

25th Informal Working Breakfast on the Post-2015 Development Agenda *“Mobilizing Resources for Economic Justice on the Road to Addis Ababa”*

Hosted by the Bahá'í International Community and the International Movement ATD Fourth World
20 April 2015

A diverse group of stakeholders¹ attended a working breakfast to discuss key issues related to mobilizing resources for economic justice and the Post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The following are highlights of the discussion:

- Experience with the MDGs tells us that the achievements we have been seeing have been the result of coordinated efforts at the national level. National level policy institutions and leadership and means are key; it is not enough to have global level goals
- One billion fewer are living in extreme poverty, there is better access to education but the challenges are telling us that completing unfinished business should be a priority
- Goal 16 places strategic emphasis on economic justice, but we still need to consider how all the goals relate when taken together
- We need to tackle matters related to institutional weaknesses, policy formulation, and every aspect related to growth policy with emphasis on inclusiveness
- If matters of policy and leadership related to building ownership of goals aren't carried out well, even with resources we will not see progress
- Right now, many countries will not achieve a single goal of the MDGs, and the SDGs are even more demanding; 57 countries are without any household surveys – leaving us without information on what these nations are doing on the poverty front; many fragile and post conflict states giving worrying signals
- Aspects of MOI need more attention:
 1. Debt management
 - Need another HIPC initiative – we are seeing early warning indicators that many countries are not learning from mistakes of the 70s and 80s
 2. Trade and trade finance – weakness here might be outcome of failure of latest Doha round; there are major drifts from principles of trade and integration
 - Research and development knowledge transfer– we are getting into old conversations about divisions between north and south. We are seeing as much innovation from southern countries; seeing countries like Indonesia borrowing technology from Kenya, for example. The usual classification based on division between north and south does not apply.
 - Holders of patents and copyrights are not governments but private sector
 - Need to enable different countries to have access to technology, to knowledge, and especially to health (e.g. Ebola); first victim of Ebola in US alerted the world that this was an issue requiring global partnership.
 3. The importance of data – this is an evidence-based approach. We have missing data from 57 countries. The MDGs had 21 targets, now we have 17 goals, 169 targets and 304 global indicators; goals for data revolution are right. The World Bank is working on a facility to support collection of data
- Economic justice means that your policies will provide for everyone. Monterrey was talking about poverty eradication and good governance

¹ Permanent Missions & Government Agencies: Egypt, Ireland, Italy, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Spain. Representatives from UN: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNICEF, United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison, World Bank. Non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Bahá'í International Community, Caritas Internationalis Ghana, International Movement ATD Fourth World, Organization of African Youth Kenya, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Sisters of Charity Federation, SOS Children's Villages International, VSO International, YWCA.

- Focus is needed on the Zero Draft in order to provide finance for a transformative agenda. Right now the draft has contradicting points
- Trade continues to be a problem. The Zero Draft only calls for ratification of trade agreement. Interregional free trade might be taking over the multilateral free trade.
- Need to understand what technology sharing we're calling for. Somalia doesn't need space technologies, it needs water management technology!
- Paragraph 8 of the Zero Draft: shared responsibility – Need to identify what is this responsibility; for example we have to address the governance of the IMF, but this is not really tackled.
- Need to recognize that CBDR will remain; 80% of people under poverty line live in middle income countries
- Are we ensuring that this is an international agenda or just keeping it domestic? Within the paragraph about 'social nets', there is a line that says we will commit with international cooperation. Are we calling for a global fund for social services? We are asking countries to commit to something but not being specific enough.
- 0.7 debate about ODA – why is the transformative agenda stopping at 0.7? Why not 1.0 GNI or ODA? If this is going to be shared responsibility rather than CBDR, then we need everyone to stand up to this challenge.
- This agenda requires much more than ODA. It is not possible to realize these ambitious goals without working on the whole range of MOI. There are efforts needed by all – national, international, public and trade sectors
- With the focus on financing for development, there is a big risk that we lose the focus on human and social capital—which are fundamental to delivering
- When it comes to technology transfer, the big difference is made in the final mile of delivery. If people are not prepared to use the technology then no improvement has occurred, and it is not transformational. Technological change cannot be equated to transformation.
- It is not clear yet how the ambition of the SDG agenda will be matched by that of FFD track.
- We haven't talked about LDCs. If we look at recent ODA stats, there is concern that ODA to LDCs has declined while overall ODA has been stable.
- Looking at the Zero Draft, there has been emphasis on domestic resource mobilization that countries should aspire to achieve revenue to GDP: at least 20% in a particular time frame; most countries are sitting around 15%. There are different capacities and capabilities within different baseline scenarios. Need appropriate incentives in the private sector.
- When we actually look at it, we see a vicious cycle; we end up with fiscal deficits, countries trying to raise taxes and cutting expenditures. Not seeing Addis Accord trying to make specific pronouncements.
- Must include people led approaches to development
- Can't expect LDCs to deliver the goals the same way. The human resource and human capital plays a very important role in terms of training and changing attitudes. LDCs need to be supported financially.
- Local resource mobilization has strong connection to protecting local resources of countries, especially regarding illicit financial outflows.
- We overemphasize the issue of taxes; it's like pouring water into a leaking basket considering current corruption.
- There will be convergence between FFD and SDG processes – this is good, but we have to realize that one side is about evidence and the other side has to do with political issues.

- We need to build on already agreed principles, ensuring that July meetings don't lower the bar. New actors have to come on board and they need to follow the principles that have already been agreed upon in international policy spaces
- Bear in mind that the SDG's 300+ indicators have not been set yet, this is just a proposal on the table to give a flavor of what kind of indicators may result
- Big challenge to monitor this agenda as we don't have ways of measuring some of the targets
- There is the idea that we should limit the number of indicators to 100, but we know there will be many synergies between targets and implementation.
- Need to raise institutional capacity, especially those institutional who collect the taxes. Need to address corruption and illicit financial flows. Citizens have right to access to services. States should ask citizens where they want the money channeled.
- Consider a country like Poland, for example, you see that it is highly integrated with the EU. If you look at Africa, there is more integration with the western world than within the AU. But regional trade is growing significantly. African ports and highways are all leading to exports, but it is more difficult to conduct intra-trade in Africa rather than international trade.
- Need to focus on LDCs, a lot of ODA goes to middle income countries
- Some issues carry particular urgency— climate change, early childhood development issues...
- In terms of the private sector's role, regulations are needed. What are the commitments from the private sector? Everything is by choice.
- In the *Economist* article "169 commandments" by Jeffrey Sachs, a critique to reduce SDG targets down to ten. This is a governmental process. We have to consult about it rather than rushing to an artificial number.
- At the 2016 HLPF, which countries will be ready to report on their goals?
- Zero Draft doesn't tackle what international side needs to do to counter illicit financial flows, more covered on a domestic level; 50 billion dollars come out of Africa—where's it going?
- Can we come up with a task force on this (example: UN taskforce on terrorism financing set up after 9/11)? Need a commitment by developed world to work on this.
- Technology transfer disappeared in this Zero Draft.
- For us to have technology, we have to think about capacity building in the social sense. In Zero Draft, talks about capacity building in terms of data, tax, innovation. Doesn't talk about social capacity building.
- Carbon tax, UNFCCC, transport tax – cherry picking, have we studied the effects of this? Do we talk about industrialization?
- Too much hope being put on private sector without necessary regulations and without necessary strengthening of state.
- Concerned about the role of private sector in financing UN institutions and programs. We know who puts in the money sets the agenda.
- This is the only multilateral arena in which all countries have a voice and a vote
- What will be review mechanism and follow up coming out of Addis outcome? Systemic issues risk being lost in the agenda.
- Post-2015 said, "we want agenda that leaves no one behind." In the face of scarcity of resources and lack of strong agreements on MOI, we see the poorest and most excluded suffer