

Informal Dialogue on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
MDG 8: Learning from experience; Where do we go from here?
Tuesday 19 November 2013

15th of a monthly series
Co-convened by the Bahá'í International Community
and International Movement ATD Fourth World

- 13:00 **Arrival of Participants & Lunch**
- 13:15 **Welcome and Introductions**
Mr. Ming Hwee Chong
Representative
Bahá'í International Community
- 13:20 **Opening Remarks**

H.E. Mr. Jean-Francis Régis Zinsou
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Benin to the United Nations

Mr. Navid Hanif
Director
Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination
Department of Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations
- 13:45 **Open Discussion**
Moderated by Ms. Cristina Diez Sagüillo
Main Representative to the UN
International Movement ATD Fourth World
- 14:45 **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 Post 2015 Development Agenda, 19 November 2013

Topic: MDG 8: Learning from experience; Where do we go from here?

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

A diverse group of actors¹ convened to informally deliberate on the issue of global partnerships in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. The following are highlights of the discussion:

- The post-2015 development agenda has to build on the lessons learned from the MDGs. It must address unmet MDG goals and, especially, the needs of the LDCs.
- MDG 8 was intended to provide a means of implementation for the MDGs. It was built around the donor-recipient relationship.
- MDG 8 was considered the 'weakest link.' However, it drew attention to debt, ICT, and access to medicine.
- Major criticism of MDG8 is that it was based on goodwill and had no accountability mechanisms. This 'soft accountability' did not suffice. Accountability concerns triggered new functions, such as the Annual Ministerial Review and the Development Cooperation Forum.
- The manner in which the MDGs were coupled with poverty reduction strategies caused LDCs to lose the freedom to set their own priorities and to mobilize the needed resources as freely as possible. LDCs need to maintain control over their national policies and resources.
- Partnerships should focus on multiple, multilateral global partnerships rather than a single partnership in order to mobilize resources in multiple ways. Partnerships should not be based on the donor recipient relationship. Need to also think about partnerships with those living in poverty.
- Partnerships should be people-centred and based on mutual respect. They must include public-private partnerships, south-south cooperation as well as new means of resource mobilization. They must be incorporated into all future goals of the agenda.
- There is a need to clarify the function of global partnerships, what is expected to be delivered, and who is responsible for what. The principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities must be explored.
- Functions of partnerships include: galvanizing political support, meeting people's legitimate aspirations, advancing implementation, promoting partnerships, ensuring needs of most vulnerable countries are at the center of the agenda, realizing the 0.7% ODA target, creating avenues for the transfer of technology and expertise, ensuring policy coherence and putting in place accountability and monitoring framework. Consider that revenue from remittances now exceed ODA in many countries.
- Partnerships will be based on agreements among governments and on the commitments and principles they embrace. They will vary according to country. They will tap the potential of technology and have feedback loops at all levels.
- The lack of availability of data remains a challenge. This is apparent in the MDG reports. SG's panel has called for a 'data revolution.' This is needed to strengthen reporting and requires support from partnerships.
- ODA did not provide adequate finances, only reached a level of 0.31% GDP overall. In the course of the financial crisis, LDCs experienced a reduction in ODA resources. High levels of debt servicing also left

¹ Permanent Missions represented: Benin, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Liberia, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. Representatives from UN entities: Division for Social Policy and Development (DESA), Division for Sustainable Development (DESA), Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination (DESA), UN Development Programme, UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, and UN Volunteers. Civil society organizations represented: Bahá'í International Community, CIVICUS, Daughters of Charity, Franciscans International, International Committee for October 17, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Presentation Association, Marianists International, Medical Mission Sisters, Mercy International, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the US, Natural Resource Defense Council, Passionists International, Plan International, United Nations Foundation, and World Vision International.

limited resources to pursue development goals.

- LDCs are experiencing a youth bulge. In some LDCs, over 70% of the population is made up of young people. Youth unemployment is a major issue. Need to find ways to utilize young people's capacity.
- Agriculture is the agent of development in many countries, but it has suffered from chronic underinvestment. Need to invest in research and development and to build the capacity of small farmers.
- Development agenda is not only for LDCs, it needs to be universal and global in character with goals that all will need to pursue. Developed countries will need to change their modes of consumption and production.
- There is an 'ambition mismatch' between the articulated goals and the means of implementation. An ambitious agenda requires equally ambitious mobilization of resources.
- The SG's has tabled a proposal for a new partnership facility. If GA approves budget, the mechanism will be available for civil society to engage with.
- In the end, principles and the commitments will be agreed upon by governments. Non-state actors can join in to present their initiatives and offer support. The entire agenda is based on moral suasion.