



El Salvador

Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Country That We Want



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Acronyms

AOD	Official Development Assistance	UNSSS	United Nations Department of Safety & Security.
ART-UNDP	Articulation of Territorial and Thematic Networks of Cooperation for Human Development (UNDP)	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund.
DaO	Delivering as One	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund.
DOTS	Directly Observed Treatment Short-Course	UN WOMEN	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.
USA	United States of America	ILO	International Labour Organization.
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	IOM	International Organization for Migration.
FESAL	National Survey on Family Health	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services .
GOES	Government of El Salvador	PAHO/WHO	Pan American Health Organization.
MDG	Millennium Development Goals	UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS.
UNO	United Nations Organization	WFA	United Nations World Food Programme.
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme		
PPP	Purchasing Power Parity		
RAMOS	Reproductive Age Mortality Survey		
UNS	United Nations System		
PFD	Partners for Development		
MT	Metric Ton		
VMCD	Deputy Minister for Cooperation Development		

Presentation by the Government of El Salvador

Since we started our term of office in 2009, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been, in our view, not only a commitment, but also a roadmap to be followed. This is reflected in our five-year Plan in which we have established as a strategic commitment: "Having a healthy, educated and productive population that is equipped with the ability and the opportunities to fully develop its potential, thereby becoming the cornerstone of our country's development."

This is how our Government plan incorporated strategic policies and instruments to achieve the MDGs in the short and medium terms; and, notwithstanding the international crisis, the largest social investment in El Salvador's history was carried out with priority being given to designing and implementing public policies to combat poverty, reduce inequality and achieve social inclusion, while also safeguarding human rights.

Consistent with this, over the years we have worked to generate a different dynamic in the institutions of Government and a significant shift occurred in our conceptual approach toward social policy, with the introduction of a social safety network whose goal is to address various kinds of needs, according to the life cycles of the individuals involved, and achieve in the long-term a dignified life for the entire population of El Salvador.

It is therefore significant and noteworthy that El Salvador was chosen as one of the countries in which the consultation for the new global agenda for development took place. We share with the United Nations the

conviction that the new goals for progress of peoples and the world should be developed with the participation of all individuals and social groups. This document, which brings together the vision of the future of the Salvadoran population who were consulted, will be very useful in the formulation of the Post-2015 Agenda, yet also constitutes a blueprint for moving forward in the process of achieving inclusion and social development which we have embarked upon in El Salvador.

The challenges of placing people at the centre of public policies, providing equal opportunities and pursuing efforts to achieve reconciliation, social cohesion and unification, as proposed in this report, require a continuous effort on the part of the State as a whole. In these five years in government, we have already taken important steps to achieve the objectives that had been set; however to meet the expectations of the people who participated in the consultations, we must persevere and consolidate the changes that were set in motion.

This document calls upon the government of El Salvador and, indeed, the whole of society to shoulder a common commitment to build the kind of country that we long for. In addition, by virtue of presenting and delivering the report as an input for the discussion of the new global agenda for development, we wish also to contribute, in conjunction with the efforts of other countries, to the transformation of the world, as we endeavour to address challenges such as violence of all kinds, climate change, poverty and marginalization, all of which are endemic to our nations.

I would like to reflect again on the spirit of the Millennium Declaration when it says that the fundamental task facing



us is to ensure that the breakthroughs that are taking place in the world become a positive force for all the world's inhabitants, since at present the benefits as well as the costs of this process are being shared very unevenly.

And so we must deploy comprehensive and concerted efforts to create a common future, based upon our common humanity in all of its diversity. As our prophet and spiritual leader, Archbishop Óscar Arnulfo Romero, a tireless defender of human rights until his martyrdom, said: "Personal well-being and a life that is secure do not interest me when I see around me in my own community an economic, social and political system which tends increasingly to exacerbate such social differences". Romero inspires us to give precedence to the poor and to promote social justice, an approach which will, in turn, enable us to achieve the peace that we all devoutly wish for.

We hope this document will play its part in ensuring that, as a global community, we find the path that will bring to an end these social inequalities.

Carlos Mauricio Funes Cartagena
President of the Republic of El Salvador



Presentation by United Nations

In 2000, precisely when the world entered the twenty-first century, 191 countries met at the headquarters of the United Nations (UN) for the Millennium Summit. This meeting resulted in the Millennium Declaration, a document that includes a vision for the future that would inspire a new era. The signatories of the Declaration reaffirmed their belief in the United Nations and the principles expressed in the Charter which underscored the vision: the search for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. Moreover, there was a general recognition that the responsibility for achieving these goals would be a collective undertaking.

The Declaration also encapsulated what at that time were regarded as the main challenges that lay ahead and, setting a deadline, formulated goals to be achieved. Thus the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were formulated and 2015 was set as the deadline for due compliance. Within a period of fifteen years, the whole of the United Nations system and UN member countries would work together to reduce hunger and poverty in the world.

Now, when less than a year remains to review the implementation of the MDGs, and recognizing the MDGs to have been a successful initiative, sights are already set on new challenges. The Post-2015 Agenda expresses that sense of continuing commitment to the hallowed ideal of guaranteeing the existence of a world that is inclusive, sustainable and which every citizen, female and male, can enjoy. To this end, and initially in 50 countries in the world, a process of grass-roots consultation has been instigated on the post-2015 development agenda. El Salvador is one of these 50

countries, and this document describes the proposals and the vision of women and men from El Salvador who participated in the interviews, focus groups and other mechanisms of participation that were fostered. And so this document includes the issues that Salvadorans would like to see reflected in the global agenda for development, and, indeed, also at the national level.

In order to express the gamut of voices of the Salvadoran population, all stakeholders were included: persons with disabilities, women, individuals irrespective of sexual orientation, adolescents, young people, indigenous peoples, civil servants, academics, trade unionists, journalists, and other sectors of society. As such, the report represents a broad-based and inclusive view of the kind of country that the people of El Salvador would like to live in, an ideal on which leaders in diverse fields can begin to build.

This is not therefore only a document to be presented at international forums, but one that is likely to motivate national reflection on the kind of country that every citizen would like to see in place, while identifying and promoting programmes of national and local public policies, as well as community initiatives driven by each of the participating sectors.

The world is on the threshold of evaluating the journey travelled, but it will do so with the conviction that further progress is required, that the time has come to build upon our achievements and to rethink strategies to address the remaining challenges.

Roberto Valent
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Instituciones nacionales

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Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the first strategy designed for translating into action the United Nations Millennium Declaration, signed almost two decades ago. This was a watershed not only because it established a framework for action and common cooperation for all member countries of the United Nations, but also due to the fact that it specified the year 2015 as the time-frame for compliance.

The time has come and we are now on the threshold of the agreed date. Accordingly, it is not only necessary to accelerate efforts to achieve the MDGs, but also to consider what steps to take in the future to consolidate the results achieved, confront the challenges that remain, and identify new challenges for development and sustainability.

To define new goals, an unprecedented global consultative process has been initiated; this initiative, which in many countries has been known as the Post-2015 Development Agenda Consultation Process, was developed in more than fifty countries, with El Salvador being one of the countries selected. Its main innovation is its inclusive, open and transparent nature, which seeks to guarantee the participation of most of the national stakeholders, including populations that have typically been marginalized and excluded from these kinds of processes.

This document is the result of proposals and inputs submitted by more than 4,500 individuals. Efforts have been made to collate hundreds of pages of transcripts from focus groups, interviews, workshops, posts on

Facebook, Twitter and other social networks. This text brings together the concerns of participants, and strategies designed for improving life and visions for the future, so they these can constitute the basis upon which to construct guiding principles for the development agenda subsequent to the year 2015.

This report presents the progress made in achieving the MDGs and the methodology used in their formulation, describing the instruments used and the population groups consulted. The proposals made by participants are presented later. In the initial section, these individuals express the major issues that, in their view, should be included in the Post-2015 Development Agenda and later in the paper a conspectus is presented relating to proposals for El Salvador, these being the result of the consultation process.

Finally, the contributions made by El Salvador to the Post-2015 Development Agenda are considered. This section aims to give shape to the major issues raised by the Salvadoran citizens, establish criteria to identify and specify content and achieve the objectives of the Agenda, and finally to summarize for El Salvador the proposal resulting from the consultation process.

This report sets out to document the voices of respondents faithfully and to reflect the vision of participants so that it cannot only be useful for decision-makers, but also underscore the need to build on what has been achieved.





**Progress made regarding compliance with the
Millennium Development Goals**



According to the Human Development Report 2013 (UNDP, 2013), more than any other country in Latin America, El Salvador increased its human development index between 1990 and 2012 (evidencing an increase of 0.152). Furthermore, El Salvador has witnessed significant progress with regard to most of the indicators associated with the accomplishing of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as established at the Millennium Summit, held in New York in September 2000.

The fulfillment of commitments associated with the Millennium Development Goals is a priority for El Salvador and this strategy has been in line with the implementation of policy actions and programmes for this purpose. However, this undertaking has been affected by external events such as the world economic crisis of 2008, coupled with high historical dependence on remittances, the decline of agricultural products and high migration of Salvadorans especially towards the USA; such factors not only slowed down, but indeed even impeded, some of the progress made with regard to the MDGs.

We will go on to mention the progress made by El Salvador vis a vis the MDG indicators, according to the most recent official data available for each of the goals, and some related policy actions during the signing of the Millennium Summit (2000).

Progress made regarding the MDGs

El Salvador has made progress in eradicating poverty and hunger. It is estimated that the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, as measured by the national baseline, declined from 32.62 per cent in 1991 to 11.3 per cent in 2012, and consequently El Salvador would have complied formally with Target 1A relating to reducing

extreme poverty associated with MDG 1. Similarly, if extreme poverty is measured as the proportion of people living on less than US\$ 1 (PPP values)¹ daily, this target would already have been complied with, as this segment of the population went down from 12.7 per cent of the population in 1991 to 5.5 per cent in 2012.

In the case of the percentage of children under five that is underweight, the indicator went down from 11.2 per cent in 1991 to 8.6 per cent in 2008, the last year that measurements from the Family Health National Survey were available.

With regard to MDG 2, important progress has also been made with regard to access to education. As of 1991, the net rate of primary education coverage stood at 75.5 per cent of the population, while in 2012 it was 93.7 per cent; consequently, the rate advanced by nearly 20 percentage points over this period.

In 1991 85.2 per cent of El Salvador's working population was literate, but as of 2012 this rate stood at 97.1 per cent. During the past four years, the Government has succeeded in reducing illiteracy by five percentage points.

With regard to the completion rate for 6th grade, representing the completion of primary education, a significant increase can be observed, with the percentage of students who started 1st grade and finished 6th grade increasing from 52.6 per cent in 1991 to 83.9 per cent in 2011.

Vis a vis compliance with MDG 3 in El Salvador, progress has been made in terms of equality in education. Indeed, this objective had already been met in view of the fact that in the field of primary education in El Salvador, since



1991 its value has been above 100 per cent. Since 2004, this same trend can be observed in secondary and higher education.

Regarding participation by women in the labour market, we would expect such participation to be widely spread in an equitable manner in the most productive markets, thereby moving towards greater economic autonomy. In these sectors, participation by women has been relatively stable, standing at 45.8 per cent in 1991, 45.5 per cent in 2007 and 48.9 per cent in 2012. However, when domestic service and employment are excluded, the figures went down from 45.7 per cent to 43.6 per cent in 2012, demonstrating that a significant proportion of women are employed in domestic activities.

The participation of women in the Legislative Assembly stood at 15.5 per cent for the period of 1997-2000, going up to 27.4 per cent in 2012-2015, thereby representing the parliamentary period with the largest number of female deputies in El Salvador's history. Nonetheless, political participation by women continues to be low.

Let us now consider to health indicators (MDGs 4, 5 and 6)² From 1991 to 2008, the mortality rate in children under 5 years declined by 52 for every thousand live births in the five year period between 1992-1998 to 19 per thousand live births in the five year period 2003-2008, as measured by the Family Health National Survey (1998-2003 and 2003-2008), and if such a trend continues, El Salvador could succeed in terms of achieving compliance with MDG 4 by 2015.

In terms of the indicator of coverage of vaccination to prevent measles, this stands at approximately 90 per cent (even excluding children who are served in the

private sector). It is important to highlight the fact that the extended supply of vaccines in the national immunization programme during childhood has had a strong impact on the prevention of deaths by immunopreventable illnesses, in particular those due to pneumonia, which a few years ago constituted the main cause of death in post-neonatal newborns.

Another important achievement in health relates to the substantial reduction in maternal mortality, included in MDG 5. which, according to the RAMOS (Reproductive Age Mortality Survey) has gone down from 211 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 71.2 per 100,000 live births in 2005 and 41.9 per 100,000 live births in 2012, with a target of 52.8 per 100,000 live births.³

The second indicator for the target related to MDG 5 is the percentage of specially assisted childbirths.⁴

Other related indicators include prenatal coverage (at least 1 consultation) and prenatal coverage (at least 4 consultations). The first of the indicators has evidenced a steady increase of approximately 11 per cent in the five-year average from 68.7 per cent in 1991 to 94 percent in 2008, according to findings of the FESAL family health surveys.

Progress in MDG 6 is varied. Target 6A that relates to the halting of and gradual reversal by 2015 of the spread of HIV/AIDS is difficult to measure over the course of time in view of problems relating to under-reporting and efforts are still being made to define the most appropriate measurement methodology. A cause for concern is that only a quarter of the young population in El Salvador has extensive knowledge about AIDS, indicating that incidence of the disease could spread due to lack of prevention.



Access to antiretrovirals on the part of the population infected with the virus, in order to contribute to the achievement of Target 6B relating to universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it, has also, since the signing of the MDGs, evidenced an increase.

Target 6C, relating to the halting and gradual reversal by 2015 of the incidence of malaria and other major diseases, can be considered to have been complied with given that in El Salvador malaria has almost been eradicated, while the prevalence of tuberculosis has been reduced.

Actions such as the increase in the health budget have made possible the implementation of free health consultations that contributed to an increase of 40 per cent in the demand for such services and boosted the supply of medicines in hospitals and public health units while also expanding in significant terms the immunized population.

Similarly, progress in health cannot be discussed without considering access and improvement of basic services such as drinking water. Such progress entails compliance with the goal that establishes that 71 per cent of the population should have access to improved water for domestic consumption. In 2012, this indicator stood at 73.9 per cent.

Sanitation has been another of the Millennium Development Goals that has been complied with, the goal set for 2015 being that 89 per cent of the population should have access to this service. By 2012 this indicator stood at 96.2 per cent of Salvadoran households. However, if we consider access to sanitation services that are not shared the figure has gone up from 72.9 per

cent to 81.4 per cent in 2012. It is important to note that this is still one of the main challenges in rural areas.

Although environmental problems have now been accorded greater recognition by the State, the deterioration evidenced by the indicators has been of such magnitude that more considered and realistic responses are required by the entire population if environmental degradation is to be stopped in its tracks.

During the period 1998-2008, a total of 44,000 hectares (HA.) of forest were lost, this constituting a rate of annual deforestation of 1.5 per cent. This loss was largely due to the change of land use, from forests to annual crops and pastureland. However in the period 2008-2011, the annual deforestation rate fell significantly to 0.17 per cent.

One indicator that has shown progress over the last three years is the increase in the proportion of terrestrial and marine protected areas as this went up from 1.78 in 2007 to 2.42 in 2012.

MDG 8 refers to the way in which developed countries can help developing countries to achieve the other seven goals through increased assistance for development, better access to markets and debt relief. This approach consists of placing at the disposal of developing countries Official Development Assistance (ODA) funds, taking the form of grants, aimed at improving the living standards of the beneficiary populations, through access to basic services such as health, education, water and sanitation etc. and equality of trade relations between developed countries and developing countries that promotes the incorporation of developing countries' products in international markets in an equitable manner.



In El Salvador, ODA represents approximately 28 per cent of Social Expenditure and constitutes a considerable part of the Government's public investment programme. To this end, a special institutional framework in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been created, so as to manage cooperation from a new perspective, in accordance with the current global architecture of Official Development Assistance and based on the tripartite dialogue between Government, Partners for Development (SPD) and Civil Society.

The Vice Ministry for Development Cooperation (VMCD) has facilitated the construction and implementation of the National Efficiency Agenda, through the following actions: accession to the Paris Declaration, signing of an

Aid Effectiveness Agenda in El Salvador (between GOES, Development Partners and Civil Society Organizations), the launching of the National Efficiency Plan, and the Implementation of the Delivering as One (DaO) programme with the United Nations system⁵ Consequently, El Salvador is the first DaO “self-starter” country in Latin America.

In summary then, on balance El Salvador has demonstrated significant progress in achieving the MDGs and yet in other cases such progress has been sluggish; however, on the whole it can be said that El Salvador needs to continue along the same path, combatting poverty and social exclusion and ensuring the enjoyment of fundamental human rights for all citizens of El Salvador.

Diagram 1: Summary of progress made regarding compliance

Goals and indicators	1991	Second Progress Report (2009)	Third Progress Report 2013 (1)	2015 Goal
Goal 1: To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger				
<i>Target 1A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the percentage of people whose income is less than USD 1 a day.</i>				
% of people living in extreme poverty	32.6	10.8	11.3	14.8
% of people whose income is less than USD 1 a day.	12.7	8.2	5.5	6.3
<i>Target 1B: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the percentage of people who suffer from hunger.</i>				
% of children under 5 who are underweight	11.2	8.6		5.6
Goal 2: Achieve universal primary school education				
<i>Target 2A: Ensure that by 2015 children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling</i>				
% of school pupils who start 1st grade and finish 6th grade	52.6	75.4	84*	100
Net enrollment rate in primary education (%)	75.5	94.8	93.7**	100



Literacy rate for those between 15 and 24 years old (%)	85.2	95.5	97.1	Increase
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and the empowerment of women				
<i>Target 3A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education by no later than 2015</i>				
Ratio between girls and boys at primary school (%)	100.7	101.5	100.3**	100
% of women in paid positions in the non-agricultural sector	45.8	45.5	46.2	50
% of women in the Legislative Assembly	9	19	27.4	50
Goal 4: Reduce the under-five mortality rate				
<i>Target 4A: Reduce by two thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate</i>				
Mortality rate in children under 5 years old (per 1000 live births)	52	19	N/A	17
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births)	41	16	N/A	14
% of children under 1 year old vaccinated against measles	77	95	N/A	100
Goal 5: Improve maternal health				
<i>Target 5A: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio between 1990 and 2015</i>				
Reason for maternal mortality (per 100,000 live births)	N/A	57.1	41.9	Reduce
% of childbirths with specialized birth attendants	51	83.7	N/A	100
<i>Target 5B: Achieve, by 2015, universal Access to reproductive health</i>				
Rate of contraceptive use (%)	53.3	72.5	N/A	80
Specific fertility rate in women between 15 and 24 years old	124	89	N/A	Reduce
Prenatal coverage (at least 1 consultation) (%)	68.7	94	N/A	100
Prenatal coverage (at least 5 consultations) (%)	50	78	N/A	100
Unmet family planning needs (%)	92	1	N/A	Reduce
Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other illnesses				
<i>Target 6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS</i>				
Prevalence of HIV/AIDS (15-24 years old)	0.007	0.03	0.09**	Halt



% of the use of contraceptives in high-risk sexual relations	nd	8	N/A	Increase
% of the young population with an extensive understanding of AIDS	nd	24.2	N/A	100
<i>Target 6B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to the treatment of HIV/AIDS for all those who need it</i>				
Rate of access to antiretroviral	nd	79.6	N/A	100
<i>Target 6C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases</i>				
Incidence of malaria (per 100,000 inhabitants)	190	0.4	0.2**	Reduce
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 inhabitants)	45.7	29	31.5**	Reduce
% of cases treated and cured with DOTS	nd	90.2	91.4**	>90
Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability				
<i>Target 7A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources</i>				
% of surface area covered by woodland	nd	26.8	12.8	Increase
Carbon dioxide emissions (total)	1.6	0.7	nd	Reduce
Consumption of substances that deplete the ozone layer (TM)	423	34.7	nd	Reduce
<i>Target 7B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss</i>				
% of population with access to improved water source	63.3	86.8	90.3	80.5
% of population with access to improved sanitation	76.7	92	96.2	89

[1] Data used in the 2012 Third Progress Report for Compliance with the MDGs, unless otherwise indicated.

¹ PPP = Purchasing Power Parity.

² Many of these took as their data source the National Family Health Survey (FESAL). However, for numerous reasons the survey for 2013 could not be completed and the latest available data is through 2008. In those cases where a reliable institutional source has been identified, current data are indeed reported, in the interests of displaying the trend in the indicator but not with a view to establishing compliance).

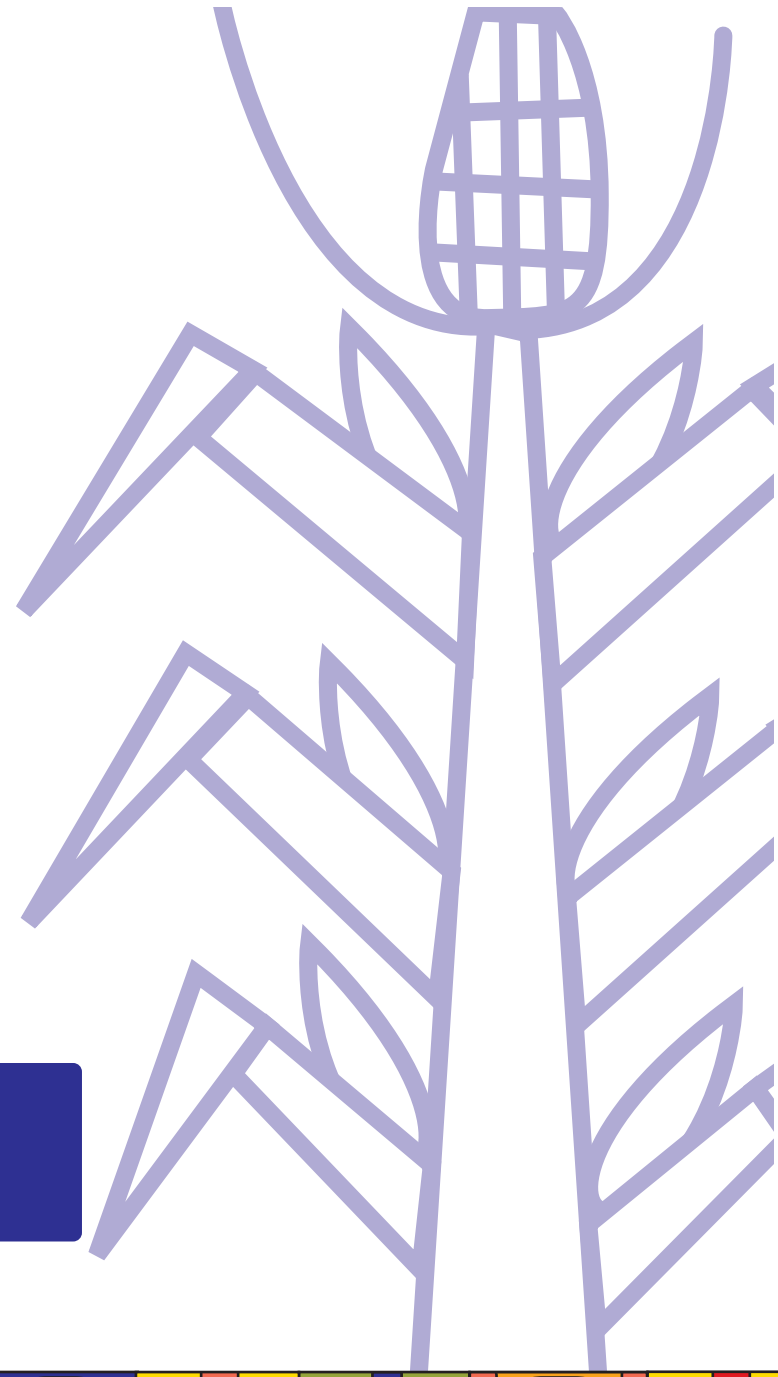
³ The measurement of maternal mortality has undergone an important methodological change in El Salvador. Prior to 2005 the authorities used the "living sisters method" in the FESAL surveys for the periods 1988-1993; 1993-1998; and 1998-2003, which yielded maternal mortality ratios of 158, 120, and 173 per 100,000 live births. Beginning in 2005, MINSAL utilized a new methodology, known as the forward-looking RAMOS (Reproductive Age Mortality Survey), which made it possible to estimate the maternal mortality rate at 71.2 for every 100,000 live births for the period falling between June 2005 and May 2006. In an effort to identify the baseline to be used

for monitoring progress in regard to MDG 5, the MINSAL estimated for the year 1990 a maternal mortality rate of 211 x 100,000 live births (9), using hospital data on maternal deaths during 1983-1986 and the level of under-reporting encountered in the 2005 baseline study on maternal mortality. It follows that the goal for 2015, based on the maternal mortality rate estimated in that study, was set at 52.8 x 100,000 live births. The pertinent trends have been monitored since then, using an increasingly powerful system for monitoring maternal mortality, in which each case is investigated, including the use of verbal autopsies involving relatives and audited by the National Committee for Monitoring Maternal Mortality (CNVMM), based on which a final report is ultimately issued focusing on each case, determining the basic cause of death, the critical link (10), the type of death, delay in provision of care, and the degree of prevention.

⁴ In El Salvador all childbirths that are treated in hospital are attended by trained personnel although this is not a specialist

⁵ Delivering as One





Consultations Post-2015



Part I. Post-2015 Consultations Process

Methodology

1. Methodological framework

The overall objective of the process of national consultations was to stimulate debate among the many different perspectives in El Salvador about the challenges of the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda, in addition to collating ideas so as to generate a shared vision of the future. With this in mind, the research methodology should facilitate the construction of an analytical foundation that:

- Enables a shared global vision of the future desired by Salvadorans, with clear recommendations for States and Civil Society.
- Calls upon all sectors to ponder the significant progress made vis a vis implementation of the MDGs and the challenges that remain.
- Gives a voice to the needs of the poor and to groups traditionally excluded in negotiation processes.
- Influences intergovernmental processes in order to respond to the aspirations of civil society vis a vis the Post-2015 Programme.

2. Research method

As a participatory process, the consultation exercise consisted of creating a forum for dialogue in which various interest groups could express their expectations

the country in which they want to live. Therefore, it was necessary to gather people's perceptions and thereby capture the expressions and meanings of reality for these groups.

Given this need, the best way to obtain these inputs was by means of qualitative research. The qualitative methodology is used for the generation of information (opinions and perceptions), which enables the analysis of a social problem from various points of view for a cross-section of society.

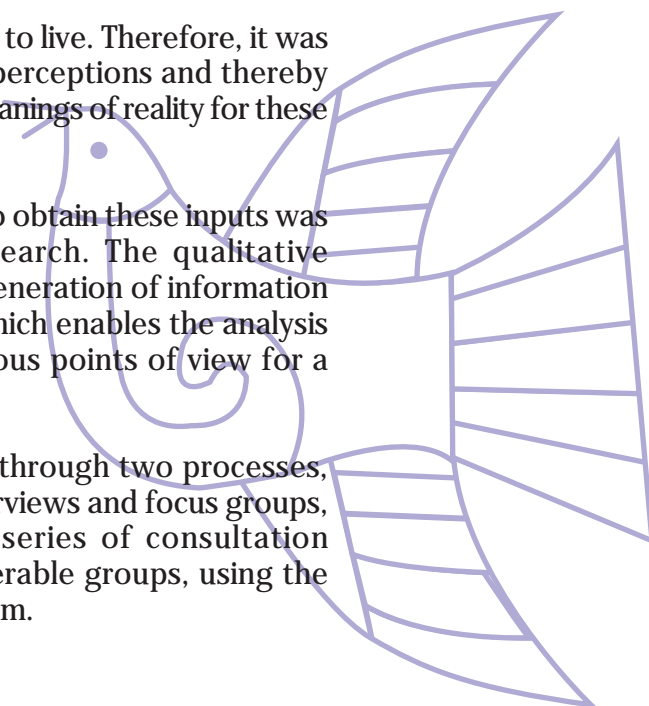
This research was carried out through two processes, the first, through in-depth interviews and focus groups, and the second, through a series of consultation workshops with specific vulnerable groups, using the methodology of the fish diagram.

3. Information-gathering tools

Due to the qualitative nature of the study, the instruments used during the consultation process were of two kinds: semi-structured in-depth interviews and focus groups

- Semi-structured in-depth interviews

Semi-structured interviews are an intermediate point between open interviews and structured interviews. While semi-structured interviews do share with structured interviews a predesigned script (with a list of topics to consider and fundamental questions to be posed), they are also different because they presuppose the possibility of modifying that script in the course of an interview so as to deal with issues that are unforeseen and that may shed light on important aspects of the subject being studied. (Vega, 2009).



The aim of the in-depth interviews is to obtain individualized information about attitudes, beliefs and feelings, as well as interpretations of the interviewee, the meanings that they construct, the interpretations that they give to their own experience, their values and beliefs (Vega, 2009).

- Focus groups

A focus group is a meeting of a group of individuals selected by the researchers to discuss and expound, from personal experience, a theme or social fact that is the subject of research (Korman, 1986). It is based on the principle that the micro group expresses the structure of the macro group and that the functioning of the social world depends on language because “society is a reality that speaks,” in other words, that opinions expressed are not only personal, but entail social connotations. Consequently, the purpose was to record how participants develop within the group their reality and experience. The main advantage of focus groups is that they obtain an overall description of the knowledge, attitudes and social behaviour of a social collective and the way in which each individual is influenced by another in a group situation.

Moreover, notes were taken by the assistant moderators during the focus groups to record expressions or impressions. These moderators also indicated the way in which the dynamic was developing, if there was some departure from what was planned, extraordinary cases, inter alia.

4. Limitations of the qualitative method

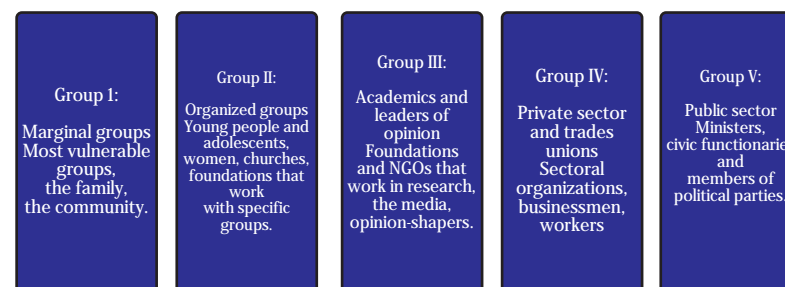
A frequent criticism of these methods is that the sample is not random. Indeed, it is often the case that a particular

type of person, with certain features of interest, is sought. However, as already described, the objective of this methodology is to identify human phenomena, and not to generalize results in a strict sense (Hyncer, 1990). In addition, on account of the nature of the collated information (perceptions and meanings) results may not be susceptible to generalization, and consequently diverse groups are prioritized so as to capture the largest possible number of visions. An additional criticism of this methodology has to do with the possible influence of the researcher during the survey and analysis of the information, generating a possible bias in the results. However, the meaning of objectivity in this methodology is to try to be as comprehensive as possible in responding to any phenomenon (Sardello, 1971).

5. Selection of population and participating groups

According to guidelines provided by UNDP⁶ for the selection of the groups, the main sectors of interest for the consultation process were classified into five groups, according to similarity in their characteristics and the way in which information is structured. Therefore, the selection of interested parties was distributed in accordance with diagram 1:

Diagram 1: Groups defined for consultation for the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda



The participants were grouped in this way because the similarity in their views on a topic enables those taking part to share more information freely and in greater depth. When the characteristics of the participants is more heterogeneous, meanings encountered are more diffuse. Consequently, in order to obtain a diversity of views, it is important that groups are externally heterogeneous but internally homogeneous. The generally accepted criterion when selecting people who will participate in the discussion is to ensure that they do not know each other or the moderator, because the pre-existence of relationships between subjects can interfere with the functioning of the group.

The in-depth interviews can be addressed at individuals, key respondents or groups of participants (World Bank, 1998). In the Post-2015 consultation, interviews were directed at key informants, who were classified into two groups: 1) officials with specialized knowledge relating to development issues in the country, such as representatives of cooperation agencies and 2) representatives of groups with specific ideologies, which in this case were representatives of the main political parties.

In summary, the consultation was distributed geographically and according to groups of the population in accordance with to the following table.

Diagram 2. Groups and regions consulted during the Post-2015

Target group	Eastern Area	Central Area	Western Area
Women and men experiencing poverty and exclusion (marginalized groups)	FG, PW	FG, PW	FG, PW
Community leaders of marginalized groups	PW	PW	PW
Young people	PW	PW	PW
Infants		FG	FG
Adolescents	PW	FG, PW	PW
Women (Judges, businesswomen, parliamentarians, young women)	PW	PW	PW
Women: NGO representatives who work with women		PW	
Churches		FG	
HIV Country Consultative Mechanism		FG	
Indigenous people	PW	PW	PW
Foundations and organizations		FG	
People with disabilities	PW	PW	PW
Sexual diversity	PW	PW	PW



Academics and opinion shapers	FG	FG	FG
Editors, chiefs of newspapers and columnists		FG	
International organizations		IDI	
Businessmen in charge of Mexican micro, small and medium enterprises	FG	FG	FG
Representatives of cooperatives	PW	PW	PW
Trade union representatives		FG, IDI	
Governmental entities (Ministries, Autonomous Organizations etc)		FG, IDI	
Female and male mayors	FG	PW	FG
Representatives of political parties.		IDI	

Meaning of the abbreviations:
FG = Focal Group IDI = In-Depth Interview PT = Participatory Workshop

6. Difficulties usually encountered in carrying out consultations

- Imposition of the opinion of the leader: it was always difficult to direct participants to comment independently on the leader of the community or influential figure.
- Very few participants knew about the MDGs.
- Inadequate infrastructure conditions for carrying out the consultation using several instruments
- Limited participation for some interest groups. In the case of interviews with deputies, the interview with the Coordinator of each political party was not carried out.
- Labour-related activities of participants, coinciding with the focus group itself. Some participants were absent during 20-30 minutes of the discussion.

- Imposition of the opinion of the leader: it was always difficult to direct participants to comment independently on the leader of the community or influential leader.

7. Method of analysis

Some phases of the phenomenological analysis were used to canvass the assessments and views of participants, because the objective was not only to collate simple information, but to capture the experience of participants and their vision of the country. However, according to the guidelines established for the post-2015 consultation, twelve central issues⁷ were already in place that it was important for the United Nations System to analyze, since these related to the Millennium Development Goals. These twelve issues, together with the vision of country, constitute the pillars around which instruments and the output matrix of units of meaning were constructed, but the instrument was versatile enough to capture more relevant issues (see part II).



8. Stages of analysis developed in target groups in the post-2015 consultation

· Bracketing and phenomenological reduction

This phase calls for the researcher to be aware of their preconceptions so as to "clean" the analysis and thereby to deal with the phenomenon itself. It is a means of counteracting the subjectivity of the researcher.

· Listening to the interview or target group to gain a sense of the whole

The objective of this phase is to identify the context so that the units of meaning and issues arise later in the analysis. Non-verbal and paralinguistic communication were sought, for example intonation, emphases, pauses, etc.

· Delineate units of general meaning

This is a process which seeks to get at the essence of the ideas expressed. This step consists of analyzing each phrase in order to obtain the senses expressed by participants. The results of this stage are the general units of meaning, i.e., those parts of the text that have semantic meanings in themselves.

· Delineate the units of meaning relevant to the target of research

After establishing all the units of general meaning, the next step is to delineate the units of meaning relevant to the target of the post-2015 consultation, and defined by the United Nations System. Furthermore, additional or consequential issues are determined. All the issues

that arose were dealt with in a Units of Standard Meanings report.

· Formulation of a summary of each instrument

The Units of Standard Meaning report includes three parts: an analysis of Units of Standard Meaning by subject, a summary and the interpretation of issues and the output matrix for key issues. The second part includes a summing-up of Units of Meaning grouped together under each issue. The aim is to summarize in one or two paragraphs the central idea that can be inferred from the opinions expressed by participants.

· Identify issues, both unique and general

After the summary and analysis of each instrument we move on to the identification of issues relevant to all of these. The first step is to identify issues common to most of the interviews. Later these issues are analyzed in accordance with the frequency and priority that they appear in the discussion and in the general matrix of the United Nations System.

· Contextualization of the issues

The report and matrix by component included a contextualization of the issues, a summary of experience with each component and the main findings and lessons learned from the process. Finally, a summary which is part of the final report was prepared.

9. Cross-checking mechanisms

As part of the target groups with communities, the most important topics for the community are listed in a visualization technique called "drawing my community,



drawing my world". With this dynamic, the participants drew the physical and social characteristics of their community. This visual technique was a very important tool for promoting understanding shared between participants, despite the fact that some differences of views and perspectives on the part of some participants might be concealed.

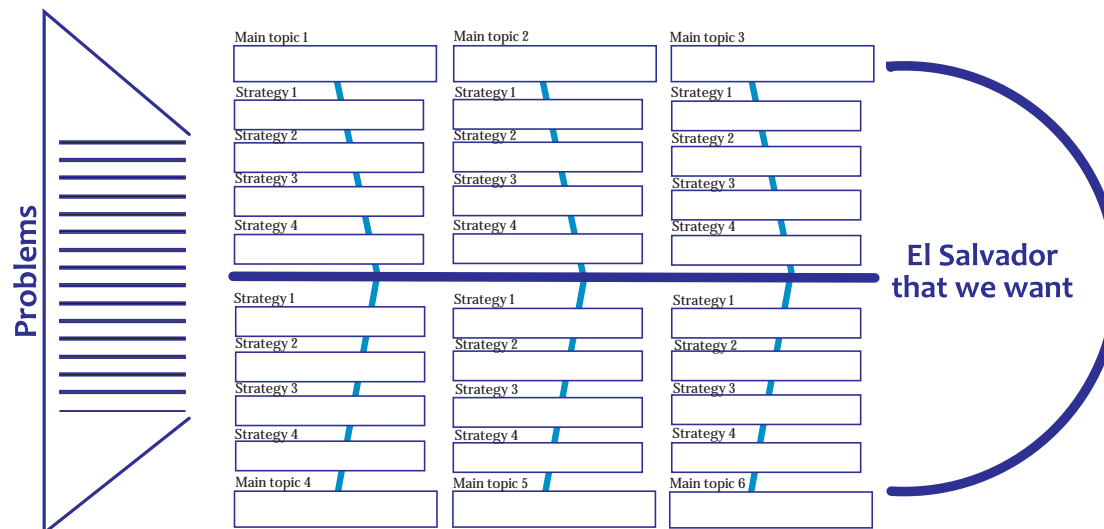
10. Compiling information by means of the fish diagram

Similarly, in order to verify, saturate and cross-check information, the results in participatory workshops were used, where the fish diagram technique was drawn upon to establish the most important issues that influence the vision of a country for each group. This exercise starts with a quick diagnostic assessment that identifies problems that hinder human development, and proposals for improvement. After defining the main issues to be

included in the Agenda, participants define the vision of the country: "The country that we want", and discusses problems, priorities and strategies to be harnessed to achieve these priorities.

The fish diagram makes possible a quick but comprehensive analysis that is easily accessible by all levels of formal education. The methodology of consultation with marginalized populations was developed by territorial stakeholders (local authorities, civil society and private sector) who work within the framework of the joint programme of territorial networks of the United Nations Development Programme (ART-UNDP) El Salvador in three departments in the East of the country. Although a particular methodology was not imposed in any sector, this methodology was adopted also by the restricted core that prepares consultations for each "sector" in a participatory way.

Diagram 2: Fish diagram used in the consultation



· *Process*

The dynamic of the fish diagram involves the separation of participants into groups of 5 to 6 people. It begins with a quick diagnostic assessment that makes it possible to identify problems that hamper the access of the sector to human development. This first exercise is located in the tail of the fish, which is filled through brainstorming and a discussion group.

Then, based on this diagnosis, and in the initial presentation of the state of progress of the MDGs at the national and international level, participants propose priority issues to be included in the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The central bone of the fish represents the path to a better world, and side bones split into a priority issue (6 in total), and consist of 4 strategies to improve the identified issue. The issues are what (employment, education, environment, etc.), and the strategies are how (how to improve education or access to education for young people, etc.).

After defining the main issues to be included in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the participants consider strategies for each identified topic; the head of the fish defines the vision of country "The Country that We Want".

· *Systematization*

The set of diagrams filled in a workshop is synthesized by the facilitators with the support of the technical team in the report of the workshop, which is shared with the participants so as to improve it, ensure accountability and ownership of all of the results. At the end of the process, each consulted group (109 workshops took place in total, with the participation of more than 3,000 people) presents the results of his workshop, and the

representatives of the participants together perform a national synthesis or digest, which will be the country proposal of its "sector". This proposal, along with proposal of the various sectors involved at the national level (excluding territories and communities, women, youth, indigenous people, individuals with different sexual orientations and people with disabilities), will be synthesized at the same time in order to conduct the report which will be the proposal of the country for the Post-2015 Development Agenda at a global level, "The world we want".

⁶ United Nations System

⁷ Inequality, education, health, environmental sustainability, environmental risk and vulnerability, conflicts and fragility, population dynamics, efforts to combat hunger and ensure food security, development and economic growth, employment, security and prevention of violence)



Part II. The voices of the consultation

There are several overlaps in the issues proposed by the consulted population for building the Post-2015 Development Agenda, although the priority assigned and the emphasis given to each of these varies depending on the group concerned. This makes it possible to identify a common vision, but it also demonstrates that each participating sector could make its particular focus, which enhances the agenda and generates tracks to measure indicators or even to assess, improve, or give sustainability to public policies that are implemented for the benefit of each group of the population.

Below are the priority issues identified by those participating in the consultation:

1. Work

Having a stable job occupies a central place in the aspirations of the Salvadoran population. Work is perceived not only as an opportunity to gain access to a decent standard of living, but also as a means of personal fulfillment that enhances dignity and respect for oneself.

In this regard, the sectors that were consulted discussed the characteristics that, in their opinion, work should have. *"The first issue is decent work, this is formal employment, rights, fair wages, social benefits and the right to trade union organization, a job that really allows Salvadorans to resolve their needs and those of their family,"* said one of the trade unionists who took part in the consultation.

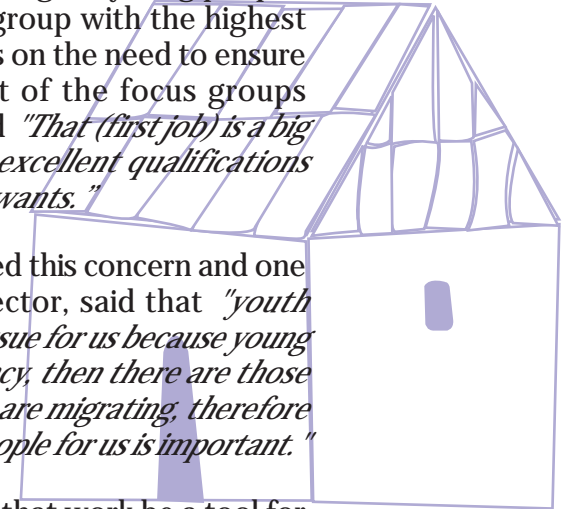
This issue was especially interesting for young people; given that this constitutes the group with the highest level of schooling, its emphasis is on the need to ensure a first job. A young participant of the focus groups conducted in San Salvador stated *"That (first job) is a big concern because one may have excellent qualifications and yet not get the job that one wants."*

The trade union sector also shared this concern and one of the participants from this sector, said that *"youth employment is a very important issue for us because young people are affected by delinquency, then there are those who cannot study and those who are migrating, therefore the issue of the rights of young people for us is important."*

In addition, young people asked that work be a tool for bettering their lives, continuing their studies and improving their standard of living. One of these young people referred to the necessity of working hours that make it possible to fulfill this aspiration, as an element to be considered in the course of the first job.

Another young person who was consulted said that just because a position was one's first job, that did not justify its being bad: *"Most people opt to go to work and they are not rewarded as they should be rewarded, and most have informal jobs that cannot ensure them the quality that they deserve,"* he added.

The reduction of gender inequalities in the political and labour spheres is important for women and other groups participating in the consultation. *"Women are asked to meet so many requirements but men are not. And entering politics is exactly the same: women go through thousands of filters and men don't. In the private sector, men have more access and the salary is completely different,"* said a female deputy participating in the consultations.



Although the rate of female participation in the labour market is increasing, many women cannot obtain paid work because they have no assistance in caring for their sons and daughters, or because their spouses will not allow their wives to work, as expressed by one of the participants who is resident in Morazán: *"There is much machismo in our male companions because we can find housewives who, although they possess secondary education are stuck and it is not because they do not have the necessary capacity but they lack the opportunities to practice professionally (...), but there are also men who are sexist and will not allow us to work."*

In addition, these women point out that when they achieve a paid job, they often do not have access to their own money, so as to spend it as they want. *"I would like to work, because it's nice to receive your money and nobody questions how it is spent,"* said one of the participants in the consultations carried out in the community of El Llano.

They also mention that they have greater employment possibilities in the informal sector than men and they consequently support specifically the formalization of employment and entrepreneurship for women.

Another sector which suffers considerable discrimination in the workplace, and which is continually pushed to extreme poverty, begging and informal work, are people with disabilities. El Salvador has an Equal Opportunities Law, but this is still not complied with by all enterprises and institutions, in such a way as to ensure that these disabled employees can work in an adapted environment, using their skills to contribute to the development of the country and gaining access to decent employment.

For officials and civil servants from various ministries, in relation to work, an important element is the recognition of labour rights: *"Hard-working and humble people begin to recognize that they have labour rights; if we can ensure that at all levels this is the case, I think that policies can have continuity and take roots"*, one Minister stated.

Likewise, the need was expressed to create a strategy that allows for capacity-building to achieve country objectives vis a vis the labour issue: *"We must seek economic development in accordance with some overarching principles that prioritize production. We would have to verify the precise nature of the market niches, reinstating what was removed at some point, such as agricultural production. We have to create a basis for our own production, enabling us to create employment and generate economic development. And for this you need to have people with abilities, not only properly fed but also properly educated,"* one of the officials explained.

2. Housing

The right to decent housing is of key concern to vulnerable segments of the populations

Several of the respondents expressed that the best evidence of their poverty is that they live in houses of corrugated sheets reinforced with cardboard, plastic and branches, and an earth floor and many of them have no access to basic social services (water, electricity and sanitation). *"What is missing for most of us, and is most evident, is a safe ceiling (...). You can see only there are houses of plastic, bits of foil, enough to cover oneself more or less. That is the main thing, a safe ceiling comes first, and then we can talk about water, we can speak about lighting,"* said one participant in the municipality of Santa Ana.



Many members of poor households live in perpetual fear of being evicted from their homes, since they are not owners of the land on which the houses are built. This is the case of families who were settled "temporarily" in some area of the State, after a natural disaster or, having no place in which to live, have chosen to occupy a vacant lot. There are also cases of families who have bought from companies that sell land without any legal protection, and these occupants are then cheated.

"What is the point of making a good house for ourselves if it is the going to be confiscated from us? The fundamental thing is to be the owner of the piece of land where we live. What is the point of having only water and electricity? We can have big houses but if the land on which they are built do not belong to us, then this serves no purpose," explained a participant in the consultations carried out with the indigenous groups in the Department of Sonsonate.

For this reason, and in order to ensure decent housing, one of the proposals deals with improving access to credit, as well as maintaining and expanding programmes for the legalization of properties especially for the most vulnerable populations, and for women, and in particular for those for whom ownership of a property is a key concern. A partial solution to this latter problem would be property shared between men and women.

Individuals with disabilities, a population estimated at ten per cent of the total population of the country, call for adapted housing, because although they may have support for acquiring a roof, this does not always confer benefits. *"Access to housing programmes exist, but the houses are not physically accessible,"* mentioned a woman participating in the consultation process with a group of people with disabilities in San Salvador.

Finally, the majority of respondents also explained the need to improve the characteristics of the housing that they inhabit, mainly the materials for constructing the ceiling, walls and floor, as well as the availability of basic services (drinking water, electrical energy and sanitation).

Female and male public officials were of one voice regarding this concern: *"A priority should be to guarantee to everyone access to decent housing through a State policy. This implies a strong commitment in terms of public and private investment, robust institutions and legal certainty. Efforts must be directed at facilitating the elimination of the qualitative and quantitative housing deficit as well as having in place a sustainable territorial system and development."*

3. Food and agriculture

Among the sectors consulted, this is a topic that interests in particular those living in extreme poverty in urban and rural areas, as well as the population living from agriculture, particularly small farmers and agricultural labourers.

One of its observations on the matter relates to the risks of losing crops as the result of drought or floods that have increased in recent years. *"When there is a drought,"* says a 56-year-old woman who lives in Metapán, *"we have to look for other work, because in circumstances like this, if one lives only from crops, one starves to death."*

At the same time, farmers, and especially women farmers, raise the issue of access to credit and the creation of a guarantee fund for agriculture as one of its proposals. The difficulties associated with this issue are also one of the causes of limited access to the land producers, in



particular with regard to indigenous people who also are vocal vis a vis this proposal.

The agricultural sector is crucial for food sovereignty and human development in general and it is therefore essential to promote the diversification of production, innovation, clean technologies and to ban toxic inputs. In the interest of reforming agriculture and making it more environmentally-friendly, indigenous groups intend to breathe new life into their ancestral practices.

Small producers, meanwhile, expressed the view that most people produce for self-consumption as much as they can and work as employees to be able to purchase other goods and services they need for survival. *"One's duty is to work and if one saves, one has something for later. But not everyone has the same capacity to save, because it is often the case that there is only enough to eat and nothing left over to sell or to save"*, said a farmer in Morazán who was consulted. Therefore the trade union sector proposes the revival of the agricultural sector through strengthening incentives to generate food products.

Meanwhile, government officials consulted consider that this is a challenge that needs to be addressed. *"This starts with education and guidance for people about crop management systems. It also includes support to local farmers, through appropriate marketing of supply systems for their products, providing access to the final consumer, ensuring competitive prices and providing a wide range of products"*.

The governmental sector that participated in the consultation also ranked food safety as an issue related to other aspects of social health, the environment and

employment. "The most important is food security (...) and then it could be environment, health, education and employment, as all of those issues relate to human beings throughout their life-cycle", participants pointed out.

4. Education

Education is another issue prioritized by the participating groups in the consultation.

Young people are asking for an education that will serve them as a tool to increase their quality of life, *"I see study as an opportunity to go out and break a barrier: if my father is a tailor, why can I not become a graduate and obtain a higher standard of living?"*, one teenager explained.

Sectors of academia that were consulted agreed with this view and added, moreover, that the divide between theory and practice should be bridged. *"In the University, so much time is devoted to theory, but when it comes down to it, it is experience that is called for, and this we are not taught. The teacher is the transmitter of truth to the student who trusts the teacher so much that, when confronted with the reality, he or she says: They lied to me, this is different from what I learnt,"* explained a participant in the academic sector in San Miguel.

Indigenous people consulted remarked on the fact that they should be taught culture and history to breathe new life into ancestral principles, values and identity, as expressed by a native of Santa Ana. *"The principles and values have been lost. Why? Through education. Our culture and our history are not taught and that is why we have no identity."*



While there has been significant progress in the reduction of illiteracy, older adults still constitute the segment of population with the most number of people who cannot read and write, objectives that are highlighted as important by this group *"I would feel proud to be able to write my name,"* said a participant in the consultation process who lives in Metapán.

Another major challenge identified is that public and private education should offer the same quality, as noted by a teenage girl from La Libertad. *"It should be equal, and whether or not we pay should not matter, our education should be good. Just because someone goes to a special school, why should they acquire a good education when we don't"*

The business sector proposed that education should develop innovation and universities should provide technical courses, the better to integrate technological advances that improve the quality of teachers. On the other hand, according to all the sectors consulted, progress should be made in developing access to technology and the teaching of a second language, particularly English, especially in rural areas.

Education, along with work, continue to be seen by people as the main mechanisms for ensuring social inclusion in the country.

There was also a consensus that security should be strengthened in schools, particularly those in risk areas, and that it is imperative to fight against sexual harassment that impedes a normal school education for girls, "bullying" ⁸ and abuse suffered by the children with different sexual orientations.

Officials felt that it was important to pay particular attention to initial education and high school. *"The rate in primary is about 94%. But, what about initial education, early childhood education? Today we encounter the problem that in the third cycle we find half-empty classrooms, and then from ninth grade to high school the supply of educational services is limited. We are also faced with teachers who are not able to teach the curriculum. For this reason we must be more cognizant of national realities "*

"For me the most important thing is to create a change of vision and policies on education. You must start by recognizing that development is not achieved by speculating, but by investing in people. It should be clear that this change occurs through education in the classroom, forming future citizens. Education, and particularly technical education, is the instrument that results in the development of the countries, " concluded the official who was consulted.

5. Health

The aspirations of people in the field of health include: being served with quality and warmth, health centres and hospitals that are well equipped and with sufficient medicines that are of a good quality without having to queue for hours. An individual participating in the consultation process, said that *"talking about health and education I would ask that a health network demonstrating solidarity with those who have few or no resources should be set in motion. "*

In the case of young people and those evidencing different sexual orientations, participants in the consultation consider that it is very important to ensure access to comprehensive health services according to



specific needs, including the care and prevention of diseases such as HIV. *"I think that it is important to focus on sexual diseases, because sometimes AIDS is given primacy and the fact is that this is not the only sexually transmitted illness; in fact, there exist a great many Sexually Transmitted Diseases,"* explained a teenager in a target group that made up part of the consultation.

Consulted unions propose, furthermore, improving occupational health, and conditions of employees in the health sector. That is why it is necessary to strengthen education and health prevention, starting by promoting healthy lifestyle habits.

To ensure the comprehensive health of women, and particularly maternal health, considerable efforts have already been made, but medical personnel in this field should continue to be trained, and equipment should be adapted. On the other hand, according to women and young people consulted, family planning and access to contraceptives should be guaranteed, while sensitizing the population to the need to combat the incidence of pregnancies among girls and adolescents.

In some communities that were consulted, due to the isolation in which they live, access to health services is more difficult. In these cases, when an emergency occurs recourse is initially made to the municipal government, so greater coordination between the local and the national levels is proposed. *"People go the Mayor's office and ask for everything from medicine to the coffin,"* said a participant in the consultation process in San Miguel.

Due to the high frequency with which town councils are asked for support for health emergencies, some of them make efforts to have ambulances that enable them to

ensure rapid transportation for patients in their municipalities and that lack the necessary economic resources, a concern raised by a mayor in the western part of the country, *"My dream is to have a municipal ambulance, because we have a vehicle that could be used as an ambulance. That way we could always go to help those who are sick and women who are about to give birth."*

Moreover, to develop health care that is complementary to the modern health system, indigenous peoples intend to promote ancestral health, ranging from traditional food to natural medicine.

It is also considered that the health system should not exclude older adults who have specific needs that should be taken into account.

Persons with disabilities, on the other hand, call for special services health centres and hospitals, with personnel that are sensitized and trained; and access, in common with everybody else, to sexual and reproductive health. The young people who were consulted asked emphatically that more attention be directed at mental health.

Representatives of the public sector who participated in the consultation process agreed that health is a subject which should continue to be a priority for the country and point out that the best approach is to adopt a preventive and high quality strategy; in the words of one of the participants *"I believe that we are one of the countries that has in place universal health care and that is very significant, and important steps are being taken, but we must now set a premium on quality and access to services."*



6. Security

According to all the individuals consulted, whether they belong to excluded populations or other sectors, security is one of the top priorities. The inhabitants of the El Llano community defined how to understand security, *"It is the certainty that a safe community exists, a safe house and the perception of safety when walking on the streets."*

The higher cost of violence and crime, which is the most difficult to quantify, is lost freedoms. No aspect of human security is so fundamental as preventing people from becoming a victim of fear, physical violence, blackmail or threats. This is one of the issues raised by young people "Insecurity that exists right now in the country is a very pressing concern as young people cannot develop as they would, or embark on activities as they would like to."

Respondents, regardless of their social or geographical origin, and even the security forces themselves, systematically favour prevention and reintegration over prosecution.

Journalists who were consulted were of the opinion that that all societal stakeholders should participate in this task *"Especially in local governments steps should be taken to take preventive action where necessary and generate local policies fostering inclusion of youth in activities relating not only to sports or cultural activities, but also in regard to labour-related issues"* and this and other groups raised the promotion of peaceful coexistence as a key factor in preventing and dealing with violence.

Another element that is highlighted in the question of safety is the need to strengthen the judicial system so that it offers swift and sure justice to which everyone

has access and that is free of corruption. Also considered necessary is the creation of an environment in which no fear of reporting exists and where real punishments are in place for those who break the law and commit crimes. *"Security has been completely derailed, laws should be properly enforced, but with real compliance, and prevention should be focused on human beings at all times,"* said a participant in consultations with academics in the eastern part of the country.

In addition, the groups that were consulted demand more professional police, with greater capacity for research and more territorial coverage to deter criminals. *"A police that is aware and prepared, closer to the population, offering decent treatment to all people, and particularly women is necessary,"* explained those businessmen in the East that were consulted.

In addition, people recommend reinforcing education in values in schools, creating forums for culture, recreation and sport for young people and, in general, providing more opportunities for expression, study and work. *"You have to give primacy to security, and this is more than simply a question of having police on the beat. No, it's more than that. If people have health, education, work, and a place to live, I think crime will decrease",* said a mayor in the western part of the country.

A businessman from the eastern part of the country was of the same opinion, *"We must create commissions that reach the interior of the country. Also the economy needs obviously to be improved to reduce inequality and ensure greater opportunities, since if there are jobs and more decent wages on offer, I think that this could reduce, at least to some extent, petty crime and gangs".*



Finally it was explained that public safety is also related to eradicating violence against women and domestic violence and ill-treatment and abuse against children and adolescents. *"Gender-based violence is another issue of concern to the country, in other words femicides. The law against violence against women exists but the truth is that either we should take action against these phenomena or be defeated by them"*, said a woman participating in the consultations.

7. Vulnerability

In consultations one of the issues prioritized by the various participating groups was the protection of the environment and climate change mitigation. The trade union sector defined some of the environmental issues in their proposals: *"There is in place the issue of the protection of the environment and climate change, the water protection act, control of the pollution of rivers and lakes, the use of toxic products, the control of gas emissions and we should even mention the issue of the mining companies."*

On the other hand, employers consulted raised the need to make economic development compatible with the protection of ecosystems. *"Environmentally-friendly economic development is necessary- they said - because we cannot escape our environment, but we must have development. Here we cannot build something by destroying the environment, we should have social responsibility; economic development should be friendly to the environment, because we cannot develop ourselves at the expense of our forests, seas, rivers and throw chemicals at them."*

In order to guarantee the protection of ecosystems, respondents suggested that this become a State policy

in the long run, in which all stakeholders participate and engage.

The government officials who were consulted agreed with this. *"The vulnerabilities presented by El Salvador make it easier to see the links between the environment and the economy, or to understand, for example, that sustainable development is indispensable if we are to improve the living conditions of the population, or why it is urgent to reverse environmental degradation and reduce vulnerability to climate change. These are issues that must be a responsibility and national priority"*, they pointed out.

Government officials defined this as a factor that must be included in all actions of the State. *"For me the protection of the environment and risk management are cross-cutting issues in all public policies, because each devastating event that we witness, whether a hurricane, landslide or earthquake, implies an increase in poverty and almost all basic services are cut. It's almost a new beginning for each of the communities that are affected,"* one official said.

The population of rural areas link this issue with food security: *"One of us spoke about food safety, and also about the safety of the environment,"* a participant said.

This is especially important for women living in areas of poverty who state that any extreme event affects their livelihoods: *"When there is drought we cannot wash and there is no work also: we cannot raise crops, we don't eat. This affects us in monetary terms."* Because of these challenges, some respondents proposed that the national government and local authorities should include a category for natural disasters in their annual budgets.



On the other hand, while early warning and evacuation systems have improved a lot lately, there are still some challenges for effectively responding to sectors such as persons with disabilities, who, in emergency situations, encounter many difficulties in complying with instructions and receiving assistance.

In terms of respect and care for mother earth, indigenous peoples propose strengthening ancestral knowledge to protect ancestral resources, and putting into practice the free, prior and well-informed consent of local populations in the use of watersheds and wetlands.

Finally, the academic sector proposed an emphasis on creating a culture of caring for the environment. *"This is the concern not of those countries that are out there somewhere, far away, or of the Treaty of Kyoto or anything like that. Here, civic culture must be strengthened."* The population must learn to coexist with nature which provides life, work and pleasant surroundings, those consulted acknowledged.

8. Public transport

In urban areas, respondents pointed out that the existing transport is affected by the existence of very old units that are in poor condition. This puts at risk their lives and another factor that also violates their integrity and their belongings is insecurity. A further aspect that was mentioned in the consultation were the bottlenecks which normally double the time of journeys made by people and deprives them of time that they could use to be with their families.

The situation is more critical for the rural population, as they often live in areas that are far from public transport or they must wait too long for trains and buses. Because

of that, they choose to be transported in private pick ups or private trucks, which, in addition to not being comfortable or safe, sometimes charge high prices for the trip. This is compounded by the poor road infrastructure in some rural areas, lack of roads from a village to another place, or from the place of harvest to the market, etc.

For people who participated in the consultation, there is a need for a new system of collective transport for urban and interdepartmental services, which has to be inclusive, and allow for the mobility of the population. People with disabilities do not have access to transport because the units are not accessible, and carriers are not sensitive to the specific problems of persons with disabilities.

9. Migration

As most of the issues discussed, migration is considered from various perspectives by the individuals consulted; however most agree on its central importance and the effects it has on the population that stays in the country. For most participants, poverty is the cause of this exodus.

Academics contend that it is not only an emigration across the borders, but also within borders and suggest the need *"first of all, to avoid emigration to the cities, then to the golden dream, to the United States, and only then will we succeed in strengthening the territorial development which is such a scarce commodity."*

People from trade unions who were consulted also point to violence as the cause of emigration, not only abroad, but also to the interior of the country, *"often one sends the children elsewhere, in the countryside children are sent to the city and in the city they are sent to the countryside"*



or another country for their own protection. We see it every day with colleagues in the factories that take children from school or who resign and they return to the village or leave the country, because they are renting".

The effect is the same: family disintegration. One of the businessmen from the East who participated in the consultation said *"someone told me that several boys didn't want to know who their father was, because they never knew him and he had let them down, they believed. This has caused considerable damage to the family in El Salvador."*

Proposals suggested also go in different directions. One is to continue to work to improve conditions in the country so that nobody has to go *"the idea- explains a person working in the academic sector - is to adopt the concept of not migrating territorially, instead, one must migrate socially"*.

"There are many people who have family in the United States that sent them remittances and that money is going back, because we spend it on products that are advertised to us", micro-entrepreneurs state. In this respect several of the respondents intend to encourage the use of remittances for the economic development of families in the country.

Another key aspect of this issue is the inclusion of the Salvadoran population living abroad in the country's public policies. *"I don't think that we can think about the country's development without including Salvadorans living outside the country who, while first and foremost Salvadorans, have other experiences and other visions and influence,"* said a journalist.

Each of these sections bring together many of the proposals of the population consulted; without, however, giving an idea of the richness of the information obtained and the aspirations of the people who participated, including a vision of the country that they want . They have described El Salvador and the world in which they want to live. The following chapter summarizes this ideal.

⁸ Abuse or harassment in the school environment



Part III. The Country Vision

1. The main challenges

Women, young people, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, communities and excluded territories, those with different sexual orientations, the private sector, religious groups, public officials, unions, opinion leaders, and other sectors were consulted to define the country and the world they want. Each sector has its vision and its own specific problems that influence proposals and its vision of the country. But ultimately, the vision of the country desired by those consulted has more points in common than differences.

To begin with, there are three major challenges to achieve for the country that the consulted sectors are particularly concerned about. These challenges are understood as the cross-cutting issues that need to be overcome by society as a whole in order to achieve the desired vision of the country. The three are intimately linked and we cannot think of one without the other.

1.1 Placing people at the centre of public policies.

The real wealth of a country is its people, and this is especially true in El Salvador, as emphasized by those consulted. For this reason it is necessary that the State and civil society continue working for the people, to improve the quality of life of the population, and in particular of those who are traditionally excluded, as embodied in the Constitution of the Republic. Similarly, companies in the private sector have to take into account the impact, positive and negative, which their actions may have on people.

According to the majority of the people interviewed, even if they have goodwill, sometimes public policies do not generate the expected effects because they do not take into account the priorities of the population. During recent years there has been significant progress in the promotion of citizen participation and empowerment of the population, but more could still be done to incorporate the various social sectors in the process of formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies. A Government official who was consulted raised this as a major challenge for having impact in real terms. *"We have to start to believe that people do have a voice. We as experts have our vision and bias and do not live in the reality of the lives of the people. The community knows what they need, because they know where the shoe pinches them,"* he said.

1.2 A country with equal opportunities

The only way to build a better country with a cohesive and prosperous society is to ensure social peace and to achieve this it is necessary to reduce inequalities. All sectors put at the centre of their vision a country that is equal, as a basic principle on which to build The Country That We Want.

Equal opportunities are required so that each child has the ability to move forward, whatever their home of origin, to achieve a quality of life that was historically reserved only for a minority.

To this end, citizens should be empowered so that they can express their opinion and demand their rights, particularly in the case of women and young people, to encourage and contribute to reducing the gap in inequalities that persists and to see that it is increasingly reduced. *"I help my daughter to envision where she will*



be in ten years' time... She will have a career at the University, be married, with a stable job, living in her own home, within a stable family, where her children will live in harmony, where she will feel safe, "said one of the officials of local governments who were consulted.

People crave, in addition, a country in which the entire population has access to quality public services, because the populations surveyed regard this as a basic right: the right to a dignified life. *"Today, despite the efforts made in terms of access to public health, it is not the same to be born in San Salvador than in Chalatenango, Gotera, or La Unión",* said an official of the Ministry of Health.

Equality demanded by the people is not only a question of income, but is a question of rights. This comes about through a fairer tax system, and attention brought to bear on the territories and at the local level in general, through true decentralization. At the local level it is possible to provide support that is closer to citizens, strengthening local networks of women, young people, etc., raising public awareness, training leaders of various sectors, opening spaces in political parties and others, and including populations excluded from decision making. In this regard one participant of the indigenous groups consulted in Sonsonate said *"that the health and education that we want should be supportive, because there are dramatic differences, and there are those of us who don't have access to a good education for our sons and daughters or we do not have a clinic."*

Equality must be strengthened between various sectors, various regions, various cultures, between rural and urban children, youth and adults; and between men and women.

By the same token, the goal is to achieve a country that allows its inhabitants the ideals that have been mapped out because at the domestic level these opportunities are available and it is not necessary to go out and seek them elsewhere. This realization would make it possible to counteract a problematic phenomenon, according to populations consulted: mass emigration.

Migration affects youth in the first place, and not because they despise their country, but because they have no other option than to leave, when there is a shortage of opportunities in terms of achieving a dignified life. Young people consulted explained that they would prefer to stay in the country where they were born, if they could get a decent job, access to an education that allowed them to grow as a person and receive training for life, receiving appropriate care at health centres and hospitals, and living in peace. *"The aspirations of the young are truncated by the reality that exists in the country. Young people study and fail to achieve what they want, there are no jobs and, in addition, violence is just a step away from the door, and one does not even feel safe in one's own home,"* said one of the participants in the consultation.

1.3. The need to be reconciled

So that people can be at the centre of public policy, their demands, proposals and actions cannot be always pitted against one another and fragmentation cannot be allowed to exist between one sector or group of people and another. It is necessary for people to be reconciled.

The fact that emerges clearly from all those consulted relating to a common vision for the country demonstrates emphatically that the whole of the Salvadoran people, regardless of sex, age, gender, geographical origin,



political affiliation or socio-economic status, sexual orientation or ability, look towards the future. All sectors want to overcome the polarization that paralyzes the country, to build a new country, without discrimination, without exclusion, without contempt felt by a sector or group of the population towards another; because none of these groups is the owner of the truth, but rather the truth can only be built with the contributions of the entire population

Female and male Salvadorans are known for being very hard-working, and positive, but people also have to be supportive and learn to co-exist harmoniously with each other, despite their differences, and to respect each other. *"To be strong we have to be united,"* said a participant in the consultations in Metapán.

In addition, it is necessary for there to be faith in the future and to focus jointly on the achievement of the goals that are set for the long term as a nation. *"What is missing so far as the Salvadoran population is concerned is a change of attitude vis a vis political culture, social culture, economic culture... love for the country, interest in forging ahead in the long term,"* said another participant in the consultations

Having identified these three challenges, sectors participating in the consultations give their response through their vision of the country, providing questions to the kind of future that is desired at the national and international levels and the model of society aspired to. This is not the way, but the goal, the objective to be reached, mainly by tackling the priority issues that will constitute the development agenda.

2. Various approaches and just one vision

2.1 The common vision

Despite the very wide range of realities experienced by the populations consulted, there is nonetheless a common vision of the country, which can lay the groundwork for the definition of a shared idea of the nation, with a future that is common to its entire population, and that brings together all sectors of society towards a common end.

This common vision should be, according to the vast majority of the participants, whether they are members of civil society, the private sector, or public entities, the engine of democracy, since it makes it possible to overcome polarization, and give substance to a Strategy for the Nation that is people-centred. Based on this common vision, the three major challenges referred to in the previous paragraph can be overcome, mobilizing the entire Salvadoran population to move forwards.

That vision, expressed in every one of the workshops, focus groups and interviews could be summarized as follows

"An El Salvador that is just, inclusive, free of discrimination and violence, with equality of opportunities and rights for all, and with well-educated and happy children."

The expressed vision highlights a clear inspiration and emphasis on human rights as well as the main areas which, in the judgment of all those consulted, are key for achieving it, i.e. identified catalysts for the future: education, work, participation, peace and respect.



2.2 Human rights are at the heart of proposals

Aspirations mentioned by the public that were consulted with regard to their vision of the country - a El Salvador that is just, inclusive, free of discrimination - can be considered as an end in itself, and can be grouped under a unique approach and that emerges clearly from the results of the consultations: the human rights approach.

This rights issue arose throughout the entire consultation process. It appeared in a cross-cutting fashion, transcending all other proposals, like a parasol covering all the priority topics.

First of all, it is important that the entire population, regardless of their level of formal education or socio-economic level, are aware of their rights and duties, and are able to enforce them. The hardest hit segments of the populations are obviously vulnerable groups: women, children, young people, in particular the poorest, people with disabilities, those with a different sexual orientation, indigenous peoples, etc.

There have already been significant efforts on the part of the State and civil society, including the private sector, to ensure the rights of the population. But the nearly 4,000 people who took part in the consultations considered for the most part that it was necessary to reinforce existing safeguards in this regard. Human rights are at the centre of the country that people crave. “...*The first thing to ask for is the simple and neutral respect for rights, that should be a natural thing in our societies,*” said a participant in the national devolution workshop to all the people who were consulted.

First, in this respect, is the need to strengthen the rule of law and ensure that laws are enforced. Recently a

much stronger national and international legal framework has been constructed to guarantee the rights of the population, especially for the most excluded groups. But it is necessary to bolster compliance with all existing laws, and punish the institutions or people who do not comply with these laws.

The construction of this rule of law, and the better enforcement of laws that this involves, is the responsibility not only of the central Government, but is a job for the entire population, in particular at the local level, as almost all the consultation workshops proposals highlighted. Municipalities, community organizations, businesses, religious groups, women's or youth associations, are all stakeholders in the Rule of Law that need to see their impact on policies strengthened. In this regard, the participation of women in politics is one of the priority issues for those consulted. Similarly, young people prioritized civic participation and the social Comptroller; indigenous peoples, whose greatest priority is the respect of their rights, identified indigenous organization and civic participation as priority issues; those with a different sexual orientation gave primacy to the issue of political empowerment and gender identity; and people with disabilities gave priority to communication and civic participation.

2.3. The catalysts for the future

Education, the problems of childhood, adolescence and youth, social violence, particularly domestic violence against women and children, and equality of opportunities, especially relating to employment or source of income, as well as participation in the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies, are themes identified as a priority by all groups that were consulted. These issues appear in the country



vision of all groups, as prerequisites for achieving the world that we want.

With regard to participation, the women and men consulted referred especially to the role that the media should play in accessing quality information and promoting freedom of expression for all sectors, in particular for those living in rural areas, young people, women and the blind and deaf, so as to strengthen the construction of a society that is more cohesive, improving communication between the various sectors, which always included within the proposals media access to ensure the right to be heard, as well as to help to ensure transparency and accountability by those in positions of authority.

To sum up, country visions, thematic priorities and proposed strategies to achieve the country that is desired by the groups consulted, are all initiatives with a common purpose: respect for the culture and rights of all the people who make up the country.

2.4. Various contributions to the common vision

Although, as has been said previously, the various groups consulted proposed a broadly similar vision for the country, it was also the case that each group made its own specific contribution to the global vision, enriching it and ensuring its inclusive character.

Indigenous peoples brought to bear their worldview and their ancient knowledge to define a "new horizon". They envisioned "a country that is harmonious, free, united, self-sufficient, inclusive, multicultural, fair and equitable, that respects and supports natural indigenous peoples". This would be "a country free of hunger and poverty, more democratic, with social security and better political

and economic development for future generations, where people are the priority and all live in peace". In short, in focusing on the specific contributions made by indigenous peoples to the vision of the country, they propose establishing harmony between people and the environment (mother earth) at the very centre of the world that we want; and they propose that culture be a vector of this harmony.

People with disabilities, on the other hand, wish to see "a country that is 100 per cent inclusive, which incorporates and trains people with disabilities, providing equality of opportunities and rights for all", "an El Salvador that has witnessed real changes, with a positive population and quality education". Its specific contribution to the common vision is to place the equality of opportunity and rights as a central pillar of the vision for the country, and propose that inclusive education be harnessed as a driving force behind this approach.

Those with a different sexual orientation, in turn, designed a vision that places emphasis on the quality of life of the population: "an El Salvador that is inclusive, equitable and that provides a democratic quality of life, free from discrimination and violence and full of opportunities with a better future."

The women, who make up more than half of the population, provided clear paradigms for gender equality and the eradication of all forms of violence, and which influenced markedly their vision of the country: "A country that is fair, inclusive, evidencing solidarity and equitable, free of violence against women, be it economic, physical, and psychological in nature, providing sovereignty, jobs, values, equal opportunities and security."



Young people, who historically have not been asked for their vision of the country, even though they constitute 61 per cent of the population, would like to see an "El Salvador that evinces peace, harmony and transparency, free of a sexist culture, discrimination against women and corruption, and providing economic independence, with independent and empowered women, strengthened competitiveness and enhanced social impact, and children educated in equal conditions and happy; in short, a country that is more horizontal in nature, and that that enables and encourages participation."

Territories, in their turn, provided a concrete vision of reality, and in particular an idea of the challenges that exist at the local level: "a country that is more just and more humane, with honest officials, evidencing gender equity, inclusive, egalitarian and democratic, showing respect for people and human rights and the identities of all." They outlined "a country that is authentically democratic and socially peaceful, free of violence, transparent and productive, with legal and food security, culture and better employment conditions for a better life; with better access to services and State financing, with local participation mechanisms in politics and the economy."

In the end, listening to the voices of the people consulted, especially in traditionally excluded populations, enriches the vision of the country that people long to achieve, and increases opportunities for building The Country That We Want.



Part IV. Contributions for a post-2015 development

Based on this vision of the country, and the proposals to achieve it, a launching pad would be in place that would make it possible for the State, civil society and the private sector to work together, with the support of the international community, in order to make it a reality

It is long-term task, based on what has been achieved up until now: goals attained, networks established, dynamics generated, expertise developed and lessons learned; as well as taking into account the challenges that still have to be faced.

This chapter will consider how to unite these existing dynamics and these future prospects expressed by people in a single effort: a global agenda adapted to the realities of the country and implemented also at the local level, an agenda based on the proposals of individuals consulted for the world we want, the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Criteria for the identification, determination of content and achievement of the development agenda points

From the lessons learned in the development agenda that framed the MDGs, the spirit of the Millennium Declaration and of the practical experience garnered in El Salvador, we can identify a number of criteria that must be met when building the next development agenda. These criteria have in common the fact that they are applicable not only to the upcoming development initiatives in the country, but also for regional and global strategies.

Criterion 1. An agenda with issues related to the collective aspirations of the society to be built.

The issues identified in the agenda, even if they arise from different views, and the development strategy for the country, must be authentic and include the voice of poor people living in greater conditions of vulnerability.

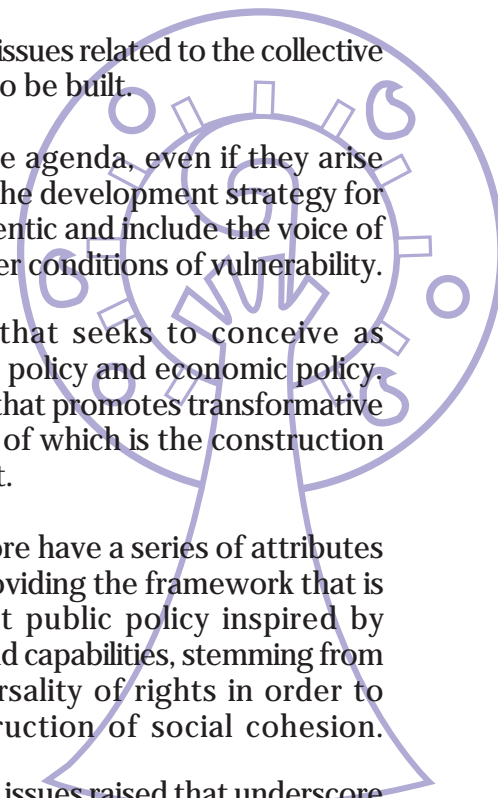
Criterion 2. An agenda that seeks to conceive as inseparable realities social policy and economic policy. In other words, an agenda that promotes transformative public policy, the purpose of which is the construction of equality from the outset.

The agenda should therefore have a series of attributes or principles, including: providing the framework that is conducive to an efficient public policy inspired by expanding opportunities and capabilities, stemming from an ideology of the universality of rights in order to contribute to the construction of social cohesion.

Criterion 3. An agenda with issues raised that underscore a single vision: development, based on a rights focus and for the full use of the capabilities of people.

In other words, the issues must be likely to trigger a series of transformative public policy actions, both social and economic, from a perspective of the life cycle of people, in which actions for approaching the goals are preventive, emphasizing those required during the first stage of the life cycle.

Criterion 4. Cross-cutting application of human rights and gender approaches for the establishment of the development agenda, as well as its tracking system that includes the participation of the population.



This should be operationally translated into approaches that do not focus on bare minimums, but which stress efforts to enhance human opportunities and human capabilities in a progressive manner. In this way, societies can participate in and reflect on the kinds of development strategies that they wish to pursue in a given space of time. In addition, this perspective entails incorporating a monitoring system throughout the life cycle.

Criterion 5. A development agenda predicated on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities between stakeholders in the international community and all countries, i.e., that fits to the realities and needs of each of the countries and regions.

It is essential to create actions and mechanisms that lead to the strengthening of the global partnership for development and the fulfillment of international commitments. Although societies must assume the cost of development, there must be support from the international community, not only in financial terms, but through sharing policies and practices that allow better levels of well-being.

Criterion 6. The classification of development by per capita income must integrate other dimensions and have an alternative and complementary approach to financing for development.

Some countries classified as middle income, such as El Salvador, are subject to a high degree of vulnerability with regard to environmental and geographical considerations, as they are vulnerable to recurrent natural disasters (volcanic risks, earthquakes, hurricanes, droughts, etc.) that cause human losses and generate considerable damage to their economic and social

infrastructure. Such risks also constitute an obstacle to the maintenance of a path towards continued development, requiring specific investments for prevention and reconstruction.

The classification of a middle-income country restricts access to funds for development assistance, since the country's vulnerability depends not only on income, but also reflects levels of inequality in the country. In that sense, it continues to be necessary to count on the support of developed countries and international organizations, especially in the reduction of poverty and inequality gaps, the reduction of volatility in economic growth, improving the provision of public goods, incentivizing development, inter alia.

The constraints that limit development transcend income per capita; we must consider inequality, poverty, investment, saving, productivity, innovation, education, gender and the environment, among others. Therefore, this new approach must incorporate evaluation of structural gaps, which are not reflected in the income indicators for inhabitants, later incorporating them into the cooperation agenda.

1. The issues

From the statements of individuals participating in the consultation, the following issues for the Post-2015 Development Agenda are proposed:

1.1 Decent work and social protection

The population consulted proposed work which in addition to ensuring a living wage would enable them to enjoy a level of stable, decent life and opportunities,



remuneration and equal treatment for all individuals: those who live in rural areas, women, men, young people, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, those with a different sexual orientation, etc.

They propose jobs that respect human rights, with labour security, social protection, better prospects for personal development and integration into society, freedom to express opinions, organization and participation in the decisions that affect their lives, in short: decent work.

What features can we say that the work aspired to by most of the Salvadorans who were consulted should have?

It is to be hoped that the public and private sectors will act in harmony and complement each other in order to create a favourable business climate for increasing investment and generating new projects, particularly for women and youth.

For its part, in order to create jobs, the private sector that was consulted highlights the need to improve support and financing for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, and continue to decrease bureaucratic obstacles.

In several of the groups consulted outside of the metropolitan area of San Salvador, there is the conviction that agriculture can and must be reactivated to create jobs with decent and stable wages, making it possible to value once again the role of rural development in the country.

The main features of work aspired to by the Salvadoran population consulted are as follows:

- a. stable: ensuring steady incomes, not being subject to seasonal changes and that generates peace and tranquility in the worker.
- b. with benefits: access to social insurance and pensions for invalidity, old age or death, and with the right to freedom of association.
- c. fair: that job opportunities respond to efforts in education, training and experience, with equality of opportunity regardless of age, gender, or place of origin.

1.2 Housing and access to water services and sanitation

According to respondents, the home has a special character, since it not only constitutes a primary asset of defense against the rigours of nature, but is also a focus for family use and development, improvement of social standards, health and education, investment and, finally, holds the key to the development of the dignity of individuals.

There are specific elements in the type of housing that the population consulted is keen to achieve: that the land where it will be built is occupier-owned, that materials are long-lasting, of sound quality and safe (ceiling, walls and floor) and that it possesses basic services: electricity, household water and sanitation services.

1.3 Education and training in values

People aspire to have access to an education that is of quality, provided in appropriate establishments and that is suitably equipped.



The teaching profession should be valued and socially recognized, and so it is essential to ensure that those who exercise this profession are people with vocation, giving of themselves, well educated and subject to a continuous learning and with qualities to serve as mentors and guides to students, in an environment free of discrimination, violence, bullying (Footnote 9 Abuse or harassment in the school environment) and sexual harassment, with an education that is non-sexist, intercultural, and involving traditionally excluded people.

At the same time, sex education is a heartfelt demand for the better preparation of adolescents and young people for life, and should be offered to all and be comprehensive in nature.

Consulted indigenous groups recommend that the *náhuatl* and intercultural education be promoted and that the way to teach history is to be more comprehensive and consistent with situations experienced by indigenous peoples.

During the consultation process it was mooted that education should be a mechanism for effective social inclusion, i.e. to give valuable tools in the various environments in which people live, especially in the labour market. Furthermore, it was felt that education should help to bring back values such as solidarity, respect, tolerance and peaceful coexistence as the path to prevent violence and that schools should be inclusive, intercultural institutions, providing all people with equal opportunity to succeed, regardless of differences.

1.4 Preventive and curative health services

The state of health is one of the indicators that best expresses the quality of life of a population. It is no

coincidence that having the opportunity to have a long and healthy life is one of the three options selected for the construction of the Human Development Index.

Individuals involved in the consultation suggested that the health system should show special concern for those who have less, to provide a quality service with warmth, adapted to every need for attention, but that should also be efficient and focused on the prevention of diseases.

These individuals are calling for an infrastructure that is appropriate to the services provided and accessible to persons with disabilities, women and the elderly, with these facilities being well equipped and making available the necessary drugs to combat diseases.

They also propose that healthcare be decentralized and that more resources be allocated to ensure health care in the municipalities, as well as coordination between levels of national and local government, while re-establishing and promoting ancestral health from diet to natural medicine.

1.5 Citizen security and the prevention of violence

The Salvadoran population longs for a country where people can live without fear, in which women have a life free from any kind of violence and in which people can walk and enjoy their leisure safely without anyone threatening them or their lives.

They place at the centre of the agenda the elimination of violence and discrimination against women and empowerment for decision-making in the home or in the public domain, as well as promoting actions that will ensure the economic independence of women.

It is necessary to have in place a judicial system that offers



speedy and effective justice, and to ensure that everyone has access to a justice that is free of corruption. It is also necessary to create an environment in which there is no fear of reporting crime and there exist real punishments for those who break the law and commit crimes. In addition, groups consulted demand a more professional police force, with greater capacity for investigation and greater territorial coverage to deter criminals.

In addition, people are calling for education to be strengthened in regard to values such as solidarity, tolerance, respect for others and equality, among others; that there be an emphasis on respect for rights, solidarity in schools, creating spaces for culture, recreation and sport for youth and, in general, providing more opportunities for self-expression, studying and work.

In synthesis, in order for El Salvador to be safe country, the population consulted considers that progress should at least be made in four areas:

- a. Compliance with laws
- b. Greater police presence
- c. Integration of youth in the education and labour systems
- d. Education in values such as solidarity, respect, human rights and living together.

1.6 Food Security and Nutrition

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 1996), a country is able to fulfill the right to food: *“when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.”*

For the participating sectors, access to land should be facilitated while promoting an agricultural production that is diversified and sustainable, with technologies and environmentally-friendly farming methods in place that are respectful of nature or mother earth.

It is also proposed that mechanisms of access to credit and land be simplified for female and male producers, considering that a high percentage of arable land is left unused, these credits being available especially for women and indigenous peoples, as well as the creation of a guarantee fund, education programmes and guidance for both women and male farmers, and farmers, and support in food marketing.

A point that was also raised was the need to develop strategies to protect food production risks such as floods or droughts.

1.7 The environment and adapting to climate change

El Salvador is one of the countries that faces a significant number of environmental risks due to the combination of a high incidence of geological and hydro-meteorological events and mass movements, thereby increasing its vulnerability. It is also one of the countries that is hardest hit by climate change.

Consequently those participating in the consultation argued the need for the protection of water and with regard to indigenous people; they gave primacy to the putting into practice of a free, prior and well-informed agreement on the part of local populations in the use of watersheds and wetlands. Another aspect related to water is the decontamination of rivers and lakes.



Similarly, those consulted propose the control of the emission of gases and the regulation of the use of toxics in agriculture, as well as the ban on mining. Sustainable development that respects the environment and with a focus on adaptation to climate change should be promoted.

Also discussed is the management of risk as an important element and one that should be promoted at all levels of government, with an inclusive approach in systems of alert and evacuation that take into account differences among older adults, children, persons with disabilities and women. Finally, those consulted consider that steps should be taken to create a culture of caring for the environment and adapting to climate change on the part of the population.

1.8 Connectivity and accessibility

A public transportation system is proposed that fulfills the role of providing mobility and linkages between urban and rural areas that provide access to employment opportunities, education, health and culture, especially for those living in the rural and more remote areas of the poles of development.

The transport system must be efficient and contribute to the functionality of the cities, in order to make them more competitive and improve the quality of life of their inhabitants. In addition, roads are required which allow not only for the circulation of vehicles, but also the connection between the city and the interior of the country, and facilitate the enjoyment of individual rights such as health, education and recreation, while adapting readily to those people with disabilities, with suitable spaces to ensure the safety of pedestrians.

Another matter that should be considered is access to the internet in all areas of the country, as well as an efficient transport and road network, allowing access to knowledge, services and the enjoyment of human rights.

1.9 Migration

Three issues were raised with regard to this concern. The first refers to the need to ensure that more female and male Salvadorans do not leave the country. To this end, steps will be taken to continue to work to guarantee security and to accord dignified living conditions to the population so that they stay in El Salvador. Consequently, society will not disintegrate and valuable human resources will not be lost.

The other aspect relates to the conditions in which migration occurs. It is important to ensure the integrity and the life of those who wish to travel, and consequently it is important to propose intergovernmental actions, with migration being considered a regional or even global issue. Also, temporary work in the countries of destination is considered to be important so as to guarantee a controlled and orderly migration with benefits for countries that require labour, those who can provide this manpower, and those who seek better life options.

The third aspect has to do with the use of remittances to promote social and economic development of families who remain in the country, but we can also see this as an expression of interest by co-nationals to maintain their connection with their country, and efforts should consequently be made to pursue efforts aimed at the inclusion of the population abroad in public policies and decision-making processes within the country.



2. The agenda

This process makes it possible to formulate an agenda of issues for consideration at the global level, while collating the ideas, aspirations and hopes of the Salvadoran population consulted. By the same token, and recovering the process of the Millennium Development Goals that will furthermore have an iconographic identity for each goal, the artist Fernando Llorca has been asked for an iconographic proposal given that he is one of the artists who has had the greatest impact on the graphic identity of El Salvador's art, having been recognized at both national and global levels. This proposal is presented next to each of the issues identified during the consultation.



Food Security and Nutrition



Education and training in values



Decent work and social protection



Housing and access to water services and sanitation



Preventive and curative health services



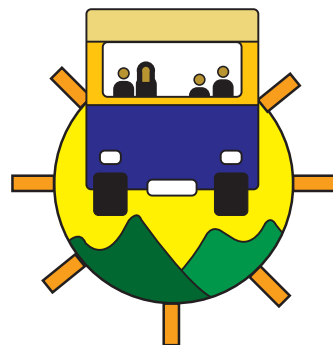
Citizen security and the prevention of violence



Migration



Environment and adapting to climate change



Connectivity and accessibility



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