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**High-level segment**

**Environmental sustainability for human well-being in the  
post-2015 development agenda\*\***

**Information note by the secretariat**

*Summary*

Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives, having met at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in June 2012, renewed their 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. The follow-up to that historic moment has seen an intense period of multi-stakeholder consultation and analysis, which is to culminate in the achievement of international consensus on the post-2015 development agenda with sustainable development goals at its core.

A new development agenda should carry forward the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, build on their lessons and respond to the challenges of the twenty-first century. Development cannot be met ambitiously and irreversibly without integrating environmental risks and opportunities. Integration – and not aggregation or prioritization – will be essential to the post-2015 development agenda. An integrated approach can generate multiple benefits and minimize or manage trade-offs, and would comprise three interlinked principles:

- (a) Leave no one behind by ensuring sustainability, meeting a basic level of environmental and social standards;
- (b) Live within the Earth's safe operating space, while ensuring equitable prosperity and sustainable growth;
- (c) Leave assets behind for future generations, by building social, economic and environmental capital.

Environmental sustainability is a prerequisite for sustained and irreversible socioeconomic development and poverty eradication. The present information note focuses on the interlinkages between the environmental, social and economic dimensions. Five key transformational issues can be synthesized from a review of these interlinkages:

\* UNEP/EA.1/1.

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