



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

*“We must step up to the challenge of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and seize the opportunity to build better prospects for people and our planet”*

- Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator

## December 2015 | Director’s Corner



2015 has been a pivotal year for the world of development and for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). A series of conferences including the World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction and Financing for Development Conference built momentum for the Sustainable Development Summit, and on September 25<sup>th</sup>, the world welcomed the new 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

As a new director of the UNDP Washington Representation Office, I have been thrilled to witness the global commitments to help make a better future for us all. However, at the same time, the world has endured pressing development challenges in 2015 including the Syrian Crisis and the

Nepal earthquake.

In the coming year, as UNDP celebrates our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we will continue to expand our partnership with governments, non-governmental organizations, and businesses to support crisis recovery, poverty reduction, democratic governance, and women’s empowerment by implementing programs in 144 countries. Our work is still undone, and our endeavor will continue in 2016.

As in the past, we approach this next year with gratitude to our donors who enable us to provide hope to those who need it most.

The U.S. turned **blue** to celebrate UN Day on October 24<sup>th</sup>!



UN Headquarters, New York



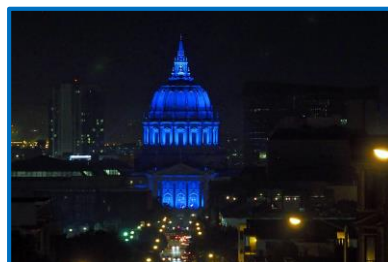
Kennedy Center, Washington DC



US Institute of Peace, Washington DC



Empire State Building, New York

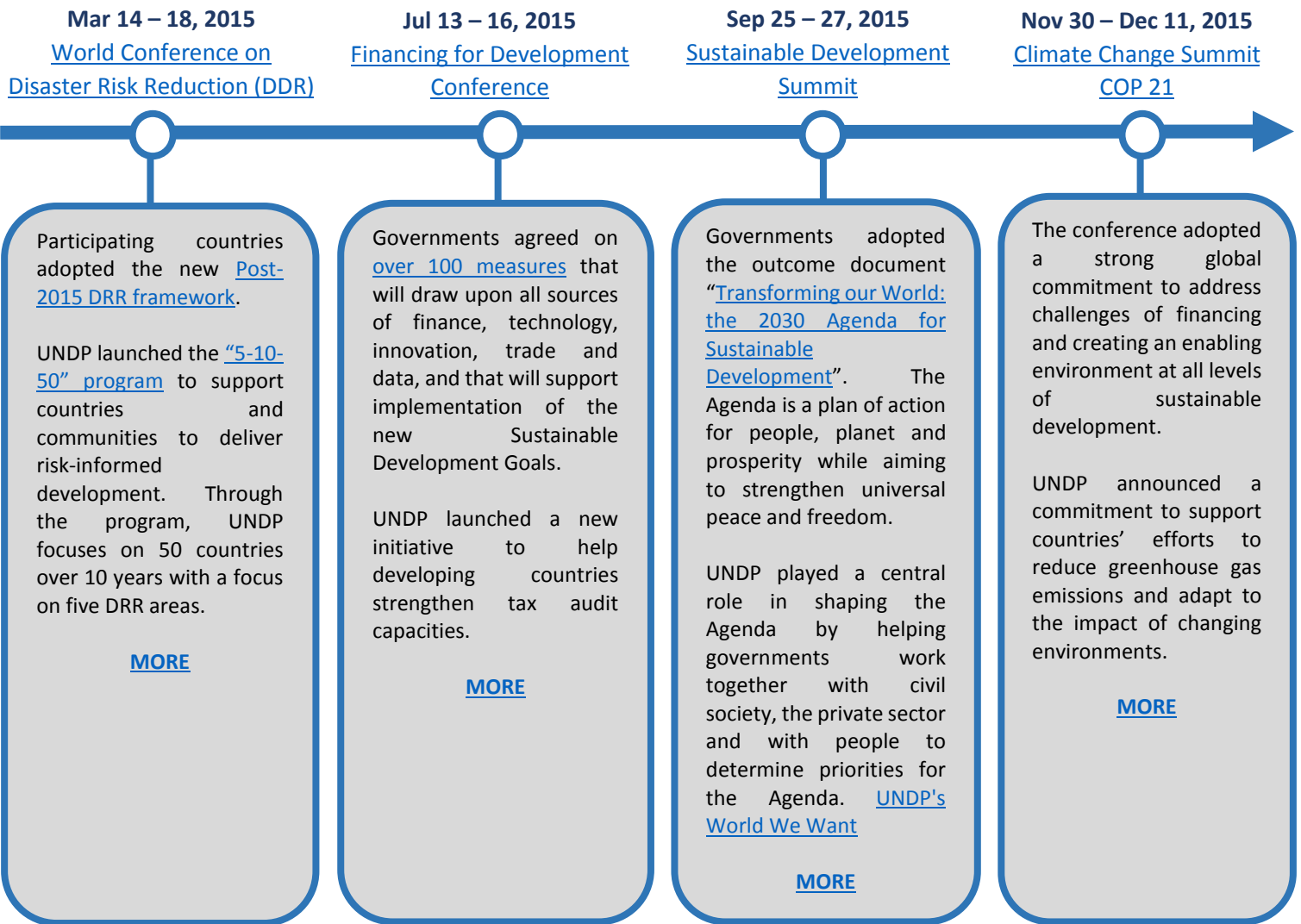


City Hall, San Francisco



FDR Presidential Library, New York

# Recap of the Year of Development



## Global Goals: The Post-2015 Development Agenda



Fifteen years after the Millennium Summit and the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the world marked a new chapter in history. At the Sustainable Development Summit held on September 25<sup>th</sup>, the leaders of more than 150 countries adopted the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – the post-MDG development agenda that will be a roadmap to create a better world.

Building upon the momentum the MDGs created, the SDGs integrate economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development, and aim to ensure that no one is left behind.

The 17 goals and 169 targets strive toward the elimination of extreme poverty and hunger, ensuring quality education and better health for all, and generating good jobs and economic growth. The new goals also focus on

promoting peace, security and strong institutions, and to strengthen international partnerships.

UNDP is a key player in the sustainable development agenda, and will continue to play a leading role in cooperation between UN development organizations, civil society, governments, and other stakeholders, to work toward sustainable development.

For outcomes of other key 2015 development conferences, please see the graphic below.

## UNDP around Town



### Event | Global Goals in Asia-Pacific: Leave No One Behind

Mr. [Haoliang Xu](#) – UN Assistant Secretary-General, and UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific – spoke at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their significance in Asia and the Pacific.

Xu noted that although the region witnessed major achievements in development in the past fifteen years, critical development issues still remain. He emphasized that economic growth and development must be inclusive, sustainable, and resilient to catalyze economic development and eliminate poverty and inequality.

He also indicated that UNDP will continue to assist national and local governments in the region with policy making, resource mobilization, and coordination to support achievement of as many of the sustainable development goals as possible in the next fifteen years.

[READ MORE: UNDP's Haoliang Xu at Johns Hopkins SAIS | Global Goals in Asia-Pacific: Leave No One Behind | UNDP in Asia and the Pacific](#)

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## UNDP Partnerships and Initiatives

### US-based Businesses



More than 14 U.S.-based companies have joined UNDP's [Business Call to Action](#) (BCtA), a global alliance promoting development and business sustainability. In collaboration with donors, including USAID, a total of 110 companies have made a commitment to adopt inclusive and sustainable business ventures that catalyze sustainable development.

[READ MORE: UNDP Business Call to Action | Dimagi joins UNDP's BCtA to Promote Access to Healthcare | Sambazon trains Amazonians in Sustainable Forest Management | Envirofit International Provides Clean, Affordable Cook Stoves | Lotus Foods: Offering Sustainable Agriculture and Healthy Rice Choices](#)



UNDP partnered with Microsoft to provide disaster-relief technology for Nepal. The Microsoft Innovation Center in Nepal developed a telephone app allowing demolition crews from UNDP to obtain precise information about buildings to be demolished to ensure citizen safety. The app provides information about property owners, phone numbers, and helps secure the signed authorizations that provide UNDP the right to demolish the building.

[READ MORE: UNDP and Microsoft Revolutionizing Disaster Response | UNDP in Nepal | YouTube Video: UNDP and Microsoft Aid Disaster Recovery in Nepal](#)



UNDP collaborates with the Coca-Cola Company to launch the "Every Drop Matters" project to improve water supplies and promote responsible ways to manage water resources around the world. The project aims to educate local communities on how to access water resources in a sustainable way, thereby increasing access to safe water and clean sanitation facilities.

[READ MORE: US and UNDP | Working toward Access to Water and Sanitation for All | Every Drop Matters | UNDP Washington Water Issue Paper](#)



## Civil Society Organizations



[InterAction](#) is the largest alliance of international non-governmental organizations in the United States. UNDP provides funding to – and collaborates with – various InterAction member organizations that work on development projects. These projects range from strengthening women’s political participation in India to supporting victims of gender-based violence in Central African Republic.

**READ MORE:** [InterAction | UNDP Funding Programs through Largest Alliance of U.S. NGOs](#)



The American Bar Association (ABA) and UNDP established the International Legal Resource Center (ILRC) in 1999 to advocate for democratic governance and the rule of law globally. For sixteen years, the project has supported UNDP’s work in developing countries on issues such as democratic governance, constitutional reform, and judicial training.

**READ MORE:** [Highlighting UNDP's Partnership with the American Bar Association](#) | [UNDP Washington Rule of Law Issue Paper](#) | [UNDP Washington Election Assistance Issue Paper](#) | [UNDP Washington Anti-Corruption Issue Paper](#)

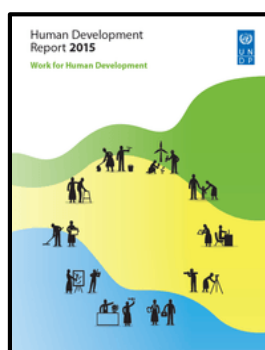


[WildlifeDirect](#), a Washington DC-based non-governmental organization working on wildlife conservation in Kenya, partnered with UNDP to educate local Kenyan women on wildlife conservation practices. The project also promotes alternative livelihood of eco- and cultural tourism.

**READ MORE:** [UNDP and DC-Based NGO Work to Empower Women to Conserve Elephants](#) | [UNDP Tackling Wildlife Crime](#) | [UNDP Washington Anti-Poaching Issue Paper](#)

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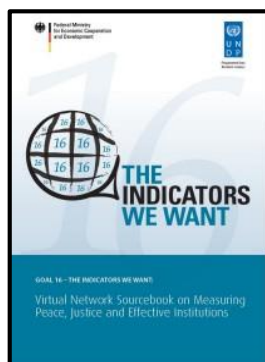
## UNDP’s Recent Reports



### Human Development Report 2015: Work for Human Development

The *2015 Human Development Report ‘Work for Human Development’* examines the links, both positive and negative, between work and human development in a rapidly changing world. Globalization, technological revolution, demographic transitions and many other factors are creating new opportunities, but also posing risks. The report examines how the benefits of this new world of work are not equally distributed, generating winners and losers.

**READ MORE:** [Human Development Report](#) | [HDR Press Release](#) | [Human Development Report Office](#)



### SDG Goal 16: The Indicators We Want | Virtual Network Sourcebook on Measuring Peace, Justice and Effective Institutions

This report is the outcome of a discussion among experts actively engaged in the design of the global monitoring framework for SDG Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. The Virtual Network for the Development of Indicators for Goal 16 brought together governance experts, development practitioners, statisticians, UN agencies and civil society organizations to advise on the best possible set of indicators for measuring governance, justice, peace and security in the Post-2015 development framework.

**READ MORE:** [Report](#)



## UNDP Washington: Country and Issue Papers

UNDP WRO regularly publishes papers highlighting UNDP's work around the world. The WRO has recently completed and updated six country papers ([Afghanistan](#), [Bosnia and Herzegovina](#), [Libya](#), [Pakistan](#), [South Sudan](#) and [Somalia](#)), and four issue papers ([Education](#), [Election Assistance](#), [Energy](#), and [Rule of Law](#)).

**READ MORE:** [See all UNDP WRO Country and Issue Papers](#)

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## Notable Remarks by UNDP Administrator Helen Clark

- Dec 14, 2015 | [Speech: Human Development Report Launch | Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](#)
- Dec 1, 2015 | [Statement: Worlds AIDS Day](#)
- Nov 25, 2015 | [Statement: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#)
- Nov 24, 2015 | [Youth as Partners for Change in the Implementation of Agenda 2030](#)
- Nov 19, 2015 | [Ways to Advance a Comprehensive Response to the Global Humanitarian and Refugee Crisis](#)
- Nov 02, 2015 | [Regional Conference on Social Development in Latin America and the Caribbean](#)
- Oct 17, 2015 | [Statement on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty](#)
- Sep 25, 2015 | [#GlobalGoals Adopted by All UN Member States](#)
- Sep 15, 2015 | [Statement for International Day of Democracy](#)