



GCAP Director's Report

(GCAP)GLOBAL CALL TO ACTION AGAINST POVERTY

2012

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GCAP Director's Report 2012

Global Call to Action against Poverty



Introduction

2012 has been a year of consolidation and looking ahead, as national coalitions are entering into a final push to meet the MDGs, all while the post 2015 agenda has become central to our planning. It has been a year that has continued the trajectory of the previous years, featuring growing inequality, deepening feminization of poverty and social exclusion. This challenging external context has laid the groundwork for bringing civil society together to an unprecedented degree, and 2012 has been a year of convening and cooperating in new ways.

GCAP's national coalitions have continued to take action on the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, with 30 countries acting at the national level to end poverty on October 17th. An additional global day of action was held around the Robin Hood Tax. Meanwhile, national consultations on the post 2015 agenda in 37 countries across GCAP started in 2012.

Accountability

Post 2015 Agenda

Since the Millennium Declaration was drafted, the world has changed dramatically. September 11th changed the geopolitical and security discourse globally and increasingly criminalized many forms of peaceful activism, while the combined food, fuel, financial, and climate crises changed the face of poverty and inspired moral outrage against obscene levels of inequality within and between countries. More poor people are now living in middle-income countries than in LDCs, and BRICSAM countries are becoming principal actors in global development, particularly since the power shift from the G8 to the G20 in 2008. The shocks of the last five years have continued to undermine poverty reduction, particularly in low-income countries and have exacerbated inequality and social exclusion. Furthermore, climate change, biodiversity loss and volatility have placed the planet on an unsustainable course that will be felt hardest by people living in poverty.

As the sun sets on the Millennium Development Goals, there is an urgent need for civil society to seize the opportunity to define a future development agenda based on the voices of citizens around the world, particularly those most affected by poverty, inequality, and climate change. This includes engaging governments around meeting existing commitments, as well as looking to the future.

"If we are to achieve the MDGs, the world needs to focus where the MDGs matter most: on the socially excluded," says Ashok Bharti, who addressed a breakout session about inequality at the Dhaka forum.

India, for example, with an official poverty rate of 21.6 per cent, is on track to halve poverty over the past two decades. But among two marginalised communities, Dalits and Indigenous Peoples, the poverty rate is at 29 and 33 per cent respectively. Similarly, while India has officially attained universal school enrolment, the percentage of Muslim girls who have never attended school is more than 25 per cent.

"Are our processes designed to include the excluded?," asks Bharti, who is also convenor of GCAP's Global Task Force on Social Exclusion. "We want poverty and hunger to be eradicated from this world. Focusing on inequalities alone is not likely to address this issue. We need to keep exclusion at its centre. The agenda of inequality in post-2015 needs to be focused on exclusion."

GCAP is now working to consolidate a civil society led development agenda on the World We Want Beyond 2015 that is driven by people living in poverty, particularly women, young people, and other

socially excluded groups around the world. We are working in partnership with Beyond 2015, the UN Millennium Campaign, and other key allies to mobilize and empower citizens to express their vision and priorities for 'the world they want' as part of civil society's global consultation on a post-2015 agenda. Civil society's ability to conduct grassroots outreach and bring massive citizen participation to events at the local and national level, coupled with new interactive online technologies is creating a historic and truly global citizen-led development consultation process around the post-2015 agenda.

For this GCAP has developed a Post-2015 Strategy. The implementation was started in 2012. The following page is the summary of this work.

Defining and Campaigning for The World We Want Beyond 2015

Summary

Introduction: Civil society's ability to mobilise people at a grassroots, national, regional, and global level, its skill at nurturing compelling campaigns for justice that resonate and engage people en-masse, and its key role in strengthening policy compliance and implementation through holding people in power accountable for their promises, has the potential to create a historic, holistic, citizen-led and inclusive development framework beyond 2015 that addresses the systemic challenges that perpetuate poverty and inequality. As detailed in 'The World We Want Beyond 2015' 3-year strategy note agreed by the GCAP Global Council in April 2012, the 'World We Want Beyond 2015' concept includes three main phases:

Phase 1: 'Defining the World We Want Beyond 2015'

Phase 2: 'Campaigning for the World We Want Beyond 2015'

Phase 3: 'Building the World We Want Beyond 2015'.

This project proposal operationalizes **Phase 1** and **Phase 2** of this concept: Defining the 'World We Want Beyond 2015' which focuses on strengthening citizen engagement and enabling the mass-mobilisation of local voices and national campaigning as a core contribution to building a more just world, in partnership with the Beyond 2015 campaign, CIVICUS, GCCA, other CSO partners, and UN Agencies. An immediate political opportunity for this is the establishment of a post 2015 development framework that is participatory, sustainable, and just.

Overall Objective: To connect people around the world and organised civil society in a common movement for justice and sustainability. We will work together, in a participatory way, to share our common vision of social justice, environmental justice, gender justice, and peace.

Civil Society - from grassroots organizations to national platforms, together with socially excluded populations, will 1) create political will at the national level to enable global collective action in the face of growing injustice and inequality, and 2) collectively push for a post-2015 development framework that is based on the experiences and interests of people living in poverty.

Strategy: We will strengthen our partnership with Beyond 2015, CIVICUS, GCCA, Social Watch, and other key allies to work with people to build a more just world. This will take place by empowering people to express their vision for the world we want, as part of civil society's mobilisation on a post 2015 agenda. On the basis of these voices, to develop common policy positions for civil society and use these to influence national governments, regional organisation like the AU and EU, the UN, and related intergovernmental processes. This includes harnessing the power of new media.

In 2012, GCAP put in motion a process of national consultations on the post 2015 agenda in 37 countries. Together with Beyond 2015, GCAP supported consultations in 30 countries over the course of 2012, and will not only be brought to the UN High Level Event in September 2013, but will also form the basis for campaigning and advocacy in the coming year. In seven other countries, national coalitions of GCAP organised national civil society consultations on post 2015 without external project support.

A synthesis report has been written, jointly by GCAP and Beyond 2015, that looks at the themes emerging from the national consultations and provides recommendations to the High Level Panel on the structure and content of the post 2015 framework.

In the reports of the 22 consultations that have taken place, we are receiving a wealth of information about both the successes and failures of the MDGs, as well as the possibility for a new, more inclusive and just framework. We are receiving contributions from people echoing the same demands. Across the world, civil society is concerned about rising inequality. People acknowledge that social protection is decreasing and that those already living in poverty are being further marginalized. Even in times when economic growth is robust, many people are not benefitting.

For the eradication of poverty and the survival of the planet, a framework must be based on four pillars: human rights, equality and justice, environmental sustainability, and poverty eradication. Furthermore, to ensure that action follows commitments, it must be underpinned by a foundation of good governance, which must include accountability and universality.

The outcomes of the national deliberations have put forward a strong consensus on the right of each person on the planet to live a life free from poverty. A post 2015 framework must make explicit provisions for social protection and service provision, to provide an opportunity for all to live in dignity, regardless of race, sex, sexual orientation, or any other reason.

People coming together to participate in the consultations, regardless of national origin, share the opinion that inequality is one of the biggest challenges facing the world today, and all nations have an equal obligation to create a more just world. Acknowledging this, a post 2015 framework needs to focus on equality, through promoting gender justice, progressive redistribution, structural transformation, corporate regulation, and social protection.

There was a consensus in the deliberations: climate change poses an eminent threat to society and its affects are already being felt by people living in poverty. A post 2015 framework must account for the link between the social and environmental consequences of our current path of growth.

Finally, concern was raised in many national consultations about the threat of poor governance to achieving current and future goals. Therefore, accountability, universality, and good governance must underpin a new framework. Without clear delineations of responsibilities as well as rights, and without a mechanism for holding actors to account for their commitments, progress will not be made. A post 2015 framework should be underpinned by a comprehensive and inclusive accountability mechanism.

National Consultation Outcomes

In the reports of the 22 consultations that have taken place, we are receiving a wealth of Wada na Todo Abhiyan, GCAP India, is just one of the 37 national coalitions that held a national consultation that brought together the findings and outcomes of an extensive process of local and community consultations from across the country. GCAP India organized four regional consultations with Civil Society Actors, four regional meetings with academics, activists and other stakeholders came together for a national consultation at the end of November. While each national process was different, this serves as an example of an outcome from such a process.

Global Contributions to the Post 2015 Process

In addition to the leading role GCAP has played in organizing national consultations and regional processes, we have been active in contributing to thematic consultations and have chaired the UN Working Group process. GCAP, led by the FTF, has also chaired the civil society inputs on both governance and inequality. The outcomes of these consultations were widely and collectively developed by civil society. The results of these thematic consultations are available online and have been disseminated widely.

Convening Global Civil Society

In the past year, GCAP has played a strong role in convening global civil society on the agenda of poverty and inequality. As a mobilization movement, that connects people on a national and local level, GCAP is in a position to provide unique leadership in global policy spaces, by linking the voices and experiences of people living in poverty to decision makers.

In addition to the advocacy role we have played with global decision makers, GCAP also has a strong place within organized civil society, bringing organisations together across areas of work and geographic space. Collaborations have been possible through various meetings, including the Montreal 2012 meeting, and further opportunities for collaboration are expected in the upcoming CSO conference on post 2015 that will be held in Bonn, in early 2013. The Bonn meeting is being organized by the Berlin Civil Society Centre, with GCAP as one of the collaborating networks.

GCAP's role as a global convener grew vastly in 2012, and in 2013, we look forward to seeing this increase even further, as we develop common action plans and campaigns.

Worldwewant.org

In a world largely more 'connected' and much more 'diffuse' in terms of power relations, than the world that gave birth to the MDGs. The United Nations and Civil Society Organizations, coordinated the Global Call to Action Against Poverty, with participation of CIVICUS, Beyond 2015, Caritas and other networks, have forged a joint partnership to build a 'global conversation' to drive citizen participation in creation of a new 'post 2015' development framework.

The worldwewant2015.org website embodies this partnership. It's 'the' major platform supporting the post 2015 global conversation and related public facing mobilization activities. The platform is intended to enhance the ability of citizens around the world to express their perspectives, organize

We feel that the post 2015 development discourse must be defined by the following five Principles:

1. The existing MDGs have largely ignored the universality, indivisibility, inter-dependence, and inter-relatedness of human rights. If the post 2015 development agenda is to remain relevant, it must emphasize on the fundamental inalienability of human rights as the macro frame to locate within it specific goals and targets.
2. Inequalities, discrimination and social exclusion, particularly caste, ethnic and gender inequalities, have always been inadequately addressed. The evolving development agenda in the post 2015 frame needs to focus on diagnostic, i.e. structural reforms, rather than prescriptive measures. In this context, it becomes necessary to ensure that all prevalent macroeconomic policy directions that fosters and perpetuate inequalities and social exclusion be reviewed through the lens of intersectionalities, including discrimination based on caste, religious, sexual and gender identities. Widely accessible, non-discriminatory, participatory, and quality basic public services (including health, water and sanitation,

deliberations, take actions, and increase their participation and engagement in the creation and implementation of a transformative post 2015 development agenda. It will collect qualitative and, where relevant, quantitative information which will also feed directly into the policy making process to drive better, more relevant, and more informed development policy. It will identify the issues that matter most to a variety of groups, as well as crowd source new solutions to development challenges that draw from people closest to the issues. In a world where democracy and decision making is moving further away from the sphere of 'individual' influence, the worldwewant2015.org ultimately aims to 'transform' or 'hack' the decision making process, identify new ways of bridging the democratic deficit between global decisions and local power, build accountability for development outcomes, and grow a diverse, powerful and proactive movement, engaged in the challenges facing humanity and passionate about the plan to solve them.

GCAP is playing a leading role in developing this online space, as well as linking it to MyWorld, and other digital campaigning spaces. These online arenas are inclusive ways of fostering participation in the post 2015 process, and GCAP is linking these spaces with our offline actions, to help bridge the digital divide in this global conversation.

October 17th

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was marked around the world again this year, with actions in 30 countries. Below, we highlight some actions that were taken to build The World We Want:

- **In South Korea**, on Saturday, October 20th at Han River Park, over 300 participants joined in events and performances, with the slogan: Stand Up and Take Action. The event was sponsored by Hyundai Motors and KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency). Messages against poverty and inequality were delivered on kites. Over 15 organisations took

education and housing, and comprehensive services for survivors of violence) must be ensured. Excluded communities, especially women, must be involved in planning and setting their agendas, engaged in budget formulations, and involved in development schemes that are of benefit to the community and focus on the most vulnerable – such as single women, survivors of violence, and children.

3. A gender-transformative, gender-inclusive, and gender-responsive policy frame guided by principles of gender equality and equity is essential to advance and achieve the full potential of all women in all spheres of life, namely economic, social, and political. In order to achieve this, the following elements are necessary: across-the-board, gender-disaggregated data; fair representation of women in decision making; equitable ownership and control over productive resources; and a gender violence- and harassment-free environment (where justice, dignity, autonomy, bodily integrity are accessible and where prevailing masculinity norms are challenged).

4. The principle of a sustainable development pathway, when seen from the

part in the campaign, with a variety of programmes.

- **In Pakistan**, World Food Day was marked alongside October 17th. Over 7,000 people stood up against poverty and food insecurity in different events all across the country. There was widespread press coverage, and thousands of pamphlets and leaflets were published and disseminated. It has been an uphill battle to achieve the MDGs by 2015 with the government's reduction of health and education budgets. Civil society is intensifying the pressure through its mobilization actions.
- **In Sri Lanka**, a meeting took place on the post 2015 agenda. An inter-religious group held a Stand Up and Take Action march, symbolizing the way the country is moving forward after 30 years of war.
- **In Germany**, there was a week of action from October 14th to the 21st on the Right to Food. Signatures were collected to petition for a EU-wide agricultural policy, supportive of development. In a publicity stunt, 868 empty pots were placed in front of the Berlin Gate to symbolizing the 868 million people suffering from hunger and raise awareness of the contribution of speculation to food price volatility. For more information can please [click here](#).
- **In Australia**, there were flash mobs in every capital city, along with a postcard campaign. To view videos of this event please [click here](#).
- **In Japan**, more than 1200 events took place in all 47 prefectures of the country. Over 20,000 people were mobilized to Stand Up and Take Action!
- **In Uganda**, events were held in the conflict torn northern districts on the right to food and peace and security.

lens of the majority of the population of the globe, and the dangers of climate change, would mean in real terms the year round access to basic necessities of food, shelter, and livelihood for all men and women to survive with dignity and to secure these basic necessities even in the wake of climate variability. The goal must not be to merely alleviate poverty, but to ensure 'well-being', where economic and environmental sustainability are simultaneously ensured and the world acts together to reverse global warming and deal adequately with its impacts. To achieve this would imply a bottom-up perspective to the development trajectory. The vision of a low carbon society is an opportunity for us to make development choices, especially since we have large populations in developing countries that have yet to have access to basic energy.

5. The principle of 'just' governance must translate into a government responsive to the needs of the people. Greater transparency, accountability, and participation are needed in terms of economic policymaking. 'Just' governance should be the cornerstone of governance

- **In El Salvador**, there were three days of action: the International Day for Rural Women, the post 2015 agenda, and the International Day for Food. Events took place at the university, bringing together students, economists, youth, women, and representatives from rural and first nations to discuss concerns on these themes, and in support of a national campaign on the constitutional universal right to food.
- **In Bolivia**, there were forums and debates in Universities highlighting the challenges of poverty and inequality in the country. Links were especially drawn between climate justice and the rights of indigenous people.
- **In the DRC**, over 500 moringa trees were planted in eastern Congo. The planting was accompanied by discussions on environmental preservation, hunger, and the nutritional benefits of the moringa oleifera tree.
- **In the Netherlands**, EEN launched the Shop Against Poverty action to show shoppers where to find sustainable and fair products. A sustainable shopping trail was created to show consumers where to buy organic, fair trade, and second hand products.
- **In Spain**, the Spanish citizenry went to the streets in more than 35 cities to protest against a policy of cutbacks that only continues to impoverish the people. Some measures mean the dismantling of the welfare state, the violation of rights, and the increase of social inequalities.

5. The principle of 'just' governance must translate into a government responsive to the needs of the people. Greater transparency, accountability, and participation are needed in terms of economic policymaking. 'Just' governance should be the cornerstone of governance reform and adequate institutions. Capacities and resources need to be allocated to ensure implementation. This principle needs to apply not only to public institutions, but also to the private sector, to global governance institutions, and to the developed world to ensure a level playing field.

Gender Justice

No group has been excluded globally more than women, who comprise the majority of the world's impoverished. In terms of gender justice, Bangladesh serves as an example for the world when it comes to political leadership. Not only does it have a female head of state, but several of its most powerful ministers are women, including those with portfolios for agriculture, foreign affairs, labour, women and children, and until recently, home affairs. Yet despite these advances, delegates at the Dhaka forum lamented that overall violence against women remains all too prevalent in many of their communities and that national and international goals related to sexual and reproductive rights are largely unfulfilled.

While global attention has focused on maternal health, thanks in large part to MDG#5 which aims to reduce maternal deaths by three-quarters, policy-makers have neglected other essential issues like high levels of sexually transmitted diseases, unmet needs for contraception, unsafe abortions, and gynaecological conditions like fistula.

"Since the Millennium Declaration was drafted in 2000, our world has changed dramatically," says Amitabh Behar, the Global Co-Chair of GCAP. "You can see the anger in the Arab Spring, the Occupy movement, the anti-corruption movement in India . . . unless we are able to bridge this disconnect, it is very unlikely we will have a new set of goals that have legitimacy across a broad section of people. Our push to the global system is to request a bolder narrative that responds to the aspirations of citizens."

The G20 has expressed a firm commitment to the advancement of gender equality 'in all areas,' including skills training, wages, workplace treatment, and caregiving. It also recognises that women need better access to financial services. The Mexican ambassador has indicated that a portion of G20 support for nutrition programmes will specifically target pregnant women.

"Gender equality is critical to developing communities and eradicating poverty," says Michael Switow, representing the Feminist Task Force of the GCAP. "G20 commitments to advance gender equality and financial inclusion are promising, but they need to be followed up by action."

"We welcome G20 attention to nutrition programmes, particularly as they focus on pregnant women," notes Rosa Lizarde of the FTF of the GCAP. "But women need access to proper nutrition whether they are pregnant or not. We need a holistic approach in which women's sexual and reproductive health and rights are respected. Social inclusion, gender equality and the empowerment of women must be an integral component of child and maternal health programmes if they are to succeed."

Financing for Development – Aid, Trade, and Debt

A very small tax on financial transactions could raise hundreds of billions of US dollars to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and fight climate change. GCAP partnered with Oxfam, GCCA, GCE, ITUC, Stop AIDS Alliance, 350.org, and Avaaz to support a global week of action from 15 - 22 May 2012 for the Robin Hood Tax. Ten GCAP coalitions from each region took actions on the Financial Transaction Tax, lobbying their respective governments to keep it on the agenda.

Aid commitments and innovative forms of financing, like a Financial Transactions Tax, took a back seat in Los Cabos, Mexico, despite the prominence given to them at previous summits. “The G20 has dropped the ball on financing for development,” says Michael Switow, representing the Feminist Task Force of GCAP at the G20 summit.

The G20 is launching a coordinated Los Cabos Growth and Jobs Action Plan. It is pledging to “foster the creation of decent work and quality jobs, particularly for youth and other vulnerable groups”.

“Decent work for youth and vulnerable communities is key to promoting development and fighting poverty and inequality,” says Switow. “But it's important that actions match the rhetoric. You don't need to travel far from the G20 Summit to find maquiladoras where companies do not pay a living wage, women's rights are not respected, and working conditions are unsafe.”

Climate Change

Rio +20

Well before the announcement of the Open Working Group, GCAP has been active on the SDGs process, and GCAP was active and represented in Rio. In spite of civil society's presence and actions in the forum, concern is widespread that the Rio+20 process is resulting in an emerging agreement by world leaders to do nothing. Moving forward, we are determined to take stronger actions, and ensure that civil society is not complicit in this dubious consensus.

Whether it be global warming, contamination and pollution, erosion or deforestation, lack of water and sanitation due to desertification or creeping urbanization, women bear the brunt of ecological and environmental degradation. As the majority of the world's farmers and caretakers, impoverished women will be impacted at a disproportionate rate to global environmental threats. Despite these alarming realities, women's voices (in particular rural and indigenous women, grassroots and impoverished urban women), are not being heard in the corridors of decision-making venues. Furthermore, women's needs are not being fully addressed in the climate change debates at the local, national, regional, or international level.

Follow-up to Women's Tribunals on Climate Justice

In the fall of last year, leading up to the Durban COP17 meeting, fifteen women's tribunals (public hearings) on gender justice were organized in Africa, Asia and Latin America to raise the voices of rural and grassroots women otherwise counted out of the climate change debate. The tribunals were an unprecedented approach to amplify the voices of women and counter the invisibility of women at the rural, impoverished or grassroots level. Organized at the local and community level, the tribunals highlight the concerns of women, their families and communities around a specific or interconnected issue, for example, gender, poverty and climate justice. As part of the follow-up to the tribunals, the Feminist Task Force organized a side event at the Durban UNFCCC in which representatives of GCAP, Greenpeace and partners from national GCAP Coalitions presented the findings of the 15 tribunals. Presenters included Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General of Greenpeace International and former GCAP Co-Chair and Sylvia Borren, GCAP Foundation Board President and Co-chair.

Likewise, an official side event was held at the Rio+20 Conference where findings of the fifteen tribunals on gender and climate justice were presented to inject momentum into renewing political commitment to women at the Rio+20 process. Working with an international coalition to pressure for outcomes on sustainable development and gender equality at the Rio+20, the FTF joined local women's groups to leverage wider global attention to their issue, creating synergy with other women's organizations.

Whether it be the post-2015 development agenda, climate change, gender-based violence or issues of importance to rural, grassroots or indigenous communities, organizing around peoples' tribunals or public hearings can amplify the voices and issues of these communities and penetrate the global platforms usually confined to privileged INGOs or civil society mega-stars. The tribunals also collect testimonials and experiences which can be collected as primary sources of information from on-the-ground witnesses.

Feminist Task Force continues to ensure that the voices of these women are heard in the corridors of power at every level, from local communities to the United Nations and G20 as it advocates for better policies for women and girls, climate justice and fundamental human rights and gender equality. For more information, please see their website at www.feministtaskforce.org.

"The persistence and dogged cruelty and crimes of the coal industry haven't deterred these women, their families, their activism, even in the face of death threats," says FTF global coordinator Rosa Lizarde.

"We take a very local view of what's happening and relate it to what's happening around the world to women. These issues around climate justice, economic justice and governance – are really global

issues," says FTF Global Director, Rosa Lizarde. "Together with our partners in GCAP, we ensure women's voices are elevated to the highest levels at international forums."

COP 18 in Doha

GCAP Co-Chair Marta Benavides organized a demonstration outside the COP 18 in Doha. "We must each day be ready to be about speaking truth with power to the structures that think they are in or are power. I came as a witness and to give testimony . . . (we need) a different paradigm, so each person can live simply and meaningfully, mindful of what we each and collectively are to do here with and in Mother Earth."

Peace and Security

GCAP coalitions in six countries and supporting organisations around the world have been supporting the development of an Arms Trade Treaty, through on-going advocacy and mobilization. Make Poverty History Australia (GCAP Australia) has supported Act for Peace and, through the work of the ACT Alliance, GCAP has been contributing to public pressure on this treaty through actions on the Global Day for Peace and online actions, including ConflictVoice. National Coalitions in conflict-affected countries, including Somalia, Pakistan, and the DRC have mobilized people affected by conflict and violence to demand governments promote human security.

The Coalition for Change The Gambia and Civil Society Associations Gambia vehemently denounced and condemned the guilty verdict, conviction and life imprisonment, of Dr. Amadou Scattered Janneh and three others (Modou Keita, Ebrima Jallow, and Micheal Ucheh Thomas) for the printing and distribution of T-Shirts with the Slogan "*Coalition for Change The Gambia, End Dictatorship Now.*" January 17 marks another dark, indelible stain in the history of the Gambian judiciary, where despite Constitutional guarantees to Freedom of Expression, an independent judiciary has allowed himself to be used openly and publicly by the Executive to further enforce its reign of terror, even with a weak and senseless prosecutorial effort.

There is pain and trauma inflicted on the families of the printers, who are being criminalized for simply printing t-shirts, by the state authorities and a legal system geared towards ensuring, aiding, and abetting a dictatorial government to bolster tyranny and impose fear. This court decision only confirms civil society's claims that the Gambian judiciary is being used to bolster State-supported tyranny and oppression.

Building the Movement

In conjunction with the Civicus World Assembly in Montreal, GCAP, along with Beyond 2015 and CIVICUS, organized a post 2015 CSO meeting with a wide range of civil society organisations. It was structured with a consultation in the morning and an afternoon campaign-and-action-planning

workshop, with the discussions continuing within the main CIVICUS World Assembly from September 5th-7th. This included brainstorming on the most effective ways to engage citizens in the process at the Post 2015 Workshop on grassroots participation also taking place at the CIVICUS World Assembly. The conference brought together social movements, INGO leaders, young people, campaigners and communications professionals, UN experts as well as representatives of the academic community, trade unions, faith based organisations, women's movements and organisations of the poor.

This initiative created space for civil society to deliberate its perspectives on a post 2015 development agenda, identify common priorities, build strategies to strengthen citizen participation and create an action plan for campaigning and mass-mobilization in order to influence the post 2015 agenda. Planning partners included CIVICUS, Beyond 2015, Stakeholder Forum, Oxfam International, Amnesty International, Save the Children, Social Watch, Greenpeace, Action Aid, GCCA, ATD 4th World, Feminist Task Force, ITUC, BetterAid, UN Foundation, and other CSOs that also participated in a Post 2015 Workshop held at the 2012 CIVICUS World Assembly. The declaration below marks an outcome of the CSO meeting.

Declaration: CSO post 2015 meeting in Montreal

We, the participants of the Post-2015 Civil Society Conference at the CIVICUS World Assembly, gathered in Montreal 4 September 2012, in the firm belief that it is possible to eradicate poverty, hunger, and injustice. Grounded in the fundamental principles of equality, social justice, and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, we commit to work together with peoples and governments worldwide to create the conditions and mechanisms that will guarantee the fulfillment of this vision of the "World We Want."

We continue to hold governments and the international community to account on the commitments of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). At the same time, now we need to define a more ambitious global framework for after 2015, when the MDGs expire. We currently face multiple and convergent crises of growing inequality, undemocratic governance, a broken global financial system, and climate change. We seize this opportunity to leverage citizen action and build momentum towards a fair, equal, and inclusive agenda for humanity, one that incorporates the voices of women, youth, and people living in poverty, and ensures democratic space for all people to demand and achieve fair and accountable governments.

Our world has reached a tipping point. We stand on the edge of a precipice; time is running out. We need to organize and act decisively to assert the fundamental human rights of all people. We call for bold and concrete steps towards a coherent framework that links the post-2015 process with the outcomes of Rio+20, most notably the intergovernmental open working group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We affirm the importance of connecting the environmental sustainability, human rights, and anti-poverty agendas, while emphasizing the necessity of our engagement in this political process.

We demand a rightful place at the table for civil society, and further resolve that the multilateral process on the post-2015 development agenda must be open, inclusive, transparent, consultative, and take the aspirations of people most affected by poverty and climate change, as expressed by those people themselves, as a starting point. This process must be founded on principles of social justice, solidarity, human dignity, and freedom, and be free from all forms of discrimination, including on the basis of gender, sexual orientation, religion, and culture. We demand the meaningful inclusion and participation of all sectors of society, with special regard to socially excluded communities, at all stages of this process, including its negotiations and implementation.

We call on civil society organizations, trade unions, women's, peasants, indigenous, human rights, and social justice movements to come together to coordinate a global campaign that connects grassroots struggles with the arenas of privilege and power. We urge civil society globally to build a grassroots campaign that will determine the content of the demands and proposals we take forward to our partners in the United Nations system.

We conclude by reaffirming our overarching vision and goal for the "World We Want" beyond 2015: the eradication of poverty, the reversal of growing inequality, and the fulfillment of environmental sustainability and human rights.

Mobilisation Task Force

The Mobilisation Task Force was re-established in August 2012 and has been bringing together campaigners from around the world to develop a mobilization strategy in line with our annual work plan. In 2012, they held four meetings that have moved us towards a narrative and mobilization plan for 2013. This process of convening and consultation is essential in preparing our work for the future, and making sure that we have a shared vision on how to move our mobilization agenda ahead.

Regional and National GCAP Activities

There are national coalitions in 85 countries. The national coalitions lead GCAP's advocacy at the national, regional, and global levels. National coalitions and constituency groups coordinate to lead GCAP's participation in mobilization events and mechanisms, such as the mobilization task force and Global Council.

This year, national coalitions and GCAP supporting organisations from the following countries took part in global coordination:

Africa: Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Rwanda, Uganda, Sudan, DRC, Cameroon, the Gambia, Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, Mali, Ghana, Benin, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Senegal, and Togo

Arab Region: Morocco, Egypt, Yemen, Lebanon, and Palestine

Asia: Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, Indonesia, Singapore, The Philippines, China, South Korea, and Japan

Latin America: El Salvador, Mexico, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Peru, and Argentina

Europe: Portugal, Spain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, United Kingdom, Ireland, Luxembourg, Germany, Austria, Italy, Slovenia, Malta, Bulgaria, Romania, Germany, Poland, Denmark, Russia, and Azerbaijan

GCAP Europe

GCAP Europe has had calls and meetings through the course of 2012, including information exchange and the work of different coalitions. The region has been working with the European Task Force of Beyond 2015 on policy issues and has developed a campaigning concept. There have been meetings in Brussels and Berlin to enhance coordination.

Top down development never works. That was the clear message of some 100 activists and development practitioners who gathered recently in Brussels to debate the post 2015 agenda. Fortunately, as United Nations members discuss a post 2015 framework, an opportunity exists to engage people's organisations and impoverished communities from across the globe. The next global development agenda must be a bottom up process. It's crucial we do not repeat the mistakes of the past.

"Post 2015 is not about development in the narrow sense of development cooperation," notes Save the Children's Tanya Cox, who is also co-chair of Beyond 2015's European Steering Group. "It's about changes in Europe, about people's well-being, rights and equity."



Civil society discussions about a framework to succeed the Millennium Development Goals have started in several European countries. The UN is preparing consultations in fifty African, Asian, and Latin American countries as well as nine thematic conversations. [Beyond 2015](#) and GCAP are also planning national deliberations in a number of these countries as well as in Europe.

Africa

GCAP Africa has been very busy this year with the national consultation process. On a regional level, the African CSO working group on post 2015 was formed in July 2012 by GCAP and other organizations, with a meeting to unify civil society together. From the Declaration that was submitted following that process, the High Level Panel had the following to say:

“Our vision and our responsibility is to end extreme poverty in all its forms in the context of sustainable development and to have in place the building blocks of sustained prosperity for all. We seek to make gains in poverty eradication irreversible. This is a global, people-centered, and planet-sensitive agenda to address the universal challenges of the 21st century: promoting sustainable development, supporting job-creating growth, protecting the environment and providing peace, security, justice, freedom and equity at all levels.”

GCAP will continue its work in the coming year to ensure that this vision of the High Level Panel will be reflected in its outcomes, and in the framework that follows the MDGs.

Project Accelerate, which engaged African coalitions with the G8 and G20, concluded in 2012, but the work of the coalitions involved is now contributing to an Africa wide coordination process on post 2015. GCAP is part of the steering group of this process and coordination has strengthened between GCAP, African Monitor, and other regional bodies. This has made coordination and information sharing with national coalitions more effective.

Asia

GCAP has been very active in Asia in 2012. This has been encouraged by the appointment of a new GCAP Asia Coordinator, Nalini Vaz. Twelve national coalitions now have a system of regular information dissemination and exchange, which has strengthened involvement in regional and global processes. Main areas of exploration were the current structure, their main activities, and future plans. We reached out to the following countries – Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, China, and Philippines.

SOUTH ASIA CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT WITH THE POST 2015 AGENDA - DHAKA, BANGLADESH - 12 December 2012

Representatives from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and Pakistan met in Dhaka to explore a South Asian engagement with the post 2015 agenda. They felt that they have continuously allowed northern narratives to define their reality. It is now important to encourage southern colleagues to take responsibility for the agenda and emerge leadership from within the global south. In this context, South Asia plays an important role as 60 -70 per cent of the extremely marginalized constituency of the post 2015 process can be found in South Asia. The group implemented a SWOT to determine a road map and future strategy for South Asian engagement. They also shared updates/plans for the on-going

National Consultations on the post 2015 agenda. The two main outcomes of the meeting were a better and shared understanding of the way forward and the development of policy briefs on key issues, like:

1. Inequality
2. Peace and Human Security (trafficking)
3. NRM & Food Security
4. Climate Change and displacement/Migration
5. Caste and Gender based Discrimination

The policy briefs would feed into the global and regional processes as well as serve as mobilization tools at national level.

STRATEGIES FOR A SOUTHERN LED, RIGHTS BASED ENGAGEMENT WITH THE POST 2015 AGENDA - NEW DELHI, INDIA - 28-29 November 2012

Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA) (GCAP India) organized a dialogue on the post 2015 development agenda aimed at the discussion of strategies for a stronger southern-led and rights-based engagement with the post 2015 development agenda.

The meeting focused on identifying mutual strategies across countries/regions who have the dual challenge of addressing poverty and inequality within its boundaries while also contributing substantively to the proposals that are being shaped with regard the new development framework. This includes exploring ways in which engagement with UN processes, information sharing on regional and national policy developments, as well as interventions with forums like the G77, BRICS, and G20, can be coordinated more effectively from the perspective of the global south.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE CALLS

Two regional conference calls were held with National Coordinators from South Asia and one regional conference call with East Asia. [Muhammad Zia- Ur- Rehman](#), the South Asia Facilitation Group (SAFG) Convener and GCAP Pakistan's National Coordinator, facilitated the regional calls for South Asia. The calls focused on updates from each coalition and innovative ideas for moving towards the post 2015 agenda.

GCAP Philippines

Seventeen million children below the age of six may soon have access to early childhood education and better nutrition, thanks in part to a civil campaign supported by GCAP Philippines' member, [Kabataan Kontra Kahirapan](#).

The "Early Years Act", which creates an Early Childhood Care and Development Council and would ensure that young children have access to proper nutrition and education right from the start, has passed the Philippines' congress and now awaits the President's signature. If it becomes law, the Early Years Act will transform some 50,000 daycare centres in almost as many villages into full-fledged learning centres.

While a similar bill was vetoed by President Benigno Aquino in February due to budgetary concerns, campaigners expect Aquino to sign the bill now that these concerns are being addressed by congress.

"Children who have access to early development programmes are better prepared for school," says Thea Soriano, the coordinator of another GCAP Philippines member, [E-Net Philippines](#). "They are more competent emotionally and socially and demonstrate better intellectual, physical and verbal development."

E-Net recently engaged the Philippine government in a dialogue about early childhood education with officials from several agencies that will be at the forefront of the Early Years Act implementation, including the Departments of Health and Education.

"Our Filipino children are not adequately prepared for school," says GCAP Global Council member Claudine Claridad, who is also the national chairperson of Kabataan Kontra Kahirapan (Youth Against Poverty). "A government investment in early childhood care and education will reduce the number of children who drop out of school and will help break the poverty cycle. The Early Years Act makes it a government responsibility to ensure that quality educational opportunities are available to all young children, regardless of background or income."

Latin America

Coordination in Latin America has been prepared by Nancy Ramos by communication with eight national coalitions and was strengthened with the appointment of Mariano de Donatis, who has been working in tandem with Marta Benavides, GCAP Co-chair from the region. This new coordination has energized the GCAP process in the region. It has allowed a discussion to begin on reviving coordination and leadership. One of the prominent activities of GCAP Latin America was at the G20 Summit in Mexico, which led to a strong success for GCAP this year in ensuring participation in global spaces.

G20

Mark up another success for GCAP advocacy: Mexico, the chair of this year's G20, indicated that it would invite [NEPAD](#), an African economic community, to attend the June G20 Summit. Civil society campaigners thought the invitation was a foregone conclusion. Thanks to the "Africa at the Table" campaign, leaders at the 2010 Seoul Summit promised to invite at least two African representatives to all future summits:

"Bearing in mind the importance of the G20 being both representative and effective as the premier forum for our international economic cooperation, we reached a broad consensus on a set of principles for non-member invitations to Summits, including that we will invite no more than five non-member invitees, of which at least two will be countries in Africa." (Seoul Summit Document, para. 74)

But when Mexico issued its guest list this year, NEPAD was not included. GCAP Africa immediately stepped into gear.

"The G20 makes decisions that affect the people of Africa," says GCAP Africa coordinator Sonia Kwami. "Our leaders must be at the table, they must be partners in the conversation if we are to truly eradicate poverty and inequality on our continent. In addition, it's important that the G20 be accountable and keep its promises."

Several national coalitions -- including Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, and South Africa -- immediately engaged the Mexican government via embassy petitions and other actions to request a change of course.

"We were very surprised to note that the Mexican Government has only invited Benin (AU chair), leaving out NEPAD chair. This is a clear breach of the (Seoul Summit) statement," writes Simekinala Kaluzi of GCAP Malawi and CONGOMA, the Council for Non Governmental Organisations in Malawi, in a letter to a Mexican ambassador.

"We expect the Mexican Government to respect previous agreements made by the G20 members, not ignoring them as it appears at the moment. Failure to invite NEPAD would be retrogressive and scandalous."

A number of GCAP constituents met directly with Mexican authorities. In Nairobi, for example, a delegation from Concerned Youth for Peace, the Kenya Debt Relief Network, GCAP Kenya, Real Generation, and the Seed Institute explained the importance of NEPAD's inclusion to Mexico's ambassador to Kenya, Luis Javier Campuzano. Finance ministers from low-income Francophone countries, as well in a meeting in Washington, [underscored this point](#).

Finally, on 27 April, Mexico's Deputy Foreign Minister Lourdes Aranda, who is also the country's G20 'sherpa' cleared up the matter on Twitter: "As follow up of the African Union decision, Mexico invited NEPAD's chairperson to the G20 Summit in Los Cabos."

"This is great news and goes to show what the collective action of people around the world who focus on a key issue can achieve," says Steve Price-Thomas of Oxfam International. "Now we need to make sure the formal invitation is transmitted, received and accepted . . . and that issues of African LDCs are given the prominence they deserve at the Summit."

"African policymakers must also be invited to all the preparatory Working Groups, sherpa and minister meetings," adds GCAP co-chair Amitabh Behar. "Otherwise they can't adequately prepare for the Summit and their presence risks becoming more of a photo-op for G20 leaders than anything else."

Equally important is that Africans should be invited to participate in the G20's forums with businesses, CSOs and think tanks. Started by GCAP Africa coalitions, then endorsed by the African Union and actively supported by GCAP coalitions from Canada to Korea, the "Africa at the Table" campaign led the G20 to invite the AU and NEPAD to attend the G20 as permanent guests.

Global Secretariat

The Global Secretariat grew in strength in 2012, with regional coordinators now in place in Africa, Latin America, and Asia. While Sonia Kwami, as the Africa coordinator, has been with us now for the past 4 years, Nalini Vaz based in Mumbai joined as the Asia Coordinator in June 2012. Mariano de Donis in Buenos Aires joined us as the Latin America and Caribbean Coordinator at the end of the year. Lysa John left us as Director of Campaigns in March 2012, after leading the secretariat for over 2 years. Rajiv Joshi was the Director of Outreach until December, and while he has moved out of the secretariat, he continues to support the mission and vision of GCAP in different capacities. The secretariat is now under the new directorship of Ingo Ritz, based in Germany, and Caitlin Blaser, in South Africa. Rudy Wolff continues to provide finance and administrative support to the secretariat. Nancy Ramos is providing additional support to the Latin American region, as well as helping with our digital needs and internal communication. We are very happy to welcome back Fionuala Cregan to support the work of the Mobilisation Task Force and develop a mobilisation plan for 2013. Michael Switow has also joined the work of the Global Secretariat to support our communications work and the newsletter.

Global Governance

The Global Council, which is composed of elected representatives of national coalitions and constituency groups, held 12 monthly telecalls in 2012. These discussions provided the basis for the direction of GCAP's mobilization, communications, and coordination activities for the year.

The current Global Council members were elected in regional caucuses in advance of the 2010 Global Assembly in Newark. Since that time, many people have moved positions, or for other reasons could no longer continue in their capacity in the Global Council. A process has now been initiated to fill the vacant seats on the Council. All regions will complete this election process in early 2013.

Looking ahead to 2013

If 2012 was a year of collaboration and consolidation, in 2013 the focus will be on advocacy and the campaigning will start. Civil society has now defined *The World We Want*, and we are entering a new phase of pushing governments and other political decision makers to articulate this vision in a post 2015 development agenda. We look forward to a year of action in the face of growing inequality and exclusion.

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