

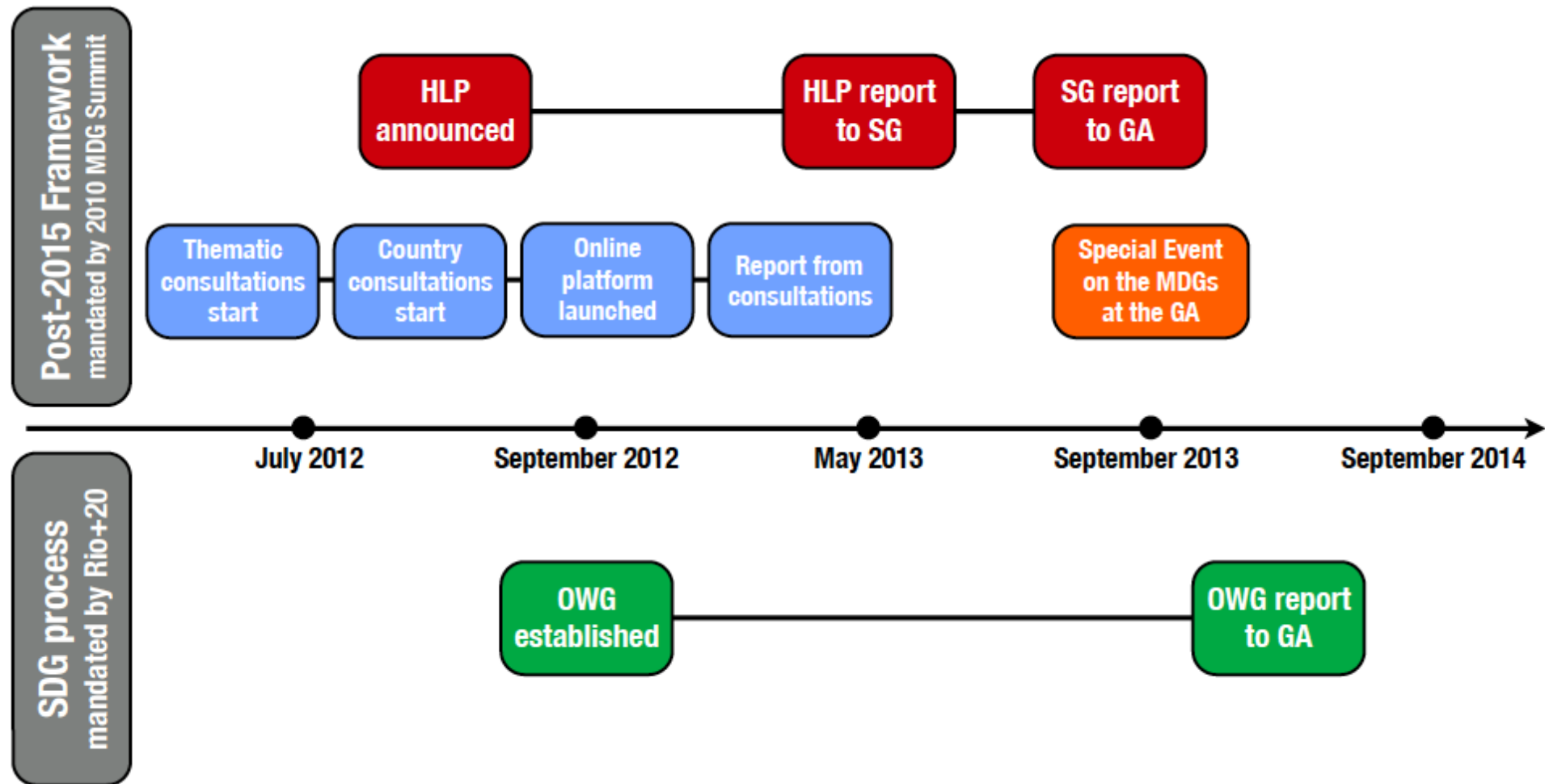
SETTING NEW GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

IBON International

The need for a new development framework

- Poverty still widespread despite growth
- Inequality rising
- Planetary boundaries being breached
- Conflicts on the rise
- Democratic deficits widening

Towards a new development framework for the post-2015 period?



Sustainable Development Goals

- One of the key outcomes (if not THE most important outcome) of Rio+20 is the agreement to come out with a set of sustainable development goals
- The UN Secretary-General in his opening to the General Assembly in 2011: “Let us develop a new generation of sustainable development goals to pick up where the MDGs leave off.”
- Such an approach, say proponents, could allow the MDGs’ focus on poverty reduction to be matched by complementary targets on the environment.

Rio+20 Mandate (Para 248)

- We resolve to **establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly.** An open working group shall be constituted no later than at the opening of the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly and shall comprise 30 representatives, nominated by Member States from the five United Nations regional groups, with the aim of achieving fair, equitable and balanced geographic representation. At the outset, this open working group will decide on its methods of work, including developing modalities to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience. It will submit a report, to the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly, containing a proposal for sustainable development goals for consideration and appropriate action.

Rio+20 Mandate (Para 251)

- We recognize that there is a need for global, integrated and scientifically based information on sustainable development. In this regard, we request the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to **support the regional economic commissions in collecting and compiling national inputs in order to inform this global effort. We further commit to mobilizing financial resources and capacity-building, particularly for developing countries, to achieve this endeavour.**

From MDGs to SDGs: Issues for consideration

- Comprehensiveness (3+ dimensions) vs. focus on small set of priorities (such as poverty eradication + environmental goals);
- tradeoffs between various sets of priorities
- Concrete measurable results vs. structural and transformative goals
- Ends (“Outcomes”) vs. means
- Universality vs. equitability, differentiation and policy space
- People’s goals (aspirational and inspirational) vs. gov’t goals (political pragmatism; short-termism)

Process concerns

- Convergence of many processes with a bearing on sustainable development agenda towards post-2015 (MDGs and the Post-MDG process, Rio & post-Rio, the Monterrey consensus, the G20, the Doha Round of the WTO, etc.)
- National and international level processes
- Roles of stakeholders (consultation, participation, esp. of Southern and grassroots groups)



Civil Society Perspectives

On Content and Scope of SDGs

- Need transformational vision or (re)conceptualization of development away from growth-oriented framework, e.g. *Buen Vivir*
- Given the wide range of issues involved or relevant to SD, we need **criteria for prioritizing goals**.
- International **HR norms and standards** should be the absolute minimum for any of these goals
- Need to confront conundrum of pursuing poverty eradication and economic development in the face of resource limits or planetary boundaries and gross inequalities → therefore must address issue of **equity** and differentiation in goals but also having goals that will reduce inequalities in various dimensions;

On Content and Scope of SDGs

- Measurable goals important but many important goals are not measurable or not easy to measure; also must not lose sight of interconnectedness of these goals.
- We can have separate process for setting goals and process for developing appropriate metrics
- Goals-targets-indicators can be set not just in terms of outcomes but also in terms of “inputs” (what changes need to happen in terms of laws, regulations, mechanisms, resource allocation, etc.)
- SDGs should also take into account the necessary means of implementation to achieve these goals and also systemic issues (like banking and financial system reforms)
- **What is the necessary political basis for reform (going against entrenched elite interests)?**

On Process

- Democratic ownership is essential. A post-2015 process that effectively exclude or marginalizes the collective voices of poor and marginalised constituencies especially those in the Global South will ultimately lack broad-based support and democratic ownership which are pre-requisites for development effectiveness.
- Consultations not enough. **Need to claim our right to participate in decision-making and crafting the development agenda at the national, regional and global level.**
- Should take advantage of many access points aside from SDGs – the HLPF, the UN Statistical Commission; etc.
- There is also potential for engagement at the regional level for possible regional agreements

On Process

- Country-level processes should not just be about inputting into the global process; or influencing negotiations at the international level, but important in themselves.
- But there is question of how to impact political processes effectively (given short-term electoral cycles; corporate capture; etc.). Important to combine inside engagement and outside campaigning
- Need for multi-stakeholder processes of formulating national development strategy or policies; participatory budgeting; citizens monitoring of development programs and devt assistance; etc.
- In all this there is crucial question of ensuring participation of grassroots groups. Question of resourcing, messaging and also building on what these groups and movements are already working on
- Need for coalition-building among civil society = connecting existing platforms and initiatives; striving for consensus on particular issues.



What are we doing?

Building and exerting political pressure from below

- Claiming our **right to participate**
- **Engaging policy makers**
 - ▣ National level
 - ▣ International level
 - (post)-MDG track
 - Post-Rio/SDG track
- **Building movements**
 - ▣ Education and information campaigns
 - ▣ Link up popular struggles
 - ▣ Build cross-sectoral / cross-country links

The Campaign for Peoples Goals for Sustainable Development

- autonomous Southern-led campaign that is **grounded in grassroots struggles** while engaging with the official processes related to the post-2015 development agenda at all levels
- Calls on governments to **abandon the current dominant development model** that grants rights and liberties to capital over the rights and freedoms of people and the protection of the environment
- Proposes **10 goals** covering social, economic and ecological dimensions of sustainable development
- founded on the principles of **human rights, equality, self-determination, and social, gender and ecological justice**
- with the overarching goal of improving the **well-being of all**
- So far signed by over 100 groups from 34 countries, including 41 international or regional networks

1. Realize human rights of all
2. Eradicate poverty and inequality
3. Uphold food sovereignty
4. Ensure full employment and decent work for all
5. Ensure universal social protection
6. Promote gender justice
7. Promote climate justice and environmental sustainability
8. Establish equitable and resilient trade, monetary and financial architecture
9. Uphold democracy and good governance
10. Promote peace and security based on justice



Thank you