Human Rights in the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Julia Kercher, MDGs Section

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

MDGs and Human Rights

Synergies ✔

- Promote multidimensional human well-being (not GDP alone)

- Strengthen incentives for social rights outcomes

- Global development partnership (MDG 8)

- Acknowledge resource constraints but aim for progressive realisation

- Data, statistics for monitoring

- Periodic reporting processes

Concerns ❓

- Targets not aligned with relevant HR

- Do not address inequalities

- No civil or political rights

- No time-bound targets for MDG 8 (development partnership)

- Perverse incentives with some indicators

- Weak accountability framework

- Charity not obligation

Post-2015 Process

Consultation

- **UN System Task Team** (incl. TST)

- 11 **global thematic consultations**

- Over 80 **national consultations**

- High Level Panel (HLP)

- My World Survey

- SDSN and others

Drafting (2013 – 2014)

- **Open Working Group (OWG)** sessions (Mar 2013 – Jul 2014)

- **GA Special Event** (Sep 2013)

- **PGA Events** on specific topics

- SG's MDG **acceleration reports**

Negotiation & Adoption (2014 –

- **OWG** and otherworking group reports to GA (Sep 2014)

- SG's **synthesis report** to GA (by end of 2014)

- Intergovernmental negotiations (Sep 2014 – Sep 2015)

- Heads of States Global Summit at GA70 (Sep 2015)

OHCHR Key Messages on Post-2015:
The agenda needs to aim for...

Freedom From Want
➡ *Align socio-economic goals with <u>economic, social and cultural rights</u>*

Freedom From Fear
➡ *Include key <u>civil and political rights</u> (political participation, access to justice, personal security)*

Leaving No One Behind
Include goals and targets on <u>equality</u> (within and between countries) and <u>non-discrimination</u>

International Policy Coherence
Include strong global partnership commitments and international policy reforms in line with <u>the right to development</u>

Effective accountability
Ensure a strong <u>accountability</u> framework, learning from human rights mechanisms

See for more details: HC's letter to all member states in June 2013

Human Rights Demands

UN System

•UNTT, June 2012: *Human rights, equality and sustainability* are 3 fundamental principles for Post-2015

•SG report, July 2013: New goals and targets should take into account human rights and inequalities

Consultations

•UNDG reports on Post-2015 consultations, 2013: *Human rights are central and "non-negotiable",* call for the new agenda to be built on human rights and for increased accountability

•HLP report, May 2013 included important human rights messages on civil and political rights, universality, accountability and equality by '*leaving no one behind*'

Governments

•Rio+20 Outcome, June 2012: Human rights are central to the international community's concept of sustainable development

•GA68 Special Event, Sep 2013: The post-2015 agenda should promote peace and security, democratic governance, gender equality and human rights for all

•OWG, Dec 2013 and Feb 2014: A strong and unprecedented support, from all regions, that human rights are universal and cross-cutting, and must be mainstreamed in all goals, targets and indicators

OWG's Zero Draft of SDGs (June 2014)

GAINS

✓ AAAQ of the rights to food, health, education, W&S (*freedom from want*)

✓ Targets on personal security, access to justice and public participation (*freedom from fear*)

✓ Goals on *equality* (within/btw countries) and gender equality, attention to vulnerable groups

✓ Global partnership goal and targets include elements *of the right to development*

GAPS and RISKS

• More **implicit** rather than explicit language on human rights

• '**Commodification**': Tendency to treat migrants as economic commodity than rights holders

• '**Corporatisation**': Tendency to encourage business involvement but neglecting accountability

• Some targets that could cause **perverse incentives** (e.g. '*eliminate slums*')

Specific Reference to Indigenous Peoples

- ## Goal 2 – Hunger - Target 2.5

"by 2020 maintain genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their wild relatives, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and **associated traditional knowledge** as internationally agreed.

- ## Goal 16 – Institutions – Target 16.4:

"by 2030 increase inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels and **ensure prior informed consent of indigenous and local communities** in decision-making and natural resources management, and promote the use of their traditional knowledge and culture"

Deleted: additional references to indigenous peoples and practices in Goal 2 (hunger) , Goal 4 (education), Goal 10 (equality)

More information

- **OHCHR Post-2015 website**: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/MDG/Pages/MDGPost2015Agend

- **OHCHR, 2013, "*Who Will be Accountable? Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*"**

- **OHCHR, 2012, "*Human Rights Indicators*"**