

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Informal Working Breakfast on the Post-2015 Development Agenda “New Inputs and Challenges on the Road to the Post-2015 Summit”

Hosted by the Bahá'í International Community and the International Movement ATD Fourth World  
11 February 2015

A diverse group of stakeholders<sup>1</sup> attended a working breakfast to discuss key issues related to new inputs for the Post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The following are highlights of the discussion:

### *Post-2015 Declaration*

- Member States are hoping for a short, visionary Declaration, which will capture the imagination of all people, especially the marginalized. The Declaration will put forward a universal agenda, which represents a conceptually different way of dealing with development.
- The Post-2015 agenda will need to address: dignity, the role of people in achieving social and economic transformation, justice (new part of the Post-2015 conversations, critically linked to sustainability), wide range of partnerships, means of implementation (especially domestic resource mobilization), technology, accountability. Climate change will be critical to mention.
- We need to move away from a silo-mentality and towards an integrated agenda.
- Document will not be a traditional UN document. Must be more ambitious and visionary.
- The document must speak to core values and rights. It must show “a light at the end of the tunnel.”

### *Measurement and Monitoring*

- The UN Statistical Commission will provide provisional indicators for each of the targets.
- The focus will be on country-level monitoring although it is not yet clear how indicators will be used by member states. Other monitoring will also be done by UN agencies and civil society. The SDGs may be too big and broad to have an international monitoring body. *But* HLPF is a question.
- Data must be gathered on key issues that have not yet been measured or are difficult to measure. It is not enough to say that something (considered important) is “not measurable.”
- Questions remain about ensuring the agenda is able to reach the most vulnerable
- Much progress in data gathering over the last six months; efforts have revitalized the UN Statistical Commission.
- Big data remains an open question – how to use it? How to value it?
- What will the review mechanism look like? How will it ensure that no target is considered met until it is met for all?
- Ordinary citizens must feel a sense of ownership of the agenda and that it impacts their lives.
- Civil Society has access to people which can help support implementation, measurement and monitoring. A focus on collaboration for shared goals.

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<sup>1</sup> Permanent Missions: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, European Union, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Netherlands, Peru, Singapore, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom, International Organization of la Francophonie. Representatives from UN: Executive Office of the Secretary-General, UN Conference on Trade and Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Development Programme, United Nations Children’s Fund, United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office, UN Population Fund. Non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Bahá'í International Community, CARE International, ChildFund Alliance, CIVICUS, Development Initiatives, Global Family, Global Policy Forum, International Committee for October 17, International Forum for Volunteering in Development, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Presentation Association, Mercy International Association, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, Quaker United Nations Office, Regions Refocus 2015, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Save the Children, Sightsavers, SOS Children’s Villages International, UNANIMA, VSO Jitolee, VSO Mozambique, World Federation of United Nations Associations, World Bank Group, World Vision International.

### *Communication*

- Major challenge is communicating the vision and goals of the Post-2015 agenda with the wider public. How can it be made relevant to all sectors of society? How can it be made meaningful to the most marginalized?
- Communication must help politicians and governments understand, implement and unify behind the goals.
- Communication cannot be one-way/top-down. Consider what is already happening at national and regional levels. What is the context for implementing the agenda?
- Inclusion is a solution to communication deficits. If included in process, it will be communicated.

### *Next steps*

- There will be no substantive re-opening of the OWG's outcome document
- Key meetings: Disaster Risk Reduction (Japan, March). World Education Forum (Korea, May); Financing for Development (Addis, July); Post-2015 Summit (NYC, September); COP21 (Paris, December)
- How to transition from an unfinished MDG to the SDG agenda? This is not well understood at the country level. How can we help member states in this regard?
- Some States have issued new strategies for engagement with civil society focused on developing national capacity for genuine participation.

### *Other questions and points of note*

- Must not lose sight of the importance of developing human capacity. It is people who are at the heart of implementation efforts and processes.
- How can civil society from all countries be more effectively integrated in the process?
- Participation must be seen as a means of implementation.
- Office of the Secretary-General's Special Advisor on Post-2015 is mapping efforts of civil society around the world.