



**Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue:
From the Millennium Development Goals to the
United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015**
Bangkok, 26-28 August 2013

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**Bangkok Declaration of the Asia-Pacific region on
the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015¹**

We, the ministers and the high-level representatives of the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, participating in the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015, convened in Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand, from 26 to 28 August 2013,

Recalling Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 69/4, in which all members and associate members welcomed the proposal of the Government of Thailand to hold, in collaboration with the ESCAP secretariat, the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Dialogue: From the Millennium Development Goals to the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015,

Recalling also the outcome document of the high level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the MDGs in 2010, entitled “*Keeping the Promise: United to Achieve the MDGs*”,

¹ This document is issued without formal editing.

Welcoming the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, entitled “*The Future We Want*”², and the high level political commitment of the member States in that document to sustainable development and the reaffirmation of the Rio Principles, including the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities,

Recalling that the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, called for, *inter alia*, the development of sustainable development goals (SDGs), which should be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015,³

Acknowledging the importance of the regional dimension of sustainable development,⁴

Taking note of the High Level Political Forum at the United Nations on sustainable development, in accordance with the modalities spelled out in the UN General Assembly resolution 67/290,

Recognizing that more than sixty percent of the world’s population live in the Asia and the Pacific region,

Deeply concerned about the number of people living in extreme poverty and with hunger in Asia and the Pacific,⁵

Reaffirming that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and is an indispensable requirement for sustainable development,⁶

Recognizing that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and protecting and managing the natural

² General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

³ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paragraphs. 245 – 251.

⁴ *Ibid.*, paragraphs. 97.

⁵ The Asia and Pacific region still has the largest number of people living in extreme poverty (792 million, 2010), Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific, 2013, ESCAP

⁶ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paragraph. 2.

resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of, and essential requirements for, sustainable development,⁷

Recognizing that middle income countries still face significant challenges in their efforts to achieve the internationally agreed upon development goals, including the MDGs,⁸

Recognizing also the need to collectively explore and identify the challenges in the Asia-Pacific region that should be taken into account in the elaboration of the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015,

Welcoming the establishment of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG),⁹ the intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing, and the high level political forum; and expressing our support for the work of these three processes,

Welcoming also significant progress made in meeting many of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular to halve the proportion of the world's people whose income is less than 1.25 dollars a day and the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, and to halve the proportion of people who are unable to reach or to afford safe drinking water,¹⁰

Recognizing that, while there has been progress in reducing poverty after the MDGs were launched thirteen years ago, this progress has been uneven, and it is likely that many of the targets under the MDGs will not be achieved by 2015, and emphasizing that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in developing countries is a key requirement for eradicating poverty and hunger and achieving the MDGs,¹¹

Noting with concern that, despite many of the successes of the MDGs, inequality continues to persist at global, regional, national and sub-national levels, as well as between men and women,

⁷ Ibid., paragraph. 4.

⁸ General Assembly resolution 63/223.

⁹ General Assembly decision 67/555.

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 55/2, paragraph. 19.

¹¹ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paragraphs. 105 and 106.

Reiterating our commitment to reinvigorating and strengthening the global partnership for sustainable development that we launched in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and to working together with major groups and other stakeholders in addressing implementation gaps,¹²

Reaffirming our determination to collectively advance and strengthen the global partnership for development as the centerpiece of our cooperation in the years ahead,

Emphasizing that the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015 is a universal agenda, should be people-centered, should promote happiness, and should not leave anyone behind – regardless of gender, geography, disability, race or other status,

Stressing that means of implementation, especially provision of financial resources, and development and transfer of know-how and technology are vital for international and regional processes to achieve the MDGs and consider the Development Agenda beyond 2015,

Reiterating that the advancement of the rule of law at national and international levels is essential for sustained, equitable and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, and the full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms,¹³

Recognizing the need for an open, inclusive and transparent inter-governmental process to delineate the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015,

Underscoring the need to address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development, namely, economic, social and environmental, and their inter-linkages in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015,¹⁴

¹² Ibid., paragraph. 55.

¹³ Op. 7 A/Res/67/1 and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) resolution approved at ECOSOC 2013 session (E/CN.15/2013/27) "The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015", paragraph. 6, to be recommended to UNGA 68)

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paragraph. 246.

Taking note of the contributions of relevant UN system processes as inputs to the intergovernmental process on the Development Agenda beyond 2015 under the United Nations, including the report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda,

Also taking note of the report of the Secretary General entitled “A life with dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015”,

1. *Reaffirm* our commitment to make every effort to accelerate the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs by 2015;
2. *Recommend* that the General Assembly consider timely launching of intergovernmental negotiations under the United Nations General Assembly to arrive at the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015;
3. *Emphasize* that the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015, should continue the momentum started out by the MDGs and should be holistic, inclusive, equitable, people-centered and universal;
4. *Recommend* that the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015 should carry forward the spirit of the Millennium Declaration with:
 - (a) a determination to build upon and further carry on the MDGs, particularly with an aim to eradicate poverty;
 - (b) a balanced integration of the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;
 - (c) an emphasis on inclusive, equitable and sustainable development and economic growth aiming to effectively address all forms of inequalities and the factors underpinning them;
 - (d) a focus on the global, regional and national dimensions of sustainable development in addressing the special needs and particular challenges of the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, in the context of their respective plans and programmes of action;
 - (e) a strengthened global partnership for the enhanced implementation of internationally agreed development goals and objectives;

5. *Reiterate* our commitment to address remaining gaps in the implementation of the outcomes of the major summits on sustainable development, to address new and emerging challenges and to seize new opportunities to the actions enumerated in the framework for action and follow-up of “*The Future We Want*” supported as appropriate through provision of means of implementation;¹⁵

6. *Encourage* the United Nations system, including its regional commissions, and regional and sub-regional organizations, to continue promoting a balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and in their respective capacities supporting the member States in implementing sustainable development;

7. *Reaffirm* that the meaningful involvement and active participation of all major groups¹⁶, as well as other stakeholders at all levels are important for effective action on all aspects of sustainable development, in accordance with established rules and procedures, as appropriate;

8. *Reaffirm* the need to strengthen the multi-lateral trading regime that is fair, just and open, advance trade and investment liberalization and facilitation, remove trade and investment barriers and oppose and resist all forms of protectionism;

9. *Recognize* the need for the international community to provide continued support including development assistance and technical cooperation to developing countries, in particular, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, in achieving-poverty eradication and sustainable development;

10. *Reaffirm* that the means of implementation identified in Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development are indispensable for achieving the full and effective translation of sustainable development commitments into

¹⁵ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paragraph. 104.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, paragraph 43. Major groups: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Non Governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technology Community, and Farmers.

tangible sustainable development outcomes; reiterate that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies cannot be over emphasized; and reaffirm that developing countries need additional resources for sustainable development. We recognize the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing, in order to promote sustainable development;

11. *Emphasize* the importance of technology transfer to developing countries and recall the provisions on technology transfer, finance, access to information and intellectual property rights as agreed in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, in particular its call to promote, facilitate and finance, as appropriate, access to and the development, transfer and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries on favorable terms including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed;¹⁷

12. *Recognize* the importance of the improvement of the quality of statistics and information and make those available to people and governments, taking into account new technology and improved connectivity to provide people with information on progress towards achieving sustainable development to enable them to take planned and effective decisions;

13. *Reiterate* our support to the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, which is at present the only intergovernmental process within the United Nations to submit a report on SDGs to the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly;

14. *Call upon* the international community to increase efforts for the successful outcome of the special event of the General Assembly to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals to be held on 25 September 2013;

15. *Look forward* to an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process for the United Nations Development Agenda beyond 2015;

¹⁷ General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex, paragraph. 269.

16. *Underscore and reiterate* our support to South-South cooperation and Triangular Cooperation (TrC), and recognize that South-South Cooperation complements rather than substitutes North-South cooperation;

17. *Reiterate* the importance of urgent fulfillment of the aid commitments by developed countries, and noting with concern that the gap between the actual aid disbursements and commitments has widened and aid flows to developing countries have also declined in real terms;

18. *Request* the Executive Secretary of ESCAP to support the work of member States, upon request, on the three pillars of sustainable development, including through greater exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned;

19. *Extend* our deep appreciation to the Royal Government of Thailand for the excellent arrangements made for the Ministerial Dialogue and hospitality, as well as our thanks to the ESCAP secretariat for its support to the Ministerial Dialogue.

Bangkok, Thailand
27 August 2013