

## [HLPF Side Event] SDGs are Coming to Life: Stories of Country Implementation and UN Support

**Date & Time** Wednesday 21 July, 2016, 1.15pm-2.30pm

**Venue** Conference Room 2, UNHQ

**Co-organizers**

- UN Development Group, Republic of Korea, Islamic Republic of Pakistan and Republic of Sierra Leone

**Speakers (by the speaking order)**

- Ms. Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator and UNDG Chair
- H.E. Mr. Jong-moon Choi, Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
- H.E. Ms. Maleeha Lodhi, Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Vandi C. Minah, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the United Nations
- H.E. Mr. Temistocles Montás, Minister of Economy, Planning and Development, Dominican Republic
- H.E. Dr. Sahar Nasr, Minister of International Cooperation, Egypt
- Ms. Jelena Knezevic, Head of Department for Sustainable Development and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, Montenegro

**Moderator**

- Ms. Kanni Wignaraja, Director, UN Development Operations Coordination Office

This side event was co-organized by UNDG, the Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and the Republic of Sierra Leone to launch the UNDG publication “The SDGs are Coming to Life: Stories of Country Implementation and UN support” and facilitate the sharing of country experiences on SDG implementation and attracted over 300 participants. The publication (available at <https://undg.org/home/undg-mechanisms/sustainable-development-working-group/the-sustainable-development-goals-are-coming-to-life>) provides a snapshot of how 16 countries – including in fragile settings, are taking early actions to adapt this ambitious and integrated 2030 Agenda to national and subnational contexts.

Ms. Helen Clark, the UNDP Administrator and the Chair of UNDG, presented the key findings of the publication, and representatives from Korea, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Dominican Republic and Egypt shared their reflections about the publication as well as their ongoing efforts and challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The key findings of the publication are as follows:

1. Early actions to adapt the ambitious and integrated 2030 Agenda to national and subnational context are well under way with the UN support.
2. Governments are calling on the UN to convene and facilitate inclusive national dialogues with all members of society on SDG implementation, and the UN Country Teams are supporting greater awareness of and engagement with the 2030 Agenda.
3. High priority is being given to national tracking and reporting on SDG progress. In 13 of the 16 countries featured in the publication, the UN development system is supporting comparisons of the global indicator framework against existing data and national indicator sets.
4. Some of the most inspiring examples of early action come from countries in special situations, such as Sierra Leone and Somalia, that have undertaken long-term visioning exercises, conducted risk assessments, and established SDG-aligned action plans and budget while facing complex challenges.

The representatives from six Member States acknowledged the key findings of the publication and commended the UNDG’s efforts to strengthen coherence in responding to country requests including through MAPS (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support) approach. Speakers shared that, while data and reporting, financing the SDG implementation, decreasing core resources of UN development system, prompt translation of the SDGs into local service delivery are challenges in implementing the SDGs, their countries have taken a strong ownership to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs through the establishment of coordination and support mechanism, the alignment of the national development policy and strategy with the SDGs, and the engagement with diverse stakeholders.

This side event provided an important opportunity for stock-taking of the progress since the launch of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and mutual learning and demonstrated the UNDG’s commitment to continued support for Member States in turning the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda into reality.