



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5 December 2013

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to forward to you a note on the preliminary organizational arrangements for the six meetings which I intend to convene on the post-2015 development agenda.

As you are aware, in my acceptance speech in June, I informed the membership of my intention to convene these meetings, which comprise three high-level events and three thematic debates, as a means to further operationalize the theme "The post-2015 development agenda: setting the stage!"

This note serves to convey the tentative programme for these meetings as well as provide information on the overall approach under which they will be convened. Further details on each of the high-level events and thematic debates will be provided in due course.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John W. Ashe". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

John W. Ashe

To All Permanent Representatives
And Permanent Observers
To the United Nations
New York

“The post-2015 development agenda: setting the stage!”
High-level events/Thematic debates to be convened by the President of the General Assembly
Note to Member States

1. In June 2013, the President-elect of the 68th session of the General Assembly proposed the following theme: “The post-2015 development agenda: setting the stage!” for the general debate of the 68th session, pursuant to paragraph 7 of the annex to resolution 58/126.
2. In his opening statement at the start of the general debate, the President of the General Assembly reiterated his intent to operationalize the aforementioned theme through three (3) high-level events on: “The role of women, the young and civil society to the post-2015 Development Agenda”; “Contributions of Human Rights and the Rule of Law to the post-2015 Development Agenda;” and “The role of South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development in the post-2015 Development Agenda,” and three (3) thematic debates on: “Water, sanitation and sustainable energy in the post-2015 Development Agenda”; “the role of partnerships and their contribution to the post-2015 Development Agenda”; and “Ensuring stable and peaceful societies in the post-2015 development framework.”
3. Resolution 68/6 containing the outcome document of the Special Event to follow-up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals further specified that "over the coming year, the preparation of the post-2015 development agenda will benefit from the General Assembly events to be convened by the President of the General Assembly under the theme "the post-2015 development agenda: setting the stage."
4. By its resolution 67/297, the Assembly recognized “the value of holding interactive inclusive thematic debates on current issues of critical importance to the international community” and invited “the President of the General Assembly to continue this practice.” The purpose of this note is to convey the preliminary programme of the high-level events and thematic debates on the post-2015 development agenda to be convened by the President during the 68th session.

Overall approach

5. Three (3) high-level events and three (3) thematic debates will to be convened during the first half of 2014. A high-level “Stock-Taking” event will also be convened during second-half of 2014.
6. The priority areas for the aforementioned events and thematic debates are grounded in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) (contained in resolution 66/288) and in the outcome of the Special Event to follow-up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (resolution 68/6).
7. The central objective of each event and/or debate is to enable Member States to begin the elaboration of the priority areas for the post-2015 Development Agenda through in-depth deliberations on the chosen topics, in a participative and interactive manner, and to make concrete contributions to the ongoing process of developing sustainable development goals in these areas within the overall context of the post-2015 development agenda.
8. To avoid any duplication and promote coherence and synergies with the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG-SDG) and the Intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing (SDFC), the preparations and organization of the thematic debates will be carried-out in consultation with the co-chairs of both groups and its members. In

addition, in order to ensure coordination with all ongoing efforts, the President of the General Assembly will be drawing on support from the UN system as appropriate

Organization

9. The President of the General Assembly will convene the high-level events and the thematic debates under the over-all theme: “the post-2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage!” and details on their organization will be provided in the lead up to the meeting. The President of the General Assembly intends to hold these events and thematic debates under the following tentative arrangements:
 - a) The three (3) high-level events will consist each of a one day plenary segment, followed by consecutive, interactive, multi stakeholder panel discussions and a brief closing segment. Member States will be invited to participate at the highest political level.
 - b) The three (3) thematic debates will consist each of an opening segment, three consecutive, interactive, multi stakeholder panel discussions and a brief closing segment. Each thematic debate will take place over a period of one and half days.
 - c) Permanent Missions will be invited to nominate representatives at the Ministerial level, to co-chair panel discussions.

Tentative Calendar (TBC)

General Assembly high-level events/ thematic debates to be convened by the President of the General Assembly	
Activity	Tentative Dates
Water, sanitation and sustainable energy in the post-2015 Development Agenda (Thematic Debate)	February
The role of women, the young and civil society to the post-2015 Development Agenda (High-level event)	March
The role of partnerships and their contribution to the post-2015 Development Agenda (Thematic Debate)	April
Ensuring stable and peaceful societies in the post-2015 development framework (Thematic Debate)	April
Contributions of South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the post-2015 Development Agenda (High-level event)	May
Contributions of Human Rights and the Rule of Law in the post-2015 Development Agenda (High-level event)	June
High-level “Stock- Taking” Event	September