

Post-2015 Development Framework

Why is the post-2015 framework important?

The **Millennium Development Goals** (MDGs) represent an important milestone in the field of development cooperation. They have brought focus into development, as well as encouraged efforts both at the political and implementation levels. However, MDGs are not going to solve all developmental problems. On top of that, while quite likely some have already been achieved (e.g. halving number of people living under 1.25 USD per day) it is becoming clear that a number of MDGs will not be reached by their target date of 2015.



The world has witnessed numerous changes since the adoption of MDGs. The time of post-Cold War optimism, growth and prosperity has been replaced by multiple crises, among them the financial and economic crisis, food insecurity, environmental and resource depletion and climate change. The political and global reality have changed so that some developing

countries are co-shaping decisions at the global level and have become significant donors themselves (e.g. Brazil, Russia, India and China).

The current discussion on what will follow the MDGs after 2015 is of utmost importance as its outcome will determine the future of global development cooperation. If the new framework will truly depict the changing realities and address the interlinked root causes of the numerous challenges the world is facing today, it can pave the way for a much more comprehensive agenda to eradicate poverty and ensure sustainable development. The involvement of the civil society in the post-2015 discussions is very important in order to raise the degree of ambition of the future framework and the level of commitment that states will be willing to assume.

While a deeper insight into the actual themes of the post-2015 agenda is beyond the scope of this policy digest, it provides a brief description of the key international and EU processes around the post-2015 agenda with a focus on the role of the CSOs and possible participation of the new member states (NMS) development NGOs in particular.

What has happened so far?

The outcome document, agreed at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the **United Nations** General Assembly on MDGs in 2010, requested the commencing of the preparation process for a new post-2015 framework. With this aim, the Secretary General es-

established the UN System Task Team on the post-2015 Development Agenda, which published its first report “Realising the Future We Want for All”¹ in June 2012. The report proposes a future development vision based on four key dimensions, namely inclusive social development, inclusive economic development, environmental sustainability and peace and security. From May 2012 to early 2013 the UN organised 50+ country consultations² in developing countries to receive input to the future framework as well as thematic consultations³ on more than ten topics such as water and food security and nutrition. In July 2012, the Secretary General launched his High-level Panel of Eminent Persons⁴, chaired by the Presidents of Indonesia and Liberia and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, and also including representatives from the private sector, civil society, academia and local authorities.



UN High Level Panel meeting in February 2013 in Monrovia, Liberia⁵

It is important to keep in mind that besides the “developmental track”, a “sustainable track” is taking place in parallel, originating from the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development and its follow-up United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development that occurred in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012 (Rio+20). The conference’s outcome document “The Future We Want”⁶ decided that a process shall be launched to develop **Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs), which will build upon the MDGs and converge with the post-2015 development agenda⁷. An Open Working Group of the General Assembly⁷ was established in January 2013 and is responsible for drafting the proposal on the SDGs.

¹http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/report.shtml

² <http://www.beyond2015.org/un-50-country-consultation>

³ <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/sitemap>

⁴ <http://www.un.org/sg/management/hlppost2015.shtml>

⁵ <http://www.dfid.gov.uk/News/Latest-news/2012/Global-development-shaping-the-future-post-2015/>

⁶ <http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/>

⁷ <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1549>

Within the **European Commission** (EC), a coordination mechanism has been set up, led by the Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation and the Directorate-General for Environment, with the aim of ensuring coordination and cohesion between the two tracks. A joint non-paper was prepared ahead of the meeting of ministers for development cooperation in the framework of the Foreign Affairs Council in October 2012⁸, “Coherence and coordination between the follow-up to Rio+20 and the post-2015 development agenda”. The EC organised a public consultation on the topic from June to September 2012 in order to inform the EU position on post-2015 framework⁹. In the end of February the EC adopted the communication “*A decent life for all by 2030 – Ending poverty and giving the world a sustainable future*”¹⁰ where it further elaborates on the EU proposal for the future international and political efforts for the improvement of global governance, poverty eradication and sustainable development. For the first time, it clearly commits to joining the two tracks and talks about the need for an overarching universal framework.

Despite joint efforts, there are still divisions within the EU regarding the nature of the post-2015 framework. While a group of **member states** has sent a clear message to Lady Ashton and the Commissioners for development cooperation and environment about the need for one overarching post-2015 framework, other countries still prefer the idea of keeping the discussion within two separate, yet coordinated tracks. Regardless the coordination mechanism, a similar divergence of opinions exists within the European Commission. The post-2015 framework was discussed by EU development ministers at the Foreign Affairs Council in October 2015 as well as during their informal meeting in February 2013 in Dublin.

As the **OECD** played an important role in the creation of the MDGs, it has been actively preparing for its responsibility in the development of the new framework. A horizontal coordination group among the OECD directorates has been established, which produced a joint document “The OECD’s contribution to the post-2015 development agenda: a storyline”¹¹. It identified various possibilities for the organisation’s input, including its statistical and analytical expertise, its his-

⁸ http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/132896.pdf

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/how/public-consultations/towards_post-2015-development-framework_en.htm

¹⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/documents/2013-02-22_communication_a_decent_life_for_all_post_2015_en.pdf

¹¹ [http://search.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC\(2012\)47/REV1&docLanguage=En](http://search.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=DCD/DAC(2012)47/REV1&docLanguage=En)

torical memory in the fields of aid and development effectiveness, as well as in policy coherence for development.

On the civil society side the **Beyond 2015 campaign**¹² has brought together over 620 CSOs in 97 countries from all over the world with the aim of creating a strong and legitimate successor framework for the MDGs. CSOs have organised numerous workshops and already started the dialogue on various thematic issues and principles with policy makers. EU-12 development CSO platforms met to discuss their views on the post-2015 framework¹³ in April 2012.



Beyond 2015 European seminar in May 2012, CSO representatives discussing the 'world we want'

With the aim of supporting European CSOs in shaping a position on post-2015 and influencing the EU position, the European Task Force of Beyond 2015 (ETF) has been set up within the global civil society campaign Beyond 2015. At the beginning of February 2013 the ETF prepared a thorough first draft to be presented as the position of European development NGOs on the post-2015 framework. The paper proposes an ambitious comprehensive framework with global goals that can be made context-specific, thus following the notion that one size does not fit all. The framework should be shaped along the principles of human rights and common but differentiated responsibility, while addressing inequalities and ensuring sustainability, inclusiveness, participation, accountability and coherence.

What are the next steps?

The coming years, which will be concluded by the adoption of the post-2015 framework, will be busy ones and of very high importance, and the agenda in 2013 is a clear indication of what awaits us.

At the UN level, the report of the High-level Panel, which is built on the broad consultation process and aims to give guidance to the post-2015 process, will be

published in May 2013. It will represent the basis for the report of the Secretary General, launched for the **Special Event** that will take place in autumn 2013. The Special Event's aim is to follow up efforts made towards achieving the MDGs, and to start the discussion on the post-MDGs agenda. While its aim is to assess progress in the achievement of MDGs and present ways of strengthening efforts until 2015, the discussion on post-2015 is very likely going to be an important element of the occasion. The event is by many seen as one of the possible venues for joining the developmental and sustainable tracks. A report of the Open Working Group on SDGs will hopefully be available prior to this event as well.

Preparations are ongoing at the EU level as well. The informal meeting of EU development ministers on 11 and 12 February 2013 and the EC Communication on post-2015 represent the starting point for a discussion among EU Member States which will lead to the adoption of **Council Conclusions** on 28 May 2013. These, along with the -hopefully the same- Conclusions of the Environment Council in June, will form the basis for the position which the EU will take to New York in September 2013.

In spring 2013 the European Report on Development will also be published and it will focus on the post-2015 framework¹⁴.

There are approximately three years in which an agreement on the future framework should be finalised. Many issues still remain unsolved and they could be divided into two groups:

- Procedure (i.e. when will the two tracks converge at the global level; at what stage will the EU adopt a common position with regards to the two tracks; how to avoid a repetition of the Rio+20 outcome, but nevertheless keep high ambitions)
- Structure (at what point should the elements of the framework start being discussed in order to strike the balance between ambition and a Christmas-tree approach¹⁵; what should be the structure of the new framework (pillars, main principles, should it involve enablers, critical success factors etc.); how to keep a simple structure that will nevertheless deliver; how to ensure global goals that will at the same time translate to local needs; how to include financing for development in the framework).

¹² <http://www.beyond2015.org/>

¹³ http://www.trialog.or.at/images/doku/fors_post2015brief_final.pdf

¹⁴ http://www.erd-report.eu/erd/report_2012/index.html

¹⁵ A declaration overloaded with dispersed goals and topics that lacks focus to the eradication of poverty and ensuring sustainability.

What can my CSO do?

The creation of the Beyond 2015 European Task Force position is an opportunity for all European CSOs to work together to define a common position on the content of the future framework and to team up to influence the official EU position on post-2015. The second draft of the European CSO Position will be circulated by the ETF among CSOs for comments in the beginning of March 2013. Contact Gerard Vives (gvives@concordeurope.org) for further information. At the same time, CSOs can strengthen their influence by getting in contact with the national officials engaged in the post-2015 discussions on national, EU and UN levels.

Now is the opportunity to act towards putting pressure on national officials and stakeholders to have a strong EU position on the new post-2015 framework which takes into account CSOs' opinions. The activities should increase prior to the adoption of the Council Conclusions on post-2015 in May 2013. A similar approach should be taken ahead of the Special Event on MDGs in autumn 2013.

For instance, the commitment of NMS with regards to ODA until 2015 can become one of the useful "entry points" to the post-2015 debate. It differs from that of old EU member states, a consequence of an internal EU agreement. It is possible that this differentiation will come under question after 2015 at the European level and it is thus important for NMS to follow this discussion thoroughly.

Active participation may take various forms. It would be recommended that initially, NGOs work together in trying to create a common position, which will agree on the main goals that need to be achieved. After this initial stage, one option could be to further build a position only around one or a few priority issues. Another option is to use the post-2015 agenda rather as a springboard for strategic reflection, agenda innovation and forward-looking dialogue between as well as in-

side the NGOs. A shift to different approach to topics, formats, locations and partners in development work is already visible in the post-2015 debates.

In addition, as the new framework will be global in nature and will hopefully have policy coherence for development at its core, the dialogue should be extended to non-developmental actors at the national level.



What can I do?

- Join the Beyond 2015 European Task Force and take part in formulating a European CSOs' position!
- Put pressure on national officials to include CSOs' positions in the Council Conclusions at the EU Council meeting in May.
- Put pressure on national officials to have a strong EU position on post-2015 agenda ahead of the UN Special Event in autumn 2013.
- Join thematic online discussions around the 'World We Want' at: www.worldwewant2015.org
- Connect with your national development CSO platform for joint engagement in the post-2015 processes.

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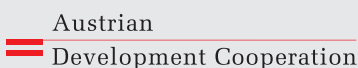


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