

UN TASK TEAM REPORT ON POST-2015

'Realizing the Future We Want'

The UN Secretary-General set up the United Nations Task Team (UNTT) on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to provide necessary input on developing a framework for when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) expire in 2015. The UNTT mandate included an assessment on the on-going efforts within the UN system and an assessment of initiatives taken by external stakeholders such as civil society, academia and the private sector. It was also tasked to develop a vision and road map for the post-2015 agenda. This report, *Realizing the Future We Want*, was presented to the UN Secretary General in July 2012 and provides the foundations for the UN High Level Panel of Eminent Persons assessment on the post-2015 Framework. The highlights of the report suggest that the post-2015 development agenda will have a new framework that will incorporate many emerging issues, including non-communicable diseases (NCDs). Below is a summary of key points.

UN Task Team Report recommends:

- A vision for the future that rests on the core values of human rights, equality, and sustainability
- The post-2015 development framework would have four key dimensions. Three of the four reflect the pillars of sustainable development:
 - Inclusive social development
 - Inclusive economic development
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Peace and Security
- Health would sit under 'inclusive social development' dimension, with an overall focus on decreasing morbidity/mortality. NCDs are identified as one of a number of priorities that would support the overall focus of decreasing morbidity/mortality.
- Core set of 'development enablers' are identified as a guide to the policy coherence, including sustainable food and nutrition security; universal access to quality health care; coherent macroeconomic and development policies supportive of inclusive and green growth.
- The goals must be holistic and global
- Need a broad inclusive consultation process to define the goals and targets within the post-2015 agenda

Lessons for the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda

- The format features of concrete goals, targets and indicators are widely considered a strength of the MDG framework that should be retained in the future development framework.
- One of the successes of the MDGs was a focus on the ends and this focus should continue in the post-2015 framework. However the post-2015 process must not lose the opportunity to address the 'means.' Post-2015 framework could include some general guidelines for policy orientation and coherence.
- –An approach of one-size fits all should be avoided. Flexibility is needed to tailor targets to regional, national and subnational conditions and priorities.
- The report identified some new emerging challenges and recognised that inequalities continue to exist. New challenges included shifting demographics, growing environmental concerns, and

the increase of insecurity due to violence and conflict, governance issues. NCDs are recognised as one of the emerging challenges to development.

Vision: the future we want for all

- The Report presents a vision of “the future we want for all” for the post-2015 UN development agenda as one that seeks to achieve inclusive people-centred, sustainable global development. Given the identified challenges it calls for transformative change in existing production and consumption processes, management of natural resources and mechanisms of governance.
- It reaffirms the values and principles in the Millennium Declaration and its seven key objectives as a solid foundation for addressing development challenges .
- The proposed framework is built around the three fundamental principles of the vision and four dimensions, as well as four broad areas of “enablers” that provide guidance on the means for achieving the goals.
- Three fundamental principles provide the underlying elements necessary to address the global trends and challenges:
 - Human Rights which are based on certain fundamentals values such as equality and non-discrimination, peace and security, free from fear and want, respect for fundamental principles and rights at work and to food, social and cultural dignity, solidarity, tolerance, shared responsibility, accountable and democratic governance, and sustainable development.
 - Equality which is essential to a vision of inclusive, sustainable development. The highest priority to addressing inequalities would be the situation of women and youth and that of the most deprived and impoverished.
 - Sustainability represents the fundamental principle for all aspects of development and for all societies. Its focus would be on how to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions and achieve more equitable and sustainable management and governance of natural resources whole promoting inclusive economic and human development. It would be to ensure a future world fit for children.
- Four core dimensions are under which the objectives of the existing MDGs could be consolidated. There are strong synergies across the four:
 - Inclusive social development:
Ensuring people’s rights to health education including through universal access to quality health and education services. Priorities identified for social development are:
 - Preventive, curative and promotional health services with emphasis on maternal, new-born, child survival
 - Reproductive health series
 - Access to essential medicines
 - Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and infectious diseases
 - Safe water
 - HIV/Aids and Malaria need to be integrated into these priorities
 - Quality service delivery and ensuring universal coverage that is affordable to the most deprived groups
 - Guarantee food and nutrition security

Access to sufficient nutritious food and promotion of healthy lifestyles and universal access to preventive health services are identified as essential to reduce the high incidence of NCDs in both developed and developing countries

- Inclusive economic development
- Environmental sustainability
- Peace and Security

Shaping the Global Development Agenda

- The agenda must avoid overloading, being too prescriptive or too vague, or being donor-centric.
- Partnerships need to include North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation
- A longer time horizon is proposed, from 2015 to between 2030-2050, with intermediate targets.
- Targets should take into account population dynamics and different demographic structures

Proposed Road map

- A limited set of universal goals, that are ambitious yet feasible, measurable and with far-reaching and long-term positive implications for development. The objectives of the existing MDGs could be consolidated under the four proposed dimensions
- One size should not fit all. Global targets must be tailored and adapted to national and regional contexts and initial conditions
- Guidance on general principles and key practices for rights-based, equitable and sustainable development would provide overall guidance, and used to define development “enablers” to provide further guidance on the means for achieving the goals

Proposed Road map

- An open inclusive and transparent consultation process is recommended, to take stock and encourage contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, convened by the UN.
- The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) has initiated the process by supporting 50 national consultations in developing countries, convening 9 global thematic consultations and stimulating and supporting citizen and stakeholder engagement through an interactive web portal.
- The UNDG thematic and national consultations of UNDG can contribute to the intergovernmental process.
- The Realising the Future we Want report will feed into the UN Eminent Persons Panel organised by the UN Secretary General to provide recommendations on possible components of post-2015 UN development agenda. The Eminent Persons Panel will report by the first quarter of 2013.
- Other major intergovernmental processes that will help identify for Member States and other stakeholders key priorities for post-2015 include:
 - High-Level Meeting on Rule of Law
 - 2013 High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development

- The intergovernmental process for the preparation for sustainable development goals consistent with post-2015 development agenda provides an opportunity reach consensus on a unified framework.
- The UN General Assembly will provide overall guidance and identify the parameters for the 2013 special event, which will both review the MDGs and discuss the post-2015 development agenda. The UNGA will also agree on the modalities for a 2014/2015 UN Summit on development
- The UN special event in 2013 should be convened with multi-stakeholder participation and from the results of this event, a more focused discussion could be launched on the specific format and content of the new development agenda.
- In addition to work on targets, the development of indicators for agreed targets could be tasked to an inter-agency and expert group on indicators.