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## LOCAL AND SUB-NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Cities, metropolises, regions and their association contributing to the Post-2015 Process

**Recommendations** regarding the **vision and shape** of a Post-2015 development agenda that will help respond to the global challenges of the 21st century, building on the MDGs and with a view to ending poverty.

- If the Post-2015 process is by essence intergovernmental, under leadership of the United Nations, it should be, as raised in the Rio+20 outcomes and by the UN Secretary General, an open, transparent and inclusive process. Furthermore Local Governments' support the UN task team in its call for "**a global and more holistic approach**" to define the **new framework based on the principles and values adopted by the UN members** in the Millennium Declaration.
- The agenda should have a **universal ambition, addressing both developed and developing countries, set-up concrete end goals and targets** keeping in mind that **not one size fits all** and the need for flexibility for each country.
- Some of the MDGs have encountered great successes in their implementation in many countries but national averages, which may show improvements at the country level, often hide severe sub-national disparities. **Territorial inequalities should be addressed** by the future agenda.
- The goals and targets of the future development agenda should provide some **guidelines on how and who** should act.

**Key principles** for reshaping the global partnership for development and strengthened accountability mechanisms

- Post-2015 process success can only be guaranteed if we develop a **sense of ownership and accountability at all levels**, international, national and sub-national.
- Our hope is that this agenda will be rooted in **the needs of the people and communities at the local level**. We strongly believe that this global agenda should be applicable to all, both developing and developed countries.
- It should further promote a high degree of **policy coherence** at the global, national but also sub-national levels. It should define shared responsibilities and a more balanced approach among all levels of government and development partners.

- Local governments have had central roles in most of the countries that have performed well in regard to the MDGs. Indeed, **the achievement of many of the MDGs' goals and targets depends on local governments and the support they receive from higher levels of government and international agencies.**
- Furthermore, Rio+20 outcome document acknowledges the work done at the sub-national and local levels raising the importance of **cross sectoral planning** and committing to increasing capacity and **supporting municipal governments**, metropolitan areas and towns to develop sustainable policies, recognizing their role in public service delivery, poverty alleviation, and risk management.

**Recommendations** on how to build and sustain broad political consensus on an ambitious yet achievable Post-2015 development agenda around the three dimensions of economic growth, social equality and environmental sustainability; taking into account the particular challenges of countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.

- The definition of concrete goals and targets should include the outcomes of Rio +20 and a broad and **inclusive consultation processes** on the vision for the Post-2015 agenda.
- In many countries, **local governments play increasing roles** in the provision of basic services, infrastructures and local development strategies that are central to the reduction of poverty and disease. It is also the case for climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction, which require an integrated territorial approach and the improvement of urban planning.
- The outcomes of Rio+20 acknowledging the **work done at the sub-national and local levels** and the need to strengthen them with a new Habitat Urban Agenda need to be an integral part of the discussions, linking the MDGs, Sustainable and Habitat Agendas.
- Another crucial point for the success of the Post 2015 Agenda will be the capacity to **identify innovative ways of financing the development policies** and financial institutions that can support governments (at all levels) that have the responsibility of addressing needs and managing local development.