

**30<sup>th</sup> Informal Working Breakfast on Agenda 2030**  
*20:20 for 2030: Articulating clear vision of a “Fit for Purpose” UN*

Hosted by the Bahá'í International Community and the International Movement ATD Fourth World  
24 November 2015

A diverse group of stakeholders<sup>1</sup> attended a working breakfast to discuss key issues related to promoting a “Fit for Purpose” UN equipped to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The following are highlights of the discussion:

- 2030 is the agenda for change – It differs from the MDGs because it is a more integrated and universal agenda, and it places focus on inequality, climate change, and the concept of ‘leave no one behind.’ Such an integrated agenda requires a transformed international community and transformed responses.
- There are considerations to be had around the long-term positioning of the UN development space (governance, organizational arrangements, emerging consensus, etc.). How do we have a more universal UN system? What is the role of partnerships? Is the UN development system really a system? What about the idea of a strategic framework? The next QCPR will be much focused on the purpose and strategic nature of the UN’s role (less on micro-management)
- How do we focus on reaching the furthest behind first by really looking at inequality and tackling discrimination? How do we fully integrate the environmental dimension? Root-cause analysis will be needed.
- What are new ways to open up the UN to the public?
- Consider the ‘Theory of change within systems’ as it relates to the UN. For the UN to be most effective, we need to function in a more coherent, integrated manner.
- Invest in strategic capacity (more shared metrics in development & coherence impact).
- In the ‘Fit for Purpose’ discussion, the functions of the UN and the form it will take need to be addressed.
  - What are the *functions* of the UN for new vision of ‘fit-for-purpose’?
    - Setting goals and monitoring
    - Measuring impact and creating data
    - Providing policy agenda
    - Partnerships: Accountability & Transparency
    - Mobilization & coordination of efforts on priority areas – working as systems
    - Protect universality & invisibility of the agenda.
  - What *form* will the new vision for a UN ‘fit-for-purpose’ take?
    - Being fit is not about losing weight, it’s also about building muscles.
    - Could we use the SDGs as a strategic vision? We may end up with a more integrated approach.
    - Funding: There’s imbalance between core and non-core funding – this affects the final impact. How much do the priorities of donors impact the levels of work of the UN? This is a challenge for member states.
- Inclusion & leaving no one behind
  - Role of the UN as a broker of partnerships. Focus on leaving no one behind – supporting, collecting and analyzing data and review of Agenda 2030.
  - Bring more stakeholders on board. In order to reach out to the poorest and the most vulnerable, we need to create capacity.

---

<sup>1</sup> Permanent Missions & Government Agencies: Belgium, Benin, Canada, France, Liberia, Malawi, Panama, Sweden, Switzerland. Representatives from UN: United Nations Development Group, UN Women. Non-governmental organizations: Bahá'í International Community, Beyond 2015, CBM, CIVICUS, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, International Disability Alliance, International Disability and Development Consortium, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Presentation Association. Loretto Community, OMI/VIVAT International, UNANIMA, World Vision International.

- At the global level, more mechanisms needed to engage stakeholders in the dialogues around Agenda 2030. Engagement at the local level is needed.
- There is a greater public outside the UN – how does the public perceive the UN? Take the Security Council, for example, is it being effective in the eyes of the public? We need to look at ways to include the voices of all the stakeholders more formally in the government structure of the UN (e.g. civil society, public, etc.).
- For developing countries, especially, there are great differences in their realities. We need to rethink ways that negotiating groups are organized.
- Why are some issues separated when not convenient? We really need to think of the UN as one in order to work as one system.
- How do we make the reform process more inclusive? We're starting on a positive note due to the platforms for participation around Agenda 2030. There is a need to localize the agenda. In terms of the QCPR – institutional, financial, political challenges – how do we ensure genuine participation of citizens & civil society and an accountability framework? The system needs to be more equipped with leadership.
- How much longer the UN reforms take? Is there a deadline? – We call on governments for implementation. There are working groups at the country level – what is the technical support the UN is going to provide for the implementation? We need clear picture of what integration and coherence means and specific methodology and tools.
- A gradual approach is needed to have more coherence – there are four concrete challenges to improving the UN system: 1) Getting indicators right. Without indicators, nothing can get started. March deadlines are crucial. 2) HLPF: We have to make it work. 3) Coherence of the UN system: what happens at the national and the local level? Enforcing resident coordinators at these levels is critical. 4) Reconcile the long-term approach and the humanitarian approach.
- How to engage stakeholders in discussions? Organizations are concerned about their issues. How to generate momentum for actions?
- Among member states there is eagerness to hear from the UN
- We spend a lot of time on 'fitness' and not on purpose, but this agenda is moving differently. Fitness overtime becomes donor-focused. We need to invest much more in change. Working as a system means: respect individual mandates, respect diversity, and work as one. Leadership is fundamental and the resident coordinator system works to address this.
- How do we group countries? Moving beyond income, we need to think more about inequality, vulnerability and sustainability.
- Every country should have a 2030 vision and we need to agree on a timeframe. Maybe a 3-year timeframe could work depending on national resources.
- In our planning mechanism, we need to bring the development and humanitarian frameworks together.
- What would the UNDG look like if they take account of the universal agenda in countries that have been traditionally donor-countries.
- Participation at the local level has 2 advantages: 1) It gives the message to civil society at the national level that commitment is possible, and 2) You can implement the global policies at the national level.
- What can we learn from the gender-perspective when integrating the agenda?
- Accessibility is a critical aspect. This is a process for all, therefore certain mechanism are needed to make the agenda accessible. How can people with disability be included in discussions? Accessibility is not only about physical elements it includes cultural aspects, language, etc.
- One UN is coming up. It brings to the table questions about the UN's universal role & universal presence. What would this mean operationally in a constraining financial environment? What are the implications of the universal agenda in terms of funding? We need to invest in innovations & experimentations.
- UN should not be shy to engage stakeholders – these calls should be stronger at the country level. Agenda 2030 highlights that we all have responsibilities; we all have roles in the agenda.