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United Nations Institute for Training and Research

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Post-2015 Development Orientation and Briefing Programme VII New York

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Given the complexity and number of processes that will contribute to the development of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) is organizing a series of interactive technical briefings for members of delegations and other government officials at the United Nations in New York, and later in Geneva. The overall objective of the briefings is to strengthen knowledge for evidence-based decision making in the formulation

of the Post-2015 Development Agenda to be agreed by Member States in September 2015.

The series will feature around 15 different sessions, and will

- v Assist participants to access the most up-to-date and essential information coming from the numerous processes that will contribute to the Post-2015 agenda, and key outcomes of ongoing Member States' discussions in various fora, as well as allowing newly arrived delegates to 'catch up';
- v Provide a dynamic and interactive space where delegates can exchange views on the Post-2015 development agenda and have a more in-depth discussion, as needed.



After completing the module, participants should be able to:

- v Describe the meaning of environmental sustainability as one of the three dimensions of sustainable development and the evolution of the notion from its inception to post-Rio+20;
- v Provide examples of interlinkages between environment and main focus areas identified by the Open Working Group on SDGs;
- v Describe the interrelationship between human (economic) activities and environment, and define what the process of development within planetary boundaries means;
- v Describe main tools and related concepts that can be used to achieve transformation (paradigm shift) required for transitioning to sustainable development;
- v List major MEAs and key existing global environmental goals;
- v Describe how the transition to sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and the promotion of sustainable cities and human settlements can help achieve a wide range of environmental, economic and social objectives in other areas of the Post-2015 development agenda (eg., sustainable agriculture, etc.);

v Enumerate key actions required to address supply and consumption sides, and explain the relevance of the SCP concept and key challenges to be addressed in the context of developed and developing countries;

v Explain the role of biodiversity, oceans and seas as critical foundation/elements of the Earth's life support system in promoting sustainable development and achieving other objectives (eg., poverty eradication), as well as analyze current challenges associated with the impact of human activities on ecosystems, biodiversity and marine resources and seas;

v Analyze the links between climate change, disaster risk reduction and sustainable development.

As a follow-up to the module, participants should be able to have increased “confidence” in:

v Applying the acquired information on the environmental sustainability dimension of the post-2015 debate, in its connection with economic and social dimensions, when conveying their country's national perspectives;

v Evaluating opportunities for their country's participation in various ongoing discussions, with a view to contributing to the process.



Part I

v Opening

v Environmental sustainability: conceptual issues

v Some implications of an integrated approach to environmental sustainability

v Core elements: Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction

v Core elements: Sustainable cities and human settlements

Part II

v Opening

v Core elements: Sustainable consumption and production

v Core elements: Ecosystems and biodiversity

v Core elements: Marine resources, oceans and seas

v The necessary transformative agenda



This “in-depth” module will consist of two face-to-face briefing sessions that will feature presentations by resource persons followed by a Q&A session and an interactive discussion between the session participants. The sessions will aim to create a space for peer-to-peer learning and to promote an exchange of views among members of delegations.



Members of Delegations, other government representatives at the United Nations who would like to improve their knowledge of and access to the most-up-to-date information of the intergovernmental process.



The event is free and open to the delegates to the United Nations. Prior registration is required.

For more information: www.unitar.org/post2015briefing
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