

## **A renewed global partnership for development**

# **Report of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **What is the global partnership for development?**

The concept of the global partnership has been around for decades and countries have used different forms of engagement with it. The global partnership for development we know today was conceived at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, when Member States decided to create a conducive environment for development at the national and global levels. Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 8 (Develop a global partnership for development) was then formulated in the “Road map towards implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration” to foster such an enabling environment for development. It includes targets on aid, trade, debt relief and improved access to essential medicines and new technologies. This concept was further enhanced in the Monterrey Consensus and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation which included additional commitments for Member States to focus on resource mobilization, strengthening global governance and promoting policy coherence. In addition to the global partnership for development, other form of partnership have significantly increased in importance in the past years, such as multi-stakeholder partnerships and South-South cooperation.

#### **What are multi-stakeholder partnerships?**

Multi-stakeholder partnerships are voluntary associations between different stakeholders such as civil society organizations, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, and international organizations. The 2006 General Assembly resolution “Towards global partnerships” defined these partnerships as voluntary relationships between various public and non-public parties in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task. Prominent examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships include the ‘Every Woman, Every Child’ Initiative by the Secretary-General or his ‘Sustainable Energy For All’ initiative.

### **Which actors are involved in the global partnership for development?**

A large variety of governmental and non-governmental actors are involved in global development cooperation. Governmental actors include the traditional donors, which come together under the Development Assistance Committee framework of the OECD. So-called non-traditional donors, such as emerging economies and middle-income countries as well as the Arab states are playing an increasingly important role as partners in development cooperation. South-South Cooperation is based on the principles of mutual benefit and solidarity. Even though the exact contribution of Southern partners in development cooperation is hard to measure, they are providing important development assistance in terms of financial resources, knowledge sharing, capacity building and transfer of personnel. In addition, actors from civil-society, philanthropic organizations and the private sector complement the global partnership for development with resources and awareness raising among others.

### **What are the lessons learnt from MDG 8?**

MDG 8 served as an advocacy tool to highlight the importance of a global partnership to create an enabling environment for development in a simple and transparent formulation. It also recognized the needs of the most vulnerable countries and called for strengthening of commitments to increase support to least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS). However there were several shortcomings with the formulation of MDG 8 and its implementation, which should be avoided in a post-2105 agenda.

A main weakness of the present global partnership is the lack of accountability of stakeholders. This is partly due to a large discrepancy between the level of ambition contained in the targets for MDG 8 and the choice of indicators, which falls far short from those ambitions, as seen with target 8.a on the trading and financial system and its subsequent indicators. There is a lack of clear quantifiable and time-bound targets, in some cases; or a choice of indicators which reduces the level of ambition substantially. MDG 8 has often been criticized for perpetuating a 'donor-recipient' country relation rather than a true partnership between countries. Being the only goal that assigns responsibilities to developed nations and its focus on aid has further added to this.

### **What are the lessons learnt from multi-stakeholder partnerships?**

Having been in existence for decades, multi-stakeholder partnerships can play an important role in mobilizing additional resources or promoting awareness of certain issues. Rather than being a substitute to the global partnership for development, they can complement existing international commitments to foster progress towards achieving the internationally agreed development goals. While multi-stakeholder partnerships make important contributions they also have some shortcomings. Due to their ad hoc nature and their focus, mostly on short-term issues, these partnerships have a poor track record in promoting systemic change; it is also difficult to link them to national development priorities and to foster coherence across different partnerships, including knowledge sharing.

### **What could a renewed global partnership for development in the post-2015 era look like?**

Any future partnership for development must be based on a compelling narrative around a truly universal global agenda. The challenges of today and the transformative change needed to achieve sustainable development will require collective action from all countries based on their individual capacities across the various goals. A dual-structure could be designed to effectively define the global partnership for development as an intrinsic part of the post 2015 agenda. A stand-alone goal on the global partnership for development with explicit commitments for all countries could aim to create a global enabling environment for development by promoting the contribution of various partners and covering areas of common and in some cases differentiated responsibilities. In regard to target setting and in order to capture the concept of common but differentiated responsibilities, national targets and indicators could be defined to reflect the specific contributions of each country depending on their particular context. Complementing this stand-alone goal on global partnership, specific targets could be defined for partnerships under each goal. This would help to further strengthen the link between the specific goals in the post 2015 agenda and the means of achieving them. It would also help to reflect the contributions of multi-stakeholder partnerships in a more systematic and integrated manner.

### **Which focus areas should a renewed global partnership pay attention to?**

The targets and focus areas outlined under MDG 8 remain relevant. These include issues related to resource mobilization for development, trade, debt relief, and access to essential medicines and technology. While commitments on official development assistance must be strengthened and

met, these should also address quality aspects such as aid efficiency. Moreover, the renewed global partnership for development can foster innovative forms of development finance and development assistance that goes beyond traditional donors. The renewed global partnership should also continue to foster dialogue on debt sustainability beyond its narrow focus on HIPC countries and should further look to build a more equitable multilateral trade system, concluding the Doha Round but also addressing supply-side constraints in developing countries, including through improved access to new technologies and long-term investment. In addition to these, a renewed global partnership should help to strengthen global governance by addressing existent gaps in international arrangements that constrain collective decision-making. Building the conditions for an inclusive and equitable system of global governance will be important to the implementation of a universal and transformative post 2015 development agenda. Improving the governance for migration and human mobility will also play an important role in the global partnership.

**What could a monitoring and accountability framework for the global partnership for development look like?**

One of the greatest shortcomings of MDG 8 was the shortfall in the delivery of commitments. These were largely due to a lack of an efficient and effective monitoring and accountability system to measure progress on the targets associated with MDG 8. By keeping track of progress, a robust mutual accountability system can help to ensure that commitments are being honored by all sides. In this vein, national, regional and global accountability systems need to reinforce each other. Even though mutual accountability today is still in its infancy and a fully-fledged mutual accountability mechanism with universal membership is still to emerge, some progress has been made. The establishment of the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review and the biennial High-level Development Cooperation Forum marked important steps in this direction. Looking ahead, strong political support from all countries will be needed to further strengthen these and fully embed the renewed global partnership for development in a robust and efficient system of mutual accountability.

**How should the countries with special needs feature in the renewed global partnership for development?**

MDG 8 included special attention on the needs of the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developed countries (LLDCs) and small-island developing states (SIDS) by aiming to

mobilize additional resources and strengthening commitments to support their development. While the renewed global partnership for development must continue to do so, it should extend the focus on the most vulnerable countries to also cover the needs of countries emerging from or suffering from conflict and/or political instability. Greater emphasis on facilitating market access for the most vulnerable countries and further enhancing their production capacities will be important to facilitate the kind of transformative change needed for development. Implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action would be an important step to address the key concerns of LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

**How can a renewed global partnership for development mobilize resources for sustainable development?**

The renewed global partnership for development can play a crucial role in the mobilization of domestic and external resources for sustainable development. The challenges we face today require a coherent framework for financing development with full integration of the three dimensions of sustainability (economic, social and environmental). Climate-change financing thus far has mainly focused on mitigation. This must be extended to include the far more costly aspects of adaptation as well as mobilizing finance for disaster prevention and disaster risk reduction and building resilience. This will require far larger resources than currently available for the MDG framework. Regarding external financing, the global partnership for development should reaffirm existing commitment and set clear timelines to meet them. Beyond this, the global partnership for development could assist countries in mobilizing domestic resources for financing through combating illegal capital flight, by promoting good corporate governance and by improving tax systems. Moreover, the global partnership for development could help to promote the flow of targeted long-term investments, including foreign direct investments, from the private sector.