

# 2015 AND BEYOND: FROM MDGS TO SDGS

SEMINAR ORGANIZED BY  
THE WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS  
AND THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF BRAZIL  
6 NOVEMBER 2012, 14:00-21:30  
IBMEC UNIVERSITY AUDITORIUM, RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

## SEMINAR OVERVIEW

The United Nations is looking towards 2015 with high hopes and big plans. As the deadline for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is rapidly approaching, and the concept of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been gaining momentum since Rio+20, there has been increased attention given to the formulation of an inclusive, participatory, holistic and strategic post-2015 development framework that more closely integrates the link between development and environmental concerns. This new framework could provide a broader set of goals that better reflect the current global political and economic realities, encourage results-based policymaking, and apply to all nations universally. It is crucial that the successor of the MDGs, whether the SDGs or something else, is politically feasible and brings development and environment together to holistically address economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. In order to succeed, the SDGs need to represent the shared vision of all stakeholders and secure global commitments to action.

The SDGs certainly have their critics already. Some question the very foundations of global goal setting. Is it indeed realistic? Will the SDGs simply be an overly broad and unfocused replacement for the MDGs? How can the SDGs possibly be fully comprehensive and integrated while remaining actionable and realistic? If the international community has failed to make significant progress on the environmental agenda, will bulking these issues with poverty reduction make the task any more manageable? The process at the UN is already confusing and not as transparent and inclusive as many have hoped—is this bumpy beginning foreshadowing a weak result?

As global advocates for the United Nations, it is imperative that UNAs have a strong, authoritative, and united voice in this process. UNAs around the world have a responsibility to spark dialogue, educate and spread information, influence policy, and mobilize popular support for these efforts. Actors such as private sector companies are also playing an increasingly important role in these processes, opening up opportunities for partnerships with UNAs on issues of shared interest.



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Switzerland

**SCHEDULE – TUESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER**

14.00-15.00	Opening ceremony
15.00-16.30	Panel 1: From MDGs to SDGs: The substance
16.30-17.00	Coffee break
17.00-18.30	Panel 2: From MDGs to SDGs: The process
18.30-19.30	Closing session
19.30-21.30	Reception hosted by IBMEC University

**Seminar Program**

**OPENING CEREMONY**

Welcoming remarks by Mr. Mario Garnero, President of UNA-Brazil

Welcome from host, Mr. Fernando Schuler, Director General of IBMEC University

Ambassador Park Soo Gil, President of WFUNA

Introduction by Mr. Bonian Golmohammadi, Secretary-General of WFUNA

Corrado Clini, Italian Minister for the Environment, Land and Sea (TBC)

Altamirando Fernandes Moraes (Municipal Secretary for the Environment, Rio de Janeiro)

**PANEL 1: FROM MDGS TO SGDS: THE SUBSTANCE**

The global political and economic landscape has significantly changed since the declaration of the MDGs. In the discussions on the post-2015 sustainable development framework and the formulation of SDGs, new global realities and trends must be taken into account: political economy, major macroeconomic shifts, climate change and depletion of natural resources, crises and volatility, population dynamics, governance issues, and human development challenges such as migration and mobility. What did the MDGs leave out, what new challenges have emerged, and how can the SDGs be more comprehensive and innovative without diluting their purpose? Is the agenda of the SDGs too ambitious?

**Speakers**

United Nations	Arnaud Peral (UNDP Brazil)
Government	Eduardo Cunha (Congressman, Brazil)
Corporate Sector	Carla Pires (Sustainability Manager, ETH Bioenergia)
Civil Society	João Paulo Cândia Veiga (Observatorio Social)
Academia	Marcos Prado Troyjo (Columbia University, IBMEC University)
Moderator	Kathryn White (Executive Director, UNA-Canada; Chair, WFUNA Executive Committee)

**PANEL 2: FROM MDGS TO SDGS: THE PROCESS**

The UN and the international community have already taken important steps towards establishing the principles and structures that will propel the development agenda beyond 2015. The Secretary-General has appointed a High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons, launched the new Sustainable Development Solutions Network and initiated Global Conversations about these issues. Civil society is also active on the scene, with campaigns such as Beyond 2015 pushing for a strong and legitimate successor framework to the MDGs and more inclusion of civil society voices. Will the development of SDGs be merged with the post-2015 process, or proceed on a separate negotiating track? How can the process of formulating and implementing SDGs tap into the cutting-edge expertise and “people power” of civil society, the private sector, academia and the scientific community? How can marginalized voices and youth be included in both the conceptualization and implementation process?

***Speakers***

United Nations	Giancarlo Summa (UNIC Director)
Government	Denise Rambaldi (Vice-President, Instituto Estadual de Ambiente do Rio de Janeiro INEA) - TBC
Corporate Sector	Leo Voight (Diretor, Instituto Vonpar) - TBC
Civil Society	Aron Belinky (Instituto Vitae Civilis)
Academia	José Luiz Niemeyer (Professor and International Relations Course Coordinator at Ibmec University)
Moderator	Bonian Golmohammadi (Secretary-General, WFUNA)

**CLOSING SESSION**

Falu Njie, United Nations Millennium Campaign