

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

Session III (27 February 2012 – 2:30 – 5 pm)

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

Summary

Nature of the global partnership for development

- Growth, good governance and grants/aid (the 3 “Gs”) have proven insufficient to ensure progress towards the MDGs. There is a need —and a good opportunity—for a broader paradigm, one that goes beyond the “3 Gs” to ensure that growth is inclusive, equitable and sustainable, and that governance is participatory;
- this new, broader paradigm should enable developing countries to increase their policy space to allow them to implement macroeconomic policies oriented towards employment growth and economic stability;
- the paradigm also calls for an improved global financial governance system and increased policy coherence at both the national and international levels. Without being prescriptive, the new development agenda should include general guiding principles on the process, focusing on policy coherence without becoming a policy dictate, taking into account that national realities are diverse and therefore “no one size fits all”.
- The post-2015 agenda should not be a limited development agenda for developing countries only, but should become a global contract for all partners, with targets for developing as well as developed countries so as to better reflect the responsibility of all countries in a global, interconnected world, as well as the global nature of the issues addressed.

Contents and format of the development agenda

- The post-2015 agenda should not exclude relevant issues that are not easily measurable, such as the impact of climate change, the provision of decent work or quality of life. The key question is how to apply new thinking on the analysis of emerging or seemingly complex issues while maintaining a simple and transparent agenda with clear mechanisms for accountability.
- Emphasis on measuring, however, should not lead to an excessive focus on short-term results to the detriment of more structural, longer-term processes.
- Monitoring and evaluation frameworks should take into account linkages across different goals and targets. They should also be designed to encourage flexibility (namely to redress course when required), while retaining the urgency that drives action.
- Targets and indicators should be sought for processes that, while contributing to ultimate goals, are also desirable in and for themselves (such as employment or

participation). Such targets and indicators should not be donor-driven, but should be set as part of a participatory process.

Emerging/pressing global development challenges

- Inequalities are among the most pressing global development challenges and should be mainstreamed in the formulation of goals and targets, giving more weight to progress among the poor and across specific population groups. Consideration should be given to incorporating economic policy goals and targets to ensure that policies are pro-poor and do not contribute to increasing inequalities. The human rights framework (on which Governments must report regularly) would provide effective means to monitor inequalities.
- Although the MDG framework contains an employment target, participants agreed that too little coordinated effort has been undertaken to meet it. The post-2015 agenda should develop a more effective approach to address the lack of productive employment and decent work, and should include more and better employment indicators.
- Challenges such as population growth, increasing migration, aging, climate change and others have an effect on health and sanitation services and consequently on people's health. Therefore, health indicators are also indicators of progress towards sustainable development.