

NGO Major Group Health Cluster Talking Points - Final for OWG 4

17 June 2013

- Achieving the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health is a **basic human right**.
- **Equity, human rights, and sustainability must be at the heart of the future development agenda.** Good health cannot occur in the absence of a framework that reflects these core values.
- **Health is as “a precondition for, an outcome of, and indicator of all three dimensions of sustainable development,”[1]** and must be central to the discussions of the OWG, the proposed sustainable development goals, and the overall post-2015 development framework.
- **An overarching, universal health goal that goes beyond disease-specific, vertical approaches to health** will enable governments to address pressing health challenges according to national priorities and allocate resources for health as appropriate.
- **SDGs, targets and indicators should be forward looking**, based on projected changes in population size, location, and age structures, all of which influence demand for and supply of key resources and services, including health services. **Health-sensitive indicators across all sustainable development dimensions will help drive and measure progress and mitigate any unintended adverse health consequences of development policies.**
- **Momentum on achieving the health-related MDGs must not be lost.** SDG targets should accelerate progress on the health-related MDGs, and enable the achievement of universal health coverage and access to the continuum of health services, including universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including family planning. The full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development should also be accelerated.
- **Urgent health and sustainable development challenges, including non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs),** must be equally accounted for in the work of the OWG, proposed SDGs, and post-2015 framework. Attention must be paid to reducing exposure to the main NCD risk factors- tobacco, unhealthy diets, harmful use of alcohol, and physical inactivity.
- **Many sustainable development priorities are directly linked to health.** Population growth rates, migration, urbanization, increased population densities and unhealthy conditions in urban slums affect the spread of disease, including TB, malaria and HIV/AIDS.
- **Rapid changes in global populations- an increasingly ageing society in some countries and a large youth and growing population in others – must be accounted for** in the SDG framework and in designing the social protection mechanisms that will facilitate overall sustainable human development.

- **Data for indicators must be disaggregated** by gender, age, location (including rural/urban), people living with disabilities, educational background and economic quintile, and relevant social groups, in order to ensure a framework that reaches the poorest and most vulnerable populations.
 - **Intellectual property and technology transfer are important health issues.** Health equity in modern medicine is impossible without fair access to essential and quality-assured medicines and technologies. The current incentive structures in pharmaceutical research and development do not encourage innovation to address the needs of low and middle income countries.
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[1] The Future We Want, para 138