

Economic and Social Council

Civil society hearing on the longer-term positioning of the United Nations development system

Joint statement submitted by Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo and the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development, Inc, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

2015 will be a major year for international development as United Nations Delegates will meet in Addis Abba and New York to reflect on the new realities and challenges that the world is facing. To reflect this new turn in the UN development system, ECOSOC will need to achieve an ambitious 2016 Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, containing a series of reforms of its programmes. The Global Foundation for Democracy and Development and Fundación Global Democracia y Desarrollo have campaigned for two integral reforms in their interventions at the UN: building capacity in developing countries through technology transfer to address national and regional priorities, and promoting the role of innovation and multi-stakeholder partnerships to meet the enhanced financing needs of this new agenda.

Our Foundations have been active contributors to the debates of the Post-2015 Intergovernmental Negotiations. Advocating for the inclusion of technology transfer in goal 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, we have stressed the need to empower developing countries to develop their own technology infrastructure, by supporting resource as well as knowledge transfer, the key ingredients to self-sufficiency within this industry. Indeed, last May, former President Leonel Fernandez of the Dominican Republic and President of the Foundations moderated a High Level panel at UN Headquarters stressing the need for the international community to promote North-North, South-South, and triangular cooperation, so that the technological gap between North and South does not widen, and sustainable development is promoted in the South.

An unprecedented amount of financial resources will be needed to fulfill the demands of this new development agenda. In its 2013 report, Tackling the Infrastructure Finance Deficit, the World Bank estimated that the infrastructure needs alone of developing countries would total around US\$1 trillion per year through 2020, with an additional US\$200 to US\$300 billion per year to ensure investments are climate resilient. In light of such figures, current investment patterns will simply not deliver sustainable development. Thankfully, over the last decade a proliferation of innovative financing for development mechanisms have come to light. These include the airline ticket tax and social impact bonds to name but a few. There are opportunities in the post-2015 process for government to help scale up

these initiatives by partnering with them and pledging an annual amount. Engaging the private sector in this process will also be a vital way of delivering financial products to communities that need them the most. The current use of mobile phones to make pension payments on the African continent highlights valuable technological services that the private sector could help expand upon to provide further financial products to remote rural communities in the form of microloans.

There are numerous innovative opportunities to raise and deliver resources, facilitated in large part through technology empowerment. It is imperative for the UN development system to recognize these opportunities in its funding practices and partnership approaches if we are to realize the transformative development agenda laid out in Rio in 2012.