



Position on Post-2015 Global Development Agenda

The New York based Subcommittee for Poverty Eradication

September 2012

Introduction The New York based Subcommittee for Poverty Eradication is a subsidiary body of the NGO Committee for Social Development, - <http://www.ngoscodev.net> - a substantive committee of Conference on NGOs (CoNGO), at the UN Headquarters, New York. It is comprised of a number of NGOs, representing constituencies spread across the world. The Subcommittee engages in advocacy work related to poverty eradication in various UN forums. The subcommittee has adopted the following position and recommends its inclusion in the formulation of the Post 2015 Global Development Agenda.

Principles and Values underpinning any New Development Framework

- Holistic in approach incorporating the social, economic, environmental and cultural dimension of well being
- People-centered
- Human rights based
- Democratic, participative and inclusive
- Ethical, universal, equitable and sustainable
- Addresses systemically and structurally the root causes of poverty
- Builds peace and security
- Ensures gender equality
- Operates within planetary boundaries
- Promotes good governance based on rule of law including compliance with international laws¹

We the members of the subcommittee urge that particular attention be paid to the following:

The Social Pillar

Poverty Eradication

Poverty Eradication and Inequality The root causes of poverty and the growing inequalities among nations and within nations both in terms of wealth and income must be addressed. Commitment to the common good and the ethical practices that honor, protect and realize the principle of equitable distribution of the earth's resources is imperative if we are to have a common sustainable future. Focus on the most marginalized people in society, e.g., women and girls, the aged, person with disabilities, indigenous peoples and youth. The Guiding

¹ Realizing the Future We Want –para 93

Principles on extreme poverty and human rights² are a guide in how to fulfill existing obligations in design, implementation and evaluation of public policies to overcome poverty. http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Poverty/A-HRC-21-39_en.pdf

Implementation of the Social Protection Floor All States are strongly urged to ensure a human rights approach to social protection implementing ILO Recommendation 202 that urges all States to establish as quickly as possible a social protection floor.

Rural Development and Sustainable Agriculture Rural development and sustainable agriculture with special consideration of the smallholder farmer is essential for food security. Food sovereignty must be incorporated into the Post 2015 Development Policies. “Investments in agriculture are more effective in lifting people out of poverty than investments in any other sector—they not only drive economic growth and set the stage for long-term sustainable development, they pay high dividends in terms of quality of life and dignity for poor rural people.” said the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), *Kanayo F. Nwanze*.

Full Employment and Decent Work for All

Full Employment and Decent Work for All Essential to advancing sustainable human development is full employment and decent work for all. The ILO has already prepared a Decent Work Agenda whose various components could be used as part of the post 2015 agenda. The Global Jobs Pact also has important elements that contribute to the commitment to full employment and decent work.

Social Integration

Participatory Structures An enabling environment must be created at the neighbourhood, local, national and international level for people to become active agents in decision-making - planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating the development agenda. Model programmes, such as ‘People’s Planning Process and Sustainable Development, the Kerala Experiment³ and for children and youth www.childrenparliament.in result in participatory democracy where people continuously monitor the processes and have their effective say in an ongoing way ensuring the realization of global development goals.

Gender Equality The empowerment of women and girls and the protection of their rights must be at the center of the Post 2015 development agenda. Gender equality must be adequately addressed and maintained as a clear focus in relationship to its root causes and poverty eradication.

² Final Draft of the guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Poverty/A-HRC-21-39_en.pdf

³ **Development Dialogue** No Future without Justice- page 98

The Sustainable Pillar

Sustainable Development Goals The proposed Sustainable Development Goals for all countries need to be limited in number, time-bound, concise, action oriented, global in nature, easy to communicate and sensitive to the fact that ‘one size does not fit all’. There needs to be common goals with differentiated targets and indicators⁴ that address our planetary boundaries, the root causes of poverty, unsustainable development, and excessive consumption and production patterns. Incorporating the strengths of the Millennium Development Goals and learning from weaknesses will be a step towards ensuring success. All relevant stakeholders should be actively involved in realizing these goals. Sustainable Development Goals must be socially, economically and environmentally sound and gender sensitive.

Care of the Earth All development must be environmentally sustainable. Production and consumption must take into account how the common goods of the earth are used and protected. The *10-year framework for sustainable consumption and production patterns* adopted by Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development⁵ should be a guiding principle for a development framework.

Corporate Social Responsibility Implementation of the UN Framework for Business and Human Rights should be included in the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Governments need to develop mechanisms and regulations to ensure Corporate Social Responsibility and Accountability. <http://www.business-humanrights.org/SpecialRepPortal/Home>

The Economic Pillar

Global Financial and Economic Architecture A new global financial and economic governance system is urgently required to address:

- growing inequalities
- social infrastructure and employment creation
- environmental dimensions of sustainable development
- a commitment to realistic targets with accountability in aid for development
- an equitable and effective tax system
- a fair and just regulation of trade
- a sovereign debt work-out mechanism
- a need for regulation, responsibility, accountability and transparency

⁴ **Development Dialogue** No Future without justice- Pages 21, 63

⁵ The Future We Want -para 226

Aid for Development Effectiveness Traditional development assistance needs to shift from the current focus on “aid effectiveness” to a more purposeful “development effectiveness” and must be instrumental in redefining the global partnership for development in ways such that it would make it a forceful enabler for the implementation of the post-2015 agenda.⁶

Additional Resources for Developing Countries

- A Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) for development that is internationally coordinated and distributed under the auspices of the United Nations;
- A portion of the resources presently allocated to the Military reallocated specifically to peace and development;⁷
- Airline taxes, Billionaire’s tax and other innovative programs are recommended for individual countries.

Measuring and Monitoring

Measurement of Development Qualitative as well as quantitative measures of sustainable development must include social, cultural, environmental, economic and political aspect of wellbeing.

Monitoring and mutual accountability An accountability mechanism must be established supported by a Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on development modeled on the UPR mechanism of the Human Rights Council. This mechanism should cover all relevant issues linked to human rights, trade, macroeconomic policy, the environment, financing and political participation. The UPR remit should be extended to considering information provided by such stakeholders as civil society and the private sector, in addition to governments. Information on reports and Universal Periodic Review findings should be made widely available through channels that actively target all relevant stakeholders.⁸

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⁶ Realizing the Future We want- para 109

⁷ **Development Dialogue** No Future without justice- Pages 64,73

⁸ *ibid*- page 100