

## What is the Post 2015 Development Agenda?

The United Nations is presently reviewing the Millennium Development Goals ([MDGs](#)) so that it can prepare a new development framework for the post-2015 period. The framework will guide developed and developing countries in improving living conditions for their people. There are several parts to this process:

- The report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons (HLP) – delivered [June 2013](#)
- The development of a set of Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)) by the SDG Open Working Group ([OWG](#)) – mandated by the Rio+20 outcome document and delivered in July 2014
- The report of the High-Level Political Forum (formerly the Commission on Sustainable Development) – to be delivered in September 2014
- The report of the Expert Committee on Financing – to be delivered in September 2014

Concurrently, it is reviewing the World Summit on the Information Society Process ([WSIS](#)) to reflect upon its impact and to produce recommendations on WSIS beyond 2015 to the UN Secretary General in September 2014. It is currently thought that the WSIS recommendations will contribute to the Secretary General's thinking regarding any new development framework.

All of the moving parts will feed into UN Member State negotiations starting in September 2014. The negotiations will proceed during the period September 2014 – September 2015 and will lead to an agreement on a new framework to be implemented from January 1st 2016.

The post-2015 dialogue is seen as an opportunity to develop a practical agenda to ensure the principle 'leaving no one behind' translates into real changes to deliver essential services to those in poverty.

## Millennium Development Goals – background

The current UN development agenda is centred on the [Millennium Development Goals](#) (MDGs) that were officially established following the [Millennium Summit](#) of the UN in 2000. The MDGs encapsulate eight globally agreed goals in the areas of poverty alleviation, education, gender equality and empowerment of women, child and maternal health, environmental sustainability, reducing HIV/AIDS and communicable diseases, and building a global partnership for development. The MDG's overall target date is 2015.

## Libraries and the Post 2015 Development Agenda

As the United Nations reflects on the future of global development and the post-2015 agenda, access to information must be recognised as critical to supporting governments to achieve development goals, and enabling citizens to make informed decisions to improve their own lives. IFLA believes that high-quality library and information services help guarantee that access.

## Libraries and access to information:

- Enable governments and civil society to achieve development goals: Libraries are [transparent](#), accountable institutions that support government programmes and provide services that help government, civil society and business to better understand citizens' information needs;
- Support citizens to make informed decisions: Libraries provide equitable [access to information](#), and expert guidance to effectively use the world's knowledge. Librarians contribute to the reduction of poverty, exclusion and inequality by helping citizens [develop skills](#) to effectively seek, access, and use information in all forms.

It is essential that libraries are able to play a contributing role in the post-2015 development agenda. By including libraries in development policies, governments and development organisations can draw upon community-based information resources and expertise that could mean the difference between a successful project and a failed one. IFLA encourages all library associations, institutions and librarians to demonstrate the contribution that access to information and libraries make to achieving development as outlined in the IFLA Statement on Libraries and Development by:

- Advocating for, and delivering, library and [information services](#) relevant to a library's local environment that help citizens to be educated, informed and included;
- Monitoring and contributing to the post-2015 agenda utilising briefings and support materials to be provided by IFLA, and;
- Supporting national and local frameworks that achieve development goals and help governments to understand citizens' information needs.

The *Lyon Declaration* underpins these principles.