

**KEPA Submission to the EC Public Consultation “Towards a post-2015 development framework”  
14.09.2012**

KEPA is the umbrella organisation for Finnish civil society organisations who work with development cooperation or are otherwise interested in global affairs. At the moment KEPA has roughly 300 member organisations, ranging from small voluntary-based organisations to major national organisations.

A. THE MDGs: benefits and limitations

1. *To what extent has the MDG framework influenced policies in the country/ies or sectors you work in/with?*
  - Eradication of poverty has been the main objective of Finland’s development policy in government’s programmes and specific development policy programmes since the year 2000. In addition, references to MDGs have also been exclusively made in these programmes and development activity plans.
  - MDG framework and underperformance of achieving its goals, including the commitment to ODA have been key arguments for the increase of ODA in Finland’s budget planning and political debate related to financing development cooperation.
  - On MDG 8, Finland has made progress on the overall goal of building a new Global Partnership for development through active participation in the development effectiveness agenda. Many of the principles of the development effectiveness agreements were incorporated into Finland's latest Development Policy Programme (2011). However, the Finland's implementation of the Paris, Accra and Busan commitments hasn't been sufficient. On target 8B Finland has made some progress by focusing on LDCs.
  - On a global level the MDG framework has:
    - led (to an extent) to more systematic and well-planned actions at country level and given a voice to the poor and marginalized of the communities;
    - enhanced transparency through progress reporting;
    - given development-related debate more room in public debate
2. *To what extent has the MDG framework been beneficial for the poor in the country/ies or sectors in/with which you work?*
  - On global level, progress on poverty elimination has been achieved. However, the progress has not been sufficient neither equally distributed. For example concentrating on LICs ignores the fact that a majority of the world's poorest live in MICs.
  - References to the MDG framework and its objectives including the progress reports have helped mobilising public support for global solidarity and the increase of ODA towards the government's 0,7 % commitments.
3. *What features and elements of the MDG framework have been particularly valuable in the fight against poverty?*
  - Concrete, measurable goals and targets.
  - Public support for and awareness of the development agenda and the efforts of the international community made to eradicate poverty have increased due to improved communication with the certain characteristics of the MDG frameworks: concrete targets, indicators, progress reports.

4. *What features and elements of the MDG framework have been problematic, in your view?*
  - The somewhat narrow approach of only a few goals and targets is both an advantage and a challenge: development is a wider challenge than addressing some of the basic needs.
  - The absence of a human rights-based approach.
  - Unbalanced division of labour and responsibilities between developed (donor/provider) and developing (recipient/partner) countries.
  - The lack of recognition or understanding of the importance of efforts and actors contributing to enabling environment for sustainable development; i.e., involvement of CSOs as equal partners, little guidance or control over private sector activities and influence.
  - The emphasis on aggregate measuring: some countries may have big inequalities but still be on track, or vice versa some countries may have achieved a lot but still miss the targets.
5. *In your view, what are the main gaps, if any, in the MDG framework?*
  - The MDG framework doesn't include any paths to issues such as global governance – a feature that provides an excuse for the lack of political leadership. For this reason the MDG framework has also remained unpolitical to a large extent; perhaps something the governments in the North and South have welcome?
  - The unbalance of division of responsibilities and labour between developed and developing countries have also led into a restricted view on the whole process of development, fair distribution of wealth and realisation of human rights for all. Much hangs also in the balance on how people in rich countries are able to change the existing and unsustainable consumption patterns.
  - To ensure appropriate accountability, the monitoring and follow-up mechanisms should be stronger.
  - The future framework and its planning must be conducted in a participatory, inclusive manner.

## B. FEASIBILITY OF A FUTURE FRAMEWORK

6. *In your view, in what way, if at all, could a future framework have an impact at global level in terms of global governance, consensus building, cooperation, etc.?*
  - A balanced, detailed division of labour and responsibilities of countries and actors between the South and North can strengthen mutual solidarity and trust that in turn help bringing new and problem-solving will and dynamics in the political/consultative processes.
  - Despite of all efforts it is, unfortunately, most unlikely that the MDG targets of the new framework will not be achieved. For this reason the evidence, reports and case stories about real life situations collected through the new MDG framework are needed to initiate and drive changes to existing governance structures.
7. *To what extent is a global development framework approach necessary or useful to improve accountability with regard to poverty reduction policies in developing countries?*
  - A global and UN-based framework gives credibility and a "permission" to conduct peer reviews and systematic monitoring.
  - Some, if all, elements of the new Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation must be incorporated within the MDG framework. For example, implementing the principle of democratic ownership obliges governments to be accountable to their own citizens instead of donor countries or international development organisations. This in turn creates true ownership over development efforts and ensures the right paths are taken.
8. *What could be the advantages and disadvantages of a global development framework for your organisation/sector, including how you work effectively with your partners?*
  - A global MDG framework can act as a global, wider context and thus help focusing the work.
  - A global programme should help different actors to analyse and coordinate their development efforts

in order to avoid duplication etc.

- It is challenging to identify the fingerprints of the achievements and efforts of an individual government or organisation in a global programme.

### C. THE POTENTIAL SCOPE OF A FUTURE AGENDA

9. *In your view, what should be the primary purpose of a future framework?*

- To create a just and sustainable world in which every human being can realise their rights and live free from poverty.
- To provide a global masterplan – binding commitments and an implementation plus monitoring plan - for eradication of poverty, inequality and realisation of human rights.
- The future framework also needs to address the unfinished business of the current commitments.

10. *In your view, should its scope be global, relevant for all countries?*

- Yes, the scope must be global in order to ensure the shift to a new development paradigm: sustainable development and future requires the efforts by all countries and nations.

11. *To what extent should a future framework focus on the poorest and most fragile countries, or also address development objectives relevant in other countries?*

- A balance between these two options must be ensured; i.e. the poorest countries must be given more emphasis in the new framework in order to avoid a “donor-darling” phenomenon and lay foundation for progress, even slow, in these countries for future. However, the international community can’t turn its back on those middle income countries such as China and India, where there are hundreds of millions people living in an extreme poverty. Both groups; i.e. the poorest and middle-income countries with large poor populations require different ways of assistance. Most importantly, the focus must be on the poorest and marginalized people.

12. *How could a new development agenda involve new actors, including the private sector and emerging donors?*

- *The private sector must be integrated into the development agenda as a responsible actor that also makes and holds its commitments, abide with the rules and instructions to ensure sustainable development. The private sector needs to be held accountable in the international, regional and national fora.*
- Regarding the group of emerging donors, the policy of common and differentiated responsibilities must apply. However, the emerging donors must accept a roadmap which gradually integrates them to the jointly agreed development agenda, which foremost needs to be rights-based. Overtime, no exceptions for instance with complying with the Paris, Accra and Busan commitments or international human rights agreements must be allowed.

13. *How could a future framework support improved policy coherence for development (PCD), at global, EU and country levels?*

- Policy coherence is fundamental to the success of the future framework, especially given the shifting nature of poverty, the links between and impact of all policy areas on the achievement of development objective and the decline in ODA.
- A global MDG framework provides a platform and room enough to accommodate all key policy sectors that have impact on development efforts.
- PCD indicators are needed for reporting & monitoring the level of coherence.

14. *How could a new framework improve development financing?*

- The new framework must include binding commitments over development financing.
- By building upon the existing agenda: the Monterrey Consensus of Financing for Development, the

subsequent Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the very recent Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

- By keeping transparency and accountability at its core. For example transparent reporting provides the general public a way to push their governments towards achieving the commitments on development financing. Transparency and awareness raising is also important in regard of public support to development efforts.

#### D. THE POTENTIAL SHAPE OF A FUTURE AGENDA

15. *What do you consider to be the “top 3” most important features or elements which should be included in or ensured by any future development agenda?*

i) Yes 1: Human rights-based approach must be the basis of the new framework. This means that the international community will not set goals that apply only to half or smaller fractions of populations. All human beings are entitled to all human rights and dignity.

ii) Yes 2: Clear and binding rules must be established for the private sector in developing countries and this especially for international corporations. The private sector must not be allowed to a free passenger benefitting from the efforts made by other actors when, in worst cases, the private sector activities may even jeopardise these efforts.

iii) Yes 3a: All donor countries must play along the same rules in order to stop the race to the bottom.

iii) Yes 3b: Coherence of other policy sectors with the objectives of the development policy objectives and its ultimate goal of the eradication of poverty and bashing out of inequalities.

16. *What do you consider to be the “top 3” features or elements which must be avoided in any future development agenda?*

i) No 1: unbalanced division of labour and responsibilities between developed and developing countries (MDG 1-7 for developing countries and MDG 8 for developed countries is a no-go). This is utterly important to reinforce the trust of developing countries to continue joint efforts with developed countries for achieving common goals.

ii) No 2: Keeping the development concept and paradigma of the year 2000 intact. The 2015-frameworks must be based on the concept that goes beyond development cooperation and aid.

iii) No 3: over-reliance on private sector being the main actor and contributor to sustainable development. There are other important players including CSOs. In addition, governments must not be allowed to step back to adopt a sort of stimulus-giving and initiator’s role. This is even more important in the South as a great deal of efforts must be made to support the strengthening of strong national institutions and public offices.

17. *Should it be based on goals, targets and indicators? If any, should goals have an outcome or sector focus. Please give reasons for your answer?*

- Goals with targets and indicators and with the focus on outcomes for the following reasons:
  - a) it is worth while to continue using the advantage of one of the existing MDG framework; namely targets and indicators at global level. However, much attention must be paid into developing such indicators that help measuring and monitoring the progress in quality terms.
  - b) focus on outcomes instead of sectors give the required flexibility to take different country contexts into account: emphasis on and investments in different sectors may variate from one country to another.

18. *How should implementation of the new framework be resourced?*

- ODA and its increase by the donor community.
- Mobilisation of resources in developing countries through changes in the global governance in economics: international companies paying due taxes in a country where its commercial turnover has been produced and closing of tax havens.
- Further develop international banking services which accommodate more effectively immigrants’ money transfers to developing counties.

- New innovative mechanisms generating funds for development; e.g flight-tax, introduction of international or regional taxes such as the finance transaction tax etc.

## YOU AND YOUR ORGANISATION

- i. Are you or your organisation preparing a position on the post-2015 development agenda?
  - Yes.
  
- ii. Are you working with specific partners on it?
  - CSO-initiated and composed “Beyond-2015” process (The World We Want) with the leadership and coordination of CIVICUS, Beyond-2015 group and GCAP.
  - Finnish development NGOs and their other national platforms (Kehys, UN-association).
  - the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.
  - the Social Watch network.
  - CONCORD, the umbrella organisation for development NGOs in Europe.
  - the international forum of national platforms IFP.
  - Kefa’s partner organisations in Mozambique, Tanzania, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand.