



Towards Post-2015
development agenda

What future do you want?

PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL JUSTICE – UN UPDATE, APRIL 2014

On April 9, 2014 the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council jointly held a thematic debate on the role of partnerships in implementing the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed that the success of these endeavors would require engaging a range of new partners. Increased public financing, including official

development assistance (ODA), contributions from the United Nations, multilateral development banks and other financing channels would be needed. Success would require significant private financing and philanthropic contributions, as well as expertise and in-kind contributions from business and civil society.

Ban Ki-moon has proposed a Partnership Facility to ensure that the United Nations has the capacity it needed to harness the strengths of its external players. Agreeing on a ambitious post - 2015 development framework without preparing the world body to implement it would marginalize the institution at precisely the moment when it should be leading the charge.

John Ashe, President of the General Assembly, noted that the depth and breath of contagion from the recent financial crisis and the consequent socioeconomic effects clearly demonstrate their interconnectedness and reinforced the need to strengthen the global partnership for sustainable development. It is not through isolated and disconnected actions but through the pooling of efforts, ideas and resources that we can achieve the greater good.

Tony Elumelu, Chairman of Heirs Holdings and Founder of the Tony Elumelu Foundation, said that achieving the Millennium Goals would require tackling unemployment and stimulating job creation, increasing access to electricity and engaging the private sectors as key stakeholders. The process of formulating the MDGs had not taken macroeconomic development into account and lacked an explicit commitment to engaging the private sector as partners. The world must harness political will and resources, combine them with the private sector's compassion and selflessness and multiply that by the drive, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of people in need of help.

Alessandra Cabral dos Santos Nilo, co-founder and Executive Director of GESTOS, an HIV/Aids organization in Brazil, said powerfully, "The planet is not for sale." She noted that about \$30trillion was hidden away in international tax havens. She pointed out that a mere 29, 000 individuals owned 99 per cent of global wealth. There is a need for accountability, recommending a development target equipped with an indicator to monitor civil society engagement. Many partnerships are not transparent. Support was given to imposing taxes on extra-territorial financial transactions by transnational corporations and allocating revenues to sustainable development. The speaker felt that sustainable development could not exist without respect for human rights. That link was missing from the deliberations on the post-2015 framework.



The way forward for gender equality (excerpts)

An editorial by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population

Twenty years after the Cairo population conference, there is still much to achieve for women's empowerment.

In 1994, we found what then seemed like an unlikely answer to dealing with changing population dynamics: women.

The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), held in Cairo in 1994, made news when a number of women groups were able to successfully convince governments of this proposition and shift the debate from population control to women's empowerment. They were successful because they argued that an investment in women's health and education would lead to economic development.

Today fewer women are dying while giving birth, and more women have access to education and jobs. Much of this has been achieved through the interventions of governments and their partners, including international agencies such as the United Nations, global philanthropic foundations and other non-governmental organizations.

But if so much progress has been made, why are so many women still struggling to realize their full human potential? A key reason is the stubborn persistence of poverty and gender inequality. There is not a single nation on earth where women enjoy economic and political power equal to men. But meaningful progress in many nations has empowered a new generation of women who are exercising greater control over their social, economic and reproductive lives. Unfortunately, however, such progress toward gender equality is not universal. In the last two decades, religious and political divisions have grown wider, both between and within nations, with the human rights of and autonomy of women and girls a frequent touchstone of ideological differences. Sadly, women, and especially adolescent girls, have often paid the biggest price in these culture wars.

Today, one in three women worldwide reports having experienced physical and/or sexual abuse. A recent (2013) UN multi-country study on men and violence in Asia found that nearly half of the 10,000 men interviewed reported using physical and/or sexual violence against a female partner. And nearly a quarter of the men interviewed admitted raping a woman or girl.

Also contributing to gender inequality is the indefensible tolerance for child marriage in a number of societies and cultures. In 41 nations, more than 30 per cent of girls marry before 18, and in most cases, these girls will miss opportunities for education and personal growth that would open doors for them in both society and the workforce.

As the new ICPD report makes clear, a nation's development potential is, in many ways, directly linked to the opportunities it offers to its poorest and most marginalized people, especially its women and girls. Nations that stumble on issues of gender equality are more likely to fall behind their neighbors in global development.

The challenge for the next 20 years, then, is clear. Nations committed to economic growth must put outdated prejudices and cultural preconceptions about the role of women behind them and embrace gender equality in both law and custom. In the final analysis, affording equal rights and offering equal opportunities to women is not just the right thing to do, it's also the smart thing to do as the experience of the past two decades has shown.