



## Platform HD 2010: We the Peoples

### Civic Engagement for Human Development and a New Multilateralism

The year 2010 marks a number of key milestones in international development. It is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the launch of the UNDP Human Development Report, the ten-year review of the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, as well as “Beijing + 15.” Together they present the United Nations with an important occasion to engage in strategic partnership with civil society to advance civic engagement, which is vital to the UN’s human development mission. Since its definition in the 1990s as a process of enlarging people’s choices, human development has focused attention on the goals of development, and is thus a precursor to the MDGs.

These reviews take place at a time of global financial crisis and turmoil, worldwide loss of livelihoods, and rising concerns over hunger, water resources, and accelerating climate change. All this has given rise to a deep questioning of the role of global governance institutions and the United Nations in particular, as seen from the perspective of a myriad of stakeholders, especially citizens and civil society. It is increasingly clear that while governments are still the paramount authorities at the national level, they cannot alone resolve today’s global problems. An ever widening array of actors — civil society, communities, local action networks, social entrepreneurs, local authorities, parliamentarians and corporations — is seeking a role in defining development priorities and contributing to solutions, thus reshaping multilateralism as it is traditionally understood.

Civil society, whose influence in the global arena has been transformed by the forces and logic of globalization, is integral to the future vision of a revitalized multilateralism. It seeks a strong UN role in contributing to solutions to the multiple crises of today, especially since the global downturns could mean major setbacks to reducing extreme poverty, as well as progress towards the other MDGs. There are already calls, from a number of governments, as well as civil society and other non-state actors, for a new multilateralism to deal with such turmoil – one that focuses attention on the poorest, emphasizes a more flexible financial network, and maximizes the strengths of public, private and civil society organizations, along with the United Nations. Many see the current crises as an opportunity to transform global governance and re-prioritise human development.

Against this background, UNDP will mobilize Platform HD2010, as a forum to develop a vision for the next decade that actively involves a range of civil society actors for an outward looking multilateralism reinforcing civic engagement and human development. UNDP envisages the platform as a space in which it can engage with civil society actors at multiple levels and areas to generate critical debate and perspectives on the emerging vision of an inclusive multilateralism, governance and accountability, and civic engagement in human development and the Millennium Development Goals. Platform HD2010 is supported by the MDG Achievement Fund.

Specifically, the Platform HD2010 initiative (2009-11) will:

- 1) Create and enlarge spaces for the articulation of civil society perspectives and contributions to the emerging vision of a revitalized multilateralism
- 2) Strengthen relations and policy dialogue between UN(DP) and civil society at global and country levels
- 3) Support UN Country Team development platforms that strengthen civic engagement
- 4) Facilitate greater participation of civil society in the South in global networks
- 5) Increase the voice of civil society in national development processes, including the MDGs

## Scope and duration

The programme, for an initial period of two years, will focus on inclusive partnerships with national civil society actors, with the objective of strengthening national ownership by broadening country-level policy dialogue on multilateralism, human development and the MDGs.

## Indicative activities

A sequence of events is envisaged, including national, regional and global consultations, seminars and papers, involving academics, civil society representatives, development experts – stimulating and energizing a dialogue at multiple levels. Conceptual papers on the MDGs, human development and multilateralism, and the documentation of civic engagement initiatives will be a key part of these activities. Initiatives could include:

- Global, regional and national consultations with diverse civil society partners, including members of the Civil Society Advisory Committee to UNDP, to contribute to the emerging visions of a new multilateralism in the context of ongoing crises related to finance, food and climate change;
- Targeted consultations and activities involving a wide range of civil society actors, led by resident coordinators and co-convened with civil society partners in select countries, to facilitate southern civil society participation and voices in global networks and debates, particularly in relation to the current crises;
- Commissioning occasional papers on the themes of human development, the MDGs, and a revitalized multilateralism, looking at ways in which the United Nations can partner with civil society in contributing to solutions to current crises.

## Outcomes

- 1) Critical engagement by civil society in processes related to the retrospective on human development in 2010.
- 2) Strengthened relations between UN(DP) and civil society in policy dialogue at national and global levels, including engagement mechanisms and strategic alliances on national development processes.
- 3) Strengthened UN-civil society engagement on perspectives on the emerging vision of multilateralism.

## Road map

A tentative road map is as follows:

Activities	2009-10 time line
Literature review and synthesis of published material on the new multilateralism	May 2009
First brainstorming / consultation with civil society steering group	June 2009
Strengthened civic engagement in national MDG processes launched in six pilot countries	September 2009
'UNDP Champions Group' involving liaison offices, regional centres and Resident Coordinators, set up for implementation at regional and national levels	September 2009
Occasional series of conceptual papers on human development and the new multilateralism commissioned	September 2009- August 2010
Regional and national consultations with key civil society networks to launch national initiatives co-convened by UN(DP) and civil society	September 2009- October 2010
Possible joint events involving civil society with HDRO, Millennium Campaign	September 2009- December 2010