

Public Hearing
of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development
“The post-MDG and SDG process”

17 or 24 April 2013, 2:00 – 5:30 p.m.

A. Background

Agreement was reached at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro (“Rio+20”) and at the 67th session of the UN General Assembly in autumn of that same year, on the preparation of a post-2015 development agenda. This will combine the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – aimed chiefly at eradicating hunger and poverty and guaranteeing access to basic social amenities – with targets for environmental protection, the safeguarding of natural resources and the preservation of biodiversity. The end result will be universal “Sustainable Development Goals” (SDGs).

The new SDGs must not divert focus or effort from the achievement of the MDGs, which is still far from complete; they must be part of an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process open to all stakeholders, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries, easy to communicate, to monitor and assess.

In the meantime a number of UN working groups and committees have been set up to move work forward on monitoring progress towards achievement of the MDGs by the target date of 2015, setting the post-MDG agenda and defining SDGs. SDGs and the post-MDG agenda are also the subject of lively debate in international civil society.

The purpose of this joint hearing of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Development and the Subcommittee on the United Nations, International Organisations and Globalisation is to:

1. review the current state of progress towards achievement of the MDGs and consider which lessons for the post-MDG agenda can be learned from the successes and failures of the MDG process;
2. provide information on the work of the international organisations, commissions and working groups engaged on preparation of the post-MDG agenda and the SDG process;
3. hear and discuss suggestions and ideas about the post-MDG agenda and SDG process which have already been formulated by the Federal Government, scientific and economic circles, and non-governmental organisations working in the field of environmental and climate protection – in both parts, North and South.

B. Timetable

Session 1 (2:00 – 2:45 p.m.)

MDGs – Development goals to be achieved by 2015: How far have we progressed? What are the strengths and weaknesses of this set of goals? What remains to be done? – Interim assessment.

Expert to be invited:

Prof. Dirk Messner (Director of the German Development Institute, **DIE**)

Short break (5 minutes)

Session 2 (2:50 – 3:35 p.m.)

From MDGs to universal Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – The process and the institutions that will shape it. Overview.

Expert to be invited:

Nikhil Seth (Director of the UN-Department of Economic and Social Affairs, **UN-DESA**)

Short break (5 minutes)

Session 3 (3:40 – 5:30 p.m.)

What is required of the post-MDG agenda and the new SDGs? – Criteria, ideas, proposals. Discussion.

Experts to be invited:

Jan Dusik (Acting Director and Regional Representative of UNEP in Europe)

Gilbert Fossoun Hougbo (Deputy Director General External Relations and Partnerships Branch (EXREL), International Labour Organisation, **ILO**)

Dr. Klaus Schilder (Spokesman of the working group International Financial Architecture and Poverty Reduction, umbrella organization of development non-governmental organizations NGO's in Germany, **VENRO**)

Nikhil Seth (Director of the Division for Sustainable Development of **UN-DESA**)
– without statement

Oliver Wieck (Director of Foreign Trade and Development, Federation of German Industry, **BDI**)

C. Organisation

- Time allowed for experts' introductory statements: 8 minutes.
- If possible, experts and other interested organisations are asked to submit their position papers in advance of this public hearing. As the hearing is to be public, these written statements will be posted on the German Bundestag's website.
- Time allowed for questions: 3 minutes per parliamentary group for each session.