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High-level segment - Thematic discussion

Implementation of and follow-up to major
United Nations conferences and summits

Inputs received by the Subsidiary Bodies of the United Nations Economic and Social Council on post-2015 development agenda

Note by the Secretary-General

Summary

On 7 December 2011, the then President of the Economic and Social Council, H.E. Mr. Lazarous Kapambwe, requested written inputs by the membership of the functional commissions on the key issues that should find their place in the United Nations post-2015 development agenda. This document is a compilation of inputs received from the Commission for Social Development, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Commission on the Status of Women.

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I. Commission for Social Development

1. At its fifty-first session, the Commission for Social Development held a panel discussion entitled “The social dimension in the global development agenda beyond 2015”. The summary of this panel by the Chairperson of the Commission is hereunder reproduced as an input to the work of ECOSOC on the post 2015 development agenda.

Chair’s Summary of the panel discussion on “The social dimension in the global development agenda beyond 2015”, held at the 51th session of the Commission

2. The Commission heard presentations from the following panellists: Ms. Sarah Cook, Director of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Dr. Timo Voipio, Senior Adviser on Social Policy and Decent Work, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland, Mr. Mawutor Ablo, Director of Social Protection, Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare of Ghana, Mr. Stephen Pursey, Director of Policy Integration and Adviser to the Director General, International Labour Organization (ILO), and Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director, Division for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations. The panel was moderated by H.E. Mr. Carlos Enrique García González, Ambassador, Vice Chairperson of the Bureau of the Commission for Social Development and Deputy Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations.

3. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), world leaders made a commitment to promote sustainable development, integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions on equal footing. The post-2015 development agenda is expected to guide global efforts to realize the commitment. This provides a unique opportunity to strengthen the social dimension of sustainable development.

4. It has emerged that a fundamental rethinking of development, giving greater emphasis to the social dimension, is necessary. In Rio, Governments re-emphasized the need to place people and the planet at the centre of sustainable development. Such inclusive, people-centred, sustainable development will require transformative changes. The post-2015 global development agenda, therefore, must be more ambitious in its vision and goals than the MDGs. The challenge is to balance an ambitious vision with the need to prioritize and agree on a limited set of clear and practical, measurable goals.

Strengthening the social dimension of sustainable development

5. To date, insufficient attention has been given to the social dimension of sustainable development, despite the fact that the three pillars (social, economic and environment) are intimately interlinked. There is a growing recognition that economic growth alone is not sufficient to ensure social justice, equality and sustained prosperity for all. A strong social foundation is crucial for ensuring sustainability of social and economic development and environmental protection. Therefore, poverty eradication, full employment and decent work, social protection and social inclusion should

be at the core of economic and environmental policies to realize inclusive and sustainable development with social justice.

6. Not only is social development necessary for sustainable development but, with the right policies in place, social processes that transform behaviour can be drivers of change in economic and environmental spheres. At present, however, policies aim mainly at addressing the social consequences of economic or political processes, including their negative impacts on particular marginalized social groups, rather than addressing the root causes of social exclusion. Yet social relations, institutions and behaviours underpin efforts to change patterns of production, consumption and distribution, and to improve individual well-being. In order to promote such a transformation, policies should move towards addressing the social drivers of structural change.

7. In formulating the post-2015 global development agenda, new policy frameworks that integrate social dimensions at all levels of policy design and implementation should be prioritised in order to ensure equitable and socially sustainable development. Clearly defining the social dimension as both a stand alone pillar and a cross-cutting issue will enable effective integration of social perspectives in framing issues and policies. This will also allow refocused attention on social institutions and relations, which provide a foundation to improve individual well-being and quality of life.

Priority areas

8. The following were identified as important areas which need to be incorporated in the post-2015 development agenda: inequality, social inclusion, empowerment and participation, full and productive employment and decent work, and social protection. The challenge is to find a consultative way/process to select the core priorities and structure them in a meaningful way for effective monitoring. Therefore, elaboration is necessary to identify context specific indicators and available data on best practice at national and international level. Framing the development agenda around people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, would enable addressing structural causes of poverty and inequality.

Inequality and social inclusion

9. Despite overall progress in advancing the MDGs and reducing extreme poverty, there are significant regional disparities and inequalities in income and opportunities both between and within countries. A people-centred approach is essential to understand and address the determinants of inequalities from multiple dimensions, including income, place of residence, gender, age and others. This will enable achieving sustained, inclusive and equitable growth and a sustainable path to our future.

Empowerment and participation

10. The process to formulate the post-2015 framework has led to open and inclusive consultations (as called for by Governments) to ensure the agenda will be the result of a participatory process and therefore reflect the concerns of people. The empowerment of people and their participation is critical to the objective of an inclusive and equitable future that is sustainable as they will be integral part of

the solution. Therefore, the post-2015 agenda should aim at promoting the enablers of participation of all segments of society and their empowerment.

Full and productive employment, decent work and social protection

11. Decent work is the main means to sustain livelihoods, move people out of poverty, improve the quality of life and empower people. As such, it should be a critical element to be strengthened in the post-2015 global development agenda. A stronger focus on decent work calls for bringing a ‘job-lens’ and conducting social/job impact assessments of policies in place.

12. Social protection has been making a sustained impact on reducing poverty among the extremely poor and vulnerable. Well designed social protection systems also contribute to ensuring productive participation by all, and therefore are considered key to reduce inequalities, promote inclusive growth and empower people. Therefore, it is another area that should be strengthened in the post-2015 development framework.

13. National social protection floors should go beyond providing cash transfers, and include care work and capacity building, both of which are necessary to empower disadvantaged groups. Strengthening social protection systems and programmes would require high-level policy commitment and coordination at the national level and funding both at the national and international levels. Social protection programmes should be tailored to address multiple vulnerabilities of the poor, and be linked to other areas including productivity, skills development, micro-finance etc.

Monitoring mechanism

14. The post-2015 agenda should go beyond monitoring averages and track changes in the lives of the most disadvantaged and marginalized groups and individuals. This disaggregated approach to monitoring is one way to focus attention on inequality.

15. Accountability mechanisms in the post-2015 agenda could be developed at the global level, while allowing for flexibility at the national level in defining national targets according to local conditions. Taking into account that monitoring of the global agenda takes place at the national level, there is a need for improving data collection and data quality, including at the sub-national level. In this regard, increased attention should be given to strengthening national capacity in monitoring the implementation through participatory processes, including enhancing civil society participation.

A way forward

16. The Commission for Social Development was urged to consider the structure of post-2015 priorities from social perspectives, taking into consideration its expertise and constituencies in the social dimension of sustainable development. This is vital to formulating a post-2015 global development agenda that is sensitive to the needs and concerns of the most vulnerable, marginalized and disadvantaged groups and population. The success of the post-2015 agenda depends on how it will empower them and uplift their lives.

17. From the panel discussion it clearly emerged that although the social dimension is often understood as a cross-cutting issue, there is a need to have a strong social pillar with its own identity. A strong social pillar enables promoting transformative changes that affect the way we think and we behave in the economic, environmental and social spheres, which will ultimately improve the well-being of people. Realizing such fundamental transformations could be a major contribution of the social dimension in the global development agenda beyond 2015.

18. It was proposed that the summary of this panel discussion should be transmitted to the next substantive session of the Economic and Social Council, and also shared with the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

II. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

19. The below response to the invitation by the President of the Economic and Social Council, dated 7 December 2011, reflects a compilation of views expressed by Member States - in written form - before, as well as - orally - during the reconvened 21st session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, on the issues within the mandate of the CCPCJ that should be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda.

20. Written input was received following a letter, dated 4 September 2012, sent to Permanent Missions by the Chairpersons of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at the recommendation of the Extended Bureaux of the respective Commissions.

21. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was informed during its reconvened twenty-second session on 7 December 2012 about the written input received, and some additional views were expressed by Member States at that occasion.

22. Member States stressed the need to consider the linkages between development and justice, security and the rule of law in the context of the review of the Millennium Development Goals and the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda. On the one hand, poverty, inequalities, lack of education, high population growth, rapid urbanization, social exclusion and marginalization were considered as root causes for crime. Vulnerable groups, especially women and children, were most at risk of violence and victimization.

23. On the other hand, crime-related violence, transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, as well as drug trafficking not only caused losses in terms of human resources and future productivity, but also negatively affected the enabling environment for the realization of development goals, the rule of law, business and finance and human security.

24. The inputs of Member States reflect the understanding that crime prevention and criminal justice efforts could play a significant role in strengthening the rule of law and achieving social, economic and environmental development. Global crime prevention and criminal justice issues,

suggested by several Member States for consideration in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, included measures to prevent and address transnational organized crime, especially trafficking in persons, corruption and other forms of crime, including youth crime. The contribution of crime prevention and law enforcement to social integration and social inclusion, as well as their relationship with broader socio-economic policies were also considered important.

25. It was stressed that corruption and other forms of economic crime hamper development by depriving economic actors of resources that are vital for poverty eradication. Weak justice institutions could render societies susceptible to transnational organized crime and drug trafficking, especially in fragile and post-conflict States where the consequences of violence on development are significant. It was suggested that due consideration should be given to the impact of economic crime on development and that anti-corruption measures should be mainstreamed into judicial sector reform programming.

26. Access to justice and the rule of law were also suggested for consideration in the post-2015 development agenda. Member States emphasized ways to strengthen justice sector reform, including capacity building, especially in post-conflict and transitional contexts. The United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice played an important role in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems.

27. Member States further referred to issues related to security and the prevention of interpersonal violence in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants had significant impacts on sustainable development. Violence against women and children were equally serious issues and crime prevention and criminal justice measures contributed to their prevention and elimination. Member States stressed the importance of preventing urban crime and promoting the safety of cities, action against criminal threats to tourism and measures to combat cybercrime, as well as strategies to combat environmental crime to achieve sustainability and action against smuggling in precious metals. The importance of public-private partnerships in the fight against crime was also emphasized.

28. At the reconvened 21st session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held on 7 December 2012, delegations stressed the importance of considering corruption, drug trafficking and organized crime, including trafficking in persons, in the context of the post 2015 development agenda.

29. It was stressed that discussions on relevant issues that should be included in the post 2015 development agenda were to be placed within the framework of relevant international conventions, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

30. The 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to be held in Qatar in 2015 was mentioned as an important opportunity to mainstream crime and justice issues into this process. The relevance of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Qatar in 2015, for the post 2015 development agenda was stressed.

Reference was made to the main theme of the 13th Crime Congress: “Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation”.

31. As the post 2015 development agenda was intrinsically linked to sustainable development, Member States stressed the need for a comprehensive approach and supported further involvement of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the discussions leading to the establishment of the post-2015 development agenda, in close coordination with ECOSOC and other United Nations bodies and entities. The functional commissions of ECOSOC could contribute, within their respective mandates, to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

III. Commission on Narcotic Drugs

32. The below response to the invitation by the President of the Economic and Social Council, dated 7 December 2011, reflects a compilation of views expressed by Member States - in written form – before, as well as - orally - during the reconvened 55th session of the Commission of Narcotic Drugs, on the issues within the mandate of the CND that should be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda.

33. Written input was received following a letter, dated 4 September 2012, sent to Permanent Missions by the Chairpersons of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at the recommendation of the Extended Bureaux of the respective Commissions.

34. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs was informed during its reconvened fifty-fifth session on 7 December 2012 about the written input received, and some additional views were expressed by Member States at that occasion.

35. The inputs of Member States reflect the understanding that the world drug problem has an impact on economic growth and development. It was stressed that the mandates of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs were closely related to the existing Millennium Development Goals on poverty eradication, gender equality and combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Member States underlined that measures to counter the world drug problem, including prevention, demand control, rehabilitation, supply control and drug trafficking, should be further discussed within the existing multilateral framework. Adopting a gender perspective was crucial in this regard, since drug policies that take into account gender considerations could contribute to achieving gender equality.

36. With regard to demand reduction and related measures, the importance of respect for human rights, including the right to health was stressed. Relevant policies needed to facilitate social inclusion and should be based on a multidimensional approach to development. It was suggested that related issues, including drug use and access to drug treatment services, could become part of a broader development goal on public health. The incidence of HIV/AIDS and other blood-borne diseases

among injecting drug users was stressed in the context of Millennium Development Goal 6 on combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

37. With regard to supply reduction, the important contribution of alternative development measures to the eradication of poverty and the achievement of environmental sustainability was highlighted. Member States supported the consideration of alternative development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, either as an additional development goal or in the context of existing targets on poverty reduction. Further specific concerns included the importance of countering the diversion of precursors for drug production, the problem of synthetic drugs, and assistance to counter the production and trafficking of drugs originating from Afghanistan, including through the Paris Pact Initiative.

38. With regard to countering money-laundering and promoting judicial cooperation to enhance international cooperation against the world drug problem, action against the legalization of financial flows from drug trafficking was considered important.

39. At the reconvened 55th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held on 7 December 2012, delegations emphasized the need to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes while preventing their diversion and abuse. Prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug abuse and addiction were considered essential components of a comprehensive approach, in which other agencies such as WHO had an important role to play. The importance of focusing on youth in the fight against the world drug problem was also stressed. Speakers also pointed to the importance of alternative development and of gender mainstreaming in efforts to reduce poverty. The effects of “narco-corruption” on good governance were also mentioned.

40. It was stressed that discussions on relevant issues that should be included in the post 2015 development agenda were to be placed within the framework of the international drug control conventions, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

41. As the post 2015 development agenda was intrinsically linked to sustainable development, Member States stressed the need for a comprehensive approach and supported further involvement of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in the discussions leading to the establishment of the post-2015 development agenda, in close coordination with ECOSOC and other United Nations bodies and entities. The functional commissions of ECOSOC could contribute, within their respective mandates, to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

IV. Commission on Science and Technology for Development

42. On 16 January 2012, following a request from the President of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Chair of the CSTD, invited members of the Commission to submit written

contributions on key issues that should be addressed in the post-2015 global development agenda.¹ In response to this invitation ten out of the 43 CSTD member States provided their written contributions: Brazil, Costa Rica, Cuba, France, Ghana, Hungary, Mauritius, Peru, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

43. The proposals submitted to the Secretariat of the CSTD vary in terms of the specific issues that should be addressed. Nevertheless from the different contributions received, it emerges a clear consensus on the crucial role that science and technology play in the attainment of the different development goals, pre and post-2015. From poverty reduction, to maternal health, or environmental sustainability, science and technology make a difference; they are a cross-cutting issue.

44. Countries acknowledge the importance of the elaboration of a new development agenda and thus, the relevance of also learning from the experiences gained in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The contribution from the Republic of Cuba for example, highlights the challenges faced by the MDGs in the recent global economic context. Member States seem to concur on the fact that the new agenda should address simultaneously the economic, social and environmental components of sustainable development. Moreover, the new agenda should be, as phrased by the contribution from France: multidimensional, integrated and inclusive.

45. This note summarizes the different issues raised by countries with regards to the post-2015 agenda. Although there are certainly differences between the submissions, the issues raised by the participating countries can be classified into four general categories: Science, Technology and ICT issues, Partnerships for development, Inequalities and Health.

Science, technology and ICT issues

46. The strong recognition of the cross-cutting component of science and technology in the development goals is also reflected on the fact that many proposals focus directly on strengthening domestic technological and innovation capabilities. In their submissions, countries also acknowledged, implicitly or explicitly, the fact that science and technology may not be an end by themselves, but that they are a fundamental means to achieve sustainable development goals.

47. Additionally, in the process of building an information society conducive to strengthening domestic capabilities, connectivity and access to ICT is important. Thus, some countries also address the challenge of narrowing down the digital divide: on fix and mobile telephony as well as in internet access (Goal 8F, MDG). The specific proposals are contained in Table 1.

Table 1. Countries' proposals on Science, Technology and ICT issues

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Affordable, integrated internet access (Brazil)▪ Enhance access to fix and mobile telephony and internet (corresponding to 8F (Costa Rica)▪ Measuring and enhancing the benefits of ICT for development (Hungary) |
|---|

¹ A reminder note was sent by the Chair of the CSTD to all the members of the Commission on 2 October 2012.

- Build the capacity of the critical mass of scientific and technological personnel to support the industrial development (Ghana)
- Enhanced infrastructural development through STI (Ghana)
- Build a scientific and technological knowledge society (Ghana)
- Improve the competitiveness of developing countries (Ghana)
- Earth observation, climatic and environmental (space based and in-situ) and analysis of multisource data (Hungary)
- Access to funds and allocation of resources to finance targeted scientific research, technological collaboration and advanced capacity building to support the blue and green economy (Mauritius)
- Limitations of restrictions included in the contracts for transfer of technology to Developing Countries (Saudi Arabia)
- Investment in the scientific system in favour of sustainable development (Saudi Arabia)

Partnerships for development

48. Proposals for Partnerships for development are related to MDG 8. Member states highlighted that in an interdependent global economy, cooperation is essential to succeed, especially in areas that involve technology transfer. Therein they also stressed the important role of the private sector. The proposals focus on strengthening or creating partnerships that facilitate technology transfer in different areas (environment, ICT, agriculture, etc) and help fostering productive capacities. The specific proposals are contained in Table 2.

Table 2. Countries' proposals on Partnerships for development

- Develop joint partnerships to foster plans and programs of massive training, especially in developing countries (Brazil)
- Public-private partnerships to provide access to ICT. The proposals suggest two new indicators of achievement: i) share of households with computers and ii) share of households with internet access at home. (Costa Rica)
- Create a technology transfer mechanism on agriculture, health care, environmental sustainability and telecommunications (Peru).
- Establishing a new deal on environmental sustainability based on science, in order to avoid tipping points. (Peru)
- Providing assistance to Developing Countries for drawing up the technical research and development and to follow up the technical communications and information (Saudi Arabia)
- Boosting and developing the cooperation and the regional and international partnerships for the transfer, settling and consolidation of technology (Saudi Arabia)
- Enhancing research and development in emerging areas/technologies such as biotechnology and nano biotechnology for the treatment of HIV/aids and malaria as well as environmental sustainability by a global entity and setting

targets for this entity under current goal 8 (Turkey)

Inequalities and health issues

49. There is a consensus in the different submissions that inequalities and health issues should continue to be an important part of the post-2015 development agenda. Although not all countries presented specific proposals, most of them considered that inequalities should be addressed if sustainable development is to be achieved. Likewise, many countries highlighted the need to gear science and technology towards addressing some of the most pressing global health challenges, such as malaria or HIV/AIDS. The specific proposals are contained in Table 3.

Table 3. Countries' proposals on Inequalities and health issues

Inequalities

- Making hunger and extreme poverty history (Peru)
- Achieve quality Universal infant and primary education (Peru)
- Promote gender equality and empower women (Peru)

Health

- Improve mother and child care (prenatal and 0-5 years) (Peru)
- Make HIV/Aids, malaria and tuberculosis non lethal diseases (Peru)
- Enhancing R&D in emerging areas/technologies such as nano and biotechnology for the treatment of HIV/AIDS and malaria (Turkey)

V. Commission on the Status of Women

50. On 7 March 2013, the Commission on the Status of Women convened an interactive panel to examine the emerging issue “Key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post-2015 development framework”. The summary of this panel prepared by its Moderator is hereunder reproduced as an input to ECOSOC’s work on the post 2015 development agenda.

Moderator’s summary of the panel discussion on key gender equality issues to be reflected in the post-2015 development framework

51. The Vice-Chair of the Commission, Irina Velichko, moderated the discussion. The panellists were: the Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for the Policy and Programme Bureau of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and co-chair of the task force of the United Nations Development Group on the Millennium Development Goals, John Hendra; and Executive Committee Member of Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era, Anita Nayar. Economist-in-residence at the American University and

Senior Gender Adviser at the United States Agency for International Development, Caren Grown, served as discussant.

52. As the 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals approaches, a number of processes are under way among Member States, the United Nations system, academia, policymakers and civil society to reflect on the post 2015 development framework. Related to these reflections is work towards the development of sustainable development goals, as called for by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012.

53. At its sixty-seventh session, the General Assembly reiterated that the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly are essential to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In this regard, the Assembly called for the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women to feature prominently in the discussions on the post-2015 development framework, bearing in mind the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective. The following summary highlights some of the recommendations made by Member States and representatives of civil society on the fundamental principles that should underpin the post-2015 development framework and ensure the centrality of gender equality and the empowerment of women in the new development agenda.

54. Presentations by panellists focused on opportunities for integrating gender equality into the multiple processes surrounding the development of the post-2015 framework and the sustainable development goals; reflections on lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals that need to be taken forward into the post-2015 framework; visions for a post-2015 framework with gender equality at its centre; and perspectives from women's organizations and civil society on the future development agenda.

55. There was strong consensus among participants that gender equality and the empowerment of women must be central in the post-2015 development agenda. The importance of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women as an effective means to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate truly sustainable development was clearly acknowledged in the Millennium Declaration. Participants also called for the post-2015 framework to be based on the principles of human rights, equality and non-discrimination, and for any goals to be both universally applicable to all countries and adaptable to individual country contexts. Other principles that participants identified as important to integrate in the new framework included the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic development, social development and environmental sustainability. Participants proposed a vision for a transformative development framework that, while ensuring continuity with the Millennium Development Goals, would move beyond that framework to be more action-oriented, inclusive and people-centred. There should be coherence between the new development agenda and the sustainable development goals.

56. Several participants stressed the importance of having ambitious, easy to understand and measurable goals in the new framework that would make a real difference in the lives of women and girls. The post-2015 development agenda should be guided by a holistic approach and apply multi-

sectoral solutions to effectively address current challenges. Transparency and accountability were also highlighted as vital for the implementation and monitoring of goals and targets. The role of civil society, including women's organizations, was recognized as key to participatory and inclusive processes leading to a post-2015 development agenda.

57. Participants highlighted the shortcomings of the Millennium Development Goals in addressing the structural and root causes of poverty and gender inequality, and the multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination experienced by women and girls around the world. Calls were made to focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized populations in the post-2015 framework, including women with disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender populations. Participants acknowledged that the denial of women's rights is the most widespread driver of inequality in the world, and that gender inequality and an absence of equal opportunities diminish the potential for development and exacerbate poverty and marginalization.

58. While participants critiqued the narrow scope of Goal 3 of the Millennium Development Goals on promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, the importance of having a stand-alone gender equality goal in the current framework was recognized as having galvanized resources and political will, and having served as an accountability mechanism to monitor progress and the remaining gaps in implementation. In addition to calling for a strong focus on gender equality in the post-2015 agenda, many participants expressed support for a twin-track approach for the incorporation of gender equality in the new framework, which would include both a stand-alone gender equality goal and the mainstreaming of a gender perspective across all other goals.

59. Participants noted the linkages between poverty and gender inequalities, which continue to reinforce each other and create increasing gaps in wealth, power and voice between countries, as well as between women and men. They emphasized that poverty could not be eradicated without long-term transformational changes in women's and men's lives. The post-2015 development framework must address the structural barriers that lead to poverty.

60. Violence against women and girls was one of the priority issues highlighted by participants, who called for the post-2015 framework to focus on concrete actions to address the root causes of violence, and to work towards the prevention and elimination of violence. In addition to violating the rights of women and girls to bodily integrity and security of the person, violence against women and girls is an obstacle to their access to education, training, resources and the labour market. Violence also denies women's and girls' right to health, including sexual and reproductive health, and their reproductive rights. Participants noted the importance of integrating targets on violence against women and girls into the post-2015 development framework.

61. Participants expressed concern about the continuing gaps in progress in many countries towards achieving Goal 5 of the Millennium Development Goals on improving maternal health and called for integration of sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights in the post-2015 framework. A number of speakers pointed to the positive impact of introducing universal access to safe and affordable health care in reducing maternal deaths and mother-to-child transmission of HIV, as well

as decreasing the incidence of HIV among young women. They also noted the contributions of strengthened primary health care to the achievement of gender equality.

62. Participants noted that access to education by itself was not sufficient as long as gender-based discrimination and stereotypes in schools resulted in educational and occupational segregation and hindered the full development of women's and girls' potential. Greater efforts are needed to improve opportunities for post-primary education for girls and to improve outcomes by focusing not only on quantitative issues but also on the quality of education.

63. The equal participation of women in all spheres of political, economic and social life was emphasized in the discussion as necessary for sustainable development and poverty reduction. While some progress had been made in increasing women's political representation, numerous participants acknowledged that concrete actions still needed to be taken to increase women's voice and participation in decision-making processes at all levels, including at the local government level, in households and in communities, in order for women to be able to fully participate in society on equal terms with men, including decision-making on access to and control over resources and assets.

64. Participants recognized that women's economic empowerment was crucial for the achievement of gender equality as it increases women's choices and voice in matters of family and the community. Inclusive and sustainable economic growth based on human rights and the rule of law is necessary for poverty eradication. Changes in macroeconomic policies are required for the achievement of women's economic rights. The new framework should address the barriers to women's full economic participation and access to financial and productive resources, including women's access to land, resources, knowledge and technology, as well as property and inheritance rights. Given the high rates of youth unemployment, participants recognized the importance of including young women in all employment generation initiatives. Participants noted the importance of developing concrete targets to achieve concrete results for women's economic empowerment in the post-2015 framework.

65. Participants called for decent work to be addressed as a core principle of economic empowerment in the post-2015 agenda, as well as the need for a living wage for women in the informal sector, including in domestic work. A number of participants also called for greater recognition and visibility of women's unpaid work in the new framework and in national accounts, to take account of time spent caring for children, the sick and the elderly, and to recognize its contribution to the economy and society more broadly. Good practices include the use of time-use surveys and the integration of women's unpaid care work in satellite accounts. Participants also noted the need to transform gender roles and perceptions of masculinity to promote the role of men as caregivers. Education and employment policies should challenge discriminatory practices and stereotypes to promote work life balance in order to advance equal opportunities and help redistribute the responsibilities of care work. Infrastructure developments in the areas of transportation, energy, water and sanitation have also been proven to reduce the amount of time women dedicate to unpaid work.

66. Poverty and inequalities, which thrive in countries in armed conflict and in fragile States, exacerbate violations of women's rights and hinder efforts to achieve gender equality and the

empowerment of women. Some participants noted that the post-2015 development framework should address peace and security as well as disaster risk reduction and preparedness. It should also promote measures to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

67. The post-2015 development framework requires commitments to greater financial investments in gender equality. Participants proposed that the post-2015 framework include a financing and investment agenda for Governments to play a central role in funding and accountability. They also suggested that Governments should mobilize resources through fiscal reforms, domestic resource mobilization and official development assistance. Global partnerships should be based on mutual accountability and trust.

68. Many participants commented on the availability of data that had influenced the selection of targets and indicators in the Millennium Development Goals. The post-2015 framework must include strong and clear targets and indicators in order to measure results for women and girls while being flexible enough to allow for the selection of national indicators. The goal-setting process must not be hindered by a lack of data but should lead to action to gather baseline data. In order to fully integrate a gender perspective into the new framework, participants emphasized the need for countries to collect quantitative and qualitative data disaggregated by sex, age, income, ethnicity/race and other factors on a wide range of issues, including on violence against women, access to and control of assets, political participation at the national and local levels, and allocation of resources for gender equality.