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Action now needed to deliver positive change in the lives of the poorest and most marginalised - BEYOND 2015

Time for governments to listen to the people and start discussing a post-2015 framework which tackles the structural causes of poverty and injustice.

The participating organisations of the Beyond 2015 campaign today acknowledged the endorsement of the road map for the creation of an inclusive post-2015 agenda by Heads of States during the UN General Assembly. The clear decision for a single framework and set of goals enables us all, civil society included, to work constructively towards transformation in the lives of the people who need it most – those experiencing the greatest poverty and vulnerability.

The commitment to a coherent approach which integrates poverty eradication, human rights, economic transformation, social justice and environmental stewardship, indicates the potential for transformational change in 2015. Central to this is the recognition of common but differentiated responsibilities in a universal agenda.

The inclusion of peace and security, democratic governance, the rule of law, gender equality, and human rights for all is critical. Evidence and experience since 2000 illustrates that neither eradication of poverty nor achievement of sustainable development is possible without these essential elements. However, the post-2015 agenda must radically transform the way in which the purpose of the economy is understood, so that it exists to serve people and planet.

Despite these positive signs, the tone of the debate in New York, reflected in the document endorsed today, lacks the ambition needed to make that change. For more than two years, civil society has been insisting that a post-2015 agenda must address the structural causes of poverty and injustice by tackling inequality, gender injustice, social exclusion and a skewed international financial system. This has to be based on human rights for all people.

An approach that fails to tackle the root causes of deprivation through quick-fix solutions will be neither effective, sustainable nor legitimate. Beyond 2015 Co-Chair Neva Frecheville said “Governments need to start listening to the people and to raise the level of ambition in order to ensure that no-one is left behind. Civil society around the world will not accept a framework which does not deal with the structural causes of poverty and injustice. The global community gets one chance for deep thought every twenty years - and this is it!”

Note for editor

Beyond 2015 is a global civil society campaign, pushing for a strong and legitimate successor framework to the Millennium Development Goals.

The campaign is built on a diverse, global base. It ranges from small community based organisations to international NGOs, academics and trade unions. A founding principle of the campaign is that it is a partnership between civil society organisations from the 'North' and the 'South' – bringing together groups from developing, emerging and developed economies

The campaign brings together around 800 organisations from over the world.

www.beyond2015.org

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