



Response to the Council Conclusions on a transformative post-2015 agenda from the General Affairs Council (16/12/2014)

The International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) is a network of 25 NGOs working towards the inclusion of persons with disabilities in international development cooperation. To achieve this, IDDC and its members advocate for the rights of persons with disabilities at the international level including the EU. The aim of IDDC is to promote inclusive development internationally, with a special focus on promoting the full and effective enjoyment of human rights by all persons with disabilities living in economically poor communities in lower and middle-income countries. The advocacy work is based on experiences and expertise of IDDC member organisations working in developing countries.

IDDC very much welcomes the Council Conclusions from 16 December 2014 on a transformative post-2015 agenda. The tone of the document shows a clear shift towards a more human rights based development framework. The following elements are especially appreciated:

- the recognition that the post - 2015 agenda should be human rights based and people centred, indicating that no person should be denied universal human rights. The importance of such an approach is stressed throughout the Conclusions. In this regard we also welcome the acknowledgment of the Council that we should look beyond GDP in order to measure progress.
- the recognition that a human rights based agenda, should respect, support and build on all existing multilateral agreements and conventions. We therefore also call on the EU to make sure the rights enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which it has ratified in 2010, are included in the post-2015 framework.
- the idea that we need an ambitious agenda which leaves no-one behind and addresses without discrimination the needs of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable including children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, as well as of marginalized groups and indigenous people. In this context we also appreciate the reference to quality education, universal health care and social protection for all, as these contribute to empowerment and thus make a real difference in peoples' lives.
- the importance attached to the disaggregation of data in order to make sure that targets are met by all relevant groups and that no one is left behind. We also very much welcome the reference to the Open Working Group outcome document in this regard. Due to this reference we trust that the EU considers race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national context equally important as age, gender and income for the disaggregation of data and will support this in the international negotiations.

Although we very much appreciate the above mentioned elements in the Council Conclusions, we are concerned by the issues listed below. We hope the EU and all its Member States will take them into account in the international intergovernmental negotiations as well as in the discussions leading up to the conference in Addis Ababa on means of implementation for the future development agenda.

- In line with the position of the European NGO confederation for Relief and Development (CONCORD) we are worried about the emphasis put on the need for an 'easy to communicate' framework. Although we agree that there is need for proper and accessible communication of the framework, including at local level, we would like to stress that this should not be an excuse to simplify the agenda at either goal, target or indicator level. Simplification might lead to a decreased level of commitment and ambition and this should be avoided.
- We are slightly worried about the references in the Council Conclusions to a global partnership as this is still very vague. As MDG 8 provided an opportunity for states to abdicate their responsibilities, a similar situation should be avoided. There is indeed a need for a stronger, more accountable and inclusive global partnership. The European Commission was asked to take the discussion on this issue forward and we call on the EC to make sure this global partnership is of a participatory nature and represents all people. This means civil society should play an active role in this partnership. The participation of Disabled Peoples Organisations and persons with disabilities should be hence also guaranteed.
- We very much appreciate the strong language on accountability and on the role of civil society. In this regard we would like to remind that organisations representing persons with disabilities should not be excluded in participatory processes either deliberately or unintentionally. To allow the active participation of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations, it is imperative that accessibility is considered a key issue in all accountability mechanisms.
- The council conclusions refer to ending poverty in all its forms but include no clear strategy on how this should be done. There is an emphasis on ending extreme poverty, building on and completing the unfinished business of the MDGs. This approach to poverty is neither sufficient nor ambitious. Extreme poverty should indeed be eradicated, but the EU's view on poverty reduction should be much stronger with an emphasis on national poverty lines instead of limiting the actions to the \$ 1,25 per day line, thereby making sure that no one is marginalised or discriminated.
- Inclusive indicators are essential to guarantee that the framework reaches everyone, including persons with disabilities. We therefore call on the EU to support the development of disability inclusive indicators for all relevant goals and targets during the upcoming discussions on the means of implementation for the post-2015 framework.

Should you require any further clarification do not hesitate to get in touch with Steffie Neyens (s.neyens@light-for-the-world.org) or Luisa Fenu (Luisa.fenu@cbm.org).