

istanbul
SUMMIT

WOMEN'S
PERSPECTIVES ON
UN POST-2015
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

31 MAY - 1 JUNE 2014 • ISTANBUL

CONCEPT NOTE



Background

In September 2000, building upon a decade of major United Nations conferences and summits, world leaders came together at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration. This declaration committed participating nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and set out a series of time-bound targets - with a deadline of 2015 - that have become known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These goals are as follow: Eradication of Extreme Poverty and Hunger, Achieving Universal Primary Education, Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women, Reducing Child Mortality, Improving Maternal Health, Combating HIV/Aids, Malaria and Other Diseases, Ensuring Environmental Sustainability, and Global Partnership for Development.¹

MDGs developed numerical criteria for each target and set the goal to reach these targets by the year 2015. For example, halving the proportion of people with an income of less than \$1 a day between 1990 and 2015, reducing by two-thirds the number of child deaths under the age of 5; between 1990 and 2015, reducing maternal mortality by three-quarters; and, halving by 2015 the rate of population deprived of clean drinking water and basic hygiene needs. All of these target goals are illustrative of MDGs' concrete quantitative criteria.² While we are reaching the deadline of MDGs, the realization of the goals, their applicability and ways of implementation after 2015, and the steps to be taken in the coming period for their further implementation were discussed in recent years and will continue to be debated. More importantly, new goals are set by the leadership of the Secretary General of the United Nations, under the title of post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Secretary General of the United Nations, H.E. Ban Ki-moon, in the 2013 MDG Report, states that "the Millennium Development Goals have been the most successful global anti-poverty push in history." And yet, "the achievement of the MDGs has been uneven among and within countries."³ As this statement indicated that global community needs to work further on the realization of the MDGs at the same time as it sets new targets for the future.

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in July 2012 revealed the importance and benefit of sustainable development targets as defined in 1992 UN Summit of the *Environment and Development*. The global community agreed that the new agenda of the post 2015 should be defined as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since then numerous meetings have been, many reports have been published and finally specific goals and targets have been proposed since the 2012 Sustainable Development Summit.⁴

1. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/>

2. http://www ldc4istanbul.org/uploads/BN_Bin_Yil_Kalkinma_Hedefleri.docx

3. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/mdg/the-millennium-development-goals-report-2013/>

4. Some of the reports: <http://www.post2015hlp.org/the-report/>, <http://unsdsn.org/resources/>, <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/mdg/global-conversation-begins/>



As the deadline for achieving the MDGs approaches, relevant UN agencies, civil society organizations and other stakeholders have been working on the post-2015 development agenda. This process will continue until the 69th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2014. The Journalists and Writers Foundation of Turkey, which holds a General Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council, hopes to contribute to this process by organizing a summit which will provide opportunities for NGOs worldwide to express their views, particularly calling attention to women's perspectives on the proposed SDGs.

Objectives and Expected Outcome

The Journalists and Writers Foundation, with its Women's and Abant Platform, plans to undertake an international summit entitled "*Istanbul Summit: Women's Perspective on UN Post-2015 Development Agenda*". The general aim of this summit is to contribute to the UN Post-2015 Development Goals by creating awareness across societies, establishing a worldwide network to facilitate cooperative activities. The summit will provide opportunities for NGOs throughout the world to express their views, policies and ideas about future joint activities. The specific aim is to explore women's perspectives and opinions on the proposed SDGs by bringing together approximately 600 women participants from around the world. The summit will include many representatives of NGOs and women parliamentarians from all regions. The main objective is ensure that the views of women are adequately represented in future work designed to achieve the SDGs.

The summit also aims to provide a follow-up to *the 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women* to be held in March 2014 that will discuss the "Challenges and Achievements in the Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Girls."

Program Format

The summit will include sessions, aiming to facilitate an in-depth discussion of the specific practices and methods employed by NGOs and experts of diverse backgrounds, sharing experiences and challenges. In the sessions, which will be organized around three dimensions of the Agenda (Environmental, Economic and Social), there will be a chance for NGOs to deliver short oral statements. NGOs will be eligible to make statements after registering on the Summit's website **www.istanbulsummit.org**. Also, there will be 8 working groups on the proposed SDGs, which have been debated at various UN platforms and meetings.

A special session of women parliamentarians from around the world in a roundtable format will be held, where the MDGs' progress and Post 2015 Development Agenda commitments to achieve the SDGs of respective countries will be discussed. The forum will issue a final declaration, reflecting the major features of women's perspectives bearing on the pursuit of SDGs. A report on the conference will be submitted to the UN's relevant agencies and other stakeholders.

Observers, although welcome, are required to register for the summit too.

Issues and Topics

The sessions will be organized around three dimensions of the Agenda: Environmental, Economic and Social.

- **Civil Society and Development Goals:**

Moving from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era towards Post-2015 Development Agenda, global partnership is much more underlined during the priority transformation. Civil society has a significant role for unified dialogue on sustainable and inclusive development. CSOs play a key part as the international community transitions to the new agenda. In this respect, the development agenda issues related to interaction between CSOs and other stakeholders will be discussed in this plenary session.

- **Making the New Agenda Work:**

The context for progress on development has been changing since the MDGs era. How it may continue to shift in the coming decades, and what this could mean for the partnerships that will be necessary to successfully implement post-2015 development agenda are notable. This session will focus on necessary action at the national and local level to effectively implement the new development agenda with a sustainable and inclusive development approach.

Also, there will be 8 working groups on the proposed SDGs, which have been debated at various UN platforms and meetings. The topics of the working groups are:

- Eradication of Poverty
- Women's Empowerment
- Health
- Education
- Food Security, Water Supply and Sanitation
- Environment, Climate Change and Energy
- Sustainable Economic Development
- Peace and Good Governance (Human Rights Framework and Accountability Mechanisms)

A brief discussion on the achievements and the challenges of the MDGs will be followed by the main debate that will focus on policy suggestions relevant to the SDGs and on the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda.

Working groups and the oral statements will be covering the issues that is written below:

Eradication of Poverty

- Eradication poverty in MDG period;
- What should be done in post 2015 global development agenda to go further;
- Success stories, and failures around the globe;
- Specific policies in relation to women in eradicating poverty;
- Global economic policies to eradicate poverty;
- Changing rhetoric from charity to partnership;
- Creation of decent work: Transformation economies for jobs and inclusive growth.

Women's Empowerment

- Prevent and eliminate all forms of violation against girls and women;
- Economic empowerment: Ensure equal right of women to own and inherit property, have legal rights on accessing economic activities, to ensure entrepreneurship activities;
- To eliminate legal, cultural and social obstacles for women to enter political, economic and public life;
- Enabling gender equality in employment ;
- Equal opportunities in decision making positions.

Documents: Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as well as Agenda 21, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Millennium Declaration

Health

- Universal, affordable, accessible health insurance;
- End preventable infant and under 5 death;
- Decrease the maternal mortality;
- Increase universal sexual and reproductive health and rights;
- Reduce the burden of diseased from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases;
- Raising awareness on health, well-being at all ages;
- Impact of pharmaceutical companies on health policies.

Education

- Importance of girl education and its benefit to societies;
- Increase to access and complete pre-primary education;
- Ensure every child regardless of circumstances completes primary education;
- Ensure every child access to middle school education;
- Increase technical and vocational education ;
- Quality education and employment;
- Lifelong education;
- Gender equality in education.

Food Security, Water Supply and Sanitation

- Right to food: End hunger, food wasting and protect the right of everyone to have access to sufficient, safe, affordable and nutritious food;
- Agricultural policies and land grabbing,
- Agro –business and food security (GMOs -Genetically modified Organisms)
- Small farmers against agro-businesses
- Adopt sustainable fishing industry by way of protecting local fishing, against long distance fishing filets;
- Fresh water scarcity and impact of climate change over water resources;
- Provide universal access to safe drinking water at home and schools, health centers and refugee camps;
- Disseminate water technology, increase efficiency and sustainable use of water, especially in agriculture;
- Participation in water policies in local level.

Environment & Climate Change & Energy

- Environmental Movements & Climate justice
- Gender role in environmental and climate change policies;
- Enhancing environmental consciousness in society by way of education;
- Sustainable cities
- Combatting against consumption and population
- Energy, climate change, and environmental dilemma
- Protecting vulnerable sector of society (poor, women and children);
- Adverse impact of global economy on environmental and natural resources;
- Green energy & renewable energy.

Sustainable Economic Development

- Right to development & economic fairness;
- Implementing sustainable development principle in local & central governmental bodies: Consider economic, social and environmental accounts in all decision making processes in local, and central governmental bodies;
- Corporate responsibilities;
- Economic globalization & trade policies
- Natural resource management (forest, soil, oceans, rivers, desertification, land degradation and drought);
- Public private partnership and privatization of public goods and resources;
- Inclusive growth / immigrants,
- Social security: protection of disabled & elderly people

Documents: Agenda 21 (1992), Rio Principles (1992) and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (2002)

Peace and Good Governance: (Human Rights Framework and Accountability Mechanisms)

- Role of women in peace and security; peace making and post conflict management and women;
- Enhance economic and social rights: Right to have access drinking water, right to have healthy environment, right to have development; education, ext.
- Protection civil and political rights: Freedom of speech, association, peaceful protest and access to independent media and information;
- Increase public participation in political process and civic engagements in all levels;
- Reduce bribery and corruption and ensure officials can be held accountable;
- Right to access to trial in case of human rights abuses;

Possible points of discussion include but are not limited to the following questions:

- To what extent have the MDGs been achieved by May-2014?
- Which methods were best suited for reaching the designated goals? To what extent are these methods replicable and adaptable to different contexts?
- In the pre-2015 period, how did NGOs, governments, the media, local and international institutions, and intergovernmental organizations play a role in the achievement of the MDGs? To what extent have their experiences carried over in the evolving process relating to the SDG proposals?
- What has been and will be the role and contribution of women from civil society, government bodies, the media, and the private sector in achieving development goals?

- What have been the unforeseen local and global trends that have failed or impeded the efforts to achieve the MDGs? What kind of implications could they have for the SDGs?
- What could be the challenges in mobilizing grassroots level activism and cooperation among women who have the desire to work for their communities in the Post – 2015 era?
- How should a new framework reflect the particular needs of the local vis-a vis global? Is there any platform that combines the needs of both?
- Is it possible to build and sustain a global consensus for a new framework for the conceptualization of sustainable development goals?
- What could be the effective methods of extending global partnership and coordination between the parties?
- How can transparency and objectivity be provided in monitoring the whole development goal process?
- Do all the proposed goals adequately incorporate and stress women's and girl's rights?
- Is there any affirmative action plan that would reduce the gap between genders in all dimensions of the SDGs?
- Is the UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and other subsequent resolutions incorporated into the SDGs?
- How committed are governments to the implementation of the proposed SDGs? What is the role of parliaments in advancing especially women's economic, social, and political rights in a given nation?

Organization

Journalists and Writers Foundation (JWF) was established by a group of distinguished writers, scholars, and journalists in 1994 to contribute to peaceful coexistence and dialogue by bringing together intellectuals from all political spectrums with different cultural, religious, ethnic and ideological backgrounds that belong to the many diverse disciplines in science, religion, philosophy, politics, and art. Its mission is to look for ways of building a common living space based on reconciliation and mutual respect. Currently, there are six different platforms relied upon to organize the work of the Foundation; each platform specializes in different aspects of building dialogue. These include the Abant Platform, Dialogue Eurasia, the Medialog Platform, the Intercultural Dialogue Platform, and the Women's Platform. There is also a Research Centre. To carry its national mission in the international arena, the JWF holds General Consultative Status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council, being the first and only institution to achieve this status in Turkey.

The Women's Platform was founded in 2009 and aims to promote dialogue and peacebuilding at the local and global scale, by providing democratic arenas for the free and fair discussion of prevailing problems, including the disintegration of the family, gender-based discrimination in various areas, the humanitarian crisis in conflict zones, and highlighting the role of women in peace building, as well as in maintaining and improving peace.

The Abant Platform aims to promote democratic engagement by providing an intellectual forum for expanding social consensus and the coexistence of society's rich cultural resources within a peaceful environment. At the core of the Platform is the Abant Meetings, a venue for debate that highlights different perspectives on the solutions to common challenges and also the fundamental human values that participants share. "Abant Meetings" which take up world's most striking social and political issues have continued on a regular basis since 1998.

Venue and Date

WOW Istanbul Hotel, Turkey.
31 May- 1 June, 2014

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Program

May 31, Saturday - 2014

09.00-09.40 Opening Ceremony

09.40-11.00 **Civil Society and Development Goals**

11.00-11.15 Coffee Break

11.15-13.00 **Environmental Dimension**

- Climate change & Energy
- Water scarcity & sanitation
- Food security
- Sustainable Cities / Climate Change Policy

13.00-14.00 Lunch

14.00-15.45 **Social Dimension**

- Women Empowerment (gender equality, violence against women, discrimination)
- Education (effective learning for all children and youth for life and livelihood)
- Health (Achieve health and well being at all ages)
- Peace and Good Governance (Human Rights Framework and accountability mechanisms)

15.45-16.00 Coffee Break

16.00-17.45 **Economic Dimension**

- Inclusive growth and remittance
- Creation of employment opportunities, new jobs
- Gender equality in employment and income inequality
- Eradicating poverty

June 1, 2014 - Sunday

10.00-12.00 **Working Groups on:**

- Eradication of Poverty
- Women's Empowerment
- Health
- Education
- Food Security, Water Supply and Sanitation
- Environment, Climate Change and Energy
- Sustainable Economic Development
- Peace and Good Governance (Human Rights Framework and Accountability Mechanisms)

Parliamentarian Roundtable

12.00-12.15 Coffee Break

12.15-14.00 **Making The New Sustainable Development Agenda Work**

14.00-15.00 Lunch

15.00-16.00 Announcement of Final Declaration & Closing Ceremony