



A guide to events during the 68th Session of the UN GA in September 2013

August, 2013

The convening of the 68th Regular Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UN GA) on Tuesday 17 September 2013 represents the start of a key period for Member States and stakeholders. This includes a high level segment of intergovernmental meetings and a number of other events - many of which relate directly to a range of post-UN Conference on Sustainable Development 2012 (Rio+20) and post-2015 processes.

The convenors of these high level events will have established or be in the process of establishing the specific modalities for the engagement of stakeholders. In some cases this includes gathering of stakeholder inputs prior to the meeting, as well as during the event itself.

Stakeholder Forum has therefore created this briefing paper to try and help stakeholders understand and meaningfully engage in the numerous post-Rio+20 and post-2015 related event taking place during this period, whether directly attending in person, or following and contributing to proceedings online.

EVENT	SUMMARY	REGISTRATION
Thursday 19 – Friday 20 September		
<p>UN Global Compact Leaders Summit</p> <p>Venue: Grand Hyatt (hotel), New York</p>	<p>Held every three years, the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit brings together chief executives, and representatives of civil society, governments and the UN. Chaired by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, this year's meeting will be on the theme "Architects of a Better World" – aiming to link the UN's universal values with a new global architecture for corporate sustainability. The Summit hopes to set the stage for business to shape and advance the post-2015 development agenda, and forward an architecture for business to contribute to global priorities.</p>	<p>The Leaders Summit is an invitation-only event. Invitations will be sent to top executives of companies participating in the Global Compact, and a select number of non-business organisations, on a rolling basis.</p>
Friday 20 September		
<p>Closing session of UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)</p> <p>10:00 – 13:00</p> <p>Venue: UN HQ Conference room 2 (CB)</p>	<p>Following the opening remarks, a panel of former Chairs of CSD will be organised to reflect on the achievements and lessons learned from the Commission as well as to set the stage for the establishment of the high level political forum (HLPF) that will replace it as mandated by the 2012 Rio+20 outcome document. Interventions from stakeholders will be coordinated by the Major Groups organising partners (MG OPs).</p>	<p>Stakeholders (from ECOSOC accredited organisations¹) can register to attend through CSO-net: http://bit.ly/1bOk5ix.</p>
<p>Major Groups and other Stakeholders Briefing Day (part 1)</p> <p>Convened by UNDESA, Stakeholder Forum and CIVICUS</p> <p>14:00 – 18:00</p> <p>Venue: UN HQ Conference room 2 (CB)</p>	<p>This event will take stock of progress made on intergovernmental processes resulting from Rio+20. It will provide stakeholders with a comprehensive picture of where these processes currently stand, windows of opportunity to influence decision making, and provide a space for exploring joint advocacy opportunities. Part of the event will have a particular focus on what enhanced modalities for stakeholder engagement around the high level political forum (HLPF) and the Expert Committee on a Sustainable Development Financing Strategy could/should look like.</p>	<p>The event is open to all stakeholders that register to attend. Registration is available through CSO-net: http://bit.ly/17eGYqb</p>

¹ See below information on: *Gaining access to the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA* for more information.

EVENT	SUMMARY	REGISTRATION
Sunday 22 September		
<p>Major Groups and other Stakeholders Briefing Day (part 2)</p> <p>Convened by UNDESA, Stakeholder Forum and CIVICUS</p> <p>09:00 – 13:00</p> <p>Venue: UN HQ Conference Building (Room TBC)</p>	<p>This event will focus on the current state of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) process, what happens next including: planning on the multi-stakeholder intersessionals days to interact with the co-chairs and governments of the Open Working Group (OWG), the morning hearings, the creation of potential clusters and planning for the February to September 2014 OWG report drafting process. This session will also explore the role stakeholders have in achieving the on-going convergence between the SDGs and post-MDG processes.</p>	<p>The event is open to all stakeholders that register to attend. Registration is available through CSO-net: http://bit.ly/17eGYqb</p>
<p><u>Advancing Regional Recommendations on Post-2015: A Dialogue between Civil Society, Governments and UN Representatives</u></p> <p>Convened by the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) in partnership with the Post-2015 Development Planning Team of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG)</p> <p>14:00 – 17:00</p> <p>Venue: UN HQ Conference Building (Room TBC)</p>	<p>The event will provide an opportunity for civil society and Member States to have a meaningful exchange on critical regional issues and policy recommendations looking forward to the next global development agenda (post-2015).</p> <p>Representatives of regional civil society networks will present key recommendations with a focus on the findings of the <u>UN-NGLS consultation</u> on the four main UN post-2015 reports submitted to the Secretary-General. This consultation is being conducted in Arabic, English, French and Spanish and focuses on regional perspectives and alternative proposals to those presented in the four reports under review.</p> <p>Key recommendations and main points made at this event will be summarized by UN-NGLS into a brief outcome document. This summary, together with the UN-NGLS regional consultations report, will be presented and distributed to Member States during the <u>General Assembly Special Event on 25 September</u></p> <p>More info: http://www.un-ncls.org/spip.php?article4335</p>	<p>This event will be open to all interested representatives of civil society, governments, and the UN system. An invitation will be extended to all Member States.</p> <p>Civil society registration is available through CSO-net <u>here</u>.</p> <p>The deadline for registration is 10 September 2013.</p>

EVENT	SUMMARY	REGISTRATION
Monday 23 September		
<p>MDG Success: Secretary General's High-Level Forum on Accelerating Action and Partnering for Impact</p> <p>Time: TBC</p> <p>Venue: TBC</p>	<p>In advance of the Special Event on the 25th of September, the UN Secretary-General will host a High-Level Forum to catalyse and accelerate further action to achieve the MDGs. The event will focus on concrete examples of scaling up success and identifying opportunities for more. The emphasis will be on the “how” – bringing together examples from partnerships across the spectrum of MDGs and Secretary-General's initiatives. The event is expected to include a social media component. Participants will include invitees from amongst member states, business, civil society, philanthropists and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>Unknown at date of publication</p>
<p>HLPF High Level Side Events</p> <p>Times: TBC</p> <p>Venues: TBC</p> <p>Includes Special Events on:</p> <p>Sustainable Cities (AM)</p> <p>Higher Education for Sustainable Development (PM)</p> <p>Convened by UNDESA and Office of the President of the General Assembly (OPGA)</p> <p>Venues: TBC</p>	<p>A number of side events which relate to the high level political forum (HLPF) are due to be held on this date. These including those with a focus on the implementation of sustainable development commitments; enhancing the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner; and consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges.</p> <p>These include two events convened by UNDESA and the OPGA on sustainable cities and higher education, whose outcomes will be fed directly into the first meeting of the HLPF the following day.</p> <p>Guidelines and the application form to hold a side events are available here: http://www.stakeholderforum.org/fileadmin/files/hlpfside.pdf.</p>	<p>Online registration to open soon.</p> <p>Sustainable cities placeholder registration page (22129): http://bit.ly/163pwpv.</p> <p>Higher education placeholder registration page (22130): http://bit.ly/1bG1DeC.</p>

EVENT	SUMMARY	REGISTRATION
Tuesday 24 September		
<p>First meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development</p> <p>“Building the future we want: from Rio+20 to the post-2015 development agenda”</p> <p>Convened by the Office of the President of the General Assembly</p> <p>15:00 – 19:00</p> <p>UN HQ Venue: TBC</p>	<p>First meeting of the HLPF on sustainable development (to replace the CSD following a Rio+20 decision) held at the Heads of State level under the auspices of the General Assembly. The forum will include four Dialogues opened to Heads of State and Government, Heads of UN entities and other international organizations, as well as high-level representatives of Major Groups and other relevant stakeholders. It will have an inaugural character and the outcome of the meeting will consist of a President's Summary.</p>	<p>No online registration as space is extremely limited. Please contact Major Group organising partners² for more information.</p>
Wednesday 25 September		
<p>Special Event to follow up efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)</p> <p>UN General Assembly event</p> <p>Co-Facilitators: Ambassador Anne Anderson (Ireland) and Ambassador Kingsley Mamabolo (South Africa)</p> <p>Time: All day event – specific times TBC</p> <p>Venue: Trustee Council Chamber, UN</p>	<p>The event will comprise of opening and closing plenary meetings, and of up to four high-level multi-stakeholder roundtable sessions, each of which will have the same broad theme focusing on gaps and weaknesses, and the acceleration of the implementation of the MDGs, as well as looking forward to the post-2015 Development Agenda. A small number of stakeholders will be invited to speak during the hour long opening session of the meeting.</p> <p><u>Other useful info</u></p> <p>This event will see leaders identify the necessary actions to achieve the MDGs before they expire at the end of 2015, and are also likely to agree a roadmap for the creation of a new (sustainable) development agenda for post-2015.</p> <p>The event is expected to include the launch of the UN Secretary-General's report on the MDGs and the UN development agenda beyond 2015. A number of side events related to the Special Event are also taking place both within and outside the UN HQ on this date:</p>	<p>The President of the General Assembly will draw up a list of representatives of NGOs in consultative status with ECOSOC, as well as other relevant civil society organisations, academic institutions, youth groups and private sector representatives.</p> <p>Nominations by non-ECOSOC groups will be circulated to Member States on a no-objection basis. If confirmed they will receive confirmation on 7 September 2013.</p> <p>One representative per organisation can apply to attend this event, however seating will be extremely</p>

² See below information on: *Major groups and other stakeholders* for more information.

HQ	<p>http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/proposed-side-events-2013-special-event.pdf.</p> <p>The event will be broadcast live and on archive video at http://webtv.un.org.</p>	<p>limited.</p> <p>Registration will closed on 19 August 2013. More information on registration is available here: http://bit.ly/12yGM3y.</p>
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Other useful information

Major Groups and other stakeholders

[Agenda 21](#), an outcome of the first UN Conference on Environment and Development (Earth Summit 1992), recognises that sustainable development could not be achieved by governments alone. Agenda 21 therefore identified nine sectors of society, collectively known as "Major Groups", as the main channels through which citizens could organise and participate in international efforts to achieve sustainable development through the United Nations. These 9 Major Groups are: women; children and youth; indigenous peoples; non-governmental organisations; local authorities; farmers; workers and trade unions; business and industry; and scientific and technological community.

The outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference, [The Future We Want](#), reaffirmed need for meaningful involvement and active participation of Major Groups in the planning and implementation of sustainable development policies.³ Additionally, however, the document highlights the importance of involving other stakeholders such as local communities, volunteer groups and foundations, migrants and families, as well as older persons and persons with disabilities.

Governments have committed to work more closely with Major Groups and other stakeholders on post-Rio+20 processes, including the UN General Assembly's Open Working Group (OWG) on sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the level political forum (HLPF). In particular, the draft HLPF resolution explicitly encourages stakeholders to establish coordination mechanisms for their effective participation with the body.⁴

More information on the Major Groups, including the organising partners for each constituency and how to get involved in their work, is available [here](#).

Gaining access to the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA

Civil society organisations that have consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) can apply to receive annual grounds passes for the UN HQ in New York and to attend selected events and meetings scheduled to take place there. The application procedure for consultative status with ECOSOC is available [here](#). It is also possible to obtain grounds passes for the UN HQ through the UN Department of Public Information and Non-Governmental Organisations (DPI/NGO) - more information is available [here](#).

Please note however that an annual grounds pass will not necessarily enable you to access all meetings and events taking place at the UN HQ in New York. Please refer to the specific event you

³ Paragraph 43, The future we want, [A/RES/66/288](#).

⁴ Paragraph 16, Format and organizational aspects of the HLPF on sustainable development, [A/67/L.72](#).

wish to attend for more information about gaining the required access, available above and in the 'Upcoming Events' section of UN DESA's CSO-net website: <http://csonet.org/index.php?menu=73>.

For more information please contact Jack Cornforth (jcornforth@stakeholderforum.org).