Item **14** of the provisional agenda

UNESCO's PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATIONS FOR A POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

OVERVIEW OF GOALS AND TARGETS PROPOSED

SUMMARY

The various post-2015 processes under way have evolved at an ever accelerating pace during the recent weeks and months. The present document is complementing the information provided in document 194 EX/14 with an update of recent events which occurred after the submission date for document 194 EX/14. It also responds to Member States' request to provide a concise report, containing concrete suggestions by UNESCO on goals and targets, organized by Sectors, and a clear synthesis of what UNESCO is seeking advocacy support for from Member States.

I. Background

The various post-2015 processes under way have evolved at an ever accelerating pace during the recent weeks and months. The present document is complementing the information provided in document 194 EX/14 with an update of recent events which occurred after the submission date for document 194 EX/14. It also responds to Member States' request to provide a concise report, containing concrete suggestions on goals and targets, organized by Sectors, and a clear synthesis of what UNESCO is seeking advocacy support for from Member States.

In recent weeks, a second round of UNDG consultations on post-2015 was confirmed with a focus on the national level, comprising the following themes: (a) Localizing the post-2015 development agenda; (b) Helping to strengthen capacities and institutions; (c) Participatory monitoring, existing and new forms of accountability; (d) Partnerships with civil society and other actors; (e) Partnerships with the private sector; (f) Culture and development (co-led by UNESCO, UNFPA, and UNDP). Furthermore, the co-chairs of the Open Working Group on SDGs (OWG) have issued a so-called "Focus areas document" as a basis to develop a set of goals and targets. The document contains 19 focus areas and some 250 specific "areas" enumerated thereunder.[1] In response to this, UNESCO has submitted to the United Nations Technical Support Team (TST) to the OWG on SDGs several possible goals and targets related to the specific areas proposed in the focus area document, highlighting UNESCO's areas of expertise and comparative advantage. The TST identified co-leading agencies for each Focus area. UNESCO was designated co-lead together with UNICEF for Focus area 4 "Education"; and co-lead together with UNEP and FAO for Focus area 16 "Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources, oceans and seas".

In line with 37 C/Resolution 64, the present document provides information about UNESCO's vision on the post-2015 development agenda, including concrete proposals for possible goals and targets which have partly already been advanced by the Organization as input in response to the various draft frameworks developed by the respective interagency working groups. The document aims at providing an analytical and strategic overview over the Organization's proposals, organized by Programme Sector and Global Priority Gender equality.

II. Vision[2]

With the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, the United Nations General Assembly set forth a humanist vision for the century ahead – a pledge to craft a different, more just and prosperous world, without poverty or violence and where all people live in dignity. The vision took shape in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) with its time-bound and measurable goals and targets. There has been considerable progress since in implementing the MDGs – but progress has been uneven and insufficient.

The task now is clear: focus where needs are greatest, with an emphasis on Africa, SIDS and LDCs, to help countries accelerate progress towards the 2015 MDG goals and targets, and shape an ambitious new long-term agenda to follow. This agenda should build on achievements so far and tackle new challenges. As a laboratory of ideas, a standard setter and a catalyst of international cooperation providing policy advice and capacity development to its Member States, UNESCO is fully engaged in the global conversation on how the international community can channel the energies of humanity on a sustainable course beyond 2015.

Both the substance and the shape of the agenda will be of importance. The next agenda is expected to focus on the overarching objectives of poverty eradication and sustainable development. It will need

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[1]　The latest version of the document can be accessed here: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/focussdgs.html

[2]　See also document 37 C/INF.13.

to be based on human rights, and universally accepted values and ethical principles, including those encapsulated in the Millennium Declaration and the Rio+20 Outcome Document.

The new development agenda needs to empower people and harness the power of cross-cutting multipliers. In a world of limits, more must be made of the boundless energy of human ingenuity – through education, the sciences, culture and communication and information – to craft solutions that are just and sustainable.

The following sections will provide for each of UNESCO's Programme Sector[3] (a) an overview on the general discussion and selected proposals in post-2015 debate; (b) UNESCO's message, and (c) concrete proposals for possible goals and targets.

III.   Education

Key references:

1. *Focus areas document of the Open Working Group (OWG), March 2014: Focus area 4 on Education.*

2. *UNESCO Position Paper on Education Post-2015 (document ED-14/EFA/POST-2015/1), Document 194 EX/6 and Document 194 EX/6.INF*

3. *Report of the United Nations Secretary General (UNSG): "A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015", July 2013, which identifies as one of several transformative actions applicable to all countries: "Provide quality education and lifelong learning".*

4. *"A New global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development": The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP), May 2013, which contains as illustrative goal: "Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning".*

5. *Report of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN), "An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development – Report for the UN Secretary-General", October 2013, which contains as proposed goal: "Ensure Effective Learning for All Children and Youth for Life and Livelihood".*

6. *The Global Thematic Consultation on Education in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, March 2013, proposed as overarching goal for education: "Equitable, Quality Education and Lifelong Learning for All".*

It has been agreed so far that the post-2015 education agenda should be clearly defined, balanced and holistic, and take a lifelong learning approach. The post-2015 global education agenda should be rights-based and adopt an equity perspective, expanding the vision of access to that of access and learning through the provision of quality education at all levels, taking a holistic and lifelong learning approach. It should be of universal relevance and mobilize all countries and stakeholders, regardless of their development status. While the State is the custodian of education as a public good, the role of civil society, communities, parents and other stakeholders is crucial in the provision of quality education.

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[3]   For an overview of goals/targets by Focus area, see "UNESCO's submission on the Focus areas document of the Open Working Group on SDGs" under "Key documents": http://en.unesco.org/post2015/; http://fr.unesco.org/post2015/

In line with this, UNESCO advocates for a single, clearly-defined, global education agenda, which should be an integral part of the broader international development framework. As such, education must be a stand-alone goal in the broader post-2015 development agenda and should be framed by a comprehensive overarching goal, with measurable targets and related indicators. In addition, education must also be integrated into other development goals in order to highlight their mutual interdependence and catalyse more synergistic action across sectors.

The global education agenda should be complemented by a "Framework for Action" to guide countries in operationalizing national education agendas, including setting national targets and indicators reflective of the diverse social, political, economic and cultural contexts. The Framework for Action should include an implementation strategy in which necessary operational mechanisms, supporting actions and enabling conditions for the implementation of global targets at national level will be spelled out, including partnerships, financial requirements, governance and accountability and monitoring.

The future development agenda should recognize the central role of education in enabling wider development progress by including education-related targets and indicators in such areas as health, employment and gender equality. [4]

Proposed overarching goal: "Ensure equitable and inclusive quality education and lifelong learning for all by 2030"

List of proposed targets	Corresponding Priority Area
Target 1: Increase to x%* access to quality early childhood care and education for girls and boys prior to compulsory schooling, with particular attention to the most marginalized. *Global benchmarks and/or national targets should be developed	ECCE
Target 2: All girls and boys participate in and complete a full cycle of free and compulsory quality basic education of at least 10 years, leading to relevant, recognized and measurable learning outcomes with a special focus on achieving gender equality.	Basic education
Target 3: Increase to x%* youth and adult literacy and numeracy rates at a proficiency level sufficient to participate in society and for further learning, with particular attention to girls and women and the most marginalized. *Global benchmarks and/or national targets should be developed	Youth and adult Literacy
Target 4: Increase transition to and completion of quality upper secondary and tertiary education to ensure that at least x%* and y%* complete upper secondary and tertiary education respectively, with special focus on achieving gender equality. *Global benchmarks and/or national targets should be developed	Upper Secondary & Tertiary education
Target 5: Increase to x* the percentage of youth (15-24 years) and adult women and men with relevant and recognized knowledge and skills, through professional, technical and vocational education/training and lifelong learning opportunities to access decent work. *Global benchmarks and/or national targets should be developed	Skills for work and life
Target 6: All learners acquire relevant life and transversal skills, including through global citizenship education and education for sustainable development supported by safe, gender-sensitive, healthy and inclusive learning environments	Quality and relevant teaching and learning
Target 7: Government ensure the provision of a sufficient number of well-trained, motivated and supported teachers who meet national standards.	Quality and relevant teaching and learning

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[4]   See also document 194/EX6.

Target 8: All countries progress towards allocating (4 - 6%) of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and (15 - 20%) of their public expenditure to education, using funds effectively and prioritizing groups most in need.	Financing of education

Document 194 EX/6 INF. provides more information on proposed education targets.

IV.   Natural Sciences

1.   *Science, technology and innovation (STI)*

> *Key references:*
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> *1.   Focus areas document of the OWG: Focus area "Industrialization" includes the area "enhancing science, math, engineering and technical skills". Focus area "Means of Implementation/Global Partnership for Sustainable Development" includes the areas "enhancing scientific and technological cooperation involving developing countries and technology transfer to developing countries"; and "strengthening capacity building efforts for developing countries and knowledge sharing and technical cooperation among all countries through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation".*
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> *2.   ECOSOC 2013 Ministerial Declaration establishes STI as an essential enabler and driver for the achievement of the MDGs and the promotion of the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as poverty eradication. It contains the recommendation that STI should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.*
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> *3.   The UNSG's report "A life of dignity for all" argues that harnessing science, technology and innovative methods will be central in areas ranging from information and communications technology to transportation, the environment and life-saving medicines.*
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> *4.   HLP report, which contains an illustrative target on "Promote collaboration on and access to science, technology, innovation, and development data".*
>
> *5.   UNSDSN report, which recommends strategic investments in education and capacity-building in STI and engineering, tertiary level institutions.*

Science, technology and innovation (STI) are an accelerator to sustainable development which has been largely ignored by the MDG agenda formulated in 2000. UNESCO aims at reflecting the galvanizing and dynamic role of STI and its contribution to sustainable development in the next agenda for global development, including in the SDGs. National STI strategies and action plans for sustainable development in all countries, need to be established and the science-policy-society interface needs to be strengthened.

Possible goals:	Possible targets:		Linked Focus area:	
	1.	Support expansion of knowledge-based industries, drawing on sustainable businesses and jobs, especially for youth.	1.	Poverty eradication
	2.	Encourage model sites and communities to develop new systems for energy sources and efficiencies.	7.	Energy
	3.	Develop a science and technology-driven action plan for renewable energy to delineate future energy choices and identify challenges and opportunities.		
	4.	Double national investments in STEM education and basic science.	9.	Industrialization

	5. Promote sustainable urban planning encompassing environmental sustainability, intensified rural-urban interaction and social cohesion.[5]	13. Sustainable cities and human settlements
	6. Expand scientific knowledge of interactions between the climate system and society to enhance the effectiveness of mitigation measures, adaptation and resilience to climate change-induced disasters.	15. Climate
7. Harnessing Science, technology and innovation (STI) for sustainable development	7.1 National R&D expenditure to surpass x% of GDP by 2030[1]. 7.2 Share of ODA for STI to reach x%. 7.3 Develop national STI strategies and action plans for sustainable development in all countries by 2030, addressing: – Increased multi-stakeholder collaboration across the policy-science-society spectrum; – Human, institutional and societal STI capacity-building, with significantly enhanced training and science education at all levels; – Develop measurement of innovation capacity to create national innovation eco-systems; – Achieve gender parity in STI systems. 7.4. Promote open access, sharing, processing and use of scientific research and knowledge.[6] 7.5. Ensure evidence-based policies through collection and analysis of relevant statistics and data, including on STI, as well as related capacity-building. 7.6. Intensify regional and international STI cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships, in particular South-South and North-South-South cooperation. 7.7. Introduce innovative and effective financing mechanisms for STI.	18. Means of Implementation/ Global Partnership for Sustainable Development (also links to 14. Promote Sustainable Consumption and Production)
	8. Encourage the participation of civil society in science, including through the use of mobile technology.[7] 9. Encourage international collaboration in science as way of promoting peace and contributing to the sharing of science and knowledge transfer. 10. Strengthen equitable sharing of transboundary natural resources as a vector of a culture of peace.	19. Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions

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5   This target links with Culture and Social and Human Sciences.
6   This target links with Communication and Information.
7   This target links with Communication and information.

2. *Water*

Key references:

1. Focus areas document of the OWG: Focus area 6 on water and sanitation.

2. HLP report, which contains an illustrative proposal for a dedicated sustainable development goal on "achieve universal access to water and sanitation", including targets to: achieve universal access to safe drinking water; ensure universal access to sanitation; increase water efficiency in agriculture, industry and urban areas; and recycle or treat all municipal and industrial wastewater prior to discharge.

3. Global Thematic Consultation on Water in post-2015 (2013), which concluded that water security will be of growing importance and needs to be addressed adequately in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

4. UNSDSN report, which contains a proposed goal on "Secure Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity, and Ensure Good Management of Water and Other Natural Resources".

Water is a resource at the core of sustainable development and peace. There is a need to go beyond the water-related MDG target towards a comprehensive stand-alone sustainable development goal on water, aiming at ensuring water security for all.[8] Towards this end, UNESCO considers that it is essential to ensure universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation, to put in practice approaches based on integrated water resources management principles, reduce water pollution by improving water quality and wastewater management, adopt a water demand management approach and reduce the risks from floods and droughts. UNESCO supports the recommendations by UN-Water for a global goal on water "Securing sustainable water for all", which is largely in line with UNESCO's proposal.[9]

Possible goals:	Possible targets:		Linked Focus area:
1. Ensure Water Security for Sustainable Development'	1.1.	Achieve, by 2030, universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation for all.	6. Water and sanitation (also links to: 2. Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition; 5. Gender equality in women's empowerment; 10. Infrastructure, 13. Sustainable cities and human settlements; 15. Climate)
	1.2.	Increase, by 2030, the number of countries that have put in place programmes for cities and rural catchments for the public registration of water rights based on the IWRM approach by 50%.	
	1.3.	Reduce, by 2030, water pollution from main sources at the country level by 50%, by increasing municipal wastewater collection and treatment in cities to 80% and increasing industrial wastewater treatment to 95%.	
	1.4.	Reduce, by 2030, through adopting the water demand management approach, increasing agricultural water productivity (less water demanding crops and irrigation), promoting water saving technologies and increasing wastewater reuse, the water use: • in agricultural irrigation by 20%; • for industrial use by 20%; • for domestic municipal use by 15 %.	
	1.5.	Reduce, by 2030, the loss of human life and property from floods and droughts by 50%.	

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[8] This proposed goal and its associated targets would be in line with the main focus and thematic priorities of the Strategic Plan of the 8th phase of the International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO for 2014-20121 (IHP-VII).

[9] http://www.unwater.org/topics/water-in-the-post-2015-development-agenda/en/

3.   *Ocean*

Key references:

1.   Focus areas document of the OWG: Focus area 16 on Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources; oceans and seas.

2.   The UNSG's report "A life of dignity for all" identifies ocean acidification as a challenge.

3.   The HLP report which contains an illustrative target on Adopt sustainable agricultural, ocean and freshwater fishery practices and rebuild designated fish stocks to sustainable levels.

4.   The UNSDSN report which identifies ocean acidification as a danger threatening food security, and recommends to strengthen and harmonize national and regional maritime policies; to strengthen cooperation in ocean observation and marine spatial planning, and to improve our scientific understanding of how these systems react to different impacts and policies.

5.   United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability (2012) recommendation on the establishment of regional oceans and coastal management frameworks in major marine ecosystems

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The **ocean**-related target of the MDG on environmental sustainability, which focused on reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010, has not been met. To address ocean-related challenges, UNESCO is of the opinion that the post-2015 development agenda needs to aim at restoring ocean ecosystems, building resilient coastal communities and facilitating enhanced scientific cooperation and knowledge-sharing for sustainable ocean management. UNESCO-IOC is actively involved in inter-agency discussions on an ocean goal.

Possible goals:	Possible targets:		Linked Focus area:
1. Reducing ocean stressors and restoring structure and functions of ecosystems	1.1	By 2030, 75% of coastal nations have developed Ocean acidification monitoring programmes, risk assessments and OA adaptation strategies.	16. Conservation and sustainable use of marine resources; oceans and seas
	1.2	By 2030, 20 % of global ocean surface areas under protection.	
2. Build resilient coastal communities by reducing vulnerability to ocean-related risks.	2.1	By 2030, Early warning systems for tsunamis/extreme events established for all vulnerable regions	
	2.2	By 2030, 60% of coastal nations have developed coastal adaptation plans to address climate change related impacts	
3. Provide access to marine information and data and increase global capacity for the assessment of oceans and for the management of ocean related activities.	3.1	By 2030, national strategies and plans for ocean sciences and research developed in 75% of coastal nations.	
	3.2	By 2030, 50% of world's EEZ under Marine Spatial Planning or ecosystem based management framework.	
	3.3	By 2030, 80% of the Global Ocean Observing System Essential Ocean Variables being monitored.	
	3.4	By 2030, increase by 10 % of national research funds dedicated to marine activities.	
	3.5	By 2030, 80% of all coastal member states publish marine biodiversity observation data through the Ocean Biogeographic Information System.	
	3.6	By 2030, 90% of coastal and 50% of deep sea and open ocean is sampled adequately and information available for decision making through the Ocean Biogeographic Information System.	
	3.7	By 2030, at least 120 national ocean data centres sharing marine data and information.	

4.   *Biodiversity*

> **Key references:**
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> *1.   Focus areas document of the OWG: Focus area 17 on ecosystems and biodiversity.*
>
> *2.   The UNSG's report "A life of dignity for all" which identifies biodiversity loss as a challenge.*
>
> *3.   The HLP Report which contains an illustrative target on "Safeguard ecosystems, species and genetic diversity"*
>
> *4.   The UNSDSN report which contains a proposed goal on "Secure Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity, and Ensure Good Management of Water and Other Natural Resources".*

As freshwater and the ocean, **biodiversity** is crucial to human life. UNESCO's experience in using Biosphere reserves and natural World Heritage as living laboratories for natural ecosystems and biodiversity through science, education and participatory approaches, while at the same time promoting innovative economic development that is environmentally sustainable and socially and culturally appropriate, can be factored into target measures when shaping future sustainable development pathways.

Possible goals:	Possible targets:		Linked Focus area:
1. Healthy Functioning Ecosystems Delivering Benefits for All'	1.1	Promote biosphere reserves as sites for adaptation and mitigation measures.	15. Climate
	1.2	Reduce the rate of loss and degradation of natural habitats.	17. Ecosystem and biodiversity
	1.3	Improve the conservation status of known threatened species.	
	1.4	Protect benefits from ecosystems and restore degraded ecosystems.	
	1.5	Promote alternative sustainable livelihoods for local communities affected by biodiversity and ecosystem degradation.	
	1.6	Support biodiversity and ecosystem services through biosphere reserves and traditional knowledge and practices.[10]	

V.   *Social and Human Sciences*

> **Key references:**
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> *1.   Focus areas document of the OWG: Focus area 1 on poverty eradication includes "eradicating absolute poverty", "pursuing sustained and inclusive economic growth", "addressing inequalities at both national and international levels", "providing social protection and social protection floors as relevant to reduce vulnerabilities of the poor, including children, youth, the unemployed, migrants, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and older persons"; Focus area 11 on employment and decent work for all includes "eliminating gender-based and other forms of labour market discrimination including against persons with disabilities and older persons", "facilitating the participation of women in the labour force", "social security and protection including for those retired from the labour force, persons with disabilities, the unemployed, children and youth, and older persons; and "addressing youth unemployment through policies and strategies aimed at providing young people with access to decent and productive work"; Focus area 12 on equality includes the area "empowering and inclusion of marginalized groups, including indigenous*

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[10]   This target links with Culture.

> *peoples, minorities, migrants, refugees, persons with disabilities, older persons, children and youth";*
> *Focus area 13 on Sustainable cities and human settlements includes "strengthening positive economic and social links between cities and peri-urban and rural areas"; Focus area 19 on peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions.*
>
> 2. *The UNSG's report "A life of dignity for all" which identifies as one of several transformative and mutually reinforcing actions applying to all countries: "Build peace and effective governance based on the rule of law and sound institutions".*
>
> 3. *The HLP Report which proposes as an illustrative goal "Ensure stable and peaceful societies". The report also calls for bringing about more social inclusion.*
>
> 4. *The UNSDSN report which contains the following proposed goal: "Achieve Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, and Human Rights for All".*

The post-2015 development agenda is being set at a time when many countries are undergoing profound social transformations which bring about the need and the urgent demand for social cohesion and intercultural dialogue. All societies are grappling with issues ranging from the fight against extreme poverty to increasing calls for social justice and cohesion. UNESCO is advocating for inclusive social development within a human-rights based approach. It promotes participatory approaches to decision-making and a stronger recognition of the role of youth as agents of transformative change. The Organization also aims at ensuring stronger linkages between social science research and public policies and practice in the broader development agenda frameworks. UNESCO advocates for promoting a culture of peace and intercultural dialogue as vectors of sustainable development and the well-being of citizens through the goals of the post-2015 development agenda. As detailed in section VIII below, UNESCO furthermore supports UN Women advocacy for a stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment.

Possible targets:	Linked Focus area:
1. Achieve "security from poverty" for all by 2030 2. By 2030, ensure universal enjoyment of social protection floors as a fundamental element of national social security systems	1. Poverty eradication
3. Increase by x% the proportion of countries having a comprehensive and rights-based policy framework for the inclusion of marginalized groups.	12. Promote equality
4. Increase by x% the proportion of local governments with a comprehensive and rights-based policy framework facilitating the inclusion of marginalized groups in urban settings; 5. By 2030, all countries have implemented people-centred and socially equitable approaches to production and consumption patterns which are conducive to low-carbon societies.	13. Sustainable cities and human settlements (also 12. Promote equality; 14. Promote Sustainable Consumption and Production)
6. Build a culture of peace at all levels by promoting democratic governance, global citizenship, cultural diversity, pluralism and social justice.[11] 7. Promote the practices of mutual respect and understanding, tolerance, reinforced through intercultural dialogue and a commitment to non-violence and reconciliation for the rapprochement of cultures and everyday peace.[12] 8. Promote inclusive social development with respect to human rights, tolerance, justice, gender equality and equity.	19. Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions (also links to 12. Promote equality)

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[11] This target links with all sectors.

VI. *Culture*

Key references:

1. Focus areas document of the OWG. Culture is mentioned in 7 out of the 19 focus areas and notably in the following: Focus area 4 on education includes the area "integrating sustainable development in education curricula, including awareness raising on how culture advances sustainable development"; Focus area 12 on promoting equality "includes the area working towards inclusive societies that respect and promote cultural diversity"; Focus area 13 on sustainable cities and human settlements includes the area "protecting and safeguarding the world's cultural and natural heritage, including ancient archaeological sites, intangible and underwater heritage, museum collections, oral traditions and other forms of heritage": Focus area 17 on ecosystems and biodiversity includes the areas "ensuring inclusion of indigenous and local communities in decision making and in sharing of benefits derived from conservation and sustainable use of forests and other cultural and natural assets"; and "promoting and protecting traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples".

2. UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/68/223, December 2013: Encourages all Member States, intergovernmental bodies, organizations of the United Nations system, relevant non-governmental organizations and all other relevant stakeholders to give due consideration to culture and sustainable development in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda (paragraph 18);

3. ECOSOC 2013 Ministerial Declaration Recommendation that the potential of culture should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda (para graph 2). Recognizes that culture is an essential component of sustainable development; represents a source of identity, innovation and creativity for the individual and community; and is an important factor in building social inclusion and eradicating poverty, providing for economic growth and ownership of development processes. Commitment to pursuing a more visible and effective integration and mainstreaming of culture into social, environmental and economic development policies and strategies at all levels (paragraph 5).

4. During the first round of the UNDG post-2015 consultations, the national consultations pointed to culture as an integral part of development and social cohesion.

Culture is an enabler and a driver for sustainable development which was not reflected in the MDGs. Culture precisely enables sustainability – as a source of identity, social cohesion, helping people making sense of the future. Development policies responsive to cultural contexts yield stronger and more sustainable development outcomes. The cultural sector is also a driver of sustainable development which generates income, create decent jobs and improve livelihoods. In December 2013, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on culture and development, which marks a turning point as it acknowledges in details the direct linkages between culture and the three pillars of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental pillars). It also acknowledges the contribution of culture to peace, inclusion and reconciliation. Building on such recognition of the role of culture for sustainable development, and in line with the decision and resolution of the Governing Bodies in the fall 2013, UNESCO advocates for integrating culture explicitly into the post-2015 development agenda, notably in the framework of strategic future SDGs.

Possible targets:	Linked Focus area:
1. Leverage partnerships with cultural agents for poverty reduction and inclusive economic development.	1. Poverty eradication (also links to 13. Sustainable cities and human settlements)
2. Support the development of cultural and creative industries in the fields of sustainable tourism, cultural heritage preservation and sustainable urban planning.	

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12   This target links with all sectors.

3.	Harness culture as a driver for sustainable urban development and management by: • protecting and safeguarding the urban and rural historic environment; • promoting local policies for cultural diversity and social inclusion.[13]	13.	Sustainable cities and human settlements
4.	Include in national frameworks and action plans a "Cultural Impact Assessment" mechanism for urbanization processes in order to improve the cultural quality of public spaces (through public art, distinctive architecture, design, and landscapes).		
5.	Draw on traditional community-based practices to strengthen resilience to disasters and combat climate change.	15.	Climate
6.	Integrate in sustainable environment policies and risk mitigation culture, notably traditional knowledge and practices.[14]	17.	Ecosystems and biodiversity
7.	Integrate culture in development policies and programmes guided by international normative instruments.	19.	Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions
8.	Mobilize culture to foster peace and reconciliation.		

VII. *Communication and Information*

> ### *Key references:*
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> *1. Focus areas document of the OWG: Focus area 10 on infrastructure includes "provision of infrastructure for access to modern energy services, as well as provision of reliable and sustainable transport and communications, including road and rail links, ports and ICT connectivity"; Focus area 19 on peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions includes the area "freedom of media, association and speech."*
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> *2. The UNSG's report "A life of dignity for all" identifies as one of several transformative and mutually reinforcing actions to be applied to all countries: "Build peace and effective governance based on the rule of law and sound institutions."*
>
> *3. The HLP report, which contains as illustrative targets: "Strengthen productive capacity by providing universal access to financial services and infrastructure such as transportation and ICT"; and "ensure people enjoy freedom of speech, association, peaceful protest and access to independent media and information".*
>
> *4. The Global Thematic Consultation on Governance (2013) highlighted importance of ICTs and the promotion of a vibrant, diverse and independent media for governance.*

The post-2015 development agenda should ideally recognize the vital role that freedom of expression and communication and information plays in promoting sustainable development. For UNESCO, freedom of expression and its corollary of press freedom and freedom of information are both fundamental rights as well as enablers of goals relevant to the post-2015 development agenda, including for example in the areas of good governance and the fight against impunity as aspects of peaceful societies characterized by human rights and the rule of law. Access to ICTs and its pivotal role in the development agenda should be clearly articulated.

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[13] This target links with Social and Human Sciences.
[14] This target links with Natural Sciences.

Possible targets:	Linked Focus area:
1. Ensure inclusive internet connectivity and use for all by 2030.	10. Infrastructure
2. Promote freedom of expression and independent and pluralistic media as well as universal and inclusive access to and preservation of information and knowledge, both offline and online.	19. Peaceful and non-violent societies, rule of law and capable institutions

VIII. *Gender equality*

Key references:

1. *Focus area document of the OWG: Focus area on gender equality and women's empowerment includes an area "ensuring equal access to education at all levels".*

2. *The UNSG's report "A life of dignity for all" identifies as one of several transformative and mutually reinforcing actions to be applied to all countries: "Empower women and girls".*

3. *The HLP report which contains an illustrative goal: Empower Girls and Women and achieve Gender equality.*

4. *The UNSDSN report which contains the following proposed goal: "Achieve Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, and Human Rights for All."*

The MDGs have set a high standard by dedicating a stand-alone goal to gender equality, but further and renewed efforts will be needed in all development policy areas. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without unlocking the full potential of girls and women and without protecting their human rights. UNESCO believes that gender equality is an objective in and of itself but it is also a powerful strategy to achieve all internationally agreed development goals. The next development agenda should therefore feature a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's empowerment and at the same time also acknowledge the cross-cutting dimension of gender equality so as to ensure that women have equal access to resources and opportunities.

UNESCO contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment discussions for post-2015 through several inter-agency mechanisms such as the Inter-agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and through bilateral discussions between the senior managements and heads of UN Women and UNESCO. In consultation with other United Nations agencies and other stakeholders, UN Women prepared a document as the basis for consultations entitled "A transformative stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment: Imperatives and key components". This document includes specific objectives, targets and benchmarks, including on education.[15] UN Women is advocating for a stand-alone goal on achieving gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment.[16]

A consensus among Member States seems to be emerging, regarding: (a) the need for a new post-2015 agenda which is transformative, universal and rights-based, with equality, including gender equality at the heart of the new agenda; (b) the need for stronger institutions, governance, and accountability to deliver real change for women and girls; (c) the recognition that, in order to address the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, gender equality should be integrated across all new goals and targets, including in the broader development context for the realization of gender equality, such as the impact of economic crises, persistent conflict, climate change, and environmental degradation.

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[15] http://www.unwomen.org/lo/digital-library/publications/2013/7/post-2015-long-paper#sthash.H8bQWh6n.dpufhttp://www.unwomen.org/~/media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2013/10/UNWomen_post2015_positionpaper_English_final_web%20pdf.pdf

[16] http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/~/media/F4AA23E30D8248B09A3E61283807A677.ashx

While the stand-alone on gender equality continues to be critical, the mainstreaming of gender into all other goals is as important to clarify the definition of the respective targets and indicators. It needs to be highlighted that despite the increasing consensus in relation to a stand-alone goal on gender equality and the need for mainstreaming gender equality across all goals, the quality, content and scope of both entails a complex process of negotiations that will culminate in a decision by Member States. United Nations entities shall follow up closely the negotiations and support Member States throughout the process.

ANNEX

General Timeline and Events Post-2015 Process[17]

Six post-2015 consultations at national level: • Localizing the post-2015 development agenda • Helping to strengthen capacities and institutions • Participatory monitoring, existing and new forms of accountability • Partnerships with civil society and other actors • Partnerships with the private sector • Culture and development (co-led by UNESCO and UNFPA)	March – October 2014
9th Meeting of the Open Working Group on SDGs (OWG) to discuss Focus area document	3-5 March 2014
United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting "Contributions of women, the young and civil society to the post-2015 development agenda"	6-7 March 2014
United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate "The role of partnerships"	9-10 April 2014
10th Meeting of the OWG	31 March-4 April 2014
Collaboration on sustainable development: inaugural meeting of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, Bangkok	April 2014
Regional consultation on post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction, Almaty	April 2014
Arab High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development, Amman	2-4 April 2014
47th session of the Commission on Population and Development	7-11 April 2014
First High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation: Building towards an Inclusive Post-2015 Development Agenda, Mexico City	15-16 April 2014
United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate "Ensuring stable and peaceful societies"	24-25 April 2014
United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate on Culture and post-2015	5 May 2014
11th Meeting of the OWG	5-9 May 2014
Fourth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing	12-16 May 2014
13th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII 13)	12-23 May 2014
Inter-agency meeting on WSIS+10, Geneva	19-23 May 2014
United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting "Contributions of South-South, triangular cooperation, and ICT for development to the post-2015 development agenda"	20-21 May 2014
ECOSOC Integration Segment – Achieving sustainable development: Integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions	27-29 May
The Bali Global Forum: Power of Peace –The Role of Media in the Future We Want for All, Bali, Indonesia	June 2014
Workshop on Challenges of Data on Development Indicators in Post-2015 Scenario Emerging Areas, Africa	June 2014 TBC
12th Meeting of the OWG	16-20 June 2014
United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting "Human rights and the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda"	17-18 June 2014
Second Meeting of the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) "Achieving the MDGs and charting the way for an ambitious transformative post-2015 development agenda"	30 June-3 July and 7-9 July 2014 (Ministerial Meeting)
13th Meeting of the OWG	14-18 July 2014

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[17] All events at New York if not otherwise indicated.

Fifth session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing	4-8 August 2014
Final report of the OWG to UNGA	September 2014
Launch of the SG's MDG report	September 2014
International Conference on SIDS, Samoa	1-4 September
Special Session to Follow-Up Programme of Action from the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD)	22 September 2014
2014 Climate Summit	23 September 2014
United Nations Secretary-General's synthesis report on post-2015	End of 2014
Beginning of intergovernmental negotiations	End of 2014
Summit at Heads of State and Governments level for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda	September 2015