

26th Informal Working Breakfast on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

*Essential elements of an effective and inclusive follow-up mechanism
for the Post-2015 Agenda*

Hosted by the Bahá'í International Community and the International Movement ATD Fourth World
28 May 2015

A diverse group of stakeholders¹ attended a working breakfast to discuss key issues related to establishing follow-up mechanisms for the Post-2015 sustainable development agenda. The following are highlights of the discussion:

General comments

- We have articulated principles and now is the time to focus on practical implementation. The credibility of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and related processes rest on the follow-up and implementation.
- All major international efforts that have generated an agenda for action have had diverse follow-up and review mechanisms. Yet, there has never been follow up for commitments to financing for development.
- We need to clarify the meaning of terms: follow up, review, monitoring and accountability to avoid unnecessary fragmentation and polarization of the debate.

The High-Level Political Forum, follow-up mechanisms, and peer review

- The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) will play a critical role in the review. It should become the “go-to Forum” where parties can come for assistance with implementation.
- The follow-up mechanism will be state-led, voluntary, universal, and will take place at national, regional and global levels.
- Proper incentives must be in place to attract the participation of all member states. At this time, the political will for universal participation does not exist. Once it is achieved, participation will be the expected norm. Germany has volunteered to have their goals evaluated.
- HLPF could consider something like the former Commission on Social Development’s “policy review.” Such a review could help to break up the ‘silo’ approach that undermines UN efforts.
- Reviews must be constructive, and not oppositional or punitive. At the same time, we need to be aware of power dynamics and differentiated responsibilities. We can note lessons from the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) experience—there were anxieties and misconceptions about this process, but in the end it has been constructive. Countries must understand that it’s in their interest to participate in the review.
- Peer review can take place among smaller groups of member states; multiple parallel reviews can be in place.
- How can we ensure that monitoring and review mechanisms have integrity? Among other things, we must make sure that we hear what the most marginalized are saying. The building of human capacity will be a critical element in the implementation process.

Other

- ECLAC is a constructive regional space for countries to compare policies and speak about challenges. It is very active and productive in terms of analysis and policy advice.
- The mechanism must be used to assist implementation at the national level, as it is at this level that the major challenges and issues will play out and the different actors will find their roles.
- Capacity building will be key; developing countries will need to build capacity to coordinate and mobilize resources, to gather and organize data.
- We must seek to get the right indicators. Some argue that each country should develop its own indicators.
- Is “partnership” the correct term given the power dynamics between member states and civil society?
- The North-South divide is still very present in the post-2015 and financing for development negotiations. More horizontal and vertical integration is needed.

¹ Permanent Missions: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Mexico. Representatives from UN: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Non-governmental organizations: Amnesty International, Bahá'í International Community, CARE International, Center for Economic and Social Rights, CIVICUS, Congregation of our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, Franciscans International, Global Policy Forum, Huairou Commission, International Council of Social Welfare, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Presentation Association, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, Plan International, Regions Refocus 2015, Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Save the Children, UNANIMA International, Women’s Environment and Development Organization.