

# What Kind of World Do We Want to Live In?

From the Millennium Development Goals to the Post 2015 development agenda



► **IN SEPTEMBER** 2013, the UN General Assembly laid down the groundwork for the development agenda that is to follow the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). Unlike its predecessor, the new agenda will apply to all the world's countries and incorporate all three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic). When effort sharing was discussed, it was promised that the different conditions in countries would be taken into account. A time period of 800 days was set for the negotiations related to the agenda.

The lives of millions of people have improved on account of the MDG. However, the realisation of some of the goals is lagging badly behind schedule. Additionally, progress has been very uneven not only between countries and regions, but also within them. The MDG were created in a different world from the one we live in today. When drafting the new Post 2015 development agenda, it is time to check our course and create a new, global understanding of how inequality can be reduced and how sustainable development creates wellbeing.

## FINLAND MUST:

- Keep in mind the positive achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, but learn from their weaknesses. The MDG ignore such issues as the structural causes of poverty and inequality.
- Support one global Post 2015 development agenda that will be built inclusively and based on already existing international agreements. The agenda must combine the three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic), and distribute responsibility for achieving the objectives fairly.
- Make sure that the necessary resources are allocated for implementation and that different political fields act consistently.
- Promote democratic governance, which ensures that governments act responsibly and according to their commitments and that the views and opinions of the people genuinely impact decision-makers' actions.

Kepa Policy Briefs 14 2013

ISBN PDF 978-952-200-217-4  
ISSN: 1797-9412

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KEPA RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM THE DEVELOPMENT CO-OPERATION FUNDS  
OF THE FINNISH MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

# 1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA?

## Who is responsible for ensuring that the Millennium Development Goals are realised?

► **UN** member states have little time left to realise the eight Millennium Development Goals<sup>1</sup> that were agreed upon at the turn of the millennium. The deadline for realisation is 2015.

The actual realisation of the MDG was reviewed during a special session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2013.

At that time, the member states held high level discussions for the first time ever on what type of development goals the world is in need of after the MDG.

The lives of millions of people have improved after the MDG were agreed upon. Extreme poverty has been cut in half, access to clean water has improved and living conditions of people living in slums have developed, in addition to which progress has been made in the healthcare field and in basic education.

However, the realisation of some of the goals is lagging badly behind schedule.

Progress has been very uneven, not only between countries and regions, but also within them. Especially, sub-Saharan Africa has fallen behind in realisation of the MDG.

The people who reside in the countryside in these countries and society's poorest are in the weakest position. For example, 83% of people who do not have access to clean water live in the countryside.<sup>2</sup>

The MDG reflect a global understanding of poverty eradication and of the obligations held by different parties, which prevailed before the goals were decided on. The primary responsibility for realisation of the MDG falls upon developing countries, whereas only the eighth goal obligates rich countries to act. This challenging goal, which will require so-called

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### MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

#### 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

- Halve the number of people living on less than a dollar a day
- Improve employment
- Halve the number of people, who are starving

#### 2. Achieve universal primary education

- Universal primary education

#### 3. Promote gender equality and empower women

- The share of girls in schools
- The share of women in the labourforce
- Representation of women in parliament

#### 4. Reduce child mortality

- Reduce the mortality of children under the age of 5 by two-thirds
- Vaccinate children against the measles

#### 5. Improve maternal health

- Reduce maternal mortality by 75%
- Achieve universal access to reproductive healthcare

#### 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- Halt and hinder the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Halt and hinder the spread of tuberculosis

#### 7. Ensure environmental sustainability

- Reverse deforestation
- To half the number of people forced to live without access to safe drinking water
- To half the number of people that live without basic sanitation

#### 8. Develop a global partnership for development

- Develop a fair and rule-based international trade and funding system.
- Increase development cooperation with developing countries that are committed to decreasing poverty

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<sup>1</sup> At the turn of the millennium, UN member states adopted the Millennium Declaration (Resolution adopted by the General Assembly 55/2. United Nations Millennium Declaration). Its goals were subsequently encapsulated in eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

<sup>2</sup> UN MDG monitoring report

## VIEWPOINT OF A CSO

### Friends of the Earth Finland's view of the MDG conflictingv

In 2007, Friends of the Earth Finland published alternatives to the Millennium Development Goals, in which it stated that the much publicised Millennium Development Goals leave many important phenomena in their shadow: the state of the environment, grass-root struggles, as well as current policies and direction of development. In public debate the MDG have placed poverty in a key position in development policy, but debaters have been unable to politicise structures that bring about poverty. For example, the water crisis, concentration of land ownership and an increase in greenhouse emissions have further impaired the position of the world's most vulnerable. The MDG have been used to promote trade, investments, overconsumption and power shifting to the financial market, regardless of the impacts of these methods that add to discrimination or poverty. We have learned that global power dynamics cannot be altered with mere public declarations, but that we must be organised and object to problematic structures, such as development that is based on fossil fuels or resource grab.

*Friends of the Earth Finland is a part of an international movement that provides people with the opportunity to act together in order to attain a more democratic, fair and ecologically sustainable world.*

global partnership, arose due to discussion on the debt problems of the global south, terms and conditions development funding institutions set for loans and the unfair rules governing world trade that marked the change of the millennium.<sup>3</sup> However, it has been difficult to monitor the actions of industrialised countries in promoting global partnership, as the objectives have been shaped to be very broad-scoped and no functional indicators have been set for monitoring their realisation.

Later, an understanding of the structural problems that have hindered poverty eradication has increased, but the aforementioned problems faced by the international operating environment have not disappeared after the Millennium Development Goals were set. The fact that industrialised countries have not seen through on their promises to increase development aid, provide debt reliefs or seen to reforms of trade structures has in itself increased suspicion and grudges in developing countries.

Developing countries should indeed be given responsibility for developing their own societies. However, the Millennium Development Goals have been criticised for ignoring the structural causes of poverty. As an example, we can examine the seventh millennium goal, which has to do with conserving the environment. Industrialised countries have been and are still primarily responsible for the overconsumption of the world's natural resources, as well as the environmental problems that have maintained and deepened poverty, such as climate change. Even so, developing countries have had to shoulder the majority of responsibility for the seventh millennium goal. The actions of industrialised countries with regard to the eighth millennium goal have been monitored more closely, as it applies to the amount of development aid they provide. It is already now clear that the promise made over 40 years ago to increase development aid to 0.7% of each country's gross national income (GNI) seems to be impossible to realise by 2015. On the contrary, countries have downsized the development aid they provide. In 2012, the OECD's Development Assistance Committee's member states<sup>4</sup> gave a total of 97 billion euros in development aid, which is less than 0.3% of the OECD member states' overall gross national income (GNI). This was the second year running that the amount of development aid fell.<sup>5</sup>

The world's poorest countries suffer the most from the consequences of cuts to development aid, while smaller debts and increased trade benefit especially developed countries.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Kenny (2013)

<sup>4</sup> DAC countries refer to the members of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

<sup>5</sup> OECD-DAC statistics 2013

<sup>6</sup> UN MDG monitoring report

# What have been the impacts of the Millennium Development Goals?

► **THE MILLENNIUM** Development Goals have been called history's most successful campaign against poverty.

They have proved that clear, simple and understandable universal development goals can have a great impact on attracting attention for social development and to the plight of the world's poorest people, as well as their basic needs, such as food, education and healthcare.<sup>7</sup>

The MDG place in question the stand alone might of economic growth and market power and prove that public policy and funding are also necessary to ensure that social development reaches everyone equally. UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has emphasised the importance of national ownership, as well as inclusive growth combined with actions that have improved the opportunity of the world's poorest to have access to basic services. At the same time, Ban Ki-moon has emphasised that global challenges, such as correction of the international trade system's problems, tax evasion and mitigation of and adapting to climate change will also necessitate united global solutions.<sup>8</sup>

The MDG include a strong focus on results, whereas previously the accomplishments gained

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through development cooperation have for the most part been evaluated by counting how many wells or schools have been built.

However, management by results always includes the risk that when only using quantitative indicators, there is no guarantee of the quality of the actions and their impact on human life. For example, when monitoring the number of children, who attend school, the quality of the education they receive is easily forgotten.

## The reasons for poverty should be tackled more forcefully in Tanzania

Tanzanian development actors are largely of the opinion that the MDG have thus far been the more beneficial tool in the fight against poverty and for creating a common understanding of the problem. Despite this, the country has gained meagre results in combatting poverty. Approximately 33% of Tanzanians still live on less than a dollar a day, despite the country's rapid economic growth; approximately 7% each year. Civil society believes that the government has not been able to solve the diverse

problems that have led to poverty. The government has focused its attention on cutting income poverty, but not the other factors, such as the people's civil rights or opportunities to participate. Tanzania has been very successful with regard to the second, fourth and seventh Millennium Development Goals. The country has fallen behind on all the other goals and will likely not be able to realise them by 2015. Civil society believes that good work has been done and progress has been made, especially at the beginning of the millennium, with regard to reducing child mortality and improving education. However, this positive development slowed after 2005, when the government's

funding for these sectors was cut. This was due to the Tanzanian government's failed investigations into the misuse of public funds, which in turn resulted in a drop in financier confidence in the country's administration and reduced funding.

*The information is based on the Breaking with Business as Usual Study.<sup>7</sup> Ibid<sup>8</sup>, which TANGO (Tanzania Association of Non-governmental Organizations) compiled in 2012*

<sup>7</sup> Ibid

<sup>8</sup> UN Secretary-General's report 2013

## VIEWPOINT OF A CSO

### KIOS believes the Millennium Development Goals should be viewed from a human rights perspective

The MDG have obligated Finland's government to increase development aid, which has also been reflected in the work of organisations. The basic function of the Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS is to promote human rights and we are of the opinion that the Millennium Development Goals should be viewed as a matter of human rights. The right to food is closely related to the MDG, whereas the position of those that defend human rights is not mentioned in the MDG, although the UN supports their work in numerous ways. Many of the projects supported by KIOS aim to increase the rights of marginalised groups, as well as the knowledge these groups have of their rights. The rights of women and girls are in a key position in many projects. We have learned from the MDG that international commitments are important with regard to setting future global objectives. On the other hand, the MDG were a compromise, and because of this, goals related to political and civil rights or complete eradication of poverty were not included.

*The basic function of The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS is to promote the realisation of human rights. KIOS provides funding for human rights projects run by local organisations in East Africa and South Asia.*

Focusing only on worldwide numbers and national averages also means that the plight of the people in the most marginal position is ignored as are the institutions or social norms that often discriminate against this group. In some countries, progress in achieving the goals has seemed impressive although, at the same time, the position of the countries' poorest has possibly deteriorated further. Additionally, only two of the MDG necessitate gender sensitivity as an indicator of success, which means that the gender-divided character of the poverty problem is ignored.<sup>9</sup>

The MDG are also a significantly more limited entity than various previous UN resolutions. Many NGOs, UN organisations and even governments have expressed their concern that as attention is focused on the simplified MDG, issues that are politically sensitive but in real need of change, such as human rights, climate change, good governance, peace and security will remain ignored. The original MDG have also been criticised, as they have been initiated by those who provide aid and they have not been planned inclusively.<sup>10</sup>

It is difficult to determine the actual change that the MDG have brought about, as there is little information available on their impact on development results or the focal points of development cooperation and the streaming of funds. For example, it is not clear whether the thematic focal areas of the MDG were a trend already before the goals were agreed upon or if the MDG influenced how aid funds were steered. There is no analysis on whether the improvements in such sectors as education and healthcare are due to the MDG or if other factors, such as technological innovations, have led to them. It is even more difficult to determine the impact of the MDG on the focal points of national level politics, not to mention their impact on decision makers in industrialised countries with regard to matters other than distribution of development aid. One reason for this might be that no clear indicators that could be monitored have been set up for the promises made by industrialised countries. It is certain, in any case, that many governments have adopted the MDG at least in their rhetoric. Some organisations, for their part, have seen that the MDG are a good advocacy tool.<sup>11</sup>

On the other hand, even if all the Millennium Development Goals were achieved, this would not be enough to eradicate global inequality. Even if fully realised, the first millennium goal will still leave half of those living in poverty in squalor.

9 Melamed 2012

10 Melamed & Scott 2011

11 Green & al 2012



Poverty is also a more multifaceted phenomenon than mere income poverty, which means that even official poverty lines can be criticised. Just helping people to rise above the poverty line is not enough to eradicate poverty that is related to lack of civil rights and social inequality. Indicators also affect the result. The number of people, who earn less than a dollar a day, was selected as the indicator for monitoring how well poverty declined. The poverty level in 1990 was selected as the point of comparison. According to philosopher Thomas Pogge, cutting the number of poor people in relative terms is much easier, especially as the point of comparison is 1990, than cutting the number of poor in absolute terms. This is due to the fact that over the past 25 years the world's population has grown so much that the share of people living on under a dollar a day has decreased automatically. When defined in this way, in practice goal refers to helping "only" just over 200 million people above

the one dollar a day poverty line by 2015, whereas a more ambitious halving of poverty between 2000 and 2015 would expand the challenge to improving the living conditions of 550 million people.

Pogge also notes that in East Asia a cut in poverty defined in these terms was achieved in 1999; before the goals were even decided on. This is due to a rapid decline in poverty in China during the 1990s. Thus, achieving the Millennium Development Goals will not necessarily pose a great challenge in all parts of the world, and some of the goals were perhaps knowingly decided on to be such that they could be achieved without great effort or even automatically.<sup>12</sup>

In any case, the greatest value of the Millennium Development Goals is that they are so widely endorsed. The goals have become a cornerstone of mutually agreed upon development policy and development cooperation, and they provide a foundation for improving global cooperation.

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## Lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals

► **CLEAR** global goals increase interest in social development objectives.

► **POLITICAL** promises are not enough. Clear commitments that can be measured and accountability mechanisms to ensure implementation are also necessary. Also the selected targets and indicators will, to some extent, determine the direction of development.

► **INEQUALITY** will not automatically decline. It is not enough to just work on absolute poverty. The global

structures of poverty and the reasons behind inequality must be addressed.

► **GOALS** cannot be set only for developing countries. Global goals that will also require industrialised countries to make changes are vital.

► **PREVIOUS** commitments must be the baseline for new goals.

► **CLOSE** attention must be paid to how the different dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic) can be

combined, as the links between these are not automatically evident.

► **IT IS IMPORTANT**, that when collecting data the sensitivity of the data is taken into account, so that it would be possible to monitor actual realisation and improvement of the conditions that those in the weakest position live in.

► **IN ADDITION** to the content of development goals, it is essential to also be inclusive when planning, implementing and assessing goals.

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<sup>12</sup> Pogge 2004

## 2. HOW WILL THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AGENDA BE DECIDED ON?

► **DRAFTING** the new development agenda is an arduous and fragmented process, and one could use an infinite amount of time just on monitoring it. Multiple actors are involved in talks concerning the agenda and each wants to have an impact on its content. The time between now and summer 2014 is crucial, with regard to the formulation of the content of the development agenda.

” The people want actual changes and to call into question current structures

► **A CONSIDERABLY** small group of UN insiders took predominant responsibility for drafting the MDG, which was an issue that evoked much criticism. When drafting the new development agenda, the UN has been far more open in its approach and organised consultations, as well as established websites for this purpose.<sup>13</sup>

Thus far, the primary observations from these consultations can be summed up as follows: the subject areas covered in the MDG continue to be important, but new quality indicators and the use of social media are needed for the new development agenda. The most prominently promoted subjects not covered in the MDG are accountability, eradication of inequality and human rights. People want the agenda to create jobs, improve government administration, concentrate on the decline of the climate and natural resources, focus on population growth and migration movements, as well as peace and security.

In other words, people want transformational changes and to question structures currently in place. For example, economic development, which does not create new jobs, wastes diminishing natural resources and increases inequality is no longer an option. In September 2013, the UN General Assembly laid down the groundwork for the development agenda that is to follow the Millennium Development Goals. A time period of 800 days was set for the negotiations concerning the agenda. Unlike its predecessor, the new agenda will apply to all the world's countries and incorporate all three dimensions of sustainable development (social, environmental and economic).<sup>14</sup>

### VIEWPOINT OF A CSO

#### Current power dynamics must be questioned.

According to Friends of the Earth, the new development agenda must cover issues such as the overconsumption of natural resources by the rich, as well as the rights and income and wealth inequality of local communities. Thus far, these have meant that the interests of the people and ecosystems in the most vulnerable position have been ignored so that the consumption level of the over-consuming class could be increased.

The new development agenda should also take a stand on the overconsumption of Finland's mineral resources. Sufficient principles and starting points already exist in the form of the principles and millennium declaration that were agreed on in Rio in 1992. Now, we must call into question those power dynamics that are preventing the realisation of these sustainability principles.

<sup>12</sup> The consultations are supported by the website [www.worldwewant2015.org](http://www.worldwewant2015.org). The UNDP, in collaboration with the UN Millennium Campaign and the Overseas Development Institute, has also launched the website <http://www.myworld2015.org/>.

<sup>13</sup> The Global Conversation Begins: Emerging Views For a New Development Agenda, UNDG, 2013. The civil society networks Beyond 2015, Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP), and the International Forum of National NGO Platforms (IFP) have also carried out consultations in 39 countries.



# Drawing up the UN agenda

► **THUS FAR**, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's report<sup>15</sup> has possibly been the most important starting point for approaching the new development agenda in the 2013 General Assembly. The report in itself is based on a report by a High Level Panel<sup>16</sup>, recommendations by the UN Task Team, the working group for the Post 2015 agenda<sup>17</sup>, country and theme-specific consultations, as well as recommendations by the UN's Global Compact<sup>18</sup> and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDS Network)<sup>19</sup> headed by Jeffrey Sachs.

Of these, especially the report by the High Level Panel appointed by UNSG Ban Ki-moon, which presented a "12 development goal and 5 structural change" roadmap for the eradication poverty by 2030 has received massive publicity. The report also covered topics such as sustainable development economy, peace and security, employment, equality and global partnerships.

The UN Secretary General has a key role in drafting the agenda, gathering a group of trendsetters

and steering the negotiation process, The Secretary General is expected to draw together the results of the numerous working groups and consultations. The results will be published as one report by the end of 2014.

The Post 2015 Development Agenda is believed to be the most important heritage of his term. Ban Ki-moon noted that now is the time to do everything possible in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. The new agenda that must take into account vast global challenges, such as inequality within countries and between countries, climate change, immigration, conflicts and unrest as well as human rights issues in a new way. During the week of the September General Assembly, the High-level Political Forum (HLPF), established during the Rio +20 Summit, met for the first time. The HLPF is to replace the UN Commission on Sustainable Development and to create political leadership, give recommendations and provide opportunities for new openings in the promotion of sustainable development.

## Objectives for sustainable development

► **DURING THE RIO+20** Assembly in June 2012, a decision was made to establish the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals. Although, many parties have expressed wishes on the adoption of a new intergovernmental process to draft the Post 2015 agenda, in practice this 30 member working group is currently the primary forum for discussion on the new development agenda. One of the main challenges has been to draft a focused and concrete presentation with clear priorities and recommendations. The working group is to submit its report on the goals for sustainable development at the UN General Assembly in September 2014. It is not yet clear how the negotiation process will progress after this, but 2015 will likely be a top year for multilateralism and will culminate with a conference between world leaders in September 2015.<sup>20</sup>

### VIEWPOINT OF A CSO

#### Rights of the individual must be recognised universally

KIOS believes that it is important to include all dimensions of human rights in the new development agenda, although it might be difficult to achieve a consensus of this type amongst the international community.

It is important that every individual's human rights are recognised universally. Also methods for reversing climate change should be inspected from a viewpoint based on human rights.

<sup>15</sup> UN Secretary-General's report (2013). Ban Ki-moon has also suggested a new summary report by the Secretary-General that would serve as the basis for negotiations in 2014.

<sup>16</sup> A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty And Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development: The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 2013

<sup>17</sup> Realizing the Future We Want for All, Report to the Secretary-General by the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, 2012

<sup>18</sup> Corporate Sustainability and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda Perspectives from UN Global Compact Participants on Global Priorities How to Engage Business Towards Sustainable Development Goals, Report to the Secretary-General by the UN Global Compact, 2012

<sup>19</sup> An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development, Report to the Secretary-General by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2013

<sup>20</sup> Evans et al 2013

# How will the new development agenda be implemented?

► **THE** Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing has been appointed to consider the funding of the agenda. The committee is made up of approximately 30 experts, who do not directly represent their home governments, but are in practice appointed by their governments. Finland has a crucial role in the committee, as Ambassador Pertti Majanen has been appointed as co-chair of the group.

The purpose of the committee is to report to the UN General Assembly in 2014. The committee has divided its work into three thematic clusters; financing needs and sources, mobilisation of resources and their efficient use, as well as consistency and institutional matters.

Nevertheless, an analysis of and decision-making related to financing sources are of key importance so as to ensure that the development agenda is not based only on empty promises. The committee's work provides an opportunity for this. Another advantage of this group is that ministries of finance are joining in at an early stage of the process, as are ministries of development, foreign affairs and the environment. As the High Level Panel has proposed, an international funding summit will likely also be organised at some point in the course of this process.<sup>21</sup>

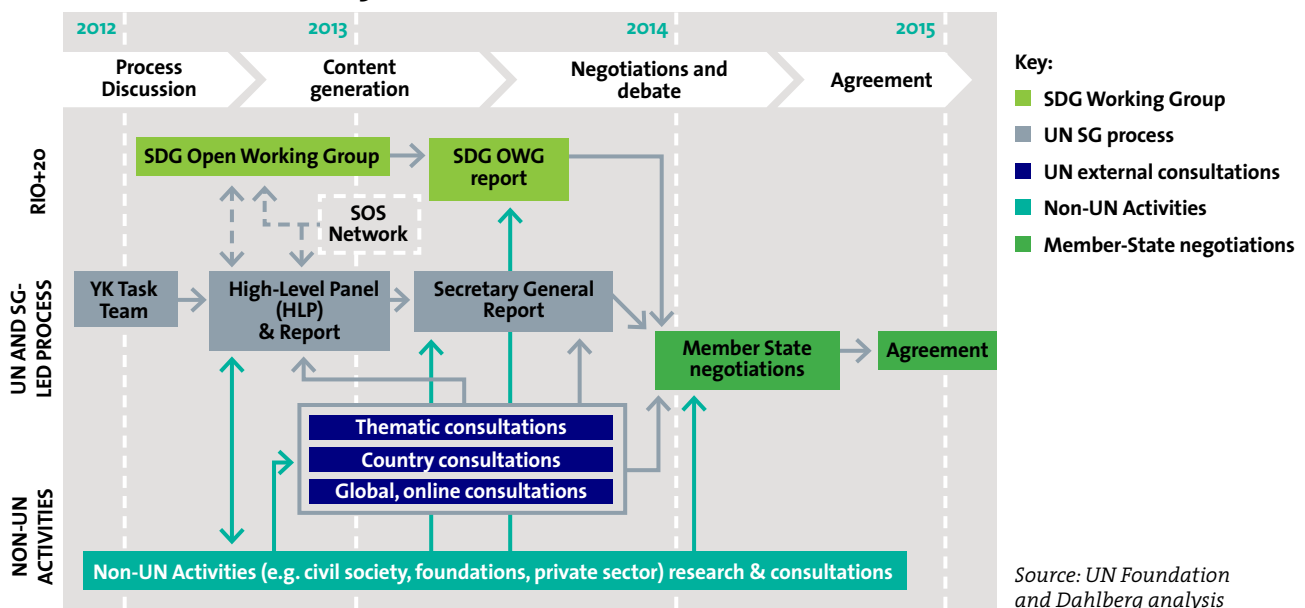
In addition to funding, it is of course important to find a common understanding of other responsibilities required by global partnerships, and especially those for rich countries.

## UN climate talks

► **2015 ALSO** promises to be a top year in climate policy, as governments have agreed to meet in Paris for talks on a new climate agreement that is to enter into force by 2020. It remains to be seen how the climate talks will relate to talks on the new development agenda, as these will partially overlap.

In September 2014, the UN Secretary General will also hold a Climate Summit for world leaders in New York; this is around the same time as the Open Working Group is to submit its report.<sup>22</sup>

### SHAPING THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



Source: UN Foundation and Dahlberg analysis

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

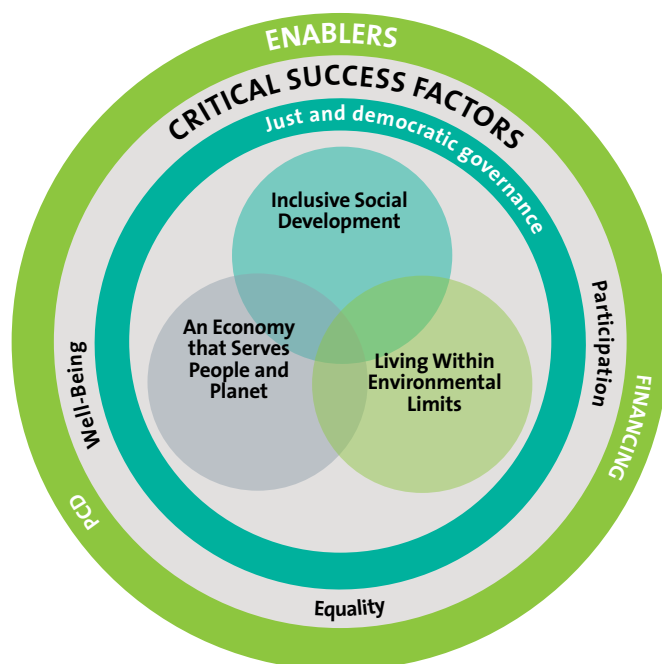
<sup>22</sup> Ibid. Several other processes, such as the work plan on sustainable production and consumption agreed on at the Rio+20 summit, also influence these decisions.

### 3. KANSALAISYHTEISKUNNAN NÄKEMYKSIÄ

## Vision of European organisations for the Post 2015 agenda

► **EUROPE'S** Beyond 2015 network has published its own proposal for the future development agenda.<sup>23</sup>

According to this vision, the goal of the agenda will be to create a just, equal and sustainable world, in which everyone is able to realise their human rights and potential, as well as live free of poverty. Certain human rights principles, such as equality, non-discrimination, participation, as well as accountability form the foundation for implementation of this vision. The agenda is made up of 21 global goals that combine the different dimensions of sustainable development. In order to implement these, such factors as indicators, mechanisms for monitoring and accountability, as well as fundamental factors such as financing and coherence between different areas of politics and sustainable development are all crucial.



#### Issues Tanzanian civil society would highlight in the development agenda

According to Tanzanian civil society, it is important that NGOs and people are included in the drafting, implementation, monitoring and assessment of the new development agenda.

The political processes connected to bringing a decline to poverty must be made more transparent so that the public can assess them, and the government should share current and applicable information.

Additionally, government officials and citizens need more in-depth knowledge and understanding of the strategies and plans for eradicating poverty.

Tanzania must invest more in recognising the causes of poverty and increasing the people's understanding of these.

According to civil society, poverty eradication measures should be more concentrated at the local government level where most poverty reduction activities take place. Tanzania should also strive to reach greater consistency

between the objectives set for economic policy and social policy.

As the majority of Tanzanians still earn their income from farming, it is vital that development of the countryside is a strong part of the new development agenda. Civil society has also noted that an increase in multilateral cooperation between the government, actors in civil society and the public sector would be welcome.

*The information is based on the Breaking with Business as Usual Study, 7 Ibid 8, which TANGO (Tanzania Association of Non-governmental Organizations) compiled in 2012.*

<sup>23</sup> Putting People and Planet First - CONCORD Beyond 2015 Task Force, 2013

# Global context

► **THE GLOBAL** context has changed tremendously from what it was in the late 1990s, the time at which the Millennium Development Goals were drafted. We now face climate, food and economic crises, and the population is growing at a great pace, while the Earth's capacity to sustain us is coming to its end.

Urbanisation and the development of technology have changed the operating environment, and many

new actors can no longer be ignored; among these emerging economies and multinational corporations and their significant role in steering development.

The role of development cooperation and its impact are also shrinking when compared to other cash flow. The Post 2015 agenda offers the opportunity to change course and make the structural changes required for sustainable development.

## FINLAND MUST:

► Promote a universal agenda that combines the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, the primary focuses of which are improving the position of the world's poorest, decreasing inequality and respecting planetary boundaries.

► Support just, global distribution of accountability, so that it follows the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, and each country's possibility to ensure the realisation of its economic, social and civics related human rights liabilities at least at the minimum level.

► Support concrete, clear and binding goals. The realisation of these goals must also be ensured with an action plan, with clear and sensitive indicators, as well as reporting, monitoring and accountability systems in which those that hold responsibility are identified

► Ensure sufficient resources for efficient implementation of the goals. Commitments that have already been entered into, such as raising the share of funds allocated for development cooperation to 0.7% of gross national income, must be met. Additionally, new innovative public sources of funding, such as emission taxes, are needed for facing new challenges such as mitigation of and adapting to climate change.

► It is important to put a stop to illegal capital flight and strengthen the tax capacity of developing countries. This should be done in a way that ensures that the income gained from natural resources promotes the development of the people living in the country in question.

► Require implementation of actions that will tackle the causes of poverty and inequality and the structures that maintain them, as well as promote consistency between different areas of politics. Consistency of development policy must be accepted as the international norm or standard that all countries commit to adhering to.

► Ensure that when the new agenda is drafted and implemented the following points are deemed of key importance: democratic and good governance, rule of law, putting an end to corruption, access to public services and information, peace, and security and human rights, as well as democratic ownership and ensuring an enabling environment for civil society.

# Social development and the new landscape of poverty

► **DESPITE PROGRESS**, there is still much to do with regard to social development: over a billion people still live in extreme poverty and one in eight people go hungry. Far too many must survive without basic healthcare services or education, and inequality has increased in both rich and poor countries.<sup>24</sup>

Changes in the global context will inevitably affect the tools and goals that will be used to eradicate poverty after 2015. Although the importance of development cooperation will remain strong in the world's poorest countries, the new agenda will also need to focus more on other policy areas.

When drafting the new agenda, it is important to remember that development cooperation will not alone solve poverty: its share is a mere 0.3% of the GNI of those countries providing aid. However, high-quality development cooperation can be an effective tool for helping people in poor countries improve their own living conditions and change their society, so that it is a more just one. Work is continuously carried out to improve the results of development cooperation.

The landscape of poverty has altered, and the world's poorest are now more clearly divided into two groups: the majority of poor people live in medium income countries, which include rising economic giants like Brazil, India, Indonesia and China. Although poverty has decreased in these countries due to economic growth, the fruits of this growth have been distributed very unevenly.

Others live in low income countries, which are susceptible to conflicts. Not one of these frail nations has achieved even one of the MDG.<sup>25</sup>

People have begun to understand that safe social conditions are a significant factor in decreasing poverty and inequality, just as development is in achieving peace. The MDG completely ignore matters related to peace and security, as well as democratic and just governance.

The borders of nations and boundaries of poverty are not always one and the same. Therefore, groups of poor people and poor areas within countries must better be taken into account in the future. With regard to medium income countries, it is essential that we ask how their development is genuinely sustainable. How can rapid economic growth be adapted to the environment's limits? How can it be ensured that arising business will benefit citizens and nations in the

” We must shift our focus from fulfilling needs to making sure that people are able to recognise and demand their rights, as well as to ensuring that countries take responsibility for guaranteeing that these rights are realised.

form of e.g. reasonable tax income? And, what type of income distribution and social policies are needed so that others, not only the elite, will benefit from economic growth?

Medium income countries are ultimately responsible for their own policies, but international partnerships and agreements can be used to create an enabling environment and set good examples of poverty eradication. International corporations also impact on the sustainable use of natural resources, tax income and human rights.

Merely tackling poverty is not enough anymore, as inequality continues to grow worldwide. According to Branko Milanovic, an economist at the World Bank, the top 5% of the world's population controls over 37% of global income, while the bottom 5% have less than 0.2%.<sup>26</sup>

Also according to Milanovic, during approximately the past 20 years the income of the world's richest one per cent has grown by 60 per cent. Worldwide inequality has grown an astounding amount over the past few decades, and now extreme poverty and extreme wealth prevent equality and stable development. The ongoing economic crisis has poured oil on the fire.

With regard to equality, it is important specifically to improve the women's rights, as gender is a factor behind many poverty problems and special attention should be paid to those in the most vulnerable position. The availability of social services and access to them are at the forefront when speaking about such issues as education, health, water or sanitation.

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<sup>24</sup> UN MDG monitoring report  
<sup>25</sup> Stocchetti, 2012.

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<sup>26</sup> Milanovic 2010



Decent work, in turn, creates the preconditions for income. In addition, social security nets are vital. Although the development agenda has only relatively recently seen an expansive breakthrough in social policy, at a national level, comprehensive social benefits and benefits of transfer systems have in many cases been significant. Development of these security nets offers opportunities for achieving the original global objectives outlined in the Millennium Development Goals.

Poverty and inequality are not accidents, but consequences of resolute activity and non-activity. As poverty is man-made, it can be overcome and eradicated with actions that tackle the root causes of poverty and by changing the structures that maintain it. Our focus must shift from fulfilling needs to making sure that people are able to demand their rights, as well by ensuring that countries take responsibility for guaranteeing that these rights are realised.

#### FINLAND MUST:

► Lay an emphasis on understanding the multifaceted nature of poverty, rather than exclusively placing focus on income poverty. Advocate a cut in poverty both between countries, as well as within them by intervening in the structural causes of poverty. Ad-

ditionally, both extremes, i.e. extreme poverty and underdevelopment, as well as extreme wealth and overconsumption must be addressed and intervened in.

► It is of key importance to focus attention on discrimination between different groups of people and especially on the rights of women.

► Support inclusion of human rights as a key element of the new development agenda. This means that when measuring development, existing international human rights treaties and the objectives within them should be used as a foundation and indicators. Offering social safety nets and ensuring universal access to social services are key aspects of ensuring economic, social and educational rights.

► Focus attention on the quality and effectiveness of development cooperation. The principles of aid effectiveness and methods of measuring it are outlined in the Paris Declaration, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership. The new goals must include democratic ownership, putting an end to tied aid and fragmentation and strengthening the enabling environment of civil society.<sup>27</sup>

## Unsustainable overconsumption of natural resources

► **OUR SOCIETY** and our wellbeing as a whole are dependent on the services provided by nature, such as raw materials for industry, food, drinking water and oxygen, i.e. the so-called ecosystem services. However, humankind consumes these shared natural resources at an unsustainable rate. In order to maintain the current rate of overconsumption, we would need 1.5 globes.<sup>28</sup>

Overconsumption is the key reason for all environmental problems, and approximately 60 per cent of ecosystem services are already at risk.<sup>29</sup> The current demand for continuous economic growth is being questioned more and more.

The Earth's limits have been surpassed.<sup>30</sup> Climate change is one the most visible signs of overconsumption. It has caused a rise in the Earth's average temperature, the consequences of which vary by region: the sea level is rising, nature's diversity has suffered, harvests are declining, tropical illnesses

are spreading and extreme weather phenomena, such as floods and droughts, have become more common. In order to stop climate change at two degrees, as has been agreed upon by the UN, global emissions must be mitigated by 2015.<sup>31</sup> However, contrary to this, at present emissions are growing, and the world is heading for a four degree rise, which, if it happens, will have catastrophic consequences.<sup>32</sup>

Overconsumption of natural resources is also a matter of equity and fairness, as rich industrialised countries are the one primarily responsible for overconsumption, whereas it is often the poorest that pay the price, which they cannot afford. If everyone on Earth lived like Finns or Brits, we would need three globes, while less than one globe would be sufficient for the consumption of developing countries.<sup>33</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> These are the elements of the Global Partnership for Development Effectiveness.

<sup>28</sup> WWF 2012

<sup>29</sup> Millennium Ecosystem Assessment 2005

<sup>30</sup> Rockström et al. 2009. Based on Rockström's model, Oxfam has created its own model that also includes social development:

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*A Safe And Just Space For Humanity, Can We Live Within The Doughnut? Oxfam Discussion Papers 2012*

<sup>31</sup> IPCC fourth assessment report 2007.

<sup>32</sup> World Bank 2012

<sup>33</sup> WWF 2012



It has been estimated that the world population will grow to 9.5 billion by the middle of the century<sup>34</sup>. This will add to the pressure to accelerate consumption of natural resources. In order to be able to offer all people the standard of life enjoyed by people living in industrialised countries, we would need three to four times the amount of natural resources currently available. This means that we must intercede in overconsumption by industrialised countries, and developing countries must acquire greener development paths.

The most important thing is to ensure food, energy and income for the poorest part of the world's population in a sustainable and low carbon way. It is the responsibility of rich countries to support developing countries in these activities. At present, corporations do not pay the actual price for the natural resources they consume and the pollution they create. For example, the profits of the world's 3,000 largest corporations would be approximately one-third smaller, if they were to pay the "full price" for the environmental impacts of their activities.<sup>35</sup> As corporations currently use two-thirds of the total natural resources consumed, this would speak in favour of requiring them to take responsibility.<sup>36</sup>

#### **FINLAND MUST:**

- ▶ Endorse recognition of planetary boundaries and conservation of global commons, such as air, the seas and the fish population.
- ▶ Demand that a focus be put on consumption habits and production models in both Finland and other rich countries.
- ▶ Tie all the goals to adapting to and mitigation of climate change. This will require implementation of global goals for emissions cuts, energy efficiency and renewable energy. The responsibility for these efforts needs to be distributed fairly.
- ▶ All countries must draw up low carbon development strategies. Finland must cut domestic greenhouse emissions by at least 40 per cent by 2020 and by 95 per cent by 2050. The losses suffered by the world's most vulnerable due to natural catastrophes must be minimised.
- ▶ Defend equal, sustainable and fair governance of natural resources, advocate the drafting of clear, national targets with regard to these and abide by these targets.

<sup>34</sup> UN population report: "World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision"

<sup>35</sup> PRI and UNEP 2011

### **The fight for diminishing natural resources**

The number of land grabs has grown like wild fire in past decades. The term land grab refers to situations in which e.g. multinational corporations or nations take over the use of land which locals have previously used to gain their livelihood possibly for generations. This is a consequence of the 2007-2008 global food crises, as well as a grown demand for land due to an increase in consumption.

During the past decade, the ownership of an estimated 203 million hectares of land has shifted from small farmers to foreign investors. This means a land area that is over six times the size of Finland. Especially multinational agriculture, fuel, forestry and mining corporations or development financiers, banks and retirement funds that have invested in them have been guilty of land grabs.

Unlike with peaceful land procurements and leasing, human rights violations are involved in land grabs. Grabs are not based on the consent of locals, and the impact assessments of these projects are often lacking. Land seizures can also involve secret agreements, in which case they tread on the principles of good governance and democracy.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>36</sup> An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development, Report to the Secretary-General by the SDS Network 2013

<sup>37</sup> Keva 2012 a

# Global economy: a need for structural changes

► **LIVING** in a global economy means that countries and areas are dependent on one another. The structural problems of the economic system prevent developing countries from breaking free of a cycle of poverty. There is still much to do with regard to the trade and debt goals listed in the Millennium Development Goals.

One of the concerns of the world's poorest countries is the impact of free trade on employment, and the growth of the power held by foreign corporations in relation to small, local enterprises and producers. Agriculture and copyright issues have been very important to poor countries in WTO talks. The multilateral trade talks (Doha round) have lagged and backtracked several times, which has resulted in a splintered trade system that it is difficult for developing countries and civil society to follow.<sup>38</sup>

In addition to hitting the rich north, the current economic crisis has impacted heavily on the poor in developing countries: unemployment has risen, trade and investments have decreased, the amount of money sent home by migrants has dwindled and public services have had to be cut due to government budget cuts. In 2009, the economic crisis cost African countries forty times that which they received in development aid.<sup>39</sup>

It is emblematic of the present economic system that real economy is very small in relation to the finance markets, in which over hundreds of times more money is moved daily than in the sale of goods and services. Demand and supply no longer determine prices, now it is pack mentality and trends that set these. From the viewpoint of the poorest, it is especially problematic that speculation in the finance markets has in recent years been targeted at raw materials and food. The majority of economists believe that speculation increases fluctuations in the price of food also in shops and in the world market. Transparency of the finance markets and increasing stability has been added to the agenda.<sup>40</sup>

Although the economy has grown especially in developing countries, the fruits of this growth have not been distributed evenly and inequality between countries and within them has grown.<sup>41</sup> Our present economic system is dependent on economic growth which is tied to consumption. However, an increase in consumption in high income countries such as Finland will not increase the people's happiness or well-

being, but rather cause environmental hazards and poorer working conditions. Gross domestic product (GDP) only measures the volume of domestic production, but tells little of its content or the distribution of wellbeing. Costs incurred from destruction of the environment raise a country's GDP as much as the construction of e.g. wind power plants. Maintaining the GDP as an indicator also sustains a consumption centred culture.

Alternative indicators include e.g. the Human Development Index (HDI) and the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI). In addition to economic development, these two indicators take the wellbeing of people and the environment into account more broadly. For their part, indicators such as the ecological footprint take consumption habits into account.<sup>42</sup>

During the past ten years, people have gained a far better understanding of the importance of taxes in development policy. Studies have shown that successful collection of taxes and redistribution of income strongly correlates with social development. Countries that are dependent on tax income also usually fare more successfully when measured with indicators for good governance and democracy than e.g. developing countries that rely on oil revenues.<sup>43</sup>

A sum equal to approximately nine times the amount of world's total development aid budget ends up in rich countries, often routed via tax havens shielded by strict banking secrecy.<sup>44</sup> There is much talk about corruption. However, the amount of funds that disappears in public sector corruption is minor when compared to illegal capital flight.

It has been estimated that only a few per cent of illegal capital flight is due to corruption. The overwhelmingly largest share of tax losses incurred by developing countries is due to tax evasion by multinational corporations. Methods used include tax planning, which toes legality and means that funds are transferred for too high or too low a price within a corporation to subsidiaries that are often located in tax havens. In this way, the corporation maintains a distorted report of profits and losses to minimise the taxes it pays in different countries.

The problem is shared by rich and poor countries, but poor countries do not have the same resources and opportunities to prevent this as rich countries. At the same time, the tax burden incurred by normal people is greater in countries where the private

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38 Kepa 2010  
39 Oxfam 2010  
40 FAO et al 2011

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41 UN commission on reforms of the International Monetary and Financial System 2009  
42 Nature 2009  
43 Marshall 2009  
44 Global Financial Integrity 2012: Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries: 2001-2010

sector is hardly taxed or the tax paying population is poor.<sup>45</sup>

According to estimates, up to half of the value of world trade travels through tax havens<sup>46</sup>. Another indicator, which is telling of the possibilities that multinational corporations have to distort taxes, is that today up to 70 per cent of world trade is trade between the subsidiaries of multinational corporate groups.<sup>47</sup>

Ensuring that developing countries receive the tax income they are entitled to supports successful realisation of the Millennium Development Goals. It also allows developing countries the possibility of breaking free from aid and loan dependency and from having to lure in risky foreign investments.<sup>48</sup>

#### **FINLAND MUST:**

►Advocate intervention in the structural problems in world trade, in a way that will ensure that economy is not seen as an absolute, but as a tool for serving the people's wellbeing and nature's capacity. Promote swift selection and validation of alternative indicators of wellbeing in place of the GDP.

►Promote the concept of green economy based on social justice and equality, acknowledgement of and respect for the limits of our planet, and adherence to the Rio principles.<sup>49</sup>

►Promote sufficient regulation and openness of finance market, and steering these to serve the real economy, people and sustainable development.

►Promote consistency between development and trade, in order to ensure that with regard to issues that impact developing countries, the interests of developing country citizens and those in the weakest position are taken into account. In practice, the Doha Development Agenda shall have to be successfully completed in order to save the multilateral system.

►Push for successful implementation of responsible debt principles and a debt arbitration mechanism at the international level.

►Endorse binding international corporate accountability norms as well as integration and implementation of current regulations. In addition to the do no harm principle positive development impacts in the private sector must be guaranteed.

►Advocate actions that will tackle the problems of tax havens, tax evasion, tax competition and corruption. Additionally, it is important to develop tax administration at the national level and minimise dependency on development aid.

### **Growth of corporate influence**

The number, size and power of multinational corporations have grown rapidly in past decades. The turnover of these corporations is larger than the GDP of many countries. If, for example, Walmart was a country, its GDP for 2011 would have been greater than that of 85 per cent of the world's countries, including Finland.

Corporations do indeed wield significant social power and aim to impact political decision making at all stages, in order to ensure a favourable operating environment for their business operations. Lobbying targeted at political decision makers has increased especially in Europe and the United States. Multinational corporations have even sued governments, when their interests have been at risk.

Business has become more and more global, and internationalisation of production chains has resulted in companies moving their production to where it is most affordable. The investments and policies of corporations have great significance with regard to the eradication of extreme poverty.

When products and raw materials are moved from one continent to another, they bring capital, technology, expertise and jobs to developing countries. However, there are unfortunate aspects to business in different parts of the world, which include trodden rights of labourers and local people, overconsumption of natural resources, distorting of taxes and bribery.

Additionally, there are loopholes in the laws of many countries, as well as shortcomings in the implementation of laws. The governments of developing countries fear that strict environmental, labour and tax legislation will limit their countries' competitiveness and drive foreign investors away. Lacking monitoring tempts some corporations to also ignore existing regulations. This creates an odd situation in which the benefits, brought to developing countries by foreign investors that have been courted in order to promote economic development, are minimised as much as possible. Companies do not often rank the interests of citizens of developing countries as highly as they do western interest groups, such as share owners and consumers.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>45</sup> See, e.g., Keva 2013  
<sup>46</sup> Tax Justice Network 2009  
<sup>47</sup> OECD 2008

<sup>48</sup> Keva 2009  
<sup>49</sup> Rio principles: <http://www.unep.org/Documents.Multilingual/Default.asp?documentid=78&articleid=1163>  
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# What kind of world do we want to live in?

## Beyond the Millennium Development Goals to the Post 2015 development agenda

The world has changed in many, many ways from the time of the Millennium Declaration. New actions that tackle the root causes of poverty and inequality and go beyond development cooperation are needed. However, the new development agenda should be built on previously completed work and lessons learnt.

This publication introduces the new Post 2015 development agenda by starting with an assessment of the Millennium Development Goals. The publication focuses on assessing the lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals and the issues civil society believes should be taken into account when drafting the development agenda.



### **KEPA CURRENT ISSUES REPORT**

The Kepa Current Issues Report series tackles current topics related to development. The reports give background information and new viewpoints on topics that have garnered public debate. The reports also present recommendations on political solutions for decreasing poverty and strengthening human rights. The reports cover topics such as development cooperation, international trade policy and other global themes.

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