PRESS RELEASE

LOCALIZATION OF THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: NATIONAL CONSULTATION IN GHANA

Accra, Ghana: Monday, June 16, 2014

**Rationale for the consultation process**

As the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) draws to a close next year, a new global development agenda is in the offing. The United Nations has been supporting a series of global thematic and national level consultations to solicit inputs on priorities and feedback on means of implementation to help define the future global development framework that will succeed the MDGs. More specifically, to help countries make inputs into shaping the future global development agenda, open and inclusive national consultation processes were initiated in 2012.

Ghana was one of the countries selected to host a national consultation for the first round to solicit the priorities that should be the focus of the Post-2015 agenda. Through a series of regional and national consultations, stakeholders identified issues of inequalities, environmental sustainability, food security, strengthened governance at all levels, population dynamics, health, education and support system for persons living with disability as priorities for the successor development agenda.

A second round of national consultation is being organized to identify **how** the Post-2015 agenda will be implemented. The objective, in the case of Ghana and other countries selected to focus on localization, is to identify and propose critical elements that will allow a successful implementation of the new agenda at the local level. The results of these dialogues will inform various regional and international policy discussions, and reports to be presented to the UN member state driven process to deliberate and decide upon the Post-2015 development framework.

This second round of national consultations will take place at the community, district, regional and national levels. It will also secure inputs through a series of surveys and outreach on the experience of localizing the MDGs in Ghana and issues related to greening the economy in the context of the emerging focus on sustainable development goals.

**Where will the consultations be held?**

The national level discussion has been scheduled for Thursday June, 19, 2014 at the La Palm Royal Beach Hotel in Accra. Participants will include policy makers and planners, local governments, civil society, academia, local communities, development partners and the private sector. Following this, district and regional level consultations will also take place the following week.
Theme of the consultation

Localization of Post-2015 Development Agenda: Ghana has experience in the localization of the MDGs. This round of national consultation process will draw on this experience to stimulate inclusive dialogue on the means of achieving the Post-2015 development agenda. The process will also help to bring global and national goals to bear on local levels, in response to local needs and priorities.

The local consultations aims at reaching out to all segments of society and will rely on already established participatory and inclusive governance mechanism. This will ensure that all stakeholders feel empowered by the future framework so that it fully has the buy-in and ownership, as well as, most importantly, the agenda can be implemented and monitored by all.

Global progress on Post-2015 Development Agenda

Globally, the Post-2015 process and the discussions about the successor goals are going well. Governments have agreed that they will adopt a global political agenda that will promote sustainability in every country in the world.

There is an emerging consensus that poverty, education, health, energy, water and food will make it into the global development agenda. It is hoped that this universal agenda will tackle some of the challenging issues, including growing inequalities and management of natural resources.

There is bumpy way ahead though, particularly when the Member States discuss governance, peaceful societies and climate change. However, the governments have committed themselves to adopt the agenda at a global summit in September 2015 so that the vision, goals and targets can guide the MDGs successor goals at the end of 2015.

The consultation process has so far engaged almost two million people from 193 countries in shaping the debate on the Post-2015 agenda. A global discussion of how to improve implementation and measurement of goals and targets in the new development agenda is underway.

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