

Beyond2015

Campaigning for a global development framework
after the Millennium Development Goals

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CONCORD a.i.s.b.l

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary General
United Nations, New York, NY
10017, USA

22 July 2011

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

We are writing to you as directors of over 60 civil society organisations (from almost 30 countries) participating in Beyond 2015 (www.beyond2015.org), the largest international campaign aiming to kick-start and accelerate the post-2015 development planning process.

On behalf of our members, and of all those striving to meet the MDGs – the billions of people living in poverty around the world, and those who support them at the level of practice and policy – we congratulate you on your recent election for a second term.

We urge you, Mr. Secretary-General, to encourage the United Nations General Assembly to begin work in 2011 on establishing a process to develop a development agenda for beyond2015, and we offer our support and collaboration on this matter. To this end, we would be particularly grateful if you could indicate to us the lead person in the Office of the Secretary-General with responsibility for the development agenda post 2015, and to ask them to meet with representatives of our campaign in New York to take this agenda forward.

With less than four years to go to the 2015 deadline, no effort should be spared to achieve the MDGs and the human rights commitments underpinning them. At the same time, the imminent deadline underlines the urgency of launching a political discussion on a post-2015 global framework. We are pleased by the fact that the UN Member states mandated you to "make recommendations in (your) annual reports, as appropriate, for further steps to advance the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015" in the September 2010 MDG Summit Outcome document, and look forward to reading the first report.

Beyond 2015 currently brings together more than 150 civil society organisations in 50 countries. The campaign has two key goals:

- 1. The creation of a global overarching cross-thematic framework for development after 2015**
- 2. That the process of developing this framework is participatory, inclusive and responsive to voices of those directly affected by poverty and injustice**

Beyond 2015 is of the view that the UN is the only legitimate body to lead this discussion, and that the General Assembly should take a strong leadership role in these discussions. We enclose Beyond 2015's '**essential must haves**' for the creation of this framework, developed following a global dialogue with our members. Recommendations include:

- a) The UN must agree on a roadmap, including time-specific milestones to develop the framework. This must use the 2013 MDG Summit to define the vision for the post 2015 process, and culminate in a 2015 Summit to adopt a new framework**
- b) The post-2015 debate should be connected to the on-going discussions about sustainable development, aid effectiveness (see the World Development Report 2011) and financing for development**
- c) National governments must have primary ownership of, and accountability for, the framework and its delivery**

- d) **The development of the framework must be transparent, participatory, inclusive and responsive to the voices and expertise of those directly affected by poverty and injustice**
- e) **The framework must be based on existing human rights legislation**

We also suggest that the framework places the local context as the starting point, with interventions being designed to reflect the unique local circumstances of each country.

We welcome the General Assembly's timely and constructive "Development Dialogue", held on 14 June, focusing on "Advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015". We support the recommendation that emerged for a serious, meaningful and truly participatory consultation process on this issue with a wide range of actors, putting people in poverty at its centre. As acknowledged by the Accra Agenda for Action, civil society organisations are independent development actors. We have an integral role in development and an important stake in the post-2015 agenda. Numerous civil society organisations who are involved in the Beyond 2015 campaign, in both the global north and south, are in a position to help deliver on this recommendation. Such organisations are well placed to ensure the inclusion of the knowledge and expertise of people living in poverty, including those most excluded, whom the benefits of the MDGs have yet to reach.

As civil society, we look forward to working with the UN on this important agenda.

Yours sincerely,

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