

What is the Post-2015 Development Agenda?

Building on the successes and lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the **post-2015 development agenda is an ambitious global vision that seeks to tackle extreme poverty, curb climate change, and put the world on a more prosperous and sustainable path by 2030.** The post-2015 agenda is currently being debated by UN member states and will be adopted by world leaders at a Special Summit in September 2015. The post-2015 agenda is comprised of four key elements:

1. **The Declaration** - a vision statement, or how this will be communicated to the outside world
2. **Sustainable Development Goals and Targets** – the OWG’s 17 SDGs and 169 targets as basis.
3. **Financing and the Means of Implementation** – the “how” of delivering the post-2015 agenda
4. **Monitoring and Review** – tracking progress on commitments made by all stakeholders

Background: Where are we in the process?

In July 2014, an Open Working Group (“OWG”) of 70 member states agreed a set of [Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs](#). Because the OWG outcome was the product of a year and a half of intense debate, reflecting a delicate political balance, most member states are opposed to reopening negotiations on goals or targets and unsettling that balance. For this reason, member states agreed in a September 2014 resolution that the **OWG’s goals and targets would be the “main basis” for the SDGs.**

In December 2014, the Secretary-General’s [synthesis report](#), *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet*, brought together many of the key inputs to date and outlined six “essential elements” to help frame the SDGs: **dignity, people, prosperity, planet, justice, and partnership.** Many expect these elements to provide useful in communicating the overarching vision and narrative of the post-2015 agenda to citizens around the world.

What’s next in the process?

While many oppose reopening the OWG’s outcome, some governments have requested a technical assessment of the **targets** to ensure that all targets are measurable, evidence-based, actionable, and in line with existing international agreements. There is also a process underway to define a set of global **indicators** – though indicators are not expected to be finalized before the September 2015 Summit.

The **Third Financing for Development Summit in Addis Ababa in July 2015** will be another major political moment for building momentum and setting a financing and implementation strategy for the SDGs. The financing discussions get to the core of delivering the post-2015 agenda through traditional aid, private finance, multi-stakeholder partnerships, trade, technology, and other innovative sources.

[Intergovernmental negotiations](#) on the post-2015 agenda – running from January through July 2015 -- will culminate in a **Special Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015**, at which heads of state and government will formally adopt the post-2015 development agenda.

Finally, the **climate change negotiations in Paris in December 2015** are closely linked to the post-2015 debate. It is widely agreed that the world cannot eradicate extreme poverty and achieve sustainable development without tackling climate change, thus the processes are seen as mutually reinforcing.