



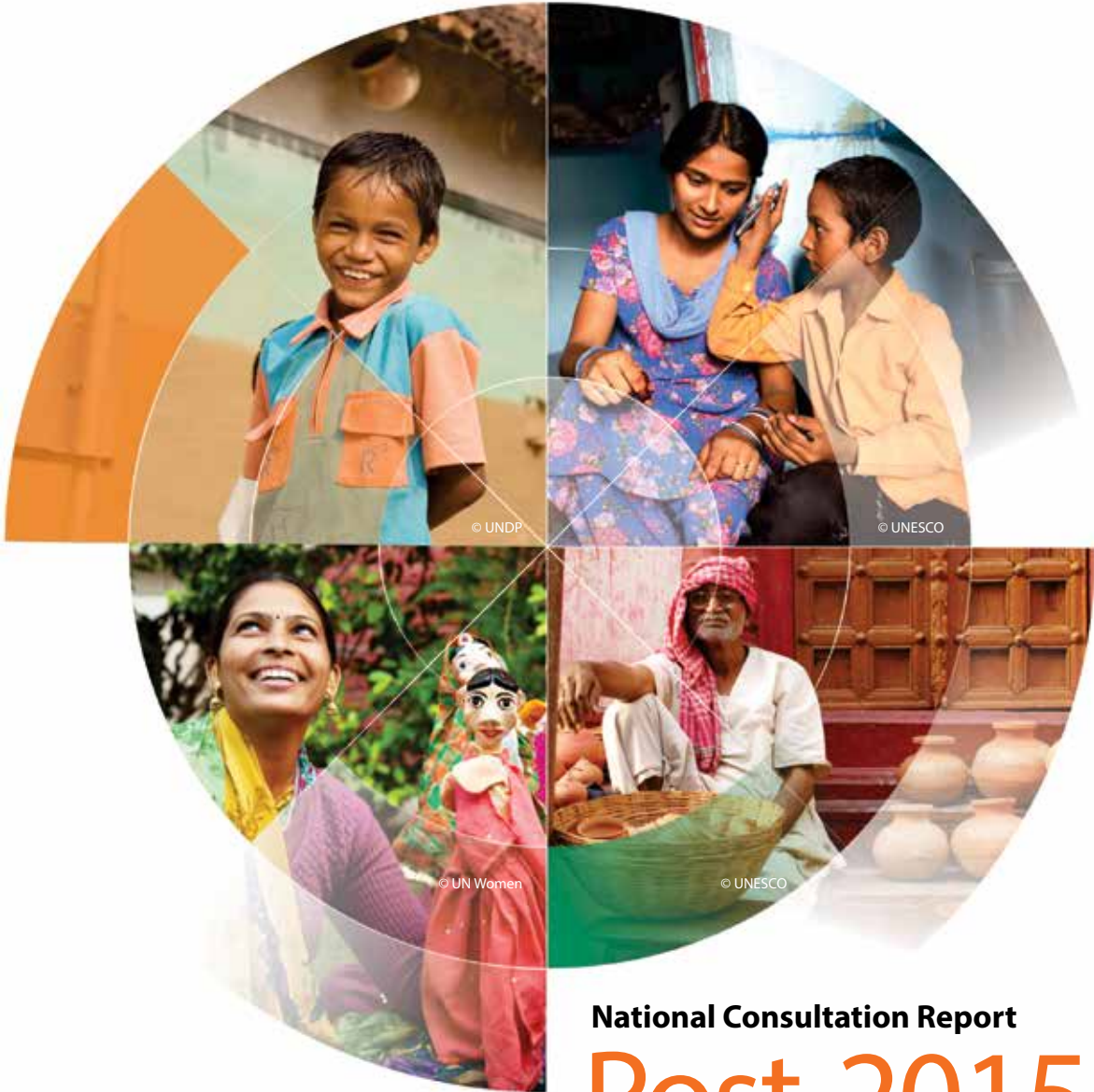
National Consultation Report

Post-2015

Development Framework

INDIA





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PART I

India National Consultation Report



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National Consultation Report

Post-2015 Development Framework: INDIA



1. **The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are unique for having established a universally accepted and easily measurable framework for global development.**

The MDGs have been acceptable to countries in a way that other development frameworks have not, in part, because they are based on the fundamental values enshrined in the Millennium Declaration of freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility. The goals have had the benefit of being simple, aspirational in nature and representing a consensus view of what constitutes a dignified life. At a time when countries are struggling to agree on difficult issues, the MDGs have been, and remain, a driving force in the battle to eradicate multi-dimensional poverty. However useful the MDGs have been, they have suffered from several flaws. The goals, although based on commitments agreed at international conferences, were not themselves negotiated through an inter-governmental process. The goals apply only to developing, but not developed countries and they make no reference to issues of major international importance, including governance and human rights.

“During the 1980s, the Washington Consensus, resting squarely on neoliberal economic theory, dominated international debate. Poverty reduction was largely equated with higher economic growth, the assumption being that growth would, sooner, or later, benefit the poor through trickle-down effects. In the early 1990s, it gradually became apparent that this assumption was not tenable.” 2013 Statistical Yearbook India

2. **In India, the MDGs are central to the country’s development agenda.**

India is on track to reach either fully, or nearly, key MDG targets— including the target on universal primary education under goal two and the target on gender equality in education under goal three. Through a major public health campaign coordinated across ministries and at all levels of government, India has already reversed the trend prevalence of HIV/AIDS, a difficult, but critical target under goal six.

3. **Good progress is being made on other fronts as well.**

India has increased forest cover and reduced the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in support of the sustainability target under goal seven. In support of the water and sanitation target under goal seven, the number of people with access to tap water in rural areas has doubled and the proportion of households without access to safe drinking water has been halved. With connectivity increasing exponentially, India has already met the target on access to new communication technologies under goal eight.

4. **Progress on other goals, however, particularly nutrition and health targets— has been slower than expected.**

Although the government continues to invest heavily in large-scale social programmes aimed at reducing malnutrition and improving food security, India will miss the target on hunger under goal one. New initiatives, including the Right to Food

“The post-2015 development agenda must preserve the simplicity of the narrative which was the strength of the MDGs. It should focus on the key development challenges in the world, but should be practical and implementable, and limited in number. It is important not to overburden the agenda with a laundry list of world problems.”

Government

Bill and reforms in nutrition protocols, will help to improve conditions for the 40 percent of children who are underweight and to raise India's ranking of 67 out of 81 on the Global Hunger Index. India is also likely to miss the target on reducing under-five mortality and is far short of reaching the target on safe deliveries under goal five. The prevalence of tuberculosis, despite efforts to control the disease, is increasing. Even more worrying, close to 600 million people continue to defecate in the open, the highest number in the world, making it nearly impossible for India to reach the sanitation target under goal seven.

5. **During the elaboration of the Twelfth Five Year Plan in 2012, stakeholders in India debated why progress on some goals has been rapid, but slow on others.** The reasons for uneven progress across goals and between regions, genders and minorities include the global economic crisis, unfair trade patterns, the phenomenon of “jobless growth,” rising inequality, social and economic exclusion, poor implementation of social programmes, governance deficits and human rights violations including gender violence and discrimination. In the new Twelfth Plan, India has recommitted itself to the achievement of the MDGs and to “faster, inclusive and sustainable growth.” India's Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has continued to monitor 35 of the 48 indicators recommended by the UN Development Group. Four national reports have been issued since 2005 and an update on MDG progress was presented in the 2013 Statistical Yearbook.
6. **Building on its commitment to the MDGs, India has responded to the call of the UN Secretary-General for inclusive broad-based consultations on the post-2015 development agenda.** Beginning in September 2012, eight national conveners representing the government, trade unions, industry, women's associations, farmer's associations, research institutions, civil society and youth organizations have undertaken constituency-based consultations throughout the country using 25 guiding questions grouped into three broad subject areas: the changing global context; the national context; and suggestions for the new post-2015 framework.
7. **Conveners have used a variety of participatory methods to generate input** for the post-2015 consultation including district, state, regional and national meetings, web-based platforms, dialogue groups, town hall meetings and research

papers. Findings have been collated using a standardized reporting template. Participant profiles, presentations, photos, videos and audio recordings have been made available to the public through a post-2015 India website developed by the office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator. In addition to being a platform for citizen input, the website serves as a repository for all relevant post-2015 documentation generated by stakeholders outside the structured consultations including studies, reports, opinion pieces, events, seminars and roundtables.

“It is of the utmost importance that unlike the MDGs, the post-2015 framework should apply both to developed and developing countries so as to create a more equitable set of responsibilities and obligations. Developed countries should also [be expected to reach goals.]”
Government

8. **The results of the constituency consultations have been shared at a National Validation,** facilitated by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and attended by the Ministry of External Affairs. This report summarizes the key findings and recommendations of the Validation and is organized around the three broad subject areas: the changing global context, the national context and suggestions for the new framework. Given India's diversity, not all findings are agreed by all groups. To ensure that the views of each constituency are fully visible, the reports submitted by the eight conveners are attached in the annex.



Changing Global Context

This section summarizes key points raised during the consultation about the changing global context and the implication of these for the post-2015 framework.

9. **The political, economic, social and environmental global context has changed significantly since 2000 when the original MDGs were agreed.** To remain relevant, the new post-2015 development framework must take these changes, many of which are profound in both scope and nature, into account.

Political Changes

10. **The global south has emerged as a major force in the world, although fundamental inequities between developed and developing countries persist.** This has several important implications for the new development agenda. First, the governing structures of global development institutions do not yet reflect new political realities, including the role being played by rapidly developing countries. This will have to change, and quickly, if the global south is to retain confidence in the post-2015 agenda. Second, developing countries, even ones that have achieved high growth rates over the past decade, continue to suffer from poverty, deprivation, hunger, malnutrition, gender inequality, poor education and inadequate healthcare. The rise of the global south, as transformative as it is, in no way diminishes the historic responsibility which the north bears to help overcome the legacy and consequences of underdevelopment. The failure of developed countries to fulfill their pledge to commit 0.7 percent of their gross national income to official development assistance is a disappointment, which developing nations hope will be rectified through the new agenda. At the same time, there should be no misunderstanding about the scope and role of south-south cooperation. This new and exciting form of solidarity is a voluntary partnership, free from externally imposed norms. For the global south, respecting this essential aspect of south-south cooperation in the new development agenda is a priority.

“The slowdown of the global economy has only made things worse. Means of implementation for developing countries are drying up. Our ability to provide safety nets to the vulnerable sections of our society has been shrinking, thereby widening the North-South Gap.” Salman Khurshid, Minister of External Affairs

11. **The fight against terrorism now dominates international relations and mass communication and social media are impacting political dynamics in unexpected ways.** In the aftermath of 9/11, development strategies are increasingly shaped by security imperatives, and financial

National Conveners organized more than 75 community, state, regional and national constituency-based consultations in 24 states and Union Territories between September 2012 and February 2013. An estimated 15,000 people participated in the consultations—25 percent of whom were women—and thousands of organizations, with collective representative membership of 400 million from across India, were involved in the process.

The Government consultation was convened by the Ministry of External Affairs and involved relevant sections of the government.

The Civil Society consultation was convened by Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA), a coalition of 4,000 organizations that works to end poverty and social exclusion. WNTA organized 13 consultations including five thematic, three academic, four regional and one national consultation.

The Industry consultation was convened by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), a prominent business association with a direct membership of 7,100 organizations from the private and public sectors, and an indirect membership of 90,000 companies. CII organized 24 state consultations and one national consultation involving people from a wide range of large, medium and small companies, microenterprises, local entrepreneurs, local business associations, labour welfare associations and corporate organizations. UN support was

provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Trade Union consultation was convened by Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), the trade union wing of the Indian National Congress with an affiliation to the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). INTUC organized four regional and one national consultation, involving hundreds of senior trade union representatives from 11 of the country's 12 Central Trade Unions and associations. UN support was provided by International Labour Organization (ILO).

The Farmers' Associations consultation was convened by the Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) which represents 250 farmer producer organizations (FPOs) covering 250,000 farmers with the aim of increasing access to investments, technology and markets through new ventures in agro-based industries, fisheries and horticulture. SFAC organized eight regional and one national consultation. UN support was provided by Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

The Women's Associations consultation was convened by the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW), which is part of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, with a mandate to coordinate women's welfare and socio-economic development programmes across ministries and departments. NMEW organized 15

community, three regional and one national consultation. UN support was provided by UN Women.

The Research Institute consultation was convened by Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), an autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs that specializes in policy research on international economic issues and development cooperation. RIS organized a national consultation of 24 leading research Institutes working on policy, research, and economic issues. UN support was provided by UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific UNESCAP.

The Youth consultation was co-convened by four youth organizations, JOSH, Pravah, The YP Foundation and Restless Development. JOSH works towards engaging youth on issues of transparency and accountability; PRAVAH's vision is to build leadership for social change with young people; Restless Development India is committed to mobilizing and empowering young people; The YP Foundation is a youth-led organization that supports young people to create programmes and influence policies in the areas of gender, sexuality, health and rights, education, digital media, the arts and governance. The co-conveners organized five regional consultations with over 100 youth organizations across India. UN support was provided by UNFPA and UNICEF.

“The role of developed countries in shaping the post-2015 development agenda must not be limited to making mere prescriptive policy changes but bringing about substantive source correction in the prevalent economic policy paradigm.”
Civil Society

resources that might otherwise be allocated for social and economic empowerment are being shifted to programmes that may have only limited, or worse, negative impact on social inequalities. At the same time, political events in one country are influencing other regions and countries through communication technologies that put global citizens in touch with rapidly evolving events. Ideas and networks are spreading faster and perhaps more effectively than ever before. Harnessed in the right way, new technologies can help to empower communities that have been excluded and link them to centres of decision-making as well as to other marginalized communities. Recognizing that this is the case will help to make the post-2015 relevant to a new generation.

Economic Issues

12. **The 2008 financial crisis and globalization have disproportionately impacted workers and producers in the global south.** One of the most worrying consequences of the economic downturn has been the sharp increase in job insecurity throughout the world. The impact of this in developing countries, where global capital has put intense pressure on wages and where measures to protect labour and workers are not as advanced as in the north, is particularly magnified. The failure of world trade talks to promote fair trade, particularly in the agricultural sector where subsidies for northern farmers create market and pricing distortions has further disadvantaged producers in the global south, deepening the burden carried by the world's weaker economies and communities.
13. **Despite the promise of large-scale aid to developing countries, official development assistance has contributed only modestly to transformative social and economic change.** For decades, former colonial countries and other *first starters*, who have prospered at least in part, by monopolizing global public goods and resources, have stated their strong commitment to helping countries overcome poverty and barriers to growth. The original MDG framework was intended to accelerate the transformative process by focusing *international* and *domestic* efforts on a handful of human development goals and setting a deadline for achieving these. In practice, the overwhelming bulk of the development investment in the past decade that has lifted close to one billion people from poverty has been generated through national budgets and implemented by national institutions through national programmes. The role

of development assistance has been disappointing. If the new post-2015 framework is to remain global in scope and ambition, countries in the south need to be reassured that development capital and investment will be more readily and equitably available through better trade agreements, more accessible banks, more innovative financial institutions and more generous universal programmes. Halting the illicit financial flows that drain resources from developing countries, increasing tax to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) ratios and closing tax loopholes are also key ways of mobilizing the national and international resources that will be required for the new framework.

“The lens of simply viewing young people as an expanding workforce to increase GDP is too short-sighted and misses the irony of increasing unemployment.” Youth Groups

Social Issues

14. **The demographic bulge in the global south is putting new pressures on social compacts and inter-generational relations in ways that are difficult for countries to manage.** Throughout the South, large youth populations are competing with older generations for scarce national resources. Governments are facing the problem of having to balance education and training budgets, with demands for universal entitlements and pensions to support the elderly, workers and others in absolute poverty. Rising expectations by all segments of society are pushing countries into adopting policies that may prove unsustainable over time. Governments are also struggling to address the negative social consequences of uncontrolled globalization, modernization and urbanization including human trafficking, drug use and surging gender-based violence. A post-2015 framework that ignores the social pressures being generated in the global south will be of limited value.

Environmental Issues

15. **The environmental problems confronting the world seem almost unmanageable.** With time running out for the planet—delays in agreeing on frameworks for addressing climate change, ensuring energy for all, reducing competition for water and halting environmental degradation are deeply worrying. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) confirmed at the Rio+20 conference in 2012 is the most sensible way forward for ensuring the sustainable and equitable use of natural resources. Any retrenchment from this position within a new framework would be regrettable and counterproductive.

The National Context

This section summarizes key points raised during the consultation about India's national context.

Governance

16. **India's governance achievements set it apart from other countries.** With a democratic tradition dating to independence, India has a voter base larger than that of the United States, Europe and Australia combined and has the largest absolute number of elected women representatives in the world at 1.2 million. As the world's largest democracy and with one of the world's most progressive legislative frameworks, India is committed to achieving rapid, inclusive and sustainable national growth through its newly adopted Twelfth Five Year Plan and continues to regard human rights as the foundation for global governance and engagement. More disappointingly, efforts to fight corruption, which impacts all levels of governance and hits the poorest the hardest, are proving only minimally effective. Coercive efforts to stabilize areas impacted by "left wing extremism" and insurgencies continue and, because they sometimes involve abusive use of force by security organs, are often criticized.
17. **Social movements continue to advocate for change.** Campaigns to end corruption, ensure tribal rights and halt violence against women continue to mobilize millions across India. Governance deficits linked to the delivery of social goods, violations of human rights and inadequate redress and grievance mechanisms are frequently raised by groups committed to reinforcing India's social compact. Networks across India have campaigned in favour of the country's pioneering Right to Information Act and supported social audits which have improved accountability in many districts. Although levels of citizen participation in planning, budgeting and monitoring vary, reforms aimed at further decentralization particularly at the *panchayat* level, are seen as concrete ways of improving accountability and transparency.

"An acceptable and suitable form of governance is critical for the management and maintenance of organized societies." Industry

Economic Issues

18. **India has one of the fastest growing economies in the world, ranking fourth in the world in terms of GDP size.** The impact of this growth is remarkable. The decline in the

level of poverty in India in the past ten years has been two-and-a-half times faster than the previous decade. Indian companies are world leaders in many sectors and, with a huge youth population and skilled workforce, India is looked at as an important driver of new markets and improved productivity. Despite this impressive record, one of the most striking features of India's growth since the 1990s has been the rise in extreme wealth and inequality. India's Gini coefficient has increased from 0.32 in 1993 to 0.38 in 2008 and the share in income of the top 20 percent of the population has increased from 40 percent in 1994 to 42.4 percent in 2005.

19. **Some of the world's most important economists have looked at why India's growth has not had more positive impact on social conditions.** The reasons for this are complicated but relate, at least in part, to a combination of factors including the decline of decent work, the sharp increase in informal contract labour and the large numbers of internal migrants forced to work for below subsistence wages. Another major contributing factor is the agricultural sector, which has the largest workforce but is also one of the least productive sectors, and is currently under intense pressure from demands for urbanization, industrialization and mining. The bottom 20 percent of India's population have been hit

"The emphasis on tackling income inequality is a matter of priority, including the need to ensure that bottom 20 percent of the population is improving their economic status faster than the top 20 percent through inclusive growth." Women's Associations

"There is probably no other example in the history of world development of an economy growing so fast for so long with such limited results in terms of broad-based social progress." Amartya Sen, Nobel Laureate Economist



“Jobs are the centre of development. As such, employment must be seen as one of the primary instruments for overcoming poverty, inequality and exclusion.” Trade Unions

particularly hard by inflation, rising food prices and the high cost of health care. Experts estimate that many families are only one catastrophic illness away from slipping below the poverty line.

20. **Although the economy continues to grow, workers remain under pressure.** Conditions are precarious for workers, particularly in the informal sector, with widespread violations of labour laws and rights linked to outsourcing and contractual labour. Uneven growth across sectors impacts on labour. The profitable service sector attracts exemptions and cash incentives while the agricultural and manufacturing sectors, employing the largest proportion of the workforce, have been unable to upgrade working conditions and wages. In a positive development for labour, the government’s guaranteed work scheme is contributing to higher seasonal rural wages. Women continue to occupy the bottom of the economic ladder, with marginalized women further down the ladder than anyone else. With limited skills, few assets, minimal access to financial products and sometimes victimized socially, evidence indicates that minority women have benefitted the least from India’s economic advancement.



Social Issues

21. **India has made a long-term commitment to social transformation and implements some of the world's largest affirmative action programmes,** including reserved seats in local government. Despite India's undeniable social progress, marginalized communities are, and may continue to be left behind unless the efforts outlined in the country's new Twelfth Five Year Plan to deepen inclusion are accelerated. Conditions vary substantially across India. In some regions, social transformation has resulted in much higher human development indicators for all groups while in others, progress across gender, caste and religious groups remains uneven. Marginalized communities, wherever they are, face enormous barriers. They manage the fewest assets, work in the lowest paid jobs, have trouble securing finance, struggle to access justice, are often food insecure, leave school the earliest, have the most trouble during pregnancy and child birth and have the highest levels of child malnutrition. Some groups face inter-generational barriers. For example, although there are no legal impediments to attending school, Muslims have disproportionately low education levels. Many tribal communities live in resource-rich locations where, despite legal protections, industrialization and widespread mining have led to displacement, loss of land and livelihoods, neglect of agriculture and environmental degradation.
22. **Women and girls continue to face social, cultural and economic discrimination.** Although conditions differ across India, and in some areas gender indicators are notably higher than in other regions, patriarchal subversion is widespread, being embedded and reinforced through public and private institutions, instruments and processes. Studies show that close to two-thirds of women are subjected to violence. Women who belong to socially excluded groups are subject to the worst forms of violence and, in many cases, have no, or only limited recourse to legal or administrative justice and action. This is particularly true of women living with HIV/AIDS, women with disabilities, sex workers, widows and women living in areas administered by security forces. The lack of women's autonomy over their own bodies and the generalized preference for sons contribute to one of the world's highest gender differentiations at birth.
23. **The economic status of women is particularly worrying.** In many, but not all parts of India, women are traditionally deprived of land and property rights and often function as cheap

"One of the weaknesses of the MDGs was that the social dimension did not get adequate attention, in particular the needs of socially excluded groups... addressing exclusion is vitally important for an inclusive development process."
Research Institutes

"Gender based discrimination continues to be a serious barrier in achieving equitable and sustainable livelihoods. Despite the fact that women constitute three quarters of the workforce engaged in agriculture, property rights are heavily stacked against them."
Farmer's Associations

“Absence of toilets force women to drink less water and eat less food, leading to serious health issues”

Women’s Associations

labour or supplement their domestic chores as a farm hand. Although often overlooked as a problem, women are impacted particularly hard by climate change and the irresponsible use of natural resources, including the depletion of water sources. Women are having to spend more time and energy accessing food, water and fuel, and have reduced time to participate in income generating processes, undermining their education, health and productivity. Their situation is compounded by a male-dominated workforce at points of service delivery and by the fact that a large percentage of women do not access their entitlements, either because they are unaware of them, or, equally likely, dis-incentivized by prohibitively high transaction costs.

24. **Having achieved nearly universal primary enrolment, priority is being given to improving the quality of learning.** Efforts to reduce teacher absenteeism and improve qualifications are being promoted in many states. Initiatives are also being designed and implemented with the aim of eliminating caste and religion-based discrimination in the schoolroom. Children of Dalit, tribal and other minority groups, particularly girls, often face harassment at school from peers and teachers, contributing to high drop-out rates. Marginalized children, particularly migrant and disabled children, still do not have equitable access to education. Poor learning outcomes and high dropout rates are compounded by the fact that many schools are hard to reach and a large percentage of schools still lack toilets for girls.
25. **As a result of major public health campaigns stretching across the country, HIV/AIDS and polio have been halted.** Since 2010, India has been polio-free, a remarkable achievement for a country which, until recently, accounted for nearly half the world’s polio cases. India has also managed to reverse the trend prevalence of HIV/AIDS. In view of these successes, India’s slower progress on maternal health, maternal mortality, infant and under-five mortality and malnutrition requires reflection. The reasons for lagging health indicators are complicated, but relate to the combination of inadequate infrastructure, lack of trained medical practitioners in inaccessible parts of the country, outdated social practices, prejudice against women, lack of awareness and escalating food and medical costs. The fact that half of the Indian population defecates in the open is a major, if not the decisive factor, explaining the country’s persistently high morbidity and mortality rates and malnutrition levels.

26. **India's commitment to improving social conditions is unparalleled and an example for other countries.**

India's government continues to administer some of the world's largest public support and redistributive initiatives including the world's largest daily school meal programme and an employment scheme that guarantees 100 days of work on demand for people below the poverty line. In the past decade, India has passed laws against pre-natal sex selection, dowry, bigamy, domestic violence, rape and sexual assault as part of its commitment to directly address the causes of gender disempowerment. During the past five years, under the country's Eleventh National Plan, more than USD 129 billion has been committed to the government's 15 largest social flagship schemes. Under India's new Twelfth National Plan, more than six percent of the country's gross domestic product will be channeled during the next five years into public investments including infrastructure and social programmes.

"Every person should have the right to water for life and his livelihood. I have grown up next to a river and now I have to buy the water from it! Why is it being piped and sold to other states when our needs are not yet met?"

Youth Groups



Environmental Issues

27. **Of the environmental issues requiring urgent attention, the depletion of water bodies and overuse of ground water is most worrying.** Water shortages are already projected across a number of states, impacting directly on agriculture production and domestic consumption. Many, if not most, urban and rural drinking water supply systems are managed unsustainably, risking future provision. Water shortages have a number of corollary effects. In many rural communities, women and girls are being forced to walk further to collect water, reducing time available for education, work and citizen participation.
28. **Perhaps nothing is as important for India's continuing development as energy security.** With 400 million people unable to access energy, India is working to manage diminishing supplies of coal and other energy sources in ways which balance agriculture, industry and domestic use. The effective management of biodiversity is an equally high priority, particularly in tribal areas where loss of biodiversity is undermining the livelihoods of India's poorest and most marginalized communities. As in other countries,



climate change is disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities, undermining food security and livelihoods and putting populations at greater risk of disasters.

29. **Unless environmental degradation is addressed and natural resources managed more effectively, India's development gains are at risk.** India has long argued that high levels of poverty are a key factor leading to environmental degradation and pollution. Experts are now warning that the country may shortly reach a threshold where the combination of poverty, poor resource management and climate change contribute to a significant, if not irreversible, increase in fragility. Already, communities are struggling with repeated crop failures, unpredictable monsoons, depletion of water sources and deforestation. The phenomenon of "water stress and energy poverty" is having a particularly hard impact on rural areas where farmer suicides are on the rise. Market signals are also a contributing factor. Rising prices have incentivized farmers to replace staple food crops with cash crops that require excessive water and pesticide use and which create soil fatigue.

Proposals for the New Development Agenda

30. **Diverse views have been expressed by the eight constituencies involved in the national consultation.** Many constituencies involved in the national consultation feel strongly that the framework which replaces the MDGs must start by reaffirming the human rights principles enshrined in the Millennium Declaration and the principles of sustainable and equitable development agreed at the Rio+20 Conference in 2012. Many also feel that financing for the new framework must be secured early in its lifespan, with international partners providing support in accordance with their historic responsibilities. The following proposals for the new development framework represent a synthesis of positions. Since, not all of the recommendations have been agreed on by all of the constituencies, each convener's report is annexed to ensure full transparency. In summary, the main recommendations are:
- a. In the framework's narrative section, countries should confirm that the new development agenda:
- reaffirms* the core values of the Millennium Declaration and gives primacy to poverty eradication, sustainable development, justice, shared responsibility, inclusive governance and women's empowerment
 - requires* that national governments, as signatories to fundamental UN human rights conventions, are expected to take strong actions to ensure their applicability to all citizens regardless of sex, caste, ethnic group or minority status
 - focuses* strongly on reducing social and economic inequality for the bottom 20 percent of the world's population and





Photo Credit: UN Women

reaffirms the international community's commitment to eradicate poverty by 2030

empowers nations to reach the new goals through national strategies and capacities in accordance with the sovereign compact of the United Nations

reaffirms the commitment to achieve the targets which were not reached in the original MDG framework

includes internationally agreed standards, including data disaggregated by gender, social group, age and ethnicity, which

national governments are encouraged to use to monitor country progress

will be financed, with the aim of ensuring development effectiveness, through a combination of national public and private investment, increased official development assistance and debt relief for the poorest countries

calls for implementation of the agenda to be done in a way that gives civil society its rightful place through inclusive decision-making, people-centered planning and citizen-led monitoring

- b. The goal on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger should be given the highest priority.
- c. A new global goal that links growth and decent work should be agreed.
- d. A re-written goal that aims to eliminate gender inequality through targets on women's social, economic and political empowerment should be agreed.
- e. Re-written goals guaranteeing universal access to quality healthcare and basic education should be agreed.
- f. A new goal guaranteeing sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation should be agreed.
- g. A new integrated goal linking sustainable water use and food security should be agreed.
- h. A new goal guaranteeing universal access to sustainable energy should be agreed.
- i. In support of these global goals, constituencies in the national consultation have referenced a number of possible targets:
 - Reduce the number of people below the poverty line by 15-20 percent, over the lifespan of the framework
 - Eradicate poverty among the bottom 20 percent of the world's poor
 - Halve the proportion of people, including children, who suffer from malnutrition
 - Ensure a minimum living wage for workers in formal and informal sectors
 - Ensure gender equality in the workplace
 - Ensure a minimum social protection floor is in place
 - Ensure all citizens have access to social security including a minimum pension
 - Ensure equal property rights and equal access to credit
 - Ensure equal representative in governance institutions
 - Reduce maternal mortality by three-quarters from the 1990 baseline
 - Reduce child mortality by two-thirds from the 1990 baseline
 - Provide free essential drugs
 - Ensure sexual and reproductive rights
 - Ensure completion of schooling, including secondary schooling, for all children
 - Increase utilization of primary health services
 - Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other communicable and non-communicable diseases
 - Combat major life-threatening non-communicable diseases
 - Secure and renew urban and rural water supplies
 - Eliminate open defecation
 - Ensure rural and urban waste management systems
 - Establish a global governance framework, on the basis of the principles agreed at Rio+20, for ensuring sustainable water and energy use
 - Ensure clean technologies are affordable and accessible



PART II

Reports of National Convenors



Photo Credit: UNICEF



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India

Post-2015 Development Agenda



The Government of India appreciates the opportunity to present its preliminary views on the issue of post-2015 Development Agenda to the UNDP.

The views of Government of India on the various aspects of this agenda are encapsulated below:

1. Government of India attaches great importance to the international deliberations on a post-2015 development agenda as this will not only define the key international development priorities but the overall template for global cooperation in the coming decade and more.
2. At the national level, the Ministry of External Affairs is in the process of evolving India's national approach to the issue of post-2015 development agenda through intensive consultations with the relevant Ministries/ Departments of the Government as well as other stakeholders.
3. First and foremost, in the post-2015 development agenda, the emphasis is on the term 'development'. Consequently, there is need to ensure that the framework promotes robust development. That is the touchstone of this agenda.
4. In doing so, it should preserve national policy space and priorities of developing countries. Any effort to constrict policy space and hamper efforts to achieve this objective cannot be a part of this agenda.
5. Further, the post-2015 development agenda must remain rooted at its core on poverty eradication, which was identified at Rio+20 as the greatest global challenge. Despite impressive gains in poverty eradication, owing mainly to the efforts of China and India, this remains the central challenge facing us today.
6. A lot of salience is being given to idea of how has the world changed in the last two decades, and how this needs to be reflected in the new agenda. But it is equally important to ask the question – How has the world not changed? The development agenda must not overlook the vast socio-economic and developmental challenges, which continue to confront the developing countries to this day. Issues of poverty, deprivation, hunger, sanitation, malnutrition, gender inequality, education, health etc. pose significant burdens on the countries of the south. Similarly, the fundamental inequity between the developed and developing countries has also not changed in any meaningful manner. People in developing countries continue to be the most poor and deprived and despite impressive growth rates, there remains a yawning gap between the developing and developed countries on practically all indicators – per capita income, energy consumption, resource consumption, human development index etc. It is notable that only one country has so far graduated from the list of 49 Least Developed Countries (LDCs). In fact, the recent multiple global crises have worsened these developmental challenges and inequities. Consequently, the importance of tackling these 'old' challenges in the new post-2015 paradigm should not be underplayed.
7. India feels that the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) or Rio+20 is the latest and highest level political consensus we have on the major development issues confronting us, and therefore the mandate of Rio+20 must be fully respected as the basis for the post-2015 development agenda. Similarly, those initiatives rejected at Rio+20 should not be reintroduced.
8. At the same time, the Rio principles, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, which were unequivocally reaffirmed at Rio+20 must form the bedrock of the new development

agenda. We reject formulations, which take the focus away from CBDR and equality.

9. The 'development' agenda must remain 'growth-focused', aiming to spur and support robust economic growth in developing countries, which is important for employment generation and social inclusion.
10. The post-2015 development agenda must preserve the simplicity of the narrative which was the strength of the MDGs. It should focus on the key developmental challenges in the world, but should be practical and implementable, and limited in number. It is important not to overburden the agenda with a 'laundry list' of world problems.
11. It is of utmost importance that unlike the MDGs, the post-2015 framework should apply both to developed and developing countries, so as to create a more equitable set of responsibilities and obligations. Developed countries should also have goals like what developing countries may be taking up under the framework.
12. Means of Implementation will be fundamental to the success of developing countries to achieving the goals of the post-2015 development agenda. This agenda cannot be a mere template to spur domestic action through domestic funding, and rearranging domestic priorities with any international commitment. A lesson learnt from MDGs was the failure of Goal 8 on development partnerships and the impact it had on the non-achievement of some goals by developing countries. The post-2015 development agenda must have clear cut road-map for enhancing means for the developing countries to implement the agenda.
13. Availability of additional financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building assistance are key components of any international compact for development cooperation. The Global Partnership for the post-2015 agenda must have clear cut commitments on official development assistance, public finance, technology transfer, and capacity building. It must, more importantly, address the systemic and structural issues to enhance the development policy space of developing countries.
14. Technology transfer is integral to ensuring that developing countries are provided the wherewithal to enhance their efficiency and productivity. The Rio+20 outcome on technology transfer is directly relevant in this context and needs to be fully implemented.
15. Once again, unlike the MDGs, the post-2015 development agenda must be arrived at through an inclusive and transparent inter-governmental process under the United Nations.
16. Despite impressive progress in the achievement of MDGs, the goals and targets under them would remain relevant for developing countries even in the post-2015 period. It is important therefore that the post-2015 development agenda retains the core development priorities embodied in the MDGs.
17. India does not support further sub-dividing the MDG goals into sub goals and adding new indicators.
18. The "development agenda" is not a "Governance Agenda". Primacy should be given to Right to Development.
19. While such issues such as human rights and governance are relevant to the global development narrative, they cannot be made the focus of the development agenda and certainly not as goals. Issues related to conflict and security equally cannot be part of the developmental narrative per se. Further, there

are established international structures to deal with these political issues, and it would not be desirable to import them in to the post-2015 development agenda. Such issues have the potential to infuse a political colour to the entire discussions and distract us from the core developmental issues.

20. Further national governance issues can hardly be tabled effectively without tackling global governance deficit, especially reform of global governance institutions.
21. The large gap in the consumption patterns of the industrialized West and the developing countries is unsustainable and also iniquitous. The key problem of rationalizing the unsustainable patterns of consumption in the developed countries must be addressed meaningfully in the post-2015 development agenda.

22. Importing the debate on Climate Change from UNFCCC to the post-2015 development agenda is not desirable and would, in fact, be counterproductive. India believes that UNFCCC is the sole multilateral forum under the United Nations for a global response to climate change. Under the UNFCCC countries are engaged in negotiations which are poised at a crucial juncture. Under the Durban Platform negotiations have been launched to develop 'a protocol, another legal instrument, or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties'. Moreover, the principles and provisions of UNFCCC must be fully respected for any multilateral response to Climate Change.
23. India being a predominantly agricultural country, where majority depend on it for their existence and livelihood, India would resist any attempt to intrude into the national policy



space to regulate agriculture. In this context, there have even been some discussions on mitigation of emissions from agriculture and livestock. This is a redline for us as agriculture is directly connected with the livelihoods of millions of our people dependent on it.

delivery and evaluation of all development assistance whether North-South or South-South. Such discussions fail to take into account the underlying premises of South-South cooperation, the circumstances in which it developed and its unique character.

24. A lot of emphasis is being given to South-South Cooperation as a pillar for a renewed global partnership for the post-2015 development agenda. In the last decade or so, the range and quantum of South-South cooperation has expanded significantly. At the same time, it is disturbing to note that there has been slackening of donor enthusiasm in developed countries, in the background of difficult global economic conditions. This has resulted in call by developed countries for bringing the South-South cooperation into the traditional framework of North-South cooperation, which would include inter alia evolution of universal norms for identification,
25. South-South cooperation operates under its own unique circumstances and is governed by certain important principles, which were elaborated on by G-77 and China and later endorsed by the international community in the Nairobi Outcome Document of the High Level UN Conference on South-South Cooperation of 2009. The increasing salience on South-South Cooperation conveniently overlooks the reality that developing countries, even the so called emerging economies, continue to confront major economic challenges of their own, exacerbated by the current global economic situation, which place an inherent limitation



Photo Credit: UN Women

on their capacity to contribute to international development cooperation.

26. The assistance which developing countries offer to other developing countries should therefore continue to remain voluntary, and free from externally imposed norms drawn from North-South cooperation. At the same time, the rising contribution of the South must not be a premise for the North to withdraw from its obligations and commitments. South-South can supplement, not supplant North-South flows. We cannot have an elevation of South-South cooperation on the one hand and a dilution of North-South flows on the other in the name of finding 'innovative solutions'.
27. Given the cooperative nature of the entire agenda, it should be ensured that the post-2015 development agenda does not translate into conditionality for aid and financial assistance for developing countries.
28. It is equally important to understand that to have tight international baselines, international accounting and monitoring may be counterproductive in what is essentially a country-driven and nationally owned exercise. We cannot accept international monitoring over domestic action undertaken with domestic funding.
29. Creation of basic infrastructure in developing countries is a key bottleneck for inclusive development. Lack of effective infrastructure also hampers progress on other indicators such as health and education facilities. There needs to be enough policy space for developing countries to focus on this very fundamental exercise which is a sine qua non for development.
30. Access to energy is a key enabler for development. Rio+20 committed support for universal access to sustainable modern energy services. The discourse on energy should also preserve the flexibility and space for national authorities to make their own choices based on national circumstances and priorities. In this context, it is evident that mechanisms that facilitate transfer of technologies from developed to developing countries must be prioritized. We subscribe to the need to prioritize universal access to energy. However, we are equally striving for increasing the share of renewable energy and improving our energy efficiency. However, as regards UN Secretary General's 'Energy For All' goals, which indicates specific time period for all these three goals to be achieved together, given the national circumstances and energy scenario, we can only take one of the three as the first priority namely universal access to energy.
31. Rio+20 recognized the importance of universal health coverage. Unlike the MDGs which focused on communicable diseases, the post-2015 development agenda should start focusing on non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, heart diseases and also the neglected tropical diseases. At Rio+20 as well, non-communicable diseases were identified as a major challenge for sustainable development.
32. Gender empowerment, gender equality and gender mainstreaming remain important priorities for a global development agenda. Enhanced participation of women in decision making, in particular in elected bodies at local levels, needs to be prioritized.
33. On labour issues, the fundamental focus should be on ensuring full and productive employment for all. This was recognized in Rio+20 as well which also noted the 'importance of job creation by investing in and developing sound, effective and efficient economic and social infrastructure and productive capacities for sustainable development and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth'. National



Photo Credit: UNESCO

circumstances, needs and priorities should be respected.

34. Consequently, issues relating to jobs should be decided as per the mandate of Rio+20. What is critical from developing countries' point of view is 'job creation' per se and not just green jobs.
35. We do not favour any move to have firm timelines for ratification of ILO Conventions by countries. For developing countries facing numerous socio-economic and resource challenges, the timelines for ratification of Conventions should be determined by the national circumstances and priorities.
36. Social protection is important but social protection floors are nationally defined sets of basic social security guarantees which secure protection aimed at preventing or alleviating poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion. In our view, social protection floors should be country specific and nationally determined and based on existing socio-economic conditions, national priorities and availability of resources. Uniformity across the countries in this context may be avoided.
37. Education continues to be a key priority for developing countries, particularly access to education, both at the primary as also at secondary and tertiary levels. Simultaneously, technical and vocational training is required for diversifying economies and creating productive employment for all. Use of ICT for education can be a force-multiplier and needs to be judiciously prioritized to enhance the effectiveness of interventions in education.
38. On migration, there is need for flexible migration policies to address population dynamics and movement of people as this has a strong developmental focus in developing countries. Migration should not be viewed in a protectionist framework.

39. When we discuss population dynamics, it is equally important that the premise of huge population in developing countries is not projected as the reason for unsustainability, which would serve to undermine the pressing urgency to change lifestyle patterns in developed countries.
40. Rio+20 noted the importance of water to sustainable development, including access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. At the same time, trans-boundary issues must not be brought into this ambit as there are political sensitivities with such issues. Rio+20 also noted that management of water ecosystems must be done within respective national boundaries.
41. Food security is fundamental to developing countries especially those with large populations. Policies that ensure availability of food at reasonable prices to the people should be encouraged and international market distorting policies in food trade should be eschewed.
42. In the development context, it is important that we continue to strengthen the multilateral rule-based regime in trade, which is an important factor in economic development. Anything which weakens such a regime should be avoided, in particular protectionist tendencies.
43. If indeed governance issues are being discussed, the post-2015 development agenda must be utilized to press for urgent reform of global decision making structures. In this respect calling for greater voice and participation of developing countries in the Bretton Woods Institutions and the reform of the United Nations in keeping with new economic and geo-political realities must receive concerted attention. Determined push must also be made to make equitable geographical representation the basis for membership of the ECOSOC, UN Funds and Programmes and other UN structures. Reform of global trading regime and economic frameworks must be pursued on the basis on equity and special development needs.
44. India does not see the post-2015 Development Agenda template as one which shifts responsibility from the North to the South, especially not from the North to the so-called emerging economies. The first step is for South to have a greater say in global governance.



Civil Society

Convened by
Wada Na Todo Abhiyan

WNTA is a national campaign launched in 2004 and a coalition of about 4000 civil society organizations in India, with an aim to hold the government accountable to its promise to end poverty and social exclusion. WNTA is also affiliated to the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP). Website: <http://www.wadanatodo.net>

Consultative Process and Methodology

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA), as the convener for civil society, organized 13 consultations and roundtables between September-December 2012 including five thematic, three academic,

four regional and one national consultation involving a wide range of civil society groups. The national consultation was held on 27 – 28 November 2012 in New Delhi. WNTA also organized two dialogues in New Delhi including one with Abhijit Banerjee, Member of High Level Panel of Eminent Persons (HLPEP). The thematic consultations, held across the country, covered youth, child rights, urban poor, gender, Muslims and education. WNTA submitted the national report based on the National Consultation, which in turn was based on recommendations from the national, regional and thematic discussions. The reports can be accessed online at: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/301673>

The Process

In evolving consensus on the principles that need to guide the post-2015 development framework as well as articulating the key Concerns, the process that we have followed has been consultative:

We have held a series of civil society/stakeholder consultations – two national planning meetings followed by five regional civil society organization (CSO) meetings (in north, east, west, south, and north-east India), three focused regional interactions with academicians (in north, west and south India), and five thematic consultations (on gender, child rights, youth, Muslims, and urban poor) - all of which culminated in one national consultation. The outcomes report can be accessed online at <http://bit.ly/XQ9Vcs>

These national consultations were followed up with one international-level dialogue that brought together Southern voices to articulate key asks from the post-2015 agenda. The outcomes report can be accessed online at: <http://bit.ly/11pOJds>

Simultaneously, we have also had discussions with the Members of Parliament on ways to engage with the process as also a couple of initial scoping meetings with the corporate sector. WNTA engaged with civil society activists and legislators from around the world to discuss the need to focus on the structural aspects leading to poverty, exclusion and inequality. More on this can be accessed online at: <http://bit.ly/XqZ4GT>

With regard to the guiding questions, it was decided to frame the discussions around the need to:

- Develop an alternative framework and key narratives
- Identify goals and indicators – focusing on outcome, process and inclusion aspects
- Document case studies to substantiate the

rationale for reviewing the existing framework

- Proposing an overall timeframe for the alternative development framework

We derive our Rationale to engage in this process with the understanding that:

- The debate on the global development framework gives us an opportunity to engage governments on lessons learnt from implementation of the MDG framework in the last decade, while also reflecting on the new challenges faced by vulnerable communities.
- Given India's role as a country with one-third of the world's poor, but one that is also recognized as a global economic power, with growing influence in forums such as the BRICS and G20, this puts an additional onus on Indian civil society to play a proactive role in shaping the agenda and structure of the post-2015 development dialogue.
- WNTA has been at the forefront of mobilizing public and political engagement with the MDGs in the country and aims to make these goals more socially just, equitable, sustainable and inclusive.

The post-2015 development discourse must be defined by the following five principles:

1. The existing MDGs have largely ignored the universality, indivisibility, inter-dependence and inter-relatedness of human rights. If the post-2015 development agenda is to remain relevant, it must emphasize on the fundamental inalienability of human rights as the macro frame to locate within it specific goals and targets.
2. Inequalities, discrimination and social exclusion, particularly caste, ethnic and gender inequalities, have always been inadequately addressed. The evolving development agenda in the post-2015 frame needs to focus on diagnostic, i.e. structural reforms, rather than prescriptive measures. In this context, it becomes

necessary to ensure that all prevalent macroeconomic policy directions that foster and perpetuate inequalities and social exclusion— be reviewed through the lens of intersectionalities including discrimination based on caste, religious, sexual and gender identities. Widely accessible, non-discriminatory, participatory and quality basic public services including in health, water and sanitation, education and housing and comprehensive services for survivors of violence, among others must be ensured. Excluded communities, especially women, must be engaged in budget formulation and in the planning and setting of agendas, as well as development schemes that benefit the community and focus on the most vulnerable – such as single women, survivors of violence and children.

3. A gender-transformative, gender-inclusive and gender-responsive policy frame guided by principles of gender equality and equity is essential to advance and achieve full potential of all women in all spheres of life, namely, economic, social and political. For this, generation of across the board gender-disaggregated data, fair representation of women on all decision-making platforms, equitable ownership and control over productive resources and a world free of violence and harassment against girls and women where justice can be accessed and women claim their dignity, autonomy and bodily integrity and where prevailing masculinity norms are challenged is sought.
4. The principle of a sustainable development pathway, when seen from the lens of the majority of the population of the globe and the dangers of climate change, would mean in real terms— year round access to basic necessities of food, shelter and livelihood for all men and women to survive with dignity and to secure these basic necessities even in the wake of climate variability. The goal must not be merely to alleviate poverty

but to ensure ‘well-being’, where economic and environmental sustainability are simultaneously ensured and the world acts together to reverse global warming and deal adequately with its impacts. To achieve this would imply a bottom-up perspective to the development trajectory. The vision of a low carbon society is an opportunity for us to make development choices, especially since there are large populations in developing countries which are yet to have access to basic energy.

5. The principle of ‘just’ governance must translate into the government being responsive to the needs of the people. There is a need for greater transparency, accountability and participation in terms of economic policymaking. Just governance should be the cornerstone of governance reform, and adequate institutions, capacities and resources need to be allocated to ensure implementation. This principle needs to apply not only to public institutions but to the private sector, to global governance institutions and to the developed world to ensure a level playing field.

MDG+15

Foregrounded by these principles, we have identified 15 key concerns that need to be addressed by the post-2015 development agenda. These have been arrived at, following a series of consultations and exchanges among Indian civil society activists and development practitioners:

1. Equitable access to basic quality public *healthcare* linking it with access to safe and sustainable water supply and sanitation. Benchmarks for financing of health through domestic resources and through ensuring compliance with existing donor targets for aid must be laid down.
2. Universal inclusive basic *education* with focus on quality and equity that also addresses concerns of retention, completion and the



Photo Credit: UN Women

learning environment. Delivery on this would entail adequate financing through a global benchmark for public spending and aid commitments.

3. Ensuring universal *food and nutrition security* focusing on children (including children with disabilities) and other marginalized groups such as migrants, aged, single women and persons with disabilities. To elaborate this a bit more: Food security and nutrition security are different but interlinked concepts. Nutrition security is multidimensional. Solutions to improve nutrition in a given country context will require integration among the sectors
4. *Employment and livelihood* needs to be attended to. Autonomy and sustainability of livelihood in the new economy, wherein every person is enabled to avail their full capacity, and a consensus on a social protection 'floor of dignity' below which no one should be allowed to fall must be arrived at.

In all these, it is important to note that ensuring a rights-based approach, improved governance

and accountability along with political commitment are critical to achieving results

5. *Peace and conflict* have become very critical in today's times, and measurable targets for creation of gainful employment, along with reduction in arms and armed militia in conflict-affected areas with special attention to women and the minorities is needed.
6. Moving on to some of the broader narratives, special focus on *human rights* is called for with monitorable targets to assess progress in human 'well-being' and dignity as opposed to mere human survival. The Constitutional tenets are the most fundamental and need to be referred to. Other references include UN Conventions on rights of child, persons with disabilities, and women.
7. A key aspect that has not been adequately stressed is *social inclusion* which needs to be articulated through non-discriminatory, participatory and monitorable targets focusing on advancing the rights of the most-excluded and the disadvantaged such as the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), Denotified Nomadic Tribes, religious minorities, children, aged, and persons with disabilities.
8. Another cross-cutting vital concern is that of *gender justice* and there is a need to establish gender equality through policy instruments designed to shift away from patriarchal social order, institutions and mindsets.
9. *Addressing Poverty and inequality* is fundamental and, for this, greater investments in irrigation, power, agricultural research and development, and roads in the poorer regions, where the concentration of poverty is increasing is called for. Further, progressive and redistributive taxation, public spending, especially for foundational investment in human capital, along with reforms in land and forest policies are vital to reducing
- inequalities. Transparency in public spending and greater participation in determining spending priorities is called for.
10. *Environmental justice* is another cross-cutting concern and a multi-pronged approach is needed. To cite one of these, more investments on renewable technologies innovative measures to help poor people adapt to climate change impacts in agriculture-related sectors and disaster management, and building sustainable cities focusing on public transport policies is necessary.
11. *Just Governance* provides a vital plank to base all of the aforementioned. Strong accountability mechanisms for better implementation and monitoring of basic services to all are sought. Public provisioning for basic services, decentralizing decision-making, people-centred planning and citizen-led monitoring are critical. For this, greater budget transparency, accountability in government spending, citizen involvement in determining budget priorities and participation in budget monitoring are also extremely vital.
12. Another aspect that is being focused on, but needs greater emphasis is *financing for development*: Developing countries need to step up domestic resource mobilization through increased tax-GDP ratios. Further, both developed and developing countries need to plug tax loopholes to check illicit financial flows that lead to significant loss of tax revenue and tax evasion. Innovative financial mechanisms also need to be explored as alternative funding options.
13. *Specifically, the role of developed countries* in shaping the post-2015 development agenda must not be limited to making mere prescriptive policy changes but bringing about substantive course correction in the prevalent economic policy paradigm.

14. *On the need for partnerships for development, we would expect clearly monitorable targets for the corporate sector in ensuring accountable, transparent and socially-just practices and processes.*

15. *Finally, to ensure that these processes are seamless and not stand-alone country specific efforts, there is a need for increased policy spaces to foster South-South cooperation in participating and influencing the post-2015 development agenda.*

For all of these, we would also need to articulate three kinds of indicators – the existing outcome indicators are extremely important, but along with these, it is also necessary to talk about process and inclusion indicators.

- To illustrate, if our goal in health is...“Equitable access to basic quality public healthcare for all”

Outcome Indicator: Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and child mortality rate to come down by 50 percent in all Empowered Action Group (EAG) states

Process Indicator: Ensuring 5 percent of GDP for health (as per World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations)

Inclusion Indicator: Minorities, STs, and SCs are able to access Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in remote, inaccessible parts of country

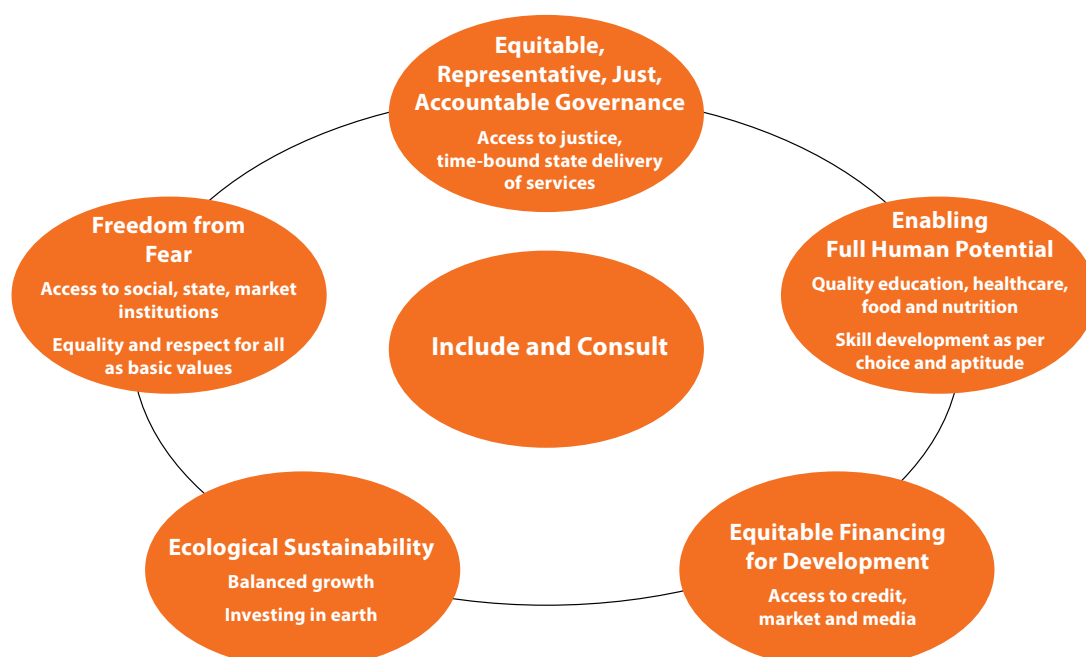
- *Education:* Universal basic public education with focus on quality and gender parity

Outcome: Increased ‘learning’ outcomes and providing adequate, quality and lasting education inputs (i.e. teachers, infrastructure) to all schools

Process: Ensuring 6 percent of GDP for education (NCMP, 2004; Kothari Commission, 1966)

Inclusion: Uniform quality schooling for children from minority, SC/ST community

Having said that, there is a need to review the development ‘agenda’ for the developed and developing countries in its entirety and focus on the causalities to poor achievement under the existing MDGs, and not merely make additions in terms of specific goals, targets and indicators. A broader rethink of the entire development frame needs to be attempted and it would have the following essential must-haves as core components of the modified architecture:



Oxfam India articulates some of these concerns in the form of ten goals:

Goals	Targets
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	A. Poverty among the bottom 20 per cent will be eradicated. B. Hunger will be eradicated and the proportion of people who suffer from malnutrition halved. C. Economic growth will create better paying, secure jobs and livelihoods for the poor.
2. Reduce inequality and enhance voice and participation	A. Inequalities in income and consumption between the bottom and top 5 per cent will be back to 1990 levels. B. Socially excluded groups will hold their fair share of assets. C. Socially excluded groups will be represented in elected assemblies (local and national) in proportion to their total percentage.
3. All women will attain their basic economic, social and political rights	A. Women will hold their fair share of assets. B. Women's right to a violence-free life at home, in public and at the workplace will be assured. C. 50 percent of elected representatives at the legislative assembly (national and local) will be women.
4. All children will attain their right to basic education	A. Universal retention of children in basic education will be achieved. B. All schools will attain basic norms of quality and inclusion. C. Pre-primary education will be available to all children.
5. Ensure access to quality essential healthcare for all	A. Governments will guarantee quality essential healthcare, and sexual and reproductive care for all. B. Essential medicine will be available, free of cost, for all. C. Tight regulations will prevent abuses in the private sector.
6. Ensure decent and secure housing for all	A. Ensure basic tenure security for all. B. All households will have access to sanitation facilities.
7. Reduce vulnerability and safeguard basic rights	A. Legal safeguards will protect the basic human rights of all, independently of their religion, caste, and ethnicity. B. All people will be covered by a minimal social protection floor. C. Effective prevention and protection policies will safeguard the basic rights of populations affected by disasters and conflicts.
8. Preserve and manage natural resources so as to fulfil the basic needs of all in culturally appropriate ways	A. Sustainable systems of harvesting and distribution will ensure access to safe drinking water for all. B. Sustainable systems of production and distribution will ensure access to nutritious food for all. C. People's basic needs for energy will be secured through sustainable means of production and distribution.
9. Bring humanity back into an environmentally safe space	A. Global warming will be kept below a two degree temperature rise above pre-industrial levels. B. Air pollution will be reduced to safe levels. C. The integrity of biodiversity and wildlife populations will be safeguarded. D. A mechanism will be set up to levy adequate compensations for environmental damages and climate footprints within and between countries.
10. Secure funding through progressive tax and resource allocations	A. Public spending for social services will be stepped up to internationally accepted minimum levels. B. Countries will secure funding to ensure the government's role in achieving the MDGs by raising adequate taxes. C. Tax evasion and dodging will be curbed by setting up transparent international frameworks. D. The needs of poor countries will be addressed by enhancing debt relief programmes and increasing overseas development assistance.

Source: Development after 2015: Ten Goals to Make a Difference for those Lagging Behind in India, Oxfam Policy Brief, March 2013

Way Forward

With regard to our engagement with shaping the development agenda beyond 2015, there are concrete strategies and actions that we identify and would work towards in the next few months in a more focused and strategic manner. Key among these is building substantively on the initial 'process' of creation of a community and civil society momentum towards defining the development agenda, as also influencing the 'content' of the development agenda itself by providing evidence-based policy alternatives

that are more nuanced and firmly rooted in the human rights frame and address the structural causes and factors leading to manifestations such as poverty and inequality.

Building on the initial momentum, we would engage more closely with key stakeholders such as academicians, think tanks, networks and coalitions, community actors, development practitioners, media to shape the 'voices' demanding policy commitments from the national government and the global community, more specifically, the developed country governments.



Industry

**Convened by
Confederation of Indian Industry**

Founded in 1895, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the growth of industry in India, collaborating industry and government through advisory and consultative processes. CII is a business association with a direct membership of over, 7100 organizations from the private and public sectors, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and multinational corporations (MNCs), and an indirect membership of over 90,000 companies from about 255 national and regional sectorial associations. Website: <http://www.cii.in>

Consultative Process and Methodology

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was the convener 24 industry-organized state consultations and one national consultation from January-February 2013 covering all regions of India. A wide range of large, medium and small companies, microenterprises, local entrepreneurs, local business and entrepreneur associations, labour welfare associations and corporate organizations participated. More than 20 percent women participated in the consultations. The national consultation was held on 22 February 2013 in New Delhi. CII submitted the national report based on the recommendations from national and regional consultations. United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided support to the consultation process. The reports can be accessed online at: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/316621>



Background

The deadline for achieving the MDGs is set to expire by 2015. The United Nations and its member states have initiated a process to define the future development agenda. As part of the nine structured national consultations in India, CII was given the responsibility of organizing industry consultations and articulating opinion of the industry related to the post-2015 development agenda.

Methodology

CII organized 24 state level consultations in the northern region, western region, western region, southern region and north-eastern region, and a national consultation providing an opportunity to various industry representatives to participate in discussions and provide their inputs. Around 723 people participated in the discussion, a majority of whom were in the age bracket of 25-40 and 40-60 years.

The discussions at the state level consultations focused on a number of questions. For the national consultation, a summary of the state level consultation outputs were presented to the participants before proceeding with further discussions to identify sectors for future agenda and defining goals related to the identified sectors. This report combines the opinions emerging from various consultations at the state as well as the national level.

Imperatives that Influence the Social Development Process

During the consultations, participants representing different businesses pointed to certain imperatives or necessary conditions critical for appropriate social development processes. These imperatives were important for the discussion, since they are necessary conditions to achieve sustainable and inclusive social development in any given society.

a. Sustained economic growth: There was a strong feeling that sustained economic growth, sensitive to environmental sustainability, is necessary for continued business confidence leading to increased investments and creation of employment opportunities. Increased employment/self employment opportunities would in turn lead to more people benefiting from economic activities, resulting in the reduction of poverty. In order to ensure sustained and environment sensitive growth, appropriate policies need to be in place. In the absence of appropriate policies, investment will suffer which would have a negative impact on employment creation. Therefore the universal development agenda needs to focus on ensuring an environment which is conducive for sustained economic growth and creation of employment opportunities.

b. Inclusivity: It is important that all sections of the society have access to and benefit from the economic activities, socio-political systems and infrastructure available in the society. Decreased access or absence of benefits for some sections or greater/preferential access to certain groups of people would, over a period of time, lead to a society where some are more privileged or powerful over others. In extreme cases, this leads to unacceptable levels of inequities or complete exclusion of certain groups from the benefits that society generates. Such a situation is a potential recipe for decreased participation, frustration, violence, and anarchy leading to a climate which would not conducive for promoting sustained social development processes or making business investments. Exclusion of certain sections of the communities is also unacceptable from the human rights perspective. Therefore it is important that inclusivity be an area of critical concern while formulating development goals for any society. Absence of inclusive policies or exclusion will lead to deprivation for certain groups. It is important to identify such

groups which have potential for exclusion and support such groups or nation(s) with actions to bring them within the ambit of the development process.

- c. Food security:** Access to food is not only an imperative for sustained social development but a fundamental human right. With this in mind, the participants felt that sustained increase in agriculture production and backward and forward linkages related to storage, transportation and delivery of food to every individual is critical. Acute food insecurities could lead to social tension and might be detrimental to economic growth of a society. Therefore, activities that help in sustained increase in agriculture production and those which enhance access of food to people, play a critical role in sustainable social development processes. At the same time, it is important to strike a balance between remunerative price to the farmers and affordability of food to the marginalized.
- d. Appropriate and adequate infrastructure:** Availability and access to appropriate and adequate infrastructure including basic, institutional, and social infrastructure is critical for communities to move up the economic and social value chains. Absence of adequate infrastructure leads to a danger that the communities will be engaged in primitive and low value economic activities, suffer from decreased life expectancy, enhanced mortality and morbidity with increased potential for disease. Therefore, infrastructure that provides health, education and access to markets is required to realize superior outputs from the human resource. To ensure sustained social development processes, societies need to have access to basic and affordable infrastructure - both social and physical.
- e. Peace and security:** Societal peace and security is a critical imperative as it ensures communities engage in various social, political and economic activities without fear and of free will. Peace and security is also critical for safe and healthy development of children and others. General peace and security also motivates businesses to make greater investments which in turn provides greater employment opportunities leading to greater prosperity and sustained social development opportunities.
- f. Suitable governance:** An acceptable and suitable form of governance is critical for the management and maintenance of organized societies. Absence of suitable governance leads to chaos and anarchy, driving communities to engage in unsocial and unethical practices which are detrimental to growth and discourage sustained social development processes. Visionary leadership, responsive governance and a system which is willing to listen to voices of the people is important for managing effective distribution of the surplus generated and ushering change in a peaceful manner whenever required.
- g. Appropriate judicial institutions and respect for human rights:** The participants felt that a society needs to possess and pursue the process of equipping itself with structures and systems which effectively deliver justice for all individuals and institutions. Assurance of adequate justice helps in continuity of effort and investment. Similarly, the governance and judiciary should be able to ensure that human rights of every individual would be protected and violations be dealt adequately. Human rights protection is the key for achieving social equity and ensuring economic access.

Business Perspectives on Social Development

A world which provides opportunities, enabling everyone to realize one's own aspirations is critical to its own peace. The ability to realize individual aspirations depends on individual capabilities and access to opportunities to engage in meaningful economic activities providing incomes, which could be exchanged in a market place with products and services.

The industry and business contributes to economic growth through value creation and employment generation. As an integral part of value creation, the industry and business depends on several factors of production available in the economy to produce products and services, which when added together are valued higher than the value of the factors employed in producing them, thus producing additional value.

Additionally, industry and business create employment/self-employment opportunities, providing an opportunity to individuals to pursue their own ends as well as societal well-being.

Economic growth is a critical building block of a healthy social development process. Economic growth with reasonable inclusiveness sets the

stage for achieving social development objectives in a sustained manner.

However, there are certain factors that are critical for this entire process of value creation and its sustainability, such as factors of production. This includes natural resources (water, soil and everything related to the ecosystem), human resources, infrastructure and finances. One also has to consider the business, social and political dimensions or aspects of environment.

Therefore, the parameters which determine sustainable value addition such as availability of employable workforce, adequate purchasing power, conducive environment for exchange, sustained availability of natural resources, presence of laws to regulate markets, peace, harmony, healthy and law abiding community are the same parameters that also influence social development processes positively.

Conclusion

In conclusion it can be said that the determinants of a progressive social development framework closely resemble the determinants that industry requires to play a meaningful, value-adding role in the society. The social development perspective of industry is influenced by this similarity in determinants related to social development processes and the operative environment.

Changes since 2000 and Challenges to Development

As the MDGs were formulated more than a decade ago, the consultations deliberated on the changes that have occurred globally since formulation of MDGs, the factors that have affected development in general and particularly, India. Additionally, participants also discussed the factors and challenges that are unique to India and influence its development aspirations.

Changes since the Millennium Declaration in 2000 – The global context

- Shift and emergence of new markets and free market
- Growing South-South cooperation and changing aid dynamics and policy environment related to aid in emerging economies
- Advent of new technologies, ease of communication and social networking
- Growing aspirations of people, especially the youth, wanting to participate in the process of change and voicing dissent
- Changing lifestyles, leading to health challenges of a different nature (non-communicable diseases)
- Growing concern on environment and importance of clean and renewable energy
- Industry emerging as an important player in development and increased expectation from businesses, beyond profit

Factors impeding progress in the global context as well as for India

- Balancing growth versus sustainability concerns
- Vulnerability in access to energy and fluctuating energy prices
- No global consensus on critical issues which are impacting the world, e.g., World Trade Organization (WTO), climate change, energy, etc.
- Lack of viable framework for cooperation and collaboration for supporting development in developing countries

- Poor governance and lack of accountability, responsibility and transparency
- Increasing inequity
- Global peace/Terrorism

Factors affecting development - India specific

- Access
 - Exclusion and lack of access to opportunities for socially and economically disadvantaged groups
 - Lack of accessible and affordable social (health, education, etc) and physical infrastructure (roads, power, energy, water transport, etc)
 - Lack of access to quality education to meet emerging employment needs leading to skills gap
- Inclusion
 - Issues related to opportunities and security for women
 - Issues related to children and the aged
 - Issues related to empowering and mainstreaming physically challenged persons
- Demography
 - Population management and the ability to leverage the demographic dividend (youth work force) and meet their aspirations.
- Geography and Sectoral exclusion
 - Rural underdevelopment
 - Streamlining and strengthening of value chains for both farm and offfarm (lack of backward and forward linkages)
- Environment
 - Balancing growth versus sustainability
 - Management of natural resources
 - Emerging issues and concerns related to water
- Governance and policies
 - Poor governance, lack of accountability, responsibility and transparency and lack of consensus
 - Issues related to conducive labour market policies

Vision for National Development

- Increasing inclusive economic growth by combining value addition in farming and non-farm activities to create robust value chains and strengthening small and medium scale enterprises
- Empowering the demographic dividends by skilling and up-skilling, aligning education and vocational training to create an employable pool of human capital
- A society with high literacy, affordable and accessible healthcare, sound social security, community solidarity, conservation and preservation of natural resources and accountability for actions
- Balanced development of rural and urban which is sustainable
- A society that is tolerant and respects diversity and provides equal opportunity for women, PwDs and marginalized sections of the society
- Timely and effective justice for all (social and legal)
- Better management of natural disasters to enhance preparedness, reduce response downtime

Suggested Goals for the Global Development Agenda

The consultations have broadly pointed out the recommendations for achieving the social

development objectives globally. Discussion presented in the earlier part of the report provides a reference to the recommendations presented in this report.

The participants felt that achieving development objectives is primarily the role of the government, and industry only supplements this effort. They see their supplementary role emerging specially through driving economic growth and employment creation, as well as through some focused efforts as a part of their business sustainability practices.

Satisfactory economic growth is perceived as a necessary condition to achieve development goals as economic growth provides required resources for making investments to achieve developments. Similarly, satisfactory economic growth provides opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship and helps in addressing issues related to poverty. Therefore, wherever possible, the linkages between the development goals and economic growth should be carefully understood and actions that promote economic growth needs while achieving development goals needs to be taken up.

The following are the sectoral priorities and goals that emerged during the discussion:

Goal 1	Sector: Economic growth and poverty reduction Goal: Sustained reduction in poverty through progressive and inclusive growth
Goal 2	Sector: Health Goal: Ensure geographically financially accessible and socially acceptable quality health care to all
Goal 3	Sector: Infrastructure Goal: Ensure availability of reasonable, accessible, sustainable and responsible infrastructure for all
Goal 4	Sector: Inclusion Goal: All people irrespective of economic, social and physical abilities, gender and sexual orientation have access to resources and respect
Goal 5	Sector: Environment and Energy Goal: Ensure sustainable use of resources with respect to conservation and preservation of natural resources
Goal 6	Sector: Governance Goal: Ensure effective, efficient, transparent and responsible governance and government – government cooperation to pursue development agenda.

Sector 1: Economic growth and poverty reduction

Goal: Sustained reduction in poverty through progressive and inclusive growth

(Reference to existing MDG: MDG 1)

In order to generate sustained economic growth and reduction in poverty, few imperatives were identified. These included: strengthening of agriculture, promoting micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), employment creation and universalizing quality education both at primary and secondary level.

It was pointed out that for sustained economic growth along with food security, the focus on agriculture economy is important. In addition to enhancing agricultural production in a sustained manner, there is a need for popularizing appropriate farming practices through farmer education and introducing appropriate technologies. Further, backward and forward linkages need to be strengthened—importantly by promoting agriculture based industry, establishing cold chains and improving rural infrastructure. Efforts should be made to leverage indigenous knowledge as well as promote market reforms to help farmers and off-farm enterprises get access to markets in a more direct manner.

To promote employment/self-employment opportunities, the cluster approach for promoting the small and medium scale sector needs to be further strengthened. Additionally, it was also suggested that conscious efforts should be made to ensure a conducive and enabling environment for promoting as well as making new investments to induce growth and generate surplus.

To promote employment creation, there is a need to align education and vocational training for creating and enhancing employability. Collaboration between industry and educational institutions should be encouraged for enhancing employability. The focus on the education sector should be on enhancing supply by establishing more schools offering quality education at

affordable cost. Public private partnership (PPP) in this sector has tremendous scope and needs to be encouraged. Aligning education with employability and repositioning educational institutes as centers of excellence is the need of the hour. Efficient management of the public educational institutions is also a concern that was raised. Industry should be encouraged to set up higher education centres, universities and promote demand-driven research.

Sector 2: Health

Goal: Ensure geographically and financially accessible and socially acceptable quality healthcare to all *(Reference to existing MDG: MDGs 4,5, and 6)*

Access to health services should be improved by strengthening infrastructure and healthcare management. Capacities of medical professionals need to be improved through continuous medical education. Focus on preventive healthcare should be increased through improving awareness and education. A well-conceived policy should be formulated to ensure supply of medicines at affordable prices, promoting medical education, building capacities of medical professionals, promoting healthcare education in schools, etc.

Sector 3: Infrastructure

Goal: Ensure availability of reasonable, accessible, sustainable and responsible infrastructure for all *(Reference to existing MDG: None)*

Availability of basic infrastructure is critical as it not only promotes quality of life but induces significant multiplier effect. Availability of basic infrastructure fits in the human rights approach and also significantly frees up people to engage in activities of higher value. The participants recommended that basic infrastructure related to drinking water, sanitation, transportation and energy needs to be strengthened. On the process side, the participants recommended community-led management of rural infrastructure for greater efficiency and



Photo Credit: APCTT

effectiveness. Similarly, they said that agricultural infrastructure should be strengthened to enhance agriculture productivity. Affordable housing is another area which needs attention.

Sector 4: Inclusion

Goal: All people irrespective of economic, social and physical ability, gender and sexual orientation have access to resources and respect (*Reference to existing MDG: MDG 3*)

The participants felt that all sections of the society should be included in the process of development and the gains of development

should accrue to all. Special focus on the inclusion of marginalized sections of community and women in various economic and social spheres should be ensured.

Some of the specific activities discussed were:

- Provide easy access to loans to establish income generation activities
- Formulate policies for equal opportunities for all
- Financial, digital and gender awareness for all
- Provide opportunities, skills, and infrastructure to marginalized communities
- Promote, preserve and protect various cultures and symbols of culture that foster harmony

The participants made special recommendations to ensure equal opportunity, dignity and a life free of violence and intimidation for women

It was felt that laws to address all kinds of violence against women should be formulated and effectively implemented. Similarly, participation of women in the public sphere, especially governance, should be promoted and access and control of resources, infrastructure and services should be ensured for women.

Some of the specific actions recommended were:

- Formulation of adequate policies
- Have a strong implementation mechanism
- Awareness to change traditional mindsets
- Promote/encourage girl education
- Promote and strengthen women SHGs in rural areas
- Create more opportunities for women employment
- Increase number of women in public sphere and governance

Sector 5: Environment and Energy

Goal: Ensure sustainable use of resources with respect to conservation and preservation of natural resources (*Reference to existing MDG: 7*)

Discussion in this section brought forth the debate of balancing growth versus sustainability, the challenges of access to technology and global consensus on principles of equity and CBDR.

The recommendations included articulation of well-defined policies that promote conservation and preservation of natural resources, disaster management and well-defined agreements for water sharing both internationally, and nationally among different states.

Generation and use of clean and renewable energy through education and higher investments was also suggested. Similarly, well-conceived plans

needed be in place to reduce loss of energy and reduce pollution.

Some of the recommended activities were:

- Formulation of policies for promoting conservation, preservation and regeneration of natural resources for households and industry
- Promoting rain water harvesting by all
- Policies for regulated and scientific mining
- Encourage technologies that promote recycling of waste
- Promote dialogue for water sharing between countries and within countries
- Develop and promote policies and technologies that promote generation of clean and renewable energy
- Enhance supply of comfortable and affordable mass transport systems in urban areas and promote its use
- Promote PPP in mass transport systems in urban areas

The participants felt that disasters erode development gains and hence, all possible steps should be taken to minimize losses as a result of disasters. It was pointed out that the quality of disaster tracking should be enhanced, and quality of mitigation and response should also be better. Similarly, planning and preparedness should be improved at all levels and the risk transfer mechanisms for various risks should be promoted among all sections of the community.

Sector 6: Governance

Goal: Ensure effective, efficient, transparent and responsible governance and inter government cooperation to pursue development agenda. (*Reference to existing MDG: 8*)

The participants recommended taking all necessary steps for accountable governance and justice. The participants also felt that the PPP spaces in the governance arena needed exploration.

Some suggested activities included:

- Setting up offices of ombudsman at different levels to manage, investigate and address corruption
- Providing government services through integrated websites
- Ensuring transparency through wide and effective application of Right to Information
- Promoting performance evaluation of government officials through social audit
- Further empowering local governing systems and governing councils, such as the Panchayati Raj system in India
- Reform judicial systems for efficient and efficient timely delivery of justice
- Facilitate use of technical and management capacities of industry for effective governance
- Create opportunities to promote participation of private sector and common people to support government

The participants felt that the development agenda should be owned and a responsibility of developed as well as developing countries. It was also felt that critical enablers such as global support systems for access to technology, finance etc. should be put in place to direct and help the efforts of developing countries. Developing countries should also be allowed to formulate their targets based on their strengths and the support systems made available to them.

Specific deliberations took place on the following:

- A system or a mechanism of providing funding, technological and capacity building support to developing countries to achieve development goals
- Targets for development should be encouraged, but should remain voluntary

Conclusion

Participating in the consultation actively, representatives from the industry articulated that the determinants of sustainable business and the social development process are similar, thus what is good for the social development agenda is good for the industry and businesses as well. In view of this, it was felt that the industry is a natural ally in pursuing any meaningful development agenda. The participants were clear that sustained economic growth is the most important imperative for achieving development targets, and hence — an inclusive environment, conducive to sustained investment and economic growth — is the most critical determinant of success.

The participants also felt that the social development paradigm needs to be pursued from a human rights perspective and that a common definition of human rights needs to be formulated. It was emphasized that availability of data and resources that facilitate implementation of the development agenda is critical, and the industry could play a significant role in making such data available in a user-friendly manner.

During the course of implementation of the development agenda, the UN member countries should be open to rethinking the roles of developed countries, state, private sector, civil society and citizens in the development sphere—from a liberal perspective and create multi-sector platforms, partnerships and support systems to successfully implement the development agenda and achieve related goals.



Photo Credit: UN RCO India

Trade Unions

**Convened by
Indian National Trade Union Congress**

Established in 1947, INTUC is the trade union wing of the Indian National Congress with a membership of about 6 million and is affiliated to the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC). INTUC convened representatives from 11 Trade Unions in India including the All India Central Council of Trade Union (AICCTU); All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC); All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC); Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS); Centre for Indian Trade Unions (CITU); Hind Mazdoor Sabha (HMS); Labour Progressive Federation (LPF); Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC); Trade Union Coordination Centre (TUCC); United Trades Union Congress (UTUC) and Self-Employed Women's Association of India (SEWA) Website: <http://www.intuc.net/affiliations.html>

Consultative Process and Methodology

INTUC as the convener for the trade unions constituency organized four regional and one national consultation from January-February 2013, representing millions of India's workforce. Approximately 16 percent of the participants in the consultations were women. The national consultation was held in Delhi on February 25-26, 2013. INTUC submitted the national report based on the recommendations from the national and regional consultations. International Labour Organization (ILO) provided support to the consultation process. The reports can be accessed online at: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/318022>



The national trade union consultation was the culmination of a series of four zonal consultations held to elucidate views of trade unions. The consultation saw participation from unionists representing AITUC, BMS, CITU, HMS, INTUC, TUCC, UTUC, AICCTU and SEWA. The consultation had three components—plenary, comprising of information sharing and an Indian trade union movement's panel; group work and reporting; and open discussions on the groups' reports as well as adoption of resolution. The consultation began with a keynote address by the INTUC President who highlighted a 10-point charter of demands of the Indian trade unions. The plenary session was aimed at informing the participants about the MDGs and extent of success in achieving the same, particularly in India. The trade union panel presented views on the MDGs and the future course, following which four working groups focused on [i] Changes in the Global Context [ii] Changes in national context [iii] Developments in India, and [iv] Principles, goals, timelines, targets and accountability for the new post-2015 framework. Discussions followed presentations of each of the four group reports to arrive at a general consensus on various issues.

The participants, representing the Indian trade unions, were divided into four groups ensuring that each group had participation from the Central trade union organizations, as well as women and youth. Each group was advised to elect a moderator-cum-reporter. Further in order to make matters clear, some of the identified questions were sub-divided, e.g., Q02.02 & Q02.03.

Issues covered

There is a need for assessment of MDGs from developing countries more so national perspectives and thereafter work towards identifying post 2015 development challenges and strategies to overcome the same. The MDGs have come from the North with inherent gaps while the poverty is graver in the global south which is also home for a majority of labour force. The current business environment is harsher as countries in the North are facing the negative

impact of the global financial crisis. The global political scenario is volatile and the market has become increasingly cost conscious, causing developed countries to concentrate more on their immediate interests. According to the participants, the next decades would be no different. India is a socialist economy, but is following capitalistic policies. Profit has become a driving force and workers' welfare is being overlooked. It has moved from agriculture to the services sector, bypassing the production/manufacturing sector. The present pattern of growth has led to further widening of gaps between the rich and poor. There is a need to understand the new labour which is more skill-based and comprises of women, youth and excluded sections such as Dalits and tribals. The conditions of work have become harsher with negligible security. Labour laws are being overlooked leading to violations of labour rights. India needs to refocus its development strategies in favour of employment generation. The agriculture and manufacturing sectors need to be given specific attention since these are major areas of workers' involvement. There is need to check informalization of employment relations since this increases the scope for the non-implementation of labour laws, as also of violation of labour rights. The informal/unorganized sector is devoid of labour rights even where new employment opportunities are being created. It is also an area where the number of women workers has increased and they face varied forms of exploitation at the hands of employers.

Indian needs to improve its governance and make industry accountable. The existing laws need to be effectively implemented. The trade unions' 10-point charter of demands should receive serious consideration. These demands include checking rising prices, generating productive employment, strict enforcement of labour laws and exemplary punishment to violators, introducing universal social security including minimum level of pension for all, stopping of disinvestment in profit-making public sector undertakings, checking contractualization of

regular work and payment of contract workers at par with regular workers, amending the Minimum Wages Act so to include all workers in its schedule and minimum monthly payment of INR 10,000, removal of ceiling for payment of bonus, and ratification of ILO core labour conventions including 87 and 98 relating to freedom of association and right to collective bargaining. The government's neglect could lead to anarchy.

There is need for a paradigm shift from development to a livelihood-based approach. Concerns about labour engagement in dominant sectors such as agriculture ought to receive more attention, as also the condition of jobs. The creation of productive and full employment with decent conditions that include adherence to ILO's core labour conventions, should be mandatory. It should also address the concerns of migrant workers who are exploited by receiving countries.

Recommendations for the post-2015 development agenda

The participating unions formed four groups, each dealing one focus areas. Their recommendations were as follows:

Group I: Changes in the global context:

Globalization has been capital-focused with an emphasis on enhancing returns and financial capital accumulation, thereby ignoring the humanitarian concerns of the global south regarding poverty, inequalities in income and exclusion. Following the 2008 global financial crisis, the global scenario has become even more harsh and competitive, thereby negatively impacting the people of the global south—particularly the working people. It is leading to widening of existing poverty, inequalities and exclusion. There is no reason to believe that the situation will improve in the near future. It was pointed out that the existing economic paradigm that benefits only a few, needs to be reformed.

It was also expressed that the development discourse at the global level must integrate the concerns of people in the South.

Group II: Changes in the national context:

The present global trends have led to increased outsourcing and contractualization, as also informalization of work, resulting in precarious working conditions. Cost-cutting strategies have led to the shift of production to the unregulated sector, with gross violation of labour rights. The recent cases of industrial disputes with unpleasant outcomes are results of the same. Governance in India is GDP-focused, thereby overlooking primary problems of unemployment and poverty. While acknowledging the introduction of well meant policies and programs aimed at achieving inclusive growth and providing income and social securities there have been gaps in their implementation resulting in benefits not reaching the targets. As a result, the size and nature of poverty has enlarged.

Group III: Developments in India: There has been jobless growth. India has, no doubt, introduced schemes aimed at providing income, health and education, etc. securities. There is Right to Education as well. There are initiatives to provide social security for old as also workers in the unorganized sector. Measures are being taken to provide security to women workers as well. However, there have been gaps in implementation either due to structural inadequacies, resource constraints or lack of proper governance. The lack of proper governance and directionless development has caused a majority of Indians to remain untouched by the so-called 'shining India'. Repeated studies have concluded that poverty, inequalities and exclusion have grown, particularly after the 2008 crisis.

Group IV: New post 2015 framework: Jobs are at the centre of development. As such, employment must be seen as one of the primary instruments for overcoming poverty, inequality and exclusion. For the global south, agriculture and allied sectors as also the informal sector, including home-based work, are main areas of not

only income generation but also share in existing and future workforces. Incidentally, these are also centres of the violations of labour rights. It is also an area where one finds cases of gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment at work place and nonpayment of just wages. So the post 2015 development framework should focus on full and productive decent employment with decent work conditions, supported by a minimum social protection floor. It should also take into account the 10 point demand of the Indian trade unions that included ratification of ILO Core convention, in particular C87 & 98 relating to freedom of association and right to collective bargaining. The existing skills mismatch needs to be tackled. The contradictions in laws be removed. Trade unions as an institution representing the Labour be seen as part of the solution and thus effectively inducted in the proposed development Post 2015 framework.

Additional observations and comments

The trade union consultations, that had participations of all major trade unions in the country, benefitted from the presence and interventions of Mr. G. Sanjeeva Reddy, President INTUC; Ms. Lise Grande, UNRC in India; Ms. Tine Staermose, Director of ILO in India and Ms. Sam Barnes, UN's Advisor for MDG in India. Mr. R. A. Mital, National Secretary HMS, etc. Their interventions helped to shape the debates to address trade unions to bring about an inclusive approach to the development discourse. The opposition to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the retail sector

was visible and needs to be further examined and debates with national interest in view.

Consultations documents

The following is a detailed list of supporting documentation along with links to access these documents.

- United Nations Millennium Declaration, 2000. Web link: <http://bit.ly/ZblmFI>
- UN The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012. Web link: <http://bit.ly/10h2cmw>
- Government of India MDG Report, 2011. Web link: <http://bit.ly/16uTvpb>
- Snapshot of India's progress on Millennium Development Goals. Web link: <http://bit.ly/12m35y0>
- ILO Concept Note 1 titled Jobs and Livelihood at the heart of post-2015 Development Agenda. Web link: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/318022>
- ITUC's Briefing Note on Decent work in the post-2015 Development Agenda [December 2012]. Web link: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/318022>
- Reports of the four zonal consultations on the post-2015 Framework. Web link: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/318022>
- Issues emerging out of zonal consultations of the trade unions
- PPT Presentation by Mr. K.S. Ravi Chandran, ILO
- PPT Presentation on the post-2015 Development Agenda – Engaging Trade Unions by Pravin Sinha, Consultant



Farmer's Associations

**Convened by
Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium**

The Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) was set up in 1994 to create a conducive environment for generating rural employment and facilitating farmer-growth through new ventures in agro-based industries, fisheries and horticulture. As part of their mandate, one of the initiatives taken up by SFAC and supported by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC) is to incubate 250 farmer producer organizations (FPOs) covering 250,000 farmers to integrate primary producers in the value chain and enhance incomes through increased access to investments, technology and markets. Website: <http://www.sfacindia.com/aboutus.html>

Consultative Process and Methodology

SFAC, as the convener for farmer's associations, organized eight regional and one national consultation from January-February 2013. The national consultation was held on 19 February, 2013 in New Delhi. Participants included farming communities, local groups of small and marginal farmers, Resource Institutions (RIs) and FPOs. SFAC submitted the national report based on the recommendations from the national and regional consultations. Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) provided support to the consultation process. The reports can be accessed online at <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/318533>



Consultation Methodology

The workshop participants were given eight sets of questions (please see Annexure 1). These questions address three MDG goals. The RIs and FPOs were asked to make presentations around allotted thematic issues. Each group was allotted two themes to discuss. Broadly, eight thematic areas were identified. These were:

1. Poverty reduction efforts,
2. Vision on Development
3. Obstacles to Development
4. Impact of Development
5. Excluded groups in Development
6. Women and Development
7. Development focus on Young and Elderly
8. Coping systems to deal with disasters and vulnerable situations.

The groups made presentations on the local context, based on their experiences gained during implementation. The remaining sections of the template deal with the key points made by the farming community and discuss barriers and constraints faced in the pursuit of the goals and possible ways ahead, post-2015.

It was a plenary session, designed as an interactive event with presentations followed by participatory discussions on each thematic area. Each of the groups made its presentations on two thematic areas, drawing from their implementation experiences and observations and discussions in the field.

Consultation Content

Please list the questions that were used to guide the discussion for this consultation.

Questions were broadly based on the discussion guide that had a series of 8 broad thematic areas. These were:

1. Poverty reduction efforts
2. Vision on development
3. Obstacles to development
4. Impact of development
5. Excluded groups in development
6. Women and development
7. Development focus on young and elderly and
8. Coping systems to deal with disasters and vulnerable situations

The groups made presentations around the local context based on their experiences gained during implementation. The questions are given in Annexure-1.

The workshop deliberated on the implementation of three out of the eight Millennium Development Goals:

- a. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- b. Promote gender equality and empower women
- c. Ensure environmental sustainability

The consultation in New Delhi was preceded by a series of regional consultations with farming communities, anchored by RIs and FPOs. Besides taking stock of the current status with respect to MDG goals, the consultations also built a vision for national development for post-2015. A number of on-ground innovations, in organizing farmer groups, were shared. The sharing of these innovations contained perceptions on existing problems and solutions to overcome them.

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The MDG target was to reduce by half, the proportion of people living on less than dollar a day during the period 1990-2015. The population below poverty line (BPL) during 1990 was 37 percent which reduced to 29.8 percent by 2009-10. The poverty target of reducing it to 23.9 percent is likely to be met by 2015. However, the target of reducing by half, the proportion of

people suffering from hunger i.e., from 52 percent to 26 percent by 2015, is far from being achieved. At present, it has reached around 40 percent.

In relation to efforts to eradicate poverty in the past decade, the participants referred to seven types of initiatives which helped in reducing poverty.

1. Efforts of welfare nature such as extension of education and health services, extension of public distribution system, subsidies (for food, electricity, credit, input supplies to farmer etc.)
2. Efforts in improving the quality of the natural resource base—such as water and soil conservation, watersheds, interventions in horticulture and floriculture
3. Extending and safeguarding rights of vulnerable communities. e.g., Forest Rights Act for benefit of tribals and right to employment under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)
4. Targeted approach for certain communities, such as Sustainable Tribal Empowerment Project (STEP) and Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Program (OTELP) for the tribal communities
5. Efforts to improve governance primarily through strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)
6. Efforts in institution building and strengthening collectives of poverty ameliorating groups such as FPOs and Self Help Group (SHG) federations etc.
7. Efforts in strengthening linkages with the market and interventions in value chain, such as strengthening, processing and storage etc.

These measures, though effective in addressing poverty, are not sufficient. The participants suggested a series of additional measures necessary for substantially reducing poverty:

- a. Interventions in natural resource management (productivity enhancement through System of Rice Intensification (SRI) and System of Wheat Intensification (SWI), forestry interventions in

community forest rights (CFR) and Non Timber Forest Produce –(NTFP)

- b. Interventions in value chain (agri-business interventions) and extension of timely supply of services
- c. Improving access to credit
- d. Strengthening livelihood initiatives such as National Rural Livelihood mission (NRLM)/ MGNREGA
- e. Efforts in institution building of the poor that enables them to derive benefits of collectivization and value addition
- f. Investments in infrastructure, particularly in the rural areas, that give producers efficient access to markets and sources of affordable capital
- g. Strengthening vocational skills including value addition in agriculture, non-farm and off-farm sectors
- h. Improving property right regimes, particularly in the area of land reforms
- i. Focused efforts on landless, small and marginal farmers, the youth
- j. Convergence among government programmes so that scarce resources are put to use in a manner that benefits add up instead of being at cross purposes

To reduce poverty within the farming communities, the participants emphasized the need for improving irrigation facilities, agricultural extension and improved package of practices, farm mechanization, agriculture infrastructure for processing and marketing, building need-based institutional linkages with RIs, ensuring minimum support prices and improving disaster mitigation measures.

Regarding some of the successful initiatives carried out in their areas, the participants referred to

- a. Natural resource interventions (System for rice intensification - SRI, System for wheat intensification - SWI, Horticulture, Agro Horti forestry for tribal rehabilitation - WADI, Floriculture, watershed development, kitchen garden)

- b. Improving financial access (Self Help Group - SHG Bank linkage, Microfinance)
- c. Institution building (Farmer clubs, Joint liability groups - JLGs, SHGs)
- d. Rehabilitation of displaced
- e. Value chain interventions (collective processing and marketing)
- f. Improved market linkages (with retail and urban markets) and
- g. Rehabilitation of displaced
- h. Rural housing
- i. Implementation of forest rights act in tribal areas

Regarding the experiments which did not work, the participants referred to

- a. subsidization of farm machines and equipment which were not appropriate for local demands
- b. introduction of cash crops even in areas which were not agro-climatically conducive
- c. subsidies under microenterprise schemes, which did not yield the necessary outputs
- d. warehouses for storage, which were used to a limited extent. Many examples were cited to illustrate the suboptimal results of such programmes.

Promote gender equality and empower women

The targets for achieving gender equality were elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2015. The ratio of enrollment of boys to girls in primary education has increased from earlier figures of 0.73 to 1. The percentage of women in non-agricultural wage employment was recorded as 18.6 percent in 2009-10 behind the target of 23.1 percent to be achieved by 2015.

The specific issues related to women, which were discussed, included food security and nutrition, decision-making and social needs, land ownership/rights and agricultural extension.

The participants stated that women face gender-based discrimination both within the household as well as at work. Within the household, they face discrimination in relation to food and nutrition and health care. As a result, there are large cases of malnutrition among women and girl children. Of particular concern is the severe nutrient and mineral deficiencies among women during pre and post-natal stages. Discriminatory practices against girls, during their early childhood years, have contributed to high mortality rate among girls. There are also large instances of domestic violence against women. The role of women in decision making within households is limited. Decisions are mostly taken by men. Access to education too remains low.

Gender-based discrimination continues to be a serious barrier in achieving equitable and sustainable livelihoods. Despite the fact that women contribute three-quarters of the workforce engaged in agriculture— property rights are heavily stacked against them. Laws related to land ownership and inheritance continue to be patriarchal— if not de jure— certainly de facto. Even if women are entitled by law to own property, they run the risk of eviction by sons due to social customs. They also have limited access to extension facilities and training. This limits the skill base and, in turn, their negotiating power in most workplaces. As a result women are engaged in low-skilled, low wage occupations. There is also disparity in wages between men and women.

To promote gender equality and empower women, the participants suggested: targeting resources to women in development, affirmative action to create spaces in governing bodies that increase women's ability to participate in the development process, reform/monitor legal institutions and sensitization against gender discrimination.

Some specific suggestions included:

- a. Strengthen land availability to women in terms of inheritance, access to public land, *bhoodan*

(donated) land, waste land etc., purchase, lease, collective acquisition etc.

- b. Increase awareness on health and nutrition
- c. Making extension facilities more accessible for women through recruiting a larger number of women extension workers, tailoring training as per requirements of women in agricultural universities etc.
- d. Organizing women's groups
- e. Ensuring food security and balanced nutrition by inclusion of locally grown millets in the public distribution system (PDS)
- f. Creating employment opportunities that offer a choice of occupation, taking into account their strengths and also constraints such as regressive customary practices
- g. Capacity-building and empowering women to access resources and play a greater role in the market space

Participants believed that reservations for women and marginalized communities in elected offices of PRIs were a step in the right direction. However, there are many instances where progressive provisions are undermined or subverted by men. Appropriate capacity-building and enabling support is required to help women contribute while working in these offices.

The steps to be taken to improve the condition of women and girls in the villages are gender sensitization (men and employers), widening representation of women (enabling participation in these institutions), improving convergence (among government programmes targeting women), creating institutions of the poor (SHG, SHG federations, Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs), FPOs), organizing and capacity building, supporting income generation activities, widening presence in the market (through increasing the role of women in the market), improving credit access and widening skills and exposure levels (through training in a variety of practices).

Ensure environmental sustainability

In relation to environmental sustainability, the target was to reduce by half, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. The percentage without sanitation was to reduce from 76 percent in 1990 to 38 percent by 2015. However, it could reach only 52 percent by 2010.

The meeting deliberated on environmental degradation. Environmental degradation particularly in relation to land has been a result of changes in cropping patterns, shift to commercial crops requiring higher water usage, usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, movement towards intensive monoculture and loss of diversity. This problem is also related to declining nutrition levels due to replacement of staple food crops with cash crops or market-driven crops (for example rice replacing millets).

The participants proposed awareness generation on organic farming, clean energy, need for production for local needs, reducing dependence on external inputs, revival of natural resources, preserving indigenous seed varieties, diversifying food crops to include millets, decentralized procurement, taking up value added products through organic produce and increasing the marketing of organic products.

Regarding actions to be taken to deal with calamities, the participants suggested

- a. Improving forecasting of calamities
- b. Awareness generation on coping mechanisms and systems
- c. Empowering the community to play a more central role in disaster mitigation and relief
- d. Encouraging communities to use local resources in place of external inputs
- e. Ensuring proper infrastructure facilities such as hospitals, roads, agricultural service centre, etc.
- f. Building public private partnerships to deal with disasters

- g. Building financial backup for the poor through encouraging savings

The participants stated that government agencies (Gram Panchayat and Mandal office), NGOs etc. are institutions that can assist in dealing with disasters, but need to be equipped to handle the same.

Development agenda for 2015

The participants identified a list of obstacles to development in India. Among them are entrenched social conservatism (racial discrimination, old social customs); lack of accountability by public institutions (corruption, faulty public delivery systems); poor infrastructure (power shortage, low irrigation); policy bias towards industry (in credit, disparity in taxation, no subsidy for farmer associations); flaws in subsidies (going to the less needy); flaws in distributional mechanisms; vocational education (not tuned to the needs of job market); special problems of hilly areas (terrain, communication difficulties, transportation, distant markets, low access to

education and health etc.); limited employment opportunities; law and order situation (Left wing extremism, extremism in the North-East, Jammu and Kashmir etc.)

The participants recommended

- a. Initiating programmes for creating assets for poor families
- b. Capacity building of poor and vulnerable communities through collectivization and strengthening voices through empowering
- c. Strengthening institutions to access quality services
- d. More focused efforts on education
- e. Ensuring participation of disadvantaged groups - promoting inclusive growth but at the same time, ensure that the marginalized groups moved towards sustainable livelihoods
- f. Ensuring effective utilization of agricultural schemes such as *kisan* credit card etc.
- g. Promoting storages/transport
- h. Building special programmes for development of hilly areas





Photo Credit: UNDP

Systemic exclusion of minorities, the poorest of poor, women, tribal communities and population living in remote or politically unstable regions is still a major concern. The participants believed that despite well-intentioned and well-designed programs for the marginalized, the benefits have not accrued to the intended groups due to weaknesses in the implementing and regulating institutions. Corruption, lack of accountability among the key functionaries of implementing agencies, mistaken targeting and fragmented manner of working among many departments was cited as the cause for the failure of large programmes to fail to deliver.

The participants felt that the present policies are pro-corporate, result in high level of displacement, contribute to environmental degradation, neglect agriculture and contribute to growing unemployment. As mentioned earlier, it also excludes the more marginal groups. It was noted that the competition for scarce natural resources has only aggravated due to large scale industrial expansion in areas that are home to vulnerable communities.

It was emphasized that development should reduce poverty and disparities, address environmental sustainability and ecological aspects, include the excluded i.e., Dalits, tribals, women, elderly and physically challenged. Towards this end, poverty alleviation needs to be done on a war footing.

Managing Director, SFAC suggested six interventions at the level of the global and national community to accelerate the achievement of MDG goals during the post-2015 years, with specific reference to the role of farmers and their associations. These are:

- There is a need to create a conducive legal policy framework or environment both at the national and at the international level, which promotes and nurtures democratic institutions of farm producers—and in which rural citizens can participate around common interest. FPOs are one form of institutional innovation which provide and widen the democratic space for farmers, helping to complement the structures of representative democracy with participatory democratic institutions.

- Creation of such an environment should be followed by public investments, both national and multilateral, in such participatory-producer owned institutions. There is a need to bring about 120 million agricultural households in India under organized forms. At present only less than a quarter million households have been organized.
- Such public investments must favor the more disadvantaged producers i.e., marginal farmers, small farmers, tribal farmers and women farmers.
- There is a need for generation of resources — resource mobilization based on national and international consensus for such investments, and these should be linked to the vulnerability of particular groups of producers/countries.
- There is need for the international trade regime to open up spaces for marketing of agriculture produce by FPOs. FPOs should be allowed to market their produce in the international market on favourable terms to level the playing field, which is tilted in favour of corporate conglomerates.
- Farmers should be recognized as primary conservers of biodiversity. At present, they lack incentives for their role in bio-diversity conservation. The rare and indigenous seed varieties, preserved by the farmers, needs to be patented by international research and patenting institutions. Incentives need to be extended for preserving bio-diversity.

The participants expressed concern over growing socio-economic disparities and environmental degradation. They noted that development should reduce poverty and disparities, address environmental sustainability and ecological aspects, include the excluded i.e., Dalits, tribals, women, elderly and people with disabilities. Towards this, poverty alleviation needs to be done on a war footing. The need for effective implementation of affirmative action was emphasized, particularly in the context of special requirements of vulnerable groups such as women, tribals and Dalits— which also means their increasing spaces in social, political and economic spheres.

With regard to farming communities, the need to consider the specific requirements of small and marginal farmers, the tribal and Dalit farmers and agricultural labourers was emphasized.

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- a. Towards reducing poverty the participants suggested: interventions in natural resource management (productivity enhancement through SRI & SWI, forestry interventions in CFR & Non Timber Forest Produce - NTFP)
- b. Interventions in value chain (agri business interventions) and extension of timely supply of services
- c. Improving access to credit
- d. Strengthening livelihood initiatives such as National Rural Livelihood mission (NRLM)/ NREGS
- e. Efforts in institution building of the poor that enables them to derive benefits of collectivization and value addition
- f. Investments in infrastructure particularly in the rural areas that give producers efficient access to markets and sources of affordable capital
- g. Strengthening vocational skills including value addition in agriculture, non-farm and off-farm sectors
- h. Improving property right regimes, particularly in the area of land reforms
- i. Focused efforts on landless/small and marginal farmers/youth
- j. Convergence among government programmes so that scarce resources are put to use in a manner that its benefits add up instead of being at cross purposes

To reduce poverty within the farming communities, the participants emphasized the need for improving irrigation facilities, agricultural extension and improved package of practices, farm mechanization, agriculture infrastructure for processing and marketing, building need based institutional linkages with resource institutions, ensuring minimum support prices and improving disaster mitigation measures.



Photo Credit: UN Women

Promote gender equality and empower women

To promote gender equality and empower women, the participants suggested: targeting resources to women in development, affirmative action to create spaces in governing bodies that increase women's ability to participate in development process, reform/monitor legal institutions and sensitization against gender discrimination.

Some specific suggestions included:

- a. Strengthen land availability to women (inheritance, access to public land, *bhoodan* land, waste land etc., purchase, lease, collective acquisition) etc.
- b. Increase awareness on health and nutrition
- c. Making extension facilities more accessible for women through recruiting more women extension workers, tailoring training as per women requirements in agricultural universities etc.
- d. Organizing women's groups
- e. Ensuring food security and balanced nutrition by inclusion of locally grown millets in PDS
- f. Creating employment opportunities that offer a choice of occupation based on their strengths and constraints including regressive customary practices
- g. Capacity building and empowering them to access for resources and play a greater role in the market space

Among the steps to be taken to improve the condition of women and girls in the villages are gender sensitization (men & employers), widening representation of women (enabling participation in these institutions), improving convergence (among government programs targeting women), creating institutions of the poor (SHG, SHG federations, FIGs, FPOs), organizing and capacity building, supporting income generation activities, widening presence in market (through increasing the role of women in the market), improving credit access and widening skills & exposure levels (through training in package of practices).

Additional observations

Please share additional observations and comments on issues that require further consultation.

Participants acknowledged that many government and civil society initiatives had been designed and huge public investments had been made for addressing issues such as poverty and environmental degradation. However, these initiatives yielded sub-optimal results due to two broad categories of problems:

- i. Poor capacity of implementing agencies, particularly state departments—to understand and appreciate issues related to poverty and environmental degradation. To make

matters worse, there were no accountability mechanisms to ensure quality results. The micro watershed development programme was cited as an example of this phenomenon.

- ii. These initiatives required convergence of multiple institutions such as training agencies, finance institutions and markets. Very few programmes provided for such convergence among these RIs.

The presentations came out with observations on three MDGs. MDGs which had insufficient data on them included: Goal 2 (Achieve Universal Primary Education), Goal 4 (Reduce Child Mortality), Goal 5 (Improve maternal health), Goal 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB) and Goal 8 (Promote global partnership for development). These may require further consultation.



Womens' Associations

Convened by:
National Mission on Empowerment of Women

The Government of India (GoI) launched the National Mission for Empowerment of Women (NMEW) on International Women's Day in 2010 with an aim to strengthen overall processes that promote all-round development of women. The Mission aims to provide a single window service for all programmes run by the government for women under the aegis of various Central Ministries. Website: <http://www.nmew.gov.in>

Consultative Process and Methodology

The NWEM, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India, as the convener of the women's associations, organised 15 community, three regional and one

national consultation of women's organisations from January-March 2013. Conscious effort was made to ensure participation from the most marginalised communities including Dalits, tribals, and Muslim women, the urban poor and other stakeholders. The national consultation was held on 6 March 2013 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. NMEW submitted a national report based on the recommendations from the national, regional and community consultations to frame the critical gender issues in the post-2015 debate on gender equality across India. United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN) provided support to the consultation process. The reports can be accessed online: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/327751>

Consultation Methodology

Community level consultations with women from the grassroots were followed by a focus group discussion format.

The regional level consultations as well as the national level consultations used a combination of methodologies—input sessions, panel discussions, roundtable discussions and group work.

Consultation Content

NMEW, as the convenor, supported by UN Women completed a series of 15 community level, three regional and one national consultation to frame the post-2015 debate around gender equality. Conscious effort was made to ensure participation from the poorest of the poor including Dalits, tribals, Muslim women, the urban poor and a host of other stakeholders.

The regional workshops were conducted in partnership with Community Based Organizations (CBOs)/NGOs that have been working on gender issues with a specific focus on women from vulnerable and marginalised groups/areas and also the poorest of the poor. Four NGO partners were identified, one each in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Delhi and Assam to organise a series of community consultations, followed by regional consultations, which included participation not just from the state where the consultation was being held, but also from neighbouring states. This report captures the recommendations from all the consultations undertaken as part of this process.

A combined team of NMEW and UN Women participated in all the regional consultations and facilitated the discussions at these consultations. The details of the community, regional and national consultations are as follows:

- National Consultation was organized on 1 March 2013 in Lucknow.

- Regional level consultations took place in Hyderabad on 6 February; Pune on 14 February; Guwahati on 19 February; and in Lucknow on 1 March 2013.
- Community level consultations, aiming to ensure that grassroots voices are heard, were organised by NGO partners in Bhavnagar, Meghraj and Ahmedabad in Gujarat; Bhopal and Dewas in Madhya Pradesh; Beed and Kolhapur in Maharashtra; Jaipur in Rajasthan; Delhi; Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh; Bidar in Karnataka; Erode in Tamil Nadu; Guwahati, and Golaghat in Assam; and Raipur in Chhattisgarh.

The consultations reviewed the MDG framework from a gender perspective. Participants raised concerns over absence of a strong and cross cutting focus on gender across all goals. That the MDG's translation of global goals into internationally applicable targets was inappropriate, given that different countries are in different stages of development and hence might require indicators and targets relevant to the particular country in context were the other concerns which emerged during the consultations. The discussants made recommendations for the thematic sectors including environment sustainability, health, education, economic empowerment, violence and gender responsive budgeting and highlighted exclusion. The panel on dalits, tribals, minority and disability highlighted the inequities experienced by women belonging to the most marginalized sections.

The following were the major highlights that emerged from nationwide consultations:

Limited access to existing schemes and programmes

Ignorance is the primary factor ailing rural India. Mobilization and awareness are among the key components for successful implementation of any welfare intervention, especially in rural areas where literacy and exposure to media is often less compared to urban areas. Existing schemes and

social programs do not reach the poor due to systemic gaps, on one hand and lack of awareness about the existing programmes at the grassroots level on the other hand. Participants from all the regional consultations, as well as in the national consultation, underscored the importance of raising awareness about the entitlements of women under Government of India's flagship programmes — schemes such as MGNREGA that guarantee 100 days of employment in rural areas often overlook women. Women are often unaware of the basic guidelines regarding wage structures and other legal entitlements. Even in the parts where the programme has been relatively well implemented in terms of number of person days generated per year, it has been found that women usually end up paying registration fees for getting work in such schemes, which is clearly a violation of the guidelines of the schemes. Further, they were ignorant about the increase in wages even after three months from the time the increase was in effect.

Women are further unable to avail the benefits of government schemes as they lack valid documents to prove their identity. In most of the families, the identity documents are in the name of the male head of the family. Women especially in remote areas are devoid of any valid government identity document. Further, different schemes require different identity proof which makes it impossible for women to avail the benefits. To quote a participant *"Poor women who are HIV positive and on anti retroviral therapy (ART) should also receive BPL ration cards. Food is essential to sustain their lives and the government should make it mandatory that they come under the BPL card eligibility. Government needs to listen to the voices of such people when it formulates policies and guidelines"*

Governance

Good governance is a key to achieving positive development outcomes. However, it was evident from the discussions at the grassroots that the administrative and governance structures are very fragile and do not achieve delivery for the poor. The ineffective delivery mechanisms of the local state

institutions like the municipalities and *panchayats* make women more vulnerable.

The target population is often unable to fully access government schemes and biases of implementing agencies, largely dominated by men, adversely impacts the reach of these schemes to women. Matters become worse as there are no effective monitoring mechanisms in place to assess the results and benefits accrued from government run-programmes.

Governance systems are exclusive and centralized with little or no representation from women. There is 33 percent reservation for women in the local *panchayats*— however, it was noted that in most areas the woman *sarpanch* is unable to exercise her authority given the patriarchal mindset of the community; she has to cede authority to her husband who becomes the de facto head. This amounts to proxy representation of women in local bodies. In areas where elected women representatives are able to assert authority, they end up taking on a much greater workload than their male counterparts due to dual responsibilities of work and the household.

Lack of stringent governance accountability is another crucial factor that impedes development and leads to failure of gaps in governance at all various levels.

Violence against women

Violence against girls/women (VAW) was a dominant issue that was discussed across consultations. VAW is an outcome of deeply entrenched patriarchal attitudes. It has significant social and economic costs and is a major constraint in the achievements of the MDGs. Poverty and lack of empowerment of women and girls further exacerbates the vulnerability of women and girls to violence as it limits their choices. While violence is experienced by a large number of women cutting across caste and class barriers—women with disabilities or living with HIV and AIDS, migrant and trafficked women, widows and women belonging

to marginalized population groups such as Dalits, tribals, and Muslims— experience multiple and intersecting discrimination and face even greater risks of violence. There are no fast track grievance redressal mechanisms in place to address the injustices meted out to victims of violence. Also, most cases of violence especially in rural areas go unreported. Alcohol addiction of male members of the family is an important factor that perpetuates violence and also deteriorates the economic condition of the family. To quote a participant “Men drink alcohol and perpetrate violence on women. *Women in Gujarat have set up justice committees in villages who bring such men in front of them to deal with cases of violence. Women should receive justice.*”

Another burning issue in India that policy makers need to address is the patriarchal mindset resulting in preference for a son which leads to sex selection and declining sex ratio.

Education

Participants from all the consultations expressed an urgent need to address the gender gap in education and lack of access to quality education for women and girls.

There is empirical evidence to suggest that socially and economically disadvantaged groups have not succeeded in accessing education, in equal measure, to tide over historical disadvantages. Low levels of female literacy compared to male literacy and disparity across social groups (especially among SCs, STs, Muslims and rural women) and geographic regions was highlighted in all the consultations. Availability of education facilities is highly skewed with a majority of children living in rural areas —especially in tribal and SC villages—who have to walk long distances to attend school.

It is evident that a significant portion of enrolled girls dropout before completing their primary education, a majority of whom who do not even acquire basic literacy. There are limited opportunities for the dropouts to re-enter and continue their education. Programmes geared to

help drop-outs re-enter schools are inadequate. Despite incentives such as bicycles and mid-day meals, there is high dropout among girls from schools. Lack of basic infrastructure in schools, especially the lack of functional toilets, impacts the enrolment of girls. A participant shared from her studies, that of 1000 schools surveyed. Toilets were either not found or not in use in 700 schools

There was also emphasis on institutionalizing gender in the education curriculum of the State Educational Board; school curriculums should incorporate separate chapters on women's rights. It was also highlighted that disadvantaged women often lack marketable and vocational skills. Vocational training matched with market needs will enable women to get better paying jobs or start their own enterprise. There is a need to address the gender gap in education in general and in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields in particular. Concerted efforts are required to increase the participation of women in STEM. Universal access to quality education for all women and girls and proper implementation of the Right to Education Act will be a crucial factor for empowerment of women in the coming decade.

Health

Access to basic healthcare services and proper sanitation facilities are the basic requirements to maintain a decent living standard. However, almost all the consultations at the community, regional and national levels highlighted the lack of access to basic healthcare services for women.

MDG 5 on Improving maternal health was repeatedly discussed across all the consultations and it was pointed out that India has one of the largest number of maternal deaths in the world. With a high proportion of maternal deaths every year, Uttar Pradesh is the ‘global black hole’. Government intervention for reducing maternal mortality is seen entirely from a biomedical perspective. It emerged that the incentive-based health scheme, Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), encouraging institutional delivery has not been very successful. Providing

INR 1,400- for hospital delivery would not ensure safe birth and the scheme ends up focusing on institutional delivery, and not on safe delivery. No attention is paid to address the issue of safe birth before and after delivery. The system ignores the reality of the dysfunctional health system. There are no mechanisms to address specific needs of women and issues faced by them, for instance if women have the right to decide their pregnancy, adequate access to contraception/abortion services etc. The insensitive treatment meted out to women in hospitals further de-motivates women from institutional deliveries. They are often harassed for money, and end up paying to access a 'free' service. It also emerged that the lack of supporting mechanisms such as good infrastructure was also detrimental in accessing the existing schemes and programmes.

Lack of basic sanitation facilities and clean drinking water also creates several health-related problems especially in remote areas.

Other issues discussed included protecting women's rights including her reproductive rights and right to basic healthcare. Universal access to healthcare is an urgent need of the hour.

Environment

Climate change in the recent decade has intensified natural disasters and posed more challenges to livelihoods and habitats. Climate change has a higher impact on women as they work closer to natural resources and are responsible for collection of food, water and fuel for the household. Depletion of natural resources has reduced livelihood assets for women, had an impact on food security and health, increased the time taken to access water, fuel, and food— thereby reducing their time to participate in income generating activities or in decision-making processes.

Environment sustainability is linked to natural resources – farming, livestock, and fisheries – which impact food security. With less access to safe water and food security, women's domestic

workload has increased due to decline in availability of water and other resources. Women in areas of acute poverty are used to sleeping hungry as available food first goes to male members of the household. Women and girls have to walk long distances to fetch water for the daily needs of the household, which in turn impacts their education, health and productivity.

Rampant industrialization in India without accountability and concern for the environment and local community is another crucial factor that affects environment.

Women in Disturbed Areas

Consultations, especially from the north-east region, voiced their concern about the vulnerability of women in disturbed areas. There is an urgent need to repeal Acts like the Armed Forces Special Powers Act in North East and Kashmir. Acts such as AFSPA, NSA (National Security Act), TADA (Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Prevention Act), and PSA (Public Security Act) are being used by Army personnel to legitimize violence against girls/ women.

There is also a lack of understanding about the highly diverse disturbed situations of various regions within India. Within these different areas of unrest, it is important to ensure women's meaningful participation in the peace process and that gendered perspectives should inform all aspects of development including peace agreements and the programmes of relief, recovery and the rebuilding of societies, governance institutions and infrastructure. It continues to be extremely challenging to build inclusive and democratic communities, and women are the worst affected in these areas. Women's role in the peace processes, locally, often remains largely undervalued and invisible.

Discrimination and stigma

The existence of caste-based discrimination came across as a cross-cutting issue and was highlighted

in all the consultations across India. India's booming economy and increasing prosperity does not conceal the fact that an oppressive caste system still exists. Caste is a system of social stratification that is descent based and is determined by an individual's birth. Women are at the receiving end of this hierarchical caste structure and are regularly subject to gross human rights violations as a result. Dalit women face violence not only in public spaces but also inside their family.

The practice of *Devadasi* in southern India particularly illustrates the gender/caste nexus. This is a practice where "a girl, usually before reaching puberty, is ceremoniously dedicated or married to a deity or temple. Once dedicated to the temple, the girl is unable to marry, is forced to become a prostitute for the upper-caste community and eventually auctioned into an urban brothel". *Devadasis* largely belong to the Dalit community, in addition to this 70 percent of the sex workers² belong to the Dalit communities. To quote a sex worker from a consultation – "People think that women in sex work do not have any respect and dignity. I do not agree, I think women from Budhwarpeth (a red-light area in Pune) also have their respect and dignity. Sex workers' issues and their rights should also be part of the mainstream women's development process."

"If India's laws prosecute clients of sex workers, how will they live? This will lead to sex workers dying of hunger. How does this fit in with the development agenda for women? Laws should be sensitive to the plight of women in difficult situations."

Denial of right to work and free choice of employment are perpetuated by the caste system. Dalits and women from marginalized communities are forced to work in polluting and degrading occupations such as manual scavenging, and are subject to exploitative labour arrangements such as bonded and migratory labour.

Economic empowerment of women

Development agendas for new goals must be sensitive to economic injustice women experience. Consultations highlighted the fact that all women are engaged in some kind of work, however, their work is undervalued. There is an urgent need to recognize women as workers, producers, agents of growth and individual rights holders. More than 70 percent women in rural India work as agricultural labourers, however, they do not have any ownership rights on the land and even experience discrimination in wages. To quote a participant "I have seen that the property and land are always in the name of the husband, ration card as well; the child too has the name of the father. The name of the woman always comes after that of the man. This should change because we work just as hard as men for our families."

In addition to this, it also emerged that marital status must not impact women's entitlements and also the entitlements should be individually based rather than household-based and hence not in the name of the head of the family which often is the eldest male.

The state excludes the contributions of women to the economy and society in numerous ways. According to patriarchal economic models, production for sustenance is counted as 'non-production' hence a large chunk of women are left out. The patriarchal construct of the GDP ignores the contribution of women to household and care work. In the Indian context, the barriers which prevent women's access to control and use of land and other productive resources often include inadequate legal standards and implementation at national and local levels, as well as discriminatory cultural attitudes and practices at the institutional and community levels across India.

² Page 4, Hyderabad Regional Consultation Report

Women's contribution to the economy (unpaid work that includes care) needs to be acknowledged and measured.

In many communities, gender disparities with regard to land and other productive resources are linked to assumptions that men, as heads of households, control and manage land. Land pattas are issued in the name of men, implicitly reflecting ideas that women are incapable of managing productive resources such as land effectively— that productive resources given to women are 'lost to another family' in the event of marriage, divorce, or (male) death repeatedly and that men will provide for women's economic security. Challenging these discriminatory ideologies is critical to achieving women's economic empowerment.

The changing global context

Any new development agenda must also take into account how the context for development has changed since the MDGs were agreed upon. Climate change and environmental vulnerability, recent crises and volatility arising from economic globalization, the changing nature of global governance, inequalities between and within countries, as well as trends relating to technology, demography, urbanization and migration are rapidly changing the world we live in. The post-2015 framework should include the following approaches in tune with the changing global context:

- A human rights-based approach in both the content and process of developing the post-2015 framework, including goals and indicators which are not only quantitative but also qualitative in nature.
- The post-2015 development agenda must be universally applicable, but flexible to meet specific needs of countries and its people.
- Gender inequality is fundamental to all MDGs. All indicators or all other goals should be disaggregated by gender. Gender equality and women's human rights must be central to all

the goals of the post-2015 framework with clear gender-based indicators.

- There should be a strong focus on women's human rights, equality, choice, autonomy and reproductive rights. It is an essential pre-requisite to address fundamental issues such as gender violence and patriarchal mindsets.
- Strengthening the rights-based framework: Countries should be accountable for the health and education rights of their populations. States should allocate maximum available resources for health and education budgets and citizens should hold their governments accountable for access to primary education and healthcare services.
- Post-2015 MDG framework must look at asset creation for women such as land titles and livestock ownership and also inheritance rights. As individuals, women must have access to financial resources, income opportunities and equal participation as informed decision-makers at all levels. Capacitate women to access markets and ensure that women have the physical space to do business and are protected from any kind of violence.
- The framework should have within it the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) framework to reaffirm commitment to human rights. There should be recognition of not just physical, but different forms of violence against women. Decline in VAW should be an important indicator to rate developmental progress of countries.

The national context

- A constant focus on national averages and progress masks slower progress or even growing disparities at the sub-national level and among specific populations. For a vast country like India with huge diversities, gender disaggregated data need to be emphasized to monitor progress and spending of budgets.

- Complexities of geographic, social and economic disparities need to be considered while developing post-2015 framework.
- Redefining the indicators to focus more on quality and not just targets and numbers. Future development targets and indicators should be designed to highlight rather than mask inequities.
- The emphasis on tackling income inequality as a matter of priority, including the need to ensure that bottom 20 percent of the population is improving their economic status faster than the top 20 percent through inclusive growth.
- Sufficient allocations for women across sectors needs to be factored in.
- Universal access to basic public goods and services which is responsive to discrimination towards diverse social groups. The state should institutionalize a bottom up and gender sensitive approach in designing, planning, and implementing its policies. Focus on transparent and time-bound delivery of all basic public services.
- Universalization of education and improving the quality of education along with access and affordability especially for women.
- Strengthening public health system – universal health coverage was a common demand, promoting cashless services at hospitals; regulate the private sector including private insurance, improve services in the public sector and improve access to services for people with disabilities.
- Recognition of women's contribution to the economy both in the formal and informal sector, and also in the hidden area of care economy.
- Allow marginalized women to access government schemes and have access to financial inclusion with a single government-issued ID such as voter ID cards. Use of the television/radio more aggressively to make women aware about government schemes and its benefits.
- Building gender sensitive parliaments and governance structures with capacity to effectively engage in the post-2015



development agenda implementation in terms of their constitutional responsibilities. Promote representation of women in decision-making positions within political parties and parliaments.

- Address the mindsets and change in societal norms about women and understand the emerging roles of girls and women.

Development in India

- While GDP growth rates have been high, India also exhibits the paradox of high growth rates and high levels of poverty. India's problems are multi-faceted and therefore developmental efforts also require synergies between sectors.
- Approximately 32 percent of the population lives below the poverty line, and poverty is expected to rise in eight states. Disparities in India are of various hues – geographical regions (states, districts, rural-urban), disparities along gender lines with women and sexual minorities, and caste-based disparities.
- Key development challenges in India include the need to improve the delivery mechanisms of public systems. The implementation of effective public delivery of basic services like education, health and food.
- The critical requirement for inclusive growth is to generate sustainable livelihoods, which in turn requires synergistic action - building skills with accessible financial services including partnering with private sector initiatives.
- There is a need to recognize the difference between national and regional realities. No single model of development is applicable to all the regions in the country. The diversity of local realities should be considered while framing national policies.
- Economic justice and gender sensitive budgeting, property rights, land rights, access to livelihood, credit, and food security should be prioritized in the post-2015 framework
- Jobless growth and growth with low quality employment has to be addressed to ensure that women share the fruits of development.

Post-2015 Development Goals

Area	Principles	Goals	Targets
Limited Access to Existing Schemes and Programmes	Universal access to basic services	Rights based and non-discriminatory universal access to basic public goods and services	Half the eligible population has access to basic public goods and services
Governance	Participation and representation	Allocate dedicated financial resources for women and related policies. Identification documents for women	All women above 18 have identification documents All government ministries have desegregated budgets for women-related policies
Violence Against Women	Safety and security	Address all forms of violence including violence based on - caste, class, and ethnicity. Ensure women's physical security and right to quick and effective justice	Inclusion of VAW issues in National Census Increase in VAW cases that result in conviction
Education	Universal education	Achieve quality universal secondary education and skill- based education for girls	Ensure that all girls complete secondary education/school Double the number of girls completing higher secondary and college education. Double the number of women getting jobs in the formal sector
Health	Safe and healthy life	Improve women's overall health including maternal health. Improved health Services for marginalized women (including elderly, single women, disabled women, sex workers, women with HIV, or with mental or physical disabilities)	Reduce maternal deaths by half Double number of village level women health workers (ASHA)
Women in Disturbed areas	Safety and security	Recognition of women's role in peace processes. Recognize political, social and religious disturbances	Women peace mediators and counselors are present in all disturbed areas. All regional and local disturbances are officially recognized by Indian government
Economic Empowerment of Women	Ensure decent standard of living	Women's access and control over resources and credit. Equal wages for equal work for women	All formal and informal sector women workers are linked to bank accounts, credit sources and direct market access. Equal wages established for all women workers in formal and informal sectors



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Consultative Process and Methodology

RIS convened the national consultation of the research institutes constituency on 31 January 2013 by bringing together 24 organizations working on policy, research, and economic issues from across the country. RIS submitted the national report based on the discussion and research papers submitted by the participants, as also deliberations during the national consultation. United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) provided support to the consultation process. The reports can be accessed online at: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/301678>

Global Development Agenda Post-2015

A Think Tank perspective*

The processes leading up to the designing of the Global Development Agenda post-2015 indicate that this Agenda would have two dimensions that are not necessarily distinct. The first of these is provided by the experiences gained in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which give an indication as to the nature and extent of the existing development deficits. The proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the most significant outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference), would provide the second dimension. In this Conference, the global community had agreed to develop the SDGs that would promote an “economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations”. More importantly, the Rio+20 Conference identified some of the critical areas that need to be considered for realizing the objectives of sustainable development.

This paper is an attempt to develop a perspective on the post-2015 global development agenda in light of some of the discussions taking place in the think tank community in India. It provides an overview of the implementation of the MDGs both at the national level in India and globally. The paper then lays down the contours of the SDGs as laid out in the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference. Finally, it provides an indicative list of issues that may be included in the post-2015 global development agenda. The list of issues, it may be clarified, is not intended

to be exhaustive; its only purpose is to trigger discussions on some of the critical areas where the global community needs to exert its energies in order to find mutually agreeable solutions.

Implementation of MDGs in India

The latest assessment³ indicates that India has made considerable progress towards meeting the targets. The findings are summarized below:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

In 2004-05, 37 percent of the population was below the officially identified poverty line⁴. Expectations are that by 2015, this figure would be 26.7 percent. Proportion of underweight children below 3 years would be 33 percent, which is higher than the target of 26 percent.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

In 2009-10, net enrolment rate had exceeded 98 percent. Survival rate at primary level was 76 percent in 2008-09. Literacy rate among urban youth was 93 percent in 2007-08, but for the rural areas, it was 83 percent.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Gender Parity Index (GPI) has increased to 0.98 in primary education. However, the target for eliminating gender disparity has not been realized in secondary and tertiary education. Female to male literacy rate for the 15-24 year age-group increased to 0.88 in 2007-08 and is expected to exceed one by 2015. Share of females in the non-agricultural workforce was 18.6 percent in 2009-10.

* Prepared by Dr. Biswajit Dhar, Director General, RIS in association with Mr. Sayan Samanta. The views are personal.

³ Central Statistical Organization (2011), Millennium Development Goals: India Country Report 2011, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India (accessed from: http://undp.org.in/sites/default/files/MDG_India_2011.pdf).

⁴ Measured by the calorie norm of 2100 kilocalories per capita per day.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Under-five mortality rate would reach 52 by 2015. Infant Mortality Rate has declined to 44 per 1000. Immunization of one-year-olds against measles increased to 74 percent in 2009. In all these three areas, the target is unlikely to be met.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Maternal mortality rate should be 109 per 1000 in 2015, as against 437 per 1000 in 1990-91. Although there will be a small shortfall in meeting the target, the rate of decline is encouraging.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Incidence of HIV/AIDS and malaria has declined and prevalence of all forms of tuberculosis has also been checked.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Forest cover has increased, and is now 21 percent of India's land area. A network of protected areas, biosphere reserves and reserved forests is used to protect biodiversity.

India's energy intensity increased until 1985-86, but has declined thereafter. Access to safe drinking water has improved since 2000: by 2007-08, India had attained the MDG target. However, a majority of the population still remains without improved sanitation facilities.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Overall teledensity (telephones per hundred persons) increased to almost 74 in 2011. Internet subscribers have increased 100-fold between 1999 and 2011, from 0.2 million to more than 20 million.

Contours of a Post-2015 Global Development Agenda

Over the past decade, the global development agenda has undergone re-prioritization because of two developments: on the one hand, some progress has been made in respect of the key MDGs, and, on the other, new concerns have taken the centre-stage.

Progress in meeting the MDGs globally

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Target 1: The proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day fell from 47 percent in 1990 to 24 percent in 2008—a reduction from over 2 billion to less than 1.4 billion.

Target 2: Eastern Asia has set the pace for worldwide progress on working poverty.

Target 3: The numbers of malnourished have stabilised since 1990.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Target 1: Enrolment rates of children of primary school age increased markedly in sub-Saharan Africa, from 58 to 76 percent between 1999 and 2010.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Target 1: The ratio between the enrolment rate of girls and that of boys grew from 91 in 1999 to 97 in 2010 for all developing regions.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Target 1: Number of under-five deaths worldwide fell from more than 12.0 million in 1990 to 7.6 million in 2010, and progress in the developing world as a whole has accelerated.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Maternal mortality has nearly halved since 1990, but levels are far removed from the 2015 target.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Target 1: At the end of 2010, 6.5 million people were receiving antiretroviral therapy for HIV or AIDS in developing regions. The 2010 target of universal access, however, was not reached.

Target 2: Tuberculosis incidence rates have been falling since 2002, and current projections suggest that the 1990 death rate from the disease will be halved by 2015.

Target 3: Reported malaria cases fell by more than 50 percent between 2000 and 2010 in 43 of the 99 countries with ongoing malaria transmission.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Target 1: Forest area increase in Asia is helping to slow, but not reverse, global losses worldwide.

Target 2: The economic crisis has pushed down global greenhouse gas emissions, only if slightly, and for the short-term.

Target 3: The successful implementation of the Montreal Protocol clears the way for extending control to more substances.

Target 4: Biodiversity is still being lost, even as more areas of the earth's surface are protected.

Target 5: The target of halving the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water was also met by 2010, with the proportion of people using an improved water source rising from 76 percent in 1990 to 89 percent in 2010.

Target 6: The share of urban residents in the developing world, living in slums, declined from

39 percent in 2000 to 33 percent in 2012. This achievement exceeds the target of significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, well ahead of the 2020 deadline.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

Target 1: Core development aid falls in real terms for the first time in more than a decade, as donor countries face fiscal constraints.

Target 2: Aid dips as a share of total donor income, as well as for Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Sub-Saharan Africa.

Target 3: Trade rebounds after the crisis, with market access largely unimpaired.

Target 4: Interrupted in 2009, the downward trend of developing countries' debt service ratios resumes.

Target 5: The extraordinary rise in mobile cellular subscriptions continues in the developing world.

The Sustainable Development Goals

As stated at the outset, the Rio+20 Conference had concluded with the agreement to take urgent action to achieve sustainable development to ensure the promotion of an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations. The Conference underscored "the importance and utility of a developing a set of sustainable development goals, based on Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, which fully respect all the Rio Principles, taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities, are consistent with international law, build upon commitments already made, and contribute to the full implementation of the outcomes of all major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields". The

participating countries agreed that the SDGs should be “coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, thus contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and serving as a driver for implementation and mainstreaming of sustainable development in the United Nations system as a whole”. Importantly, the countries added that the process for the development of the SDGs “needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes to consider the post-2015 development agenda”.

This decision of the Rio+20 Conference to put in place the process for the development of the SDGs is therefore critical to the evolution of the post-2015 development agenda, particularly because the broad contours of the SDGs were spelt out by the participating countries; in other words, the framework for the SDGs was a negotiated outcome. The countries recognized that “poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and

promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. They also reaffirmed the “need to achieve sustainable development by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating greater opportunities for all, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living, fostering equitable social development and inclusion, and promoting integrated and sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems that supports, inter alia, economic, social and human development while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration and restoration and resilience in the face of new and emerging challenges”.

These decisions of the Rio+20 Conference thus provide a strong basis for the global development agenda post-2015.



New Concerns

Several new concerns have emerged since the MDGs are being implemented. Issues of sustainability have taken centre-stage as the global community has failed in its attempt to put in place a credible multilateral regime that can address the problems arising from climate change as well as sustainable use of the world's biodiversity. Several related concerns have also emerged. Water stress and energy poverty are concerns that are already assuming centre-stage in many countries.

The Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has warned of the increasing vulnerability that this phenomenon would bring to the poorer regions. Problems of food insecurity, water stress and health problems would occur in Asia, Africa and Latin America⁵. This situation therefore demands collective action for finding an equitable, burden-sharing approach to climate adaptation and mitigation.

The 1980s and 1990s also brought with them a shift in the development priorities in a vast majority of developing countries. While in the earlier decades, emphasis was laid on the need to improve agricultural productivity, particularly in food crops, as a part of the "Green Revolution" strategy⁶, the more recent decades witnessed a more urban-centric development model. As a result, rural areas faced relative decline, resulting in significant internal migration. Urban centres, unable to cope with the influx of population, witnessed unplanned expansion of low-income settlements. The impact of this phenomenon was seen in the rising incidence of urban

poverty: between 1998 and 2008, urban poverty as a percentage of total poverty in the East and South East Asia regions increased three and five-folds respectively, and in South Asia and Latin America, the increase was close to 1.5 times⁷. It is important to note that most countries experiencing increases in urban poverty belong to the middle-income group. This, therefore, implies that poverty is no longer a problem typical of low-income countries; it is now a development challenge for the middle-income countries, the relatively more prosperous in terms of their per capita incomes.

In the Indian context, the implementation of the MDGs has brought out many areas where development deficits need urgent attention. An overarching area of concern is that along with the relatively high rates of economic growth, income inequality also has risen. Two factors, which have affected the workforce over the past two decades, in particular, have contributed to rising income inequality. The first was the increase in the labour redundancy, as enterprises tried to get leaner and thinner in order to face global competition, and second was the increasing casualisation of the workforce. The section of the workforce able to retain their jobs was handsomely rewarded. The development process has ignored the critical area of employment, thus sowing the seeds of increasing income inequalities⁸.

The unemployment rate among the youth is large. The highly skilled are able to get jobs, but the not so highly skilled and semi-skilled are looking for jobs. Therefore, one of the things needed to monitor for overall social development is an unemployment indicator.

⁵ IPCC (2007), Climate Change 2007: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability (accessed from:

http://www.ipcc.ch/publications_and_data/publications_ipcc_fourth_assessment_report_wg2_report_impacts_adaptation_and_vulnerability.htm.

⁶ Improved varieties of seeds and the use of chemical fertilisers brought about a turnaround in agricultural production and productivity.

⁷ Melamed, Claire (2012), After 2015: Contexts, politics and processes for a post-2015 global agreement on development, Overseas Development Institute, London, Table 7.

⁸ See for instance, ILO (2008), World of Work Report 2008: Income inequalities in the age of financial globalization, Geneva.

Though most of the discussions on the MDGs have centred on the goals, the justification for their inclusion and their implementation; there is a point of view that posits that the goals by themselves are ineffectual without the commitment to change the composition and the dynamics of economic growth. This viewpoint does not support the inclusion of a goal covering employment, as this indicator is derived from the economic structure and qualitative aspects of growth that is pursued. It therefore argues that there is a need to set a goal for working out a structure of economy, which in turn actually generates employment. More generally, what is being put forth in this proposed framework is an agenda to change the contours and the composition of growth.

In the area of education, while the enrolment rates in primary education have shown consistent improvement, the quality of education is a major problem. This raises an important issue regarding access to quality social services, especially education and health, which the MDGs did not address. In fact, there are inherent limitations in the quantitative nature of the indicators that were included to assess the progress made in each of the goals covering health and education.

The health indicators suffer from a shortcoming in that they focus only on communicable diseases and maternal health, and not on non-communicable diseases and lifestyles and mental health. These diseases should form a part of the post-2015 development agenda as they have now appeared as the biggest challenges for the health system in India.

The health delivery system, particularly in the public sector, has deteriorated in India, thus forcing those in the lower income strata to seek the relatively high cost health services in private sector. This has brought with it an attendant problem: hospitalization has been found to be a major reason for people to slide down below the poverty line. Those who have already crossed the

poverty line, slide even further down just because of one or two instances of hospitalization.

There is an increasing consensus that there must be a convergence between the MDGs and SDGs going forward. As indicated earlier, the agreed framework for SDGs focused on the three pillars, viz. economic, social and environmental, in order to realize the objectives of sustainable development. One of the weaknesses of the MDGs was that the social dimension did not get adequate attention, in particular, the needs of the socially excluded groups, like the minorities, Dalits, SCs, STs, Muslims, women and children, who have a significant share in the country's population. Addressing these dimensions of exclusion is vitally important for the inclusive development process. This, in other words, calls for an inclusion of a pro-active agenda to ensure the rights of women and the rights of children, the latter deriving from the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Although the MDGs had covered issues relating to gender inequality, targets for ensuring gender equality and women's empowerment were highly inadequate. The inadequacies of the existing framework appear on two counts: one, the discriminations against women identified through a series of international processes for nearly four decades were not addressed, and two, mainstreaming of the gender dimension was perfunctory.

Concerns of women need to be mainstreamed since this significant section of the society is not part of the developmental agenda. Moreover, there is insufficient data to prove as to how many marginalized vulnerable women head single households, or how many trafficked women and children have been reached. As a major contributor to the national income, women must be given at least an equal stake in the developmental process. It should be conscious thinking on the part of the policy makers and the political thinkers to give equal importance to women.

Several commentators have pointed out that implementation of the MDGs through appropriate support, and by creating infrastructure or institutions remains a major area of concern. The deficit in this regard is not only about physical institutions, administrative arrangements and mechanism of flow of funds, it is primarily about the operating environment with respect to these three axes— the economic, socio-cultural and political. The protagonists of this view have also argued that without involving the people, the potential beneficiaries, the outcomes are not likely to be very promising. In this context, the importance of good governance and rule of law, not only at the national government level, but also more importantly, at the community level, was emphasized.

This issue also raises the contentious dimension of monitoring the progress achieved in the MDGs. It has been pointed out that there are no formal processes for technical reviews. The reviews that exist are only internal to the United Nations' current processes. There is therefore a view that India could consider a way of monitoring the effects of the goals on countries other than India and how that would translate into what the country would have to do. Monitoring and reporting also brings with it questions regarding the demands that these mechanisms would place on the various institutions, particularly in developing countries. Among other constraints faced by developing countries is availability of relevant data and other information that would enable them to undertake the task of monitoring and reporting in a reasonably sound manner. The institutions involved in data mining have limited resources and capacity shortcomings, and these problems should be addressed before any step is taken to include mandatory monitoring and reporting as a part of the post-2015 global development agenda.

A Suggested Way Forward

Several organizations have been discussing approaches to deal with the development challenges post-2015; an attempt is made below to sample some of these discussions. Claire Melamed⁹ has outlined the broad contours of a possible framework, while the Centre for International Governance Innovation¹⁰ has provided a set of goals for addressing the development deficits.

Melamed provides three options for a new framework that cover: (i) same terrain, new framework and instruments (ii) new terrain, same framework and (iii) new terrain, new framework. Given the current state of debate on the post-2015 compact, this template provides a useful basis to further the understanding on the essential elements of the compact.

The first option would help in furthering the objectives of the existing MDGs by adopting instruments and mechanisms that have not been explicitly adopted for meeting the 2015 targets. Melamed suggests instruments such as cash transfers and microfinance schemes for enhancing incomes and identification of a package of interventions to address health-related concerns.

Melamed's second option includes the approach suggested by CIGI. The proposal is to adopt a new set of goals, without significantly changing the framework adopted for the implementation of the MDGs. The CIGI initiative proposes 12 goals, divided in three groups, based on the broad set of objectives they are expected to meet.

⁹ Melamed, Claire (2012), *After 2015: Contexts, politics and processes for a post-2015 global agreement on development*, Overseas Development Institute, London, pp. 43 ff.

¹⁰ CIGI (2011), *Toward a Post-2015 Development Paradigm (II): Conference Report*.

Box: 1: The Post-2015 Goals

Essential endowments necessary for individuals to achieve their fuller potential

Goal 1: Adequate livelihoods and income levels for dignified human existence.

Goal 2: Sufficient food and water for active living.

Goal 3: Appropriate education and skills for productive participation in society.

Goal 4: Good health for the best possible physical and mental well-being.

Protecting and promoting collective human capital

Goal 5: Security for ensuring freedom from violence.

Goal 6: Gender equality for enabling males and females to participate and benefit equally in society.

Goal 7: Resilient communities and nations for reduced disaster impact from natural and technological hazards.

Goal 8: Connectivity for access to essential information, services and opportunities.

Effective provision of global public goods

Goal 9: Empowerment of people to realize their civil and political rights.

Goal 10: Sustainable management of the biosphere for enabling people and the planet to thrive together.

Goal 11: Establishing rules for managing the world economy for the fairly shared benefit of all nations.

Goal 12: Good global governance for transparent and accountable international institutions and partnerships.

Source: CIGI (2011), Toward a Post-2015 Development Paradigm (II): Conference Report, p. 10.

The set of goals proposed by CIGI do not have any targets, for they are proposed to be adopted nationally. However, the protagonists have proposed that in relation to each global goal, minimum benchmarks to be achieved by all countries may be suggested.

A goals-approach, particularly the one in which a larger number of goals have been proposed, could have disadvantages on two counts. First, they can give rise to a multiplicity of targets that may stretch the capacities of the implementing agencies. Secondly, some of the goals may be too broad and diffused, and may face the limitations faced in respect of MDG-8.

A third set of option proposed by Melamed is a combination of both new terrain and new framework. This approach could include the broad range of policies that impact on development and could include areas such as trade reforms and climate change. But while this approach is comprehensive than the other two, the challenge is to arrive at a global consensus on the specific issues included in each of the covered areas.

Vandemoortele¹¹ provides a useful template for the global development agenda beyond 2015 in which he suggests that six areas may be considered. The first is reshaping the structure

¹¹ One of the better argued cases in this regard has been made by Vandemoortele. See Vandemoortele, Jan (2009), Taking the MDGs Beyond 2015: Hasten Slowly, May (accessed from:

http://www.devstud.org.uk/downloads/4b9ea0272d30b_Vandemoortele_PAPER.pdf).

See also, Vandemoortele, Jan (2012), Advancing the global development agenda post-2015: Some thoughts, ideas and practical suggestions, Background Paper prepared for the Experts Group Meeting to support the advancement of the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, New York, 27-29 February (accessed from:

http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/desa_post2015paper_jv.pdf).

of the current set of goals by rationalizing them, especially those relating to health and education. The second, and perhaps the most critical, is that the targets should be global and not national. The third is the selection of the benchmark (norms) against which the targets should be set. In the past, use of relative benchmarks had militated against countries, which had either inferior initial conditions or very large populations. The fourth is about including new goals and targets, and there are candidates that have been identified by the Rio+20 Conference, as indicated above. The fifth is the time horizon for implementing the post-2015 goals and targets, as also specifying the base period. This also includes setting of intermediate targets to serve as quantitative goalposts. The last is disaggregated monitoring of the agreed goals and targets.

We have divided the issues that need to be considered for drawing up the global

development agenda in three broad groups. The first includes those that are critical for furthering the gains of the current MDGs and the second includes issues that were excluded from the MDGs. The third are the 'systemic issues'. It needs to be mentioned here that the issues included below are only indicative in nature and are intended to help initiate discussions on the global development agenda post 2015.

We would like to also point out that the post-2015 global development agenda would have to be shaped in light of the emerging contexts. Some of the discussions in this regard have alluded to four major new contexts: (i) climate change; (ii) global economic recession; (iii) democratic aspirations of the peoples around the world; and (iv) inequality and information revolution. These new contexts would help in drawing up the detailed parameters of the development agenda.





Photo Credit: UNDP

Furthering the gains of the current MDGs:

Absolute vs. Relative Poverty: MDG 1 must address the problem of inequality, which is now a more formidable problem than absolute poverty, measured in terms of income. The growing gaps in access to productive resources—a phenomenon that has become a stark reality since the 1990s—needs to be bridged. Therefore, inclusive development should be the new focus

of addressing the needs of the marginalized for productive resources.

Improving quality of education and emphasis on skill formation: Now that the targets for primary education have mostly been met, the focus must shift to secondary education. Figures for the enrolment rates in secondary education speak for the relative neglect that this sector has been facing¹². Secondary education provides

¹²For low income and lower middle-income countries, enrolment in primary education has been in excess of 100 percent during the past decade. In sharp contrast, however, the enrolment rates have remained below 40 percent for the low income countries and below 60 percent for the lower middle-income countries.

the foundations for skill development, which is essential for countries to overcome the emerging skill deficits. For countries with relatively young populations, emphasis on secondary education provides an opportunity to reap the demographic dividends. Vocationalization of education and skill development programmes should complement the secondary education programmes.

Universalization of health care and access to medicines:

The focus of the health indicators are on issues that required urgent attention when the MDGs were formulated. In the interregnum, however, concerns on global health issues have increased manifold. In 2001, the Commission on Macroeconomics and Health appointed by the Director General of the World Health Organization (WHO) made a key recommendation that the “world’s low and middle-income countries, in partnership with high-income countries, should scale up the access of the world’s poor to essential health services, including a focus on specific interventions”.¹³ The Commission identified the diseases that afflict populations in low-income countries, and the poor in the middle-income countries, which are neglected by the pharmaceutical industry as well as research and development (R&D) systems. Even after a decade, these diseases remain neglected, a fact that has been highlighted by a recent WHO Expert Group¹⁴. There is thus a need to set universal health coverage as a goal in the post-2015 framework.

Jobs and livelihoods: The current MDGs were aimed at achieving full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people. However, since 2000, the gains emanating from economic integration between countries have not accrued to labour. One of the factors has been the restrictions

imposed by the advanced countries on labour mobility. Since the onset of the downturn in 2008, foreign workers have faced enhanced barriers in advanced economies. Increasing vulnerability of the labour force needs to be redressed by introducing social protection measures.

Gender equality and women’s empowerment:

The issue of gender disparity was included only in Goal 3 of the current MDGs, which had only one target, viz. eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary education in all levels of education no later than 2015. This approach had two glaring limitations: one, all forms of discriminations against women, which have been well articulated in several international forums since the first World Conference on Women was organized in 1975, were not captured; and two, mainstreaming of the gender dimension in the goals did not take place.

Environmental sustainability: The agreements in multilateral forums such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), must be clearly articulated in the targets. The reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases in keeping with the principles of CBDR has to figure in the targets. In the 10th Conference of Parties, contracting parties to the CBDR had agreed on the Aichi Targets for ensuring the loss of biodiversity.

The New Concerns

Food security and rural livelihoods: The most significant among omissions in the MDGs were the twin issues of food security and rural livelihoods. Over the past decade, agriculture has found itself in the throes of major uncertainty, stemming largely from indifferent production performance

¹³WHO (2001), Macroeconomics and Health: Investing in Health for Economic Development, December, p. 4 (accessed from: <http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2001/924154550x.pdf>).

¹⁴WHO (2012), Research and Development to Meet Health Needs in Developing Countries: Strengthening Global Financing and Coordination, Report of the Consultative Expert Working Group on Research and Development: Financing and Coordination, Geneva.

of food crops. This triggered unprecedented increases in food price, which led the Food and Agriculture Organization to comment that the era of high food prices is here to stay.¹⁵ Pressures on agriculture are mounting on account of two unrelated reasons: one, the growing demand for land for urbanization and industrialization; and two, the uncertainties caused by global warming and the attendant variability in weather patterns. These uncertainties could put global food security at risk and therefore, goals and targets covering agriculture need to be included in the post-2015 framework.

Sustainable energy: Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy and developing a framework for the transfer and dissemination of the relevant technologies together with appropriate funding needs to be included as a new goal.

Habitat Agenda Goal: The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements had concluded, “human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development, including adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements, and they are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature”. Human habitat, therefore, needs to be considered in its totality to ensure balanced rural-urban development. Rural habitat has not figured in the MDGs despite the fact that in 2011, rural population was as high as 72 percent of the total population in the low income countries.

Systemic issues

Delivering ‘Global Public Goods’: This element should essentially include MDG-8, giving particular attention to the multilateral negotiations on

climate change and trade reforms, and the reform of the international financial system¹⁶.

Avoidance of confusion between ends and means in the setting of the goals targets¹⁷:

Trade liberalization and climate change are typical examples. Both are means to realizing development objectives but have become ends in themselves, thus leading to challenges in dealing with them at the multilateral level.

The role of South-South cooperation in the implementation of the global development agenda:

The development cooperation landscape has been changing over the past decade with emerging countries bringing in their own perspective of development partnership. These countries have argued that ‘development effectiveness’ should be the basis on which development partnerships need to be built. By doing so, the emerging countries have provided an alternative to ‘aid effectiveness’, the tenet on the basis of which the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries have engaged with their developing country partners.

Strategies

Defining a development paradigm anchored on inclusiveness:

Ensuring that all citizens have adequate access to resources that can improve their economic and social conditions. This would include access to social services like education and health, habitable environment for living and adequate opportunities for decent work.

Ensuring social inclusion: Women and children, as well as the socially marginalized sections of

¹⁵ FAO (2008), Soaring Food Prices: Facts, Perspectives, Impacts and actions required, High-Level Conference on World Food Security: The challenges of climate change and bioenergy, June (accessed from: http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/foodclimate/HLCdocs/HLC08-inf-1-E.pdf).

¹⁶ Moshirian, Fariborz (2005), Global Financial Markets and Millennium Goals, Journal of Multinational Financial Management, 15, pp. 302-13.

¹⁷ Nayyar, Deepak (2011), The MDGs Beyond 2015, Research Paper # 38, South Centre, Geneva.

the society, must have a stake in the process for reaching the sustainable development pathway. Their participation will ensure that they have ownership over the outcomes, and this would facilitate the implementation of programmes, which are developed for ensuring sustainability.

Enhancing sensitivity towards the food, biodiversity, water and energy nexus: It is important to recognize the synergies between these issues and to develop institutions and instruments that would help address the deficiencies in a mutually supportive manner.

Institutional support for assessing the progress in implementation: Weak institutions have often proved a bottleneck in effectively monitoring the progress made in the current set of MDGs. With the proposed strengthening of the global development agenda post-2015, it

is imperative that adequate attention is paid to the development of relevant institutions that can enable proper assessment of implementation.

Discussion papers

1. A Note for the Consultation on Post-2015 Global Development Agenda by Amita Shah¹⁸
2. Can or Will the MDGs and 2015 plus Agenda succeed without a Human-based, Family-centric and Person-oriented Approach by Catherine Bernard¹⁹
3. Creating More Classrooms by Ananya S. Guha²⁰
4. Key outcomes of the Expert Group Meeting of the Southern Voice on Post-MDGs conference²¹

(The papers can be accessed online at: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/301678>)

¹⁸ Professor and Director of Gujarat Institute of Development Research, and Co-director Chronic Poverty Advisory Network.

¹⁹ Founder Director Service and Research Institute on Family and Children (SERFAC).

²⁰ Officer on Special Duty, IGNOU Institute for Vocational Education & Training (IIVET), Shillong.

²¹ Organized by the Centre for Policy Development (CPD), Bangladesh, which was attended by Dr Shekhar Shah, Director General, National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) and Mr Samant Veer Kakkar, NCAER.



Photo Credit: UNDP

Youth

Convened by
Josh, Pravah, Restless Development and The YP Foundation

JOSH: Formed in 2006, as part of the Right to Information campaign, the main objective of JOSH revolves around engaging youth on issues of transparency and accountability, with a special focus on education and governance. JOSH works with college and university youth as well as urban poor youth on education with a rights-based approach, where along with young people it also engages the larger community to enable them to claim their rights. Website: <http://josh4india.org>

Pravah: Initiated in 1993, Pravah's vision is to build leadership for social change with young people. They have rich experience of designing and implementing a range of programmes with organizations and young people across the country. Pravah's interventions facilitate youth to lead social change while investing in their own development. Together with their partners, Pravah is currently advocating youth development and citizenship action. Website: <http://www.pravah.org>

Restless Development: Restless Development India, an arm of the UK-based youth led

development agency, is committed to mobilizing and empowering young people as an effective human resource in development efforts, and influencing government strategies to include a focus on young people. Restless Development works around issues of sexual reproductive health, livelihoods and civic participation and has reached out to about 90,000 youngsters in four Indian states in 2012. Website: <http://www.restlessdevelopment.org/india>

The YP Foundation: Founded in 2002, The YP Foundation is a youth-run and led organization that supports and enables young people to create programmes and influence policies in the areas of gender, sexuality, health and rights, education, digital media, the arts and governance. The organization promotes, protects and advances young people's human rights by building leadership, and strengthening youth led initiatives and movements and has set up over 200 projects across 18 states in India since inception, reaching out to 300,000 young people. Website: <http://www.theypfoundation.org>



Consultative Process and Methodology

JOSH, Pravah, the YP Foundation and Restless Development, as the convening committee for youth, organized five regional consultations in February 2013 with over 100 youth organizations across India. Pravah convened the consultations in the eastern and north-east region, JOSH in western region, The YP Foundation in northern region and Restless Development in the southern region. The Youth Convening Committee submitted the national report based on the recommendations of the regional consultations combining the most salient themes discussed in the regional dialogues. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided support to the consultation process. The reports can be accessed online at: <http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/301679>

JOSH, Pravah, the YP Foundation and Restless Development, as the convening committee for youth, organized five regional consultations in February 2013 involving 284 representatives from over 100 youth organizations across India. Pravah convened the consultations in the northeast and eastern region (in partnership with Community-the Youth Collective, Bosco Institute and Patang), JOSH in western region, The YP Foundation in northern region and Restless Development in the southern region. The Youth Convening Committee submitted the National Report based on the recommendations of the regional consultations combining the most salient themes discussed in the regional dialogues. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) provided support to the consultation process.

Four partner NGOs conducted regional consultations with groups of youth covering the following 23 states and 1 Union territory.

The meetings included a combinations of consultations, group discussions, panel discussions and plenaries.

The consultative process took place for a period of three days each. The issues and concerns of the youth were treated holistically and therefore self-reflection and sharing of personal experiences were key processes which allowed participants to freely share their ideas. In all, five consultations the design comprised consultative processes in small groups as well as discussions and presentations in the plenary to encourage consensus and collective opinions to inform recommendations. Each group collectively came up with strategies as well as parameters of success for the emerging recommendations.

A broad list of questions that were discussed across sessions, fell into the following broad categories:

- Changes in Policy
- Areas of concerns and Key Asks
- Indicators and time lines for proposed goals
- MDGs's performance
- Global Trends
- Vision for Future Development of India
- Obstacles and challenges
- Gender and Girls
- Inequality
- Poverty
- Demographics
- post-2015 framework
- Governance Gaps
- Youth Needs
- Shelter/Security

The consultative process discussed themes under these broad groups.

- Education
- Health
- Growth and Livelihood
- Environment
- Youth
- Peace
- Poverty
- Environment
- Governance
- MDGs

- Information
- Services
- Safety and Security
- Migration and Displacement
- Justice

NGO Name: JOSH

Issues grouped for discussion

Education

- Primary education
- Vocational education and training
- Higher education
- Concerns of access— education loans etc
- Monitoring and participation of youth in governance issues of education
- Redesigning curriculum- effective linkages to tradition knowledge, livelihood, inclusion of concerns around health, environment and governance issues

Health

- Public and primary health system
- Reproductive health care
- Importance of nutrition
- Special provisioning for occupational hazards
- Effective linkages of concerns around health and education
- Governance
- Participation and engagement of youth
- Comprehensive youth policy
- Transparency and accountability measures
- Decentralization

Growth and livelihood

- Promotion of volunteerism as comprehensive policy for youth
- Life skills training and effective linkage with education
- Issues and concerns of migration
- Social security and safety nets for youth
- Employment and livelihood linkages with tradition knowledge and local market
- Promotion of entrepreneurs

Environment

- Sustainable development
- Linkage between knowledge of sustainable practices of environment and education

NGO Name: PRAVAH (combined North East states and Eastern states)

Issues grouped for discussion

Youth

- Need to create an identity and be unique
- Platform to voice their opinion/be heard in governance
- Opportunities and exposure to make life decisions, career choices
- Inclusive governance with a youth focus
- Unavailability space to play, sports items, entertainment opportunities
- Sex education
- Guidance, counseling (*margdarshan*), dealing with practical life
- Need for acceptance
- Security and respect
- Mass awareness

Education

- Access of education
- Need for affordable and accessible higher education
- Education that prepares for livelihood/employment/life
- Lack of teachers in schools
- Moral values included in syllabus
- Facilities of scholarship in schools and colleges

Health

- Poor medical facilities including those for mental health problems
- Malaria and HIV
- Access to health services
- Maternal health
- Access to quality healthcare
- Government should ensure that health facilities are working well

Peace

- People are being forced to be involved in insurgency/terrorism
- Naxalite/terrorist extortion and violence
- Impact of violence on young people's lives and world views
- Influence of politics in different systems, influencing daily living
- Accepting individual rights and equality

Gender

- Discrimination
- Gender discrimination
- Media's role in promoting gender sensitive society
- Restrictions on mobility (especially among the girls of the Muslim community)
- Child marriage
- Discrimination/disadvantage on the basis of caste, tribe
- Lack of freedom in choices on marriage/pressure from family, society
- Trafficking
- Women and girls included in decision-making process
- Freedom of movement
- Change of mindsets

Hunger and Poverty

- Violence
- Alcoholism
- Food, clothes and shelter – basic needs
- Displacement of villagers due to land acquisition
- Farmer suicide
- Land acquisition
- Migration to urban areas
- No access to natural resources – water, firewood, land
- Job guarantee for all
- Awareness to stop alcoholism and drug addiction

Environment

- Deforestation
- Lack of safe drinking water
- Bad sanitation
- Increase mass awareness and campaigns on environmental issues

Governance

- Need for better governance
- No voice of people/youth at the Panchayat level in villages
- Lack of effective implementation of effective law for violence against women safety & security
- Corruption free world
- Speedy and fair system of justice

Equality

- Equal distribution and access to schemes
- Encouraging appreciation of diversity through education
- Stricter laws against discrimination

Employment

- Training centres for skills and personality development
- Promotion of entrepreneurship
- Skills technical education
- Career guidance

Population

- Family Planning

NGO Name: RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT

Issues Grouped for discussion

- Young people are not included in the decision-making process
- Existing social, economic and political climate does not value human rights
- Disparity and inequality based on caste, class and gender are being reinforced by the existing social structure
- Corruption, red-tapism and lack of accountability in the system is leading to governance issues
- In countries like India, predominantly agricultural in nature, agriculture is no more a viable option
- Decrease in agricultural land due to Increase in population, housing and development projects in cultivable land
- Natural resources like drinking water come with a huge price tag
- Lack of awareness on well-being and hygiene

- Increased use of chemicals in agriculture and food processing
- Increasing population with limited resources
- Governance system lacking foolproof monitoring and implementation of development schemes
- Unequal distribution of resources between the powerful and the powerless

NGO Name: THE YP FOUNDATION

Issues Grouped for discussion

- **Theme 1:** Understand the Millennium Development framework, its progress and the post 2015 development process.
- **Theme 2:** Mapping young people's levels of information (availability, sources, access and quality) with respect to the nine thematic areas.
- **Theme 3:** Information and services - defining young people's needs with regard to the nine thematic tracks
- **Theme 4:** Mapping the environment/context young people live in- analyzing environmental barriers and enablers with regard to ensuring access to education, livelihood, opportunities, food security, health, security (conflict and migration)
- **Theme 5:** Experiential analysis of services available by young people
- **Theme 6:** Identification of key gaps within the framework of inequalities - to gauge which issues are left out and who are the people left out of the current development process, and helping young people articulate their aspirations and visions for the future development agenda
- **Theme 7:** Governance - youth participation and governance
- **Theme 8:** Articulating a vision for ourselves, how do young people want to be seen in post 2015 in India? Roles and Responsibilities
- **Theme 9:** Building a common consensus – articulating key asks and indicators for post 2015

Context

India is home to an estimated 358 million people (2011 Indian Census) in the age group of 10-24 years comprising 31 percent of the country's population. Not only does this cohort represent India's future in the socio-economic realms, but its experience will largely determine the extent to which the nation will be able to harness its demographic dividend²² and achieve the vision of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the framework that will come into being in 2015.

With the imminent demographic dividend and the changing power dynamics, India's voice has begun to count at the world platform as well. This increasing youth population will therefore impact not just the country but the world in many ways. The lens of simply viewing young people as an expanding workforce to increase GDP is too short-sighted and misses the irony of increasing unemployment. The MDGs too played a negative role by shining the spotlight only on certain segments of young people and on significant but limited issues faced by them. This has resulted in young people being seen only as beneficiaries of schemes under health or education.

In every consultation that we did, one clear consensus was that 'young people are not heard'. They are also not seen, understood or respected as equal partners, stakeholders and decision-makers. This aspiration is often countered by 'adults' pointing to the lack of skills and abilities on the part of young people to make wise decisions and informed choices. However there is no global effort to ensure that the young people are empowered through opportunities and safe spaces that equip them with the relevant life skills of self-awareness, value-based leadership skills, communication skills, skills of inspiring and influencing people and making informed choices, dealing with failure, ability to learn from life, ability to create true relationships and support systems, negotiation skills, conflict resolution skills etc. Without the opportunities to make mistakes, how will the young people learn? How will they become the changemakers of today and tomorrow?

²² Demographic Dividend: By 2020 India will be the youngest country in the world with an average age of 29 years.
Source: <http://www.youthportal.gov.in/statistics/demographicdetails.htm>

In the internet age of Facebook and Twitter, young people today are more connected and tuned in to the world than any of the preceding generations. They are growing up fast, in a world that is changing even faster and is characterised by increased conflicts, ranging from political to environmental. The sense of frustration with the status quo is increasing, globally as well as nationally.

Fortunately for the world, young people see the challenges before them in fresh ways and are responding with enthusiasm and imagination. Young people have the potential to transform the social, economic and political fortunes of their communities, particularly in least developed countries. With the right investments, today's young people can reach their full potential as individuals, leaders and agents of progress. And the world clearly needs their energy, participation and skills. But delivering this transformation requires collective action on youth leadership development, entrepreneurship and livelihood, peace and human rights, health, education, sexual and reproductive health and rights, sustainable development and a commitment to real civic engagement.

"We want to know what is going on and decide what is good for us." This was the – consensus that emerged from various youth consultations. This voice clearly indicates that young people want to be an integral part of the process of decision-making, from planning to execution.

Therefore the demand is for investment with and in young people to ensure that they are able to realize their full human potential as leaders and decision-makers and agents of change.

For this to happen, another clear task is to ensure effective participation of the youth as equal partners at all levels of decision making.

The youth matter and they need to be focused on as a group, with due regard for heterogeneity.

We at Josh, Pravah, Restless Development and the YP Foundation have reached out to young people across 23 states and one Union Territory through five consultations. These have been built on through our collective experiences of engaging

with young people in local, regional, national and international contexts.

The following contains our recommendations for the post 2015 framework.

Observations

Participants across various groups have not discussed or under-discussed two themes - food security and populations dynamics and inequality. The reasons could vary:

- Either it could be due to lack of expertise on the subject, or
- Lack of understanding on the meaning and context of those themes or
- It could be a function of limited capacity or time, or both.

One other important thing to keep in mind while reading these recommendations are that more suggestions, listing of numerous indicators, spending time beyond requirement on a particular theme does not necessarily make that theme a priority or of importance. There could be various factors affecting such open ended discussions – it could be the regional context of recent news or media report on top of the group's mind, or a person/few participants talking more and driving the discussion of the meeting, or more time spent in the beginning of the session and the day progresses – rushing through the remaining lists and topic. Lastly, the participants might not as well be in same level of energy at the beginning of day and end of day, and/or at the beginning of day one and by the end of day three.

A few more points to note:

- Care has been taken to see that all points are covered, and thus some repetition in terms of ideas is allowed.
- For easy reference the new parameters headings, outside the template provided by UN are given in CAPITALS.
- Those parameters that have no issues, concerns, suggestions and recommendations are omitted.
- The text is as reproduced verbatim as submitted by the NGO in their individual recommendations report.

Conclusions

The following points were observed as part of evaluating the process of consultation

1. In terms of the process, the NGO partners convened and followed the guidelines and analysis instructions.
2. The consultation was helped by the liberty to NGOs to go beyond the framework in drafting the recommendations. We do not know whether it was consciously done or not – but it helped in bringing out new dimensions to the framework in terms of new themes and parameters.

Goals

1. Ensure effective youth participation as equal partners at all levels of decision-making
2. Invest with²³ and in young people to ensure that they are able to realize their full human potential as leaders and decision-makers/change agents today and tomorrow

Recommendations

In order meet the goals listed above we propose the following recommendations:

1. Invest in business and life skills development of young people and context-specific opportunities to ensure equitable growth, livelihoods and entrepreneurship
2. Ensure accountable and responsive governance with and for young people
3. Empower and engage young people to be equal stakeholders in peace building processes in areas of conflict and fragility, and uphold their human rights
4. Ensure universal access to comprehensive, relevant and inclusive education for the holistic development of both in and out of school adolescents and young people
5. Access to comprehensive, youth-friendly information, services and support groups that ensure holistic health, well-being and rights of all young people
6. Eliminating stigma, violence, discrimination and inequalities based on gender (including the third gender), caste, class, religion and disability
7. Promote and implement environmentally sustainable practices by researching, promoting and protecting indigenous environment-friendly practices in agriculture, production and manufacturing

In the following table we have specified the strategies and indicators for each of the recommendations:

Recommendations	Gaps	Strategies	Indicators
1. Invest in business and life skills of young people and context-specific opportunities to ensure equitable growth, livelihoods	Lack of career counseling and guidance facilities for youth. Lack of access to and reach of Information as well as resources for	Access to and reach of counseling and information centres from the Panchayat level upwards to act as a 'single window' facility to access knowledge, training and financial and non-financial resources.	Increase in the number of centres and number of people accessing these centres.
"Even though I am a trained teacher there are no jobs available, and people who are"	a) opportunities available for employment and entrepreneurship b) support group	Provide easy access to finance (especially facilitating first time borrowing on self-guarantee) Design vocational courses	Increase number of centres established, extent of services offered and number of youth availing them. Increase number of young people availing loans.

²³ The young people want to be an integral part of the process of deciding from planning to execution. Therefore the demand is for an investment **with and in** young people **to ensure that they are able to realize their full human potential as leaders and decision makers/change agents today and tomorrow.**

Recommendations	Gaps	Strategies	Indicators
<p>under-qualified have jobs due to corruption.” Male, 25 years, Jammu and Kashmir</p>	<p>(mentors) to make informed decisions and choices</p> <p>c) opportunities for training and development (including higher education)</p> <p>d) financial resources including loan facilities</p> <p>e) government schemes</p> <p>Increased unemployment and migration due to youth being forced to move out of traditional livelihoods like agriculture due to lack of support and due importance viz a viz urban choices.</p> <p>Gap between availability of opportunities and ability of young people to fill those positions due to focus on only hard skills of business without any focus on creating opportunities for young people to develop values, ethics and soft skills of a good human being and an active citizen.</p>	<p>focusing on increasing knowledge and skills on agro-based and traditional knowledge-based employment and entrepreneurship opportunities including showcasing successful models.</p> <p>Education curriculum to integrate employability skills and life skills of value-based leadership, entrepreneurship, self-awareness, collaboration, decision-making, etc. through opportunities to volunteer with social change programmes and groups.</p> <p>All vocational training programmes must integrate life skills like self-awareness, value based leadership, communication, skills of inspiring and influencing people, making informed choices, dealing with failure, ability to create true relationships and support systems, negotiation skills and conflict resolution skills etc.</p> <p>Provision of social security for youth employed in the unorganized sector.</p> <p>Increased access to vocational opportunities, especially ‘second chances’ for out-of-school and young dropouts and adolescents.</p>	<p>Number of youth engaged and employed in own region (decreased percentage of migration)</p> <p>40% of the young people earn their livelihood through setting up of own enterprises and % economic growth of the region</p> <p>Number of young people engaged in agro-based and traditional knowledge-based occupations and ventures increases.</p> <p>Decrease in attrition rates in employment.</p> <p>Increase in number of young people accessing social welfare</p>

Recommendations	Gaps	Strategies	Indicators
<p>II. Ensure accountable and responsive governance with and for young people</p> <p>“ We want to be involved from planning to monitoring – beginning to end” Consensus Youth Consultation, Rajasthan</p> <p>“There is a big line that differentiates young people from adults. Young people want to make a difference, when they have the knowledge of spaces within which to get involved and act as change makers. Such opportunities are connected to our passions, dreams and hopes for the future.....”</p> <p>Female, 20 years, Chandigarh</p>	<p>Lack of spaces for young people to access decision-making at policy levels</p> <p>Voice of young people absent in governance (policy making to delivering to monitoring)</p> <p>Lack of an effective youth-friendly grievance redressal mechanism for access to essential services (speedy and fair system of justice)</p> <p>Lack of an effective, transparent and accountable governance system</p> <p>Lack of awareness of schemes</p> <p>Lack of safety and security</p>	<p>Ensure reservation of 25 percent seats for youth at the elected bodies, starting from local governance bodies.</p> <p>C Youth Ministry to be separate from the Sports Ministry</p> <p>Mentorship programme for young elected representatives</p> <p>Elected representatives to recruit youth apprentices</p> <p>Central youth policy to be drafted and implemented.</p> <p>Ensure separate budget for youth across all policies, programs and legislations</p> <p>Proactive (suo moto) disclosure of information</p> <p>Regularize monitoring with representation and participation of young people from the local community</p> <p>Creation of platforms using media and internet to create awareness about laws, policies and invite opinions and suggestions</p> <p>Creation of an international youth commission to address youth concerns</p> <p>UN to recognize youth as a special focus group and form a youth advisory board</p> <p>Availability and access to free legal aid support system for young people especially from marginalized groups</p>	<p>Percentage of seats reserved at grassroots level of governance and at the national levels should accommodate diversity.</p> <p>All monitoring committees to have youth representation.</p> <p>Number of youth responding to such appeals</p> <p>Number of policies that integrate youth voices to increase.</p> <p>Number of cases dealt at the Panchayat or district level and Lok Adalats.</p> <p>Reduction in the number of cases pending at the higher courts.</p> <p>Increase in the number of young people using acts and policies like the RTI and participating in social audits.</p> <p>Number of young partnering and actively engaging in the design, implementation and monitoring of laws, schemes and policies that impact their lives.</p>

Recommendations	Gaps	Strategies	Indicators
		<p>Young people to be included in the district monitoring Committee which oversees all the government schemes in a district</p> <p>Quarterly meetings of Gram Sabhas with representation of young people</p>	
<p>III. Empower and engage young people to be equal stakeholders in peace-building processes in areas of conflict and fragility and uphold their human rights.</p> <p>“Let us move away from conflict and fragility but work towards peace.” Male, 20 years, Assam</p> <p>“No opportunities for recreation or play for youth of the north-east region....Label is put on youth of the region: Terrorists!” Male, 21 years, Manipur</p>	<p>Lack of platforms where young people from across borders, and with different identities and contexts can openly share and understand each other's issues.</p> <p>Lack of diverse perspectives in the education curriculum.</p> <p>Lack of investment in young people who should be allowed to play a partnership role in peace-building processes.</p> <p>Lack of access to basic human rights including the right to life, security, play, etc.</p> <p>Lack of access to basic and essential services</p> <p>Lack of access to and problem of reach of information and opportunities for livelihood, entrepreneurship, higher education</p>	<p>Creation of safe non-judgmental spaces for cross border engagements to understand the 'other', creative and constructive experiences required to create deeper relationships and an atmosphere of peace.</p> <p>The education curriculum to include socio- cultural perspectives from different contexts.</p> <p>Ensure training of young people in peace-building skills (negotiation, meditation, analyses of issues)</p> <p>Ensure at one-fourth representation of young people in peace-building decision making processes and committees.</p> <p>Urgently address international and national issues of border disputes, illegal arms supplies, strengthen law and order to ensure that isolated disputes do not become community clashes and remove militancy.</p> <p>Special focus on youth development in fragile regions.</p>	<p>Increase in number of young people from different communities being enrolled in schools.</p> <p>Increase in the number of mixed marriages.</p> <p>Reduced number of conflicts</p> <p>Increase in number of youth led initiatives for peace building.</p> <p>Decrease in number of militant groups (and prevent formation of new groups)</p> <p>Number of youth centres opened and increase in the number of young people accessing these</p> <p>Decrease in number of human rights violation and withdrawal of laws such as AFSPA from the north-east.</p>

Recommendations	Gaps	Strategies	Indicators
<p>IV. Ensure universal access to comprehensive, relevant and inclusive education for the holistic development of both in and out of school adolescents and young people.</p> <p>“In government schools, teachers are not available and far away from one’s place.” Female, 23, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh</p>	<p>Lack of access to quality (relevant, and practical) learning which focuses on holistic development of the young person and enables young people to make informed choices about self, relationship and the world.</p> <p>Lack of access to and reach of Information as well as resources for</p> <p>a) opportunities available for higher education b) support group (mentors) to make informed decisions and choices c) financial resources including loan facilities d) government schemes</p> <p>Lack of integration of local and traditional knowledge in curriculum.</p> <p>Dilution and ban in five states of the Adolescent Education Programme (AEP).</p> <p>Lack of accessibility and opportunities for youth with disabilities both in school education</p>	<p>Create youth centres for young people across all strata by setting a centre within 1 km of every school for:</p> <p>a) providing guidance, counseling and Information b) Organizing regular youth development programmes (development of life skills and leadership skills) for all young people in the community. c) Empowering young people to make informed choices and promoting values of human rights with a real world connect d) creating opportunities for young people to take on leadership.</p> <p>Provide universal, free and compulsory quality education till the higher secondary level under the RTE Act with transparent process and systems of teacher recruitment and performance.</p> <p>Universalization of life skills (self-awareness, ability to learn, inspire and influence others, value-based leadership skills, conflict resolution skills etc.) through revision of curriculum and teacher training.</p> <p>Adolescent and young people to have access to comprehensive sexuality education, through the reversal of the state-ban on AEP, revision of curriculum and teacher training.</p> <p>Students to be a part of the school management committees.</p> <p>Regular and compulsory checks for effective functioning of schools and stringent and transparent process for recruiting teachers in schools</p>	<p>Increase in the number of centres and number of people accessing these centres.</p> <p>Increase in the number of established centres, number of services offered and the numbers of youth availing them.</p> <p>Increase in the number of young people engaging in civic issues in the community.</p> <p>70 percent of students pass out with marks above 60 percent</p> <p>Increase in the number of young people being able to express their own views and ideas</p> <p>Increase in the number of employment/ entrepreneurship schemes giving higher weightage to youth community initiatives.</p>

Recommendations	Gaps	Strategies	Indicators
	<p>as well as higher education.</p> <p>Problems of commercialization and privatization of education.</p> <p>Lack of life skills education</p> <p>Lack of real world connects</p> <p>Lack of effective monitoring and transparency</p>	<p>Regular refresher training for all teachers in participatory methods.</p> <p>Set up quality degree colleges within 10 km of every residence.</p> <p>Set up one university for every three districts.</p> <p>Creation of facilities and resources for people with special needs.</p>	
<p>V. Access to comprehensive, youth-friendly information, services and support groups that ensure holistic health, well-being and rights of all young people</p> <p>"If we were to visit family planning clinics with questions of pregnancy or abortion or protection, they will want to first ask if our parents know about this."</p> <p>Female, 19, New Delhi.</p>	<p>Lack of access to accurate information and confidentiality with regard like safe sexual practices.</p> <p>Lack of an informed and knowledgeable support group.</p> <p>Lack of access to quality, affordable, confidential youth friendly health care services.</p> <p>Lack of quality health programmes for adolescent and youth both preventive and curative</p>	<p>Investing and securing sexual and reproductive health of young people both in-and-out of schools (especially for unmarried young people, young people with disabilities, sex workers)</p> <p>Scaling up and strengthening of Comprehensive Sexuality Peer education programmes through the integration of life skills with the aim of ability to negotiate relationships, make informed choices, reduce gender-based violence and increase access to youth friendly health services.</p> <p>Primary Health Centres (PHCs) to have youth-friendly and confidential counseling services.</p> <p>Stress counseling available in school and trauma counseling available as accessible referral</p> <p>No patent on medication for life-threatening diseases.</p>	<p>Increase in the number of centres and number of people accessing these centres.</p> <p>Increase number of centres established, extent of services offered and number of youth availing them.</p>

Recommendations	Gaps	Strategies	Indicators
<p>VI. Eliminating stigma, violence, discrimination and inequalities based on gender</p> <p>"I feel the way our government system functions, and inequality in our society as impediments for growth and development. If it continues like this whether we plan for a world post- 2015 or 2050 things will be the same."</p> <p>Male 22 years, Tamil Nadu</p>	<p>Lack of knowledge about rights and schemes</p> <p>Lack of a knowledgeable support group which is gender sensitive and has the ability to move beyond the stereotypes and borders of caste, class, religion and disability.</p> <p>Lack of recognition of the third gender</p>	<p>Disseminate information about schemes, incentives and funding available.</p> <p>Conduct open workshops with other stakeholders to build their knowledge and sensitize them</p> <p>Recognize third gender as a category in forms and application and issuance of identity cards</p> <p>Stop violence against gender minorities including the 'third gender' by challenging traditional mindset and by engaging men and boys, and by making girls equal partners in all decision-making</p>	<p>Decrease in number of harassment cases</p> <p>Decrease in number of cases of violence against women.</p>
<p>VII. Promote and implement environmentally sustainable practices by researching, promoting and protecting indigenous environment-friendly practices in agriculture, production and manufacturing</p> <p>"Every person should have the right to water for life and livelihood. I have grown up next to this river and now I have to buy water! Why is it being piped and sold to other states"</p>	<p>Improper implementation and enforcement of environment protection laws and regulations</p> <p>Lack of consideration of community ownership and rights over natural resources</p> <p>Lack of viable alternatives to products, services and professions causing environmental degradation.</p> <p>In cases where there are alternatives, there is lack of promotion of and awareness about the alternatives.</p>	<p>Promote local and community initiatives like environment clubs</p> <p>Promote research on alternative sources of energy</p> <p>Planning for environmental sustainability through proper urban and rural planning and introducing policies to replenish depleting natural resources.</p> <p>Committees of youth to be formed in these areas for monitoring of these project implementation</p> <p>No displacement in the name of development.</p> <p>The youth committees to be given responsibility of monitoring and protection of the forest and also to spread awareness of different provisions of legislations related to forest areas.</p>	<p>60 percent Increase in number of centres to preserve knowledge of natural medicines and products</p> <p>40 percent increase in alternative sources such as energy- biogas, solar</p> <p>Increase in land under forest</p> <p>Increase in number of eco clubs.</p>

Recommendations	Gaps	Strategies	Indicators
when local needs are not met?" Female, 28 years, Odisha	Lack of use of traditional knowledge and practices which can provide alternatives to reduce environmental degradation Education system not encouraging knowledge or professions which involve direct interaction with the environment like farming, poultry, pottery, etc.	Formation of eco- clubs in schools and colleges Development of curriculum to include and promote those indigenous occupations which involve working with and protecting the environment	

"I feel empowered to be a part of this group, it is now my responsibility to take back what I have seen and learnt. We all need to be a part of this development we want to see." (Female, 18 years, Assam)

Additional Observations

The NGOs went beyond the existing themes and found that gender, MDGs, peace and inequality are other relevant themes to be included in this framework. Gender and MDGs were treated as separate themes whereas peace and inequality were incorporated within conflict and fragility and population dynamics respectively.

Existing Themes	Emerging Themes
Education	Comprehensive and Inclusive Education
Growth and Employment	Growth, Livelihood and Entrepreneurship
Governance	Accountable and Responsible Governance
Food Security	Food Security and Nutrition
Environment Sustainability	Environment Sustainability
Conflict and Fragility	Peace in Areas of Conflict and Fragility
Health	Holistic Health and Well Being
	Gender
	Inequality
	Enabling Environment
	Youth participation and leadership

Similarly, the existing criteria, areas, and parameters under each theme – in relation to which NGOs had to identify issues, concerns and recommendations – were also expanded on by participants. IEC, media, policy, research, training, development and identifying specific indicators were considered important for inclusion by the NGOs.

Existing Criteria/Areas/Parameters	Emerging Criteria/Areas/Parameters
Budgeting	IEC/Media
Transparency, Accountability and Monitoring	Policy
Participation	Research, Training and Development
Infrastructure (Physical and Social)	Indicators
Addressing Discrimination and Violence	
Special Focus Groups	

Consultation Documents

- Restless Development Toolkit Web link: <http://bit.ly/10BsQp4>

The toolkit was used by all the partners as reference. Each of the partners adapted and created new designs as per their context.

- Restless Development thought clouds Web link: <http://bit.ly/YzImnd>
- Restless Development Charts Web link: <http://bit.ly/XVnQy4>
- Restless Development Video Clips Web link: <http://bit.ly/13WCJUr>
- Restless Development Mural Web link: <http://bit.ly/Z5PIRf>

PRAVAH

To see some of the processes used by PravaH facilitators, click on the following links:

- Time Line Exercise using visioning technique: <http://bit.ly/ZbVZVt>
- Mapping the World We Want: <http://bit.ly/14IKc8l>

To see the design used by PravaH for the consultations, click on the following links:

<https://dl.dropbox.com/u/53079022/Consultation%20Design%20Jorhat.docx>
<https://dl.dropbox.com/u/53079022/Design%20Puri%20consultation.docx>

To see The YP Foundation Session plan click the following link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/9am1qcftje8klpx/Session%20Format%20-%20TYPF.doc?n=146402559>

To see the five youth constituency regional reports click :

<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/node/317995>

Participants Quotes

- “There was no mobile, no computer with anyone in my village in 2000. Life was very different. Today everyone has mobile, we all have seen computers but all the problems in 2000 still remain the same.” – **Raj Kumar, RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT INDIA**
- “I feel the way our government system functions and inequality in our society as impediments for growth and development. If it continues like this, whether we plan for a world post- 2015 or 2050, things will be the same” – **Megavannan, RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT INDIA**
- “However hard we try and plan, we will not be able to reach anywhere unless we address these issues.” - **Razia, RESTLESS DEVELOPMENT INDIA**
- “Every person should have the right to water for life and his livelihood. I have grown up next to this river and now I have to buy the water from it! Why is it being piped and sold to other states when our needs are not yet met?” **PRAVAH ODISHA**
- “If felling trees for fire wood from my forests is a crime, will the government supply me bio-gas for fuel?” **PRAVAH ODISHA**
- “I have learnt a lot at this meeting – how to interact, voice my opinion and think about how development can take place...” **Padmini Khillei, age 18 years, PRAVAH ODISHA**
- “We should not wait for the government to bring about development...the change should begin within ourselves.” **Bithika Mustafa, age 20 years, PRAVAH ODISHA**
- “With nothing to do, many youth are attracted to drugs and power associated with militants....” **N. Reuben Thanglianlal, age 22 years, PRAVAH Manipur**
- “We want to be participative, active listeners, productive and co-operative”. **Edlina Kerketta, age 23 years, PRAVAH ASSAM**
- “I feel bad, and ask myself why not my friends and others go to school.” **PRAVAH ASSAM**
- “Health facilities are just not available. For example when we went for medical check-up, a blood test had to be done but there were no facility for it...” **PRAVAH NORTH EAST**
- “No opportunities for recreation or play for us.....Label is put on youth of the region: -Terrorists!” **PRAVAH NORTH EAST**
- “I did not know that my voice could be heard in my community, region, state and country! I am proud to be part of this important process...” **Binondo Pegu, age 22 years, PRAVAH ASSAM**
- “Only 40 people from my region may not do justice to the task at hand.....why wasn’t this consultation started earlier?” **PRAVAH NORTH EAST**
- “I feel empowered to be a part of this group, it is now my responsibility to take back what I have seen and learnt. We all need to be a part of this development we want to see.” **PRAVAH NORTH EAST**
- Peace – “Let us move away from conflict & fragility but work towards peace...” **PRAVAH NORTH EAST**
- Environment - “Natural resources of oil – excavation is left as is – no respect for nature – why can’t balance be restored? Also brick kilns, why can’t we replenish it back?” **PRAVAH NORTH EAST**
- Youth – “Every group is pushing their own agenda – but none are talking together – opportunity to play, sports, interact are lacking....so leading them towards militancy.” **PRAVAH MEGHALAYA**

- Feedback: "I did not realize that my voice will be heard in the state, region, country and world! This is a proud moment." **PRAVAH NORTH EAST**
- "When we go back ...We are responsible to be a part of the change we want to see... in our communities and areas. Ruben – the consultation does not end here..." **PRAVAH MANIPUR**
- "We should respect each other's views to build our community." **(Male, 22 years, Uttar Pradesh) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- "There is a big line that differentiates young people from adults. Young people want to make a difference, when they have the knowledge of spaces within which to get involved and act as change makers. Such opportunities are connected to our passions, dreams and hopes for the future.....Why is age a restriction for us young people in contesting elections or becoming the Prime Minister of our country." **(Female, 20 years, Chandigarh) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- "There is huge gap between youth and policy makers. It is easier for the government to reach young people but for the youth it is a problem." **(Group discussion) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- "I want school teachers not to be biased and impart education to everyone. I also want equal rights and opportunities for young people living with disability" **(Female, 19, New Delhi) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- "I believe that a good education will help build young people's capacities" **(Female, 19 years, Uttarakhand) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- "Many parents in rural areas force their children, particularly girls, to take up farming and stop them from going to schools. Boys are given preference over girls." **(Male, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- "In government schools, teachers are not available and far away from one's place." **(Female, 23, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- "For emergencies, one has to travel far to get oneself treated. For pregnant women, if situation is critical, there is no proper operation theatre and one has to travel long distance, which is difficult as transportation services and roads are not maintained." **THE YP FOUNDATION**
- "Village Hospitals usually have only four to five beds and only one doctor, ambulances take 3-4 hours to reach there is no fire brigade and the police usually don't take complaints by young people seriously". **(Male, 24 years, Himachal Pradesh) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- "Good provision of public toilets for girls and transgender that are usable are extremely important" **(highlighted in group discussions) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- "To get any important piece of official document like PAN card, drivers license you need to travel to the nearest town which is sometimes 3 to 4 hours away." **(Male, 22 years, Uttarakhand) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- "If we were to visit family planning clinics with questions of pregnancy or abortion or protection, they will want to first ask if our parents know about this." **(Female, 19, New Delhi). THE YP FOUNDATION**
- "There are Ashas in every village but they provide information to only married women. For young girls, they only have their sisters and friends as sources of information." **(Female, 22 years, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh) THE YP FOUNDATION**

- “There is no fear of law in our country and that’s the reason why so many crimes happen. Other nations have better laws and citizens follow the laws unlike here.” **(Male, 28 years, Punjab) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- “Police unnecessarily target young people from excluded communities even when it is not their fault” **(Male, 21 years, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- “If I go to the police station, more often than not they turn the fault/blame back to me. So we don’t approach them unless and until we have no other option. For example, I went to make complaint about a stolen phone, however the police told me it happened due to my carelessness and I must be more careful.” **(Male, 20 years, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh and Male, 22 years, Delhi) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- “Even though I am a trained teacher there are no jobs available, and people who are under qualified have jobs due to corruption.” **(Male, 25 years, Jammu and Kashmir) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- “NGOs working in our villages are usually the only agency which provides information. Even though there is internet available, we never have electricity so we cannot use it.” **(Female, 18 years, Lalitpur, Uttar Pradesh) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- “Young people get into drugs and spoil their lives. I want to work towards a drug free society where no young person becomes a victim of drug addiction.” **(Male, 23 years, Bageshwar, Uttarakhand) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- “Numerous times the ration and vegetables in the market are spoiled (*galle hue*) or infested with germs. So while we do have variety of vegetables in our markets, we still can’t buy it. We stick to what is produced locally as it fresh and edible” **(Male, 20 years, Uttarakhand) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- “The closest school is 20 Km from my village. It is thus very hard for children from my village to access school. Additionally there are more children than the number of schools available.” **(Male, 24 years, Kempti, Uttarakhand) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- “Young People don’t get a platform to be heard” **(Common Consensus, Young People, Uttar Pradesh) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- “Young people in Jammu and Kashmir are disconnected with the rest of India. There are very few of us that get to step out and meet people from the rest of India. The ones who do feel empowered, however most don’t have this option. We are craving for normal and regular interaction; however, we are always separated and treated differently by the government. We feel disconnected and discontent.” **(Male, 22 years, Kashmir) THE YP FOUNDATION**
- “When we go to a government hospital, the doctor asks us to visit us in the evening, in his/her private clinic. They tell us some more tests need to be done. In the private clinic we have to pay for check-ups and our treatment. Even at the chemist we need to pay.” **(Female, 20 years, Delhi) THE YP FOUNDATION**



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