

Realizing the Future we Want for All

Executive Summary

The present report contains the main findings and recommendations of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda to the UN Secretary-General. The Secretary-General established the UN System Task Team to coordinate system-wide preparations for the new development framework in consultation with all stakeholders. Launched in January 2012, it consists of senior experts designated by the Principals of over 50 UN system entities and other international organizations.

The central challenge of the post-2015 UN development agenda is to ensure that globalization becomes a positive force for all the worlds' peoples of present and future generations. Globalization offers great opportunities, but its benefits are at present very unevenly shared. The continuous striving for improvements in material welfare is threatening to surpass the limits of the natural resource base unless there is a radical shift towards more sustainable patterns of consumption and production and resource use. Persistent inequalities and struggles over scarce resources are among key determinants of situations of conflict, hunger, insecurity and violence, which in turn are key factors that hold back human development and efforts to achieve sustainable development.

Business as usual thus cannot be an option and transformative change is needed. As the challenges are highly interdependent, a new, more holistic approach is needed to address them. Accordingly, this first report prepared by the UN System-wide Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda recommends:

- A vision for the future that rests on the core values of human rights, equality and sustainability.
- An agenda format based on concrete end goals and targets, one of the key strengths of the MDG framework should be retained, but reorganized along four key dimensions of a more holistic approach: (1) inclusive social development; (2) inclusive economic development; (3) environmental sustainability; and (4) peace and security. This focused approach is consistent with the principles of the Millennium Declaration which set out a vision of freedom from want and fear for

present and future generations and builds on the three pillars of sustainable development.

- To realize the future we want for all, a high degree of policy coherence at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels will be required. The core set of “development enablers” can be identified as a guide for such policy coherence without making the post-2015 UN development agenda a prescriptive one. In setting the agenda, it should be recognized that there are no blueprints and that one size does not fit all. Hence, the agenda should leave ample space for national policy design and adaptation to local settings, but be guided by the overall vision and its underlying principles.
- The post-2015 UN development agenda should be conceived as a truly global agenda with shared responsibilities for all countries. Accordingly, the global partnership for development would also need to be redefined towards a more balanced approach among all development partners that will enable the transformative change needed for a rights-based, equitable and sustainable process of global development. This would also involve reforms of mechanisms of global governance.
- It is still too early to define concrete goals and targets for the post-2015 UN development agenda. Various processes will need to run their course first. The outcome of and follow-up to the Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development will provide critical guidance and the proposed vision and framework for the post-2015 agenda must be fully aligned with that outcome. Also, broad and inclusive consultation processes on the vision for the post-2015 agenda are still ongoing and will be essential in shaping a shared vision.

The immediate challenge is to reach consensus on the contours of an agenda that adequately identifies the development needs of present and future generations, and is capable of crystallizing these priorities in clear, easy-to-communicate sustainable development goals that will help guide coherent policy action at the global, regional and national levels.

This report is to serve as a first reference for the broader consultations to take place.