

Beyond2015



Beyond 2015 and GCAP comments on the set up and Terms of References of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The **Beyond 2015** campaign for a global development framework after the UN Millennium Development Goals (www.beyond2015.org) and **GCAP**, the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (www.whiteband.org), are pleased that the 'High Level Panel of Eminent Persons of the Post-2015 Development Agenda' (HLP or Panel) and its Terms of Reference (ToRs) have been announced.

We are looking forward to working with the panel and to contributing the voices of our participating organizations, the communities and constituencies they represent and civil society at large to its work. With initial information on the timing of decisions and meetings now available, we anticipate receiving further details on the timeline and focus of the panel's discussions and meetings, so that we can ensure meaningful and timely engagement of our constituencies. At the start of this collaborative journey we would like to share our initial views on the HLP and its Terms of Reference:

Composition of the High-Level Panel

Beyond 2015 and GCAP welcome the gender balance and geographic diversity of the panel membership. We appreciate the inclusion of at least two representatives with strong civil society backgrounds, especially of Graça Machel, a founding member of GCAP, who was nominated by Beyond 2015 for appointment to the HLP.

A panel in which government representatives make up around two thirds of the panel raises the concern that civil society has been offered a polite nod rather than an equal partnership. We expect the HLP to make special efforts to consult and collaborate with the range of voices participating in the global debate on post-2015. Current global challenges require a multi-sector response and consideration of the expertise and experience of those living in poverty and working with communities in poverty will be critical.

Beyond 2015 and GCAP are concerned about the **large size of the Panel**. With many members involved, special attention will need to be paid to ensuring that all panel members have adequate opportunity to make considered and informed contributions and that tough decisions are taken in an inclusive, transparent and legitimate way. For example, to avoid a 'shopping list' of recommendations that result in an unworkable framework will mean prioritising issues and making trade-offs, or else the Panel risks losing the opportunity to galvanise political commitment. To face this challenge, we hope to see a strong and synchronized leadership by the three co-chairs, clear task assignments within the team and strong support and coordination of the independent secretariat.

Beyond 2015 and GCAP note that the biographies of the panelists suggest that the only academic discipline represented by their expertise is economics and that there is a general **predisposition towards experts in economics and international aid** on the panel. We would have wished for a better balance of the number of experts from a range of disciplines,

such as human rights and social justice, environment, health, education, agriculture, gender, migration and employment to name but a few.

We would like to see the Panel consciously stepping away from the outdated aid paradigm reflected in the current MDGs, where the world is divided by donor and recipient status and developing countries have to deliver on 7 out of the 8 goals. We urge the HLP to ensure their deliberations reflect new global power dynamics and the important role of new and emerging development actors, including the private sector, in delivering development outcomes in a sustainable environment. We must all recognise that a holistic approach is required to end poverty and that we also need to address underlying factors that keep people in poverty, perpetuate social and economic inequalities between and within countries and contribute to environmental degradation.

Ways of working with stakeholders

Beyond 2015 and GCAP welcome the Panel's commitment to taking into account the outcomes of currently ongoing UNDG-led national, thematic and global consultations and to engage in dialogue with various stakeholders. As part of this, we urge the panel to ensure that the citizen voices expressed as part of the 'World We Want 2015' online platform are considered in the Panel's discussions and reflected in the final recommendations, alongside contributions from civil society at both community and constituency levels.

We are, however, disappointed that the HLP's Terms of Reference fail to explicitly acknowledge the role of **diverse groups of people living in poverty** as critical stakeholders in this debate. We implore the panel to seek out and genuinely take into account the perspectives and priorities of those directly affected by poverty and injustice, especially women.

We reiterate Beyond 2015's recommendations on the ToRs that the panel should commission a major initiative to ensure people living in poverty are engaged in the debate, and to commit in advance to reflecting on its findings. We would also like to see the Panel carry out a scoping exercise to ensure that work undertaken with people living in poverty – for example by the Beyond 2015 participatory research group or as part of the Poverty Hearings and Women's Tribunals organised by GCAP National Coalitions and its Feminist Task Force – feeds into the Panel's deliberations.

The HLP further commits to '**engage and consult widely with relevant constituencies** at national, regional and global level'. Assuming this goes above and beyond the existing UNDG-led consultations, we are keen to understand how the HLP's consultations will complement those being conducted by the UNDG. We request clarity on how the HLP intends to consult directly with stakeholders, the specific objectives of the consultations, and what resources will be provided, so that civil society organizations and networks can prioritize how and where to engage, develop necessary capacity, and map the most effective path for engaging with the post-2015 policy and decision-making processes.

Beyond 2015 and GCAP would be ready to offer assistance to the HLP and its secretariat to facilitate installation of an effective and accessible mechanism to interface with civil society.

Crafting the outcome document

Beyond 2015 and GCAP applaud the notion of building a framework that is 'bold and at the same time practical' and 'ambitious yet achievable'. However, the most sophisticated and delicately crafted post-2015 development framework will go to waste if it is not **implementable on the ground**. There is a real risk that without proper consideration of global power dynamics and the growing role of emerging and developing economies, political consensus may become impossible or lead to a lowest common denominator outcome.

The HLP is well-placed to address these risks with delicately balanced geographic and sectoral representation, but it will remain imperative that the HLP reach out to all parties in the political process, including the intergovernmental Open Working Group on sustainable development goals, to ensure robust, comprehensive and politically feasible post-2015 recommendations.

In addition to the very appropriate list of **source documents** the HLP plans to draw from, Beyond 2015 and GCAP would highly recommend including 'Keeping the Promise', the outcome document of the UN MDG summit in 2010 and the 'Busan Partnership for Effective Development and Cooperation' outcome document of the 2011 High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness into their deliberations.

Regarding the focus and content of the report, much will depend on the senior official leading the independent secretariat. This 'Lead Author of the HLP report' will need to ensure smooth running of operations within the Panel and that the report reflects a balanced picture of different perspectives on international development and sustainability, is not leaning heavily towards economic growth and aid related topics and presents new, innovative and realistic ideas. Beyond 2015 and GCAP would welcome the appointment of a Lead Author with strong technical background in holistic approaches to poverty eradication, sustainable development, gender equality and human rights.

Thematic priorities

Beyond 2015 and GCAP are surprised and disappointed that the ToRs do not include a single reference to **human rights**. As outlined in Beyond 2015's Essential-Must-Haves on Substance, we believe that the future development framework must be based explicitly aligned with international human rights laws and standards and urge the panel to put human rights at the centre of their deliberations, in line with both the UN Millennium Declaration and the UN Task Team report recommending human rights, sustainability and equality as core values.

We applaud the Secretary-General's statement that he wishes to see recommendations that include **shared responsibilities for all countries**. Although this is not reflected explicitly in the HLP's ToRs, we believe it is crucial that the HLP's recommendations set out responsibilities for all countries to contribute to ending poverty and achieving sustainable development for all. Every country should deliver against the new set of global goals and contextualized targets, but not necessarily all in the same way.

Beyond2015 and GCAP welcome the link with the intergovernmental Open Working Group on **sustainable development** goals to co-create a single set of goals succeeding the MDGs

and the HLP plans to take the reports of the Global Sustainability Panel and the Global Sustainable Network Initiative into consideration. However, we are concerned that the HLP ToRs call for recommendations on each of the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic growth, social equality and environmental sustainability) but not explicitly on sustainable development as a whole. This risks losing the benefits of a holistic, integrated approach or that one dimension of sustainable development dominates in the final recommendations.

Beyond 2015 and GCAP would hope that the HLP will, in collaboration with the intergovernmental Open Working Group, flesh out how sustainable development should and could work in practice. We would like to see guidance on how environmental sustainability and poverty eradication can be truly integrated in a global development framework that effects actual change for poor and marginalized people on the ground.

We also welcome the HLP plans to set out key principles to **reshape global partnership**. One lesson learnt from the MDGs is the need to better deliver **equity and equality**, within but also between countries. To this end, the HLP report should not only recognise new development challenges but explore broader measures of progress beyond aggregate goals and GDP (a UN programme of work was launched at Rio+20 on this topic), various concepts related to human wellbeing and others people-centred development approaches. Considering the current economic crises, we need a clear understanding and re-thinking of the global policies on growth and globalization models in order to create the world we all want.

The HLP also endeavours to strengthen **accountability**. Beyond 2015's Essential Must-Haves on Accountability outline that the framework must clearly lay out enforceable accountability mechanisms, including mutual accountability between governments and donors, that enable citizens to hold their governments to account during all steps of the process. The framework must also include monitoring mechanisms with measures to disaggregate data so that impact on marginalised groups can be properly addressed. National processes must, in the spirit of democratic ownership, involve meaningful consultation and scrutiny by parliament and civil society.

Beyond 2015 and GCAP stand ready to engage with the HLP on this important and complex debate and to help ensure that all people who live in poverty, but especially those who are the most vulnerable, most marginalised and hardest to reach, can benefit from the next global development framework. We firmly believe that this is a momentous task that can bring lasting change for present and future generations.

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CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation
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Beyond 2015

The Beyond 2015 campaign unites more than 380 participating organizations from over 80 countries behind one vision:

- That a global overarching cross-thematic framework succeeds the Millennium Development Goals, reflecting Beyond 2015's policy positions.
- 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 led by a global Executive Committee comprising six organizations from the 'Global South' and six organizations from the 'Global North' and coordinates mobilization, engagement, outreach and lobbying through regional and national hubs and thematic working groups such as the Children and Youth Working group, UN Working Group and the Participatory Research Group.

Beyond 2015 published Essential-Must-Haves on Leadership, Legitimacy, Accountability and Substance of the post-2015 framework and a position paper on SDG/post-MDG relations on the occasion of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development 'Rio+20'.

Beyond 2015 supports participating organizations to engage in national post-2015 consultations using a toolkit produced by Beyond 2015 with GCAP and UNMC and will provide Beyond 2015 position statements to each of the UN thematic consultation topics. Beyond 2015 held several workshops and side events at UN and CSO events, including the UNGA, Rio+20, World Bank meetings, the World Social Forum and last year's Civicus World Assembly.

Beyond 2015 has a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work closely with GCAP for joint coordination support for civil society participation in the post 2015 process.

The Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)

GCAP is the world's largest Southern-led civil society alliance calling for an end to poverty and inequality, GCAP consists of National Civil Society Coalitions and Constituency Groups (gender, youth, socially excluded) in more than 80 countries, over 400 partner organisations and networks and constituency groups convening women, youth, socially excluded, workers and other key groups.

In partnership with the UN Millennium Campaign, GCAP has mobilised million of people around the world to 'meet and exceed' the millennium development goals, in 2009 over 2.5% of the World's population from 135 countries participated in the 'Stand up: Take Action' campaign mobilizing citizens to call on their leaders to 'End Poverty Now'.

The 'World We Want' platform first emerged in 2010 following a campaign for the 'Zambia We Want' developed by a GCAP national coalition and has grown as a broad platform supported by GCAP, Beyond 2015, CIVICUS and others for citizens to engage online and offline in post 2015 discussions.

GCAP National Coalitions and Constituency groups played a key role through shadow reporting, lobbying and citizen monitoring to national level implementation of the Millennium Development Goals.

In 2005, GCAP led a major effort in partnership with INGOs, Live8 and Make Poverty History to address the injustice of global poverty and accelerate actions by the G8 to meet the MDGs.

Since 2007 GCAP and the Feminist Task Force has held poverty hearings, women's tribunals and climate poverty hearings in more than 35 countries.

GCAP has a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work closely with Beyond 2015 for joint coordination support for civil society participation in the post 2015 process.