



CAN Policy Strategy for post-2015 process

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1. Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) refer to an agreement of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 (Rio+20), to develop a set of future international development goals. CAN has been engaged in this process since before the Rio+20 meetings in 2012 but has only increased its capacity on this issue since this year.

The current development agenda has been largely centered on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). By the time the MDGs were agreed in 2000 climate change had not been recognized as either cross-cutting or having a potentially negative impact on sustainable development, and so was not acted on. This was an important shortfall, since the MDGs served to attract political and public attention, channel funding and served as a tool for public accountability. The post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda is therefore an opportunity for CAN to influence the global policy framework that will guide global development efforts during the next 15 years in order to deliver on the 'triple bottom line' of economic, social and environmental progress. To be successful in including climate change in the SDGs, we have to show in a more concise way that combatting climate change is a prerequisite for poverty eradication and sustainable development and start working across both the development and climate movements.

In August 2013, we have reached the beginning of a politically critical stage in the post-2015 process. The various consultative processes came to an end, and the more 'closed' process of intergovernmental negotiations started. In July 2014 the Open Working Group (OWG) country consultations concluded with the OWG outcome document. It is expected that the formal United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) negotiations will start after a stock taking session in September, and the subsequent report prepared by the UN Secretary General comprising various official inputs to the process (expected for December). The nature and timing of these negotiations will be decided during the 69th UNGA meeting in September 2014, with the anticipation of a new framework agreed upon in September 2015.

The post-2015 agenda will be an enabler for CAN's work at both the national and international levels, a potential source of funding for climate action, and an opportunity to engage private sector actors as well. If the post-2015 agenda again sidelines climate change we will be looking at another generation of development approaches that significantly increase threats to sustainable development and poverty eradication. This time we have to ensure that climate change is represented robustly in the post-2015 framework.

1.1 Political state of play after the OWG conclusion and other processes

The OWG concluded its work in July 2015, and the outcome document is expected to serve as the major basis for future negotiations due to its emergence from already controversial and intense negotiations. The document contains a proposal for 17 goals and 167 targets. Among this is a specific climate change goal (Goal nr. 13) with a few targets. A number of targets in other goals contain more or less explicit entry points to aspects of climate resilience and

mitigation. The discussion over whether to have a climate change goal or not has been among the more controversial debates in the OWG process. Two major reasons which are reflected in goal as it currently stands are a) the relationship to the UNFCCC process (with concerns raised by some Parties regarding a negative interference with UNFCCC negotiations and a prejudice to its outcomes envisaged for COP21), and b) the role of emission reduction and mitigation, where more or less any more concrete proposals – even those on including a 2/1.5 degree temperature goal – were heavily resisted by certain Parties (in particular some developed countries and emerging economies). However, on a positive note, over time the climate change goal received more and more support, and the fact that it “survived” the OWG is an important milestone.

Of further relevance will also be the report prepared by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Finance (ICESDF) and the discussion on means of implementation. This report will feed into the discussions and agreements on the financial architecture of the SDGs as well as the finance for development (Ffd) conference in Addis Ababa, July 2015. One of the financing needs that the report addresses is “Global Public Goods”, including the protection of the environment and combatting climate change. This work is relevant and important to the on-going discussions around climate finance and how it could be included in the ambition to scale up overall financial support for sustainable development, poverty eradication and environmental protection.

1.2 Background and analysis of CAN engagement in post-2015 to date

Internally, CAN has a working group on the post-2015 framework, which also works on the formation of the SDGs, to give strategic input to the international policy process.

As a basis for our advocacy work, CAN developed an official position on how climate change should be reflected in the post-2015 framework. This position focuses on climate change as a standalone goal and equally as a crosscutting issue throughout all the SDGs.

The CAN secretariat has been active hosting calls prior and after the Open Working Group sessions, in developing joint positions on various zero draft negotiating texts, in organizing and participating in side events and in coordinating joint communication activities.

CAN works closely with Beyond2015, CIVICUS, IFP, the Major Groups and other stakeholders to influence the post-2015 framework in a coherent manner. CAN also maintains close relationships with the UNDP and UNEP leads of the consultation assisting in CSO outreach.

Despite these activities, CAN exerting stronger influence into the post-2015 policy process in a coherent and strategic manner has been hampered by some internal and external factors. The below points have been identified as some of the key reasons for this:

Internal capacity issues:

- CAN-I only hired a dedicated staff member to work on the post-2015 process to drive progress within the Rio Process Group in May of this year
- Lack of capacity within the Rio Process Group to come up with good and creative ideas to solve some of the most burning issues in a timely manner. This might have to do with

CAN being mainly recognized by its members and external actors for focusing on the UNFCCC process and less on other UN processes?

- Lack of other working groups to give strategic input to the discussions and to engage more in the SDG process
- Insufficient outreach from global to regional and national level in order to get our messages to people in capitals and not only in the UN missions.

External issues:

- Climate Change is perceived by some actors primary as an environmental issue
- CAN is only one member of the NGO Mayor Group and has not fully been able to use the Major Group structures in its favor to influence the process

The strategy aims to address the above points successfully in order to take advantage of CAN's key strength to give strong technical input and recommendations and to influence the policy making process in this regard.

1.3 Theory of Change

A one fold strategy, focused on international policymakers and elites only, will fail to produce an ambitious outcome in 2015. Instead, we need a diversified strategy that uses the 2015 moment, around the SDG negotiations, to build greater public engagement and national action, while also creating pressure for ambitious international outcomes. A successful post-2015 process will see significant voluntary action on mitigation and adaptation in addition to the UNFCCC commitment. We need approaches that will achieve important benefits in their own right, while also helping to create a new narrative about climate change and development and so align the climate and the development movements.

- 2015 will be an opportunity to focus and coordinate the global climate movement toward more compelling demands for science and equity-based action under both the UNFCCC and SDG agenda. Greater grassroots pressure is needed to advance all climate priorities in both fora.
- Second, achieving domestic policy successes in politically important countries can help move the post-2015 discussion forward. A “push-pull” effect should be created where domestic action advances international discussions and international deadlines for 2015 help spur domestic action.
- Third, countries make visionary, voluntary commitments that are concrete and relevant to the lives of people thanks. Concrete targets and indicators leads to measurable success on mitigation and adaptation.
- Fourth, rather than relying on the SDG final outcome the new framework should be designed in a way to create ongoing windows to monitor advances, foster exchange on best practice and bring in new ideas for improvement and to raise ambition on a regular basis.
- Finally Integration and mainstreaming of climate change consideration within the development paradigm is key particularly in regard to other goal areas that focus on economic growth etc. Policy makers and governments have almost only paid lip service to

the idea of mainstreaming climate change consideration within developmental and economic policies within countries. The post 2015 process is a key point of intervention for us as a movement and policy makers and governments need to increase efforts to make climate mainstreaming a priority both, at policy and implementation level, in the SDGs.

1.4 Risk and Opportunities

Opportunities

- To raise attention about climate change in other UN fora, other than the UNFCCC, and among new stakeholders, the private sector, government ministries and the NGO community as a whole.
- Broaden the movement by engaging with actors in the development constituency beyond CAN members engaged in there processes, and working in tandem with them to create a stronger and deeper movement demanding ambitious climate action as well as sustainable development
- To raise attention among NGOs and stakeholders mostly involved in the UNFCCC and climate debate, and show the importance of climate change and its integration into the post-2015 framework to create synergies within the development paradigm.
- The timing is right with the release of important scientific reports (e.g., IPCC) and with well-supported milestones for avoiding energy infrastructure lock-in and for reducing the risk of exceeding 2°C and with important post-2015 and UNFCCC deadlines for 2015 only months away from each other and with HOS meeting the last time prior to the Paris summit in 2015.
- Important to integrate CC within domestic development and economic policies
- Possibility of ensuring development goals like energy for all are much more sustainable and climate friendly – Basically co benefits
- Explore additional financial opportunities for climate action by leveraging the development finance at all levels and ensuring climate co-benefits from it
- Propagate the risk narrative around development and climate change. As to how climate change could negatively impact development while sustainable development could positively reduce climate change impacts and build resilience and bring many benefits now and for future generations

Risks

- A bad outcome in terms of not having a climate change goal or climate change integration throughout the goals in the new SDG framework can send the wrong message to the people on the importance of climate change to achieve sustainable development and lock us in into low political ambition on climate change for the next decade. And could have negative feed backs into the UNFCCC process and Paris Agreement. A weak goal may set a low standard on climate change in the run up to Paris i.e. weaker than what could eventually come out of Paris.

2 Strategy

2.1 Overall Goal

- Drive progress in not exceeding 1.5/2°C: Impacts on agriculture, fisheries, forests, coral reefs are at risk of drastic losses before 2°C, confronting both climate change mitigation and adaptation is imperative for achieving sustainable development and the eradication of poverty.
- Seek policy coherence between the UNFCCC and post-2015 process, to capitalize on potential mutual benefits and to ensure the aims of both processes, namely to preventing dangerous anthropogenic climate change as a pre-requisite for eradicating extreme poverty, and achieving real sustainable development, e.g. through finance; through more technical actions (identified in the UNFCCC) that need to happen through mainstreaming and integration of climate change.
- Engage with the following constituencies: politicians, development and health NGO movement, media to ensure that the prevalent development narrative recognizes climate change as a real danger, with negative impacts to development across the world and to achieve development and economic growth objectives of countries and logically also of the sustainable development goals.
- Keep building climate/social movement and creating solidarity across national boundaries and sensibility for interlinkages of development issues.

2.2 Vision for success (short term)

- The SDGs contain a coherent set of goals and targets which contribute to a global low-carbon development pathway and recognize climate change as a pre-condition for sustainable development and poverty eradication .This pathway leads to concrete action on the ground across all countries while contributing to international and national efforts to eradicate long-term poverty and inequality.

2.3 Strategic Objectives

The following strategic objectives for our work toward 2015 will advance our overall goal and vision for success and outcomes in 2015:

- Influence the discussions on relevant goals, targets and indicators to contribute to a global adaptation and low-carbon development pathway.
- Achieve integration of CC within development paradigm ideally with climate change as a goal and with strong mainstreaming throughout the targets
- Nurture and support capacity across CAN network to preparing the ground for implementation after Sept 2015

2.4 Activities

This strategy to 2015 requires innovative approaches and flexibility. Our ability to be responsive to changing circumstances and situations, to capture opportunities as they arise and to be politically savvy, will be critical. We will require more regional nodes and network engagement for the post-2015 processes. Our partnerships with other key civil society actors such as Beyond2015 and the alignment and convergence of strategies will be of critical importance, too. So how do we plan to escalate matters in the lead up to 2015? We will take the following actions to advance our objectives:

a) Influence the discussions on goals, targets and indicators to contribute to a global adaptation and low-carbon development pathway

- Coordinating and facilitating common positions across the network on key and relevant issues to influence external stakeholder like governments, international bodies and others
- Develop policy briefs in addition to the overall strategy and position on issues that are relevant for both post-2015 and UNFCCC: energy, agriculture and finance (enhance discussions on development vs. climate finance)
- Arranging meetings/workshops/events with stakeholders including CSOs, government officials, and corporations to foster discussions on complementarity of the post-2015 and UNFCCC process

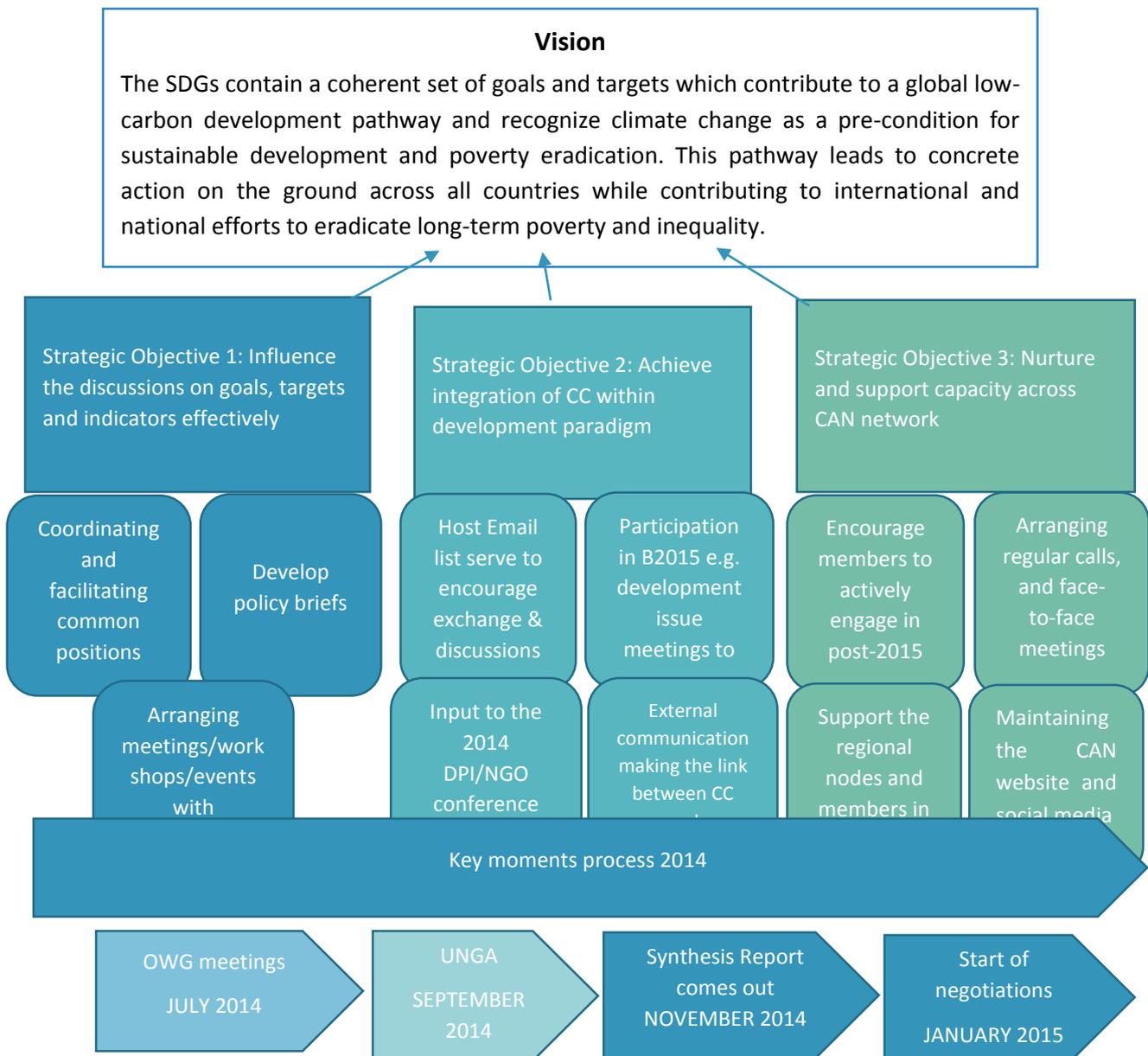
b) Achieve integration of CC within development paradigm

- Hosting email list serve to encourage cross-fertilization, strategic information sharing, and discussions
- Participate, or ensure the participation of selected CAN members, in Beyond 2015 and other development issue meetings to highlight the integration of climate change in the list of development issues
- Input to the 2014 DPI/NGO conference program and outcome document to ensure good reflection of climate on the agenda
- In all external communication make the link between climate and development by drawing the connections to real issues affecting people and decision-makers eg. food, energy & water security, livelihoods, jobs etc.

c) Nurture and support capacity across CAN network to prepare the ground for implementation after Sept 2015

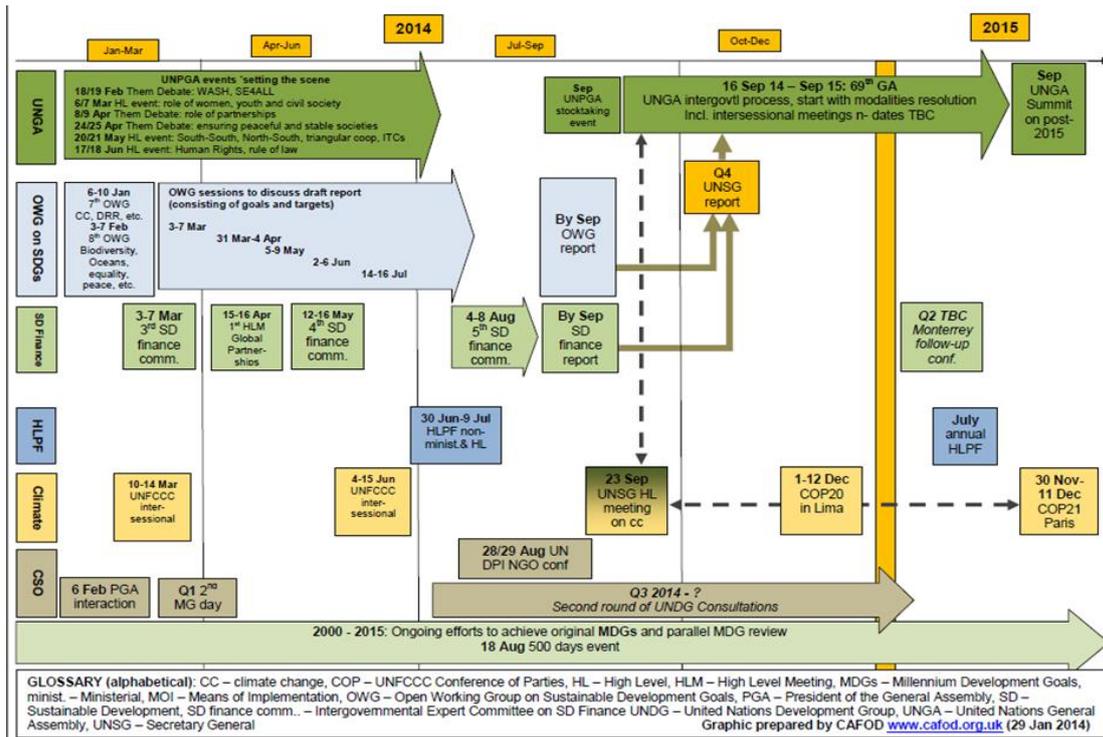
- Encourage members to actively engage in the post-2015 discussion at national, regional and global level

- Facilitating and arranging regular calls, and face-to-face meetings/workshops on the sidelines of international conferences and negotiations, continue to check-in and update the policy positions and overall strategic direction and plans.
- Support the regional nodes and members in their advocacy planning, strategies and activities
- Maintaining and improve the CAN website and social media sites to ensure they are useful and relevant resources for members, the media, and decision maker



3. Towards a plan

3.1 Post-2015 Calendar



3.2 Next steps (July to November)

Post-2015 process

- Develop policy briefs and positions paper on Energy, Agriculture, Disaster Risk Reduction to show positive interlinkages between post-2015 and UNFCCC.
- Develop criteria for S in the SDGs.
- Engage on discussions of development vs. climate finance.
- Get the topic of innovative finance back in the discussions

Nodes

- Develop and pilot advocacy tools (briefings, powerpoints, communication tools, etc.) for local to global advocacy to ensure post-2015 issues are gaining relevance for members.
- Define and inform nodes about key engagement opportunities and activities in the regions (e.g. SIDS conference) well in advance

Communication

- Tbd.

4.3 Key events for CAN advocacy and communication

11th Session of the Open Working Group on SDGs

June 16 - 20, 2014

New York City, US

Activities:

- Communication: Create event homepage
- Map and meet key countries for advocacy work on CAN position
- Give input to work of Mayor Groups on Focus Area Climate
- Draft and give an intervention on the need to have a climate change goal

UNFCCC Intersessional

June 4 - 15, 2014

Bonn, Germany

Activities:

- Promote post-2015 among members during Strategy Session and 25th anniversary
- Plan activities for node support

12th Session of the Open Working Group on SDGs

June 16 - 20, 2014

New York City, US

Activities:

- Communication: Create event homepage
- Draft a brief with specific editorial recommendations for focus area document
- Map key countries we need to influence
- Send draft to target govts at national and UN level
- Support work on input from Mayor Groups for Focus Area 13: climate

13th Session of the Open Working Group on SDGs

July 14 - 18, 2014

New York City, US

Activities:

- Communication: Create event homepage, twitter activity "thank you for supporting a climate change goal in the SDGs"
- Draft a brief with specific editorial recommendations for focus area document
- Map key countries we need to influence
- Send draft to target govts at national and UN level
- Lead work on input from Mayor Groups for Focus Area 13: climate

65th Annual UN DPI/NGO Conference

August 27 - 29, 2014

New York City, US

The 65th UN DPI/NGO Conference is titled '2015 and Beyond: Our Action Agenda,' is being organized by the UN Department of Public Information and the NGO/DPI Executive Committee, and will focus on the theme of 'The role of civil society in the post 2015 development agenda'. The event seeks to provide an opportunity for civil society networks and activists to mobilize messaging, advocacy strategies, partnerships and accountability frameworks in the lead up to the start of the

intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda. The outcome of the conference will be a declaration that will be shared with the UN system, the UN Member States, the global civil society and other stakeholders.

Activities:

- Define program for the conference with CC being key priority
- Recommend speaker from CAN network
- Promote the event among CAN members
- Review and input to conference declaration, make sure CC is adequately reflected

High-level Stock Taking Event on Post-2015 Agenda

September 11-12, 2014

New York City, US

This event is intended to take stock following a series of six events that the President of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) will convene. The stock-taking event of the UNGA president is expected to focus on sustainable development goals and long-term financing for sustainable development.

Web site: http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/pdf/letters/12052013Post-2015_Dev...

Activities:

- Review stocktaking document (important input for the negotiations)
- Recommend speaker for High-level Stock Taking event from the network

2014 Climate Summit

September 23, 2014

New York City, US

The 2014 Climate Summit, which will be organized by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, will take place in September 2014 with the aim to mobilize political will for a universal and a legally-binding comprehensive agreement in 2015

Activities:

- Define joint advocacy messages applicable for UNFCCC and post-2015
- Highlight in external communication about the summit the need to address CC in all relevant UN discussions (e.g. post-2015)

69th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 69)

September 16 - 29, 2014

New York City, US

The 69th Regular Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 69) will convene at UN Headquarters on Tuesday, 16 September 2014. The General Debate will open on Wednesday, 24 September 2014. The debate's opening was postponed from Tuesday, 23 September 2014, to accommodate the Climate Summit.

Activities:

- Monitor possibilities of stakeholder participation
- Define advocacy activities for the rest of the year
- Organize strategy meeting during UNGA week with people on the ground
- Develop a workplan post the meeting to influence formal negotiations
- Prepare a publication on CC and post-2015 which includes various previous submissions in form of briefings in addition to our position and as well as any new thinking that CAN has.
- Organize joint event Beyond2015/CAN/UN on post-2015 key asks from regions