

Response to Zero Draft of Outcome Document for September Summit on the Post-2015 Agenda

Transforming our World by 2030: A New Agenda for Global Action *International Movement All Together in Dignity - Fourth World*

New York, Dublin -10 June 2015

The International Movement ATD Fourth World welcomes the renewed commitment to leaving no one behind as stressed in the zero draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit in September 2015 which will adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The declaration establishes a level of ambition that all people will need to embrace in order to really transform our world. It embraces dignity and human rights as central components of the fight against poverty. Yet, even within this document ambition falters in the follow-up and review element.

ATD Fourth World highlights herein some areas where the document could better frame the Agenda as one that will reach the poorest. Further, it makes some recommendations for strengthening the follow-up and review mechanism.

Preamble

Although the 9 bullet points proposed by the co-facilitators capture the breadth of the sustainable development goals, two rephrased goals seem to lose some of their transformational essence in this presentation.

Firstly, the SDGs conceptualize poverty as a multidimensional phenomenon. It is important not to regress in this respect. As such, when poverty is mentioned, it should be *in all its dimensions*. For example in the first bullet:

End poverty [**ADD: in all its dimensions**] and hunger

Second, the bullet encapsulating goal 10 from the Open Working Group proposal, uses the word *combat* (an action) instead of *reduce* (an outcome). We propose that the language, which is used throughout the text, reverts back to:

Reduce inequalities within and between countries

Declaration

Para 4: In order to leave no one behind, the international community will need to ensure that targets are met for all economic and social groupings. This principle is central to the Post-2015 agenda and therefore it merits a stronger commitment than “wish to see” as such we propose:

[ADD: We commit to see that] the goals and targets are met for all economic and social groupings.

Para 3, 13 etc.: See the language proposal above regarding poverty **in all its dimensions**

Para 5: Listening to the voices and concerns of the poorest and the vulnerable is a practice championed by the Post-2015 agenda. This is an essential component of this agenda, and will continue to be in its implementation. This sentence must be maintained in the text.

Para 8: It is important to remember the lessons learned from the MDGs. In this regard, it is importantly true that progress has been uneven in the MDG era. However, it is important to be more direct and to stress that the poorest and most vulnerable tend to be excluded from development policies. Below an addition in this regard:
But the progress has been uneven, **[ADD: at times excluding the poorest,]** and some of the Goals remain off-track.

Para 15: This paragraph importantly strengthens the idea of social well-being which could encompass some of the central aspects of poverty like social connectedness and inclusion. Furthermore, the paragraph also stresses dignity which, is always mentioned when people discuss their experiences with poverty. However, there are two important shortcomings: the word ‘basic’ before education and the omission of the word ‘participation’.

...of universal access to **[ADD: free, equitable and quality primary and secondary]**¹ education ...

A just, equitable, tolerant and inclusive world, **[ADD: where everyone can participate]**.

Para 17: Best captures the principle of no one left behind. Specifically in light of ATD Fourth World’s participatory research, it is crucial that states commit to an agenda that

¹ Wording from OWG text

promotes dignity for all people, especially those who are living in poverty and marginalization. We welcome this paragraph.

Para 21: Throughout the text this list is used to bring emphasis to the most vulnerable groups. However, this list excludes people who are living in poverty who may not belong to one of these groups. Furthermore in every country the poorest need particularly attention, so we propose to add **“the poorest in every country”**

Para 22: This paragraph omits income level as one of the social groupings that lead to exclusion from education:

All people irrespective of **[ADD: income]**, gender, race...

Para 24: Social protection is not mentioned once in this declaration. In this regard we propose to include this vital concept in this paragraph:

We will therefore adopt policies which increase productivity and productive employment, **[ADD: social protection,]** financial inclusion...

Para 26: The OWG outcome and Rio +20 speak to participatory human settlement planning. Yet this paragraph on cities and human settlements omits this key aspect: We will work **[ADD: to enhance the participation of urban residents, including the poor² as well as local authorities]** to renew and plan our cities to foster...

Para 27: Is an important reference to climate change and the ongoing processes. It is well-known that the poorest people are the most vulnerable to climate change and as such we propose to add a phrase drawn from the IPCC’s fifth assessment report:

The global nature of climate change, **[ADD: and the fact that people who are socially, economically, culturally, politically, institutionally, or otherwise marginalized are especially vulnerable to climate change and also to some adaptation and mitigation responses]³**, calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions

Para 28: This paragraph tries to capture goal 16. Yet, two important aspects of the goal —and peace and access to justice more broadly— are omitted. The proposals below include these two aspects, namely discrimination and transparency.

...the rule of law and effective, **[ADD: transparent]**, and accountable institutions.

² *The Future We Want* (2012) para 135

³ IPCC WG11 AR5 phase 1 report: *Climate change 2014: Impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability*. (2014) p 6

Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as corruption, **[ADD: discrimination]**, and poor governance, are addressed in the Agenda.

Para 35: highlights the important role of financial institutions in implementation. However, the paragraph does not speak to the importance of aligning IFI policies with sustainable development:

We acknowledge the need for international financial institutions to respect the domestic policy space of all countries, in particular developing countries and least developed countries. **[ADD: Their advice should take into account social costs and be designed to minimize negative impact on the vulnerable segments of society.]**⁴

Para 37: It is important to include people living in poverty, or their communities in paragraphs about engagement of stakeholders. It is quite troubling that the poorest and other vulnerable groups like children are highlighted as groups needing special attention⁵ yet, not in paragraphs that speak to engaging stakeholders⁶. **This drafting presents the poorest people—and other groups like children—as recipients of aid instead of agents of change.**

As the Rio declaration states, sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of major groups and other stakeholders, including local communities⁷:

Governments and public institutions will work closely in this regard with national parliaments, local authorities, **[ADD: local communities]**, international institutions...

Para 39: Although it is important to engage the private sector in the leveraging of data, especially big data, states should not forget the important work being done by civil society in data production and analysis:

We also commit to scaling up substantially public-private **[ADD: and civil society]** cooperation to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including geo-spatial information, in supporting and tracking progress.

⁴ *Monterrey Consensus* (2003) para 56

⁵ 17,18, 21, 22 in the declaration; 3e in the follow-up section,

⁶ Paragraphs 37 in the declaration; 7 in the MOI section; 5, 9 and 14 in the follow-up section,

⁷ *The Future we Want* (2012) para 43

Sustainable Development Goals and Targets

Para 2: The language in this paragraph is an attempt to balance the global ambition of the Post-2015 Agenda and national policy space. The use of the word ‘targets’ in the second sentence makes it sound like countries can pick and choose which targets to implement from the Agenda. To balance:

Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each government **[ADD: implementing the Agenda but guided by its national priorities and circumstances]**

Means of Implementation and the Global Partnership

Para 5: ODA transparency is a key aspect of the means of implementation for the new agenda. More information on ODA counteracts corruption and helps communities ensure they are receiving the funds allocated for their development. ATD Fourth World has been advocating for the expansion of the International Aid Transparency Initiative in this regard. In this paragraph, the introduction of the word “transparent” could support this line of argument:

International public finance remains key and the **[ADD: transparent]** fulfillment of all ODA commitments is essential to complement domestic resources.

Para 7: Again, this paragraph excludes local communities as holders of knowledge and resources:

Successful implementation will also depend on the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of business, civil society, **[ADD: local communities]**, the scientific community, academia, research institutions...

Follow-up and Review

Para 5: This paragraph critically lays out some guidelines for stakeholder engagement in national level reviews. It omits the participation of local communities, and doesn’t stipulate the possibility of multiple national level reports coming from various actors. Finally, the paragraph could benefit from the vast work done by the governments of Peru, Canada, and Korea on Participatory Monitoring⁸. Below is a proposed re-write: Each member state could, at least once every four years, conduct robust and inclusive

⁸ *Participatory Monitoring and Accountability: Critical Enablers for the Successful Implementation of the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals* (2015)

reviews of progress, based on a publicly available government progress report and complemented **[ADD: by reports from]** civil society, academia, local government **[ADD: and communities]**, the UN system, private sector and other actors. **[ADD: Through participatory monitoring]**, National Parliaments can play an important role in review processes as well as other national institutions such as National Sustainable Development Councils and local authorities

Para 12: This paragraph lists the inputs to the global review. It excludes a stakeholder report⁹, which was recommended by the Secretary-General. Also, it ignores the role that civil society can play in producing quality data for the follow-up of the agenda. Finally, in order to incorporate diverse data into the follow up of the agenda, a World Forum for Sustainable Development¹⁰ should be established. This was recommended by the IAEG on the Data Revolution. Below a proposed re-write:

Follow-up and reviews at the HLPF would be informed by **[ADD: a national stakeholder report, and]** the Global Sustainable Development Report, the scope and methodology of which will be agreed as soon as possible. An annual Progress Report will be prepared by the UN Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators, based on data from national statistical systems **[ADD: and other sources. The World Forum for Sustainable Development Data, to be managed by the Statistical Division, will be crucial in leveraging these diverse data.]**

⁹ *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet*(2014) para 149

¹⁰ *A World that Counts: Mobilising the Data Revolution for Sustainable Development* (2014) p. 26