

**High-Level Event of the General Assembly
“The Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society
to the Post-2015 Development Agenda”
6-7 of March, 2014**

Background

Women, young people and civil society have already made major and substantive contributions to the preparation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda with the overarching goal of poverty eradication. However, their continuing, full contribution and participation in the design, implementation and future evolution of this Post-2015 Development Agenda will depend on two fundamental factors: (1) the extent of social inclusion and, conversely, the persistence of challenges such as inequalities, discrimination and marginalization that impede unleashing the full potential, capacities and abilities of all people to contribute to inclusive sustainable development, and to share equitably in its outcomes, and (2) the degree to which they can safely claim dedicated spaces to contribute effectively to decision-making at the global, national and sub-national levels, and the scope to exercise accountability with decision-makers through their actions and voices.

These factors will affect not only the scope for women, young people including children, and civil society to engage in sustainable development, but also their ability to participate as actors, partners and contributors in a transparent, effective, integrated and coordinated manner. This calls for a two way-process of positive reinforcement between the strengthening of capabilities and the exercise of voice.

Objective

The high-level event will address a number of cross-cutting rights-based issues relevant to women and the young, across differing national circumstances and developmental stages, such as violence against women and girls; access to quality education, skills and training; health; decent work; social protection; and financial and economic inclusion, including women’s access to and control over productive resources. The event will also provide an opportunity to address the role of civil society, while taking into account the issues of transparency and inclusiveness in the definition of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In building upon the deliberations undertaken in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the high-level event will provide an opportunity for participants to address also key issues, such as:

- 1) How can the Post-2015 Development Agenda address the diverse and intersecting inequalities that challenge inclusive sustainable development prospects on the basis of income, gender, age, race/ethnicity and disabilities, among other factors of marginalization?

- 2) What measures must be taken and what accountability and transparency mechanisms should be established to ensure that women, young people and civil society are given the space to actively and meaningfully engage in shaping, implementing and monitoring the Post-2015 Development Agenda at all levels?
- 3) How do Member States envision that the rights and needs of all women and young people will be reflected in the Post-2015 Development Agenda?
- 4) How can the UN system better support efforts at the national, regional and global levels towards reducing inequality and discrimination?
- 5) Can meaningful metrics (goals and/or targets) be devised to ensure that women and young people are not left behind in the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda at all levels?

Format and outcome

The high-level event will take place 6 to 7 March, 2014 in New York. In accordance with the letter of the President of the General Assembly to Member States dated on December 5th, 2013, it will consist of an opening plenary, interactive, multi-stakeholder panel discussions and a closing plenary. A President's summary will be issued at its conclusion and will subsequently be made available to the members of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing for their consideration, as applicable.

Participants

Member States are invited to participate at the ministerial level and to express to the President of the General Assembly their interest in co-chairing an interactive panel discussion.

Representatives of United Nations agencies and of the civil society, major groups and other relevant stakeholders will also be invited to attend.

Further information on the high-level event, including programme details and issues to be addressed during the plenary and interactive panel discussions will be made available to Member States at a later stage.