Consultation Report

For the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

November 2012

Introduction

At the request of the Secretariat of the UN Secretary-General’s High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS) conducted an online consultation to gather inputs for consideration by Panelists and the Secretariat from 26 October through 7 November 2012, in two phases. The consultation, undertaken through the virtual platform www.worldwewant2015.org/Post2015HLP, enabled civil society to respond to four framing questions related to the focus of the High-level Panel’s meeting on individual and household level poverty, which took place from 31 October to 2 November 2012 in London. Specifically, the consultation sought feedback to four questions relating to two main themes: 1) Human development and 2) Jobs and livelihoods:

On Human Development, 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?

On Jobs and Livelihoods, 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?

This summary report reflects 320 written contributions from 135 organizations, international networks and individual respondents, as well as reports from meetings of the Panel’s outreach day, held on 2 November in London, which included: six civil society roundtables, a private sector meeting, a Youth Event, and a Town Hall meeting between more than 200 representatives of civil society organizations and members of the Panel. Discussion via Twitter through the designated hashtag #Post2015HLP has also been included in this report.
Due to the brevity and online nature of the consultation and the limited possible participation in the London outreach day, this report is not fully representative of the range of civil society and other stakeholders’ views on the post-2015 development agenda. NGLS has made every effort, however, to portray the breadth of perspectives reflected in the online consultation and in the outcomes from the 2 November outreach day. The Annex provides: 1) the full list of organizations, networks, and individuals that contributed through the virtual platform; 2) the participants list for the Panel’s outreach day in London; 3) links to compilation documents for all responses to the online consultation questions and relevant inputs via Twitter; 4) links to notes from all sessions on the Panel’s outreach day in London.

Through quotations and summaries of the submissions and discussions, this report provides an overview of principal civil society recommendations for the Panel. It first discusses lessons learned from the MDGs and concrete proposals for a new framework and then presents key recommendations received, organized under ten predominant themes: Increasing Political Will; Human Rights-Based Approach; Addressing Inequality and Mainstreaming Equity; Inclusive, Participatory Processes and Decision-Making; Protection of Earth’s Ecosystems and Equitable Distribution of Resources; Health; Peace and Security; Enabling Job Creation and Investing in Poor and Marginalized People; Education and Capacity Building; Implementation.

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Calling on the Panel and the post-2015 framework as a whole to take up the call to “end poverty in our time,” participants exhorted the UN and the architects of the global development agenda to create the conditions that empower people to meet their needs, while protecting and promoting the rights of all, particularly the most marginalized. At the same time, the framework must take measures to protect the environment and promote fair and equitable use of resources. Respondents called for universal, ambitious, and holistic goals that integrate other relevant international frameworks, particularly those on environment, population and development, and gender. At the individual and household level, participants stressed, all people must have equal and secure access to healthcare, nutritional food, housing, education, energy, decent jobs and sustainable livelihoods, which are all dependent upon equal and secure access to clean water, arable land and other natural resources, within healthy ecosystems. Several contributors called on the Panel to take into account the realities of national situations, particularly within the context of economic crisis and austerity measures.

“We will achieve The World We Want, and meet our goals for food, water, energy, healthcare, education, and other important development priorities, if the social contract between governments and their citizens is stronger, and political will to set and meet these goals is stronger,” wrote WASH Advocates. Suggestions for increasing political will included: targeting government actors including parliamentarians, ministers, Heads of State, and other key policymakers to actively support and promote development initiatives in their daily work; further research to determine what contributed to national governments’ ownership and achievement of MDG targets; a solidarity approach, emphasizing the connectivity between North and South; and meaningful civil society dialogue with all levels of government (national, provincial, municipal, local). The Bridge Leadership Foundation in Nigeria emphasized that strengthening political will and increasing government accountability through a rights-based approach is the surest way to help those who are vulnerable.

“First and foremost,” as voiced by Plan Europe and echoed by many participants, the post-2015 development framework must adopt a human rights-based approach. ActionAid identified: “Poverty and inequality arise principally because human rights have been denied.” In terms of sexual and reproductive health and rights, for example, Marie Stopes International pointed to marginalized and discriminated groups – young and older women, disabled women, Dalit women, women living with HIV, women migrants, minority and indigenous women, and sex workers – who are unable to access so-called universal services. For this reason, wrote CIDSE, the post-2015 agenda must centre on the principles of the fundamental recognition of the dignity of every human being, and guaranteeing human rights.

ActionAid, VSO, and Social Watch agreed that the MDGs, by focusing on universal numbers and absolute poverty targets, did not sufficiently re-orient the social, political, and economic structures that contribute to unequal relations of power, opportunity, and access. The subsequent development agenda, therefore, must address inequalities among and within nations. Through coherent policies at the local, national, regional, and global levels, the agenda should aim to mainstream equity and end discrimination, through legal reform based on international standards for human rights, decent work, and social protection. It must address the root causes of poverty and explicitly make the most vulnerable and marginalized people the primary beneficiaries of the framework; several organizations advocated policy options to alter structures that perpetuate inequalities and prevent development.
Through extensive research to understand who is poor and marginalized in a given context and what conditions create and maintain this chronic deprivation, respondents including HelpAge International called for holistic targets and indicators to measure how the poorest and most marginalized households move out of poverty. The collection and use of disaggregated data, including by age, gender, ethnicity, income and disability, and at all levels including within the household, was called for by VSO and participants at the Town Hall meeting in London as a concrete step towards ensuring that the post-2015 framework understands – and eradicates – the underlying causes and conditions that perpetuate poverty.

A significant number of respondents, including World Vision South Africa and Plan Europe, felt that the “top-down” process that established the MDGs did not involve those most affected by their implementation, particularly marginalized groups. Successful measures that promote development and alleviate poverty depend on the involvement of communities and citizens, so inclusive, participatory processes and decision-making are essential for constructing the post-2015 development framework, and must directly involve vulnerable and excluded groups. “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,” stated Hlathi Development Services of South Africa.

Organizations including WWF International maintained that the MDGs have had limited benefits for the environment, despite its centrality to human development. Protecting the Earth’s ecosystems, therefore, was raised by several contributors as a fundamental component of the post-2015 framework. Respondents shared specific guidelines for ensuring equitable access to resources within recognized planetary boundaries; contributors including the NGO Subcommittee for the Eradication of Poverty at the UN called attention to the outcomes of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio+20”) as measures for tackling environmental degradation and scarcity that contribute to household level poverty. Land and water rights in particular were highlighted as essential components of social and environmental justice, especially for vulnerable and marginalized people.

Many respondents emphasized the importance of health as a key determinant and expression of household poverty, and as a necessary central element of the forthcoming development agenda. While heralding the MDGs for the amount of global attention they focused on health issues, organizations including WaterAid criticized their “disease-specific, vertical, and siloed” nature, arguing for a holistic, systems approach to health. A focus on human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), was emphasized by several organizations. In addition, the overwhelming challenges posed by non-communicable diseases (NCDs), HIV and AIDS – as well the impact of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) on health – were also part of the discussion, with many organizations calling for increased service provision and domestic resource mobilization. Discussants at the civil society roundtables emphasized the intrinsic need for health while pursuing education, work, and livelihoods; good health is vital for overcoming poverty.

Peace and security, described as essential factors in development, were framed by several organizations as neglected by the MDG framework. Development in situations of conflict must adequately recognize the complex dynamics caused by unstable environments, CIDSE asserted, and one participant in the Youth Event called for a focus on the post-conflict context and vulnerable groups – including women and girls, disabled youth, LGBT youth, and youth in war-affected areas.

“DEVELOPMENT IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT MUST ADEQUATELY RECOGNIZE THE COMPLEX DYNAMICS CAUSED BY UNSTABLE ENVIRONMENTS.”
“The post-2015 international development framework should move beyond static goals to highlight directions of development,” contributed the ESRC STEPS Centre. Building capacities at the grassroots level, including through quality education, was raised as necessary for ensuring that people, especially the most vulnerable, are able to “choose and enact their own pathways to sustainable development.”

“Why are people poor?” asked a participant on Twitter during the Town Hall. “Is it not about jobs?” The post-2015 framework, in the eyes of many participants, must enable job creation and investing in poor and marginalized people. Providing opportunities and an enabling environment for employment, as well as a living wage and rights-based protection for workers – including the “working poor” – was advocated by the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and Public Services International, which together represent 195 million workers in more than 150 countries and territories worldwide. The guidelines of the ILO Decent Work Agenda for job creation, guaranteeing rights at work, extending social protection, and promoting social dialogue, were invoked as the groundwork for this approach. Respondents called for the universal provision of social protection floors to ensure basic income and essential services for all.

The importance of outlining steps towards implementation of the framework and concrete mechanisms for ensuring transparency, accountability, and an enabling environment for sustainable development were highlighted by a majority of participants. “Enabling equitable and sustainable shared responsibilities and social commitments in the rethinking of global governance and its impact on human development” is needed, stated Fundación Equipo, to create and support the new development agenda. Innovative, ambitious methods or pathways that maximize the contributions of stakeholders, through new global partnerships, along with more robust and effective development aid, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), innovative financing mechanisms including Financial Transactions Taxes (FTTs), and domestic resource mobilization were recommended by several participating organizations. Plan Europe, among others, called for the incorporation of qualitative, in addition to quantitative, measurements, to support accountability and ensure truly transformative progress that can be measured in modes “beyond GDP.” Finally, investing in local structures and encouraging national-level policies and legislation should be primary objectives of the framework, according to the European Youth Forum and World Vision South Africa.
Throughout the online consultation and London meetings, civil society sounded the call for the post-2015 framework to “end poverty in our time.” Reaffirming a collective commitment to the eradication of extreme poverty and deprivation, participants exhorted the UN and the architects of the global development agenda to create the conditions that empower people to meet their needs, while protecting and promoting the rights of all, particularly the most marginalized. “We need a new development framework that delivers on equity, social inclusion, decent work and sustainable livelihoods,” wrote World Solidarity/ACV-CSC; others stressed the need to address the fundamental obstacles to human development through a targeted approach and a grassroots focus. Simultaneously, the framework must protect the environment and ensure equitable distribution and sustainable use of natural resources; “a broader approach that addresses these inter-connected elements of sustainable development together is essential,” stated WWF International. Many participants called for a coherent, connected global development system with one set of goals for environmental sustainability and human development.

Contributors also emphasized that the post-2015 development agenda should integrate existing international commitments and outcomes of United Nations conferences. “Global leaders must ensure that the next development paradigm references and builds on the critical rights and development milestones that were enshrined in the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action, the Beijing Platform for Action, and the UN Conference on Environment and Development platforms” and the findings and recommendations of their 20-year reviews, asserted the International Center for Research on Women.

Oxfam International and participants in the civil society roundtable discussions with the Panel in London emphasized the need for the post-2015 agenda to take into account the realities of the current global context: the ongoing financial crisis, austerity measures, a “paralyzed” multilateral system, and strong economic development in countries such as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Addressing global socioeconomic challenges and endorsing systems change will help take into account these ongoing political and economic realities, participants added.

A widespread call was raised for universal goals that enlist all countries, regardless of their development status, to enact measures to ensure the human development needs of all people, particularly marginalized populations. “Aiming to bring about change in Northern countries as much as in the global South,” in the words of the ESRC STEPS Centre, was an oft-cited objective for the potential framework; Save the Children UK among others advised that the goals be based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

In addition to universality, respondents called for potential goals to be ambitious, far-reaching and holistic: “We urge the Panel to be bold in their recommendations and to push for a clear, accessible and accountable framework,” wrote Marie Stopes International. Participants repeatedly called for the post-2015 agenda to include sectors “silied” by or insufficiently included in the MDGs while acknowledging and capitalizing on interlinkages. “Approaches that integrate and coordinate multiple sectors will have the greatest benefit, as these approaches will reflect the lived experiences of people rather than separating them out into pieces and forcing people to choose which needs to prioritize,” explained WaterAid.

Successfully eradicating poverty will require that its various components be addressed together. The design of the framework must recognize that “the definition of poverty goes beyond income,” as a participant in the roundtable discussions with the Panel in London identified. At the individual and household level, all people must have equal and secure access to healthcare, nutritional food, adequate housing, education, energy, decent jobs and sustainable livelihoods, which are all dependent upon equal and secure access to clean water, arable land and other natural resources, within healthy ecosystems.1

1 The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) developed a multidimensional poverty assessment tool (MPAT) that focuses on survey-based thematic indicators at household and village level, such as health (care), domestic water supply, sanitation, housing, farm and non-farm assets, education, food security, shocks, and gender equality. MPAT can be used by all those concerned with rural poverty reduction and is accessible online.
II. Increasing Political Will

Satisfying the objectives of the MDGs, and designing and implementing a post-2015 development framework that achieves the goal of eradicating poverty while protecting environmental sustainability is, according to many participants, heavily dependent on the political will of the governmental actors involved. “We will achieve The World We Want, and meet our goals for food, water, energy, healthcare, education, and other important development priorities, if the social contract between governments and their citizens is stronger, and political will to set and meet these goals is stronger,” wrote WASH Advocates. As David Cameron, Co-Chair of the High-level Panel, asserted during the Panel’s London meeting, “We have the unique opportunity to be the generation that will eradicate extreme poverty;” according to the Bridge Leadership Foundation of Nigeria, all achievements of the MDGs and the post-2015 framework depend on political will at the country level. As the ESRC STEPS Centre elaborated, the “interactions of Heads of State, ministers and local government, businesses, citizens, NGOs and people’s movements in specific settings – politics – is central in determining whose priorities, interests and values count, how the goals are met or why they are not.”

Suggestions for increasing political will included: targeting government actors such as parliamentarians, ministers, Heads of State, and other key policymakers to actively support and promote development initiatives in their daily work; further research to determine what contributed to national governments’ ownership and achievement of MDG targets; a solidarity approach, emphasizing the connectivity between North and South; and meaningful civil society dialogue with all levels of government (national, provincial, municipal, local).

A post-2015 position paper by Oxfam International, submitted to the online consultation, shared three ways that international instruments can exert influence: by changing national norms (which then leads to long-term changes in societal trends and therefore laws, policies, and behaviours); by directly influencing government decisions (through incentives or sanctions); and by providing tools for civil society organizations and other domestic actors to use for lobbying, campaigning, and encouraging governmental action. Implementation gaps – between what a government has promised through international law or agreement and what it actually provides – represent, in Oxfam’s view, the most promising areas for citizen advocacy. Additionally, the paper identifies “second-order,” or indirect, ways that international initiatives contribute to positive change: influencing global norms (shifting the way people and leaders think about the world and the role of government); stimulating the creation of national and regional goals and targets (to focus action and enable accountability); presenting global league tables (comparative

Contributors urged that a human rights-based approach to ensuring equity is the foundation that will enable all people, especially those who are marginalized such as women and girls, children and youth, the elderly, people living with disabilities, and indigenous peoples, to have secure access to these services, opportunities and resources. Social protection floors, capacity building, and financing are critical supports for people living in poverty to improve their lives. Inclusive, participatory, and transparent processes are essential in both the construction and implementation of the post-2015 development framework. Governments must increase political will, progress must be measured with disaggregated qualitative and quantitative indicators beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and all stakeholders must be cooperative, accountable and ambitious to realize the vision of equality and dignity for all.

This consultation report will now present a summary of inputs received on these subjects under the following ten predominant themes: Increasing Political Will; Human Rights-Based Approach; Addressing Inequality and Mainstreaming Equity; Inclusive, Participatory Processes and Decision-Making; Protection of Earth’s Ecosystems and Equitable Distribution of Resources; Health; Peace and Security; Enabling Job Creation and Investing in Poor and Marginalized People; Education and Capacity Building; Implementation.

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data on different countries’ absolute situations and rates of progress, as in UNDP’s Human Development Index); and encouraging and improving data transparency.  

“A strong global framework,” WASH Advocates contributed, “will help create and strengthen the political will [and] that will be the only way these ambitious goals will be achieved.”

III. Human Rights-Based Approach

Many contributing organizations, international networks and individuals emphasized that a new global framework for development must adopt a rights-based approach, with a focus on realizing the human rights of vulnerable and marginalized populations.

ActionAid identified: "Poverty and inequality arise principally because human rights have been denied.” Therefore, as the International Movement ATD Fourth World underscored, “[T]he principle means by which people may overcome extreme poverty is through the full and effective realization of their fundamental rights.” 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 postponed to give way to 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.

HelpAge International observed that various human rights treaties "have clearly defined minimum obligations to realize the rights of the most marginalized and vulnerable at all stages of the life-course." Yet, as ATD Fourth World described, too often these treaties do not lead to effective realization of the rights of the most marginalized people.

ATD Fourth World and several other contributors recommended the newly adopted UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights (A/HRC/21/39) as instructions for how to fulfil existing human rights obligations when designing and implementing policies for overcoming poverty. These guiding principles are based on several international and regional human rights instruments and agreements4 and "are intended as a practical tool for policymakers to ensure that public policies (including poverty eradication efforts) reach the poorest members of society, respect and uphold their rights, and take into account the significant social, cultural, economic and structural obstacles to human rights enjoyment faced by persons living in poverty."5

Social Watch highlighted some excerpts from these guiding principles pertaining to business and human rights, including that "Non-State actors, including business enterprises, have, at the very minimum, the responsibility to respect human rights..."6 and that States are obligated “to protect against human rights infringements,” and “must ensure that those affected by business-related abuses have access to a prompt, accessible and effective remedy.”7 The NGO Subcommittee for Poverty Eradication at the UN also raised the importance of ensuring that business respects human rights, and called for the post-2015 development agenda to include the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework (A/HRC/17/31).

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5 [http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/Pages/DGPlntroduction.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/Pages/DGPlntroduction.aspx)
6 UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights (A/HRC/21/39), paragraph 100
7 Ibid, paragraph 102
According to several civil society organizations that participated in the online consultation and the roundtable meetings with Panel members in London, the principles that should be central to a human-rights-based approach in a new development framework include: accountability, transparency, participation, equality, non-discrimination, and empowerment. In line with these principles, the human rights-based approach for the framework should be “developed in consultation with those whose rights are furthest from being fulfilled,” as Sightsavers articulated.

Participating organizations specified a number of specific rights that should be explicitly protected in a new development framework. Particular emphasis was given to the following:

- Water and sanitation (with reference to United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/292)
- Food security and nutrition
- Education (formal / informal and cognitive / non-cognitive)
- Labour (particularly decent work)
- Social security
- Civil and political
- Health (including maternal health and sexual and reproductive health)
- Comprehensive accessibility for people with disabilities (with reference to the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)
- Free, prior and informed consent (particularly with regard to secure access to, and control over land, water and other natural resources)

Nord-Sud XXI & International-Lawyers.Org stated that to achieve equity among people and to ensure universal access to entitlements, all States must recognize the international legal right to development, as well as international legal rights to cooperation and solidarity, and must “respect the rule of law or suffer consequences for not doing so.” OneWorld UK asserted, “International law must be zealously enforced rather than compromised at every turn.” To enforce human rights obligations, monitoring and accountability are critical, and the human rights accountability mechanisms should be fully implemented, stressed contributors. As one individual concluded, “The most vulnerable must be protected legally – otherwise, they will continue to be marginalized.”

### IV. Addressing Inequality and Mainstreaming Equity

The inputs to the consultation reveal clearly that inequality and poverty are intertwined: poverty is a driver of inequality, and inequality creates and perpetuates poverty. Many contributors stressed that the post-2015 development agenda must put equity at its center, and address barriers faced by the most vulnerable and marginalized people in society. These barriers include attitudes, legal structures and business practices that cause and reinforce marginalization and discrimination. A human rights-based approach is essential to overcoming these barriers, and, as CIDSE indicated, the framework must prioritize policies “that tackle structures in society that perpetuate inequality in the distribution of power and resources.” The Joint Action and Learning Initiative on National and Global Responsibilities for Health (JALI) suggested that the post-2015 development framework should encourage every country to develop an equity strategy – “a national action plan that identifies marginalized populations, specific obstacles to… their human rights, and measures to overcome these obstacles, including targets, indicators, capacity building, and effective monitoring and evaluation of the strategies and their impact.”

As participants in the civil society roundtable discussions with the Panel in London identified, “Inequality, like poverty, has many dimensions.” Participants outlined that equality must be realized for women, the elderly, children and youth, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples and minority populations. Fostering equality for these groups means ensuring at minimum equal economic opportunities and equal access to education, health care (including sexual and reproductive health care) and natural resources. Location, geography, level of community and national development, and political conditions (particularly government fragility and/or conflict within a State) affect equal access to opportunities, services and resources, and so these factors must be considered when designing, implementing and evaluating policies.
A number of recommendations were made for the post-2015 framework regarding goals, targets and indicators to address inequalities and mainstream equity. More extensive consultation is necessary to explore these dimensions of the framework in a comprehensive manner. Regarding goals, targets and indicators for inequalities, this report will focus on dominant general recommendations received that relate to addressing household poverty, and will also present specific recommendations regarding equality for women and people with disabilities, because there was a tremendous amount of input on those issues in particular.

There is clear consensus that future goals must be centered on meeting the needs of the most vulnerable, marginalized and underserved people. The goals must focus on equity, stated participants in the civil society roundtable discussions with the Panel in London. In other words, equity should be mainstreamed across the post-2015 development framework. In addition, “Reducing inequality should be seen as a goal in itself,” one contributor noted, citing the recent United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) research and policy brief, Inequalities and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Participants in the roundtable discussions with the Panel similarly called for “a strong strategic and universal goal on inequality,” signaling that it would support the efforts of national advocates.

Regarding targets, contributors pointed to important lessons from the MDGs. Save the Children China explained that because the MDGs used national averages, persisting inequalities within countries were masked. VSO identified that 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. Health Poverty Action UK provided an example that illustrates this point: because the MDGs focus on overall targets, rather than on equity and reaching the most vulnerable, there has not been a concerted effort to support indigenous peoples or those from other cultural minorities. Health Poverty Action UK added, “The focus on aggregate figures means that the most marginalized groups are not only neglected in terms of resources, but also in terms of monitoring and analysis. In fact there is extremely limited information on how much their lives have been affected by the development efforts of the last decade.”

Therefore, as Save the Children UK stated, to address inequalities, the post-2015 framework should set targets that aspire to reach all people, and each target must be disaggregated to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalized people are not left behind. Participants in the roundtable discussions with the Panel in London echoed these points: a new development framework must not set targets in percentages, but rather must target entire populations, to ensure that their needs are met.

Many contributors called for data to be disaggregated by gender, age, ethnicity, income, and disability, stating that this is essential for uncovering inequities and patterns of discrimination, enabling informed development of policies and strategies, ensuring that the most vulnerable groups receive support and services, and measuring progress toward access and equality.

Participants in the roundtable discussions with the Panel in London also cautioned that using the unit of household poverty to assess the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized risks missing those suffering acute poverty within a household – particularly women. Therefore data disaggregation is also required within the household level.

A Focus on Equality for People Living with Disabilities

The International Centre for Evidence in Disability (ICED) contributed, “According to the World Report on Disability, an estimated 15% of the global population have a moderate or severe disability. In Least Developed Countries, people with disabilities are disproportionately represented amongst the very poor and may become entrenched in disability/poverty cycles. Often, they face widespread stigma and discrimination, and are excluded from education and consequently employment and independence. People with disabilities must be included in development programmes if we have any hope of ensuring fair access to education, health and employment for all, and for the most vulnerable especially.”
A large number of contributing organizations and individuals called for the post-2015 development framework to be fully inclusive of people living with disabilities, and for all countries to fully implement the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

Sense International explained, “Disability should be mainstreamed across all post-2015 development goals. In practice this would mean: specific targets relating to the needs of disabled people within each of the goals; disability-specific indicators across all areas; specific measures to address the barriers (physical, information, communication, attitudinal) experienced by person with disabilities whilst accessing services; a requirement to collect and monitor disaggregated data showing the impact of efforts for each goal on marginalized disabled people; holding governments and donors to account when progress is insufficient.” In addition, Sightsavers called for “a goal in itself to protect and maximize the wellbeing of people with disabilities in terms of access to health, education, energy, water and food.”

A Focus on Gender Equality

Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland, former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, member of The Elders, and President of the Mary Robinson Foundation – Climate Justice (MRFCJ), contributed to the consultation via Twitter: “Sustainable development cannot be achieved without addressing gender equality and women’s empowerment.” This is because, as consultation contributors articulated, gender inequality prevents women’s and girls’ development: gender inequality is a barrier to achieving other MDGs, and women are disproportionately vulnerable to violence and climate change. ActionAid UK elaborated on these points: “Discrimination, gender-based violence and gender-based disadvantage mean that women are disproportionately far more likely to be poor, hungry or illiterate and thus face a development emergency. Shocks such as climate change are likely to push them further into poverty and put them more at risk of violence.”

Regarding household poverty, youth representatives who met with Panel members in London emphasized that the status of women and girls is different than the status of men and boys within the same household, and so the gender dynamics of household poverty must be considered. Associação de Mulheres Batalhadoras do Jardim Franciscato in Brazil advocated for ensuring the effective participation of women in the organization of their household. A participant at the civil society roundtable discussions with the Panel stated, “We need to think about women as the key part of the solution, and include them as part of the decision-making processes.”

Many organizations called for gender equality to be mainstreamed across the post-2015 development agenda, as well as for a standalone goal on gender equality and women’s empowerment. The Gender and Development Network emphasized that a standalone goal remains essential because “without it there will be a backtrack of commitment and resources with hard-won gains lost.” Gender equality targets across the framework should be transformative, addressing the structural causes of inequality.

The Gender and Development Network explained that the specific barriers that women and girls face must be addressed, including: “lack of sanitary facilities for menstruating girls attending school; the unpaid care work that affects women’s health outcomes; or the threat of gender-based violence that deters women from playing a full role in decision-making or in accessing water or energy.” A specific target on violence against women and girls is needed under a gender equality goal, urged ActionAid UK, because it “is one of the most systematic human rights violations in the world and prevents women and girls from taking opportunities which might otherwise be available, limiting their options to escape poverty.”

The International Women’s Health Coalition (IWHC) contributed that “women’s levels of education, health and empowerment are particularly important for reducing poverty and improving the prospects of future generations,” and women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights must be guaranteed. “Without the rights to have control over all aspects of their sexuality free of violence, discrimination and coercion; to decide the number and spacing of their children and the information and means to do so; and to attain the highest standard of sexual and reproductive health, women simply cannot realize their other human rights, such as the right to education, employment, or political participation,” IWHC stressed. Social Watch highlighted that the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human
Rights call on States to "develop mechanisms to enhance the involvement of women, including those living in poverty, in political life and decision-making bodies at all levels."8

Organizations also called for the post-2015 framework to ensure women's access to resources. As Habitat for Humanity International described, “Existing statutory and customary laws in many countries limit women’s access to land and other types of property, thereby restricting economic opportunities and worth in their communities.” Women’s “full and equal legal capacity to own, control and administer economic resources such as land, credit, and inheritance” is prescribed by the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, as cited by Social Watch.9

The International Trade Center submitted a detailed proposal for addressing the economic empowerment of women within the goals, targets, and indicators of the post-2015 development agenda. This proposal will be discussed in the section on Enabling Job Creation and Investing in Poor and Marginalized People.

In summary, as the IWHC expressed, "We cannot achieve the just, equitable, and sustainable world we want without healthy, educated, and empowered women and girls."

V. Inclusive, 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 convictions expressed by an overwhelming majority of consultation participants. Women Deliver echoed, “Ensuring that the essential needs of all people – especially the vulnerable and marginalized – are met entails involving those same people in the development of programmes and policies which affect them.” According to Coalition Eau, “this means in particular to actively involve beneficiaries in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development policies.” Local Democracy Watch contributed via Twitter that the answers to most needs are at the local level. Local capacities must be recognized and supported for further development, stated Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits (ECOWEB).

Participants in the civil society roundtable discussions with the Panel described that many development programmes have failed because they were “designed from the top down without any participation by the stakeholders they were meant to benefit.” The Overseas Development Institute identified that “Exclusion from political power, from economic and social opportunities is at the root of many of the world’s impoverishing long term violent conflicts.” Therefore, for a post-2015 development agenda to meaningfully address poverty, it must “empower citizens to exercise choice and control over the decisions that impact their lives,” as Development Initiatives UK indicated.

Social Watch pointed to the recently adopted UN Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, which assert: "States must ensure that groups at higher risk of falling into poverty, including those who commonly experience disadvantage and discrimination based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, are not only adequately represented in all decision-making processes that affect them but also empowered and supported to express their views.”10

Dedicated focus must be given to ensuring that all processes are fully inclusive and that vulnerable and marginalized people are able to actively participate in decision-making. As Women Deliver contributed, “In particular, girls, women, indigenous populations, LGBTQ individuals, those living in low-resource environments, and disabled populations

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8 http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/Pages/DGPIntroduction.aspx, paragraph 28
9 http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/Pages/DGPIntroduction.aspx, paragraph 27
need meaningful representation.” Niger Delta Women’s Movement for Peace & Development stipulated that it is also critical to engage those impacted by climate change and environmental degradation. VSO explained during the Town Hall meeting in London that women experience a greater degree of poverty than men in a household, and the post-2015 framework must ensure that women have a voice in decision-making so that they can benefit from development efforts.

Participants in the Panel’s Youth Event in London, convened by youth-led agency Restless Development, conveyed that half of the world’s population is under 25 years old – more than 3.5 billion people, “and yet, young people remain isolated from decision-making processes, frequently overlooked as a resource for change and development.” Youth participants stressed the need for inclusion of youth, emphasizing that their creativity, skills, knowledge and perspectives are valuable resources that are not currently used by governments and institutions to full potential. Participants profiled tangible, cost-effective and innovative development interventions being led by young people in different national contexts. There was agreement that youth perspectives must be integrated into the existing process. It was suggested that measures must be taken to ensure a youth presence in future High-level Panel meetings in Liberia, Indonesia and beyond. Furthermore, they suggested that a youth contact point be established in the Panel’s Secretariat.

Youth contributors called on governments, institutions and the post-2015 development agenda process to further support and engage with youth organizations and volunteer-based organizations, to help ensure that those that are closest to the problems can provide the solutions. A participant in the Youth Event advised: “Nothing about us, without us.” In a written submission, the European Youth Forum detailed that youth organizations have long played a fundamental role in overcoming poverty and promoting social inclusion by empowering young people, including by providing informal education and encouraging volunteering and active citizenship.

Many contributors called for more robust opportunities for civil society organizations to engage in development policy design and implementation. Réseau National des Jeunes pour le Développement Durable et la Protection de l’Environnement (RNJDD), Cameroon, advocated for civil society to be involved at all levels of decision-making, realization and evaluation. Progressio indicated that the UN and the High-level Panel must ensure “meaningful processes for inclusive civil society engagement” as part of delivering on pledges to consult with the most vulnerable and marginalized people for the post-2015 development agenda, and that the priorities identified within civil society consultations “should guide what needs to be added or updated in the finalized framework.”

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.” World Solidarity/ACV-CSC emphasized that a multi-stakeholder process is “important for the democratic ownership of the process of national and regional adaptation of the new framework.” The process must provide “a platform for people directly affected by extreme poverty to share their knowledge and expertise,” wrote International Movement ATD Fourth World. “Without the input from their experience, we risk once again creating a framework for development that leaves the poorest and most excluded behind.”

According to Joint Action and Learning Initiative on National and Global Responsibilities for Health (JALI), the process for defining the post-2015 development framework “should be slowed to enable meaningful input from communities that cannot participate in online consultations and presently lack the means to participate in – much less have information about – other consultative processes.” JALI also advocated for a diversity of civil society to have a formal voice in the negotiation process: “Besides inclusion in official country delegations, a process could be developed to nominate civil society and community representatives to a community/civil society committee whose consent could be a prerequisite for UN adoption of the new goals.”

VSO detailed, “Every day thousands of community health workers, voluntary groups, civil servants, employers and entrepreneurs make some of the biggest impacts on tackling poverty in their own communities. The post-2015 framework must recognize them as the drivers of development and:

- Give greater representation to poor and marginalized groups in the process of defining the new framework;
- Ensure the contributions that grassroots groups are making to poverty reduction are included in progress measures;
- Enable people to assess progress and hold their leaders to account.”
As called for by the Overseas Development Institute, key governance reforms to foster inclusive, participatory processes include:

- Creative formulae for power sharing;
- Persuading elites to work in coalition with excluded groups;
- Developing the political discipline necessary to oversee effective national development programmes;
- Developing the practical administrative capacities at local as well as central levels to support inclusion.

The Neighbourhood Community Network (NCN), India, stressed that small-sized, accessible, neighborhood-based forums for governance participation are essential. NCN also suggested, “The millions of present-day self-help groups could be easily turned into governance and political participation groups.”

Civil society participants in the roundtable discussions with the Panel identified that meaningful participation requires access to information. The ESRC STEPS Centre believes access to scientific information is critical: “The post-2015 international development framework will require enhanced links between global science and local participation in decision-making and implementation. Whilst evidence on planetary boundaries needs to be drawn upon in guiding the global direction of development, open political processes are needed to foster a diversity of innovation approaches (both technical and social) to address not only global challenges but also locally-defined development problems.”

Post-2015 development efforts must help to ensure inclusiveness and participation in management of resources, stressed several contributors, including participants in the civil society roundtable discussions. Progressio provided an example: “To ensure sufficient water for the lives and livelihoods of all, equitable, sustainable, inclusive and participatory management of water with a pro-poor focus is essential.” International Land Coalition (ILC) specified, “Land users and their organizations should be empowered to participate in decision-making over land and natural resources at all levels.” Social Watch invoked the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights in connection with this subject as well, which stipulate: “States must ensure that indigenous peoples, who are particularly susceptible to extreme poverty, enjoy the right to free, prior and informed consent through their own representative institutions regarding all decisions concerning the use of their lands, territories and resources by State and non-State actors.”

Therefore, as Progressio stated, the participation of the poorest and most marginalized must be central in the development of targets and plans that aim to secure access to food, water, energy, health care and education for all.

At the roundtable discussions with the Panel, civil society participants underscored that a post-MDG framework should use the participation of people living in extreme poverty not just as one preliminary ingredient, but as an ongoing long-term tool for implementation. One participant articulated a hope that many hold: “that the post-2015 programme can draw on the experience and intelligence of people living in extreme poverty to innovate new approaches to ending it.”

Temple of Understanding concluded, “As we look at retooling for sustainability, as well as development for social justice and adapting to environmental changes, we need all the creativity and participation from everyone.”

VI. Protection of Earth’s Ecosystems & Equitable Distribution of Resources

“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,” explained WWF International. Participants in the London roundtable discussions and Town Hall meeting cited that more than half of the world’s poor live in fragile ecosystems, and 25% of the world’s poor depend on tropical rainforest that is rapidly disappearing. Climate change is already impacting ecosystems and increasing the frequency and severity of natural disasters, destabilizing food and

water security, health and livelihoods. Additionally, participants in the private sector meeting with the Panel in London stated that climate change and resource scarcity threaten job creation. Much stronger action to address climate change is needed.

WWF International asserted that meeting the needs of a growing population “means a radically different vision of growth and development: one that is inclusive and within planetary boundaries.” Participants in the private sector meeting echoed this view, stating that new development goals must work within planetary boundaries and that natural resources are public goods that need protection. They called for a framework that provides a level playing field for all to enable the achievement of these objectives.

“The challenge for the post-2015 development framework is to simultaneously tackle the unsustainable use of natural resources, global inequality and an inequitable economic system,” continued WWF International; therefore, “a broader approach that addresses these inter-connected elements of sustainable development together is essential.” Accordingly, WWF International identified the following priorities for the post-2015 agenda:

- Maintain a focus on human development and inequality, while recognizing that natural resource decline and environmental degradation often affects the poorest and most vulnerable directly.
- Better capture environmental performance and resource management in measuring societal progress.
- Identify global goals that incorporate environmental sustainability and that allow each nation to identify their common but differentiated responsibilities in achieving sustainable development.
- Strengthen governance and increase transparency for natural resource management at global, regional, transboundary, national and local levels.
- Align economic incentives with sustainable development and poverty eradication objectives.
- Foster greater sustainability in production and consumption patterns.

The NGO Subcommittee for Poverty Eradication at the UN recommended the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns adopted by the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) as a basic element of the future development framework, and stated that “equitable distribution of the earth’s resources is imperative if we are to have a common sustainable future.” This is critical for rural poor individuals and communities in particular, as they are dependent on local natural resources not only for consumption but also for income: “At a household level, it is estimated that environmental assets provide roughly two-thirds of income for the rural poor. Women’s income generation in rural areas is often heavily based on access to natural resources. The environment plays a significant role in the livelihoods of approximately three quarters of people living on less than US$2 a day,” explained WWF International.

Both environmental and social justice must be safeguarded for vulnerable and marginalized people, articulated Ecosystems Work for Essential Benefits (ECOWEB). The use of natural resources must be sustainably managed in order to protect the health of ecosystems and human rights.

**Water Rights**

As Programme Solidarité Eau identified, “Water and sanitation are now recognized as human rights, and they are clearly key points for achieving equity.” AquaFed – The International Federation of Private Water Operators contributed that 40% of people in the world do not have water services; “in terms of household poverty, inadequate water is intimately linked and interrelated with insufficient food, energy, health care and education.”

Progressio urged increased attention to water security in light of increasing water scarcity, which is a problem in itself but also affects food security and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. Programme Solidarité Eau advocated for added attention to sanitation, “which, although often overlooked, plays a crucial role in terms of human dignity, access to education for girls, health, [and] environment.”
AquaFed called on the High-level Panel to propose “a fully-fledged global goal for water and sanitation that aims at ensuring significant progress on access to drinking water that is really safe, and access to sanitation, including toilets, and protecting people from pollution by others,” and specified that this goal should be supported by a reliable monitoring mechanism. The organization also emphasized that the collection and treatment of wastewater must receive focus in the new framework because it is essential to protect poor households against pollution caused by others in dense urban and peri-urban areas, and this dimension was overlooked by the MDGs.

Others also called for a global goal: according to Water For People, “To succeed in the post-2015 world, the water and sanitation sectors are taking a fresh look at water, sanitation and hygiene indicators. These should be endorsed and embraced in the post-2015 world if the goal of the global development community is to actually ensure water and sanitation investments last and change lives.” One individual drew attention to the essential role local authorities and the community would play in enabling communities to meet water and sanitation objectives.

“A global framework can stimulate national policies that set specific targets for the progressive realization of water services, for both urban and rural populations, and that commit to the allocation of the legal and economic means necessary,” explained AquaFed. It “can help to remove obstacles such as underestimation of the needs and benefits water services provide; the need to solve conflicts between land tenure and the right to water; recognizing the cost of water for those who are not supplied by public services; the need to include water and wastewater in urban planning.”

**Land Rights**

The International Land Coalition (ILC) contributed, “Secure access to, and control over, land, water and other natural resources is a fundamental enabler of achieving food security and overcoming poverty,” yet the majority of the world’s rural poor do not have registered land rights, making them vulnerable to competition from more powerful interests in land.

Landesa pointed out at the Town Hall meeting in London that 75% of people with lowest income (earning less than US$1.25 per day) live in rural areas and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods, and so land is their most important asset. Therefore, a primary way to address household poverty is to protect land rights for these people. Landesa also highlighted, “Secure land tenure for women is widely regarded as fundamental to ensuring effective and sustainable human development. Secure rights to land are rights that are clearly defined, long-term, enforceable, appropriately transferable, and legally and socially legitimate. For women, exercising these rights should not require consultation or approval beyond that required of men.”

ONG HOPE International emphasized that a key component of ensuring land rights for vulnerable and marginalized populations is to protect them against the practice of exploitative land-grabbing by corporations – the monopolization of quality land without benefit to local people. The solution, they indicated, is “Implementation of sustainable policies through ‘micro-projects’ that are focused on a few thousand people.”

ILC advocated a number of measures to secure land rights for low-income, rural populations, including:

- promoting and respecting human rights, including labour rights;
- addressing power asymmetries, by explicitly prioritizing the interests of vulnerable groups whose livelihoods depend on land and other natural resources;
- enforcing the right to free, prior and informed consent of affected communities;
- the meaningful and timely participation of the full spectrum of land users in land governance;
- promoting gender equality in access to land and land tenure;
- supporting national-level monitoring based on transparent and accessible land-related information;
- land policies that recognize and protect diverse, flexible and plural tenure systems, including those of indigenous peoples and pastoralists, fisher folks, users of common pool resources and holders of overlapping, shifting and periodic rights;
- agrarian reform and land distribution to counteract excessive land concentration and landlessness.
VII. Health

The health-related contributions covered a broad range of issues and many contributing organizations, international networks and individuals emphasized the profound impact health issues have on development goals, and the interlinkage between poverty and ill-health. Good health is seen as essential to human welfare, and to sustained economic and social development.

Health was identified as a fundamental matter for all people and a main priority at the individual household level. Health Poverty Action UK cited findings from the 2010 World Health Report that “[A]pproximately 100 million people are plunged into poverty every year because of direct payments for treatment or urgent consultations, while 150 million a year face extreme financial hardship due to health care payments that make up more than 40% of their household income (after basic needs have been met).” Sightsavers noted that “more than one billion live with a disability, and many of these people have unmet health and rehabilitation needs, are excluded from equal access to health services and have poor health.”

According to NCD Alliance, placing health at the heart of the new development agenda will ensure that all people, including the most vulnerable and marginalized, have access to health care.

A human rights-based approach to health

Sightsavers indicated that the new global framework has the opportunity to promote a rights-based approach to health and development that is based on agreed human rights conventions which include the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and investment in strengthening health systems that deliver equitable, safe and accessible health services. According to the Joint Action and Learning Initiative on National and Global Responsibilities for Health (JALI), “A health goal could be framed as achieving health equity – or achieving the right to health itself – where the poorest and most marginalized people have equal access to the elements of human development as the well-off.” NCD Alliance argued that health indicators should be developed across all dimensions to ensure financial stability, physical well-being, and reduce inequalities. “Key measurements of health can help track advancements in development, identify barriers and highlight inequities,” NCD Alliance advocated.

Universal health coverage

Several contributions highlighted the need for universal health coverage and the strengthening of health systems, which Sightsavers indicated as essential in upholding people’s right to health and in providing people access to the range of health services that they need. Health Poverty Action UK urged the High-level Panel and UN Member States to make this a priority target in the post-2015 framework, noting that the provision of essential health services improves health outcomes and prevents people from being pushed into poverty. A participant from the Town Hall meeting said: “Universal health coverage is central to ending poverty in our time. We are all aware that the poor become sick and the sick become poor, so it is essential to keep a healthy community and a healthy work force.”

Sexual and reproductive health and rights

Many contributions focused on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). For the Population and Sustainability Network, population dynamics and SRHR are cross-cutting issues. The organization further noted that investment in voluntary family planning programmes has potential to drive progress towards a range of development goals, including food and water security, and access to health care and education for all: “For every dollar spent in family planning, it is estimated that US$2-6 can be saved for other development interventions….” According to Population Matters, “An essential element in any sustainable process, which is however widely ignored, is steady movement towards stable populations, through the provision of comprehensive family planning in the framework of good sexual and reproductive healthcare. Without this, all development projects are to a greater or lesser extent ‘running to stand still,’ with little or no additional benefit to anyone….”

For Marie Stopes International, the current global architecture has not delivered well for women and any new framework should galvanize leadership, resources and attention to meet the specific needs of women, particularly on reproductive health. Many civil society organizations, including the International Center for Research on Women, Marie Stopes International, Population Matters, and the Population and Sustainability Network, made reference to the late addition of target 5B to the Millennium Development Goals in 2007 of achieving universal access to reproductive health, citing the post-2015 framework as an opportunity to build on momentum gained. The International Center for Research on Women stressed that the post-2015 framework must incorporate SRHR as critically important components of achieving gender equality, poverty alleviation and global development. The new framework should take into account the conclusions of global reviews of the ICPD Programme of Action and Beijing Platform for Action emphasized many contributors, including Population Matters, the International Center for Research on Women and International Women’s Health Coalition.

Women Deliver acknowledged that in terms of health, maternal health must not be viewed as a “women’s issue,” but as a human rights issue, and called for affordable, stigma-free, and quality maternal health care before, during and after childbirth to be made available to all citizens. A participant in the civil society roundtables recommended universal access to comprehensive sexuality education, while a participant at the Youth Event pointed to peer education as a tool for making strong gains, in terms of raising awareness and providing leadership skills and confidence, and as a feasible, high impact and cost effective way to move forward SRHR. The participant also added, “Empowering young men and women through sexual health and reproductive rights will impact our generation, and the generations to come.”

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)

Many civil society organizations referred to the impact of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) – such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, and diabetes – including their influence on household poverty and development at large, and the resulting economic impact. According to the NCD Alliance, NCDs account for two out of three deaths, and 50% of disabilities in the world. Eighty percent of these deaths occur in low and middle income countries (LMICs), leading to a cycle of poverty: “NCDs perpetuate and entrench poverty within households and increase inequalities within populations. Out of pocket payments for NCD treatment and care can trap poor households in cycles of catastrophic expenditure, impoverishment, and illness, particularly in LMICs that lack social and health insurance. NCDs diminish household earnings and hinder a family’s ability to provide for and educate children.”

Furthermore, NCD Alliance stated that “The challenges of ill health and poverty are so complex and resource-intensive that governments and other stakeholders cannot tackle them on their own. Given the NCD burden is so large and the cost of development challenges remains so overwhelming, it is essential the post-2015 development framework engages new actors and donors in a truly multisectoral approach.” To ensure greater accountability and effectiveness of aid for health, NCD Alliance urged bilateral aid agencies to keep their commitments to the Paris Declaration of Aid Effectiveness and align their aid to the priorities of recipient countries, especially to requests for financial, human and technical resources for NCD prevention and control from recipient countries.

HIV and AIDS

A participant at the Town Hall meeting acknowledged that the HIV response has catalyzed a new form of activism around health which comprises the centrality and leadership of the people most affected by the epidemic; the non-negotiability of gender equality and human rights as essential to successful health outcomes; and multi-sectoral partnerships and governance models. The participant noted that “HIV remains unfinished business and there is still much to be done. We ask the Panel to think about the fact that over 33 million people are still living with HIV worldwide and all of these people will need treatment over the course of the rest of their lifetimes. Think about the fact that 7.6 million people are currently in need of anti-retroviral treatment and still not accessing it; this presents as fundamental a problem to our economies and societies as it ever did.” The participant further asked how the lessons learned from the HIV response could be applied to the post-2015 framework.
Water and sanitation

Many contributions emphasized the impact of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) on health. WASH Advocates estimates that 50% of undernutrition is due to inadequate water and sanitation. Opportunistic infections, resulting from water and sanitation-related diseases in people living with HIV, can accelerate the progression of HIV to AIDS. According to WASH Advocates, “WASH has the potential to prevent at least 9% of the global disease burden and 6% of all deaths. Hand washing can reduce the risk of diarrhea by 40%, treatment and safe storage of drinking water at point of use reduces the risk of diarrhea by 30-40%, and WASH reduces severity of diarrhea in people living with HIV and AIDS by 35%. The world can and should set and measure progress toward tangible, mutually-reinforcing WASH, health, education, and HIV goals post 2015.” The Institute for International Social Development acknowledged that it is important to teach people how to monitor their health, such as through good hygienic practices and rural control campaigns to check health, eyesight, and teeth.

VIII. Peace and Security

Several contributions focused on the adverse impacts of insecurity in fragile and conflict-ridden States, with many civil society organizations, including Progressio and Saferworld, emphasizing that particular attention must be paid to the poor in these States who are often left behind. Saferworld made reference to Realizing the Future We Want for All, the report of the UN Task Team on Post-2015, which finds that “60% of the undernourished, 61% of impoverished, 77% of children not in primary school and 65% of people without access to safe water live and 70% of infant deaths occur in fragile or conflict-affected countries.”

According to CIDSE, development in situations of conflict must adequately recognize the complex dynamics caused by unstable environments, including migration, ecosystem destruction, violence against women, and higher levels of poverty and hunger as crops may be destroyed either by deliberate actions or by lack of people to farm the land. A participant from the Town Hall meeting highlighted the issue of energy poverty, noting that jobs and poverty along with conflict and energy are crucial topics to be considered. “When conflicts occur, everything is destroyed, costing money,” the participant stressed. Speaking from the Youth Event, one participant called for a focus on the post-conflict context and vulnerable groups – including women and girls, youth with disabilities, LGBT youth, and youth in war-affected areas.

Care and protection

The issue of care and protection was also mentioned in the context of peace and security and the post-2015 development framework. During the Town Hall meeting, EveryChild UK emphasized that although many vital areas in MDGs have been mentioned, the area of care and protection is completely missing, which they argued was unacceptable given the extent to which children around the globe are facing violence, abuse and exploitation. Each year 1.5 billion children experience some form of violence, and 223 million children are raped or subject to sexual violence – which is a major constraint to development in addition to a violation of human rights. EveryChild UK suggested that for the post-2015 framework, protection should be seen as a measurement of all development goals. Joining the discussion through Twitter, another respondent asked the Panel to consider an overarching goal on care and protection.

Youth, insecurity, livelihoods

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) said many of the most vulnerable and marginalized young people (ages 15-24) in conflict- and crisis-affected countries lack the background and experience to pursue entrepreneurship. “Whether through education and/or training, we need to support young people to develop skills that are immediately relevant to their contexts and markets.” Such transferable skills could help people build long-term livelihoods solutions. In addition, IRC emphasized that even among vulnerable populations, girls and young women are often further marginalized, and programmes should address these inequities and “tap into the other half of the population, by prioritizing the social and economic empowerment of young women.”
The issue of armed violence and security should be considered as a key component in the context of employment generation initiatives, IRC urged, in order “to ensure that the needs of all members of society are met, that significant barriers to sustainable income generation are considered and that unhindered growth in thriving economies is not eroded by insecurity or violence.” According to the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), “Different dynamics are at play, but governments in all categories are and will be facing significant social unrest caused by the lack of employment opportunities, for all of active working age.”

**Recommendations for the post-2015 framework**

Saferworld’s contribution included recommendations from a group of over 50 development and peacebuilding civil society organizations on how peace can be built into the post-2015 development framework:

1. Include commitments to address key drivers of conflict – not only its symptoms;
2. Go beyond including a single “peace” goal defined solely in terms of the absence of violence;
3. Build on the framework for addressing drivers of conflict articulated in the Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals and other credible peacebuilding frameworks;
4. Define peace and development as best upheld by States that are inclusive, responsive, fair and accountable to all their people;
5. Include commitments to address regional and global factors that fuel conflict;
6. Ensure the indicators used to measure progress are disaggregated, so that unequal levels of progress between different social groups can be recognized and tackled;
7. Draw on the indicators being developed under the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding for establishing post-2015 indicators;
8. Be based on a consultation process that actively includes people and civil society from conflict-affected States and seeks out robust evidence of how to address drivers of conflict;

Another contributor, APROFAM, called for implementation of peace agreements. Finally, considering that the private sector can be a driver of conflict, one participant at the civil society roundtables raised the issue of “shared responsibility,” in order to encourage governments and the private sector to shift from promoting and investing in activities which drive conflict to other activities which promote greater goods.

**IX. Enabling Job Creation and Investing in Poor and Marginalized People**

An unprecedented number of “working poor,” combined with escalating unemployment in developed countries and a lack of employment perspectives for young people, make employment a key challenge for the construction and implementation of the post-2015 development framework. To address the barriers to accessing employment, many contributions emphasized the objectives enshrined in ILO’s Decent Work Agenda: productive and decent job creation, rights at work, social protection and social dialogue. According to Public Services International (PSI) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), together representing 195 million workers around the world, decent work is the foundation for lifting families out of poverty. The interrelated pillars of the Decent Work Agenda empower people to secure and improve their livelihoods and contribute to building social cohesion and enhancing people's social status. The Decent Work Agenda is particularly important for vulnerable and marginalized groups of people, who are more densely represented in temporary, casual, contracted and seasonal work. Respondents also indicated that the Panel should focus on strategies for implementing the commitments of the 1995 World Summit on Social Development.
An enabling environment for job creation

To support job creation and produce jobs that also serve social and environmental purposes, many participants argued that States should build an enabling environment to 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. Social Watch explained that at the World Summit on Social Development, governments committed themselves to develop policies to ensure that workers and employers have the education, information and training needed to adapt to changing economic conditions, technologies and labour markets, as well as to explore innovative options for employment creation; many civil society organizations stressed the need for governments to fulfil these commitments.

The ITUC called for comprehensive national policies for generating employment through inclusive economic growth. PSI suggested that International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and donors need to recognize that public spending is more beneficial to wealth creation than previously assumed. Many called on national governments and the post-2015 global development framework to support long-term public investment and public service delivery. In addition, as the overwhelming majority of new employment opportunities will be created by enterprises, various organizations, such as Fundación Equipo, called for fiscal policies that support entrepreneurship and innovation, encourage investment, and stimulate job creation. The International Organisation for Employers (IOE) insisted that policies be country-specific: “A careful analysis has to be made of the current position, the desired effect and the likely success of the tools that may help to achieve it.” More research on the effects of Foreign Direct Investment on employment was also requested at both the civil society roundtables and the private sector meeting.

Many respondents further acknowledged that technology can advance innovation and development, though it may also reduce demand for labour. In this regard, Temple of Understanding asserted: “It is not useful to replace human effort, participation and interaction with complete automation. At the same time, it makes sense to invest in technologies that enhance human work performance and take out the drudgery.”

Population Matters recommended increased access to family planning to ensure stable populations which, along with growing economies, contribute to increases in the bargaining power of labour: “[A] greater proportion of profits can move from capital to labour, increasing the prosperity of the population at large, and encouraging employers to invest in better technology and training, and thus increase productivity (i.e. real prosperity) per worker.”

Investing in small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)
Organizations including CIDSE, CAFOD and Save the Children UK called for focused policy attention on productive and labour-intensive sectors, particularly small-scale agriculture and small enterprises, in which many marginalized groups are engaged. Investing in these sectors will have a greater impact on poverty than growth in sectors such as the extractive industries or financial services, Save the Children UK wrote. According to the Bridge Leadership Foundation in Nigeria, “Entrepreneurship and SMEs drive economies and they are quicker escape routes out of poverty.” CAFOD indicated that small firms play a key role as safety nets during times of crisis and in managing structural transformation of economies – including the transition to a green economy. They also have a key, complementary role in improving the development impact of Foreign Direct Investment. CAFOD called for a spending bias towards small businesses in developing countries by: managing risks and vulnerability; making local markets work; increasing the power of small businesses in supply chains and their voice in policymaking; and adopting proactive and comprehensive strategies to help small businesses. Others recommended removing logistical barriers that impede engagement with small businesses, and providing microfinance to involve the poor in entrepreneurial activities.

Green investments and jobs
A number of organizations, including WWF International, highlighted the need to consider the decent employment opportunities provided by green investment and green economies when setting objectives for the post-2015

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13 For example, social protection and essential public services to help overcome risk-associated problems.
14 For example, by focusing on local market in infrastructure spending; securing demand for local entrepreneurs e.g. through public procurement; strategies aimed at increasing local impacts of inward investors.
development framework. These opportunities span multiple sectors, including building, transport, sustainable energy, water, training, and finance, and are outpacing jobs in traditional polluting sectors in some cases. Some “green” sectors also offer higher employment per unit investment or final demand than “brown” sectors: a typical example is agriculture, where greener methods are far more labour intensive than conventional agricultural techniques. To support green and decent job creation, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) called for supportive subsidies or tax breaks for green businesses providing decent jobs, along with penalizing policies for brown companies, and incorporating employment conditions into green procurement policies.

**Keeping jobs**

At a civil society roundtable, participants argued that beyond creating opportunities for jobs, it is necessary to create an environment that allows poor and marginalized people to get and keep jobs. Adequate food, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), healthcare, education/training, housing, justice, money management, personal security, as well as access to productive resources (capital, land, energy, water, infrastructure, information) will enhance poor and marginalized people’s access to the labour market. Additionally, these services and resources will help build resilience, sustain livelihoods, ensure adequate standards of living, and improve well-being. Contributors such as AquaFed, WaterAid, WASH Advocates and Coalition Eau underscored that investing in WASH creates millions of public and private sector jobs. Improving access to WASH frees up significant amounts of time, especially for women and girls, that can be invested in productive work and formal employment. It improves health conditions (e.g. by reducing water-borne diseases), which supports employability, productivity, and access to the market economy. According to Coalition Eau, the World Health Organization (WHO) found that for every US$1 invested in WASH, US$8 is saved in medical treatment, which has a multiplier effect for productivity. A global goal on water and sanitation could therefore significantly contribute to stimulating employment.

Fundación Equipo called for investment in people to reduce the impact of the economic crisis and the threat of violence; transforming public spaces into places of peaceful coexistence; and implementing large-scale investments in public and private works to provide people with a dignified quality of life, including at the individual and community levels. Others called for pro-poor investment in energy, water, and agriculture; providing micro insurance to small informal businesses; universal health coverage; and access to mobile banking (as this can remove personal insecurity in money transactions).

**Guaranteeing rights at work**

Although job creation is crucial, the ITUC warns that only decent jobs improve livelihoods. At the London Town Hall meeting, the International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations (IFMSA) said that two million people die from unsafe work environments every year. Other participants at the Town Hall meeting, as well as PSI, highlighted that respect for worker and union rights is critical for workers to contribute to alleviating poverty. Governments must therefore ensure workers are not exploited or abused. The Overseas Development Institute encouraged the Panel to consider the following mechanisms to address exploitative work: certification schemes, industry self-regulation, State regulation, and minimum wages; World Solidarity/ACV-CSC recommended a global target on “universal respect for international labour rights for all workers,” that could build on the universal ratification and implementation of the eight ILO Conventions covering the fundamental principles and rights at work. Other concrete recommendations included extending the application of labour laws to the informal sector, and strengthening labour market institutions to supervise the implementation of labour laws.

**A living wage**

According to the ITUC, “An important element of the employment policies if they are to effectively improve people’s livelihoods is the living wage” – a minimum wage reflective of local costs of living – to ensure that workers secure decent livelihoods. Save the Children UK indicated that a living wage is essential for ending child poverty, and for improving poor and marginalized people’s access to essential public sector services, and World Solidarity/ACV-CSC recommended a concrete global target for a living wage (as a sub-target of a global goal on decent work).
Social Protection

“Good social protection schemes, rights-based and well adapted to the country context, are an extremely effective tool in sustainably reducing poverty and inequality through the improvement of the situation of the most vulnerable groups,” the ITUC emphasized. Many contributors called on the Panel to support a universal, rights-based Social Protection Floor, to secure at least a basic minimum income and essential goods and services, including healthcare, food security, primary education, housing, and WASH. These could be guaranteed through cash transfers or in kind services and goods, such as pensions for the elderly and persons with disabilities, child benefits, income support benefits and/or employment guarantees and services for the unemployed and working poor. Save the Children UK indicated that cash transfers contribute to reductions not only in income inequality, but to higher participation in education and more nutritious diets among lower-income households.

The ITUC and the NGO Subcommittee for Poverty Eradication at the UN pointed to the minimum standards set by the International Labour Organization (ILO) for national social protection systems and ILO Recommendation 202, which urges all UN Member States to establish a Social Protection Floor as quickly as possible. Vulnerable and marginalized people exist in all countries, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) underscored, so developed countries also should consider ways to strengthen their social safety nets. Participants at the civil society roundtables advocated that all countries should ensure that no one falls below the poverty line. World Solidarity/ACV-CSC called for the establishment of a Global Fund for Social Protection to kick-start or strengthen Social Protection Floors in the least developed countries.

One of the key discussions during the civil society roundtables in London focused on whether the State or employers should provide social protection. The underlying assumption was that by shifting the social protection burden away from businesses, more resources would be available for hiring people. No agreement on this issue was reached, however; finding the right balance will need further consideration.

The informal sector

Several organizations, such as the ITUC and IGES, underlined that labour standards and social protection should cover not only people employed in the formal economy, but also those in informal or unregistered work. Participants in the civil society roundtables indicated that the informal sector constitutes a large part of the economy and involves all sectors of society in rural and urban locations. The need to protect workers in the often fragile informal sector while incentivizing a move to formal employment was raised by several participants. Along with economic growth, respondents called for inclusive and unbiased social protection programmes, training and capacity building, and improvements in the working conditions of marginalized people.

Youth

Although job creation and better working conditions are essential to all poor and marginalized groups, the online consultation and the Youth Event in London convened by Restless Development drew attention to the alarming levels of youth unemployment and underemployment in both developed and developing countries. “With less experience and fewer skills than many adults, young people often encounter particular difficulty accessing work, leading them to be more engaged in part-time or informal employment and denied employment rights and security. Even after finding work, young workers continue to confront job instability and are more likely to be in vulnerable jobs, which can further adversely affect their future livelihood and income prospects,” Save the Children UK stressed. To avoid social dislocation and increased inequity for the younger generations, many called for a commitment to create jobs for young people, especially in those countries with high youth populations.

Save the Children UK estimates that halving the number of unemployed youth would add 4.4%-7% to global GDP. One youth representative said that “investing in providing jobs for the employed youth can be a very intelligent decision

15 CBM Belgium noted that schemes related to income maintenance and schemes for disability-related extra costs should be unbundled to enhance persons with disabilities’ access to employment and economic and social security.
for the governments as the youth, instead of being a burden on the economy, can turn into contributors to its growth by paying taxes and helping in building the nation.” World Vision Armenia proposed putting mechanisms in place to help youth in their transition to employment, e.g. increasing their opportunities for undertaking youth internships, volunteering, and freelance work.

These suggestions, however, will not prove effective in the face of insufficient economic growth. Some participants referred to the World Bank’s recent World Development Report which estimates that 600 million jobs will need to be created by 2050 just to keep pace with current employment-to-working-age-population levels. "As young people we want goals that focus on new wealth created in our own communities and countries... that make it easier for a new generation to generate business, create markets, hunt down new supply chains [and] be part of the solution to the lack of jobs," stated a participant in the Youth Event. It is about “supporting and empowering us to be job creators,” said another youth respondent. This will need to be complemented by financing, as one youth entrepreneur from India made clear at the London Town Hall meeting: “There are loads of ideas for entrepreneurship among youth, but not enough funding is given to youth.” Corresponding support systems in terms of government incentives and microfinance – both formal and community-based – need to be put in place, said one individual contributor.

Other marginalized groups

Participants highlighted the obstacles faced by several marginalized groups in accessing the labour market. The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) called for the development of policies using a sustainable livelihood approach that involves poor and marginalized people and recognizes their value in terms of human and social capital instead of excluding them. Considering that the majority of the 785 to 975 million persons living with disabilities who are of working age are unemployed, Sightsavers and CDM Belgium argued that the post-2015 framework should call for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as monitoring of the enforcement of these rights. CDM Belgium stipulated that “employment-related goals and commitments set by a new global framework should include specific targets and indicators around the inclusion of all people with disabilities in employment, skills development program[mes], microfinance and social protection.” Furthermore, the global framework should be designed to support governments and local, national and international policymakers to introduce inclusive employment measures and allow people with disabilities to develop their skills and full potential, respondents stressed. Resources such as complementary non-financial services should be developed or further supported with partners to provide employment counselling, training, and information about business including self-employment and microfinance.

Gender gaps persist in wages, asset ownership and access to economic opportunities. The private sector meeting recognized the need to support women in overcoming barriers such as limited legal rights and poor access to finance and land, including through fostering entrepreneurship for women in particular. The International Trade Center stressed that increasing women’s income is key, as research shows that increasing women’s incomes advances all MDGs. The post-2015 development agenda should therefore articulate “the economic empowerment of women,” to channel resources to foster women’s entrepreneurship.

The International Trade Center and the Gender and Development Network indicated that any discussion of employment must recognize and address the disproportionate unpaid care work done by women and girls. The International Center for Research on Women argued that achieving gender equality requires renewed commitment and increased investments in women, through “a comprehensive approach accounting for formal and informal sector employment, rural and urban settings and the transitions between them as they offer opportunities for women, growth and development.” Population Matters called for family planning and for employment practices that enable women with young children to continue working.

Population Matters also drew attention to the need to keep older workers employed, including through combating discrimination in hiring and promotion. HelpAge International added, “In the case of older, chronically poor farmers for example, it is important to promote activities and technologies that take account of the labour and mobility...
constraints of older people while at the same time acknowledging their specific skills and strengths (experience, local knowledge etc.)."

As indicated by Social Watch, governments committed themselves at the World Summit on Social Development to “put the creation of employment, the reduction of unemployment and the promotion of appropriately and adequately remunerated employment at the centre of strategies and policies... giving special attention to the problems of structural, long-term unemployment and underemployment of youth, women, people with disabilities, and all other disadvantaged groups and individuals.” The post-2015 framework should propose ways to implement these commitments. Contributors also emphasized women’s access to employment, the protection of their position in the labour market and the promotion of equal treatment of women and men, in particular with respect to pay, and the vulnerable position of migrant workers.

Labour should be properly valued

Various participants underscored that income and social policies should ensure that different types of labour are properly recognized, valued and rewarded in a largely globalized economy where labour’s bargaining power has been reduced through informalization and liberalization. In this regard, as articulated by Temple of Understanding, there needs to be a revision of current social systems of work and reward to do justice to all forms of work, including unpaid work (e.g. food preparation; self-, child- and parental care; civic participation; and volunteering).

X. Education and Capacity Building

One of the barriers to accessing employment for many marginalized and vulnerable people is a lack of education and relevant skills, or a mismatch between knowledge and the demands of the labour market. UNESCO’s Education for All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report 2012 reveals that 250 million children are not learning – either because they do not make it to the fourth year of primary school, or they do not achieve basic standards of literacy and numeracy even while staying in school. A Youth Declaration, written by a group of 76 youth from 12 countries, explains that many students drop out of school because of economic problems, gender stereotypes, violence and underage marriage. In addition, the lack of attractive employment opportunities creates few incentives for completing education.

According to Save the Children, there is evidence that more equal distribution of income occurs when all children have the opportunity to learn and gain skills. The Director of the EFA Global Monitoring Report cautioned, however, that those from the most vulnerable and marginalized backgrounds face the greatest challenges in learning. According to Sightsavers, this is insufficiently recognized in the current MDG framework, as the MDGs focus on access and completion with regards to primary education, and eliminating gender disparities in primary and secondary education, and do not explicitly address marginalization beyond gender, such as of children with disabilities. Fundación Equipo cautioned that universality in education (as promoted by the current MDG framework) is not enough to create competitive skills for the population.

Contributors made clear that it is crucial to develop an education system that produces quality education to create a skilled, trained and entrepreneurial workforce. This will require a rethinking of conventional education systems and the development of alternative pathways for young people to acquire skills to successfully navigate through life. Participants in the Youth Event called for a new universal goal to measure not the number of children in classrooms, but rather the knowledge and life changing skills they gain. Youth participants demanded education that “is relevant to our daily lives and the lives of our communities,” and added, “This type of quality education is what we want. It is also our right.”

Shifting from conventional education systems to alternative pathways

From a more practical perspective, the demands made by youth come down to replacing “unimaginative education in classrooms by an interactive classroom, where [young people] are not just learning but exploring rights, decision-
making and citizenship, and also learning about sexual health, life skills and about the poverty cycle and what [they] can do to get out of it.” It is also about acquiring skills that can bring career progression and knowledge transfer in a digital economy.

Contributions from various organizations and individuals indicated that there is a need to focus on employability from early childhood onwards, including through transferable skills. UK Sport suggested that education systems should be conceptualized and designed to help children’s social development skills (e.g. work independently or as a team member; follow constructively as well as lead; respect other groups and individuals; make effective decisions; and develop confidence).

Alternative forms of education and skill creation should be accompanied by personal peer and teacher support, as well as adequate teacher training programmes. “We need to ensure that there are enough teachers in classrooms, and that teachers have the right training to support the challenges that disadvantaged young people face once they are in the classroom,” wrote the Director of the EFA Global Monitoring Report. Hlathi Development Services emphasized that ensuring that schools have competent and dedicated teachers is necessary to produce graduates fit for employment.

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) called for prioritizing investment for expanding access and upgrading the quality of education, especially technical and vocational education and training targeted at vulnerable parts of the population to provide them with skills needed to acquire employment. Strengthening linkages between educational institutions and the labour market can ensure that appropriate expertise and skills are acquired. Organizations including the Institute for International Social Development (IISD), the Overseas Development Institute, and the European Youth Forum underscored the importance of vocational and apprenticeship arrangements and volunteering to link poor and young people to the job market. Access to training materials, libraries, and the Internet is also vital. The Youth Declaration called for enhancing, establishing, and enforcing electronic teacher and student monitoring systems; and for youth to have safe and proper places to study. Plan Europe recommends prioritizing the protection of children from all forms of violence, particularly gender-based violence in schools.

**Inclusive education**

Twitter contributions called on the Panel to prioritize equity in education and noted that without skills training for those who need it most (the marginalized and vulnerable), it will never be possible to break the poverty cycle. Many argued that despite progress, gender inequality in education remains a major challenge in certain countries. According to Sightsavers, the post-2015 development framework should adopt a rights-based approach to education, including attention to access and cognitive and non-cognitive learning outcomes, and ensure that all education-related goals have a target for each marginalized group.

**Creating the right incentives**

Creating the right incentives to enhance learning and/or school attendance is also imperative. One contributor recommended, for example, a provision for capacity building in entrepreneurial and management skills in order to create more interest among informal sector workers to engage in learning. Additionally, Fundación Equipo and the European Youth Forum indicated that educational systems should be accompanied by the provision of school supplies and financial support to prevent dropouts.

In addition, UK Sport indicated that evidence from Nigeria, India and the UK shows that sport can incentivize children to attend school and can teach skills to children and young people. The Sport for Development and Peace International Working Group report, Harnessing the Power of Sport for Development and Peace: Recommendations to Governments, provides guidance in this regard.

**Going beyond young people entering the labour market**

Education and capacity building should not only be targeted to young people entering the labour market – it is crucial for all people to put their skills into practice. Sightsavers argued, “A global framework can focus attention on the need to take a life-long approach to
learning, in order to achieve equitable, sustainable and effective development. It can ensure that education policies explicitly target the most marginalized, including disabled children and adults."

Various participants called 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 (e.g. service delivery). Advocacy and awareness creation at the local level should be sponsored and encouraged, through information campaigns, billpostings, radio, and regional authorities, IISSD proposed. Virtual education also enhances learning opportunities, including by supporting peer learning. Contributors suggested promoting online learning through enabling free or cheaper access to IT centers and training.

**XI. Implementation**

As indicated by CAFOD, the post-2015 framework should help keep the issues that matter most to people living in acute poverty on the international agenda; secure the highest level of political action and accountability; and incentivize action that drives real progress on the ground. Development efforts must deliver results for the most vulnerable and marginalized people. This will require:

- Holistic poverty reduction policies and mechanisms
- Adequate financing
- Accountability and transparency
- Cooperation and coordination

**Holistic Poverty Reduction Policies and Mechanisms**

**At the global level**

A new development agenda requires global action to change rules, incentives and power structures, according to CAFOD.

Social Watch invoked the Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Extreme Poverty, which call on States “individually and jointly, to create an international enabling environment conducive to poverty reduction, including in matters relating to bilateral and multilateral trade, investment, taxation, finance, environmental protection and development cooperation.” Social Watch also underscored that it is vital to create global mechanisms to avoid financial crises like those experienced recently, which rapidly erase hard-earned progress on fighting extreme poverty. The New Economics Foundation (NEF) advocated changing current privately dominated monetary and financial regimes, stating that our current economic arrangements (e.g. economic models, the frameworks of our financial systems, the paradigms around money creation and monetary control) have been designed with a sole focus on growth. Growth is creating dysfunctional and unequal societies, NEF stressed, and building an economy that delivers for people and the planet “requires starting from first principles and building new models for how the economy functions in its human and natural context.”

Respondents online identified that achieving such change requires a shift in mindset towards building solidarity. The European Youth Forum offered, “Global education should be further promoted as a tool to increase awareness... and enable people to develop solidarity, a sense of belonging to the global community and a sense of responsibility to other people and to the environment.”

**At the national level**

In the view of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), the new agenda should encourage a comprehensive policy change at national level rather than one-off service-oriented projects and programmes. A similar change should take place in aid programmes, according to Ashla Singh from the University of the South Pacific in Fiji. Aid programmes should include relevant empowerment and sustainable livelihood components whereby the outcomes are long term rather than just programme- or project-oriented. The NGO Subcommittee for Poverty Eradication at the UN is of the opinion that traditional development assistance needs to shift from the current focus on "aid effectiveness" to a more purposeful "development effectiveness.”
To deliver results and reach the poorest, Progressio, World Solidarity/ACV-CSC and AquaFed asserted that the post-2015 development framework should be flexible in implementation and translated into contextualized regional and national goals and targets, in both developed and developing countries. Several organizations advocated for national policies to be based on international standards for human rights, decent work and social protection. Policies must focus not only on the long-term, but also on the immediate and short-term; as one civil society representative explained, “We need action now.”

The Institute for Global Environmental Strategies called for the development of policies using a sustainable livelihood approach that involves vulnerable and marginalized people and recognizes their value instead of excluding them. Many participants also called for large-scale investment with a pro-poor focus in infrastructure, public and private works, the provision of services (e.g. WASH, healthcare, education), and in economic sectors such as agriculture, energy and water. Water For People USA explained: “If we can achieve the shift from inputs to outcomes, from simplistic views of ‘access’ to a real focus on the reliability of services, we’ll see a wealth of difference in a post-2015 world.” VSO underlines that incentive structures need to be in place to encourage effective delivery by public sector workers.

The private sector meeting highlighted that development challenges should be framed as core business concerns, and clear national policies are needed to help businesses to move beyond traditional corporate social responsibility to genuinely inclusive, sustainable and long-term business models.

The Youth Event convened by Restless Development profiled how youth-led interventions are effectively addressing persistent challenges in health, education and jobs/livelihoods. Participants strongly advocated for young people to be placed at the centre of designing and implementing development initiatives, especially those targeting youth. In particular, participants called for more attention to be given to current youth-led initiatives around innovation and how to bring these initiatives to scale.

“Long-term change will come from building local capabilities, and fostering governance arrangements that empower people and communities to choose and enact their own pathways to sustainable development,” explained the ESRC STEPS Centre. Temple of Understanding and the New Economics Foundation emphasized the need to move beyond traditional approaches and to promote the use of barter, complementary currencies and other local systems of exchanging services to build resilient and self-reliant local economies. According to the New Economics Foundation, “On the small but no less important scale, complementary currencies of various kinds are already being successfully employed as tools for self-determining economic structures. Both apply as much to developing countries as to the ‘developed’ and to the interactions between the two. They are not sufficient but are necessary steps towards economic empowerment and equitable development.”

Resources and finance mechanisms

A systematic overall approach to financing the post-2015 development framework was recommended by CAFOD: “Analyze what actions are necessary to achieve the goals; agree whose responsibility these actions are; and then (for actions requiring finance) what the most appropriate mechanism is.”

The NCD Alliance insisted that bilateral and multi-lateral funding of the new development agenda must be strengthened to achieve the 0.7%-target of gross national income towards Official Development Assistance (ODA). Many other contributions called for innovative sources of financing that provide incentives for progress, have a redistributive capacity and support strategy implementation, particularly Financial Transactions Taxes (FTTs) and transportation fuel taxes and levies for the airline and shipping industries. A brief by UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), cited by one contributor, proposes corporate taxation and progressive income taxation to finance widely accessible social provisions and reduce outcome inequalities.16

Natural resources including oil, gas, and minerals were identified by Publish What You Pay UK and Save the Children as a potential important source of domestic revenue. The finite and environmentally-harmful nature of these resources was raised, however: “They cannot be extracted and consumed at the current rate indefinitely, and we need to steadily scale back global consumption levels,” noted Publish What You Pay. The organization added that a large proportion of the money generated by the extractive industries in resource-rich countries fails to reach State coffers or to be used for pro-poor development.

United Practices Accountancy argued that standards of living are eroded by the excessive and unnecessary secrecy of corporations (including through the prolific use of tax havens). Many organizations, including CIDSE, called for policy attention to unfair taxation, rules of trade and finance and unfair sovereign debt relief arrangements. Several participants advocated for a more effective rule of law and enforcement of regulations, whether in trade, business, or other practices. The private sector meeting highlighted that corruption and petty bribery function as a trillion dollar tax on the poorest people. Responsible business and corporate practices, such as tax transparency and the payment of fair taxes, should therefore be encouraged. To allow society to hold politicians, public officials and extractive companies to account for the wealth generated by natural resources, and to ensure that these major revenues are invested in the post-2015 development agenda, Publish What You Pay called on governments, civil society and companies worldwide to work in partnership for a global mandatory extractive industry transparency standard, as well as contract transparency and open and fair fiscal regimes.

The role of Foreign Direct Investment was highlighted at the private sector meeting. In developing countries, Foreign Direct Investment is four times higher than aid spending, and participants advocated that it should be leveraged for development. They also called for better ways of leveraging private sector finance with aid spending, and for better targeted financial flows from private finance. At the regional level, SEATINI proposed Access and Benefit Sharing Guidelines to ensure that Foreign Direct Investment assumes a bottom-up approach.

Other financing suggestions included stimulating the private sector to invest in development through subsidies and incentives, and reallocating a portion of the resources presently allocated to military spending to peace and development.

At the local level, it is imperative to invest in people and give them access to resources that can economically empower them and help meet their needs and those of their families. Cash transfers, microfinance and insurance, loans, cooperatives, secure banking systems, as well as complementary currencies were raised as vital investments in the economic empowerment of people and their families. The provision of financial resources should be accompanied by capacity building for local actors to prepare and implement projects and programmes, and improved knowledge management. ONG HOPE International called for tailoring local resources to local problems.

Accountability and Transparency

Many organizations argued that accountability, monitoring and transparency are essential for any new commitments and objectives in the post-2015 development framework. According to Twaweza, “transparency is so central to engagement, traction and tracking progress of all MDGs, it deserves to be a separate standalone goal in a post-2015 framework.” Development Initiatives UK would like to make “access to information” a goal in its own right, and the Joint Action and Learning Initiative on National and Global Responsibilities for Health (JALI) recommended a standalone goal on accountability – “with multi-layered (community, national, global) measures encompassing transparency; human rights education; funding and capacity building for community and civil society organizations; participatory policy development and evaluation; and access to justice (mechanisms to enforce human rights, e.g., an independent judiciary, legal aid, human rights commissions).”

Global legal mechanisms to further define these responsibilities and ensure accountability were called for by JALI and Save the Children UK. Improving the availability and quality of data would be a prerequisite for monitoring and measuring gradual progress. As articulated by World Solidarity/ACV-CSC and supported by Life Line to Citizen and the civil society roundtable discussions, any new monitoring and accountability mechanism should have a clear time frame, as well as goals, targets and indicators that are clear to all, concise and measurable, so that they allow for a good and reliable monitoring process. CAFOD would like to see targets and indicators that will measure the impact of...
the post-2015 framework on people living in extreme poverty and the actions necessary to drive progress towards the goals.

The NGO Subcommittee for Poverty Eradication at the UN referred to the report “Development Dialogues – No Future without Justice,” which proposes to establish an accountability mechanism that is supported by a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on development. The UPR should be modelled on the UPR mechanism of the Human Rights Council, and should cover all relevant issues linked to human rights, trade, macroeconomic policy, the environment, financing and political participation. The NGO Subcommittee further explained that the UPR remit should consider information provided by stakeholders, such as civil society and the private sector, in addition to governments. Information on reports and UPR findings should be made widely available through channels that actively target all relevant stakeholders.

To enable equal access to information and to foster accountability, Twaweza would like to encourage countries to use independent evaluations, make information transparent and create opportunities for robust citizen engagement. During the roundtable discussion at the Youth Event, members of the High-level Panel underscored the need for young people to hold decision makers to account in the governance of the new development framework.

Project OSIC is of the opinion that “Good science can help enhance accountability,” and iMENTORS, an initiative of Stockholm University and Gov2u, illustrated how e-infrastructures (networked tools, data and resources that support a community of researchers, including all those who participate in and benefit from research) can help in mapping and evaluating development projects and outcomes. Akvo proposed using open systems to create successful data systems for the future MDGs and provided the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) as an example.

At the civil society roundtables, various participants emphasized that there must also be an emphasis on local accountability, not just at State level – local authorities need to be held to account on spending aid, governance and participation by grassroots level. Emphasis should be placed on good governance, transparency and accountability at all levels and by all actors, including the private sector.

Cooperation and Coordination

Several participants referred to Millennium Development Goal 8, “Develop a Global Partnership for Development,” as both the necessary precondition for the achievement of the other Goals and the least specific and therefore least successful MDG. Social Watch emphasized the importance of global partnerships with clearly defined commitments; other contributors added that partnerships must be integrative and inclusive of: civil society including community and faith-based organizations, volunteers as implementing and contributing partners,17 grassroots communities and direct beneficiaries, and the private sector.

“Global development can only be achieved through an effective global partnership, founded on adequate systems of global responsibility and accountability, coordinated application of resources and enhanced policy coherence at all levels,” wrote the European Youth Forum. Participants at the private sector meeting advocated for UN agencies to set the example and develop an enabling system for effective partnerships. Via Twitter, one contributor summarized: “Let’s make a new MDG 8 about the ‘hows’ needed to end poverty underpinning the ‘whats,’ like transparency, equity, and shared value.”

Information and communication technologies (ICTs), including e-infrastructures, are important contributors for the MDGs, in particular Goal 8 and any future global partnership goal, according to iMentors and Botswana Speaks. ICTs can facilitate and enhance collaboration between all stakeholders, including the scientific community, the private sector and civil society. As such, advanced communications tools facilitate the bridging of the scientific and digital divides and quick sharing of relevant information. They ensure socio-economic development, and are key enablers for poverty alleviation, these organizations explained.

17 “Volunteering was a crucial enabler of many of the MD Goals through creating an empowerment to participate in a community’s own development. Therefore, in the next framework, more emphasis should be put on this crucial tool.” [European Youth Forum]
Within the broad strata of potential partnerships (public-public, public-private, civil society-based, etcetera) that can be implemented at all levels, the need for public-private-civil society partnerships was emphasized. Participants underscored that governments, civil society and business must work together “if we are to end poverty in our time.” Building effective partnerships between governments, the private sector and civil society will require overcoming certain barriers and changing perceptions around the roles that each of these actors can play. As highlighted by participants at the civil society roundtable discussions, civil society and businesses often speak different languages. Bringing more businesses to the development sphere will involve an expansion of the definition of poverty eradication actors, and will require the business sector to lead responsible initiatives for development. The private sector meeting proposed in-country hubs of public-private partnership brokers and practitioners to advance setting up such partnerships, along with cross-sectoral and cross-business partnerships to address interlinked and complex development challenges.

Finally, an individual respondent submitted a proposal for the UN to create Regional Development Centres (RDCs) in areas of extreme poverty. Along with support from donors and developed-country partners, this integrated mechanism for ownership and partnership at local, national, and international levels, would mobilize non-governmental actors, the private sector, and community- and faith-based organizations to implement National and Regional Poverty Reduction Plans “in the most impoverished regions of the world.” These regional partnerships would mobilize citizen participation and advocacy while spurring strong government leadership towards poverty eradication. The respondent also called for enhanced twinning arrangements, in which a region from a developed country forms a partnership with a region experiencing extreme poverty, and extreme poverty is eradicated in the developing region through an associated “Love Your Neighbour Fund” and the implementation of RDCs.

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NGLS’s objectives are founded on the core values of the UN and are in line with and support the principles of global democratic governance. These values and principles come together in NGLS’s efforts to strengthen civil society’s understanding of and engagement in deliberative processes of the United Nations system while conversely helping the UN to understand and engage in more meaningful ways with civil society.

This NGLS report was coordinated by lead author Susan Alzner; contributing authors include Jolanda Groen, Kathryn Tobin and Beth Pech. Also supporting this effort were Marion Dahan, Léa Tamburini, Rasmus Weschke, Emilie Elkaim and Bernhard Frey.

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Photo on page 1: Members of the High-level Panel. UN Photo by Eskinder Debebe
Photo on page 5: Photo by Antoine Tardy, taken in Dhaka, Bangladesh
Annex I – Contributors and Input Compilation Documents

Please click on a title to access a PDF for that document.

- List of Contributors to the Online Consultation at www.worldwewant2015.org/Post2015HLP
- Participants list for the High-level Panel outreach day on 2 November 2012 in London

Compiled Responses for the Online Consultation Questions:

**Theme I – Human Development:**

1) **How do we ensure that all people, especially the most vulnerable and marginalized, have the food, water, energy, health care and education they need?**

2) **What have we learned from existing Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and what should be added/updated/modified, or is a different approach needed?**

**Theme II – Jobs and livelihoods:**

1) **What policies and practices best promote equitable empowerment of the poor and marginalized to ensure an adequate standard of living?**

2) **How can employment be meaningfully approached?**

- List of Tweets at #Post2015HLP Relevant to the Online Consultation and High-level Panel Day of Outreach on 2 November in London

Notes from High-level Panel Outreach Day on 2 November 2012 in London:

- Civil Society Roundtable Discussions – Introduction and Wrap-up
- Notes from Roundtable Discussion 1
- Notes from Roundtable Discussion 2
- Notes from Roundtable Discussion 3
- Notes from Roundtable Discussion 4
- Notes from Roundtable Discussion 5
- Notes from Roundtable Discussion 6
- Notes from the Youth Event and Youth Communicators Notes on Communication Results and Strategy
- Notes from the Private Sector meeting
- Notes from the Town Hall meeting