








“From Policy to Action” Toolkit

Beyond2015



Campaigning for a global development framework
after the Millennium Development Goals

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Introduction

Beyond 2015 is a global civil society campaign, aiming to develop a strong framework to replace the Millennium Development Goals. **Beyond 2015** brings together more than 1300 Civil Society Organizations in over 130 countries around the world. **Beyond 2015** has two main goals:

-  A global overarching cross-thematic framework for development after 2015.
-  A participatory and responsive process for developing the framework, so that it includes the point of view of those directly affected by poverty and injustice.

In order to accomplish these goals, **Beyond 2015** has promoted debate on the Post-2015 agenda in almost 40 countries, has built a campaign-wide understanding of the foundations of the Post-2015 agenda (Vision, Purpose, Values and Criteria), and has taken several advocacy actions based on a 'pincer movement' built around a constant highlighting of the same messages to political leaders at the national, regional and global levels. The goal of these messages, was to ensure we achieve the most transformative Post-2015 agenda possible that includes a meaningful participation of people and their organizations.

Securing a commitment on global action is crucial to ensure an effective implementation of the Post-2015 agenda¹. This means that for **Beyond 2015**, it is not enough to simply have the 'right' agreement on paper. The agreement has to translate into meaningful actions at all levels. The agenda has to be able to be implemented; it has to make a significant difference for those most affected by poverty and injustice, in all countries, everywhere.

The **Beyond 2015** Executive Committee met in March 2015 in Tunis, on the sidelines of the World Social Forum. At this meeting, the Executive Committee decided to recalibrate the focus of **Beyond 2015** from policy to action, based on the analysis that much of the agenda was already set, and **that the main gap lied in the political will for its implementation**. Therefore, we will continue to engage in the intergovernmental negotiation process, but focus more on building political leadership for implementation at the national level, with the goal of ensuring that the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are translated into national development plans, and that people and their organizations are included in this implementation from as early as possible**.

As a result, the new **Beyond 2015** program, 'From Policy to Action', will implement the Executive Committee's decision. It will have three strategic pillars:



Supporting civil society colleagues at the national level to work with their governments in building political leadership for implementation



Working with the media to build political leadership for the Post-2015 Agenda.



Organizing a high-level event during the United Nations Summit for the adoption of the Post-2015 agenda (September 2015) to present the implementation plan of a small number of pioneer countries.

This toolkit relates to the first pillar. It **aims to provide practical tools to help civil society colleagues build political leadership for the implementation**

¹ See: "**Beyond2015's** statement on the purpose of a Post-2015 framework" at <http://www.beyond2015.org/sites/default/files/PURPOSE.pdf>

of the **Post-2015 agenda at the national level** by creating better awareness of the actions that could be taken. Consequently, this practical document aims to support the activities of the participating organizations of **Beyond 2015** engaged on building this political leadership for implementation.

Goals of the toolkit

This toolkit lays the foundation for **Beyond 2015's final phase**, dedicated to promoting national level political leadership and commitment to implementing Post-2015 agenda, especially the SDGs.

The toolkit seeks to:

1. Support national level work to build political leadership for implementation by providing practical examples, lessons from partners, key political



demands of the campaign, and suggesting concrete steps for action.



2. Support CSOs in their efforts to ensure that the SDGs are translated into national development plans and that people and their organizations are included in this implementation from the earliest stage as possible
3. Assist CSOs in adapting their work to a 'SDGs framework' by providing them with strategies for participatory implementation at the national level, in order to achieve the most transformative Post-2015 agenda

Scenario Planning

The Executive Committee met in Tunis in March 2015, on the side-lines of the World Social Forum, to discuss the strategic direction for the leg of the Post-2015 process. The meeting focused on ‘scenario planning’, the risk and opportunities faced in 2015, and deciding the best course of action for the campaign to navigate through these risks and opportunities.

The day before the Executive Committee meeting, a campaign coordination meeting was held in Tunis with campaign members, national leads and regional coordinators, also discussing the scenarios. Four scenarios were identified and discussed:

Conference/ Event Scenario	Sendai Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, March 2015	Financing for Development Process, Addis Ababa. July 2015	Post-2015 Agenda negotiations, New York	UNFCCC Process, COP 21 Paris. November- December 2015
<p>‘The Paper Agreement’ – Possible (undesirable)</p> 	<p>It fails to address some of the key contentious issues that are on the table there. Differences in positions between countries and negotiating blocs evidences that they are not close to agreement. Due to the lack of pressure to reach agreement because it is not a Summit, no outcomes are agreed, meaning all contentious issues and trade-offs are left for the post-2015 IGNS. The stock-taking in June in New York becomes critical.</p>	<p>There is no strong outcome from the FfD process in Addis in July. Developed countries fail to show commitment and are unprepared to tackle the issues on the table. Also, they are not keen on having an FfD process and only agreed if it was scheduled late in the game, reflecting lack of political will to address these issues. The G77 leave Addis feeling angry and disappointed, with a lack of willingness to agree ambitious SDGs without necessary support.</p>	<p>To protect SDG17 and MOI targets in post-2015, the G77 refuse to consider any further discussion on SDG content and push for the SDGs to be agreed by vote rather than consensus, reducing country ownership and buy-in for implementation.</p>	<p>Lack of strong agreement and an inability to settle the contentious issues delivers little positive momentum to the UNFCCC process.</p>
<p>‘The Train Wreck’ – Plausible (most undesirable)</p> 	<p>It fails to address some of the key contentious issues that are on the table there. Differences in positions between countries and negotiating blocs evidences that they are not close to agreement. Due to the lack of pressure to reach agreement because it is not a Summit, no outcomes are agreed, meaning all contentious issues and trade-offs are left for the post-2015 IGNS. The stock-taking in June in New York becomes critical.</p>	<p>There is no strong outcome from the FfD process in Addis in July. Developed countries fail to show commitment and are unprepared to tackle the issues on the table. Also, they are not keen on having an FfD process and only agreed if it was scheduled late in the game, reflecting lack of political will to address these issues. The G77 leave Addis feeling angry and disappointed, with a lack of willingness to agree ambitious SDGs without necessary support.</p>	<p>Countries/blocs that are unhappy with content or want to reduce the number of goals, reopening the SDGs and unraveling the process. Lack of political capital means there is no time to agree other outstanding areas of the agenda in substantial detail, leading to a weak/ potentially no outcome.</p>	<p>Failure to reach agreement on the post-2015 Agenda reduces trust in intergovernmental negotiations, with negative consequences for this process and fragmented, disjointed priorities emerge.</p>




Conference/ Event Scenario	Sendai Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, March 2015	Financing for Development Process, Addis Ababa. July 2015	Post-2015 Agenda negotiations, New York	UNFCCC Process, COP 21 Paris. November- December 2015
<p>Business As Usual' – Probable</p> 	<p>Member states manage to come to an agreement in Sendai, addressing some but not all of the contentious issues. The feeling that the first multilateral process of 2015 has delivered an outcome gives positive momentum to negotiators and the UN system.</p>	<p>This means that member states deliver across all three processes (post-2015, UNFCCC, FfD) but ambition for transformative change and challenging commitments is weak, meaning results are mixed.</p> <p>Although the goals are “universal”, many countries discuss prioritisation for implementation depending on national relevance, potentially only focusing on ‘low hanging fruit’</p> <p>Accountability mechanisms are weak at the global level, and funding structures are unclear. Some goals risk losing momentum while others see multi-stakeholder initiatives set up almost immediately.</p>		
<p>'A Transformative Agenda' – Preferable</p> 	<p>Member states come to a strong agreement in Sendai, addressing most, if not all, contentious issues. Agreement on these issues maps out a pathway for agreement on outstanding issues within the post-2015 process; trust and confidence is built in the ability for the UN to deliver across all three processes.</p>	<p>Member states deliver strong commitments in the Addis process, recommitting to 0.7% with 50% to LDCs as well as closing tax loopholes and agreeing to robust accountability mechanisms for private finance. Funding is also allocated to support better data collection and management as part of the data revolution.</p>	<p>The post-2015 Agenda is agreed with 17 goals and around 100 targets, supported by strong accountability mechanisms with a number of high profile countries volunteering to go first for follow up and review beginning in 2016. Multi-stakeholder initiatives spring up immediately for all goal areas, with extra ones focusing on some targets. Universality is delivered through a set of global indicators, supported by nationally and regionally determined indicators.</p>	<p>The positive momentum carries through to the UNFCCC and a global climate deal is agreed in December.</p>

Illustrations by Dee McConville: sketchpadstudio.com

What does this mean for *Beyond 2015*?

As of March 2015, the Executive Committee considered the Post-2015 negotiations were likely **to achieve a ‘high substance agreement, low political commitment’ (paper agreement) or a ‘mediocre substance agreement, mixed political commitment’ (business as usual). However, Beyond 2015 would like to see a transformative agenda, with a ‘high substance agreement, high political commitment’.**

A number of challenges were identified as being preventive of the emergence of the transformative agenda we are working towards:

-  **Disconnection between New York and other capitals**
-  **Disconnection between different government ministries and departments**
-  **The risk of political prioritization of goals, leading to less focus on transformative ones.**

Beyond 2015 is working with its Regional Coordinators, national lead agencies, focal points, working groups, task forces, and political partners to build political leadership at the national level. This campaign will continue to strongly engage on the intergovernmental negotiations in New York, and will continue to work with Task Forces to create relevant positions and take them to Member States at the capital and in New York.

We recognize that even the most ambitious intergovernmental agreement will become a reality only if there is leadership, political will, resources and accountability at all levels. Therefore, we are working with our members and partners - via advocacy at the national level, media work, and a high-level event in New York during the United Nations summit - for the adoption of the Post-2015 agenda, focused on building political leadership.

Civil society has invested great efforts in the design of the new agenda, but should now focus on pursuing its early implementation.

National case studies

While all governments have been part of the process that will define the SDGs, as well as the Post-2015 agenda, this is by nature a non-binding and voluntary framework, which means there are no formal sanctions for not implementing the agenda. However, an international political agreement as this one must be met by all countries. Active engagement from national civil society could make a difference by promoting concrete initiatives towards the immediate planning of the implementation phase and by holding governments accountable for their commitments at the global level.

We have identified five countries throughout the world with different political systems, sizes, structures and capacities – these countries have made interesting advancements in their planning process for implementing the Post-2015 agenda at the national level. In some of these countries, civil society engagement has been crucial. You should be able to compare the situation of your country to those highlighted here and find ideas of what Post-2015 implementation could look like in your country.

It is important to note that the plans in these five countries are not necessarily fully developed yet – many countries are still waiting to fully agree on the SDGs before finalizing the implementation plans – which provides political space in which we can work!



African Case Study: Uganda

Practical information

Population	37,5 million (2013)
Official Languages	English, Swahili
Political System	Dominant Party semi-presidential republic
Geography	Capital: Kampala Area: 236.040 km ² Located in East Africa and part of the Great Lakes Countries it is a Landlocked country It is bordered by Kenya to the East, South Sudan to the North, Democratic Republic of Congo to the West, Rwanda to the southwest, and Tanzania to the South.
Financial Capacity	Low Income Country (LIC). GDP: 24.7 billion (Current USD)
Life expectancy at birth	59 years (2013)
2014 Human Development Index	0.484 (rank 164)

Source: World Bank/UNDP

What implementation plans are there so far and what will likely happen?

Post-2015 Development agenda coordination in Uganda is led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the National Planning Authority (which is part of the Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development), the Ministry of Water and Environment, and the Ministry of Gender and Social Affairs.

The Implementation plan is guided by Uganda's vision 2040 and Uganda's Second National Development Strategy (the first strategy is due June 2015). This plan was based on national level discussions involving multiple stakeholder consultations. Uganda NGO Forum, UWASNET, ACORD International, SEATINI, and CARE International lead the CSOs engagement in Uganda.

The framework covered the following SDG areas: (i) poverty reduction and shared prosperity; (ii)

infrastructure (water, sanitation, electricity, roads, and information and communications technology, or ICT); (iii) access to education; (iv) access to health, and (v) climate change. Several indicators are used to measure progress in each of these areas, notwithstanding limitations posed by scarce available cross-country data sets. However, it is notable that the National Statistical Office was recently added to the national coordination mechanism.

National Development Plan II is aligned with the Post-2015 development agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals have been integrated into it.

How have the plans come to be?

The plan came to be after Uganda's Head of State decided to follow Post-2015 guidelines, influenced by three factors:

- a. Uganda is the President of the 69th session of United Nations General Assembly which is overseeing the

- finalization of the Post-2015 Development agenda. The current government is keen to lead by example.
- b.** Lack of coordination between government and CSOs
- b.** The World Bank used Uganda as a pilot for a diagnostic country framework.
- c.** Lack of awareness of the agenda amongst the public and some government officials
- c.** Strong pressure from the Civil Society Movement in Uganda.
- d.** Disconnection between Local Government Authorities and National Parliament.

However, setting the implementation plan for SDGs into motion at the national level has faced several difficulties, such as:

- a.** Lack of coordination between national institutions; but the introduced Government Coordination Mechanism and the National Development Plan II facilitated the binding of the three pillars of sustainable development at country level.

Among the solutions proposed to overcome these obstacles were the establishment of national CSOs engagement mechanism/platform, the search for representation in official government coordination structures, more outreach and capacity building at all levels, and advocacy and awareness. Moreover, the importance of increasing the involvement of the Local Government Authority and National Parliament from the onset of the program was established.

Asian Case Study: Philippines

Practical information

Population	98.3 million (2013)
Official Languages	Filipino and English
Political System	Constitutional republic with a presidential system. It is governed as a unitary state with the exception of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, which is largely free from the national government.
Geography	Capital: Manila Area: 300.000km ² Location: Southeast Asia, in the western Pacific Ocean. It consists of 7,107 islands that are categorized broadly under three main geographical divisions: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao. Its location on the Pacific Ring of Fire and close to the Equator makes the Philippines prone to earthquakes and typhoons, but also endows it with abundant natural resources and some of the world's greatest biodiversity,
Financial Capacity	Lower-middle-Income Country. GDP: 272.1 billion (Current USD)
Life expectancy at birth	69 years (2013)
2014 Human Development Index	0.66 (rank 117)

Source: World Bank/UNDP

What implementation plans are there so far and what will likely happen?

The second phase of the Post-2015 agenda consultation in the Philippines focused on the means of implementation, where localization was identified as an issue of particular relevance. At the national level, the coordination structure for implementing the Post-2015 agenda will lay within the Executive Branch of the government's Cabinet, the highest policy making body of the Executive. The government wishes to avoid bureaucracy and seeks to maximize existing mechanisms.

Goal prioritization and clear targets emerged from multi-stakeholder consultations. To reflect the specific development challenges of the country, the following five pillars were identified as focus areas: 1) Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion, 2) Environmental Sustainability, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, 3) Accountable, Responsive and Participatory Governance, 4) Fair and Stable Order Based on International Rule of Law, and 5) Peace and Security.

The goals and targets of the new agenda will be in line with the Philippine Development Plan, which undergoes review every 3 years and is the national blueprint that defines the strategies and programs that will translate into efficient, effective, and responsive actions achievable within the term of the Office of the President. An information management system will support performance and monitoring and reporting of results.

Participatory and inclusive planning will be facilitated by the presence of institutional support mechanisms. Such arrangements include establishing appropriate structures and functional bodies in the form of task forces, committees, councils, technical working groups, steering committees, and other bodies that function as advisory, coordination, or implementing structure.

Recognizing the importance of the private sector as a critical driver for national development, the government has identified the implementation of public-private partnerships (PPP) as a cornerstone strategy to accelerate infrastructure development in the country and sustain economic growth.

The availability of data at the local level is critical for SDG localization. Many Local Government Units (LGUs) still need to establish data monitoring systems and need additional capacity to identify priorities and formulate effective programs and projects to implement the SDGs. It is still difficult to obtain timely data, particularly in rural areas. Therefore, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) and the Department for Budget and Management need to improve the reporting mechanism set up to monitor the physical and financial accomplishments of the government regarding the MDGs.

How have the plans come to be?

The implementation will be undertaken by the cabinet clusters. The Philippine Congress institutionalized a Special Committee on the MDGs whose jurisdiction was on all matters directly and principally relating to the achievement of the country's commitment to the MDGs. There might be a similar special committee for the SDGs.

Recognizing the role of parliamentarians in developing national policies, budgets and oversight functions, **Beyond 2015** Philippines plans to work with parliamentarians, who can champion the SDGs for the Filipino people. The caveat and opportunity is the upcoming national elections in May 2016.

One strategy is that Lobby groups be effective in communicating the people's voices and positions in Congress, Senate and even in the executive. Another strategy proposed was to establish SDG-focused special bodies such as national steering and accountability committees.

Urban poor groups contended that local cooperation would be enhanced through local special bodies at the city and barangay² levels. It was reasoned that urging Local Chief Executives to champion the SDGs is the most critical step in localization. All Local Chief Executives must be engaged, involved and informed in the whole SDG process and successes in SDG implementation should reflect well on them.

Along the same lines, CSOs emphasized the value of a national culture of “champions” for the SDGs. Credible, high-character, and high-profile leaders supporting SDG achievement at the local and national level will benefit the localization of the new agenda. CSOs highlighted the success of past partnerships between Local Government Units and CSOs on the MDGs as a model for new partnerships on the SDGs.

European Case Study: Germany

Practical information

Population	80,6 million (2013)
Official Languages	German
Political System	Federal parliamentary constitutional republic
Geography	Capital: Berlin Area: 357,022 km ² . Germany is located in Central Europe along the Baltic and North Seas. It also shares borders with nine different countries - some of which include France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Belgium. It has a Coastline of (3,621 km) The climate of Germany is considered temperate and marine. It has cool, wet winters and mild summers.
Financial Capacity	High-Income Country (HIC): GDP: 3730.2 billion (Current USD)
Life expectancy at birth	81 years (2013)
2014 Human Development Index	0.911 (rank 6)

Source: World Bank/UNDP

² The smallest administrative division in the Philippines and the native Filipino term for village, district or an inner city neighborhood.

What implementation plans are there so far and what will likely happen?

There are three institutions responsible for developing and implementing policies regarding sustainable development. These institutions will likely also be in charge of the SDGs implementation:

State's Secretary Committee on Sustainable Development³: This Committee rests with the Federal Chancellery, the main entity responsible for sustainable development at the national level. It works closely with ministries in shaping and implementing the national sustainable development strategy. Also, the different ministries have to produce Departmental reports, "which are presented to the State Secretaries' Committee, revealing the specific ways in which ministries approach sustainable development issues and form the basis for discussions within the Committee."

Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development⁴: the German parliament (Bundestag) establishes The Parliamentary Advisory Council with each legislature. Its responsibilities are monitoring and supporting the Federal Government's National Sustainability Strategy as well as monitoring and supporting the Federal Government's sustainability policy at the European level; among other actions.

German Council for Sustainable Development⁵: "It advises the government on its sustainable development policy and, by presenting proposals for targets and indicators, seeks to advance the Sustainability Strategy as well as propose projects for its realization. A further task of the German Council for Sustainable Development is to foster social dialogue on the issue of sustainability. "

The German government has decided to integrate

the SDGs into the existing National Sustainable Development Strategy. The strategy will be revised and extended in a dialogue with civil society, which is supposed to start by autumn 2015. The new strategy will be published some time before mid-2016. The government has the final decision-making power over what elements from the dialogue process will be in the strategy. How the process will be structured and how transparent it will be has yet to be communicated.

It is likely that the German Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) has the capacity to measure the indicators that will show the effectiveness of the implementation of the SDGs at the national level.

How have the plans come to be?

The responsibility of the German National Sustainable Development Strategy rests on the Chancellery and the ministers. Parliament has monitoring and supporting functions. It is expected that people will be able to participate through government-initiated dialogue processes and advocacy by development, environment and social NGOs. It remains unclear to what extent insider lobbying will have a role.

3 More information available at:

<http://www.bundesregierung.de/Content/EN/StatistischeSeiten/Schwerpunkte/Nachhaltigkeit/nachhaltigkeit-2013-10-15-monitoring.html?nn=393722>

4 More information available at:

http://www.bundestag.de/htdocs_e/bundestag/bodies/sustainability

5 More information available at:

<http://www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/en/home/>

Latin American Case Study: Colombia

Practical information

Population	48.3 million (2013)
Official Languages	Spanish
Political System	Unitary Presidential Constitutional Republic
Geography	<p>Capital: Bogota Area: 1.141.748 km² Location: South America. It shares borders with Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Brazil and Panama.</p> <p>Geographic details: Its geography is diverse and, in places, extremely rugged. Dense rainforest can be found in the Amazon region, as well as three main mountain systems, which divide the country. This terrain has made it difficult for the country to develop transportation infrastructure. Its geostrategic location makes it the only country in South America with coasts on the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean. Due to its location near the Equator, it counts with a biodiversity of a variety of climates, microclimates and temperature zones.</p>
Financial Capacity	Upper Middle Income. GDP: 378.4 billion (Current USD).
Life expectancy at birth	74 years (2013)
2014 Human Development Index	0.711 (rank 98)

Source: World Bank/UNDP

What implementation plans are there so far?

Colombia has been very committed with the SDGs process at all levels (global, regional and national). In February 2015, the President created a High-level inter-agency Commission for the effective Implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda and the SDG's (Decree 280 of 2015). This Commission is establishing a national policy to implement the SDGs by aligning them to the National Development Plan. Constitutionally, the plan has to be approved by Congress and go through a participatory process which includes dialogues with local actors, private sector, civil society, and academia, among other development actors. The Commission also has to establish a national mechanism to monitor the SDGs' progress for the next 15 years, make recommendations on mechanisms for

transparent accountability and reliable data production, and identify innovative financial measures required for the implementation of SDGs; among other responsibilities.

In order to accomplish its purposes, the Commission is establishing technical committees or working groups with the civil society, think tanks, and the private sector, as well as multilateral organizations; scenarios where these development actors can promote and advocate for specific issues and present inputs to the Commission. The Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Environment & Sustainable Development, and Finance; as well as the Directors of the Departments of Social Prosperity, Statistics, and Planning are members of this High Level Commission. These entities can only be represented by their ministers/directors or Vice-Minister/Deputy Directors.

The participation and influence of Colombia in the Post-2015 process at the international level has been led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, specifically by the Division of Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs, as well as through the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations.

The National Development Plan 2014-2018 includes 91 of the 169 targets of the SDGs. However, it is necessary to make a serious, responsible analysis in order to determine which global goals and targets fit into the national, regional and local realities. The three fundamental pillars of the National Development Plan are: peace, equity and education. The five transversal topics of the plan are: infrastructure and competitiveness, social mobility, rural transformation and green growth, institutional strengthening, and good government.

Development actors -both private and public- are involved in establishing mechanisms, policies and actions plans to implement the SDGs in Colombia. The development policy's formulation, monitoring and assessment are conducted in two ways:

- a. Through the participation of the High Level Commission, its technical committees or consultative groups.
- b. Through the participation in the Planning Councils at national and regional level, established by Law 134 of 1994 as well as in the Citizen Oversight Offices, Law 850 of 2003.

Though it is not assured, the complementary funds needed to implement the SDGs could come from the general national and local governments' budgets; in much lower quantities, funds will be provided by traditional donors, and high expectations are being made upon the private sector to co-finance the sustainable development agenda. South-South Cooperation is highlighted to be the privileged mechanism to generate and transfer knowledge, identify best practices and lessons learned, and to develop methods to implement and monitor the sustainable development goals.

Pacific Case Study: Papua New Guinea (PNG)

Practical information


Population	7.3 million (2013)
Official Languages	HiriMotu, TokPisin and English
Political System	Unitary Parliamentary system and Constitutional Monarchy
Geography	Capital: Port Moresby Area: 462,840km ² Its geography is diverse and, in some places, extremely rugged. Dense rain forests can be found in the lowland and coastal areas as well as very large wetland areas. This terrain has made it difficult for the country to develop transportation infrastructure. The country is situated on the Pacific Ring of Fire. There are a number of active volcanoes, and eruptions and earthquakes are frequent.
Financial Capacity	Low-Income Country (LIC). GDP: 15.4 billion (Current USD)
Life expectancy at birth	62 years (2013)
2014 Human Development Index	0.491 (rank 157)


Source: World Bank/UNDP

What implementation plans are there so far and what will likely happen?

At the national level, the coordinating structure is within the Executive branch of the State, named the Department of National Planning and Monitoring, specifically the Foreign Aid Division. The Department of National Planning & Monitoring derive their authority to undertake such work from various sources, such as the PNG Constitution, the PNG Vision 2050, the MTD (Medium Term Development) Strategy and Sectoral Policies of the State. The PNG Government (through sector-wide programs under the Medium Term Development Strategy) has identified the following Goals as priority areas:

-  **Goal 3** Ensure healthy lives and promote people's well-being at all ages
-  **Goal 4** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities
-  **Goal 5** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
-  **Goal 6** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation
-  **Goal 8** Promote continuous, inclusive and sustainable economic growth; full and productive employment, and decent jobs for all

 **Goal 12** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

 **Goal 15** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

The current approach of the Department of National Planning is to gauge views using Development Forums in the region to inform the Government on Policy issues while taking into consideration the people's voices. Whilst there is indeed a lack of coordination on Post-2015 discussions, the Government is keeping sub-sectors informed on the priority issues of the SDG's. The Development Priorities of the PNG Government are influenced by Global Policies including those of the United Nations. However, there is still a need for stringent measures to track the Post 2015 SDGs and Financing for Development.


How have the plans come to be?


It is the first time that planning has been fully home grown, without donor intervention and, accordingly, the first time we also see clearly articulated targets – they set middle income standards, are achievable, and can be monitored (according to the Department of National Planning).

Key **Beyond 2015 Red Flags** for national level implementation of the Post-2015 agenda


This section provides a set of concrete, practical demands of **Beyond 2015** for governments who are starting to plan the national level implementation of the Post-2015 agenda.


We recommend that every national government:


 Set up cross departmental committees, consisting of, at least, the national departments of data, environment, finance, foreign affairs and planning, in order to work on the implementation and monitoring of the Post-2015 agenda.


 Adopt a stand-alone national sustainable development strategy through a participatory process which is inclusive of people experiencing poverty and marginalization. This strategy should make meaningful, measurable commitments on the progressive realization of all the SDGs (and on associated means of implementation).


 Build on the experience of MDG Parliamentary Committees, and support the creation of SDG multi-party Parliamentary Committees, which will reinforce and support the executive power efforts on the implementation of SDGs in which CSOs and local level institutions can participate actively.

 Call upon decentralized administrations and local governments to work closely with CSOs and other related actors to ensure full ownership of the Post-2015 agenda at the national and sub-national levels.

 Ensure that national and local resources are allocated to the implementation of the SDGs.

 Establish participatory and inclusive monitoring and reporting mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs as well as to agree to public, inclusive and participatory national review mechanisms, led by a national review body which includes members of the public - especially from the poorest and most marginalized groups - and their legitimate representatives.

 Participate fully and actively in agreed international follow up and review processes.

 Embrace and commit to the implementation of all SDGs and include this in national development plans and priorities. The universality principle is one of the keys for the SDGs successful implementation both at global and national level. It should address not only the achievement of the Post-2015 commitments within that country, but also each country's equitable contribution to global achievement of the goals.

How should people and their organizations be involved in the implementation of the Post-2015 agenda? Some practical suggestions

This section seeks to answer the question about how people and their organizations should be meaningfully involved in the national level implementation of the Post-2015 agenda. It aims to provide practical recommendations for CSOs to use when discussing this issue with their governments, who may not understand exactly how they should ensure such participation. It is written based on the 'Work With Us' report⁶ by the Participate initiative, led by IDS and **Beyond 2015**, whose aim was to provide high quality evidence on the reality of poverty at ground level, bringing the perspectives of some of the poorest into the Post-2015 debate.

Recommendations to build the power of citizens

1. Many governments will set up processes or mechanisms to support the implementation of the SDGs. **These mechanisms must include civil society organizations and those from different marginalized groups, and must commit to the values of inclusion and respect for all people as a guiding principle of their work.**
2. **Governments should provide financial support and ensure laws are in place to allow people to participate effectively.**

Recommendations to build the power of collective action

3. An enabling environment that operates freely and effectively to pursue sustainable development should be created by **ensuring the access to timely and clear information, freedom of press and other forms of media, freedom of peaceful assembly, and freedom of association.**

4. When planning the implementation of the Post-2015 agenda, **the systematic integration of people into development policies and planning must be ensured through the inclusion of people's representatives in all levels of the implementation and review.**

Recommendations to build the power of participatory governance

5. **All actors involved must ensure broad participation in creating, monitoring, and implementing policies and supporting the development of review instruments.**
6. **Governments must create opportunities for real dialogue between people about the implementation of the Post-2015 agenda, especially marginalized and excluded groups and authorities at the local and national levels** by institutionalizing dialogue structures, such as debates – at parliamentary and local government level, and also within communities; and national conferences – to discuss implementation and share best practices; public forums; and meetings with key national decision makers.

Recommendations for governments and institutions

7. **Governments must introduce carefully considered quotas to increase participation of the most marginalized in order to address inequalities.**
8. **Governments must prioritize development investment, especially in pro-poor infrastructure and utilities, which starts with the needs of the poorest and most marginalized people, ensuring that program success indicators are linked directly with positive impacts.**

⁶See here:

http://www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/Workwithus_

[HowpeopleandorganisationscancatalysesustainablechangeFINAL.pdf](http://www.ids.ac.uk/files/dmfile/HowpeopleandorganisationscancatalysesustainablechangeFINAL.pdf)

The meaning of “Universality” in the SDG implementation:

The 17 proposed Sustainable Development Goals are “global in nature and universally applicable” and at the same time, take into account different national realities and respect national priorities. As a result, the SDGs are both universal and context-specific which generates great opportunities to promote localized and interlinked innovative approaches.

Universality must be harmonized with other principles such as common but differentiated responsibilities, meaning that we are all equally committed to reach a common result. In other words, universality could allow the international community to move beyond the North-South division.

National schemes of work will be equally crucial to integrate the pair of universality and singularity in a unique and indivisible structure.

On one hand, some national CSOs will have to adapt themselves to the new agenda, moving from actual siloed paradigms of work to new ones in which the networking between the various actors involved in the process at national and international stages will arise. Civil society organizations learned a lot about working together in a cross-sectoral approach during the Post-2015 design, and this should continue towards implementation.

On the other hand, one of the most important concerns on the SDGs implementation must be to defend the idea that universality also means the 17 SDGs are an integral package, pointing out the risks of allowing an ‘à la carte’ SDGs’ national selection to implement, abandoning the remainder goals.

In order to reinforce the inter-linkages between the SDGs as a whole, identifying cross-cutting issues and underlining that the goals represent a broad common global development framework may help us to contribute to maintain the universality of the agenda, working both globally and nationally at the same time.

Recommendations for CSOs and the changes they will need to make for implementation

The implementation of the SDGs at the national level will be strongly influenced by the extent to which CSOs take ownership of the goals and properly engage in the localization of the agenda, keeping governments accountable for the commitments made at the international level. Below are some recommendations from **Beyond 2015** for CSOs:

CSOs should:

- Be informed about the new agenda and support in expanding the awareness at country level about the Post-2015 and the SDGs.
- Meet the international dimension of the Post-2015 agenda with the national efforts by working with domestic CSOs and building regional and global networks to share experiences and reinforce advocacy towards cross-cutting and global issues.
- Capture the media and the public’s attention to publicize the agenda at the national level according to the national context.
- Promote the universality of the SDGs at national level and as an integrated system and not as a disjointed set of targets and goals.
- Prioritize calling for regionally and nationally realistic but ambitious indicators.
- Work beyond “business as usual” and open their scope to work in partnerships with other fields. CSOs must take into account the inter-linkages between the goals and targets of the Post-2015 agenda, breaking with the silos approach, as well as ensuring governments are held accountable across the agenda and not only on isolated issues. Generate broad-ranging coalitions of diverse

- and inclusive expertise. This requires an honest analysis and creativity to building on the strengths of partners: some are more technical, some more campaigning, some grass-roots activism, etc; setting a holistic approach to influence the implementation of SDGs.
- Agree on joint positions regarding the Post-2015 implementation process as well as on a number of core values and principles that can be applied cross-content/across sectors at national level; and coordinate the way to generate public mobilizations.
- Work collectively and cohesively to find inroads into their national political systems for participatory decision-making, implementation, and monitoring of the SDGs.
- Take advantage of election periods (at the national and the local level as well) to participate actively in the building of election programs in line with SDGs in order to prepare the road for future advocacy campaigns to approach the head of State or government.
- Prepare advocacy plans through the mapping of existing national and local strategies and policies that relate to one or more of the SDGs, targets and indicators, their respective timelines for review and an assessment of whether they could contribute to achieving them.
- Adapt the strategies in a scenario of constant change in the distribution and nature of poverty and development.
- Be aware of the power dynamics at the national, regional and global level as well as the local political economy and the cultural and social norms in order to improve the incidence in the SDGs

- implementation process at the national level. Work more in cross-sectoral projects and establish stronger and innovative partnerships, including the private sector, public institutions, social leaders and constituencies. Additionally, the cross-sectoral work needs the incorporation of lessons learned from past collaborative advocacy actions.

Practical steps to be taken by CSOs at the national level

In this section we propose key actions CSOs could take to build political leadership for the implementation of the Post-2015 agenda at the national level. These recommendations focus on state-led processes of SDGs implementation, but recognize the need of an inclusive approach and the existence of CSO responsibilities in promoting it.

We consider essential:

- Find out where your country stands along the implementation planning process (existing contacts in the government should be able to tell you this) and then contextualize and send the draft letter (below) to the Government Department who is leading the SDGs implementation process. If necessary, request a meeting to discuss the issue.
- Create a sensitization strategy oriented to approach the Parliamentarians and create awareness about the importance of the adoption and implementation of the SDGs at the national level. The first step CSOs should follow is to adapt the draft letter and send it to the leaders of the different political parties to prepare the ground for action.
- Map the state bodies involved in the SDGs implementation at the national level and their specific responsibilities.

Create your own view on how the SDGs must be adapted to your national context, taking into account the specific capabilities and assets of your country. This includes considering goals and targets, as well as how to finance them with domestic and external resources.

Build CSO coalitions to promote and monitor the commitment to implement the SDGs at the national-level.

Request the government to create participation and discussion spaces for the CSOs of the earliest stages of the SDGs national implementation process.

Push for the creation or the development of cross ministerial commissions.

Speak up about any deviation from its commitment to all the SDGs. The commitment with the principles of universality, leave no one behind, and people and planet-centered agenda agreed by the countries in the intergovernmental negotiations must be stressed to national governments as they agreed to them.

Help to build a positive image of the Post-2015 agenda in your country by securing press coverage in TV, newspapers, radio and social media. Make contact with journalists and media reporters well disposed to support SDGs national implementation process. The CSOs must have a strong presence in the Media and be ready to answer to some pessimistic discourses on Post-2015 agenda and the SDGs, and also be proactive in building a media strategy to promote the SDGs national implementation.

Media Awareness

The presence of CSOs in mass media will be critical to achieve the SDGs national implementation. The media is one of the most important venues for social debates on different topics covered in the Post-2015.

Some pessimistic speeches around the SDGs have already begun to gain a foothold in the media. A good example of this approach is found in the article 'The 169 commandments' published by The Economist on March 28, 2015⁷.

Maybe the biggest problem we are facing is that, while the MDGs had a clear and easily understandable narrative related to the fight against poverty, the SDGs have a more complex approach to development which needs to be explained and disseminated.


To do so and to stimulate a positive social perception of the Post-2015 agenda, it is important to underline that the SDGs are, in fact, the result of a wider consultation process aimed at inclusive participation in the design and implementation of plans, considering that the future agenda will be universal. The Post-2015 agenda represents a new paradigm of work to promote development. We strongly recommend reading the Stakeholder Forum's document 'Engaging with the Media. A Companion to the Advocacy Toolkit for Influencing the Post-2015 agenda'⁸


⁷See here:

<http://www.economist.com/news/leaders/21647286-proposed-sustainable-development-goals-would-be-worse-useless-169-commandments>


⁸See here:


<http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/Engagingwiththemedi.pdf>

-  Implement strategies that allow the people's involvement in the monitoring of government activities regarding the SDGs implementation, as well as government accountability.

-  Ask your government to publicly commit to one of the Beyond 2015 key asks for the September Summit. Find out who is writing the speech of the Head of State for the Summit and give them precise wording. [Messages to be prepared in August/early September 2015]

-  Be clear about how you want to be engaged in the implementation and the monitoring and inform the government directly. Give concrete proposals.

-  Build on MDGs successful experiences in your country and maintain momentum as we enter the implementation phase of the SDGs at national level.

-  Highlight the case studies from the toolkit. Share with the government foreign successful experiences, some which could work in your country.

Standard letter about implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda CSOs could share with their governments

Beyond2015

YOUR ORGANISATION'S LOGO HERE

Name of President, Minister or High Level Rep.

Title

Address

Date

[Official Name and correct salutation]

Example: Your Excellency, or Dear [name of Minister or High Level Rep.]

We present the compliments on behalf of [relevant structure i.e. working group, regional hub or national hub] and **Beyond 2015**, a global civil society campaign comprising more than 1300 civil society organizations from more than 130 countries working to advance the adoption of a strengthened, inclusive and legitimate Post-2015 Agenda.

We have been following the process that will be setting up the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we are aware of the leadership of [name of the country] in the intergovernmental negotiations and we now call on this same leadership to start the implementation process at national level; respecting the crucial principle of participation in order to make the people and planet focused Post-2015 agenda a reality in people's lives, leaving no-one behind.

We stress the vital importance of considering the following political recommendations for an inclusive implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, and we hope that you will highlight such commitments at the UN summit to adopt the Post-2015 agenda in September 2015. [Choose one of more of the red flags which are most appropriate to your national context].:

- Set up processes or mechanisms to support implementation of the SDGs, such as Sustainable Development Councils or Commissions, or through integrating the SDGs into National Sustainable Development Plans
- Involve people in creating, monitoring and implementing policies and supporting the development of accountability instruments
- Include civil society representation in such national mechanisms, generating an enabling environment for civil society to be an active partner of sustainable development
- When drafting plans to implement the SDGs, -prioritize development investment, which starts with the needs of the poorest and most marginalized people

We sincerely hope our government can see the value in pursuing an implementation process that enables and fosters the transformative and people-centered nature of this agenda, and look forward to working with you to make this happen.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss these messages with you in further detail.

Yours sincerely,

Signature

Your typed name

Your role/title

Your organization or organizations if multiple organizations are signing the letter cc [list here others whom you have sent copies of the letter].

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June 2015

For further information please contact Leo Williams: lwilliams@beyond2015.org

Beyond2015

Campaigning for a global development framework
after the Millennium Development Goals