

**Breakfast Dialogue on the Follow-up to Rio+20
and the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

Topic: Achieving coherence in the UN System for achieving sustainable development

Friday 14 June 2013

**Eleventh of a Breakfast Series
Co-convened by the Bahá'í International Community
and International Movement ATD Fourth World**

- 08:30 **Arrival of Participants & Breakfast**
- 08:35 **Welcome and Introductions**
Ms. Cristina Diez Sagüillo
Main Representative to the UN
International Movement ATD Fourth World
- 08:40 **Opening Remarks**
- H.E. Ms. Anne Anderson
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary & Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations
- Mr. Nikhil Seth
Director, Division for Sustainable Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- 09:00 **Open Discussion**
Moderated by Mr. Daniel Perell
Representative
Bahá'í International Community
- 09:50 **Information Sharing**
All participants are encouraged to share upcoming related plans and activities.
- 10:00 **Closing**

Note: Informal notes will be taken and shared. Comments made by participants will not be attributed to the speaker.

**Informal Notes of the Breakfast Dialogue on the Follow-up to Rio+20
and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 14 June 2013**

Topic: Achieving coherence in the UN System for achieving sustainable development

Co-convened by the Bahá'í International Community and International Movement ATD Fourth World

A diverse group of stakeholders¹ gathered to informally discuss how coherence could be achieved in the UN System so as to achieve sustainable development. The following are highlights of the discussion:

- There is a disconnect between the development agenda at the UN level and the realities at the grassroots. The scope of participation in the articulation of the Post-2015 agenda must be increased to bridge this divide and so that the UN can avoid being 'behind the curve'.
- Development concerns are not particular to any one nation, nor should they be discussed only by government representatives. A much greater and deeper level of cooperation is required. It is imperative to find ways of involving all stakeholders in relevant processes and consultations.
- In order to produce an accessible and meaningful outcome document from the Special Event on MDGs in September, the Co-Facilitators have agreed to draft a 3-page outcome document with the aim of helping to create a post-2015 road map.
- What are the aims of the post-2015 agenda? What did we learn from Rio+20? We are well aware of the inadequacies of past approaches, e.g. they were siloed and didn't acknowledge the interconnectedness of development issues. Rio+20 confirmed that environmental issues affect us all and can serve to generate much needed consensus.
- Human beings must be at the center of any development agenda or plan of action. Plans must be clear, concrete, and practical so that they can be effectively implemented at the grassroots level.
- The North-South framing of the development agenda makes it difficult to conceive of countries as partners in development. It creates the false perception that development is finite, that the global north needs to give more money to the global south in order to enable it to emulate northern development pathways. In addition, this perspective exacerbates asymmetrical power relations, which are counterproductive in a process striving for coherence and cooperation.
- The current approach to development emphasizes the need for resource and knowledge transfer from North to South and tends to marginalize the knowledge and experience from those who would receive the transfer. Local knowledge is not valued enough.
- In order to be practical and to achieve development goals in a timely and effective manner, sources of funding for the development agenda need to be thoroughly explored. We must look closely at the role that can be played by the private sector.
- At this stage in the process, we should refrain from creating new inter-governmental mechanisms. We should continue to meet and discuss these issues throughout the course of the year (2014) using the existing means and structures.

The following announcements were shared:

- International Movement ATD Fourth World will host an event called "[Knowledge from Experience: Building the Post-2015 Agenda with People in Extreme Poverty](#)" on the 27 June, 10am to 1pm
- ILO will be hosting an event called "[Connecting Economy and Society through Decent Work](#)" on the 17 June 6:15 to 7:30pm.
- Informal dialogue with NGOs regarding the 25 September 2013 Special Event on the MDGs will be on 18 June 3-6pm.

¹ Permanent Missions represented: Austria, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Japan, Lichtenstein, New Zealand, Nigeria, Kenya, Malawi, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Zimbabwe, and the European Union. Representatives from UN: Division for Social Policy and Development (DESA), Division for Sustainable Development (DESA), International Labour Organization, UN Millennium Campaign, UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, UN One Secretariat for Post-2015, UN Women, United Nations Development Programme. Civil society organizations represented: Bahá'í International Community, Franciscans International, Global Call to Action Against Poverty, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, International Disability Alliance, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Presentation Association, Mercy International, NGO Sub-committee for the Eradication of Poverty, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, Salesian Missions, The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepard, United Nations Foundation, Women in Europe for a Common Future, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and World Vision International.