

Global online civil society consultation

For consideration by the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in the lead up to the London meeting

From 19-26 October 2012, the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) conducted a [global online consultation](#) with civil society to gather inputs for consideration by the High-level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons on the Post 2015 Development Agenda ahead of their London meeting from 31 October to 2 November. The consultation, undertaken through the Post-2015 virtual platform, www.worldwewant2015.org, enabled civil society to respond to a set of framing questions that were related to the focus of the High-level Panel's meeting on 1 November 2012 on individual and household level poverty.

Methodology

Civil society organizations are mobilizing around the world to make their voices heard in global discussions on the post-2015 development agenda. NGLS undertook an open, one-week long online consultation in order to gather recommendations from civil society and other stakeholders to be submitted to the Panel before their meeting in London.

Specifically, the consultation sought feedback to four questions relating to two main themes:

1) Human development and 2) Jobs and livelihoods.

For the first theme, respondents addressed:

- [How do we ensure that all people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, have the food, water, energy, health care and education they need?](#)
- [What have we learned from existing Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\) and what should be added/updated/modified, or is a different approach needed?](#)

For the second theme, respondents addressed:

- [What policies and practices best promote equitable empowerment of the poor and marginalized to ensure an adequate standard of living?](#)
- [How can employment be meaningfully approached?](#)

Initial Briefing on Consultation Responses

Compilation documents of all submissions for each of the four consultation questions are available at links embedded in the above questions. 239 contributions from 118 organizations and international networks and individuals were submitted to this online consultation. The following two-page briefing provides an overview of key recommendations received. (In a document of this size, it was not feasible to capture the variety of views received.) It first discusses lessons learned from the MDGs for the post-2015 development agenda, and then presents seven recurring sets of recommendations that appeared across the responses to all four consultation questions. According to the inputs to this consultation, a post-2015 development agenda must:

- 1) adopt a human rights-based approach;
- 2) address growing inequality and mainstream equity;
- 3) promote social protection;
- 4) involve and lead to participatory processes and decision making;
- 5) prioritize capacity building and local management of development;
- 6) protect Earth's ecosystems and equitable access to resources;
- 7) enable job creation and investment in the poor and marginalized.

Additional Consultation Period through 7 November and Subsequent Report

An additional week-long online consultation period on the same questions at the same web site will open from 31 October to 7 November. A subsequent, longer report will be produced by NGLS and submitted to the Panel by the middle of November that will incorporate a much broader range of responses received from 19 October to 7 November as well as information from the 2 November day of outreach by the Panel in London.

MDGs - where do we go from here?

In modifying or updating the Millennium Development Goals as part of a post-2015 development framework, participants called for a fundamentally revised approach, one that broadly addresses the inter-connected elements of sustainable development (socio-economic, environment, and human rights). According to Save the Children and World Solidarity/ACV-CSC, global and universal goals should deliver on equity, social inclusion, decent work and sustainable livelihoods, while protecting our environment. At the same time, several international networks and organizations advocated contextualized national targets for both developed and developing countries, in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

Six respondents, representing almost 80 organizations active in more than 30 countries, emphasized the need for a consultative, participatory process inclusive of: developing countries; grassroots communities; those most affected by climate change and inequality; the poorest and most marginalized; civil society and other stakeholders.

The post-2015 paradigm should be holistic and very ambitious. Many participants called for simple, inspirational goals dedicated to fulfilling universally agreed human rights objectives – ranging from gender equality, food, decent work and social protection, health (including reproductive health), housing, water and sanitation, disability to accountability and transparency – and reflected in the agendas of the UN Conferences of the 1990s, including the UN Conference on Environment and Development platforms, the ICPD Programme of Action, the World Summit on Social Development, and the Beijing Platform for Action.

In terms of implementation, respondents called for innovative financing including a Financial Transactions Tax, sovereign debt work-out mechanisms, regulating trade, and reallocating military resources for development. Good governance, including accountability and legal frameworks rooted in human rights and modeled on the Universal Periodic Review mechanism of the Human Rights Council, were suggested as essential aspects of a global framework. An effective global partnership that is participatory and inclusive of youth, civil society, and volunteers is key, and should be measured by both quantitative and qualitative measurements and indicators beyond GDP.

Human Rights-based Approach

Many organizations and international networks emphasized that a new global framework for development must adopt a rights-based approach. ActionAid identified that the denial of human rights is the principal cause of poverty and inequality. Social Watch explained that the needs of people who live in poverty and who are part of vulnerable, marginalized or excluded groups are too often neglected in favour of the interests of powerful groups, and that a rights-based approach to development is essential to changing this reality. The Bridge Leadership Foundation in Nigeria contributed that strengthening political will and increasing government accountability through a rights-based approach is the surest way to help those who are vulnerable. Contributors point to the newly adopted UN [Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights \(A/HRC/21/39\)](#).

Addressing Inequality / Mainstreaming Equity

As described by VSO, the MDG targets incentivize a focus on populations that are easier to reach, to the detriment of people who are most affected by poverty and exclusion. Many contributors stressed that the post-2015 development agenda must put equity at the center, and address barriers faced by the most marginalized people in society, including women, youth, the elderly, people living with disabilities, and indigenous peoples. The Joint Action and Learning Initiative on National and Global Responsibilities for Health (JALI) outlined that equity gaps need to be closed both within and among countries, and the post-2015 development framework should encourage every country to develop an equity strategy. Several organizations highlighted that the collection and use of data disaggregated by sex, age and other factors are essential for uncovering patterns of discrimination and ensuring progress on equity.

Social Protection

Several contributors called on the High-level Panel to support a universal, rights-based Social Protection Floor. The International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) “believes that ensuring universal access to food, water, energy, health care and education can be done through (and in fact: means) implementing universal social protection floors.” The ITUC and the NGO Subcommittee for Poverty Eradication at the United Nations point to the minimum standards set by the International Labour Organization (ILO) for national social protection systems and [ILO Recommendation 202](#), which urges all States to establish a social protection floor as quickly as possible. Vulnerable and marginalized people exist in all countries, underscored the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, so developed countries also should consider ways to strengthen their social safety nets.

Participatory Processes and Decision-making

“Beneficiary communities have indicated that they don't want to be passive spectators of their own development, they want to participate in finding solutions to their local problems because they have a better understanding of what works and what does not work in their local environment.” This statement by Hlathi Development Services of South Africa exemplifies the convictions expressed by a great many consultation participants. According to Coalition Eau, “this means in particular to actively involve beneficiaries in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies.” CAFOD contributed that “participation of all stakeholders, but especially of those directly affected by poverty and injustice, during the set-up and implementation of the post-2015 development framework is key to ensuring that the MDG successor framework can realistically deliver actual change on the ground for people living in poverty.”

Capacity Building / Local Management of Development

As Secrétariat International de L'eau articulated and many additional organizations advocated, a post-2015 development framework should give local actors the responsibility to plan, coordinate and manage local development. The poor and vulnerable should own the means of production and be assisted to produce, stated World Vision South Africa. Capacity building for entrepreneurs, including training and technical and financial assistance, is essential. Onwe Chinasa Joyce of Nigeria identified that advocacy and awareness creation at local level should be sponsored and encouraged. Hope International and UN Volunteers both call for governments and the UN to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations, as they are key actors in advocacy, policy design, and implementation for communities.

Protection of Earth's Ecosystems and Equitable Distribution of Resources

Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits (ECOWEB) contributed that natural resources must be managed sustainably and distributed equitably to alleviate poverty and vulnerability. WWF International explained, “While we all depend on natural services and resources, the poor usually rely on them most directly for their livelihoods and are most vulnerable to environmental degradation.” Growth and development must be inclusive and within planetary boundaries, stated WWF, and stronger action on climate change is essential: “Climate change is already impacting on freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems, with consequences for water resources, food security, human health, and the frequency and severity of natural disasters.” Public Services International (PSI) asserts that we must protect natural resources and ecosystems for the present and future.

Enable job creation and investment in the poor and marginalized

Many respondents argued that poor and marginalized people need equal access to productive resources (capital, land, energy, water, credit, infrastructure, information), services (education, health care, adequate housing, WASH) and jobs to build resilience, sustain their livelihoods, ensure an adequate standard of living, find better access to the labour market, and improve well-being. An unprecedented number of ‘working poor,’ combined with huge unemployment in developed countries and a lack of employment perspectives for young people, make employment a key challenge that, as indicated by the International Organization of Employers (IOE), will last well into the period of the new development framework post-2015. Many contributions thus put emphasis on green and decent job creation, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue, as enshrined in ILO's [Decent Work Agenda](#) and indicated that the Panel should focus on ways of implementing the [commitments](#) of the 1995 World Summit on Social Development.

To support job creation and produce jobs that also serve social and environmental purposes, many argued that States should build an enabling environment that would trigger investments in green and labour-intensive growth sectors, including the agriculture sector; support the creation and operations of small- and medium-sized enterprises; and enhance innovation and learning. For the latter, this also means that the linkages between educational institutions and the labour market will need to be strengthened. Regulated and decently paid employment opportunities should especially be targeted towards vulnerable groups, who are more densely represented in temporary and informal work. In addition, organizations such as Save the Children, World Solidarity/ACV-CSC, and ITUC, called on States to ensure a “living wage.”¹ Some respondents underlined that a revision of current social systems of work and reward is needed to do justice to all forms of work, not just those performed for money (e.g. food preparation; self-, child- and parental care; civic participation; and volunteering). One organization emphasized the need to build resilient and self-reliant local economies based on barter, exchanges, complementary currencies and other local systems of exchanging services.

¹ A living wage is a minimum wage, set up at a level that reflects the living costs in the country contexts and ensures that the people employed can secure decent livelihoods for themselves and their families.

Annex 1: Overview of Contributing Organizations and Individuals to the online Consultation

Contributing organizations:

[ActionAid](#)
[Action on Armed Violence](#) (AOAV)
[Akvo](#)
[Africa Civil Society Platform on Principled Partnership](#) (ACP)
[Asociación Pro Bienestar de la Familia de Guatemala](#) (APROFAM)
[Association Nigerienne des Scouts de l'Environnement](#) (ANSEN)
Associação de Mulheres Batalhadoras do Jardim Franciscato
[AquaFed](#) (International Federation of Private Water Operators)
[CAFOD](#)
[Christian Blind Mission](#) (CBM)
[Coopération Internationale pour le Développement et la Solidarité](#) (CIDSE)
[Coalition Eau](#)
[Development Initiatives](#)
[Earth Law Center](#)
[Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits](#) (ECOWEB)
[European Youth Forum](#)
[Fundación Equipo](#)
[Gender and Development Network](#)
[Habitat for Humanity](#)
[Hand in Hand](#)
[HelpAge International](#)
[Hlathi Development Services](#)
[Homeplanet Alliance](#)
HOPE
[Institute for Global Environmental Strategies](#)
[International Centre for Evidence in Disability](#) (ICED), London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine London
[International Center for Research on Women](#)
[International Federation for Parent Education](#) (FIEP/IFPE)
[International Housing Coalition](#)
[Institute for international social development](#) (IISD)
[International Land Coalition](#) (ILC)
[International Organization of Employers](#) (IOE)
[International Movement ATD Fourth World](#) - UK
[International Rescue Committee](#) (IRC)
[International Trade Center](#) (ITC)
[International Trade Union Confederation](#) (ITUC)
[International Women's Health Coalition](#) (IWHC)
Integrative Services
[Joint Action and Learning Initiative on National and Global Responsibilities for Health](#) (JALI)
[Landesa](#)
[Life Line to Citizen](#)
[Lumos](#)
Marchlewicz Marketing Management Agency
[Moladi](#) Moulded – modular home construction company
[Non Communicable Disease Alliance](#) (NCD Alliance)
[Niger Delta Women's Movement for Peace & Development](#)

[NGO Subcommittee for Poverty Eradication at the United Nations](#)
[Oxfam International](#)
[OneWorld UK](#)
[Overseas Development Institute](#) (ODI)
[Pathfinder International](#)
[Plan Europe](#)
[Population and Sustainability Network](#)
[Population Matters](#)
[Public Services International](#) (PSI)
[Programme Solidarité Eau](#) (pS-Eau)
[Progressio](#)
[RÉS'Eau](#)
ShubhLaabh
[Save the Children](#)
[Saferworld](#)
[Secrétariat international de l'eau](#)
[Sense International](#)
[Sightsavers](#)
[Social Watch](#)
[Sunya Ward Education and Training](#)
[Temple of Understanding](#)
[The Bridge Leadership Foundation – "After School Peer Mentoring Project"](#)
[The Global SOS Network](#)
[The Zeitgeist Movement](#)
[Twaweza](#)
[United Practices Accountancy](#)
[UN Volunteers](#)
[UNICEF](#)
[UK Sport](#)
[Education for All Global Monitoring Report, UNESCO](#)
[Volunteers overcoming poverty](#) (VSO)
[WASH Advocates](#)
[WaterAid](#)
[Water for People](#)
[Wikinetix](#)
[World Federalist Movement](#)
[World Solidarity and ACV-CSC](#) (Confédération des Syndicats chrétiens)
[World Vision](#)
[WWF International](#)

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