

**Breakfast Dialogue on the Follow-up to Rio+20  
and the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

*Topic: Poverty*

**14 November 2012**

**Fourth of a Breakfast Series by the Bahá'í International Community  
and International Movement ATD Fourth World**

- 08:30           **Arrival of Participants & Breakfast**
- 08:40           **Welcome and Introductions**  
Mr. Ming Hwee Chong  
Representative  
Bahá'í International Community
- 08:45           **Opening Remarks**  
H.E. Mr. Manjeev Singh Puri Ambassador  
Deputy Permanent Representative  
Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations  
  
Mr. Danny Burns  
Team Leader, Participation, Power and Social Change Team  
Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex
- 09:00           **Open Discussion**  
Moderated by Ms. Cristina Diez Sagüillo  
Main Representative to the UN  
International Movement ATD Fourth World
- 09:50           **Information Sharing**  
All participants encouraged to share upcoming related plans and activities
- 09:55           **Closing**

Note: Informal notes will be taken and shared. Comments made by participants will not be attributed to the speaker.

**Informal Notes of the Breakfast Dialogue 14 November 2012  
on the Follow-up to Rio+20 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

**Topic: Poverty**

Organized by the Bahá'í International Community and International Movement ATD Fourth World

A diverse group of stakeholders<sup>1</sup> convened to informally discuss key issues on the topic of poverty. The following are a few highlights of the comments made during this discussion:

- To understand poverty, one must speak directly with the people living in poverty. Many development interventions fail because of the disconnect between the experience of people in situations of poverty and the evidence around which policy is constructed.
- The MDGs represented the minimum that the global community could agree on.
- MDGs didn't engage with the poorest people. They have reached people living in poverty who are 'just managing' and have focused on low-hanging fruit. What would a development system look like if it started with the very poorest? What would the infrastructure for that kind of development look like?
- The lives of people living in poverty are highly complex, and these complexities are not well understood. Analyses tend to focus on issues of power and politics but miss many other dimensions. How do we build a development program that can address these complexities?
- We need to build learning processes into development systems, ones that involve asking questions, analyzing data and incorporating comprehensive participatory engagement. This kind of engagement is more important than any particular goal.
- Over the last 20 years, millions of people have been lifted out of poverty in South Asia. Developing countries fought for the references to poverty eradication to be included in the Rio+20 outcome document. Yet, 900 million people will be living in extreme poverty in 2015.
- Reaching the poorest should be the principal focus of the development agenda. Recall that 70-80% of the people in situation of poverty now live in middle-income countries.
- The Post-2015 development agenda should be inclusive, sustainable and growth-oriented.
- Peace and stability is needed for the implementation the development goals.
- We need to cooperate to reach these goals, but even within a collaborative framework, countries need to be given the space to develop their own policies. The UN cannot be prescriptive; it can only provide a framework. Countries need to proceed in their own way.
- Poverty eradication and sustainable development are part of *one* agenda.
- Challenges: the biggest killers of infants living in poverty are diarrhea and pneumonia, inequalities between small and larger farmers are growing, agricultural production is falling, weather patterns are becoming erratic, and electricity is expensive. Other challenges include multi-dimensionality of poverty, youth bulge, corruption, lack of property rights.
- Successful interventions include electricity, irrigation in rural areas, roads, change to agriculture and availability of water. In addition to basic infrastructure, development has been driven by girls' education, good governance (especially in terms of service delivery) and the opening up of trade (although this has at times heightened the rural/urban divide and led to inequality.)
- Interventions have to be targeted; sustained growth is not enough.
- Human rights have to be central to economic development. Women's and girls' rights have not been raised in this discussion. Women represent 70% of those living in poverty.
- We must analyze power relations and the structures by which people are kept in poverty.
- We cannot rush the process of developing a Post-2015 policy framework. We need time to get it right.

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<sup>1</sup> Permanent Missions represented: Canada, India, Japan, Malawi, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and United Kingdom. UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs represented by: Division for Social Policy and Development, Division for Sustainable Development, and Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination. Civil society organizations represented: Amnesty International, Bahá'í International Community, Center for Economic and Social Rights, CIVICUS, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Presentation Association, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, NGO Sub-Committee for the Eradication of Poverty, and Plan International.

- The decision-making process around the P-2015 development agenda has not been inclusive. Major Groups' level of access to information has decreased since Rio+20. There is no funding for Major Groups.

The following questions raised by participants could serve to stimulate future discussions:

- Without dictating national policies, how will the Post-2015 development agenda lead to structural transformation?
- How will we achieve progress for the poorest of the poor if development priorities are still defined in terms of narrow national interests?
- What is an enabling environment for countries to prosper and grow?
- People in situations of poverty have been fed and clothed, but what about their future?
- How can people living in poverty participate meaningfully in decisions that affect their lives?  
(Recommendations: implementation of social protection floors, implementation of guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights.)

The following related activities were shared:

- Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung- have organized a day of informal discussions entitled: "Toward A New Generation of Development Goals", Monday November 26 2012, 9:30 am – 5:40 pm, United Nations, New York, NLB Conference Room 1. This is co-sponsored by the Club de Madrid, Ford Foundation and the UN Missions of Mexico, France and Peru.

**Breakfast Dialogue on the Follow-up to Rio+20  
and the Post-2015 Development Agenda**  
*Topic: Inequalities*  
**10 October 2012**

**Third of a Breakfast Series by the Bahá'í International Community  
and International Movement ATD Fourth World**

- 08:30        **Arrival of Participants & Breakfast**
- 08:40        **Welcome and Introductions**  
Ms. Cristina Diez Sagüillo  
Main Representative to the UN  
International Movement ATD Fourth World
- 08:45        **Opening Remarks**  
Ms. Amina J. Mohammed  
Assistant Secretary-General  
Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning
- Mr. John Hendra  
Deputy Executive Director, Policy and Programme Bureau  
Assistant Secretary-General  
UN Women
- H.E. Mr. George Wilfred Talbot  
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guyana to the United Nations
- 09:05        **Open Discussion**  
Moderated by Mr. Ming Hwee Chong  
Representative  
Bahá'í International Community
- 09:50        **Information Sharing**  
All participants encouraged to share upcoming related plans and activities
- 09:55        **Closing**

Note: Informal notes will be taken and shared. Comments made by participants will not be attributed to the speaker.

**Informal Notes of the Breakfast Dialogue 10 October 2012  
on the Follow-up to Rio+20 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda  
Topic: Inequalities**

Organized by the Bahá'í International Community and International Movement ATD Fourth World

A diverse group of stakeholders<sup>1</sup> convened to informally discuss key issues on the topic of inequalities. Opening remarks were offered by Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Assistant Secretary-General, Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning; Mr. John Hendra, Assistant Secretary-General, UN Women; and H.E. Mr. George Wilfred Talbot, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Guyana to the United Nations.

The following are a few highlights from this discussion:

- Structural inequalities and exclusion are causes of development challenges.
- Inequalities have been one of the greatest obstacles in implementing the MDGs.
- The proposal for a *New Global Human Order*<sup>2</sup> calls for a new look at development, one focused on the human person and on the flourishing of human capacity. We need to move beyond the North-South divide in our thinking. We need to widen the scope of the concept of inequalities.
- There is a need for an intergovernmental discussion about inequalities.
- It is not enough for goals to be measurable, we need to consider the political viability of development goals.
- We should not look at what is politically expedient but what is truly progress.
- Member States that sign onto commitments are not always the same actors implementing them. We need to look closely at country-level processes in order to inform intergovernmental negotiations.
- Community-level planning as a strategy to reduce poverty was highlighted using the example of Kenya's district development strategy.
- We must focus on the narrative and vision of development before we can talk about the goals.
- At the heart of this discussion must be a recognition of the relational dimension of development and the nature of relationships among individuals, communities, social institutions and nation states. Relationships of power and oppression must be addressed.
- The Post-2015 framework should recognize gender equality as key to progress and should be: universal; rooted in a human rights based approach; based on existing commitments by the international community (such as CEDAW); focused on accountability and transparency; attentive to the aspirations of the poorest and most vulnerable; transformative of power relations, exclusion, structural inequalities and all forms of discrimination.
- The rule of law – a human right – needs be considered in the Post-2015 framework.
- We need to raise the benchmarks for development, for example, moving beyond literacy to include ICT literacy.

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<sup>1</sup> Permanent Missions represented: Argentina, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. European Union was represented. UN System represented by: DESA, NGLS, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Millennium Campaign, and UN Women. Civil society organizations represented: The Association for Women's Right in Development, Bahá'í International Community, Coalition for the International Criminal Court, Feminist Task Force, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Good Shepherd International Justice Peace Office, Global Policy Forum Europe, Institute for Development Studies, International Disability Alliance, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Planned Parenthood Federation, National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States, and Women's Environment & Development Organization.

<sup>2</sup> A/RES/65/120

- We need better data and baselines in order to carry out effective measurement. We should not be driven by what we are able to measure. Data must be disaggregated. Separate targets should be established for the very poor. Better data is needed to advocate for resources and capabilities.
- MDGs have provided a clear, measurable results-oriented framework and generated national ownership. We need to focus on accelerating achievement of the MDGs.
- Women have been among the key drivers of change and progress. Yet, girls' education has fallen through the cracks. At the same time, in some societies, boys' education needs as much attention to better promote gender equality.
- Some organizations, using culture/tradition as justification, might not uphold the gender equality agenda, but would uphold economic equity, and vice versa. Yet even dissenting actors may be critical to service delivery. How can we better incorporate dissenting voices?

A number of important questions were raised during the discussion:

- How do we balance the need for a universal approach with that of setting national priorities and targets? How do we articulate something globally that can also be implemented locally?
- What kind of consensus could be reached at the global level? What if consensus can only be achieved on some parts of the development agenda?
- What systemic questions need to be addressed through a global approach? How could such an approach be structured?
- How can we ensure that the new agenda is transformative? For whom should the agenda be transformative?
- How can we integrate the gender dynamics of power into new thinking on economics and sustainable development?
- How can we focus on the follow up to Rio+20 and Post-2015 without duplicating processes?
- How can we bring together peace and security, environmental sustainability, poverty reduction and a human rights based approach in one framework?
- How can we incorporate cultural elements into the Post-2015 agenda?

The following related activities were shared:

- The website, [www.worldwewant2015.org](http://www.worldwewant2015.org), provides a platform for a global conversation about inequalities. Findings will be synthesized and made available at the leadership meeting in Denmark in February 2013.
- The International Disability Alliance will be co-moderating an online discussion on disability as part of the abovementioned online conversation on inequalities.
- The Institute for Development Studies is leading an initiative to include the perspectives of marginalized populations in the post-2015 framework. They are organizing ground-level panels in local communities to mirror the High-level panel on Post-2015.
- A women's coalition is forming to ensure a strong women's voice and presence in the Post-2015 discussions.
- Participants were invited to draw from the work of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and Club de Madrid on the Global Shared Societies Agenda, which focused on group inequalities.

**Breakfast Dialogue on the Follow-up to Rio+20  
and the Post-2015 Development Agenda  
13 September 2012**

**Second of a Breakfast Series by the Bahá'í International Community  
and International Movement ATD Fourth World**

- 08:30           **Arrival of Participants & Breakfast**
- 08:45           **Welcome and Introductions**  
Mr. Ming Hwee Chong, Representative  
Bahá'í International Community
- 08:50           **Opening Remarks**  
Mr. Pedro Aurelio Fiorencio Cabral de Andrade, First Secretary  
Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations
- Civil Society Initiatives on the Follow-up to Rio+20 and the Post 2015  
Development Agenda**
- Ms. Cristina Diez, Main Representative to the UN  
International Movement ATD Fourth World
- 09:10           **Open Discussion**  
Moderated by Mr. Ming Hwee Chong
- 09:50           **Information Sharing**  
All participants encouraged to share upcoming related plans and activities
- 10:00           **Closing**

Note: Informal notes will be taken and shared. Comments made by participants will not be attributed to the speaker.

## **Informal Notes of the Breakfast Dialogue on the Follow-up to Rio+20 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 13 September 2012 (Topic: SDGs)**

Organized by the Bahá'í International Community and International Movement ATD Fourth World

A diverse group of stakeholders<sup>1</sup> convened at this second of a series of informal meetings to discuss on the topic of Sustainable Development Goals. The following are a few highlights of the comments made during this discussion:

- It is important to differentiate between Brazil's role as facilitator in the formation of the SDG working group (WG) and not that of chairing the WG.
- There is a procedural aspect (twin processes of UN-led post-2015 and intergovernmental SDG WG) that should be taken into account. Reference was made to A/67/257 paragraph 69 that suggests a way to converge the two.
- There is a false dichotomy of Rio+20/SDGs being considered the 'green agenda' vs. the MDGs being the 'poverty agenda.' Yet, there is no actual conceptual opposition – reference was made to paragraph 2 of Rio+20 outcome document that situates “eradicating poverty” as “an indispensable requirement for sustainable development”.
- MDGs concerned themselves with the relationship between the materially rich and poor countries. SDGs are meant to be universal in nature should apply to all countries.
- It is important to take a holistic approach (instead of a fragmented one) both in conceptualizing the issues and in creating solutions to address them.
- A growing number of voices are saying the world is at a dangerous precipice and the key is empowerment through a 'people-centered approach'.
- It is important to draw a clear distinction between input and analysis generation vs. decision-making portions of the processes.
- People living in extreme poverty will be most affected by decisions. Hence, it is important to view them not as victims but as actors and should be part of the consultation and decision making process.
- The President of the General Assembly encouraged civil society to speak with a common voice in order to have greater impact. Yet, the role of civil society is to bring a diversity of perspectives to the table and this diversity should be embraced. Resources for CSO engagement in post-2015 processes are scarce and may lead to competition and a 'might makes right' environment.
- Not all CSOs emphasized human rights enough at Rio+20 and must do so more in post-2015 processes.
- Post-2015 agenda must address the economic and social costs of violence, the inter-linkages between violence, gender and poverty.
- It is a multi-polar world and it is critical to move away from the North-South dichotomy to better reflect global realities. (Though the realities of the concentration of wealth in the North hasn't really changed.)
- Among the key SDG issues are: integration, universality (taking into account specificities), flexibility and inclusiveness.
- The post-2015 agenda should bring back a broader approach to development and reverse the 'narrowing of the development discourse' that was propelled by the MDG framework, and in so doing, not reversing the gains made on MDGs and help to finish the unfinished business.

The following questions raised by participants could serve to stimulate future discussions:

- How do we give the SDGs a global, visionary character? The agenda we define post-2015 needs to be applicable to all. What is the overarching concept that will engage all countries?
- How is a truly comprehensive agenda going to take into consideration trade, property rights, financing, etc.?  
These dimensions have tremendous impact on all countries.
- How can development and security be approached together?
- What modalities could be proposed for CSO-SDG Working Group interactions? A suggestion was to incorporate an augmented Major Group mechanism from Rio+20.

The following upcoming related activities were shared:

- The Nigerian Mission is hosting an MDG side event on September 27<sup>th</sup> 10am, Millennium UN Plaza Hotel.
- International Movement ATD Fourth World is conducting a participatory research study directly engaging people experiencing extreme poverty.
- Commemoration of the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, October 17<sup>th</sup> 1.15pm, ECOSOC Chamber.
- The next breakfast dialogues are currently planned for week of October 8<sup>th</sup> on Inequalities and week of October 29<sup>th</sup> on Human Rights.

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<sup>1</sup> The following Permanent Missions were represented: Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Nigeria, Singapore, Switzerland and United Kingdom. The following UN agencies were present: UN DESA, UNDP, UNICEF, UN OHCHR and UN Women. These civil society organizations were present: The Bahá'í International Community, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Global Policy Forum Europe, International Disability Association, International Movement ATD Fourth World, Stakeholder Forum and UN Foundation.



## **Breakfast Dialogue on the Follow-up to Rio+20 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

### **First of a Breakfast Series by the Bahá'í International Community and International Movement ATD Fourth World**

- 08:30      **Arrival of Participants & Breakfast**
- 08:45      **Welcome and Introductions**  
Ms. Cristina Diez, Main Representative to the UN  
International Movement ATD Fourth World
- 08:50      **Opening Remarks**  
Mr. Neil Pierre, Chief, Policy Coordination Branch  
Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- 08:57      **Presentation of UN System Task Team Report “*Realizing the Future We  
Want for All*”**  
Ms. Diana Alarcon, Development Policy and Analysis Division  
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
- 09:10      **Open Discussion**  
Moderated by Mr. Ming Hwee Chong, Representative  
Bahá'í International Community
- 09:50      **Information Sharing**  
All participants encouraged to share upcoming related plans and activities
- 10:00      **Closing**  
Ms. Cristina Diez, Main Representative to the UN  
International Movement ATD Fourth World

Note: Informal notes will be taken and shared. Comments made by participants will not be attributed to the speaker.

## **Informal Notes of the Breakfast Dialogue on the Follow-up to Rio+20 and the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 26 July 2012**

Organized by the Bahá'í International Community  
and International Movement ATD Fourth World

Within the context of Rio+20 outcomes, the release of the [UN Task Team \(UNTT\) Report](#), and the impending [announcement of the High Level Panel](#), a diverse group of stakeholders<sup>1</sup> convened to informally discuss key issues regarding the post-2015 development agenda.

The following are a few highlights of the comments made during this rich discussion:

- The UNTT Report is clear, comprehensive and coherent, and it serves as a first reference for deliberations by all stakeholders.
- ECOSOC as a system (not just the Council) has key strengths in serving as an important role for the follow-up to Rio+20 outcomes and post-2015 development agenda.
- Progress towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals should accelerate.
- There's a need to distinguish between consultation spaces and negotiation spaces. The next few months should be for consultation not negotiation.
- It was suggested that the *Major Groups* model be adopted and augmented as a civil society engagement model for post-2015 processes.
- Processes at local, national and regional levels are vital in building a unified vision and in mobilizing support for implementation.
- Resources need to be made available for these processes.

Many interesting and important questions were raised that could serve to stimulate future consultations:

- How can the 30-member intergovernmental working group be truly inclusive?
- How can we strive to bring coherence amongst the many parallel processes (formal and informal processes at national, regional and international levels addressing Sustainable Development Goals & the Post-2015 agenda)?
- Which of these processes should civil society focus their energies on?
- With the inclusion of *Peace and Security* as one of the four key dimensions<sup>2</sup>, what is the role of the Security Council in the processes?
- How can the International Financial Institutions, G20, Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, and private sector be included in the processes?

The following related activities were shared and participants were invited to attend:

- Bahá'í International Community and International Movement ATD Fourth World's next Breakfast Dialogue: September 13th, 8:30am, 866 UN Plaza, Suite 120
- CIVICUS: World Assembly Pre-Conference and Side Events
- Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung: High Level Conference in October
- UN Women: Civil society consultations in August; Side Event during 67<sup>th</sup> Session of General Assembly; Online discussion on Inequalities Thematic Consultations; National level civil society advisory groups

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<sup>1</sup> The following Permanent Missions were represented: Bolivia, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, Germany, India, Japan, and Mexico. The following agencies were present: UN DESA, UNDP and UN Women. These civil society organizations were present: The Bahá'í International Community, CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, Global Call for Action Against Poverty, International Disability Association, International Movement ATD Fourth World, International Planned Parenthood Federation, UN Foundation, and Women's Environment and Development Organization.

<sup>2</sup> The four key dimensions are: (1) inclusive social development; (2) inclusive economic development; (3) environmental sustainability; and (4) peace and security (page i, *Realizing the Future We Want for All*).