



**STRATEGIES FOR A SOUTHERN LED, RIGHTS BASED ENGAGEMENT  
WITH THE POST 2015 AGENDA**

**- Summary of Discussions Held -**

**India Islamic Centre – Conference Hall**

**Lodhi Road, New Delhi, India**

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**Organised by: WADA NA TODO ABHIYAN**

**[www.wadanatodo.net](http://www.wadanatodo.net)**

## Locating the Global South in the post-2015 dialogue

Despite the recent changes in global economic and political scenario, there is a shared history of colonialism marked by the flow of resources from the south to the north. The United Nations created a resolution in 1970s to create a group of vulnerable countries. This number of least developed countries (LDCs) was originally 24 in 1970 and stands now at 48 indicating a continuing trend towards impoverishment of people and nations, and the continuing imbalances of the way aid, trade and financial systems are organised.

There is a need therefore to ensure that there is a strong contribution from the global south in the deliberations around the post 2015 development agenda. Civil society from the south needs to be vigilant to ensure that the member states in 2015 agree to address the structural causes of poverty and inequality, rather than adopt to a minimalist development agenda. There is need to ensure that discriminated groups talk about their own realities as part of this effort and are able to define the world they want. This must include spaces for the direct participation of women and traditionally excluded groups. Most of the world's population of disabled people, for instance, lives in the global south and almost ninety per cent are poor. Groups such as these, who have been at the margins of the MDG framework, should be seen as a priority group in discussions organised around the post 2015 development agenda.

There is a clear south in terms of discrimination, dispossession and insecurity – and a need to build a global experience of the south and also ensure that these are asserted forcefully rather than lost in the new construction of realities. We need to build a coalition around the southern priorities and perspectives rather than just bring together a network of southern voices.

## Integrating Rights and Justice in the post 2015 agenda

The participation of the global south needs to be organised around shared principles such as the ideals of equity, dignity and social justice. There is a need to strengthen the articulation of human rights in the post 2015 discourse. Debates on the post 2015 agenda must not only address the *'what'*, but the *'when, how and maximum available resources'*. Strategies and narratives for engagement must be shaped accordingly.

The Millennium Declaration includes a focus on human rights, which has been lost in the articulation of the MDGs, and focus on specific goals and targets. There is a need to rebuild this narrative, while also ensuring that implementation gaps with regard the obligations that governments have towards human rights agreements and instruments are upheld. The articulation of the post 2015 agenda in the context of human rights needs to be strengthened, with strong expression from the global south and its linkages with struggles for equity, dignity, peace and social justice. There have been examples of governments

taking this forward through initiatives such as in the case of Mongolia (outlining MDG.9 as Rights and Democracy) and Australia (efforts to integrate rights terminology in the MDG discourse). We must ensure that institutional mechanisms for accountability to human rights are reinforced. The lesson from the social uprisings that we have seen across the world is the need to challenge tokenistic responses to the global crises through austerity measures and financial restricting and deal with structural factors that perpetuate poverty and inequality instead.

### **Analysis: Role of LDC, MICs, Countries affected by Conflict**

Recognising the changes in the way in which countries are currently organised, both politically and economically, there may be a need to develop a diversified strategy to reach governments from the LDC (Least Developed Countries) and MIC (Middle Income Country) groupings. In addition to this, it would be important to pay special attention to the agenda of peace building and state building in advocacy efforts directed towards the post 2015 agenda.

The Istanbul Plan of Action for instance is an important reference point in efforts with regards the post 2015 agenda. The Plan of Action outlines 3 goals for LDCs namely, (i) to overcome structural challenges of development (ii) to align with the MDGs and, (iii) to reduce the number of LDC countries by 2020. There is a strong overlap between countries facing conflict and the LDC member states and the need for a convergent strategy to engage with governments in this regard – while also focusing on the role of women and their experience of violence and dispossession in the context of conflict as a key issue. In several LDC countries, there has been visible progress in meeting MDG targets pointing to available political will and leadership for change. There is a need to tap into these energies while mobilising both civil society and governments to articulate a stronger and more fundamental agenda of change that would benefit LDCs and fragile states substantively.

The role of Middle Income Countries (MICs) on the other hand needs to be watched closely to see if countries like India, China, Indonesia are taking progressive positions that work in the interest of the larger global community (other southern governments) or reflect only the immediate economic and political interests of the given sub-group. It is also important to recognize that countries with exerting stronger economic and political influence on the global stage are still home communities that face violence and unequal access to resources are brought to the forefront of the MDG / post 2015 debate. This includes groups like women, farmers, fishing communities, etc whose voices and insights cannot be hidden behind the 'façade' of the economic success stories that are being projected by industry, government and media. It is important for civil society to ensure that these grassroots groups are able to contribute their experiences and priorities to shape the post 2015 framework.

## Engaging Governments and Mobilising People

Our advocacy efforts must be shaped by formal and informal strategies of engagement with governments. There is a need to work with formal institutions of governance (parliaments, regional bodies) and ensure that they deliver on key promises and agreements. In southern Africa for instance, there has been an increased focus on connecting the conversation on MDGs with policy developments at the country level. There is a need to make the MDG debate relevant to the mainstream governance agenda, such as election charters and efforts to draft or amend the national constitution.

In doing this however, it is also important to distinguish between states and people / communities. It is also important to take note that there are several groups that are not recognized by the state in the context of national or international policy discussions and the issues of these communities need to be represented adequately by civil society. This includes groups oppressed by descent or race based forms of discrimination (not just in India but across the world) as well as those persecuted on the grounds of sexual identity, such as LGBT groups. There is a need to focus efforts on creating spaces for direct engagement within formal and informal debates and forums, thereby ensuring that the dialogue on shaping the post 2015 development agenda is more inclusive than the first phase of MDG related efforts.

While there is a strong emphasis now on mobilising public opinion through digital means, in the context of the global south there is need to be aware of the continuing challenges of access to the language and technology and therefore be aware of the dangers of a skewed representation of priorities that may not reflect ground realities and the broader community interests.

## Priorities and Next Steps

Moving forward, the group agreed to focus knowledge building, mobilization and advocacy efforts in the period from 2013 to 2015 around the following key themes:

- Human rights and political spaces
- Gender and equality
- Environmental sustainability
- Social exclusion
- Governance accountability
- Trade and development
- Finance
- Inequality and growth
- Democracy
- Peace and security

The following priorities were outlined as opportunities for collective action in the context of the post 2015 development agenda:

	Action Proposal	Follow Up
1	Coordinated southern engagement with global processes	See Calendar of Events (Annexure 2)
2	Need for academic outputs from the south by engaging key academic parties	Wada Na Todo Abhiyan to update on conversations with ASAP, other academic groups
3	Articulating the larger narrative from the southern perspective from the viewpoint of the 3Es: Economy, Ecology and Equity	Linked to engagement with academic networks from the global south
4	Idea of a global day of action on the post 2015 agenda, a specific global event to raise people's voice.	To be determined
5	Exploration of a shadow report on the post 2015 agenda from the global south.	Wada Na Todo Abhiyan to explore possibilities and revert back
6	Creation of a shadow high level panel that speaks to the post 2015 agenda from a southern civil society perspective.	Wada Na Todo Abhiyan to explore possibilities and revert back
7	Fund raising for coordinated southern engagement	All groups to explore
8	Continuous engagement with government on key ideas and processes	All groups to explore
9	Creation of an e-group to enable flow of information and coordination around actions	Wada Na Todo Abhiyan to facilitate

## Annexure 1: List of Presentations

	Presentation Title	Presenter
1	<a href="#">Human Rights at the Center of the Post-2015 Development Agenda</a>	Marivic Raquiza
2	<a href="#">Reflecting the development agenda of LDCs</a>	Arjun Karki
3	<a href="#">MDGs, Conflict and the South</a>	Paul Okumu
4	<a href="#">Post 2015 vs. Beyond 2015 Role of Middle Income Countries</a>	Anselmo Lee
5	<a href="#">Post 2015 UN Process Overview</a>	Mwangi Waituru

## Annexure 2: Calendar of Key Moments and Events (Post 2015 Agenda)

Date	Event Title	Location
10-11 Dec	Asian Parliamentarians and CSO Forum	Dhaka, Bangladesh
11-13 Dec	Civil Society G20 Dialogue	St. Petersburg, Russia
13-14 Dec	Indonesia Co-Chair's meeting with CSOs	Bali, Indonesia
22-27 Jan	World Economic Forum Annual Meeting	Davos, Switzerland
26 Jan to 1 Feb (tbc)	HLP Meeting hosted by the Co-chair, Liberia	Monrovia, Liberia
15 Feb (tbc)	First Global Meeting of Indigenous Peoples Forum	Rome, Italy (tbc)
16-17 Feb	14 <sup>th</sup> Global Major Groups and Stakeholders Forum	Nairobi, Kenya
25-27 Feb	WSIS+10 Review	Paris, France
25-27 Mar (tbc)	HLP Meeting hosted by the Co-chair, Indonesia	Bali, Indonesia

4-15 Mar	57 <sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women	New York, US
22 Mar	World Water Day	Worldwide
22-23 Mar	Berlin Civil Society Centre meeting on the post 2015	Berlin, Germany
26-30 Mar	WSF 2013	Tunisia
26-27 Mar	BRICS Summit	Durban, South Africa
tbc	Asia Pacific Parliamentarians Forum (concluding meet)	(tbc)
tbc	HLP draft report on the post 2015 agenda	New York, US
19-21 Apr	Spring meetings of the IMF-WB	Washington DC, US
6-10 May (tbc)	20 <sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)	New York, US
20-31 May	12 <sup>TH</sup> Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNFPII)	New York, US
27-31 May	OECD Annual Forum and Council Ministerial meetings	Paris, France
31 May to 2 June	Resilient Cities 2013	Bonn, Germany
tbc	UNSG Report on the Post 2015 agenda	New York, US
12-14 June	High level conference of middle income countries	San Jose, Costa Rica
9 Aug	International Day of World's Indigenous People	Worldwide
12 Aug	International Youth Day	Worldwide
5-6 Sep	G20 Summit	Moscow, Russia
24 Sep to 4 Oct	68 <sup>th</sup> UN General Assembly	New York, US

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### Annexure 3: List of Invitees and Participants

	Name	Organisation	Country	Region	Thematic	Email
<b>LATIN AMERICA:</b>						
1	Roberto Bissio**	Social WATCH	Uruguay	LAC	Governance	rbissio@item.org.uy
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4	Marta Benavides**	GCAP / Feminist Taskforce	El Salvador	LAC	Women's Rights	tlalibertad@gmail.com
<b>AFRICA:</b>						
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6	Salina Sanou**	ACORD	Kenya	Africa	Governance	Salina.Sanou@acordinternational.org
7	Paul Okumu	ACP	Nairobi.	Africa	Conflict	paul.okumu@africacsoplatform.org, paul.okumu@sisasustainability.org



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ASIA:						
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11	Amitabh Behar	WNTA / GCAP	India	Asia	Organiser	amitabh.behar@gmail.com
** Invited, Unable to attend						