

**Thematic Debate of the General Assembly
“Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies”**

24- 25 April 2014

Background

Stability and peace in relations both between and within societies are essential and overarching conditions for progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and for sustainable development. The mutually reinforcing nature of the inter-linkage between peace, stability and development is abundantly articulated in both the 2000 Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document which, among other things, acknowledges that peace and security, development and human rights are the three pillars of the UN system and foundation for collective security and well-being.

While over the past decade some progress has been recorded in terms of inter-state conflicts, during the past few years the attention of the international community has been increasingly absorbed with conflict and violence within societies, particularly in the wake of prolonged conflict. One of the lessons of the attempts to rebuild societies that have been torn apart by such conflict is that beyond silencing the guns, restoring trust and reconstructing the shattered social cohesion which the conflict itself manifested, is much more complex. The process of promoting development is seriously at risk where conditions do not exist for such restoration and reconstruction. External stresses such as human trafficking and illegal trade in wildlife and other organized crime networks can also undermine peace and development progress.

The international community is about to embark on the task of defining a post-2015 Development Agenda with the overarching goal of poverty eradication that will also have the hallmarks of inclusiveness, good governance, the rule of law, gender quality and human rights, including the right to development for all. It is essential that a deliberate set of strategies be contemplated to protect against the exclusion from the benefits of such an agenda, of the growing numbers of persons who continue to be affected by the tensions and instability persisting in the wake of conflict and violence, so as to ensure that building stable and peaceful societies is an essential part of the international effort to achieve sustainable development.

Against this backdrop, sustained efforts to ensure stable and peaceful societies are today more important than ever before. This task requires intensification of efforts at all levels, national, regional and global, in order to improve social cohesion and remove the marginality, alienation and other forms of social and economic inequities which may have contributed to the conflict in the first place. This includes, inter alia, consideration of the role of women in conflict prevention and in post-conflict peace-building and governance.

Objective

The primary objective of the thematic debate is to provide a platform for Member States to reflect and deliberate on this theme with a view of identifying concrete ways on which stable and peaceful societies can contribute to the ongoing process of sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda.

Cognizant of the ongoing work and efforts within the UN system, the thematic debate will avoid duplication but aim to complement such efforts in the context of the GA responsibilities and mandate. In this context, the debate will be carried-out in close consultation with relevant stakeholders bearing in mind the discussions in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

The thematic debate will be guided by the following preliminary questions:

1. What are the linkages between sustainable development, peace and stability, and how can these be integrated into national development strategies and their progress be effectively measured?
2. How can political, economic and social institutions be strengthened in such a manner that they work harmoniously to replace the legacy of conflict and violence with a new, inclusive and more people-centred order of relations in support of achieving sustainable development?
3. How can the development challenges for stable and peaceful societies be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda?
4. What capacities and partnerships, including donor-relationships, would be required for building peaceful and stable societies for sustainable development?

Format and Outcome

The thematic debate will consist of an opening segment in the morning and three consecutive, interactive, multi-stakeholder panel discussions and a brief closing segment. The outcome of the thematic debate will be a President's summary that will be made available as an input to the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, as applicable.

Participants

The thematic debate will include participation of Member States at the highest possible level, Observers, UN Agencies and representatives of civil society, private sector, and other relevant stakeholders. Permanent Missions are invited to express to the President of the General Assembly their interest in co-chairing an interactive panel discussion.

**Background Note on Panel Discussions for the
General Assembly Thematic Debate on
“Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies”
24-25 April 2014**

The thematic debate will feature an opening segment, three consecutive, interactive, multi-stakeholder panel discussions and a brief closing segment. The primary objective of the thematic debate is to provide an opportunity for Member States to identify concrete ways on how stable and peaceful societies can contribute to the ongoing process of sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 development agenda, whose overarching objective is the eradication of extreme poverty. The panel discussions will also benefit from expertise and insights of relevant stakeholders including representatives of UN Agencies, civil society, academic practitioners and the private sector. The three panel discussions will focus on the following issues:

Panel discussion I: Nexus between sustainable development, peace and stability

The Millennium Declaration emphasizes the critical role of peace as fundamental for human well-being. Peace and stability are critical enablers of sustainable development and are inherent development outcomes. Peaceful and stable societies based on democratic governance, including the rule of law, benefit from higher levels of growth, more jobs, lower levels of poverty, higher rates of investment in sustainable development and more tools to address inequalities. In the same vein, sustainable development is a key foundation for peaceful and stable societies.

There are many ways in which sustainable development can positively contribute to peace and stability as well as a key ingredient for poverty eradication. Various forms of instability and lack of peace have demonstrated long-term, far reaching, and costly effects on sustainable development. Violence is a universal phenomenon, including against women and children and has devastating consequences for development. Societies affected by violence conflict are lagging behind on progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Aspects of sustainable development, including equitable access to social services, natural resource management and jobs, have impacts on the sustainability of peace.

The internal root causes of instability are also exacerbated by external stresses such as organized crime and illicit trade which could undermine the stability of different societies. This panel discussion seeks to explore the linkages between sustainable development, peace and stability. It will further deliberate on how to integrate these linkages into national development strategies and to ways to measure their progress effectively. Select questions will focus on:

- What has been the experience of Member States on integrating the links between sustainable development and peaceful societies into national development strategies and policies?
- How can the nexus between sustainable development and peace and stability best be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda?
- Given the universal importance of peace and stability for sustainable development, how can this issue best be framed in the post-2015 development agenda?
- How best to utilise the post-2015 agenda to address root causes of instability?

Panel discussion II: Strengthening national institutions towards achieving sustainable development

Institutions are critical for sustainable development. They (institutions) determine whether children have safe access to schools, whether natural resources are exploited in a sustainable manner and whether the benefits are shared fairly, whether conflicts are settled peacefully or whether the police and courts protect all people and provide effective service to all. At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), Member States reaffirmed “that “to achieve our sustainable development goals, we need institutions at all levels that are effective, transparent, accountable and democratic.” Through institutions, countries are establishing rule of law, maintaining peaceful societies and delivering public services. Institutions need to be effective, equitable, transparent and accountable and resilient to shocks. This Panel will examine concrete ideas to strengthen national institutions in support of achieving sustainable development. Focus will be on the following questions:

- What institutions can contribute to peaceful and stable societies in support of sustainable development?
- How could the importance of institutions best be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda?
- How can the international community support nationally-owned processes in order to strengthen national institutions?
- What measures are required to address external stressors such as illicit trafficking and organized crime that may undermine stability and peace?

Panel discussion III: Building Global partnership for ensuring stable and peaceful societies

Global partnerships are critical for supporting national and regional efforts to ensure stable and peaceful societies. Partnerships are also needed among governments and with international, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society and the private sector to strengthen domestic institutions that are suited for

specific contexts. Several external stressors can have negative effects on domestic conflicts, including spillovers from armed conflict in neighboring countries, illicit trafficking and organized crime, trafficking in arms, drugs, humans, or natural resources, as well as economic and financial shocks. These factors cannot be addressed successfully by a single country or only by governments. Global partnerships are therefore necessary to contain these negative factors and support efforts by countries to address them.

Sustained national, regional and global efforts are requirements for ensuring stable and peaceful societies. Yet if our world is to achieve global stability and sustainability, collective action and partnerships are critical including those with international organizations such as the UN, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society, and business sector. Steps to mitigate the challenges of weak national institutions and harmful effects of external stressors including organized crime, illicit trade in persons and illicit financial flows require the resolve of national governments. However, predictable and sustained supports and partnerships from international community form an integral part of this success.

This Panel discussion provides an opportunity to offer constructive proposals on how capacities and partnership required for building stable and peaceful societies for sustainable development. Focus will be on the following questions:

- What capacities and partnerships would be required for building peaceful and stable societies for sustainable development?
- How can global partnerships best support national efforts to ensure stable and peaceful societies?
- What additional efforts are needed to minimize the risk of external factors in fueling violent conflict?

Draft Programme
General Assembly Thematic Debate on “Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies”
24-25 April 2014, Trusteeship Council

24 April 2014

Time	<i>Morning</i>
10:00 – 10:30	<p>Opening Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. John Ashe, <i>President of the General Assembly</i> • H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, <i>United Nations Secretary-General</i> • Ms. Rosa Emilia Salamanca - <i>Cooperación de Investigación y Acción Social e Económica (CIASE)- Colombia</i>
10:30 – 13:00	<p>Panel Discussion: 1</p> <p><u>Topic: “Nexus between sustainable development, peace and stability”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: (UN Agency) Ms. Judy Cheng-Hopkins, <i>Assistant Secretary-General, Peacebuilding Support</i> • Panelist 1 (Member State) H.E. Mrs. Sofia Mesquita Borges, <i>Permanent Representative of Timor Leste to the UN</i> • Panelist 2 (UN Agency) Mr. Magdy Martinez-Soliman, <i>Deputy Assistant Administrator and Director a.i. for the Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP</i> • Panelist 3 (Civil Society) Mr. Rubem Cesar Fernandes, <i>Founder and Executive Director, Viva Rio, Brazil</i> • Panelist 4 (Academic) Ms. Clare Lockhart, <i>Director, Institute of State Effectiveness</i> • Panelist 5 (Academic) Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs, <i>Director of the Earth Institute at Colombia University via video link</i> • Discussant: Mr. Richard Smith, <i>ACTION Support Centre (tbc)</i>
	<i>Afternoon</i>
15:00 – 18:00	<p>Panel Discussion: 2</p> <p><u>Topic: “Strengthening national institutions towards achieving sustainable development”</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: (UN Agency) Mr. Yury Fedotov, <i>Executive Director of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</i> • Panelist 1 (Member State) H.E Ms. Maria Fernanda Espinosa, <i>Minister of National Defence of Ecuador</i> • Panelist 2 (Member State) Mr. Maciej Popowski, <i>Deputy Secretary General, European External Action Services</i> • Panelist 3 (UN Agency) Ms. Sarah Cliffe, <i>Assistant Secretary-General for United Nations Civilian Capacities)</i> • Panelist 4: (Civil Society) Mr. Shiva Hari Dahal, <i>National Peace Campaign</i> • Discussant: Ms. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, <i>FemLINKPACIFIC</i>

25 April 2014

Time	<i>Morning</i>
10:00 – 12:30	<p data-bbox="505 327 740 359">Panel Discussion: 3</p> <p data-bbox="505 369 1455 401"><u>Topic: “Building Global partnership for ensuring stable and peaceful societies”</u></p> <ul data-bbox="553 453 1463 905" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="553 453 1406 516">• Moderator: (Academic) Mr. David Steven, Senior Fellow and Associate Director, Centre on International Cooperation, New York University)<li data-bbox="553 520 1373 583">• Panelist 1 (Member State): H.E. Mr. Vandi Chidi Minah, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the UN<li data-bbox="553 588 1463 651">• Panelist 2 (International Financial Institution) Ms. Yongmei Zhou, Manager for Global Center for Conflict, Security and Development, World Bank<li data-bbox="553 655 1406 686">• Panelist 3 (Civil Society) Mr. Larry Attree, Head of Policy, Safer World<li data-bbox="553 690 1422 753">• Panelist 4 (Private Sector) Ms. Monica De Grieff, President, Chamber of Commerce of Bogota, Colombia<li data-bbox="553 758 1455 821">• Panelist 5 (Civil Society) Ms. Nagwa Gadahweldam, Global Partnership for Local Action<li data-bbox="553 825 1406 905">• Discussant: Ms. Yassmin Fouad Abdel Aziz, Arab Office for Youth and Environment
12:30 – 13:00	<p data-bbox="505 926 691 957">Closing Session</p> <ul data-bbox="553 968 1438 1031" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="553 968 1284 999">• Remarks by H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, <i>Deputy Secretary-General</i><li data-bbox="553 1003 1438 1031">• Closing remarks by H.E. Mr. John Ashe, <i>President of the General Assembly</i>

**Summary of the key messages of the General Assembly
Thematic Debate on “Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies”**

**24 – 25 April 2014
United Nations Headquarters, New York**

The following is a summary of the key messages that emerged from the General Assembly Thematic Debate on “Ensuring Stable and Peaceful Societies”:

Panel Discussion One: Nexus between sustainable development, peace and stability

1. The post-2015 framework must address the root causes of instability, conflict and violence in order to build sustainable peace. It must recognize that it is impossible to achieve sustainable development in the context of violence, threats to the rule of law from criminal enterprises, fragility and armed conflict. To achieve the goal of peace, global stability and sustainability, collective action and partnerships are critical including those with international organizations, such as the United Nations (UN), regional and sub- regional organizations, civil society, and the business sector.
2. The nature of violence and conflict is changing, with an increase in intra-state conflicts and a decrease in inter-state ones. Many pointed-out that violence is a global phenomenon, but its factors are becoming more complex and multidimensional. It is often political, economic and social challenges that drive political inequalities, civil rights exclusion, and injustices.
3. The link between the three pillars of the UN system, namely: peace and security, development and human rights remains more relevant today than ever before. In this context, a holistic approach should be developed to deal with this nexus. There cannot be peace without development or development without peace. Lasting respect for human rights cannot be achieved without peace and development.
4. The launching of the post-2015 agenda is a transformative moment that we should not miss. It (the post-2015 agenda) must address the modern needs, and the drivers of violence and war, such as inequalities, poverty, exclusion, corruption, environmental shocks and economic crises. The debate on the stable and peaceful societies is not and should not be focused on the securitization of development but on the humanization of security. Peace and good governance are development outcomes, as well as instrumental in addressing poverty and enabling sustainable development.
5. It was emphasized that there is a need to differentiate between stability and peace. Even if a country can perform well in achieving the MDGs, inequalities can persist due to weak rule of law and governance. International monitoring cannot and should not be tantamount to interference in internal affairs but needs to be advanced based national strategies. It is important to strive for universality but retain flexibility to respond to individual situations.
6. A people-centered approach to development will prove useful while emphasis should be placed on the participation of women in peace building and conflict prevention. Consideration should be given to reducing current military expenditure and channel it to education, health, and to programs to promote peace, especially policies that promote the inclusion of women and youth, as well as the protection of natural habitats. Furthermore,

the independence of justice systems and strengthening the capacity and governance at the local level will go a long way to help build trust and sustainable peace.

7. The discussion on the nexus between development and peace should not be misconstrued as an effort to redefine General Assembly Nations resolutions and/or undermine (encroach) on the work of UN bodies dealing with security. Instead, it was stressed that all relevant bodies need to work coherently for peace and stability, and not operate in silos.

Panel Discussion Two: Strengthening national institutions towards achieving sustainable development

8. The post-2015 development framework needs to be underpinned by national ownership and a solid monitoring mechanism. Responsive, transparent and strong institutions are also essential for overcoming poverty, as well as promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms. In order to combat transnational crime efficient, effective, accessible, accountable and non-corrupt law enforcement agencies are vital.
9. It was stressed that corruption is a threat to both good governance and good institutions. Many criminal justice systems fall short of protecting human rights and the whole of society, especially vulnerable populations. We need to examine how institutions can contribute to peaceful societies and how this could be reflected in the post-2015 development agenda, so the international community provides support to national institutions.
10. The global institutional framework needs to adapt to the new challenges of sustainable development. At the national level, sustainability needs to be a cross-cutting theme of development plans to combat poverty and build a culture of peace. It is crucial to promote mechanisms for accountability and citizen participation. The fifth power of the state is citizen participation and social inclusion. This is the experience of Ecuador.
11. Many recognised the need to strengthen institutions at a multilateral level and define the common interest based on equilibrium, curbing excessive private accumulation of wealth and misappropriation of resources. Security is not only about defence, but we need to invest in the rule of law, civilian policing and the justice sector. Countries need to prioritize integrated socio-economic approaches to development. Conflicts cannot be solved without promoting good institutions, security, justice and employment.
12. Peacebuilding and the reduction of violence, crime and drug trafficking are relevant to sustainable development as there are benefits of citizens having access to courts, getting to work and attending schools in safety. Violence, conflict and crime reverse efforts and gains in poverty reduction.
13. Taking a development approach to security instead of a security approach to development empowers developing countries to choose their own development priorities. It will enable them to mobilize resources for reliable and transparent judiciaries or public administration, as easily as for education and health.
14. External stressors on national stability, such as demand for trafficked goods in developed countries need to be addressed through consolidated regional and international efforts. Including security in the sustainable development agenda will enable countries to enhance their development path. The agenda should focus on national capacity building to cope with violence and crime, rather than on external requirements. Institutions are the mediators

between the citizen and the state and need to provide key public services. Democratic participation and the recognition of citizens' rights, including the right to protest, serve as conflict prevention.

15. There was broad agreement that the agenda needs to address root causes including economic and social inequalities. It also needs to strengthen cross regional cooperation for resolution of disputes and border security to decrease international stress that could incite violence.
16. Women's human rights and gender equality, women's participation in disarmament and redirecting military spending towards equitable social development were highlighted. Independent media, freedom of speech and availability of data from public and private sector ought to be promoted. Short-term development and peacekeeping results need to be anchored in society through long term capacity building. This requires planning and investment.
17. It was noted that there is an elaborate UN institutional framework on security and peacekeeping. Sustainable development is underfunded and no further resources should be diverted to duplicate existing structures. There is growing concern over the securitization of the development agenda leading to additional conditionality of ODA, especially for developing countries.
18. The Sustainable Development Goals will form the core of the post-2015 development agenda. The mandate was derived from Rio+20 and this template consists of three pillars, without a fourth security pillar. The democratic deficit of the UN system and international organisations needs to be addressed to give developing countries a more effective voice.

Panel Discussion Three: Global partnership for ensuring stable and peaceful societies

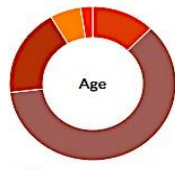
19. Many recognised the need to move from the traditional reactive approach and rising military spending towards a constructive, preventive, inclusive and developmental approach to stability and peaceful societies. Peace and stability without inclusive economic prosperity and development will remain difficult to achieve and maintain.
20. A new development paradigm is emerging, and this paradigm will require a new toolkit for it to be successful. One of the important decisions of the Rio+20 Conference was to stress the universality of the future development goals. This universality should mean that each country can gain but also contribute to the renewed global partnership needed to achieve these new development goals.
21. Collective action and partnerships are critical for ensuring stable and peaceful societies and sustainable development both at the national and international level, with international organizations such as the UN, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society, and business sector.
22. Partnerships need to be mutually beneficial to all actors involved, and take a people-centred approach in all actions. Value of true ownership and coherence of international support cannot be stressed enough. Chronic instability reduces the possibilities of individuals to reach their full potential and thereby hinders poverty eradication and sustainable development. Effectiveness of traditional development assistance has been considerably

weaker in countries affected by conflict. New partnerships need to provide tailored, country-specific hands on support to countries. They need to help countries to tackle root causes such as land conflict, corruption, weakness of security capacity and governance among others.

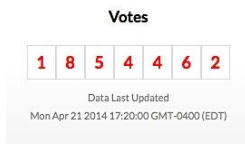
23. Development partnerships need to support national institutional building and governance in order to support countries themselves to provide employment and inclusive prosperity to their citizens. Open, participatory governance and inclusive partnerships require involvement of all actors also at the grass-root level. Partnerships should foster civil society engagement and build citizens capacity to meaningfully participate in processes relating to their everyday life.
24. Private sector can both advance and hinder the achievement of stable and peaceful societies. Enterprises can provide decent employment and economic opportunities to local citizens and abide by rule of law thereby strengthening stability of conflict-ridden areas, but they can also hinder progress through violations of human rights, detrimental environmental practices and corruption.
25. Without commitments to address external stressors that fuel violent conflict, development and peace prospects will be undermined. Stressors such as trafficking in arms, drugs, humans, or natural resources, organized crime, illicit financial flows and spill-overs from armed conflict in neighbouring countries need to be tackled.
26. Overall, it was recognised that through collective resolve, the international community can design an ambitious post-2015 agenda that truly leaves no one behind and that supports all societies, including those grappling with conflicts and instability, in their efforts to build a peaceful, sustainable and prosperous future for all. In this context, concrete targets on these issues could be considered as a universal way of taking joint responsibility of global peace and stability.



Male (1,010,947)
Female (823,455)



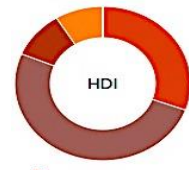
≤15 (225,000)
16 - 30 (1,113,066)
31 - 45 (338,700)
46 - 60 (109,675)
≥61 (42,471)



Votes
1 8 5 4 4 6 2
Data Last Updated
Mon Apr 21 2014 17:20:00 GMT-0400 (EDT)



Unknown (43,053)
Some Prim. (205,372)
Finished Prim. (342,835)
Finished Sec. (404,698)
Beyond Sec. (858,504)

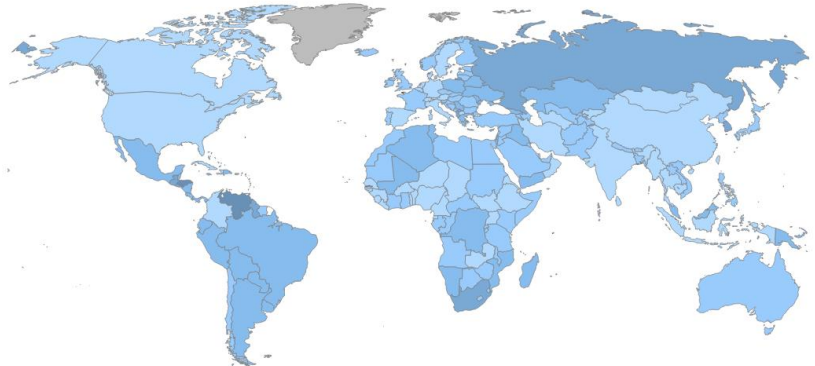


Low (566,340)
Medium (938,447)
High (183,107)
Very High (162,274)
N/A (748)

MY World Global Results

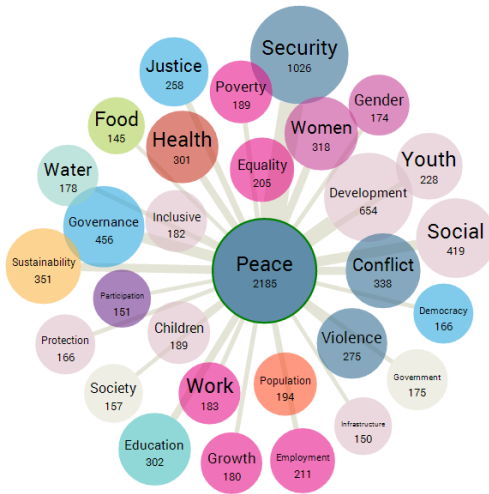
- A good education
- Better healthcare
- An honest and responsive government
- Better job opportunities
- Access to clean water and sanitation
- Affordable and nutritious food
- Protection against crime and violence
- Freedom from discrimination and persecution
- Support for people who can't work
- Protecting forests, rivers and oceans
- Better transport and roads
- Equality between men and women
- Political freedoms
- Phone and internet access
- Reliable energy at home
- Action taken on climate change

Heat Map for votes on "Protection against crime and violence"

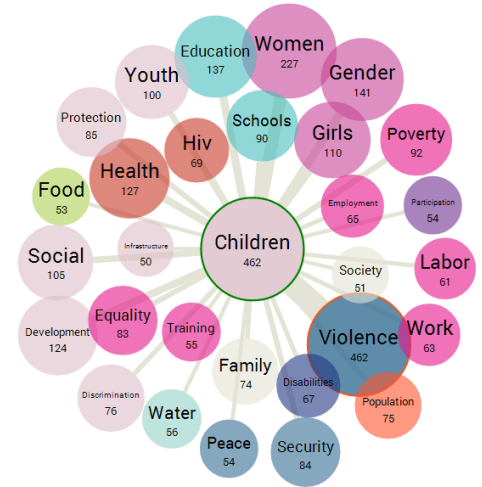


Percentage of people who voted for selected issue. ■ Protection against crime and violence
1 - 10 11 - 20 21 - 30 31 - 40 41 - 50 51 - 60 61 - 70 71 - 80 81 - 90 91 - 100

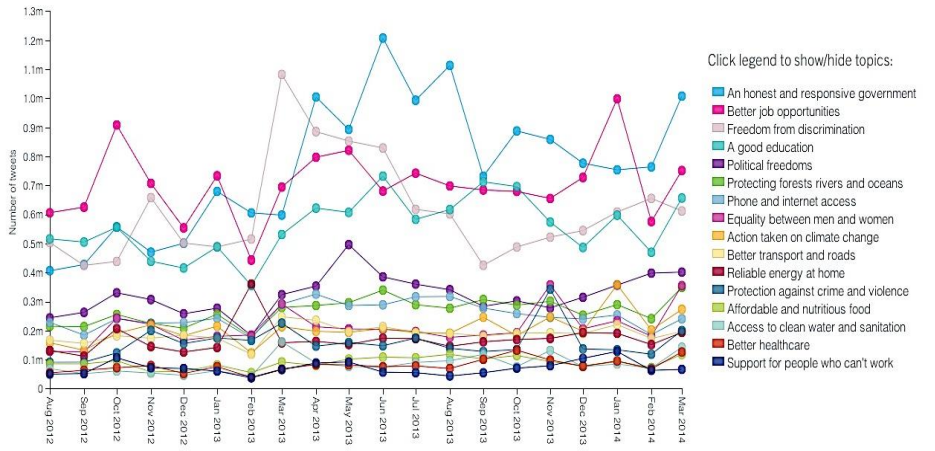
The Global Conversation shows consistency with MY World results. The connecting lines show the relationship between the most mentioned topics. A strong connection between Peace and Security and Children, Women and Poverty is seen.



The Global Conversation shows a very strong relationship between children and violence. This trend is also confirmed by 6,500 MY World Interviews to children ages 10-18 by Child Fund Alliance, where "Protection against crime and violence" ranked 2nd.



The Global Twitter Conversation shows a real-time breakdown of online twitter activity. The database examines real-time twitter posts and presents the results against the sixteen MY World priorities, showing what topics the people are "talking" about now.



Click legend to show/hide topics:

- An honest and responsive government
- Better job opportunities
- Freedom from discrimination
- A good education
- Political freedoms
- Protecting forests rivers and oceans
- Phone and internet access
- Equality between men and women
- Action taken on climate change
- Better transport and roads
- Reliable energy at home
- Protection against crime and violence
- Affordable and nutritious food
- Access to clean water and sanitation
- Better healthcare
- Support for people who can't work

*For more information please visit worldwewant2015.org/trends