



Permanent Mission
of the Czech Republic
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission of
Uruguay to the United Nations



The Permanent Missions of Austria, the Czech Republic and Uruguay, in collaboration with the OECD, have the honor to invite you to an open side event on the occasion of the ongoing negotiations on the post-2015 development agenda, as well as with thematic links to the upcoming High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

**Measuring sustainable development:
What lessons can the OECD Better Life Initiative
provide for the Post-2015 agenda?**

Wednesday, 10 June 2015, 1:15 – 2:30 pm

Conference Room E, United Nations Headquarters, NYC

Panelists:

Mr. Andreas Riecken, Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the UN

Mr. Marco Mira d'Ercole, Head of Household Statistics and Progress Measurement Division,
OECD Statistics Directorate

H.E. Gonzalo Koncke, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the UN

Mr. Vladislav Smrž, Director General for Environmental Policy and International Affairs,
Ministry of Environment of the Czech Republic

Moderator:

H.E. Edita Hrdá, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the UN

Kindly RSVP by 8 June
RSVPSMNY@gmail.com

Please indicate clearly if you are not a UN Grounds Pass holder.

Concept note:

Debates about how to measure sustainable development have been ongoing for some time. While there seems to be broad agreement that GDP per capita does not capture the complexity of sustainable development, less consensus has formed around what could satisfactorily replace it. In the context of the post-2015 development agenda under preparation, the issue has become even more prominent with the integration of the sustainable development process from the Rio conferences with the development track, focused primarily on poverty eradication.

Since its launch in 2011, the OECD and its member states have been developing the **Better Life Initiative**, which includes a communication tool, the **Better Life Index**. This initiative is an attempt to produce an internationally comparable gauge of well-being for member and partner countries of the organization in line with recommendations of the so-called Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi Commission.

At the basis of the Better Life Initiative is a conceptual framework, a set of headline indicators and a single communication index. The conceptual framework is built around three domains (each of them including a number of more detailed dimensions):

- material conditions;
- quality of life;
- sustainability.

Guiding questions for the panel discussion:

- Can the framework underpinning the OECD Better Life Initiative improve our understanding of progress in sustainable development?
- How could this particular experience be utilized in the follow-up and review framework for the post-2015 development agenda, being crafted in the intergovernmental negotiations?