

TAP Network Response to the “Revised Final Draft” of the Post-2015 Outcome Document



The Revised “Final” draft of the Outcome Document for the Post-2015 Development Agenda represents a critical juncture in laying out a new sustainable development agenda for the global community for the next 15 years. Consequently, we must ensure that this outcome document is truly reflective of the ambition and commitments needed to achieve a universal and transformative sustainable development agenda.

If we are to collectively achieve the commitment to “leave no one behind” and ensure the credibility of the Post-2015 sustainable development agenda, principles of **transparency, accountability and participation** must be fully reflected in the Post-2015 Outcome Document. To this end, we are encouraged by the deeply rooted references to human rights and right to development throughout the document. These will be critical to achieving sustainable development gains, and in particular, to the commitments contained within Goal 16.

We note that some areas of the “final” draft of the Post-2015 Outcome Document have improved when referencing participation. However, the full **meaningful, effective and active participation** of all stakeholders, particularly civil society, must be reinstated and reinforced throughout the document. Precedent for language on “effective and active” participation is firmly rooted in the Rio+20 “Future We Want” Outcome Document, and “meaningful” participation is a prerequisite for fulfilling the Rio+20 commitment to “enhance” the participation of the Major Groups and other stakeholders in sustainable development.

The following brief outlines the key recommendations and critical language amendments from the Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network – an informal coalition of over 130 civil society organizations in 37 countries working to ensure that the Post-2015 agenda fosters open, inclusive, transparent, accountable and participatory sustainable development, at all levels.

Preamble

We strongly support the preamble’s commitment that “no one will be left behind,” however, we call for the preamble – and the rest of the Declaration – to outline concrete commitments on *how* to put the ‘leave no one

behind' principle into practice and to strengthen this commitment so that no goal or target is considered met unless met for all social and economic groups.

All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, **[with the meaningful participation all stakeholders, including civil society,]** will implement this people-centred Agenda. We are resolved to free the human race within this generation from the tyranny of poverty **[,violence]** and want and to heal and secure our planet for the **[survival and prosperity of]** present and for future generations. We are determined to take the **[immediate,]** bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind, **[and that no goal shall be considered met unless met for all social and economic groups.]**

People

We are discouraged that references to “meaningful” participation have been removed from all throughout this draft text, as this outcome document must signal to the people of the world that governments are serious about their commitment to engage with them through this new agenda. The *meaningful* engagement of all people, particularly those most marginalized and the world’s poorest, is a prerequisite for achieving the pledge to “leave no one behind.”

[Through this people centered agenda,] we want to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential **[and lead a life of dignity]**. We want to end poverty in all its forms and dimensions; end hunger and malnutrition; achieve food security; promote human dignity; combat inequalities in and between countries; achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; ensure quality education, water, sanitation and hygiene, and a healthy life for all; ensure equal access to natural resources, a healthy environment and well-being for all; and secure **[,promote and enable]** the **[meaningful, inclusive, effective and active]** participation of all people and groups, **[in particular the most vulnerable and marginalised,]** including children, persons with disabilities, migrants and indigenous peoples, in the realization of the Goals and targets.

Peace

We strongly support the section on “peace” which highlights the criticality of the issues contained within Goal 16. However, we call for the principles of transparency, accountability and participation to be referenced, as they are prerequisites for fostering good governance and achieving Goal 16 and the rest of the SDGs. We have therefore made a recommendation for an alternate paragraph, as it ensures consistency with other language throughout the document.

Alternate para

[We want all people to be free from fear, violence and all forms of economic, social and political marginalisation. As such, we want to foster more peaceful, safe and inclusive societies; to strengthen transparent, accountable and participatory governance and institutions at all levels; to ensure equal access to justice for all; and to protect the human rights of all people.]

New Paragraph: Participation

We strongly call for “participation” to be embedded as a sixth “P” in addition to the five outlined in the Outcome Document. A standalone “P” on participation would truly send a signal to the world of the transformative ambitions and intent of the new agenda, and would represent a significant change and progress from the MDG approach.

[We recognize that the meaningful, inclusive, effective and active participation of all stakeholders, particularly civil society, is critical for implementation, ownership, follow-up and accountability for the new agenda. Their engagement is a prerequisite to ensure that we leave no one behind, and that the new agenda is truly transformative.]

Recommendations for the Declaration

Paragraph 4

We are encouraged that the reference to reaching those furthest behind first has been included in this paragraph. However, the references here to leaving no one behind must again be centred around the *meaningful* participation of all people in this new agenda.

4. As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that ~~that nobody will be left behind~~ **[to leave no one behind, and to foster the meaningful, effective and active participation all people in achieving this ambitious and transformative Agenda]**. We wish to see **[affirm that]** the goals and targets **[will only be fully achieved when they are]** met for all nations and peoples **[and for all economic and social groupings.]** And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.

Paragraph 18

If Paragraphs 15-18 outline “our world today,” and provide a background on the development agenda to date, a reference to the participatory nature of the discussions and negotiations must be included here, and Member States must commit to further strengthening this critical relationship with all stakeholders going forward.

18 bis. This new agenda has also engaged a wide range of stakeholders in its design. These stakeholders, particularly civil society, will play critical roles in the inclusive implementation and follow-up of this new Agenda, and to ensure that we leave no one behind and reach those furthest behind first.

Paragraph 34

We welcome the reference to Paragraph 34 on issues contained within Goal 16. While the paragraph highlights that these issues are prerequisites and essential elements for achieving sustainable development, it lacks detail as to core principles that underpin effective governance – including transparency, accountability and citizen participation.

34. Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. The new Agenda recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies **[free from all forms of violence and oppression]** that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and on transparent, effective **[,]** and accountable **[,inclusive and participatory]** institutions. **[These are fundamental requirements for the achievement of sustainable development. Transparency, accountability and citizen participation are driving forces for building effective, inclusive, peaceful and just societies and institutions, for realizing human rights, and for ensuring we leave no one behind.]** Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arms flows, are addressed in the Agenda. We must redouble our efforts to resolve or prevent conflict **[universally]** and to support post-conflict countries, **[, and to strengthen or establish enabling environments for civil society stakeholders and individuals to play a role as independent development actors,]** including through ensuring that women have a role in peace-building and state-building. In accordance with relevant UN resolutions, we commit to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment.

Paragraph 47

We strongly support the reference to civil society as critical partners for implementation for the new agenda in paragraph 47 and call upon Member States to explicitly outline *how* they will engage civil society as implementers of this new agenda in the corresponding Means of Implementation chapter of the Outcome Document.

47. We emphasise the critical importance of engaging all relevant stakeholders in the implementation and follow-up and review of the Agenda. ***[We note that all stakeholders, particularly civil society, can help fill capacity gaps in, inter alia, planning, implementation, data generation and analysis, and follow-up and review, and will be critical to ensuring that we leave no one behind.]*** In particular, we acknowledge the essential role of national parliaments in sustainable development through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments. Governments and public institutions will also work closely on implementation ***[at all levels]*** with ***[civil society, communities,]*** regional and local authorities, subregional institutions, international institutions, academia, philanthropic organizations, volunteer groups and others in accordance with national laws and regulations and in conformity with international obligations

Paragraph 49

We strongly support the reference to accountability for the new agenda in paragraph 49, but note the narrow scope of the paragraph, as it only references government's role in this framework. Language should also be included on the role of civil society in follow-up and review processes, including provisions for opportunities for inputs from these groups, as a recognition of the value of citizen participation.

49. Our Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing the Goals and targets over the coming fifteen years. We will provide for systematic follow-up and review at the various levels of accountability, including as set out in this Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The High Level Political Forum will be responsible for the global follow-up and review processes. ***[In line with the people-centered nature of this Agenda, we encourage and welcome the engagement of all stakeholders, and particularly of civil society, in the follow-up and review and accountability of this new agenda, and commit to provide sufficient opportunities for their inputs in these processes, at all levels.]***

Paragraph 50

We support the need for 'quality disaggregated data' in paragraph 50, but call for data which demonstrate the impact of the SDGs on the lives and livelihoods of people living in poverty. Driving a "data revolution" for the Post-2015 agenda can only be achieved in partnership with governments and all relevant users and producers of data. To ensure we have an accurate snapshot of progress towards the SDGs, we must collectively come together as a global community to strengthen capacity for data collection and use from a wide range of stakeholders, and harness the potential of third-party data to complement official data.

50. ***[Global]*** indicators are being developed to assist this work. Quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind. Such data is key to decision-making. Data and information from existing reporting mechanisms should be used where possible. We also recognize the need for broader measures of progress to complement gross domestic product (GDP). We agree to intensify our efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, particularly African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states and middle-income countries, ***[including by supporting participatory monitoring and data collection. We recognize that third-party data sources, such as those generated by, inter alia, the UN, other multilateral institutions, civil society organizations, research institutions, academia and the private sector are critical to help fill existing data capacity gaps and to provide a robust and accurate picture of progress, at all levels.]***

Recommendations for Follow-up and Review Chapter

We are concerned that language on follow-up and review has been significantly weakened in the latest version of this draft text. The chapter lacks any concrete commitments, firm guidelines or any real framework for follow-up and review or accountability, and does not sufficiently highlight the critical role of all stakeholders, particularly civil society, in these processes, or an explicit vision or means for their meaningful engagement.

Paragraph 68

While we welcome the reference to a transparent follow-up and review framework, we note that “inclusivity” has thus been removed from this paragraph. While “participatory” implies the *active* engagement of stakeholders, it the principle of inclusivity must underpin any effective and meaningful participation of governments or stakeholders in these reviews. We welcome the language on the accountability relationship between a state and its people in paragraph 69 as well.

68. We commit to engage in systematic follow-up and review of implementation of this Agenda over the next fifteen years. A robust, effective, **[inclusive]** participatory, transparent **[,people-centered]** and integrated follow-up and review framework will make a vital contribution to implementation and will help countries to maximize and track progress in implementing this Agenda.

Paragraph 70

We welcome the reference that the follow-up and review processes “will be open, inclusive and transparent”, and supported by the participation of all people and stakeholders in paragraph 70d. Additionally, we are pleased that language on 70e has been added, to improve commitment to leaving no one behind. However, this text must be maintained and strengthened by again ensuring that the goals can only be considered met when they are met for all economic and social groupings. The guiding principles for the follow-up and review processes should reflect the people-centred nature of the new agenda and ensure firm commitments on accountability and participation. Open access to transparent data and information and the meaningful, effective and active participation of people in these processes are critical prerequisites for successful follow-up and review of the new agenda.

70. *Follow-up and review processes at all levels will be people-centred and will be guided by the following principles:*

- b.** They will address progress in implementing the universal Goals and targets **[in all countries]**, including the means of implementation, in a manner which respects their universal, integrated and interrelated nature and the three dimensions of sustainable development, **[and in ways that ensure that no one is left behind.]**
- d.** They will be open, inclusive and transparent **[,responsive and strengthen accountability between states and citizens]** for all and will support **[and actively seek]** the **[meaningful, effective and active]** participation of and reporting by all people and all relevant stakeholders **[at all levels, and particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized.]**
- e.** They will be gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalized groups and those furthest behind. **[To ensure no one is left behind, no goal shall be considered met unless met for all social and economic groups.]**
- f.** They will build on existing platforms and processes, where these exist, **[including international human rights mechanisms,]** avoid duplication and respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs and priorities. They will evolve over time, taking into account emerging issues and the development of new methodologies, and will minimize the reporting burden on national administrations.
- g.** They will be rigorous and based on evidence, informed by country-led evaluations and data which is **[transparent, accessible, understandable, shareable,]** accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. **[Third-party data should**

complement official sources of data by filling data gaps that exist in a timely way, and can supplement official sources of data when data quality is insufficient.]

Paragraph 71

While a set of core global indicators is desired, this should be determined by looking at the minimum number of total indicators that will allow countries and the global community to effectively track progress, rather than setting an arbitrary number. Particularly for issues contained within Goal 16, a further unpacking of these issues through these indicators is essential to ensure we are accurately and robustly tracking progress towards these goals and targets. Member States should ensure the IAEG-SDGs considers non-traditional indicators, including qualitative and perception-based indicators where appropriate.

71. The Goals and targets will be followed-up and reviewed using a set of global indicators. These will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels which will be developed by member states... This framework will be simple yet robust, address all SDGs and targets including for means of implementation, and preserve the political balance, integration and ambition contained therein. ***[These global indicators should not be bound by arbitrary limits on the number of indicators, and should work to unpack the issues contained within goals, instead of narrowing the scope of measurement. They will also include qualitative and perception-based indicators where appropriate.]***

Paragraph 72

We welcome the further recognition of the need for support and capacity building for data systems necessary for follow-up and review of the SDGs. However, third-party data must also be recognized for its critical complementary role to official data, and will be necessary for filling data capacity gaps that exist and to provide an accurate picture of progress, particularly at the national level.

72. *In order to ensure access to high-quality disaggregated data, support for developing countries, particularly African countries, LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs, to strengthen national statistical offices and data systems is critical. We will also promote scaling up public-private cooperation to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including geo-spatial information, while ensuring national ownership in supporting and tracking progress. [We recognize that third-party data sources, such as those generated by, inter alia, the UN, other multilateral institutions, civil society organizations, research institutions, academia and the private sector are critical to help fill existing data capacity gaps and to provide a robust and accurate picture of progress, at all levels.]*

Paragraph 75

Language for Paragraph 75 must be strengthened to encourage Member States to engage with all stakeholders, particularly civil society, in their national and sub-national review processes.

75. We also encourage member states to conduct regular reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels which are country-owned and country-driven. ~~Such reviews can benefit from contributions by~~ ***[National governments will strive to meaningfully, effectively and actively engage a wide range of stakeholders in their national review processes, including]*** civil society, the private sector and ***[all]*** other ~~actors~~ ***[stakeholders]***, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes ***[,at all levels.]***

Paragraph 79

We welcome the addition of an annual SDG Progress Report to be prepared by the UN Secretary-General. However, a wider range of data sources must be used in the drafting of these reports, as it is necessary for providing an accurate picture of progress at all levels. Therefore, we have suggested language on harnessing

third-party data sources for the report, and engaging and soliciting input from all stakeholders, particularly civil society, in the drafting process for the report.

79. Follow-up and review at the HLPF will be informed by an annual SDG Progress Report to be prepared by the Secretary General in cooperation with the UN System, based on the global indicator framework and data produced by **[a wide range of sources, including, inter alia]** national statistical systems **[the UN, other multilateral institutions, civil society organizations, research institutions, academia and the private sector,]** and regional reviews. Global indicators, recognising national policy space, will provide guidance to national statistical authorities in their development of national indicators. The HLPF will also be informed by the Global Sustainable Development Report, which shall strengthen the science-policy interface and could provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policy-makers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development. We encourage the HLPF, under the auspices of ECOSOC, to agree the scope and methodology of this report at its session in 2016. **[To enhance ownership from all, the Secretary-General shall also work to meaningfully, effectively and actively engage all stakeholders, particularly civil society, in the drafting of this report.]**

Paragraph 80

Building upon the successful model of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process at the UN Human Rights Council, the HLPF reviews should be based on three sets of inputs: a) national reports by Member States, b) information from UN entities, and c) independent reports from civil society. These processes need to be inclusive, transparent and participatory in order to provide an accurate picture of progress to sufficiently follow-up and learn from successes or shortcomings in implementing the agenda. It is critical that the global level of follow-up and review set a “gold standard” for participation of all stakeholders, and in particular of civil society, to encourage national governments to aspire to in their national accountability processes.

80. The HLPF, under the auspices of ECOSOC, shall carry out regular reviews, in line with Resolution 67/290 **[and we commit to ensure that the HLPF has sufficient human and financial resources to fulfil its mandate.]** Reviews will be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, **[be transparent, open, inclusive, and participatory]** and include developed and developing countries as well as relevant UN entities and other stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector. They shall be state-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants **[, and should consider inputs from national governments, information from UN entities, and independent reports from civil society stakeholders.]** They shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders. **[Reviews shall also consider progress of all social and economic groups in order to leave no one behind.]**

Paragraph 85

We note that the reference to “meaningful” participation in follow-up and review processes has been removed from this draft text. Precedent for language on “meaningful, effective and active” participation is firmly rooted all throughout the Rio+20 “Future We Want” Outcome Document, and “inclusive” participation is a prerequisite for fulfilling the Rio+20 commitment to “enhance” the participation of the Major Groups and other stakeholders in sustainable development. Additionally, the issue of *how* civil society stakeholders will be engaged in these follow-up and review processes should be explicitly outlined.

85. The HLPF will support **[meaningful, effective and active]** participation in follow-up and review processes by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders in line with Resolution 67/290. We call on these actors to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda, and **[the HLPF shall provide an accessible and inclusive platform and sufficient opportunities for the Major Groups and other stakeholders to engage in interactive dialogues with Member States, including for all reports and inputs submitted by these stakeholders to be presented and considered during these reviews and included in the official outcome of the HLPF.]**