

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

Session VI, part one (29 February, 2012)

Alternative ways in which emerging challenges can be formally addressed in a post-2015 development agenda

Session VI drew attention to a range of issues that should be addressed in a post-2015 development agenda, specifically: macroeconomic stability, decent work, food security, inequality, governance, gender, human rights, demographic dynamics, urbanization, peace and security, natural disasters, science and technology and countries with special needs. All issues presented were considered important development concerns. The participants presented substantial evidence and discussed how these issues might be integrated in a post-2015 development framework. Below are some of the major points from the discussion:

- **Inequalities** and **gender** should be mainstreamed in all goals. Particular attention should be paid to four dimensions of inequality: wealth, gender, location and rural/urban divide.
- **Demographic dynamics**, such as population ageing, internal and international migration, and urbanization should also be integrated as cross-cutting dimensions in the post-2015 development agenda.
- **Indicators** that are disaggregated will be necessary to draw attention to the status of specific groups and sub-national patterns of development. There is need to strengthen national systems of data collection and improve international systems for data aggregation and standardization.
- The language of **human rights** should be used to frame the goals drawing on established instruments. Possibly, the goals themselves should be selected based on human rights priorities.
- The patterns of **economic growth** matter. Macroeconomic policy must create the conditions for **stable and inclusive economic growth** to reduce poverty and inequalities. Growing interdependence requires greater macroeconomic policy coordination across countries.
- A policy portfolio of infrastructure investment, micro-finance, social protection and other approaches should be suggested within an indicative global framework to promote **decent work**. Voice and national policy coherence are important enabling conditions.
- Price stability is key to **food security**. A global agenda should encourage market transparency, investment in national food systems, household wealth creation,

empowerment of women, knowledge and skills development to manage risks and increase resiliency to shocks.

- Human development is concerned with opportunities and choices as much as distribution of outcomes. **Governance** norms must reflect principles of inclusion and participation, and promote transparent, accountable, capable institutions at national and local levels.
- Building **resilience** of vulnerable population groups, especially in the LDCs, and capacity building for resilience should be recognized. Need to strengthen mechanisms to reduce risks from potential disasters and vulnerabilities to external shocks should be recognized.
- **Science and technology** have been the most powerful source of development in the world, and it should be recognized as an important enabling factor. Need for South-South cooperation in technology transfer and development planning was highlighted.
- Considerations for **peace and security** should be incorporated in development planning. Freedom from violence is an important development challenge, especially in conflict-affected areas.
- **Policy coherence** both within and across sectors is important, but it was not entirely clear how to make policy coherence at the national and international levels operational. Linked-up government and governance systems that promote inclusion are needed.
- Country context matters for most development issues. The post-2015 development agenda must be flexible, allowing for national and sub-national **policy space**.
- **Voices from the local and country level** must feed into the process of arriving at the global agenda. National ownership and accountability should be emphasized.
- **Structural transformation** should be guided by advice on means. Greater attention to intermediate processes.
- The **roles of the State and the private sector** in development deserve attention.