

# Beyond2015

**Beyond 2015** is a global civil society campaign on the post-2015 development agenda bringing together more than 700 organizations in over 100 countries. Beyond 2015 pushes for a strong and legitimate successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals. Whilst participating organisations have a range of views regarding the content of a post-2015 framework, the campaign is united in working to bring about the following outcomes:

- That a global overarching cross-thematic framework succeeds the Millennium Development Goals, reflecting Beyond 2015's policy positions.
- That the process of developing this framework is participatory, inclusive and responsive to voices of those directly affected by poverty and injustice.

## **Overall political analysis**

**Point 1** Beyond 2015 welcomes the principles identified by the Panel which should underpin the whole framework: equity, sustainability, solidarity, respect for human rights, and shared responsibilities in accordance with respective capabilities. These values reflect those identified by civil society, via a series of national deliberations, participatory research and conversations about the vision, purpose, values and criteria of a post-2015 framework, and should be tangibly embedded in the post-2015 agenda as the process moves forwards.

**Point 2** The report emphasizes that aid alone is not enough to eradicate poverty and suggests concrete actions needed from developed countries, such as stemming illicit capital flows, tax avoidance and evasion, and ensuring corporations report on social, environmental, and economic impact of their activities, have the potential for longer term transformational impacts, but regulation will be needed to ensure that all private sector actors, not only those on board with the sustainable development agenda, take necessary steps to achieve a just, sustainable future for all. Securing that political will and cooperation is the challenge ahead.

**Point 3** The report views rapid and sustained growth as a major part of the solution, rather than part of the problem. The report claims that 'business as usual' is not an option, but when it comes to growth, its proposals reinforce the status quo. We regret that the Panel has not called for the current model of international trade, business regulation and FDI to be realigned in the interests of people and planet instead of profit and growth. Nor does the report address the fact that growth will not address escalating inequality and that redistribution of wealth and access to resources are needed. The report is naïve in terms of the trade-offs required to achieve sustainability.

**Point 4** We strongly welcome the way in which the report brings together the environment and development agendas, and while we are pleased to see that the Panel recognizes poverty eradication cannot be achieved without protecting the natural environment, we regret that there is not an explicit call for a single set of post-2015 goals that combines environment and development holistically.

**Point 5** New goals after 2015 is no substitute for action now. The credibility and impact of the post-2015 process depends upon meeting the current MDGs and this means that governments must stick to the commitments that they made in 2000 under both the MDGs and the Rio conventions.

**Point 6** Financing will be critically important to the success of the post-2015 agenda, with international experts suggesting that that 4% of GDP need to be invested each year in transition economies during a minimum of 20 years. However, the report's focus on domestic resource mobilization, aid, private capital (from major pension funds, mutual funds, sovereign wealth funds, private corporations, development banks and other investors) suggests business as usual for financing and development, rather than exploring more innovative models like the proposed financial transaction tax. Caution should be taken in assuming the private sector should be the primary source of finance for post-2015; while it would take less to eradicate poverty globally than was used to bail out the banks during the global recession, the political will to achieve this has not yet materialized.

### **Global responsibility**

**Point 1** We welcome the strong endorsement of a universal approach, promoting a single, coherent sustainable development agenda relevant to all nations. This is reflected by targets where developed countries also have the responsibility to deliver, such as addressing food waste, increasing renewable energy, and job creation for youth.

**Point 2** However, the report fails to significantly improve on the global partnership of MDG8. Insufficient progress was made on this goal because it lacked clear, measurable targets – and the same has happened with goal 12 to create a global enabling environment. While there are indications that the Panel recognizes the importance of quantitative, time-bound targets in the narrative, there is a great distance to go before universal, quantified targets on the global partnership exist.

### **Environmental sustainability**

**Point 1** We welcome the emphasis on sustainable development and bringing together environment and development agendas. This report recognizes the interdependency between our lives and the natural world: poverty cannot be eradicated, nor the wellbeing of all people secured, without addressing the pressures on the natural systems that support life on this planet.

**Point 2** Already the devastating impacts of climate change are eroding development gains around the world. Climate change adaptation, loss and damage, and resilience should have been more strongly recognised in the goals and targets, and the issue of historic responsibility and climate justice is not addressed in the report. Nevertheless this report represents a welcome shift in understanding sustainable development as one community on one planet.

**Point 3** We welcome the emphasis on sustainable consumption and production but these messages are at odds with the prominence placed on economic growth. The report doesn't go far enough in shifting values or address the way in which consumption, identity and the private sector interact, either within the illustrative framework or the narrative. We are concerned that the report implies that there are no

negative consequences to growth, and ignores that redistribution of wealth and access to resources will be necessary in a just, sustainable future. It also fails to tackle the need for people with high-impact lifestyles will have to be addressed. There seems to be a mismatch between the scale of challenges outlined in the report and the solutions offered, with an over-reliance on market solutions, technology and growth to solve problems that require fundamental changes in our economic and political systems.

### **Poverty eradication / human development outcomes**

**Point 1** Beyond 2015 would like to see governments go further and explore the need for targets to reduce income inequality, which is becoming extreme in many societies and undermining the social and economic potential of humanity. While the 'zero' goal to eradicate poverty is laudable, we must also do more than scrape people above a \$1.25 per day living standard. Alongside the welcome target on reducing those living below nationally-defined poverty lines, Beyond 2015 recommends that UN member states monitor progress in reducing the numbers of people living on \$2 or \$4 a day as well.

**Point 2** The report fails to recognize the marked increase in income inequality over the last twenty years. Despite the fall in the absolute numbers of people on low incomes, it has been at the expense of a massive rise in the incomes of those at the top of the pile. While the report does not perceive this to be a problem, it ignores growing global consensus that the idea that some people are 'worth' thousands of times more than others is morally abhorrent. Mounting evidence demonstrates that it also threatens economic, social and political stability, promotes values of status, power and hierarchy over social cohesion and community, and that everyone benefits from a more equal society. This was a major omission in the MDGs, and without a roadmap for reducing extreme income inequality both within and between countries, the next set of global goals risks failure.

### **Human rights / peace + security**

**Point 1** We welcome the reference to human rights principles in the report, such as universality, participation and inclusion, inalienability, and accountability, which are woven throughout both the narrative and the framework, but we look to the UN Task Team report '*Realizing the Future We Want*' which has human rights as a core value. The HLP report should have included implementation of human rights as the sixth transformational shift; often, where it mentions humanity, it should have said human rights. This should be taken into account by both the Secretary General and member states.

**Point 2** The report has obviously picked up on input from civil society on peace and security, and takes a pragmatic approach placing it in a broader perspective. However, by linking peace and good governance they have missed out the fact that 75% of conflicts today are driven by resource wars, many of which are external and not a failure of democracy, leadership or governance. This could cause a potential further rift to conflict countries who feel they bear the burden of dealing with conflict alone, when in fact several players have an important role.

## **Equity / marginalised groups**

**Point 1** The report makes an encouraging step in the right direction by recognizing people marginalised as a result of disability, age, gender, geography and ethnicity. This is evident in the introduction of the new transformative shift to *leave no one behind*. We welcome the recommendation for disaggregation of data by disability, representing 1 billion people globally, in addition to gender, age, geographical location and ethnicity, showing that the calls made by civil society have been taken into account and will help make sure that no one is left behind as goals and targets will only be met if every group – defined by income quintile, gender, location or otherwise – has met the target.

**Point 2** We call on the Secretary General and Member States to build on the encouraging first steps in the HLP Report and ensure that the following key points are integral components of the post-2015 development framework:

- An unequivocal recognition that the inclusion, equality and equity of all marginalized groups is a precondition to the success of the post-2015 development agenda.
- Includes concrete, specific indicators for marginalized groups.

## **Governance**

**Point 1** In the priorities that come from the people on the ground, governance is often at the top of their agenda, and it is right that it has been included as a goal. The inclusion of elements that radically improve people's ability to influence decisions that impact their lives is a dramatic improvement on the MDGs. Freedom of speech and peaceful protest alongside access to information are fundamental to the right of individuals to flourish, and mean that the post-2015 agenda could challenge the causes, as well as the symptoms of poverty.

**Point 2** We welcome that the report places people living in poverty at the heart of the post-2015 agenda; the panel should be commended for listening to their stories, ideas and solutions, and recognizing the barriers to development that exist for the poorest. Building the capacity of people to hold their governments to account will be challenging but is a vital next step to achieving the vision of irreversible poverty eradication. It is essential that all people, the poor and marginalized are included throughout the post-2015 process throughout design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

## **Call to Action**

Beyond 2015 urges the UN Secretary General to build on the HLP report in his forthcoming annual report, making strong and ambitious recommendations for member states to base a post-2015 framework on human rights obligations and to further mainstream inequality and environmental sustainability across the framework.

We call on member states to consider the HLP report in the Open Working Group and at the UN Special Event on MDGs and the post-2015 agenda on September 25, but also to meaningfully consider the results of civil society national deliberations on the post-2015 agenda as well as the conceptual thinking around the vision, purpose, values and criteria of a post-2015 framework.