

# **Key Advocacy Messages**

for the

69th UN General Assembly

High Level Segment

September 2014



# **Beyond**2015

Campaigning for a **global development framework**  
after the **Millennium Development Goals**

## Beyond 2015 Key Advocacy Messages for the 69th UN General Assembly High Level Segment

### Beyond 2015's Vision for the post-2015 Framework is 'An equitable and sustainable world where every person is safe, resilient, lives well, and enjoys their human rights, and where political and economic systems deliver well-being for all people within the limits of our planet's resources.'

September 2014 is a key moment in the process of definition of the post-2015 development framework. It follows the Special Event in September 2013, the outcomes of the Open Working Group on the SDGs, the events promoted by the President of the 68th UN General Assembly and precedes the Secretary's General's Synthesis Report and intergovernmental negotiations. It comes one year before the post-2015 agenda. Thus, it is a crucial moment to raise the level of ambition, and to encourage decision makers to truly incorporate the voices of those most affected by poverty and inequality, establishing and implementing a transformative agenda that will work in the interests of people and the planet.

The persistence of extreme poverty, the failure to ensure freedom of voice and participation, and the routine and widespread violation of and failure to uphold human rights (including economic, environmental, cultural, social and indigenous rights) as well as the globally unsustainable use of natural resources combined with climate change, soil erosion, land degradation, water scarcity, food insecurity, lack of access to fresh water provision and the long-term security of resources are some of the key challenges that should be properly reflected in an ambitious post-2015 development.

Additionally, the theme for 69th UN General Assembly will be "Delivering on and Implementing a Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda" and Heads of State and Government of UN Member States were invited by the President of the 69th Session to comment on this issue during the General Debate (starting on September 24, in New York).

**Beyond 2015**, a global civil society campaign consisting of over 1100 CSOs in more than 130 countries wants to suggest the following messages that we would like the leaders of UN Member States to promote during the High Level Segment of the UN General Assembly:

#### Aiming higher

The creation of a new global framework represents a historical opportunity to catalyse the urgent and targeted action needed to help us achieve our vision of an equitable, peaceful and sustainable world. The opportunity is unique not only because it presents once in a generation, but also because failure to act collectively and decisively now will mean that the challenges faced by the next generation may be insurmountable: there is no way ahead if we continue on the current trajectory of increasing consumption, accelerating climate change combined with increasing inequality, deteriorating global social cohesion, and routine disregard for human rights and human security.

The outcome document of the Open Working Group (OWG) is a **good starting point** for the intergovernmental negotiations on the post-2015 development. Nevertheless, the OWG's proposals must represent **the floor, not the ceiling** of the ambitions for a truly transformative and people-centered framework.

#### On Participation

Since its inception, **Beyond 2015** has pushed strongly for the participation of those most affected by poverty and inequality in the design, implementation and monitoring of the post-2015 agenda. Only by welcoming a diversity of voices can a legitimate and **people-centred** post-2015 framework be designed. It is therefore vital to ensure strong participation of people and their organisations in the process leading up to and following the post-2015 Summit in September 2015. **Full access and the meaningful participation** of all groups will be essential to the transparency and integrity of the forthcoming negotiations.

#### On Human Rights

The post 2015 framework must reinforce international human rights commitments, laws and standards, fight injustice and address how its goals will allow for a progressive realization of rights. It must embrace a rights-based approach to development based on equality, equity and non-discrimination, and ensure the rights of people to participate fully in society and in decision-making.

#### On Equality

The proposed Goal 10 - "**Reduce Inequality within and among countries**" - is one of the most transformative goals proposed by the OWG. By including this goal, the new development framework commits to address both economic inequalities and forms of discrimination that affect poor, marginalised and vulnerable social groups. Only a goal with both of these components will truly "**leave no one behind**".

A goal to reduce inequality must, however, commit to measure and address economic inequality between the richest and poorest and to reduce the absurd and accelerating differences between the top and bottom 10-20% of populations. The framework should explicitly specify that **no target should be considered met unless it has been met for all**, including the poorest and most marginalised groups.

#### On Environmental Sustainability

Global resource constraints and planetary boundaries in the proposed SDGs must be clearly acknowledged. The post-2015 framework cannot afford an approach that promotes growth at all costs without considering human rights and environmental implications. The framework must demonstrate coherence and integration across the environmental, economic and social dimensions of different goals and targets.

Greater emphasis is required on equitable access and sharing as well as inclusive and participatory management of natural resources and ecosystem services, especially for people living in poverty, indigenous peoples and vulnerable communities.

#### On Climate Change

We fully support the maintenance of this Goal in the SDGs, and the inclusion of a strong paragraph on climate change in the Chapeau of the OWG outcome document. **Beyond 2015 recommends reinserting a target on holding the increase in global average temperature below 1.5°C rise**. There is also a need to include more specific and quantified targets under this goal to adequately address the most fundamental challenge of our time.

The SDGs must be designed so as contribute to a global low-carbon, green development pathway and to keeping global warming below dangerous levels.

#### On Peaceful and Inclusive Societies

**Beyond 2015** strongly welcomes the retention of a goal on **peaceful and inclusive societies**, and specifically the reference to **access to justice and governance**. In the negotiations moving forward, it is important to guarantee political freedoms and to ensure the protection of human rights. More widely, peace can be promoted across the framework through addressing issues such as jobs, natural resource management and inequalities between people and social groups.

#### On Accountability

The post-2015 framework must be underpinned by the **strongest, most robust and comprehensive accountability framework possible**, incorporating the commitment to monitor and report on progress and share learning and knowledge. This will help build a global partnership towards achievement of the SDGs that makes all actors – governments, civil society and private sector – accountable.

Accountability should be, first and foremost, to those the SDGs are designed to help – the poorest and the most marginalised. Only through hearing the voices of the poorest and most marginalised can we be sure that their lives are truly improving; only through protecting and valuing their participation do we respect and empower them. Hence, mechanisms at the local and national levels, as those closest and most accessible to affected populations, must be strengthened and must feed into processes at regional and global levels. The contribution of all actors to the global responsibility for realising this agenda must be assessed.

Governments, as duty-bearers and signatories to the framework, have a responsibility to commit to ensuring accountability of all relevant actors in these respects. This will require a multilevel domestic, regional and global system. Accountability cannot exist without an enabling environment of capacity building, freedom of association and information, transparency, independence and fairness, and broader mechanisms to ensure the effective participation and influence of all people in decision-making processes. The accountability framework of the post-2015 agenda must include clear directions for governments to provide a conducive environment for citizens, civil society and voluntary organisations to hold governments to account.

The messages presented in this document come from years of collective thinking amongst participating organisations and partners of the Beyond 2015 campaign. It considers the main position papers developed by Beyond 2015 so far, including: the Essential Must Haves of the post-2015 agenda; inputs to the UN thematic consultations, national deliberations with GCAP and IFP in nearly 40 countries, regional discussions, global discussions at various conferences, the process to discuss the Vision, Purpose, Values and Criteria (VPVC), results of participatory research with those most affected by poverty and injustice, carried out by the Beyond 2015 co-chairs Participate initiative, the reactions of the Campaign to the outcomes of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Goal (OWG) and others. These processes have been led by participating organisations, and hundreds of participating organisations from countries in the South and in the North have helped create these messages.

Participating organisations and partners of Beyond 2015 will continue to be invited to engage in drafting common positions and to represent the Campaign in several fora around the world

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