

EGM to support the advancement of the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

Sessions I to III (27 February 2012)

Zero draft main messages

Session I: *Overview of lessons from the MDGs to a post-2015 UN development agenda*

(Monday, 27 February, 9:40 – 11:30 am)

Main messages:

- At the global level, the current MDGs have many strengths and weaknesses:
 - among the many strengths : they are global, limited in number;
 - the goals, targets and indicators are also clear and easy to communicate. This has helped them to attain a high level of visibility
 - among the weaknesses : there was insufficient consultation in their formulation. Important issues were left out, such as peace and security, governance and human rights. Some issues were not adequately incorporated, such as sustainable development, employment and inequality.
- At the regional level, there has been a growing regionalism throughout the world, often driven by issues, such as trade, rather than institutions. This regionalism has been accompanied by more regional integration and partnerships. The post-2015 development framework should be sensitive to the growing regionalism, regional specificities and regional frameworks and processes.
- At the country level, the MDGs have changed the perspective of national governments and proved to be a useful tool for awareness and advocacy, monitoring and reporting, MDG needs assessments and costing, and integration into national strategies and policies.
- The implementation of the MDGs resulted in increased national statistical capacities and increased coordination within national statistical systems. The inclusion of national statistical offices and the continued increase in statistical capacity and productivity must be part of the post-2015 development agenda process.
- The global economy is dominated by imbalances, such as too much power by the financial sector and increased income inequality which inhibit development progress. Demographic trends and environmental challenges are also risk sources.
- While the MDGs focus on the goals and outcomes, we also need to look at the process of how we get there. Human rights must have a central place in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda. It should not be treated as an “add-on” issue. Economic and social rights and participation rights are particularly important in this context.

The discussion also highlighted several cross-cutting issues:

- Today we are living in a world marked by globalization and interdependence. While formulating a post-2015 development agenda, it is important to look for constructs that lend themselves to looking across sectors to see how they are interconnected and to examine linkages. Examples include ecosystems and value chains.
- Development goals must become more balanced than the MDGs. There is a need to put greater emphasis on issues such as production and the productive sector; human rights, population dynamics, fragile states, governance and agriculture.
- It is important that the post-2015 process be consultative, participatory, open and transparent. It is also important that the consultations directly reflect the voices of people who are affected by issues such as poverty. To this end, national governments of about 40 to 50 countries will be conducting national consultations assisted by UNDP.
- There is a need for an emphasis on the responsibility and obligation of national governments to reduce poverty, no matter what the circumstances or unforeseen events.

Session II: *The role of a global development agenda vis-à-vis national development processes*

(Monday, 27 February, 11:30 am – 1:00pm)

Main messages:

- The global development agenda should not be donor driven – external finances cannot be a substitute for domestic resources.
- The global development agenda should serve as a framework and must enlarge national development strategies (and increase their policy space).

Session III: *New rationales for the measurement of development outcomes and processes in response to emerging global challenges*

(Monday, 27 February, 2:30 – 5:00pm)

Main messages from Session III:

- **The post-2015 agenda should not exclude relevant issues that are not easily measurable.** We need to apply the new thinking about development and its measurement to new/emerging or seemingly complex issues.
- **Growth, good governance and grants/aid (the “3 Gs”), while necessary, have proven insufficient to ensure progress towards the MDGs.** The post-2015 agenda

should be based on a broader paradigm, beyond the “3 Gs”, so as to ensure that growth is inclusive, equitable and sustainable and governance is truly participatory. The time is “ripe” for a rethinking of the development paradigm.

- Without being prescriptive, **the new agenda should also include general guiding principles on the means of implementation** (taking into account that national realities are diverse and therefore “one size does not fit all”).
- **The international community should seek broad agreement on the contents of the agenda (i.e., the issues) before going into a definition of goals.**
- **The Millennium Declaration still constitutes a valid general framework.** In defining the contents of the post-2015 agenda, we should go back to the Declaration to reconsider issues that were not integrated into the MDG agenda.