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## UN-NGLS ANALYSIS

### [Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals \(OWG on SDGs\) holds eighth meeting](#)

The eighth session of the Open Working Group (OWG8) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was held 3-7 February at UNHQ. UN-NGLS has written three articles providing an overview and analysis of key discussions held during the eighth meeting of the OWG, with a particular focus on civil society issues:

#### OWG on SDGs discusses "Oceans, seas, biodiversity"

OWG8 addressed "Oceans and seas, forests, biodiversity" on 3 and 4 February. This article covers key points arising from this discussion, including intergovernmental and civil society perspectives, as well as the morning hearings

between the OWG Co-Chairs and Major Groups and other stakeholders on 3 and 4 February.



Photo Credit: IISD

Click [here](#) to read the article.

## OWG on SDGs discusses "Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment"



Photo Credit: IISD

OWG8 addressed "Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment" on 5 and 6 February. This article covers key points arising from this discussion, including intergovernmental and civil society perspectives, as well as side events held in the margins of OWG8.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

## OWG on SDGs discusses "Conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance"

On 6 and 7 February, OWG8 addressed "Conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and promotion of durable peace, rule of law and governance." This article covers the intergovernmental discussion; civil society interventions; and the morning hearings between the Co-Chairs and Major Groups and other stakeholders on 6 and 7 February.



Photo Credit: IISD

Click [here](#) to read the article.

## ICESDF Regional Outreach in Latin America and Caribbean Calls for Major Change of Course



Photo Credit: Carlos Vera,  
ECLAC

The regional outreach meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF) was held on 14–15 January in Santiago, Chile, at the headquarters of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). The meeting, organized and hosted by ECLAC, brought together ICESDF expert members, governments, academics, civil society, and private sector representatives from the region.

Click [here](#) to read the article.

## At PGA's Thematic Debate on Water, Sanitation and Sustainable Energy, civil society calls for a rights-based approach to delivery of these essential services

On 18–19 February, the President of the General Assembly hosted a Thematic Debate on Water, Sanitation and Sustainable Energy. Several civil society organizations advocated during this debate for a rights-based approach to delivering these essential services equitably and safely. This event was the first of six events that the GA President will host on topics related to the post-2015 development agenda.



*Photo Credit: IISD*

To read the UN-NGLS article on this Thematic Debate, please click [here](#).

## President of the General Assembly briefs civil society on his six events



On 6 February, the President of the General Assembly, H.E. Dr. John Ashe, conducted an interactive briefing for civil society at UN Headquarters to discuss six events that he will host between February and June on his chosen theme for the 68th session of the General Assembly, "the post-2015 development agenda: setting the stage."

*Photo Credit: IISD*

To read the UN-NGLS article on the briefing, please click [here](#).

## OWG on SDGs releases progress report and focus areas document

The Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has recently released two documents following the completion of its "stocktaking phase": a progress report and a focus areas document.

To read the UN-NGLS article with more information, please click [here](#).

To share your views on the focus areas document, see the box under "Opportunities to Participate," below.

## Social and Solidarity Economy: Changing economic relations for equality and sustainable development in the post-2015 agenda

On 4 February, as a side event to the eighth meeting of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, UN-NGLS co-organized this event with the Mont-Blanc Meetings – International Forum of Social and Solidarity Economy Entrepreneurs and UNRISD, on behalf of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Social and Solidarity Economy. The event was organized with the support of the governments of France, Ecuador, and Morocco.

More information and the event summary is available [here](#).

## VIEWS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE UN

### Intersections: Justice and Compassion for All by Bernedette Muthien, Engender



In this opinion piece, Bernedette Muthien of Engender, a Cape Town, South Africa based NGO, reflects upon the linkages between ending sexual and gender-based violence and universal value systems of compassion and justice. Delivered around the OWG on SDGs' discussion on gender equality and women's human rights, Bernedette's piece calls on the United Nations to "hold up its noble foundations" towards a more compassionate and just world, free from discrimination and violence.

The full text of the opinion piece is available [here](#).

### UN-NGLS Interviews: Simone Lovera, Director, Global Forest Coalition

In this interview, UN-NGLS speaks with Simone Lovera, Director of the Global Forest Coalition (GFC), on a wide range of issues, including the interlinkages between women's access to forests, protection of biodiversity, and poverty eradication. Ms. Lovera also reflects on a goal proposed by the Women's Major Group during the 8th session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, entitled "Conservation of Ecosystems and Sustainable Use of Land and other Natural Resources."



The full text of the interview is available [here](#).

### UN-NGLS Interviews: Saraswathi Menon, Director, Policy Division, UN Women



After the eighth meeting of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG on SDGs) that addressed "Promoting equality, including social equity, gender equality and women's empowerment" and in the lead-up to the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW58), UN-NGLS interviewed Saraswathi Menon, Director of the Policy Division at UN Women. Dr. Menon reflected on the OWG discussions, provided insight on UN Women's objectives moving forward, and offered advice to civil society organizations as they look towards CSW58 and the continued deliberations towards the post-2015 development agenda.

The full text of the interview is available [here](#).

## OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

### Submit Comments on New SDSN Draft Report: *Indicators for Sustainable Development Goals*



The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) invites written comments on their new draft report, *Indicators for Sustainable Development Goals*. This report presents a framework of 100 indicators for post-2015, based on the 10 goals and 30 targets presented in the SDSN *Action Agenda for Sustainable Development* that was released in June 2013. SDSN "seeks your help with comments and creativity to improve and complete the proposed indicator framework."

Full details are available [here](#).

### Provide Input to the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

The Secretariat for the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States invites relevant inputs on the objectives and substantive theme of the conference, through this [online form](#).



The Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States will be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. The overarching theme of the conference is "the sustainable development of small island developing States through genuine and durable partnerships." The Conference will seek to achieve the following objectives:

- assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation;
- seek a renewed political commitment by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for further implementation;
- identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS and means of addressing them; and
- identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS to be considered in the elaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda.

Several priority areas for partnerships to benefit Small Island Developing States have emerged for special attention ahead of the 2014 SIDS Conference: Climate Change and Sustainable Energy, Oceans and Seas, Waste Management, Sustainable Tourism, Natural Disaster Resilience, Health and Non-Communicable Diseases.

For more information, please visit: [www.sids2014.org](http://www.sids2014.org)

### Comment on the OWG on SDGs Focus Areas Document

The Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG on SDGs) has recently released a [focus areas document](#), which outlines 19 priority areas for sustainable development. More information about this document is available [here](#).

The OWG on SDGs will hold its first negotiation session from 3-5 March at UN Headquarters in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, and has designated a slot for Major Groups and other stakeholders to share their views on the focus areas document on Wednesday, 5 March 2014, from 3PM to 5:15PM. The OWG meeting is open for

representatives of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC. Registration is available [here](#).

Additionally, each Major Group is drafting a written response to the focus areas document. To participate in the Major Groups process of consolidating input on the document, contact the [Major Groups Organizing Partners](#).

The [World We Want web platform](#) is also inviting feedback on the focus areas document, through the following two questions:

1. Regarding the "focus areas document" overall: What do you agree with and what is missing?
2. Per specific focus area, what do you agree with and how would you improve it?

More information is available [here](#).

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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### [Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals](#) (OWG on SDGs)

Following its eight stocktaking sessions, the OWG on SDGs will conduct negotiation sessions from March to July 2014, as follows:

Ninth Session of the OWG on SDGs  
3–5 March 2014; UNHQ, New York

The ninth OWG meeting is open for representatives of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC. Registration is available [here](#).

Tenth Session of the OWG on SDGs  
31 March – 4 April 2014; UNHQ, New York

Eleventh Session of the OWG on SDGs  
5–9 May 2014; UNHQ, New York

Twelfth Session of the OWG on SDGs  
16–20 June 2014; UNHQ, New York

Thirteenth Session of the OWG on SDGs  
13–18 July 2014; UNHQ, New York

More information will be posted [here](#).

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## Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF)

Following its first and second sessions in August and December 2013, the ICESDF is scheduled to hold three more sessions in 2014:

### Third Session of the ICESDF

3–7 March 2014; UNHQ, New York

ICESDF Regional Consultation, Africa

Organized by the Economic Commission of Africa (ECA) and the Government of Ireland  
2–3 May 2014; Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

### Fourth Session of the ICESDF

12–16 May 2014; UNHQ, New York

### Fifth Session of the ICESDF

4–8 August 2014; UNHQ, New York

More information will be posted [here](#).

## Joint Session of the ICESDF and OWG on SDGs

6 March 2014, 10AM–1PM EST; UNHQ, New York

More information will be posted [here](#).

## The Post–2015 Development Agenda: Setting the Stage President of the General Assembly Events

Between February and June 2014, the President of the General Assembly is convening six events – three high–level meetings and three thematic debates – as a contribution to the elaboration of the post–2015 development agenda. The first thematic debate, on Water, sanitation and sustainable energy in the post–2015 development agenda, took place on 18 and 19 February in New York. The five subsequent events are as follows:

### High–Level Event on the Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society to the Post–2015 Development Agenda

6–7 March 2014; UNHQ, New York

### Thematic Debate on the Role of Partnerships and their Contribution to the Post–2015 Development Agenda

8–9 April 2014; UNHQ, New York

### Thematic Debate on Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies

24–25 April 2014; UNHQ, New York

### High-Level Event on the Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

20–21 May 2014; UNHQ, New York

### High-Level Event on Contributions of Human Rights and Rule of Law in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

17–18 June 2014; UNHQ, New York

More information on these events is available [here](#).

## High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Following its inaugural session in September 2013, the HLPF is scheduled to hold its first substantive meeting in late June/early July 2014.

### HLPF Regional Meeting, Western Asia

Organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

2–3 April 2014; Amman, Jordan

### Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the HLPF

Organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

7–9 May 2014; Bangkok, Thailand

### Second Meeting of the HLPF

30 June – 9 July 2014; UNHQ, New York

More information will be posted [here](#).

## Preparatory Process for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

The Third International Conference on SIDS will be held from 1 to 4 September 2014 in Apia, Samoa. Preparatory meetings (national, regional, inter-regional) took place throughout 2013 (national, regional, inter-regional). Additionally, the President of the General Assembly launched a Global Intergovernmental Preparatory process at the end of 2013.



First Preparatory Committee for the Third International Conference on SIDS  
24–26 February 2014; UNHQ, New York

Intersessional for the Third International Conference on SIDS  
21–25 April 2014; UNHQ, New York

Second Preparatory Committee for the Third International Conference on SIDS  
23–27 June 2014; UNHQ, New York

Pre-conference activities for the Third International Conference on SIDS  
28–30 August 2014; Apia, Samoa

Third International Conference on SIDS  
1–4 September 2014; Apia, Samoa

More information will be posted [here](#).

Readers are invited to submit feedback on the 2015 Post, including ideas for content and comments on our new template, to [info@un-ngls.org](mailto:info@un-ngls.org).

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