



International Forum
of National NGO
Platforms
IFP

Civil Society's **Call** for a Fair & Sustainable Future

**IFP'S COUNCIL POSITION PAPER
ON POST-2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

Introduction

The International Forum of National NGO Platforms (IFP) brings together 55 national NGO platforms and 7 regional coalitions. The IFP is a representative network of National NGO Platforms (NPF) and regional NGO coalitions acting at the global level in order to contribute to development, peace and justice throughout the world. It aspires to create the conditions for effective involvement of NGOs in global governance, so that they can influence international negotiations on development, human rights and international solidarity. Currently, the IFP's members are engaged in the debate on the post-2015 agenda. The IFP platforms, which are spread over four continents, are participating actively in the process of national consultations with Beyond 2015 and Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP). Thanks to the hard work of all our members and the partnership with the Beyond 2015 and GCAP, this ambitious and important initiative was made possible and we are pleased to present this capitalization document of the IFP Council's positions for a universal and inclusive post-2015 agenda.



We join Beyond 2015 and GCAP for the achievement of the following objectives:

- The fight against inequality (especially social and regional inequalities and related to gender)
- Environmental sustainability
- Defense of the Human Rights
- Eradication of Poverty and Hunger
- Promotion of Democracy and Justice

Like Beyond 2015 and GCAP, we advocate for a holistic and inclusive human rights-based development approach. Since the beginning of the millennium, there has been undeniable progress related to the MDGs, but the global situation has profoundly evolved, characterised by geopolitical turmoil; food, social, economic, financial and environmental crises; and growing urbanisation. One of the historic features of our times is the unprecedented escalation of inequalities among countries but also within countries, and the increasing enrichment of a restricted group of economic and financial actors. In addition, there are devastating effects on our environment -and in particular on the people of the global South- of a development model based on over-exploitation of natural resources, the pollution of our waters, seas and oceans, of our soil and of our air. This development model has permitted the collective irresponsibility of globalised actors towards human rights by tearing down State regulations and by not adapting laws related to globalization.

This is why it is necessary to rethink the development paradigm so that it is not only related to the idea of economic growth but also aligned to an approach combining sustainable development, eradication of poverty and reduction of inequalities.

The IFP welcomed with interest the publication of the report of the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda of the United Nations, on May 30 2013. The framework has defined answers to many concerns that were highlighted by the civil society organizations. The narrative takes into account the importance of putting an end to poverty and leaving no one behind -in that it recognizes the limits of the MDGs, but also to live in a world of peace where there are stable institutions. The importance of including sustainable development in policy development is well represented in the report, as well as the principles of common but differentiated responsibility to achieve the objectives within a new global partnership. We regret, however,

that the goals are not as ambitious as the narrative and that, although the report mentions the need to escape from «business as usual», it retains an overall liberal line. The report is focused on the idea of development linked to economic growth and although it mentions the rights-based approach, it does not hold a central place in the objectives.

I A framework supporting the post-2015 goals

This preliminary framework comprises the sine qua non conditions for the success of the post-2015 goals. A climate of peace, efficient funding for development, consistent policies and an enabling environment for CSOs will allow the institutionalization of the necessary climate for achieving the objectives of poverty eradication, reduction of inequalities and respect of the environment.

A world of peace and security

Without a framework that allows poor people to fully realise their potential, to free themselves from poverty and to live in a healthy environment, the post-2015 objectives will not be achievable. No economic and social right can be realised without the right to live in a world of peace, security, justice and equity. A civic and apolitical education regarding the prevention and resolution of conflicts as well as the establishment of constructive exchanges among cross-border actors is a crucial step for the realisation of these rights. Everyone must have the opportunity to live in a stable, participatory and transparent political climate where a genuine social dialogue exists. Corruption, lack of transparency and a failure to observe democratic rules are blockages that keep people living in poverty.

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A reconceived approach to financing for development

The basis of stable development funding goes through a fair tax system, yet currently we are facing a significant lack of regulation of financial transactions as well as, in many States, fragile taxation systems. It is estimated that there is a total of US\$ 20,000 billion hidden in tax havens. It is thus crucial to strengthen global taxation systems as well as national cooperation in order to put an end to tax evasion and to open a new source of global funding for development. The Tobin Tax on financial transactions is one of the sources of innovative funding which, once put in place, will strengthen the stability and visibility of financing the post-2015 framework. Sources of innovative financing mechanisms are mentioned in the report of the High Level Panel on the post-2015, which also underlines the importance of exchange of information on monetary flows.

Policy coherence

International aid cannot alone reduce poverty. Policy coherence is essential to the achievement of the objectives of the next agenda and covers several dimensions: the measures taken within the field of cooperation and of development; within donor States, between their aid policy and other policies; between different donors; as well as between donors and aid recipient countries on issues such as trade, migration, health, agriculture, environment, etc. For this, real political will is required to make effective policies coherent and to improve communication between the different development actors, but also for an enhanced surveillance mechanism. Policy coherence is an essential vector for long-term development. Significant mobilisation of Governments and development stakeholders on the concepts of accountability and transparency is necessary, as is the general involvement of all stakeholders to finally break the historic dichotomy between the global North and the global South. Policy coherence is not underlined as it should be by the High Level Panel's report while it is part of the main factors of success of the objectives.

An enabling environment for civil society organisations

Civil society organizations are major players in the democratic space and have a role in the practical implementation of the future goals. CSOs are safeguards of democracy and a rightful place must be reserved for them in the social dialogue. Their

direct involvement in development strategies is the key to the success of public policies. However, in many parts of the world, their space of expression and intervention is restricted. Thus, it is necessary to change the perception that governments have of CSOs and that CSOs have of governments. Governments need to be made aware of the benefits of close involvement of civil society in the definition, the implementation and the monitoring of priorities and actions with social impacts, both in the definition of this agenda and for the future achievement of objectives. CSOs must be regarded as partners of public authorities and not as competitors in order to permit a better citizen-government dialogue, a positive democratic climate and transparency of authorities. Moreover, a mechanism of regular sharing of information among CSOs which would help building synergy and share lessons and skills is needed. However, while the High Level Panel's report mentions the necessity of an enabling environment, it only concerns businesses. It is essential to widen this conceptual framework of enabling environment to include civil society organizations at the same level.

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II

The key principles of the post-2015 Agenda

Reducing inequalities and poverty eradication

« The progress of policies of fight against poverty is undeniable, but it is now necessary to take a further step in emphasising the reduction of the inequalities that affect all regions of the world. »

As Beyond 2015 and GCAP, we believe that poverty is not merely a monetary indicator but covers a multidimensional reality demanding that we act not only on its consequences but on its structural causes. Our members agree that inequalities have risen sharply since the beginning of the millennium as a consequence of the increasing marginalisation of certain groups in our societies which have fallen more deeply into the vicious circle of poverty. Currently, 10% of the richest inhabitants of our planet own 83% of the world's wealth; on the other hand, the poorest half of the world population owns only 1%. The progress of policies of fight against poverty is undeniable, but it is now necessary to take a further step in emphasising the reduction of the inequalities that affect all regions of the world.

A rights-based approach to development

We support GCAP and Beyond 2015 in advocating for a rights-based approach to development. Some improvements regarding access to health facilities and education were realised because of the MDGs. However, we must question the quality of these services and their accessibility in terms of rights and not as privileges. It is necessary to make basic rights

enforceable everywhere in the world. Access to care and to good quality education will reduce the gap between the rich and the poor. Similarly, all citizens must have the right to minimal social protection so that their integrity is preserved throughout their existence. The State must be a body with a real redistributive function based on a solid tax system ensuring the reduction of inequalities.

Citizens' participation and the fight against all forms of discrimination

It is thus crucial for the IFP that development policies rely on the fight against all forms of discrimination occurring at the present time by including the highest number of citizens in the political debate, by giving them the visibility and the means to be heard and to defend their rights in order to improve their human and material living conditions, and to live in security without fear for their physical or moral integrity. It is essential to promote the value of human diversity and the affirmation of differences as a mechanism for reducing poverty and inequality. Not only gender but also ethnic and racial differences must be recognized and understood as factors that shape and determine the historically existing inequalities in contemporary societies. The fight against racism and sexism should be extended to include public institutions and services and thus help stimulate the participation of population groups historically excluded from areas of power and exercise their rights. Women must have access to economic, political and social structures without discrimination due to gender. The post-2015 objectives must take into account the pay gap between men and women as well as the problems of access to work for women. Violence against women is still happening all over the world and measures must be taken in order to guarantee that the rights of women and girls to health and security are promoted and respected. More generally, children, minorities, and people with disabilities must be integrated into the national dynamics in order to realise their full potential and to contribute to the development of their country.

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Access to decent work

Unemployment is a universal issue, even more so since the beginning of the economic crisis, thus further widening the inequalities gap. Access to decent work is a factor which allows individuals to escape from poverty and to benefit from better living conditions. Access to work opportunities must be the same for all and a strategic reflection by country must be conducted so that the labour force and especially young people can have access to employment. Because of the critical role that the youth play, the future goals should take account of their possibilities to work and growth. As much as the present Millennium Development Goals focus on basic education, the future goals should concentrate on secondary education and employment after education – also in Europe. Everyone should have a possibility to relevant work in which one can use suitable skills learned from his/her education. Youth employment should be understood broadly: not only as a vocational training issue but including also for example training on how to apply for a job. Youth employment should be measured by the number of employed young people, not by the number of educated young people. Special attention should be given to the employment of women and to their comprehensive role in work life. Results of women's employment can be seen quickly and it creates often a positive cycle (multiplying impact on families, influence on family sizes, reproductive health etc.).

Towards a new
paradigm
of development,
a link between
MDGs and SDGs

A mode of consumption taking into account the finiteness of natural resources

Inequalities are also manifested in the fragility to climate change and through unequal access to resources. Poor people living in rural areas are the most vulnerable to climate change because of their greater dependence on natural resources. Our pattern of consumption exerts increasing pressure

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on water resources, soil fertility, forest surfaces, etc., increasing exposure to climate and economic risks for already vulnerable groups. And this will only increase with the current dynamics of population growth. This is why sustainable development must be central to the next agenda to encourage governments, businesses and citizens to rethink the way they produce and consume; we encourage the focus the report of the High-Level Panel brings on this

major challenge of the XXIst century.

A commitment to the fight against climate change

Climate change is a critical topic that weighs heavily on the future of the planet and its inhabitants. The situation is alarming in regard to the impacts of climate change and the major weather events that would ensue (increase in sea level, tidal waves, etc.). This vulnerability manifests itself not only in material damage, but can be translated into food insecurity, forced migration and displacement, loss of native culture, breakdown of economies, etc. Nonetheless, climate negotiations are slowing down and policies are not taking significant, immediate and binding commitments. Furthermore, parallel to the global financial crisis and its effects on employment and incomes, there is a reduction in interest of world public opinion and media - and consequently, of Governments - on climate change. Renewable energy should gradually replace fossil fuels and access to clean and renewable energy must be guaranteed for people living in poverty. Wealthier nations should start to live up the existing agreements in term of climate change financing and lead the way in non-carbon development in their societies.

A common but differentiated responsibility

The development paradigm should be redesigned so that

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human development policies systematically operate in synergy with those of sustainable development in order to undertake the ecological and social transition. To make the protection of the environment a reality, the SDGs should be adopted worldwide and resource management should be based on the principles of transparency and accountability at the national and global levels, including equitable sharing of responsibilities. It is essential to make the biggest polluters of the planet accountable to society and that measures be taken to prevent irresponsible behavior regarding the planet and its inhabitants. Our consumption of natural resources should be reduced taking into account the ecological limits of our planet. The means to achieve these objectives should be common but differentiated according to the different contexts of each country.

Eradication of hunger and support to small-holding farmers

The living conditions of smallholding farmers are intimately linked to the evolution of climate change and to the marginalisation of certain groups within society, illustrating the interconnection of issues related to poverty and the need to act on the causes that determine it. Poverty is predominantly rural, and the lack of technical sophistication in agriculture is flagrant. Offering no opportunities for economic success, agriculture is being abandoned by young people who are more interested in moving to urban areas in order to find better opportunities for successful life. Unequal access to land ownership associated with lack of access to credit, lack of training and lack of insurance are the causes of poverty among small family structures. We face five major threats to adequate food of mankind: high cost of food, high cost of production inputs, land grabbing and concentration of water resources, compounded by the effects of climate change. These phenomena are observed repeatedly by farmers' organizations, cooperation agencies, NGOs and governments. However, the global decision-makers have not been able, so far, to take effective measures to guarantee the right to a healthy alimentation. We need a global agreement to support small family farms, recognizing that this is the main source of

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production of food (according to the FAO), and promote agricultural production system that does not represent a threat to nature, which involves the promotion of an agro-ecological model, a process that must be achieved during the next thirty years.

The fight against speculation on agricultural markets

Small-scale farmers should be able to meet their needs so that they are not vulnerable to the fluctuations of the market. Speculation on agricultural markets represents a threat to food security in countries already suffering from a growing dependence on imports, exacerbated by new eating habits which do not value the biodiversity of national produce. Food security is a fundamental right on which we have to insist. This measure is fundamental in order to avoid severe food crises and chronic malnutrition problems affecting certain populations. Food should not be included in the stock market, the conception of land, water and food as tradable without consideration for cultural, ethical or humanitarian aspects should be prohibited. Agriculture must be dedicated to food production. The IFP positions itself to ensure that the fight against land seizures and speculation on cereals is included on the next agenda.

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IFP's recommendations

- The fight against inequalities is a major preoccupation for humanity. Associated with a rights-based approach to development, it will allow everyone to fully realize their potential without leaving anyone behind.
- The post-2015 development will be in compliance with the limits of our planet and in harmony with the Sustainable Development Goals. The commitment of a wide range of actors and principles of accountability will counter the effects of climate change, which consequences harm mainly the most vulnerable populations.
- The support to smallholdings will ensure food security for the most vulnerable people and will offer incomes to farmers in order to help them move out of poverty. The IFP also takes a stand against speculation on agricultural markets and especially on cereals.
- Civil society is one of the safeguards of our democracy. An enabling environment promoted around the world will contribute to the establishment of a stable and constructive democratic climate. Civil society organizations must be included in the definition, implementation and monitoring of social and environmental projects, indicators should also be developed through a consultation process with civil society.

Conclusion

Since 2008, the IFP has committed itself to promote topics of public interest including the fight against inequalities, the regulation of agricultural markets and the fight against climate change. This commitment has resulted in multiple public positions at the international level. The IFP is also positioned so that these issues are put forward in the coming post-2015 agenda. The realisation of the non-governmental diplomacy exercises allowed the production of numerous documents on crucial topics (analysis and positions papers) as well as the integration in the process of global governance; this has allowed a strengthening of cooperation among civil society actors on these themes, echoing the work done today in collaboration with Beyond 2015 and GCAP.

We are currently living a moment of major importance for the future of humanity and the planet. The future agenda can go even further in the proposals of social, economic and environmental transformation, and be the reflection of the ambitions of a society requesting profound improvements for generations to come. We have a unique opportunity to seize in order to contribute to the profound transformation of our economic, social and environmental system, to enable citizens to recognize themselves in the new agenda and continue to participate in building equitable societies that respect the environment. The energy that brings us around this new agenda confirms the importance of global cooperation well beyond 2015.

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List of national deliberations taken into account:

Africa:

BURKINA FASO - SPONG (Secrétariat permanent des ONG du Burkina-Faso)

« Focus Group Report, 27 February 2013. »

http://www.spongef.org/IMG/pdf/MDGs_report_final_version.pdf

MALI - FECONG (Fédération des collectifs d'ONG du Mali)

« Preparatory Workshop of the CSOs for the validation of their vision and their contribution to recovery and sustainable development in Mali »

MOROCCO - ESPACE ASSOCIATIF

« Priorities for the post-2015 Development. Moroccans express themselves on « the world we want » »

<http://www.espace-associatif.ma/Consultation-Nationale-Le-nouveau>

NIGERIA - NNNGO (Nigeria Network of NGOs)

«GCAP Nigeria Declaration on the Post-2015 Development Agenda»

<http://gcapnigeria.org/blog/?p=1#more-1>

DRC - CNONGD

(Conseil national des ONG de développement)

« DRC Civil Society Statement on the workshop on reflexion on the National Consultations on the acceleration of the process of implementation of the Millenium Development Goals and the world construction of the post-2015 development Agenda »

<http://www.beyond2015.org/sites/default/files/RAPPORT.pdf>

Latin America

BOLIVIA - UNITAS (Red Unitas)

«Poverty and ways to change: visions from the subjects»

<http://www.redunitas.org/boliviaodm2015/>

BRAZIL - ABONG (Associação Brasileira de ONGs)

«Final Report : The World We Want Post-2015 »

<http://www.abong.org.br/final/download/posen.pdf>

COLOMBIA - CCONG (Confederación Colombiana de ONG)

«CSO's National Deliberations on a post-2015 development framework Beyond 2015/GCAP»

<http://2doc.net/uqb8g>

GUATEMALA - CONGCOOP

(Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas)

«The Milenium Objectives and the post-2015 Agenda»

<http://2doc.net/n8dna>

PERU - ANC (Asociación Nacional de Centros)

«CSOs declaration on the post-2015 Development Agenda in Peru»

<http://www.beyond2015.org/sites/default/files/Report%20ENG.pdf>

Asia

INDIA - VANI (Voluntary Action Network India)

«Civil society engagement with the post-2015 agenda»

<http://2doc.net/npwai>

INDONESIA - INFID

(International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development)

«National Civil Society Consultation on post-2015 development agenda: toward inclusive, Just and Sustainable Development»

<http://www.beyond2015.org/sites/default/files/Summary.pdf>

NEPAL - NFN (NGO Federation of Nepal)

«Outcomes of Civil Society Consultations in Nepal»

http://www.ngofederation.org/images/stories/publications/Post2015_Outcome_Report.pdf

Europe

BEYOND 2015 - EUROPEAN TASK-FORCE

« Putting People and Planet First – Business as Usual is not an Option »

<http://2doc.net/jq9io>

FRANCE - COORDINATION SUD

(Solidarité Urgence Développement)

« Proposals for a common set of principles in the context of the post-2015 reflections »

<http://www.coordinationsud.org/wp-content/uploads/Socle-commun-AMCP-EN.pdf>

NETHERLANDS - PARTOS

(Partos Internationaal Samenwerken)

« Through the Looking Glass. Recommendations on the post-2015 Agenda from the Dutch Civil Society working in International Cooperation»

<https://partos.nl/system/files/ckeditor/files/130322%20Dutch%20Civil%20Society%20consultation%20on%20the%20Post%202015%20agenda%281%29.pdf>