



United Nations Association in Canada

Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies
Growing Global Citizens & Citoyens du monde à venir

The Future We Want: From Ideas to Implementation
The United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda

Report of a High Level Panel
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Report of a High Level Roundtable & Panel Event on UN Post-2015 Development Agenda

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United Nations Association in Canada
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Executive Summary

In 2015, governments will negotiate a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the United Nations (UN) to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) when they expire in 2015. The post-2015 agenda will encompass a broad vision for sustainable development which will apply to all countries, developing and developed alike.

To assess Canadian views on the universal post-2015 agenda, the United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) hosted a high level roundtable and public panel on October 2, 2014 which brought together civil society organizations, government departments, UN representative, academics, and thought-leaders to exchange perspectives on the SDGs and their implications for Canada.

This report provides a summary of the discussion and key messages arising from the two events. It also includes a brief overview of Canadian engagement to date on the post-2015 agenda. The report provides a useful snapshot of the current state of play in Canada with respect engagement by civil society, the federal government and the private sector on the future sustainable development agenda. A number of key messages emerged from the events.

- Stakeholders see the proposed SDGs as a transformative, progressive agenda for sustainable development. However, how the agenda will be refined further through negotiations in 2015 without losing its transformative element remains.
- Most stakeholders welcome the concept of a universal post-2015 sustainable development agenda that would apply to all countries. The concept has significant potential to unite stakeholders under a common global agenda though much work remains to be done on how the universal agenda will work in practice and shift focus from the South.
- Significant efforts will be needed to generate quality data to monitor the post-2015 agenda, including for new goal areas related to issues such as governance and inequality. The push for a robust monitoring and accountability framework will need to balance what is easily measured with what is important but difficult to measure.
- The post-2015 agenda offers opportunities for new partnerships across sectors at global, national and local levels. Stakeholders welcomed the push for partnerships across sectors, and noted that governments continue to have a responsibility for addressing global public goods issues, such as climate change, at the multilateral level.

Introduction

In 2012, governments agreed to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as part of their commitments at the Rio+20 United Nations (UN) Conference on Sustainable Development. The SDGs will follow the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which expire in 2015, with a broad, sustainable development agenda underpinned by a framework of goals, targets and indicators with an end date of 2030. Unlike the MDGs, the post-2015 SDGs are set to be universal in nature, applying to all countries, not just developing ones as the MDGs do now. The SDGs will also cover a broad range of goal areas that were not included in the MDGs, addressing issues such as inequality, inclusive growth, employment, infrastructure, energy, governance and peace and security.

To prepare for the creation of the SDGs, a number of international processes were established by the UN with the aim of providing inputs on the substance of the goals, their measurement and financing needs. In July 2014, the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals – an inter-governmental working group of the General Assembly – released its proposed framework for the SDGs following a year of discussions. The “draft zero” document includes a set of 17 SDGs which will serve as the basis for inter-governmental negotiations at the UN in 2015 (see Box 1). It is expected that UN Members States will agree on the final set of SDGs by September 2015.

The Canadian government and Canadian civil society organizations (CSOs) have been engaging in discussions on the post-2015 agenda. At the government level, the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD) is leading Canada’s involvement in UN processes, and has established a cross government working group. Within civil society, development and environment-oriented organizations are engaging the Canadian government and Canadians on Canada’s position; participating directly in international discussions; and supporting the efforts of international civil society coalitions to realise an ambitious, transformative post-2015 agenda.

While momentum is gaining on the post-2015 agenda both within Canada and abroad, much of the conversation in Canada has focussed on stakeholders from the environmental and international development communities. Recognizing the need to broaden engagement on the universal post-2015 agenda in Canada, the United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada) hosted a series consultations on the new agenda. On October 2, 2014, UNA-Canada brought together CSOs, government departments, a UN representative, the private sector and thought-leaders to exchange perspectives on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda and its implications for Canada.

This report summarizes the dialogue and key messages arising from UNA-Canada’s events. It begins with an overview of Canadian engagement on the post-2015 agenda followed by a description of the

Box 1. Proposed Sustainable Development Goals

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all, and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Attain healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
5. Attain gender equality, and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Box 1. Proposed Sustainable Development Goals

10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

events and their key messages. It is hoped that this report will serve as a valuable resource for stakeholders interested in learning more about Canada's engagement on the post-2015 agenda and emerging perspectives from Canadian stakeholders.

Overview of Canadian Engagement on Post-2015

While a number of steps have also been taken to coordinate within DFATD and between government departments on the new agenda, the conversation on the post-2015 SDGs has not been officially advanced in Canada. Aside from departments more directly engaged in international discussions, domestic stakeholders across sectors are not overly engaged in the post-2015 process, with the exception of key development and environment focussed CSOs, academics and engaged youth.

Government of Canada

Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development

At the federal level, Canada has taken a number of steps to support international discussions on the post-2015 agenda under the leadership of DFATD. Canada participated in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development sharing a seat with Israel and the United States. The government also supported post-2015 consultation processes through the UN, notably on education as well as on data and accountability.

In international discussions, Canada is championing an agenda based on realistic, focused and measurable targets and indicators with a robust accountability framework. The government would like to see an agenda that focusses on the poorest and most vulnerable, ensures a continued emphasis on maternal, newborn and child health, and effectively promotes job creation and sustainable economic growth. These issues reflect Canada's current international development priorities. The government is also championing the strong integration of gender equality within the SDGs in terms of a stand-alone goal area and as a cross-cutting issue, child protection, and proposed SDG 16 which focusses on governance, rule of law and peaceful societies.

The government has been cautious to date regarding the universal nature of the SDG agenda. While government officials recognize the authenticity of drivers behind the push for a universal agenda, particularly when considering the environmental aspects of the new agenda, concern exists over how to ensure a continued focus on the poorest and most marginalized. Canadian government inputs into the post-2015 process tend to focus on a "development or Millennium Development Goal-like" perspective; it is still unclear how the government sees the SDGs playing out *in* Canada.

In Canada, steps have been taken to coordinate within DFATD and across government departments. DFATD has set up thematic, government-wide

working group which meet on a monthly basis. Inter-departmental working groups meet periodically. For its part, Environment Canada is providing support to DFATD on the agenda. In August 2014, DFATD set up a Post-2015 Task Force to coordinate inputs from working groups, consolidate the Canadian government's position on the post-2015 agenda and support negotiations in 2015. Consultations with civil society on the post-2015 agenda have been largely informal to date. Nevertheless, representatives from DFATD have provided contact information on internal post-2015 issue area leads and encouraged CSOs to contact leads directly on the post-2015 agenda.

Statistics Canada

Statistics Canada has been engaging on the SDG measurement agenda, including discussions regarding the need for a “data revolution” to ensure citizens have the necessary information to hold governments to account through the establishment of more and better data to track progress on sustainable development outcomes. In May 2013, the Secretary General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda released its report which called for a “data revolution.” Since then, the concept of a data revolution has received significant international attention, prompting the Secretary General to establish an Independent Expert Advisory Group on the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development (IEAG). The 24-member group of experts from civil society, the private sector, governments and international organizations is charged with providing key inputs on how innovations, technological progress and sources of unofficial data can be used to strengthen national statistical systems and promote greater global and national level accountability for sustainable development outcomes. Wayne Smith, Chief Statistician at Statistics Canada, is one of the twenty-four experts selected for the advisory group.

In addition to the IEAG, Statistics Canada is also represented on the board of PARIS21 (Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century)¹ which is taking a lead role in discussions on the shape and architecture of the data revolution. In September 2014, PARIS21 held an event in Ottawa, Canada, in partnership with Statistics Canada which looked at the post-2015 agenda, SDGs and the data revolution.

Civil Society Organizations

United Nations Association in Canada

UNA-Canada has been working over the past two years to provide strategic Canadian input into international consultations at the UN level, as well as with UNA-partners under the World Federation of UNAs (WFUNA), particularly those working in the global south on development issues. At home UNA-Canada engages with government, parliamentarians, academics, non-governmental organizations, diaspora communities, young people and the private sector, raising awareness among Canadians on the transition from the MDGs to the post-2015 agenda. UNA-Canada has conducted a variety of outreach activities including high level roundtables, public consultations, Model Assemblies with youth, and panel presentations. As part of these activities, the UNA-Canada hosted eminent representatives from the UN system, such as UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, Helen Clarke, Administrator of the UN Development Programme, Kanayo Nwanze, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and Corrine Wood and Sering Falu Njie, from the UN Millennium Campaign bringing the UN perspective to Canadians.

Through its regional Branches across Canada, UNA-Canada has engaged a cross-section of Canadian stakeholders to capture Canadians' voices and bring these to international discussions. A number of

¹ PARIS21 supports efforts to improve the use and production of statistics in developing countries.

key priorities emerged from consultations in cities such as Vancouver, Prince George (see Box 2), Calgary, Toronto, Edmonton, Ottawa, Waterloo, and Montreal on a range of post-2015 issues.

Box 2. Prince George Regional Consultation on regional

In October 2014, the Prince George Branch of UNA-Canada hosted a public forum, *Building the Canadian Dialogue on the Post-2015 Agenda*, at the University of Northern British Columbia. The forum was attended by over 70 participants, including representatives from academia, Métis elders, civil society and the community at large. Participants provided feedback on the SDGs, noting the interconnectedness between the goal areas. When asked which SDGs were the most important, participants highlighted goal 8 on employment and inclusive growth, goal 9 on infrastructure and industrialization, goals 3 and 4 which cover health and education, respectively. Participants also expressed a strong desire for the Canadian government to lead by example through a robust adoption of the SDGs.

Outcomes of these consultations highlighted Canadians views on post-2015 development agenda, especially around poverty eradication, education, housing, income disparities and inequalities at the national level, women's empowerment, youth unemployment, climate change and changing demographics as key issues. Taking a multi-dimensional and inter-generational perspective, Canadians point to the importance of building sustainable communities as opposed to sustainable cities under the new agenda. UNA-Canada consultations found that, overall Canadians are concerned with who lives where, who gets what and how they get it. In addition, focusing on issues that are affecting the poorest of the world; holding governments and the private sector accountable, supporting education as a basic right and necessity as opposed to a privilege and commodity, especially for girls were emerging issues from regional Branch consultations. Finally, through its consultation process, UNA-Canada has identified the absence of youth voices on the SDGs. In their consultations, youth have expressed a feeling that their voices are not being taken seriously. Moving forward, UNA-Canada will continue to bring youth voices to the table and take steps to ensure they are heard.

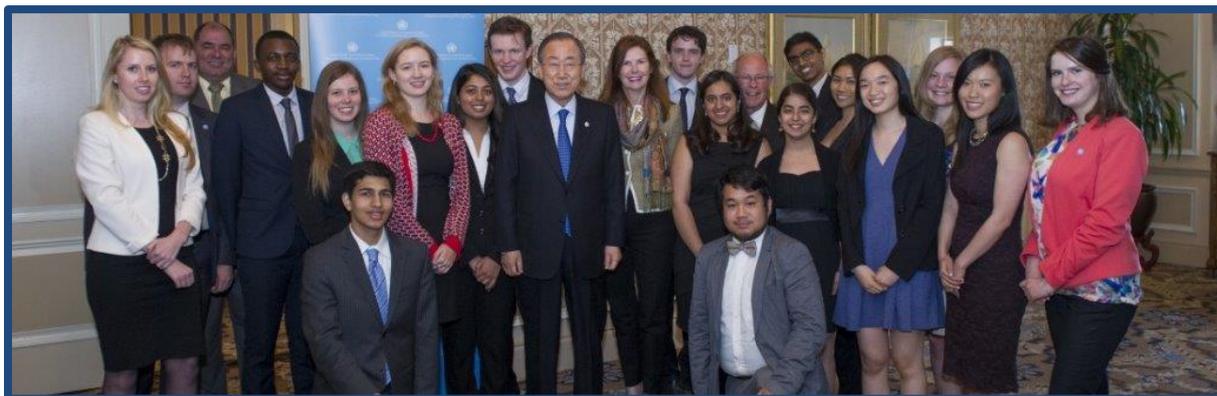


Photo: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon with Canadian youth at a UNA-Canada event in Toronto, Canada in May 2014.

Canadian Council for International Co-operation

The Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) – a coalition of international development and humanitarian CSOs – has also been a key voice on the post-2015 agenda in Canada. In September 2012, CCIC hosted a conference on the post-2015 agenda which brought together academics, CSOs and government representatives to encourage some “Thinking Outside the MDG Box.” A year later in November 2013, CCIC held a second conference that looked at what leadership role Canada could play post-2015. In 2014, CCIC became the National Hub for Canada under the *Beyond 2015* campaign – a global civil society campaign bringing together more than 1000 CSOs in

over 130 countries to demand for a transformative, human-rights based post-2015 agenda. As the National Hub for Beyond 2015, CCIC organized a number of outreach events over 2014, including several webinars on the post-2015 process and roundtables in Montreal, Toronto and Ottawa. CCIC has also created a post-2015 listserv for organizations and individuals interested in sharing resources and perspectives on the post-2015 agenda and staying up to date on the latest news from the UN processes. In addition, CCIC has organized a series of informal meetings between representatives from DFATD and interested CSOs. This has helped inform a backgrounder on the post-2015 process which outlines key aspects of the international process, the Canadian government's engagement and positions on the agenda and information on key contact points within DFATD on the post-2015 agenda. In 2015, CCIC will, among other things, be hosting their annual forum on "Universal Goals, Canadian Challenges," bringing together international and domestic constituencies to discuss the path forward for Canada after the adoption of the SDGs.

Other Civil Society Organizations

A number of other CSO networks are engaging their members as well, largely in the form of information sharing and awareness raising on the SDGs. The Canadian Community Economic Development Network – a national association of organizations and individuals throughout Canada committed to strengthening communities through economic opportunities that enhance social and environmental conditions - has been promoting the social solidarity economy as an important part of the SDG framework. In addition to participating in international efforts, the network hosted a webinar in March 2014 aimed at educating members on the UN processes and possibilities for integrating social solidarity economy practices into the post-2015 agenda.

The Canadian Federation of Municipalities (FCM), which has been a national voice for municipalities since 1901, has also been engaging on the post-2015 agenda, particularly from the perspective of local governments and on the proposed SDG goal for sustainable cities and human settlements. FCM is providing support to municipal councillors to engage in post-2015 discussions directly. In September 2014, FCM hosted a webinar on the post-2015 agenda to share information among its network and garner feedback from partners on key priorities for the post-2015 agenda going forward.

Action Canada for Population and Development – an advocacy organization dedicated to gender equality, including the promotion of reproductive and sexual rights – began its engagement on the post-2015 agenda at the Rio+20 conference in 2012. Working with women's group in Canada and abroad, Action Canada for Population and Development is pushing for a progressive post-2015 agenda that effectively integrates gender equality issues, including provisions on sexual and reproductive rights.

Canadian volunteer sending organizations, such as World University Service of Canada and the Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI), have also been engaging on the post-2015 agenda through the International Forum for Volunteering in Development, a global coalition of international volunteer organizations which provides a forum for information sharing, development of good practices and enhanced cooperation across international volunteering and development sectors. The forum is advocating for the integration of volunteerism in the implementation of the post-2015 framework.

Academia and Think Tanks

The International Institute for Sustainable Development, a Canadian-based policy research institute, has been providing analytical inputs into the post-2015 process. For example, IISD, produced a paper on sustainable consumption and production targets and indicators for the SDGs for the United Nations

Environment Programme, published in June 2014. In addition, IISD reports on the SDG process through its [Reporting Services](#). IISD offers a knowledge base of intergovernmental activities following on the Rio+20 conference, including articles, a calendar of key events, and latest news.

Prior to its closure in September 2014, the [North-South Institute](#), a Canadian development policy oriented think tank, engaged heavily on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. Its work included a number of policy papers and issues briefs on the Rio+20 process and emerging post-2015 agenda, including an examination of proposed goals, targets and indicators. The institute developed a [Post-2015 Tracking Tool](#), an interactive aggregator of proposals on the post-2015 agenda. In addition the North-South Institute launched the [Post-2015 Data Test](#) in February 2014 in partnership with the Centre for Policy Dialogue (Bangladesh) and the Southern Voices Network on the Post-MDG International Development Goals, a network of think tanks from the global south. The initiative examines how the universal post-2015 development agenda can be applied and measured across a variety of country contexts, including Bangladesh, Canada, Peru, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and Turkey. Following the closure of the North-South Institute, this work has been transitioned to the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs at Carleton University.

Private Sector

The Canadian private sector was also engaged through UN consultations [on private sector engagement](#) on the post-2015 sustainable development agenda. In September 2014, the [consultation report](#) was launched. The report highlights the various roles the private sector plays in the development process, recognizes that more and more businesses are incorporating social and environmental business criteria in their core business operations, and outlines how partnership with the private sector can successfully contribute to realizing the SDGs. Going forward, the [UN Global Compact Canada](#) chapter will continue engaging members on the emerging agenda.

From Ideas to Implementation: Post-2015 Development Agenda

Event Overview

With the support of the International Development Research Center (IDRC) and in partnership with civil society partners, UNA-Canada held a roundtable event followed by a public panel presentation and reception on October 2, 2014 in Ottawa, Canada. UNA-Canada brought together representatives from government departments, such as DFATD and Environment Canada, CSOs, academics and representatives from the private sector, and engaged citizens to share views on the post-2015.

UNA-Canada invited Michael O'Neill, Assistant Secretary-General of the UN Development Programme, as a special guest to the roundtable, bringing a wide-lens view of the global sustainable development challenges confronting the international community to the discussions.

The public panel included thematic presentations on aspects of the SDGs such as gender equality, sustainable prosperity, income inequality and the roles of civil society and the private sector under the new agenda.



Key Messages

Draft Sustainable Development Goals

- **The current draft SDGs represent a transformative sustainable development agenda, however, the question of how the agenda will be refined through inter-governmental negotiations in 2015 without losing its transformative elements remains.**

The draft set of SDGs prepared by the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development was a significant focus of the event's discussions. While participants held a variety of views on the proposed SDGs, they agreed that the "draft zero" SDG framework (Box 1) presents a transformative agenda for sustainable development. It was noted however, by some stakeholders, that the lack of reference to human rights in the proposed SDGs is concerning. Nevertheless, the framework captures the unfinished business of the MDGs while still broadening the agenda to better include reflect the environmental, social and economic pillars of sustainable development.

While participants welcomed the SDG framework, there was less agreement on the need to further refine the list of SDGs. Some participants argued that the list of goals needs to be reduced to ensure that the SDGs serve to galvanize international efforts like the MDGs. Proponents of this view argue that a shorter, more concise list of goals will be easier to communicate to the public, allow for prioritization of efforts and simplify monitoring efforts. They argued that there were too many goals and in many cases, too much overlap between the targets under goals as they are currently formulated; these could be streamlined. Indeed, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon recognized this challenge while speaking to youth at a UNA-Canada side-event during a Canadian government conference on maternal, newborn and child health held in Toronto, Canada in May 2014. He noted his preference for a tight, short list (see Box 3).



Photo: Gavin Buchan (Director General, DFATD), Michael O'Neill (Assistant Secretary General, UNDP) and Kathryn White (President and CEO, UNA-Canada) at UNA-Canada high level roundtable event.

Box 3. Are there too many Sustainable Development Goals?

There were a number of comments on the importance of having a small number of SDGs to ensure that the post-2015 agenda is easy to communicate and provides the sharpest focus. The Government of Canada advocated the value of this approach, along with many others. With the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development of the UN General Assembly came up with seventeen goals – and 169 targets – there continues to be much concern that this ‘package’ is simply too unwieldy.

That is, perhaps, until one considers how this argument would apply to other important ‘agendas’: what would this call for brevity look like with regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? As was pointed out at the meeting, could we imagine negotiators saying “Thirty articles? That’s just too many? Let’s leave out freedom of movement or freedom of assembly; it’s too hard to fit everything on a t-shirt.”

As the process moves forward, there is a need to aim for the right number of goals and the relevant linkages that reflect the priorities to which the international community aspires to attain.

Other participants took the view that the current set of proposed SDGs, which were negotiated inter-governmentally, strongly reflects the priorities and interests of developing country UN Member States, and citizens from around the world who were consulted through various UN processes. Furthermore, some participants noted that the proposed SDGs reflect the breadth and complexity of sustainable development, suggesting that the process of refining the SDGs to a smaller number of goals may come at the risk to the more transformative aspects of the agenda that address issues such as protecting human rights, peace and security and inequality.

Overall participants agreed that as the negotiations move forward on the SDGs in 2015, it will be critical to ensure that the substance of the proposed SDGs is not lost as they goals are refined. Efforts will be needed to ensure that the SDG agenda that emerges does not lose sight of old commitments or represent a step back from “already agreed to” progressive agendas such as the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action on gender equality.

Participants also agreed that two goal areas stand out as being critical for the realization of the overarching SDG framework:

- **Goal 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and**
- **Goal 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.**

Participants noted that without peaceful, fair and inclusive societies, countries will have difficulty realising the other SDGs and ensure that no one is left behind under the new agenda. Indeed, according to O’Neill, Goal 16 is the “glue” of the SDG agenda. At the same time, Goal 16 is one of the more controversial goals that has been included in the draft SDGs. Further, it captures issues that are more difficult to measure, which will inevitably lead to challenges for the monitoring and accountability framework. Nevertheless, Goal 16 is critical to the overall agenda and should be included in the final set of SDGs. Given the importance of goal 16, some participants expressed concern that no explicit mention of fragile or conflict affected states, or addressing armed conflict, including the sales of small arms, exists in the SDGs.

Moving into 2015, participants agreed that significant work is needed on Goal 17. Financing and other means of implementation will be critical to ensuring the success of the overall agenda. Participants noted the importance of ensuring donors meet their commitments on official development assistance,

including reaching the 0.7% official development assistance to gross national income target, however, they recognized that financing and implementation discussions need to move beyond this. Participants noted the importance of using aid as a catalyst to leverage additional development financing. The question of stemming financial flows such as illicit capital flight, and addressing tax evasion in developing countries was also raised. Participants noted that the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, scheduled for 13-16 July 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, will be a critical milestone for negotiations on SDGs in 2015.

Universality

- **The concept of a universal agenda – a set of SDGs that apply to all countries – has significant potential to unite stakeholders under a common global agenda however it is still unclear how universal SDGs will work in practice.**

Participants agreed that the question of how the universal SDG agenda will work in practice remains. Nevertheless, participants noted that the SDG agenda is relevant across various country contexts, including in Canada. It also provides the basis for common, shared global efforts in an inter-connected world. In the Canadian context, the SDGs may also offer potential for greater linkages between domestic and international stakeholders to work jointly on key issues such as improving gender equality outcomes in Canada and abroad.

Some stakeholders expressed concern that the universal agenda might divert resources away from the poorest and most vulnerable. There is a fear that the universal agenda might be used by some countries to justify a reduction in efforts to address global development challenges. Rather, countries could claim that their attention is needed to address sustainable development challenges at home. Not all stakeholders agreed however, that the universal agenda would indeed lead to such an outcome. One stakeholder pointed out that while the universal agenda may require greater efforts to address sustainable development challenges at home, it does not represent a zero-sum game with respect to international efforts. A country like Canada, for example, is already working to improve outcomes for its Aboriginal peoples while serving as a leader internationally on maternal, newborn and child health.



Photo: UNA-Canada President and CEO Kathryn White at roundtable event.

Data and Accountability for Sustainable Development

- **Significant efforts will be needed to generate quality data to monitor progress on the post-2015 agenda, including for new goal areas related to issues such as governance and inequality.**

There is no question that monitoring the post-2015 agenda will require more and better data. Participants recognized the challenge of insufficient data for monitoring progress at the global, national and sub-national levels, welcoming calls for a data revolution. Significant efforts will be needed to ensure countries have the right systems and capacities in place to monitor post-2015 progress. A key question in this context is what measures should be prioritized to ensure we have “good enough” data, recognizing that the scope and scale of challenges related to producing statistics in developing countries are significant.

Participants also noted that a measurable set of SDGs, accompanied by a robust accountability framework is critical. At the same time, there is a need to balance what is easily measured with what is important. A number of issues captured by the proposed SDGs, particularly those relating to governance, inequality, and peace and security, are difficult to measure. However, this does not mean these issues should be removed from the agenda. Rather, their inclusion can prompt efforts to develop appropriate indicators to monitor progress and corresponding methodologies for data collection.

Partnerships for Post-2015

- **The push for multi-stakeholder partnerships across sectors under the post-2015 agenda is welcome. While working across sectors offers new opportunities to address sustainable development challenges, governments continue to hold primary responsibility for addressing global public goods issues, such as climate change and international financial stability.**

Participants agreed that the post-2015 agenda offers an opportunity for new partnerships at global, national and local levels. The private sector, civil society, parliamentarians, local governments and others have been engaged in the creation of the SDGs and the current emphasis on multi-stakeholder partnerships in post-2015 discussions suggests that non-state actors will feature significantly in SDG implementation. Discussions over the course of the roundtable and public panel gave special attention to two key actors – civil society and the private sector.

Participants emphasized the possibilities presented by the post-2015 agenda for more joined up work between domestic and internationally focussed CSOs. Some organizations are already taking advantage of new possibilities for joint advocacy. For example, women's groups in Canada are working with development-oriented CSOs on the post-2015 agenda, seeing the potential of the SDGs to serve as an advocacy and accountability tool for Canada's commitments to gender equality at home and abroad.

The private sector has a clear role to play in the realization of the post-2015 agenda, particularly given the focus of the SDGs on issues such as climate change, economic growth, job creation, energy, industrialization and infrastructure development. The private sector will contribute to the agenda not only as a producer of goods and services and employer, but also as an advocate for corporate social responsibility, provider of development finance and an implementation partner. However, the complex role the private sector plays, as both a contributor to sustainable development challenges and solutions is complex. Participants noted that different tools are needed to effectively engage the private sector on sustainable development. Regulation, laws and voluntary frameworks, for example, can be used to mitigate negative contributions to sustainable development by addressing issues related to pollution and labour rights for example. On the other hand, governments can work in partnership with the private sector to enhance positive contributions, such as technology transfer, innovation and job creation.

Finally, it was noted that, although non-state actors have an important role to play in realising the SDGs, there is a need to recognize the appropriate roles of all actors. While private sector voluntary actions are welcome, they are not a replacement for government action or addressing systemic and structural issues at the global level. Governments continue to have a responsibility for addressing important issues such as climate change and international financial stability for example.

Conclusion

The UN Secretary General submitted a synthesis report on post-2015 discussions to date to the UN General Assembly. In addition to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development draft set of SDGs, this report will serve as a key input into the 2015 negotiations. As negotiations move forward next year, Canadian organizations will continue engaging on the post-2015 agenda.

For its part, UNA-Canada will continue to engage with its Canadian partners on the post-2015 agenda leading up to the UN General Assembly vote in September through October 2015 when the UN marks its 70th anniversary, and the global community collectively agrees on the sustainable development agenda for the next 15 years. UNA-Canada will continue exploring how a universal agenda can be implemented in a shared and accountable way, and will continue serving as an important bridge between Canada and the UN system, including by bringing youth voices into discussions.



Photo: Speakers at the public panel presentation greeted to a full house.

Annex 1: High Level Round Table Agenda



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies
Growing Global Citizens § Citoyens du monde à venir

THE FUTURE WE WANT **From Ideas to Implementation: Post-2015 Development Agenda**

AGENDA

Closed Roundtable (2:00 -4:00 pm)

Objectives: The main purpose of the high level **Roundtable** is to share diverse views from a cross-section of Canadian sectors, on Post-2015 Development Agenda and the process of transitioning from Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and to share efforts of Canadians and partners at the international level on SDGs and the Future We Want.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 2:00 -2:15 pm | Welcome and Introductions
<i>Kathryn White, President & CEO UNA-Canada</i> |
| 2:15 -2:30 pm | Review UNA-Canada's Engagement with Canadians
<i>Sarah Kambites, Director, Education & Community Initiatives, UNA-Canada</i> |
| 2:30- 2:50 pm | Moving the Needle on Post-2015 Process
<i>Michael O'Neill, Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations Development Programme</i> |
| 2:50 -3:50 pm | Stakeholders' Sharing of Views
<i>Moderated by Sarah Kambites</i> |

Stakeholders Present:

- ❖ Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development
- ❖ Environment Canada
- ❖ Canadian Council for International Co-operation
- ❖ International Development Research Center
- ❖ Action Canada for Population and Development
- ❖ Norman Paterson School of International Affairs
- ❖ Royal Bank of Canada (RBC)
- ❖ UNA-Canada

3:50-4:00 pm **Reflections and closing remarks**

300 – 309 Cooper, Ottawa, ON K2P 0G5 ☐ Tel: (613) 232-5751 ☐ Fax: (613) 563-2455 ☐ E-mail:
info@unac.org

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Annex 2: Public Panel Presentation Agenda



United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies
Growing Global Citizens § Citoyens du monde à venir

THE FUTURE WE WANT **From Ideas to Implementation: Post-2015 Development Agenda**

Public Panel Presentation

AGENDA

- 4:15 – 4:45 pm** Registration
- 4:45 – 5:00 pm** Welcoming remarks and Introduction of Panelists
- 5:00 – 5:45 pm** Panel Presentations

Panelists

- ❖ **Fraser Reilly-King** (CCIC) – *Role of Civil Society in the SDG framework*
- ❖ **Shannon Kindornay** (NPSIA) – *SDGs and the Private Sector*
- ❖ **Sarah Kennel** (ACPD) – *SDGs through a Gender Perspective*
- ❖ **Stewart Elgie** (University of Ottawa) – *SDGs and Sustainable Prosperity*
- ❖ **Dr. Teddy Yiagadeesen** (NPSIA) – *SDGs and Income Inequality*

- 5:45 – 6:00 pm** Audience Q & A
- 6:00 – 6:30 pm** Networking Reception

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Annex 3. Participating Organizations

2Phase3, International Local Economic Development Consultants
Action Canada for Population and Development
AGA Khan Foundation Canada
Agriteam Canada
Algonquin College
Assembly of First Nations
Canada Africa Community Health Alliance
Canadian Bar Association
Canadian Council for International Co-operation
Canadian Red Cross
Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women
Canadian Society for International Health
Care Canada
Carleton University
Danish Embassy
Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development
Dialogue Canada
Diaspora Community
DNA Genotek INC.
Environment Canada
FIFA-Canada 2015
Flora Liebich Consulting
Gender Equality Consultant
International Development Research Centre
Metropolis
National Research Council
Norman Paterson School of International Affairs
RBC Foundation
Unitarian Service Committee Canada
United Nations Association in Canada
United Nations Development Programme
University of Ottawa
University of Toronto – Youth Voice
World Federalists