

Ministerial Consultation on Post-2015 Accountability, Monitoring and Indicators, 15-16 September 2014

Recommendations from the Women's Major Group

1 The Women's Major Group calls for the inclusion of a strong human rights perspective using existing human rights instruments and accountability mechanisms as crucial for a sustainable development.

2 Recognizing that human rights are a prerequisite for gender equality, which is in itself essential to achieve sustainable development, the rights of women and girls rights must be protected, respected and fulfilled, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women should therefore be used as a robust accountability mechanism since the proposed targets in the Open Working Group report correspond closely to Articles in the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women.

3 We strongly urge the use of independent experts, as in the Treaty Bodies and other monitoring mechanisms, to monitor progress and evaluate data. Independent experts, for example are also used to monitor women and children's health for the Secretary-General's "Every Woman, Every Child" initiative through the Independent Expert Review Group (iERG), which is a recent initiative.

4 We also recommend that other monitoring initiatives that involve civil society expertise and experience be considered such as the recently formed Working Group on Performance, Monitoring and Accountability of the Family Planning 2020 Initiative, which could be integrated into monitoring partnerships on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

5 Ensure the human rights based approach is included with regard to monitoring of human trafficking and includes strong partnership with civil society.

Three dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals

Civil society organizations are concerned that the ECE mandate is focused particularly on economic issues. This could lead to inadequate attention being paid to the social dimension, which is also an equally important part of the post-2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. Civil society organizations therefore recommend that new partnerships be forged with other regional bodies such as the Council of Europe and the World Health Organization European Region to ensure that issues such as health, education, employment and gender equality are fully addressed and monitored.