

Draft Statement by
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Excellencies,
Distinguished Members of the CDP,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to be here with you today and to welcome you all to the launch of this important publication on alternative development strategies for the post-2015 era. As you may know, the volume was prepared under the initiative of the Committee for Development Policy, with the support of DESA.

As a policy advisory body to the Economic and Social Council, the Committee has contributed to improving our understanding on emerging cross-sectoral development issues. It has generated innovative ideas and approaches to tackle persistent problems and emerging challenges in achieving improved welfare worldwide.

As the UN embarks into a renewed effort to achieve sustainable development for all, the CDP has taken upon itself the task to examine and draw lessons from past experiences so that we can formulate more effective, comprehensive approaches in identifying durable and equitable solutions to the development challenges the world confronts today.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me recall that the Millennium Development Goals have been fundamental in focusing attention and in galvanizing efforts around the common goal of eradicating poverty. They have guided development strategies and rallied development partners around the world towards achieving those goals. The MDG initiative has produced significant and positive results, expressing the global commitment to poverty reduction and to development. That commitment should not only be continued but also be strengthened after 2015. Efforts paid off, and we have made tremendous headway in achieving the goals.

However, despite the positive outcomes, the sustainability of such achievements has been threatened by inter-related crises that emerged and burst with all their might in 2008: namely, a financial crisis, a food security crisis, an environmental crisis, amidst persisting--sometimes widening-- economic inequality crisis. Achieving the MDGs is one component— an important one-- of making progress toward sustainable development and enduring a world of dignity for all; but additional action is needed. Outcomes need to be sustainable. Moreover, prosperity needs to be fairly enjoyed. We are all acutely aware that there are massive differences in country performances and unacceptable inequalities within and across countries.

The problems facing the world economy, however, are not limited to those posed by the crises. New development challenges have emerged. Climate change, increasing scarcity of freshwater, unsustainable urbanization, food security in the long term, demographic pressures emanating from a growing and ageing world population –to name a few—are among the emerging trends we need to address.

These challenges call for bold and pragmatic responses. As the book we are launching here today indicates, the problems we are now facing are largely the consequence of the means through which material progress has been achieved. Solutions for these problems require innovative approaches that can deliver transformative changes towards a secure, sustainable and inclusive pathway for global development. Coherence of our actions needs to be urgently improved by integrating more equitable economic and social policies with pervasive efforts to ensure environmental sustainability. More representative global governance structures will need to be created to guide such policy efforts.

This is far from being an easy task. How can we ensure that that progress achieved is sustainable? What policies are effective to generate decent employment opportunities for all? What institutional arrangements could a country develop to find an optimal mix of policies and to implement these policies?

The book being launched today offers some important answers:

First, “*Alternative Strategies*” emphasizes that we need to learn from successful national experiences. There is no one size fits all, no silver bullets. However, there are some common elements among those successful policies which provide important lessons for us in formulating an alternative development strategy. Successful countries were able to define their own development path, by adopting a particular combination between market and state, international integration and the promotion of national capacities, all tuned to local conditions and supported by stable and proactive macroeconomics.

Second, the book stresses that a more cooperative, inclusive and effective international governance system needs to be designed based on the principle of “common-but-differentiated responsibilities”. It suggests that new policies and international frameworks are needed for a more balanced distribution of both the benefits of globalisation and the responsibilities for its costs. Moreover, these new or reformed global governance structures should be flexible and provide enough “policy space” for domestic policymakers and citizens to adopt the specific measures to promote the development trajectory which they have defined.

Finally, the authors indicate that the development agenda for the post-2015 era should take into account the interdependence among global goals and ensure coherence between these goals and those established at the local, national and regional levels. Coherence needs also to be pursued in the various objectives in the economic, social and environmental spheres as well as in an inter-temporal manner, thus ensuring equity and security for future generations.

These considerations and rich analysis presented in the book provide important inputs for formulation of a new global development agenda for the post-2015 era. They represent the first rigorous analytical responses to the calls for a new global development strategy to address the challenges of the twenty-first century in a manner compatible with achieving a more equitable and sustainable progress in human wellbeing worldwide.

Let me conclude by expressing my sincere thanks to Members of CDP and their collaborators and acknowledging with much appreciation their work, their time and dedication.

Thank you very much for your attention.