ESCWA's Role in the Post-2015 Process

Global level: *ESCWA provided inputs to the*

- UNTT Report to SG: "Realizing the Future We Want for All"
- HLP Report to the SG: "A New Global Partnership"

Inter-regional level: *ESCWA reflected the Arab regional perspective in the*

- Joint RCs Report: "A Regional Perspective on the Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda"

Arab Regional Level: *ESCWA led regional consultations during the*

- 17th and 18th meetings of the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM) for Arab States
- Regional consultative meeting with Arab CSOs
- Rio+20 Arab Regional Implementation Meeting

UNTT Report Key Messages

- Proposes a future vision based on the core values of human rights, equality and sustainability.

- Suggests the format to be based on goals and targets (like the MDGs) that are reorganized along four central pillars:

Inclusive economic development	Inclusive social development	Environmental sustainability	Peace and security

HLP Report Key Messages

- Five key messages:

1 Leave no one behind	2 Put sustainable development at the core	3 Transform economies for jobs & inclusive growth	4 Build peace & effective, open & accountable institutions for all	5 Forge a new global partnership

- 12 global goals, as well as several (national) targets within those goals:

1. End poverty	2. Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality	3. Provide quality education and lifelong learning	4. Ensure healthy lives
5. Ensure food security and good nutrition	6. Achieve universal access to water and sanitation	7. Secure sustainable energy	8. Create jobs, sustainable livelihoods, and equitable growth
9. Manage natural resource assets sustainably	10. Ensure good governance and effective institutions	11. Ensure stable and peaceful societies	12. Create a global enabling environment and catalyze long-term finance

- Highlights the need to adapt global goals to regional and national ones

- Assesses progress achieved in MDGs

- Identifies key messages to inform global debate

- Calls for a nuanced approach that addresses regional specificities within the global development agenda.

The Joint RCs Report: Priorities for the Arab Region

Economic sustainability	Social sustainability	Environmental sustainability	Governance & institutions
Inclusive growth and diversification	Education	Climate change	Democracy and the rule of law
Adequate mapping and reduction of poverty	Health	Water and food security	Effective institutions
Employment, especially youth and women	Gender equality and women's empowerment	Desertification	Rights and freedoms
Trade, investment and technology	Social protection	Urbanization	Conflict resolution and self-determination
Regional cooperation and integration	Social justice		Global and regional governance

Source: ESCWA et al, A Regional Perspective On The Post-2015 United Nations Development Agenda, under publishing, Table 11, page 58

The Joint RCs Report: Global messages

Placing employment generation at the centre of the post-2015 agenda

More effective approaches to tackle inequality

A more comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability

The effective incorporation of democratic governance into the post-2015 debate
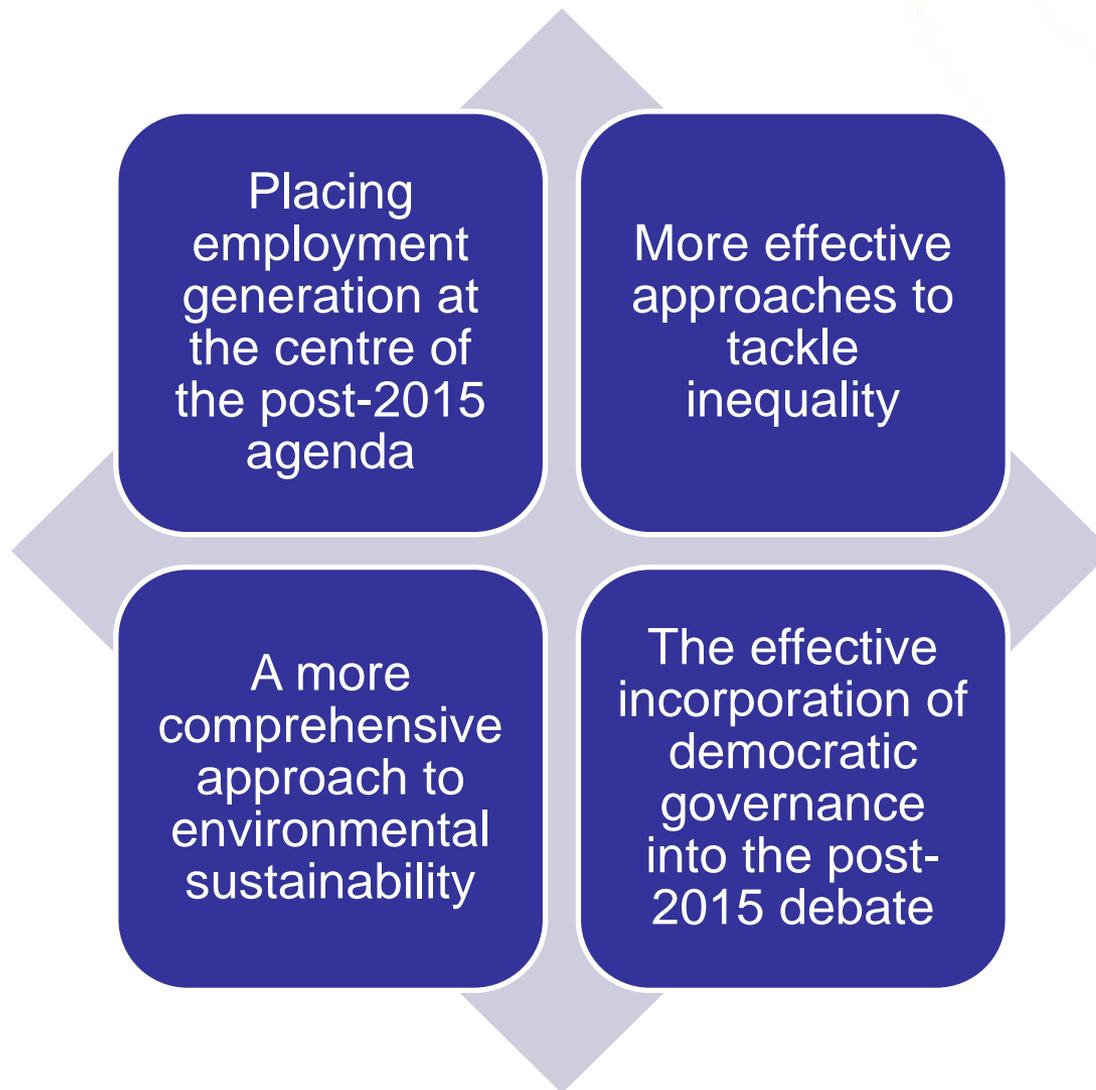
- Emphasized the centrality of issues of dignity, justice, equality and good governance.

- Called on ESCWA to coordinate with LAS to ensure coherence between different initiatives on the Post-2015

CSO Declaration: Key Messages

• Acknowledged the need to build a ***participatory platform*** for the regional development agenda, in light of increased demands by citizens for social justice and greater participation
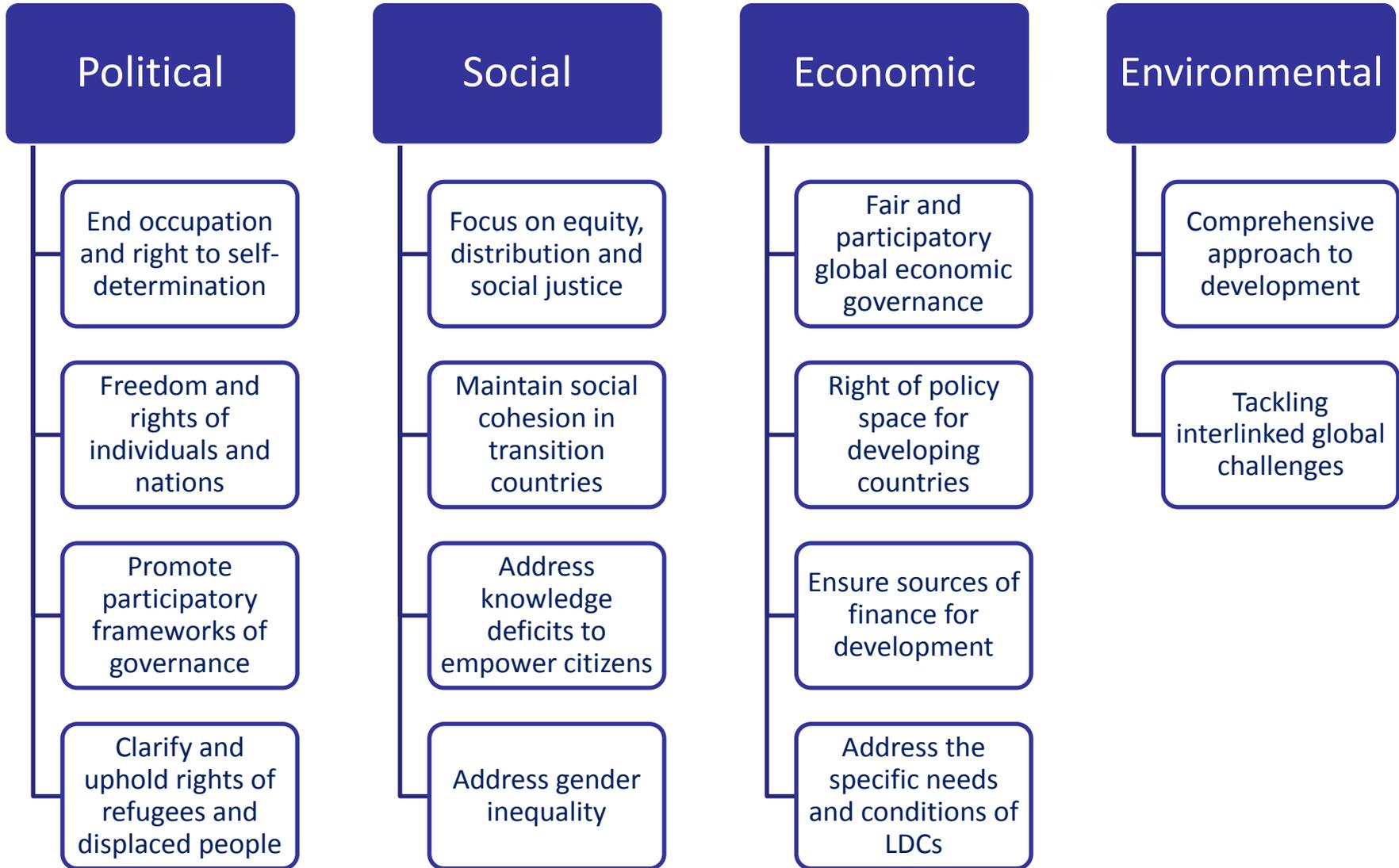
Conceptual framework for a post 2015 Agenda

- Based on the main principles of the Millennium Declaration, provides qualitative analysis, and strengthened means of implementation
- Citizen-centered development paradigm that respects political, social, cultural, environmental and economic rights; end all forms of exclusion; and ensures equity and social justice
- A social contract that promotes participation and fair redistribution of wealth; generates decent jobs and provides all the necessary public services with good quality

Framework's structure

- To address national priorities, protection of basic rights and inequalities, and provide structural flexibility at the national level
- Capture national, regional and international linkages and capitalize on them
- Promote and enhance efforts leading to increased regional cooperation and coordination
- Be grounded in the intergovernmental processes and mechanisms of monitoring and accountability of the existing international human rights instruments

CSO Declaration: Key Messages

Political
- End occupation and right to self-determination
- Freedom and rights of individuals and nations
- Promote participatory frameworks of governance
- Clarify and uphold rights of refugees and displaced people

Social
- Focus on equity, distribution and social justice
- Maintain social cohesion in transition countries
- Address knowledge deficits to empower citizens
- Address gender inequality

Economic
- Fair and participatory global economic governance
- Right of policy space for developing countries
- Ensure sources of finance for development
- Address the specific needs and conditions of LDCs

Environmental
- Comprehensive approach to development
- Tackling interlinked global challenges

Arab RIM: Key Messages

- The RIM outcome document :
  - Reaffirms the Arab region's commitment to sustainable development
  - Highlights key regional messages to convey to the international community
  - Outlines the Arab regional priorities for implementation of SD

Key messages of the outcome document:

- Strong global institutional framework for SD is needed
- SDGs must take into account the Rio principles, especially the ***principle of common but differentiated responsibilities***, with the provision of the means of implementation needed to achieve them
- Target a balanced set of SDGs that address key regional challenges such as peace and security and the sectors of food, energy, water and drought/desertification
- Application of the green economy concept in line with national priorities
- Committing to the Sustainable Development Initiative in the Arab Region
- Acknowledgement of the effective role of ESCWA and its regional partners and call for continued efforts in this regard

MDGs Approach Shortcomings

- Not adequately incorporating important concepts contained in the Millennium Declaration

- Inadequate consultation with the representatives of developing countries.

- Insufficient attention to the importance of different initial levels of human development across countries and regions

- Insufficient priority accorded to the "enablers of development".

Focus on the outcomes of development, as opposed to the means to achieve those outcomes!

MDGs Framework Shortcomings

- Lack of clarity "on how to tailor global targets to national realities and regional dynamics"

- Insufficient attention to the conditions of vulnerable groups

- Does not address the qualitative dimensions of service provision, such as health and education

- Implementation problems: including disregard to national specific conditions.

- Weaknesses in achieving an effective global partnership for development.

These shortcomings raise important questions about how to frame a post-2015 development agenda!

Introducing a regional dimension

- A revised approach to align global development goals and targets with regional and national development challenges , trends and priorities

- Place responsibility on both developed and developing countries for the attainment of human development at the global level

- A strong regional dimension to keep pace with changing regional socioeconomic and political dynamics: *Region-specific developmental challenges require, to some degree, regional solutions*

- A continuous 'bottom-up' approach through regional conduits: *Sensitize and transmit the concerns and aspirations of those mostly affected and propose necessary adjustments*

Thank You

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