

Note on the Secretary General's High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Update on the second meeting of the Panel

30 November 2012

This note provides an overview of the second meeting of the Secretary General's High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and presents some information on plans for the third meeting, in Monrovia, Liberia. We provide this communique to inform all stakeholders about the HLP component of the overall post-2015 process, and to help assure coherence with other processes and activities.

The second meeting of the High Level Panel, held in London, UK, focused on (i) defining the overall vision and main questions that will frame the report of HLP, and (ii) discussion on individual and household level poverty. Individual and household level discussion topics included 1) human development, and 2) jobs, livelihoods, and how to reach the poorest and most marginalized. Panelists will discuss national growth, economic transformation, and development at the next meeting in Monrovia; and global partnership and means of implementation at the fourth meeting in Bali.

The discussion on the vision and questions to guide the Panel's work brought out an emerging consensus in certain areas. Panelists agreed to focus on the elimination of poverty in all its forms and to put in place the building blocks for sustained prosperity for all, and emphasized the importance of addressing universal challenges, such as inclusive growth; protecting the environment; and equity, peace, and freedom. They emphasized that this should be a global agenda with global responsibility.

The Panelists decided upon 24 framing questions which shall guide the Panel's work and considerations vis-à-vis the overall agenda and will inform the report. These will be posted online at the temporary Panel website, <http://www.un.org/sg/management/hlppost2015.shtml>, within the next week as well as on www.worldwewant2015.org/post2015hlp for stakeholder inputs. The questions will guide Panel discussions and serve as a base for the many outreach and consultation activities in which members engage.

In the session on human development, Panel members discussed:

- That the post-2015 framework should be built upon the strengths and weaknesses of the MDGs, but not simply in terms of unmet goals. Members warned against a poverty of ambition.
- Panel members discussed the idea of aspirational goals, rather than "minimum" goals. The Post-2015 agenda should "raise the bar". Several members pointed to the need for a greater focus on *quality* of outcomes.
- Several members reiterated that human development is arguably the outstanding success of the current MDG framework, and the next framework should continue to place human

development at the center while also integrating the other dimensions of sustainable development.

- Many Panel members pointed to the importance of rights and equity, including indigenous groups, gender, and access for the excluded and marginalized, as a cross-cutting issue.
- There were several points about the need to think beyond the 'what' to the 'how' of implementation, drawing on the experience of the MDGs, partnerships, and new technologies.
- Members also pointed to the need to be practical, and called for research on the feasibility of the various proposals, especially with regards to financing.
- Another recurrent theme was emerging trends, such as demographic changes, urbanization, and sustainability, and how a new framework needs to be forward-looking to account for these changes and challenges in the world.

In the session on jobs, livelihoods, and reaching the poorest and most marginalized, panelists discussed:

- The importance of job creation for poverty reduction, and the global nature of the challenge.
- Several panelists also emphasized the need for differentiated approaches and goals at multiple levels (national, regional, global).
- Key roles and responsibilities of the government - those mentioned include investment education, especially quality education, and skills-building/vocational/entrepreneurship training; promoting enterprise and markets developments, including business incubators, cluster development, and conditional government procurement.
- The importance of the enabling environment for business was emphasized, including: infrastructure, energy, the legal environment, technological innovation, and financial inclusion including availability of credit to all enterprises (formal/informal, large/small, indigenous/foreign), and a conducive trade environment.
- Panelists discussed the role of the private sector, the importance of partnerships and interventions to incentivize private sector development, but also of holding the private sector accountable to global standards.
- Social safety nets were discussed and the need for country specific appraisal to underpin action. The key barriers identified to such programs were: lack of finance, institutional capabilities, and infrastructure.
- Implementation again featured in the discussion, including the design of programs.
- There was repeated emphasis on the need to account for demographic changes, and to focus on youth and women.
- Providing accessible and affordable basic needs to the poor is crucial in the efforts to cut the vicious circle of poverty. These include quality nutrition, health, education, housing, clean water and sanitation, among other needs.

Following this discussion, Panel members agreed that prioritizing among these areas –and those to be discussed in the upcoming meetings – will be critical as the work moves forward.

The day prior to the plenary meeting, Panelists engaged with experts on a range of issues, transparency & accountability, personal security, access to justice, sustainability, environmental protection and good stewardship of natural resources.

Building on the stakeholder interaction around the initial meeting in New York, the Panel members also attended a full day of outreach activities organized by private sector, youth and civil society stakeholders.

Panel members had a discussion on the importance of outreach and reiterated their commitment to meaningfully involve multiple stakeholders in the work and explored ways of reaching out to the most vulnerable and poor are heard. Panelists will conduct extensive outreach efforts of their own, as well as draw on ongoing consultations undertaken by the UN Development Group, MyWorld and Participate initiatives and online consultations through the www.worldwewant2015.org website, to discuss and seek answers to the framing questions over the next few months.

As the Panel begins its work, it is supported by a secretariat, led by myself, and comprising three components, research, outreach, and operations. Team members hail from Pakistan, Venezuela, South Africa, Egypt, India, China, Armenia, Germany, Azerbaijan, and the USA. All are relocating to New York City for the duration of the Panel's work, and will be located in the Post 2015 One Secretariat at the United Nations FF Building.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, you can reach the HLP secretariat at secretariat@post2015hlp.org.

Sincerely,

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