processes, including phase out of harmful chemicals, waste and pollution, minimizing material use and maximizing material recovery ~~in industry~~, with technology cooperation and transfer to support such development;
- c. strengthening institutions that support industrial production, technological upgrading and value addition;
- d. investment in sound infrastructure;
- e. strengthening productive capacities, with particular reference to industrial sectors;
- f. creation of decent industrial sector jobs;
- g. encouraging industrial entrepreneurship and enterprise formation;
- h. enhancing science and math, engineering and technical skills;
- i. ensuring favourable market access for industrial products and processed commodities of developing countries;
- j. re-industrialization and retro-fitting of industry as relevant;
- k. promoting new industries that supply goods and services for low-income consumers as well as environmentally sustainable products and services; and
- l. appropriate means of implementation.*.

Focus area 10. Infrastructure

Efficient, productive and globally competitive economies require well-functioning infrastructure. ~~Provision of adequate and reliable infrastructure for water, sanitation, energy, transport and communications is necessary for social and economic development and improvement of quality of life.~~ Infrastructure design and development should aim to promote human well-being, productive capacity, efficiency, and environmental protection. In this regard, some areas that could be considered include:

- a. provision of infrastructure for access to modern energy services, as well as provision of reliable and sustainable transport and communications, including road and rail links, ports and ICT connectivity;
- b. due account for environmental and social impacts of existing and planned infrastructure from a lifecycle perspective;
- c. improving water supply systems, developing irrigation and water harvesting and storage infrastructure for agriculture, and developing sewerage and wastewater treatment;

- d. proper use of urban space and related infrastructure planning;
- e. improvement of infrastructure necessary for sustainable tourism;
- f. addressing trans-border infrastructure needs for trade and related challenges facing developing countries;
- g. accessibility to persons with disabilities;
- h. planning and building resilient infrastructure including for disaster risk reduction; and
- i. appropriate means of implementation*.
~~Provision of technical and financial support for adequate operation and maintenance of infrastructure.~~

Focus area 11. Employment and decent work for all

~~Inclusive and robust economies and societies~~ Sustainable development should provide employment and decent jobs for all those seeking work. ~~Achieving full employment and decent work is necessary for social inclusion.~~ Some areas that could be considered include:

- a. promoting full employment through macroeconomic policy;
- b. addressing youth unemployment through policies and strategies aimed at providing young people with access to decent and productive work;
- c. facilitating the participation of women in the labour force;
- d. social security and protection including for those retired from the labour force, persons with disabilities, the unemployed, children and youth, and older persons; and
- e. eliminating gender-based and other forms of labour market discrimination including against persons with disabilities and older persons;
- f. encouraging transition from informal sector to formal sector employment;
- g. promoting non-farm employment opportunities in rural areas;
- h. ensuring decent wages aligned with productivity;
- i. supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises;
- j. increasing access to credit to the youth, women and other vulnerable groups;
- k. promoting appropriate job-rich technology applications;
- l. promoting job-rich sustainable tourism;
- m. training and re-skilling for displaced workers;
- n. protecting the rights of migrant workers and displaced persons in compliance with the ILO norms and standards; and
- o. appropriate means of implementation*.

Focus area 12. Promote equality

Inequalities within countries can be socially destabilizing and also have negative consequences for economic growth.

Inequalities among countries can have negative effects on global solidarity and international cooperation to address shared challenges. Some areas that could be considered in addressing inequality among social groups within countries include:

- a. eliminating discrimination in laws, policies and practices, including those between women and men;
- b. reducing inequalities among social groups, including economic, social, political and environmental inequalities;
- c. empowering and inclusion of marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, minorities, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, older persons, children and youth;
- d. ensuring equality of economic opportunities for all, including marginalized groups;
- e. strengthening social protection systems, and social protection floors as relevant;
- f. promoting differentially high per capita income growth at the bottom of the income distribution;
- g. working towards inclusive societies that respect and promote cultural diversity;
- h. developing and using evidence based, high quality, timely, disaggregated data and impartial, internationally established methods for evaluating progress; and
- i. appropriate means of implementation*.

Some areas that could be considered in furtherance of greater equality between and among countries through high and sustained growth in developing countries include:

- a. promoting an open, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system;
- b. curbing illicit financial flows;
- c. phasing out harmful subsidies;
- d. pursuing policies for planned, well managed and legal migration;
- e. reducing the transaction costs of remittances;
- f. developing policies to mitigate brain drain; and
- g. progress in internal conditions of development, education, inclusive economic growth, sustainable industrialization, infrastructure, energy and relevant means of implementation.

Focus area 13. Sustainable cities and human settlements

Building sustainable cities as well as decent and affordable human settlements for all, including for indigenous peoples, and the realization of the right to adequate housing remain important undertakings. Sustainable cities and settlements, ~~including settlements of indigenous communities,~~ will be central in addressing socio-economic and environmental challenges and in building resilient societies. Some areas that could be considered include:

- a. eradicating and preventing slum conditions, ~~improving the lives of those living in slums,~~ including by provision of adequate and affordable housing, infrastructure and basic services;
- b. providing access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport, improving road safety and urban air quality;
- c. improving waste and wastewater management;
- d. strengthening resilience to climate change and natural disasters;
- e. access to safe public spaces and services;
- f. enhancing capacities for urban planning;
- g. strengthening positive economic and social links between cities and peri-urban and rural areas;
- h. enhancing social cohesion and personal security;
- i. promoting accessible cities for people with disabilities;
- j. protecting and safeguarding the world's cultural and natural heritage, including ancient archaeological sites, intangible and underwater heritage, museum collections, oral traditions and other forms of heritage;
- k. appropriate means of implementation*.

Focus area 14. Promote Sustainable Consumption and Production

~~Fundamental changes in the way economies and societies produce and consume are indispensable for achieving global sustainable development.~~ Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns will be vital ~~in ensuring equal access to basic services to all to have decent standard of living~~ as well as addressing resource depletion and environmental sustainability. ~~It is expected that~~ Industrialized societies and economies would lead a shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns, with ~~other countries others~~ benefiting from their experience and know how. ~~Given the urgency of the task, all will need to make efforts, supported by international cooperation.~~ The 10-Year

Framework of Programmes on SCP is the principal framework for international cooperation and will need to be adequately resourced. Some areas to be considered include:

- a. significantly improving energy efficiency and materials productivity ~~with differentiated but progressively converging levels of ambition for developed and developing countries;~~
- b. sustainable supply chains;
- c. preventing, reducing, recycling and reusing waste;
- d. reducing waste in food production and consumption, including through traditional knowledge;
- e. sound management of chemicals and hazardous materials in accordance with agreed frameworks;
- f. sustainable buildings and construction;
- g. awareness raising, education for creating a culture of sustainable lifestyles;
- h. providing sustainability information on products and services to consumers to enable informed decisions;
- i. fostering collaboration among the academic, scientific and technological community to advance technologies for sustainable consumption and production;
- j. sustainable public procurement;
- k. sustainable tourism promotion;
- l. enhanced reporting on corporate social and environmental responsibility, including integrated reporting, and sustainable finance;
- m. appropriate means of implementation*.

Focus area 15. Climate

Climate change poses a grave threat to sustainable development and poverty eradication. Regard must be paid to the principles of the UNFCCC, including that of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and to supporting and urging greater ambition in the ongoing negotiations towards a strong and effective agreement in 2015. Some areas to be considered include:

- a. reaffirming and reinforcing existing international commitments, such as limiting the increase in global average temperature through equitable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions;
- b. building resilience and adaptive capacity in all vulnerable developing countries;
- c. ~~with a view to reducing global emissions of greenhouse gases,~~ introducing, inter alia, economic incentives for investments in low-carbon solutions in infrastructure and industry;

- d. developing low-carbon, climate-resilient development strategies and plans;
- e. reducing the damage caused by climate-induced and other natural hazards through disaster risk reduction;
- f. improving education and awareness raising on climate change; and
- g. appropriate means of implementation*. ~~providing effective means of implementation~~

Focus area 16. Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas

The conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas ensures the provision of economic and social benefits and ecosystem services to humankind. Some areas that could be considered include:

- a. reducing marine pollution and debris including from land-based activities;
- b. halting destruction of marine habitat including ocean acidification;
- c. promoting sustainable exploitation of marine resources;
- d. regulating harvesting of straddling fish stocks;
- e. addressing illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and destructive fishing practices;
- f. encouraging sustainable small-scale fisheries;
- g. eliminating harmful subsidies that promote fishing overcapacity;
- h. ensuring full implementation of regional and international regimes governing oceans and seas;
- i. establishing Marine Protected Areas;
- j. protecting marine resources in areas beyond national jurisdiction;
- k. sustainable management of tourism; and
- l. appropriate means of implementation*.

Focus area 17. Ecosystems and biodiversity

Humans are fundamentally dependent on the capacity of ecosystems for life and to provide services for their well-being and societal development. Relevant areas that could be considered include:

- a. protecting threatened species and halting loss of biodiversity;
- b. stopping poaching and trafficking of endangered species;
- c. maintaining the genetic diversity of both farmed species and their wild relatives;

- d. ensuring fair and equitable sharing of the benefits from the utilization of genetic resources;
- e. promoting sustainable forest management;
- f. slowing, halting and reversing deforestation and conversion of forests to crop lands;
- g. restoring degraded forest ecosystems and increasing area of protected forests;
- h. supporting measures to protect mountain ecosystems;
- i. achieving a land-degradation-neutral world;
- j. ensuring inclusion of indigenous and local communities in decision making and in sharing of benefits derived from conservation and sustainable use of forests and other cultural and natural assets;
- k. promoting and protecting traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples;
- l. developing and using evidence based, high quality, timely, disaggregated data and methodology for evaluating progress; and
- m. appropriate means of implementation*.
~~securing land and resource tenure;~~
~~supporting forest-related employment;~~

Focus area 18. Means of implementation/Global partnership for sustainable development

The means of implementation are an integral component in achieving sustainable development, including trade, financing for sustainable development, capacity building, and development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. In this regard global partnership for development has been emphasized as key to unlocking the full potential of sustainable development initiatives. While developing countries still require external support for their domestic sustainable development programmes, their own domestic actions are equally crucial ~~in accelerating quick wins~~. Special consideration should be given to the needs of countries in special situations, African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, and SIDS as well as specific challenges facing the middle-income countries. International development cooperation through a strengthened global partnership for sustainable development is critical.

Some areas that could be considered include:

- a. further progress on development-supportive trade reforms within an open, rules-based multilateral trading system;
- b. recommitment by developed countries to meet ODA targets on an agreed timetable;
- c. enhancing accountability in development cooperation based on agreed principles;

- d. mobilizing additional financial resources from multiple sources such as remittances, foreign direct investment, institutional and other long-term investors and innovative financing;
- e. reducing the transaction costs of remittances;
- f. enhancing scientific and technological cooperation involving developing countries and technology transfer to developing countries;
- g. strengthening capacity building efforts for developing countries and knowledge sharing and technical cooperation among all countries through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation;
- h. strengthening capacities for tax-collection, reducing tax evasion;
- i. strengthening systems of domestic savings;
- j. reducing illicit financial flows;
- k. improving efficiency of public spending, reducing corruption;
- l. strengthening capacities for disaggregated and expanded data collection for measuring progress; and
- m. regular monitoring and reporting of progress with means of implementation and aid efficiency, in conjunction with SDG progress reporting.

To provide impetus to Global Partnership for Sustainable Development and broader stakeholder engagement in sustainable development, some areas that could be considered include:

- a. greater involvement of public and private sector business and industry, including financial institutions;
- b. strengthening commitment and involvement of multilateral financial development institutions;
- c. enhanced involvement of philanthropic organizations;
- d. creating inclusive initiatives and partnerships in support of all areas;
- e. such initiatives and partnerships to develop resource mobilization strategies;
- f. system of regular monitoring, reporting on achievements of initiatives and partnerships; and
- g. close coordination and cooperation of multi-stakeholder initiatives and partnerships with government and inter-governmental efforts in support of sustainable development.

Focus area 19. Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions

Creating peaceful, non-violent and inclusive societies, based on respect for all human rights including the right to development, is a cornerstone for sustainable development. Equality within and between countries is a key determinant of peaceful, non-violent and inclusive societies.

Some areas that could be considered for strengthening peaceful and non-violent societies include:

- a. combating organized crime;
- b. strengthening the rule of law at all levels;
- c. reducing illicit arms transfer and trafficking;
- d. reduction of crime, violence, abuse, exploitation, including against children and women;
- e. promoting information and education on a culture of non-violence;
- f. reducing the number of internally displaced persons and refugees;
- g. strengthening the fight against human trafficking;
- h. improving planned and managed migration policies; and
- i. appropriate means of implementation*

Governance, rule of law, capable institutions are both outcome and enabler, advancing all three pillars of sustainable development and the post-2015 development agenda.

Some areas could include:

- a. effective, accountable and transparent institutions;
- b. strengthening the rule of law at all levels;
- c. provision of public services for all;
- d. improvement of transparency in public finances management;
- e. fighting corruption in all its forms;
- f. improved public access to publicly owned information;
- g. inclusive, participatory decision-making;
- h. strengthening local governments;
- i. strengthening of civil society;
- j. freedom of media, association and speech;
- k. curbing illicit financial flows;
- l. provision of legal identity;
- m. provision of property, use and access rights, to all persons;
- n. providing access to independent and responsive justice systems;
- o. developing and using evidence based, high quality, timely, disaggregated data and methodology for evaluating progress; and
- p. appropriate means of implementation.*