

Bali Declaration by Parliamentarians and Civil Society on the MDG Acceleration and the Post 2015 Development Agenda

65 members of parliament/ legislature and 44 civil society leaders from 25 countries from Asia and the Pacific hereby adopt this Declaration, in presence of 10 parliamentarians from Africa and the United Kingdom as solidarity delegations, 4 civil society representatives from other regions and 58 representatives of development partner organizations.

Preamble

1. We recognise that parliaments, parliamentarians and civil society organizations (CSOs) have been instrumental in promoting human development, democracy and good governance and sustainability by working closely with the executive branch of the governments, and thus have contributed toward progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the region. With less than three years left before the target year of the MDGs, parliamentarians and CSOs continue to play vital roles in accelerating progress towards the achievement of the MDGs in the region, by particularly pushing for the provision of quality public services, social protection, and access to justice.
2. We recognise that elected representatives at all levels through their legislative, oversight, budget approval and representation duties are key stakeholders in accelerating progress in achieving the MDGs, particularly by holding states accountable and ensuring that the poorest and the most marginalised and vulnerable in society will be at the centre of the post-2015 development agenda.
3. We further recognise that CSOs have an important role for accelerated achievement of the MDGs and promoting an accessible and inclusive post-2015 development agenda, as key groups for accountability monitoring and by facilitating interface between the people and decision makers.
4. We emphasise that MDG acceleration efforts in the remaining three years as well as formulation of a global development agenda must be firmly based on critical lessons learned from the experience of the MDGs and other international development agendas including the ICPD+20, Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) +20 and CEDAW compliance review, among others.
5. We emphasise that the following four principles: (i) Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance; (ii) Equality and Non-Discrimination; (iii) Sustainable Development; and (iv) System-Wide Approach to Quality Public Service Delivery must underpin the post 2015 development agenda, with gender equality and women's empowerment as a cross-cutting principle central to all these four.

Key Recommendations for the Post 2015 Development Framework

6. **Human rights, democracy and good governance:** We urge that the post-2015 agenda, its implementation mechanisms, targets and indicators will be fully aligned with international human rights laws, standards and principles. We will continue to promote accessible, inclusive and participatory governance and accountability mechanisms from global to local levels and pledge to increase human rights protection, including through adequate investments for the enjoyment of all rights.
 - 6.1 We emphasise that the post-2015 development framework must be equipped with concrete time-bound mechanisms for measuring commitments and holding duty-bearers accountable, in order to ensure that every individual enjoys the right to live with dignity and with full enjoyment of human rights. Effective accountability and transparency mechanisms should be established at all levels including global and regional institutions, multilateral and bilateral agencies, national and sub-national governments, and all state and non-state actors including the private sector and public-private partnerships. Accountability for sustainable development, decent work and human rights should be applied to the private sector as a core strategy for ensuring the reduction of inequalities.
 - 6.2 We stress the importance of eliminating corruption, removing discriminatory laws and promoting respect for the rule of law and democracy, including strengthening access to justice and judicial accountability for human rights.

6.3 We call for an establishment of clear time-bound, measurable, and rights-based indicators and mechanisms at all levels, with disaggregation based on sex, age, disability, HIV status, and social identity, for monitoring and accountability for post 2015 development agenda, building inter alia on the experience of international human rights mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review. We urge the governments to make increased efforts and establish robust strategies for enhancing the quality, production, use and timely distribution of socio-economic data including health, education, population data and projections, in particular disaggregated data to inform development strategies, policies and targets at all levels, to monitor progress and address inequalities.

7. **Equality and non-discrimination:** We will strive to ensure that appropriate measures to protect and promote equality, equity, social inclusion, absence of stigma, and accessibility within different intersecting identities – including age, gender, caste, religion, ethnicity, tribe, disability, language, sexual and gender identity, HIV status, migrant status and geographical locations, among others – are incorporated into laws, policies and programmes. To achieve non-discrimination of indigenous peoples, their unique identities and collective rights based on international human rights and instruments shall be recognized and protected. In particular, future development targets and indicators should be designed in consultation with respective stakeholders to highlight and address inequalities rather than hide them.

7.1 The post 2015 agenda must include a stand-alone goal on gender equality and women's rights to ensure the expansion of women's, participation, choices and capabilities, which also recognises that multiple inequalities increase women's experiences of marginalization, insecurity and gender-based violence. Particular attention should be given to the protection of the rights of women with intersecting inequalities including indigenous women, migrant women, women in situations of conflict, post conflict and humanitarian crisis, women in sex work, women affected by disasters, women with disabilities and women living with HIV. All other goals must have sex disaggregated targets and indicators.

7.2 Recognizing that equitable development cannot be achieved or sustained without gender equality and women's empowerment, women need to be able to: make healthy and informed choices about their health, in particular regarding their sexual and reproductive health; lead lives free of threat of and actual violence in all settings including from intimate partners; and have equal access to assets and resources as well as equal representation at all levels of governance.

7.3 Realising that race, caste, ethnicity and other analogous systems of exclusion and hierarchy marginalize millions who are routinely denied access to water, education, health services, land, markets and employment leading to social exclusion and high levels of poverty, the post-2015 framework should address this as a global concern and collect disaggregated data and develop inclusive policies, goals, targets and indicators.

7.4 The post 2015 agenda must address the structural causes of poverty, inequalities and deprivation within and between countries. National and international macroeconomic policies (fiscal, trade, monetary, financial flows) should be aligned, reformed or replaced to meet accessible and inclusive growth, human rights, social justice and sustainable development. In this regard, the impact of neoliberal policies and the multilateral institutions like the World Bank, World Trade Organization, and the International Monetary Fund, among others, should be subjected to critical assessment.

7.5 Particular attention must be given to countries with special vulnerabilities and needs such as LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, as well as countries in conflict or post-conflict situations and fragile states, targeting the most vulnerable and marginalised.

7.6 Tackling income inequality must be emphasised as a matter of priority, including the need to ensure that bottom 20% of the population is improving their economic status faster than the top 20% through accessible, inclusive, equitable, pro poor growth. This would include promoting inclusive, pro-poor macro-economic policies that address structural causes of inequality, support realisation of human rights and enable women's participation. Efforts to address deficits in availability of decent work should be accelerated. There is a need of setting up a global framework to ensure the right of migrant workers.

7.7 Given that children and young people will be the next generation of adults, we must address their needs and rights through multiple actions: further ensuring maternal and young children's survival and development, with focus on the most disadvantaged groups; addressing stunting and key gaps in nutrition

as well as water and sanitation; investing in children and young peoples' education, including early childhood care and quality education as well as life and comprehensive sexuality education starting from the adolescent stage; protecting children and young people from violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse and ensuring that they thrive in a safe family environment; ensuring their access to health information and services, including those related to sexual and reproductive health; enhancing their employment opportunities recognizing that growth is linked to decent jobs and social protection; and ensuring their meaningful participation in all decision-making processes.

8. Sustainable Development: We will strive to ensure that economic, social and environmental sustainability including disaster risk reduction, peace and security, climate change, right to safe, reliable and affordable energy for all – particularly renewable energy, and access to natural resources within sustainable means of production and distribution, will be more holistically and effectively integrated into our respective government's MDG acceleration efforts as well as in the post-2015 development framework. We also recognise that population dynamics and trends are key determinants of sustainable human development.

8.1 We urge all stakeholders involved in the process of developing Sustainable Development Goals and in the process of formulating a post-2015 development framework to ensure reaching a consensus on a comprehensive, integrated framework of development agenda beyond 2015.

8.2 We draw attention to the fact that urgent action has to be taken, within and between countries, on unsustainable patterns of production and consumption to promote sustained, inclusive and equitable growth, and emphasise the importance and utility of developing a set of sustainable development goals which fully respect all the Rio principles.

8.3 We urge that addressing climate change and ensuring access to reliable and affordable energy, particularly renewable energy, should be included as concrete targets of the post 2015 development agenda.

8.4 We call for increased efforts, as a matter of urgency, on deep cuts in the emission of Green House Gases to adequately address the root cause of anthropogenic climate change, and on climate change adaptation and resilient livelihoods options including international migration and green job creation by focusing on win-wins of climate mitigation and private sector cooperation, based on the Rio Principles on Sustainable Development. Countries need to have clear and coherent approaches to building resilience to a wide variety of impacts of climate change. We recognise the role and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities in protecting and sustaining the environment and natural resources, and thereby entitled to appropriate measure and support for disaster risk reduction as well as rehabilitation and reconstruction.

8.5 We further call for commitment to accelerated implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA) 2005-2015 and achievement of its goals. We call for promoting a culture of resilience to disasters and mainstreaming and integration of disaster resilience into policies, plans, programmes and budgets at all levels.

9. Quality Public Service Delivery: Learning from the critical lessons offered by the past experiences in MDG implementation which has tended to compartmentalise public service delivery and management of private service delivery into sector-specific interventions, we call for a *system-wide approach* to quality public service delivery which fulfils basic human rights of individuals in a holistic manner, and increased investments in those basic services throughout the life course by ensuring a sustainable mechanism for mobilizing adequate resources as a critical strategy for poverty eradication and achieving human development.

9.1 The post 2015 development agenda must address, under the state responsibility, issues of quality, universality, and access to public services, including such fundamental rights as the right to food and nutrition for all, right to quality primary and secondary education for all, right to health, right to universal access to housing, sanitation and water with a particular focus on marginalized groups of people.

9.2 We call for a clear commitment to universal health coverage and universal access in relation to communicable and non-communicable diseases including sexual and reproductive health and rights as fundamental human rights. Realizing the right to health requires increased investment – at the minimum level of the 3% of GNI target - in the health of women, children, elderly, people with disabilities, people living with HIV, adolescents and youth, especially among the more disadvantaged, to avoid largely

preventable health risks and achieve an AIDS free generation, which will produce significant progress toward health and overall equity and will ensure the full enjoyment of other human rights and for gender equality and equity. It also requires adequate financial protection from impoverishment resulting from high out-of-pocket health spending. There is a need to strengthen health system, including affordable and accessible commodities, diagnostics, and treatments. Women must be ensured full autonomy over their bodies to be able to enjoy their sexual and reproductive health rights.

10. Global Partnership & Financing for Development: Post 2015 development agenda will need to be accompanied by clear commitment for effective, accessible, inclusive and equitable financing. The role of parliament in the oversight of development processes must be strengthened, including by supporting capacity development as mentioned in the Busan Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

10.1 We recognise the need for mobilization of domestic resources and effective ODA in terms of its quantity, quality, and accessibility. We emphasise that delivering fully on all ODA commitments by OECD/DAC is critical, including the target of 0.7% of GNI for ODA. In this regard, we are concerned by the reversal of aid flows as middle-income and low-income countries are made to shoulder the bailing of the failing banks. We also recognise that the mechanisms for accountable and transparent public expenditures need to be put in place, including redirecting military related resources to development purposes.

10.2 We call for fundamental reforms in global trade and finance, including promotion of fair trade instead of free trade, strict regulation of global financial flows, and cancellation of debt in the LDCs. We recognise the need for gearing trade and investment policies towards achieving structural transformation of economies of poor countries, improving global coordination on investment policies, enhancing productive investments, and reducing vulnerabilities to external shocks in developing countries.

Moving Forward

11. We, members of parliaments and legislatures, agree that parliaments need to consider the most effective institutional mechanisms for MDG acceleration and our engagement in the post-2015 development framework. We commit to initiating discussions on appropriate forums to ensure the legislature takes a leading role in formulation, and implementation of the post 2015 development agenda with a decentralised and bottom-up approach, in collaboration with other key stakeholders. We also strive to create an enabling framework and policy space for all stakeholders to contribute to inclusive, equitable and sustainable development. We commit to monitor the progress of the development goals at the national and constituency level as per national priorities. We also recognise that towards the fulfilment of these roles, platforms and opportunities should be provided for exchanging good practices and lessons learned and for strengthen our capacities to fulfill our mandates, including on gender and equity based budgeting.

12. We, CSO representatives commit to continuing and enhancing efforts to hold duty bearers to account for full achievement of development goals, to advocating for a people-centred development agenda, to enhancing our own accountability and to working collaboratively with both Legislatures and Executives.

13. We call for development goals which are performance and delivery focused, limited in number, easy to relate to, global in nature and universally applicable to all, while adaptable to each country context. We also call on the UN to facilitate continued engagement of elected representatives and CSOs in consultation processes on Post-2015 Development Agenda.

14. Finally, we members of parliaments and legislatures and representatives of CSOs resolve to ensure that acceleration of achievement of MDGs as well as the process of formulation, implementation and monitoring of post 2015 development agenda is participatory, accessible and inclusive, with various stakeholders, including but not limited to children and youth, women, persons with disabilities, and economically and socially excluded, in order to promote realisation of human rights and reflecting the aspirations of people we represent – especially the poorest and the most marginalised.

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