



A MILLION VOICES: THE WORLD WE WANT

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE WITH DIGNITY FOR ALL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

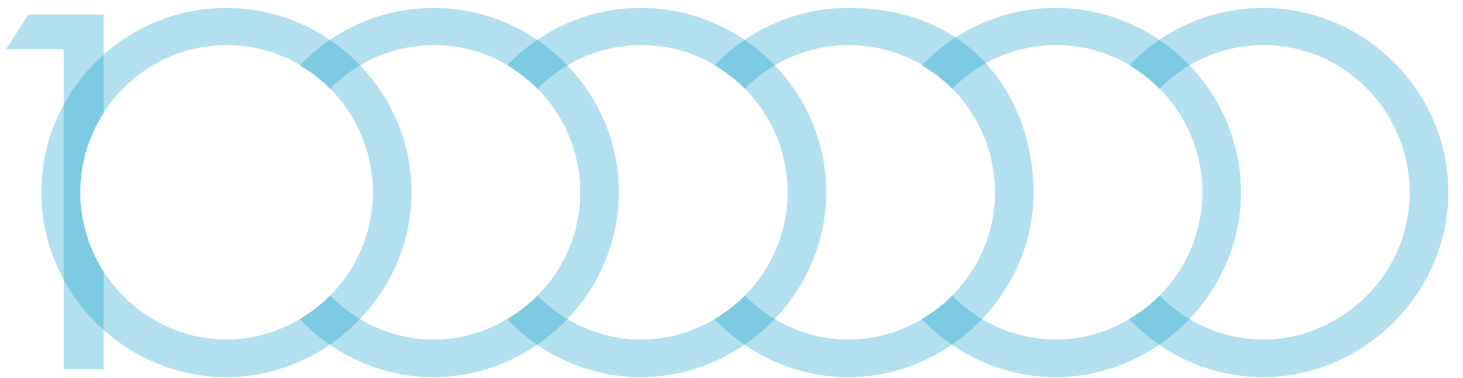
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UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT GROUP



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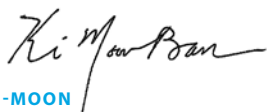
A group discussion session in Zè (Photo: PNUD Benin/ Raphaëla Karlen)

FOREWORD

As the world approaches 2015, the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, a process of reflection has begun on the future of global development. The definition of the 'post-2015 agenda' is a chance to usher in a new era in international development – one that can eradicate extreme poverty and lead to a world of prosperity, peace, sustainability, equity and dignity for all. Collectively, we need to grasp this historic opportunity to transform our economies and societies.

This report synthesizes the results of an unprecedented global consultation led by the United Nations that has involved more than 1 million people across all countries and from all backgrounds. A special effort was made to reach out to the poor, the marginalized and others whose voices are not usually heard. Modern communications technology, the mobilization of UN agencies and the exceptional enthusiasm of countless volunteers made this unique endeavour possible. Through this exercise, the United Nations was determined to tap into the spirit of the first words of its founding Charter: "We the Peoples".

The consultation sent a clear message. While the post-2015 agenda should and will be determined by governments, people across the world are demanding a say in the decisions that affect their lives. Civil society, the private sector, young boys and girls, women, people with disabilities and indigenous groups must feel empowered by the future framework so that it is fully legitimate and, most of all, so that it can be implemented and monitored. Reaching a unanimous agreement that carries the same simplicity, strength and power as the MDG framework and responds to the challenge of sustainable development is a formidable challenge. The UN system will continue to support the negotiations and bring the voices of the people to the table. These yearnings and expectations cannot be ignored. They articulate the world that people want.



BAN KI-MOON

Secretary-General, United Nations



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (centre) meets with volunteers of 'MY World', a UN-led global survey of people's priorities for a better world. The results of the survey will be shared with international leaders in setting the next global development agenda (Photo: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe)

PREFACE

The consultations on the post-2015 development agenda facilitated by the UN Development Group (UNDG) have been a fascinating and humbling exercise. We have been continually inspired by the enthusiasm and energy these consultations have unleashed. Reaching more than 1 million people has exceeded our initial expectations. In the spirit of the Millennium Declaration, and building on the experience of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), people from all countries and from all backgrounds clearly want to have a say in their future. The rich and extensive information collected through this consultation process will be invaluable for designing the post-2015 development agenda.

The consultations have revealed the continuing indignity of poverty, inequality, injustice and insecurity.

Ending income poverty and hunger, achieving full gender equality and improving health services and access to education for every child remain foremost in people's priorities, and they want these issues to continue to be directly addressed in the future agenda.

At the same time, the consultations have revealed the need to learn from and build on the existing goals. For example, there is a demand coming from the ground for a

greater emphasis on the quality of basic services — not just access. It is not just the number of children in schools that matter, but what they are able to learn. And increasing women's participation in national governments is only the first step towards enabling women to have an equal say in decision-making at every level.

There are also calls for a truly transformative agenda to tackle the challenges that were not addressed in the MDGs, as well as those that are now becoming critical. Many of these issues were addressed in the Millennium Declaration: inclusive growth and decent jobs, governance, peace and security, freedom from violence, and environmental sustainability. People are demanding a universal agenda that tackles challenges both for people and for the planet. Equality and non-discrimination also stood out as a key message: people are demanding justice, participation and dignity. There is no progress if people are left behind.

Finally, people want to continue to have a say, to make sure their input is taken into account in the future framework, monitor in real time the progress made in their countries, and hold their

governments accountable for delivery. As part of this, they are demanding a data revolution, through increased access to updated, more reliable and disaggregated information. In short, they want to continue the dynamic of engagement triggered by the consultations. The phenomenal engagement and participation we've seen in these consultations could well be the start of social accountability for the next development agenda.

These results have been achieved by an exceptional collaboration between all UNDG agencies and beyond, working 'as one' both at headquarters and at field level, for the same common purpose. Our thanks go to all the Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams, to all the UN agencies involved at global, regional and country levels, to all members of the UNDG MDG Taskforce for their very active engagement and to all those who helped make this unprecedented endeavour possible. Special thanks are also due to the drafting team for pulling together the incredibly rich material from the consultations to help shape the new development agenda and ensure that it fully reflects the future people want.



JOHN HENDRA

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KEY MESSAGES

This report collects the perspectives on the ‘world we want’ from over 1 million people around the globe. For almost one year, people have engaged energetically in 88 national consultations, 11 thematic consultations, and through the MY World global survey. First and foremost this shows the tremendous appetite that exists in all countries for people to play a role in shaping and changing their world.

The findings of this global conversation contain important messages for governments as they seek to agree on a new development agenda that can build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

People have clearly said that the fundamental areas covered by the MDGs – education, health, water and sanitation, and gender equality – remain critically important, and not only for people living in poorer countries. The first job of any new development framework must be to finish the unfinished business of the MDGs.

At the same time, there is a call to strengthen ambition and urgency so as to reach the remainder of the world’s people who are still living with many unacceptable expressions of poverty. The world has the resources and technology to eradicate poverty and

International Day of Human Rights in Quito, Ecuador
(Photo: Maria José Guevara, UNV)

hunger. And one preventable death of a child is one death too many.

Then there are also calls to go beyond quantitative targets that only aim to increase access. For instance, people want access to a good-quality education throughout their lives, as well as to comprehensive and better health care.

The calls of a million voices do not stop there. People are indignant at the injustice they feel because of growing inequalities and insecurities. They feel that the benefits of economic growth are distributed unequally, and so demand decent jobs and livelihoods. They want their governments to do a better job in representing them – delivering key services, encouraging growth while regulating markets, and preventing insecurities associated with compromising the planet and the well being of future generations. They want to improve their lives and those of their families and ask that governments create opportunities for their full and equal participation in decisions that affect them. And they want to live without fear of violence or conflict. They ask that these issues be part of a new development agenda.

Inequalities and social exclusion exist particularly for poorer people, women and girls, those in rural areas and urban slums, people living with disabilities, indigenous people, migrants and displaced people, and others who are marginalized for reasons related to religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation. The insecurities they face compound each other: for instance, the lack of a decent job can leave people without access to health services and living in conditions that are unsafe.

In addition, people have said emphatically that the challenges – and indeed opportunities – they face are complex and interlinked. Access to affordable and

nutritious food is linked to land degradation and the availability of water. Fetching water or fuel can expose people to crime and violence, and unsafe energy sources can cause deaths from toxic smoke. People find it more difficult to access services, have equal opportunities or benefit from the wealth of their country's natural resources when institutions are weak or corrupt. This points to the need to go beyond a silo approach and arrive at a future sustainable development agenda that is more integrated and holistic.

People demand that this new agenda be built on human rights, and universal values of equality, justice and security. Better governance, of markets and of the environment, underpins many of their calls. Because our world is now linked inextricably through the global economy, our common environment and our ability to instantly share ideas, they emphasize the need for a universal agenda that applies to all countries and all people.

There is also a strong call to retain the focus on concrete, measurable goals, yet improve dramatically the way we measure progress against them. This requires a significant upgrading of the information we have available to us, through public statistics systems as well as new forms of data. Enhanced and disaggregated data will allow us to track gains for all groups of people, to help ensure that no one is left behind.

Finally, a data revolution will support an accountability revolution. The consultations have opened doors for continued participation – not just in this process to determine the world's priorities, but also to hold governments, business, international organizations and civil society to account for achieving them. Greater commitment, stronger action, enhanced resources and better partnerships will be required to deliver the 'world we want'.



1 | WHAT ARE THE CONSULTATIONS TELLING US?

THE STORY SO FAR: UNPRECEDENTED ENGAGEMENT IN SHAPING THE POST-2015 AGENDA

This report captures the results of an unprecedented global conversation on the vision for the post-2015 development framework, involving more than 1 million people from all around the world. In 2012, members of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG)¹ responded to the Secretary-General's call for an open and inclusive process to shape this vision and bring the voices of individuals and civil society into the conversation. We have cast the net wide and tried to be as inclusive as possible, recognizing that processes will be different in each country. Many countries made special efforts to reach out to marginalized and disadvantaged groups of all ages and nationalities: voices that have so far been

Marathon world record holder Patrick Makau and schoolchildren stage a march in Nairobi having voted on MY World and calling for safer roads (Photo: Zenani Mandela campaign 2013)

In addition to the 88 national consultations in the South, multi-stakeholder consultations around the post-2015 agenda are also happening in many 'developed' countries such as [Canada](#), [Denmark](#), [France](#), [Germany](#), [Italy](#), [Japan](#), [the Netherlands](#), [Spain](#), [Switzerland](#), [the United Kingdom](#) and [the European Union](#).

The findings are often in line with the consultations in developing countries. People have similar worries and aspirations — for example, around education and health — and believe that global issues affect their lives and those of their children.

In these national dialogues, peoples are calling on their governments to do their utmost to contribute to the achievement of the MDGs by 2015, but at the same time they are pushing for a strong and legitimate successor framework that combines development and sustainability. The common plea is for universal goals which contribute to human dignity and human rights. They want a just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person can fulfil their potential and live free from poverty.

To reach a new post-2015 framework, the consultations emphasize the importance of starting with a true common vision on the future of our planet, and underline that development can only be achieved through the joint efforts of all.

In the words of a Spanish NGO representative: "We have to think GLOBALLY but also act GLOBALLY."

poorly or under-represented in the discussion on current and future development agendas. The process has included stakeholders from many and diverse walks of life, including representatives of national and local governments, the private sector, unions and civil society organizations.

An interim report on this global conversation was published in March 2013. Since then the conversation has expanded all over the world —

through surveys, focused discussions with marginalized groups and other stakeholders, and through thematic online e-discussions. There have been three main channels for this conversation. First, 88 national consultations in countries where the UN provides assistance to governments, facilitated by UN country teams in coordination with governments, the private sector, think tanks and civil society. Second,

11 thematic consultations led by UN agencies in collaboration with governments, also involving civil society, academics and business. Third, the '[worldwewant2015.org](#)' space provided the platform for online engagement on key topics related to the 11 thematic discussions and national consultations. This was supplemented by the global MY World survey, which asks respondents to list six priorities for themselves and their families, and has so far attracted more than 800,000 votes from people in 194 countries.²

This report reflects on the results of these complementary streams. To the extent possible, it uses and pays full tribute to the voices we heard: to express the problems and constraints that people face around the world in their own language, and to provide their perception of what governments should prioritize and pursue to get the world they want.

TAKING UP WHERE WE LEFT OFF

In this report we take up where we left the global conversation in March, when we summarized what we had heard in the initial phases of the consultation process. The continued conversation has reinforced the initial conclusions from our first report but also sheds new light on emerging priorities. The results from the consultations show a strong desire to capture the momentum generated by the MDGs, but also an equally strong desire to bring in additional areas and principles from the Millennium Declaration that were not in the MDGs. They also clearly reflect the need to take into account

“PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES SHOULD BE THE KEY DRIVERS AT THE START, THE END AND THROUGHOUT ANY EFFORT TO TRANSFORM SOCIETY, BUILD RESILIENCE, MITIGATE CONFLICT AND ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.”

TANZANIA NATIONAL REPORT, CHAPTER 3.11 ON VOLUNTEER ACTION AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION, P.39

issues that have emerged since 2000, as well as future challenges, particularly those linked to population dynamics and environmental degradation. They show a clear demand for tackling inequality, injustice and insecurity in all manifestations, and a strong recognition of the need to address governance concerns and increase accountability if goals are to be achieved sustainably. They express clearly the challenge of recognizing and respecting fundamental human rights, understanding the complexities of the various issues and the interlinkages between them, and taking up the call for a more ambitious and transformational agenda — while retaining the focus on concrete, realistic and measurable goals. These points are elaborated further in the next section.

Our interim synthesis report, *The Global Conversation Begins*, drew out three main conclusions from the initial phase of the consultations:

First, the issues covered by the MDGs are still relevant and high on people's agenda. This has since been strongly corroborated by the MY World survey results, where access to quality education and health services rank consistently as the two top global priorities.

Second, the way we measure progress on the areas under the current MDGs needs to be adapted, refined and deepened. For example, we need to be clear that our aim is to reach all people, including the most marginalized. For

instance, we need to lift all people out of extreme poverty and hunger, not just half. We need to ensure that all women have a say in the decisions that affect them. We need to eliminate all preventable child and maternal deaths, not just some. And access to education is not enough — we also need to capture improvements in the quality of what is taught and ensure that young women and men are well prepared for their working lives.

And third, there was a call to complete the unfinished and continuing business of the MDGs in the context of sustainable development, to address inequalities and discrimination, and to use a human rights framework to reach convergence on a truly transformative agenda for all. This means considering additional areas such as inclusive growth and decent jobs, environmental sustainability, governance, and peace and security.



Ramón Rivero-Salvador Social Organization (Afrodescendants NGO)
(Photo: UNDP Uruguay/Pablo Bielli)

“THE MDGs ARE STILL UNFINISHED BUSINESS IN SOLOMON ISLANDS. THE LESSONS LEARNT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MDGs WOULD BE THAT QUALITATIVE AND COUNTRY-SPECIFIC TARGETS ARE NEEDED AT THE TARGET SETTING STAGE. FURTHERMORE, IN THE CASE OF SOLOMON ISLANDS, THE YOUTH, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY, THE ELDERLY, THE POPULATION IN RURAL AREAS AND OTHER VULNERABLE GROUPS HAVE NOT BEEN FULLY ENGAGED IN THE MDGs IMPLEMENTATION. THEREFORE, AN INCLUSIVE APPROACH SHOULD BE APPLIED AT THE TARGET SETTING AS WELL AS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POST-2015 AGENDA.”

SOLOMON ISLANDS POST-2015 AGENDA COUNTRY CONSULTATIONS FINAL REPORT

“...IN PARTICULAR, IT IS IMPORTANT TO LISTEN CAREFULLY TO THE NEEDS AND THE VOICES OF THE POOREST GROUPS. THIS IS NOT JUST A MORAL NECESSITY BUT A PRACTICAL ONE. IT IS THE POOREST GROUPS WHO FIRST ENCOUNTER THE PROBLEMS WE MAY ALL FACE — THE FIRST TO EXPERIENCE EVEN MINOR SHIFTS IN THEIR LOCAL ECOSYSTEMS; THE FIRST TO FEEL CHANGES IN THE LABOUR MARKETS; THE FIRST TO SUFFER FROM FLUCTUATIONS IN BASIC COMMODITY PRICES. BY LISTENING TO AND SUPPORTING THE POOREST COMMUNITIES WE CAN START PREPARING FOR AN INCREASINGLY UNPREDICTABLE FUTURE.”

IIED, JUNE 2013

These conclusions are fully compatible with — and, indeed, have fed into — the results emerging from the global dialogue. Since March, other contributors have brought their conclusions to the table, making this a new stage in the dialogue. The High Level Panel (HLP) published the results of its deliberations at the end of May. Its report called for significant economic and institutional shifts, a renewed global partnership, and a data revolution for tracking progress and strengthening accountability. Three

other reports have called for an equally ambitious vision: those of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the UN regional commissions and the Global Compact. These have been supplemented by reports from civil society, think tanks and academia. The Open Working Group (OWG), agreed to by member states in Rio, has also held a series of consultations with member states and experts from academia and UN agencies. Some reports have gone beyond providing a vision, and propose

concrete sets of goals and targets. In doing so, we are beginning to see that an ambitious and holistic development framework, anchored in human rights, is both necessary and viable.

The consultations have revealed a huge appetite and demand for involvement not only in the design of the development agenda, but also in its future implementation. One million voices are a clear call that people, businesses and civil society organizations want to be engaged in creating development solutions while holding governments and the international community accountable for implementation. People from various walks of life are asking for transformation — not just of the ‘what’, but also ‘how’ we do development. They are asking not just for a one-off consultation, but an ongoing conversation and concrete opportunities for engagement. They want not only to articulate the problems, but to help find solutions and be involved in implementing them. In this context, a number of national consultations, such as in DRC, Egypt, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan and Tanzania, called for an enabling environment for civic engagement: “People and communities should be the key drivers at the start, the end and throughout any effort to transform society, build resilience, mitigate conflict and achieve sustainable

Anaclara Planel - National Youth Institute (Ministry of Social Development)
(Photo: UNDP Uruguay/Pablo Bielli)



development.” — Tanzania national report, chapter 3.11 on Volunteer Action and Civic Participation, p.39

In many countries people are already involved in shaping new solutions — governments at all levels are engaging the public in finding solutions to natural resource preservation, innovative energy sources and monitoring public service quality. These efforts all form part of a complex dialogue that is generating the best ideas and building consensus on the post-2015 agenda: the World We Want.

This consensus-building process has an inherent value in itself, in that everyone should have the right and opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their lives and those of their children. But it is also a vital investment to ensure the successful implementation of the emerging global vision on the future development agenda: in fact, the dialogue is not just on the vision, but on how the building blocks for implementation can be put in place quickly. People all over the world have strongly expressed their desire and willingness to become involved. To ensure broad-based ownership and sustainability — of both the vision and its implementation — any future agenda needs to integrate ways to leverage the energy and capacities of its populations more fully.

The main purpose of this report is to strengthen the discussion by bringing more — and more diverse — voices to

the table. Consultations with a broad set of stakeholders over the past several months have reconfirmed our belief that people are the best experts on their own development. As member states consult within the OWG on the shape and content

of sustainable development goals, it is hoped that the opportunity to listen to the over 1 million voices from across the world will contribute to reaching consensus on what is needed to move towards the world we want.



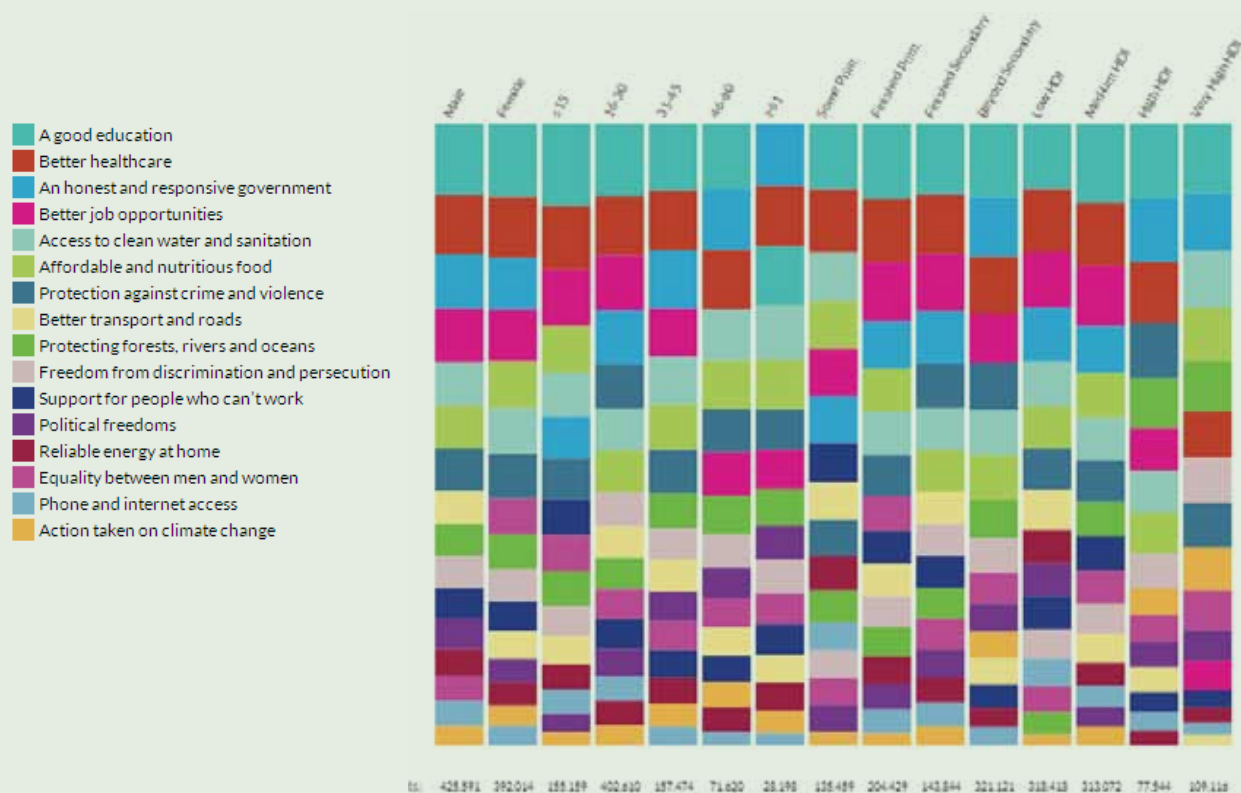
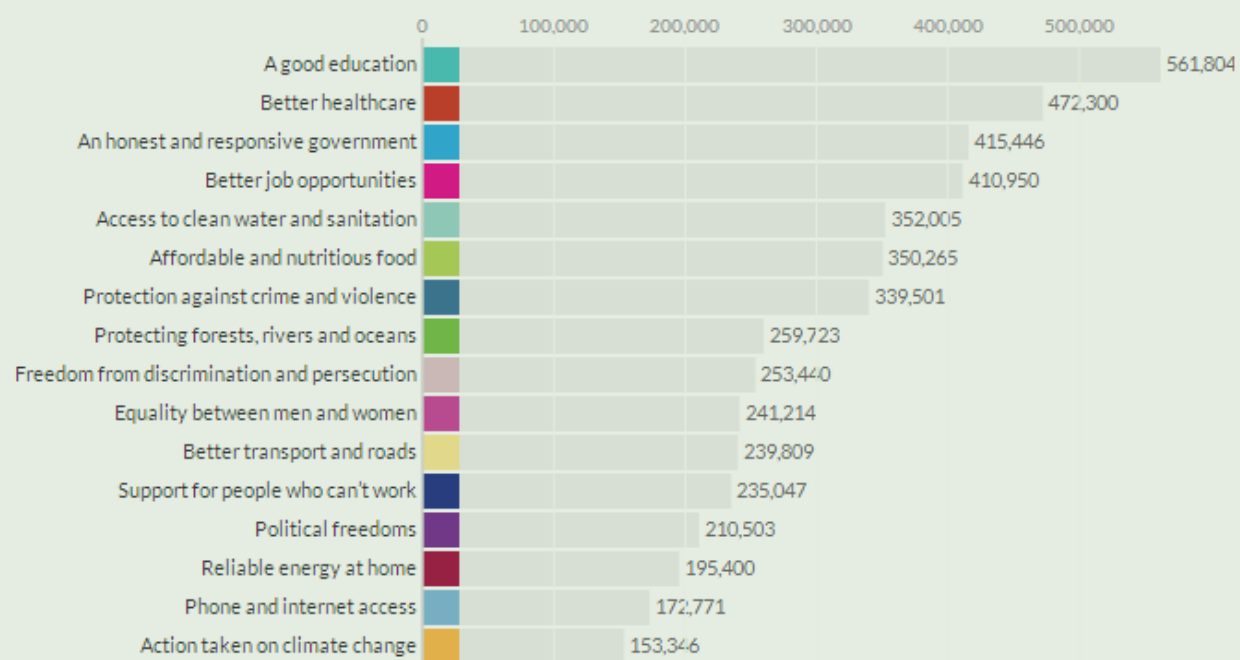
Pregnant mother, waiting to be tested for HIV with her baby, with a local volunteer who is telling her how the MY World survey works during the national campaign, June 2013, St Jean Hospital, Limbe, Nord, Haiti (Photo: Benjamin Frowein, UN Volunteer from Germany / UNV)

“ WE REALIZED THAT THE NEXT DEVELOPMENT AGENDA MUST BUILD ON THE REAL EXPERIENCES, STORIES, IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS OF PEOPLE AT THE GRASS ROOTS, AND THAT WE, AS A PANEL, MUST DO OUR BEST TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD THROUGH THEIR EYES AND REFLECT ON THE ISSUES THAT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO THEIR LIVES... WE AGREED THAT THE POST-2015 AGENDA SHOULD REFLECT THE CONCERNS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY, WHOSE VOICES OFTEN GO UNHEARD OR UNHEEDED.”

REPORT ON THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, PP.1-2

MY WORLD SURVEY RESULTS

821,823 votes for All Countries & Country Groups / All Genders / All Education Levels / Age Group (All Age Groups)



BUILDING ON THE MDGS AND THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION

The MDGs were formulated on the basis of the 2000 Millennium Declaration, with the purpose of translating into action the collective commitments made by Heads of State and the international community. While the MDGs have been criticized for both the process through which they were defined as well as their content,³ over the last 13 years they have rallied — and continue to rally — governments, non-state actors and international development agencies around a set of clear, simply formulated goals and time-bound targets that aim to improve average outcomes for different dimensions of poverty and deprivation.

They have also stimulated increased knowledge and capacity, fostered greater understanding of the multidimensional nature of poverty, and helped in re-thinking and re-formulating national policy priorities. They have drawn attention away from the exclusive use of economic indicators, questioning their role as the sole or main measurement of progress. As precise and measurable targets, they have helped to create a fabric of accountability at local, national and global levels. We should not lose sight of the considerable achievements of the MDGs while we continue to strive towards their completion. We have the opportunity now to build on the considerable

positive momentum they have created.

The MY World survey results have confirmed the continuing relevance of the MDGs for people throughout the world — not just in low-income countries. Respondents were asked to vote for six priorities which they see as most important for themselves and their families. Good education and better health care — key elements of the MDGs — come out as clear priorities, followed closely by an honest and responsive government and

better job opportunities. In addition, the country consultations emphasized cross-cutting issues such as inequalities and discrimination.

The process to define a new development agenda has brought to light the continued expectations that the world will deliver on the promise of the MDGs and take them further to reach all people. It is clear that a new set of goals will gain its legitimacy from the achievement of the MDGs.



Auto transport drivers taking the MY World survey in Wayanad, District of Kerala, June 2013, India (Photo: AFRC India, 2013)

“THE MAIN LESSON IN MY COUNTRY IS THAT THE MDGS ASSISTED THE GOVERNMENT TO FORMULATE PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES THAT ARE IN LINE WITH CURRENT PROBLEMS AND CHALLENGES IN MALAWI. THE GOVERNMENT MANAGED TO FORMULATE THE MALAWI GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (MGDS), WHICH COVERS ALL AREAS UNDER THE MDGS. THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN ACTING LIKE THE ENGINE AND PLATFORM FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MDGS AS IT EASY TO MONITOR PROGRESS AND IMPACT OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES.”

PARTICIPANT, MALAWI, WATER CONSULTATION, FINAL REPORT, P12

“THE LIMITED NUMBER OF CLEAR HEALTH GOALS IN THE MDGS IS WIDELY CONSIDERED AS A CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTOR; HOWEVER, THEIR OMISSION OF OTHER MAJOR HEALTH CHALLENGES IS COMMONLY CITED AS A MAJOR WEAKNESS. ...SOME INPUTS ARGUE THAT THE EXCLUSION OF MANY HEALTH PRIORITIES FROM THE MDGS, INCLUDING NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES (NCDS), COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS, MENTAL HEALTH, VIOLENCE AND INJURIES, HAS HINDERED PROGRESS ON THE GOALS THEMSELVES, AND EQUITABLE PROGRESS IN OVERALL HEALTH OUTCOMES.”

HEALTH CONSULTATION, FINAL REPORT, P25



Young woman calling for clean water and sanitation as a human right during the thematic consultation on Environmental Sustainability (Photo: UNDP)

THE AREAS COVERED BY THE EXISTING MDGS REMAIN OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE TO PEOPLE THE WORLD OVER, BUT SHOULD BE REFINED AND DEEPENED TO MOVE BEYOND AVERAGES

Those participating in the consultations pay tribute to the considerable achievements of the MDGs, but as they look forward, they also reflected on lessons learned from the experience of implementation. In doing so, they express a clear desire to go much further: to significantly ‘raise the bar’ for the next set of goals, to refine and deepen their coverage. The **Health** consultation report, for example, recognizes the considerable achievements in the health-related MDGs but notes that the work of reducing child and maternal deaths is only partially done; it also points to the omission of non-communicable diseases and other health priorities, which meant that progress on improving overall health indicators has been less impressive.

In the **Education** consultation, there are overwhelming calls for a more ambitious agenda which goes beyond ensuring universal access to primary education, and focuses on equality of access to all levels of education — including pre-primary, technical and vocational training, and lifelong learning — and on quality, the what, how and where pupils learn, rather than enrolment rates. This entails paying more attention

to the means of ensuring that quality education can be delivered, including addressing the lack of qualified teachers, large classes, inadequate infrastructure, and outdated curricula that fail to prepare young people for productive employment. These are all factors that influence the quality of education and were clearly reflected in the national consultations.

The **Water** consultation calls for going beyond the focus in MDG7 on expanding access to safe water and sanitation. It calls for improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); for better and more sustainable management of water resources and waste water; and improvements in water quality through preventative approaches which can be both possible and profitable.

In the same vein, the **Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition** consultation argues that both undernutrition and obesity have to be tackled, and calls for hunger and food insecurity to be eradicated in a sustainable manner by 2025 based on the right of everyone to safe, sufficient, nutritious and affordable food. The ways to achieve food security were emphasized, with attention paid to women as drivers of change in ensuring nutrition and food security,

sustainable and resilient food production and consumption, reducing post-harvest losses and food waste, and increasing agricultural productivity.

The **Inequalities** consultation stressed that national averages have concealed often highly uneven progress towards MDG targets, with many specific groups, such as women and girls, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities, as well as families in remote rural and urban slum localities, being systematically left behind. The consultation emphasized the need to identify and address the structural factors, such as discrimination, gender-based violence and social exclusion, which perpetuate these inequalities. In the majority of national and thematic consultations, there were clear demands for gender inequality to be tackled at root in all its dimensions, and not just by focusing on the three manifestations expressed as targets in MDG3: gender parity in education, improved access of women to quality jobs outside the agricultural sector, and increased representation of women in parliament.

THE MDGS NEED TO BE EXPANDED TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NEW AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

The consultations expressed a strong ambition to go further. But they also

looked at what had happened in the world since 2000, and drew attention to the increasing prevalence of jobless growth, violence and insecurity, political exclusion, evidence of discrimination and growing inequalities with consequences for all, the urgency of tackling environmental sustainability, as well as the associated increases in vulnerability to disasters associated with the effects of climate change. They also highlighted new challenges to take into account, including population dynamics and the impact of current unsustainable consumption and production patterns.

In the consultations on **Growth and Employment**, participants widely agreed that employment and decent work should be one of the central macroeconomic objectives for all countries, and a core development goal. Jobs are seen not only as a way out of poverty; they give women and men a sense of self-esteem, dignity and respect by society. The absence of job opportunities and exclusion from labour markets increase inequalities, weaken social cohesion and diminish trust in political leadership and institutions. Discussants called for more attention on the quality of growth — towards inclusive growth that generates employment and

“ AT THE END OF THE YEAR, THOUGH, EVERYONE GRADUATES DESPITE NOT MEETING PROPER EDUCATION STANDARDS. ”

COMMUNITY LEADER, BURKINA FASO

“ THE TRADITIONAL TEACHING METHODS MUST BE CHANGED, AS WELL AS THE NEED TO APPLY NEW METHODS TO ENHANCE THE SKILLS OF ANALYSIS AND INNOVATION, WHERE THE STUDENT WILL BE A PARTNER FOR THE TEACHER, AND NOT A PASSIVE RECIPIENT. ”

MALE USER, FACEBOOK, JORDAN, FEBRUARY 2013

“ WE STUDY SCIENCES THAT REQUIRE EXPERIMENTS IN LABORATORIES AND THE USE OF IMPORTED CHEMICALS. UNFORTUNATELY, WE LACK BASICS AND THEREFORE MUST TAKE ALL THESE COURSES WITHOUT A SINGLE EXPERIMENT AND ONLY USING THEORIES. THIS IS WORRISOME FOR HOPEFUL SCIENTISTS. ”

COLLEGE STUDENTS, TOGO

“TO ARTICULATE THE COMPLEX NATURE OF NEGLECTED ISSUES, AND SHOW HOW A NEW FRAMEWORK COULD COMPLETE THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF DEVELOPMENT, THE WATER THEMATIC CONSULTATION WENT BEYOND DEMANDING TOILETS AND TAPS FOR BILLIONS OF STILL UN- OR UNDER-SERVED POOR. INSTEAD IT ADDRESSED WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH); WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT; AND WASTEWATER/WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AS THREE VITAL AND INTERDEPENDENT DIMENSIONS THAT, TAKEN TOGETHER, CAN SECURE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO WATER, FOR ALL, FOREVER.”

WATER CONSULTATION, FINAL REPORT

decent work and reduces inequalities. Specific policies for the youth should also be promoted, in particular by enhancing skills development institutions. Nationally defined social protection floors should be extended to support and empower those who cannot work.

Population Dynamics — including patterns of population growth, population ageing, migration and urbanization — cannot be ignored when setting new goals. They affect the design of policies and measures to achieve the sustainable

use of natural resources. They are linked to the challenge of job creation and inclusive growth in a situation where unemployment and underemployment are already high. Population dynamics also provide important opportunities for more sustainable development. A fall in fertility levels and slower population growth, for example, lead to an increased concentration of the population in the working age range, which can enable countries to reap a demographic bonus and boost economic development.

Migration can be an important enabler of social and economic development. Today, more than 1 billion people rely on international and internal migration to escape from poverty and conflict, adapt to environmental and economic shocks, and improve the income, health and education of their families. Population changes have implications for the sustainability of social protection systems, particularly pension systems, and ensuring universal access to health, education, water, sanitation, food and energy.⁴ When the MDGs were formulated, the global population lived predominantly in rural areas. In 2050 it is forecast that two thirds of the global population will live in cities, meaning that the post-2015 framework will need to consider the challenges of achieving sustainable and healthy urban environments. The global thematic consultation on Population Dynamics emphasized the importance of rights-based and gender-responsive policies to addressing and harnessing the opportunities offered by population dynamics. It was stated that such policies are not only important in the context of high fertility and population growth, but also in a context of low fertility and population ageing, and that they also relate to human mobility and urbanization.

Another challenge is one that was

Global Leadership Meeting on Population Dynamics, Dhaka, Bangladesh (Photo: Sylvie I. Cohen, UN Women)





Young man calls for an improvement of air quality in urban areas during the thematic consultation on Environmental Sustainability (Photo: UNDP)

reflected in part in MDG7, but which has now become ever more urgent — **Environmental Sustainability**. We are fast approaching, and in some cases have already breached, important planetary boundaries. This makes it urgent to both raise the bar on environmental targets and also to incorporate environmental sustainability concerns into all development actions. Poor management of natural resources — and a lack of incentives to improve management — has raised the risk of conflict over depleting natural resources, has already had negative effects on people's livelihoods and increased their vulnerability to disaster. Apart from tackling the root causes of environmentally unsustainable development, there are calls for more attention to be devoted to building the resilience of societies,

particularly vulnerable populations, and improving their ability to resist tomorrow's shocks without reversing hard-won development achievements.

Energy Security is seen as a missing element of the MDGs. Currently 1.3 billion people lack electricity to light their homes or conduct business, and nearly 40 percent of the world's population relies on wood, coal, charcoal or animal waste to cook their food, breathing in toxic smoke that causes health problems to many of them. Energy is needed for children to study, at home and at school. Children who have to collect wood and water for their families are less likely to attend primary school. Energy is required to improve poor health outcomes caused by un-boiled water, respiratory illnesses and infant and child mortality due to

“WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH AND MAKE IT FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 TO GET HEALTH CARE. THIS PROGRAMME SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO EVERYONE – NOT JUST THOSE IN URBAN CENTRES.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, BENIN

indoor air pollution, and to provide other health services. In all countries — including those where energy services are plentiful — there is an urgent need to make the energy supply more sustainable and decrease emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuels. These are contributing to climate change, which in the future threatens food and water security for millions and may even undermine stability. The transition to more sustainable production patterns can generate important job opportunities in the low carbon sector.

Overall, the challenges associated with population dynamics, environmental sustainability, energy security and achieving decent jobs all call for new models of economic growth. Markets alone do not provide the incentives for environmentally sustainable and inclusive growth. Changes will require active government policies coupled with increased accountability of the private sector and governments at all levels.



High-Level Meeting of the Thematic Consultation on Energy, Oslo, Norway, April 2013 (Photo: Thomas Eckoff)

CALLS FOR REASSERTING CENTRAL ELEMENTS AND PRINCIPLES FROM THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION

In addition to stressing new challenges, the consultations drew attention to elements that were clearly emphasized in the Millennium Declaration but not

reflected in the MDGs. This is mostly because they were more difficult to get collective agreement and action on, but also reflected that they had not been prioritized for measurement. These missing — or inadequately reflected —

elements include better governance, peace and freedom from violence, respect for nature, and inclusive economic growth. There is a strong sense that these need a much more prominent place in the new agenda.

But the consultations bring out concerns that it is not just some elements, but the overall **principles and values** of the declaration that disappeared from view as the MDGs gathered pace. This was particularly true of the underlying human-rights-based approach. This led to a lack of attention to participation, discrimination and inequalities in the design and implementation of the MDGs, as well as weak accountability and the neglect of civil and political rights and issues such as political participation, personal security and access to justice. The consultations contain many calls for more attention to be paid to universal human rights as a systematic guiding principle. Goals should not just be for some, or not just for some in some countries: they should be for everybody.

In the same vein, the consultations have also revealed concerns that the way in which the MDGs were formulated meant that attention was less focused on the plight of those left behind even when

“PARTICIPANTS URGED THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY TO ADOPT A SET OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA REFLECTING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION WHICH INCLUDES RIGHTS OF THE CHILD, RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, AND SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL RIGHTS.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, MONGOLIA

“TO BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE A BETTER FUTURE FOR YOUNG AFRO-ECUADORIANS, IT IS NECESSARY TO BEGIN A PROCESS OF SOCIAL INCLUSION AND RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF THE AFRO-ECUADORIAN PEOPLE.”

YOUNG AFRO-DESCENDANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, ESMERALDAS, ECUADOR

“HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION CAN BE ENDED SUSTAINABLY BY 2025. THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION MUST BE DEFINITIVE AND IRREVERSIBLE BASED ON THE RIGHT OF EVERYONE TO SAFE, SUFFICIENT, NUTRITIOUS AND AFFORDABLE FOOD. THIS VISION IS ACHIEVABLE. BOLD, EFFECTIVE ACTION IS URGENT AND BOTH A MORAL AND POLITICAL IMPERATIVE.”

MADRID GLOBAL THEMATIC CONSULTATION ON HUNGER, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

overall targets were achieved. The focus on 'half-way' targets (for example, reduce by 50 percent in MDG1, or reduce by two thirds in MDG4) and the use of national aggregates or averages as key indicators has meant that the poorest families and most deprived groups could be left behind even if the goals will be met at the national or global level. All thematic consultations have drawn attention to this, leading to calls for the next development agenda to be more

consistent with universal human rights. This would mean expressing targets as 'reduce to zero' or '100 percent'. For example, there are calls for eradicating extreme income poverty; for hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition (for example, child stunting) to be ended sustainably by 2025; for preventable child deaths to be virtually eliminated by 2035; for universal access to basic health services; for education for all at all levels; and for a generation which is free from the

threat of HIV/AIDs, TB and malaria.

The call for more focus on inequalities and those left behind has been very forcefully articulated by civil society organizations. For example, the reports of the 'Participate' initiative and Beyond 2015 national consultations argue that young people, indigenous communities, women and groups facing various forms of discrimination continue to be marginalized in the MDGs. They state that

Mayan leader states indigenous peoples' views on development to the media, Guatemala (Photo: Sabrina Morales / UNFPA)





Participate, co-convened by the Institute of Development Studies and Beyond 2015, brings together participatory research from a research group of 18 organizations in more than 30 countries. It connects the unfiltered voices of those most affected by poverty and marginalization with decision-making at national and global levels, thereby providing high-quality evidence on the reality of poverty at ground level, bringing the perspectives of the poorest into the post-2015 debate. The full Participate report, details on the methodology, and multimedia research outputs can be downloaded from the Participate website: www.participate2015.org.

Participatory research carried out by a global Participatory Research Group has been drawn together to explore people's experiences of living in poverty and marginalization, and mechanisms and processes for positive change. The report looks at how this knowledge contributes to a set of principles for development and a new vision for the future. The following 10 interconnected and mutually reinforcing principles provide a strong framework for a vision of post-2015 development that is transformative.

- (1) Prioritize those living in extreme poverty and marginalization through a rights-based approach. To make dignity a reality for all people, the rights to food, work, education and civil and political freedoms must be seen as foundational and interconnected.
- (2) Tackle inequality by addressing discriminatory norms. For excluded groups to enjoy equal access to resources, services and justice, the intersecting social constraints and institutional power relationships that oppress them need to shift.
- (3) Dignity and recognition are central. Interventions that aim to transform the lives of the poorest and most marginalized need to promote their dignity, recognition and empowerment.
- (4) Strengthen families and communities — not just individuals. Development initiatives need to prioritize interventions and capacity development which strengthen the positive elements of people's closest support networks and challenge the negative ones.
- (5) Make sure development interventions are holistic. Poverty and marginalization are dynamic and interlocking social processes. This requires coordinated, integrated responses, based on the realities of people on the ground, and locally led programmes.
- (6) Invest in community organization and capacity development. Community organization and capacity can be a powerful way to increase people's sense of agency, challenge negative norms, build links between the individual and the community, and promote collaboration for positive social change.
- (7) Promote a participatory approach to governance. This is an approach that engages with local knowledge, strengthens people's voices, ensures the influence of citizens in decision-making and enables people to hold decision makers to account.
- (8) Accountable, inclusive institutions and access to justice. Institutions should see people at the centre of why decisions are made; they must move away from nepotism and greed, and towards an inclusive and people-centred approach to policy and development.
- (9) Quality of services over quantity. Service provision must move away from quantity as a measure of success, and focus on quality.
- (10) Working over the long term. Interventions need to be based on longer-term relationships and investments in communities, not on short visits which set up short-term, disconnected projects.

“WHEN ADDRESSING THIS ISSUE ON ACCESS TO WATER, THE NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SHOULD ALSO BE LOOKED UPON. AS A PERSON WITH MOBILITY IMPAIRMENT AND USING A WHEELCHAIR, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME TO ACCESS WATER WHEN WATER IS COMING FROM THE WELL. REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO ENSURE THAT PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES CAN HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER.”

PERSON WITH DISABILITIES, WATER CONSULTATION, FINAL REPORT, P13

Beyond2015

Since September 2012, Beyond 2015, the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP) and the

International Forum of National NGO Platforms (IFP) have been convening national, regional and community civil society deliberations in 30 countries in Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia: Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, DRC, El Salvador, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Japan, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Uganda, United Kingdom, Zambia.

The results of the consultations suggest that there is a collective understanding across national contexts that the world is in crisis. There is a strong need for a new development framework that expresses universal values. A fundamental, transformative shift will require that all countries commit to upholding common values of equality, respect for human rights, peace and environmental sustainability.

The eradication of poverty and hunger is essential to a new development agenda. This requires implementing universal social protection. It also requires extending specific support to farming communities and rural areas, which experience poverty differently from urban areas. Equitable land distribution was identified as fundamental to eradicating hunger in many national contexts.

Equality is essential to a new development agenda. This includes gender equality. Every single deliberation recognized that there can be no equality without gender justice. While equality begins in the household, it must extend to the national level. To ensure equality between nations, fair terms of trade and a just system of global governance are required.

There was a consensus in the deliberations: climate change poses an eminent threat to society. In every region, consultations noted that the effects are already being felt by people living in poverty. A post-2015 framework must take into account the interconnectedness between social and environmental consequences of our growth path.

It emerged very strongly from the national consultations that human rights must underpin a new development framework. This means that poverty must be eradicated — not merely reduced — and coverage must be universal for fundamental human rights. One strong criticism of the MDGs was that it set targets that left people behind. We must not make the same mistake again.

Finally, concern was raised in many national deliberations about the threat of poor accountability to achieving current and future goals. Therefore, a post-2015 framework should be underpinned by a comprehensive and inclusive accountability mechanism that should empower existing human rights structures. It must also provide for financing in a way that is fair.

However, to ensure a meaningful result, civil and political rights must be firmly entrenched, including freedom of expression and assembly. Access to information is a priority for accountability and to fight corruption and tax evasion; the private sector must be included in this. People must participate in building their future for the vision of a development framework to be realized.

The full report by Beyond 2015 is available at <http://www.beyond2015.org/civil-society-demands-post-2015-agenda>.



“IT IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO PICK OFF THE EASY TO REACH AND LEAVE THE POOREST AND MOST VULNERABLE UNTIL LAST.”

WATER CONSULTATION, FINAL REPORT

the focus on national and global aggregates has meant that we have missed the increasing gap between those at the bottom and those at the top. As a result, the main mobilizing impact of the MDGs has on the whole not been felt by the very poorest. Since we have not consistently measured the extent of the gap, attention has been diverted away from who is getting ahead and why.

A SENSE OF INJUSTICE AT DEEP INEQUALITIES AND INSECURITIES PERMEATES ALL THE CONSULTATIONS

The consultations have shown that inequalities and insecurities frame many of people's concerns when it comes to the world they want. Each represents structural barriers which, if not addressed, will threaten or halt progress on all goals — current and future.

A STRONG CONCERN WITH INEQUALITIES

Perhaps stronger than anything else, the consultations have called for an increased focus on equality in the future agenda. This was expressed in the national consultations in the way that people articulated their frustration with the various forms of

“...THE LACK OF ATTENTION TO EQUITY IS WIDELY REGARDED AS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SHORTCOMINGS OF THE HEALTH MDGS. ALTHOUGH EQUITY IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION, IT IS NOT A CENTRAL FEATURE IN MONITORING THE MDGS. BECAUSE THE GOALS FOCUS ON AGGREGATE NATIONAL TARGETS, THEY FAIL TO MEASURE AND THUS DISREGARD OUTCOMES FOR DISADVANTAGED AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS. THE FOCUS ON IMPROVING NATIONAL AVERAGES ENCOURAGES UTILITARIAN RATHER THAN UNIVERSAL APPROACHES, OFTEN EXACERBATING INEQUITIES EVEN WHEN PROGRESS IS MADE IN ABSOLUTE AVERAGE LEVELS OF INDICATORS.”

HEALTH CONSULTATION, FINAL REPORT, P24

inequality, discrimination and exclusion they experience. It is frequently associated with calls to be treated with **dignity and respect**. It is also expressed strongly in all of the thematic consultations, and not just the consultation that deals explicitly with inequalities and the structural drivers of inequalities. In the Inequalities consultation, we heard that “the most common feature of the hundreds of papers and other submissions was the clear view that any response to inequalities can and must be guided by human rights”. Evidence suggests that inequalities in many dimensions have increased since 2000, making these calls even more forceful.

The consultations point to how different forms of inequalities and discrimination intersect and reinforce each other — for example, inequalities in access to land and other assets, to social services, to nutritious food, safe drinking water and improved sanitation. Gender-based discrimination was identified as a significant manifestation and driver of inequalities. Education systems still exclude some groups, and illiteracy and income poverty mean that some are less able to exercise their rights in other areas. Such inequalities are often further reinforced by discriminatory social and cultural attitudes and practices, and even legislative or administrative biases.

Indigenous man in Puyo, Ecuador (Photo: Mareike Eberz, UNDP)



The incidence of non-communicable diseases is growing worldwide, but particularly among the poor and marginalized, and particularly in the less developed countries of Africa and South Asia. Access to quality health services is more problematic outside capital cities. All of these inequalities are leading to differences in living standards and opportunities between rural and urban populations, or between men and women, and contributing to the exclusion of some ethnic and other groups. The Inequalities consultation stressed that the empowerment and advancement of women and girls is crucial to eliminating inequalities, and that investing in women and girls' education, health and participation and ensuring their equal rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, is a 'fast track' to development and inclusive economic growth.

For example, the national consultation in Jamaica highlighted the situation of illiterate, poor women in rural areas, where the intersection of inequalities experienced due to gender, poverty, unequal access to education and rural residence combine to limit the choices and opportunities of those affected.

The kinds of inequalities that are mentioned most frequently are those between men and women, between rural areas and urban areas (or in many cases between capital cities and the rest of the country) and between rich and poor people. The latter is often connected to the experience of exclusion from employment. However, inequalities and discrimination facing people with disabilities and

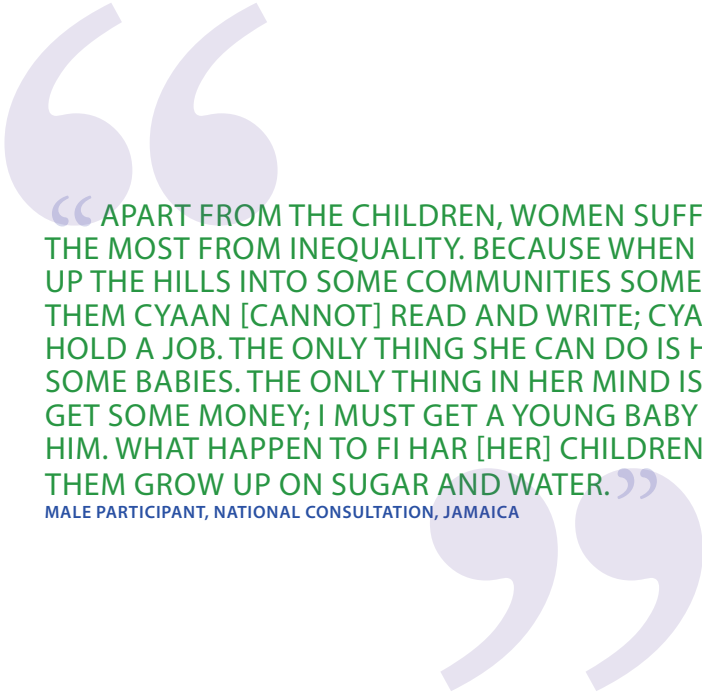
ethnic minorities, and inter-generational inequalities are also mentioned frequently. Refugees, internally displaced and stateless people face almost insurmountable challenges in realizing their rights.

INEQUALITIES COMPOUNDED BY GROWING INSECURITIES

The consultations showed how inequalities are compounded by many and varying kinds of insecurities. Economic and job insecurities are among the most prevalent types of insecurity mentioned. A lack of job opportunities for youth means that in many countries a whole new generation is facing an uncertain future with little hope of improving their situation. Lack of decent employment opportunities is forcing people all over the world to accept precarious and

sometimes unsafe work, even in countries experiencing relatively high growth rates. Those who find a way out through migration often face discrimination, criminalization and lack of social security and other rights. Attempts to address income security come at the cost of facing other securities. Unplanned migration puts pressure on urban centres, with migrants often finding housing solutions with unsafe or unsanitary conditions. A lack of access to well-functioning systems of justice and protection means that people are more vulnerable to violence and threats to their personal security. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to violence and fear of violence, including in their own homes.

Some aspects of insecurity, such as violent crime and social conflict, affect all — rich and poor people in rich and poor countries alike. However, poor people are less well equipped to adapt. Development that does not take into account already fragile ecosystems makes the risk of being affected by disasters even greater for those least able to cope. The effects of climate change, especially extreme weather events and ecosystem degradation, threaten the livelihoods of many, increasing insecurities particularly



“APART FROM THE CHILDREN, WOMEN SUFFER THE MOST FROM INEQUALITY. BECAUSE WHEN I GO UP THE HILLS INTO SOME COMMUNITIES SOME OF THEM CYAAN [CANNOT] READ AND WRITE; CYAAN HOLD A JOB. THE ONLY THING SHE CAN DO IS HAVE SOME BABIES. THE ONLY THING IN HER MIND IS TO GET SOME MONEY; I MUST GET A YOUNG BABY FOR HIM. WHAT HAPPEN TO FI HAR [HER] CHILDREN? THEM GROW UP ON SUGAR AND WATER.”

MALE PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, JAMAICA



“MAMACITA! HERE, IN MONTE PLATA, THERE IS A GAP DUE TO POLITICAL FACTORS, CONSCIENCE AND DISCRIMINATION.”

REPRESENTATIVE FROM WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATION, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

“SINCE THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION WAS ADOPTED, MANY TYPES OF INEQUALITIES HAVE WORSENERD, IN A PERIOD WHEN THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS DID NOT FOCUS SYSTEMATICALLY ON TRENDS ‘BENEATH THE AVERAGES’. EVEN WHERE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN RAPID IN AGGREGATE TERMS, PARTICULAR INEQUALITIES HAVE OFTEN PERSISTED OR BECOME MORE SEVERE. INCREASED GLOBAL ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIAL MEDIA HAS HIGHLIGHTED THE EXTENT OF INEQUALITIES, DRIVING AWARENESS AND INCREASING DEMAND FOR CHANGE.”

ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES CONSULTATION, FINAL REPORT

“IN 2015, I WANT A WORLD WHERE WOMEN ARE NOT KILLED, MURDERS OF WOMEN ARE NOT NORMALIZED, AND WOMEN HAVE REPRESENTATION IN DAILY LIVE AND POLITICS.”

UNIVERSITY STUDENT, ANKARA, TURKEY

“THERE IS AN IMPRESSION THAT HAVING A POOR POPULATION IS BENEFICIAL TO THE AUTHORITIES BECAUSE THIS POPULATION CAN WORK FOR THEM FOR PEANUTS, YOU KNOW?”

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH LABOUR MIGRANTS, UKRAINE

for those directly dependent on land and agriculture for survival.

The increasing interconnectedness of countries due to globalization has made it easier for risks to affect neighbouring countries: whether from irresponsible behaviour by multinational companies or from rapid increases in global food and energy prices that affect those in countries where people and the governments feel they have no mechanisms for reducing risk. Multiple risks are having a multiplier effect on the insecurities facing populations around the world. Achieving the MDGs has been almost impossible in countries affected by conflict. However, conflicts and instability are not just a problem for the countries directly affected: experience has shown that conflict in one country can easily spill over and affect the development prospects of those in others.



In South Africa children from the Sivile Primary School, Western Cape, did a 'Long Short Walk' campaign and the MY World survey on Mandela Day (Photo: Zenani Mandela campaign 2013)



A student living with disability, a member of the Gabon students association, participates in a workshop for youth (Photo: PNUD Gabon)

“OUR GENERATION HAS BENEFITED FROM UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION AND ARE ABOUT COMPLETING SECONDARY EDUCATION. WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE EDUCATION LEVELS OF OUR PARENTS WHO ARE ILLITERATE AND HAVE TO MAKE MAJOR DECISIONS IN OUR LIVES?”

STUDENT, THE GAMBIA

A STRONG CALL FOR AN EXPANDED AGENDA

Overall, concerns with **inequality and insecurity**, as well as sustainability, represent and capture the key missing elements and principles from the MDGs. They underpin many of the calls for deepening and refining the MDGs, and strengthening the elements that were not included or were treated unsatisfactorily. Consistent with a human-rights-based approach, they are almost always coupled with clear calls for more **accountable and responsive government**: for more chance to participate and to have a voice in finding solutions to insecurities and redressing injustices. These **values** or principles provide the lens for looking at the **elements** that were in the Millennium Declaration but which are either not reflected or are inadequately reflected in the MDGs: inclusive economic participation and productive employment, environmental sustainability, governance, and peace and security. They are, however, equally relevant to the issues which are already dealt with in the MDGs.

“ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR GENDER INEQUALITY IS CHILD MARRIAGE WHICH DEPRIVES THE GIRLS FROM ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION. THIS LEADS TO UNEDUCATED MOTHERS AND UNEDUCATED CHILDREN. IT IS A VICIOUS CYCLE.”

REPRESENTATIVE 20-YEAR-OLD WOMAN FROM AN URBAN AREA, NATIONAL YOUTH CONSULTATION, SHIRVAN, AZERBAIJAN

SOME OF THE 'LOST' VALUES FROM THE MILLENNIUM DECLARATION⁵

"Freedom. Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice. Democratic and participatory governance based on the will of the people best assures these rights."

"Equality. No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured."

"Respect for nature. Prudence must be shown in the management of all living species and natural resources, in accordance with the precepts of sustainable development. Only in this way can the immeasurable riches provided to use by nature be preserved and passed on to our descendants. The current unsustainable patterns of production and consumption must be changed in the interest of our future welfare and that of our descendants."

ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION AND GROWTH WITHOUT JOBS

Concerns about a lack of decent jobs were expressed in consultations in all parts of the world. The gap between the numbers of women and men seeking productive employment and the creation of decent work opportunities was seen as unsustainable socially, economically, environmentally and politically.

Jobless growth is seen as a major factor contributing to income inequalities and reinforcing other types of inequalities. A lack of jobs leads to a sense of injustice and insecurity. For societies, jobs are necessary to bring about the development transformation. For individuals, jobs are the only sustainable means to earn incomes and escape poverty.

People in consultations talked

about widespread discrimination and marginalization in the labour market. This is experienced by, for example, the Roma population in Eastern Europe, indigenous peoples in Latin America, and many poor, marginalized groups throughout the world. They are often unable to find jobs due to poor-quality education earlier in life or due to perceptions of inferiority based on sex, age,



“ (...) WHEN I ASKED FOR A LOAN IN A BANK [TO START A BUSINESS], THE MANAGER TOLD ME 'LOOK, AS A DISABLED PERSON YOU'RE NOT ELIGIBLE... HOW ARE YOU GOING TO PAY?' ”

DISABLED PERSON, GUATEMALA

“ EVERYONE WANTS TO GO TO BAKU. I WOULD LOVE TO RETURN [TO MY VILLAGE], BUT THERE IS NOTHING FOR ME TO GO HOME. ”

YOUNG WOMAN FROM A RURAL SETTLEMENT, Salyan region,
National Youth Consultation, Shirvan, Azerbaijan

“ WE WANT A WORLD FREE OF POVERTY AND INJUSTICE, WITH GENDER EQUALITY, AND WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS ARE A REALITY. ”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, PERU

“ IF THEY SEE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, FROM KINDERGARTEN, THAT YOU ARE FROM A POOR VULNERABLE FAMILY, THEY WILL ALWAYS TREAT YOU LIKE THIS, WON'T SUPPORT YOUR IDEAS, EVEN IF THEY ARE GOOD AND EVEN BETTER THAN YOUR COLLEAGUES' IDEAS. ”

YOUNG STUDENT FROM DEPRIVED AREA, MOLDOVA

“ THE MAJOR GLOBAL CHALLENGE OF THE COMING TWENTY-FIVE YEARS IS HOW, PEACEFULLY, TO ACHIEVE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY WHILST MEETING THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS FOR HIGHER LIVING STANDARDS OF BILLIONS OF PEOPLE IN A WORLD WHERE, IN 2005, THE RICHEST 10 PERCENT ... RECEIVED 55 PERCENT OF THE WORLD INCOME AND THE POOREST 60 PERCENT ... RECEIVED ONLY 10.1 PERCENT. ”

PARTICIPANT IN GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT E-DISCUSSION





Roma settlers in the Bašaid village near Kikinda, during the visits to the Roma settlements in AP Vojvodina, Serbia (Photo: Mr Slobodan Cvejic, sociologist lead of the consultation process)

social class, race, ethnicity, disability or other characteristics.

Even when they find jobs, discriminated and marginalized groups face difficult working conditions. In Peru, professional female housekeepers asked for more respect and better working conditions. They requested 'dignified' employment. Gender inequalities prevent women from finding decent employment and accessing productive assets such as land.

Discriminated and marginalized people face employment problems even in good economic conditions. But when jobs become scarce, they are pushed further to the margins. In Armenia, Serbia and Tajikistan, participants talked about how, when decent jobs are scarce, people are forced to accept informal or unsafe work and long hours.

The deficit of decent work is a pervasive phenomenon in most countries. The Growth and Employment consultation documented how unemployment is rising in the developed world, while in low- and middle-income countries large shares of the workforce are trapped in informal and precarious forms of employment. Half of

those employed in developing countries work in the informal sector.

The consultations highlighted the choices that people make in the absence of decent, adequately paid work. People may do unpaid work on small plots of land. Women may stay at home and have more children. Men and young people

“JOBS ARE THE CENTRE OF DEVELOPMENT. AS SUCH, EMPLOYMENT MUST BE SEEN AS ONE OF THE PRIMARY INSTRUMENTS FOR OVERCOMING POVERTY, INEQUALITY AND EXCLUSION.”
TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVE, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, INDIA



Consultation with youth in Belford Roxo, Rio de Janeiro state, March 2013
(Photo: Flavio Lopes UNV/UNDP Brazil)

“GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION CONTINUES TO BE A SERIOUS BARRIER IN ACHIEVING EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS. DESPITE THE FACT THAT WOMEN CONSTITUTE THREE QUARTERS OF THE WORKFORCE ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE, PROPERTY RIGHTS ARE HEAVILY STACKED AGAINST THEM.”

PARTICIPANT FROM FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, INDIA

“[W]HEN PEOPLE ARE APPLYING FOR JOBS IF YOU LIVE IN THE GHETTO YOU HAVE TO PUT AN UPTOWN ADDRESS IN ORDER TO GET THE JOB.”

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, JAMAICA

“THE FUTURE IS GRIM FOR US WOMEN SMALLHOLDER FARMERS. IN LOCAL CUSTOMS, ONLY MEN INHERIT LAND, ALTHOUGH WOMEN DO MOST OF THE WORK IN FIELDS. THIS STRUCTURE KEEPS US DEPENDENT ON MEN AND SHACKLES US IN POVERTY.”

WOMEN FARMERS, TOGO

go to cities, booming towns or other countries in search of better job opportunities, swelling the ranks of informal traders, miners and migrants. Many youth may continue studying in the hope that this would improve their job prospects. Other young people may take to the streets to express their anger and insecurity. Most people take jobs — any jobs — regardless of whether they are mistreated or abused, whether working conditions are dangerous or whether the job is just for a day or a few hours.

Informal-sector workers and migrants feel particularly insecure and vulnerable. For example, in Rwanda, people trying to earn a living by trading on the streets tell of how they are vulnerable to arrest: “Street hawkers are arrested, dispossessed of their goods, and jailed, and the start-up small capital disappears.”

Lack of jobs fuels labour migration, which, if badly managed, creates large contingents of migrant workers who are often criminalized and have limited rights in receiving countries. In Moldova and Tajikistan, participants emphasized how migration has also created hardship and risks for families and children left behind, especially when social protection coverage is weak. In Tanzania, participants said that internal migrants face huge insecurities, and that many are victims of violence and even homicide, leaving themselves and their families even more insecure.

Youth unemployment has reached alarming proportions in some countries, developed and developing alike. In some countries in Southern Europe, over 50 percent of youth are unemployed. In Djibouti, unemployment has reached alarming proportions and affects nearly 50 percent of the active working population and about 60 percent of young people. Given the difficult economic situation and persistent unemployment, the younger generations say they have lost confidence in themselves and in the future of the nation. Most young people have grown fatalistic and consider that the solution is to go abroad. Particularly

“ WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF OUR PACHAMAMA [MOTHER EARTH], OTHERWISE, HOW ARE WE GOING TO LIVE? ”

INDIGENOUS MAN, IMBABURA, ECUADOR



Drawing by Milica Petronijevic, 10 years old, who took part in a drawing contest on the topic 'The Serbia I Want'. This drawing presents her vision of Serbia after 2015 (Photo: UNCT Serbia)

worrying is the large number of young people who are neither in employment nor in full-time education.

Addressing these tremendous employment challenges requires nothing short of structural transformation of economies. The lack of inclusive growth is seen as contributing to inequality, injustice and insecurity. In the Growth and Employment consultation, there were strong calls for more active policies to promote employment-generating sectors and enable structural transformation to higher value-added production.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNANCE

Markets and the private sector, on their own, are seen as being incapable of ensuring growth that is socially and environmentally sustainable: governments have to be proactive in promoting productive and sustainable sectors while reducing environmental pollution and natural resource degradation. Governments need to put in place coherent economic policies to spur creation of decent work for many. People in consultations also expect governments to do a better job in creating public 'goods', addressing discrimination in labour markets, extending social

protection coverage and other rights to informal and migrant workers, and taking more proactive measures to tackle the high levels of unemployment or exclusion from labour markets particularly experienced by young people and women.

Expectations of a more proactive role of governments come together with expectations of greater accountability of governments. Deficits in governance — such as corruption, control of key resources by political and business elites, compounded by low capacity of government institutions — are seen as hindering inclusive growth by squandering resources needed for development. Many participants, particularly from African countries, see corruption as not only leading to misuse of public resources, but also eroding the culture of trust that is necessary for deepening and broadening markets. For example, tackling corruption among government elites is seen as key for diversifying economies that rely on the export of a limited number of unrefined products. There were calls from the private sector in the Middle East and North Africa for a shift away from a system that is dependent on state-controlled resources and contracts to one that can harness independent capital and

entrepreneurial initiatives.

Greater interdependence among countries requires changes in international economic governance. Participants in the consultations called for a reform of global trade, finance and technology transfer, because without these reforms many countries will not be able to make progress on inclusive growth, employment and environmental sustainability objectives. For example, in the consultations in Indonesia and the Philippines, concerns are voiced about the impact of trade agreements on small traditional industries and local livelihoods. These are expressed in calls for 'fair trade not free trade'. Continued subsidies of agricultural production in rich countries pose barriers to improvements in agricultural jobs and incomes in less developed economies. The lack of transparency in international financial systems is leading to increased volatilities and the 'socialization' of risks, with which vulnerable economies and vulnerable sections of societies are less able to cope. Rules that inhibit technology transfer and knowledge exchange are holding back opportunities for diversification and business development, and also more sustainable solutions for future growth.

“ WE ARE THE FUTURE LEADERS
OF TODAY, TOMORROW AND BEYOND 2015,
AND OUR RIGHTS (TO EXPRESSION)
HAVE TO BE HEARD. ”

14-YEAR-OLD GIRL, LUSAKA SECONDARY SCHOOL,
NATIONAL CONSULTATION, ZAMBIA

Young man calls for changes in consumer behaviour during the thematic consultation on Environmental Sustainability (Photo: UNDP)



THE NEED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Environmental sustainability is treated as a separate goal in the MDGs architecture, whereas in the Millennium Declaration it is treated as an underlying value that should run through all other goals and targets. This has meant that the link between environmental sustainability and income poverty and inequalities has been underestimated. The **Environmental Sustainability** consultation has drawn out these linkages, and the national consultations show clearly how the lack of environmentally sustainable practices and current unsustainable growth patterns are contributing to inequalities and increasing insecurity for highly and newly vulnerable populations. The consultations call for both a goal on environmental sustainability and for sustainability to be considered as a basic principle to be streamlined in all other goals.

Consultations in Africa, for example, showed how changing weather patterns exacerbated by deforestation and land degradation are directly impacting not just incomes through loss of arable land, but also food and water security. In Latin America and the Caribbean, concerns were also expressed strongly about the present and future impact of resource depletion on human security.

The lack of sustainable management of natural resources is seen as reinforcing inequalities by leading to more unequal access to natural resources, including safe water, safe waste disposal, safe air and exposure to pollution and chemical or agricultural hazards. At the international level, inequalities are felt by poorer countries, and their populations, which often bear the burden of climate change, are less able to cope with the effects and have contributed little to its causes (for example, Africa is responsible for 2.5 percent of carbon emissions).⁶ Global inequalities in the use of natural resources are also seen in the use of water for producing energy: worldwide, energy uses 8 percent of all freshwater withdrawals, but rich countries

“THE LAKES ARE ALMOST DEAD AROUND HERE. CONSEQUENTLY, THE LUCKIEST AMONG US GO TO GABON TO FISH AND COME BACK WITH A LOT OF MONEY, WHEREAS POOR FISHERMEN LIKE MYSELF ARE CONFINED TO THIS MISERY. WE DEMAND THAT THE LOCAL LAKES, WHICH ARE BOTH DIRTY AND LIFELESS, BE EXAMINED BY EXPERTS.”

TOGOLESE FISHERMEN

divert up to 44 percent of this. The lack of effective management of natural resources is contributing to inequalities within countries and globally in access to these resources. These apply also to inter-generational inequalities, as continued depletion of natural resources implies less access for future generations.

The national consultations highlighted cases where job and income insecurity are increasing among communities affected by land degradation and water pollution. The example of fishermen from Togo shows how this can reinforce inequalities, as those who are already more established or better-off are able to cope and find alternative solutions.

The consultations point to governance deficits at the national and international levels, as well as lack of political will, as being a large part of the problem in achieving more environmentally sustainable paths of development. Better management of natural resources is called for, with clear incentives to encourage more efficient and less wasteful use. There is also a need for regulatory frameworks, and ways of calling governments, individuals and companies to justice for damaging practices and lack of respect for environmental sustainability.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNANCE

Environmental sustainability requires changes in current wasteful consumption and production patterns. Governments

are seen as vital ‘enablers’ in steering the shift away from prioritizing economic growth at all costs, to the detriment of social and environmental sustainability. One of the core problems is that natural capital is traditionally not valued, or given a price, and thus not incorporated into economic decision-making. As a

result, it is greatly undervalued, and there are few incentives to use it sustainably. There are measures that can be used to incorporate the value of natural resources into economic policy decisions, and governments should apply them consistently. Attaching a price to the use of global commons would further support

Young man calls for public accountability during the thematic consultation on Environmental Sustainability (Photo: UNDP)





“ AT ROOT THE WATER CRISIS WAS SEEN AS A GOVERNANCE CRISIS ...
STAKEHOLDER VOICE AND TRANSPARENCY ARE IMPORTANT INGREDIENTS IN
EFFECTIVE DECISION-MAKING ON WATER ALLOCATIONS. ”

WATER CONSULTATION, FINAL REPORT, P14

“ THE SEVERELY DEGRADED ENVIRONMENT OF SUDAN, TOGETHER WITH THE
UNRESOLVED LAND ISSUES, POSES ENORMOUS CHALLENGES FOR LIVELIHOOD,
ECONOMIC SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT. THE NON-SUSTAINABLE NATURE
OF THE SUDANESE ENVIRONMENT IS ESSENTIALLY THE RESULT OF WEAKENED
ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE INVOLVING THE POLICY, LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL
FRAMEWORKS FOR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. ”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, SUDAN

“ SUCCESSFUL ADVANCES IN ANY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNDERTAKING
REQUIRE GOOD GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND TRANSPARENCY WITH
ENGAGEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY. ”

PARTICIPANT, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTATION

“ IN THE INTEREST OF FAIRNESS AND EQUITY, GOVERNMENTS NEED TO AGREE ON
AN INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK THAT WOULD ESTABLISH MINIMUM
SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS, ENSURE THAT CORPORATIONS PAY
THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TAXES, AND PREVENT COMPANIES BECOMING SO LARGE
THAT THEY HAVE A MONOPOLY POSITION AND ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN
GOVERNMENTS OR TOO BIG TO FAIL. ”

REPRESENTATIVE FROM INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT FORUM, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY E-DISCUSSION

“ THE LACK OF EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE, AND THE WEAKNESS
OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS, ALLOW THESE HUMAN ACTIVITIES DESTRUCTIVE TO
THE ENVIRONMENT TO FAR OUTWEIGH THOSE THAT RESPECT NATIONAL LAWS AND
PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY. ”

ENVIRONMENT SUSTAINABILITY CONSULTATION



the shift towards decoupling economic activity from resource use by introducing innovative processes and technologies, since the savings of such measures will not only state a clear business case to transform corporate production, but also support policymakers in justifying the investments needed.

Both the Environmental Sustainability and Governance consultations pointed to the potential benefits of more opportunities for participation by communities in

managing local ecosystems and natural resources, and of more conscious efforts to make linkages between the local and global levels.

Participants in the Environmental Sustainability consultation called for legal empowerment of local communities by establishing local environmental courts where companies or individuals can be brought to trial over the negative environmental impacts of their actions. Examples of these green courts and tribunals

already operate in China and India.

Finally, it is recognized that the lack of effective regulatory frameworks, justice systems and incentives can mean that the private sector may undermine efforts to improve environmental sustainability. But the reverse is also true: governments have a role to play in providing an enabling environment — through appropriate design of taxes, subsidies and public procurement — to harness private-sector contributions to a more environmentally

“ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES ARE BEST HANDLED WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF ALL CONCERNED CITIZENS, AT THE RELEVANT LEVEL, ESPECIALLY YOUTH PARTICIPATION — THEY WILL INHERIT THE ONGOING INTER-GENERATIONAL CHALLENGES OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY. YOUTH-INCLUSIVE AND YOUTH-EMPOWERING GOVERNANCE IS CRUCIAL TO TACKLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES.”

GOVERNANCE CONSULTATION, FINAL REPORT

sustainable growth pattern.

As one contributor to the Environmental Sustainability consultation put it: “The private sector is getting increasingly aware of its role for long-term growth that is green and inclusive for sustainable development. It is providing new ideas in the fight to end global poverty by partnering with traditional development players such as national aid agencies and NGOs, leveraging supply chains to create economic opportunity for the world’s poorest people, and incorporating social responsibility into their

business practices. It is an important contributor to shape the green and inclusive growth agenda. Governments need to ensure a conducive investment climate to spur private-sector engagement.”

Achieving environmental sustainability and sustainable growth patterns is a universal challenge in that it affects all countries, and all countries must take on commitments to address it. The international community has a role to play in managing global public goods, and getting the incentives and

accountability mechanisms right for tackling public ‘bads’ — particularly carbon emissions, ocean acidity and natural resource depletion.

DEMANDS FOR MORE RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENT

Democratic and participatory governance is mentioned in the Millennium Declaration as the most important means of achieving human rights. Success in meeting development goals and poverty elimination was said to depend on good governance within each country, and on good governance at the international level, particularly on transparency in the financial, monetary and trading systems. However, the importance of responsive and accountable governance was not adequately reflected in the MDGs.

Improvements in governance are called for in two ways in the consultations. First, there are demands for more accountability and participation arising from a sense of injustice at being excluded. Second, there is a keen sense that without improvements in the capacity and transparency of government institutions, particularly their capacity to deliver public services and manage natural resources, the benefit of developing a new, ambitious development agenda may be limited. Good

“I FEEL THE WAY OUR GOVERNMENT SYSTEM FUNCTIONS AND INEQUALITY IN OUR SOCIETY ARE IMPEDIMENTS FOR GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. IF IT CONTINUES LIKE THIS WHETHER WE PLAN FOR A WORLD POST 2015 OR 2050 THINGS WILL BE THE SAME.”

22-YEAR-OLD MALE, TAMIL NADU, INDIA

Participants in the thematic consultation on Governance (Photo: UNDP)



“HEALTH SERVICES ARE VERY BAD, TIME CONSUMING AND LACK EFFICIENT MEDICAL SERVICES. I BELIEVE THAT CORRUPTION CAN BE A FACTOR THAT AFFECTS THE POOR QUALITY OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.”

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN, BRAZIL

“WHEN IT COMES TO THE HEALTH THEME YOU HAVE TO TARGET MARGINALIZED GROUPS AND HEAR FROM THEM.”

YOUNG MALE USER, FACEBOOK/ONLINE SURVEY, JORDAN, JANUARY 2013

“THE MOST IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT ARE ALL HELD BY MEN. THOSE WOMEN WHO MAKE IT FAR IN THE SYSTEM USUALLY END UP HOLDING MORE SYMBOLIC POSITIONS, IN SO-CALLED ‘SOFT’ MINISTRIES WITHOUT BEING SUPPORTED BY BUDGETS TO FULFIL THEIR DUTIES. THIS NEEDS TO CHANGE.”

FEMALE YOUTH PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, YEMEN

“NOTHING FOR US WITHOUT US.”

YOUNG WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES, REQUESTING TO SPEAK WITHOUT HELP OR INTERPRETER, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, ECUADOR

Consultation with children and young people from UNRWA schools during the national dialogue in Jordan (Photo: UN)



governance is seen as a development outcome in its own right, as well as a key enabler for implementing measures to achieve the MDGs and all future development goals.

The right to voice and participation is seen as contributing to people's sense of dignity as citizens. It is the basis for a more trusting relationship with governments, which in itself is an important driver for development. The right to a voice is necessary to bring injustices to the table, and holding governments, as duty bearers, accountable for not meeting their obligations.

Lack of participatory governance is seen as one of the structural barriers that drive inequalities. It is seen as contributing to volatile situations, instability and potential conflicts and, therefore, increasing insecurity. Young people and adolescent children featured prominently in the consultations, both as contributors and as subjects of the conversation. There was recognition of this group as a force

for transformation, but weak participation fails to harness the energy and will for transformation among this group.

In addition to the strong requests for more participatory and accountable governance as a right, governance was recognized throughout the consultations as a necessary 'enabler' to ensure effective implementation of other goals and targets. This has been illustrated in the sections above on growth and employment, as well as environmental sustainability. Deficits in governance — lack of capacity of institutions, transparency, corruption, lack of effective systems of justice, and lack of accountability — are seen as hindering the achievement of MDGs or leading to unequal achievements. The Arab Spring has shown clearly how perceived injustices connected to lack of political participation or 'voice', combined with

unequal patterns of growth and limited possibilities for economic participation, can reach a tipping point in seemingly stable situations.

The lack of a well-functioning justice system leads to people feeling powerless. An extreme example of this was found in Colombia, the country with the highest number of internally displaced persons (between 4.9 and 5.5 million). This population lost its land and means of livelihood and is demanding justice so that its return is secure and fair. The representatives of the internally displaced persons are asking for guarantees that their land will be given back to them and that they can return to those lands safely. Similarly, actions for demining the fields should be undertaken to offer the population sustainable productive alternatives to ensure food and nutrition security.

Governance as an enabler came up

in discussions about lessons from implementation of the MDGs and also in the context of future goals. It was considered fundamental, for example, to achieve equitable access to quality education and health services, and to achieve better management of natural resources to ensure sustainable and equitable supply of water, food and energy. Challenges in achieving improvements are often seen as being connected to deficits in governance; and, on the other hand, improvements in governance are seen as a precondition for reaching sustainable solutions.

Incomplete or partial decentralization processes, not backed up with budgetary flexibility and strong accountability mechanisms, were seen as contributing to growing disparities between rural and urban areas, or between the capital cities and 'the rest'.

Governance is in itself a missing

“ YOUNG PEOPLE WANT TO BE PROACTIVE, BE PART OF CHANGE. THEIR VIEWS, IDEAS AND NEEDS MUST BE TAKEN INTO DUE CONSIDERATION. YOUTH ARE JOINING ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTING CIVIL PARTICIPATION AND VOLUNTEERISM... [TO OBTAIN] MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND VOLUNTARY WORK. ”

NATIONAL REPORT, GUATEMALA, PP1 AND 12

“ WE HAVE A HUGE NEED FOR A GOVERNMENT THAT IS REALLY CONCERNED WITH THE PEOPLE'S NECESSITIES. WITH THIS GOAL WE CAN MEET VARIOUS OTHER GOALS. WITH A GOVERNMENT THAT IS REALLY HONEST AND TRANSPARENT, WE CAN RESOLVE VARIOUS PROBLEMS SUCH AS EDUCATION AND ACCESS TO POTABLE WATER AND ELECTRIC ENERGY, WHICH ARE BASIC THINGS FOR HUMAN SURVIVAL. ”

14-YEAR-OLD PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, BRAZIL

“ I HOPE THAT ONE DAY I WILL BE ABLE TO GET MY VIEWS AND IDEAS OVER TO DECISION MAKERS. ”

PARTICIPANT, FOCUS GROUP WITH YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS, JORDAN

“ BESIDES THE AVAILABILITY OF MEAGRE RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES, THERE IS LIMITED CAPACITY OF THE STATE INSTITUTIONS TO UTILIZE FUNDS EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY... CORRUPTION SEVERELY HAMPERS PROGRESS TOWARDS POVERTY REDUCTION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT. THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM NEEDS TO BE STRENGTHENED AND MADE TRANSPARENT. CITIZENS SHOULD BE PROVIDED OPPORTUNITIES TO RAISE THEIR VOICES AND TO HOLD ACCOUNTABLE THE PUBLIC OFFICE BEARERS FOR RESULTS. ”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, PAKISTAN

“ [PRIORITY SHOULD BE THE] ...FIGHT AGAINST CORRUPTION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR TO FORM ETHIC, HONEST AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS, POLITICIANS AND BUSINESSMEN; CONSEQUENTLY A STRONGER NATION AND A LESS UNEQUAL SOCIETY.”

58-YEAR-OLD MALE, PRIVATE SECTOR, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, BRAZIL

“ LACK OF ACCOUNTABILITY IS A MAIN CHALLENGE FOR LEBANON. LAWS GET BREACHED, MONEY GETS WASTED, AND THE CONSTITUTION GETS VIOLATED WITH LITTLE OR NO ACCOUNTABILITY ESPECIALLY TO THE INDIVIDUALS IN POWER. THE ‘SECTARIAN COVER’ OR ‘POLITICAL TIES’ OR ‘FINANCIAL POWER’ ACT AS SHIELDS AGAINST ACCOUNTABILITY, WHICH UNDERMINES THE RULE OF LAW.”

ONLINE PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, LEBANON

“ THE LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE MORE TRANSPARENT, WHETHER IT IS ABOUT SPENDING, OR BUDGETING OR PLANNING.”

RADIO DISCUSSION, ZAMBIA

“ SOMETIMES CHILDREN OF MINISTERS BECOME DEPUTIES OF PARLIAMENT. THEY HAVE NOT EVEN SERVED IN THE ARMY, AND THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEMS ARE. HOW CAN THEY DIRECT PEOPLE? THE VOTES SHOULD NOT BE SOLD.”

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, KYRGYZSTAN

Local leaders during national consultations in rural Loreto, Peru, December 2012 (Photo: UN)



element of the MDGs. The consultations show that great importance is attached to responsive government: this is seen both in the calls for recognition of the right to participate and have a voice, and in the definition of transparent and capable governance as a key enabler for achieving other goals. This suggests that more attention should be paid in the future development agenda to targets that work towards universal guarantees of legal rights and identity, implementation of rule of law, ensuring independent judiciary systems, and establishing anti-corruption watchdogs, recourse mechanisms and participatory monitoring systems as part of efforts to improve accountability.

ADDRESSING CONFLICT, VIOLENCE AND DISASTER

A clear message from the **Conflict, Violence and Disaster** consultation was that poverty will never be eradicated if people remain burdened by fear, insecurity and vulnerability. A call was made for a future in which all people are guaranteed a life free from the fear of violence, insecurity, injustice and disaster.

The dramatic increase in urbanization, climate change, ecosystem degradation, migration, food insecurity, conflict and fragility, and other unexpected shocks further underlines the need to consider how to address this multitude of risks and insecurities in the next development agenda. The Conflict, Violence and Disaster consultation stressed that development is never risk neutral; it either creates and exacerbates risks and vulnerabilities, or reduces them. The current development paradigm does not acknowledge the multidimensional and complex risk environment many countries face by the overlap of fragility, disasters and conflict. In this regard, participants called on the development community to design a new development model which aims at a net reduction in all forms of risk in a flexible and forward-looking way.

The drivers of violence, conflict and insecurity can be traced to development deficits such as inequality, the

marginalization of women, the lack of effective policies for children and youth, and the misuse of natural and state resources. For example, the world's poorest people are the most vulnerable to disasters, including those which result from both poor development planning in urban settlements and the effects of climate change. Participants in the Governance consultation noted that conflict, violence and fragility have hindered the achievement of the MDGs, with no fragile or conflict-affected low-income country having achieved a single MDG to date (Governance consultation, final report, p10).

The national consultations reveal a clear understanding that there can be no development in the absence of peace and security. The Conflict, Violence and Disaster consultation points to how inequalities in access to natural resources are contributing to the risk of conflict: at least 40 percent of internal conflicts over the last 60 years have a link to natural resources, and the risk of conflict relapse has been shown to be higher when natural resources are unequally distributed. The sustainable management of natural resources is necessary not only for economic well-being, but also as a platform for sustainable peace.

The consultations also reveal how

inequalities make more vulnerable people less able to defend themselves from violence. This refers to the fear of conflict, but also to attacks on personal security. The call for freedom from violence emerged very clearly both in the face-to-face consultations and in the different

surveys. For example, in Latin America and the Caribbean, it scores as the third highest priority for the region, according to the MY World survey results.

These insecurities and inequalities are closely linked with injustice. Personal insecurity is heightened when people



“OVERALL COVERAGE OF BASIC HEALTH SERVICES IS ABOUT 45–50 PERCENT. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION OUTCOMES AND SERVICE UTILIZATION PERSIST, ALTHOUGH THEY SEEM TO HAVE NARROWED OVER THE PAST DECADE, POSSIBLY DUE TO SIGNIFICANT MIGRATION TO CITIES. THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT URBAN–RURAL AND REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES. THE TOTAL SKILLED WORKFORCE IS LARGE, BUT IS ALSO CONCENTRATED IN URBAN AND BETTER-OFF REGIONS.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, SUDAN

“THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND MEDICAL EXPERTS IN THIS COUNTRY. OFTEN TIMES, OUTSIDE OF MAJOR URBAN CENTRES, JUNIOR NURSES ACT AS DOCTORS. THUS, WE NEED MORE DOCTORS, SENIOR NURSES AND OBSTETRICIANS IN LOCAL AND NATIONAL HOSPITALS AND CLINICS.”

MOTHERS' CLUB, TOGO

“THE PROBLEM BEGINS AT SCHOOL AND CONTINUES THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSITY YEARS. UNIVERSITIES OUTSIDE OF CAIRO AND ALEXANDRIA DON'T HAVE LABORATORY EQUIPMENT OR EVEN COMPUTERS, RULING OUT RESEARCH-ORIENTED STREAMS OR STUDIES IN THE PREDOMINANTLY RURAL GOVERNORATES.”

EGYPTIAN FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT ON THE POOR QUALITY AND CENTRALIZED GOVERNANCE OF EDUCATION CURRICULA AND FACILITIES

“I WANT MORE NEW SCHOOLS, MULTI-STOREY BUILDINGS, STADIUMS AND KINDERGARTENS TO BE BUILT, NOT ONLY IN THE CAPITAL CITY, BUT IN ALL PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, TURKMENISTAN

“IN MY OPINION, THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE IS THE ISSUE OF URBAN GOVERNANCE.”

PARTICIPANT, POPULATION DYNAMICS E-DISCUSSION

Matías Martínez, Coastal Ecology (Environmental NGO) (Photo: UNDP Uruguay/Pablo Bielli)





Consultation with children parliamentarians on post-2015 development priorities during national consultation in Rabat, Morocco, 9 February 2013 (Photo: Reine Van Holsbeek/UNICEF)

do not have access to justice systems to provide real possibilities to seek recourse for victims of violence or where there is little respect for the rule of law. It is felt in the lack of implementation of anti-discriminatory policies.

The Costa Rica consultation reveals that poorer people feel they have fewer options for avoiding danger and finding alternatives to protect themselves. Young people said that they walk in fear of being attacked. Older people tell how they are assaulted when they go to retrieve their pensions. Children in vulnerable communities, such as those living in Barrio Cuba, a neighbourhood that is stricken by poverty and violence, identified drugs and bullying as priority problems that they would like to solve to ensure a better future. A woman from Alajuelita, a community stricken by violence, shared her story about her husband being killed for no apparent reason and not having been able to bring the perpetrators to

“

AS YOUNG PEOPLE... THERE IS A REAL DESIRE TO WORK TOGETHER FOR DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE IN THE FUTURE... JOB OPPORTUNITIES, RISING INEQUALITIES, THE ENVIRONMENT, GENDER EQUALITY AND PEACE AND SECURITY IN NORTH-EAST ASIA ARE KEY PRIORITIES THE REGION'S YOUTH WANT TO SEE ADDRESSED IN THE WORLD'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA.”

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES FROM CHINA, JAPAN, KOREA AND MONGOLIA, NORTH-EAST ASIAN YOUTH EVENT, JANUARY 2013


“THESE DAYS VIOLENCE GOES ALL THE WAY TO THE DOOR OF YOUR HOUSE. YOU DON'T FEEL SAFE ANYMORE EVEN IN YOUR OWN HOUSE.”

YOUNG MAN, EL SALVADOR

“WE MUST DECREASE SOCIAL DISPARITIES TO REDUCE VIOLENCE”

35-YEAR-OLD FEMALE PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, BRAZIL

”



“WE ARE STUCK IN A BAD CULTURE THAT DEPRIVES WOMEN OF THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES. CONSEQUENTLY, WOMEN DON'T SPEAK UP WHEN THEY ARE ABUSED OR ELSE.”

COMMUNITY LEADERS, TOGO

“AS FOR ME, I WOULD WANT MY FUTURE TO BE A MUCH MORE SAFER AND MORE VIBRANT ENVIRONMENT, MEANING YOUNG CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY GIRLS AND WOMEN CAN BE ABLE TO WALK AROUND FREELY WITHOUT BEING HARASSED BY DRUNKARDS, RASCALS AND OLDER MEN.”

GIRL, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

“THE STORY OF ALL WOMEN IS SIMILAR AS IF PRESCRIPTIONS OF VIOLENCE HAVE BEEN COMMANDEERED AND SYNERGIZED FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT. FGM, DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE ARE SERIOUS PROBLEMS THAT TRANSCEND ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, ETHNIC AND GEOGRAPHICAL LINES...”

CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATION, ETHIOPIA

“THERE IS A NEED TO ENGAGE PEOPLE, MORE SPECIFICALLY THE YOUTH. IN THE FORMULATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA, WHICH IN MANY WAYS CAN TIE INTO A DESIRE FOR INCREASED VOLUNTEERISM THAT CAN EMPOWER YOUTH, TRANSFORM THE OFTEN PASSIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CITIZEN AND STATE IN ADDRESSING DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES, AND PROVIDE WORK SKILLS.”

KYRGYZSTAN NATIONAL REPORT, THEMATIC AREAS: VALUES, P16

“MULTIPLE SHOCKS THAT AFFECT COUNTRIES OF THE REGION INCLUDING SAMOA ARE INCREASINGLY INTERCONNECTED AND CONVERGING, BRINGING ABOUT COMPLEX LINKAGES. A FRAMEWORK FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE MUST ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES RATHER THAN ADDRESSING RECURRING CRISES AND SEEK TO REBALANCE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS. THE FRAMEWORK MUST ALSO BE INCLUSIVE AND MEET THE NEEDS OF THE POOR.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, SAMOA



justice; another woman from the same community said her son was in prison because he defended his wife from an attack.

Gender inequalities make women and girls particularly vulnerable to violence. Gender-based violence was highlighted in thematic consultations and across all regions as a significant human rights abuse and a manifestation of unequal power relations between women and men.

The Inequalities discussions have also highlighted the important role of civic engagement and volunteering as a way for all people, and particularly the most vulnerable, to foster their sense of responsibility and self-worth, and provide opportunities for them to concretely impact their livelihoods and play a constructive role in their communities.

To address these issues of insecurity, inequality and injustice, caused by conflict, violence and disaster, the post-2015 development agenda must be comprehensive and multidimensional. It must focus on the drivers of peace, explicitly ensuring people's security and access to justice; equality and social cohesion; participation in decision-making; fair, responsive and accountable governance; the importance of inclusive institutions; and equitable access to services, resources and economic opportunities for all social groups.

Participants noted that governments need to create coherent sets of policies that help more vulnerable people build up resilience to multiple risks that may affect them individually or in different combinations. Economic development policies should not expose communities to more vulnerability — for example, enforcing coastal zone regulations for housing and other infrastructure along coastlines. There should be regulatory frameworks and transparent mechanisms for holding the private sector accountable for damaging practices that harm local communities. Again, there are calls for the vulnerable to be included in the design of policies: “Multiple shocks that affect countries of the region including

Samoa are increasingly interconnected and converging, bringing about complex linkages. A framework for building resilience must address the root causes rather than addressing recurring crises and seek to rebalance economic, social and environment systems. The framework must also be inclusive and meet the needs of the poor.” — National consultation report, Samoa.

A NEW AGENDA: BROAD, TRANSFORMATIONAL AND UNIVERSAL

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONSULTATIONS ARE CALLING FOR A NEW FRAMEWORK

In the consultations there was a sense that the focus on goals not only diverted attention away from important parts and underlying principles of the development agenda, it meant that the focus was often on symptoms of problems and not on the underlying drivers of progress. This, as well as the recognition that important values were lost in the implementation of the MDGs, has led to calls for a new framework for the next set of development goals: a framework which incorporates and reaffirms the values and principles associated with human rights, equality and non-discrimination, the right to participate, freedom from fear and all forms of violence, access to justice and respect for nature. A framework that addresses the multiple forms of injustice and inequalities, as well as multiple risks and insecurities, requires coordinated action.

Without an integrated framework, there is a risk that the achievement of one goal comes at the expense of another. For example, if growth is lifting people out of income poverty, we also have to look at the impact of growth on environmental sustainability. The consultations have drawn attention to the complex and interrelated nature of today’s development challenges. All of the issues can be formulated as goals, but many of them are also enablers or factors that influence

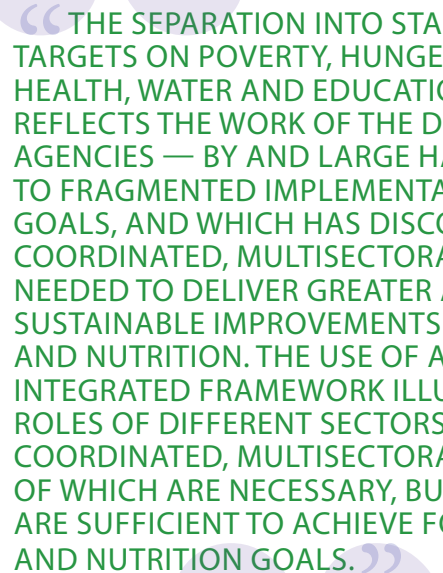
the achievement of the other goals. For example, gender equality and women’s empowerment lead to faster progress on all other development objectives.

As the hunger, Food security and Nutrition consultation puts it, as they are currently conceived, the MDGs address the symptoms of poverty and underdevelopment, but mostly ignore the deeper causes. This can lead to an over-focus on the aid-based alleviation of the symptoms, rather than sustainable, longer-term development solutions.

As outlined above, many of the values and principles set out in the Millennium Declaration are not only still valid, they are in even more demand given the intractability of global challenges. The new framework should build on and integrate the values and principles of the Millennium Declaration, but also take on emerging challenges associated with sustainability in all its dimensions — environmental, social and economic. It

should ensure that economic growth is not pursued at the expense of the planet, and does not exclude large sections of the population from the benefits of development progress.

As was expressed by a participant in the Water consultation: “The MDGs have provided a common platform from which all stakeholders agree, plan and execute development. However, the one thing that the MDGs have done, unintentionally, is create silos — education has its own target, water has its own target etc., so everyone is working in their own little silos and not talking or checking with one another for synergies and commonalities.” And in the final report of the Health consultation: “The MDGs have also contributed to fragmented approaches to development: between the different health MDGs; between the health MDGs and other MDGs, such as gender equality; and between the MDGs and priorities omitted from the MDG agenda.”



“THE SEPARATION INTO STAND-ALONE TARGETS ON POVERTY, HUNGER, NUTRITION, HEALTH, WATER AND EDUCATION — WHICH REFLECTS THE WORK OF THE DIFFERENT UN AGENCIES — BY AND LARGE HAS CONTRIBUTED TO FRAGMENTED IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOALS, AND WHICH HAS DISCOURAGED COORDINATED, MULTISECTORAL APPROACHES NEEDED TO DELIVER GREATER AND MORE SUSTAINABLE IMPROVEMENTS IN FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION. THE USE OF A HIGH-LEVEL INTEGRATED FRAMEWORK ILLUSTRATING THE ROLES OF DIFFERENT SECTORS CAN FACILITATE COORDINATED, MULTISECTORAL ACTIONS — ALL OF WHICH ARE NECESSARY, BUT NONE ALONE ARE SUFFICIENT TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION GOALS.”

HUNGER, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION CONSULTATION

The interlinkages between the different development challenges are set out by topic in Chapter 3. It was pointed out above that responsive, accountable, transparent and capable governance is a development outcome in itself, but also a fundamental enabler for achieving other goals. The same is true to a large extent of the other issues addressed by the 11 thematic consultations.

This can be illustrated by looking at education, which is seen as a fundamental human right and a goal in itself; but also as an enabler for achieving other goals. In fact, one of the participants in the Malawi consultation referred to it as the backbone of development, while a participant in the Brazil consultations stated that education is the base by which all the other MDGs can be met.

The **Conflict, Violence and Disaster** consultation calls for conflict-sensitive education, and education which plays a role in promoting tolerance, peace-building and conflict resolution. It also draws attention to the need for safe educational infrastructure, so that children are less vulnerable to disaster risks. For environmental sustainability, including the sustainable use of energy, water and land, education is seen as vital in cultivating an understanding of how people interact with and rely on the environment. In fact, the **Environmental Sustainability** consultation called for transformative changes in education inside and outside schools to raise knowledge of sustainability challenges and the urgency of tackling their root causes, and to encourage respect for the resources of the planet. Education is seen as important in tackling **malnutrition**, to promote healthy food choices, and to promote good hygiene practices, all of which influence health outcomes. Education improves women's and children's health and influences choice of family size. The inclusion of **sexual and reproductive rights** into school curricula helps ensure that women make informed choices regarding fertility. In the **Growth and Employment** consultation, education

has a key role to play in helping young people learn the skills they need to find decent jobs. Education also has a role to play in reducing **inequalities**, provided that it is inclusive of marginalized and excluded groups — such as girls, children with disabilities, and gay and lesbian communities — and addresses discrimination issues by making young people aware of their rights. Education, especially completed secondary-level education, has a multiplier effect on **women's and girls' empowerment**. The **Governance** consultation recommended anti-corruption education as part of national curricula, and more broadly to support participation in decision-making.

Achieving equitable education outcomes also depends on addressing issues raised in other thematic groups — issues dealt with in other thematic consultations will be drivers or enablers for improvements (or lack of progress) in education targets. For example, if there is no secure access to water, pupils are more likely to have to miss school to collect water. The **Water** consultation has also shown that providing students

with access to WASH facilities can boost attendance, increase achievement and promote equity. However, 49 percent of schools lack access to safe drinking water, and 55 percent of schools lack access to sanitation facilities in middle- and low-income countries (Water consultation, final report, p14). Population growth and dynamics also have to be considered in education planning.

Underlying drivers have to be understood, in that if not tackled they can have a negative impact on the sustainable achievement of the goal in question. Like education, health was seen as influencing and contributing to the achievement of other goals, while they in turn influence health outcomes. Good health is determined by many other aspects of development: education, gender equality, sustainable energy and nutrition, water and sanitation, and climate change adaptation. Population growth and ageing, as well as unplanned urbanization, will all affect health access and quality. Governance is fundamental for delivering quality health services.

Students filling out surveys in Bangladesh (Photo: UNV)



Conflict and disaster place a strain on health services, including those of neighbouring countries. Unsustainable patterns of production, consumption and growth are seen as underpinning the rapid rise in non-communicable diseases, which accounted for 65 percent of deaths in 2010, 80 percent of

which were in low- and middle-income countries. Further significant increases (over 50 percent) are expected by 2030, especially in Africa and South Asia (Health consultation, final report, p47). The consultations in Africa showed how unmet energy requirements have driven the majority of people to charcoal as

a source of energy and/or livelihoods for rural and some parts of urban areas, with negative effects on health. Global inequalities reflected in existing trade regulations, including those on knowledge and technology transfer, are seen as hindering access to drugs for those in developing countries.

“LACK OF EDUCATION IS THE ROOT CAUSE OF MATERNAL DEATH IN ZAMBIA. HOW WILL WE FIND BETTER JOBS AND HOLD THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE WHEN WE DO NOT HAVE PROPER EDUCATION? WE MUST INVEST IN EDUCATION AT THE PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY LEVELS.”

TOWN HALL MEETING, LUSAKA, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, ZAMBIA



Young community leader from São Paulo writes down the priorities of his group during a consultation in Belford Roxo, Brazil, January 2013 (Photo: Josival Andrade de Souza Pinto)

As the final report of the **Health** consultation puts it: “Further gains in improving health outcomes require greater synergies between health and other sectors. This could be facilitated by framing goals in such a way that their attainment requires policy coherence and shared solutions across multiple sectors: that is, a whole-of-government or ‘health-in-all-policies’ approach.”

And regarding governance: “The largest governance challenge for policy coherence relates to intra-governmental and inter-governmental decision-making, where public health priorities are often overruled by other interests, for example trade relationships.”

The thematic consultation on governance recommended that “human rights should be the yardstick for policy coherence”. The links between achieving water, energy and food security were articulated clearly in the consultations: “The issue we face in modern day society is we forget the inherent linkages between water, energy and food. We tend to look at shortages of each of these resources in isolation and try to fix them without fully understanding the impact of our actions. For example, if we want to produce food in a location where the natural ecosystem cannot support our favorite crops, we ‘fix’ the problem by pumping up groundwater or transporting it from long distances and mixing it with fertilizers (energy) to grow the crops. This fix usually means an incredibly inefficient redistribution of resources that ends up hurting ecosystems and debilitating the natural cycles of our planet.” — Participant, Water consultation

The Conflict, Violence and Disaster consultation notes: “To build sustainable peace and ensure freedom from fear, the post-2015 development agenda must address the structural nature of the underlying causes of conflict, violence and insecurity, which means a focus on rule of law, governance, equality, inclusion and economic opportunities.”

All of the above reinforces the call for future goals to be set in a framework that

reflects the human rights approach and core values of equality, justice, freedom from insecurity and violence, and respect for nature. This framework should also be used as the basis for devising a system for monitoring progress — i.e. progress may be monitored in each goal, but to avoid siloes and competition between goals, overall progress should also be monitored against the overarching framework.

This framework for designing goals should mean that sustainability issues and any longer-term impact on the environment are taken into account — for example, when measures aimed at addressing food supply and security, water, energy, sanitation and housing are designed. Coordination and policy coherence will be key. For instance, efforts to introduce incentives that encourage more rational and efficient use of natural resources — namely, by putting a price on them — may run counter to efforts to ensure accessible and safe water and energy for all. Poor people may not be able to pay the price of what are regarded as basic human needs, which are usually offered free or on a subsidized basis. Yet without better valuation of water and understanding of its links to energy, there will be limited progress in addressing global warming. Not only will sustainability issues need to be taken into account, but economic growth models and social protection systems will have to be adapted accordingly.

Structural changes in economies aimed at creating more productive jobs, especially those that involve the agricultural sector, will have to consider how the proposed changes affect local ecosystems and local food supply. Other policies aimed at job creation will have to take into account their potential effect on vulnerability to disasters. For example, one participant in Jamaica expressed her concerns about government policies on developing the tourism sector in western Jamaica by granting permits to build beachside hotels. She sensed a friction between the job creation goals, and the need to protect the coastline and ensure

that the policies did not make communities more vulnerable to disaster.

The above should not detract from the fundamental importance of devising a set of clear, measurable, bold but realistic goals, which can galvanize action to improve specific outcomes.

CALLS FOR TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE CENTRED ON PEOPLE

The consultations have called for more ambitious goals, but beyond this, there are calls to redirect our development trajectory in an ambitious way. This is expressed in the calls for **transformational** change, coupled with expressions of confidence that we have the knowledge and capacity to take on such transformation, provided that the international community has the will to act collectively to take this ambition forward. Transformative change calls for **putting people** — their rights, aspirations and opportunities — **at the centre of development**: for example, for new ways to enable education and learning; for new ways in which we manage and value natural resources; and it calls into question economic growth that is voiceless and jobless and attaches no cost to the depletion of natural resources.

Transformational change also involves changing the way in which the international community does business, including getting the upward and downward vertical links between global, national and local priorities. This will empower people in local communities to have their voices heard and heeded at higher levels and to take actions for the improvement of their own lives and those of their families and communities. It will extend mechanisms that strengthen accountability, participatory monitoring and recourse. It involves reconsidering the use of gross domestic product (GDP) as the standard measurement of development progress and using people-centred and environmentally sensitive measures as well, if not instead. It involves fostering new partnerships with the private sector,



“WE ALSO CALL FOR A DATA REVOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, WITH A NEW INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF STATISTICS AND INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENTS. WE SHOULD ACTIVELY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW TECHNOLOGY, CROWDSOURCING AND IMPROVED CONNECTIVITY TO EMPOWER PEOPLE WITH INFORMATION ON THE PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGETS.”

HLP REPORT, P21

which can be a tremendous driver of change if there are appropriate regulatory safeguards coupled with recognition that sustainable production processes also make business sense. The calls for transformational change are coupled with warnings against the futility and danger of trying to achieve sustainable progress by ‘incremental’ change or pursuing ‘business as usual’.

THE FUTURE AGENDA HAS TO BE UNIVERSAL

There is a call throughout the consultations for a **universal** agenda — for recognition that in our increasingly globalized world the development challenges are global and all countries are interlinked. There are issues and values that span all countries: human rights, sustainability, equality and security. And there are issues and challenges that have to be tackled collectively. The key global development challenges — and the universal nature of these challenges — cannot be reduced to rich countries providing aid to developing countries to eliminate extreme poverty. This ‘business as usual’ approach to development misses the key points emerging from the consultations. There is a moral imperative for rich countries to contribute to overcoming poverty, but

also to tackle global inequalities through reforms in trade and financial institutions, which represent some of the root causes of poverty. Rich countries should be taking the lead in transforming to more sustainable consumption and production patterns, and showing how — with the right incentives — existing knowledge and technology can be harnessed to achieve this without threats to peace and social stability. Partnerships must be formed to overcome sustainability challenges, whereby each country takes on commitments and responsibilities, and can be held accountable for fulfilling them.

Population dynamics, gender inequality and violence against women, achieving sustainable energy for all, water security and sustainable food production, a different quality of education and health services, and a different quality of jobs and employment are all challenges felt in different ways by countries throughout the world. However, although the agenda should be universal, all consultations point out that there should also be some flexibility for global goals to be adapted to local circumstances. As the **Health** consultation report puts it: “Any future health goal must be universally relevant.

Every country is home to families and individuals who lack the financial means, nutrition, medicine or care to prevent, treat and manage illness. However, no two countries are the same: targets and indicators must be adaptable to a country’s health priorities and circumstances.”

DATA CONCERNS

It has been seen that the consultations call loudly and clearly for more accountable and responsive governance, and to leave no one behind. It is also recognized that, to ensure accountability and tackle inequalities, more data, better data, new types of data and more accessible data are needed. The need for a data revolution has been repeated several times.

In the interests of ensuring a universal human-rights-based approach, there is a clear agreement that there should no longer be a focus on just national aggregates, but on disaggregated data — by income quintile, geographic region, sex, and by relevant social groups, particularly those most excluded. As discussed above, the focus on aggregate indicators diverts attention from the most disadvantaged and marginalized, who continue to be ‘left behind’.

The **Addressing Inequalities** consultation calls for participation in monitoring processes, supported by measures to strengthen the capacity and coverage of national and subnational monitoring and evaluation, data collection and analysis. These will be needed to track the impact of policies, legislation, budgets and programmes, including by those most disadvantaged and excluded. There should be truly participatory assessment of these measures, and mechanisms for locally led citizen monitoring and feedback on progress and performance. However, both this consultation and the Environmental Sustainability consultation point out that, for citizen monitoring to be effective, communities and vulnerable groups need access to the necessary tools to allow this type of monitoring to be effective (for example, education,

capacity, resource, information).

There is agreement that there are new ways of measuring targets that were not previously considered measurable. For example, the Governance consultation underlines that governance and human rights commitments are measurable, and that there is a wide range of data sources from which indicators for post-2015 democratic governance and human rights commitments can be drawn. Judicial independence and accessibility can be measured, as can personal security and political participation. Moreover, there is scope for sector-specific targets on fiscal transparency and citizen accountability. The accountability and monitoring framework could include peer review mechanisms and/or citizen score cards, whereby citizens grade the services provided by their governments, followed by social hearing where service providers and members of civil society directly engage one another.

Indicators for conflict and violence prevention are relatively new, but again there are already models and tools which provide examples of how progress can be measured. The Environmental Sustainability consultation notes that methods, tools and examples already exist to monitor environmental externalities such as natural capital accounting and green accounting.

Both the Population Dynamics and the Health consultations point to the need to further strengthen national capacities to collect and analyse demographic socio-economic and labour data, prepare projections and integrate demographic data with other critical social economic and environmental statistics. More resources have to be devoted to improving national civil registration, and to ensure that disaggregated population data by age, sex, disability etc. are available to design, implement and monitor programmes and address disparities. The Growth and Employment consultation highlights the need for labour surveys, and harmonization of definitions and survey instruments. Rich countries have the expertise and

should invest the resources to help poorer countries implement such surveys at relatively little cost.

Alongside the vital task of strengthening traditional forms of statistics, there are new and innovative means of collecting data which can be implemented with little financial investment, and which can fill some of the gaps in monitoring indicators. These include using new technologies such as SMS messaging and crowdsourcing. Qualitative perceptions, quality-of-life responses and sense of well-being can be as important as quantitative measures of outcomes. The consultations call for participant/service user surveys and focus groups, and other options for qualitative, participatory assessment by disadvantaged groups. The **Education** consultation calls for reporting mechanisms and processes that include schools and communities. However, efforts will be required not only to implement and standardize these new methods of data collection, but to ensure that the underinvestment in traditional statistical systems is overcome.

Within the Health consultation there was a call for an overall goal of

‘sustainable well-being for all’, which could capture the links between health and other aspects of well-being. One option, going beyond sectoral monitoring, could be to include a measurement of different aspects of deprivations such as a Multidimensional Poverty Index, which shows the deprivations a household (or child) experiences simultaneously, highlighting the poorest of the poor as those experiencing a large set of simultaneous deprivations at the same time. This would not only highlight changes in multidimensional poverty, but also illustrate trends in social exclusion and marginalization.

TO SUMMARIZE

The consultations show first and foremost the tremendous appetite that exists globally for people to play a central role in shaping and changing their world. They highlight that the fundamental areas covered by the MDGs are still critically important, and not only for people living in poorer countries. The first job of any new development framework must be to finish the unfinished business of the MDGs and ensure the continuing investments needed to complete those MDG target areas which are still partial in nature.

Drawing by Irena Stepanovic, 8 years old, who took part in a drawing contest on the topic ‘The Serbia I Want’. This drawing presents her vision of Serbia after 2015 (Photo: UNCT Serbia)



At the same time, there is a call to strengthen ambition so as to reach the remainder of the world's people who are still living with many unacceptable expressions of poverty, deprivation and injustice. There are calls to 'get to zero' on the current non-universal targets, go beyond quantitative targets that do not capture quality issues, and transcend the silo approach to get a more integrated and holistic approach. The framework should articulate a human rights approach underpinning each 'sectoral' goal, and universal values of equality, justice and security.

There are also calls to go beyond the MDGs and include challenges that are now becoming critical for our common global well-being. Many of these elements and principles were addressed in the Millennium Declaration but did not figure in the MDGs. Four issues stand out here: inclusive growth and decent jobs; governance and accountability; peace and security; and environmental sustainability. Participation in the majority of these consultations also showed clearly how important values such as equality are. People are demanding not only education, food and health, but also justice, participation and dignity for everyone. There is no lasting progress if people are left behind.

The consultations indicated forcefully that today's global challenges cannot be approached in silos: progress in all of them is required at the same time. There is a need for a holistic and human-rights-based approach that takes into account the issue of sustainability in all its dimensions. The poverty reduction agenda cannot be separated from the actions needed to safeguard our planet. The integrated approach must clearly link the 'traditional' MDG multidimensional poverty reduction agenda with achieving sustainable development: poverty reduction within the context of sustainable development, whereby sustainable development refers to a framework which uses a human rights approach and incorporates issues of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

Finally, they point to the need for a data revolution and a sound framework for people-centred monitoring of progress and ensuring accountability during implementation. The consultations themselves should be seen as the beginning of this data revolution: an example of a participatory data collection exercise, and also an example of the options for and benefits of giving citizens more voice and opportunities for participation. ■

NOTES

- 1 The UNDG unites the 32 UN funds, programmes, agencies, departments and offices that play a role in development. The group's common objective is to deliver more coherent, effective and efficient support to countries seeking to attain internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs.
- 2 www.myworld2015.org.
- 3 The MDGs were drawn from the Millennium Declaration as well as the UN conferences of the preceding decade, but with limited popular engagement. Some groups have criticized the MDGs for capturing a reduced and simplistic vision of development: one that ignores the linkages between issues as well as the root causes of poverty, inequality and discrimination.
- 4 Population dynamics and their implications figured prominently in the discussions in Asia and the Pacific, including, for example, in Viet Nam. "Viet Nam is undergoing a unique demographic process. A large young population and a rapidly ageing population are providing both challenges and opportunities for the young and old and society in general. For young people, the challenge is to find meaningful, productive employment. For older people, it is to secure adequate state care and social security in the face of the erosion of traditional household caring for older persons. These trends are compounded by rapid urbanization, which is re-shaping the population distribution of the country and fuelling economic growth in urban centres, whilst simultaneously placing stress on the urban environment and urban management. These demographic changes highlight the need for a comprehensive social protection system for all." — Viet Nam Post-2015 Agenda Country Consultation Report
- 5 United Nations General Assembly, Millennium Declaration, United Nations, New York, 2000, <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>.
- 6 Addressing Inequalities final report, p53.



Consultative process in Tanzania on post-2015 with young people while filming the documentary 'Listen to Us' (Photo: UN/UNFPA)

2 | ONE MILLION VOICES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS AND METHODS OF OUTREACH

This chapter reports on the messages coming out from the national consultations that have taken place in 88 countries across the world. These consultations have been led by UN Country Teams (UNCTs) with the involvement of national governments, and were carried out between October 2012 and June 2013. Some are still ongoing and are, therefore, not reflected in this report. Countries in all situations have participated: both low- and middle-income countries, including least-developed countries, Small Island Developing States (SIDS), landlocked countries, countries affected by conflict or high disease burdens, and those with large indigenous populations.



Through an innovative ballot designed by UNDP and Procter and Gamble in Thailand, children colour in their priorities on the MYWorld globe after voting in Ban Klong Huay Na School, Phetchabun, Thailand (Photo: Mark Cogan/UNDP Thailand 2013)

The main focus has been on reaching out to poor and marginalized people: those who would not normally have the possibility of contributing to the post-2015 debate. They included, for example, children; young people; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people; indigenous peoples; trades unions; the private sector in many countries; displaced people; homeless people; farmers; prison inmates; and gang members. But these were by no means the only groups which participated. In each country and region, the consultations covered a broad spectrum of stakeholders. National and local decision makers were engaged in this process in each country, as were representatives of the private sector, and — to give just a few examples — members of the military armed forces in Ecuador, and journalists and academic research institutes in Iraq. Many of the consultations were facilitated by local civil society organizations (CSOs), and some were carried out with sub-national governments.

This diversity in contributors has been matched by the diversity of the tools used for outreach. The consultation methods vary from country to country, but most

combined a mix of on- and offline surveys, radio phone-ins, text messaging, social media, focus groups, interviews and multi-stakeholder meetings. While efforts were directed at engaging a wide range of views, in some cases, vulnerable groups were not always reached. (A full description of process issues is provided in Annex 1.)

While the focus of this chapter is on the results of the national consultations explicitly convened by the UNDG, we have also benefited from inputs from CSOs and the private sector, including from high-income countries, and from consultations

with marginalized populations conducted under the aegis of the Beyond 2015 campaign. The nature of the exercise — convened by UN teams with development cooperation programmes — has meant that high-income countries are less represented. However, the scope of the global conversation on a new development agenda has benefited from action and consultations led by international and national CSOs in Europe and North America, as well as the work of UN regional commissions.

ONE MILLION VOICES: A NEW SOURCE OF DATA ON DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

As far as possible we have tried to avoid imposing too much order on this rich and diverse material. There is a risk of losing the richness and immediacy of the messages and, in particular, losing the sometimes striking perceptions of the interconnectedness of the development challenges affecting people and their communities. Respondents have different levels of awareness and technical knowledge of the issues, but we have tried to avoid ‘translating’ contributions into technical terms. However, inevitably condensing the vast amount of materials has led to some compromises.

The 88 national consultations demonstrate that people from different walks of life have an intuitive understanding of development challenges and their interlinkages without necessarily having benefited from expertise and analytical

“THOUGH THESE GOALS [MDGS] ADDRESSED IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENT AREAS SUCH AS POVERTY REDUCTION, EDUCATION AND HEALTH, THE REQUIRED INTER-LINKAGES BETWEEN THE GOALS ARE HOWEVER MISSING – THIS HAS LED TO AN ABSENCE OF SYNERGY AND CONSTITUTES THE MAIN SHORTCOMING ACROSS ALL OF THE MDGS.”
RESPONDENT, NATIONAL COUNTRY CONSULTATION, IRAN

reports devoted to the development challenges of our time. This report and the national consultations on the new development agenda have created a new source of data, but one which drives the dialogue towards convergence. The crowdsourcing methods used for this process validate expert reports produced under this and other streams in the post-2015 dialogue.

For the purposes of this report, we have sliced up the 88 national conversations into regional-size bites. However, as a measure of accountability to the hundreds of thousands of people engaged in this process, each country has a national report which is validated at country level. For a country-by-country consolidation of the results of national consultations, the most complete sources are each of the 88 national reports.

The regional analyses that follow do not attempt to summarize all issues that arose in all countries but, rather, to explore the most salient themes. Many common threads emerge, but also many differences between regions and within regions, reflecting both the need and call for a universal agenda, on the one hand, and an agenda which allows flexibility to take into account different contexts. We hope that the regional approach complements other available reports which focus on global trends. By making the raw material available, we also hope that interested analysts will delve further and look at other categories — for example, at the specific needs and priorities of, for instance, middle-income countries, countries experiencing conflict, SIDS, least developed or landlocked countries.

CALLS TO KEEP THE CONSULTATION CHANNELS OPEN

As was highlighted in Chapter 1, the consultations have revealed a huge appetite and demand for involvement not only in the design of the development agenda, but also in its future implementation, through mechanisms which allow people to hold governments and the international community — and in some

cases the private sector — accountable. People are asking not just for a one-off consultation, but for an ongoing conversation about the future they want. Indeed, during the course of convening these consultations we see signs of fatigue at the many consultation processes which ask for participation but remain a one-off ‘extractive’ conversation. The unprecedented engagement of civil society and other stakeholders in this dialogue and the richness of the material generated will hopefully trigger the beginning of a process that will establish and maintain the links between community-level, local, national, regional and global debates on the post-2015 agenda. The national consultations are seen by many stakeholders as the launch of a longer conversation, some of which will be taken up in the new global agenda, and some of which requires national, local or even regional responses.

The consultations also reveal calls to step up pressure for decision makers and policymakers to be more accountable for delivering on these goals at the

national and global levels. At this stage, the results of the national consultations are being discussed with governments at the national level and in some cases at regional forums. Many governments see the views which have emerged during these consultations as a valuable source of information for their national development planning. As the intergovernmental process to define a new agenda — including the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals — moves forward, member states are benefiting from inputs from the High Level Panel, as well as from experts within and outside the UN structures. The people consulted not only have a clear sense of priorities, they also propose solutions and are keen to participate in putting in place measures to deliver the future they want. This richness of the results, and the succinct and immediate way in which many participants express their priorities and recommendations for the future, are elements to be brought to the attention of member states as they move forward with finalizing and implementing the agenda.

Ensuring that the voices of all groups of the Dominican society are heard during the Post-2015 Development Agenda (Photo: UNV/UNDP/Sara Romero)



TABLE 1
COUNTRIES UNDERTAKING
NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

AFRICA		ASIA AND THE PACIFIC	LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	ARAB STATES	EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA
Angola	Malawi	Bangladesh	Bolivia	Algeria	Albania
Benin	Mauritania	Bhutan	Brazil	Djibouti	Armenia
Burkina Faso	Mauritius	Cambodia	Colombia	Egypt	Azerbaijan
Burundi	Mozambique	China	Costa Rica	Iraq	Belarus
Cameroon	Niger	India	Cuba	Jordan	Georgia
Cape Verde	Nigeria	Indonesia	Dominican Republic	Lebanon	Kazakhstan
Côte d'Ivoire	Rwanda	Iran	Ecuador	Morocco	Kyrgyzstan
DRC	Sao Tome and Principe	Mongolia	El Salvador	Saudi Arabia	Kosovo ^a
Ethiopia	Senegal	Pakistan	Grenada	Sudan	Moldova
Gabon	South Africa	Philippines	Guatemala	Yemen	Montenegro
Gambia	Swaziland	Papua New Guinea	Honduras		Tajikistan
Ghana	Tanzania	Samoa	Jamaica		Turkey
Kenya	Togo	Solomon Islands	Peru		Serbia
Lesotho	Uganda	Thailand	Santa Lucia		Turkmenistan
Liberia	Zambia	Timor-Leste	Trinidad and Tobago		Ukraine
Mali		Vietnam	Uruguay		a. As per United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244

Before discussing the results of the national consultations, it is worth looking at the results of the My World survey (results by region are reported in the regional summaries below). Overall, the My World results suggest a clear and resounding call for education, health, secure jobs and income, and honest and responsive government to be part of the post-2015 agenda. These priorities have been expressed by MY World voters from

all types of countries and all categories of population (old, young, male, female); they confirm that the core focus of MDGs continues to be relevant and that MDGs should undoubtedly be the building blocks for our future development agenda. Compared to MY World results, the national consultations, which employ methods that allow a deeper discussion of participants' concerns and the impact of local policies, reveal a much greater

preoccupation with tackling inequalities of many kinds, through economic policies which promote job creation, improved and more transparent and inclusive forms of governance, physical security and rule of law; they also reveal a real and growing awareness of the fragility of the environment and the threats to livelihoods from growth patterns which do not take into account environmental sustainability. They also point to culture as an integral part of development and social cohesion.

In addition to the approximately 800,000 people who have taken part in the MY World survey, approximately 362,600 people shared their views during the national consultations. Broken down by region this is: 110,000 people in 31 sub-Saharan African countries; 20,600 in Latin America and the Caribbean; 92,000 in Asia Pacific; 16,000 in the Middle East and Northern Africa region; and 124,000 people in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

“WE ALL KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS ARE. THESE HAVE ALL BEEN STUDIED. WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS AGREE ON HOW THESE CHANGES WILL BE MADE. WE NEED A SHIFT FROM QUANTITATIVE (MDG) TARGETS TO QUALITATIVE CHANGE.”

CIVIL SOCIETY EXPERT, LEBANON

VOICES FROM SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

[Angola](#), [Benin](#), [Burkina Faso](#), [Burundi](#), [Cameroon](#), [Cape Verde](#), [Côte d'Ivoire](#), [DRC](#), [Ethiopia](#), [Gabon](#), [Gambia](#), [Ghana](#), [Kenya](#), [Liberia](#), [Mali](#), [Malawi](#), [Mauritania](#), [Mauritius](#), [Mozambique](#), [Niger](#), [Nigeria](#), [Rwanda](#), [Sao Tome and Principe](#), [Senegal](#), [Tanzania](#), [Togo](#), [Uganda](#), [Zambia](#)¹

OPTIMISM THAT AFRICA CAN TAKE ON DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

The consultations in sub-Saharan Africa draw attention to the considerable human development challenges which remain in the subcontinent, as well as to the unfinished business of the MDG agenda. But they are also marked by a perceptible new sense of optimism and confidence in the ability of African countries to take on their challenges, and a readiness to explore different ways of tackling them. This optimism is coupled with a strong emphasis on the need to achieve economic structural transformation to achieve more inclusive growth and a better quality of employment for the majority of the working population.

This is seen as fundamental for putting countries on a path that could guarantee greater longer-term self-sufficiency, as well as more sustainable development and human development gains.

This optimism and confidence which permeates the consultations is partly buoyed by recent economic successes: the continent has been registering consistent and positive growth rates averaging 4.9 percent from 2000 through 2010. However, recent growth has been largely driven by a few countries that base their growth rates on their natural

resource endowments. Given the lack of domestic means for value-addition, the mere extraction and export of natural resources — while accounting for the growth in GDP — has hardly generated additional jobs or socio-economic development outcomes. As in other parts of the world, growth patterns have not always — or not yet — translated into equally positive employment effects, and large sections of the working population are vulnerable, with low wages.

Consultations in **Mozambique, Togo, Rwanda, Tanzania** and **Malawi** point to

Girl Hub Ambassador explaining the MY World survey to the children of EFOTEC School (Photo: Mark Darrough/Girl Hub Rwanda)



“WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR THE COMING GENERATION? WE NEED TO CONTINUE ON THE CURRENT DEVELOPMENT PATH: INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE, HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, JOB CREATION, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND SO ON. CITIZENS MUST PARTICIPATE AND OWN DEVELOPMENT. MORE EFFORT IS NEEDED FOR BETTER COORDINATION AND SYNERGY IN ASSET CREATION. INVEST TO DEVELOP ETHICAL CITIZENRY, ENSURE THAT THE PUBLIC SECTOR AND MARKET PROVIDE CERTAIN QUALITY STANDARDS OF GOODS AND SERVICES. DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES NEED TO TARGET THE FAMILY AS CENTRAL FOCUS WITH SHARED AND MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACHIEVING DEVELOPMENT RESULTS AT THE HOUSEHOLD LEVEL.”

PARTICIPANTS, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, ETHIOPIA

“OUR DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY SHOULD BE ON SELF-RELIANCE AND NOT BEGGING FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AS WE ARE BLESSED WITH ENOUGH NATURAL RESOURCES FOR OUR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IF WISELY AND EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED. LET US CHANGE OUR MIND SET FROM BEGGING TO SELF-RELIANCE AS BEGGING IS NOT SUSTAINABLE.”

PARTICIPANTS, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, ETHIOPIA

“WHILE WE WOULD ACKNOWLEDGE WHATEVER AID HAS DONE TO OUR COUNTRIES, BUT WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO LOOK ON ‘WHAT IF... AID WAS NOT THERE?’ AND FOR SURE, WE MIGHT BE BETTER OFF THAN NOW. WE COULD BE MORE ORGANIZED, CITIZENS WOULD BE MORE ENLIGHTENED, THERE WILL BE STRONG WATCH DOG BODIES AND BILA SHAKA LEVEL OF CORRUPTION WOULD BE MINIMAL.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, TANZANIA

“IF THERE WERE MORE JOB POSITIONS, IT WOULD BE A WAY TO FIGHT POVERTY. THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD INVEST IN SETTING UP FACTORIES AND OTHER JOBS THAT CAN PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT FOR LOW-SKILLED WOMEN, WHO ARE THE MAIN VICTIMS OF POVERTY. FOR US, WOMEN’S EMPLOYMENT IS THE KEY TO EVERYTHING, SO WE CAN HAVE ACCESS TO FOOD, REASONABLE HOUSING, SCHOOLING FOR OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN, HEALTH SERVICES, ETC.”

WOMAN PARTICIPANT, BEIRA, MOZAMBIQUE

“THERE ARE MANY NEW COMPANIES IN THE COUNTRY, BUT THERE ARE NO JOBS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE... A POST-2015 AGENDA MUST BRING STRATEGIES TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE VOCATIONAL TRAINING, EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING; WE WILL MANAGE THE REST BY WORKING.”

YOUNG STUDENT, MOZAMBIQUE

MY World launches in the Maldives with the support of local celebrities. In this picture, Maldivian students vote for their priorities. (Photo: UNRCO, Maldives)



the power that structural transformation of economies could have on peoples’ livelihoods. The agricultural sector is singled out as the largest employer in many countries, and there are calls for massive investments in this sector to generate poverty-reducing jobs. This kind of transformation is seen as having a potentially catalytic effect on addressing economic inequalities in Africa and, particularly, on greater inclusion of young people and women in economic activities.

Sub-Saharan Africa’s relatively large young population is seen as a formidable resource that could spur further progress, provided that there are opportunities to participate in development.

Most stakeholders call for a move towards manufacturing and industrialization, coupled with investments in selected sectors of agriculture, for the creation of productive employment opportunities. However, it is also recognized that poor infrastructure (road, rail, electricity, telecommunications and irrigation) is still acting as a major constraint to transformation. Participants call for greater involvement of the private sector, as well as stepping up initiatives to create enabling environments for small and medium-sized enterprises.

This focus on economic transformation emerging from the consultations may also be due to signs of increasing political will to form partnerships aimed at investing in infrastructure and economic transformation. For example, the New Partnership for Africa's Development is coordinating with Africa's development partners and Regional Economic Commissions on infrastructure development. The African Peer Review Mechanism, established in 2003, has served as a powerful tool for peer pressure and constructive dialogue amongst member states, which are addressing key challenges related to democratic and political governance, corporate governance, economic governance and social and economic development. In addition, the continent is also pooling efforts and resources in infrastructure development for transport networks and energy within countries and across the region. The consultations confirm a perception that infrastructure needs remain enormous, but countries in the region are looking for new ways of meeting them.



Youth consultation session held in the Angola province of Kwanza-Sul in November 2012 (Photo: UNICEF Angola/2012/Samandjata)

“ECONOMICALLY, WE LIVE AT THE MARGIN OF SOCIETY. NOT MANY PEOPLE BUY OUR WORK, CLAIMING THAT THEY DON'T EARN ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO AFFORD ARTWORKS. SO WE ARE AT THEIR MERCY.”

ARTISTS, TOGO

“STREET HAWKERS ARE ARRESTED, DISPOSSESSED OF THEIR GOODS, AND JAILED, AND THE START-UP SMALL CAPITAL DISAPPEARS.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, RWANDA

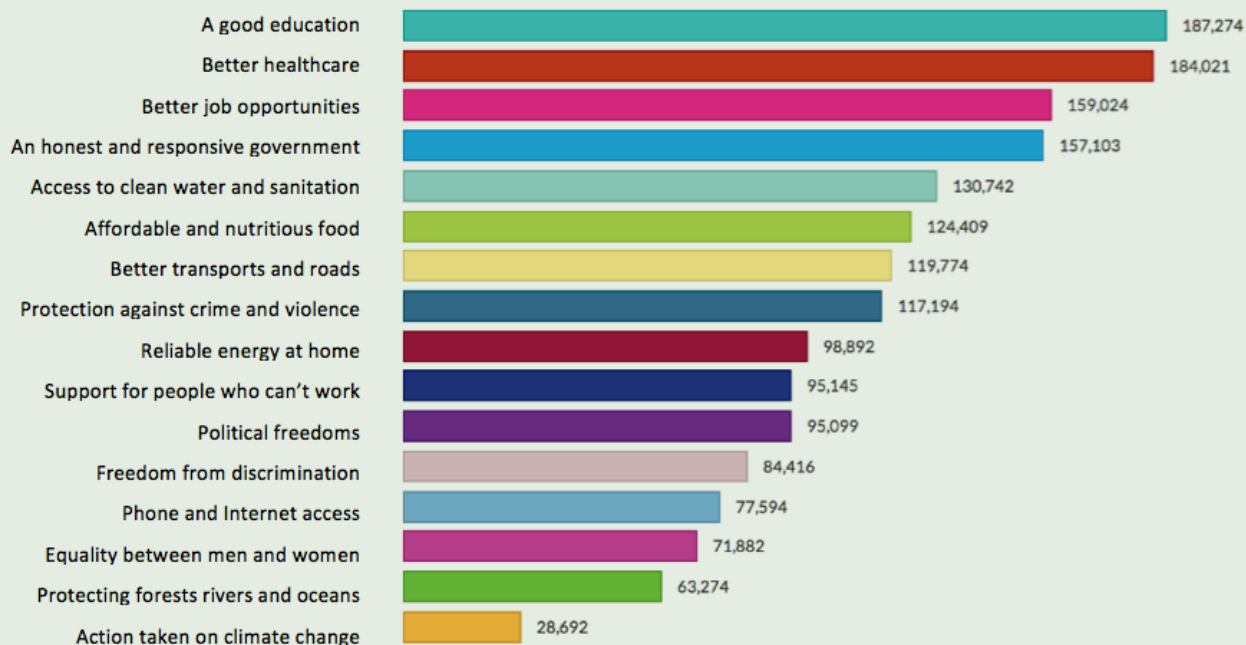
“THE GROWING ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO CREATE NEW JOBS PARTICULARLY IN INDUSTRY AND MANUFACTURING, AS A COMPLEMENT TO GOVERNMENT FACILITATED JOB CREATION, IS ESSENTIAL TO DRIVE A MORE WIDESPREAD GROWTH IN ZAMBIA.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, ZAMBIA

“WE HARVESTED LARGE QUANTITIES OF CORN THIS YEAR, BUT HAVE NO MARKET TO SELL IT TO... TO MAKE MATTERS ONLY WORSE, THERE IS NO ADEQUATE INFRASTRUCTURE (ROADS AND RAILWAYS) THAT WE CAN USE TO SELL OUR GOODS ACROSS THE COUNTRY.”

WOMEN FARMERS, TOGO

MY WORLD SURVEY RESULTS



“ AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS NOWADAYS ARE EXPOSED TO MORE UNPREDICTABLE AND EXTREME WEATHER PATTERNS AND CONDITIONS, DETERIORATING ECOSYSTEMS, GROWING COMPETITION OVER SCARCE RESOURCES AND INCREASINGLY HIGH AND VOLATILE PRICES. ”

WOMAN FARMER, RWANDA

“ OUR COASTLINES ARE POLLUTED. WE DEMAND THAT THE SNPT COMPANY FINDS A DIFFERENT LOCATION TO DUMP ITS TOXIC WASTES THAT COME FROM EXTRACTING AND WASHING PHOSPHATE. WE SUFFER IMMENSELY FROM THIS AND IT MUST BE ADDRESSED SOON. ”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, TOGO

“ THE RAPID PROGRESS OF THE DESERT, THE DETERIORATION OF FISH STOCKS AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT, DESTRUCTION OF BIODIVERSITY (DEFORESTATION, DEGRADATION OF WETLANDS AND PARKS) ACCELERATED AND UNCONTROLLED URBANIZATION AND THE NON-EXISTENCE OF RELIABLE COLLECTIVE SYSTEMS OF SANITATION AND WASTE TREATMENT AND HOUSEHOLD WASTE ARE THE CHALLENGES OUR COUNTRY HAS TO FACE. ”

DIALOGUE WITH CSO NETWORKS, MAURITANIA

A DIVERSE CONTINENT WITH DIFFERING PRIORITIES

Despite the optimism, the consultations highlight the considerable challenges that still lie ahead. Countries continue to face relatively high poverty rates, have low levels of education to contribute meaningfully to development, and can barely cope with the burden of diseases. Reducing poverty, enhancing food security and nutrition, improving access to quality education and health care, as well as access to clean water and sanitation, are repeatedly mentioned as priorities in all the consultation reports. The MY World survey results for the region confirm this finding: good education, better health care, better job opportunities, and access to clean water and sanitation appear as the top four issues of concern. The results also show the significance that participants attach to having an honest and responsive government, both for the management of national resources and for creating the fiscal space to provide quality services to citizens.

The results for Africa mask intra-regional differences. For most low-income countries — 27 out of the 31 countries that carried out national consultations in sub-Saharan Africa — meeting basic human needs, poverty reduction and inclusive growth are central and reoccurring themes, while addressing inequalities, migration issues, growth and employment, environmental sustainability and the promotion of good governance resonate more with lower middle-income and middle-income countries (7 out of the 31 countries). Similarly, good governance, peace, security, human rights and the rule of law, environmental sustainability and addressing inequalities are emphasized more by countries that are rich in mineral resources. In addition, infrastructure development and regional integration is a recurring theme in all countries but is strongly emphasized by participants in landlocked countries.

PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THE IMPLICATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

Environmental sustainability and climate change are frequently cited as concerns, and there is evidence of a growing awareness of the impact of human actions on the environment and its effect on livelihoods. Africa relies heavily on its natural environment for agricultural production and growth, including for fishing, tourism, trade, transport and energy. Any negative impact on the environment has far-reaching implications. References to preserving the environment are made in several consultations. For most landlocked countries, such as **Rwanda, Malawi, Uganda, Ethiopia, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali and Zambia**, environmental concerns centre around changing weather patterns caused by deforestation and land degradation. This has a direct impact on food security for most parts of Africa, where agriculture production is rain-fed. In addition, water scarcity and the loss of arable land are also seen as direct results of environmental degradation. Most countries realize that unmet energy requirements have driven most of the African population to unsustainable means of survival, such as making charcoal as a main source of energy and livelihoods for most populations in rural

areas and shanty towns.

Coastal countries and SIDS are continually being impacted by the negatives effects of climate change, such as the loss of shorelines and destruction of marine ecosystems, and raise concerns directly connected to the sustainable management of water resources. For example, young people in **Gabon** raise the impact of climate change and human activity on Port-Gentil, which they fear may disappear from the map because of coastal erosion. This would lead to the loss of arable land and other means of livelihoods for communities around the coast. Participants in **Benin, Togo, Nigeria, Liberia, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, South Africa, Tanzania and Mozambique** also raise concerns around coastal erosion. This will have significant implications for tourism and trade, and expose communities to more vulnerabilities associated with changing weather patterns.

Fishing communities along the Atlantic coast of Africa (**Togo, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria**) decry the depletion of fish, which remains the main source of protein for millions of Africans. This has been due to pollution and destructive fishing practices by large industries. The same is echoed in countries along the Indian Ocean coast (**Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique**). In

Women engaging during the national consultation in Senegal (Photo: UN)





Youth in Sao Nicolas during the national consultation in Cape Verde (Photo: UN)

other cases, siltation, coastal erosion and sedimentation are cited as key concerns in discussions on the environment. Participants in **Malawi, Mozambique** and **Tanzania** point to the impact that siltation has had on hydroelectric power generation. This is a real concern for the region, as it relies heavily on hydroelectric power.

PEOPLE SEE EDUCATION AS THE BACKBONE OF ALL DEVELOPMENT

The importance of education was emphasized in several consultations. For example, women's groups in **Togo** link illiteracy to the ability to make wise decisions on investments of all kinds:

“ EDUCATION IS THE BACKBONE OF DEVELOPMENT, SUCH THAT EVEN DURING APPLICATION OF FERTILIZER, ONE NEEDS EDUCATION. ”

YOUTH CONSULTATION, MALAWI

“ TO FIX THIS PROBLEM OF POVERTY, THE PRIORITY IS THE EDUCATION THAT CHANGES PEOPLE'S MINDS. ”

ARTIST, ZAMBIA

“ LACK OF EDUCATION IS THE ROOT CAUSE OF MATERNAL DEATH IN ZAMBIA. HOW WILL WE FIND BETTER JOBS AND HOLD THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE WHEN WE DO NOT HAVE PROPER EDUCATION? WE MUST INVEST IN EDUCATION AT THE PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY LEVELS. ”

PARTICIPANT, TOWN HALL MEETING, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA

“ WE WANT THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION TO IMPROVE IF WE ARE TO DEVELOP AS A NATION. THE FORM 4 STUDENTS OF THESE DAYS DO NOT KNOW HOW TO READ AND WRITE PROPERLY, WHEREAS FORM 2 OF OLD IS MUCH BETTER THAN THE FORM 4 OF THESE DAYS. ”

WOMAN PARTICIPANT, DISTRICT CONSULTATIONS, MALAWI

“ DEVELOPMENT IS ACHIEVED THROUGH HUMAN CAPITAL AND INVESTMENT IN EDUCATION. YET, EVERYONE AGREES THAT OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM IS FAILING, AS IT IS FOCUSING ON QUANTITY INSTEAD OF QUALITY, AND UNSUITED TO THE NEEDS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THEIR LABOUR MARKETS... ”

OPINION LEADERS FOCUS GROUP, MAURITANIA

“ WHILE SCHOOL IS FREE, NOTEBOOKS AND UNIFORMS ARE NOT. MANY OF OUR PEERS COME TO CLASS WITH ONLY SOME GARI THAT THEY CAN EAT FOR LUNCH. IT'S TOO MUCH, WE ARE POOR. ”

PRIMARY SCHOOL PUPIL, TOGO

who do not have sufficient and accurate information about their field of activity in terms of opportunities.”

Education is repeatedly mentioned as important by youth groups, CSOs and minority groups across a range of countries, as it gives one the skill sets required to engage in meaningful economic activity, make the right health choices and contribute to a host of other development outcomes.

Almost all the countries that conducted national consultations have removed user fees to primary education to ensure access to all and address gender inequalities. While this policy has increased enrolment, the quality of education has been adversely affected, as governments have struggled to make the necessary inputs into this investment model. Unqualified teachers, high pupil-to-teacher ratios, insufficient teaching and learning materials, inadequate infrastructure and outdated and non-responsive curricula are all contributing to low educational outcomes.

Participants in the consultations often cite the lack of basic literacy skills in children graduating from primary and secondary schools in recent years and are calling for governments to invest in ‘quality education’ at all levels.

A DEMAND FOR BETTER HEALTH SERVICES AND SOCIAL PROTECTION COVERAGE

Health concerns also dominate the consultations. Relatively high HIV/AIDS prevalence (East and Southern Africa alone account for 34 percent of the world’s infected population), malaria and high infant and maternal mortality rates remain key issues in the health debate. The impact of HIV and AIDS cannot be underestimated. AIDS has erased decades of progress despite notable success in extending antiretroviral treatment to many in Africa, and significantly fewer new infections.

Participants in the consultations call for measures to improve the availability of drugs and tackle inadequate health infrastructure. They point to the lack of



“ THE KIDS COME HOME SAYING TEACHERS ARE ON STRIKE. AT THE END OF THE YEAR, THOUGH, EVERYONE GRADUATES DESPITE NOT MEETING PROPER EDUCATION STANDARDS. ”

COMMUNITY LEADER, BURKINA FASO

“ OUR GENERATION HAS BENEFITED FROM UNIVERSAL PRIMARY EDUCATION AND ARE ABOUT COMPLETING SECONDARY EDUCATION. WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE THE EDUCATION LEVELS OF OUR PARENTS WHO ARE ILLITERATE AND HAVE TO MAKE MAJOR DECISIONS IN OUR LIVES? ”

STUDENT, THE GAMBIA

“ WE WANT A FUTURE WHERE WE HAVE ENOUGH MEDICATION IN THE CLINICS AND THE HEALTH WORKERS ARE CARING AND EVERYONE IS TREATED EQUALLY REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THEY ARE MALE OR FEMALE, LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS OR IS LIVING WITH A DISABILITY. ”

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS, BURKINA FASO

“ THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND MEDICAL EXPERTS IN THIS COUNTRY. OFTEN TIMES, OUTSIDE OF MAJOR URBAN CENTRES, JUNIOR NURSES ACT AS DOCTORS. THUS, WE NEED MORE DOCTORS, SENIOR NURSES AND OBSTETRICIANS IN LOCAL AND NATIONAL HOSPITALS AND CLINICS. ”

MOTHERS’ CLUB, TOGO

“ WHAT ABOUT OUR COLLEAGUES THAT ARE PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED, HOW DO YOU EXPECT THEM TO GO TO THE TOILET ON THEIR OWN WHEN THERE INAPPROPRIATE FACILITIES FOR THEM? IT IS EMBARRASSING FOR THEM TO BE ESCORTED TO THE TOILET WHERE ONE IS EXPECTED TO ENJOY PRIVACY. ”

STUDENT, MALAWI



“...THE PRYING EYES OF SOCIETY, THAT WE FIND IT HARD TO EXPOSE OURSELVES PUBLICLY. OFTEN WE HEAR PEOPLE SAY THAT WE MUST MAKE PUBLIC THE NAMES OF PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV...”

PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV AND AIDS, BURKINA FASO

“A FORM FOUR GIRL SHARED THAT GIRLS WHO ARE ON ARVS ARE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST IN BOARDING SCHOOLS IN MALAWI. AS SOON AS IT IS KNOWN THAT THEY ARE TAKING DRUGS, OTHER GIRLS BEGIN TO SHUN THEM AND THEY DROP OUT OF SCHOOL SOMETIMES. SCHOOLS NEED TO COME UP WITH PLANS TO PROTECT THOSE WHO ARE HIV POSITIVE AND TAKING ARVS IN SCHOOLS.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, MALAWI

“THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH DOCTORS TO TREAT ILLNESSES THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO THE ELDERLY. WE ARE TREATED WITHOUT MUCH ATTENTION TO OUR NEEDS.”

ELDERLY PERSON, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, BURKINA FASO

“WE TAKE CARE OF OUR GRANDCHILDREN WHO ARE ALREADY ORPHANS AND BECAUSE WE HAVE NO MINIMUM CONDITIONS TO GIVE THEM FOOD, CLOTHING AND EDUCATION, THESE CHILDREN END UP HAVING THEIR FUTURE JEOPARDIZED BECAUSE MANY OF THEM GO TO THE STREET LOOKING FOR SURVIVAL.”

ELDERLY WOMAN, MUHALA COUNTY, NAMPULA, MOZAMBIQUE

“WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH AND MAKE IT FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 TO GET HEALTH CARE. THIS PROGRAMME SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO EVERYONE — NOT JUST THOSE IN URBAN CENTRES.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, BENIN

Young woman presents causes of inequality and social inclusion during the national consultation in Uganda (Photo: UN)



personnel and accessibility to health centres as well as the need to confront the growing incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs). In almost all the countries people highlight the need for governments to ensure equal access to social services for women, people living with HIV/AIDS, people with disabilities and other minority groups. The issue is particularly salient for people with disabilities, for whom access to education, health care and sanitation facilities is a real challenge. People living with HIV/AIDS continue to face discrimination and stigma when accessing social services.

For most countries, the provision of some form of social protection is seen as

necessary to help lift vulnerable groups out of abject poverty and prevent the intergenerational transfer of poverty. Consultations in some countries call for a post-2015 agenda that would provide minimum social protection rights to various groups. In **Rwanda**, there are calls for improved social protection programmes for people with disabilities, while in **Togo**, minority groups and the disenfranchised call for free health care. In Southern Africa, where the prevalence of AIDS is very high, the pandemic has left thousands of orphans who are either heads of households or cared for by grandparents. This makes the provision of social protection to this group a particularly pressing issue.

Children who head households often struggle on many fronts. They usually end up dropping out of school to make a living and, in some instances, engage in risky behaviour to survive. The provision of food, health care, education, housing, water and sanitation is of critical importance to these children.

Participants in many countries call for targeted social protection for the most vulnerable households, while extending other forms of social protection and safety nets to able-bodied segments of society to rebuild their resilience and break the poverty cycle.

Lack of food security and poor nutrition is repeatedly mentioned as one of the ways that poverty has manifested itself in a more pronounced way in many African countries. In 2012, sub-Saharan Africa had the world's second highest Global Hunger Index, with alarming levels of hunger in some parts of the region. Overall, high prevalence of hunger and malnutrition, particularly among children, remains a major challenge. Although sub-Saharan Africa has abundant agricultural natural resources, millions of people continue to remain hungry and malnourished due to low agricultural productivity due to weather variability, natural disasters and political instability. Participants from **Rwanda, Malawi, Ethiopia, Niger** and **Mali** raise

food production, availability and access as priority issues to be included in the post-2015 agenda.

PEOPLE IN AFRICA CALL FOR EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Gender inequality continues to be an issue of concern. Although progress has been made in closing the gap, achievement is uneven. For example, while Rwanda, Malawi, Zambia and Seychelles

had reached parity in primary education in 2010, South Africa, Swaziland, Namibia, Madagascar and Eritrea showed a slight regression. Unfortunately, gender parity has decreased at secondary levels of education, with even wider margins in tertiary education. Some countries, including Rwanda, South Africa, Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Lesotho, Benin, Gambia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Burundi,



“FOOD PRODUCTION AND TRADING ARE EXPANDING IN THE COUNTRY. FOOD PRICES HOWEVER HAVE ALSO GROWN IN THE SAME PROPORTION. THE CHALLENGE IS THAT MOST OF US HAVE NO JOBS TO GENERATE MONEY TO SPEND EVEN ON FOOD. PEOPLE FEED ON GOOD FOOD DEPENDING ON AFFORDABILITY...”

WOMAN IN A MARKET, RWANDA

“TANZANIA AS A COUNTRY SHOULD DECLARE A MORATORIUM ON FAMINE AND HUNGER BY ALL MEASURES. THIS WOULD MEAN WE MOBILIZE ALL THE NECESSARY RESOURCES TOWARDS ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY ISSUES.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, TANZANIA

“THE FUTURE IS GRIM FOR US WOMEN SMALLHOLDER FARMERS. IN LOCAL CUSTOMS, ONLY MEN INHERIT LAND, ALTHOUGH WOMEN DO MOST OF THE WORK IN FIELDS. THIS STRUCTURE KEEPS US DEPENDENT ON MEN AND SHACKLES US IN POVERTY.”

WOMEN FARMERS, TOGO


“WE ARE STUCK IN A BAD CULTURE THAT DEPRIVES WOMEN THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES. CONSEQUENTLY, WOMEN DON'T SPEAK UP WHEN THEY ARE ABUSED OR ELSE.”

COMMUNITY LEADERS, TOGO

“RWANDAN WOMEN SEE THEMSELVES REPRESENTED IN PARLIAMENT AND IN SOCIETY, WORKING HARD, BUT IT IS STILL DIFFICULT TO AFFORD BANK GUARANTEE.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, RWANDA





“ THE STORY OF ALL WOMEN IS SIMILAR AS IF PRESCRIPTIONS OF VIOLENCE HAVE BEEN COMMANDEERED AND SYNERGISED FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT. FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION, DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE ARE SERIOUS PROBLEMS THAT TRANSCEND ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, ETHNIC AND GEOGRAPHICAL LINES. DEVELOPMENT WHICH IS ABOUT FACILITATING THE MEETING OF THESE NEEDS SHOULD THEN BE CENTRED ON HOW NORMS AND RIGHTS WOULD ENABLE MEETING WOMEN’S NEEDS AND FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL. ”

CIVIL SOCIETY CONSULTATION, ETHIOPIA

“ THE LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE MORE TRANSPARENT, WHETHER IT IS ABOUT SPENDING, BUDGETING OR PLANNING. ”

RADIO DISCUSSION, ZAMBIA

“ WE ARE THE FUTURE LEADERS OF TODAY, TOMORROW AND BEYOND 2015, AND OUR RIGHTS [TO EXPRESSION] HAVE TO BE HEARD. ”

14-YEAR-OLD GIRL, LUSAKA SECONDARY SCHOOL, ZAMBIA

“ IT MANIFESTS ITSELF THROUGH RENT-SEEKING BEHAVIOUR WHICH RAISES THE TRANSACTIONS COSTS ON MANY PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ACTIVITIES. CORRUPTION NOT ONLY RAISES THE COSTS OF DOING BUSINESS AND LEADS TO SQUANDERING OF PUBLIC RESOURCES, BUT IT IS ALSO CORROSIVE TO THE NATIONAL PSYCHE. IT ERODES THE CULTURE OF TRUST THAT IS NECESSARY FOR THE DEEPENING AND BROADENING OF MARKETS. THEREFORE, COMBATING CORRUPTION AND PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE SHOULD BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK. ”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, MALAWI

“ THE ONLY WAY OF SUSTAINING BENEFITS FROM THE EXPLOITATION OF NON-RENEWABLE RESOURCES IS TO MAKE SURE THAT BENEFITS FROM THESE RESOURCES ARE INVESTED INTO ALTERNATIVE CAPITAL, SUCH AS HUMAN CAPITAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE TO ENSURE THAT THE PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY OF THE ECONOMY IS NOT DECLINING AS THE RESOURCES GET DEPLETED. ”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, TANZANIA



Ethiopia, Seychelles and Uganda have made impressive gains in increasing the number of women in national parliaments and decision-making positions, but this is not true for all countries. The majority of women in Africa are poor and not economically empowered, still suffer from violence and abuse, and are not well represented in various governance structures where their voice would matter.

In other parts of the subregion, particularly in **Ethiopia, Tanzania, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, Burkina Faso, Sudan** and **Uganda**, issues of unfair treatment, including sexual violence and gender discrimination due to repressive cultural practices, came strongly from women's groups and CSOs.

TRANSPARENCY AND GOVERNANCE AT THE CORE

Good governance and responsive governments are recurring themes in most of the consultations in the region.

Most countries in sub-Saharan Africa have democratic governments that are decentralized to various degrees, but there were concerns raised about a lack of effective policy implementation and instruments to safeguard public interests. Most participants draw attention to the lack of transparency and accountability, including a lack of accountability for members of parliaments to the communities they represent, and very weak accountability mechanisms for national and subnational budget allocations and expenditures.

Poor service delivery in the provision of social services (health, education, water and sanitation), especially in rural areas and peri-urban areas, is seen as partly a result of poorly implemented decentralized administration. Decentralization, including fiscal decentralization and devolution of power for service delivery, is seen as particularly important among participants in **Benin, Malawi, and Uganda**.

Opening up space for effective and increased citizen participation is another area of focus in the national consultations. Participants, particularly at subnational levels and from minority

groups, express the need to contribute meaningfully to policy formulation, planning, budgeting implementation, and monitoring of development agendas. Young people in all national consultations are particularly vocal in expressing the need to be included in policy debates and implementation.

For resource-rich countries such as **Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Zambia**, rooting out the culture of corruption is singled out as a key priority for the post-2015 agenda, alongside transparency in the management of natural resources. For these countries, economic governance as a broad theme resonates strongly.

Participants in **Tanzania, Mozambique, Uganda and Malawi** — countries that have recently discovered mineral and energy deposits — raise management of natural resources as a particular concern, to avoid the 'resource curse' phenomenon. People call for exploration of national capacities to exploit these resources, for increased transparency in contractual arrangements with multinational companies in the industry, for more consideration to be given to displaced communities, and clear plans for investing the benefits from extractive industries into national human capital and infrastructure.



Preparation for focus group discussion at the launch of the Post-2015 Consultation in Tamale, Northern Ghana (Photo: Mariam Balma Salifu, National Service Personnel with UNDP)

SECURITY AND SAFETY AS A PRECONDITION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Many resource-rich countries, but also others that are either in or recovering from conflict or insecurity, are particularly concerned about security and safety as a precondition for development. Consultations in **Angola, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria and Rwanda** all envision a post-2015 agenda

where security from conflict and crime and, therefore, peace will be guaranteed. Countries that share borders with 'fragile' states, such as **Uganda** (bordering South Sudan), **Kenya** (Somalia), **Ethiopia** (Somalia and South Sudan), **Niger** (Libya, Mali), **Senegal** (Mali) and **Burkina Faso** (Mali) raise the issue of security, particularly around their border towns. In addition, participants in many countries emphasize the negative impact that

“THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA MUST TAKE A MORE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT. HEALTH CARE ALONE WILL NOT SUFFICE IF PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND DECENT SANITATION, OR IF THEY DO NOT HAVE NUTRITIOUS FOOD OR THEY LACK A BETTER EDUCATION.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, ZAMBIA

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN AFRICA

Since 2000, African countries have been fully engaged in the implementation of the MDGs. To increase the role of African stakeholders in shaping the post-2015 agenda, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and UNDP initiated a series of processes at the regional and continental levels aimed at articulating an African Common Position on the post-2015 agenda.

Four regional and subregional consultations have been held so far in Accra (Ghana) in November 2011; Mombasa (Kenya) in October 2012; Dakar (Senegal) in December 2012; and Hammamet (Tunisia) in March 2013. Stakeholders from a total of 53 African countries representing governments, Regional Economic Communities, civil society organizations including youth and women's organizations, parliamentarians, academic institutions and the private sector participated in the regional consultations including through an online survey.

The four regional consultations resulted in an outcome document outlining the key issues to be included in the African Common Position. The outcome document was discussed at the AU Forum of Heads of States and Governments in May 2013. The forum took collective action to endorse the following key priorities for Africa:

- i. Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth – inclusive sustainable growth, agriculture, food security and nutrition, green growth, industrialization and value addition, infrastructure and development;
- ii. Innovation, technology transfer and research and development – enhanced technological capacities;
- iii. Human development – eradication of poverty, education and human capital development, universal and equitable access to quality health care, gender equality and women's empowerment, population dynamics, disaster risk reduction and access to decent shelter;
- iv. Financing and partnerships; and
- v. Development enablers – the domestic, continental and global enabling environments for development.

NEXT STEPS: The five agreed priorities for Africa are to be developed into goals, targets and indicators for discussion at the next AU Summit.

instability and conflict have on human development, and the added burden that displaced populations exert on the provision of social services in neighbouring countries. It is not surprising, therefore, that human development indices for countries in conflict — and the border towns of neighbouring countries in most cases — fall below regional and national averages.

Concerns about personal security are raised even in peaceful countries. Poverty, migration and insecurity from crime and violence, often exacerbated by inequalities, are frequently mentioned. The consultations point to increased crime rates in cities and homes in **Malawi, Zambia, Kenya, Senegal, Mauritius, Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Africa**, as well as the ever-present threat of violence against women and children. Communities in Ghana situated in conflict areas call for peace, because without it, they are unable to cultivate their farms.

UNFINISHED PROGRESS ON THE MDGS, AND NEW REALITIES IN AFRICA

Overall, the consultations in Africa reveal the unfinished business on the MDG agenda, and more: they expose new realities and challenges that need to be addressed, such as quality of education and health care, growing inequalities and unemployment even in countries experiencing economic growth, the strong connection between the environment and people's livelihoods, and the importance of taking an integrated approach to development. These issues have resonated with all stakeholder groups: women, men, young people, policy-makers, minority groups and the private sector alike.

VOICES FROM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia,
Costa Rica, Cuba,
Dominican Republic,
Ecuador, El Salvador,
Grenada, Guatemala,
Honduras, Jamaica,
Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad
and Tobago, Uruguay²

PEOPLE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ASK 'WHY DO SOME PEOPLE NOT ENJOY A GOOD LIVING?'

"Why do some people in this country not enjoy a 'good living' [*buen vivir* in Spanish]?" This is the question asked by a participant in **Ecuador**, highlighting a major recurrent theme in the consultations in Latin America and the Caribbean — namely, the entrenched inequalities experienced by most participants in accessing political, economic and social rights. They do not always use the word 'inequality'; but they all talk about experiencing barriers when it comes to fulfilling their rights as citizens and human beings. **Discrimination, exclusion and violence** are all topics that cut across the various consultations.

The national consultations in the region included the voices of those not usually heard and more likely to be discriminated against (refugees, internally displaced persons, disabled persons, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendant, migrants, LGBT, people living on the streets etc.); therefore, the call for greater equality is perhaps not particularly surprising. However, the need to tackle discrimination, exclusion and inequalities is also seen as a priority by other groups, including the private sector and members of the political and/or economic elites. There is an increasing realization that inequalities are harmful to society as a whole, not just to those directly experiencing them. The call for greater equality was heard in all countries, regardless

“ALL THINGS WHICH ARE WRITTEN IN THE CONSTITUTION SHOULD BE MET, BUT THE TRUTH IS THEY ARE NOT AND, IF MET, IT IS FOR JUST MORE OR LESS THE SAME CHOSEN ONES.”

YOUNG PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, EL SALVADOR

“I IMAGINE A FUTURE FULL OF RIGHTS WHERE THERE IS NO GENDER DISCRIMINATION, WHERE LAW IS ENFORCED REGARDLESS OF PREFERENCES, WHERE LIFE IS TRULY EQUAL.”

YOUNG INDIGENOUS WOMAN, ECUADOR

“THE LAWS ARE THERE, BUT THEY ARE NOT UPHELD. WE CONTINUE TO BE DISCRIMINATED BY THE COLOUR OF OUR SKIN. TO ENFORCE THE LAWS WILL TAKE TIME... IT TAKES EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE FOR OUR CHILDREN NOT TO DISCRIMINATE.”

AFRO-DESCENDANT MALE, BOLIVIA

Consultation with South Region Communities with UNDP NGO partner Movimento Nós Podemos in Curitiba, February 2013 (Photo: Flavio Lopes UNV/UNDP Brazil)





Armed Forces in Quito, Ecuador (Photo: Mareike Eberz, UNDP)

of whether they had made progress in recent years or were still behind in what is generally a positive regional trend to reduce inequalities.

In some countries, such as **Jamaica**, people explain the meaning, nature and consequences of inequality by using participants' perspectives. Throughout the region, many perceived inequality as a clear breach of their human rights. Those rights are enshrined in different national laws but are not fulfilled, at least not for everybody and not for all rights.

Some groups feel that they overwhelmingly bear the majority of the inequalities and how these reinforce one

another to create systemic discrimination. For example, women from Juliaca, in the High Andes in **Peru**, face gender, rural and ethnic discrimination and suffer from low income (26 percent of the national average) and high rates of illiteracy (20 percent). Their children do not fare much better, with 28 percent of those aged six to nine experiencing some form of malnutrition. In **Guatemala**, disabled persons identify discrimination, corruption and a lack of targeted public policies to support them as triggers for other inequalities in accessing jobs and credit, specialized health care for different types of disabilities, and a life free from violence.

“WHEN I ASKED FOR A LOAN IN A BANK [TO START A BUSINESS] THE MANAGER TOLD ME ‘LOOK, AS A DISABLED PERSON YOU’RE NOT ELIGIBLE... HOW ARE YOU GOING TO PAY?’”
DISABLED PERSON, GUATEMALA

PEOPLE ARE CALLING ATTENTION TO INEQUALITIES IN ACCESSING QUALITY SOCIAL SERVICES

As in other middle-income countries around the world, people in Latin America and the Caribbean are demanding equal access to quality services, especially in regards to education and health.

Although access to secondary school is still not a reality for everyone, Latin American and Caribbean countries have ensured universal access to primary school. As coverage has expanded, quality education has surfaced as a new priority. In the past, it was believed that access to education in itself was an ‘equalizer’. Currently, the debate focuses on how a system that varies in quality both maintains and produces new drivers of inequality. People have varying expectations as to what education should provide.

In **Brazil and Colombia**, people feel that a good education should produce changes in quality of life. For young Colombians in urban regions, the educational model fails to teach them how to become agents of change, while in rural areas of Colombia, young people criticize the educational model as being too urban-oriented. Brazilian and Costa Rican participants also ask that education be more closely related to the regional context and the needs of the population, to prepare students for a better livelihood in their own communities.

In **Bolivia**, the consultation's final report synthesizes participants' definition of quality education into three main points: a) a useful and practical education that emphasizes employment based on the country's ever evolving needs and trends; b) a cadre of well-trained teachers with a calling for their profession; and c) equipment and adequate infrastructure. Youth leaders in Lima, **Peru**, underline the importance of curricula that should include environmental culture and better awareness of human rights. In **Grenada**, participants demand greater incorporation of gender issues into the education system. LGBT participants in **Brazil** request that schools take action to

eradicate discrimination against sexual orientation. In the 10 countries with indigenous participants, quality education was also associated with content of indigenous issues or bilingual curricula in the native language.

QUALITY CARE AND SERVICE DELIVERY

When it comes to health care, the issue of quality in public services is a compelling concern for people in the region. Care and delivery are singled out as the two main problems facing the people, even in countries with universal social protection. Hospitals may be built and the doctors hired, but complaints remain. People cite a range of issues when describing the need to invest in better care and delivery: denial of access to certain services; rude communication and negligence (one indigenous woman was described as ‘disgusting’ by the doctor to whom she showed her body affected by disease); the provision of scarce information to users; long waiting times for both appointments with specialists and operations; and long distances that need to be travelled to see specialized doctors. Corruption is often cited as a possible key cause of poor service.

In some cases, negligent services turn simple and treatable health issues into serious and sometimes life-threatening ones. The story of an older woman from San Vito de Coto Brus in **Costa Rica** is telling: her 13-year-old grandchild was brought to the hospital due to a constant pain in one of his legs. The doctor told them that he was simply a growing boy, and sent them back home. Seeing that her grandson’s pain did not leave him, she brought him back, and the doctor then scolded her, saying that she was unqualified to make diagnoses. Some days later, medical examinations showed that they had to amputate his leg because of a serious tumor.

In other cases, unaddressed external factors can be just as critical. In **Saint Lucia**, women who were consulted do not have adequate and regular access to sexual and reproductive health services, in part due to a lack of knowledge of what is

available to them. Others describe barriers including legal provisions regarding the age of consent and religious views that oppose sexual and reproductive health practices such as the use of condoms and other forms of contraception.

What do the consultations say about possible solutions to these problems? Experts consulted in **Guatemala** suggested some possible ways ahead such as: promoting health as a public

good, with universal coverage as a goal; inequality reduction policies in health services; locally adapted information regarding health threats; more robust health monitoring systems; a focus on preventive care; and tailoring services to the needs of specific demographics.

Following up on other issues related to preventive care, questions of diet and nutrition as well as epidemiological country characteristics cannot be ignored.

“REGARDING EDUCATION, MOST OF THE TEACHERS IN SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY MISKITOS DO NOT BELONG TO THIS ETHNIC GROUP AND CULTURE. MISKITOS HAVE THEIR OWN LANGUAGE, AND TEACHERS DO NOT KNOW THE LANGUAGE SPOKEN BY THEIR STUDENTS.”
YOUNG INDIGENOUS WOMAN, HONDURAS

Young people in the post-2015 consultation, Upala, Costa Rica
(Photo: UNFPACOSTARICA/GRODRIGUEZ)



“HEALTH SERVICES ARE VERY BAD, TIME CONSUMING AND LACK EFFICIENT MEDICAL SERVICES. I BELIEVE THAT CORRUPTION CAN BE A FACTOR THAT AFFECTS THE POOR QUALITY OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.”

MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN, BRAZIL

“DOCTORS ONLY TREAT DISEASES NOT THE PERSON. ‘DENGUE FEVER’ YOU KNOW HOW TO CURE IT... BUT THE PERSON WHO HAS DENGUE AND HOW IT AFFECTS THE FAMILY ARE NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.”

SENIOR PARTICIPANT, EL SALVADOR

Consultations acknowledge that the national health systems in the region have to simultaneously combat common diseases found in most developing countries, such as malnutrition, as well as emerging issues such as obesity, diabetes and even cancer. The incidence of communicable diseases — such as AIDS — and NCDs is increasing among the poorest

populations, especially those of working age. As highlighted across different consultations, current safety net systems in Latin America and the Caribbean do not always make adequate provision for persons who require secondary or tertiary health care. Poor people are not covered by private health care insurance, and universal health care has not yet been

implemented everywhere.

Across the different constituencies, participants also emphasized the need for more humane treatment by health care providers. People with disabilities in Manta, **Ecuador**, and those living with HIV/AIDS ask for “more humane and sensitive treatment” in their daily interaction with health professionals. In **Bolivia** and **Costa Rica**, participants include ‘warmth’ (*‘calidez’* in Spanish) as a desirable quality in those who provide such services. This entails a more sympathetic approach in regards to the patient’s particular background and experience.

WOMEN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND RURAL AND INDIGENOUS GROUPS ARE MOST CONCERNED WITH EXCLUSION FROM ECONOMIC LIFE

Several countries in the region have experienced solid economic growth within the last few years. However, the consultations illustrate a perception that this relative prosperity has not been felt equally among all demographics. In fact, some constituencies feel that the barriers to economic success are simply too high. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the labour market, both in the formal and informal sectors.

Young people are often seen as the group most affected by the lack of employment opportunities, which is not surprising, as many countries have youth unemployment rates that are twice as high as the national average. What is troubling is that this phenomenon is often interpreted as an extension of a social status quo that has little respect for youth. In **Jamaica**, young participants feel they are stuck between a past dominated by poverty, and an uncertain future with no opportunities to improve their situation. Youth from rural communities are usually identified as the most disadvantaged. Unemployment among young people is interpreted as an expression of the larger society’s inability to understand young people’s aspirations in terms of creativity and entrepreneurship.

The labour market has also been unfavourable to women. In around half

Consultation with Guarani, Kaiowá and Terena Indigenous People in Panambizinho, Mato Grosso, April 2013 (Photo: Flavio Lopes UNV/UNDP Brazil)





International Day of Human Rights (09.12.2012) in Quito, Ecuador
(Photo: María José Guevara, UNV)



Mayan spiritual guide, before Women's workshop,
Guatemala (Photo: Odeth Alvarado /UN Women)

“ WE HAVE A LOT OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE LOITERING BECAUSE THEY LACK SKILLS ... AND THEY GET PRESSURE AT HOME... LET THE GOVERNMENT KNOW WE HAVE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO DO THINGS WITH THEIR HANDS. ”

PARTICIPANT, CONSTITUENCY FOCUS GROUP, SAINT LUCIA

“ WE DON'T WANT TO BE EDUCATED TO BE EMPLOYEES AND OBEY ORDERS, BUT TO BE ENTREPRENEURS, CREATORS AND AGENTS OF CHANGE. ”

PARTICIPANT, YOUTH DIALOGUE, COLOMBIA

“ [I WANT] A WORLD WITH GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, IN WHICH YOUNG PEOPLE CAN DREAM AND BELIEVE THAT IT IS STILL POSSIBLE TO MEET YOUR NEEDS. ”

YOUNG PARTICIPANT, URUGUAY

“ YOU HAVE TO BE YOUNG, PRETTY, AND 'COQUETTE' TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY AS A WOMAN. ”

PARTICIPANT, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

“ WE, THE WOMEN, HAVE THE PROBLEM THAT THEY TAKE OUR PENSIONS AWAY. THERE ARE ALSO LOTS OF WOMEN LACKING PENSIONS AND INSURANCES BECAUSE THEY HAVE PERFORMED DOMESTIC WORK, EVEN IF THEY HAVE WORKED ALL THEIR LIVES. ”

WOMAN, SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA



Consultation with young girls in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, with UNICEF, April 2013
(Photo: Flavio Lopes UNV/UNDP Brazil)

of the countries in Latin America and the Caribbean young women are 50 percent more likely to be unemployed than their young male counterparts. The consultations reveal the discrimination women experience as they seek employment. Not all economic sectors are open to them, and competition is fierce. For those women who are also mothers, jobs with flexible schedules are scarce and mainly in the informal sector. And even then, benefits are few, as narrated by female housekeepers in **Guatemala, Peru** and **Costa Rica**. These patterns of exclusion can only aggravate an already significant gap in the region in terms of female participation in the labour market.

Beyond questions of youth and gender, many participants brought evidence of discrimination in hiring decisions based on criteria such as social and economic background, ethnicity, sexual orientation or migrant status. Indigenous peoples' representatives in

Guatemala feel that women suffered a three-pronged discrimination. People talk about the pernicious effects on women's lives of the intersection of poverty, lack of education, and a rural geographical location and indigenous affiliation.

Migrants in **Trinidad and Tobago** and **Costa Rica** share stories about how they leave home because of economic disadvantages yet encounter a new set of challenges on entering the labour market in the host country. Women migrants from Nicaragua to Costa Rica cannot work in agricultural jobs due to restrictive policies to protect local employment. Most of the time, work has to be clandestine, which makes them vulnerable to exploitative job conditions. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, migrant workers fill labour shortages, especially in the private security, fast food and trade industries. However, migrants who are employed in these sectors experience poorer working conditions and wages below the average.

Across the diverse countries and each of their particular labour markets and challenges, it is striking how participants converge in describing an ideal job as one that respects minimum labour rights. On more than one occasion they referred to it as decent and dignified work, in the terms used by the International Labour Organization (ILO). This includes the prohibition of child labour, a practice that persists in much of the region and is reaffirmed as a pressing issue in some of the consultations.

The call for dignified work was echoed by labour unions as well as the private sector. In **Brazil**, for example, representatives from the country's principal unions agreed that society should demand and require the State to implement UN/ILO norms and guidelines. They also highlighted the importance of civil society's role to monitor the implementation of these guidelines. In **Ecuador**, a representative from the private sector wishes for "a country without precarious employment". **Colombian** businessmen stress the need to develop a joint strategy for all stakeholders whereby solutions could help vulnerable communities, including internally displaced persons, find access to decent jobs.

PEOPLE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Across many of the constituencies, including the private sector, there is great concern in the region about the levels of deforestation and the general lack of adequate regulation of natural resources. The perception that climate change is contributing to a deteriorating environment is prominent around the region. The Latin America and Caribbean region contains 40 percent of the world's biodiversity and is also considered one of the most vulnerable parts of the world to disasters related to climate change. These opinions are confirmed by the MY World survey, in which 'Protecting rivers and forests' emerges as the fourth priority in South America.

“WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF OUR PACHAMAMA [MOTHER EARTH], OTHERWISE, HOW ARE WE GOING TO LIVE?”

INDIGENOUS MAN, IMBABURA, ECUADOR

Raising awareness about the importance of protecting the environment and combating climate change was expressed in different ways and from different perspectives. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, participants are concerned about young people's ignorance on climate change issues. In **Ecuador**, an entrepreneur from the country's private sector wants to build a 'green' country with clean rivers and cities without smog, while a representative from civil society suggested reaching the social goals in harmony with nature. In **Uruguay**, participants underline the importance of citizen participation in ensuring that the laws and international treaties on the environment and climate change are enforced. The role of the United Nations was seen as essential in applying pressure to penalize those countries that pollute the most.

Nowhere more than in Caribbean countries is climate change seen as a major threat that needs to be addressed with the full support of governments, civil society and citizens at large. Experts consulted in **Grenada** recognize that, when it comes to climate change, development partners and policymakers are well informed, while citizens are often left out. In **Saint Lucia**, participants made recommendations ranging from urban planning, better-quality housing and sanitation to increased positioning in international forums for better advocacy on the issues of climate change and

environmental sustainability.

In **Cuba**, participants in the national consultation noted that the new sustainable development goals must be addressed from a multisectoral approach and leave behind biased approaches between environment, politics, economy or society. In this context, the importance of access to energy was highlighted as a key factor to address development challenges related to poverty, water, food security, health, gender and the environment.

When discussing environmental issues, the tensions between the need to develop and the need to protect natural resources arise. In **Jamaica**, for

example, people talk about the need to protect Jamaica's coastline, on the one hand, yet observe government efforts to develop the tourism sector in western Jamaica by granting permits to build beachside hotels. The consultations call for imaginative ways to merge economic and environmental dimensions.

Uruguayan participants demand an economic model that would follow environmentally sustainable consumption patterns and thus foster a paradigm shift in the structure of production.

THE THREAT THAT VIOLENCE POSES TO QUALITY OF LIFE

Beyond economic, environmental and social uncertainties — and sometimes because of them — people in Latin America and the Caribbean see personal insecurity as an important problem affecting quality of life on a daily basis, with those who have fewer resources being more vulnerable. Protection against crime and violence came up as a strong issue both in the face-to-face consultations and in the different surveys (third highest priority for Central America in MY World, fourth in the Caribbean, and fifth in South America).

Young people consulted in **El Salvador** say that they walk with fear of being attacked; older people in **Costa**

Regional Meeting of the Thematic Consultation on Energy, Merida, Mexico, March 2013 (Photo: UN)





Consultation with Guarani, Kaiowá and Terena Indigenous People in Panambizinho, Mato Grosso, April 2013 (Photo: Flavio Lopes UNV/UNDP Brazil)

Rica talk about how they are assaulted when they retrieve their pensions. A woman from Alajuelita, a community stricken by violence, shares her story about her husband being killed for no apparent reason and not having been able to bring the perpetrators to justice. Children in vulnerable communities, such as those living in Barrio Cuba, a neighbourhood stricken by poverty and violence, identified drugs and bullying as priority problems they would like to solve to have a better future.

In the Caribbean, insecurity also came up as a major concern. In **Saint Lucia**, participants feel that personal insecurity is a major issue for citizens in parts of the country where crime and violence have intensified over the years. Secondary data support the views of respondents. **Jamaica's** per capita homicide rate has been on an upward trend since 1990, and the country is ranked among the most violent in the world. Young men (aged 18–34) are more likely to be the victims

or perpetrators of violence, although women are twice as likely to be victims of domestic violence.

Questions of security are often linked to domestic violence. Because of difficult family and social environments, the most vulnerable can be quickly exposed to violent encounters. In **Peru**, boys and girls who participated in consultations point out that many children are left

to themselves while their parents are out, which puts them at risk. They say that sometimes the parents are under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and teachers can even be the ones who perpetrate violence.

Unequal power relations between women and men are also manifested in the form of violence against women and girls, in particular sexual violence.

“ I DON'T THINK ...[WE ARE] FOCUSING ENOUGH ON ABUSE AGAINST CHILDREN. THEY ARE [NOT] TRYING BUT INSTEAD THEY ARE TURNING A BLIND EYE. AND WHILE THEY ARE NOT PAYING ATTENTION MORE CHILDREN ARE DYING ...EITHER BY SICKNESS, EITHER BY MALNUTRITION...”

PARTICIPANT, YOUTH FOCUS GROUP, JAMAICA

“ WE HAVE A DIFFERENT DEFINITION OF POVERTY, OF VULNERABILITY. WE DO NOT SAY THAT WE ARE POOR, BUT WE WERE IMPOVERISHED. ”

LEADER OF AN INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATION, COLOMBIA

“ WHEN BRAZIL RECOGNIZES TRANSGESTITE AND TRANSEXUAL IDENTITY THEN WE WILL HAVE A TURNAROUND TOWARDS... PUBLIC POLICY AND THE ISSUES WE FACE. ”

REPRESENTATIVE FROM TRANSGESTITE CSO, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, BRAZIL

“ WHAT WE DON'T WANT ARE CORRUPT AUTHORITIES THAT DO NOT RESPOND TO OUR NEED, CORRUPTION IN THE JUDICIARY BRANCH, OR LOSS OF FUTURE POSSIBILITIES BECAUSE OF CORRUPTION. ”

PARTICIPANT, IQUITOS, PERU

“ AN ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY THE YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ACTORS IS KEY FOR DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY AT LOCAL LEVEL. THOSE WHO HOLD POSITIONS IN GOVERNMENTS ARE TEMPORARY BUT CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS ARE PERMANENT AND THAT GUARANTEES THAT AN AGENDA PRIORITIZED BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY REMAINS INDEPENDENT FROM PRESIDENTIAL OR LOCAL ADMINISTRATIONS. ”

CSO LEADER, HONDURAS

Indigenous woman and her daughter in Post-2015 Consultation, La Casona, Coto Brus, Costa Rica (Photo: UNCOSTARICA/DRAMIREZ)



Preventing gender-based violence came up as a priority issue in all the Caribbean consultations. In **Trinidad and Tobago**, participants think that the elimination of such violence should be a stand-alone goal in the next development agenda. In most of the Latin American consultations, people's testimonies are consistent with observably high rates of violence against women throughout the region, which can affect as many as 70 percent of them in some countries.

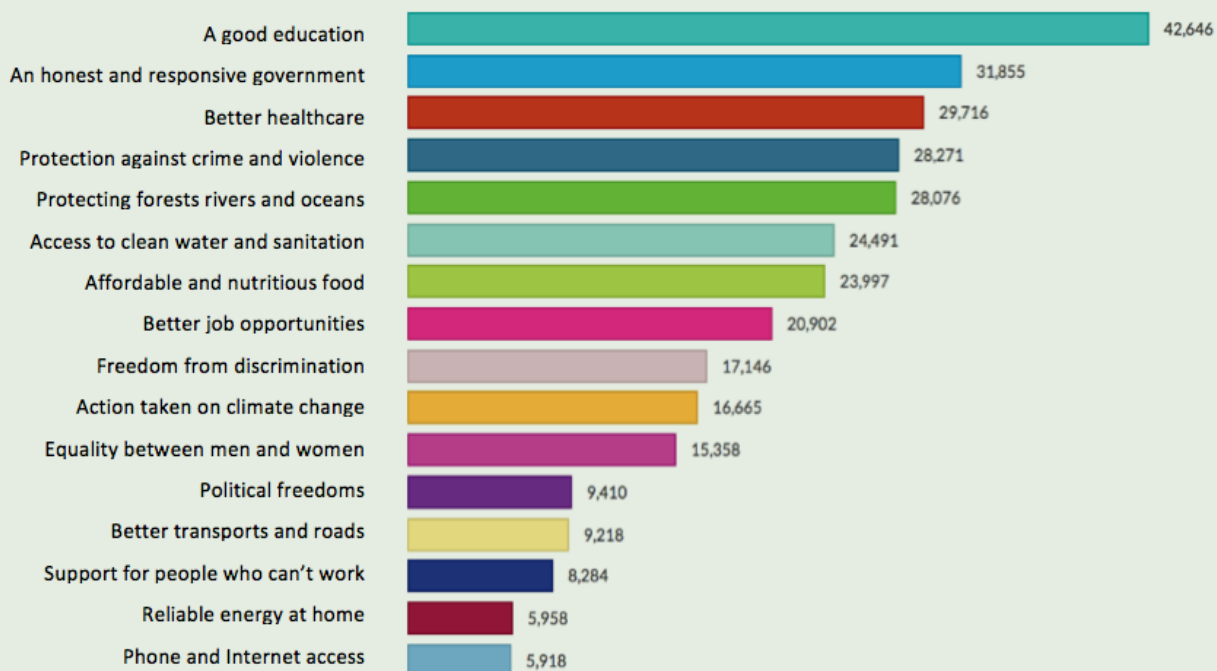
PEOPLE CALL FOR MORE INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION AND RESPONSIVE GOVERNMENTS

Many participants acknowledge the democratic progress in the region over the last 20 years but expect more in terms of including new and emerging constituencies in the democratic process. Indigenous peoples consulted in 10 out of the 16 national consultations carried out in the region want to have more access to local and national governments. They also want a say in how the new development agenda is determined.

The LGBT community was also very active throughout the different national consultations and in many cases called for more politically coordinated efforts to impact public policies. For example, LGBT participants from **Saint Lucia** call for the repeal of sodomy laws and a development agenda that includes the elimination of stigma and discrimination and working toward the recognition of rights such as same-sex marriage.

Throughout the different national consultations, the link between social and economic inequalities and poor governance is often suggested. Instead of caring for the people, politicians and political parties are often perceived as being more focused on their own interests. In many countries of the region this has led to widespread mistrust of government institutions.

Lack of transparency and accountability, particularly at the local level, are often seen as major challenges facing citizens in the region. The demand for better government is often focused on the need to combat corruption.



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“ WE HAVE A HUGE NEED FOR A GOVERNMENT THAT IS REALLY CONCERNED WITH THE PEOPLE’S NECESSITIES. WITH THIS GOAL WE CAN MEET VARIOUS OTHER GOALS. WITH A GOVERNMENT THAT IS REALLY HONEST AND TRANSPARENT, WE CAN RESOLVE VARIOUS PROBLEMS SUCH AS EDUCATION AND ACCESS TO POTABLE WATER AND ELECTRIC ENERGY, WHICH ARE BASIC THINGS FOR HUMAN SURVIVAL. ”

14-YEAR-OLD PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, BRAZIL

“ MY DAD DIED WHEN I WAS A BABY, MY MOM LIVES WITH ANOTHER MAN AND I CAME TO THE CITY WHEN I WAS 12 AND I HAVE NO ONE. BUT HERE AT THE ‘FEDERACIÓN’ [UNION] I HAVE MY FRIENDS WHO SUPPORT ME. ”

PARTICIPANT, BOLIVIA

“ THE FIRST MDGS SHOULD HAVE INCLUDED CULTURE AND KNOWLEDGE (...) AND HOW THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF MANKIND. ”

PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, URUGUAY

According to the 2011 edition of the survey *Latinobarómetro*, almost half of Latin Americans (48 percent) consider that eradication of corruption should be the top priority of any government. In the MY World survey the option 'An honest and responsive government' is the second highest priority, after education and before health.

Inequality is also experienced through unequal access to the decision-making processes. This is generally phrased as a demand to make the people's voices heard. "We must start to believe that people do have a voice," summarized a participant in **El Salvador**. An emphasis on the need to further engage civil society in public affairs at large came up in different countries. For example, members of civil society in **Cuba** stress the importance of enhancing citizen participation, including youth and communities, in policy formulation and decision-making on global issues, as well as carrying out participatory processes in national agendas that incorporate science, law and economics in everyday life.

PEOPLE ALSO DEMAND MORE SOLIDARITY AND RESILIENCE

Facing a new set of challenges, people in Latin America and the Caribbean are turning to new forms of solidarity and commitment to common purpose. In many cases, the greater the vulnerability, the stronger is the need for strengthening family and community ties. Closely associated with these is a common emphasis on greater social cohesion through social and cultural identities.

The closest social ties are often perceived as the core of the resilience

approach. In **Jamaica**, participants highlight the role of the family and faith-based or spiritual leaders as promoters of change and resilience. In **Saint Lucia**, members of a community highly vulnerable to natural hazards call for more participation from the people in the decision-making process to move towards a more sound and resilient development.

The importance of cultural identity in maintaining social cohesion is a cross-cutting theme in the consultations,

particularly in the case of indigenous peoples. Culture was also mentioned as a means for human development.

The solidarity envisaged by participants is also intergenerational. In **Uruguay**, consultation participants asked that all the decision-making processes in the economic and production spheres take into account the need to guarantee that the coming generations have the same opportunities as the preceding ones.

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In Latin America and the Caribbean, there were two main regional events on the post-2015 development agenda. The first one took place in Bogotá, Colombia, on 5 March 2013. CARICOM, ECLAC and the UNDG invited Caribbean countries to initiate discussions on the specific challenges facing the subregion in the shaping of the next development agenda. Government delegates from Latin America and the Caribbean discussed issues that the region needs to consider to follow up on the MDGs and the Rio+20 conference. The second regional event was convened on 17-20 April in Guadalajara by the Mexican Government - with the support of ECLAC and UNDG - and attended by civil society, academic, indigenous people, media and private-sector stakeholders from all over the region. All 11 of the global themes for the post-2015 thematic consultations as well as cross-cutting issues such as universality, global governance and measurement were broadly discussed. In Guadalajara, indigenous representatives agreed to organize a specific seminar on the post-2015 agenda that was held on 23 May during the annual Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York City.

VOICES FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Bangladesh, Bhutan,
Cambodia, China, India,
Indonesia, Iran, Mongolia,
Pakistan, Papua New
Guinea, Philippines, Samoa,
Solomon Islands, Thailand,
Timor-Leste, Viet Nam³

A snapshot to date of the feedback from Asia and the Pacific captured in the MY World survey shows that the most votes were for good education, good health care and better job opportunities followed by responsive government, affordable and nutritious food, and protection against crime and violence. Sixteen of these countries conducted national consultations where issues such as employment, health, education, physical security and rule of law, environmental sustainability and social protection emerge as being central to the next round of global deliberations. The

national discussions also contain clear calls for the global goals to be expanded, refined and stepped up.

GROWTH FOR ALL, AND NOT GROWTH AT ALL COSTS

In Asia, there are persistent calls for greater attention to economic growth that can ensure employment generation; for development goals other than just economic growth; and — related to this — to start measuring and evaluating development progress using metrics that go beyond growth.

The nature of economic growth is seen to be driving and reinforcing not just income inequalities, but also other types of disparities and disadvantage, including growing inequalities between urban and rural areas. In **Bhutan**, for example, people speak of the widening divide between rural and urban areas, noting that due to agricultural stagnation, internal migration and lack of investment in rural infrastructure, the countryside is in rapid decline. Economic growth and employment opportunities are increasingly centred around the capital city and

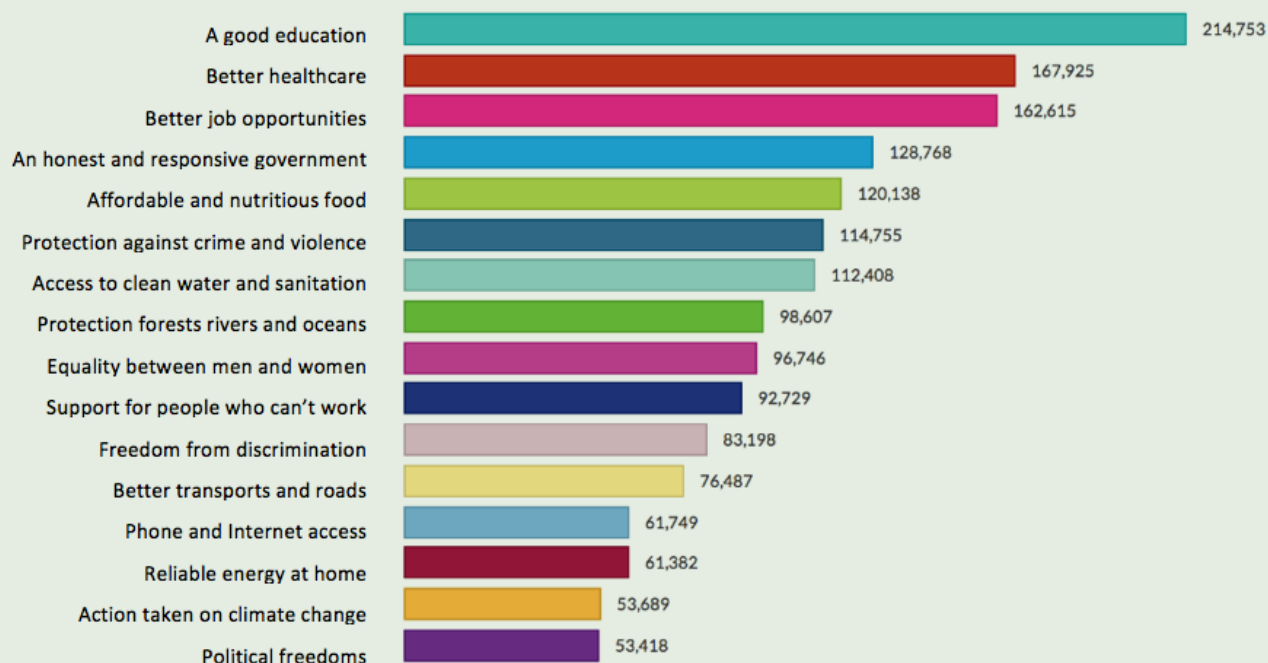
other urban areas.

Participants in **China's** national consultation push for the problem to be tackled not only on the surface but also at the root, noting that while the country has made tremendous progress in reducing the number of impoverished people, there are still many challenges. These include the remaining 122 million impoverished people, persistent inequalities, regional development disparities and large-scale rural-to-urban migration. People engaged in the Chinese national consultation feel that these issues will require action from both government and civil society organizations.

The consultations in **India** highlight the issue of persisting inequalities and poverty as being intertwined with the poor quality of jobs available for many, and a pattern of growth which has brought declining working conditions. This is manifested, for example, in the increase in informal contract labour and the large numbers of internal migrants forced to work for below-subsistence wages. The consultation highlights precarious working conditions, particularly in the

Students of Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta (Indonesia) sharing their priorities for a better world post 2015 via the MY World survey (Photo: Dylan Alban/Office of the Resident Coordinator in Indonesia)





informal sector, with frequent violations of labour laws and rights. Outsourcing to international corporations was also noted as having further contributed to the weak enforcement of standards for decent employment. The intersections with other types of inequality, such as gender, regional and in access to services, mean that without corrective action on many policy fronts, large sections of society will continue to be left behind despite the economic boom.

Participants also shared their concerns about the sustainability — economic, social and environmental — of current growth strategies. In **Mongolia**, citizens note that thanks to the mining boom, the country is growing at a rapid pace and has graduated to lower middle-income country status. But while growth is considered central for the future development of the country, it has to become more inclusive through economic

“THE EMPHASIS ON TACKLING INCOME INEQUALITY IS A MATTER OF PRIORITY, INCLUDING THE NEED TO ENSURE THAT THE BOTTOM 20% OF THE POPULATION IS IMPROVING THEIR ECONOMIC STATUS FASTER THAN THE TOP 20% THROUGH INCLUSIVE GROWTH.”

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, INDIA

“GROWTH OF INCOME OF THE MINING SECTOR HAS MADE NO DIFFERENCE IN LIVES OF FAMILIES. THERE ARE MANY FAMILIES WHO CAN'T FIND FUEL AND WOOD, CHILDREN HAVING THEIR DOG IN BED, IN ORDER NOT TO DIE FREEZING.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, MONGOLIA

“DEVELOPMENT MUST SERVE A PURPOSE AND THAT IS NOT MERELY TO FURTHER ECONOMIC GROWTH BUT RATHER TO CREATE THE CONDITIONS FOR HAPPINESS AND THE WELL-BEING OF ALL LIFE. HOW DO WE DO THIS? THERE IS ONLY ONE ANSWER ‘TRANSFORMATION’ OF EVERY HUMAN BEING ON EARTH – LEADERS, PRODUCERS, CONSUMERS, AND EVERYONE TO BE MINDFUL HUMAN BEINGS WHETHER IN DECISION MAKING, PROFIT MAKING, EATING, AND OTHER MATERIAL CONSUMPTIONS...”

BHUTAN CENTRE FOR GROSS NATIONAL HAPPINESS (CONTRIBUTION TO THE QUERY POSTED ON SOLUTIONS EXCHANGE)

diversification and the development of the private sector. If this is not addressed, rising economic inequality threatens to undo much of the recent progress in social indicators. Participants in the Mongolian consultations also feel that environmental sustainability has to be incorporated into growth strategies, with a greater focus on building resilience and social protection to reduce vulnerabilities and help build resilience among poor and marginal populations.

Comments from post-2015 consultation workshop in **Mongolia** to the question ‘Does the mining sector have a positive influence on people’s lives, on yours?’:

- “Growth of income of the mining sector has made no difference in lives of families. There are many families who can’t find fuel and wood, children having their dog in bed, in order not to die freezing.”
- “Drinking water is the most difficult

problem. Water on the surface is getting less and less. Some centres are at risk of having no drinking water at all.”

- “Big mining factory income goes to the state.”
- “We mustn’t adore the mining sector, instead we have to produce eco products in such a comparatively suitable natural environment.”
- “The natural environment is getting more and more vulnerable. Grassland has been deteriorated, soil is getting poor, and conditions are getting worse. Natural environment policy should be part of economic policies, and we have to protect nature.”

Indonesian youth discussing the challenges they face during the Youth Consultation organized by UNESCO in Jakarta. Poverty, poor governance and lack of spaces for participation are among the main issues they raised (Photo: UNESCO Jakarta)



Participants in some of the lower middle-income countries in the region suggest that people consider these national economies to have reached a plateau in terms of their growth prospects. They noted that while the initial economic gains have lifted their economies out of the low-wage/low-skills end of global production chains, their lack of a highly skilled workforce and their limited investments in research, science and technology are preventing these economies from competing with the high-skills and high-innovation products of the advanced economies. The popular perception is that the current international trade and finance



People with disabilities parade. April 2013, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (Photo: Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection, Mongolia)

architecture is structured such that these countries will be unable to break free from the middle-income trap.

In **Indonesia**, participants draw attention to the growing need for greater protection for domestic goods and producers, with an emphasis on reducing or recalibrating Free Trade Agreements to protect small or traditional industry, particularly farmers and fishermen. Participants feel that greater protection for these segments would secure better livelihoods for practitioners and the communities which depend on those industries. As a by-product, it would also decrease the reliance on dangerous and environmentally damaging practices such as dynamite fishing, overfarming/ monocropping and illegal gold mining.

Similar concerns about the ways in which international trade regimes affect local livelihoods are voiced by participants in the **Philippines**. 'Fair trade rather than free trade' is important for countries

that are seeking to strengthen their engagement in international markets, and there are calls for an enhanced Aid for Trade initiative. The discussions also note the importance of 'forging global partnerships for fair trade and just economic order'. There were several discussions in civil society which noted that global trade talks, after 11 years of negotiations, remain at an impasse, and that concluding the Doha Round could be crucial in addressing structural imbalances in the global trade regime. There is an urgent need to remove all trade-restrictive measures introduced since the onset of the global economic crisis, as these measures further limit the growth prospects and opportunities for job creation in developing countries.

PERSISTENT INEQUALITIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Beyond the widening economic gap across economic quintiles within countries, the consultations draw

attention to groups and communities that have been historically marginalized and remain isolated from the mainstream in their society. For example, participants in **Thailand** noted that some rights are not fully enjoyed by many marginalized groups and minorities. These include the slum-dwellers in the north-east or landless people, for whom access to legal rights is highlighted as a priority, as it would allow them to achieve livelihood opportunities and entitlements to other social services (i.e. land titles in the case of the landless people, and obtaining a house registration number for the slum-dwellers). The rights of migrant workers are also an important concern among some of the populations consulted.

The discussion of inequalities also focuses on age, and the challenges faced by specific age groups such as the very young, youth and the elderly. The Asia-Pacific region is at a significant crossroads, with the combination of many

“ WE CALL FOR HOUSE REGISTRATION BECAUSE IT WILL ALLOW US TO RECEIVE EQUAL SERVICES AND RIGHTS, IN TERMS OF ELECTRICITY, WATER, SEWAGE, HEALTHCARE AND ACCESS TO HOSPITALS, ELECTION RIGHTS, AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVICES. ”

MEMBER OF A MIGRANT COMMUNITY RESIDING ALONGSIDE RAILWAY TRACKS IN KHON KAEN, NORTH-EAST THAILAND, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, THAILAND

“ GENDER-BASED DISCRIMINATION CONTINUES TO BE A SERIOUS BARRIER IN ACHIEVING EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS. DESPITE THE FACT THAT WOMEN CONSTITUTE THREE QUARTERS OF THE WORKFORCE ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE, PROPERTY RIGHTS ARE HEAVILY STACKED AGAINST THEM. ”

PARTICIPANT FROM FARMER'S ASSOCIATIONS, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, INDIA

“ AS A PAPUA NEW GUINEAN, I WANT THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE FIRST PRIORITY TO YOUNG WOMEN AND GIRLS ESPECIALLY EDUCATION AND OTHER THINGS AND ALSO THEY SHOULD ALLOW WOMEN TO RUN THE GOVERNMENT. ”

SCHOOLGIRL, PORT MORESBY, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

National Consultation on Policy Reform for Development and Protection towards elderly people, February 2013, Darkhan, Mongolia (Photo: Ministry of Population Development and Social Protection, Mongolia)



major demographic changes: declining fertility rates, growing youth populations, rapid ageing, urbanization and mega-cities, and migration within and outside countries. Consultations in **China, India, Indonesia, Pakistan** and **the Philippines** draw attention to the twin challenges of a rapidly ageing population and a growing youth population, both of which are shifting the dependency ratio for economically active members of society.

Participants in **Viet Nam** note that the country is undergoing a unique demographic process. A large young population and a rapidly ageing population are providing challenges and opportunities for those groups and society in general. For young people, the challenge is to find meaningful, productive employment. For older people, it is to secure adequate state care and social security in the face of the erosion of traditional household care. These trends are compounded by rapid urbanization, which is re-shaping the population distribution between the urban and rural segments of the country and fuelling economic growth in urban centres, while simultaneously placing stress on the urban environment and urban management. These demographic changes highlight the need for a comprehensive social protection system.

Gender inequality persists in Asia and the Pacific, and is high on the agenda. Women's employment and education are seen as the most important interventions to address gender inequality. During the consultations, the overrepresentation of women in informal and unprotected employment, their concentration in certain sectors and professions driven by gender stereotypes, challenges in accessing credit and financial services, and their lower levels of ownership of land and property all surface as part of the discussions. Education and gender sensitization are seen as having benefits for society far beyond the economic contributions women would make. They have an important role to play in transforming societies and discriminatory cultural practices and perceptions, particularly for the next generation.

GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARE SEEN AS HOLDING BACK DEVELOPMENT

Deficits in transparent, accountable, participatory and responsive governance are seen as impacting the capacity of governments and state institutions to manage social and economic development and respond during crises. In extreme cases these deficits are also responsible for significant breakdowns in the rule of law, jeopardizing human security and exacerbating violent conflict. These pervasive and routine deficits are also expressed in extensive corruption, uneven regulatory frameworks, and a corrosive political culture of clientelism and patronage.

Participants in **Mongolia** highlight the importance of responsive governance, the legal environment, the capacity of institutions and human rights for further progress in achieving the MDGs. In light of Mongolia's experience of setting self-imposed targets for a ninth MDG ('Strengthen human rights and foster democratic governance'), participants urge the global community to adopt a set of democratic governance targets in the post-2015 development agenda to reflect the principles of the Millennium Declaration. Increasing the role of civil society in promoting development — from providing a voice to poor people and the marginalized, to delivering essential services — is advocated, and the need for more possibilities to participate in decision-making was strongly emphasized. Participants stressed that information and communication technologies (ICT) and social media are likely to become increasingly significant tools for social mobilization and change in the future. These can be used to give stronger voice to citizens and vulnerable groups in decision-making and enable them to access relevant information.

In **Pakistan**, participants see peace and security as the most critical development challenge. There is a unique consensus among participants that without resolving the issues concerning security, law and order in the country,

the achievements of other development targets will remain a distant dream. People emphasize that international stakeholders should appreciate the realities on the ground and not enforce their policies and agenda on the national government. At the national level, participants stress that efforts should be made to enhance social cohesion among people from different sects and ethnic groups, with the objective of promoting tolerance for diverse views and beliefs. In parallel, good governance underpinned by the principles of transparency, accountability and the rule of law is the second most pressing priority for the people of **Pakistan**. The respondents underline that fully functioning local government systems bring the governing apparatus closer to the citizens and improve accountability and transparency mechanisms. As part of good governance, rule of law and access to justice are seen as crucial, especially as access to and use of the legal system is uneven among different social and economic groups. The national legal system should be inclusive and should protect the property rights of women and marginalized groups and provide safeguards against the abuse of political, economic or institutional authority by the elite class.

Respondents' views from post-2015 consultations in **Pakistan**:

- "Political interference served as one of the main barriers in achieving MDGs."
- "If we need change at the grass-roots level, an effective and sustainable system of local government needs to be put in place. Without this, the participation of marginalized communities in the development process will remain a distant dream."
- "Besides the availability of meagre resources for development activities, there is limited capacity of the state institutions to utilize funds efficiently and effectively."
- "Corruption severely hampers progress towards poverty reduction and human development. The public accountability system needs to be strengthened and made transparent. Citizens should be provided opportunities to raise their voices and to hold accountable the public office bearers for results. The social accountability systems should also be strengthened."

The consultation process in **Timor-Leste** highlights the interplay between three main issues: weak governance, the poor level of infrastructure, and underdeveloped human capital. Weak governance contributes to the lack of infrastructure and human capital because the relevant authorities cannot implement measures

“THE CURRENT MINISTER
EVEN SAID NO TO BRIBING, BUT
IN REALITY, EVERYONE DOES IT.
NO BRIBING MEANS NO GOOD
QUALITY. IT IS THE REALITY.”

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION WITH OLDER PEOPLE,
HANOI, VIET NAM



Child in Islamabad (Photo: UN)

and put regulatory mechanisms into effect. Participants also point to disparities in the quality of infrastructure, especially in remote rural areas, with regards to roads, electricity, water and sanitation, transport and health care. This is either because of a basic lack of infrastructure or poor maintenance, and has

consequences for the health, economic situation and educational level of the local populations. Power remains very centralized, and the district-level authorities do not have the requisite financial or institutional capacities to respond directly to community needs. Participants also highlighted concerns with law enforcement,

monitoring and implementation. They express concerns about corruption, nepotism and collusion in government institutions which prevent these problems from being redressed. The consultations also convey a strong view that local businesses and the general public are unable to thrive or improve their capacities, as the lack of effective governance enables foreign players to dominate markets and businesses. Linked to this issue is the persistently low level of human capital development. The consultation points to an education system that is difficult to access, with low-quality education, especially for the rural population. This results in a youth population with low skills and few employment prospects.

In the consultations in **Iran**, participants spoke about the responsibilities of duty-bearers, and a need to focus on responsive governance with an emphasis on human dignity and human rights. Transparency as well as probity and integrity are seen as key attributes for duty-bearers. Similar observations are echoed across all the consultations, reiterating an emphasis on the quality and practice of governance, rather than on its formal structure.

In **Indonesia**, participants see transparency and the eradication of corruption as preconditions for the successful implementation of development interventions, such as government management and regulation of water resources. Good governance also requires greater civic participation in the policymaking and policy-regulating process.

SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS UNDERWAY IN ASIA

Participants in many consultations in the region note that rapid social transformations are underway in their societies, and that these have implications for traditional systems of social protection and care. They are associated with changing dynamics within family structures accompanied by the demographic shift towards smaller family size; the shifts in traditional employment arrangements and the

“SOCIETY HAS CHANGED TOWARD CONSUMERISM, WHILE SYMPATHY AND FAITH IN CULTURE, TRADITION AND WISDOM WERE MORE VALUED IN THE PAST. THE PATTERN OF CONSUMPTION CHANGED AS WELL. PEOPLE RELY MORE ON EXTERNAL FOOD SOURCES AND INSTANT FOOD. THE BARTER SYSTEM IN THE COMMUNITY HAS DECLINED. THE KNOWLEDGE ABOUT PLANTATION IS FADING AWAY FROM THE COMMUNITY. THE YOUTH IN THE COMMUNITY ARE MORE INFLUENCED BY MEDIA, INTERNET, AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVICES SUCH AS MOBILE PHONES AND COMPUTERS. FAMILY MEMBERS BECAME DISTANT FROM EACH OTHER BECAUSE OF DIFFERENT ATTITUDES AND DAILY ACTIVITIES. COMMUNITIES ALSO FACE DRUG ABUSE.”

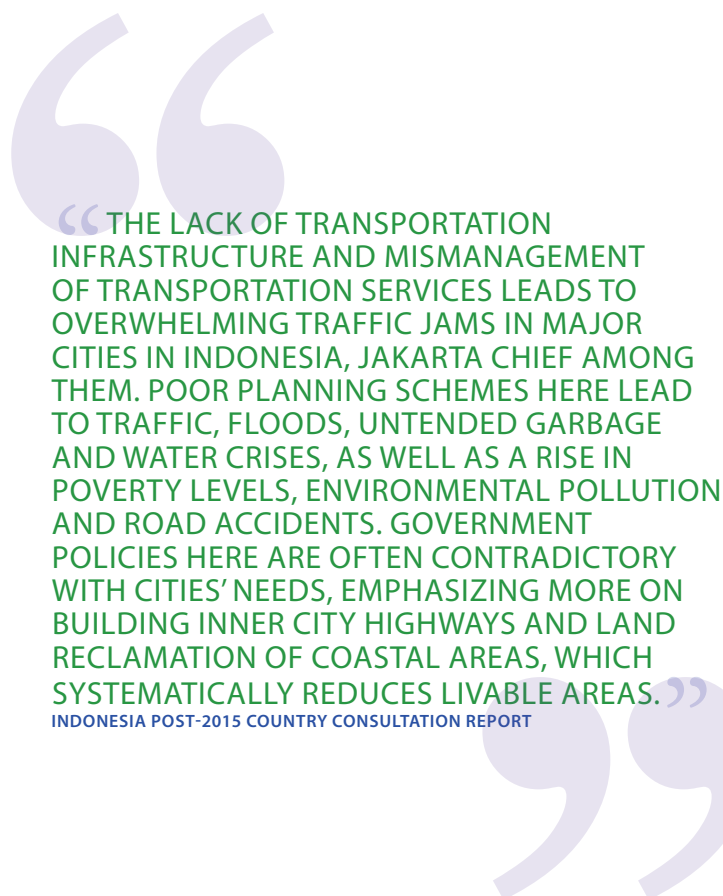
THAILAND'S POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA QUALITATIVE DATA REPORTING

changing needs of the labour market; growing urbanization and migration from rural sectors; and the overall changes in the social fabric of communities. These have important ramifications for the roles and responsibilities of different groups and sections in society — be they women, elderly, youth or very young, disabled or infirm. The demographic shift has already signalled increases in the elderly and the younger populations, both of which increase the dependency ratio. Women who have entered formal employment or are working in sectors previously dominated by male workers also encounter a range of new issues including delayed and reduced child-bearing and increases in workloads and care responsibilities. Families are slow to adjust to the shifts in traditional roles and responsibilities.

Observations on the customary productive and reproductive roles of women from the **Viet Nam** post-2015 country consultation: “Ede women suffer from a lot of hardships. When pregnant, we still have to work until we deliver, and three days after delivery we have to work again: fetching water, fetching firewood and working in the upland fields, and we have to carry our babies with us. It’s very hard, but if we do not do it, no one will help.” — Female participant, group discussion, Easin commune, Dak Lak province, Viet Nam

Shifts in employment structures and technologies — away from more traditional livelihoods — have also had important ramifications. People are less connected to their communities and environment than in the past, and so there was a sense that something valuable from the old ways of doing things may have been lost.

Participants in the **Indonesian** consultation among others call for the inclusion of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education in the national curriculum. This is one of the strongest themes of the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue on Inequalities, and was echoed by the youth leaders of the UNESCO Youth Consultation. The



general consensus of stakeholder groups working in sexual health, the commercial sex trade, HIV/AIDS, gender, gender identity, public health and other sectors indicates that it is a priority need, not just for Indonesia but also in the post-2015 development agenda.

Skills, job training and access to education emerge as central themes. They help to ensure that new entrants to the workforce are equipped with necessary skill sets and are also aware of the social transformations underway in their societies and their role in them. In the **Philippines**, participants note that countries in or nearing demographic transition (from high to low fertility) are experiencing an increasing rate of population ageing, and the challenge for government is, first, to invest in effective social services to promote successful and healthy ageing; and, second, to provide the older population with the necessary environment for them to significantly contribute towards

economic development. People consulted ask that explicit policies and programmes for quality medical and social care of older citizens be put in place.

POPULATION EXPANSION, ENERGY NEEDS, URBANIZATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Urbanization, migration and the growth of megacities is another emerging issue. This is not only about urban issues and concerns about crumbling infrastructure, the proliferation of slums or the capacity for urban planning. It is also about the deceleration in agricultural growth, the neglect of the rural sector, and disparities between rural and urban areas in terms of public service provision and infrastructure. The debates draw attention to the interconnected topics of rural-to-urban migration (and cross-border migration for employment), the growth of slums, the working poor, and declining investment in the rural and agricultural sector.

“CLIMATE CHANGE IN VULNERABLE ENVIRONMENTS EXACERBATES SOCIAL INEQUALITIES AND DISPROPORTIONATELY AFFECTS THE POOR, WOMEN, CHILDREN AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS. IN BANGLADESH THERE IS A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT AND MIGRATION WHICH ARE LINKED TO OTHER SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS THAT DRIVE PEOPLE TO MOVE, EITHER VOLUNTARILY OR BY NECESSITY. IN TURN, DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT SHOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION TO ADDRESS VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND AREAS, AND DEVELOP THEIR RESILIENCE AS BOTH A SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPERATIVE. THE EXPANDING POPULATION AND HIGH DENSITY HAS INCREASED DEMAND FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND REQUIRES THE CULTIVATION OF LANDS PREVIOUSLY SEEN AS UNSUITABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. IN TURN, CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS FOOD AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS, BUT ALSO CONSUMPTION AND DIVERSITY OF DIET. CLIMATE CHANGE SERVES AS A HUNGER RISK MULTIPLIER, MAKING POPULATIONS MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO INFECTIOUS DISEASE.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, BANGLADESH

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AS A PART OF POVERTY ERADICATION

Environmental sustainability emerges as a growing area of discussion, with the old perception of there being a hard choice to make between poverty eradication and environmental considerations gradually fading: both are increasingly being seen as intertwined. Urbanization, environmental pollution, deforestation

and desertification, changes in cropping patterns, extractive industry expansion and increasing sea levels are having a tremendous impact on people's lives, and particularly on poor and vulnerable populations. The consultations held in several of the **Pacific SIDS** note that climate change will require a coordinated policy response from the public sector and civil

society to address adaptation measures and food security. In the longer term, sea level rises may even threaten the very existence of these small island nations.

Participants in the **Bangladesh** consultation note the problems posed by the expanding population, including the increased demand for cultivating lands previously seen as unsuitable for agricultural production. Climate change is affecting food availability and access, but also consumption and diversity of diet. Climate change is seen as having a risk multiplier effect, as hunger makes populations more susceptible to infectious disease. Other drivers of risk include poorly managed urbanization and weak governance.

The feedback from the consultations in **Papua New Guinea** confirms the strong nexus between human development and the environment in which people live. Participants in the **Cambodian** consultations note the limited number of early warning systems, and the lack of a comprehensive policy and response mechanism on climate change issues at the local community level.

Young people discussing the issues that they are facing and the world they want post 2015, Viet Nam (Photo: UNICEF 2013)



Education and training are the main solutions proposed by the Cambodian people to address climate change issues. They say that national authorities, subnational administrations, commune councils, CSOs and development partners all have a role to play in educating the public and changing people's behaviour. At the local level, commune councils could rehabilitate and develop resilient irrigation systems and water sources and promote community leadership on water management. Other ideas on how to improve the environmental situation include introducing alternative energy sources — for example, solar power, wind power, hydropower, biogas and biomass — and developing appropriate energy at an affordable price, as well as introducing energy-saving devices and improving energy efficiency. Participants in the **Cambodia** consultations express their desire to build resilient and prosperous communities where people have strong adaptive capacity, better livelihoods, healthy communities and less urban migration. They want knowledge and access to information, effective response systems and well-coordinated, harmonized mechanisms to provide support services in climate change responses.

Access to affordable clean energy is also highlighted by participants in the **Indonesian** consultation. The discussions note that, although the private sector is willing to use clean/renewable energy sources, the cost of such energy is currently still too high for most businesses to afford. Governments could incentivize the major push required to initiate or facilitate the creation of this infrastructure. Including this goal in the post-2015 development agenda could facilitate this transformation worldwide.

Participants from the **Solomon Islands**, **Samoa** and **Papua New Guinea** conclude that the issues of employment opportunities and climate change vulnerability are central priorities which have to be tackled in a coordinated manner. Climate change vulnerabilities due to rising sea levels and shifting coastlines as well as increased risk

of natural disasters were noted as existential threats for the populations of these small islands. Their characteristics as SIDS, with a largely tourism-driven economy, led

to concerns about the risks which climate change poses to their personal security and also to their main source of income and employment.

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Under the stewardship of ESCAP, a series of expert group meetings were organized in 2012-13 on the evolving post-2015 agenda. Subregional consultations were held in Almaty, Kazakhstan (26-28 September 2012) for Central and East Asian countries; in Nadi, Fiji (10-11 October 2012) for Pacific Island States; in Bangkok, Thailand (21-23 November 2012) for South-East Asian countries and in Dhaka, Bangladesh (9-11 February) for South-Asian countries. A consultation workshop was also held in Siem Reap, Cambodia (17-19 December, 2012) for the Least Developed countries (LDCs).

The subregional consultations were informed by think pieces from eminent experts, and brought together representatives from governments, civil society, academia and international organizations. There was clear support for a new development framework and goals that were applicable to all countries. At the same time, some participants stressed the need for more customization at the regional and national levels. The majority of participants at these regional consultations also believed that the new development framework needs to have a special focus on LDCs, with additional goals or provisions.

“THE LACK OF KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS [IDENTIFIED AS] A CORE CHALLENGE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT POLICYMAKING. LOW ADAPTIVE CAPACITY TO CLIMATE CHANGE EVENTS HAS EQUALLY BEEN MENTIONED. FURTHER CHALLENGES ARE THE LACK OF RELIABLE CLIMATIC INFORMATION AS WELL AS THE LACK OF WATER SOURCES, AND THE LIMITATIONS OF POLICY, HUMAN CAPITAL, ENERGY SUPPLY AND LACK OF CAPITAL AS WELL AS THE LIMITATION OF EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS.”

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP, CAMBODIA

VOICES FROM ARAB STATES, THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN AFRICA

Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt,
Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon,
Morocco, Sudan, Yemen⁴

The MY World survey has collected over 25,500 votes from the Arab States. A snapshot to date shows that the top priorities are mainly a good education, better job opportunities, health care, an honest and responsible government, and protection against crime and violence. These aspirations are also reiterated through feedback from the national consultations,

where issues such as freedom from violence and physical security, better governance and rule of law, inclusive employment generation, better access to and quality of health and education, environmental sustainability and resource management are noted as central to the next global development agenda.

PEOPLE SEE FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE AS A PRECONDITION FOR FUTURE PROGRESS

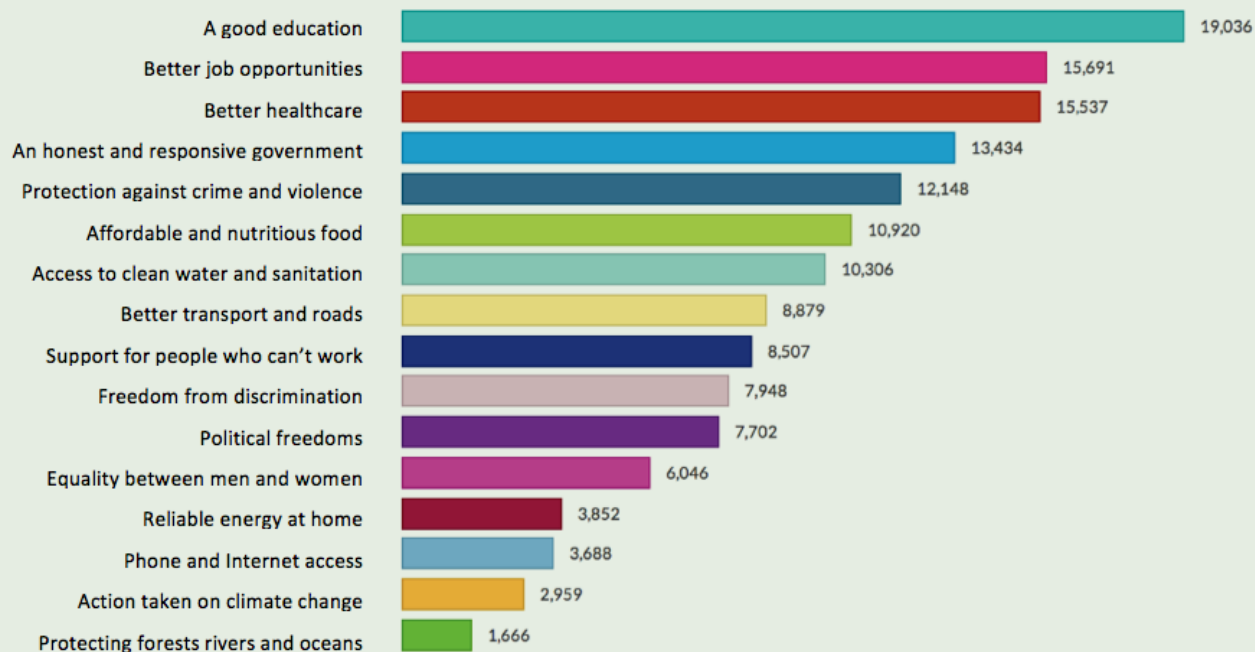
The Arab States share many common traits but are also very diverse, not least in terms of levels of economic development. They include both oil exporters and oil importers, and countries at all levels of income: high, middle and low. Conflict has been a regular occurrence in the region for many decades, and the

resulting instability still places barriers to development or causes setbacks. All of the consultations bring up conflict prevention and freedom from violence as a precondition for any future progress.

For countries affected by different degrees of conflict, transition and insecurity — directly or through neighbouring states — the resulting insecurity, and perceptions as such, severely reduces opportunities for people in affected communities. This has negative impacts on health, education, employment, family formation and civic engagement. The effects of conflict also place particular strains on already stretched health care systems and other public services, and require increased efforts to enhance food

Young participant at Forum on Education under the theme: 'Making education relevant to the workplace for Youth in Jordan', Amman, 19 February 2013 (Photo: UNESCO Jordan)





security and nutrition for those affected. Stability and security are seen by many as valuable public goods that the government should provide to its citizens.

Many countries in the region are facing political and social instability after populations have risen up to express discontent at the lack of opportunities to influence their country's path of development, or frustration at the pace or pattern of economic growth. They see most benefits accruing to established and new elites, and growth not being translated into jobs, especially for the burgeoning youth population. This has happened in countries that had shown progress not only in economic terms but also in key human development indicators. In fact, as well-being and democratic institutions improve, demands have also risen for a faster pace of change, and to tackle some of the underlying drivers of inequality and exclusion.

“ I THINK THE DREAM WE MUST HAVE IS THAT OF DISARMAMENT AND PEACE BECAUSE THIS IS THE ONLY SOLUTION TO MEET THE MDGS AND IMPROVE THE ECONOMY. ”

PARLIAMENTARIAN, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, MOROCCO

“ WHAT WE NEED AFTER 2015 IS GOOD GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN SECURITY. ”

ACADEMIC, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, IRAQ, ON THE NEED FOR INCREASED GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

“ DJIBOUTI IS A COUNTRY IN PEACE AND EVERYTHING IS DONE TO PRESERVE IT. ”

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVE, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, DJIBOUTI



Consultation with the Youth Parliament, Rabat, February 2013
(Photo: UN Morocco - Reine Van Holsbeek)

BETTER GOVERNANCE UNDERPINS ALL DISCUSSIONS IN THE REGION

The strongest overall message from consultations in this region are calls for better, less corrupt and more accessible and responsive governance; for changes in growth patterns and education systems to tackle employment problems; and natural resource management. The calls for better governance underpin all discussions in the Middle East and Northern Africa.

People see progress on the MDGs as being dependent on improvements in governance. For the region as whole, human development indicators — including life expectancy, health, education, infrastructure and gender equality — have shown positive momentum, but, due to conflict and the increasingly complex and diversified political and socio-economic environment, progress has stalled in recent years. In particular, progress in achieving MDG1 (Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger) and MDG5 (Improving Maternal Health) is lagging. Progress in overall aggregates masks considerable differentiation within countries and within the region.⁵ This is perhaps expressed most clearly in the average illiteracy rate for the region, which hovers around 30 percent.⁶ In all cases, illiteracy is higher among women than men, leading to disadvantages in job markets and opportunities for leadership and participation in socio-political life. Again, further progress is seen to depend on improvements in governance, on opportunities to participate and on having institutions that are capable of using a more holistic cross-sectoral approach.

All the national consultations voice the need for nationally tailored governance reforms as a driver of future development. In addition, reforms that can reduce mistrust between governments and citizens are seen as key to addressing the prevailing frustrations evident in the consultations regarding inequalities. There are calls for more inclusive social contracts based on the recognition of human rights, and for mechanisms to allow greater transparency and accountability.

“HOSTING THE SYRIAN REFUGEES CONSTITUTES A NEW ECONOMIC BURDEN AND PUTS CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE ON THE LIMITED RESOURCES OF THE STATE. IN SPITE OF THESE DIFFICULTIES AND GROWING FINANCIAL PRESSURE ON THE EDUCATION, HEALTH, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LABOR MARKETS IN THE KINGDOM, WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HELP AND ASSISTANCE TO THEM.”

CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, JORDAN

“FOR YOUTH, ACADEMICS AND CIVIL SOCIETY, ADDRESSING SOCIAL ILLS AND DEFICIENCIES AND THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STABILITY ARE ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS REQUIRED TO REALIZE PEACE AND SAFETY. FOR WOMEN, FREEDOM OF MOBILITY IN PUBLIC SPACES WITHOUT RISK OF HARASSMENT OR ATTACK IS CONSIDERED A MEASURE OF PEACE AND SECURITY.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, ALGERIA

“GOVERNANCE IS A PRIORITY THAT NEEDS TO BE STRENGTHENED WITH PEOPLE’S PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS. THERE IS A NEED TO IMPROVE MECHANISMS TO ASSESS PUBLIC POLICIES.”

PRIVATE-SECTOR PARTICIPANTS, NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, ALGERIA

“IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT THE MEANS FOR ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ARE AS ESSENTIAL AS THE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THEMSELVES. THIS, BY DEFINITION, REQUIRES WIDER PARTICIPATION AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE TO ENSURE OWNERSHIP OF THE POST-2015 OUTCOMES, MONITORING MECHANISMS AND POSITIVE INTERACTION OF THE PEOPLE WITH THE OUTCOMES.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, SUDAN

“THE CURRENT STATE OF MDGS [SHOWS] THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM OF OWNERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP. THE DREAM IS THE NEXT DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK INCLUDES THE OWNERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP IDEAS FOR [RELEASE OF] SYNERGIES.”

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, MOROCCO

“THERE ARE NO SHADOW REPORTS, RESEARCHED BY NGOS, TO COMPLEMENT THE STANDARD GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS OR STATEMENTS.”

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, EGYPT, ON THE DIMINISHED ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

“REQUIRE GOVERNMENT REPORTS THAT ARE TRANSPARENT AND ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC. CONDUCT PUBLIC OPINION POLLS; CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS OF ASSOCIATIONS ON VARIOUS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL ISSUES.”

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT RECOMMENDATIONS, NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, IRAQ

“WE ARE ENTITLED TO BE INVOLVED IN THE DECISIONS AND PLANS THAT AFFECT OUR FUTURE.”

YOUTH PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, EGYPT, ON ENGAGEMENT IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A lack of open dialogue and alternative sources of information (beyond government sources) is seen as symptomatic of the problem of a lack of transparency and accountability. Due to some persisting forms of restrictions, media are not fully empowered to play an active role and to support citizens’ participation in decision-making.

Despite the growth of civil society and wider margins for expression and political debate, the majority of Arab States are still seen as authoritarian. Where participation exists, it is limited in scope and impact, and often excludes youth and women. The large and growing young population is particularly sensitive to the restrictions on political and economic participation. As young people enter society, they face high rates of unemployment, few openings for political engagement and little hope for change.⁷ Civic engagement is, therefore, perceived as a critical factor to advance democratic and social reforms, as is making use of social media to achieve broader youth participation.

Support for local-level governance in the form of **decentralization**, including fiscal decentralization and devolution of power for service delivery, is highlighted in the consultations. With most Arab States remaining fairly centralized, there



Welcoming remarks by Buthayna Al-Khatib (UNICEF) - Post-2015 consultation on reducing child and maternal mortality – Amman, 25 April 2013 (Photo: UNRC Jordan)



Consultation with representatives of 10 Civil Society Organizations from Upper Egypt held on 4 March 2013 in Aswan (Photo: Ms. Yasmine Degheidy)

is a demand for more local autonomy to engage citizens in issues and open up public space for local and regional politics.

Geographical disparities are noted in all the consultations, especially in terms

of between rural and urban areas. This is partly attributed to existing patterns of centralization and the way in which it reinforces differences in access and quality of basic and social services.

CONSULTATIONS IN THE ARAB STATES REGION CALL ATTENTION TO INEQUALITIES AND DISPARITIES

Combating chronic inequalities within and between countries is a consistently emerging concern as a stand-alone issue and interlinked as a persistent barrier in other priorities that have emerged in the consultations.

Again these are associated primarily — but not only — with the prevalent patterns of governance and patterns of economic growth which allow benefits to accrue to a small elite. In the national consultations, persistent inequalities are flagged in terms of wealth, employment, access to assets and land, social services, water, education, gender, social justice and political participation. This particularly affects women, persons living with disabilities and vulnerable groups.

Gender inequalities are among those felt most keenly. While almost all Arab States have adhered to the global declarations and conventions related to the empowerment of women, these broad commitments are not always

“THE PROCESS OF DECENTRALIZATION, INTRODUCED IN 1992 TO ADDRESS REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN THE COUNTRY, HAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT SEVERE CAPACITY DEFICITS OF AN INSTITUTIONAL, HUMAN AND PHYSICAL NATURE INCLUDING WEAK FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING, LACK OF TRANSPARENCY, AND INEFFECTIVE MONITORING OF THE UTILIZATION OF BUDGETARY ALLOCATIONS AND REVENUE MOBILIZATION. THE PROBLEM HAS BEEN COMPOUNDED BY THE COMPLEX GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES, WITH WEAK INTER-MINISTERIAL AND INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, SUDAN

“EVERY CITY SHOULD HAVE ITS OWN CENTRALIZED DECISION-MAKING POWER ALONG WITH ITS SELF-FUNDED SUPPORT SYSTEMS. AS LONG AS POWER IS CENTRALIZED IN ONE POLITICAL BODY, THE POLITICAL FACTIONS WILL KEEP COMPETING TO TAKE A PIECE OF THE PIE.”

PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, LEBANON

“WE NEED TO END CENTRALIZATION AND HEAD OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL... REACHING OUT TO POVERTY POCKETS BY PARTNERING WITH LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY INSTITUTIONS.”

ENTREPRENEUR AT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, ROUND TABLE ON POVERTY REDUCTION AND EMPLOYMENT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, JORDAN

translated into tangible improvements on the ground. This is because they require multiple efforts on many fronts to tackle the political, economic and social drivers behind entrenched inequalities. Women face challenges in increasing their political engagement, elevating their status within their communities and also in meeting their basic needs. In **Sudan**, women suffer the highest incidence of HIV/AIDS in the country. In **Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen**, participants note that women cannot participate sufficiently in political decision-making. In **Egypt**, participants comment that violence against women and girls is on the rise and is especially apparent on the streets and in the public sphere. In **Algeria**, women in rural areas point to various barriers and increased vulnerability in their ability to access affordable housing, especially social housing. In Jordan, persisting stereotypes and cultural barriers still prevent women from enjoying full participation in the labour market and in the political arena.

PEOPLE ARE ASKING FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT GENERATION

Overall, Arab countries have continued to achieve respectable GDP growth rates, but, due to structural imbalances and lack of supportive policies, these have not been accompanied by equivalent rises in employment and wages. The population of around 320 million people in the region has been growing quickly, placing a considerable strain on the labour market. Land and water resources, as well as infrastructure are under stress, which affects employment and income generation opportunities. Demographic changes over the next decade are expected to increase, and the region is projected to have one of the highest percentages of youth in the world. By 2015, the number of people aged 15–24 is expected to reach 73 million. Youth unemployment is of particular concern, as are the low participation rates of women (for example, in Djibouti and Jordan the rate of female participation in the workforce is among the lowest in the world). With

“THERE IS DEVELOPMENT INEQUITY AMONG GOVERNORATES AND BETWEEN GENDERS AS WELL AS BETWEEN RURAL AND URBAN AREAS.”
NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, IRAQ

“SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IS POSSIBLE ONLY WHEN PEOPLE HAVE THE MEANS TO BECOME AGENTS OF CHANGE, LEADING TO A HEALTHIER SOCIETY WHICH IS PRODUCTIVE AND STRONGER.”
PERSON WITH DISABILITIES, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, ALGERIA

“THERE ARE NO DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE ROLE OF WOMEN AND ROLE OF MEN — WHAT WOMEN WILL DO IS THE SAME THING THAT MEN WILL DO.”
CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, YEMEN

“THE MOST IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN THE GOVERNMENT ARE ALL HELD BY MEN. THOSE WOMEN WHO MAKE IT FAR IN THE SYSTEM USUALLY END UP HOLDING A MORE SYMBOLIC POSITION, IN SO-CALLED ‘SOFT’ MINISTRIES WITHOUT BEING SUPPORTED BY BUDGETS TO FULFIL THEIR DUTIES. THIS NEEDS TO CHANGE.”
FEMALE YOUTH PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, YEMEN

Consultation with women and civil society activists held on 20 February 2013 in Cairo and hosted by UN Women through its Civil Society Platform (Photo: Ms. Fatma Yassin, Communications Associate, UN Women)





Group discussion at the National Forum of Civil Society Organizations – Amman, 2 March 2013 (Photo: UNRC Jordan)

approximately 60 percent of the population under the age of 25, more than 50 million jobs will need to be created in the coming decade to accommodate this youth bulge.⁸

Stakeholders in the region associate gaps in achievement of the MDGs with the lack of employment opportunities and non-inclusive patterns of growth. Economies lack diversification, with some resource-rich economies relying on resource exports, others on a limited number of sectors such as tourism,

and the poorest relying on foreign aid. Economic revitalization with job creation is seen clearly as critical not only for poverty reduction but also for social cohesion and stability.

The link between improving employment opportunities and the management of natural resources is articulated quite clearly in several consultations. The physical landscape is being eroded by rapid urbanization and threatened by desertification, climate change and rising sea levels, which impact the limited arable

land in the region. Population pressures and poor management of limited water resources, compounded by dropping water tables and groundwater pollution, are posing threats to future access to water, food security, health and agricultural livelihoods.

Arab economies which depend on exports of natural resources remain very vulnerable to world energy prices and demand fluctuations. Many rely on food imports and are vulnerable to volatilities and spikes in food prices. The consultations call for sustainable development programmes that can target diversification of economies to foster job creation, improve social cohesion and guarantee environmental sustainability. Discussants want a shift from export-led growth towards the creation of sustainable productive sectors which can create added value and jobs in agriculture, services, tourism and manufacturing.

Representatives from the private sector are also voicing the need to shift from a system that is largely dependent on state-controlled resources and contracts to one that harnesses independent capital and entrepreneurial initiatives. In short, they wish for a clearer separation and definition of the role of the state and private sector in economic

“ IN YEMEN, UNEMPLOYMENT IS REFERRED TO AS THE ‘MOST IMPORTANT CHALLENGE FACING THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS’. RECENT ESTIMATES PLACES UNEMPLOYMENT RATES AT 54.4 PERCENT IN 2011, COMPARED TO 42 PERCENT IN 2009. ”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, YEMEN

“ UNEMPLOYMENT HAS REACHED ALARMING PROPORTIONS AND AFFECTS NEARLY 50% OF THE ACTIVE POPULATION AND ABOUT 60% OF YOUNG PEOPLE. GIVEN THE DIFFICULT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND PERSISTENT UNEMPLOYMENT, THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS DO NOT HAVE BENCHMARKS, THEY HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES AND IN THE FUTURE OF THE NATION. MOST YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE GROWN FATALISTIC AND CONSIDER THAT THE SOLUTION IS TO GO ABROAD. ”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, DJIBOUTI



“THE SUDANESE ECONOMY IS HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO EXTERNAL SHOCKS DUE TO HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON OIL AND NEGLECT OF GROWTH IN OTHER PRODUCTIVE SECTORS NAMELY AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, SUDAN

“NOT ONLY WOULD THE GREEN ECONOMY BE AN IMPORTANT TOOL TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, BUT IT CAN ALSO LEAD TO THE CREATION OF MANY GREEN JOBS.”

PARTICIPANT, INCEPTION MEETING WITH GOVERNMENT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, JORDAN

“THE PRIVATE SECTOR IS ONE OF MANY PLAYERS, BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS THE INITIATOR.”

PRIVATE-SECTOR PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, EGYPT

“LACK OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES MAKES ME POSTPONE MY GRADUATION FROM UNIVERSITY. WHY AM I IN A HURRY TO SIT IDLE AT HOME?”

YOUTH PARTICIPANT, YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, JORDAN

“I WISH I COULD GO BACK TO LIVING WITH MY PARENTS, GET AN EDUCATION AND BECOME A CAR ENGINEER.”

STREET CHILD, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, EGYPT

“THERE IS NO GENERAL STANDARD OF CARE; LOW-QUALITY MEDICATION IS DANGEROUS AND LIFE-THREATENING.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, IRAQ

“WHenever I have a medical consultation service, for my son and for myself, I feel embarrassed by the looks of the staff.”

33-YEAR-OLD WOMAN LIVING WITH HIV, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, MOROCCO, ON DISCRIMINATION WHEN ACCESSING SUPPORT SERVICES



development, for level playing fields and — again — transparent accountability mechanisms for both state and private sectors. The government is perceived as not doing enough to combat corruption, rendering the cost of doing business prohibitive.

IN EDUCATION AND HEALTH, THE DEMAND IS FOR BETTER ACCESS AND QUALITY

While most countries in the Arab region have achieved, or are about to achieve, universal primary education, there is a distinct perception of a deficit in the quality of education. This is due to multiple factors, including a lack of

qualified teachers, geographical disparities in educational resources, inequalities in access due to legal or social status and gender, and the mismatch between skills acquired through educational courses and the demands of the job market. Overall, the call for addressing the quality as well as the content of education is coming across loud and clear.

The consultations are revealing demands for a more coordinated approach between the private sector, educational institutions and the government for a better integration of the region's education and vocational training

systems with the needs of employers.

Given the high rates of illiteracy in some parts of the region, there is also a clear need to provide opportunities for those who have dropped out to return to the system.

Key shortcomings in health systems within the region are perceived to be due to the governance issues discussed above: bureaucratic inefficiencies, limited technical and data capacities and in-adequate funding. Health services operating against the backdrop of conflict are placed under particular strain.

Contributors feel that any approach

“ A UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE SYSTEM SHOULD BE ELABORATED, TO REACH ALL THE CITIZENS AND INHABITANTS OF THE COUNTRY, REGARDLESS OF THEIR CURRENT SOCIAL SECURITY STATUS. THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE WOULD INCLUDE ACCESS TO HOSPITALS AND CARE STRUCTURES IN REMOTE AREAS, AS WELL AS AWARENESS ON HEALTH ISSUES AMONG VULNERABLE GROUPS, AND AFFIRMATIVE MEASURES FOR PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE. IN THIS APPROACH, THERE WOULD BE ROOM FOR A QUALITATIVE MEASUREMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES. ”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, LEBANON

“ SHORTAGE OF INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES REPRESENTS A REAL DEVELOPMENT BARRIER AS IT CAUSES ISOLATION THAT CREATES AND SUSTAINS UNDERDEVELOPMENT. THEREFORE, ADDRESSING RURAL ISOLATION BY IMPROVING ACCESS IS EXPECTED TO BE A KEY ELEMENT IN ANY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY. ”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, SUDAN

“ WE URGENTLY NEED TO ACTIVATE THE LAW ON RENEWABLE ENERGY ON ONE HAND, AND GRANT FACILITIES TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO INVEST ON THE OTHER. ”

YOUNG FEMALE PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, JORDAN

to addressing health issues must consider health as a fundamental human right founded on core principles of equity and accountability. However, this right is by no means assured for all citizens in Arab countries. Disparities in access are evident, for example, between rural and urban areas. In addition, women suffer from neglect and gender-biased traditions and harmful practices.

Disparities in access to and quality of health services affect other vulnerable groups, including poor people, elderly people, youth, migrants, internally displaced persons and refugees. Even when they do have access, many people — particularly those living with HIV and people with disabilities — suffer from stigma and discrimination.

Participants in some consultations call for countries to establish minimum social protection floors to guarantee access to essential social services and transfers and to address the stark disparities in health access and outcomes across the region and within individual countries.

People consulted feel that health

Performances at the High-Level meeting of the Thematic Consultation on Water, The Hague, March 2013 (Photo: IISD/Earth Negotiations Bulletin)



systems should also be strengthened to be more capable of tackling emerging trends and threats. These include the increased prevalence of NCDs, HIV, disabilities, obesity and road traffic accidents. Again, accountability mechanisms are considered key if improvements in access to and quality of care are to be achieved.

FOOD SECURITY, ENERGY AND WATER

The consultations underscore the urgency of food, energy and water insecurity and demonstrate an awareness of their links to issues such as poverty, education, health and gender. Water resources are considered a dominant vulnerability in the Arab region, where per capita water availability is predicted to fall by half by 2050.

Governance issues and inequalities once again underpin these discussions, as several of the consultation reports claim that public services in these spheres are fragmented, with poor distribution and reliability and weak institutional frameworks linking providers to beneficiaries. The key messages are that the sustainability of food, energy, water and, in general, the sustainable management of natural resources are core to social justice in the region. Improved availability and more equitable access to these resources will only be possible by integrating them with rights-based governance reforms.

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN ARAB STATES, MIDDLE EAST AND NORTHERN AFRICA

Regional consultations have taken place on post-2015 development priorities, the successes and relevance of the Millennium Development Goals, emerging global challenges impacting the region, and the post-Rio+20 processes for sustainable development goals. Engaging over 350 representatives from government, civil society, business and international organizations, these parallel consultations were held in Beirut, Amman and Dubai, convened through the regional UNDG, ESCWA, UNEP, the League of Arab States and civil society.

What has emerged through these consultations is a need to build on the strengths of the MDGs while making refinements and additions that help trace a more relevant outline for the region's path towards sustainable human development. Participants called for areas that were at the heart of the Millennium Declaration to be better reflected in the next global development framework, including addressing inequalities and disparities; governance issues such as voice and participation; issues related to peace, security and national self-determination; and a fuller expression of gender equality and women's empowerment. They also called for the next development framework to better reflect the interdependencies of social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Many delegates acknowledged the importance of the water-energy-food nexus and called for increased coordination among ministries. They highlighted the need to combat desertification, ensure water security, and create jobs in the region to keep pace with demographic change.

Looking ahead to implementation, participants were clear that development cannot be achieved by governments alone. All stakeholders need to contribute more to the definition of policy and the achievement of progress than in the past.

“IT IS TIME THAT THE ISSUE OF POPULATION DYNAMICS IS GIVEN DUE ATTENTION. WILL EGYPT BE ABLE TO ACCOMMODATE AND PROVIDE FOR THE EXPECTED INCREASE?”

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, EGYPT

“RESEARCH COULD PROVE TO BE ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S MOST VALUABLE ASSETS BECAUSE IT MIGHT SHED LIGHT ON AREAS OF SCARCITY AND PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES.”

ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, EGYPT, ON THE NEED FOR MORE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS AND AUDITS, AS WELL AS GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO FEED INTO DECISION-MAKING

“

“IF NOBODY KNOWS WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IS, HOW CAN WE ENSURE IT?”

PARTICIPANT, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION WORKSHOP, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, JORDAN

“BY INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CULTURE IN SCHOOL MODULES, CHILDREN COULD BE RAISED TO RESPECT THE ENVIRONMENT. EVENTUALLY THE GOAL WOULD BE TO MAKE ‘PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT’ A CIVIC VALUE THAT WILL BE FOLLOWED AND RESPECTED BY ALL.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, MOROCCO

”



The Post-2015 consultations in Iraq's northern region brought together persons living with disabilities, academics, and women's groups
(Photo: German Robles Osuna, UNV Iraq)

INCORPORATING RESILIENCE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Looking forward, the consultations highlight a desire to incorporate resilience and environmental sustainability into the post-2015 agenda. Participants recognize the need for a new framework to enable countries to recover during and after crises, to build robust services and infrastructure and to anticipate and respond to shocks. It is also recognized that the Arab region faces pressing environmental challenges that may have a profound influence on the region's future development prospects and could well reverse development gains by the middle of the century unless urgent actions are taken. Environmental degradation as a result of economic and demographic pressures is often seen as connected to patterns of consumption and production. Consultations call for integrated approaches to sustainable development to encompass incentives for renewable energies and clean technologies.

There are calls for education — inside and outside schools and with CSOs — to play a more prominent role in raising awareness of the urgency of addressing environmental sustainability issues.

VOICES FROM EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo,⁹ Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine¹⁰

The countries of Eastern Europe and Central Asia have made solid progress on socio-economic development in the past 12 years, including on the MDGs. In global terms, this region is relatively prosperous: most people do not live in what is globally called extreme poverty, and many people have access to basic social services including health and education. But even in this region, where average incomes have increased since 1990, the gap between the wealthiest and the poorest has widened drastically in many countries. Persistent inequalities dominate the life experiences of marginalized groups such as migrants, refugees and other displaced persons, ethnic minorities, people living with disabilities, and residents of rural areas or distressed urban areas which have lagged behind for decades. These groups — as well as children, young people, women and some elderly people — have been hit particularly hard by post-2008 income losses and reduced access to basic social services.

The narrative about the future global development agenda is increasingly focused on the need for ‘transformation’. The national consultations with citizens, civil society, government and business help to unpack what transformation means in a region where sections of the population are still reeling from the transformations in their lives brought about by transition. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, while individual capacities are often high, institutions still struggle to level the

“ WE ARE WITNESSING SUCH TRANSFORMATION IN UKRAINIAN POST-SOVIET SOCIETY WHERE EXCESSIVE LIBERALIZATION CAUSED SERIOUS SOCIAL CONTRADICTIONS, AND WE ARE CONTINUOUSLY LOOKING FOR AN OPTIMAL MODEL THAT WOULD COMBINE A MARKET ECONOMY WITH SOCIAL PROTECTION AND EFFICIENT SOCIAL POLICY.”

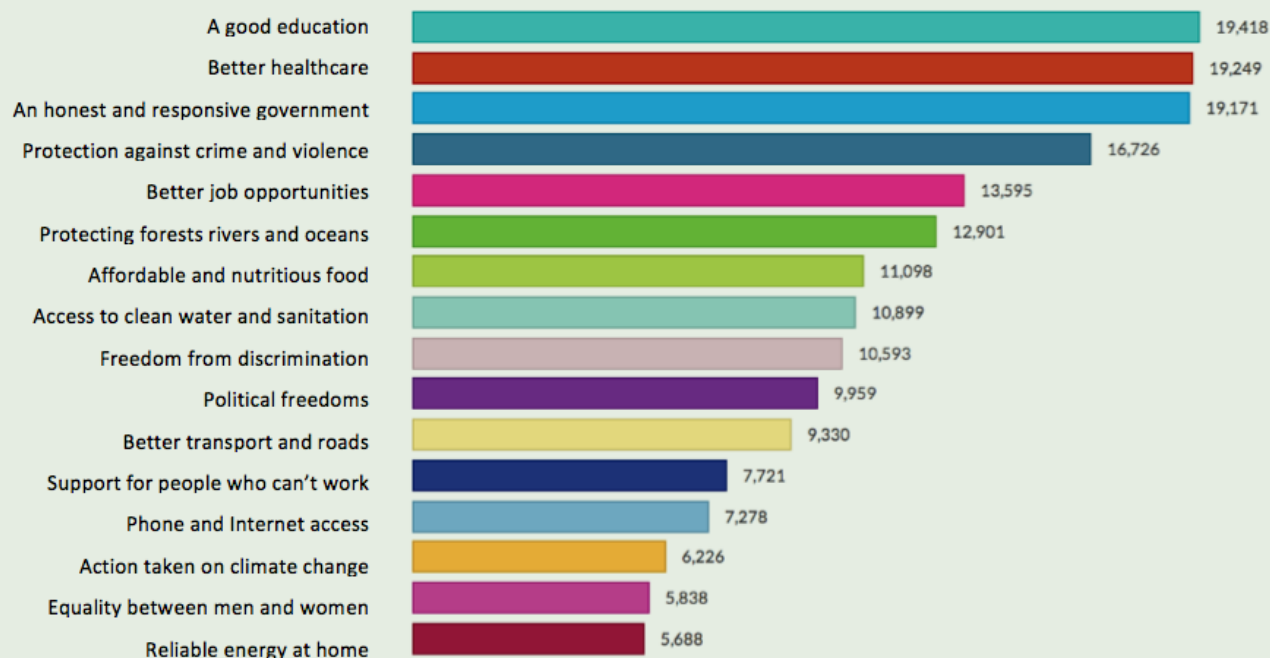
EXPERT COMMUNITY AND ACADEMIA, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, UKRAINE

“ NO DOUBT LIBERALIZATION ONCE YIELDED POSITIVE RESULTS AND CONTRIBUTED TO CURRENT PROGRESS. YET, NOW IT IS HIGH TIME TO ENTER THE NEXT STAGE AND KEEP PACE WITH NEW DEVELOPMENTS AS OUR LIBERALIZATION PRACTICES ARE ALREADY OUTDATED.”

NGO REPRESENTATIVE, YEREVAN EXPERT DISCUSSION, ARMENIA



Public consultations on Youth Employment in Vlora, Albania (Photo: UN Albania)



“ DURING COMMUNISM, PEOPLE WITH DIFFERENT ABILITIES WERE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BY THE STATE AND POLITICS. THIS DISCRIMINATION AT UPPER LEVELS HAS SHAPED OUR SOCIETY'S ATTITUDES RESULTING IN DISCRIMINATORY BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS THIS GROUP. ”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION DIALOGUE ON INEQUALITIES, ALBANIA

“ IN TAJIKISTAN, MANY CHILDREN STUDY UP TO THE 9TH GRADE, BUT THEIR PARENTS DON'T LET THEM CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES. THIS APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO GIRLS... DUE TO NOT BEING EDUCATED, WOMEN CANNOT PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS. ”

RESPONDENT, MY WORLD SURVEY, TAJIKISTAN

playing field and reach socially excluded populations. Many people in the region feel that weak public accountability, and the gap between the poorest and a privileged elite, prevent people living in or near poverty from entering the middle class. They also perceive certain mentalities as holding equality back in the region.

The Eastern European and Central Asian experience since the 1990s — the baseline date of the MDGs — has been dominated by transition away from central planning towards more open economies and societies. While these changes have opened up markets, the consultations reveal a sense that the benefits of this transition have not been felt by all. There is also a sense that the former system left in its wake legacies that make it more difficult for the principles of bureaucratic efficiency and equality to guide behaviour and market incentives

in the region. Interlinking patterns of political and economic exclusion are seen as hindering the development of a middle class across the region.

PEOPLE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA WANT A HIGHER BAR FOR THE RIGHTS COVERED IN THE MDGS

Across all 15 countries where national consultations were undertaken, people reaffirm the basic rights contained in the MDGs. For example, the approximately 25,000 women and men in Eastern Europe who completed the MY World survey rank a good education and better health among their top choices, although they place almost equal priority on an honest and responsive government. While people often want more ambition in the goals of a future framework, there is also a sense that it is not right for the global community to lose focus on the MDGs and move on “before the job is done” — as one participant in Kosovo put it.

During the national consultations, people and groups in all countries highlighted the need to prioritize education as an investment in their citizens’ current and future welfare. Tajikistan is a telling example of a country where enrolment in basic education is relatively high, but people see the quality of education as far from adequate. Meanwhile, groups such as children with disabilities, ethnic minorities and children of labour migrants face significant barriers in accessing education.

While enrolment rates in the region are relatively high, boys are more likely to finish schooling than girls. Among internally displaced persons in Azerbaijan, for example, conversations about education in several locations brought up cases of girls dropping out of school due to child marriages. Child marriages were also a concern in **Tajikistan** and **Turkey**.

People in Eastern Europe and Central Asia see the MDG focus on primary education as too limited. Women and civil society participants see the lack of pre-school education as holding women back in the labour market and the private sector. Lack of access to vocational

and higher education is also a severe bottleneck to economic advancement at a national level. In **Turkmenistan**, for example, over 1800 people who participated in the national consultation asked that the next global development framework include three components in the area of education: a) improving the quality, flexibility and ability of education so that it prepares people to meet the challenges of the 21st century; b) increasing the accessibility of education, especially pre-primary, vocational and secondary education for vulnerable members of society; and c) increasing teaching hours devoted to global trends and sustainable development. As a way

to sustain the country’s rapid growth over the last decade, participants in **Azerbaijan** national dialogues ask that more attention be paid to the quality of services.

Many participants across Eastern Europe draw attention to the broken link between education and the job market. Representatives from the private sector from several countries including **Ukraine** and **Tajikistan** are frustrated that in an environment of high unemployment they still cannot find adequate expertise. Students in many countries are eager to gain real-world experience but find their school’s curriculum does not respond to the needs of the labour market. Business representatives and students across



Andrei Stas, ice hockey player for Dynamo Minsk, shows his priorities in the MY World survey. (Photo: Alexey Shlyk, UN Belarus)



Focus group discussion with ethnic minorities, Osh Province, Osh city, Kyrgyzstan (Photo: Ibragimov Hasan)

“ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR GENDER INEQUALITY IS CHILD MARRIAGE WHICH DEPRIVES THE GIRLS OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION. THIS LEADS TO UNEDUCATED MOTHERS AND UNEDUCATED CHILDREN. IT IS A VICIOUS CYCLE.”

20-YEAR-OLD WOMAN FROM AN URBAN AREA, NATIONAL YOUTH CONSULTATION, SHIRVAN, AZERBAIJAN

“AZERBAIJAN SHOULD FURTHER INVEST IN CREATING HUMAN WEALTH AND STRIVE TO BECOME A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE BY NURTURING QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS.”

MIDDLE-AGED MAN, BARDHA, AZERBAIJAN

“TEACHERS’ CAPABILITIES AND METHODOLOGIES ARE SOMETIMES NOT UP TO SPEED WITH THE NEEDS AND REQUESTS OF THE MARKET, AS WELL AS YOUNG PEOPLE’S ABILITIES. THE AGE OF THE INTERNET HAS MADE THIS EVEN MORE EXPLICIT.”

FEMALE GRADUATE, LEZHA, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, ALBANIA

“THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION HAS SEVERELY DETERIORATED AND WE RISK BECOMING AN ILLITERATE POPULATION.”

ENTREPRENEUR, PRIVATE-SECTOR CONSULTATION, TAJIKISTAN

“EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS LIMIT THEMSELVES PURELY TO THEORY, DEFINITIONS AND ABSTRACT THESES. THEORY MUST BE COMBINED WITH PRACTICE; COOPERATION BETWEEN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND BUSINESS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED, AND THE STATE MUST SUPPORT THIS.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, UKRAINE

Eastern Europe generally agree on the nature of this labour market disconnect, although some private-sector representatives in **Ukraine**, for example, wish to see more students encouraged to take a vocational track to better meet employers' demand. Some feel that solving this disconnect requires not only better labour market research, but also direct interaction between education systems and the private sector. In **Albania**, the consultations noted that only one such higher education institution offers students the opportunity to work with a private company during their studies. This works well: if the specialization is right, students often even have jobs lined up before they graduate.

As a sign that the last step of the MDGs remains imperative in the minds of people in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, better health ranks fairly consistently as the highest priority in the region in the MY World survey. A focus on health is also confirmed among many of the national surveys conducted as part of consultations. Interestingly, in MY World and other surveys conducted as part of the national consultations, women, for example in **Belarus**, place higher priority on better quality health services than men. In **Tajikistan**, dialogues with women, ethnic minorities and civil society representatives all pointed out that maternal and child mortality remain worryingly high in their country. Some even question the improvement in this MDG target reflected by official data, given their knowledge of home births, particularly in Tajikistan's mountainous areas.

Many stakeholders agree that because the MDG goals to reduce child and maternal mortality, as well as to halt the spread of HIV/AIDS, have not been reached, these should continue to receive priority attention beyond 2015. While many feel that HIV/AIDS and reproductive health services are still lacking or even being reduced since the financial crisis, others see progress over the last several years in the strength of organizations working on HIV/AIDS.

In addition to gaps in service

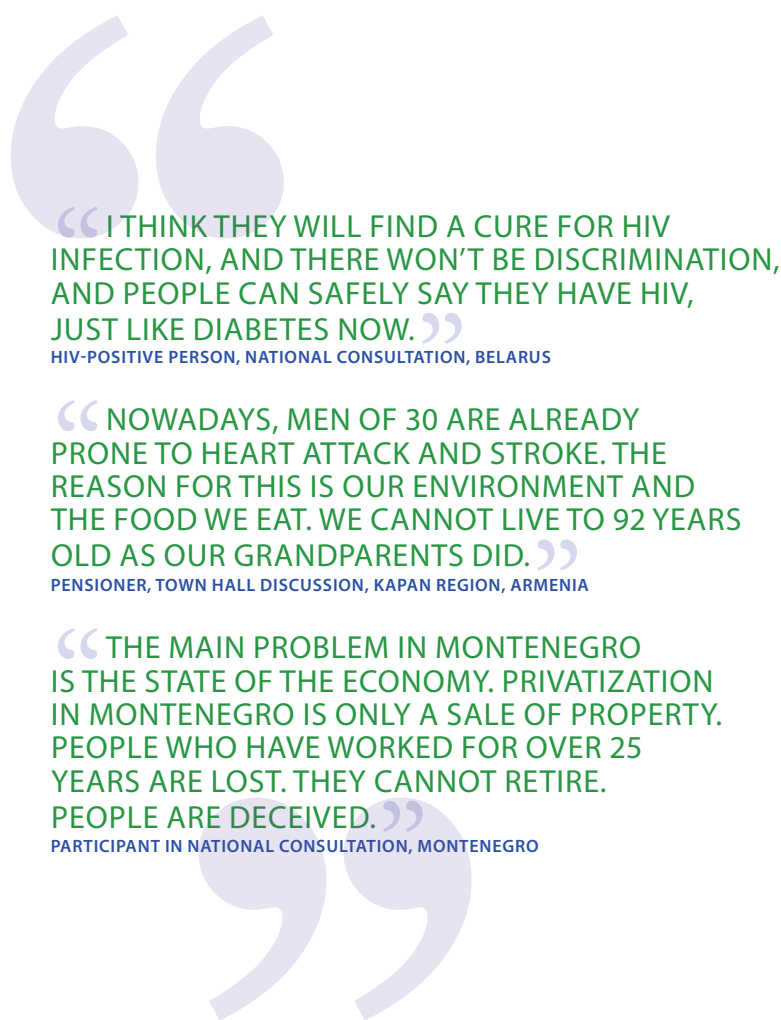
availability, the discussions about health in the region concentrate on three themes: low quality of services, especially outside urban areas; the need for a deeper focus on prevention and healthy lifestyles, particularly for NCDs; and, resoundingly, corruption in the health sector. In Montenegro, for example, people feel that it is either more expensive or impossible to get treatment in government-operated health institutions than the privately owned ones.

In addition to consistent prioritization for better quality and access to health and education services, the drive to complete the MDGs in the region is also continuing in respect to water and sanitation. This issue emerged as one of the largest concerns among people in **Kazakhstan** and **Tajikistan**, and among participants in rural areas in several other countries. A lack of secured access to safe drinking

water throughout the region's rural areas is another indication that, despite large-scale economic and social progress, the work on the MDGs is not complete in the region and is often complicated by the task and cost of replacing outdated or inefficient pre-transition infrastructure.

STAGNANT ECONOMIES AND UNEMPLOYMENT DOMINATE THE DISCUSSIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

This region was hit hard by the financial and economic crises, and — not surprisingly — insufficient incomes top the list of people's concerns. Employment has been a concern since the beginning of transition, as economies in many countries recovered but with uneven effects on formal-sector jobs. Over 80 percent of people engaged in a nationally representative survey in **Moldova** see decent jobs and higher incomes as the most necessary component to ensure



“ I THINK THEY WILL FIND A CURE FOR HIV INFECTION, AND THERE WON'T BE DISCRIMINATION, AND PEOPLE CAN SAFELY SAY THEY HAVE HIV, JUST LIKE DIABETES NOW. ”

HIV-POSITIVE PERSON, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, BELARUS

“ NOWADAYS, MEN OF 30 ARE ALREADY PRONE TO HEART ATTACK AND STROKE. THE REASON FOR THIS IS OUR ENVIRONMENT AND THE FOOD WE EAT. WE CANNOT LIVE TO 92 YEARS OLD AS OUR GRANDPARENTS DID. ”

PENSIONER, TOWN HALL DISCUSSION, KAPAN REGION, ARMENIA

“ THE MAIN PROBLEM IN MONTENEGRO IS THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY. PRIVATIZATION IN MONTENEGRO IS ONLY A SALE OF PROPERTY. PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED FOR OVER 25 YEARS ARE LOST. THEY CANNOT RETIRE. PEOPLE ARE DECEIVED. ”

PARTICIPANT IN NATIONAL CONSULTATION, MONTENEGRO



Kazakh youth post their priorities in the MY World survey during an outreach campaign organized by UNV Kazakhstan on International Youth Day 2013, Astana, Kazakhstan (Photo: Ji Hyun Yang, UN Volunteer/UNV, 2013)

people there live better in the long term. In **Serbia**, more jobs and decent employment was the highest priority among the 28,000 people consulted. Unemployed people (58 percent), rural populations (35 percent) and women (34 percent) top the list of people who see unemployment as a top priority for Serbia. In **Kyrgyzstan**, women from rural areas were more concerned with this issue than were other stakeholders across the country. In **Azerbaijan**, almost 1500 internally displaced persons interviewed as part of the national consultation see a lack of livelihood opportunities as the primary obstacle to achieving self-reliance from government subsidies.

In addition to weak job prospects, people think unemployment is motivated by three other drivers: wages that are insufficient for a decent standard of living; poor working conditions that

might provide temporary work but ultimately result in unemployment; and, in some cases, outright discrimination in employment, particularly among Roma and other ethnic minorities. In **Albania**, young women and men see the 'lack of meritocracy' and 'family and network nature' of the private sector as preventing their access to jobs. A lack of trust in public employment offices was also raised as an issue, with several young people admitting that they do not even make an effort to seek employment in the public offices set up to assist people to find jobs.

The consultations tell a story of how high unemployment not only excludes people from earning their livelihood, it also propagates poor working conditions and workplace rights violations. People in **Armenia, Serbia** and **Tajikistan** raised this issue during their national consultations; when jobs are scarce, men are more

willing to accept any working conditions, even those that exceed working hours or other regulations. People also draw attention to how high unemployment entrenches a cycle of inequality. They talk about how in some countries accepting poor working conditions and longer hours is usually not an option for women and, especially, young women, and is inconceivable for people living with disabilities.

A call for better management of migration and population mobility emerged from many of the region's consultations, with attention drawn in particular to the impact on women. Women in **Azerbaijan, Moldova** and **Tajikistan** talk about how they are the *de facto* heads of household when husbands migrate for work. In **Kazakhstan**, on the other hand, women make up over half of those who migrate for work, and in **Serbia** rural women migrate more often to

cities than men, due to land inheritance practices which favour men.

A common theme in the region was a coherent call for deeper and more aggressive approaches to gender equality in education and employment. In some places, including **Tajikistan** and **Turkey**, concerns over gender equality top the list of priorities, and not only in terms of women's education and employment but also their engagement in public life and women's freedom from violence. Interestingly, an emphasis on equality between men and women is an area where the results from Eastern Europe on the global MY World survey differ from the results of the national consultations. In MY World, 'equality between women and men' is rated last among 16 priorities in Eastern Europe, and third from last in Central Asia. The national consultations, on the other hand, qualitatively indicate a higher prioritization of gender issues. This difference in how people prioritize gender may be due to the way the town halls and focus groups were conducted. Whereas in the MY World survey, people usually rank their priorities independently, the national consultations allowed for a more context-rich dialogue.

PEOPLE SEE SEVERAL KINDS OF INEQUALITIES AS BLOCKING THEIR CHANCES OF A BETTER FUTURE

The consultations reveal a pervasive conviction among many that the principle of equality has not fully infiltrated mentalities and ways of doing business in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The two primary priorities emerging from discussions among over 7000 people in **Kosovo**,¹¹ for example, were **opportunity** and **equity**. Opportunity was articulated as far more than just a job; Kosovans expressed it as the chance to maximize all your potential, from access to quality learning and open travel to decent and fulfilling work. Equity was articulated as far more than wealth and poverty; it was viewed as a social and political climate, a continuum of experiences and knowledge from birth that guarantee a fair chance to be happy and free at home, in society and

the wider world. This line of thinking is echoed in other countries as well.

While people in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are very aware of many kinds of inequalities, they are most concerned with three: a) between women and men; b) between the richest and the poorest members of society; and c) between the

capital city and the rest of their countries. Beyond income, gender and the urban-rural divide, the consultations also reveal distress over inequalities facing ethnic minorities and those with disabilities. Inequalities in terms of access to power and possession of propriety are also viewed as decisive in some countries



Focus group discussion with retired people, Chui Province, Bishkek city, Kyrgyzstan (Photo: Haibulin Nayil)



“POLITICIANS PREFER THE PEOPLE BEING POOR.
IF THEY ARE POOR, THEY ARE CHEAP.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, MONTENEGRO

“WE HAVE TO MAKE RICH PEOPLE RESPECT
THE POOR AND GIVE EVERYBODY FREEDOM TO SAY
WHAT THEY THINK, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER
THEY ARE RICH OR POOR.”

INTERNALLY DISPLACED GIRL, 10–13 YEARS OLD, RURAL SETTLEMENT, FIZULI, AZERBAIJAN

“IN MY HUMBLE OPINION, THE INEQUALITY
BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN IN A SOCIETY IS A DIRECT
INDICATOR OF THAT COUNTRY’S DEVELOPMENT.”

YOUNG FEMALE TEACHER FROM PASKUQAN, INFORMAL SETTLEMENT, TIRANA, ALBANIA

“I WANT MORE NEW SCHOOLS, MULTI-STOREY
BUILDINGS, STADIUMS AND KINDERGARTENS
TO BE BUILT, NOT ONLY IN THE CAPITAL CITY, BUT
IN ALL PARTS OF OUR COUNTRY.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, TURKMENISTAN

including **Ukraine**.

In **Turkey**, the single theme that permeated all thematic discussions was the intractability of gender inequality, although on the more positive side, an online survey among 1656 people

reveals optimism among 44 percent of the respondents who think that this will improve in the post-2015 period. Interestingly, this optimism does not extend to people’s expectations about income distribution and equal

opportunities in education: 60 percent of the Turkish survey respondents did not think that income inequality will decrease, and 45 percent did not think that equal opportunities in education will improve in the short term. In **Montenegro**, gender inequality was rated the most important type of inequality, followed closely by ethnic inequality. In **Ukraine**, 62 percent of 1806 elderly men and women surveyed see inequality between rich and poor people as the manifestation of inequality most relevant for Ukraine’s development. This is twice as high as the importance they place on inequalities related to old age, access to power, urban and rural inequality and those due to disabilities.

Several of the thousands of Eastern European and Central Asian women and men consulted during this process articulated how the ‘capital-and-everywhere-else’ dynamic reinforces territorial inequities. During the **Turkish** dialogue on Growth and Employment, people see economic policies as having been overly ‘capital-oriented’ for the last 40 years. People in **Armenia** talk about the implications of higher-quality health services in Yerevan, the capital city. Better quality means that services fees in the capitals grow, as do incomes and people’s health outcomes. Those consulted see this situation as one that entrenches a cycle of inequality between capital cities and the subnational regions.

Vacated rural areas and growing urban zones are phenomena that were raised in several consultations including those in **Turkey, Azerbaijan and Serbia**. In **Turkey**, rural-to-urban migration is seen as something that exacerbates inequalities. This is the case both among people in the regions that usually send migrants (Kastanamonu and Kutahya) and the regions where migrants relocate (Istanbul), suggesting a cycle of inequality in both under-capacitated rural areas and overburdened urban areas.

Town Hall Meeting participants voting for possible development scenarios after the discussion on Food Security Post-2015 Scenarios for Armenia, City of Yeghegnadzor, Vayots Dzor Region, Armenia, March 2013 (Photo: UN Armenia)



**PEOPLE ACROSS THE REGION
DEMAND MORE RESPONSIVE AND
ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENTS**

Particularly in rural areas, but also in urban zones, the consultations in the region consistently highlight a lack of trust in public institutions. This issue sets Eastern Europe apart from the rest of the world in the global MY World survey, where over 20,000 women and men cite ‘an honest and responsive government’ as their top priority, almost even with health care and above a good education. The call for accountability and human rights is reinforced by more detailed national surveys. In **Kazakhstan**, for example, the highest priority among 600 people surveyed is the protection and promotion of human rights. Particularly in rural areas, people in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are asking for less corruption, more trust in the judicial system and greater respect for human rights.

People feel disconnected from public authorities. One line of thinking relates to the frequently held view that small-scale corruption is a common practice in the public environment. Unwillingly, young people in some countries feel that corruption is part of coexisting in society.

This came out very strongly across the region during focus group discussions related to the health sector, where

people see a direct connection between how much money people have and the kind of care they receive. The issue of out-of-pocket payments for health care is a consistent issue across several countries including **Moldova, Albania, Ukraine, and Tajikistan**.

Consultations in the Western Balkans, including **Kosovo**, reveal a sense that

the job market is also overly politicized: young people are more likely to find employment if they are affiliated with the right political party. This perception was also raised in **Ukraine**, indicating a political dynamic where party affiliation infiltrates areas where it does not belong, such as investment and employment.

The consequences of corruption were



Volunteer Aizada Arystanbek, 19, supports the MY World Outreach campaign of UNV Kazakhstan on International Youth Day 2013, Astana, Kazakhstan (Photo: Ji Hyun Yan, UN Volunteer/UNV, 2013)

“ IF I HAD A CHANCE TO BE BORN AGAIN, I WOULD CHOOSE TO BE BORN NOWHERE ELSE BUT IN MY VILLAGE. I DON'T WANT TO MOVE TO THE CITY. I JUST WANT TO BE ABLE TO GET EVERYTHING I NEED AS A YOUNG PERSON IN MY VILLAGE. ”

YOUNG WOMAN FROM A REMOTE RURAL AREA, GEDABEY REGION, NATIONAL YOUTH CONSULTATION, SHIRVAN, AZERBAIJAN

“ SOMETIMES CHILDREN OF MINISTERS BECOME DEPUTIES OF PARLIAMENT THEY HAVE NOT EVEN SERVED IN THE ARMY, AND THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEMS ARE. HOW CAN THEY DIRECT PEOPLE? THE VOTES SHOULD NOT BE SOLD. ”

FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, KYRGYZSTAN

“ THOUGH I HAVE HEALTH INSURANCE, I STILL HAVE TO GIVE BRIBES TO THE HEALTH PERSONNEL, SO I CAN GET BETTER AND FASTER SERVICE. ”

TOWN HALL DISCUSSION, TIRANA, ALBANIA

“ IN SERBIA, THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO LIVE WELL ARE THE POLITICIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, EVERYONE ELSE IS AT RISK OF POVERTY, BARELY ABLE TO SATISFY EVERYDAY NEEDS FOR SURVIVAL. ”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, SERBIA

“ NOT ALL CORRUPTION IS THE SAME... ONE THING IS WHEN, FOR INSTANCE, A DOCTOR RECEIVES GRATITUDE, A REWARD FROM A BABY'S FATHER. IT IS A DIFFERENT THING WHEN AN ENTREPRENEUR WINS A PUBLIC TENDER BECAUSE OF A BRIBE TO A CIVIL SERVANT. IN FACT, RESTRICTIONS ARE REQUIRED IN BOTH CASES. HOWEVER, THEY OBVIOUSLY CREATE DIFFERENT SOCIAL DANGERS. CORRUPTION AS SUCH IS TOTALLY DESTRUCTIVE TO A SYSTEM. ”

NATIONAL YOUTH CONSULTATION, LVIV REGION, UKRAINE

“ THE STATE MUST IMPROVE THE SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESS SYSTEM. ALL SECTORS MUST GET RID OF 'OGRES' WHO KEEP EVERYONE IN FEAR AND IMPOSE THEIR OWN WILL AND PRICES. ”

MIDDLE-AGED ENTREPRENEUR, TOWN HALL DISCUSSION, VAYONTS DZOR REGION, ARMENIA

Students of Librazhd speak about the world they want during the public consultations in Albania (Photo: UN Albania)



commonly described by participants from the general public, civil service and private sector. Corruption in the health sector adds to the cost of health services, which hurts the poorest people the most. Corruption in education undermines young people's belief in a merit-based system and can lead to underqualified graduates. In the labour market, people see nepotism as preventing the most qualified from getting hired. In the private sector, corruption hurts small businesses most. Many citizens and representatives from the business sector in Eastern Europe and Central Asia feel that an honest business is an increasingly untenable prospect, due to an intertwined combination of small-scale corruption, on the one hand, and what they see as overly burdensome regulations on the other.

In addition to perceptions of misuse of power, people see a limited impact of policy reforms in the region. In **Moldova**, for example, more people in rural areas rate a 'trustful justice system' as necessary for people to lead better lives in the long term. This indicates that access to justice is not yet a reality in rural areas, whereas

in urban areas people see more progress in this area. Policies for many people remain on paper. During the discussion on inequalities as part of the **Turkish** national consultation, the primary recommendation is to fund, implement and ensure equal access to services as defined through current policies, before adding to the current legislation. Policy reforms are largely seen as incomplete in the region.

SOME PEOPLE IN THE REGION SEE GROWING CONCERN OVER ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, NOW AND IN THE LONG TERM

Looking at the MY World survey results, environmental protection is an area that stands out as a higher priority in Eastern Europe than in the global survey at large. The national consultations confirm that people see water and land scarcity, desertification, waste removal and pollution as priority issues, although this conviction is often confined to specific groups of stakeholders. The MY World survey and additional polling conducted in **Serbia, Turkey, Kazakhstan and Moldova** show that the constituents most likely to prioritize environmental protection are young people, women, government representatives and graduates of



Young professor from Kharkiv is encouraging her students to discuss the pros and cons of greening the economy (Photo: UNDP Ukraine)

secondary education and beyond. In **Turkey and Albania**, some businesses and trades unions also see the potential for job creation in a green economy. In addition to protection for forests, rivers and oceans, the Eastern European MY World results also demonstrate a relatively higher regional priority for action to combat climate change than the global survey results.

During dialogues about the environment, people demonstrated an awareness of the duality of causes of environmental degradation. On the one hand, they see some industries as reaping benefits from their natural resources, while local populations suffer the consequences. On the other hand, they also know that many environmental challenges stem from a lack of awareness of sustainable practices among local populations. This two-sided analysis came out strongly in the context of **Armenia**, for example, where people are concerned over the long-term impact of the mining sector but also individual practices of burning leaves and burying hazardous wastes.

The accountability challenge also emerged in **Kazakhstan**, where civil society raised concerns over the careless attitudes of people as well as air and water quality and resource extraction in the Caspian Sea. The effects of environmental degradation have been especially visible in the last decade.

“THERE ARE SO MANY PLANS AND DOCUMENTS. BUT NO IMPLEMENTATION.”

MEMBER OF THE WOMEN'S CAUCUS, KOSOVO

“THAT'S THE MAIN PROBLEM OF UKRAINE: WE PLAN BUT WE NEVER LOOK AT WHAT WE HAVE DONE ACCORDING TO THE PLANS. THAT'S SORT OF ABSURD. REFORMS, PLANS, STRATEGIES, CONCEPTS — THEY ARE BEING PLANNED AND WRITTEN. BUT NOBODY EVER ANALYSES WHY WE HAVE ACHIEVED OR NOT ACHIEVED [THEM].”

EXPERT AND ACADEMIA STAKEHOLDER GROUP, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, UKRAINE

“ IN OUR TOWN, WE HAVE A RIVER THAT CHANGES COLOUR ONCE A YEAR BECAUSE OF INDUSTRIAL WASTE OF THE LOCAL PLANT. YET, ALL THE ENVIRONMENTAL FEES PAID BY THE PLANT ARE SOMEHOW CHANNELLED TO OTHER REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY. ”

YOUNG WOMAN, TOWN HALL DISCUSSION, KAPAN REGION, ARMENIA

“ THE ALATAU MOUNTAINS WERE FAMOUS FOR THEIR BEAUTY. THERE IS NO SUCH BEAUTY SEEN TODAY, AND THIS IS WORRYING. MOUNTAIN PEAKS NO LONGER HAVE WHITE ICING ON THEM, WHICH IS ALSO A REASON WHY THERE IS LESS WATER IN RIVERS. AIR GETS POLLUTED ALSO AS A CONSEQUENCE OF FOREST FIRES IN RUSSIA. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BREATHE THE AIR, AS IT IS FILLED WITH SMOKE AT TIMES. ”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, KAZAKHSTAN



Women from different regions of the country discuss the world they want, Women's Union, Ashgabat city, Turkmenistan, 24 April 2013
(Photo: Andrey Kaletinskiy, UNDP Turkmenistan)

EASTERN EUROPEANS AND CENTRAL ASIANS ARE LOOKING TO THE FUTURE WITH A 'CAN-DO' ATTITUDE

While the methods of post-2015 consultations open the door for people to list what they expect from government, the 'can-do' attitude of those consulted is striking. In many of the areas that have

emerged as a high priority — productive employment, education, health, unequal societies and environmental health — people recognize the obligations on the State, and call very strongly for more responsive governments. But they also recognize their own responsibilities at the

individual level to ensure equality and make progress on quality of life.

The consultations reveal demands for an economic environment in which they can excel — more so than requests for direct public support. In **Armenia**, during a town hall meeting, for example, a group of farmers were asked which they prefer: a fair and secure market environment or direct state support. The consensus in this group of farmers is not only that their priority would be for a fairer market, but also that state agricultural support often has the opposite effect.

In **Ukraine**, the call for a level playing field also comes out strongly. Small-business owners, labour migrants and representatives of Crimean Tartars all feel that small businesses are held back by burdensome, slow and growing regulations and a web of corruption. As another manifestation of the desire to earn a living rather than rely on safety nets, in **Armenia, Azerbaijan and Turkey**, the consultations evoked a perception that in some cases humanitarian relief, projects or other assistance can serve as a barrier to addressing the roots of vulnerability and poverty.

The 'can-do' attitude for the new development agenda also translates

into their expectations for an honest and responsive government. In **Turkmenistan**, for example, people ask for a new development framework which sees good governance as a two-way street. In addition to asking for more attentive service delivery and the elimination of bureaucratic barriers, people would also like to see progress in society to “improve the legal culture and consciousness of citizens”, “develop self-governance” and increase the participation of women in social and political life, and young people and children in issues that affect their lives. People throughout the region emphasize their own personal responsibility and the role of culture in advancing sustainable development.

In **Belarus**, private-sector representatives stress the importance of social responsibility: “If everyone takes care of the place where he lives, then we will live well.” – Business representative, National Consultation, Belarus

Likewise in **Serbia**, online surveys focused on the question ‘How can you personally contribute to the changes in Serbia?’. Among the 3500 people who took part in this survey, micro-action such as individual responsibility in everyday life through professional engagement or responsible behaviour in the community topped the list of responses. Testimonials include people talking about how they themselves can take action “by refusing to pay bribes”, “by teaching my grandsons what is good and bad” and by “staying here”, rather than migrating abroad for work. These promises of individual action complement more diffuse calls for solidarity, tolerance and a stronger role for NGOs. ■

REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS IN EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Together with the Economic Commission for Europe, UNDP and the UNDG are planning a Regional Consultation on the Post-2015 Development Agenda ‘Realizing More Inclusive, Sustainable and Prosperous Societies in Europe and Central Asia: Regional Perspectives on the New Development Agenda’, to be held on 7 and 8 November 2013 in Istanbul, Turkey. The high-level event will be hosted by the Government of Turkey.

“SEEDS HAVE NO QUALITY CERTIFICATES, AND WE CANNOT MAKE ANY LABORATORY TESTS. THE SEEDS SECTOR IS CORRUPT TOO AND CONTROLLED BY A SINGLE PERSON.”

TOWN HALL DISCUSSION WITH FARMERS, ARMENIA

“IT COULD BE EASIER TO FORM A MIDDLE CLASS IF BOTH HUSBAND AND WIFE WORK.”

YOUNG WOMAN, TOWN HALL MEETING, SHIRAK REGION, ARMENIA

“NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ALL OVER UKRAINE MUST BECOME MORE ACTIVE. THEY NEED TO INVOLVE ACTIVE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO AND CAN CHANGE SOMETHING. IT’S A VERY IMPORTANT THING THAT CAN WAKE UP THIS STATE.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, UKRAINE

“IF EVERYONE TAKES CARE OF THE PLACE WHERE HE LIVES, THEN WE WILL LIVE WELL.”

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, BELARUS

NOTES

- 1 Consultation results for Lesotho, South Africa and Swaziland are not included in this section as they are at a preliminary stage. Links to reports and other documentation from all of this region's national consultations can be found on the World We Want platform via: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/regions>.
- 2 Links to reports and other documentation from all of this region's national consultations can be found on the World We Want platform via: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/regions>.
- 3 Links to reports and other documentation from all of this region's national consultations can be found on the World We Want platform via: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/regions>.
- 4 Consultation results for [Saudi Arabia](#) are not included in this section as they are at a preliminary stage. Links to reports and other documentation from all of this region's national consultations can be found on the World We Want platform via: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/regions>.
- 5 United Nations, League of Arab States, Third Arab Report on the MDGs and the Impact of the Global Economic Crises, 2010.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 UNDP, Arab Human Development Report 2009
- 8 UNDP, Arab Human Development Report 2009
- 9 As per United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244
- 10 Links to reports and other documentation from all of this region's national consultations can be found on the World We Want platform via: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/regions>.
- 11 Under Security Council Resolution 1244.



3 | A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

This chapter summarizes the main points and interlinkages emerging from the 11 thematic consultations led by the UNDG in 2012–2013. The themes are as follows:

Addressing Inequalities; Conflict, Violence and Disaster; Education; Energy; Environmental Sustainability; Governance; Growth and Employment; Health; Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition; Population Dynamics; and Water.

The consultation themes were selected as issues which the group considered vital to bring to the table in the current global context, and which take into account changes which have occurred in the world since the MDGs were formulated (including population dynamics, urbanization processes, understanding of planetary limits, increasing inequalities). The process for most consultations started in late 2012 and continued into early 2013,

Young students in Zambia listing their future aspirations for the Post-2015 Agenda (Photo: Georgina Fekete/UNDP)



Triple paralympic medallist Liudmila Vauchok takes part in the MY World survey in Minsk, Belarus. (Photo: Alexey Shlyk, UN Belarus)

with each group setting its own timetable. The groups were jointly led by specialized UN agencies, and the consultations were co-hosted by one or more countries, whose inputs have been highly valued. The consultations benefited particularly from the active participation and support from civil society — individual citizens and organizations — academic research institutes and the private sector.

Each consultation has had its own journey, the details of which are summarized in Annex 2. All have involved a series

of incredibly rich global on- and offline conversations: they have reached out to contributors worldwide through the virtual platform provided by the World We Want 2015 website, and included an interactive web-consultation phase, with e-discussions on specific sub-topics, as well as calls for papers. Some consultations carried out surveys/polls, hosted live video Q&A sessions with experts, and live streaming of high-level meetings. Some launched social media pages on Facebook (e.g. Waterpost 2015) and Twitter. There have been face-to-face meetings for

sub-topics to allow for more focused discussion. These included face-to-face and online discussions specifically for young people, whose energy and appetite for participation has been particularly vocal and welcome. And all thematic groups have hosted a global high-level meeting which summarized and endorsed the consensus achieved. The process has brought added value not only to the process of developing the post-2015 agenda: each consultation has found new partnerships, and ways of working with national and community partners. Links to the full final reports and other documentation regarding the substance, content of e-discussions, and process of the discussion can be found in the summaries of each individual consultation below.

EDUCATION

EXPANDING AND REFINING THE EDUCATION GOAL: QUANTITY AND QUALITY

Education features as a separate goal in the MDGs, and ranks consistently top in the MY World priorities. Despite significant progress in access to primary education — from 2000 to 2010 over 50 million additional children enrolled in primary school — huge disparities remain between and within countries. Primary school enrolment has slowed since 2004, with 57 million children of primary school

“THIS THEMATIC CONSULTATION ON WATER EMBARKED ON ONE OF THE MOST AMBITIOUS PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES IN RECENT HISTORY. THE OUTREACH WAS EXHAUSTIVE YET AT THE SAME TIME INVIGORATING. IN THE PAST, ALL TOO OFTEN, THE CONSTITUENCY OF THE WATER ‘SECTOR’ ENDS UP SPEAKING TO ITSELF. WHILE THAT ENSURES AGREEMENT IN WATER CONFERENCES, IT RARELY GAINS TRACTION IN NATIONAL POLICY.”

WATER CONSULTATION, FINAL REPORT, P. 5

“EDUCATION IS THE BACKBONE OF DEVELOPMENT, SUCH THAT EVEN DOING APPLICATION OF FERTILIZER, ONE NEEDS EDUCATION.”

YOUTH CONSULTATION, MALAWI

THEMATIC CONSULTATION

CO-LEADERS

SPONSORING OR ASSOCIATED GOVERNMENTS

Addressing Inequalities

(<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/inequalities>)

UNICEF and UN Women

Denmark and Ghana

Conflict, Violence and Disaster

(<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/conflict>)

UNDP, PBSO, ISDR, UNICEF

Finland, Indonesia, Liberia, Panama

Education

(<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/education2015>)

UNESCO and UNICEF

Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Mexico, Senegal, South Africa, Thailand

Energy

(<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/energy2015>)

UNIDO, DESA and World Bank

India, Mexico, Norway, Tanzania,

Environmental Sustainability

(<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/sustainability>)

UNEP and UNDP

Costa Rica, France

Governance

(<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/governance>)

UNDP and OHCHR

Germany, South Africa

Growth and Employment

(<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/employment>)

ILO and UNDP

Japan

Health

(<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/health>)

UNICEF, WHO

Botswana, Sweden

Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition

(<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/food2015>)

WFP and FAO

Colombia, Spain

Population Dynamics

(<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/population>)

UNDESA, IOM, UNFPA and UNHABITAT

Bangladesh, Switzerland

Water

(<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/water>)

UNICEF, DESA and UN Water

Hungary, Jordan, Liberia, Mozambique, The Netherlands, Switzerland

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age and 71 million of lower secondary school age currently lacking access to quality basic education.¹

Efforts over the last decade have focused more on access and completion of schooling rather than on what children actually learn in school. At least 250 million children are not able to read, write or count well, even among those who have spent at least four years in school.² Moreover, millions of young people and adults, particularly women, are not provided the education and training to develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes they need for a successful transition to adult life and decent jobs.³ There are more young people than ever, disproportionately concentrated in the developing world, and about three times

as likely as adults to be unemployed. In 2011, an estimated 774 million adults were illiterate.⁴ Hence, the issues of the quality of education, of learning outcomes and of skills development have been identified as key concerns.

The inadequacy of human and financial resources and infrastructure seriously undermines progress towards providing quality education for all. This includes the teachers' gap — at the global level, some 5.1 million teachers will have to be replaced and 1.7 million new teaching posts will need to be created to reach the goal of universal primary education by 2015,⁵ as well as the need for an additional US\$26 billion⁶ annually to achieve basic education in poor countries.

EQUALITY AND ACCESS FOR ALL

Exclusion from education — including being left out of consideration in education-related development planning, policies and budgeting — occurs most often among girls, rural and indigenous peoples, working children, children living in conflict, orphans, migrants and nomads, children with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS, persons living in conflict and disaster contexts, refugees and internally displaced persons, and linguistic and cultural minorities. Girls are also more likely to be out of school at lower secondary age than boys, regardless of the wealth or location of the household,⁷ and almost two thirds of the world's 774 million illiterate adults are women.⁸

“THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION HAS SEVERELY DETERIORATED AND WE RISK BECOMING AN ILLITERATE POPULATION.”

ENTREPRENEUR, PRIVATE-SECTOR CONSULTATION, TAJIKISTAN

“WE NEED TO ENSURE QUALITY EDUCATION, IN ITSELF EDUCATION CAN BE BOTH GOOD AND BAD, IN SOME CASES DAMAGING. THE QUALITY NEEDS TO BE THERE TO PROVIDE HOPE AND STRENGTH FOR THE FUTURE.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION, YEMEN

MOVING FORWARD, BUILDING ON THE PAST AND MAKING LINKAGES

Without a strong education system, many structural deficiencies and inequalities will persist, hindering the realization of the post-2015 agenda. The consultation clearly acknowledged that the post-2015 agenda for education must build on what has been achieved and what remains to be achieved, while taking into account current global trends and transformations such as increasing economic interdependency, globalization and technological development; growing pressure on natural resources and increased energy consumption leading to environmental degradation; rapidly changing labour markets; greater interconnectedness; shifting geo-politics; older and more urbanized populations; population growth and ‘youth bulges’; and growing unemployment and widening inequalities. All of these affect developed and developing countries alike.

The linkages with the above trends and transformation were also highlighted in other thematic consultation groups. For example, the Environmental Sustainability consultation calls for transformative changes in education — inside and outside schools — to raise knowledge

and awareness of sustainability challenges and the urgency of tackling their root causes. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) is fundamentally about values and equality, with respect at the centre: respect for others, including those of present and future generations, for differences and diversity in societies and cultures, and for the resources of the planet we inhabit. Participants in the Governance consultation recommended

that countries engage with educational systems to introduce anti-corruption education as part of national curricula.

In the Education thematic consultation, consensus was reached on the following priorities:

1. The vision for the post-2015 education agenda calls for a **single harmonized global education framework**, guided by a rights-based approach, which is of universal relevance and is informed by the lessons learned from the education-related MDGs and Education for All (EFA) agendas. This framework should be underpinned by the key principle of education as a fundamental human right and a public good that should be made available to all.
2. **Expanded access to quality learning should be ensured for all and at all levels of education.** A lifelong learning approach should be the guiding principle for the post-2015 education agenda which encompasses learning throughout the life cycle, using both formal and informal delivery mechanisms, including access to Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), primary

Indigenous woman in Post-2015 Consultation, La Casona, Coto Brus, Costa Rica. (Photo: UNCOSTARICA/DRAMIREZ)



and post-primary education, vocational training and higher education, according to country contexts, development challenges and priorities. This expanded access should include an explicit commitment to providing opportunities for adult learning and literacy, particularly for women.

3. Focused attention on the quality of education, including its content and relevance, as well as on learning outcomes. This implies:

- ensuring that there is an adequate supply of well-trained and motivated teachers and school leadership. This involves improving teachers' training, conditions of service, deployment and opportunities for professional development;
- focusing on relevant, measurable and equitable learning outcomes across the life cycle,⁹ including foundational literacy and numeracy as well other relevant social, civic, economic, environmental and health-related skills and competencies;
- internalizing the principles of sustainable development in primary, secondary and adult learning so that learners develop the skills and competencies to make informed decisions for a sustainable future. Education and training should include environmental education and global citizenship education to promote awareness and action to address current and future threats to the global environment and human well-being. ESD provides a holistic framework for including sustainable development into all levels and types of education;
- strengthening training and skills for work and life. Ensuring that young people are equipped with social, employability and technical skills and competencies to be informed, responsible and active citizens,



School girls participating in an essay contest on their vision of well-being by 2030, secondary school, Balkanabat city, Turkmenistan, 17 April 2013.. (Photo: UNFPA Turkmenistan)

find decent work and contribute to peaceful societies. This effort should include collaboration across sectors for developing transversal skills (teamwork, critical thinking, problem solving etc.), specific technical or vocational skills, and the school-to-work transition;

- strengthening the provision of enabling learning environments. This means ensuring safe and healthy learning environments, including safe, disaster-sensitive school buildings and classrooms, safe and clean drinking water, school feeding programmes and gender-sensitive sanitation and hygiene, and the integration in the curriculum of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education as well as indigenous knowledge and knowledge relevant to the lives of rural populations.
- 4. A greater focus on equity.** The need of disadvantaged children, youth and adults, especially girls and women, to acquire literacy, numeracy and relevant technical and vocational skills combined with the necessary transversal skills for a decent life

and work should be fully reflected in education policies and strategies. Reaching out to out-of school children using innovative, flexible and mobile interventions and partnering with non-state education providers and communities should be a priority. To ensure learning is measured and improved in an equitable way, information collected and reported should describe progress over time and across population groups, in addition to average achievement levels.

- 5. Gender equality remains a strong priority,** with a renewed focus on enhanced access to post-basic and post-secondary education for girls and women in safe, supportive learning environments. Evidence demonstrates that the multiplier effect of girls' educational development only becomes evident when girls complete secondary education. Furthermore, gender equality cannot be addressed only through a narrow focus on access to education; rather, it must be addressed within the larger society simultaneously on multiple levels and in multiple sectors, including economic, social, political and cultural.

“AS A WOMAN, I WOULD LIKE NOT TO BE HARASSED, RAPED, OR FONDLED... BUT TO BE RESPECTED. IF WE HAD COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION, MEN WOULD RESPECT WOMEN.”

ADOLESCENT GIRL, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, GUATEMALA

FRAMEWORK, GOAL AND TARGETS

The vision for the post-2015 education agenda calls for a single harmonized global education framework which is of universal relevance. **Global and national targets** should be set for each of the above areas, with due attention to vulnerable groups, to address inequalities and discrimination by gender, wealth, ethnicity, location etc. The achievement of this vision demands a **single harmonized**

global education framework informed by the successes and challenges of the MDG and EFA agendas. Based on the proposed overarching education goal of ‘**Equitable, Quality Education and Lifelong Learning for All**’, the recommendation is to develop specific goals, indicators and targets, where the following four priority areas have been identified as a basis for further discussion:

1. All girls and boys are able to access and complete quality pre-primary education of an agreed period (at least one year).
2. Equal access to and completion of a full course of quality primary schooling, with recognized and measurable learning outcomes, especially in literacy and numeracy.
3. All adolescent girls and boys are able to access and complete quality lower secondary/secondary education with recognized and measurable learning outcomes.
4. All youth and adults, particularly girls and women, have access to post-secondary learning opportunities to develop knowledge and skills, including technical and vocational, that are relevant to work and life and necessary for further learning and forging more just, peaceful, tolerant and inclusive societies.

HEALTH

HEALTH IN THE MDGS

The discussion in the Health consultation re-confirmed how central health is to any future development agenda. All the MDGs influence health, and health in turn influences and contributes to all the MDGs. Health is a precondition for and an outcome and an indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social), and sustainable development can only be achieved in the absence of a high prevalence of debilitating communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs). The linkages and relationships between health and education, climate change and other environmental threats, financial and natural resource constraints, less poverty but greater inequities, population growth and rapidly ageing populations, unplanned urbanization and new diseases all affect progress on health and well-being.

There is considerable evidence to suggest that the current health MDGs will remain priorities after 2015: women’s and children’s health, HIV and other infectious diseases continue to be the dominant health priorities in sub-Saharan Africa, in many fragile states and among the poor populations in many low- and middle-income countries. For example, in 2011, 100 million children were estimated to be underweight (MDG1C). About 19,000 children under five years old die every day, and newborn deaths are increasingly prominent, accounting for 43 percent of all child deaths (MDG4). Most of these deaths could have been prevented. Every day approximately 800 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth (MDG5A). An estimated 222 million women worldwide do not have access to modern contraception and sexual and reproductive health services (MDG5B). Every day around 7000 people in low- and middle-income countries are newly infected with HIV; 46 percent of people in need of HIV treatment are still unable to access it; there were

Young boy at a workshop with local authorities in Esmeraldas, Ecuador. (Photo: Mareike Eberz, UNDP)



an estimated 219 million cases of and 660,000 deaths from malaria in 2010; an estimated 8.7 million new cases of TB and 1.4 million deaths in 2011; and neglected tropical diseases continue to affect the marginalized and poorest populations, especially in sub-Saharan Africa (MDG6).

Despite impressive progress in lowering mortality rates, in 2015 far too many people will still be dying from causes that are preventable by a broad set of preventive and curative interventions including: adequate nutrition, access to safe drinking water, good sanitation and hygiene practices (such as hand washing), vaccination, reduction of indoor air pollution, and access to health care services.

Moreover, a considerable body of non-MDG-related evidence points to health being an even more pressing and complex global challenge in 2015 than it was in 2000. The growing burden of NCDs, especially among poor, marginalized and disadvantaged people in countries of all income levels, and emerging global threats to health security such as antibiotic resistance and new infectious diseases are just two examples of health issues not addressed by the MDGs.

LOOKING FORWARD, MAKING LINKAGES AND TACKLING EXCLUSION

The consultation showed that there is broad consensus on the main health challenges and priorities. The priorities

identified are: addressing the social, cultural, environmental, economic and political determinants of health; improving the health of disadvantaged, marginalized, stigmatized and hard-to-reach populations in all countries; and meeting the specific health needs of people at different stages of life. The consultation calls for new goals and targets which build on the existing MDGs, but with more ambitious targets, addressing the burden of NCDs and their risks, strengthening health systems

through universal health coverage and access, and tackling the determinants of health through targets in other sectors and themes.

The consultation agreed that progress in improving health and well-being can only be made by reducing inequalities. This can be made explicit in all the goals by disaggregating indicators and targets at all levels, and including targets for closing gaps. The post-2015 agenda needs a rigorous framework that clearly articulates both how sustainable development differs from existing development models and how health and development are inextricably linked.

Good health is both a driver and a beneficiary of economic growth and development. Ill health is both a consequence and a cause of poverty. Every year 100 million people are either pushed into poverty by health-related costs, including out-of-pocket expenses for health care, or unable to afford essential health services so that pre-existing sickness is aggravated. Ensuring universal access to quality and effective health services — and protecting their population from financial risk when doing so — is a challenge



Older people in Post-2015 Consultation, Jicaral, Puntarenas, Costa Rica.
(Photo: UNICOSTARICA/DRAMIREZ)

“OVERALL COVERAGE OF BASIC HEALTH SERVICES IS ABOUT 45–50 PERCENT. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION OUTCOMES AND SERVICE UTILIZATION PERSIST... THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT URBAN–RURAL AND REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN THE AVAILABILITY OF HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES.”

NATIONAL CONSULTATION REPORT, SUDAN

facing all countries. Any future health goal must, therefore, be universally relevant and based on human rights standards and principles. Every country is home to families and individuals who lack the financial means, nutrition, medicine or care to prevent, treat and manage illness. However, no two countries are the same: targets and indicators must be adaptable to a country's health priorities and circumstances.

The national consultations have also showed how improved governance at national and subnational levels is fundamental for ensuring that quality health services are delivered outside capital cities, and that inequalities in access to and quality of services available are addressed. The Health thematic consultation identified enhanced management competence and capacity as a priority for health system strengthening.

Likewise, failure to address shortcomings in the delivery of basic health services leads to an increase in the distrust between populations and governments, and can reinforce inequalities.

The way in which health care is delivered also has to address questions of access for people with disabilities, and societal attitudes which mean that HIV patients are stigmatized or that women in some societies do not feel comfortable using the available services. Addressing food and nutrition issues (including obesity) also has a direct effect on health outcomes, as does water security and water quality. Failure to address vulnerabilities to disaster will place further strain

on already overstretched health services in many parts of the world, while conflict situations have been seen to place considerable extra strains on health services in countries affected directly by conflict, as well as their neighbours, leading to setbacks in health indicators.

GOALS AND TARGETS

The Health consultation concluded that sustainable well-being for all could be an overarching goal for the wider post-2015 agenda. This goal should recognize health as a critical contributor to and outcome of sustainable development and human well-being. This would answer the growing calls to look beyond a country's gross domestic product (GDP) when assessing healthy growth and sustainable development, and to address

issues of equity. It also acknowledges that good health is determined, not only by preventing and treating disease, but also by many other aspects of development, including education, gender equality, sustainable energy and nutrition, water and sanitation, and climate change adaptation and mitigation.

In addition to this overarching goal, a specific health goal, such as achieving better health at all stages of life (including crucial phases such as adolescence), would be relevant for every country. Efforts to accelerate progress on the health MDG agenda should build on national and global efforts that have already resulted in significant progress in reducing child and maternal deaths and controlling HIV, TB, malaria and neglected tropical diseases. Rather than pulling back from these goals, the new agenda should be even more ambitious and reaffirm the targets of ongoing initiatives such as: ending preventable maternal and child deaths; eliminating chronic malnutrition and malaria; providing universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning; increasing immunization coverage; and realizing the vision of a generation free from AIDS and TB.

Reducing the burden of major NCDs should be achieved by focusing on



Adolescents in Post-2015 Consultation, Guadalupe, San José, Costa Rica. (Photo: UNCOSTARICA/DRAMIREZ)

“HEALTH SERVICES ARE VERY BAD, TIME CONSUMING AND LACK EFFICIENT MEDICAL SERVICES. I BELIEVE THAT CORRUPTION CAN BE A FACTOR THAT AFFECTS THE POOR QUALITY OF THE HEALTH SERVICE.”

MIDDLE-AGED WOMEN, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, BRAZIL

cardiovascular diseases, cancers, chronic respiratory diseases and diabetes (the four NCDs causing the most deaths), and mental illness. Some targets could be based on the World Health Assembly resolution of a 25 percent reduction in deaths due to these four NCDs by 2025. Other targets could be aimed at reducing morbidity and disability from NCDs (including mental illness) at all ages, and reducing the prevalence of related risk factors. Universal health coverage and access is put forward as a key contribution by the health sector to achieving health goals and targets and to improving health more broadly. It is also a desirable goal, because people have a right to access a health system that prevents and treats illness effectively and affordably within their homes and their communities, with referral to clinics and hospitals when required. Implementation of the health goal will require sustainable and predictable financing, improved global governance and a review of the current global health architecture.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION

Regarding the means of implementation, the consultation called for new forms of accountability to be an integral part of the next development framework, including those which allow greater citizen participation, ownership and influence. There were calls for special attention to be paid to mechanisms for engaging and empowering adolescents, to increase their capabilities to take on their own health development as they enter adulthood, especially regarding healthy sexual and reproductive health practices and avoidance of risks for NCDs. There were also calls for strengthening national health information systems, civil registration and improving the availability of disaggregated statistics. The importance of long-term, predictable and sustainable financing from domestic as well as international resources was stressed, and there were calls for experimenting with new innovative financing mechanisms such as a financial transactions tax. Improved

accountability is needed to avoid transparency of resource usage, and inefficient use of available resources. New partnerships should be explored, including with the private sector, which could be stimulated to invest more in public health and held to account for any activities which cause harm to health. Finally, a review of the global health architecture is required, and a new framework which would allow more interaction and cooperation between the many programmes, funds and agencies involved in health and development, and which would reduce the risk of duplicative use of resources.

WATER

ACHIEVING WATER SECURITY FOR ALL: AN EXPANDED AND DEEPER AGENDA

To articulate the complex nature of water security and to show how a new framework could complete the unfinished business of development, the Water thematic consultation went beyond demanding toilets and taps for billions of

Japanese drums ensemble Todoroki Wadaiko of Germany at the opening of the High-Level Meeting on Water in The Hague, March 2013 (Photo: IISD/Earth Negotiations Bulletin)





Performances at the High-Level Meeting on Water, The Hague, March 2013 (Photo: IISD/Earth Negotiations Bulletin)

still un- or underserved poor. Instead, it addressed three vital and interdependent dimensions, namely: (i) water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH); (ii) water resources management; and (iii) wastewater/water quality management. Taken together, these three dimensions can secure universal access to water, for all, forever.

The primacy of ensuring WASH access was explicitly and strongly voiced. Despite enhancing water sources for 2 billion

people since 1990, 783 million people still lack access, 1.8 billion drink 'improved' but unsafe water, 2.5 billion lack improved sanitation, and 1.1 billion defecate in the open. The absence of WASH spreads preventable disease and death to millions. It jeopardizes trust in governance, whether local or national. It costs 1.5–4.3 percent of GDP, stunts childhood growth, drains women's time and energy, empties school chairs, forces needless risks and

denies human dignity. But the converse is also true. Investing \$1 in WASH yields at least \$4.30 in revenue — a conservative estimate that rises if one includes tourism, natural asset protection, and productivity from combining WASH with classrooms and health facilities.

Largely ignored in the MDGs, the cross-cutting nature of water resource management was explored in depth during the consultation. Water's

“CAN YOU IMAGINE A HOUSE WITHOUT A TOILET? I THINK MOST OF US COULDN'T IMAGINE TO LIVE IN A HOUSE WITHOUT TOILET, AND I CONSIDER THE SAME HAPPENS FOR SCHOOLS. BUT UNFORTUNATELY THAT'S A REALITY IN MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. FOR INSTANCE, IN NICARAGUA AROUND 75% OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE NO ADEQUATE SANITATION FACILITIES.”

WATER CONSULTATION, FINAL REPORT

horizontal linkages reveal competition between energy, agriculture, industry and nature. Rising affluence, temperatures, populations and pollution further intensify water stress. Yet potential routes to collaboration also emerged. Appropriate resource valuation could reduce energy's hunger for 8–44 percent of all water withdrawals, and water's thirst for up to 33 percent of all energy. A more efficient food supply chain could greatly enhance global nutrition supply without demanding more water. Such efforts to reduce waste can improve access for vulnerable populations, boost climate resilience and ease tensions in shared watersheds. But at root the water crisis was seen as a governance crisis. Resolution should combine 'soft' reforms — transparency, accountability, participatory decision-making — with hard investments in both civil works and 'natural infrastructure' that stores, conveys, cools and filters water.

Pollution of our rivers places billions of thirsty, hungry urban families that live downstream in danger. The dialogue on wastewater management and water quality confirmed that dilution of pollution was no longer a solution. Parties discussed how prevention, reduction or removal of pollution could be both possible and profitable. They reconsidered the use, reuse, value and even meaning of 'waste' water. As more than half of humanity lives in cities, contaminated discharge and surface runoff spread water-borne disease among billions. While real solutions yield high returns, the urban poor who need them most generate almost no taxes or influence; meanwhile, politicians rarely invest if direct costs are immediate and indirect benefits appear only after they leave office or help those at a distance. Downstream, the impacted billions who depend on food from marine ecosystems could look upstream to slow, stop or reverse nitrogen and phosphorous loads in the 90 percent of urban wastewater that is untreated. Rewards could go beyond resilience to boost growth, jobs

and business certainty. But scale matters. Reuse options must relate to local circumstances, cultural norms, safety of use, awareness and capacity.

The MDGs have generated global momentum and national progress around water and sanitation goals as a moral imperative, and this should be built on.

It became clear through the consultation that secure access to water must be recognized as a fundamental right for all, and the post-2015 goals, targets and indicators on water should be guided by a human-rights-based approach. The thematic consultation emphasized the broad economic benefits from

“PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH ACCESS TO WASH FACILITIES HAS BEEN SHOWN TO BOOST ATTENDANCE, INCREASE ACHIEVEMENT AND PROMOTE EQUITY. HOWEVER... 49% OF SCHOOLS LACK ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER AND 55% OF SCHOOLS LACK ACCESS TO SANITATION FACILITIES IN MIDDLE- AND LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES. THE CONSULTATION REVEALED THAT A SCHOOL IS MORE THAN CLASSROOMS AND DESKS, AND CANNOT BE CALLED SCHOOL WITHOUT THE PRESENT OF TOILETS, TAPS AND HYGIENE EDUCATION.”

WATER CONSULTATION, FINAL REPORT

Young people's aspirations in the Post-2015 Consultation, Guadalupe, San José, Costa Rica (Photo: UNICOSTARICA/DRAMIREZ)



judicious water use. Yet it was argued that economic incentives alone will not suffice to ensure equal access for today's population, let alone for future generations.

In 2010 the UN General Assembly explicitly recognized the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation. The discussions re-emphasized the need for the right to empower women and children with equity, allow the poorest and most vulnerable to negotiate from below, and help ensure that local point-of-use decisions are integrated across all three sub-sectors both 'upstream' to water resources as well as 'downstream' to wastewater treatment. The consultation listened to and amplified the voices of the next generation represented in the Youth Parliament, as well as the Beyond 2015 campaign of 260 civil society organizations from 60 countries.

LOOKING FORWARD

The post-2015 development agenda should recognize that water is a prerequisite in the future development framework, to attain vital economic, equity, employment, health, educational, agriculture/food and energy benefits, to maintain

ecosystems services and support resilience to climate change.

The Water thematic consultation ended with a high-level meeting in The Hague, the Netherlands, which adopted a statement which set a new course for concerted action and global direction, capturing water's importance to the post-2015 development framework in these key points:

- Water is a key determinant in all aspects of social, economic and environmental development and must,

therefore, be a central focus of any post-2015 framework for poverty eradication and global sustainable development.

- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Water Resources Management and Wastewater Management and Water Quality are all indispensable elements for building a water-secure world.
- Water security will be of growing importance. Water should be addressed adequately in the post-2015 development agenda, to prevent crises in the water as well as the water-dependent sectors.
- Governments play a key role in securing water for competing demands; however, the quest for a water-secure world is a joint responsibility and can only be achieved through cooperation and knowledge exchange at local, national, regional and global level and through partnerships with a multitude of stakeholders ranging from the citizens to policy makers to the private sector.
- Water-related capacity development, both at the individual and institutional levels, will be fundamental in the realization and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.
- Innovative, inclusive and sustainable financing mechanisms for water need to be implemented.



Consultation with a Youth Council in Brasilia, March 2013
(Photo: Flavio Lopes UNV/UNDP Brazil)

“THE ISSUE WE FACE IN MODERN DAY SOCIETY IS WE FORGET THE INHERENT LINKAGES BETWEEN WATER, ENERGY, AND FOOD. WE TEND TO LOOK AT SHORTAGES OF EACH OF THESE RESOURCES IN ISOLATION AND TRY TO FIX THEM WITHOUT FULLY UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF OUR ACTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, IF WE WANT TO PRODUCE FOOD IN A LOCATION WHERE THE NATURAL ECOSYSTEM CANNOT SUPPORT OUR FAVOURITE CROPS, WE ‘FIX’ THE PROBLEM BY PUMPING UP GROUNDWATER OR TRANSPORTING IT FROM LONG DISTANCES AND MIXING IT WITH FERTILIZERS (ENERGY) TO GROW THE CROPS. THIS FIX USUALLY MEANS AN INCREDIBLY INEFFICIENT REDISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES THAT ENDS UP HURTING ECOSYSTEMS AND DEBILITATING THE NATURAL CYCLES OF OUR PLANET.”

PARTICIPANT, WATER E-DISCUSSION

MORE AMBITIOUS GOALS AND TARGETS

There must be ambitious goals and targets which take account of unfinished business and the emerging and future challenges. These goals must inspire and create incentives for a change in behaviour to sustainably manage and allocate resources, the benefits of which reach every person without discrimination.

- The world must aim for universal access to safe and sustainable water, sanitation and hygiene services.
- Ground and surface water should be monitored, governed and managed sustainably and in an integrated manner to satisfy human needs while respecting ecosystem requirements.
- All used water and wastewater should be collected and treated before it is returned to nature, and managed under principles of pollution prevention and reuse.

HUNGER, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

THE DOUBLE CHALLENGE

The global prevalence of malnutrition and hunger remains unacceptably high. The UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimates that nearly 870 million people (12.5 percent of the global population or one in eight people) remained undernourished in 2010–12, reflecting a lack of progress in several regions, even as income poverty has decreased. The prevalence of hunger is particularly high in sub-Saharan Africa and in South Asia. In developing countries, one in four children under the age of five (171 million children) are stunted due to chronic undernutrition. Micronutrient malnutrition or ‘hidden hunger’ affects around 2 billion people (over 30 percent of the world’s population), with serious public health consequences.

At the same time, obesity rates have doubled over the last 30 years. Some

43 million children under five years of age are overweight, and obesity affects around 500 million adults, with increasing prevalence in low- and middle-income countries. This has various consequences—for example, increased risk of premature death due to serious chronic health conditions, including an increase in the prevalence in NCDs. This universal double burden of both under- and over-nutrition highlights the key challenges faced in achieving food and nutrition security.

UNDERLYING CHALLENGES: ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION

Underlying the food and nutrition challenges are multiple challenges in achieving sustainable food production. A rapidly growing and more affluent world population is increasing the demand for food. The global population is projected to increase from 7 billion people today to 9 billion by 2050, with practically all of the increase expected to take place in less developed countries. With rising incomes, globalization and urbanization, diets are changing; in particular, there is an increasing demand for animal products, which are particularly resource-intensive to produce. FAO estimates that these factors mean that global food production must increase by 60 percent to

meet the demand for food and bio-fuels by 2050. But it is not just a question of increasing production: poor management of natural resources is threatening our ability to sustainably maintain and increase levels of food production. There are planetary limits which present challenges for sustainable food production and will require re-thinking food distribution systems, with more concentration on reducing waste and loss and improving access to markets. Increased food production will have to happen in the face of dwindling resources and increasing competition for those resources. More will have to be produced per unit of land, using less water, fertilizer and pesticides.

If a broad-based approach to addressing food security concerns is not adopted, progress in food security and nutrition will be ever more threatened as a result of pressure on—and poor management of—natural resources. The world’s ecosystems and biodiversity are already under extreme pressure from overexploitation and degradation. There is increasing environmental degradation of productive land and other productive natural resources. Over the past 40 years, approximately 30 percent of the world’s cropland (1.5 billion hectares) has become unproductive. Levels of groundwater are

“HUNGER, FOOD INSECURITY AND MALNUTRITION CAN BE ENDED SUSTAINABLY BY 2025. THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION MUST BE DEFINITIVE AND IRREVERSIBLE BASED ON THE RIGHT OF EVERYONE TO SAFE, SUFFICIENT, NUTRITIOUS AND AFFORDABLE FOOD. THIS VISION IS ACHIEVABLE. BOLD, EFFECTIVE ACTION IS URGENT AND BOTH A MORAL AND POLITICAL IMPERATIVE.”

MADRID GLOBAL THEMATIC CONSULTATION ON HUNGER, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

declining as a consequence of overuse. Without good management of natural resources, we could undo much of the progress achieved thus far in improving food security and nutrition.

Climate change is adding to the challenge of achieving sustainable food production and meeting the demands of a growing population. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, some 70 percent of disasters are now climate related, up from 50 percent two decades ago, and their impact is worsened by unsustainable management of natural resources. Increasingly, these erratic weather patterns are leading to major year-on-year fluctuations in production levels, and contribute to high and volatile food prices; extreme weather events often result in acute food crises. Events related to climate change are likely to intensify in the coming years, while rising temperatures are expected to reduce levels of agricultural productivity in large parts of the developing world.

Other important risk factors have surfaced. The cyclical nature of food price crises and continued food price volatility, as well as the impact of the 2008–2009 financial crisis, were associated with rising food insecurity and increased levels of hunger and malnutrition.

Rapid urbanization (largely the result of rural-to-urban migration, often linked to decreasing economic opportunities in traditional rural livelihoods) has generated a large new class of poor food buyers, who are highly vulnerable to rising prices and other risks.

LOOKING FORWARD

Given this rapidly evolving context, participants in the consultation stressed that the new post-2015 development agenda must not adopt a 'business as usual' approach to food security. Rather, an innovative and multi-pronged approach was demanded. It was recognized that inclusive economic growth is one of the most effective means of improving food security and nutrition, but that it is not enough: specific policies targeting hunger and malnutrition — including obesity — are also required; as are policies in support of sustainable food value chains, including all aspects of production, processing, distribution and consumption, and measures aimed at the reduction of food losses (roughly one third of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally). Social protection measures to ensure adequate access to food are also critical.

The Zero Hunger Challenge recently launched by the Secretary-General at the

Rio+20 Conference represents a rallying call for common action to address the multiple challenges associated with sustainably guaranteeing food security for all. Within the consultation, there was support for the broad thrust and vision of the Zero Hunger Challenge, as a basis for mobilizing action on food security and nutrition, while covering much of the breadth of action needed.

The importance of good governance and political will as a key enabler of action on food security and nutrition was recognized; as was the importance of governance systems to promote stakeholder participation across sectors and at all levels. Overall, the need for integrated action across sectors was stressed again and again, with strong synergies to action on health, education, water, energy and natural resource management. Undernutrition leads to sub-optimal physical and cognitive development, poor educational outcomes, lower resistance to illness, increased risk of chronic diseases in adulthood, and lower productivity as adults — all factors that lower the economic potential of individuals and societies and perpetuate poverty. Overconsumption, likewise, increases risk of chronic diseases and associated health care costs. The importance of linking development and humanitarian interventions to ensure effective responses to emergencies and transition to development was noted, as was the need to address the challenges posed by urbanization.

The consultation agreed that hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition can be ended sustainably by 2025 through a framework to address food security based on human rights principles and standards addressing inequalities and discrimination faced by the most vulnerable groups. However, achieving this ambition will require comprehensive, transformational and structural changes, as well as a comprehensive and multisectoral approach to food security and nutrition security which includes the following critical elements:

Consultation with Guarani, Kaiowá and Terena Indigenous People in Panambizinho, Mato Grosso, April 2013 (Photo: Flavio Lopes UNV/UNDP Brazil)



“FOOD INSECURITY IS ONE CAUSE OF UNDERNUTRITION. HOWEVER, NUTRITION SECURITY IS ONLY ACHIEVED WHEN ACCESS TO AN APPROPRIATELY NUTRITIOUS DIET IS COUPLED WITH A SANITARY ENVIRONMENT, INCLUDING ACCESS TO SAFE WATER AND TO ADEQUATE HEALTH SERVICES AND CARE. FUTURE GOALS MUST REFLECT THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF THESE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE RESPONSES.”

HUNGER, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION CONSULTATION, ISSUES PAPER

- **Give priority to the critical agents of change: women and small producers.** Small food producers, in particular women, their organizations, family farmers, fishers, livestock keepers, forest users, workers, small/rural entrepreneurs, and indigenous peoples, must be at the centre of the new development agenda. A special focus on youth is also crucial for the future. Social protection floors, food assistance and safety nets, promotion of rural employment and technical capacity-building are critical enabling conditions in all countries.
- **Sustainable food production and consumption.** Sustainable food production and consumption requires a comprehensive approach that integrates the entire value chain of agricultural products, better quality, diverse and nutritious diets, local availability of food, efficient food distribution systems, and reduced food waste and losses.
- **The key role of the rural sector, where three quarters of the world's poor people still live.** Rural development, more and better rural and urban employment along the food chain, territorial approaches, and enhanced linkages between rural and urban areas are also linchpins for poverty eradication and sustainable livelihoods and development trajectories.
- **Promote resilience to face challenges.** To feed a growing population in the face of climate change, globalization, price volatility and urbanization, more resilient, knowledge-based and sustainable intensification of agricultural production, better infrastructure, more functional and connected markets, and judicious management of food price volatility, speculation and risk are needed. Sustainable and resilient food production and consumption needs to be linked to more efficient use of water, energy, labour, land and stewardship of the global commons and ecosystems (e.g. soils, land, air, oceans, forests, biodiversity) and careful, integrated planning of crisis response within longer-term development planning, including through the establishment of safety nets and social protection floors.
- **Enforcing existing mechanisms and frameworks.** Participants also agreed that efforts to coordinate and enforce already existing coordination and policy convergence mechanisms are of fundamental importance. These include in particular the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) and the implementation of its internationally agreed frameworks, including the Voluntary Guidelines for the progressive realization of the Right to Food and the Voluntary Guidelines on Tenure of Land, Fisheries, Forestry, and Natural Resources. The importance of strengthening the support to multi-stakeholder initiatives on food security and nutrition was also emphasized. Having received
- **Special attention to nutrition as key to achieving food and nutrition security.** Participants stressed that eradication of hunger and other forms of malnutrition is within our reach. Strengthened social protection and safety nets for vulnerable populations, such as interventions targeted at mothers and children, particularly in the critical 1000-day window, including pregnancy and before a child turns two, are particularly needed, ensuring long-lasting improvement in health and well-being of the society. In identifying a universal agenda, participants stressed the importance of overcoming the dual challenges of under- and imbalanced nutrition, which require a diversified diet made



High-Level Meeting of the Thematic Consultation on Energy, Oslo, Norway, April 2013 (Photo: Thomas Eckhoff)

broad-based support from participants in previous consultations, The Zero Hunger Challenge was recognized as a potential starting point for the next phase of consultations.

The consultation did not reach consensus, and called for additional efforts, particularly at global and regional levels, to bring greater convergence on some areas, such as: investment in agriculture and processing systems, trade policies and access to market, subsidies and the role of biofuels.

The consultation suggested that a stand-alone goal on food security and nutrition should be included in the post-2015 development agenda, namely: 'Achieve Food and Nutrition Security for all'.

ENERGY

THE MISSING MDG AND THE MISSING LINKS

Participants were unanimous that universal access to clean, reliable and affordable energy should be a global goal in the post-2015 development agenda. Many called energy the 'missing MDG' that must be remedied. At the regional consultation for Africa, for example, there was emphatic agreement that sustainable economic growth and social well-being cannot be achieved without access to affordable modern energy services.

Many emphasized that energy not only deserves a unique goal, but that the post-2015 agenda must also recognize energy as an enabling factor in access to clean water, food security, health,

education, poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. Participants were forthcoming with numerous examples of how lack of access to energy hampered obtaining a decent education, running a healthy and productive household, operating a successful business, and obtaining adequate health services — all with detrimental and lasting effects.

Stakeholders underscored the urgency attached to addressing the energy challenge. The latest [Sustainable Energy for All Global Tracking Framework](#) notes that 1.2 billion people — the equivalent of almost the entire population of India — do not have access to electricity, and 2.8 billion have to rely on solid fuels — wood, charcoal, animal and crop waste, and coal — to cook or heat their homes. The indoor air pollution that results causes about 4 million premature deaths a year, most of them women and children.

A massive effort is needed to expand access to electricity and safe cooking fuels, in large part to rural areas in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Countries, international organizations, the private sector and civil society need to increase energy investments by at least \$600 billion a year until 2030, more than doubling the current estimated \$409 billion. The additional \$600 billion would include \$45 billion for electricity expansion, \$4.4 billion on modern cooking, \$394 billion on energy efficiency, and \$174 billion on renewable energy. Many were of the opinion that investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy provides win-win solutions for countries that need to balance economic and environmental priorities.

The energy challenge is too big to tackle alone; all stakeholders have a role to play. For example, in the [2012 Global Compact Annual Implementation Survey](#), 1712 companies worldwide ranked energy in the 'very urgent and important' category and felt their operations could have a significant impact on promoting change.

“WATER AND ENERGY ARE SO INTIMATELY LINKED THAT ACTIONS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO ONE OF THEM WILL INEVITABLY HAVE EFFECTS ON THE OTHER. IF WE ARE WISE WE CAN TAP INTO THE SYNERGIES PRESENT AND INCREASE ACCESS TO BOTH. IF UNWISE WE MAY TRAP OURSELVES IN A DOWNWARD SPIRAL.”

PARTICIPANT, E-DISCUSSION, EMPOWERING A THIRSTY WORLD, WATER CONSULTATION

LOOKING FORWARD

Across the range of voices heard — from civil society, the private sector, governments, academics, young people and entrepreneurs — consensus was clear on the need for energy to have a specific goal in the post-2015 agenda. The three objectives of Sustainable Energy for All — on achieving universal energy access and increasing energy efficiency and the use of renewables — were broadly supported.

Another area of strong consensus emerged around the need to adopt an inclusive approach to energy provision. The role of the community in decision-making at the beginning of energy projects, from conceptualization to planning, through to execution and monitoring, was often underscored. More specifically, grass-roots, youth and women's participation in identifying the needs was highlighted as very important.

Consensus also emerged around the need for a nationally driven approach to management of the energy sector and the creation of enabling environments, which is balanced, holistic and universal to ensure real results and realization of human rights. Governments must

establish their own clear targets and strategies, and implement a set of national policies and regulations that enable the change that markets alone will not deliver.

There was also broad agreement to increase support for research and development to drive technological innovation and support clean energy technologies. Steadily falling costs for clean energy technologies, such as wind farms and solar lanterns, make these alternatives increasingly attractive economically all over the world. Many called for financing mechanisms that balance higher initial costs against the very low operational costs.

Diverging opinions emerged in terms of positioning expanding access as a business opportunity. Some expressed concern that the most urgent investments needed are at 'the bottom of the pyramid' to create a sustainable, long-term market opportunity, particularly for rural access. During the Latin American consultation, for example, emphasis was placed on building the skills and capacities of local people and enterprises requiring conventional utilities, and the requirement of distribution companies to invest in rural energy distribution under universal service obligations.

Concern was also raised over the role of large, investment-intensive construction projects (e.g. such as power generation from hydro or nuclear projects) where the affected communities have not been involved or consulted. A more responsible approach to development was called for — one that facilitates community development with an emphasis on local capacities as well as social and environmental aspects.

It was often reiterated that all partners — governments, civil society and the private sector — must work together to support the large-scale transformation needed in the energy sector. Each has a role in identifying, implementing and monitoring policy and action; mobilizing social innovation and grass-roots action; leading behavioural change; and helping to spread best practices and build capacity at all levels.

Finally, there was widespread support for the post-2015 framework to put in place a 'simple, clear and aspirational' goal on energy. It was proposed that this be formulated as 'Sustainable Energy for All' (or an alternative wording reflecting the same idea).

High-Level Meeting of the Thematic Consultation on Energy, Oslo, Norway, April 2013 (Photo: Thomas Eckhoff)



POPULATION DYNAMICS

The world population has surpassed the 7 billion mark and is projected to grow to over 9 billion by 2043. Population trends today are characterized by an increasing divergence across countries and regions. Whereas many of the poorer countries continue to experience rapid population growth, others that are more advanced in their demographic transition are experiencing rapid population ageing, and even population decline in some cases. Furthermore, the world is witnessing increasingly complex international migration patterns, and many countries continue to experience very high rates of urbanization.

These population dynamics influence development at the national and subnational levels, but also at regional and global levels. Thus, the Population Dynamics consultation discussed the

challenge of meeting the increasing needs and expectations of a growing population while at the same time modifying current production and consumption patterns to achieve a more sustainable development model and address the links between development and rapid population change.

WHY POPULATION DYNAMICS MATTER

Population growth, population ageing and decline, as well as migration and urbanization, affect virtually all development objectives that are on top of national and global development agendas. They affect consumption, production, employment, income distribution, poverty and social protections, including pensions; they also complicate our efforts to ensure universal access to health, education, housing, sanitation, water, food and energy.

Population growth, in particular,

places increasing pressures on the planet's resources — water, forests, land and the earth's atmosphere — contributing to climate change and challenging environmental sustainability. However, population dynamics do not only affect critical development objectives; they are themselves affected by social, economic and environmental changes.

POPULATION DYNAMICS: CHALLENGES OR OPPORTUNITIES?

Population dynamics not only pose challenges, they also provide important opportunities for more sustainable development. A fall in fertility levels and slower population growth, for example, leads to an increased concentration of the population in the working age range, which can enable countries to reap a demographic bonus and boost economic development.

Migration can be an important enabler of social and economic development. Today, more than 1 billion

Illegal immigrants were one of the vulnerable groups identified by participants of the consultation held in the province of Monte Plata, Dominican Republic (Photo: Sara Romero/UNV/UNDP)



people rely on international and internal migration to escape from poverty and conflict, adapt to environmental and economic shocks, and improve the income, health and education of their families. Annual remittances to developing countries alone approach \$500 billion — triple the amount of ODA.

Urbanization can be a powerful driver of sustainable development. Higher population density enables governments to more easily deliver essential infrastructure and services in urban areas at relatively low cost per capita. Liveable and sustainable cities have knock-on effects in terms of providing rural populations with greater access to services such as education and health care, while also empowering them economically. Furthermore, urbanization can produce energy savings, particularly in the housing and transportation sectors.

However, the benefits of demographic transitions, urbanization and migration do not materialize automatically and inevitably. Whether population dynamics pose challenges or bring opportunities depends largely on the policies that are in force.

LOOKING FORWARD: HOW TO HARNESS THE OPPORTUNITIES

Population dynamics are the result of individual choices and opportunities. To address and harness the opportunities of population dynamics for sustainable development, countries should seek to enlarge, not restrict, individual rights. Countries should work to expand people's choices, resourcefulness, creativity and resilience, by adopting policies that are based on human rights and gender-responsive.

Human-rights-based and gender-responsive policies, such as promoting universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, including voluntary family planning, and to education, including comprehensive sexuality education, can make a world of difference for people and societies. Together, these measures help to avoid unwanted

pregnancies, reduce teenage pregnancies, curb infant and maternal mortality and reduce gender-based violence and unsafe abortions. They also help to combat HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases, which continue to claim millions of lives every year.

Rights-based and gender-responsive policies are also critical in a context of low fertility and rapid population ageing or population decline. Policies addressing low fertility should promote a better work-life balance and ensure access to essential services, such as child care and social protections. Furthermore, non-discriminatory policies are important to allow older persons to contribute fully to society while at the same time receiving the care, services and social protections they need. Fiscal policies, social protections and nonfinancial support systems for families can influence decisions about family size.

A human rights approach is also crucial in migration policies, which should be designed in full respect for, and protection of, the human rights of migrants and migrant workers. Such policies can generate large economic and social gains from migration, while ensuring decent living and working conditions for migrants. A rights-based approach is essential, as well, in choosing policies for

addressing urbanization and sustainable settlement patterns. As migrants make the decision to move mostly based on economic considerations, they should not be criminalized.

In today's world there is no place for coercive measures of population control or for setting demographic targets. Such policies are contrary to the respect for human rights, and experience has shown that such measures are likely to be counter-productive in the long term.

The wide consultations on population dynamics have suggested unequivocally the importance of mainstreaming the following priorities in the framework for the post-2015 development agenda:

1. Strengthen the formation of human capital throughout the life course, with a particular focus on health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights; education, including comprehensive sexuality education; and poverty reduction, decent work and social protections; as well as a particular emphasis on human rights, non-discrimination, equal opportunities, women's empowerment and youth participation.

Whether countries are able to seize the benefits associated with a slowdown of population growth, as well as the benefits that can derive from population ageing, depends on a commitment to



“INCLUSION AND INTEGRATION OF MIGRANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES IS SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH THE GUARANTEE OF COMPLETE ACCESS TO ALL PUBLIC SERVICES AND EMPOWERMENT IN HUMAN RIGHTS.”

MIGRANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, ECUADOR

investment in human capital throughout the life course. Indeed, the development of human capital is important at all stages of the life course.

A concerted effort is needed to ensure that young people have access to education, sexual and reproductive health care and decent work opportunities. Investment in the formation of human capital, which strengthens the employability of young people, must be complemented by economic policies that promote investment in productive capacities and contribute to the creation

of employment opportunities for young people.

To seize the benefits that can come with population ageing, countries will need to promote the active and healthy ageing of older persons. This calls for adequate access to comprehensive social protections systems and extension of social protection floors, including pensions and health care, as well as investment in continuing education and lifelong learning, complemented by policies that counter discrimination against older persons.

Olvin Nahum Reyes, a young boy from the Lenca indigenous group, participates in the consultation workshop for indigenous and Afro-Honduran groups (Photo: Fernando Burguillos/UN Honduras)



2. Promote the development benefits of migration, with a focus on ensuring the rights and safety of migrants and combating discrimination against migrants, and a perspective on realizing the developmental benefits of migration for both sending and receiving countries.

Migration allows people to escape from desperate situations and to seek more promising lives. Migration and the resources it generates, in the form of diaspora investments, workers' remittances, and knowledge and skills transfers, can enhance individual capabilities and human development at the household level — at both origin and destination — and can also contribute to local and national development, in part by promoting resilience in the face of economic and environmental risks and shocks.

However, many migrants are still forced to leave their homes or are victims of trafficking, and too many lack basic human rights and access to essential services. Migrants — especially more vulnerable groups such as women, children, adolescents and youth, undocumented migrants, domestic workers and temporary and low-skilled workers — often lack adequate protections, especially with respect to their labour rights, access to justice, health care and other public services.

To reap the developmental benefits of migration, countries need to establish comprehensive, balanced and inclusive national policies on migration, and at the same time to strengthen bilateral, regional and global partnerships on migration. Countries should also work to reduce the social and economic costs of migration, including by facilitating the transfer of remittances and lowering the costs of such transfers. Finally, countries should take measures to ensure the portability of acquired rights and benefits across borders, including old-age pensions.

3. Create equitable, liveable and sustainable cities that can accommodate increased demands for livelihoods and

services, while strengthening the linkages between rural and urban areas and promoting the sustainable development of rural communities. By 2050 the number of people living in cities and towns is expected to rise to about 67 percent of the global total. The rapidly increasing dominance of cities places the process of urbanization among the most significant global social transformations of the 21st century.

By anticipating urbanization, leveraging the advantages of agglomeration and managing urban growth as part of their respective development strategies, central governments and local authorities can address the challenges of urban growth. Cities have always been centres for development, innovation and the arts, and, if well managed, cities make an important contribution to social, economic and environmental sustainability.

4. Strengthen national capacities to collect, use and analyse population data and projections. People-centred development strategies must systematically consider changes in the number, age and location of people, and use population data and projections to inform development goals, targets and indicators, as well as policies and programmes. Data producers should systematically disaggregate relevant socio-economic data by sex, age and location.

To date, all of the issues briefs prepared by the Technical Support Team for consideration by the OWG have underscored the importance of population dynamics. The challenge of reducing poverty and promoting human well-being, while at the same time ensuring

the sustainability of the natural environment, is inseparable from population patterns and trends.

The means of harnessing the opportunities offered by population dynamics will need to rely on more effective and stronger global, regional and national partnerships, with an emphasis on knowledge sharing, and on technical and financial assistance that will enable countries to adopt evidence- and rights-based policies informed by population data and projections.

GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT

The contributors to the Growth and Employment consultations widely agreed that employment and decent work should be one of the central development objectives in the new agenda, along with inclusive growth and sustainable development. Jobs are seen not only as a way out of poverty, they give women and men a sense of self-esteem and respect by society. The absence of job opportunities and exclusion from the labour markets increase inequalities, weaken social cohesion and diminish trust in political leadership and institutions. Participants also recognized that economic growth is necessary for sustained employment generation, but there were calls for a shift in attention towards the **quality** of growth — towards inclusive growth that generates employment and decent work and reduces inequalities. And to growth that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.


CHALLENGES: CURRENT AND FUTURE

The consultation highlighted substantial challenges in employment and decent work in the years ahead. These include both challenges generated by the ongoing global economic slowdown as well as structural issues. Many countries need to not only generate decent jobs for women and men who are currently unemployed and underemployed, it was calculated that about 470 million jobs are needed globally for new entrants to the labour market between 2016 and 2030.

One of the fundamental employment challenges faced by much of the developing world today is vulnerability and precariousness of employment: over half of workers in developing countries are in the informal sector (including over three quarters in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa). Having a job is not a guarantee against poverty — nearly one in three workers around the world live with their families in poverty. Much progress has been made in reducing the numbers of working poor, particularly by increasing productivity and earnings, but most of this progress has taken place in East Asia. Basic social protection is lacking, minimum standards of safety and health in the workplace are often neglected, while the voice of workers and their freedom to associate is restricted.

Women and youth are disadvantaged in the labour markets. In all regions, the participation of women in the labour markets is lower than that of men, and is especially low in the Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (less than 30 percent). Women are more likely to be

“SEEKING A JOB IS AN ARDUOUS JOURNEY INTO THE IMPOSSIBLE.”
PARTICIPANT, YOUTH AND EMPLOYMENT WORKSHOP, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, JORDAN



“IT IS THE QUALITY OF EMPLOYMENT, NOT THE NUMBER OF JOBS, THAT MAKES THE MOST DIFFERENCE FOR DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY REDUCTION. IN TERMS OF INCOME POVERTY, THERE IS A HIERARCHY OF AVERAGE EARNINGS: WITH FORMAL EMPLOYERS AT THE TOP FOLLOWED BY FORMAL WAGE WORKERS FOLLOWED BY, WITHIN THE INFORMAL WORKFORCE, INFORMAL EMPLOYERS, INFORMAL WAGE WORKERS, OWN ACCOUNT OPERATORS, CASUAL DAY LABOURERS, INDUSTRIAL OUTWORKERS, AND UNPAID CONTRIBUTING FAMILY WORKERS.”

PARTICIPANT, GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT DISCUSSION

“IN AFRICA... PEOPLE WORKING IN THE FORMAL SECTOR ACCOUNT FOR 10 OR AT MOST 15 PERCENT. THE REST IN MOST COUNTRIES ARE SOMEHOW WORKING SOMEWHERE, EITHER IN AGRICULTURE OR INFORMAL SECTOR. THAT HUGE PART OF EMPLOYED PEOPLE IS LARGELY POOR NOT BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT DOING ANYTHING, BUT BECAUSE WHATEVER THEY ARE DOING, THEIR PRODUCTIVITY IS SO LOW AND INCOMES ARE SO LOW THAT THEY ARE ACTUALLY WORKING POOR.”

PARTICIPANT FROM TANZANIA

“WE ARE VERY WORRIED ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT OF OUR OLDER BROTHERS. THEY SUFFER A LOT. MANY OF THEM HAVE NO RESPONSE FROM APPLICATIONS TO COMPANIES AND EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES. WE WONDER WHAT WILL BE OUR FATE WHEN WE FINISH OUR STUDIES.”

SCHOOL GIRLS, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, TOGO

occupied in informal or low-skilled jobs, but even when they work on a par with men, their pay is 10–30 percent lower than men's. The global economic crisis has hit young people particularly hard, with the number of unemployed youth increasing by 3.5 million between 2007 and 2013 and reaching alarming levels in some developed economies. However, the statistics do not reveal the whole story: more detailed surveys show that as many as 40–70 percent of youth in some

countries are stuck 'nowhere': neither in education nor in regular work.

The consultations exposed severe marginalization and discrimination of some groups in the labour markets, such as older people, rural and indigenous populations, persons with disabilities, ethnic and racial minorities and migrants. These workers face employment problems even in healthy economic conditions; but in recessions they are pushed further to the margins.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

The consultations put forward several approaches which should underpin the implementation of the future employment and decent work agenda. First, the principles of rights, justice and reduction of inequalities should underpin the post-2015 development agenda. Second, one-size-fits-all policy approaches should not be promoted, and the new agenda should provide for domestic policy space. Third, the agenda should recognize the need for structural transformation of economies, in particular in the least developed economies. Structural transformation for most developing countries means a transition from extraction and export of mineral and agricultural commodities to more productive activities and value-addition. As countries attain higher development levels, another kind of structural transformation — shifting toward more energy-efficient and less carbon-emitting sectors — acquires greater importance. Fourth, the new agenda should provide for a greater role of the state in the provision of public 'goods' and filling in market gaps, accompanied by greater accountability of governments. Fifth, the consultations show that the international community should play the key role in providing global public 'goods' and helping its weakest members.

LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS

Participants in the Growth and Employment consultations recommended a number of policies to realize the objective of simultaneously promoting employment and decent work, inclusive growth and environmental sustainability. They recognized that economic sectors differ in their growth dynamics and their capacity to generate employment. Therefore, sectors which are better at generating employment should be promoted, thereby achieving structural transformation. The different characteristics of the various sectors — agriculture, manufacturing, extractive industries, services sectors — require differentiated policies. The consultations came up

with a number of recommendations on **promoting the most productive sectors**.

The consultations underscored the central role of **agriculture**, which provides livelihoods and food security to billions of people. However, a key challenge in many smallholder agricultural systems is low productivity. Raising productivity is necessary to increase incomes beyond the subsistence levels, while supplying food to more people without significantly increasing the use of natural resources. Productivity-raising measures, such as better access to inputs and credit, should be accompanied by rural non-agricultural development and improved access to markets. Development of rural markets can bring consumers and producers closer together and thereby reduce the environmental costs of transportation.

Participants brought back to the development agenda the discourse on the development of **industrial sectors**, which have the potential to stimulate growth, increase employment and lead

to sustained improvement in standards of living. Industries with economies of scale are likely to achieve higher productivity and wages. Industrial sectors tend to have high capacity for employment generation, especially if both direct and indirect job creation is considered. The discussants, however, recommended a more nuanced treatment of industrial progress in the post-2015 development agenda — diversifying away from commodity production toward higher value-added production, upgrading to higher-skill production, building linkages between capital-intensive industries and the rest of the economy, and incentivizing industries with more energy-efficient technologies.

Participants commented on the limited ability of **extractive sectors** to generate employment, as well as the negative impacts they usually have on the environment. Nevertheless, the growth of extractive industries can provide opportunities to low-income countries to raise much-needed resources which they can invest in human development. Therefore,

participants recommended linking extractive sectors with other sectors; using fiscal revenues from extractive industries to support the development of employment-intensive sectors; and slowing down the extraction of non-renewable mineral resources on both the production and consumption side by using taxes and eliminating consumption subsidies.

Participants noted the dual nature of **services sectors**. Market services, such as distribution, retailing or financial services, follow the 'productive' sectors. Services also include large informal sectors with low productivity and poor-quality jobs, which become 'employers of last resort' for poor people in urban areas and those migrating from rural areas. The movement of people to informal urban sectors gives rise to rapid, poorly planned urbanization. Recommendations included raising productivity, improving working conditions in the services sectors, as well as job-creating measures in other sectors, particularly in rural areas.

Employment was identified as one of the main concerns during the consultation held in the province of Monte Plata, Dominican Republic (Photo: Sara Romero/UNV/UNDP)



SECTORAL POLICIES HAVE TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER MEASURES

The consultations highlighted that **micro, small and informal enterprises** face various impediments due to their size and lack of connectedness with local economies, whether they are in agriculture, manufacturing, extractive or services sectors, in both urban and rural areas. Consultations recommended special support measures for these enterprises, such as better access to finance, business development services, strengthening their legal, commercial and property rights, and streamlining regulatory processes, encouragement of formation of associations and cooperatives, and linking these enterprises to large firms in the formal sector.

Participants in the consultations suggested that countries should use **coherent economic policies** aimed at employment generation and addressing their specific development needs. These policies include, for example, an expanded toolbox of macroeconomic policies aimed at employment generation by scaling up public investment using fiscal policies, and enhancing access to finance through monetary and financial policies.

The consultations recommended policies which can help reduce income gaps, such as social protection, collective bargaining and minimum wages, progressive taxation, and legal and regulatory measures. The participants called for

more recognition of the contribution of broad-based or universal social protection systems to reducing poverty and inequality, supporting employment generation by increasing human capital, and serving as automatic stabilizers in times of recession. Social protection measures and social services need to target women specifically and poor people living in rural areas. These groups require social security as protection from climate change and disasters, degradation of natural resources, and adjustment to more energy-efficient production. To tackle challenges in expanding social protection to the informal sector, participants recommended the extension of tax-funded social protection floors and the formation of associations and cooperatives of micro, small and informal enterprises. Combining social protection measures with employment opportunities enables people to become part of society and labour markets, rather than becoming passive recipients of benefits.

The consultations called for **legal and regulatory measures** to make labour markets function more efficiently and equitably, such as anti-discrimination and affirmative action laws, setting minimum wages, support to collective bargaining, enabling women to own property on a par with men, institutions for legal recourse and addressing grievances, education and raising awareness about rights.

The discussions reflected growing

concern for **environmental sustainability** of growth. The participants highlighted trade-offs between growth and environmental sustainability. In the poorest countries and communities, discussions revolved around the impact of climate change and growing scarcity of resources for people's livelihoods. In urban areas of middle-income countries, there is greater awareness and calls for taking actions to change consumption, production and infrastructure systems. Participants from developed countries voiced the need for policies aimed at limiting wasteful consumption and making investments in more resource- and energy-efficient infrastructure, underlining the urgency of these actions. Participants also recommended various policy and regulatory measures, such as regulations, standards, taxes, subsidies and public procurement to give incentives and disincentives, as well as international systems and institutions to finance global environmental 'goods'.

Despite increased access to all tiers of **education** in much of the world, there are widespread deficits in education systems in terms of quality, relevance and equity. Young people from poor, rural and indigenous backgrounds are severely disadvantaged in accessing and completing higher levels of education due to their lack of education earlier in life. Participants recommended improving the quality of skills development and education systems, improving training systems, re-training for women and men, particular measures to make training and education inclusive of persons with disabilities, and strengthening collaboration between government, academia and private sector.

The consultations called for **recognizing the voice of workers and promoting dialogue** among workers' and employers' organizations, as well as other civil society organizations representative of people working in the informal sector. The participants called for widening social dialogue beyond organizations of workers in the formal sector.

The consultations made clear that

“THE INDIRECT EFFECTS OF MANUFACTURING ARE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE DIRECT EFFECTS. [...] EMPLOYMENT MULTIPLIERS ARE USUALLY HIGHER THAN THOSE OF OTHER SECTORS. FOR EVERY JOB CREATED IN MANUFACTURING, THE EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT IN TOTAL TWO TO THREE JOBS ARE CREATED.”

PARTICIPANT, GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT CONSULTATION



Adolescents in Post-2015 Consultation, Upala, Costa Rica (Photo: UNFPACOSTARICA/GRODRIGUEZ)

domestic policy measures toward these objectives require supportive global institutions and international policy coherence, since policies made in one country increasingly affect development outcomes in other countries. However, the consultations expressed concern over the inability of the global governance system to address collective challenges.

The participants called for enhancing the development gains from **international trade**. Many commented on the deleterious effects of sudden liberalization of trade and capital flows on low-skilled workers, farmers and other groups. It was noted that countries striving to undertake structural transformation face challenges due to the globalization of trade. However, participants warned that the proliferation of bilateral, regional and subregional trade agreements should be monitored for their development impacts. They called for reforms in the international trade system to provide an enabling environment for countries to build their productive capacities.

Participants underscored the need to manage the **international financial system** to limit volatilities, excessive risk-taking and inequalities in pay and rewards. They noted that financial systems should support productive sectors. Acknowledging positive steps in this direction with the onset of the global economic and financial crisis, the participants suggested that much more needs to be done. The consultations also emphasized the need for creating a favourable environment for **technology transfer and knowledge exchange** among countries to enable freer exchange of technology across countries, in particular of innovative technologies that generate or use renewable or less polluting sources of energy.

Many predicted a significant increase in **migration** in the next decades, driven by the lack of decent jobs in sending countries, high inequalities among countries, and population dynamics. It was clear from the consultations that the international community needs adequate

rules and institutions to support the movement of workers across borders, protect their rights and enhance the benefits of migration to the sending and the receiving countries.

GOAL AND TARGETS

The consultations recommended adopting a stand-alone goal on inclusive growth and employment. This goal would include a set of targets on employment, formulated carefully to take into account the difficulties of measuring informal work. Participants recommended considering growth-related targets, such as those on structural transformation, increases in productivity, reduction in inequalities and coverage and impact of social protection policies. Furthermore, targets should be adjusted to take into account natural and human capital. The establishment of baselines by 2015 and continued tracking of progress requires harmonizing definitions of data and survey instruments, as well as carrying out extensive labour force surveys around the world.

“ONE SHORTCOMING OF THE MDGS HAS BEEN NOT TO EXPLICITLY LINK THE ENVIRONMENTAL TARGETS AND INDICATORS WITH THOSE RELATING TO THE OTHER GOALS OF POVERTY REDUCTION, HEALTH ETC.”

PARTICIPANT, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY E-DISCUSSION

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

One of the main changes in the world since 2000, when the MDGs were formulated, is the increasing speed at which we are approaching planetary boundaries, and in some cases already exceeding them. Another change is the increasing intensity with which the effects of climate change are being felt, particularly extreme weather events. On the other hand, there has been an increase in awareness of, and scientific evidence on, planetary boundaries. Awareness of the link between the environment and human rights has also grown — in particular, the rights of this generation and future generations to natural resources and a clean and healthy environment. These links were not reflected in MDG7, which suffered greatly from the silo approaches which the MDG architecture encouraged. The lack of an overall guiding framework meant that environmental sustainability became a separate and over-loaded goal, instead of being an underlying principle integrated across all the development goals.

The global discourse has evolved to recognize that integration across the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development leads to multiple benefits. The linkages between poverty and environment are

now clearly recognized, as is the fact that the solutions for poverty reduction and environmental sustainability are interconnected.

LINKAGES: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Stakeholders in the consultation on Environmental Sustainability decided to concentrate on the interlinkages among the environmental, economic and social

dimensions of sustainable development. The aim was to consciously avoid the silo approach, and not to treat environmental sustainability as a stand-alone issue. The result was an overwhelming call for a post-2015 agenda which not only fully integrates the three dimensions of sustainable development, but also embraces equality, human rights and resilience to achieve the multiple benefits of improving human well-being within planetary boundaries.

Natural resources and ecosystems services were recognized as a fundamental contribution to meeting basic needs (e.g. providing livelihoods, shelter, food, fresh water) and reducing income inequalities, both in rural and urban settings. The challenge is to ensure that environmental sustainability is factored into measures aimed at improving the lives of poor people, including those aimed at increasing food supply, water, energy, sanitation, education, health care, housing, security etc. However, basic needs are immediate, and thus the means at hand are often not devised with

Painting by a 12-year old from an elementary school in the northern town of Pluzine on the topic of the environment (Photo: UN, Montenegro)



a view to minimizing their immediate and longer-term impact on the environment. This has put current development practices on an unsustainable trajectory. Getting this right will be the 'make or break' of the post-2015 agenda.

Population dynamics were mentioned time and again within this consultation. Rapid and unplanned urbanization was also highlighted, as it is entrenching conditions of poverty, environmental degradation and unhealthy lifestyles. With two thirds of the global population set to live in cities by 2050, the post-2015 framework will need to drive sustainable and healthy urban environments with action on slum improvements, sustainable transport and urban living, including clean air and green spaces.

The consultations discussed links to the health challenges — for example, those related to the indoor air pollution caused by unsustainable biomass and coal stoves in low- and middle-income countries. They also discussed the risks posed in many countries to poor people in rural areas, who often depend directly on natural resources and ecosystem services and who are most at risk from environmental hazards, such as those related to climate change. Urban populations are also disproportionately at risk from natural disasters. The consultations also discussed examples of poor management, or no management, of natural resources where the resulting scarcity is fuelling local conflicts.

GROWING AWARENESS OF THE ISSUES, BUT RESPONSES STILL FALL SHORT

The discussion showed that, despite increased awareness of environmental sustainability issues, current responses fall short and are not keeping pace with the multiple and complex challenges facing people and the planet. However, most participants in the consultation also shared optimism that innovation and integrated approaches demonstrate that we have the knowledge, capacity and ambition to redirect our sustainable development trajectory towards

a universal agenda which not only reflects our common objectives but also embraces our different realities. However, it will be key to get consensus that we need transformative action rather than incremental siloed responses, which may bring short-term gains but will do little to effectively integrate the multiple and complex environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. Participants in the Environmental Sustainability consultation came to the conclusion that transformational change requires a focus on four key areas, namely: economic transformation, governance and accountability, local action and empowerment, and education.

FURTHER PROGRESS REQUIRES TRANSFORMATIONAL CHANGE IN FOUR KEY AREAS


The need to review existing **economic growth models** was identified as a critical issue in this consultation, as well as the consultations on Addressing Inequalities, Growth and Employment, and Health. The current economic growth model has to transform so as to decouple economic productivity from the use of natural resources. Changing how economic growth is measured was also identified as a key driver for transformation: the way we measure progress has to go beyond solely GDP indicators and also take related environmental and social implications into consideration. The core problem is that natural capital is traditionally unaccounted for and thus not incorporated into economic decision-making.

As a result, natural capital is greatly undervalued and consequently used unsustainably. Discussants called for a stronger focus on valuing environmental externalities. They noted that methods, tools and examples already exist to consider environmental externalities and integrate the environment more fully into decision-making, such as through natural capital accounting, green accounting, and payments for ecosystem services (PES).¹⁰ Governments have a vital role to play in steering this change in the right direction through taxes, incentives, quotas and more, but they need to be able to count on the private sector and the consumers to fully take up their roles and responsibilities so that consumption and production patterns can change fundamentally.

In this regard, the role of the private sector and markets needs to be considered. Markets and corporations can have a powerful influence on natural resource use decisions. But all types of businesses, including the micro, small, and medium enterprises can be tremendous drivers of change, by showing that sustainable production processes (e.g. limited use of toxic chemicals, cleaner production, and social development schemes) can also make economic sense. Although we have started to understand the potential roles and responsibilities of the private sector, we have not gone as far as understanding how and to what extent it can help respond massively and in a timely way, alongside governments and civil society, to the environmental challenges we are facing.

“AS THE EXPLOITABLE RESOURCES ARE DWINDLING AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEGRADED, THE LIVELIHOODS OF THOSE PEOPLE WHO ARE DEPENDING ON THEM ARE SEVERELY AFFECTED.”

PARTICIPANT, ETHIOPIA, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY E-DISCUSSION



“ THE LIVELIHOODS OF THE RURAL POOR OFTEN DEPEND DIRECTLY ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES, AND THEIR ENJOYMENT OF SUBSTANTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS IS MOST AT RISK FROM ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS, E.G. THOSE RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE, SUCH AS CHANGING RAINFALL PATTERNS AND MORE FREQUENT EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS. URBAN DWELLERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE LIVING IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS LOCATED IN HAZARD-PRONE AREAS, ARE DISPROPORTIONATELY AT RISK FROM NATURAL DISASTERS, THEIR VULNERABILITY FURTHER EXACERBATED BY THE GROWING POPULATION AND URBANIZATION, THREATENING THE FULFILMENT OF THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS. ”

WWF INTERNATIONAL, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY E-DISCUSSION

“ CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO POVERTY REDUCTION. IT IS ALSO SYMPTOMATIC OF A FUNDAMENTAL DEVELOPMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CRISIS. IT IS A ‘THREAT MULTIPLIER’, AMPLIFYING EXISTING SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND RESOURCE STRESSES. THE IMPACTS OF CROSSING ‘PLANETARY BOUNDARIES’, ESPECIALLY CLIMATE CHANGE, HIT PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY FIRST AND HARDEST, AS THEY OFTEN DEPEND DIRECTLY ON NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THEIR LIVELIHOODS AND HAVE THE LEAST RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO UNDERTAKE ADAPTIVE ACTION. ”

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK-INTERNATIONAL AND THE BEYOND-2015 COALITION, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY E-DISCUSSION



A transformative shift was also called for in **governance and accountability**. Governments have a key role to play in setting an enabling framework to promote cross-sectoral integration of environmental and social values, and in engaging the private sector and civil society to ensure that change is in tune with local aspirations and reflects principles of human rights and social justice at all levels. Many participants viewed environmental damage as being related to corruption, inadequate legislation, dysfunctional institutions, poor enforcement of existing legislation, and insufficient information. However, governance was also seen as fundamental to driving transformational change. There were calls for strengthened institutions and capacities across all levels to provide an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder and multi-level governance

and engagement, including incentives for collective action and integrated approaches. The rule of law and the role of governments in setting adequate policy and regulatory frameworks were regarded as fundamental.

Acceptable social and environmental standards for the private sector should be set and enforced at national and global levels. There were calls for transparency and accountability in decision-making at all levels, especially in natural resource management, extraction, trade and commerce. Access to information was also highlighted as critical. There were also calls for social and environmental justice, with some suggesting the need for a higher-level overseeing body such as an international criminal court for environmental crimes, which would enable civil society to hold public and private sector accountable for environmental impacts

that affect their lives.

Participants also suggested strengthening legal empowerment for local communities by establishing local environmental courts. In China, for example, in response to surging levels of social protest over environmental impacts, a series of 47 local green tribunals has arisen since 2009, while in India a new National Green Tribunal Act was passed in 2010, setting an enabling environment for the future emergence of the world's most extensive system of local environmental tribunals. These are important examples among more than 350 such green courts and tribunals that have arisen globally in recent years as communities demand greater access to justice.

Regarding the third transformative shift, there was widespread agreement that **local communities** and other stakeholders are essential to securing

environmental sustainability, provided that they are empowered to manage ecosystems and natural resources. Marginalized and traditionally disempowered communities, notably vulnerable groups such as women, children and indigenous communities, need to have access to the tools (education, capacity, resources, information, enabling environment etc.) to achieve transformational change that equitably reflects local realities and needs. Yet the linkages between global and local action are not always made, and capacities at the local level can be a constraint. Establishing linkages between local and global levels through top-down and bottom-up approaches were called for: international organizations were asked to include a local agenda in all initiatives, and national governments to provide incentives for the private sector to work with local communities.

Documenting and sharing best practices and lessons learned was considered essential for positive experiences to be replicated and scaled up.

The fourth transformative shift which the consultation called for regarded **education**, which was seen as a powerful tool to drive the changes necessary for sustainable development and, particularly, environmental sustainability. Education can contribute to making individuals and communities not only responsive to, and prepared for, current and emerging challenges, but also a truly proactive force in triggering market and political pressures to move the sustainable development agenda forward by empowering everyone to make informed decisions as citizens, workers and consumers. Education systems need to be radically changed so that they can be flexible and culturally sensitive and adapted to become a tool that contributes to environmental sustainability, by changing people's attitudes and values, whether decision makers, consumers or producers. Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) should help people value the environment and build resilience to environmental risks and



Young woman calling for environmental education during the thematic consultation on Environmental Sustainability (Photo: UNDP)

climate change. It was recommended that education be taken out of the classroom to include skills relevant to everyday life — i.e. that it should go beyond formal systems to include informal and non-formal

education, and contribute to educating 'global citizens'. Teaching good citizenship would encourage students to see themselves as part of the solution to local and global environmental challenges.

“ A PLACE LIKE TANZANIA, WHICH OVER THE YEARS HAS BEEN KNOWN AS [AN] OASIS OF PEACE, IS STARTING TO EXPERIENCE CLASHES OVER LAND AND RESOURCES. CLASHES BETWEEN PEASANTS AND FARMERS HAVE STARTED TO EVOLVE, THREATENING THE PEACE AND SECURITY... IN AREAS WHERE THERE IS SCARCITY OF WATER RESOURCE [ATTRIBUTED TO CLIMATE CHANGE]. ”

CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY E-DISCUSSION

“ IN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC MODEL... AN ENTREPRENEUR WILL GROW CARROTS RATHER THAN POTATOES IF THE SAME ENERGY USE... WILL PRODUCE TWICE THE RETURN, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER PEOPLE NEED POTATOES.” ”

PARTICIPANT, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY E-DISCUSSION



Young women from an ethnic minority in Yen Bai, Viet Nam (Photo: UN)

“SUCCESSFUL ADVANCES IN ANY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT UNDERTAKING REQUIRE GOOD GOVERNANCE, RULE OF LAW AND TRANSPARENCY WITH ENGAGEMENT OF CIVIL SOCIETY.”

PARTICIPANT, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY E-DISCUSSION

“IN THE INTEREST OF FAIRNESS AND EQUITY, GOVERNMENTS NEED TO AGREE ON AN INTERNATIONAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORK THAT WOULD ESTABLISH MINIMUM SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS, ENSURE THAT CORPORATIONS PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OF TAXES, AND PREVENT COMPANIES BECOMING SO LARGE THAT THEY HAVE A MONOPOLY POSITION AND ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN GOVERNMENTS, OR TOO BIG TO FAIL.”

PARTICIPANT, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY E-DISCUSSION

LOOKING FORWARD: A STAND-ALONE GOAL AND GREATER INTEGRATION

Although the purpose of the consultation was not to shape future goals (targets and indicators), it is hoped that inputs received through the consultation can lay the groundwork for the integration of environmental dimensions as a cross-cutting issue and a stand-alone goal. What participants agreed on was that **the post-2015 agenda is a universal one: action will be needed in all countries, not just developing countries, and targets should be inclusive rather than exclusive.** To address the global challenges we face, all countries need to embrace responsibilities and ownership.

Goals will need to apply to all countries, while reflecting diverse development pathways and implementation capacities. The challenge lies in contextualizing environmental sustainability and making the post-2015 agenda flexible so that it addresses the needs of different regions.

Finally, the shortcomings of targets based on partial achievement or incremental achievement were stressed: “Are prevailing ‘10%’ biodiversity conservation goals ENOUGH? Or do such 10% conservation goals actually risk — or invite — collapse? Think of the functioning aspects of other complex and interacting systems that we know, for example... a space vehicle. No rational astronauts would remove, destroy, damage, or eradicate 82% of their navigation systems, 91% of their vehicle’s electrical systems, 87% of its heat shields, 78% of its CO2 scrubbers and life-support systems, and 94% of their propulsion and re-entry systems.” — Participant, e-discussion.

GOVERNANCE

ROLE OF GOVERNANCE IN ACHIEVING THE MDGs

Discussions in all the thematic consultations have pointed to the role that tackling governance deficits can play in addressing challenges associated with social and political violence, inequality, state fragility, transitions, increased demands on the natural environment and a global crisis of confidence in the integrity, capacity and legitimacy of the State to deliver human development and quality public services. In 2005, in its final report, the UN Millennium Project identified governance failures and policy neglect among the four reasons for shortfalls in achieving the MDGs. It recommended that MDG-based poverty reduction strategies “should also provide a framework for strengthening governance, promoting human rights, engaging civil society, and promoting the private sector.”¹² More recent findings from the Brookings Institution suggest that there is a correlation between the quality of governance and improvements in living standards — indicating that investments in public-sector institutions, civil liberties and press freedoms, gender equality and anti-corruption can potentially yield high benefits in sustained development and

poverty reduction.¹³

In the My World survey, ‘an honest and responsive government’ was consistently voted as one of the top three issues which are most important for individuals and their families across the world, regardless of gender and economic standing.

Overall, the experience of the MDGs has demonstrated that effective democratic governance forms a basis for achieving the MDGs and has a direct bearing on how the goals can be translated into outcomes and how people can be involved in the decisions that affect their own lives. This includes ensuring that communities are able to freely participate in decision-making processes, hold officials to account and promote more accountable and transparent institutions. Most importantly, effective and highly capacitated state institutions lead to better development outcomes. Promoting a vibrant, diverse and independent media can support governments to translate commitments into action.


LOOKING FORWARD: GOVERNANCE AS A GOAL AND ENABLER

Discussion in all the thematic consultations confirmed that the future development agenda will require robust and well-capacitated institutions in both

the private and the public sectors to be responsive to the real needs of people and communities. Implementation of the post-2015 agenda will require good governance and strong, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. Participation, transparency and accountability are powerful tools for ensuring citizens’ oversight of the use of public resources, including the prevention of waste and corruption. Effective institutions are also critical for the provision of public services on which all citizens but especially poor people depend. Equally important is the need to build effective rule of law.


The consultation confirmed that governance is an enabler for socio-economic transformation and the improvement of lives through the eradication of structural inequality. Since the causes of poverty are often deeply rooted in unjust political and economic systems, the post-2015 framework needs to analyse not only the systems that generate inequality but also those that promote inclusiveness and equality. This is a prerequisite for social cohesion and responsive and effective governance.

Coherence among policies within and across governance levels, including national ownership of an international



“NO COUNTRY CAN TACKLE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES ALONE. INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS MUST BE DEVELOPED AT LOCAL, NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS. EVERY COUNTRY MUST RISE TO THE CHALLENGE SINCE THE TRADITIONAL DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR BETWEEN DONORS AND RECIPIENTS NO LONGER DESCRIBE THE COMPLEX WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE.”

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK¹¹



“GOVERNMENTS ARE THE KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN COLLABORATION WITH GLOBAL ORGANIZATIONS TO REDUCE POVERTY AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION. HOWEVER, IN MANY INSTANCES THEY FAIL TO ENGAGE WITH THE LARGE POPULATIONS LIVING IN REMOTE AREAS IN VULNERABLE ECOSYSTEMS. ...LOCAL PEOPLE IN REMOTE AND BIODIVERSITY RICH AREAS OFTEN HAVE DIFFERENT NEEDS, PRIORITIES, CULTURAL REQUIREMENTS, ATTACHMENT TO THE LAND AND ECOSYSTEMS. THE WELFARE SCHEMES MAY NOT BE ALIGNED WITH THEIR NEEDS AS THEY ARE OFTEN NOT AT THE DIALOGUE TABLE WITH THE POLICY MAKERS. THEY DO NOT OFTEN HAVE RESOURCES OR MEANS TO ARGUE THEIR CASE FOR EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.”

PARTICIPANT, ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY E-DISCUSSION

“OUR DIRECTION IN THE POST-2015 AGENDA MUST AIM TO CREATE CAPABILITY, INVEST IN PEOPLE AND REVERSE INEQUALITY. WITH INCLUSIVE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL WILL, THIS IS POSSIBLE.”

ARCHBISHOP NJONGONKULU NDUNGANE, THE AFRICAN MONITOR.
FINAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE CONSULTATION, JOHANNESBURG

“FOR THE FIRST TIME, A PARLIAMENTARIAN SAID HE WAS APPROACHED BY MEMBERS OF THE YOUTH, AND HAD NO OPTION BUT TO COMMIT.”

ROSEMARY ZULU, RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT ZAMBIA,
REFERRING TO PROVIDING RESOURCES FOR A RURAL VILLAGE.
FINAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNANCE CONSULTATION, JOHANNESBURG



framework, is imperative. A new global framework must be aligned with national policies, budgets and local delivery. Without such vertical alignment, it is likely that a new framework will remain aspirational and unachievable. This entails targets and indicators tailored to the national context. While global governance targets can be important drivers of social service delivery and policy implementation, they must be sufficiently flexible to prioritize and address context-specific challenges at the local, national and regional levels.

Accountability and transparency, underpinned by international human rights standards and principles, are essential for ensuring that development is sustainable and responsive to people's needs: transparency and accountability

are important elements for ensuring that development is responsive to the aspirations of key constituents and stakeholders and is based on effective mobilization, distribution and utilization of public resources. The international human rights framework can help identify who is responsible and accountable for specific processes and outcomes of development, and provide mechanisms of accountability and redress as needed.

Combating corruption is essential to safeguard and promote better development outcomes. As a cross-cutting development challenge, corruption contributes to poverty, impedes economic growth and reduces the capacity of governments to respond to the needs of the people, resulting in growing inequalities and low human development outcomes. To

address this challenge, the post-2015 agenda must decisively address corruption and promote greater transparency by, for example, integrating corruption risk assessments as a preventative tool to ensure funds are not siphoned off.

The empowerment and meaningful participation of individuals and civil society in governance systems are necessary to tackle inequality and promote social inclusion. A key building block of good governance is empowerment, with enhanced and meaningful participation in decision-making processes. In seeking to foster active participation from the ground up, the post-2015 agenda should ensure that meaningful civil society participation is facilitated via a rights-driven framework, which protects and promotes freedom

of information, expression, movement, association and assembly, while limiting trends towards increased state securitization.

Strengthening local governments and local development is critical for ensuring empowerment, civic participation and better service delivery. Local-level indicators must be included in any future development framework, because local governments are the primary point of institutional contact for the majority of individuals. From service delivery to wider programmes for citizen empowerment and civic participation, policies need to focus on individuals and communities, rather than merely on geographic areas.

Power relationships between public and private actors, as well as communities need realignment. There is a need to realign the power relationships between corporations, states and communities at the country level and to shift the power dynamics at the multilateral level so that

the rich and the strong are no longer privileged at the expense of the poor and the marginalized. Institutions must be strengthened so as to change the relationships between actors, thus realigning power dynamics for inclusive consultation and participatory monitoring.

Participants agreed that youth concerns are critical for the post-2015 agenda: given that young people are the leaders of the future and the primary beneficiaries and inheritors of ongoing intergenerational challenges, they must be involved in the design and ownership of a new development agenda. They need to be involved in policy shifts towards green technologies and environmentally efficient modes of development, as well as in a growing focus on opportunities for employment, innovation and shared wealth creation for the next and successive generations.

They also recognized that gender-responsive and rights-based governance

systems are central for enabling the realization of women's rights and implementation of gender equality goals which must address structural issues of discrimination: persistent gender inequality is a governance failure. Integral in effective and responsive governance is how it achieves gender equality and women's empowerment and advances human rights. Gender inequality is both structural and systemic; hence, specific gender and development priorities are required to ensure that other public policies do not undermine gender-related goals.

The role and regulation of the private sector was seen as pivotal, and businesses need to be accountable to the public, especially for the management of public goods and services: it is important to rethink public-private partnerships as 'public-people partnerships', which would encompass a vibrant private sector with a stake in contributing to enhancing development at national and local levels. The UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework (2011) should be included as part of the normative, policy and accountability framework for the private sector in connection with the post-2015 agenda. In this framework people would have the right to decide for themselves how natural resources should be utilized, without having to contend with the monopolies of a few powerful companies or leaders.

Participants agreed that access to justice and effective justice administration are enablers for development and human rights: at present, institutions and services often do not reach out to the most disadvantaged people effectively. A post-2015 agenda needs to ensure that justice institutions and services are more inclusive, innovative and accessible to all.

SOME OPTIONS FOR GOALS AND TARGETS

The consultations considered a range of criteria to prioritize and select governance and human rights variables to be included in a new global framework of goals,

Ensuring the world they want by the inclusion of young girls in the Post-2015 Development Agenda National Consultations in the Dominican Republic. This student is from a public school of the province Hermanas Mirabal (Photo: Sara Romero/UNV/UNDP)



“INEQUALITY AND POVERTY ARE NOT ACCIDENTS OF FATE. THEY ARE RESULTS OF POLICY DECISIONS AND POWER RELATIONSHIPS WHICH ARE DISCRIMINATORY, EXCLUSIONARY AND UNJUST.”

CESR/BEYOND 2015, GOVERNANCE E-DISCUSSION

targets and indicators, drawing from the Rio+20 criteria agreed by member states.

Several options were discussed for integrating governance and human rights in the post-2015 agenda, either through a dedicated stand-alone goal (or goals) with targets and indicators, or relevant governance targets and indicators across other goals ('mainstreaming'), or both. There was consensus around the notion that both country-specific measurements and international standards are important to measure progress in governance, as in other areas. Proposals shared during or in parallel with the Governance consultation were as follows:

- There should be a general goal on 'Governance', with or without sub-elements, such as:
- participation;
- transparency and access to information;
- accountability, including corporate accountability;
- political and civil rights (e.g. freedom of speech, the right to free assembly or elections); and
- efficiency and capacity of institutions.
- Or there should be several governance-related goals on:

- justice;
- peace, conflict, violence and human security;
- global governance; and
- empowerment and civil and political rights.
- Several proposals also included a stand-alone goal on all human rights.

A discussion on possible targets and indicators suggested among others: a) transparent governance, with open budgeting, freedom of information and comprehensive corporate reporting; b) participatory governance, with greater freedom of speech, press and political choice; and c) accountable governance, with commitment to the rule of law, more equitable and effective public services and reduced corruption. It was further suggested that proposed sector-specific targets on fiscal transparency and citizen accountability should be complemented by embedding transparency and accountability across other possible sector-specific goals so that associated aid programmes and progress can be monitored in real time. There were also suggestions to measure judicial independence and accessibility, as well as the prevalence of free and fair elections and voter empowerment.

CONFLICT, VIOLENCE AND DISASTER

The commitment of the Millennium Declaration to prevent and peacefully resolve conflicts, build peace, combat all forms of violence against women, and reduce the number and effects of natural and human-induced disasters, was not reflected in the MDGs themselves. Evidence now available shows that conflict, violence and disasters from natural hazards have, in significant areas of the world, severely limited the gains of the MDGs. Prolonged insecurity and violent conflicts impede or destroy livelihoods and discourage investment critical to job creation, poverty eradication and economic growth. This reality is expected to become even more acute. By the year 2030, it is predicted that the vast majority of the world's poorest people, mainly children and young people, will live in countries and regions affected by chronic conflict, violence and disasters. There is evidence to suggest that these people will experience a disproportionate share of the suffering caused by conflict, violence and disasters, in large part due to weak institutions and an absence of services and social protection. Their absence will conspire to significantly undermine people's ability to anticipate, prevent, prepare for and recover quickly and effectively from shocks, stresses and crises. It will be impossible to eradicate poverty in our time without responding to these challenges. Conflict, violence and disaster should, therefore, be seen as inherent development challenges and **should be addressed in the form of development outcomes**, as opposed to purely development enablers, and as an integral part of the post-2015 development framework.

The consultation recognized that the impact of conflict, violence and disaster on development is **a universal issue** that should not be perceived as a problem only of fragile and conflict-affected countries. There is no society in which sustainable development is invulnerable to episodes of instability, violence or the

advent of disaster. All countries have the same challenges to varying degrees, and experience shows that countries can sometimes rapidly move from stability to instability. In light of this, the consultation agreed with the calls made by the UN System Task Team to include 'peace and security' as a fourth dimension of the post-2015 development architecture.

ADDRESSING INSECURITIES AND MULTIPLE RISKS

There is a close link between the root causes of conflict and violence and the levels of vulnerability and exposure to disaster risk that are associated with poverty, weak governance, marginalization and social insecurity. Conflict, violence and disaster are also increasingly linked with other multiple challenges, including climate change, unemployment, natural resource management and financial instability. These risk factors are intertwined and affect one another in unpredictable ways. Any commitment to addressing conflicts and disasters must, therefore, be comprehensive and multi-dimensional. It must focus on the drivers of peace, explicitly ensuring people's security and access to justice; equality and social cohesion; participation in decision-making; fair, responsive and accountable governance; the importance of inclusive institutions; and equitable access to services, resources and economic opportunities for all social groups. In light of the emerging risks associated with climate change, economic stresses and urbanization, there was a call to ensure that the next development agenda understands these multidimensional risks and complex

development challenges, goes beyond sectors and ensures integrated development support. Participants called on the development community to design a new development model which aims at a net reduction in all forms of risk in a flexible and forward-looking way. Building resilience was viewed by some as a possible concept that could promote better understanding of complex multidimensional development challenges and how to address them.

ERADICATING VIOLENCE BY ADDRESSING DEVELOPMENT DEFICITS

As shown from the results of the MY World survey, one of the most urgent problems people around the world face

are personal security and the ability to live their lives in peace. Drivers of violence, conflict and insecurity can be traced to development deficits, such as inequality, the marginalization of women, the lack of effective policies for children and youth, and the misuse of natural and state resources. Therefore, eradicating violence requires primarily a development response, not only a security response. This should include efforts to increase access to and trust in security and justice provision among all social groups, greater fairness in equity in opportunities for economic and political participation, and access to social services and resources, especially for young people, whose vulnerability to exclusion can quickly



Young participant at the Youth National Consultation on Post-2015 and the International Conference on Population and Development, Amman, 14 March 2013 (Photo: Y-Peer Jordan)

“IN THE ABSENCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY, THERE CAN BE NO DEVELOPMENT. IN ITS PRESENCE, INVESTMENTS ARE MADE POSSIBLE, DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS CAN TAKE PLACE, AND INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS AND COMMUNITIES CAN PROGRESS.”

CIVIL SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE, CONFLICT AND FRAGILITY SUB-THEMATIC CONSULTATION, MONROVIA, LIBERIA, NOVEMBER 2012



Civil Society representative at the sub-thematic consultation on disaster risk reduction in Jakarta, Indonesia, February 2013. Global Thematic Consultation on Conflict, Violence and Disaster. (Photo: UNDP Indonesia)

translate into participation in violence and crime.

Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to all types of violence, including interpersonal violence which mostly takes place in their homes. Femicide is one of the most frequent and extreme forms of interpersonal violence that women suffer. Although the MDG framework has a dedicated goal on gender, it is silent on violence against

women and girls. Particular attention should be paid to women's empowerment and combating all forms of violence against women and girls. There is now manifold evidence to prove that without gender equity, the eradication of gender-based violence, and the empowerment of women, the world will neither be able to address the drivers of conflict and violence nor guarantee accelerated and sustainable development.

ADDRESSING DISASTER RISKS AS AN INVESTMENT IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Disaster-insensitive development over the years has exposed many communities to deeper forms of vulnerability and put development gains at risk. However, the contrary is also true: evidence shows a contribution to the achievement of some development goals due to investments in disaster risk reduction, including the continued provision of education and health services, and protection of lives and livelihoods. Disaster risk reduction is, hence, not only an enabler for development, but the primary development objective that protects other development objectives. Disaster risk reduction must, therefore, be seen as an investment in sustainable development — and not as an additional expenditure.

It is also well understood that environmental degradation increases disaster risks by magnifying the hazards, increasing exposure of people and their assets, and reducing people's capacity to cope with and manage extreme events. Peace cannot be built, and disaster vulnerability reduced, if the natural resources and ecosystems on which livelihoods depend are left out of the equation.

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF RESOURCES

Understanding the relationship between natural resources, conflict, violence and disasters is critical to ensure sustainable development. At least 40 percent of internal conflicts over the last 60 years have a link to natural resources, and the

“IN AN INCREASINGLY INTERCONNECTED WORLD, WITH RISING RISK LEVELS, RISING INEQUITIES AND RISING UNCERTAINTIES, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT BUILDING RESILIENCE OF PEOPLE IS AT THE HEART OF OUR DEVELOPMENT WORK.”

PARTICIPANT, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION SUB-THEMATIC CONSULTATION, JAKARTA, INDONESIA, FEBRUARY 2013

risks of conflict relapse are elevated when the exploitation of natural resources cause environmental damage or when their benefits are unequally distributed. The sustainable management of natural resources is critical, both on a national level to support economic growth and job creation, as well as on a local level to support the livelihoods of conflict-affected and vulnerable people. When managed sustainably, transparently and equitably, and when the injustices of resource control are addressed, natural resources can act not only as an engine of economic well-being, but also as a platform to pursue sustainable peace.

PROPOSED TARGETS AND INDICATORS

While indicators for conflict prevention, violence prevention and disaster risk reduction are relatively new compared to other socio-economic indicators, significant progress has been made in the last 10 years, and there are a number of ongoing initiatives to define and operationalize metrics for these themes in the context of development. The consultation highlighted that horizontal inequalities are a significant driver of conflict and violence, and can be addressed as a cross-cutting issue in various targets and by disaggregating data — for example, groups with disabilities, minorities, religious, gender, racial, ethnic and other groups that are overrepresented among poor people. Indicators should also be set at a more disaggregated geographical level to ensure more information about how progress is being distributed and that no groups are left behind.

The consultation proposed a stand-alone goal to reduce violence, promote freedom from fear, and encourage sustainable peace. Such a goal could be framed as: ‘Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies’. However, any goal on reducing violence and insecurity must go beyond the absence of violence to address the drivers of violence (violence prevention) and the drivers of peace, to foster people’s security and build sustainable peace. Targets and indicators could include:

- a. Reduce and prevent violent deaths per 100,000 people and eliminate all forms of violence against children, women and other vulnerable groups;
- b. Reduce external drivers of violence and conflict, including illicit flows of arms, drugs, finance, natural resources and human trafficking;
- c. Ensure law enforcement and justice systems that are accessible, impartial, non-discriminatory and responsive to the needs and rights of individuals and social groups;
- d. Strengthen trust in public decision-making bodies through fairness and diversity of representation;
- e. Eliminate bribery and corruption, and hold public and private perpetrators to account;
- f. Enhance state capacity, transparency, and accountability regarding control of national resources; and
- g. Reduce inequalities across social groups and regions within countries.

The consultation further proposed the establishment of a stand-alone goal on disaster risk reduction. This would provide an opportunity to address the interface

between global frameworks for sustainable development, disaster risk reduction, climate change and conflict. Alternatively, disaster risk reduction efforts could be mainstreamed into other sector goals, particularly in poverty reduction, health, environment, governance, food security, gender equality, education and water. Discussants called for a new development approach to be reflected in the next development agenda, one which integrates a consideration of disaster risk reduction into all development interventions.

“WE MUST DECREASE SOCIAL DISPARITIES TO REDUCE VIOLENCE.”

35-YEAR-OLD FEMALE PARTICIPANT, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, BRAZIL

“AS FOR ME, I WOULD WANT MY FUTURE TO BE A MUCH MORE SAFER AND MORE VIBRANT ENVIRONMENT, MEANING YOUNG CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY GIRLS AND WOMEN CAN BE ABLE TO WORK AROUND FREELY WITHOUT BEING HARASSED BY DRUNKARDS, RASCALS AND OLDER MEN.”

GIRL, NATIONAL CONSULTATION, PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Afroecuadorian girl in Esmeraldas, Ecuador (Photo: Mareike Eberz, UNDP)



“WHILE DEVELOPMENT SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO REDUCING VULNERABILITY, THE DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS WE CHOOSE OFTEN CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASING DISASTER RISK BY EXPANDING EXPOSURE OF PEOPLE AND ASSETS TO HAZARDS. IF WELL PLANNED, MEASURES UNDERTAKEN IN THE EARLY PHASE OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAN INSTEAD REDUCE FURTHER RISKS. DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MEASURES CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN INCREASING THE ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE AREA AFFECTED BY A DISASTER, THUS PROMOTING THE CAUSE AND COMMITMENT TO ‘BUILDING BACK BETTER.’”

CHIEF OF INDONESIA'S NATIONAL AGENCY FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION SUB-THEMATIC CONSULTATION, JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 19 FEBRUARY 2013

“WHEN NATURAL RESOURCES ARE MISMANAGED, IT IS NOT JUST A MISSED OPPORTUNITY, BUT IT FACILITATES AND PROLONGS CONFLICT. HOWEVER, CARE AND COORDINATION IN MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE REFORMS CAN MAKE NATURAL RESOURCES A SPRINGBOARD FOR PEACEBUILDING. THIS CAN BE DONE BY BREAKING THE CONFLICT FINANCE LINKS, ENSURING EQUITY, PARTICIPATION, TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND EFFICIENCY. POST CONFLICT IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO GO FROM NATURAL RESOURCES FUELING CONFLICT TO SUPPORTING PEACE.”

MEMBER OF THE EXPERTS REFERENCE GROUP FOR THE CONFLICT, VIOLENCE AND DISASTER CONSULTATION, MONROVIA, LIBERIA, NOVEMBER 2012

ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES

CROSS-CUTTING, UNIVERSAL AND MULTIFACETED

Throughout all the consultations carried out by the UNDG — thematic and national — and more broadly in most post-2015-related discussions and activities, addressing inequalities has emerged as a central issue for the next development agenda. The summaries of the other consultations have shown that this goes far beyond tackling income inequalities and income poverty, which are just one symptom or expression of mutually reinforcing and multiple deprivations existing in all countries to different extents and in different configurations.

Inequality was an issue that was highlighted in the Millennium Declaration but not systematically addressed in the MDGs. Since 2000, many types of inequalities have worsened. Even where progress in human

development has been rapid in aggregate terms, particular inequalities have often persisted or become more severe. The MDGs' focus on global and national aggregate indicators, and on average trends, has diverted attention from the gap between those who are advancing and those who are being left behind.

Inequality is a universal challenge. It exists within and among countries. Although different societies experience different dominant inequalities as a result of their social, economic and political evolution, we heard from all the consultations that similar forms of inequalities are replicated across the world. In spontaneous protests in many countries people have voiced their concern that the persistence of inequalities undermines fairness and social justice.

Inequalities result from structural barriers in several domains — economic, social, environmental and political. These

barriers intersect and reinforce each other. Inequalities are often closely associated with and reinforced by specific forms of discrimination, including in the social, legal and cultural spheres. We see this in discrimination related to age, sex, ethnic or indigenous identity, disability etc. When these structural barriers and specific forms of discrimination intersect, they result not merely in cumulative but unique forms of discrimination and exclusion.

Inequalities predominantly affect individuals and groups which suffer multiple human rights deprivations. Typically, marginalized and excluded groups lag behind in the enjoyment of one particular right due to lack of access to other rights such as decent jobs, food, housing, health, sexual and reproductive health rights, information, education, participation, physical integrity or judicial remedies. Multiple deprivation and inequalities are often closely associated with and



High-Level Meeting of the Thematic Consultation on Addressing Inequalities, Copenhagen, Denmark, February 2013 (Photo: UNICEF)

reinforced by specific forms of discrimination in the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Examples include, but are not limited to, discrimination related to: gender, age, caste, race, ethnic and indigenous identity, minority status, (dis)ability, place of residence, marital and family status, HIV status, and sexual orientation.

Inequality is not just the problem of those most affected or those who are most excluded. It affects everybody in several ways. The people who participated in the consultations pointed out that as a result of inequality and exclusion, economic growth was affected; productive potential was diminished; fragilities and vulnerabilities were accentuated, including to conflict and disasters; and social cohesion and security weakened.

Gender-based discrimination emerged in the consultation as the single most widespread driver of inequalities

“ACROSS GENERATIONS, CHILDREN'S EDUCATION IS HIGHLY AFFECTED BY THE OUTCOMES OF THEIR PARENTS' EDUCATION. TOO OFTEN THE INCOME OF A CHILD'S PARENTS, WHETHER THE CHILD IS A GIRL OR BOY, OR THE ETHNIC GROUP THAT THEY BELONG TO DETERMINES THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY HAVE TO LEARN AND THRIVE.”

SAVE THE CHILDREN, ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES CONSULTATION, FINAL REPORT

“NO INDIVIDUAL AND NO NATION MUST BE DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO BENEFIT FROM DEVELOPMENT. THE EQUAL RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF WOMEN AND MEN MUST BE ASSURED.”

MILLENNIUM DECLARATION

today. It affects all societies, rich and poor. Like other inequalities, gender inequality is often associated with and reinforced by specific forms of discrimination, including in the social, legal and cultural spheres.

Inequalities among countries currently account for the dominant part of global economic inequality. The concentration of global power over natural and economic resources and the structure of markets and finance create inequalities in other countries. Addressing these inequalities must include supporting efforts by poor and developing countries to diversify their economies, ensuring fair access to resources and markets, just and effective tax systems and controlling international finance so that stable economic environments are secured and social goals can be met.

The challenges of unequal access to

natural resources, and of vulnerabilities to environmental degradation and climate change, have also become more severe. They have both exacerbated existing inequalities and raised new and critical risks for often already disadvantaged groups of people and countries.

Unless the inequalities and discrimination that hold back the current generation are overcome, the well-being of future generations cannot be secured. Children born today into conditions of deprivation will suffer setbacks that they may never recover from — and these deprivations are likely to affect the lives of their children in turn. According to one study based on evidence from 32 countries, a child in the richest 10 percent of households had on average 35 times more effective income available to meet their needs than the income of a child in the poorest 10 percent.

THE NEED TO ADDRESS STRUCTURAL ISSUES

Unless structural issues are addressed, inequalities will persist and deepen. Young people were strong on this point. Increased global access to technology and social media has highlighted the extent of inequalities, driving awareness and increasing demand for change. The perception that some are prospering while many struggle for a living, with the capture of both economic and political power going hand in hand, is the source of much unrest. Political inequalities may build up over time, but change can be rapid, as people reach a tipping point in tolerance of inequalities.

Looking at what participants said needs to be done, we can identify four strands of policy action to address the structural drivers of inequalities. First, entitlements to equality and non-discrimination need to be established in law and implemented through economic and social policy. Second, states need to take action to protect citizens and others from discrimination, violence, exploitation and harm by others. Third, levelling measures are required to support individuals and groups whose capabilities have been diminished or constrained by inequalities. And fourth, the capacity of rights holders to make valid claims on others must be strengthened.

DISCUSSION OF GOALS, TARGETS AND THE NEED TO IMPROVE ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS

There was clear consensus that inequality must be addressed in a future development framework. There were many approaches and levels at which it was suggested this could be done. First, if there is a separate goal for inequality, it must capture not just economic inequalities but a range of social, environmental and political inequalities. Second, inequality must be integral to the setting of all goals and targets. All goals and targets should be framed in terms of universal coverage or access, or of getting to zero, although this approach does have the downside of not enabling us to

“CURRENT DECISION-MAKING STRUCTURES EXCLUDE THE MAJORITY OF THE WORLD’S POPULATION AND REINFORCE THE MARGINALIZATION OF THOSE WHOSE VIEWS SHOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED.”

PARTICIPANT, ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES CONSULTATION

“INEQUALITY GOES BEYOND THE PROBLEM OF UNEQUAL ACCESS TO A BUILDING, AN INSTITUTION, A SOCIAL SYSTEM. IT IS ALSO DEEPLY ENTRENCHED WITHIN THE HISTORICAL TREATMENT OF THE GROUP.”

PARTICIPANT, ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES CONSULTATION

“THE MOST DISADVANTAGED GIRLS LIVE WITH DISABILITIES, LIVE IN THE POOREST COMMUNITIES, OR ARE PART OF INDIGENOUS OR MINORITY GROUPS.”

PARTICIPANT, ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES CONSULTATION

“IN TAJIKISTAN, MANY CHILDREN STUDY UP TO THE 9TH GRADE, BUT THEIR PARENTS DON’T LET THEM CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES. THIS APPLIES PARTICULARLY TO GIRLS... DUE TO NOT BEING EDUCATED, WOMEN CANNOT PROTECT THEIR RIGHTS.”

TAJIKISTAN NATIONAL CONSULTATION



Recording interviews during national consultation in Bhutan (Photo: UN)

track what is happening to the poor or most excluded populations. Therefore, the language in each target should require that inequalities be eliminated in the case of absolute targets, or progressively reduced for all other targets. Third, disaggregation by dominant inequalities is essential across the framework as appropriate for each country. And fourth, targets and indicators should focus on the poorest of the poor, not only by disaggregating by wealth quintile, but also by selecting targets and indicators that are relevant to the poorest people.

The recent report of the Secretary-General's Post-2015 High Level Panel also pointed to the need for disaggregated data (by gender, geography, income, disability, ethnicity, age and other categories) and stated "targets will only be considered 'achieved' if they are met for all relevant income and social groups." This reflects conclusions from the consultation on how inequalities can be measured and better understood.

No agreement was reached within the consultation on how the 'headline' goal(s) could be framed. For example, there was broad agreement at the leadership meeting that there should be a 'headline' goal dedicated solely to the issue of gender equality. However, consensus was not reached on whether there should be a 'headline' goal on other forms of inequality or whether these should be mainstreamed throughout the entire goals framework.



“ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR GENDER INEQUALITY IS CHILD MARRIAGE WHICH DEPRIVES THE GIRLS OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION. THIS LEADS TO UNEDUCATED MOTHERS AND UNEDUCATED CHILDREN. IT IS A VICIOUS CYCLE.”

20-YEAR-OLD WOMAN FROM AN URBAN AREA, NATIONAL YOUTH

CONSULTATION,
SHIRVAN, AZERBAIJAN

“THE DISRESPECTFUL USE OF THE LAND AND ITS RESOURCES IS INEXTRICABLY LINKED TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES OF WOMEN AND THE PERPETUATION OF POVERTY.”

PARTICIPANT, ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES CONSULTATION

“THE GENDER NORMS IN SPAIN ARE NOT WRITTEN DOWN AS SUCH, THEY ARE 'IN THE AIR'.”

CONTRIBUTOR, ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES E-DISCUSSION

“ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES ARE REINFORCED BY OVERLAPPING CAUSES LIKE GLOBAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEPENDENCIES, UNACCOUNTABLE FINANCIAL SYSTEMS AND UNFAIR PROVISIONS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS.”

PARTICIPANT, ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES CONSULTATION

“WHEN OUR RIGHTS ARE GUARANTEED, INCLUDING OUR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, WE ARE BETTER POSITIONED TO MAKE FREE AND INFORMED DECISIONS REGARDING OUR HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND FUTURES.”

PARTICIPANT, ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES CONSULTATION

“PREVIOUS APPROACHES TO IMPROVE URBAN LIFE HAVE TREATED THEIR RICH AND THEIR POOR DIFFERENTLY. THERE IS A CERTAIN MIND-SET WHICH HAS BECOME THE DETERMINING FACTOR FOR DEVELOPMENT FOR POOR COMMUNITIES. THE APPLICATION OF THIS MIND-SET HAS NOW CREATED TWO WORLDS: ONE OF THE RICH AND THE OTHER OF THE POOR.”

PARTICIPANT, ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES CONSULTATION



Finally, addressing inequality must be a core element of the accountability framework. People will not be satisfied if reporting continues to be captured through broad averages that mask inequality and exclusion. As the global framework is translated into national policy action, particular attention will need to be paid to monitoring what is happening to those who are burdened by dominant and intersecting inequalities.

Public accountability will require building strong monitoring systems through significant improvements in statistical capacity as well as relevance and transparency of the data that are collected. Participants in the consultations called for ensuring voice, justice and representation for those who have been excluded. Strengthening the capacity of rights holders to make valid claims on others is integral to all actions to tackle inequalities. ■

NOTES

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- 2 UNESCO, Education for All Global Monitoring Report 2011, UNESCO, Paris, 2012.
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- 7 United Nations, [The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012](#), United Nations, New York, 2012.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 [Learning Metrics Task Force, Toward Universal Learning: What Every Child Should Learn, 2013](#).
- 10 The e-discussion conducted by the Growth and Employment consultation also had many contributions on this subject.
- 11 As quoted in the final report of the thematic consultation on Environmental Sustainability
- 12 United Nations, Investing in Development – A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals, Final report of the United Nations Millennium Project, United Nations, New York, 2005, <http://www.unmillenniumproject.org/reports/index.htm>.
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ANNEXES

ANNEX 1. PROCESS DESCRIPTION OF NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Africa

SIMILAR APPROACHES TO NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS

The post-2015 consultation processes in Africa largely benefited from the legacy of formulating long-term development plans (vision documents) and short- to medium-term plans (poverty reduction strategy papers, PRSPs, and national development plans, NDPs)—processes which have demanded broad consultations with different stakeholders. The post-2015 consultations, therefore, built on this foundation and included new forms of consulting stakeholders and bringing in other groups that would not normally participate in national planning processes. The methodologies used were largely similar, with a few exceptions. Most of the consultations in Africa were organized by the various UN country teams (UNCTs), national governments (mainly ministries/departments of planning or finance) and key actors of civil society, including women and youth groups, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, academia and the private sector. Face-to-face meetings in various formats dominated consultation methodologies in all the 30 countries conducting national consultations. To increase inclusion and accountability, however, focus group discussions, stakeholder interviews, radio phone-in programmes, television panel interviews and specific group and expert group meetings were used. In addition, on- and offline surveys were used in several countries including MY World surveys and the use of text messaging, which managed to obtain feedback from 17,000 young people in Uganda. In total, close to 350,000 stakeholders were consulted on the post-2015 agenda in Africa. Many of the countries conducted consultations in selected districts, regions, provinces or zones as representative samples of entire countries followed by consultations and validation at the national level.

INCLUSIVENESS

To deepen the focus on the post-2015 development agenda, workshops were organized with short presentations to not only introduce themes of discussions, but also encourage meaningful contributions and a bottom-up approach to the consultations. Among the forms of consultation envisaged, the most used were semi-structured interviews, which offered participants the freedom to divert to unforeseen issues while working in focus groups that analysed and discussed the proposed themes. The use of local languages in the discussions was a common feature for most countries, which removed the barrier to participation for the majority of the stakeholders. In addition, specific stakeholder consultations for women, schoolchildren, elderly people, people with disabilities and people living with HIV/AIDS was another common feature across the countries which enabled specific concerns to be captured which would not have been mentioned considering existing cultural barriers.

DOCUMENTATION AND VALIDATION

In most countries, each group discussion and presentation was followed by a plenary discussion to allow agreement and validation of key themes and issues for each country's post-2015 agenda, whether at district, regional, zonal provincial or national level. For most, individual group and subnational consultations produced their own reports and

documentation which were synthesized into the various national reports. Validation of the national reports took different forms. While most countries held national workshops to validate the national reports, others used national steering committees, UNCTs or national governments to validate the results of the national consultations.

Arab States, the Middle East and Northern Africa

THE CONSULTATION CHALLENGE

Developing a post-2015 development agenda that keeps the spirit of inclusive engagement and sustained outreach to all segments of society is not an easy task. It is context-driven and can be hindered by distance, security and safety concerns, logistical challenges and, perhaps most importantly, by a failure to create culturally nuanced spaces and settings that encourage stakeholders to articulate their opinions and perspectives.

Rising to these challenges, from December 2012 to September 2013, nine national consultations on the post-2015 development agenda were hosted in the Arab States region in the midst of varying political, humanitarian and economic circumstances. The consultations have been led by UNCTs in collaboration with national partners, keeping the principles of inclusiveness, openness and transparency firmly in mind.

A DIVERSITY OF APPROACHES

In an effort to ensure the widest participation possible, the national consultations have used a diversity of approaches under different formats relevant to local contexts and the ability of stakeholders to participate. Outreach strategies have made use of the most suitable avenues and communication approaches, including dedicated thematic sessions, focus groups, policy dialogues, town hall meetings, e-consultations and social media, and expert interviews.

Partnerships with key organizations

have been instrumental in facilitating the consultations and reaching out to wide-ranging groups of people. Not including online contributions, close to 6000 persons have participated in open dialogues, with a broad spectrum of stakeholders including relevant national organizations, representatives from different orders of government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society and community-based organizations, women's and social movements, youth and children, persons living with disabilities, people living with HIV, the private sector, vulnerable people and minorities, refugees, internally displaced persons, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT), the media and academics.

All the consultations have acknowledged the limits of the processes and that the representation of people's voices is necessarily a subset and cross-cutting sample of a country's diversity. With inclusiveness in mind, efforts have been made to reach out to rural areas and peripheral locales remote from capitals, with special attention paid to ensure gender-balanced participation and the involvement of people from different socio-economic strata.

In some of the consultations, communication and outreach strategies have been deployed, making use of regular and social media campaigns and tools to disseminate information and to survey and engage a wider audience through traditional and online platforms. Close to 11,000 persons have participated in online forums, and at the time of reporting, there are over 25,000 votes registered from the Arab region on the MY World survey.

CAPTURING VIEWS

While the aim of the consultations is to provide clear recommendations to governments, civil society and other stakeholders on national development priorities, an emphasis has been placed on representing varied views, not arriving at a consensus, and allowing contradictory statements to be expressed in the reports.

The strategic engagement of national facilitators has ensured that local contexts and customs are not misrepresented in capturing the views emerging from the discussions. Appointed facilitators led open-ended discussions or used agreed guiding questions to conduct the facilitations. Note-takers were present in the various venues to collect opinions.

At the same time the consultations processes, when appropriate, reference existing national development frameworks and dialogues that are already underway.

VALIDATING THE CONSULTATIONS

During the progression of the consultations, UNCTs have reported back to the constituents on the findings and invited them to reflect on the messages emerging from the processes. In seeking their impressions on how the captured priorities aligned with or differed from the discussions and views, it was noted that some reservations have been voiced on what the impacts of the consultations will be, but overall participants have a strong sense of ownership of the reports and have articulated their approval of the faithfulness of the coverage of the rich discussions and the diversity of the groups consulted.

IMPACTS

A common theme among the consultations is a noted desire to have further consultations and avenues for people to voice their opinions — to shape priorities and develop comprehensive reports to include current challenges, proposed priority actions and potential means towards achieving new national and global developmental agendas.

The consultative processes in some instances are triggering new alliances and linkages between stakeholders and the opportunity to create space for new initiatives, to actively connect policy makers with both traditional and non-traditional stakeholders, and to explore suitable venues and strategies to influence future programmatic approaches that include new partners in development efforts.

Asia and the Pacific

In Asia and the Pacific, **16 countries**¹ undertook popular consultations which took various forms and reached across a wide range of stakeholders by bringing in marginalized and excluded communities and groups that do not routinely get a chance to contribute to policy formulation debates. The UNDG initiated the process of these country consultations by providing seed funding to countries interested in organizing these post-2015 consultations, which was often supplemented by resources provided by national governments and other development partners. Over **340,000 people**² have participated in and contributed to the discussions.

The objective of these country consultations was to stimulate an inclusive debate on a post-2015 development agenda by providing an analytical base, inputs and ideas that (a) build a shared global vision on 'The World We Want', with clear recommendations for governments, civil society and broad stakeholders; (b) amplify the voices of the poor and other marginalized groups in formal negotiation processes; and (c) influence the intergovernmental processes so that they align with the aspirations of civil society for a post-2015 agenda. To do this, a range of consultation formats were explored and adapted to ensure inclusive, open and transparent processes with multiple stakeholder participation. The UNCTs designed and supported innovative consultation activities and outreach, to provide opportunities for effective participation and meaningful contribution from diverse groups. This technical and operational assistance helped countries develop their post-2015 consultations methodology for identifying communities, sections or groups that were considered excluded

or underrepresented in formal policy formulation debates, providing an anchor for deeper and broader participatory processes led by various development partners, including national governments, civil society, the private sector, academia and other stakeholders.

The methodologies for consultation ranged from town-hall-type meetings, to workshops, to focus group discussions, to open meetings with school and university students, to offline and online surveys, to virtual consultations including e-discussions or country websites. These were further supplemented by a range of outreach measures via partner organizations, civil society, NGOs, the Millennium Campaign and others, who worked to raise awareness and engagement on the post-2015 agenda. Many of the country consultations concluded with a national validation meeting to summarize the emerging themes and country priorities as inputs into the post-2015 agenda dialogue.

The various stakeholder groups and sections were identified, accessed or approached in different ways, and on the basis of different criteria. Sometimes the marginalized groups were identified on the basis of their particular characteristics that led to their exclusion (e.g. young people; women; elderly people; children — particularly street children — schoolchildren; school dropouts; people with disabilities; people living with HIV/AIDS; sex workers; lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people (LGBT); drug users; health groups; indigenous people etc.). Sometimes the groups were approached for their functional role or as representing specific occupational groups (e.g. the private sector; chambers of commerce; trades unions; workers' associations; farmers' associations; youth associations/societies; student unions; guilds and federations; cooperatives and non-profit organizations etc.). In other contexts, existing think tanks, issues-based networks (e.g. around disability, women's rights etc.) and research institutions (e.g. social work training-research

institutes) helped bring in particular constituencies and focus groups. And in yet other contexts, existing administrative classifications were used to access excluded sections (e.g. beneficiaries of anti-poverty programmes or Conditional Cash Transfers; refugees; poor people in urban areas; slum-dwellers; homeless people; informal-sector workers; internal migrants; overseas migrants; farmers; poor people in rural areas; landless agricultural workers etc.).

People welcomed the opportunity to contribute their views when they felt that they would be heard by decision-makers — and their engagement shows that they care about development issues. The feedback demonstrates that they are concerned about societal problems that go beyond their immediate and personal priorities — they care about the future they will leave behind for their children, about the environment and nature, about the well-being of those less fortunate than them, and about the economic and cultural progress of their countries in the globalized world. And while none of this is a surprise, it is important to see that these development issues are not only matters of importance to policy makers and technocrats. Indeed, these are issues that members of the general public are seized by, and have important lived experiences and insights to offer. Whether one considers the responses from young, elderly or disabled people, or ethnic minorities in geographically secluded provinces, this exercise is undoubtedly a first in terms of global efforts to reach groups that do not usually participate in policy design or global debates. And insofar as such global processes go, these consultations have brought a level of popular engagement and awareness around a complex myriad of interconnected issues that otherwise remain in silos of technical policy discussions. It has also served in raising awareness and discussions of responsibility and accountability for broader development goals and societal aspirations, which address the national policy agendas and sometimes go beyond them.

1 Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Iran, Mongolia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam.

2 This includes direct participants (27,902) at consultation events, as well as via virtual consultations through country websites, Facebook, Twitter (64,807) and through the MY World survey — online, offline and by SMS — (250,822).

Latin America and the Caribbean

National consultations were organized in 16 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). All are middle-income countries (MICS) according to the OECD DAC's list of official development assistance (ODA) recipients. Six of them belong to a category called Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which faces particular challenges when confronting the challenges of climate change, fragile environments, water scarcity and energy dependency. Although this is a heterogeneous group in terms of income, balance and structure of foreign trade, and size and location of population, these countries (**Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Peru, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay**) are representative of the main regional assets to contribute to the shaping of the next development framework.

The LAC national consultations supported many kinds of activities, reaching out to a very diverse and extensive range of participants and stakeholders. At least 20,600 people from all backgrounds have participated in and contributed to the ongoing discussions, mostly through participatory exercises, focus groups and written surveys (some of them online).

Particular attention has been paid to groups that are traditionally excluded from agenda-setting and planning processes, such as children, young people, LGBT, and grassroots indigenous leaders. In **El Salvador**, the activities have included the voices of gang members (*maras* in Spanish). In **Ecuador** they included the military, and in **Colombia** internally displaced persons (there are between 4.9 million and 5.5 million of them in the country). **Brazil's** UNCT

received more than 5000 surveys in a multiple choice format which included the 16 priorities of MY World plus four open questions on the way forward: 'What needs to change?', 'Why are these changes important?', 'How can they be implemented?', and 'Who can help in this process?'. Prison inmates completed 1448 surveys. The Brazilian consultation included unions and homeless people, among others.

Just as important as the prospective answers concerning the world after 2015 were the preparatory discussions to frame the questions. In **Guatemala**, opinion leaders were convened to a specific multi-stakeholder meeting to discuss the main challenges facing the country. In **Peru**, a survey was conducted among decision makers as a first step in the consultation process, helping to get a first impression of the perceptions around the MDGs and other post-2015 items. More than 100 Peruvian leaders, primarily from the public sector, responded to the questionnaire. In **Mexico**, a consultation with journalists gave birth to a declaration from the media requesting specific training to cover news related to the new development agenda. In general, consultations have been an excellent opportunity to crystalize the vision and gather proposals from these groups as well as from leaders and experts from government, civil society organizations and the private sector.

In all cases, UNCTs partnered with national governments and oversaw the whole process through joint steering committees. In **Colombia**, a well-known network of NGOs, the Confederación Colombiana de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales (CCONG), joined the UNCT and the Colombian government in leading the consultation. In **Uruguay**, a strategic alliance was cemented with the national institute for the youth (Instituto Nacional de la Juventud, INJU). In **Peru, Guatemala and Honduras**, alliances were made with subnational governments,

recognizing their importance in the implementation of the next agenda.

Some national consultations informed broader national plan processes. In **Bolivia**, UNCT systematized the consultation's findings according to the 13 pillars of the Agenda Patriótica del bicentenario Bolivia 2025. In **El Salvador**, the UNCT plans to present the consultation results to all the candidates who will run in the presidential election scheduled to begin next year.

Subregional mechanisms were also identified as important. In Central America, the post-2015 consultation in **El Salvador** was shared with the Central American Integration System (**SICA**) at a High Level Forum — involving secretariats and member states' representatives — on Aid Efficiency and Regional Cooperation Trends. The post-2015 general discussion was presented at a seminar on youth issues organized for the benefit of the member countries of the **Mercosur**.

THE CONVERGENCE BETWEEN THE SIDS AND POST-2015 PROCESSES

In the Caribbean, national consultations ensured that the agenda of SIDS was appropriately incorporated into the post-2015 discussion as the countries prepare for the SIDS 2014 global conference. Six out of the 16 post-2015 national consultations conducted in the LAC region took place in countries with SIDS features (**Grenada, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba and Dominican Republic**).

In **Jamaica**, the consultation was carried out in partnership with the Organizing Committee and facilitators of the National Consultation on SIDS. Discussions in **St. Lucia** and **Grenada** included exchanges between the ministries of finance, planning and foreign affairs. Of particular interest, the latter ministries have started to become involved in the definition of country papers for the 2014 global SIDS conference.

Eastern Europe and Central Asia

National consultations on the new development agenda in Eastern Europe and Central Asia are taking place in 15 countries reaching 150 000 people in the region through round-tables and town hall meetings, as well as via the MY World survey. Each country has a national consultation report, validated at country level, available in print and online at www.worldwewant.org. All countries used methods of outreach to engage people beyond the usual development policy processes, with special effort to convene discussions in rural and deprived areas. Stakeholders included youth and women, children, people with disabilities, people living with HIV, internally displaced persons, academics, international development partners, think tanks, the private sector, journalists, and non-governmental organizations among others. Below are brief highlights of each country's consultation process:

Albania: Over 2 000 people participated in 18 districts across the country through university flash polls, and the MY World survey. More than 60% were women, 62% were people from urban and 38% from rural areas.

Armenia: Over 3 000 people were consulted and over 2 000 ideas and recommendations on the future development agenda were shared through town hall meetings, Facebook polls and sessions with children and young people.

Azerbaijan: More than 2 700 people shared their voices during the consultations and through the MY World survey.

Belarus: Over 7 000 Belarusians — children, youth, elderly people,

minorities and vulnerable groups — communicated their priorities in a reflective and inclusive process.

Georgia: Consultations in Georgia are beginning now and will extend throughout September. Young people in Georgia are taking an active role in organizing thematic meetings and in engaging through social media. Georgia's full results are not included in this report as they are not yet available and validated.

Kazakhstan: More than 2 000 people engaged in various discussions from October 2012 to March 2013, in the cities of Astana, Aktau, Almaty and Kyzylorda. The post-2015 national consultation in Kazakhstan benefited from the guidance of a high-level steering committee co-chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister.

Kyrgyzstan: 1 685 people engaged in the Kyrgyzstan national consultation mainly through discussions focused on 11 themes, mirroring those discussed through the global thematic consultations.

Kosovo³: 7 000 people engaged in Kosovo's post-2015 debate, 52 percent of whom were women and 48% were men, through focus groups, university debates, vox pops interviews and through online discussions.

Moldova: 7 000 people participated in Moldova's post-2015 consultation through meetings organized in the most deprived parts of the country, a nationally representative survey and on-line surveys.

Montenegro: 8 023 people in Montenegro, or 1.3 percent of the total population, actively participated in the

national post-2015 consultations in the period December 2012 to March 2013.

Tajikistan: The national consultation in Tajikistan reached 1 050 people through thematic dialogues reflecting the global thematic discussions, as well as round-table discussions and circulation of questionnaires for selected groups (parliament, government and private sector). This process built on ongoing discussions on specific topics (food security and nutrition, using the Food Security Classification consultations conducted by WFP) and consultations to review the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD).

Turkey: The consultation process engaged 9 839 people in Turkey, through nine thematic dialogues, regional discussions, online surveys and an Instagram photo competition.

Serbia: Approximately 28 000 people participated in the consultations in Serbia through focused discussions, surveys and social media.

Turkmenistan: 1 818 people participated in the Turkmen national consultation representing all regions. The process was guided by a high-level UN–Turkmenistan Joint Task Group chaired by the Deputy Foreign Minister.

Ukraine: Over 35 000 people participated in the process of shaping the future development agenda, including 4 568 through round-table discussions, interviews and surveys, 20 000 people in the UN crowdsourcing project expressing their views on what should be changed to make their lives better, and over 10,000 people through voting via the MY World online survey.

3 Under Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999)

ANNEX 2: PROCESS DESCRIPTION OF THEMATIC CONSULTATIONS

The 11 themes for global consultations on the post-2015 development agenda were selected by the UN Development Group (UNDG), with the objective of covering the different areas of development challenges on the ground. These are Conflict and Fragility; Education; Energy; Environmental Sustainability; Food Security; Governance; Growth and Employment; Health; Addressing Inequalities; Population Dynamics; and Water. This does not mean that the UN system is necessarily expecting the definition of specific goals on each of these issues, but all of them contribute to the context in which human progress will be possible. The thematic consultations are jointly led by specialized UN agencies according to their respective mandates, with the support of other contributing agencies. They are co-hosted by one or several countries, with relative balance among different continents. Face-to-face leadership and engagement meetings for the thematic consultations are happening in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America.

The thematic consultations included a web consultation phase, with a call for contributions and papers, in some cases preparatory meetings with relevant stakeholders or sub-themes, depending on the themes, and a global high-level meeting which summarized and endorsed the consensus achieved. Below is a description of how each thematic consultation is designed.

ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES

The global thematic consultation on Addressing Inequalities in the post-2015 development agenda was held under the auspices of the UNDG from September 2012 to January 2013. The consultation process was jointly led and facilitated

by UNICEF and UN Women and was supported by the governments of Denmark and Ghana. The members of the Advisory Group for the consultation, drawn from civil society organizations, UN agencies and academic institutions, provided ongoing guidance and extensive contributions.

The consultation aimed at providing an open and inclusive process that would include a diverse range of voices and perspectives. It was informed by a total of 175 written submissions (as of the end of January 2013). These papers cover a wide range of issues related to inequalities and provide much valuable evidence and analysis. The consultation also benefited greatly from a series of 10 moderated e-discussions on key themes that emerged from the written submissions. These e-discussions, each held over three to four weeks, attracted large numbers of written inputs and comments from members of the public and organizations worldwide, as follows:

- gender equality (372 inputs and comments);
- gender-based violence (138);
- lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people (101);
- persons with disabilities (111);
- economic inequalities (84);
- indigenous peoples (109);
- young people (241);
- urban inequalities (101); and
- minorities (118).

The summaries and conclusions of the individual e-discussions are included as annexes to the thematic consultation's final report. There was also an expert discussion held on the measurement and

assessment of inequalities. Some 1375 responses were received in total.

The thematic consultation and related e-space will be transformed into a Network/Alliance on Addressing Inequalities. Information and think pieces will continue to be posted to the www.worldwewant2015.org website that will also host occasional follow-up discussions that serve to deepen the discussion on issues that were discussed during the previous consultation phase or to touch on issues not previously discussed. The purpose of the Network/Alliance will be to ensure that the issue of addressing inequalities remains central to the debate, especially as it moves to the intergovernmental negotiations phase.

CONFLICT, VIOLENCE AND DISASTER

The thematic consultation on Conflict, Violence and Disaster was co-facilitated by UNDP, PBSO and ISDR. To ensure that the consultative process is truly owned by people from around the world, the co-leads invested in organizing face-to-face global dialogues as the primary mode of engagement. Seven dialogues were organized and stand-alone reports from each of the sessions are available on the global website. While the face-to-face consultations were global, they were strategically organized in regions with many lessons to offer from their own experiences in combating conflict, violence, insecurity, and disasters. The consultations were as follows:

- A consultation on 'Conflict and Fragility and the Post-2015 Development Agenda' was held in Liberia on 28-30 November 2012. The consultation focused on political conflicts and instability. Over 75

individuals from 22 countries – drawn from governments, civil society, the private sector, media, faith-based organizations, and think-tanks – participated in the consultation.

- A consultation on ‘Violence and People’s Security and the Post-2015 Development Agenda’ took place in Panama on 31 January to 1 February 2013. The Governments of Panama and Finland co-hosted the consultation, which focused on organized and interpersonal violence and people’s security. The consultation brought together 160 participants from 33 countries.
- The co-leads organized two global consultations focusing on disaster risk reduction. The first consultation took place on 22-25 October 2012, at the margins of the Fifth Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction where over 2 000 participants from 72 countries attended. Over 100 participants in stakeholder groups considered the role of disasters in a post-2015 development agenda. The second consultation was held on 19-20 February 2013 in Jakarta, with 150 participants. Both consultations were under the patronage of the President of Indonesia, His Excellency Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, the United Nations’ first Global Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction and co-chair of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons for the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- A High-Level Consultation was hosted by the Government of Finland in Helsinki, Finland on 13 March 2013. 120 world leaders from civil society organizations, governments, inter-governmental organizations, the private sector, UN agencies and international organizations participated. The Helsinki meeting discussed the Synthesis Report from the global sub-thematic consultations held in Indonesia, Liberia and Panama.

- And finally, on 18-19 June, as a follow-up to these consultations, over 60 experts on measuring development outcomes including statisticians, political analysts, and monitoring and evaluation specialists met in New York to address the question of how conflict, violence, governance, and disaster outcomes can effectively be measured in the context of development.

Activities have also included online dialogues – one on ‘Including disaster risk reduction and resilience in post-2015 development goals – what are the options?’, moderated jointly by UNDP and UNISDR, and the other on ‘Gender-based violence in the post-2015 development framework’, moderated jointly by UNDP, UNICEF and UN Women – as well as over 60 evidence-based research papers, think pieces and civil society position papers.

The co-leads also monitored a number of consultations hosted by governments and other interested groups outside the undg project. They include the Dili International Conference on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding; the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding; the 5th Asian Ministerial conference on Disaster Risk Reduction; the meeting of the Expert Group on Responsible Business and Investment in Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas; and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) initiative.

EDUCATION

The thematic consultation on Education was co-facilitated by UNESCO and UNICEF. Regional meetings of Member States governments and other stakeholders on Education for All (EFA) and education in the future development agenda were held for the Arab region (Sharm el-Sheikh) and the Africa region (Johannesburg) in October 2012, for the Latin American and Caribbean region (Mexico) in January 2013, and for the Asia and Pacific region (Bangkok) in February 2013. Also in 2012, a meeting of education NGOs was held in

Paris, and a side event on the post-2015 agenda was held at the Global EFA Meeting with representatives of governments and other stakeholders from all regions. Two Asia and Pacific regional high-level expert meetings on education beyond 2015 were held in Bangkok in May and November 2012. This involved, all in all, 430 participants, including 210 government representatives from 91 countries and representatives from 90 international, regional and national NGOs. A Member States briefing in New York, involving over 40 governments, was held in March 2013 and facilitated by Senegal and Canada.

The online Education global thematic consultation web space on the World We Want platform was launched in December 2012. Up until today the platform, including four e-discussions and other public online commenting and consultations with civil society, youth and academia has registered more than 700 contributions and has garnered the participation of over 21,000 people from over 100 countries and territories, both from the global South and North.

Other organizations have also hosted a number of Education consultations, including a consultation with representatives from the private sector and from donor agencies, facilitated by the Brookings Institution in March 2013 in Washington, DC.

The outputs from all these events informed a global meeting held in Dakar on 18–19 March 2013 involving over 100 participants, including representatives of Member States, multi- and bilateral development partners, youth groups, teacher unions, the private sector, civil society and UN agencies.

ENERGY

The main activities for the global thematic consultation on energy took place from January to April 2013. During this time, the World We Want web-based platform was active with a series of energy-related discussions, while face-to-face events were simultaneously coordinated around

the world. These activities were accomplished with the active support of the Governments of Mexico, Norway, and Tanzania and co-led by the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA), the World Bank and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). Together these entities formed a Steering Committee that guided the entire energy consultation, with coordination from UN-Energy and the Secretary-General's Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

Web-based energy consultation (approximate outreach: 3850 participants): The online component of the energy consultation consisted of three sub-topic discussions, each respectively summarized, as follows: Discussion 1: Why energy matters/main challenges & opportunities (16 Jan to 8 Feb 2013); Special Session on the Energy Nexus and Potential Solutions (11 Feb to 8 March 2013); Discussion 2: Integration of energy into the post-2015 framework (11 to 29 March 2013). A small team of expert moderators, a facilitator, and several guest commentators supported the discussions.

Some 150 comments were posted to the platform, many of which included inputs from larger outreach efforts. The diverse array of voices were heard, including: a small entrepreneur of solar technology in South Africa, an agriculturalist in Viet Nam, a global think tank based in Washington, DC, and a network of women working to secure inclusive access, to name but a few. While not a conclusive representation of global views on the role of energy in a post-2015 world, the online consultation offers a snapshot of ideas about energy and its centrality to development, as captured in the Online Energy Consultation Summary Compilation. The energy consultation platform also became a repository of resources and reports on energy, as well as a hub for webcasts and other information on the regional face-to-face meetings.

In-person regional events (estimated outreach: 1 000 to 1 200 participants): In addition to the web-based component,

the following events supported the broader global consultation on energy:

- New Delhi, India (1 Feb 2013): Approximate 100 participants from the Asia region convened at the Delhi Sustainable Development Summit to discuss the importance of energy and the post-2015 agenda.
- Merida, Mexico (20-21 March 2013): Over 150 participants from Mexico, Central & Latin America and the Caribbean met over two days in the Yucatan state of Mexico.
- Oslo, Norway (12 March 2013): Civil society led a consultation for Norwegian society attended by approximately 100 participants.
- Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (19 March): The Government of Tanzania co-hosted and chaired the African Regional post-2015 Energy Consultation attended by approximately 150 participants from across the region.
- Saudi Arabia (March 2013): The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia facilitated an online consultation with citizens and organizations from the Arab region throughout March 2013.
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia (16-18 March 2013): An interactive panel was organized during the workshop 'Towards Universal Energy Access: An Asian Perspective' by the UN Foundation, bringing together approximately 120 practitioners from South Asian countries.
- UN-Energy conducted two rounds of consultations on energy in February and March 2013 with its member organizations.

A [summary of the inputs](#) collected at each of these events is available on the World We Want platform.

Finally, a high-level dialogue on Energy in the Post-2015 Development Agenda took place in Oslo, Norway on 9 April 2013. Hosted by the Government of

Norway, in close collaboration with the Governments of Mexico and Tanzania, the dialogue was a culmination of the four preceding months of global consultations. Outputs from the meeting are captured in the [Summary of Key Messages from Oslo](#) (available on the World We Want platform). Additional coverage of the Oslo energy meeting is available via the webcast, as well as through the [IISD Reporting Services coverage](#) of the energy consultation.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Environmental Sustainability thematic consultation was co-hosted by the Governments of France and Costa Rica, co-led by the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme and supported by a Steering Group composed of UN agencies, World Bank and the Climate Action Network, representing the Beyond 2015 Coalition.

From November 2012 to May 2013 this consultation brought together a multitude of voices from around the world to discuss environmental sustainability in the post-2015 agenda. During the period the online discussion platform saw: 1 100 comments/submissions, 11 moderated discussions, 5 000 members and 50 000 page views from 173 countries.

The environmental sustainability thematic consultation has had two phases – an initial exploratory phase in which many topics were prioritized by stakeholders for the dialogue through a call for Discussion Notes, and a second phase that unpacked those topics through a series of e-discussions. The result is a dialogue focused on interlinkages of environmental sustainability, and the combined economic and social considerations facing the global community.

A key milestone of the consultation was the Leadership Meeting held in San José, Costa Rica, from 18-19 March 2013. Eighty-eight representatives from intergovernmental organizations, private sector, and civil society, as well

as government and UN representatives reviewed the results of the first phase to:

- build consensus on the key issues that should frame environmental sustainability in the post-2015 agenda, considering key interlinkages, drivers and enablers;
- identify areas where further dialogue, outreach and innovative thinking is needed to build consensus and evolve the discussion for the second phase of the Consultation; and
- develop a cohort of leading and emerging thinkers from around the world to continue to dialogue and raise visibility and awareness around environmental sustainability issues key to progress on the future we want.

Based on the outcomes of the first phase and the Leadership Meeting, the second phase included six e-discussions centred on linkages between environmental sustainability and key issues such as poverty reduction, human rights, peace and security, and equality. Several participants from the Leadership Meeting volunteered as guest moderators for these discussions.

Initial results from the consultation were presented at a briefing in New York on 19 April 2013 to member states and civil society. The final results were then compiled into the final report which underwent a public consultation period in July 2013.

GOVERNANCE

UNDP and OHCHR, with support from the Federal Republic of Germany, co-facilitated the global thematic consultation on governance and the post-2015 development agenda. The consultation process was designed to combine expert contributions and perspectives from grassroots stakeholders and constituencies that may not ordinarily have access to intergovernmental processes. In addition to self-selection among stakeholder groups, participation was facilitated and supported through an open call for expressions of interest. The consultation

generated meaningful participation from a wide range of stakeholders across regions and constituencies, including from government, grassroots to international civil society, national human rights institutions, youth groups, parliamentarians and representatives of the media and the private sector. The consultation process was further bolstered by the participation of a reference group of representatives from civil society and several UN agencies who made substantive contributions throughout. The consultation involved a series of regional dialogues and a technical expert meeting:

- African Regional Dialogue (hosted by the Pan-African Parliament), Johannesburg, 11–12 October 2012
- Asia Pacific Sub-regional Parliamentarian and Civil Society Fora: Manila, 20–21 November, and Dhaka, 10–11 December 2012 – resulted in the [Manila Declaration](#) and the [Dhaka Declaration](#)
- Post-2015 Workshop at the Arab Governance Week, Cairo, 26–29 November 2012
- Post-2015 Workshop at 15th Annual Anti-Corruption Conference, Brasilia, 7–10 November 2012
- Technical expert meeting on ‘Measuring Governance and Human Rights Commitments in a post-2015 Agenda’ (New York, 13–14 November 2012). The participants at this meeting included representatives from national statistics offices.

In an effort to further reach out to a wide range of stakeholders, the consultation launched an e-discussion which elicited active participation and over 200 contributions from over 20 governments, 100 civil society organizations and 10 private-sector organizations in two phases between December 2012 and January 2013:

- Phase 1: What should be the governance building blocks for a post-2015 agenda?

- Phase 2: How can we ensure an accountability framework that takes into account human rights principles and obligations to assure effective delivery on the post-2015 development agenda?

These efforts culminated in the final global multi-stakeholder meeting on governance and the post-2015 agenda hosted by the Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa on 28 February and 1 March 2013, which brought together a range of stakeholders from grassroots activists to global policy leaders.

GROWTH AND EMPLOYMENT

The thematic consultation on Growth and Employment was co-led by ILO and UNDP and hosted by the Government of Japan. UNDP and the ILO have convened an Advisory Group on Growth and Employment in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, comprising representatives from FAO, UNCDF, UNCTAD, UNDESA, UNIDO, UN WOMEN, MDG Fund, ActionAid, International Chambers of Commerce (ICC), International Organization of Employers (IOE) and the International Trade Unions Confederation (ITUC). The consultations were organized through three meetings, four e-discussions and various discussions and interactions through the World We Want 2015 website.

The first meeting on Growth and Employment was organized in May 2012. The meeting was attended by academia, civil society organizations, trade union and business representatives, and government representatives. The second meeting took place in December 2012, as a briefing to the Permanent Missions to the United Nations and broadcast via the Internet and social media. Between January and March 2013, four e-discussions were organized through the online platform www.worldwewant2015.org/ employment, guided by the Advisory Group and moderated by experts from UN agencies and academia. The themes

of these four e-discussions were: jobs and livelihoods (moderated by ILO, 83 comments); growth, diversification and structural change (moderated by UNDP, UNDESA, UNCDF, 31 comments); development-led globalization (moderated by UNCTAD, 46 comments); sustainability and growth (moderated by UNDP and UNDESA, 99 comments). The third meeting took place in June 2013 to present the key outcomes of the consultations and seek feedback. A fourth meeting of experts is planned during 2013 to elaborate proposals on indicators.

In addition to these consultations, the report on Growth and Employment incorporated the messages of post-2015 national consultations facilitated by the UN, as well as debates and discussions through academic papers, official speeches, blogs and media articles, encompassing the perspectives of a wide range of stakeholders.

HEALTH

The thematic consultation on Health was supported by the governments of Botswana and Sweden, and co-facilitated by UNICEF and WHO. A number of mechanisms and processes were set up to facilitate an effective, participatory consultation.

Five guiding questions were used throughout the consultation:

- What lessons have been learned from the health-related MDGs?
- What is the priority health agenda for the 15 years after 2015?
- How does health fit into the post-2015 development agenda?
- What are the best indicators and targets for health?
- How can it be ensured that the process and outcome are relevant to the key stakeholders?

The consultation website on the World We Want 2015 platform registered over 150 000 views from all regions. Over 100

papers were submitted by a wide range of organizations and authors, and 14 face-to-face meetings attracted over 1 600 people in places as far apart as La Paz, Dar es Salaam, Abuja, Amsterdam, New York, Beijing, and Bangkok. The papers and meeting reports are available on the consultation website. An e-consultation on HIV and health with three moderated debates was held over 10 days in late January 2013. During the 132nd session of the WHO Executive Board, a presentation about the consultation was given, including preliminary results. The discussions converged on the issues that the report raises.

Following a three-week public review of the first draft of the report, a high-level meeting was convened in Gaborone, Botswana in early March 2013 to discuss a revised draft. The meeting was hosted by the Government of Botswana; the 50 participants included ministers of health, members of the UN Secretary General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons, leaders of international health organizations, representatives from civil society, youth and the private sector, academics and public health experts.

The report was submitted to the High-level Panel and the UN Secretary-General and published on the website on 19 April 2013, marking the end point of this stage of the global thematic consultation on Health.

HUNGER, FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

FAO and WFP jointly led the global thematic consultation on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition, together with IFAD and Bioversity International, with the support of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition and a wide range of partners including civil society, the private sector, UNDP, UNIDO, UNDESA, UNICEF, WHO, the Standing Committee on Nutrition (SCN), and the World Bank. The Governments of Spain and Colombia provided active and much appreciated sponsorship throughout the consultations.

The overall consultation included three phases, each one building on the previous discussions held:

(i) **The online discussion**, hosted and facilitated by the Global Forum on Food Security and Nutrition (FSN Forum), ran from November 2012 to January 2013, focusing on lessons learned, challenges and opportunities stemming from MDGs, and inputs on elements to be enclosed in a Post-2015 Development Agenda. This elicited over 270 contributions from a diverse set of respondents including views from governments, NGOs and CSOs, academia, professional bodies and interest groups, the private sector and individuals. The geographical scope was wide, drawing from all countries in most regions, north and south, developed and developing. The elements were summarized in an [issues paper](#), which was discussed in the following phase of the consultation.

(ii) **The informal consultation with stakeholders of the Committee on World Food Security (CFS)** convened by FAO and WFP on 11 February 2013, with the aim to facilitate exchange and dialogue and to identify priorities and key recommendations on elements for a post-2015 development framework on Hunger, Food Security and Nutrition. The 11 February meeting brought together some 180 participants, including governments, international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations and networks, the private sector, research institutions and UN agencies. The multi-stakeholders discussion helped in identifying building blocks and a vision on food security and nutrition. Major outcomes of the discussion, as well as key elements of the working groups formed during the meeting are available in the [Co-chairs summary](#) of the meeting.

(iii) **The high-level consultation on**

Food Security and Nutrition, hosted by the Governments of Spain and Colombia, was held in Madrid on 4 April. It convened around 40 high level personalities representing governments, UN agencies, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, including consumers and development NGOs, producers organizations, indigenous peoples' networks, the private sector, and financial Institutions. The high-level dialogue was facilitated by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Food Security and Nutrition on the basis of the elements included in the [brief for the Madrid consultation](#). The high-level consultation discussed a vision and building blocks for Food Security and Nutrition in the Post 2015 Agenda. The results of the high-level dialogue are included in the [Chairs and co-leads report](#) (referred to as "the Madrid outcome document") and were shared with the UN Secretary-General, who delivered a speech at the end of the Madrid meeting.

The participants at the Madrid high-level consultation further disseminated the document to their constituencies, and shared it with partners. The document has been referenced by different stakeholders in several meetings, and its outcomes were partially included in the report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Experts.

[POPULATION DYNAMICS](#)

The global thematic consultation on Population Dynamics sought to provide an authoritative position on how population dynamics affect development challenges, and a broad-based consensus on how population dynamics

are best addressed in the post-2015 development agenda. The consultation, which benefited from generous financial support from the Government of Switzerland and the Hewlett Foundation, was led jointly by the governments of Switzerland and Bangladesh. On behalf of the international agencies, the consultation was led by UNFPA, UN DESA, UN Habitat and IOM in close collaboration with UNDP, UNAIDS, UN-Women, OHCHR, ILO, FAO and WFP.

The consultation involved an e-consultation component – including focused discussions on high fertility and population growth, low fertility and population ageing, internal and international migration, and urbanization – as well as a series of face-to-face consultations with leading academics (19–20 November 2012, New York), the private sector (23 January 2013, New York) and civil society (18–19 February 2013, Geneva). Discussions with Member States were held in New York (22 January 2013) and Geneva (22 February 2013). A global leadership meeting with Member States (11–12 March 2013, Dhaka) concluded this series of consultations.

[WATER](#)

The thematic consultation on Water, launched in November 2012, was supported by the governments of Jordan, Liberia, Mozambique, The Netherlands and Switzerland, and co-facilitated by UNICEF, UN-DESA and UN Water. The general global consultation reached out to people broadly interested in water and encouraged them to share their views. More specifically, three sub-consultations encouraged weekly in-depth discussions around the topical streams of: Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; Water Resources Management; and Wastewater

Management and Water Quality.

The consultation consisted of several complementary approaches. It expanded outward through live events, social media (with dedicated Twitter and Facebook accounts) and an interactive website to engage and amplify thousands of diverse voices. The World We Want 2015 online consultation space registered 57 735 unique users who generated 201 207 total page views, 1 306 website comments, and 2 109 poll responses. New perspectives from people in 185 Member States responded to weekly topics of widespread concern. High-level meetings absorbed views of government, business and civil society from The Hague to Monrovia, Liberia; Geneva, Switzerland; Tunis, Tunisia; Mumbai, India; and back. Face-to-face dialogues were bolstered and informed through web-based forums, interactive page views, comments, poll responses, live video feeds, e-discussions, surveys, reports and much more. Combined, the consultation proved to be an expansive international outreach process. Over the course of five months of active participation of stakeholders, it emerged that linkages exist between several of the consultation themes; but water underpins each and every one.

The Water thematic consultation reached a peak on 21–22 March 2013 at a high-level meeting that was held in The Hague in conjunction with the celebrations of World Water Day. There, the High-Level Forum adopted a statement which set a new course for concerted action and global direction, capturing water's importance to the post-2015 development framework.

The synthesis report of the consultation's findings was available for public comment before finalization.

ANNEX 3: THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT GROUP

DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OHRLLS	Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing Countries
OSAA	Office of USG - Special Advisor on Africa
Regional Commissions	(ECA, ECE, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA – rotating annually)
SRS/CAC	Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDPi	United Nations Department of Public Information
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
UNWTO	United Nations World Tourism Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

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