



NOTES

Stakeholder Preparatory Forum for the Post-2015 Development Agenda Negotiations 16 January 2015 Conference Room 3, UNHQ

The first session of the meeting was opened by welcoming remarks by Ms. Susan Alzner, officer in charge NY of UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service who welcomed the participants and gave a highlight on the objectives and outcome of how the meeting. She gave an overview on the process of organizing the meeting which was mainly undertaken in close consultation is the of the stakeholders steering committee set up for the first session of the intergovernmental negotiations session that will be taking place next week. Ms. Alzner thanked the committee for their hard work in the last two months in inputting into the program as well selection of nominees for the various speaking roles.

Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Coordinator of DESA Division for Sustainable Development Major Groups Programme followed after and thanked all the representatives of civil society for their continued engagement and participation. She encouraged Major Groups and the stakeholders to continue their engagement especially within the coming months, which are critical stages for the Post-2015 development agenda.

H.E. Ambassador Macharia Kamau, Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations was the next speaker. He stated that the challenge is the manner of engagement and not whether civil society can engage or not. Member States are very enthusiastic in engaging with civil society especially representatives civil society. He also stressed that the Post-2015 development agenda is not an agenda, which exclusively deals with poverty reduction alone, but rather a universal one which will involve dealing with how society and economics is organized globally including the environmental agenda. "My hope is that CSOs have embraced the goals and that they will help in getting traction on the goals at the national and regional levels" he stated. The goals and targets are not only for government thus civil society need to translate the goals into people's daily lives and help in popularizing them. He urged civil society to remain engaged, flexible and strategic throughout the remaining processes.

The first civil society speaker Ms. Andrea Carmen, International Indian Treaty Council stressed the importance of including indigenous groups, who are the most impacted through development policies. She stressed that they must be fully involved and engaged in the planning as well as the implementation of development policies with consideration of traditional knowledge and practices, self-determination, control of resources etc... Speaking on behalf of the WMG, Ms. Irene Kagoya, Akina Mama Wa Afrika stressed the importance of SRHR issues in the new global development agenda. She also stressed other critical issues such as the recognition, redistribution and reduction of unpaid care work; access and control of resources including land and energy resources, living wage for all margins of society, equal pay, and eliminating conditionalities on ODA, critical to attainment of gender equality and women's rights for a sustainable agenda for all.

In the Q&A session that followed there were questions on innovative means of engaging people as active agents other than the consultations with CSOs. Mr. Kamau responded by saying that the global agenda will be developed for countries and it will be up to the national governments to implement and monitor its effective achievement. Furthermore, scaling of best practices will also be the responsibility of countries. He also urged civil society to be cognizant of the language that they will be proposing.

The next session focused on the Secretary-General's Synthesis Report and its potential to influence the Post-2015 inter-governmental negotiations. Panelists in this session included Mr. Mahjoub El Haiba, Inter-ministerial Delegate for Human Rights, Morocco; Mr. Alejandro Barrios, People's Coalition of Food Sovereignty; Ms. Maryanne Diamond, International Disability Alliance; and Ms. Sandra Vermuyten. All the speakers from civil society focused on their reaction to the UNSG's report. They all focused on highlighting the positive aspects as well as the shortcomings that they've observed especially from the point of view of their focus areas. Some of the common shortcomings across all their statements were on issues such as lack of redistributive economic, environmental justice and social justice; full inclusion of people with disabilities; the inclusion of decent jobs in lieu of decent work; lack of recognition on the links between gender and other inequalities; non-recognition of unpaid care work; and insufficient mention of access to basic social services.

In addition to the civil society representatives, Member State representatives also contributed as lead discussants. H.E. Ambassador Simona Mirela Miculescu, Permanent Representative of **Romania** to the UN appreciated the endorsement of the OWG and goals and targets. She highlighted that gender issues are important for the agenda as well as the core human rights principles, which allows freedom of expression, assembly and association. She also stressed the importance of shared responsibility of actors and ownership of the post 2015 development agenda in order to ensure its effectiveness. H.E. Ambassador Michael Douglas Grant, Deputy Permanent Representative of **Canada** to the UN started off by expressing his belief that the 6 essential elements capture the main elements of the agenda, which in his view have directed towards the principles of Rio for a concise, communicable agenda. He also welcomed civil society to engage in the bilateral discussions that are welcome with the mission as well as the JUSCAN group. H.E. Ambassador Peter Wilson, Deputy Permanent Representative of the **United Kingdom** to the UN, stressed on the level of ambition of CSOs and urged the need for the prioritization of all the issues in the agenda rather than presenting a menu of issues. In this regard, he also welcomed the 6 essential elements. Lastly, he stressed on the need for the inclusion of the Justice pillar – justice for peaceful societies are very critical, without effective institutions, it's not possible to attain sustainable development.

The stakeholder discussants included panelists from civil society as well as the private sector. Ms. Norine Kennedy, United States Council for International Business focused on the need for more attention towards capacity building and infrastructure building. She also highlighted the importance of accountability mechanisms for the implementation of the agenda but called for the alignment to already used private sector mechanisms of monitoring to incentivize their active participation.

In the plenary session it was pointed out that the six essential elements undermine some of the important separate goals that were duly deliberated and decided during the OWG. It was also pointed out that gender equality, which is lumped with vulnerable groups jeopardizes the potential of effective engagement and participation from half of the population. In addition, the wider analysis of root causes of gender equality is visibly missing in the proposed essential elements.

The afternoon session focused on presentation and discussions on the means of implementation and global partnership for development. Civil society panelist Dr. Arjun Karki, LDC Watch emphasized the need for special consideration of specific countries and regional groupings such as the LDCs and SIDS in the development agenda. Ms. Elenita Daño, ETC Group emphasized the need to ensure access and ownership to technology for women. She stated that technology is partly responsible to the current status of global inequality but has a potential of playing a very important role in delivering the development agenda.

As one of the lead discussants, H.E. Ambassador Guilherme De Aguiar Patriota, Deputy Permanent Representative of **Brazil** to the UN highlighted the universal nature and applicability of the Post-2015 development agenda. He then expressed his concern on the current direction of discussions at the UN in thinking that corporations and the private sector will just willingly submit to implementing and financing the development agenda. He pointed out that the real world doesn't work like that but stressed a need for a framework in this regard. He cited examples of philanthropists who work closely with pharmaceuticals as well as corporations like Monsanto that force developing countries to use GMO seeds resulting in irreversible damage to the environment. He pointed to the need for national mobilization especially with emphasis of development initiatives targeting and reaching the grassroots level. Mr. Amit Narang, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of **India** to the UN also added to the discussion on means of implementation by stressing the need for the continued collaboration efforts of all stakeholders especially civil society.

The following session involved follow-up and review discussions. H.E. Mr. Martin Sajdik, Permanent Representative of **Austria** to the UN and President of the Economic and Social Council the role of the stakeholders in the upcoming intergovernmental negotiations. He stressed on the need for continuing the consultation processes of non-state actors in a similar manner as the previous processes especially at the national level. H.E. Ambassador Ib Petersen, Permanent Representative of **Denmark** to the UN also stressed the need to translate the agenda into the daily lives of the people so that they can hold their respective governments accountable to their commitments. He further stressed that indicators need to be context specific and understood at the national levels. He also pointed out that women need to be involved in the planning as well as the monitoring of the agenda once the implementation starts. Following this, H.E. Ambassador Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Permanent Representative of **Peru** to the UN focused on the means of implementation to take into consideration national context and also make room for regional commissions. He also stressed the need to retain the people centered approach of the agenda. H.E. Olivier Marc Zehnder, Deputy Permanent Representative of **Switzerland** to the United Nations added to the means of implementation from the point

Ms. Kate Donald, Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR) focused on accountability within the post-2015 development agenda. She stressed that accountability is much broader than justice institutions but includes a more comprehensive view. Its more than knowledge sharing and must cover non-state actors and partnerships. It should be embraced as an integral part of the agenda and not an onerous conditionality. She also stressed that civil society should have a safe environment to follow up and monitor the agenda at the implementation phase. Dr. Emad Adly, Arab Network for Environment & Development stressed the need for popularization of the SDGs once it's adopted. Most populations at the national level were not aware of the MDGs, which will expire this year. Data collection and interpretation as well as capacity building are very crucial elements that need to be strengthened especially at national levels.

As one of the lead discussants, H.E. Dimitry Maksimychev, Deputy Permanent Representative of the **Russian Federation** to the UN, compliance of accountability incorporated within the UNG report is actually agreeable to his government since anything different on voluntary commitments will be political and will erode the spirit of political will from Member States. He also pointed out that the agenda should not only be designed to fulfill the reporting requirement for reporting to the HoPF but that there is a need for countries to mainstream it into their development priorities for its effective implementation. Mr. Reinhard Krapp, Minister, Head of the Economics Department, Permanent Mission of the Federal **Republic of Germany** to the UN further added to the accountability discussion by stating that accountability should not be seen as a negative term. He gave the example of his country's accountability mechanism as an example.

The closing session included brief summaries of the discussions that took place by selected members of the stakeholders steering committee. The closing remarks was made by H.E. Tim Mawe, Deputy Permanent Representative of **Ireland** to the UN who acknowledged the active participation of civil society and called for the continued engagement.

In general, unlike previous stakeholder sessions where civil society ended up talking to each other, this forum included a few Member States who actively participated as lead discussants and also answered questions that were targeted at them. In addition, issues related to gender equality and women's rights especially in terms of critical issues that are still missing and need to be integrated into the Post-2015 development agenda, were raised and duly discussed throughout the discussions. This can be attributed to the large number of civil society representatives, mostly women, present at the forum both as panelists and participants. However, the selection process for representatives of Member States as discussants was not clear as the majority of them were representatives from the global North with the exception of Brazil and India. To maintain universality as well ensuring the ownership of the agenda, all discussions should ensure balanced representation and access.

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Webcast

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