

**Informal Notes of the Breakfast Dialogue 10 October 2012
on the Follow-up to Rio+20 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda
Topic: Inequalities**

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 inequalities. Opening remarks were offered by Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Assistant Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning; Mr. John Hendra, Assistant Secretary-General, UN Women; and H.E. Mr. George Wilfred Talbot, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guyana to the United Nations.

The following are a few highlights from this discussion:

- Structural inequalities and exclusion are causes of development challenges.
- Inequalities have been one of the greatest obstacles in implementing the MDGs.
- The proposal for a *New Global Human Order*² calls for a new look at development, one focused on the human person and on the flourishing of human capacity. We need to move beyond the North-South divide in our thinking. We need to widen the scope of the concept of inequalities.
- There is a need for an intergovernmental discussion about inequalities.
- It is not enough for goals to be measurable, we need to consider the political viability of development goals.
- We should not look at what is politically expedient but what is truly progress.
- Member States that sign onto commitments are not always the same actors implementing them. We need to look closely at country-level processes in order to inform intergovernmental negotiations.
- Community-level planning as a strategy to reduce poverty was highlighted using the example of Kenya's district development strategy.
- We must focus on the narrative and vision of development before we can talk about the goals.
- At the heart of this discussion must be a recognition of the relational dimension of development and the nature of relationships among individuals, communities, social institutions and nation states. Relationships of power and oppression must be addressed.
- The Post-2015 framework should recognize gender equality as key to progress and should be: universal; rooted in a human rights based approach; based on existing commitments by the international community (such as CEDAW); focused on accountability and transparency; attentive to the aspirations of the poorest and most vulnerable; transformative of power relations, exclusion, structural inequalities and all forms of discrimination.
- The rule of law – a human right – needs be considered in the Post-2015 framework.
- We need to raise the benchmarks for development, for example, moving beyond literacy to include ICT literacy.

¹ Permanent Missions represented: Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. European Union was represented. UN System represented by: DESA, NGLS, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Millennium Campaign, and UN Women. Civil society organizations represented: The Association for Women's Right in Development, Bahá'í International Community, Coalition for the International Criminal Court, Feminist Task Force, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office, Global Policy Forum Europe, Institute for Development Studies, International Disability Alliance, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Planned Parenthood Federation, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, and Women's Environment & Development Organization.

² A/RES/65/120

- We need better data and baselines in order to carry out effective measurement. We should not be driven by what we are able to measure. Data must be disaggregated. Separate targets should be established for the very poor. Better data is needed to advocate for resources and capabilities.
- MDGs have provided a clear, measurable results-oriented framework and generated national ownership. We need to focus on accelerating achievement of the MDGs.
- Women have been among the key drivers of change and progress. Yet, girls' education has fallen through the cracks. At the same time, in some societies, boys' education needs as much attention to better promote gender equality.
- Some organizations, using culture/tradition as justification, might not uphold the gender equality agenda, but would uphold economic equity, and vice versa. Yet even dissenting actors may be critical to service delivery. How can we better incorporate dissenting voices?

A number of important questions were raised during the discussion:

- How do we balance the need for a universal approach with that of setting national priorities and targets? How do we articulate something globally that can also be implemented locally?
- What kind of consensus could be reached at the global level? What if consensus can only be achieved on some parts of the development agenda?
- What systemic questions need to be addressed through a global approach? How could such an approach be structured?
- How can we ensure that the new agenda is transformative? For whom should the agenda be transformative?
- How can we integrate the gender dynamics of power into new thinking on economics and sustainable development?
- How can we focus on the follow up to Rio+20 and Post-2015 without duplicating processes?
- How can we bring together peace and security, environmental sustainability, poverty reduction and a human rights based approach in one framework?
- How can we incorporate cultural elements into the Post-2015 agenda?

The following related activities were shared:

- The website, www.worldwewant2015.org, provides a platform for a global conversation about inequalities. Findings will be synthesized and made available at the leadership meeting in Denmark in February 2013.
- The International Disability Alliance will be co-moderating an online discussion on disability as part of the abovementioned online conversation on inequalities.
- The Institute for Development Studies is leading an initiative to include the perspectives of marginalized populations in the post-2015 framework. They are organizing ground-level panels in local communities to mirror the High-level panel on Post-2015.
- A women's coalition is forming to ensure a strong women's voice and presence in the Post-2015 discussions.
- Participants were invited to draw from the work of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and Club de Madrid on the Global Shared Societies Agenda, which focused on group inequalities.