

## **A Stand-Alone Goal on Equality is Essential**

We, the undersigned Civil Society Organizations representing constituencies from all corners of the globe, are deeply alarmed by the proposal to combine the Goal 10 on Equality with other listed goals. We urge your careful consideration of the following compelling reasons. As the Post 2015 agenda is meant to guide development efforts over the next 15 years, it must recognize inequalities as one of the most vital issues of our time by having a clear goal to tackle inequality and by including equality-related targets into other goals. These two approaches are mutually supportive. However, without a stand-alone goal on equality to deliver this clear message, the agenda risks losing the support of individuals, organizations and communities around the world.

**1. A stand-alone goal on equality communicates a fundamental value underlying the Post-2015 development agenda.** While we recognize that all goals under discussion are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, the decision to have a stand-alone goal on equality reflects the degree of importance that has been accorded to the problem of inequalities by the peoples of the world. Global consultations, civil society networks, Member States and the United Nations have firmly and repeatedly asserted that inequality is at the heart of many social, economic and environmental ills, including barriers to development, economic instability, mismanagement of natural resources, discrimination, lack of social unity, crime and conflict.

**2. The Post-2015 agenda will be about the headlines.** The visibility, potency, and support for implementation of the goals will be rooted, in part, in the manner in which they are articulated. By only mainstreaming equality throughout the goals, it will lose its visibility and recognition as an independent driver of many of the ills facing society.

**3. The support of civil society highly depends on the articulation of equality as a stand-alone goal.** Global Consultations consistently asserted the need for the eradication of inequality as a crucial element in any development agenda. Our trust in the legitimacy and success of the new Sustainable Development Goals will be undermined if this goal is removed.

**4. Equality is an overarching value, far broader than economics.** It addresses dimensions of social, educational, health, political, and many other forms of inequality. Unequal treatment of, and opportunities for, women and vulnerable groups of all kinds is an independent issue that cannot be subsumed within other goals. Equality, if combined with the goal on 'poverty eradication,' risks losing its multidimensionality - including challenges related to access, discrimination, voice, and many other non-fiscal concerns. Moreover, the SDGs must consider inequalities between nations.

**5. A goal on equality exemplifies the universality of the goals.** Equality as a global goal implies a responsibility on the part of every nation, including the richest, as it is a social ill from which no nation is immune. As a universal concept, it has the potential to encourage unified action across borders. A goal on equality can be a powerful force for global solidarity, but not if it is buried in other goals.

**With a Stand-alone Goal on Equality, we can honor our commitment to leaving no one behind. We thank you for your understanding.**

**Signed this 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> day of June 2014 by:**

1	Academics Stand Against Poverty	International
2	Action On Women Foundation	Uganda
3	Action on Youth Empowerment	Uganda
4	Africa CSO Working Group on Post-2015	African
5	African Monitor	African
6	Alliance contre la Pauvreté au Mali	Mali
7	Amnesty International	International
8	Association Congolaise pour le Développement Agricole ACDA	Congo
9	Association Nigérienne des Scouts de l'Environnement (ANSEN)	National NIGER
10	Association pour le Développement et de la Promotion des Droits Humains	Mauritanie
11	Association Pour Le Développement Rural Intégré De Nganda-Tsundi"ADERIGAS"	CONGO DR
12	ATD Fourth World	global network
13	Awake Rural Women	Nepal
14	Baha'i International Community	Global
15	Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC)	Bangladesh
16	Beyond 2015	global network
17	Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme Cameroon	Cameroon
18	Bum Association of Health Personnel (BAHEP)	Cameroon
19	Center for Bangladesh Studies ( CBS)	Bangladesh
20	Center for Woman and Child Development	Bangladesh
21	Center for Women's Global Leadership	International
22	Centre for Human Rights and Development	Mongolia
23	Centro de Estudios para la Gobernabilidad y Democracia	Nicaragua
24	CEPA	Laos
25	Climate Emergency Institute	Canada
26	Coastal Area Intervention Network (CAIN)	Bangladesh
27	Collectif Sénégalais des Africaines pour la Promotion de l'Education Relative à l'Environnement-COSAPERÉ.	Senegal
28	Community and Family Foundation	Ghana
29	Community Emergency Response Initiative (CERI)	Nigeria

30	Community Environmental Resource Centre (CERC) (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)	India
31	Comunidad Raíz Zubia A.C.	México
32	Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd	International
33	Conservation of Flora and Fauna COFF	Pakistan
34	Consortium for Land Research and Policy Dialogue (COLARP)	Nepal
35	Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas -CONGCOOP	Guatemala
36	CRESUNA - Africa	Uganda
37	Dalit Alliance for Natural Resources (DANAR)	Nepal
38	Dalit Alliance for Natural Resources(DANAR)-Nepal	Nepal
39	Dalit Alliance for Natural Resources(DANAR)-Nepal	Nepal
40	Dharamitra (Eco-Technology Resource Centre for Sustainable Development)	India
41	Disability and Development Cooperation (bezev)	Germany
42	Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC)	Bangladesh
43	Environmental Quality Protection Foundation (EQPF)	Taiwan
44	European Environmental Bureau	Europe
45	Europa	England
46	Federation of Democratic NGO's of Nepal	Nepal
47	Feminist Task Force	global network
48	FOKUS-Forum for Women and Development	Norway
49	Forest Environment Workers Union Nepal (FEWUN)	Nepal
50	Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood	International
51	Fundación Justicia y Genero	Costa Rica
52	GEADIRR	Cameroon
53	Global Action	Dublin
54	Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)	global network
55	Global Fund for Women	Global
56	Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction	global network
57	Global Partnership and Development	New Zealand
58	Gomal Damaan Area Water Partnership	Pakistan
59	Green Creation	UK
60	Green liberty	Latvia
61	Green Team Kenya	kenya
62	Greenspring Development Initiative	Nigeria
63	Health Development Initiative	Nigeria

64	Huairou Commission: Women, Homes and Community	Global
65	Indigenous Nationalities Women Youth Network	Nepal
66	Initiative for Equality (IfE) - Field Hearings network	global network
67	Initiatives pour le Développement Durable Et Prospective (ISDP)	Togo
68	Institute for Economic Research on Innovation	RSA & International
69	International Association of Schools of Social Work	International
70	International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	International
71	International Social Science Council	International
72	International Women's Anthropology Conference, IWAC	International
73	IntHum - Intercultural Laboratory	Italy
74	Italy Equality Group	Italy
75	IWRAW Asia Pacific	Malaysia
76	Journalists and Writers Foundation	International
77	Karama	Middle East and North Africa
78	Kenya Community Development Group	Kenya
79	Kirat Chamling Youth Society	Nepal
80	Kirat Youth Society (KYS)	Nepal
81	Makutupora- Agricultural Research Institute	Tanzania
82	Medsin-UK	UK
83	MESA de Articulación de Asociaciones Nacionales y Redes Regionales de ONG de America Latina	International
84	Mukono Multipurpose Youth Organisation (MUMYO)	Uganda
85	Naqaa Sustainability Solutions	Saudi Arabia
86	National Council of Women, USA	USA+
87	National Forum for Advocacy, Nepal (NAFAN)	Nepal
88	NAWO - National Alliance of Women's Organisations (UK)	UK
89	New Integrated Collective Initiative for Poverty Alleviation	Cameroon
90	New Restoration Plan - Malawi	Malawi
91	NGO Committee on Human Rights	International
92	NGO committee on social development	International
93	Niger Delta Women's movement for Peace and Development	Nigeria
94	Open Streets Cape Town	South Africa

95	OSEC (Organization for Social and Economic Change)	Pakistan
96	Oxfam International	International
97	Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE)	Nigeria
98	PATHIKRIT	Bangladesh
99	Peace and Life Enhancement Initiative International (PLEII)	Nigeria
100	Peace Islands Institute	United States
101	People Unity Yong Society (PUYS)	Nepal
102	Plan International	International
103	Planning and the Black Community Division of the American Planning Association	United States
104	Population Matters	UK
105	Presentation Justice Network	Ireland
106	Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOUG)	Uganda
107	Project 90 by 2030	South Africa
108	Psychology Coalition at the UN	UN Headquarters, NY
109	Recycle 4 Africa	Malawi
110	Red de Acción por el Agua - México (Freshwater Action Network - Mexico (FANMex)	Mexico
111	Réseau des Jeunes pour l'Eau, l'assainissement et le Développement Durable au Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso
112	Réseau des Organisations Féminines d'Afrique Francophone (ROFAF)	International
113	Restless Development	International
114	Rogers Foundation for Person-Centred Education	Hungary
115	Roless Institute	Kenya
116	SAMADANA/M - Centre for Nonviolence	Sri Lanka
117	SANAYEE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION SDO	AFGHANISTAN
118	Save the Earth Cambodia	Cambodia
119	Seeds for a Future	Guatemala
120	SERVITAS Cameroon	Cameroon
121	SHELTER	Bangladesh
122	Sikkim Manipal University (SMU) College of Professional Studies	Nepal
123	Sindhica Reforms Society	Pakistan
124	Singing Across Borders/CA:s Sångskola	International
125	Sisters of Mercy, Mercy International Association at the UN	International
126	Society For Agriculture and Sustainable Development	Cameroon

127	SOS Children's Villages	International
128	Stichting Bakens Verzet (NGO Another Way)	Netherlands
129	Stichting Ultimate Purpose-Suriname	Suriname
130	Sub-Committee for the Elimination of Racism and other forms of Intolerance of the NGO Committee on Human Rights	UN Headquarters, NY
131	Sufuri Group	Kenya
132	Sustainability Institute	South Africa
133	Sustainable agriculture and environment	International
134	Sustainable Innovation initiatives	USA+ Trinidad and Tobago
135	Sustainable Rural Community Development	Malawi
136	Systems Innovations and Communication for Progress and Philanthropy (SICP)	India
137	Terra-1530	Moldova
138	The Future We Need	Ireland
139	The Second Chance Foundation	United States
140	Trades Union Congress (TUC) Ghana	Ghana
141	Transformation and Development Centre	Nigeria
142	Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development	Uganda
143	Union de l'action feministe UAF	Morocco
144	Unitarian Universalist UN Office	US
145	United Methodist Women, Global Justice office	USA+
146	Unity Society Nepal	Nepal
147	Utthan	India
148	VIMA'S WASH ENTERPRISE	GHANA
149	VIVAT International	International
150	WASH United	International
151	Women Acting Together for Change (WATCH)	Nepal
152	Women Environmental Programme	Nigeria
153	Women Peacemakers Program	the Netherlands
154	Women's Awareness Support Group	Nepal
155	Women's UN Report Network	Global
156	WOPA GREEN PROJECT	KENYA
157	YouLead-Collective (YLC)	South Africa
158	Youth NGO-Federation Nepal (YNF)	Nepal