

Informal meeting on the 2015 Summit modalities

Contents

1. General outline:	1
2. Key messages from Member States:	2
a. <i>P2015 Summit as ‘the only show on Earth’</i>	2
b. <i>Creating an inclusive Summit</i>	2
c. <i>Timing and format</i>	2
3. Way forward:	2

On 22 May 2014, the General Assembly convened the second informal consultation on the modalities of the September 2015 High-level Summit on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

1. General outline:

Opening the meeting, the two facilitators, Ambassador Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark, and Ambassador Robert Aisi, Permanent Representative of Papua New Guinea, reiterated some of the messages delivered by Member States during the first consultation, namely that:

- There was general agreement that the Summit should take place back-to-back with the High Level week of the 70th session of the General Assembly, in order to facilitate participation at the level of Heads of State and Government.
- It was emphasized that sufficient time should be given to allow Heads of State and Government to speak. This would likely mean holding a Summit with a duration of three days.

With those broad guidelines in mind, the co-facilitators put forward three suggestions on timing:

1. Saturday 19 September - Monday 21 September;
2. Sunday 20 September - Tuesday 22 September (moving the General Debate by one day); or
3. Monday 21 September - Wednesday 23 September (moving the General Debate two days).

The co-facilitators made a number of other points to inform discussions, including:

- The P2015 agenda has led to unprecedented mobilization of civil society. On 8 May, the two co-facilitators met with Major Groups and Civil Society, during which three broad issues emerged: 1) many of those groups expressed great interest in participating in the Summit; 2) it was noted that the Summit should be given significant visibility over the coming year, including by using new technologies and social media; and 3) it is important to include youth voices and to build momentum towards the Summit through regional and other events. They sought Member States’ views on these issues and on how other stakeholders could be involved, including through possible interactive hearings or regional events.
- Reflecting the evolving Post-2015 discussions, Member States could consider addressing a range of issues at the Summit, such as reaching agreement on the SDGs; identifying supportive financing and Means of Implementation; creating an inclusive accountability framework for P2015; establishing an effective human

development system, fit for purpose for P2015 era; and promoting the highest possible political engagement to ensure visibility of the new agenda.

2. Key messages from Member States:

a. *P2015 Summit as ‘the only show on Earth’*

- It was broadly recognized that the P2015 Summit will be a vitally significant event and a ‘watershed’ moment in the history of the UN, setting the development agenda for the next fifteen years. Given its importance, governments were keen to ensure that it would not be overshadowed by any other events, and that it should offer an opportunity to reflect on the MDG era, to demonstrate commitment to the new agenda and discuss the partnerships that will be needed to take it forward, and to consider how other processes, such as the discussions on system-wide UN coherence, can inform how the UN system can contribute to the new agenda.
- Some governments, including South Africa and India, suggested that the Summit could be linked to the 70th Anniversary of the UN, while Switzerland, Norway and Liechtenstein suggested that it should be linked to a session of the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), in order to integrate discussions on how to implement and monitor progress towards the SDGs.

b. *Creating an inclusive Summit*

- It was generally agreed that the Summit should include the participation of diverse stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, scientific community, the international financial institutions, UN and international organizations, regional commissions and other stakeholders. Some governments, such as Nigeria and Russia, noted that although diverse stakeholders should be included, the process – including that to draft the Summit’s outcome document – should remain government led.
- Noting the discussions on ensuring an inclusive and highly visible lead-up to the Summit, Mexico announced its desire to convene a regional preparatory meeting.

c. *Timing and format*

- Governments seemed largely happy to use the experience and lessons of previous events, including the 2000 Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and the 2010 High-level MDG event as a basis to determine the format of the Summit. In that respect, a number of delegations noted a preference for a format involving plenary and interactive roundtable sessions. A few others, notably the EU and Israel, suggested that although past modalities are useful, Member States should endeavor to make the 2015 Summit more innovative.
- Although some governments expressed a preference for one of the three options on timing, delegations were generally flexible on this issue and willing to hear the views of others.

3. Way forward:

- By way of next steps, the co-chairs will provide elements for a draft resolution for Member State consideration (it was emphasized that this would not be a zero draft, but elements for one).
- This draft document is expected to be ready by Wednesday 28 May.
- A third meeting will be convened on 3 June.
- It was noted that the co-facilitators would like to proceed in a fairly speedy manner, in order for the preparations for the Summit to begin promptly.