



Preparing for Action: Post-2015 National Briefings

Explanatory Note

Background

As the United Nations prepares to celebrate its 70th anniversary, Member States are negotiating an agreement on a new global sustainable development agenda to be adopted in September 2015. This milestone agreement that will provide a vision and a global framework for national strategies and policies in both developing and developed countries is expected to lead the transformation in the post-2015 world. It has already prompted a high level of interest among national authorities and civil society stakeholders. As the outcomes of the negotiations become clearer, governments start preparing for the “localization” of the agenda at the country level and its integration with national development planning.

Building on the intermediary outcomes of the Post-2015 negotiations, and the knowledge base developed during the Post-2015 delegates’ briefings, including contributions from 22 UN entities, UNITAR develops, in collaboration with the UN System Staff College and with guidance from the UN Development Group, a national briefing package to respond to Member States’ requests. This package is part of the broader UNDG Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) strategy, and – more specifically – its mainstreaming component that includes increased awareness of the new agenda as its first objective.

The briefing package will be shared with Member States in June 2015 through the UN Resident Coordinator System, Permanent Missions in New York for countries with no UN Country Team (UNCT) presence, and through online platforms.

What is a national briefing package?

The national briefing package is a self-explanatory integrated toolkit designed to support national facilitators in planning and delivering briefings at the country level. The package will include:

- Detailed program, organized in six modules;
- Discussion questions prepared with guidance from the UNDG Sustainable Development Working Group;
- Facilitators’ guide;
- Kit with presentations, quizzes, videos, participants’ manual and methodologies for discussion groups.

Who will deliver the briefings?

UNITAR and UNSSC have produced a final briefing package and will make it available to Member States through the channels described above. They are also ready to provide advice and guidance to national facilitators as required.

The briefings are to be driven by Member States. Each Government will decide on the need to hold such briefings in their country, using the proposed methodology, tools or part thereof. The selection, format, and the final content of the briefing will be decided by the Government.

In countries with UNCT presence, UNCTs will be a natural partner for providing support to Governments in terms of the planning and implementation of such briefings.

Government experts – and, if deemed necessary by Government, UNCT members and other experts – could act as the briefing facilitator(s). In countries without UNCT presence, Governments may seek UN support and choose the briefing facilitator(s) from Government and, if needed, from among national or international experts.

Target audience

The package is designed to provide essential information and promote engagement among key national “change agents” under the leadership of their respective Governments. Such “change agents” include government officers, including from sectoral Ministries, parliamentarians, local authorities, media representatives, NGOs, business and industry, trade unions, community leaders, academia and universities, philanthropists, youth organizations, country-based international partners, etc.

Objectives

The proposed briefings will aim to:

- Raise awareness among key national stakeholders on the content and implications of the emerging content of the Post-2015 agenda;
- Engage key stakeholders in the process of reflection on the key steps needed to start the integration of the agenda with the national development strategies and plans.

Briefings format

The briefing package is designed as a set of modules and can be delivered in one of the following formats:

- 2-day workshop (a total of 16 hours);
- 5 briefings (2–3 hours in length) spread over several days or weeks.

The briefing is intended for 30 to 100 participants. If the number of participants is high, Governments may decide to re-run the briefings.

Languages

The package will be made available in English, French and Spanish in June 2015. Interested Governments could then decide to translate it into national languages as appropriate.

10 easy steps to plan a national briefing

Below are 10 easy steps to help plan and conduct a national briefing. These steps are just one possible model of collaboration and are proposed at the request of Governments to help facilitate the briefing planning. However, each Government will decide on its preferred format.

1. Government decides to hold a national briefing;
2. Government and UNCT designate their focal points;
3. UNCT contacts UNITAR and UNSSC if guidance is needed;
4. The Government, with support from UNCT:
 - draws a participants' list,
 - selects the briefings format, venue and dates, sends invitations; and
 - selects one or several facilitators.
5. Government, with support from UNCT, estimates briefing delivery costs, identifies funding;
6. UNCT provides support to the Government on logistics, and conducting online needs assessment and SDGs' perception survey with the tools provided as required;
7. Facilitators consult the respective sections of the facilitator's guide, select relevant elements and tools from the briefing package, and integrate national content (national presentations, summaries of MDGs report, current national plan(s), data, etc.);
8. UNCT supports facilitators and contacts UNITAR and UNSSC if guidance is needed;
9. Government/UNCT prints out manuals and hand-outs, and organizes remaining logistics;
10. Facilitators deliver briefings, and conduct evaluations.

Contact

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