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Outcome Report

Advancing Regional Recommendations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda: A Dialogue between Civil Society, Governments, and UN Representatives

Organized by the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) in partnership with the Post-2015 Development Planning Team of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General

22 September 2013

This event launched the [report of the post-2015 regional civil society consultations](#) carried out by the [United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service](#) (UN-NGLS) in partnership with the Post-2015 Development Planning Team of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General. More than a thousand civil society representatives, governments and UN staff at UN Headquarters attended the event, which stands as the largest gathering of civil society representatives to date in the UN post-2015 process. Based on the consultation report, civil society participants conveyed concrete recommendations to be taken forward during the intergovernmental negotiations to define the post-2015 development agenda.

The regional consultations gathered critical analysis from regional civil society networks in four languages (Arabic, English, French, and Spanish), and involved 120 regional networks and social movements that collectively collaborate with over 3,000 national and community-based organizations. Regional consultations were carried out in Asia and the Pacific; Latin America and the Caribbean; Europe and North America; Africa; and Arab States.

The [report of these regional consultations](#) serves as an input into the General Assembly Special Event on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2013, as well as to the Secretary-General and the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

The President of the 68th Session of the General Assembly, H.E. John Ashe, opened this 22 September dialogue by highlighting the necessity of participation of civil society and regional perspectives, throughout the 68th session of the General Assembly and the deliberations towards the post-2015 agenda, wherein he stated that multistakeholder collaboration will be particularly important. Referring to the UN-NGLS regional consultation report, he noted, “The concerns and proposals contained in these reports must now be reflected in our current discussions here in New York and I will invite and urge Member States to give them serious consideration.... It is essential that this new agenda should be shaped by and respond to what people are experiencing on the ground.”

Repeating the opening words of the UN Charter, “We the Peoples,” Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson referred to this event as a starting point and an example of meaningful civil society engagement with the UN. Mr. Eliasson affirmed that both he and the Secretary-General understand the great value of expanding space for meaningful civil society participation throughout the UN system.

The co-chairs of the General Assembly Special Event on the MDGs also provided opening remarks. Mr. Joe Costello, Minister for Trade and Development of the Republic of Ireland, and Ms. Bathabile Olive Dlamini, Minister for Social Development of the Republic of South Africa, referred to the recognition amongst

Member States that civil society engagement and input from all stakeholders are absolutely essential to the process of analyzing the achievements of the MDGs and defining the post-2015 agenda.

With regard to civil society engagement in this process, discussion panel co-chair Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and Coordinator of the UN Regional Commissions, emphasized, “It’s crucial to ensure full access to information, the right to equal participation, and also to ensure sufficient resources because there are many people who would like to be here who cannot be here.” Ms. Bárcena proposed that the follow up to this event should include collaboration between regional civil society networks and the Regional Commissions, in partnership with UN-NGLS, based on the recommendations raised by the consultation as presented at this event.

Emphasizing that the post-2015 agenda must focus not only on goals, but also on structural and root causes of rising inequality, impoverishment, social exclusion, environmental degradation and conflict, civil society speakers who participated in the consultation presented key recommendations from each region. These were structured around four main objectives for the post-2015 development agenda emerging from the consultation:

- Rebalance power relations for justice:
 - Reform the trade and investment architecture
 - Reform development finance and the international financial architecture
 - Promote national redistributive measures
 - Democratize politics and the media
 - Scale up the social and solidarity economy
- Fulfill human rights and overcome exclusion:
 - Eradicate extreme poverty and promote decent work and social protection for all
 - Address growing inequalities as an obstacle to the fulfillment of human rights for all
 - Address cross-cutting issues on the right to health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights
 - Develop a comprehensive agenda for fulfilling the right to education
 - Respect, protect and fulfill the rights of marginalized people, particularly those who face intersecting inequalities based on gender, age, class, ethnicity, indigeneity, sexual orientation, gender identity, (dis)abilities, and/or status as a migrant, asylum-seeker or refugee, many of whom have been systematically, historically and continually excluded.
- Ensure equitable distribution and safe use of natural resources:
 - Protect the global commons
 - Ensure food sovereignty
 - Regulate and transform the extractive and energy industries; assess new technologies
 - Urgently take aggressive action to address climate change
- Establish participatory governance, accountability and transparency:
 - Integrate strong human rights accountability mechanisms
 - Promote participatory and transparent governance structures
 - Make global economic governance democratic, accountable and transparent
 - Establish binding corporate accountability and transparency mechanisms
 - Adopt holistic approaches to monitor and evaluate progress

These recommendations and regional analyses are elaborated in the full report of the consultation, enclosed and available at <http://bit.ly/2015RegionalConsultation>.