

Dóchas Submission to EC Public Consultation “Towards a post- 2015 development framework”

18 September 2012

Dóchas is the umbrella organisation of Irish Non- Governmental Organisations (NGOs) involved in development and relief overseas and/or development education in Ireland. Dóchas aims to provide a forum for consultation and co-operation among its 43 members as well as to help them speak with a single voice on development issues. As a member of CONCORD (the European confederation of development and humanitarian NGOs), Dóchas supports the ***Beyond 2015*** campaign and endorses its submission dated 07.09.2012 to the EC Public Consultation “Towards a post-2015 development framework.”

However, as Irish NGOs, we would like to emphasise the following points:

- The rights- based approach to development that informed the 2000 Millennium Declaration was to a large extent lost in the formulation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) arising from the Declaration. Therefore, the “post-MDGs” framework should be a global agreement based on the existing universal framework of human rights standards. It must aim to finally eradicate poverty, not halve poverty levels. It needs to refocus on sustainable and inclusive development, and put the well-being of people at the centre. This should include, among other elements, the participation and empowerment of citizens as measures of success. To better address people’s well -being and resilience, economic and social sustainability as well as environmental sustainability should be included. In our view, decent work should be at heart of any recipe against poverty.
- For the “post -MDGs” framework to be sustainable, it should stress the importance of empowering people with their right to work as well as eradicating inequality of both income and opportunity.
- Implementation of the principle of Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) should be a major element in the framework, in order both to eliminate contradictions in policy and to increase impact via a more co-ordinated and consistent approach to development. There is also need to recognise how complicated and interlinked issues are.
- Since poverty is not limited to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and 74% of the world’s poorest people live in middle-income countries, the framework must address poverty eradication in all countries, with priority being given to the poorest people and the most vulnerable in any country.
- The post-2015 framework should adopt a more holistic approach to tackling poverty, by taking account of the impact of climate change, conflict, insecurity and human rights violations. The issue of equality should be addressed comprehensively. Inequality within and between countries requires particular attention.

- We realise that, while one of the greatest strengths of the MDGs has been the strong focus on quantifying all targets, this approach has also attracted criticism. Post-2015, there should be an appropriate mix of qualitative and quantitative measurement in order to focus more on equality and the well-being of citizens.
- The goal of development is a fair, rules-based, community of nations. Therefore, all international actors must accept joint, but not equal, responsibility for implementation the post-2015 framework. This will require acceptance of the need for richer countries to also adopt sustainable development strategies and recognition of the impact which one country's development model can have on others, especially in areas such as trade, agriculture, tax and financial regulations.
- In order to strengthen participation, foster local ownership and provide new insights, a wide range of domestic interest groups and communities, including the private sector, should be involved in the discussion process leading to the formulation of the post -2015 framework.
- The private sector, especially small-scale producers and businesses, should play an important role in the post-2015 framework by providing decent and stable livelihoods for many, while contributing to equitable and resilient societies. A future development agenda should also address both the impacts and responsibilities of the bigger actors in the private sector, in the multitude of areas in which they are active or which suffer spill-over effects. A commitment to respect and strengthen human rights obligations, financial transparency and social and environmental sustainability must underpin the operations of all actors in the private sector.
- Since the post-2015 development framework must be a global one, emerging donors should participate actively in its formulation. Their buy-in will be one of the most important determinants of the strength and results of the framework.
- The future framework must include accountability mechanisms which hold governments to account for the full range of commitments. Accountability should not just be upward, but also downward to the people.
- Resourcing the new framework should take account of burden sharing between rich, middle-income and poor countries; the need to make ODA commitments legally binding and explore innovative mechanisms to raise resources such as a Financial Transactions Tax; full costing of the implementation of commitments; and how decisions are made on resource allocation, transfer mechanisms, monitoring and accountability.

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