

**ECOSOC - Coordination and Management Meeting
New York, 10 June 2015**

**Remarks introducing the
report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming of
the three dimensions of sustainable development
throughout the United Nations system (A/70/75–E/2015/55)**

The Rio+20 Conference called for accelerating the implementation of sustainable development as a means for achieving the eradication of global poverty. It called for further mainstreaming of the three dimensions of sustainable development throughout the work of the United Nations system. It invited the Secretary-General to continue “reporting to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on progress made, including for the consideration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development”. The report before you responds to that request.

The report builds on the findings contained in the 2013 and 2014 reports. Those reports contained a number of useful findings. They underscored the need for commitment to mainstreaming sustainable development in the UN system at the highest level of organizations. This should be backed by coherent intergovernmental guidance; bolstered by stronger coordination and policy coherence; underpinned by an effective system of follow-up and review. The reports pointed to the importance of benchmarks and indicators of progress, and evidence-based evaluations.

There has been a number of important developments since last year’s report. They include:

- The second HLPF meeting – the first held under the auspices of ECOSOC
- Adoption of the proposal of the open working group on SDGs
- Adoption of the SAMOA Pathway
- Issuance of the SG’s Synthesis Report on the post-2015 development agenda
- Launching of the intergovernmental negotiations on post-2015 development agenda

Those developments have given added urgency to the need to mainstream sustainable development approaches throughout the UN system.

This report differs from last year’s report in several ways

- It recognizes the tremendous impetus that the future SDGs are giving to the UN system efforts to adapt itself to the new agenda and adopt sustainable development approaches. With the SDGs, the UN system has accelerated

efforts to get ready for post-2015, with the overarching objective of helping countries implement the SDGs at home.

- The report thus highlights that interagency efforts to ramp up integration and mainstreaming are gaining momentum: the UN system developing strategies for ensuring environmental & social sustainability. There has been a strong analytical collaboration to support the SDGs
 - The report is also grounded in an analysis that looks at how the SDGs are interrelated through targets. This illustrates how the SDGs, by their very nature, can drive integration and mainstreaming throughout the UN system
 - The report places a stronger focus on strategic plans as core instrument for mainstreaming integrated approaches. It also contains new analysis of country-level support,
 - It looks at existing mechanisms for UN system accountability, the role of the QCPR, and how we can learn from MDG follow-up processes
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- The report concludes with a few recommendations. Those include:
 - The Secretary-General could **map United Nations system support across the SDGs** and support a reflection, including within the Economic and Social Council, on how to ensure integrated and coordinated support that adequately reflects interrelations between the goals;
 - the United Nations system and its governing bodies could **assess the asymmetry between economic, social and environmental issues** in their work;
 - the United Nations system could make further efforts to **align strategic plans** with the SDGs and the post-2015 development agenda;
 - the United Nations system **implement the Environment Management Group framework** for advancing environmental and social sustainability in the United Nations system;
 - the Secretary-General could report on operational aspects related to mainstreaming sustainable development in the UN system in the context of the next QCPR;

- the United Nations system could **reflect on innovative arrangements** to support the work of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and other intergovernmental platforms, building on the experience and approach of the technical support team;

We look forward to the deliberations of the Council, the General Assembly and the HLPF on these issues as you continue to guide us and engage in this mainstreaming work.

Thank you.
