



Volunteering for post-2015

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Connecting the dots

UNV position on the post-2015 sustainable development framework

People and communities are the levers of social, economic, and environmental transformation.

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme supports the consultative processes for the development of the post-2015 framework and sustainable development goals (SDGs), and urges Governments and UN entities to engage the participation of civil society, volunteer groups, women, and youth to ensure an equitable, accountable, and sustainable framework.

Volunteerism strengthens the intangible assets of any society as it opens spaces for engagement, deepens the individual and collective sense of responsibility, and empowers people to act for the development of their liveli-

hoods and communities. This is reflected by expressions of volunteering ranging from mutual aid or self-help; philanthropy or service to others; participation or civic engagement; to advocacy or campaigning.

UNV believes that people and communities should be key drivers at the start, the end, and throughout any new sustainable development framework.

Well-being indicators, including voluntary civic participation, will ensure more holistic measures of global progress by the post 2015 framework.

Voluntary action and civic engagement are key people-centred development resources in achieving sustainable economic, social, and environmental progress.

The Global Conversation has begun...



The "**Global Conversation Begins**" was launched on March 21 in New York. It represents an "interim" report of the UNDG consultations on the post-2015 agenda, outlining some emerging trends from the **83 UNDG led consultations as well as the MY World survey**, which involved **more than 200,000 people**.

The report is an initial snapshot based on draft reports received from 36 countries. It also acknowledges consultation processes, which have been undertaken by other actors such as the Beyond2015 Coalition.

For UNDG, there is a clear sense of the growing call for a truly transformative development agenda: the level of ambition, quantity and quality of engagement encountered in the overall process is rewarding and inspiring. The report was published even as consultations are still underway, in an effort to reflect the preliminary results to the High-level Panel and the Open Working Group on SDGs.

While MDG issues still resonate as the essential building blocks of human development, three implications for the new development agenda are suggested: it should be **balanced and holistic**, genuinely **universal** and it must find a way to **ensure real results**. The open format in national consultations has also brought out issues not often associated with global public policy.

5 key areas highlight priorities that will need more attention: from vulnerability to empowerment, inclusion and fairness, environmental sustainability, global security, and growing and moving populations.

The current experience also underlines the growing appetite among people to be involved not only in setting targets, but throughout the **implementation of the new agenda**. The 200,000 and growing number of people engaged with the effort to define priorities will be the most valuable resource in delivering and monitoring the new agenda in the years to come.

The report is available on line at <http://issuu.com/undevdevelopmentgroup/docs/global-conversation-begins-web>

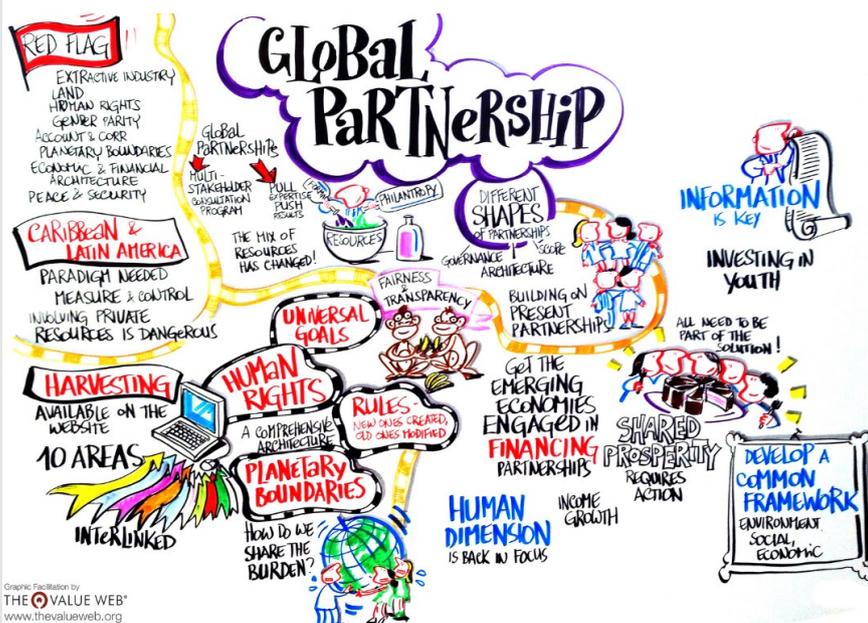


Advancing the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda

The international NGO conference [ADVANCING THE POST-2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA Reconfirming Rights – Recognising Limits – Redefining Goals](#) took place in Bonn, March 20-22. This global event brought together 250 civil society activists and representatives from key stakeholders (UN, regional bodies, national governments, citizen movements, trade unions, business, etc.).

The Conference, organized through the Berlin Civil Society Centre with the direction provided by an NGO steering group, aimed at providing an overview on civil society perspectives and demands in order to advocate more effectively for their implementation as part of the post-2015 process. The Conference was a combination of plenary moments, key note speeches and workshops. Richard Dictus, UNV Executive Coordinator, welcomed the participants to Bonn during the first evening, stressing that societal change ultimately depends on people who volunteer their time, energy, strength and capacities in their everyday life. He underlined the need to determine wealth and progress beyond the sole and sterile measure of economic assets and liabilities. The notion of societal progress needs to incorporate a comprehensive attention to alternative measures including well-being, that include indicators of civic participation and voluntary action, that contribute to intangible assets like trust and a sense of collective responsibility for the common good.

UNV was involved in two workshops on “Citizen’s participation and enabling environment” (led by CIVICUS, Participate and UNV) and “Coordination among National Consultations and towards National Governments” (led by CIVICUS, the Commonwealth Foundation, GCAP and UNV). The Conference provided an opportunity to engage with stakeholders and representatives of Civil Society, networking, discussing and exchanging information, in order to coordinate efforts with different civil society organizations at national and international level. Participants at the Conference made it clear that a post-2015 framework needs to identify key priorities to eradicate poverty, but also be transformational and people centred in order to address some of the systemic root causes of inequality and injustice for real change to happen. Participants also agreed that a new framework needs to look at all dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated manner, bringing the different discussion strands together and ensuring real spaces for civil society to engage with the process.



Youth Consultations in Honduras

Five priorities have been identified through the youth consultations in Honduras: 1. Citizen development and social cohesion 2. Economic growth combined with equity, 3. A democratic and efficient state, 4. Social Welfare, 5. Protecting the planet. Important links were made such as a strategic alliance with the Minister of Planning and External Cooperation “SEPLAN”, and with university institutions. With the collaboration of the International Junior Chamber (JCI)



or- organizations, the voice of youth and students was included in the national report. A number of UN and government representatives were present at the meeting.

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What else is happening?

Post-2015 Consultation Draft Report is ready in Turkey

The post-2015 consultation process came to its peak in Ankara on 7th of March, as UN Turkey with support from the UNV Field Unit organized a validation meeting, in order to share the outcomes of the post -2015 consultation process up to date. All UN agencies and other stakeholders who had contributed to the consultations so far, were present.

Mr. Shahid Najam, UN Resident Coordinator / UNDP Resident Representative and Mr. Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and member of the High-Level Panel for Post 2015 consultations, opened the meeting with their speeches.

A draft post-2015 report from Turkey was also presented, further outlining key recommendations for each of the 9 themes that have risen during the consultation process addressing the need to deepen the reflections on 'inequalities', which emerged as a cross-cutting theme.

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Towards Post-2015 development agenda
What future do you want?
National Consultations in Turkey



National and Global Development walk together in India

The post-2015 development agenda discussions in India represent an opportunity for national stakeholders to jointly analyze the new global development framework and at the same time to think through national problems and logical solutions. For example, Youth Conveners are sharing their recommendations with the Youth Ministry. After the report will be submitted, the UNV post-2015 National Coordinator plans to keep engaging with the stakeholders in order to link the conversation about volunteering and civic engagement to the priorities identify during the dialogues for India.

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Vietnam engages youth volunteers

In Vietnam UNV took the lead in conducting a number of post-2015 related activities. The UNV Field Unit worked with its partners – such as the Vietnamese Youth Union, and more than 25 volunteer groups, clubs, centers, and organizations – to conduct a consultation with 142 young people on the occasion of International Volunteer Day (IVD). Many UNV partners and stakeholders joined IVD and shared their opinions on the future they want. From the youth consultations, a clear link-age between volunteerism and development in Viet Nam emerged.

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The African Narrative, a bold but practical vision for Africa post-2015.

"Ask Africa Now" is an initiative of African intellectuals, policy experts, practitioners and activists to draft a Narrative to inform civil society and inter-governmental consultations and positions. Find out more at: www.askafricanow.org

My World In Indonesia

The UN Country Team in Indonesia conducted inclusive thematic multi-stakeholder consultative meetings, co-organized by the UN and trusted CSO, in the lead up to the Bali High Level Panel Meeting in March. These consultations, held between February and March, gathered 100 stakeholders from CSOs, NGOs, youth groups, people with disabilities, academia, and indigenous communities to share their

views and perspectives on the post-2015 development agenda. The thematic foci were environmental sustainability, inequalities, conflict and fragility. The UNV post-2015 National Coordinator was actively engaged in the MY World online and offline rollout. The UNV Field Unit engaged CSOs and other stakeholders who bring volunteerism values as participants of the consultations and encouraged them to register as My World partners.

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UNV is partner of MYWorld. You can use the UNV partner website for online voting: <http://www.myworld2015.org/?partner=UNV>



Capacity Building and Networking Workshop, 26 February– 1 March, UNV HQ

The UNV post-2015 National Coordinators convened together at UNV HQ for a 5-day workshop. The workshop aimed at providing opportunities for networking and concerted action among the volunteers and at strengthening their capacity to advocate for policy changes, contribute to a substantive analysis of volunteerism’s contribution to peace and development and to facilitate stakeholder engagement in the context of national post-2015 discussions.

The national UN Volunteers received training related to communication skills, the collection of good practices and the analysis of the role of volunteering, civic engagement and social activism to the formulation and implementation of the new development framework. They will contribute to knowledge products as well as various media in the lead up to the MDG Summit in September 2013 and beyond. The workshop provided ample spaces for discussion about their role, results achieved as well as challenges and the next steps at national level and as a group.

One focus of the workshop was on a training module on the “V-methodology”. This methodology allows to analyze the contribution of volunteerism and civic action at local level to global development priorities by creatively and visually accompany the participants through the process in a logical framework

The workshop overlapped with the pre-departure training session for 13 fully-funded German youth volunteers, who are also grouped under the post-2015 project. Some of the ses-

sions were organized jointly in order to strengthen the connections among all volunteers.

The 13 German youth volunteers (plus 1 Korean youth volunteer) started their 1-year assignment supporting national post-2015 discussions and outreach related to youth at the beginning of March. They are deployed to the following countries: Algeria, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guatemala, Haiti, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Peru, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste as well as Ecuador (soon to be deployed).



Huu Phuong Khue Doan, from Viet Nam, explaining her “Result Tree”.

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- www.unv.org
- www.volunteeractioncounts.org
- www.onlinevolunteering.org
- www.facebook.com/unvolunteers
- www.youtube.com/unv
- <https://unv.unteamworks.org/node/266207>



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