

# 10<sup>th</sup> Sapru House Lecture

by

**H.E. Ambassador John W. Ashe**

President of the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of  
the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

on

**‘Post-2015 Development Agenda and  
Sustainable Development Goals’**

at

Sapru House, New Delhi

21 March 2014

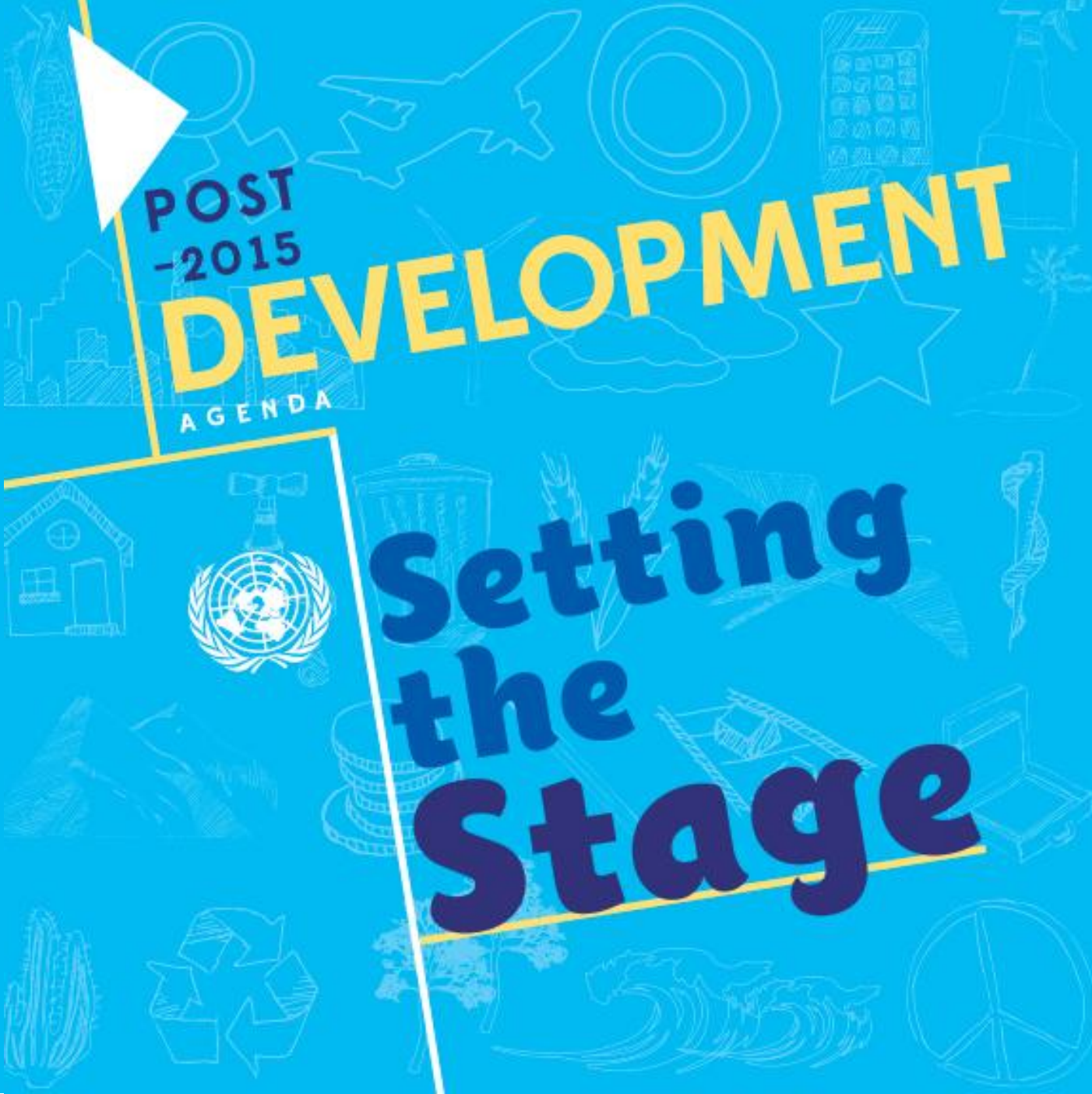


POST  
-2015

# DEVELOPMENT

AGENDA

# Setting the Stage



# In the year 2000...

*We will spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty [...]*

## **United Nations Millennium Declaration**

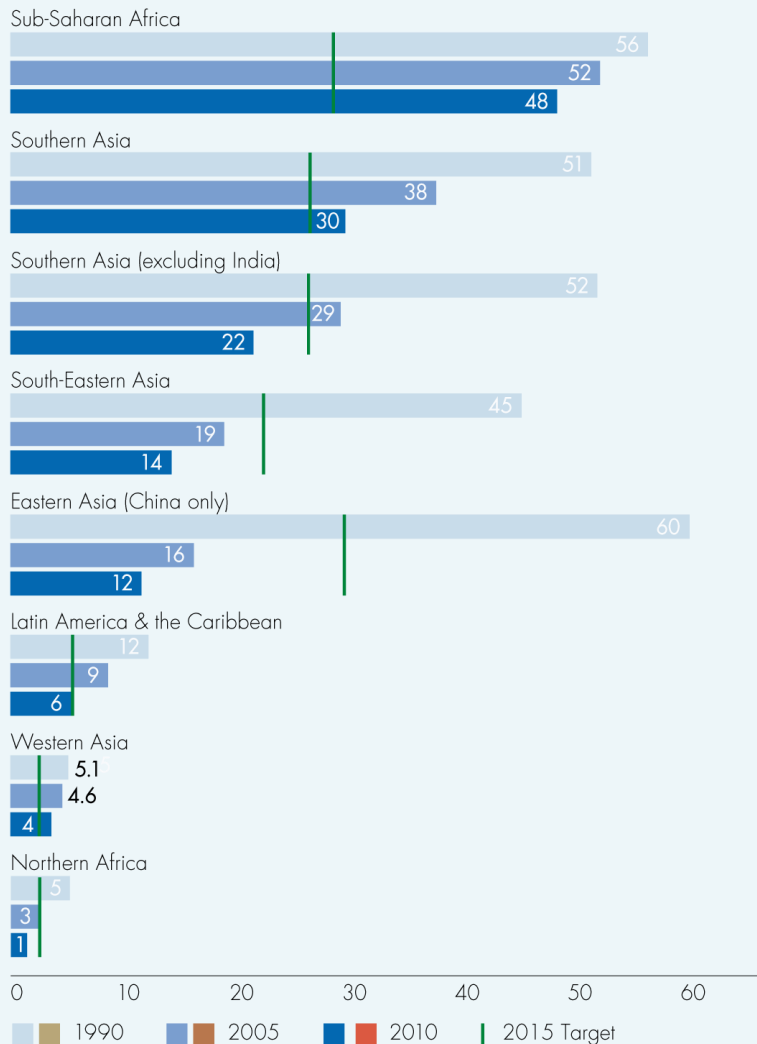
A promise by 189 nations to put the poorest and most vulnerable at the heart of global development

# The MDGs



**WE CAN**  
**END POVERTY**  
**2015** MILLENNIUM  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS

# With less than 700 days to go...



there is **uneven progress**  
both among and within  
countries

*Proportion of people living  
on less than \$1.25 a day,  
1990, 2005 and 2010*

# The MDGs – Success Stories



Halved the number of people living in poverty



Over 2 billion people gained access to improved sources of drinking water



The proportion of slum dwellers in the cities and metropolises of the developing world is declining



Incidences of HIV, malaria and tuberculosis have fallen

# Challenges ahead

- The sanitation goal is the most lagging of all the goals
- Despite improvements, the goals in maternal health and child survival rates will not be met
- There is now less aid money available
- Inequalities are pervasive, including gender inequality
- We are facing new and emerging environmental challenges

# Some sobering figures

- More than **1.3 billion** people live in extreme poverty
- **783 million** live without clean water
- **1.4 billion** people are without access to electricity.
- **2.5 billion** people lack access to decent sanitation and **one billion** practice open defecation



# A New Agenda for the Post-2015 Era

*We [...] renew our commitment to sustainable development and to ensuring the promotion of an **economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future** for our planet and for present and future generations.*

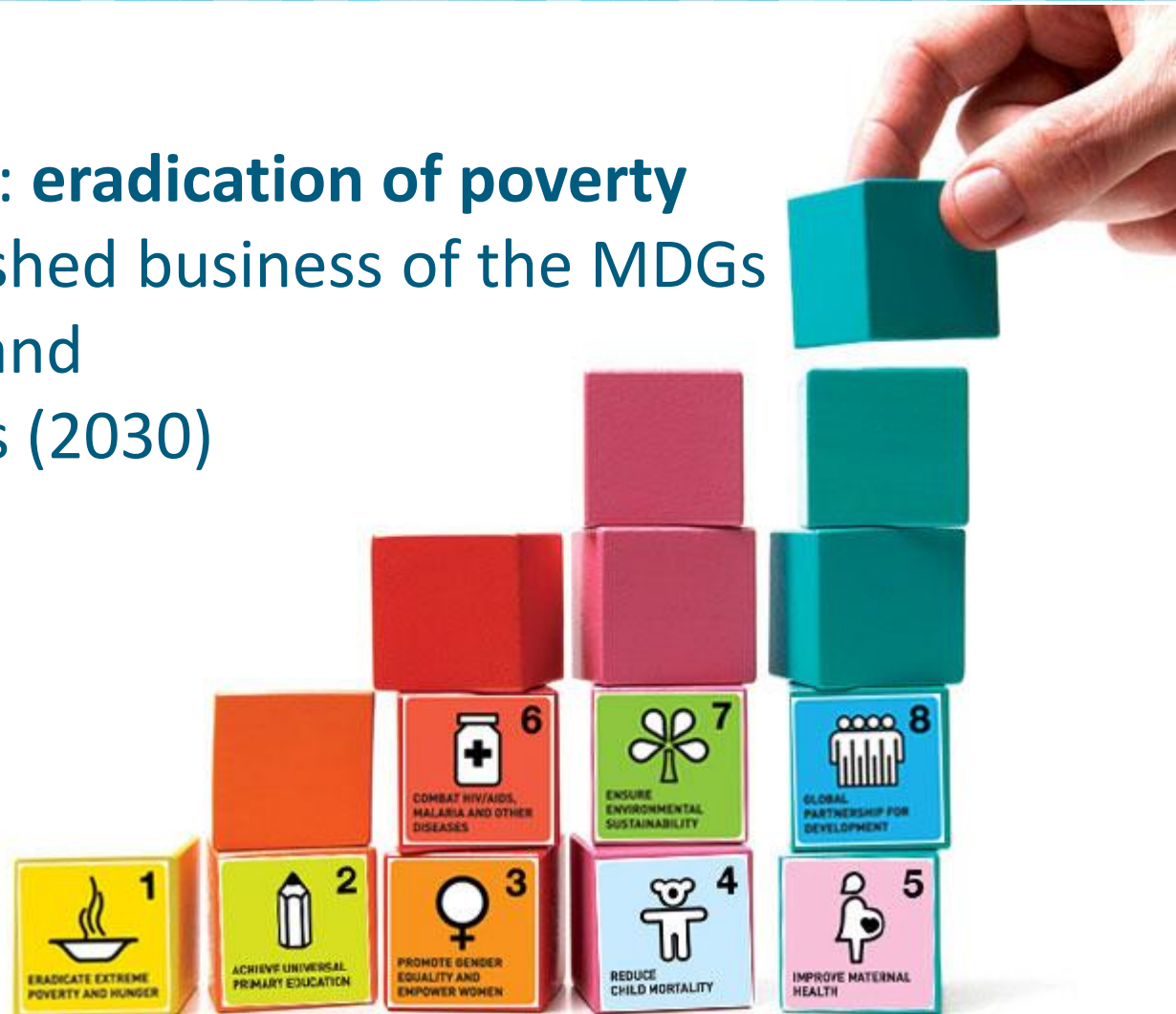


**RIO+20**

United Nations  
Conference on  
Sustainable  
Development

# Building on the MDGs...

- Overarching goal: **eradication of poverty**
- Tackle the unfinished business of the MDGs
- Action oriented and time bound goals (2030)



# ... but not business as usual

- A single framework with universally applicable goals
- Common but differentiated responsibilities
- Balanced integration of the three pillars of sustainable development
- Bottom-up approach
- Include all stakeholders both in the design and implementation stage



# Rio+20 Mandated Processes



# Open Working Group

- **30** members
- From March 2013 to February 2014 – **8** Stocktaking session summarised in a **Progress Report**
  - Over **50** expert presentations
  - **29** UN system issues briefs
  - **27** statistical annexes
  - **Hundreds** of statements and interventions
  - Over **200** side events
- **19** Focus areas identified





# 19 Focus Areas

1. Poverty eradication
2. Food security and nutrition
3. Health and population dynamics
4. Education
5. Gender equality and women's empowerment
6. Water and sanitation
7. Energy
8. Economic Growth
9. Industrialization
10. Infrastructure
11. Employment and decent work for all
12. Promoting equality
13. Sustainable cities and human settlements
14. Sustainable Consumption and Production
15. Climate
16. Marine resources, oceans and seas
17. Ecosystems and biodiversity
18. Means of implementation
19. Peaceful and non-violent societies, capable institutions

# Expert Committee on Financing for Development

- 30 experts nominated by regional groups
- Work on three clusters
  1. Assessing financing needs, mapping of current flows and emerging trends, and the impact of domestic and international environments
  2. Mobilization of resources and their effective use
  3. Institutional arrangements, policy coherence, synergies and governance



**68<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly**  
**Setting the Stage**

# Three High-level events



Contributions of women, the young and civil society to the post-2015 development agenda  
(6-7 March)



Contributions of South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation and information and communication technologies for development to the post-2015 development agenda (21-22 May)



Human rights and the rule of law in the post-2015 development agenda  
(9-10 June)

# Three Thematic Debates



Water, sanitation and sustainable energy in the post-2015 development agenda  
(18-19 February)



Role of partnerships and their contributions to the Post 2105 development agenda  
(8-9 April)



Ensuring Peaceful and Stable Societies  
(24-25 April)

## Highlights: Water, sanitation and sustainable energy in the post-2015 development agenda

- Broad consensus for standalone goals on water and energy
- The vital importance of means of implementation
- Types of funding (ODA, private sector)
- Partnerships among all stakeholders
- Strong institutions and monitoring frameworks

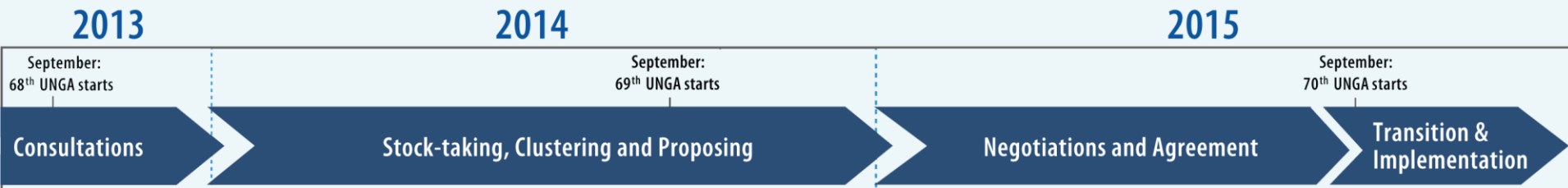
## Highlights: Contributions of women, the young and civil society to the post-2015 development agenda

- Many calls for standalone goal on gender (yet gender must be mainstreamed)
- Some calls for youth goal
- Integration of civil society
- All three groups require a space in decision-making spaces

# Pulling It All Together

## Stocktaking Event (September 2014)

# Next Steps



- The Open Working Group and Expert Committee on Financing for Development will submit their **reports** to the General Assembly by **September 2014**
- **Intergovernmental negotiations** during the 69th session
- Adoption of the post-2015 Development Agenda in the **September 2015 Summit**

# Final thoughts



*I slept and dreamt that life was joy.  
I awoke and saw that life was service.  
I acted and behold, service was joy.*

Rabindranath Tagore