**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA
Office for North Africa**

Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the Intergovernmental
   Committee of Experts (ICE)

Rabat (Morocco)
26th February –1st March 2013

Progress report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the post 2015 prospects

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Status of the Millennium Development Goals

1.   At the UN General Assembly in September 2000, governments around the world signed *the Millennium Declaration*. Thus, they recognized that they were "*collectively responsible for defending, at the global level, principles of human dignity, equality and equity*" and pledged to "*create - nationally and globally - a environment conducive to development and poverty eradication.* " To this end, eight "Millennium development goals" were set, "MDGs" to be achieved by 2015.

2.   These MDGs which constitute the most tangible commitment made by the international community, aim at fighting hunger and poverty, improving education, health, violence and discrimination against women, and protecting environment . They are all interrelated. The first 7 goals relate to human development in Southern countries. The eighth is the sine qua non condition for achieving the other seven. It explicitly calls on the North to implement economic, social and environmental conditions for development within a global partnership for development. To date, 189 States Members of the United Nations have approved the Millennium Declaration.

Status up to the last report and outlook for 2015

3.   All North African countries have produced a national report on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) between 2008 (Libya), 2009 (Morocco and Tunisia) and 2010 (Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania and the Sudan 1).

4.   The table in the annex shows a variety of situations at the regional level with respect to the different MDGs, due to the constraints specific to each country. Some countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) are likely to achieve the MDGs on time or have even reached some (Algeria and Tunisia), while for others (Mauritania and Sudan) despite the progress accomplished, much will not be achieved. However, it is necessary to emphasize that all countries of the sub-region have made significant efforts to achieve the MDGs. The delay of Sudan is mainly due to the long civil war lived by the country.

5.   The **MDG** which poses the most important problem and the first to be targeted is related to the full employment, which will probably be achieved by no country in the sub-region; this is now a regional chronic specificity, aggravated by the current economic crisis and the effects of political transformations that occurred recently.

6.   To reduce the various forms of inequality such as those related to income, to geographical space and to gender are also major challenges in achieving the MDGs in the sub-region. Degradation of the environment, MDG 7 is also another factor that undermines the achievement of MDGs.

7.   **Other MDGs** which are unlikely to be achieved by 2015 by two or more countries are:

   • O1 – Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger (Mauritania and Sudan);

   • O2 - Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling (Mauritania and Sudan);

• O4 - Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under 5 years (Mauritania and Sudan);

• O5 - Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio (Mauritania and Sudan);

 Make access to reproductive health universal (Mauritania and Sudan);

• O6 - Ensure access to treatment against HIV/AIDS to all those who need it (Egypt and Sudan);

• O7 - Reduce by half the proportion of people who do not have access

to drinking water and basic sanitation (Mauritania and Sudan).

8. In the case of **Mauritania**, there are many causes including: weakness in terms of governance, "political, economic and administrative, necessary to ensure the effective implementation of the guidelines adopted and the monitoring and evaluation their impact. One aspect of this problem is depicted by the weak role played by the "Cadres Stratégiques de Lutte contre la Pauvreté" (CSLP) (Strategic Frameworks for Poverty Control) (SFPC) for fighting poverty and for development. While data on space and socio-economic inequalities and on the alarming situation of rural areas were widely disseminated, SFPCs have failed to confront these situations: the rural sector has been continuously deteriorating, and Job creation has been incommensurate with the needs. A shift in strategy combined with the findings of household surveys, is necessary and should be complemented by strengthening the status of the SFPSs and its implementation. Mauritania has faced serious crises that have diminished its capacity for action. These are first of all climate crises, an overestimation of revenue flows derived from oil that led to inappropriate decisions regarding public finance. Mauritania has also been hit by the food and energy crisis of 2007-2008"[1].

9. Finally, the current **economic crisis** is having a strong impact in the region, as elsewhere in the world.

10. **Success in achieving the MDGs**[3] not only demonstrate the importance of economic growth and a stable macroeconomic framework, but also policies dedicated to the redistribution of the fruits of growth through job creation and public expenditures devoted to human development. Other important elements remain with a national strategy that coordinates all development policies of the country (e.g five-year development plans and strategic frameworks for poverty reduction, the National Economic and Social Pact in Algeria, the Social Fund for Development in Egypt, the National Initiative for Human Development in Morocco, *inter alia*, as well as the participation of stakeholders in all phases of development.

11. Despite the achievements, several **common problems** are to be indicated: persistence of regional disparities; a still low participation of women in economic, social and political life ; difficulty to reach the most vulnerable populations, the need to take into account demographic challenges and invest more in sustainable development.

Post 2015 process

12. As requested by Member States, the General Secretariat of the United Nations established in 2011 a report examining[4] the progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the challenges that lie ahead for 2015. This report has analyzed best practices and shortcomings in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and also puts forward suggestions on the key factors to be considered for beyond 2015.

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[1] Report on MGDs' progress in Mauritania.

Institutional arrangements that have been put in place

13. To complete this process, the United Nations Secretary-General launched the sustainable development Solutions Network, a new independent global network bringing together research centres, universities and technical institutions empowered to find solutions to some of the most urgent environmental and socio-economic problems of the planet.

14. Headed by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development, the Network works with the business community, civil society, the UN agencies and other international organizations to identify and share best means of achieving sustainable development. This initiative is part of the efforts made within the post 2015 mandate and the conclusions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development Rio +20.

15. The network works closely with another organ launched by the UN Secretary General, the High Level panel that includes eminent personalities chosen for conducting the reflections on the post-2015 development agenda. Mr. Yudhoyono, Indonesian President, Mrs. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of Liberia and Mr. David Cameron, U.K. Prime Minister, were appointed in May 2012 as co-chairs of the High Level Group. A Task Force of the United Nations system to coordinate the technical preparations for post-2015 reflection and to support the work of the High Level Group was also established.

Three main areas of activities are planned to lead the discussion

> **National and regional consultations**

16. The United Nations system in close collaboration with other development institutions organizes large national consultations in 50 countries in order to stimulate the debate on the post-2015 development program. These consultations that began in June 2012 will be held until mid 2013.

17. In a first stage, the 50 countries that were chosen are as follows (cf. table below). However, the objective of the UN is to facilitate the greatest possible number of national consultations.

Africa (S, E & W)	Asia & Pacific[1]	Latin America & Caribbean[2]	Arab States[3]	Eastern Europe & CIS
Angola	Bangladesh	Brazil	Djibouti	Armenia
Burkina Faso	China	Costa Rica	Egypt	Kazakhstan
CAR	India	Colombia	Jordon	Moldova
DRC	Indonesia	Peru	Morocco	Tajikistan
Ethiopia	Lao PDR	Haiti	Sudan	Turkey
Ghana	Pakistan	Bolivia	Algeria	(+ 1 tbc)
Kenya	PNG	El Salvador		
Mali	Solomon Islands	Honduras		
Malawi	Timor-Leste	Santa Lucia		
Mauritius	Vietnam			
Mozambique				
Niger				
Nigeria				
Senegal				
South Africa				
Tanzania				
Togo				
Uganda				
Zambia				

[1] Cambodia, Philippines, Vanuatu proposed as stand-by countries
[2] Nicaragua, Guatemala, Ecuador and Chile are proposed as alternates
[3] Lebanon and Yemen are proposed as alternates

18.   At regional level, the UN system is also involved in the organization of regional and sub-regional consultations likely to reach a common position on regional priorities.

➢ **Thematic Consultations**

19.   The United Nations leads a series of parallel thematic consultations with various stakeholders such as universities, the media, the private sector, employers and trade unions, civil society and policy makers, etc.

20.   Thematic meetings and agencies appointed to coordinate global consultations are as follows:

Themes	Coordination Agencies
Inequalities	UNECEF/ONU-Femmes
Health	WHO/UNICEF
Education	PNUD/HCDH
Growth and employment	UNDP/ILO
Environmental sustainability	UNEP/UNDP
Food security and nutrition	FAO/PAM
Governance	UNDP/HCHR
Conflicts, violence and natural disasters	BACP/UNDP/UNICEF/SIPC
Populations Dynamics	FNUAP/IOM/UN HABITAT
Water	FNUE/UNICEF
Energy	Non designated

➢ **Online Discussions**

21.   An worldwide electronic platform for online discussions was launched in July 2012 (6). These discussions which are co-organized by civil society and the United Nations will allow for a lively and active exchange of opinions of civil society and experiences from different backgrounds.

22.   Organizations of civil society are closely involved in these discussions at all levels, whether national, regional or online, and there is even a coordination responsible for presenting the contribution of civil society organizations for each topic.

Contribution of ECA to all this work

23.   ECA in partnership with the African Union Commission, African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Program, is involved in organizing a series of regional consultations to develop a common African position on the post-2015 Development program. Thus, three extensive sub-regional consultations were held with all the stakeholders in the region. The first one took place in Accra (Ghana) in 2011 and two others in 2012 in Mombasa (Kenya) and Dakar (Senegal). At the same time, an online discussion launched in 2011 will be a wider consultation of all stakeholders, including inter alia, governments, civil society, members of parliament, academia and the private sector, etc . to collect their views and comments.

24.   In addition, as part of the annual meeting of the regional mechanism of United Nations system activity coordination that supports the AU/NEPAD Programme held in Addis Ababa on 14 and 15 November 2012, a special session was devoted to a high-level panel on the post-2015 development agenda. Dialogue noted communications of a large number of personalities and high level experts, including the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Vice-President of the Commission of the African Union, the Executive Secretary of ECA, the Director-General of UNIDO, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations in charge of planning the post-2015 agenda. The objectives of the consultation were (i) to review the progress of sub-regional consultations and (ii)

identify the major concerns of Africa for their inclusion in the preparation global process of said agenda. At the end of the papers and discussions, a consensus was reached on the African perspective, in relation to Post-2015 development goals. One can note in particular the consolidation of progress towards the MDGs, more inclusive and employment generating growth, transformation of rural areas into dynamic areas with economic activity, food security and nutrition, gender equality, management of urbanization as a factor of structural transformation of economies, reducing the effects of conflicts and natural disasters on development, peace and security, participation and ownership by Africa of Post-2015 agenda through a consultative, transparent and inclusive process at all levels, local, national, regional and global. The recommendations of the panel are summarized in Box 1 below.

25.   For finalization of the process, the African Regional Conference will be held in Tunis (Tunisia) in March 2013 in order to reach a common position on the continent's post-2015 development priorities. Countries of North Africa should take an active part in the preparation of this conference for a proper consideration of the development challenges and other concerns of the sub-region.

Box: At the end of their deliberations, High level panellists made a number of important recommendations grouped in ten points

I. Participation and ownership

a. Africa is transitioning; and in order to support the process, there is need to adequately cater for the local dimension, and rethink rural-urban interactions and dynamics. This should embody a bottom-up approach to planning, and leadership at all levels, from local to regional.

The post-2015 agenda must include an Africa-owned and Africa-led process that captures the reality of Africa and the aspirations of Africans. Therefore, the process of Post-2015 Development Agenda for Africa must be broad-based, consultative, transparent and inclusive.

II. Learning from past experiences

c. Africa should critically examine the experiences and lessons of the MDGs in order to explore the possibilities for broadening the Post-2015 goals into a development agenda that focuses on transformation. Key issues that are not adequately addressed in the current MDG framework such as growth and transformation, inequality, domestic resource mobilization, enablers of development and quality of outcomes should be adequately factored into a post-2015 agenda for Africa.

III. Resource mobilization for transformative development

d. In order to ensure the desired scale of transformation, Africa should mobilize and effectively target all its resources- human, natural and financial, to bring about the transformation needed to better integrate Africa into the global economy, and also make a real difference in the lives of its citizens.

IV. A human-centered approach to development

e. In elaborating the agenda, people should be put first, and at the centre. This should be particularly so in the case of women, youth and children, thereby warranting particular attention to social development in economic transformation policies and actions.

V. Addressing the needs of the youth

f. Governments should put in place the right policies and have targeted interventions for empowering youth to become positive agents of change and participate meaningfully in Africa's transformation. In this context, the drive for ensuring decent work for all should take into account the need for an education system that imparts the necessary knowledge and skills that effectively cater to the demands of the labor market.

VI. The need for an integrated approach

g. Poverty reduction through wealth creation, and sustainability should be at the forefront of the agenda. There could be an apparent tension between these two objectives, but win-win outcomes could be achieved if the synergies are harnessed properly. In this respect, an inter-linkages and integrated approach to development should be adopted in order to yield development dividends in the most efficient and effective manner.

VII. Managing Urbanization

h. Given Africa's urbanization trends, there is need for innovativeness to take advantage of the opportunities presented by this phenomenon. Central to this is leadership that ensures that urbanization becomes a driver of development.

VIII. Responding to climate change and natural disasters

In view of the potentially devastating effects of climate change on Africa's fragile economies, climate change should form an integral part of all development interventions- climate-smart development. Furthermore, given that disasters, both natural and man-made, could undo decades of development gains, disaster prevention and early warning systems.

IX. Strengthening evidence based planning and policymaking

j. A lot of progress has been made on generating data on the continent, but more needs to be done to ensure that data is accessible, relevant and usable. Given the centrality of data and statistics to effective development planning, RCM-Africa should establish a cluster that deals with data and statistics.

X. Enhancing coordination for development effectiveness

k. Effective coordination with member States is essential in ensuring that they input directly into the global process in an informed and inclusive manner. In doing so, the grassroots and local perspective must be factored.

The major challenges for development in the sub-region's post-2015 development agenda will be established through national consultations currently taking place in different countries, including the 50 countries selected worldwide for an extensive consultation. For the sub-region, experiences in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco who are part of the 50 selected countries, will give us a vision of priorities. Meanwhile, the activities that are currently conducted within the framework of the review of the Plan of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development will also be useful to complete the identification of sub-regional challenges. Hence, the current consultations provide us with a number of priorities that can be grouped as follows:

1. Focus on inclusive economic growth and structural transformation;

Growth is a necessary condition for development but is not sufficient if it is not synonymous with steady progress on several fronts such as the fight against poverty, job creation: increasing revenues and improving living general conditions. In other words, governments must reform their economic policies to promote a so-called inclusive growth which will itself create jobs and generate income and thus contribute effectively to social justice, peace and political stability.

The MDGs target that poses the most important problem is that relating to full employment, which will probably be achieved by no country in the sub-region. The structurally high unemployment, especially among youth and women is one of the major challenges for the future of the sub-region. North Africa does not have sufficiently diversified economic structures to increase the value added created at the national level and thus providing more opportunities for employment. In most countries in the region, the process of national production does not create enough value added to support widespread availability of quality jobs. Also good performance in education in North Africa hide the problem of adequacy of training in relation to the demand of the labour market, which results in high unemployment despite a steady increase in the level of higher education.

2. Reduce inequalities

Reducing the various forms of inequality such as those related to income, the geographical space and gender constitutes major challenges in achieving the MDGs in the region. The recent events that have taken place in most countries of North Africa show that income inequality has increased and that the measure of improving social welfare should not be reduced to the simple statistical measure of reducing absolute poverty. Countries of North Africa are currently in a phase of development in which relative and multidimensional poverty related to multiple deprivations and their overlap (needs for decent living conditions: electricity, drinking water, housing and sanitation, etc ...) will become more and more important in the development agenda

Gender inequalities are serious hindrances to achieve the MDGs. Although considerable progress has been completed regarding education of girls and women, the latter still suffer unequal treatment when it comes to health, employment and participation in decision making. Better adapted responses will remove these differences. The specific needs of the most vulnerable populations such as children, the disabled and the elderly, etc ... must also be taken into account in the answers provided.

Spatial inequalities will also continue to hinder the achievement of the MDGs. In a country where the total income increases, it is essential to pay special attention to equity and make sure that the fruits of growth are also benefiting disadvantaged regions, otherwise cohesion and social peace may be made undermined.

3. Preserve the environment

Degradation of the environment is also another factor that undermines the attainment of 'MDGs. The Human Development Report 2011 warned against the fact that the increasingly probable "environmental issues" including the worsening of water and air pollution and the effects of climate change are likely to hamper achievement of MDG No. 7. The same report states that the majority of people living on degraded land are in Arab States (25% of the population) and in Sub-Saharan Africa (22%).

4. Promote good governance, transparency and the fight against corruption

Good economic and political governance is essential to promote and preserve the gains of development. Governments must put in place measures to fight against corruption and promote good governance, transparency and accountability. It is also necessary to strengthen institutional capacity. Strong institutions can establish positive standards, including norms and mechanisms of accountability, which are essential not only to ensure transparency but also the active participation of stakeholders (civil society, private sector, etc ...) in the development process of the country.

	Algeria		Egypt		Libya		Mauritanie		M aroc		Soudan		Tunisie	
	*	**	*	**	*	**	*	**	*	**	*	**	*	**
O1 Reducing sheer poverty and hunger														
Target 1.a To reduce by half the proportion of people deriving an income lower than one dollar per day	x		x			x		NO	x			x		x
Target 1.b Provide full employment and the opportunity for each one including women and youth to find a decent and productive job		NO		NO		NO		NO		NO		NO		NO
Target 1.c To reduce by half the proportion of people suffering from hunger		x	x			x		NO		x	NO		x	
O2 To provide elementary education for all														
Target Provide all children, boys and girls alike, the means to complete a full course of primary schooling		x	x			x		NO		x	NO			x
O3 To promote gender equality and women's empowerment														
Target To remove disparity between sexes in primary and secondary education by 2005, if possible, at all levels in 2015		x	x			x	x			x		NO	x	
O4 To reduce infant and post-infant mortality														
Target To reduce by two thirds morbidity ratio for children under 5 years		x	x			x		NO		x	NO		x	
O5 To improve maternal health														
Target 5.a To reduce by three quarters maternal mortality ratio		x		x	X			NO		x		NO		x
Target 5.b To make access to reproductive medicine universal		x		x		x		NO		x		NO		x
O6 To fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases														
Target 6.a To halt the spread of HIV/AIDS and begin to reverse the current trend	x		n/a		x		x		x			NO	x	
Target 6.b Ensure access to treatment against HIV/AIDS to all those who need it	x			NO	x		x		x			NO	x	
Target 6.c – Control malaria and other serious diseases and start to reverse the current trend	x				x	X	x		x			NO	x	
O7 Preserve environnement														
Target 7.a Incorporate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs and reverse the current trend and the loss of environmental resources		x	x		n/a			NO		x		x	x	

	Algeria *	Algeria **	Egypt *	Egypt **	Libya *	Libya **	Mauritanie *	Mauritanie **	M aroc *	M aroc **	Soudan *	Soudan **	Tunisie *	Tunisie **
Target7.b reduce the loss of biodiversity and achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the loss ratio.	x		x			n/a	NO		x		n/a		n/a	
Target 7.c Reduce by half the proportion of people who do not have access to drinking water and to basic sanitation		x		x		n/a		NO		x		NO	x	
Target7.d to significantly improve by 2020 the living conditions of 100 million slum dwellers		x		x		///		n/a		x		n/a		x
O8 Develop a global partnership for development														
Target 8.a Meet the special needs of developing landlocked countries (DC) and of small developing islands	///	///	///	///	///	///	///	///	///	///	///	///	///	///
Target 8.b Continue implementation of an open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory commercial and financial system,		x		x		x		x		x		NO		x
Target 8.c Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt		x		n/a		n/a		x		n/a		NO		n/a
Target 8.d In cooperation with pharmaceutical industry, make essential drugs available and affordable in developing countries		x		x		n/a		n/a		n/a		NO		x
Target 8.e In cooperation with the private sector, to ensure that new technologies, especially in the field of information and communication are within reach of all.		x		x		NO		x		x		x		x

[7] The symbol "x" in the column * means that the MDG has already been reached, while in column ** it means it is likely to wait until 2015, or even possible subject to some changes.