

# Beyond2015

Campaigning for a global development framework  
after the Millennium Development Goals

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CONCORD a.i.s.b.l

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

18 October, 2011

Dear Mr Secretary-General,

We, directors of 64 civil society organisations (from 33 countries) participating in Beyond 2015, wish to express our profound appreciation for the passionate and balanced reply sent at your request by the Deputy Secretary-General to our letter of 22 July, 2011 which informed you of our desire to play an active part in the post-2015 planning process.

We are delighted that you have publicly indicated your commitment to the UN leading the discussion regarding a post-2015 global agenda, and we look forward to a productive collaboration with you as this work develops.

With just four years remaining until the end of the MDG timeline, there is clearly considerable pressure on post-2015 planning. Colleagues in UNDP and UNMC have encouraged us to make specific suggestions as to what civil society would see as a legitimate UN led process, and we have been reflecting on what this might look like. In order to maximize the chances of reaching a post-2015 framework which is underpinned by agreed international human rights laws and frameworks, and which meets Beyond 2015's "essential must-haves" of leadership, substance, accountability and legitimacy, we would like to suggest some immediate recommendations for the UN. These are fully described in the paper attached, and summarized below.

We would strongly encourage you, in your position as Secretary General, to provide your personal leadership on post-2015 and to establish a high level of ambition and priority around this agenda. It would be particularly helpful if you could allay fears that post-2015 planning will distract from achieving the MDGs, and set out how these efforts can be complementary to each other. We understand that you are due to make a speech in January 2012, and we ask whether this would be a suitable opportunity to lay out your vision for the process, with a roadmap from 2012 to 2013 in detail, and to 2015 in outline.

We welcome your proactive commitment towards an inclusive, open and transparent process with multi-stakeholder participation, and would ask United Nations agencies to ensure that space is created to enable the meaningful participation of people living in poverty (especially those most affected by discrimination and exclusion) in 2012 and 2013, as well as civil society organisations. We suggest that high-level decision-makers who will play a direct role in brokering a global agreement on post-2015 should commit in advance to reflecting seriously on the outputs of this work.

We understand from colleagues in the UN that there are plans to appoint a 'High-level panel of eminent persons', headed by one or two former Heads of State, to act as a focal point for post-2015 planning. Whilst we welcome action to create profile, drive and political momentum around this agenda, we would ask the UN to consider the merits of an Independent Commission. There has been previous experience within civil society that High-Level Panels can be difficult to engage with meaningfully, and that Independent Commissions include a wide variety of expert views and open consultations. We ask the Secretary General to weigh the trade-offs and establish a suitable body as soon as possible.

We hope that a suitable body would have members representing a range of sectors, and be balanced in terms of gender and nationality. We suggest that it should be chaired by a well-known and respected former President of an emerging or developing country who has a history of delivering poverty outcomes. One candidate who meets these criteria is the former President of Brazil, Mr. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, whose government's fight against hunger and poverty in Brazil set a benchmark for other nations. There are no doubt numerous other well suited candidates for such a role.

An Independent Commission or High Level Panel would need support to manage and co-ordinate the post-2015 planning process. We suggest that this could be provided by a Working Group, made up of a range of experts from relevant fields (both from within the UN and outside it).

We recognize that the UN will face many dilemmas and trade-offs as it takes leadership in post-2015 planning. For Beyond 2015, it is particularly important that these are handled openly and that the appointment of key roles in the post-2015 planning process is transparent.

We look forward to continued cooperation with you, and to supporting strong and legitimate UN leadership of the post-2015 agenda.

Yours sincerely,

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International Coordinator  
**Beyond 2015**

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