

# Realizing the Future we Want for All

## Key Recommendations from the Report of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

**June 2012**

### *Lessons learned from the MDGs and emerging challenges*

- The post-2015 UN development agenda needs to draw on the lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals.
- Based on this learning the post-2015 framework should retain the format of concrete goals, targets and indicators.....
- ...keeping a good balance between realism and the level of ambition in the definition of goals and targets.
- It will be important for the post-2015 agenda to include some general policy guidelines as means of implementation of the new agenda without being overly prescriptive.
- While the post-2015 agenda should consist of global goals that are universally applicable the agenda should allow for target settings adapted to regional, national and sub-national conditions in adherence to international standards.
- The focus on human development and the eradication of poverty should remain at the core of the new agenda, however it must allow for the inclusion of emerging challenges.
- Emerging challenges include the persistence of major inequalities; the knowledge gap between countries and within countries; shifting demographics; a growing environmental footprint, peace and security issues; and governance and accountability deficits at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels.

### *A vision for transformative change*

- A new vision of transformative change towards inclusive, people-centered and sustainable development is needed.

- The post-2015 framework should build on the values outlined in the Millennium Declaration and should build around three fundamental principles: respect for human rights, equality and sustainability.
- These three principles could inform the identification of goals for the post-2015 agenda, which could be defined along four, highly interdependent dimensions: inclusive economic development, inclusive social development, environmental sustainability, and peace and security.
- A high degree of policy coherence at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels will be required. A core set of 'development enablers' can be identified as a guide to build policy coherence without making the post-2015 global agenda overly prescriptive.

*Possible contours of the post-2015 UN development agenda*

- When shaping the new agenda the development community should be cautious of three dangers: overloading, being too prescriptive or too vague, and being donor centric.
- The global partnership needs to be reshaped to avoid the perception of being a donor-recipient relationship. The challenges faced by the world today, require a new partnerships for development that includes the full range of actors and flexible forms of partnerships at all levels. The global partnership for development should be truly global with clear commitments.
- Consideration should be given to the possible benefits of an agenda for a longer time horizon (15 to 25 years) to allow for major transformational changes.
- An agenda for a longer time could be set to include intermediate targets (for 5 years or so) to review interim progress and adjust long-term goals in consideration of future emerging challenges.
- Target setting should include a combination of absolute and relative targets to properly take account of population dynamics and different demographic structures across countries and regions.

*The outcome of the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development*

- The Rio+20 Conference launched an intergovernmental process to develop a set of global aspirational goals to focus efforts on priority areas for sustainable development

- An Open Working Group, comprised of 30 representatives, nominated by Member States will be tasked to develop a proposal for SDGs.
- In addition, the Secretary-General is asked to provide the initial input to the work of this group and to establish an inter-agency technical support team.
- Stakeholders have outlined the need to ensure that the process of identifying sustainable development goals is coordinated with and consistent with the processes of defining the post-2015 development agenda.

*The way forward*

- The first step, from now through to the special event to be convened by the President of the General Assembly in 2013, is to foster an open, inclusive, and transparent consultation process with contribution from a wide range of stakeholders. The second step, from the special event through 2015, is to increase efforts to achieve intergovernmental consensus while maintaining an open and inclusive process.
- A set of intergovernmental meetings and processes, such as the Rio+20 Conference in June 2012, have and will serve as major milestones leading up to 2015. They will inform the post-2015 agenda by identifying new priority areas.
- A High-level Panel, appointed by the Secretary-General, will convene from July 2012 to provide recommendation on possible contours on the post-2015 agenda and will contribute to further the political process. The panel will deliver its first report in the first quarter of 2013.
- The UN System Task Team delivered its first report with recommendations on the post-2015 UN development agenda to the Secretary-General on 4 June 2012.
- The UN System Task Team will continue to support the process through its analytical inputs, expertise and outreach towards the definition of a post-2015 development agenda that responds to the aspirations of all people for a world free of want and fear and consistent with economic development, social progress and environmental sustainability.
- The UN Task Team stands ready to provide technical inputs and support to the Open Working Group, once constituted, as agreed in the Rio+20 Outcome Document, and to the overall process of identifying the sustainable development goals as part of the post-2015 UN development agenda.