

Informal Interactive Hearing on the Post-2015 development agenda

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Statement of H.E. Amb. Zsolt Hetesy

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Distinguished Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to participate in the first panel on Goals Targets and Indicators. Let me emphasize that this agenda is about the people and the future.

Proposals speak to all countries, and all walks of life. For the next 15 years all stakeholders will have to feel ownership. Result of open transparent process, and in many cases, result of the push from stakeholders!

We have an ambitious, comprehensive package, integrating three dimensions, avoiding silo thinking. Goals, targets are interlinked, with enablers, drivers and cross-cutting targets everywhere. It is a web of goals and targets. This also means that there is no pick-and-choose, all of them have to be implemented.

17 goals /169 targets: Is it too many?

Requests for reducing the number of goals were usually general in nature, concrete proposals to merge met with resistance; and we had proposals to add other specific goals.

We have 100 targets on WHAT we want to do, since others (MOI) speak to the HOW question.

On the merits: We looked at the stars for inspiration but we also kept our feet on the ground.

It might have been possible, from the professional point of view, to devise better, stronger targets.

However, the strength of this package is that all had to compromise, loose some, in order for all of us to gain a lot together at the end.

An ambitious package that is close to the maximum political carrying capacity, while being implementable and realistic.

Communicability vs. substance

It is clear that nobody wants to loose substance over communicability. We cannot sacrifice our children's future just because certain concepts do not fit into a neat twitter message.

The program will have to be understood by "Mothers and Ministers" and "owned" by all.

Messaging and implementation will have to go hand in hand at all levels.

At the UN level this common agenda is about our future. It's about paradigm change, moving away from our comfort zones and creating the right conditions.

Since the end result is determined by the sum of our activities, everybody has to pitch in, and we will work with each other.

Then it will be for countries to translate the agenda to national implementation, find their own drivers, enablers, devise their own methods and also, explain to their various constituencies why it is important, and how it will make their life better.

This process will have to be repeated by all stakeholders, regional ones, issue groups, economic sectors, local communities, everybody has to find its piece of action.

On inclusivity

This agenda cannot be achieved by governments only. The targets give tasks for all stakeholders. Everybody will have to pull in the same direction and we have to pool the resources. Full participation

The overarching principle of “do it sustainably” must be valid for all actions. It needs transformation by parliaments, governments, local governments, in societies, financing, the private sector, volunteer and philanthropic involvement.

Look the next 15 years first and foremost as an opportunity for all, for governments, stakeholders, and people.

How can we make sure that no one is left behind?

We have to look at people in vulnerable situations, not as part of the problem, but as part of the solution. They all want to contribute. Eliminate the barriers, find the enablers and the drivers for them.

These constituencies, including youth, women etc., all say: Give us a piece of the economic action, enable us, so we can be part of the system. Instead of mere recipients, they have to become agents of change.

Reaching the last 10 percent will require coordinated efforts where NGO stakeholders can be of assistance, not diminishing States’ responsibility.

TARGETS

There is not too much appetite among Member States to change them. Some tinkering is needed. Our leaders would NOT sign a politically binding document that includes targets with “X” in them. This would be against the logic of a universal and shared agenda.

There is, also a document on the technical proofreading proposals on 21 targets. How far we can go, time will tell. No new targets; no mandate to reduce the number of targets; or to backslide on the ambition level.

INDICATORS

Indicators will have to be specific, measurable, achievable, preserve balance and ambition.

Well-defined set of indicators will also assist and further clarify the meaning of targets.

Global agenda needs global indicators.

The approach of the MDG indicators is still strongly reflected. Some must be enhanced to become relevant to all countries, and to be able to measure qualitative elements, as the “leave no one behind” principle.

The set of indicators must become a cross-referenced and integrated whole, with inter-linkages clearly understood.

We will have to use the ones that have been proven on the ground to provide new type of measurability, such as the SE4All indicators.

Global indicators could be accompanied by a broader indicator framework, containing national, regional and thematic/sectorial indicators. This is necessitated by national and regional characteristics, and the limited nature of the global indicator set.

It is in States' / agencies' best interest to link those indicators to the global indicators as much as possible.

Working methods and Timing

The Statistical Commission's decisions on the roadmap and the timetable will keep the work Member State-driven.

It is best if indicators are defined at technical level, while finalization is done transparently.

The Rio+20 Outcome Document mandates us to accompany the goals with targets and indicators.

At least an indicative list of global indicators should be provided by the Summit, and then, we have to finish the work on them as soon as feasible.

MDG experience shows that lack of indicators hampered the creation of national implementation plans, and the timely start of implementation. This delay should not be repeated.

On measurement

Measurement goes beyond the mere drafting of a new set of indicators. The process will overhaul and reform the statistical world, create new sets of skills and, diminish the silos.

Keep data collection and analysis in State hands. They have to measure in order to manage.

Capacity building, international assistance and supportive cooperation should be part and parcel of the implementation process. Disaggregated data is needed to do the job properly.

Synergies between States agencies private entities, international organizations should be promoted based on national, regional, and sectorial circumstances.

This is one reason why Hungary is promoting the designation of 20 of October as the second World Statistics Day (Better Lives Better Data) so that all countries' agencies and stakeholders can come together to explore these possibilities.