

EGM to support the advancement of the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

Session II (27 February 2012)

The role of a global development agenda vis-à-vis national development processes

Summary

Key messages by issue

I. General nature of the global development agenda (GDA)

- The global development agenda must outline propositions and goals, but should not include specific policies. In other words, it should present guiding principles rather than prescriptions. In addition, it should not focus only on the outcomes, but should address the process, including means of implementation.
- The GDA must not be donor driven and should evolve at the national level;
- While recognizing national differences, initial conditions and providing flexibility, the GDA must serve to frame the national development strategies, but avoid encroaching on domestic policies;
- The framework should allow for more policy space at the national level. It should therefore not give prescriptions, but must present some propositions;
- Unfair international rules must be made more symmetrical and uniform. However, uniform rules are sometimes insufficient, that is, a level playing field does not necessarily lead to development in many poor countries, so the players should be given more flexibility.

II. Purpose of the GDA

A GDA is necessary to galvanize support for MDG's and other IADGs, to reduce negative externalities, and must introduce accountability for both developed and developing countries by introducing a system of checks and balances.

III. Role of the developing countries

- Countries are mainly responsible for their development, thus external funding should not be a substitute for domestic resources;
- The State should be leading the process putting employment creation at the center, strengthening domestic markets, and recognizing that economic growth alone is not sufficient for poverty reduction or development, more generally.

IV. Role of the developed countries

- although more emphasis should be put on the role of the developing countries in order to make the GDA a more global framework, responsibilities of the donor community as specified by MDG 8 should be further strengthened and more clearly defined;
- a number of global challenges are applicable to both developed and developing countries, including those related to the global environment, population ageing and increasing levels of urbanization.

V. The MDG's role in national development processes

The MDG's helped shaped national development strategies, but the process was in some cases limited to measurement. Thus, some countries are suggesting that the MDG framework should be expanded beyond just measurement and monitoring, and help countries formulate more effective development policies. New issues, such as job creation for women, social cohesion, reduction of inequalities, greater transparency and accountability must be incorporated.

VI. Structure of the MDGs

- The agenda should avoid being overloaded with many more indicators and targets, but should focus on what needs to be done at the global level, including strengthening global partnerships for development;
- at the same time, the global partnership should be more comprehensive, including goals at the global, regional and national levels;
- national goals should apply to the sub-national level and must be linked for effective implementation and monitoring.

VII. Main point for further discussion – Human rights

There was a general agreement that human rights should be considered in the MDGs and the future development agenda. A participatory human rights concept could connect national policies to the global agenda, but a more concrete proposal on how to incorporate human rights in the agenda still needs to be developed.