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



**[LOGOS FOR ENDORSEMENT]**

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 reinstituted 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.[[1]](#footnote-1)*

**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.

*This Agenda is a****[n urgent]*** *plan of action for* ***people, planet and prosperity*** *that also seeks to strengthen universal* ***peace*** *in larger freedom. All countries acting in collaborative partnership* ***[with the meaningful participation all stakeholders, including civil society,]*** *will implement ~~the~~* ***[this people-centered]*** *Agenda. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty* ***[and violence]*** *and want and to heal and secure our planet for* ***[the survival and prosperity of]*** *present and future generations. We are determined to take the* ***[immediate,]*** *bold and transformative steps needed to shift the world on to a sustainable 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; end hunger and malnutrition; promote human dignity; combat inequalities in and between countries; achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; ensure quality education, water and sanitation and a healthy life 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, in the realization of the new 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 16***

If Paragraphs 11-16 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.

***16 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 30***

We welcome the reference to Paragraph 30 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.

*30. Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace; and peace 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 access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), on effective rule of law and on 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 countries emerging from conflict situations* ***[, and to strengthen or establish enabling environments for civil society stakeholders and individuals to play a role as independent development actors.]*** *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 41***

We strongly support the reference to civil society as critical partners for implementation for the new agenda in paragraphs 40 and 41, 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.

*41. We ~~emphasize more generally~~* ***[recognize]*** *the critical importance of engaging all relevant stakeholders in implementation* ***[and follow-up and review]*** *of the new 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.* ***[Our]*** *Governments and public institutions* ***[commit to working]*** *~~will work~~ closely* ***[at all levels]*** with regional and sub-regional institutions, *local authorities, international institutions, business and the private sector, civil society,* ***[communities,]*** *academia, philanthropic organizations, volunteer groups and others* ***[, including those most likely to be left behind such as girls, boys, adolescents, youth, women and persons with disabilities. We also recognize the important role of communities themselves, including girls, boys, adolescents, and youth, as development actors, agents of change, innovators, and implementers.]***

***Paragraph 42***

We strongly support the reference to accountability for the new agenda in paragraph 42, 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.

*42. Our Governments will be responsible 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. To support this accountability, provision has been made – and is detailed in Chapter 4 below – for systematic follow-up and review of implementation at the various levels.* ***[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 43***

We support the need for ‘quality disaggregated data’ in paragraph 43, 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.

43. ***[Global]***indicators are being developed to assist this work. Quality ***[, timely and accessible]*** disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress beyond GDP and to ensure that no one is left behind. We agree to intensify our efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries, particularly least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states and other countries in special situations, ***[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 56***

While we welcome the reference to an inclusive and transparent follow-up and review framework, we note that “inclusivity” is not the same as “people-centered” or “participatory,” with the latter language implying the *active* engagement of stakeholders. We welcome the language on the accountability relationship between a state and its people.

*56. A robust, effective, inclusive,* ***[participatory]*** *and transparent* ***[people-centered]*** *follow-up and review framework, operating* ***[and coordinated]*** *at the national, regional and global levels, will promote effective implementation of this Agenda and accountability to our citizens.*

***Paragraph 57***

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 57d. However, this text must be maintained and strengthened by again ensuring that this participation is “meaningful, effective and active” and referencing people experiencing poverty and vulnerability. 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.

1. *Follow-up and review processes* ***[shall be people-centred and]*** *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 integrated and inter-related 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, responsive, transparent* ***[,responsive and strengthen accountability between states and citizens],*** *and support* ***[and actively seek]*** *the* ***[meaningful, effective and active]*** *participation of all people and all stakeholders* ***[at all levels, and particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized.]***

***e.*** *They will build on existing platforms and processes* ***[including international human rights mechanisms,]*** *avoid duplication, respond to national circumstances, evolve over time and minimize the reporting burden on national administrations.*

***f.*** *They will be rigorous and based on evidence, informed by data which is* ***[transparent, accessible, understandable, shareable,]*** *timely, reliable and disaggregated by characteristics relevant in national contexts including income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability and geographic location, for which capacity building support to developing countries will be necessary.* ***[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.]***

***f.bis [They will focus on progress for the social and economic groups that are the furthest behind, and monitor inequalities within and between countries. No goal shall be considered met unless met for all social and economic groups.]***

***Paragraph 58***

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.

*58. 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 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 include qualitative and perception-based indicators where appropriate.*]**

***Paragraph 59***

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.

*59. 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 61***

Language for Paragraph 61 must be strengthened to encourage Member States to engage with all stakeholders, particularly civil society, in their national and sub-national review processes.

*61. We also encourage member states to conduct regular reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels. ~~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 other actors in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes,* ***[at all levels.]***

***Paragraph 65***

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.

*65. 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.]*** *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 policymakers in promoting poverty eradication and sustainable development. [****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 66***

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.

*66. We reaffirm that the HLPF, under the auspices of ECOSOC, shall carry out regular reviews of progress 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. 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 focus on assessment of progress, achievements and challenges faced by developed and developing countries, and 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 70***

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 “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. Additionally, the issue of *how* civil society stakeholders will be engaged in these follow-up and review processes should be explicitly outlined. Building on the best practices of the UPR, and learning from the lessons of the AMR, civil society stakeholders should be provided sufficient opportunities to contribute to the discussions around national or thematic reviews, including through active dialogue with Member States and through official consideration of their inputs in the review processes.

*70. The HLPF will support* ***[meaningful, effective and active]*** *participation in follow up and review processes by the major groups, the private sector and other stakeholders in line with Resolution 67/290. We encourage these actors to report on their contribution to the implementation of this 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.]***

1. For a full compendium of suggested language amendments to the Post-2015 Zero Draft from TAP Network Organizations, please visit our website at: **PROVIDE LINK LATER** [↑](#footnote-ref-1)