

High-Level Event of the General Assembly
“The Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society
to the Post-2015 Development Agenda”
6-7 of March, 2014

Background

Women, young people and civil society have already made major and substantive contributions to the preparation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda with the overarching goal of poverty eradication. However, their continuing, full contribution and participation in the design, implementation and future evolution of this Post-2015 Development Agenda will depend on two fundamental factors: (1) the extent of social inclusion and, conversely, the persistence of challenges such as inequalities, discrimination and marginalization that impede unleashing the full potential, capacities and abilities of all people to contribute to inclusive sustainable development, and to share equitably in its outcomes, and (2) the degree to which they can safely claim dedicated spaces to contribute effectively to decision-making at the global, national and sub-national levels, and the scope to exercise accountability with decision-makers through their actions and voices.

These factors will affect not only the scope for women, young people including children, and civil society to engage in sustainable development, but also their ability to participate as actors, partners and contributors in a transparent, effective, integrated and coordinated manner. This calls for a two way-process of positive reinforcement between the strengthening of capabilities and the exercise of voice.

Objective

The high-level event will address a number of cross-cutting rights-based issues relevant to women and the young, across differing national circumstances and developmental stages, such as violence against women and girls; access to quality education, skills and training; health; decent work; social protection; and financial and economic inclusion, including women’s access to and control over productive resources. The event will also provide an opportunity to address the role of civil society, while taking into account the issues of transparency and inclusiveness in the definition of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In building upon the deliberations undertaken in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the high-level event will provide an opportunity for participants to address also key issues, such as:

- 1) How can the Post-2015 Development Agenda address the diverse and intersecting inequalities that challenge inclusive sustainable development prospects on the basis of income, gender, age, race/ethnicity and disabilities, among other factors of marginalization?

- 2) What measures must be taken and what accountability and transparency mechanisms should be established to ensure that women, young people and civil society are given the space to actively and meaningfully engage in shaping, implementing and monitoring the Post-2015 Development Agenda at all levels?
- 3) How do Member States envision that the rights and needs of all women and young people will be reflected in the Post-2015 Development Agenda?
- 4) How can the UN system better support efforts at the national, regional and global levels towards reducing inequality and discrimination?
- 5) Can meaningful metrics (goals and/or targets) be devised to ensure that women and young people are not left behind in the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda at all levels?

Format and outcome

The high-level event will take place 6 to 7 March, 2014 in New York. In accordance with the letter of the President of the General Assembly to Member States dated on December 5th, 2013, it will consist of an opening plenary, interactive, multi-stakeholder panel discussions and a closing plenary. A President's summary will be issued at its conclusion and will subsequently be made available to the members of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing for their consideration, as applicable.

Participants

Member States are invited to participate at the ministerial level and to express to the President of the General Assembly their interest in co-chairing an interactive panel discussion.

Representatives of United Nations agencies and of the civil society, major groups and other relevant stakeholders will also be invited to attend.

Further information on the high-level event, including programme details and issues to be addressed during the plenary and interactive panel discussions will be made available to Member States at a later stage.

BACKGROUND PAPER

High-Level Event on the 'The Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society to the post-2015 Development Agenda' 6 - 7 March, 2014

Introduction

The full participation of women, the young and civil society in the post-2015 Development Agenda will be essential for its successful implementation and ensuring this participation will depend on overcoming two hitherto well-known barriers: (1) mitigating and ultimately eliminating the persistent *challenges of inequalities, discrimination and marginalization that impede the unleashing of the full potential, capacities and abilities of people of all ages to contribute to inclusive sustainable development, and to share equitably in its outcomes*; and (2) *the degree to which they will truly be allowed to contribute effectively to decision-making, at all levels, on matters which directly (or indirectly) affect them.*

Overcoming these barriers will affect not only the scope for women, the young and others to engage in sustainable development, but also their ability to participate as actors, partners and contributors, including from an early age and through their life span, in a transparent, effective, integrated and coordinated manner. This calls for a two way-process of positive reinforcement between the strengthening of capabilities and the exercise of voice.

This High-level event will address the themes of **equality, inclusiveness and participation**, as they relate to the overarching goal of poverty eradication, including a number of cross-cutting rights-based issues relevant to women and the young, and provide an opportunity to address the contribution of civil society to the shaping and future implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In its resolution A/RES/67/230, the General Assembly expressed its concerns about *inequality* as a challenge for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and its adverse implications for the promotion of human development. On the issue of *inequality*, discussions during the Eighth Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) noted that rising inequalities pose a risk to social cohesion and can also hamper growth¹. Therefore, the post-2015 Development Agenda **must** not only take into account the contributions of women, the young and civil society, but should also address the shortfalls of the MDGs and go beyond equality of opportunities to take into account the diverse and intersecting inequalities that challenge sustainable development prospects.

This High-level event will seek to address the following questions:

- How will we, as an international community, reflect the rights of women and the young in the post-2015 Development Agenda?
- How do we ensure their active, full and meaningful engagement in the design, elaboration and subsequent implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda? and

¹ <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/3238summaryallowg.pdf> (para. 190, page 28)

- How do we effectively support efforts, at all levels, to reduce inequality and discrimination?

Main issues and challenges to achieving equality, inclusiveness and participation

Women and Girls:

While there has been significant progress in implementation of the MDGs, for example, with gender parity the closest to being achieved at the primary school level, gender inequality is still pervasive in many areas, particularly among the most vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, older persons, and minority ethnic groups. Similarly, gender-based violence and sexual abuse against women and girls remains all too pervasive in our societies. Ensuring women's and girls' rights are fundamental for realizing human rights for all; building strong economies; creating and sustaining peaceful and stable societies; and pursuing sustainable development trajectories with equitably shared benefits.

Post-2015 proposals by Member States, and a variety of stakeholders, including women's and other civil society organizations, and the private sector call for a transformative and comprehensive approach to gender equality in a number of priority areas: (i) eliminating gender-based violence against women and girls; (ii) protecting and fulfilling the full spectrum of women rights; (iii) guaranteeing women's equal access to and control over productive resources and assets, such as land and inheritance; (iv) recognizing, reducing and redistributing women's disproportionate burden of unpaid care work; (v) increasing women's access to decent work, closing gender wage gaps, including through provision of quality education and skills training; (vi) ensuring gender-responsive universal social protection over the lifecycle; (vii) ensuring women's access to justice and promoting legal empowerment; and (viii) facilitating women's and girls' right to equally and actively participate in decision-making at all levels. Such an approach to these priority areas for women of all ages and for girls is critical for democratic governance, whether in public institutions, the community or the household, and for achieving the three pillars of sustainable development - economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Question

Should there be a stand alone Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) on gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment, supplemented by cross-cutting targets under other goals?

The Young:

Today's adolescents and youth² are 1.8 billion strong, make up one quarter of the world's population³ and are a very diverse group. While notable progress has been made in recent decades, many young people — especially girls and starting from an early age — are denied the investments and opportunities that they require to realize their full potential. Improvements in primary school enrolment have not necessarily been followed by equivalent improvements in enrolment in secondary education, vocational training or non-formal education, especially for young women and girls. With an estimated 225 million youth, or 20 per cent of all youth in the developing world, not in education, employment or training (NEET)⁴, their potential to sustain a living through full, productive and decent employment is severely limited, as demonstrated by

²UN definition of adolescents to include persons aged 10-19 years and youth as those between 15-24 years for statistical purposes.

³<http://www.unfpa.org/public/adolescents/>

⁴<http://www.uis.unesco.org/literacy/Documents/fs26-2013-literacy-en.pdf>

persistently high levels of youth unemployment and underemployment worldwide. At the same time, the health and wellbeing of adolescents and young people remain a concern. More than 2.6 million young people aged 10-24 years die each year, mostly due to preventable causes⁵. Young people (15-24 years) account for an estimated 780,000 new HIV infections, roughly 39 per cent of new infections among adults; with adolescent girls being particularly vulnerable with an estimated two-thirds of new HIV infections in adolescents occurring among girls⁶. An estimated 15 million out of 135 million live births worldwide occur to girls aged 15-19 years⁷. In addition to HIV and early childbirth, as noted above, mental health, malnutrition, non-communicable diseases, and violence and injuries also undermine the ability of young people to lead healthy and productive lives.

In the case of children and their specific vulnerabilities, their unequal access to parental support services, basic health care, nutritional support, protection from violence and abuse, and participation in early childhood and formal education impairs their cognitive development and physical growth (stunting).

Post-2015 consultations among young people resulted in calls for increased access to quality and affordable education, with particular attention to girls' completion of secondary education and the expansion of pre-school and early learning; better healthcare; better job opportunities through integration of life skills, information technologies and vocational training; protection from all forms of child abuse, violence, sexual exploitation, harmful practices, and trafficking; removal of cultural, social and legal barriers that hinder political and economic inclusion and participation; and open and transparent structure of governance. The provision of such services is central to improving the lives of children, adolescents and youth, and to creating sustainable, peaceful and stable societies.

Question

Should there be a goal or a measurable target to monitor the empowerment of young people at all levels – through education; better health care; and access to better job opportunities?

Widening Space for Civil Society

Civil society plays an indispensable role in advancing the United Nations agenda. The success of the future agenda will depend on enabling the full, active and meaningful participation of all rights-holders in shaping the agenda, setting policy priorities, demanding redresses where abuses occur and monitoring implementation at all levels. The spaces and visibility of collective action by civil society organizations and stakeholders, including the private sector are critical for advancing human rights, reducing inequalities, and building capabilities for sustainable development.

Consultations with civil society organizations resulted in calls in support of greater participation and voice in political decision-making for women and young people; opening of the policy space for debate and information sharing; greater accountability and trust among policy-makers, and public and private institutions; elimination of cultural barriers faced by young people; gender equality; elimination of gender-

⁵ <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs345/en/>

⁶ UNAIDS, unpublished HIV estimates, 2012

⁷ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/report-2013/mdg-report-2013-english.pdf>

based violence and child abuse; better job opportunities for young people; and more effective social protection programmes, particularly for disadvantaged and marginalized groups.

Going forward, it is critical to have guaranteed and continuing space for stakeholders. This will be an essential feature of just and equitable human progress in a people-focused post-2015 era.

Question

How can governments improve the operating space so as to ensure civil society make meaningful contributions to the implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda?

INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Interactive Panel Discussion I: Closing the inequality gap: efforts for addressing inequalities and meeting new and emerging global developing challenges for the eradication of poverty through the meaningful contributions of women, the young and civil society in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Gaps in inequality are a global challenge and have deep consequences for us all: reductions in the pace and sustainability of economic growth; diminished productive potential of all who are harmed and excluded, and the loss of this potential to society; the worsening of existing fragilities and vulnerabilities, including to conflict and disasters; and the weakening of social cohesion and of security for all. Inequalities are often closely associated with and reinforced by specific forms of discrimination, including but not limited to: discrimination related to gender, age, race, religious belief, ethnic and indigenous identity, minority status, disability, HIV status, and sexuality. Inequalities are also deeply entrenched by structural drivers and barriers in the economic, social, political, cultural and environmental domains, which can have cumulative, mutually-reinforcing effects and can lead to the systematic disadvantage of some social groups and to the perpetuation of poverty from generation to generation.

Policies, programmes and interventions which are intended to improve the lives of disadvantaged people often directly address the symptoms of inequalities - such as chronic poverty - but not their root causes. And as a result, patterns of disadvantage and exclusion are often stubbornly persistent over time.

A new development framework should be based on the recognition that all people have rights, and one that incorporates and reflects the human rights principles of universality and non-discrimination, and enables participation and accountability, if the structural drivers of inequalities are to be fully addressed. The new framework must ensure development of appropriate policy and legal frameworks, effective social protection measures; explicit measures to provide for the specific needs of women of all ages, girls, children and young people, persons with disabilities, marginalized, vulnerable groups and minority groups; and measures to increase awareness, widen participation in decision-making and improve the collection, availability and transparency of data and information on inequalities and development progress.

Addressing inequalities will also depend on measures to strengthen the capacity of civil society - including the representatives of women, the young and others – to participate in the setting of priorities, planning, monitoring, data generation and development reviews. These measures will need to track the impact of policies, legislation, budgets and programmes among those most disadvantaged and excluded; allow for

truly participatory assessment; enable much more systematic disaggregation of information for equity-focused targets; and provide mechanisms for civil society feedback on progress and performance.

Questions to stimulate discussion

- What transformative strategies or approaches (in addition to legislation, and including at the household decision-making level) could effectively overcome the deeply-rooted discrimination that prevents women and girls from both enjoying the full spectrum of their human rights, and from living a life free of poverty?
- What barriers exist to the full and effective participation of young people in the development of policies and programmes that affect their lives, including the post-2015 agenda?
- What provisions, policies and measures could most effectively address the high levels of child poverty which are prevalent across many regions and the specific impact of inequalities on children's survival, growth and development from earliest years of life, in the context of the Post-2015 Development Agenda?

Interactive Panel Discussion II: Strategies for the effective, inclusive and participatory roles for women, the young and civil society in the Post-2015 Development Agenda: identifying best practices, tools and mechanisms, and exploring opportunities for new, transparent and sustainable outcomes

One of the “lessons learned” from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is that they were not developed in a transparent and inclusive way that was truly reflective of the priorities and needs of all stakeholders. In crafting the Post-2015 Development Agenda, efforts have been made to bring the voices and ideas of a diverse group of stakeholders into the deliberations through a variety of mediums.

Being inclusive of women, the young and civil society in both the *crafting* and the *implementation* of the new framework pays a double dividend. First, inclusion of their ideas will result in a set of goals and a framework that more accurately reflects the needs and priorities of these most critical constituencies. The knowledge from grassroots women's organizations, local and international civil society organizations, girls and boys and other young people brings a different and much needed perspective that might otherwise not emerge through a less inclusive process. Second, inclusion of women, the young and civil society is about *building a movement* of people around the world who see the value in civic engagement and how this engagement positively impacts individual lives –and also communities, social services, the economy and the planet.

The birth of new communication technologies since the establishment of the MDGs – including “smart” phones, Twitter and Facebook, Google, text messaging and even mainstream use of mobile phones - also plays a critical role. Technology has dramatically shaped societies in both positive and negative ways. The power of technology can and should be harnessed for more transparent and responsive governance and as a safe channel for women, the young and civil society to routinely engage with each other and with policy-makers for increasing accountability in the context of the Post-2015 goals and framework. At the same time, ethical collection and use of personal data associated with increased use of ICTs (by whom and for what purpose) is an area of major concern that will need further exploration.

Finally, building the capabilities of these constituencies is critical. For example, for children and young people, engagement around these issues can begin in schools or through clubs and associations. There must also be a conscious effort to include the voices of the most marginalized in each society and those living in poverty and extreme poverty. Participatory research approaches hold promise for how to practically include these people in Post-2015 deliberations. These approaches can serve as a model for more inclusive planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of development initiatives based on inclusion and human rights.

Questions to stimulate discussions

- What can be done to better equip young people to meet the needs of today's labour market, such as the role of ICTs to support their development, inclusion and full participation in societies?
- How can the voices, views, priorities and best interests of children, including adolescents and children from the most marginalized groups, be systematically and fully taken into account in the design and implementation by Member States of the new Development Agenda?
- Where are the important or emerging sites for women and girls to actively participate in local, national, regional and international advocacy; and within these sites, what are the priority areas where new and concerted policy measures and interventions can achieve gender equality through the Post-2015 Development Agenda?

This background paper was developed by the Office of the President of the General Assembly drawing from inputs and contributions provided by the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, UN Entities and from inputs and comments received from a wide variety of stakeholders through the online request on the website of the President of the General Assembly.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/68/settingthestage/>

To follow the High-level event, please use the hashtag #UNPGA68WYCS

PROGRAMME

**High-level Event
on the
Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society
to the Post-2015 Development Agenda
6 – 7 March, 2014, ECOSOC Chamber**

6 March, 2014

Time	Morning
10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Opening Session Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Dr. John W. Ashe, President of the General Assembly• Mrs. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women (speaking on behalf of the Secretary-General)• Mr. Anthony Lake, Executive Director of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)• Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth• Mr. Paul Quintos, Programme Manager, IBON International, Philippines (NGO Major Group Civil Society Representative)
10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	General Debate
Afternoon	
3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	General Debate

PROGRAMME

**High-level Event
on the
Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society
to the Post-2015 Development Agenda
6 – 7 March, 2014, ECOSOC Chamber**

7 March, 2014

Time	Morning
10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<p>Panel Discussion: 1</p> <p>Topic: Closing the inequality gap: efforts for addressing inequalities and meeting new and emerging global challenges for the eradication of poverty through the meaningful contributions of women, the young and civil society in the post-2015 development agenda</p> <p>Chair: Mrs. Tarja Halonen, former President of Finland</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Pamela Falk, President, UN Correspondents Association</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mrs. Ana Trišić Babić, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina• Ms. Ralien Bekkers, Dutch Youth Representative on Sustainable Development to the United Nations, the Netherlands• Mr. Roberto Borrero, UN Programmes Coordinator, International Indian Treaty Council (Civil Society Representative for Indigenous Peoples Major Group) <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Freda Miriklis – President, International Federation of Business and Professional Women (2011 – 2014)• Mr. Charles Badenoch, Vice-President for Global Advocacy and Justice for Children, World Vision International• Mr. Willice Okoth Onyango, Executive Chairperson, International Youth Council of Kenya (Civil Society Representative of Beyond 2015) <p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

PROGRAMME

**High-level Event
on the
Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society
to the Post-2015 Development Agenda
6 – 7 March, 2014, ECOSOC Chamber**

7 March, 2014

	Afternoon
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<p>Panel Discussion: 2</p> <p>Topic: Strategies for the effective, inclusive and participatory roles for women, the young and civil society in the post-2015 development agenda: identifying best practices, tools and mechanisms, and exploring opportunities for new, transparent and sustainable outcomes</p> <p>Chair: H.E. Ismanto Adna, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs, Republic of Suriname</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Rajiv Joshi, Interim CEO, The B Team and Co-Chair, UN Working Group at Beyond 2015</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Joe Costello, Minister of Trade and Development of Ireland• Ms. Primrose Nanchani Manyalo, Programme Coordinator, Restless Development, Zimbabwe (Major Group on Children and Youth Civil Society Representative)• Ms. Amina Doherty, International Consultant and Board Member of the Global Fund for Women and Just Associates (Civil Society Representative of Women's Networks) <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Jacquelyn Alesi, Programme Director, Uganda Network for Young People Living with HIV• Noelene Nabulivou, Member, Diverse Voices and Action for Equality, Fiji (Civil Society Representative of Women's Networks and the Pacific Region)• Mr. Daniel Florio, Attorney and Advocate for persons with disabilities (International Disabilities Alliance) <p>Closing remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dr. Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

PROGRAMME

**High-level Event
on the
Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society
to the Post-2015 Development Agenda
6 – 7 March, 2014, ECOSOC Chamber**

7 March, 2014

5:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Closing Session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of summaries of Interactive Panel Discussions by Chairs• Remarks by H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary-General• Remarks by H.E. Dr. John W. Ashe, President of the General Assembly
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**Summary of the President of the General Assembly
on the
High-level Event on the Contributions of Women, the Young
and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

Theme: Equality, inclusiveness and participation

**6 – 7 March, 2014
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

The following is a summary of the key messages that emerged from the High-level Event on the Contributions of Women, the Young and Civil Society to the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

SECTION I: Lessons learned: Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward

1. There was **broad agreement that women, the young and civil society are key drivers to an inclusive, transformative and sustainable post-2015 development agenda** in spite of the multifaceted disadvantages and challenges they face in terms of *equality, participation and inclusiveness*.
2. The **shortfalls and the unfinished agenda of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were acknowledged as challenges to a new development agenda**. There is an urgent need to scale up efforts to achieve the overarching goal of poverty eradication, particularly for the most vulnerable, marginalized and excluded groups of our societies, including, but not limited to, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, youth, older women, persons living with HIV and AIDS, persons living in rural communities, migrants, and women, girls and youth living under foreign occupation.
3. While there has been notable progress in implementation of the MDGs and with less than 700 days to the 2015 target date, a **reaffirmation of existing commitments to the achievement of the MDGs by 2015** is needed if we are to achieve the goals related to gender equality, education and health. Violence and discrimination against women and girls and non-fulfilment of their human rights; discrimination on the basis of sexuality; lack of access to quality education, including vocational training, decent work and health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights; increasing levels of child malnutrition, maternal and child mortality and lack of access to early childhood development were identified as some of the main challenges to equality and the eradication of poverty.
4. The **lack of implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as well as the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY)** impedes women and girls, children and young people from enjoying their rights and living to their full potential.
5. **Inequality is a major challenge to the achievement of the ‘Future We Want’ and is driven by various economic, social, cultural, political and environmental factors**. Closing the inequality gap in terms of wages, unequal distribution of resources within the household, lack of access to resources, credit, land,

justice, productive employment and economic opportunities, education, health, information, and participation in decision-making at all levels for women of all ages and young people is critical to the process ahead. So too, is the need to address the root causes of inequality and discrimination.

6. The **collection, analysis, transparency and dissemination of disaggregated data based on, inter alia, sex, age, race and disability is important** to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the goals of the new development agenda. For developing countries, data collection and analysis are a major challenge and requires increased access to financial and technical resources to improve its availability.
7. Opportunities to **strengthen capabilities and to create more transparent and accountable institutions and frameworks**, through, inter alia, increased global consultations to provide a voice for women, the young and civil society, and the development of new partnerships were highlighted as vital to the new development agenda and its effective implementation.

SECTION II: Contributions to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing: goals, targets, inter-linkages and means of implementation

Goals and Targets

A number of goals and targets were proposed as a contribution to the ongoing process. There was general agreement that the process should be **rights-based and the enhancement of rights should be mainstreamed across all goals and targets.**

I. Gender equality and empowerment of women

There was **broad support for a transformative and comprehensive stand-alone goal on gender equality and empowerment of women and girls**, and for gender to be mainstreamed across all other goals, targets, and indicators in promotion of the rights of women and girls of all ages. In relation to gender equality, goals and targets were proposed in the following areas:

Support for a **stand-alone goal on ending violence against all women, children and youth**, including 'femicide', with specific targets to address the pandemic of domestic violence. There were calls for men and boys to be engaged in efforts to end violence against women and girls and for consideration to be given to boys, particularly those in vulnerable situations who face specific forms of violence and neglect.

Stand-alone goal on employment and decent work, with a special emphasis on women and youth, and the **inclusion of targets to ensure equal opportunities for women in labour markets** is critical to eradicating poverty.

Support for the **integration of targets in a stand-alone goal on energy in promotion of women's health and empowerment**, in particular for women in rural communities.

There was broad agreement for the **incorporation of gender-sensitive targets and indicators in the new development framework** to determine the scope of the challenges faced by women and girls.

II. Youth

Inclusion of a stand-alone goal on youth, with explicit targets and indicators in at least the following **five priority areas**: quality education - free, gender-sensitive and inclusive education for all with attention to children with disabilities; skills development, **employment** and entrepreneurship; health, including sexual and reproductive health; governance; and peace and security.

Integration of a youth perspective into other goals to ensure that the goals adopted by the post-2015 development framework include measurable targets that promote and protect the rights of all youth, including vulnerable and marginalized youth, and ensure their participation in the decision-making process.

Call for the **development of a global strategic plan to eradicate youth unemployment**, including the creation of a global youth network for experience swaps, as well as creation of a global fund for youth employment opportunities.

III. Civil Society

Increased recognition of and respect for the role of civil society: Civil society is a key partner in the crafting and implementation of a future sustainable development framework and must be given the space to participate fully, actively and meaningfully in the process. There was recognition that while governments have the primary responsibility for development and establishment of institutional governance, opportunities for better synergies between policy-makers and civil society organizations should be explored while taking into account different national circumstances and stages of development of countries.

IV. Health

The health and well-being of women and girls, children and young people remain a concern. While progress has been achieved with declines in child and maternal mortality, too many children and women are still dying from preventable deaths. There was broad support for the inclusion of a **universal goal on health, including comprehensive sexual and reproductive health**, with consideration to the special needs of women and adolescent girls. The right of women to have control over their sexual and reproductive health, reduction in child marriages and teen pregnancies were identified as possible targets in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

SECTION III: The Post-2015 Development Agenda: Issues for further consideration – strategic vision and overarching principles, participatory decision-making and partnerships, and accountability

1. **Implementation of a people-centered, human rights and “bottom-up” based approach must be at the heart of the new development agenda** if we are to eradicate poverty and confront new and emerging global challenges post-2015. This approach must take into account the issues of inequality and discrimination and their root causes; respect for and fulfilment of the rights of women and girls; and

the involvement of women, the young and civil society in decision-making processes at the local, national, regional and international levels.

2. **Fulfilment of existing commitments must underpin future efforts:** It is fundamental that Governments continue to reaffirm and strengthen implementation of their existing commitments in all areas - economic, social, environmental, as well as in the area of peace and security. These commitments should be aligned and strengthened in the post-2015 development agenda and further opportunities explored for expansion of their strategic inter-linkages.

Conclusion

Eradication of poverty must be at the heart of the new sustainable development framework. The post-2015 development agenda should incorporate goals and targets that empower women, children, youth and civil society. Their participation is required at all levels and in all spheres.

The high-level event was successful in identifying a convergence of views on areas where we can move forward to achieve a transformative sustainable development agenda building on the contributions of women, the young and civil society.



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Findings on Women and Youth

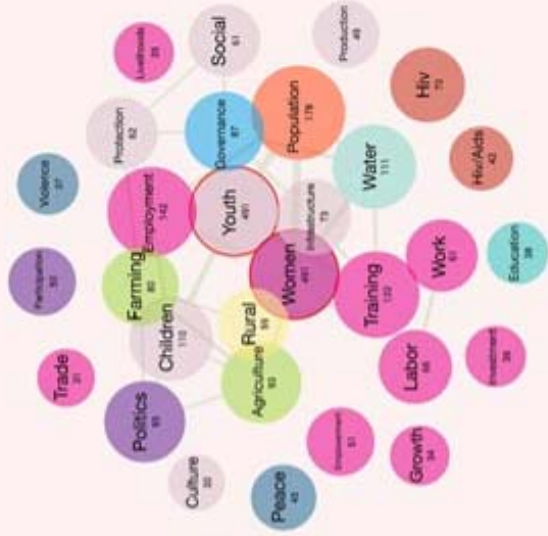
Who is voting?



Total votes:
1,485,298 (as of March 5, 2014)

National Consultations

When people talk about gender and youth, they are also talking about other issues. The connecting lines represent the degree of the correlation between the most mentioned topics.



What are their priorities?

The first eight priorities for a better world chosen by women are the same as the overall eight top priorities.

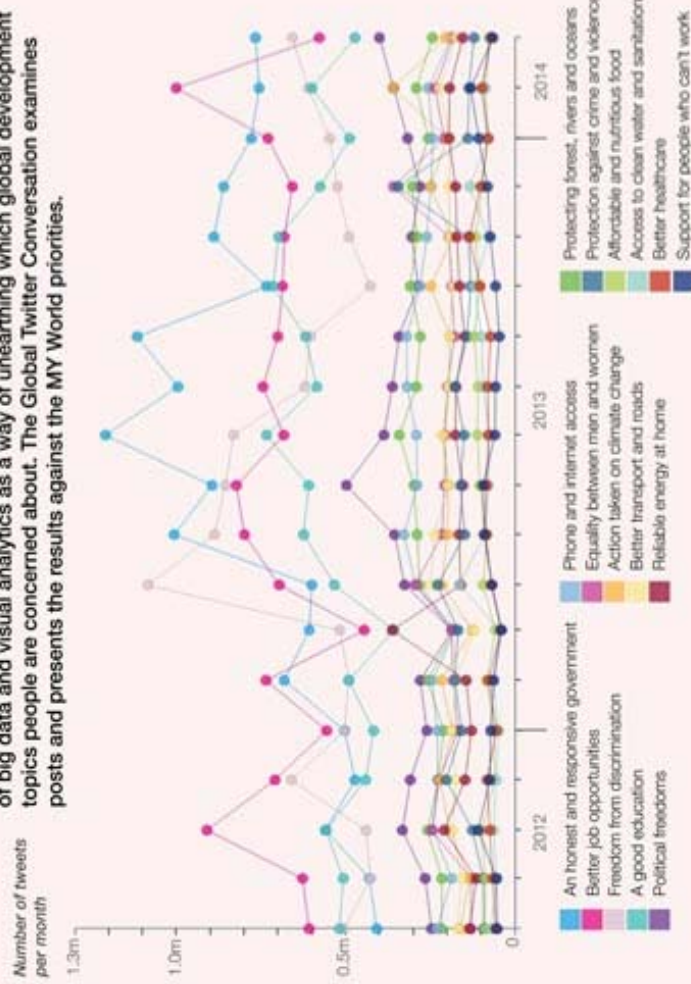


Equality between men and women ranks eighth among women and ninth among youth.



Twitter Analysis

Global Pulse and the Millennium Campaign worked to demonstrate the potential of big data and visual analytics as a way of unearthing which global development topics people are concerned about. The Global Twitter Conversation examines posts and presents the results against the MY World priorities.



Vote for the changes that would make the most difference to your world at: <http://www.myworld2015.org>

