



DELIVERING THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA OPPORTUNITIES AT THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL LEVELS

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FOREWORD



Closing ceremony of the second round of post-2015 national consultations was held at ADA University in Baku, Azerbaijan (Photo: UNDP Azerbaijan)

With their clear and simple call to tackle poverty, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have helped to mobilize resources and concentrate action around the world. Now, the UN development system is helping countries to accelerate progress on the MDGs in the time remaining to 31 December 2015, while also looking ahead to the global development agenda which will succeed them.

Lessons learned from the MDG experience are relevant as the new agenda is constructed. One lesson was about the need to include a broad range of stakeholders in its design. Thus, in the past two years, the UN development system has facilitated an unprecedented outreach effort to people all over the world, and reached out to those not usually consulted in international processes. To date, nearly 5 million people have expressed their priorities for the future.

The "Global Conversation" on what the new agenda should include enabled people to express their priorities, and showed how much we have in common in our hopes and aspirations. People in all countries have called for an agenda that is more consistent with the realization of their human rights, and which reflects the day to day reality of their lives.

UN Member States have listened to these voices as they worked on the design of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Open Working Group proposes a universal agenda to eradicate poverty and shift the world onto a sustainable development path. It includes goals on poverty reduction, education, health, and tackling the unfinished business of the MDGs overall. Goals on the environment, inequalities, and peaceful and inclusive societies feature prominently.

The Open Working Group has also emphasized the means of implementation, and proposed a stand-alone goal for that and specific targets under each of the other goals. A global agenda for development needs to be implementable. Over the next year Member States will continue to discuss the contribution of development finance, trade, and developing and sharing technologies to implementation. The UN's work with governments at country level is highlighting the importance of local opportunities and challenges to sustainable human development.

The dialogues recorded in this report explore the local and national side of 'how' the post-2015 agenda can be implemented. They consider the importance of capacities and institutions, monitoring and accountability, localizing the agenda and making it fit for context, the role of culture as a mediator of development processes, and partnerships with civil society and the private sector. As such, they contain important messages for governments to consider in their continued efforts to reach agreement on post-2015.

The main message of the dialogues and of this report is that, irrespective of income status or region, the implementation of the new agenda will depend on actions taken at national and local levels. It is there that attention will need to be focused and investments made, if we are to make the transformative shifts which advancing human and sustainable development requires.

Helen Clarg

Helen Clark Chair of the United Nations Development Group

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