

FROM POLICY TO ACTION

Securing urgent and concrete commitments
towards the implementation of the 2030
Agenda for Sustainable Development

September 2015



Beyond2015

Campaigning for a global development framework
after the **Millennium Development Goals**

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Introduction

September 2015 marks the culmination of a multi-year process for the definition of the universal, people centered, indivisible and interlinked [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Heads of State and Government from all Members of the United Nations (UN) will gather in New York in a Summit where they are expected to present concrete commitments towards the implementation of this new Agenda for people and the planet.

The agreement that will be adopted during the Summit has to translate into meaningful actions at all levels. After years of consultations, now is the time to **move from policy to action**. We expect our leaders to match the ambition of the agenda with clear national and regional strategies and accountability mechanisms - developed, implemented, monitored and reviewed with people and stakeholders at all levels.

About Beyond 2015

Beyond 2015 is a global civil society campaign, aiming to develop a strong framework to replace the Millennium Development Goals. **Beyond 2015** brings together almost 1,500 Civil Society Organizations in over 135 countries around the world. Since 2010, **Beyond 2015** has promoted debate on the Post-2015 agenda in almost 40 countries, has built a campaign-wide understanding of the foundations of the Post-2015 agenda (Vision, Purpose, Values and Criteria), and has taken several advocacy actions based on a 'pincer movement' built around a constant highlighting of the same messages to political leaders at the national, regional and global levels. The goal of these messages was to achieve the most transformative Post-2015 agenda possible, including a meaningful participation of people and their organizations at all levels and phases of the process.

From Policy to Action: Matching the Ambition of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with Concrete and Urgent Commitments for its implementation

When Heads of State and Government meet in New York, in September, we expect each and every one of them commit to work tirelessly for the full implementation of the new universal, people-centered, indivisible and interlinked Agenda (as per para 2 of the outcome document). We also, and especially, expect them to share concrete national and regional SDG strategies developed in an open, inclusive and participatory way and bringing Governments, civil society, the private sector, the UN and other stakeholders, including parliamentarians and academia, together to support the implementation of those strategies at the national and local levels (as per para 39).

Beyond 2015 also calls on government leaders to specify how they will set up robust, effective, participatory, and transparent institutional frameworks for integrated monitoring and review at the national and local levels to contribute to implementing the Agenda, to track progress, and to redirect efforts if necessary, in order to ensure that no one is left behind (as per para 72).

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We understand that all countries are different and that the implementation of the new Agenda will need to be adapted to the specific national realities. However, in September, we expect our Heads of State and government to express:

1) An urgent commitment to start implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national, sub-national and local levels, including introducing clear plans and timelines for participatory implementation at national and local level

This should include a stand-alone national sustainable development strategy, formulated and implemented through a participatory process, inclusive of people experiencing poverty and marginalization. This strategy should make meaningful, measurable commitments on the progressive realization of all the SDGs (and on associated means of implementation).

Similarly, Heads of State and Government should express how they will call upon decentralized and transparent administrations and local governments to work closely with civil society organizations and other stakeholders to ensure full ownership of the Post-2015 agenda at the sub-national and local levels.

2) A definition of plans, institutional arrangements and responsibilities at national, sub-national and local levels for the coordination and implementation of the new Agenda, in order to foster coherence and cooperation within policy-making structures

This should include, for instance, setting up and enhancing institutionalized national sustainable development commissions, consisting of, at least, the national statistical offices, social, environment, finance, foreign affairs, planning, civil society and other stakeholders in order to work on the implementation and monitoring of the Post-2015 agenda.

The commitment towards a transparent and participatory system for the definition of national indicators as well as a broad disaggregation of data will be critical to leave no one behind and reach the furthest behind first in the national contextualization of the SDGs and targets.

3) A positive allocation of funds and financial resources for a participatory, transparent and inclusive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Leaders must ensure that national and local resources are allocated to the implementation of the SDGs. Governments must prioritize sustainable development investment, especially in pro-poor infrastructure and utilities, which starts with the needs of the poorest and most marginalized people, ensuring that program success indicators are linked directly with positive impacts.

4) A roadmap for the communication and dissemination of information about the new Agenda at national, sub-national and local levels, allowing for all people to be aware and capable of follow up on progress on its implementation

Governments must commit to create opportunities for real dialogue between people about the implementation of the Post-2015 agenda, especially marginalized and excluded groups, and authorities at the local and national levels by institutionalizing dialogue structures, such as inclusive and open debates – at parliamentary and local government level, and also within communities; and national conferences – to discuss implementation and share best practices; public forums; and meetings with key national decision makers.

5) A clear commitment and process through which civil society and other stakeholders will be meaningfully engaged in the implementation -including the formulation of national strategies and plans- as well as monitoring and review of the 2030 sustainable development agenda at national, sub-national and local levels

These mechanisms must include civil society organizations and those from different marginalized groups, and must commit to the values of inclusion and respect for all people

as a guiding principle of their work. Governments should also commit to provide financial support and ensure laws are in place to allow people to participate effectively.

In this sense, an enabling environment that allows for civil society and stakeholders to operate freely and effectively in pursuing sustainable development should be created, ensuring access to timely and clear information as well as freedom of press and other forms of media, freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association.

Whenever possible, we also recommend building on the experience of the MDGs or Sustainable Development Parliamentary Committees, and support the creation of SDG multi-party Parliamentary Committees, which will reinforce and support the executive power efforts on the implementation of SDGs in which civil society, stakeholders and local level institutions can participate actively.

6) Commit fully to accountability, follow-up and review at local, national, regional and global levels

We expect our Heads of State and Government to commit to establish inclusive national baselines, national data collection and management systems, participatory and inclusive monitoring and reporting mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs as well as to agree to public, inclusive and participatory national review mechanisms.

led by a national review body which includes members of the public - especially from the poorest and most marginalized groups - and their legitimate representatives.

It is also important that Governments commit to set up benchmarks against which progress will be assessed as well as set up open mechanisms for third party actors - including civil society - to share their country-level contribution and data to review of achievements related to the SDGs.

Additionally, we expect to see the willingness and political will from all governments to participate fully and actively in agreed international follow up and review processes.

7) A recognition of a universal, interlinked and indivisible agenda

We also expect our leaders to reaffirm the universality of the Post-2015 agenda and to implement it in its integrality and focusing on the interlinkages between the different areas.

The SDGs represent a broad common global sustainable development framework, therefore the universality principle is one of the keys for the SDGs successful implementation both at the global, regional and national levels. It should address not only the achievement of the Post-2015 commitments within that country, but also each country's equitable contribution to global achievement of the goals.

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