

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT UN'S NEW GLOBAL GOALS

UNITED NATIONS: World leaders are launching an ambitious drive to transform the planet by 2030 with the adoption on Friday of new UN goals to wipe out extreme poverty, promote health and education and combat climate change. The new UN agenda will replace the millennium development goals (MDGs) that expire this year, but its objectives are much more ambitious in scope. Here's a look at some of the key issues:

What are the goals?

There are 17 goals and 169 targets that range from ending poverty, ensuring healthy lives, combating climate change, achieving gender equality and even conserving the oceans. The new goals have been criticized for being ill-defined and far too broad. In comparison, the MDGs were limited to eight goals, mostly focused on combating poverty and improving child and maternal health. The goals are non-binding, but the summit opening Friday will allow leaders to publicly commit to achieving them. Much attention has focused on the first goal—ending extreme poverty.

More than 836 million people still live in extreme poverty in the least-developed countries, in southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Contrary to the MDGs, the new global goals apply to both developing and developed countries and negotiations were opened up to governments and civil society, not only to UN experts.

How will the goals be financed?

The price tag to achieve the new global goals is expected to be between \$3.5 and \$5 trillion annually over the next 15 years—a whopping sum that the goals' architects argue will require some cre-

ative thinking to generate funds from governments and the private sector. Billions of dollars in development aid will be re-directed to meet the goals but the United Nations also wants to tap into local sources of financing through improved revenue collection. The global goals call for improved transparency in oil-producing countries to clamp down on corruption and ensure that revenues from natural resources are used to improve the lives of citizens. International financial institutions like the African Development Bank and the World Bank will step up with financing support for major infrastructure projects that would have a knock-on effect in combating poverty.

Are they achievable?

The United Nations is planning to roll out some 300 indicators to measure progress by countries and provide data on how governments are working to meet the goals. It is unlikely that all countries will achieve all of the goals, but aid groups say they will provide benchmarks for governments in every area of development. Jamie Drummond, executive director for global strategy at the ONE campaign, described the global goals as a "citizen's scorecard, to hold governments accountable for delivery." "The key missing ingredient is political will," said Drummond. "We have a great history of promising at the UN, but the question is whether the promise is ever kept."

When do they enter into force?

Formally known as the sustainable development goals, the SDGs enter into force on January 1 and the deadline for implementing all of them is December 31, 2030. — AFP



WASHINGTON: US President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama and Pope Francis wave during an arrival ceremony at the White House yesterday. — AFP

POPE GETS WARM WELCOME AT WHITE HOUSE BY OBAMA 'GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WELCOME IN THE NAME OF ALL AMERICANS'

WASHINGTON: Barack Obama welcomed Pope Francis to the White House yesterday—the first black US president hailing the first pontiff from the Americas as a unique moral authority. The South Lawn of the White House echoed the strains of the Pontifical Anthem, the Star-Spangled Banner and a thundering 21-gun salute, as Washingtonians thronged the streets for the historic visit. An inspiration to many of America's 70 million Catholics, Francis is also a potential political ally for Obama, sharing many of his progressive goals.

Both men called for action on climate change and hailed the rapprochement between the United States and Cuba—causes dear to the White House but opposed by US conservatives. "I believe the excitement around your visit must be attributed not only to your role as pope, but to your unique qualities as a person," Obama told his guest. "In your humility, your embrace of simplicity, the gentleness of your words and the generosity of your spirit, we see a living example of Jesus' teachings, a leader whose moral authority comes not just through words but through deeds."

Speaking in fluent but accented English, the 78-year-old Argentine pontiff returned the warm blessings of his host. "I am deeply grateful for your welcome in the name of all Americans," he

said, to applause. "As the son of an immigrant family, I am happy to be a guest in this country, which was largely built by such families." In a nod to Washington's bitter debate about immigration reform, Francis said he would address Congress "to offer words of encouragement to those called to guide the nation's political future in fidelity to its founding principles."

Many US conservatives call into question the very existence of man-made climate change, but Francis and Obama made a de facto joint appeal for action on the issue. "Holy Father, you remind us that we have a sacred obligation to protect our planet, God's magnificent gift to us," Obama said. Francis took up the call. "Accepting the urgency, it seems clear to me also that climate change is a problem which can no longer be left to a future generation," Francis said. "When it comes to the care of our common home, we are living at a critical moment of history."

Pomp and circumstance

The pope was afforded a full ceremonial welcome on his historic first visit to the United States, and to Washington—a political city that ordinarily shrugs its shoulders when presidents, queens and sheikhs roll through.

Well-wishers lined the Pope's route and Obama himself made an exceed-

ingly rare ceremonial trip to the airport to meet the Argentine's plane Tuesday, bringing his wife, daughters, Vice President Joe Biden to underscore the special welcome. The visit is a political mirror of Pope Benedict's 2008 visit to George W Bush's White House. Those two leaders were as conservative as their current successors are progressive. Still, the White House insists it is not co-opting a holy man in order to batter Republican foes in Congress.

"The goal of this meeting is to give the two men the opportunity to talk about their shared values," said White House spokesman Josh Earnest. "There'll be time for politics, frankly, the other 364 days of the year," he said. Francis has signaled he is also unlikely to wade directly into America's bitterly fought politics. The Vatican played a crucial role in brokering talks between Havana and Washington that led to the recent restoration of diplomatic ties after more than half a century.

'Against all embargoes'

But the pope also told reporters that he would not specifically bring up Washington's embargo of Cuba in his speech Thursday before American lawmakers, who largely favor taking a tough line with Havana. "The Holy See is against this embargo, but it is against all embargoes," he said. Yet there is no mistaking the value of enlisting a pop-

ular pope's moral authority and offering him America's largest political platform.

Even the half of Americans who hold an unfavorable view of the Catholic Church like Pope Francis, according to a recent Washington Post-ABC poll. Francis will make two key speeches during his US visit, the address to Congress and another to the United Nations on Friday. Topics will include critiques of the dominance of finance and technology; a condemnation of world powers over the conflicts gripping the planet; appeals to protect and welcome immigrants; and climate change, according to Vatican sources.

The pope's agenda tracks so closely with Obama's efforts to introduce immigration reform, as well as domestic and international limits on carbon emissions that Republicans are already crying foul. Congressman Paul Gosar, who is Catholic, declared he would boycott the pontiff's historic address to Congress to protest his "leftist" views.

During the historic six-day trip to New York, symbolic home of capitalism, Francis will preside over an interfaith ceremony at Ground Zero, visit a Harlem Catholic school and greet crowds on a procession through Central Park. He will wrap up his trip Saturday and Sunday in Philadelphia at an international festival of Catholic families. — AFP

COLBERT TURNS TRUMP INTO HIS STRAIGHT MAN

NEW YORK: Stephen Colbert showered thanks on Donald Trump, his "Late Show" guest. "I want to thank you not only for being here but for running for president," Colbert told the GOP front-runner Tuesday night. "I'm not going to say this stuff myself, but you certainly do deliver it on time every day."

Colbert's gratitude for Trump's comic assistance was well-placed. Peppering Trump with questions and wisecracks during his appearance, the CBS host reduced the usually domineering Trump to straight-man status, an unaccustomed role Trump performed with rare grace. Bringing up Trump's proposal to build a wall between the United States and Mexico, Colbert offered his own mocking version of a way to bar illegal immigration: Two walls, and in between them a moat filled with fire and fireproof crocodiles. "Is that enough?" Colbert asked. And focusing on Trump's insistence that Mexico would pay for the wall, Colbert drew him into a role-playing exercise—a phone call where "you're you, and I'm the president of Mexico."

'Worst nightmare'

Colbert noted that Trump is leading the field while he vows to finance his campaign out of his own pocket. "The Republican Party has been a big pusher of the idea that money is speech, and you're a \$10 billion mouth," said Colbert. "You're their worst nightmare." "I think the establishment in the Republican Party probably isn't that thrilled," he agreed. Trump

repeated his contention, as a former heavy campaign donor, that candidates who accept major contributions are typically "owned" by those donors once in office.

"You gave them a big contribution and you want something and all of a sudden they've very receptive," he said. If you didn't make a healthy gift, "believe me, you get the cold shoulder." Colbert asked if Trump really wants to be president: "If you actually got the gig, would that be a step down for you? You know what the pay is like, right?"

Trump replied that he is running "not because I want it, but because I think I can do a great job." When pressed on his past contention that President Barack Obama wasn't born in the United States, Trump deferred. "I don't talk about it anymore," he said. But he was gung-ho for a game that called for guessing who in the past had made certain outlandish remarks: Trump or the comically conservative blowhard Colbert played for a decade as host of "The Colbert Report." Trump or Colbert? "Medicare is like a nice pair of cufflinks. Nobody wears cufflinks anymore." "That's you," said Trump. Correct. Trump or Colbert? "It's freezing and snowing in New York. We need global warming." "I think it's you," Trump hedged, "but it's close to being me." It was Trump. And finally: "The real strong have no need to prove it to the phonies." "It's not me," said Trump after a pause. "IT COULD be you." "It's not me, either," Colbert said. "It's Charles Manson." "Ooooo," said Trump. — AP

TRADITIONAL GOP CANDIDATES TRY TO ADAPT AS RANKS BEGIN TO THIN

WASHINGTON: Scott Walker and Rick Perry entered the 2016 presidential race with a combined 18 years of experience as governors. They exited the Republican primary—the first candidates to do so—with negligible support and dwindling bank accounts. While Walker and Perry were both flawed candidates, their swift demise is a warning to others who hope to win the White House on the strength of their political resumes. And it leaves the governors and senators still in the turbulent Republican race scrambling to adapt to a political environment that is rewarding those with the least governing experience.

"The country is very unhappy now, and a winning candidate must be viewed as a change agent," said Scott Reed, a longtime Republican strategist who advises the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. So far, billionaire Donald Trump has been the biggest beneficiary of the public's demand for an outsider. Retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson and former Hewlett-Packard CEO Carly Fiorina are also attracting voters eager to express their anger with Washington. None of the three has ever won an election.

Apparent desire

Republicans voters' apparent desire for a political novice is striking given that conservatives have long attributed some of what they see as President Barack Obama's weaknesses to his inexperience when he took office. Obama spent a little less than eight years as an Illinois state senator and ran for president during his first term in the US Senate.

As traditional candidates among the current GOP contenders try to break through, they're employing a two-track strategy: distance themselves from Washington's political elite while also building a campaign that can outlast voters' discontent if the anti-establishment mood ultimately fades. In the hours after Walker's stunning withdrawal Monday, his experienced rivals intensified efforts to pitch themselves as Washington outsiders and political disruptors.

"You cannot say that Scott Walker, Rick Perry or myself were insiders in Washington," said Jeb Bush, the former two-term Florida governor who is also the son and brother of presidents. Advisers for Ohio Gov. John Kasich, a second-term governor and long-serving

congressman, touted his efforts to challenge the status quo and even his own party. Kasich has pushed the GOP to do more to address poverty, mental illness and drug addiction, and he created an alternative to party leaders' spending plans while serving in Congress.

"You can either say you're a change agent and have nothing to show for it but talk, or you can say you're a change agent and have proof and results that have worked," Kasich spokesman Scott Milburn said. Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul casts himself as "a new kind of Republican," one who courts younger voters and minorities. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz has infuriated GOP leaders during his two-and-a-half years in Congress. And Florida Sen. Marco Rubio jumped at the opportunity to distance himself from Congress during last week's Republican debate.

'Lives of our people'

"In my years in the Senate, I've figured out very quickly that the political establishment in Washington, DC, in both political parties is completely out of touch with the lives of our people," Rubio

said. "That's why I'm missing votes. Because I am leaving the Senate." The success of anti-establishment candidates isn't lost on Democratic front-runner Hillary Rodham Clinton. On Sunday, the former first lady, senator and secretary of state tried to pitch herself as an outsider, too.

"I cannot imagine anyone being more of an outsider than the first woman president," Clinton said in an interview with CBS' "Face The Nation." Walker's campaign, however, serves as a cautionary tale for experienced candidates trying to earn outsider bona fides. As Walker grappled for ways to save his candidacy, he denied he was a career politician—despite having been in elected office for 22 years.

Advisers to several GOP campaigns say they expect voters to ultimately gravitate toward experienced candidates as next year's early primaries and caucuses draw near. Unlike Walker and Perry, who struggled to build sustainable campaigns, some of the more traditional candidates are banking on building organizations that will still be standing if the electorate's mood does indeed shift.

For Bush, that means having money—and lots of it. The former Florida governor raised \$120 million for his super PAC and campaign in the first half of the year, vastly more than any of his rivals. Bush's financial stability has already allowed him to pour \$24 million into television advertising in early voting states.

Rubio's strategy is to run a lean campaign through the fall, expending as little money as possible on staff, travel and advertisements until the early primaries draw closer. "We've run such a lean campaign at times, taken knocks for it," said Terry Sullivan, Rubio's campaign manager. "But keeping control of the budget is such an important thing." Rubio's strategy is driven in part by necessity. His campaign and outside groups supporting his candidacy have raised about one-third of Bush's totals. Still, Rubio's advisers point to Walker's financial woes as validation. Walker built a large network of staff and consultants, but quickly burned through the money he needed to keep the expensive organization afloat. — AP

TOP-RANKING AND GOVERNING MORMON LEADER DEAD AT 86

SALT LAKE CITY: Mormon leader Richard G Scott died Tuesday at the age of 86—leaving the religion with three openings on its top governing body for the first time in more than a century. Scott died from natural causes at his home in Salt Lake City surrounded by his family. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints said in a statement. Scott had been a member of a church governing body called the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles since 1988.

He is the third top member of the quorum to die this year, leaving three vacancies on the quorum for the first time since 1906, church officials said. Quorum president Boyd K Packer died in July from natural causes, and quorum member L Tom Perry died in May from cancer. Replacements for the trio are expected to be named in the coming months, perhaps at the religion's twice-a-year conference on Oct 3-4.

Six other members among the religion's top 15 leaders are also 80 or older, including church president Thomas S Monson. He is 88 and is feeling the effects of his age, according to church officials. Russell M. Nelson, 91, is next in line to become church president based on being the longest-tenured member of the quorum.

Business interests

Born in Pocatello, Idaho, Scott had a successful career as a nuclear engineer before being chosen in 1988 as a member of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Modeled after Jesus Christ's apostles, the group serves under the church president and his two counselors in overseeing operations of the church and its business interests.

Scott's health began deteriorating earlier this year. He was hospitalized with gastrointestinal bleeding in April. He recovered from that, but church officials announced in May that Scott was experiencing fading memory that kept him from taking part in quorum meetings. Scott kept a fairly low public profile, known mostly for his speeches at Mormon conferences where he managed a delicate balance of "preaching repentance without stridency," said Matthew Bowman, an associate professor of history at Henderson State University. Mormon scholar Armand Mauss called Scott a "mild-mannered leader promoting self-improvement and compassion as important attributes for Latter-day Saints to acquire."

Utah Gov Gary Herbert called Scott a kind and generous leader. "His unwavering faith and pursuit of lifelong learning was an example to each one of us," Herbert said in a statement. Fellow quorum member D. Todd Christofferson said in a



SALT LAKE CITY: In this July 10, 2015, file photo, Richard G Scott attends the memorial service for Mormon leader Boyd K Packer at the Tabernacle, on Temple Square. — AP

church news release that Scott delivered hopeful messages that inspired others. He was credited with helping drive global church membership. "I don't go anywhere, especially in Latin America, where he served for so long and in so many places—I don't go anywhere there that I don't see his footprints, where I don't meet somebody who hasn't been influenced by him in some way," Christofferson said in the news release. Scott was born in Idaho, but he moved at the age of 5 to Washington, DC, where his father, Kenneth Leroy, would become assistant secretary of agriculture. Scott graduated from George Washington University with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Throughout his life, he suffered intense personal losses. Two of his seven children died when they were young, and his wife, Jeanene, died of cancer in 1995. She was the daughter of U.S. Sen. Arthur Watkins. Scott never remarried. Scott didn't speak at the last church general conference in April. His final address came in October 2014 when he spoke about the importance of prayer, scripture reading, family home nights and going to the temple. "Each of us is intimately aware of our own struggles with temptation, pain and sadness," Scott said that day. "Despite all of the negative challenges we have in life, we must take time to actively exercise our faith." — AP



IOWA: Republican presidential candidate, businessman Donald Trump holds a Bible as he speaks during the Iowa Faith & Freedom Coalition's annual fall dinner. — AP