

POST 2015 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS



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BACKGROUND:

The Post-2015 development agenda refers to a process led by the United Nations that aims to help define the future global development framework that will succeed the Millennium Development Goals.

The current UN development agenda is centered on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were officially established following the Millennium Summit of the UN in 2000. The MDGs encapsulate eight globally agreed goals in the areas of

- ❖Poverty Alleviation,
- ❖Education,
- ❖Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women,
- ❖Child and Maternal Health,
- ❖Environmental Sustainability,
- ❖Reducing HIV/Aids and Communicable Diseases and
- ❖Building a Global Partnership for Development.

THE MDG'S OVER ALL TARGET DATE:

At the 2010 high level plenary meeting of the UN General Assembly to review progress towards the MDGs, Governments called for accelerating progress and for thinking on ways to advance the development

agenda beyond 2015.

After the 2010 high level plenary meeting, the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has taken several initiatives. He has established a UN System task team, launched a high level panel of eminent persons and appointed Amina J. Mohammed as his own special advisor on Post-2015 Development Planning.

POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA:

These processes are complemented by a set of eleven global thematic consultations and national consultations in 88 countries facilitated by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG).

THE UNITED NATIONS TASK TEAM:

The UN system task team was established by the Secretary General Ban Kimoon to support UN system-wide preparations for the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda. It comprises 60 UN agencies, as well as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. In June 2012, it published the report “*Realizing the future we want for all*” which serves as an input to the work of the High Level Panel.

THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL'S REPORT:

On 30th May, 2013, the High Level Panel on the Post-2015 Development Agenda released “*A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development,*” a report which sets out a universal agenda to eradicate extreme poverty from the face of the earth by 2030, and deliver on the promise of sustainable development. The report calls upon the

world to rally around a new Global Partnership that offers hope and a role to every person in the world. The report was launched at a press conference by the Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Helen Clark, UNDP Administrator and chair of UNDG on 10 September 2013 in New York.

POST 2015 GOALS:

In the report, the Panel calls for the new post-2015 goals to drive five big transformation shifts:

1. Leave no one behind: After 2015, should move from reducing to ending extreme poverty, in all its forms. And ensure that no person – regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race or other status – is denied basic economic opportunities and human rights.

2. Put Sustainable Development at the Core: To integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability. They should act slow to change the alarming pace of climate and environmental degradation, which pose unprecedented threats to humanity.

3. Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth: A profound economic transformation can end extreme poverty and improve livelihoods, by harnessing innovation, technology, and the potential of business. More diversified economies, with equal opportunities for all, can drive social inclusion, especially for young people, and foster sustainable consumption and production patterns.

4. Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all: Freedom from conflict and violence is the most fundamental human entitlement, and the essential foundation for building

peaceful and prosperous societies. At the same time, people all over the world expect their governments to be honest, accountable, and responsive to their needs, calling for a fundamental shift – to recognize peace and good governance as a core element of well-being, not an optional extra.

5. Forge a new global partnership: A new spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual accountability must underpin the post-2015 agenda. This new partnership should be based on a common understanding of our shared humanity, based on mutual respect and mutual benefit. It should be centered on people, including those affected by poverty and exclusion, women, youth, the aged, disabled persons, and indigenous peoples. It should include civil society organizations, multilateral institutions, local and national governments, the scientific and academic community, businesses, and private philanthropy.

“Delivering the Post-2015 Development Agenda” report from the dialogues on implementation

This United Nations Development Group (UNDG) report picks up from where the “A Million Voices” report left off by looking more in depth at factors within a specific country that will either support or impede implementation. The findings of this report derive from six Dialogues revealing several main principles in order to support the successful implementation of the new development agenda:

participation, inclusion, and the need for strengthened capacities and partnerships.

❖ **Localizing the agenda:** From the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), one of the key lessons

learned was the importance of national and local contexts. This idea of a localized agenda stresses the critical role of local governments, diversity of local stakeholders, and the need to invest in capacities and resources at the local level for implementation, ownership, monitoring and accountability.

❖ **Capacities and institutions:** To achieve a transformation agenda, need to be transformed institutions that highlight the importance of national-level actors. This new agenda takes into account a diversity of stakeholders with policies and actions derived from a specific national context. When strengthening capacities they should concentrate on existing institutions and national development plans.

❖ **Participatory monitoring and accountability:** To actively engage with individuals by embedding participation as a principle for the realization of a new post-2015 development agenda. This new development agenda will be aligned with a human rights approach that will improve the quality and refine policies over time.

❖ **Culture:** Utilizing cultural values and culturally sensitive approaches can mediate and improve development outcomes by providing a space where opportunities for education, gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment, environmental sustainability, and durable urbanization can be realized.

❖ **Private Sector:** Partnerships with the private sector will prove to be useful due to its ability to create an environment favorable to social and environmental impacts. By reinforcing the nature of ethical business practices, businesses can move

beyond financial contributions and move towards poverty eradication and sustainability.

❖ **Civil Society:** The diversity of civil society can create an enabling environment that will strengthen the impact and trust of multiple stakeholders. By partnering with civil society, a space will be created that is more inclusive and responsive towards the local and global voices of stakeholders. Civil society will also create strong accountability mechanisms that can be used to measure implementation.

AREAS GAINING TRACTION IN THE POST 2015 CONVERSATION:

Researchers found that areas gaining traction in the post 2015 conversation include,

- Building accountability for goals into the heart of a new framework.
- Ensuring there is transparency for how resources are used.
- Commitments on civil and political freedoms.
- Supporting effective institutions of the state.
- They warn against the polarization of the debate around the strength of the post-2015 goals.
- They found that ‘some political, governance and accountability features do seem to shape whether and how MDG commitments have been achieved (alongside important issues of resourcing, technical capacities and others)’ and identified key factors below -
- Credible political commitments between politicians and citizens are essential.
- More inclusive institutions matter, as well as the ability to work together.
- States effectiveness is a determinant of

development progress, so state capacities and functions do need more attention.

Their findings focus on national level governance ‘because of the growing body of evidence relevant to development progress available at this level.’

Global governance is also important to the authors of the report. They recognize a strong interest in bringing on-board multilateral institutions, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in a future framework, based on the ‘recognition that they can help or hinder future development outcomes’. They call for more work on global governance, and for the identification of viable options for doing so effectively, ambitious goals in the global consultation on governance and post 2015 goals and an open conversation and debate with new actors.

GLOBAL WEB PLATFORMS:

Launched in September, 2012, the web platform is a repository for both the thematic and the national consultations. It allows people from all over the world to participate in the global conversation on the issue they want to highlight in the post-2015 development debate.

Moreover, the website of The World We Want 2015 hosts a complementary global survey, which asks people to submit their six priorities for a better world. In February 2014, the UN Special Envoy for Youth and the President of the General Assembly launched the Global Partnership for Youth in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, with a crowd-sourcing platform to consolidate concrete language for youth priorities in the post-2015 goals.

OPEN WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL:

At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), held in Rio de Janeiro in June, 2012, 192 UN member states agreed to establish an intergovernmental working group to design **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** as a successor of the MDGs. The HLP’s work will be closely coordinated with this working group in order to bring together the processes around the Post- 2015 Development Agenda and the SDGs. The working group has presented an ‘Outcome Document’ of 19th July, 2014, comprising 17 goals and 169 targets. Activities of the Open Working Group, leading to the outcome document, are rendered at its website.

References:

1. Open Development Group: Outcome Document, 19th July, 2014.
2. The Secretary-General’s high-level panel of eminent persons on the post-2015 development agenda, United Nations, retrieved 4th February 2013.
3. Post-2015 Development Agenda: Guidelines for National Consultations Beyond 2015, retrieved 4th February, 2013.
4. Background page, United Nations Millennium Development Goals website, retrieved 4th February, 2013.
5. Leni Wild and Gina Bergh; Are we making progress with building governance into the post 2015 framework? February 2013 <http://www.odi.org.uk/publications/7295-progress-governance-post-2015-millennium-development-goals-mdgs>.