

Eradicate Poverty via Transforming Economies through Sustainable Development and Post-2015 UN Global Development Goal

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Eradicate Poverty and Hunger is the Millennium Development Goals 1 (MDG 1). The 1.2 billion poorest people account for only 1 per cent of world consumption and in extreme poverty while the billion richest consume 72 per cent [1] 98% of all stillbirths and 99% of all deaths occurring within the first 28 days of life in low and middle-income countries have been estimated to account for a total of 16,104,000 DALYs lost in 2010 while neonatal disorders resulted in the loss of 201,959,000 DALYs [2]. The 13 years since the millennium have seen the fastest reduction in poverty in human history: there are half a billion fewer people living below an international poverty line of \$1.25 a day. Child death rates have fallen by more than 30%, with about three million children's lives saved each year compared to 2000. Deaths from malaria have fallen by one quarter. This unprecedented progress has been driven by a combination of economic growth, better policies, and the global commitment to the MDGs. As world leaders agreed at Rio in 2012, new goals and targets need to be grounded in respect for universal human rights, and finish the job that the MDGs started.

For the post-2015 UN Global Development Goals, one recommendation is that this goal be put on the agenda again, but in a more ambitious version; a *universal agenda*. It needs to be driven by five big but transformative shifts.

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Leave No One Behind

The next development agenda must ensure that in the future neither income nor gender, nor ethnicity, nor disability, nor geography, will determine whether people live or die, whether a mother can give birth safely, or whether her child has a fair chance in life. We must keep faith with the promise of the MDGs and now finish the job. The MDGs aspired to halve poverty. After 2015 we should aspire to put an end to hunger and extreme poverty as well as addressing poverty in all its other forms. This is a major new commitment to everyone on the planet, who feels marginalized or excluded, and to the neediest and most vulnerable people, to make sure their concerns are addressed and that they can enjoy their human rights. The cost of delivering services in remote areas may be only 15 to 20 per cent higher than average, to judge by practical experience in many countries. This seems reasonable and affordable, given higher tax revenues expected in most countries, and sustained aid to the lowest income countries. Above all it is the right thing to do.

Put Sustainable Development at the Core

For twenty years, the international community has aspired to integrate the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability, but no country has yet achieved patterns of consumption and production that could sustain global prosperity in the coming decades. A new agenda will need to set out the core elements of sustainable lifestyles that can work for all. In developing countries too, the benefits of investing in sustainable development are high, especially if they get access to new technologies. Small investments to allow cross-border trading in electricity could save sub-Saharan Africa \$2.7 billion every year, by substituting hydro for thermal power plants. Sustainable production is far cheaper than "Grow

now, clean later.”

Transform Economies for Jobs and Inclusive Growth

The first priority must be to create opportunities for good and decent jobs and secure livelihoods, so as to make growth inclusive and ensure that it reduces poverty and inequality. When people escape from poverty, it is most often by joining the middle class, but to do so they will need the education, training and skills to be successful in the job market and respond to demands by business for more workers. Billions more people could become middle-class by 2030, most of them in cities, and this would strengthen economic growth the world over.

Build Peace and Effective, Open and Accountable Institutions for All

Internationally, too, institutions are important channels of dialogue and cooperation. Working together, in and through domestic and international institutions, governments could bring about a swift reduction in corruption, money laundering, tax evasion and aggressive avoidance, hidden ownership of assets, and the illicit trade in drugs and arms.

Forge a New Global Partnership

A fifth, but perhaps most important, transformative shift for the post-2015 agenda is to bring a new sense of global partnership into national and international politics. This must provide a fresh vision and framework, based on our common humanity and the principles established at Rio included among those principles: universality, equity, sustainability, solidarity, human rights, the right to development and responsibilities shared in accordance with capabilities.

We would like to put a list of sub-goals:

- ☞ *End Poverty:* Global leaders have agreed that “poverty has various manifestations, including lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihoods, hunger and malnutrition, ill-health, limited or lack of access to education and other basic services, increased morbidity and mortality from illness, homelessness and inadequate housing, unsafe environments, and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterized by a lack of participation in decision-making and in civil, social, and cultural life [3].”

- ☞ *Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning:* children and adolescents must have access to education and learn from it [4]
- ☞ *Empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality:* The promotion of SRHRs is a vital step to achieve women’s equality [5].
- ☞ *Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning*
- ☞ *Ensure Healthy Lives*
- ☞ *Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition*
- ☞ *Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation*
- ☞ *Secure Sustainable Energy:* By 2025, 1.8 billion people will live in places classified as water scarce. People living in poverty are likely to be most at risk[6].
- ☞ *Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Equitable Growth*
- ☞ *Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably*
- ☞ *Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions*

Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies: When it does, progress against poverty becomes daunting. By 2015, more than 50 per cent of the total population in extreme poverty will reside in places affected by conflict and chronic violence. To end extreme poverty and empower families to pursue better lives requires peaceful and stable societies [7].

Create a Global Enabling Environment and Catalyze Long-Term Finance

A new Global Partnership is Envisioned: “We agreed on the need for a renewed Global Partnership that enables a transformative, people-centred and planet-sensitive development agenda which is realised through the equal partnership of all stakeholders. Such partnership should be based on the principles of equity, sustainability, solidarity, respect for humanity, and shared responsibilities in accordance with respective capabilities [8].”

We envision a world in 2030 where extreme poverty and hunger have been ended. We envision a world where no person has been left behind, and where there are schools, clinics, and clean water for all. It is a world where there are jobs for young people, where businesses thrive, and where we have brought patterns of consumption and production into balance where everyone has equal opportunity and a say over the government decision that affect their lives. We envision a world where the principles of equity,

sustainability, solidarity, respect for human rights and shared responsibilities in accordance with respective capabilities, has been brought to life by our common action. We envision a world in 2030 where a renewed global partnership, building on the solid foundations of the Millennium Declaration and the Rio principles and outcomes, has transformed the world through a universal, people-centred and planet-sensitive development agenda achieved with the shared commitment and accountability of all. We have a historic opportunity to do what no other generation has ever done before: to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030 and end poverty in many of its other forms. But we will not be able to do this if we neglect other imperatives of the sustainable development agenda today – the desire to build prosperity in all countries, the need to slow or reverse environmental degradation and man-made contributions to global warming, the urgent need to end conflict and violence while building effective and accountable institutions for all. Tackling these social, economic and environmental issues at the same time, while bringing to bear the energy and resources of everyone concerned with development – governments at all levels, international organisations, civil society, businesses, foundations, academics and people in all walks of life – is our singular challenge. We recognise that the world has changed significantly since the Millennium Declaration in 2000, and are aware how much it will change by 2030. There will be more people in the middle class, and more retired people. People will be more connected to each other, using modern communication technologies, but perhaps more uncertain about what the future may bring. We are convinced that the next 15 years can be some of the most transformative in human history and that the world possesses the tools and resources it needs to achieve a bold and ambitious vision. We envision a new global partnership as the basic framework for a single, universal post-2015 agenda that will deliver this vision for the sake of humanity. We have a choice to make: to muddle through as we have done, making progress on some fronts but suffering setbacks elsewhere. Or we can be bold and set our eyes on a higher target, where the end of many aspects of poverty is in sight in all countries and where we have transformed our economies and societies to blend social progress, equitable growth and environmental management. The illustrative goals and targets annexed to this report are offered as a basis for further discussion. We do not know all the answers to how to reach these objectives, but it is our fervent hope that by coming together we can inspire a

new generation to act in a common interest.

Reflections on Political Realism

Eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development has increasingly afforded an opportunity to develop a practical agenda to ensure the principle 'leaving no one behind' at Rio in 2012 which translates into real changes to deliver essential services to those in poverty. They called for a potential agenda which must recognise that both institutional capacity and politics will for more equitable delivery of these services. No blueprint was formed. The challenging part is as to how all the countries of the world with different resources will move concurrently to achieve the goal; *Donors' models?*

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