Beyond2015

Campaigning for a global development framework after the Millennium Development Goals

Press release – for immediate publication

12 new development goals proposed by the UN High Level Panel

(New York, 31 May 2013)

Beyond 2015, a global civil society campaign on the post-2015 development agenda which brings together more than 700 organizations in over 100 countries welcomes the UN High Level Panel's ambitious report on the post-2015 agenda.

Reacting to the launch of the report, **Neva Frecheville** of CAFOD in the **UK** and co-chair of Beyond 2015 said "Civil society has been clear on the need for a universal framework to replace the MDGs in 2015. The High Level Panel has reiterated this demand, and this will hopefully galvanise action in both developing and developed countries, helping tackle the underlying causes of global poverty, inequality and environmental degradation and thus shifting the current development paradigm. We applaud the Panel for its boldness in pushing developed countries to reform trade, tax and transparency policies, to tackle illicit capital flows, to regulate global financial and commodity markets, and to prompt large multinational corporations to report on the social, environmental, and economic impact of their activities. These actions, more than aid alone, will help bring about the transformation required in this world. For this vision to become reality there needs to be a major change in political will and in global cooperation, and that will be the real challenge."

It was the mandate of the High Level Panel to set a transformative agenda for global development. While they have managed to do this in some areas, such as 'leave no-one behind', in others they have missed the mark. For example, the report fails to adequately challenge the current growth narrative and status quo of the global financial system.

Mwangi Waituru of the Seed Institute in **Kenya** and co-chair of Beyond 2015 said "This report could pave the way for a transformative policy process at the global and national levels; it has introduced a new concept of 'five transformational shifts' that are people centred and planet sensitive. A new global partnership built on such spirit of reform, that embeds the values of a participatory process and reflects all people's perspectives in the policy process will certainly help achieve our vision of an equitable and sustainable world where every person is safe, resilient, lives well, and enjoys their human rights - a world where political and economic systems deliver well-being for all people within the limits of our planet's resources. We now need governments to work together to deliver on this ambitious vision."

Environment, sustainable consumption and growth?

Beyond 2015 welcomes the Panel's recognition that poverty eradication cannot be achieved without protecting the natural environment that supports human life. It is promising to see the Panel recommending hard-hitting measures in both developed and developing countries to reduce the impacts of consumption, production, trade, waste and pollution. However, positive messages on sustainable consumption and production seem to be at odds with the statements on economic growth. It is a myth to suggest that we can keep on growing without consequences, and without the rich having to address their lifestyles. The report also fails to address the redistribution of wealth and access to resources.

Poverty and inequality

Beyond 2015 particularly welcomes the focus on reducing inequalities, which are significantly holding back further progress in reducing poverty in all its forms. Requiring targets to be disaggregated by gender, disability, ethnicity, income and other groups is a major step forward in ensuring that all development actors focus on improving outcomes for the poorest and most marginalised people. However, Beyond 2015 would like to see governments go further and explore the need for targets to reduce income inequality, which is becoming extreme in many societies and undermining the social and economic potential of humanity. While the goal of eradicating poverty is laudable, we must also do more than scrape people above a $1.25 per day living standard. Alongside the welcome target on reducing those living below nationally-defined poverty lines, Beyond 2015 recommends that UN member states consider the need to monitor progress in reducing the numbers of people living on $2 or $4 a day as well.

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For further details, contact:
Neva Frecheville, Co-Chair of Beyond 2015
nfrecheville@cafod.org.uk
Direct line: +44 207 0955422
Mobile: +44 7920 234745

Mwangi Waituru
Co-Chair of Beyond 2015
mwangi@seedinstitute.com
+254723363241
Skype mwangi.waituru