



THE ACTIONS WE NEED FOR THE FUTURE WE WANT

Mr. Presidents, Mr. Secretary-General, excellences, representatives of governments and civil society partners, good morning. Thank you, for inviting me to this session. We congratulate this initiative of promoting the thematic debates that, we hope, will inspire the new global development framework post-2015.

I will focus my presentation on four lessons learned from MDG 8 and how to strengthen global partnerships in the new framework.

The First Lesson: The planet and the lives within it are not for sale.

The proved not effective mantra of “ economic growth at any cost” should be over. The challenge we face today is really about rebuilding a world repeatedly in the brink of collapse. And the way we have been establishing partnerships so far will never lead us to achieve sustainable development at all and for all.

MDG 8 called for Global Partnerships driven *by governments*. However, we have seen the power of corporations going beyond the institutional notion of “government-ruling state”, eroding the already built public services infrastructure.

I will refrain here from delving into issues of greed and corruption that fuels some partnerships, blocking necessary legal reforms aligned with the aspirational principle of equality, freedom and social justice for all. But, just as food for thought: it is estimated that about thirty (30) trillion US dollars are stored in international Tax Havens¹. And this money comes from all regions in world.

The reality check is that today the land, the air, the water and even our own genes have become commercializable and transformed into private properties. Trade policies are not necessarily aligned with public priorities and common goods, undermining the access to services that are supposed to be universal, comprehensive, non-discriminatory, of high quality, and free of charge.

For many of us, this context partly explains the combination of crises we continuously face, including food insecurity, energy and climate change. But, unfortunately, we have only a few leaders courageous enough to call for a change *in the nature* of such partnerships.

¹ <http://www.globalresearch.ca/trillions-stashed-in-offshore-tax-havens/32485>), Tax Justice

This is one of the reasons why we still face the outrageous global inequality – with almost one billion people in extreme poverty and hunger while 99 percent of the global wealth is owned by only twenty-nine thousand individuals, accordingly to the Credit Suisse. Poverty is not limited by frontiers or “country classifications”. Poverty now is everywhere: in both developing and developed countries.

Economic growth based upon asymmetrical domination, including gender inequality, undermines countries and peoples’ ability to benefit equally from development. It is not, for instance, only about increasing the economic empowerment of women for then to be able to feed into the consumerist machine. It *must be* about promoting their economic independency and autonomy that will allow them to enjoy all rights they have *as citizens they are*.

In view of the systemic free market failures of the past decade (and we have to recognize that they failed) it is time for States to claim back the driving seat of the Global Partnerships for Development.

States must be the protector and main sponsor of human rights in development rather than a mere enabler of private sector enrichment under the influence of trickle-down economic dogmas.

It is time for a new era of Economic Democracy.

Second Lesson: A truly sustainable and equitable future demands formal mechanisms of accountability and an enabling environment for Civil Society Participation.

In future partnerships must also focus on civil society organizations as crucial partners, recognizing the our central role in implementing the Post-2015 development framework.

The current goals and accounting tools did not value the contribution of communities and did not recognize our crucial role in strengthening democracy and citizenship. The fact is that the current partnership model have reduced civil society to subcontractors and implementing partners, removing the space for policy discussions on alternative approaches. As a result, critical advocacy, human rights and civic engagement related programs are receiving less and less attention and resources.

In this way, we recommend that the new global development framework include a target that promotes partnerships between the UN, governments and civil society at all levels. Additionally, indicators must be included to measure the existence of an enabling legal environment for civil society work and accounts for the implementation of resources especially for advocacy work.

The results on MDG 6 should inspire such partnership model. The AIDS response is and has been unique: people living with HIV as well as AIDS advocates have advanced frontiers on sexual and reproductive health and sexual rights, access to medicines, social protection, trade, and proven practices in accountability. This movement has catalyzed positive social change, generated novel governance and financing mechanisms at national and international levels; it changed the way health services are delivered and produced

evidence that tackling the determinants of HIV risk and vulnerability is key to healthier, more equitable and more secure societies.

This rich experience must inform the Post-2015 debates but there are still a lot to be done. For instance, a high number of partnerships for the development of essential drugs are not transparent, has no social participation, and are really undermining the sustainability of health systems. It is happening right now, for instance, in my own country, Brazil.

Third Lesson: We know where the money is. Let's go for it.

Common but differentiated responsibilities are essential when considering the means of implementation of the future sustainable development goals. Official development assistance is a key element in promoting multi and bilateral partnerships and should remain a priority.

Moreover, there is also a very specific need to design binding agreements that aim at solving the financing side of implementation. In this context, more than ever, the enforcement of extraterritorial obligations is essential for the regulation and accountability of transnational corporations and, particularly, of financial market.

ECLAC, for instance reported² “that in almost all countries of Latin America the internal resources are not sufficient to finance national development, especially in countries facing extreme and high poverty rates”. It calls for a “progressive tax system worldwide and for the implementation of innovative financing mechanisms for development, such as **global taxes**, specially the financial transactions taxes”. This position really makes sense. Specially when considering that the global financial system³ is *worth seventy-two times more* than the global GDP.

My organization Gestos, and the organizations that I represent here today -LACCASO, and the Brazilian Association of NGOs, Abong- propose the implementation of global financial transactions taxes as both a regulatory measure as well as a systemic revenue generator to be applied for sustainable development. The CIA estimates that the Derivatives market is eleven times the Global GDP. So, as an example, one single financial transaction tax of only 0.05% on the global Derivatives market alone could raise about 68 billion US dollars per year.

Equally important, those additional resources could systemically strengthen the implementation capacity of multilateral institutions, such as the UN, towards the sustainable development goals and principles.

So, there is a lot of money out there and we know where it is. What are you waiting for?

² CEPAL (ECLAC). *Desarrollo Sostenible En América Latina Y El Caribe: Seguimiento De La Agenda De Las Naciones Unidas Para El Desarrollo Post-2015 Y Río+20*, August -2013

³ According to the Bank of International Settlements

Fourth – and most important– lesson: There will only be sustainable development if human rights are a reality for all.

And this is why I come before you here, today, to inform that Civil Society has raised a Red Flag on this negotiation. This document reinforces our commitment to the United Nations and express our concern that the current Post-2015 debates are still too much focused on economic growth only without strengthening the commitments towards a new cycle where human rights and justice will prevail.

Despite the call from the UN Secretary General that “no one will be left behind” we witness the growth of conservative forces at the UN. Sexual rights, gender identity, safe abortion, recognition of the rights of people who use drugs, gays, lesbians, transgender and of sex workers are among the pending issues at UN. This means that this people that historically have been left behind will continue to be so, because at this point of the UN history, despite all agreements and commitments affirming their interlinks, there is still a dangerous disconnection between development and human rights.

Therefore, it is my duty to deliver to you, your excellences, this letter entitled *THE ACTIONS WE NEED FOR THE FUTURE WE WANT*, signed by almost seven hundred and fifty civil society networks and organizations from all over the world, in the past two weeks.

Our Red Flag is clear: The future we need requires courageous actions *by now*, to shape the future we want.

Civil society organizations from around the world are watching. And we do hope to be heard.

Thank you.

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