

Beyond2015

Beyond 2015 reviews statements delivered at the UN General Assembly High Level Segment

October 2014

The global Beyond 2015 campaign, consisting of almost 1200 civil society organisations from 135 countries, has mobilized to monitor statements made to the United Nations General Assembly (UN GA) by Member States.

The 69th General Debate, which took place from to 24-30 September 2014, included 117 Heads of State and Government, three Vice-Presidents, eight Deputy Prime Ministers, 56 Ministers and other representatives who spoke on behalf of 193 Member States and two Observer delegations.

Beyond 2015 focused particularly on key campaign priorities, including our red flag issues of equality, human rights, peace and security, the planet, participation, and accountability. Beyond 2015 directly monitored statements made by approximately 70 Member States, and additionally referred to the IISD summaries of statements to the General Assembly. This document summarises Member State references to:

- The content of the post-2105 SDGs
- The structure of the post-2015 agenda
- The process moving forward

1. Content of Post-2015 SDGs

1.1 Equality

We were pleased to see that the importance of addressing inequality was emphasized by Pakistan, Peru, Portugal, with Romania, Vietnam and China also mentioning the need for social inclusion, social equity and/or social justice, and Bangladesh and Fiji calling for no-one to be left behind. Chile was particularly strong on this issue, referring to inequality as ‘one of the greatest threats to development and international security’, calling for it to have a central place among the post-2015 development goals, and recommending tools for measuring specific progress in a universal agenda to combat inequality. Mexico noted that that poverty cannot be determined solely by insufficient income, and recommended that economic and social inclusion should be guiding principles of the post-2015 agenda. Japan highlighted that the attainment of inclusiveness, sustainability, and resilience as put forth in the post-2105 agenda relies on the protection and empowerment of the vulnerable, irrespective of race, gender, or age. Uruguay stated that all the efforts must be based on guaranteed rights and protection against inequality. Philippines called for a post-2015 development agenda anchored on respect and promotion of human rights, accountable governance, and inclusive development. Finland recommended a just tax and redistribution policy as one of the most efficient ways to reduce inequalities and fight marginalization.

Equality between countries was also mentioned in the statements of a number of Member States. Pakistan called for inclusive economic growth and reduction of inequalities within and among nations. Indonesia talked about ‘a new globalism - where we can devise solutions to national, regional and global issues all at the same time. A new globalism where no nation is left behind and no nation dominates. Where rights are protected and responsibilities met.’ Sri Lanka praised the goal to ‘Reduce inequality within and among countries’ as one of the most transformative goals that have been proposed by the Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, and expressed the hope that this goal will serve to enhance the voice and representation of developing countries in decision-making.

1.2 Human Rights

Beyond 2015 was pleased to see Member States affirming the importance of human rights to the post-2015 agenda, including Uruguay, Montenegro, Germany and Philippines. **Gender equality and/or women's empowerment** were mentioned as priorities for the post-2015 agenda by Estonia, Chile, Japan, Latvia, Croatia, Ghana, Czech Republic, Bangladesh, Mozambique, UAE, South Sudan, Sweden, Liechtenstein, Vanuatu, Iceland, Suriname, PNG, Mauritius, Maldives, Pakistan and Solomon Islands. Bangladesh called for women's empowerment and equality in all walks of life. Sweden noted that a fundamental step towards gender equality is to ensure women their **sexual and reproductive health and right** (SRHR), including **freedom from violence**.

1.3 Peace and security

Peace and security were highlighted by a number of States as enablers for sustainable development, including Costa Rica, Bulgaria, Latvia, Norway, Timor Leste, Slovakia, DRC, Morocco (focusing on stability), Brunei Darussalam (focusing on peaceful means to settle disputes), Pakistan (elimination of conflict and violence); Korea, Bangladesh, San Marino, Libya; Thailand (people-centered security), Portugal, Philippines, Lesotho, Vanuatu, Sierra Leone, and Barbados. Corruption, governance, human rights and rule of law were highlighted as enablers of sustainable development by Estonia, Croatia, Norway, Slovakia, Germany, Finland, Netherlands, Albania, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Liechtenstein, Philippines and Lesotho. Guatemala highlighted the importance of **access to justice** for all.

Morocco cautioned against interference in the internal affairs of states, which, in return, should commit to good governance.

1.4 Environmental sustainability

Environmental sustainability is a core value of Beyond 2015, and we welcomed the fact that a number of countries mentioned the importance of balancing social, environmental and economic aspects in the post-2015 agenda. Kenya highlighted the need for integrated approaches to address poverty, inequality, climate change, economic development, biodiversity loss and environmental protection. Spain referred to ‘a sustainable development model respectful of the environment, mindful of international norms and inspired on high ethical economic values.’ Switzerland noted that it is within our power to make certain that the creation of jobs and wealth, and thus also companies doing business, contribute to the development of human rights and help foster respect for the limited resources of this earth. Nauru noted overfishing, climate adaptation, and waste treatment as areas most in need of attention. Sustainable Consumption and Production was mentioned by Luxembourg, and India referred to the need to avoid reckless consumption and to change lifestyles. Brazil underscored the need to establish

a mechanism for the development, transfer and dissemination of clean, environmentally sustainable technologies.

Vietnam emphasised the importance of building the green economy. New Zealand mentioned their initial commitment to the Green Climate Fund on supporting the global effort, but reiterated the priority they will give to their region.

1.5 Climate change

Climate change is another key issue for Beyond 2015. Many countries mentioned climate change in their statements, including Spain, France, Turkey, Germany, Italy, Kenya. We were pleased to see that Cape Verde welcomed the stand-alone goal on Climate Change. The urgency of addressing climate change was acknowledged by Guatemala, Philippines, and Sweden, which noted that we have a common responsibility to reach a global, legally binding agreement, keeping us below the two degree target. Pakistan called for a movement from awareness to action on climate change.

Bangladesh mentioned the climate adaptation fund and the impact of climate change on migration, and the importance of balanced eco-systems in the post-2015 agenda.

New Zealand mentioned the leadership of Small Islands Developing States in addressing climate change and shifting to renewable energy. They commended the Secretary General for convening the Climate Summit.

Australia stated that the post-2015 development agenda should focus on economic growth which makes 'every other social goal, even tackling climate change, easier to accomplish'.

2. Structure of the post-2015 agenda

2.1 Participation

Beyond 2015 calls for full and meaningful participation of all groups in the design, implementation and monitoring of the post-2105 agenda. We noted that Zambia acknowledged the involvement of civil society (among other stakeholders) in the negotiations so far, and were pleased that Costa Rica called for civil society organisations to be included in an open and transparent process of negotiation of the new Sustainable Development Agenda, stating that CSO experience in this regard which would significantly enrich the final agreement.

The role of indigenous knowledge and practices in contributing to the sustainable development was highlighted by Swaziland. Indonesia stressed the importance of active public participation as a prerequisite for 'SMART governance'. Nigeria emphasised that for Africa, the expectation is that the new SDGs will be people-centred.

2.2 Accountability

We were pleased to see calls for strong monitoring and accountability post-2015 among Member States.

Sweden stated that the post-2015 framework must be accompanied by a strong monitoring and accountability framework to measure progress and ensure accountability at all levels, and that the UN must be "fit for purpose" to take on the post-2015 development challenges effectively. Liechtenstein, stressed the importance of

establishing a system to monitor implementation and ensure accountability, suggesting the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) as the best mechanism. Mauritius recommended a flexible, universal accountability framework that considers different capacities and responsibilities.

Indonesia called for development that does not only measure progress in terms of our material provisions alone, and ends up dehumanizing and marginalizing our citizens, but ensures sustainable development with equity.

Costa Rica called for the post-2015 agenda to be an instrument concerned primarily with action, with precise objectives, clear targets and indicators that enable us to measure and monitor its success.

Peru called for participatory monitoring and accountability mechanisms to ensure appropriate follow-up and monitoring of the process.

Samoa highlighted the importance of avoiding a one size fits all approach, and ensuring that indicators are also applicable to the situation of SIDS countries.

2.3 Universality

Beyond 2015 upholds the value of Global Responsibility, and the principle of universality of the post-2015 agenda. We welcomed statements from Kenya stressing the need for the post-2015 agenda to be universal and comprehensive and responsive to all nations equally in order to be transformative in its impact.

Switzerland noted that the Post-2015 process provides us with a unique occasion to act in unison, to transform the world's challenges into opportunities. There must be a single agenda for universal sustainable development, with clear and measurable shared objectives. And we must all act to ensure that they are truly achieved.

2.4 Means of Implementation

Beyond 2015 has raised the importance of more detailed means of implementation for a successful post-2015 agenda. This was echoed in many statements to the UN General Assembly, including the PGA, Guinea, Zambia, Tanzania and Senegal.

On **partnerships**, Thailand called for a strong global partnership, while Bangladesh called for this to be based on mutual trust, respect and CBDR, and urged resolving financing for sustainable development, including through the Financing for Development (FfD) process. India called for a genuine international partnership while also recognizing that each country must take its own national measures. India also stressed the importance of developed countries' fulfilling commitments on funding and technology transfer. Partnerships were also mentioned by Paraguay, Ecuador, Barbados (should include durable partnerships to facilitate provision of adequate financial and other resources, fair trade and market access, and technology transfer and capacity building, particularly on data collection and statistical analysis),

ODA was also mentioned in numerous statements, including Mozambique, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Myanmar for financial and technology support, Vanuatu, Swaziland, Namibia, South Sudan, Belarus, Eritrea. South Africa stressed that developed countries should be reliable partners and meet their commitment to development goals, such as contributing 0.7 percent of their gross national income towards Official Development

Assistance. Sweden mentioned their commitment to a 1 % of GNI in ODA which enjoys strong popular support in the country.

Nauru called for moving beyond capacity building to institution building. Brazil called for ambitious financing, cooperation, national capacity building and technology transfer, especially towards least developed countries, and the need to establish a mechanism for the development, transfer and dissemination of clean, environmentally sustainable technologies. Nigeria applauded the wide-ranging recommendations of the Report of the inter-governmental committee of Experts on the sustainable development financing on domestic resource mobilization, international development assistance, private sector finance, and supportive global enabling environment.

Sri Lanka cautioned that countries must not be deprived of policy space, to set their own domestic priorities, and noted the importance of a strengthened partnership between developed and developing countries, backed by sincere commitment, to allow countries in the South to access financial resources and technology that are essential for capacity building. Sri Lanka also called for structural obstacles and political barriers that prevented the realization of the MDGs to be addressed, such as unfair trade and investment rules. Creating a supportive international economic environment, enhanced investment flows, including from multilateral development banks, and an open multilateral trading regime, are important.

Zambia noted that unless the Means of Implementation are adequately covered, with new investment inflows, we risk rendering this noble effort into a futile exercise.

Samoa referred to the need to ensure the Samoa Pathway is solidly laminated into the post-2015 agenda.

2.5 Financing For Development

The Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD), was mentioned by several countries as key to the effectiveness of the post-2015 agenda, including Bahamas who highlighted it as a forum to address international tax cooperation and discuss the need to go beyond gross domestic product (GDP) as the sole indicator for sustainable development

2.6 CBDR

Several emphasized common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and stressed the need for special assistance for developing countries. Ecuador made specific mention of the need for financing from developed countries to developing countries to enable them to deal with natural disasters caused by man-made climate change, in accordance with the principle of CBDR.

3. Process moving forward

3.1 Post-2015: A unique opportunity

The post-2015 agenda was welcomed as a unique occasion and a great opportunity to transform development by Bolivia and Chile. Nicaragua called post-2015 a “new opportunity to strive for a just world order”, and Bhutan referred to this as “an opportune moment to define a new era in international development and cooperation”.

3.2 MDGs to SDGs

Many speakers reflected on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and called for accelerated action to achieve them before the 2015 deadline. A number of speakers said the unfinished business of the MDGs should be incorporated into the post-2015 development agenda. Many felt that the new agenda should go further than the MDGs, with various speakers mentioning the need to address global and emerging challenges, including climate change and natural disasters, conflicts, inequalities, lack of rule of law and terrorism.

3.3 Basis for the post-2015 negotiations

Many speakers welcomed progress to date on the post-2015 agenda, and looked forward to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's synthesis report, including Panama, Moldova, Sweden, Singapore and Solomon Islands. Cuba noted that the post-2015 agenda should be the outcome of an intergovernmental and inclusive negotiation. There were many expressions of commitment to work towards an agreed post-2015 agenda.

Many African countries referred to the OWG document as the basis for negotiations, as well as Nicaragua and Barbados. Others such as Norway, Canada and Palau felt there were too many goals and recommended focusing down to reduce the number of priorities.

The Sustainable Development Goals were called by many a solid foundation for the future, and there were calls to link short-term goals with long-term goals.

3.4 Common African Position

The Common African Position and Vision 2063 were highlighted by Mauritania, South Africa, Chad, Guinea, Namibia, Congo, Mozambique, Mali, Sao Tome and Principe, Angola, Liberia, Swaziland and Sierra Leone.

3.5 SDG Fund

Spain announced the creation of the first fund for the SDGs.