

**Informal Notes of the Breakfast Dialogue
on the Follow-up to Rio+20 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda
*Growth and Employment***

18 January 2013

Organized by the Bahá'í International Community and International Movement ATD Fourth World

A diverse group of stakeholders¹ convened to informally discuss key issues on the topic of growth and employment. The following are highlights of the comments made during this discussion (sections organized for purpose of readability):

Growth and Employment

- In May 2012, Japan hosted the thematic consultation on growth and employment (co-led by UNDP and ILO) and has been organizing regular Post-MDGs Contact Group during which the topic has also been discussed.
- While the MDGs addressed employment, they overlooked the structural changes shaping the global economy such as the rise in labor-saving techniques, mechanization and outsourcing.
- When addressing growth and employment in the new agenda, we need to encourage infrastructure that generates decent and green jobs and supports micro-enterprises; we need to promote access to reliable financing and invest in education and training.
- We need to consider employment for ageing populations, youth, women, immigrants and marginalized peoples.
- The new development agenda must consider migration flows, trade, technology transfer, climate change,
- The post-2015 agenda should be relevant to all countries, but allow flexibility in regional and national approaches.
- Rural development is critical in generating employment; also important for food security and poverty eradication.
- We need to consider the enablers of employment, such as sustainable economic growth, education, health, etc.
- We need a new definition of full-employment.

Informal Sector

- A legal framework, or some form of protection, must be extended to the informal sector to bring it into the formalized economy. Access to employment rights is critically important especially in the informal economy.
- Measures to create and enhance the quality of employment must take into account the informal sector and rural areas. Evidence suggests that employment generation must come from the informal sector.
- Youth, women, immigrants and vulnerable groups comprise a significant share of the world's workers.
- Social protection is critical but not enough with regards to unemployment insurance, especially during times of high instability.

¹ Permanent Missions represented: France, Germany, Japan, Liberia, Malawi, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tanzania, and United Kingdom. UN represented: Development Policy and Analysis Division (DESA), Division for Sustainable Development (DESA), International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Labour Organization, Post-2015 High-level Panel Secretariat, United Nations Development Programme, UN High Level Task Force on the Global Food Security, UN Millennium Campaign, UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, and UN Women. Civil Society Organizations represented: Amnesty International, Bahá'í International Community, Franciscans International, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office, International Council of Social Welfare, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Presentation Association, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, Save the Children, UN Foundation, and Youth Women's Christian Association.

- Credit markets, insurance markets and public sector procurement are essential because in many countries credit is limited. The public sector is a dominant procurer of services. How can we give the informal economy access to this sector?

Youth

- Raising a new generation of workers in the labor force and building up the youth labor force for the future is essential. Investment in educational and skills training is essential.

Inequalities

- The post-2015 development agenda will need to create sustainable and empowering opportunities for women, including: access to vocational training, access to credit. It will need to challenge discriminatory laws re: property, inheritance rights, and education for girls, among others.
- Gender inequality needs to be addressed first. Women and people in rural areas are at the lowest rungs of ladder in terms of unemployed.
- Equality-enhancing growth models need to consider the structural inequalities that exist. The technological bias cannot be reversed. We are using less and less labor. We need to think about alternative models of employment.

Recommendations

- Measures for tackling employment inequalities: fair minimum wages, forums for dialogue between workers and enterprises, decent work, universal social protection, education and skills training, apprenticeships, investment in labor.

The following questions were raised by participants:

- How do we create growth with environmental sustainability that tackles inequalities among nations and individuals?
- How can we address the barriers to participation of those in the informal economy if they are not part of the discussions?
- How can the post-2015 development agenda ensure a legally binding global framework for corporations' corporate, social and environmental responsibilities?
- How can pressure be put on industries themselves to create high-quality, productive employment for youth?
- How can social protection floors be applied to the informal sectors that do not want to be part of the formal economy?

The following updates were shared:

- UNDP encourages contribution to the growth and employment consultations: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/employment>
- The next Informal Breakfast Dialogue will take place on Thursday 14 February 2013 8:30am on the topic of **Ideal Global Governance: Reframing Multilateralism for Decision Making** at the Bahá'í International Community's United Nations Office.