# **BEYOND 2015**

THE SWEDISH STEERING GROUP FOR BEYOND 2015

POSITION PAPER FOR THE POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH,
EQUALITY, ERADICATING EXTREME POVERTY,
UNIVERSALITY, SUSTAINABILITY,
PEACE AND FREEDOM FROM VIOLENCE

ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY, POLICY COHERENCE FOR (SUSTAINABLE)

DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



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CONCORD SWEDEN, NATIONAL COORDINATOR OF BEYOND 2015

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# 1. Introduction

This is a short version of the *Position paper for the post-2015 sustainable development agenda* from the Swedish steering group for Beyond 2015.

The position is a contribution to the on-going discussions on a post-2015 framework for sustainable development. The Beyond 2015 Swedish Steering Group aims to continue contributing to the discussions and to support member states as the process moves in to intergovernmental negotiations. The Beyond 2015 Swedish Steering Group position includes principles and goals, targets and indicators that we have identified as key to a successful framework for sustainable development post-2015. We believe that Sweden, the EU and its member states have political credibility on many of the issues we are highlighting as essential in a new set of goals.

For a full version of the position paper, please visit www.concord.se.

# Foundational Principles

The Beyond 2015 Swedish Steering Group proposes the following foundational principles for the post-2015 framework: A Human Rights Based Approach, Equality, Eradication of Extreme Poverty, Universality, Sustainability, and Peace and Freedom from Violence. These principles should be integrated into all parts of the framework and are reflected in the proposed goals, targets and indicators.

### A Human Rights Based Approach

The Post-2015 framework should comprehensively support and realize human rights, taking into consideration their universality, indivisibility and interdependence. This implies realizing political and civil rights, as well as economic, social and cultural rights. The agenda must be anchored in human rights, and be based on the inherent dignity of people as human rights-holders, domestic governments as primary duty-bearers, and all being responsible for respecting human rights. The post-2015 framework must, at the very least respect and reflect pre-existing human rights legal norms, standards and political commitments to which governments have already voluntarily agreed.

The framework must take on a truly human rights based approach to sustainable development. This implies that human rights standards in, and principles derived from the Human Rights declarations and instruments guide all aspects of the agenda. The Beyond 2015 Swedish Steering Group believes that the following human rights principles must be specifically addressed: equality & non-discrimination, participation & empowerment and accountability & transparency.

### Equality & Non-discrimination

All humans are equal as human beings and are entitled to their human rights, without discrimination. The principles of equality and non-discrimination must overlay the post-2015 framework and all its goals and targets. Current inequalities undermine efforts to address poverty and sustainable development. Special attention must be given to improving the lives of those currently most excluded and marginalized. We also wish to highlight the importance of respecting and realizing the rights of women and girls and end gender based discrimination. Equality is further expanded on in a separate principle.

### Participation & Empowerment

Sustainable development must be based on the perspective of people living in poverty and vulnerability, and ensure full participation at all levels. A key means to empower people is to engage them and facilitate their meaningful participation in all social, political and economic decision-making at all levels. People are human rights holders and must be involved in planning, implementation, follow-up and evaluation. Marginalized people must be strengthened and become key actors in their own right and in the development of society. It is well-accepted that policies are the most successful when they are designed and owned at the level at which they are implemented, for which the participation of the people and civil society is clearly crucial. Special attention must be given to ensure participation by those traditionally excluded from decision-making. For participation to work in practice, a number of structural and governance issues must be addressed to ensure an enabling environment for participation. Specific attention must be given to realize the right to organize, freedom of expression and the right to information.

### Accountability & Transparency

The principles of accountability and transparency are key to a human rights based approach and are further elaborated on in a separate implementing principle.

### Equality

A human rights based approach underlines the fact that all people – no matter who they are, must benefit from the outcomes of this framework. Global civil society, the UN Secretary General and the UN High-Level Panel on Post-2015 have all called for a post-2015 framework that "leaves no one behind". If we are to truly leave no one behind we need to systematically address the root-causes to persisting inequalities and address those across the whole framework. In doing so, special attention must be given to improving the lives of those currently most excluded and marginalized. Addressing inequality will be crucial in a successful post-2015 framework. We support the HLP-proposal that no post-2015 target should be considered met unless it is met across key groups of society and for those most marginalized. We promote equality as a crosscutting principle and as a stand-alone goal.

Evidence suggests that high levels of income inequality reduce the impact of economic growth on poverty reduction, and undermine the sustainability and robustness of economic growth in the long run. IMF Director Christine Lagarde supports this in her speech at the World Economic Forum, January 2014: "(...)Surely we have all learned by now that it is no longer enough to focus on growth alone. We need all people to share in rising prosperity—and, by the same token, share fairly in any economic adjustment needed to achieve or restore prosperity (...). Excessive inequality is corrosive to growth; it is corrosive to society."

Gender inequality and discrimination of women and girls is the most prevailing form of inequality and needs to be specifically addressed. We call for a robust mainstreaming of gender equality across all parts of the framework as well as a stand-alone goal on gender equality, girls' and women's empowerment and rights. The framework must be transformative, by addressing the structural impediments to gender equality and the achievement of girls' and women's rights and empowerment.

To ensure that all goals and targets address inequality, each goal must be applicable to the entire population. Therefore, we support the proposals on disaggregation of data, as proposed by many and supported by the High-Level Panel on post-2015. All data collected should be broken down in quintiles based on, at a minimum, gender, age, urban-rural and disability.

### **Eradication of Extreme Poverty**

The eradication of extreme poverty should be combined with reducing overall inequality, with a focus on non-discrimination, participation and inclusion. In order to eradicate extreme poverty, the root-causes must be addressed. The eradication of extreme poverty must remain at the core of the global sustainable development agenda. The current understanding of poverty as income poverty, set to the 'international poverty lines' of 1,25 and 2 USD per day does not capture the multidimensional nature of poverty. These 'poverty lines' are limited to measuring income poverty, but poverty goes beyond this. Poverty is multidimensional and encompasses a shortage of resources, capabilities, choices, security and power. More work must be done on developing measures of poverty that takes into consideration its multidimensional nature, focuses on reducing inequalities, recognizing relative poverty and the fulfilment of human rights.

#### Universality

The Post-2015 framework must be universal and apply to all countries. By ensuring a universal framework a just, equitable and sustainable world in which every person can realize their human rights, fulfil their potential and live free from poverty is supported. A universal framework is one in which all countries recognize their role in contributing to the achievement of the post-2015 goals, including in their own context.

The challenges we are facing in order to reach sustainable development are global in scope, necessitating a global response. Universality reflects our shared humanity and the interconnectedness of the world we live in. Universality implies a framework that is relevant to all countries, regardless of their circumstances. Each state, each private sector or civil society actor, each individual, has a contribution to make in facing these challenges. The world we live in is also characterized by inequality and difference. Some countries will have more to do to achieve some goals than others; some will have a greater capacity and/or responsibility to make change and to support the efforts of others. Each country has a common - but differentiated - responsibility for dealing with the global challenges we are facing. There is a greater responsibility to act for some countries than for others, but an obligation to act which applies to every country. A common but differentiated responsibility must not compromise with every country's equal responsibility to protect, respect and guarantee human rights.

### Sustainability

In order to successfully ensure sustainable development for all, within the boundaries of one planet, the three dimensions (social, economic and environmental) of sustainability must be addressed and integrated throughout all goals of the framework. Each focus area should aim at a world where every human being can enjoy their human rights, live equitably and free from injustice

and poverty, and a planet that has the natural resources to sustain it. This recognizes the interdependence between the economic system and the well-being of people and the planet. For that reason, all goals and targets must adhere to the needs of the present without compromising the future or going beyond the borders of our planet. Current trends in economic growth, including unsustainable consumption and production patterns are putting untenable pressure on the natural environment and the capacity of our planet to sustain us. Environmental sustainability underpins the achievement of many social and economic objectives and also needs to be addressed directly in order to meet global challenges.

### Peace and Freedom from Violence

The Rio+20 outcome document (para. 8) "reaffirm the importance of freedom, peace and security (...) and the overall commitment to just and democratic societies for development". A new framework must therefore strengthen peacebuilding and address problems of conflict, insecurity and state fragility. Peaceful, secure and non-violent societies are pivotal for successful sustainable development. The majority of people living in poverty are found in conflict or post-conflict countries. Conflict and post-conflict countries are left behind, in reaching the Millennium Development Goals. We need to make an effort to tackle the root causes of violence, reduce all forms of violence and ensure peaceful societies.

# 3.2 Implementing Principles

In order to achieve sustainable development, a number of implementing principles need to be put in place. How the framework is implemented is of major importance to the outcome it will bring about. Accountability & Transparency, Policy Coherence for (Sustainable) Development and Financing for Sustainable development are key implementing principles.

### Accountability & Transparency

The framework must set out clear, enforceable accountability and transparency mechanisms that allow for follow-up and ensure transparency and accountability of all actors. These mechanisms must operate with maximum transparency of source and use and must include reliable and comparable data that is both quantitative and qualitative. National oversight and independent review mechanisms at the international level with multi-stakeholder participation and people-led systems of monitoring must be built into the framework. Special attention must be given to ensure participation by those traditionally excluded from decision-making. Any post-2015 monitoring mechanism would benefit from constructive interaction with the existing human rights protection regime, as well as other accountability mechanisms. The framework must be backed by national mechanisms of accountability, such as judiciaries, parliaments, national human rights institutions, reinforced by regional and international human rights mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review mechanism. Child and youth-friendly accountability mechanisms should be established at all levels to monitor and hold duty bearers to account in the implementation of the new framework.

Supporting commitments on means of implementation must be established, formulating commitments and creating tools for the realization of all goals. Means of implementation must include developing and committing to well-functioning mechanisms, partnerships, financing and structures. The framework should reaffirm the spirit of the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development and it should be based on three fundamental principles: mutual accountability (donors and partners are equally accountable for development progress); democratic ownership of partner countries (alignment of donor countries to policy objectives set by developing countries, through inclusive and democratic processes); and inclusive partnerships (participation of different varieties of development stakeholders, State and non-State actors). As well as the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, with the aim to ensure institutionalized and transparent multi-stakeholder dialogue and accountability for determining and monitoring sustainable development policy and planning, with feedback mechanisms on how all stakeholders' input is taken into account, and in this regard acknowledging and realizing the role of CSOs in decision-making processes and as independent development actors.

While states must remain the primary duty-holders and are to be held accountable for the implementation of the framework, all actors including third-party states, international institutions, civil society and the private sector should be made responsive and accountable for achieving and not undermining the agenda. As a step in this direction, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), the so called Ruggie-principles must be respected and realized. The responsibilities of different actors must be clarified and reflected at all levels of the framework and actors must be able to hold one another to account. The framework must reflect the consensus that states have the duty to protect human rights through proper oversight and regulation of private actors, to guarantee that they respect human rights and the environment and ensure sustainable development, and at the very least 'do no harm'. The issues of accountability and transparency will be further addressed in a separate goal on democratic governance.

## Policy Coherence for (Sustainable) Development – (PCD)

Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCD) refers to the requirement of all actors to ensure that their policies in any area support sustainable development objectives and do not negatively impact on peoples' prospects for decent living, the realisation of their rights and a healthy environment.

PCD will be fundamental to the success of the future framework, and a key enabler of progress, not least because the negative effects of a policy or practice generally hit the poorest and most marginalized people hardest despite them holding no responsibility for those policies.

PCD potentially addresses this critical global "accountability gap" more than any other policy instrument by stressing that all decision-making processes by all actors – be they public or private, in the North or South, East or West- must be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the world's poorest and most marginalized people and must 'do no harm' to their human rights, environment and development perspectives. As the new post-2015 framework is meant to be universal and address all countries, the concept of PCD should be broadened to policy coherence that does no harm to human and sustainable development. Such policy coherence should therefore be the starting point of any new framework. Progress could take a quantum leap if all policies and actions by all actors were made coherent with the objectives of the post-2015 framework.

The economic and institutional frameworks (including rules and regulations regarding finance and capital, trade rules, patent rules etc.) must be revised to become tools for a fair and sustainable development. Commitments should be made in those political areas affecting the development goals, in order to ensure coherence with and support of these goals.

If the post-2015 framework is to be successful, governments, transnational businesses and other actors must be called upon to put in place robust mechanisms to improve the respect and monitoring of PCD, as well as those mechanisms for dealing with violations of the principle of 'do no harm' which underpins PCD. They must include a report on the initiatives they have taken in this regard in their annual reporting. Such mechanisms should be implemented at international, regional and national levels.

### Financing for Sustainable Development

To achieve sustainable development, financing of good quality and quantity, sustainable use of our natural resources and crucial policy changes, which works in favor of those currently left behind is needed. To put the world on track for a sustainable future, all actors have to contribute to sustainable development. The current economic paradigm must be reoriented to serve human and planetary well-being. Financing is addressed in several of the goal areas, and more specifically in goal 8 "Reorienting the Economy to Serve People and the Planet."

# 4. Summary of Goals and Targets

# Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Reduce Inequality

- a) Eradicate poverty at \$2 (PPP) a day.
- b) Reduce the proportion of population living below nationally defined poverty lines.
- c) Reduce economic inequality within and between countries.
- d) Universal social protection by 2030, at least at the level of social protection floors.
- e) Universal access to essential affordable and accessible public services, including education, health care and maternity care.
- f) Income security for all people throughout the entire life-cycle.
- g) Eliminate discrimination and exclusion of all social groups in society.
- h) Universal access to clean, reliable and affordable energy services is achieved in low income countries with a strong increase in clean renewable energy sources.

# Goal 2: Ensure Food Security and Sustainable Food Production

- a) End hunger (completely by 2030, reduced by 50 % by 2020), realize the right to adequate food for everyone, implement sustainable healthy diets and reduce overweight and obesity.
- b) Create resilient and sustainable food and agricultural production systems, i.e. enhance productivity, agricultural biodiversity and support ecosystems services.
- c) The productivity of smallholders and small-scale fishers, including women, is increased through research, access to markets, infrastructure development, recognition of rights, and incentives for sustainable, climate resilient resource management including traditional practices.
- d) The water intensity of agricultural production is reduced by 25%.
- e) Food loss and waste are reduced by 50% from 2013 levels.
- f) Wild fish stocks are rebuilt to ecologically safe levels.

# Goal 3: Ensure Healthy Lives

- a) Universal coverage of and equal access to good-quality, non-discriminatory health services without financial hardship
- b) Full achievement of MDG 4,5A&B, 6.
- c) Universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, information and services for all, including in emergencies, post conflict and fragile states

- d) Protect and respect adolescents' sexual and reproductive health and rights.
- Premature deaths from fossil fuel air pollution are cut to one quarter of 2013 levels and premature deaths from indoor-air pollution from inefficient biomass use are eradicated.

# Goal 4: Provide Education and Life-long Learning

- a) All girls and boys start school on time and ready to learn, with progressive and equitable improvements in the availability of, and access to free, good quality, safe and inclusive basic education, including in emergencies.
- b) All girls and boys complete a quality primary and lower secondary education with the requisite knowledge and skills to fully develop and participate in the political, economic, and social progress of sustainable and resilient societies.
- All girls and boys are supported to transition to upper secondary education.
- d) Catch-up and other learning opportunities are available for adults.
- e) All national education sectors contribute to building a culture of safety and resilience through disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and peace building, focusing on the most vulnerable, including girls and children with disabilities.
- f) Increasing the provision of safe and affordable day care centers for children under the age of five.

# Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality, Girls' and Women's Rights and Empowerment

- a) Ensure women's equal access to, and control over productive assets.
- b) Guarantee women's and girls' equal participation in public and private institutions and spheres, political decision and budgetary making positions and peace processes.
- Ensure sexual and reproductive rights. Prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination and gender based violence against all women and girls, including FGM/C, and other harmful traditional practices.
- d) End child, early and forced marriages.
- e) Engage men and boys and promote positive norm change for the achievement of gender equality and the reduction of intimate partner violence.

# Goal 6: Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation

- a) Elimination of open defecation.
- b) Universal access to basic drinking water, sanitation and

- Halve the proportion of the population without access at home to safely managed drinking water and sanitation services.
- d) Progressively eliminate inequalities in access.

## Goal 7: Reorient the economy to serve human and planetary well-being

- a) Ending current and preventing future, debt crises through responsible lending and borrowing.
- b) Responsible, accountable and transparent business that respect human rights, the environment, climate and promote sustainable development.
- International institutions must unequivocally recognize their human rights, environment and climate obligations and elaborate guidelines and administrative procedures accordingly.
- d) Stop illicit financial flows, including money laundering, trade mispricing, transnational corruption and bribery, and eradicate cross-border tax evasion, through greater transparency, rules and global cooperation.
- Ensure trade systems that increase access of developing countries to markets, especially in developed countries.
- f) Reform national tax systems to re-price products and services to adequately reflect their social and environmental costs, to regulate behavior that aggravates global challenges.
- g) Ensure that public and private finance to developing countries supports national priorities and democratic ownership (Busan principles).
- h) Meet the longstanding commitment to devote 0.7 % of GNI to ODA, in a transparent and accountable way.
- Clear and comparable indicators of biodiversity and ecosystem resilience is agreed and applied to all countries, as well as corporations above US\$ 100 million in capitalization.

# Goal 8: Realize Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All

- a) Ensure full and productive employment.
- b) Reduce the number of working poor, including reduction of vulnerable employment and ensuring legal recognition of undocumented workers including migrants.
- Ensure rights at work including effective social dialogue and decent work conditions, including all youth who wish to work.
- d) Ensure gender equality at work.
- e) Eradicate all forms of child labor.

## Goal 9: Tackle Climate Change and Protect the Planet

a) All countries have developed and implemented low

- carbon, climate resilient development strategies and action plans including for disaster risk reduction.
- b) Predictable and accessible financial and technical assistance is available to help vulnerable countries and people respond effectively to climate change.
- The world is on track to not exceed global warming of 1.5 degree Celsius compared to pre-industrial temperatures.
- d) Water related infrastructure development and management are climate-smart to build resilience to risks of extreme flooding and to ensure adequate water for people and ecosystems.
- e) Biodiversity loss is halted and ecosystems providing essential services to society are sustainably maintained, with areas of high importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services managed sustainably, effectively and equitably.
- f) By 2030, marine ecosystems, including marine biodiversity and fish stocks are rebuilt, restored and maintained at healthy level.
- g) All fossil fuel production and consumption subsidies are abolished (by 2020) and/or transferred to support energy access for the energy poor, renewable energy alternatives and energy efficiency.

### Goal 10: Create Sustainable and Livable Habitats

- a) Cities in high-income countries have halved carbon footprint per person and cities in middle- and low-income countries have substantially increased investment in energy- and resource-efficient infrastructure to reduce per capita carbon footprint.
- b) Cities with a population of over 200 000 inhabitants implement inclusive environmental planning and management for sustainability, climate change adaptation and DRR into urban decision-making, land use planning and investment.
- Universal access to clean, reliable and affordable energy services, with a strong increase in clean renewable energy services
- d) Clean renewable energy makes up at least 45% of all primary energy use in cities; new public and residential buildings reach net zero energy standards and existing public and residential buildings are retrofitted to comply with low-energy standards.
- e) Cities ensure universal access to waste management and wastewater management and reduce municipal waste production while increasing the share of municipal waste that is recycled by 40% over 2013 levels.
- f) Providing universal access to financial services and infrastructure such as transportation and Information Communication Technology.
- g) Global investment in greening urban infrastructure in cities, with a priority for building up sustainable urban infrastructure in fast developing and small cities, surpasses US\$ 11 trillion.
- h) All energy, agriculture and fishery subsidies that encourage unsustainable production and consumption practices

have been abolished, with appropriate measures taken to offset any regressive.

### Goal 11: Guarantee Freedom from Violence

- a) End all forms of violence, against children in all contexts, including in and around school and care settings, in emergency and non-emergency settings and hold perpetrators to account.
- End all forms of violence against women and girls, including harmful traditional practices and forced and early marriage, in all contexts.
- Ensure that people from all social groups have effective remedies to injustice, and access to and confidence in effective, accountable and impartial justice provision.
- d) People from all social groups feel safe and have confidence in accountable and impartial security provisions.
- e) Respecting the right to peaceful protests.
- f) Implement effective, adequately resourced and sustainable child protection systems for all children, in emergency and non-emergency settings.

### Goal 12: Build Peaceful and Stable Societies

- Reduce by x% the number of violent deaths per 100,000 and reduce the number of people from all social groups affected by violence.
- Significantly reduce the international stresses that drive conflict, violence and insecurity, including irresponsible trade in arms and conflict commodities, and the illicit drugs trade.
- c) Disarmament and reduction of global military spending.
- d) Increased support to conflict prevention and peace building initiatives.
- e) Ensure women's equal participation and leadership, including in peace building processes.
- f) Ensure inclusive participation of civil society in conflict transformation and peacebuilding processes.
- g) Include conflict transformation and peacebuilding in education curricula at all levels.

### Goal 13: Ensure Democratic Governance

- a) Protect freedom of association, speech, peaceful protest, the right to organize and meaningful political participation of all social group and freedom of religion or belief.
- b) Promote an open, active and free civil society.
- c) Ensure transparent and accountable governments at all
- d) Enable all people, especially the poor and most marginalized, to obtain timely, quality, accessible and reliable information at all levels, in particular about what resources are available, how they were raised and what their results were.
- e) Build just and accountable institutions and ensure access

- to justice and legal aid services that are affordable, fair and timely for everyone and end impunity.
- f) End all forms of bribery and corruption.
- g) All countries have effective Civil Registration and Vital Statistics systems and ensure universal birth registration.

BEYOND 2015 IS A GLOBAL CIVIL SOCIETY CAMPAIGN, PUSHING FOR A STRONG AND LEGITIMATE SUCCESSOR FRAMEWORK TO THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS. THE SWEDISH HUB OF THE CAMPAIGN IS HOSTED BY CONCORD SWEDEN AND IS CONSTITUTED BY SWEDISH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS. THIS POSITION HAS BEEN DEVELOPED AS PART OF THE WORK OF THE SWEDISH HUB AND IS SUPPORTED BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS:

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