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The ITUC welcomes the initiative of the UN system and the inclusion of global civil society to work on the new UN development framework, which will replace the Millennium Development Goals when they expire in 2015. Even though the MDG framework has many shortcomings in its approach, structure, content and – as proven over the years – effectiveness, trade unions believe a common global development framework, supported through the UN system, can play an important role in mobilizing and coordinating world-wide efforts to advance human development. The ITUC and its affiliated organisations around the world are committed to ensure a meaningful and representative trade union contribution to the post-2015 process.

Key issues that need to be addressed

- **Human Rights**

The new development framework must be anchored in universal human rights and ensure that all development efforts contribute to realizing human rights, including social and economic rights for all.

- **Gender equality**

The issue of gender equality, especially in the area of employment and social protection, must be adequately addressed – more than the Millennium Development Goals.

- **Environmental sustainability**

The new development framework should draw from the various UN processes, including discussions of the UNCSO 'Rio+20' and ensure a comprehensive approach that would address the global environmental challenges and support a Just Transition to a more sustainable economy.

- **Decent Work**

The new framework should recognize Decent Work, including employment creation and labour rights, as a key component of advancing human development and contribute to the implementation of the ILO Decent Work Agenda. The importance of social dialogue and social partners as actors in development should be recognized.

- **Social protection**

Anchored in human rights, the new framework should also recognize the Right to Social Protection and contribute to the implementation of a universal Social Protection Floor.

- **Income inequalities**

The new framework should not only address the problem of poverty, but also of the growing income inequality. The Decent Work Agenda and Social Protection Floor can contribute to the reduction of income inequality, especially in middle income countries. To address inequality, the new framework needs to confront all forms of discrimination, especially in the area of employment.

Key characteristics of the framework

- **Goals for all**

Unlike the MDGs, the goals and commitments embedded in the new framework should be goals and commitments for all countries, not only the developing countries. The new framework should take into account the changing geopolitical context and should address intra- and inter-country differences across and between countries of the global north and global south. At the same time, the new framework should not be used as a new form of conditionality.

- **Strong, actionable commitments, clear time frame and accountability framework**

Drawing from the experience of the MDGs, the post-2015 framework should contain strong, actionable commitments, accompanied by a clear time frame, monitoring system and accountability mechanism, based on the principles of transparency and democratic ownership.

- **Democratic ownership**

Participation of civil society in the policy dialogue on development at national, regional and international level as well as the recognition of civil society organisations as development actors in their own right are essential dimensions of democratic ownership.

Key characteristics of the process leading to the post-2015 framework

- **Transparent**

The process leading to the creation of the framework needs to be fully transparent and ensure full and easy access to all information necessary for an effective participation of all stakeholders in the consultation process.

- **Legitimate**

The new global development framework will only be legitimate if developed under the UN system, with full ownership of all governments and in an inclusive and participatory process, effectively involving also the wide civil society.

- **Inclusive and participatory**

The process should include an effective and meaningful consultation process in all regions of the world with a wide group of stakeholders, incl. workers and trade unions, women, youth, local authorities, non-governmental organisations etc. In the consultations with civil society, an actor-based approach should be taken to address the diversity of actors in this sector.

- **South-led**

The process should not be driven by the industrialised countries. The steering role should be taken by a group of leaders with a strong representation of the economically less developed countries.

- **Efficient and effective**

With only 3 years left until the expiration of MDGs, the process needs to be properly designed and managed, in order to deliver in time and in quality.

Addressing the current debates

- **Sustainable Development Goals**

If well framed, the SDGs can be a useful tool in advancing sustainable development and delivering on the Rio+20 commitments. ITUC supports the integration of the SDGs in the post-2015 framework. Having two parallel frameworks could weaken the political momentum and effectiveness of both processes. The new framework should be human rights-based and focused on human development rather than a narrow, environmental understanding of sustainable development, fully including social, environmental and economic aspects.

- **Private sector and economic growth**

The current tendencies in development cooperation raise fears that a strongly economic growth and private sector-oriented perspective on development will dominate the new post-2015 UN development framework. Much of the economic growth seen over the last years was a jobless growth that deepened the income inequalities rather than bridging them and contributing to poverty reduction. While private sector can definitely contribute to advancing human development by creating productive and decent jobs, neither private sector nor economic growth as such should be in the focus of the new development framework.

ITUC positions on the issues of development cooperation and sustainable development

- ➔ ITUC campaign on Rio+20: www.ituc-csi.org/rio-20
- ➔ Trade Union Development Cooperation Network: www.ituc-csi.org/development-cooperation

Questions, comments, reactions? Contact us!

ITUC Development Cooperation & Education: dce@ituc-csi.org, +32 (0)2 2240209
Kasia Szeniawska, ITUC TUDCN: kasia.szeniawska@ituc-csi.org, + 32 (0) 2 2240307