



CONCEPT NOTE

High-Level Event on “Follow-Up and Review Mechanisms for Natural Resource Management and Governance to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”

Date:	Tuesday 12 th and Wednesday 13 th of May 2015, the week before the post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations (IGN) on follow-up and review (18 - 22 May)
Venue:	Millennium Broadway Hotel New York, 145 West 44th Street
Duration:	one and a half day event (by invitation only), Tuesday a full day (10am – 5pm followed by reception- light dinner) and Wednesday from 10am – 3:15hrs
Participants:	50-70 representatives from Member States, UN organizations, ministries, science and academia, civil society, and the private sector
Organizers:	Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS), Biovision Foundation, Millennium Institute
Co-hosts:	Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the United Nations, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

Background:

In September 2015, Member States of the United Nations will agree and adopt the post-2015 development agenda comprised of a set of universally applicable Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Robust review and follow-up mechanisms will need to be set up in order to ensure the successful implementation of the SDGs. Since the 18-22 May session of the Post-2015 IGN will have follow-up and review as its main topic, the High-Level Event on "Follow-up and Review Mechanisms for Natural Resource Management and Governance to Achieve the SDGs" is well timed to address some of the key issues associated with this topic.

The event will discuss options for follow-up and review mechanisms that effectively connect the national with the regional and global levels and encourage wide participation. This is in accordance with the vision of the UN Secretary General in his [Synthesis Report on the post 2015 sustainable development agenda](#) which states in Para 149 that “[...] a universal review process [...] could be initiated at the national level, and would inform the [...] regional, and global level reviews. At all levels, review discussions should be public, participatory, broadly accessible, and based on facts, data, scientific findings, and evidence-based evaluations”. Para 149.i further calls for the most significant component of the review process to be a country-led, national component. If conducted in an inclusive and participatory manner, a national process can provide means of empowerment for concerned stakeholders to articulate their priorities leading to integrated and evidence-based decision-making.



The options discussed at the event will especially address the management and governance of natural resources but the options presented could be further developed and applied to other thematic and cross-cutting areas of the post-2015 development agenda. Natural resources such as water, land and biodiversity, will support the achievement of the SDGs as they are central to ensure food and energy security, and will be fundamental to lift people out of poverty and to ensure the economic development of countries. However, the current set of SDGs does not sufficiently address the conflicting uses and the need for protection of the same natural resources across and among different goals and targets.

It is against this background that the event will explore options for cross-cutting and participatory follow-up and review mechanisms at the national level, and will facilitate discussion on the potential synergies and trade-offs between the SDGs that relate to natural resources. The mechanisms discussed will also be applicable to other thematic and cross-cutting areas of the post-2015 development agenda. At the same time, such mechanisms will aim to connect the national level to the regional and global levels, where the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is expected to *follow up on the implementation of sustainable development* (Para 84 of A/RES/66/288 the Future We Want).

Objectives:

- Gather negotiators, national government experts, and representatives from the UN system, science and academia, civil society and business to discuss options to develop robust follow-up and review mechanisms for natural resource management that connect the global (HLPF), regional and national levels.
- Discuss possibilities for an integrated approach in the follow-up and review in order to successfully implement the SDGs, with a focus on natural resource management and governance.
- Discuss the potential role and contribution of participatory platforms in the follow-up and review of the implementation of the SDGs.

Output

The objective is for a message with specific recommendations to emerge at the end of the day and a half event, reflecting the views of the participants. This message shall include suggestions for follow-up and review mechanisms for natural resources in the post-2015 development agenda. If participants choose, the message could be complemented by language suggestions for the Declaration for the post-2015 development agenda based on the Zero draft.

*The event will be held in English



Foundation for ecological development



Day 1 – Conference Room 701

Moderation: **Alexander Müller**, Interim Secretary General IASS and **Ivonne Lobos Alva**, Research Associate Global Soil Forum IASS

09:30 - 10:00am Registration *from 9:00-10:00am we will offer an intercontinental breakfast

10:00 - 11:00am Opening and setting the scene “the importance of reviewing natural resource management and governance at the national level”

Ambassador Luis Fernando Carrera Castro, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations
Nikhil Seth, Director of the Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Jamil Ahmad, Deputy-Director of the New York office of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
Nandhini Krishna, UNCCD Liaison Office NY
Alexander Müller, Interim Secretary General (IASS)

11:00 - 11:30am Coffee Break

11:30 am-1:00pm Interactive panel: Current discussions on the follow-up and review at different levels

Ambassador Fatuma Ndangiza, Chairperson, African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) (tbc)
Marion Barthelemy, Chief Intergovernmental Support Branch – UNDESA
Layla Saad, Deputy Director Rio+ World Centre for Sustainable Development/UNDP
David O'Connor, Chief, Policy and Analysis Branch – UNDESA
Kate Donald, Director Human Rights in Development Program Center for Economic and Social Rights
Discussion

1:00 – 2:30pm Lunch in the Gotham Dining Room

2:30 – 4:00pm 3 Breakout groups to answer the following questions:

- 1) What are potential strategies for inclusive and participatory review at national level?
- 2) How can linkages be best organized between the review levels for the global and regional to support the national level and how can we build on existing review mechanisms?

4:00 – 4:30pm Coffee Break

4:30 – 5:45pm Presentations from the groups and discussion

5:45 – 6:00pm Closing Remarks of Day 1

Hans R. Herren, President Biovision and Millennium Institute, Laureate of the “Alternative Nobel Prize” 2013 and World Food Prize 1995

6:00 – 8:00pm Reception with light dinner on the 52nd Floor



Day 2 - Conference Room 701

Moderation: **Henry Tachie-Menson**, Deputy Director Multilateral Affairs Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ghana (tbc)

09:30 - 10:00am	Registration *from 9:00-10:00am we will offer an intercontinental breakfast
10:00 – 10:10am	Keynote Minister Aroldo Cedraz , TCU – Federal Court of Accounts (Brazil) “Linking the levels: the role of Supreme Audit Institutions in the follow-up and review of the implementation of the SDGs”
10:10 – 11:10am	<u>Discussion: What are entry points in the discussions on the Post-2015 agenda for inclusive and integrated review and follow-up mechanisms</u> Opening Input Recap from previous day Interventions by: Zak Bleicher , Partnership Officer at IFAD office in New York Anna Rappazzo , Post-2015 Team Coordinator, FAO New York Office Amelia Coj , Association for Integral Development Mitij Ixoq' Guatemala Gertrude Kenyangi , Women’s Major Group/Support for Women in Agriculture and Environment (SWAGEN) Uganda
11:10-11:40am	Coffee Break
11:40am- 1:00pm	Discussion of message of the event, with specific recommendations and reflecting the views by the participants
1:15 – 3:15pm	<u>Luncheon: Presentation of the discussion messages in the Gotham Dining Room</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input presentation of outcomes of the event by Alexander Müller, Interim Secretary General IASS • Intervention by Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs UNDESA • Intervention by Minister Aroldo Cedraz, TCU – Federal Court of Accounts (Brazil) • Exchange and discussion with participants and negotiators • Intervention by guest of honour: Minister Christian Schmidt, German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (tbc) • Closing remarks <p>*For this part of the event we aim to welcome further participants, especially Member State negotiators based in New York and further UN representatives</p>