

Communiqué

Meeting of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Monrovia, Liberia

1 February 2013

We, members of the High-Level Panel tasked by Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to develop a framework for a post 2015 development agenda, held our third meeting in Monrovia, Liberia from January 30 through February 1, 2013. We took stock of the progress we have achieved so far towards the fulfillment of our mandate.

We participated in outreach sessions and discussed the national building blocks required for sustained prosperity. We are committed to an open, inclusive and transparent process in the development of this agenda. We have therefore consulted with a variety of stakeholders globally, including Parliamentarians, people with disabilities, youth, children, women, the elderly, farmers, trade unions, the business community and academics. We intend to continue broad consultations throughout the process.

All members of the panel share a passion for finding the right framework for sustainable development to combat poverty and enable people to fulfill their potential. This is – first and last – about people; the lives they are able to lead, the education they can benefit from, the families they can raise, the health they can enjoy and the prospects they can look forward to as they live their lives and look to the future.

Our vision and our responsibility is to end extreme poverty in all its forms in the context of sustainable development and to have in place the building blocks of sustained prosperity for all. We seek to make gains in poverty eradication irreversible. This is a global, people-centered and planet-sensitive agenda to address the universal challenges of the 21st century: promoting sustainable development, supporting job-creating growth, protecting the environment and providing peace, security, justice, freedom and equity at all levels.

At this Monrovia meeting we agreed that we should make every effort to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, while also framing a single and cohesive post 2015 development agenda that integrates economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. Economic growth alone is not sufficient to ensure social justice, equity and sustained prosperity for all people. The global community must pursue economic and social transformation leading to sustained and inclusive economic growth at the local, national and global levels. The protection and empowerment of people is crucial. This will require peace building and stronger domestic institutions -- including effective, accountable and transparent governments and peaceful, just and equitable societies that protect and promote human rights and eliminate all forms of violence.

This transformational agenda should create jobs, develop infrastructure, raise productivity, improve competitiveness and promote sustainable production and consumption. It should tap into the potential presented by a larger, more educated and better skilled workforce, new technologies and innovation, and the expansion of national, regional and global markets. We should explore policy options for green growth as one of the important tools available to promote sustainable development. Actions aimed at

strengthening international cooperation, particularly in the areas of finance, trade and technology transfers, are also required to achieve the objectives of this transformational agenda.

Achieving structural transformations through a global development agenda will involve:

- **Sustainable growth with equity:** To foster long-term, sustainable growth and reduce volatility, the global community must promote good governance, invest in stable and accountable institutions, fight corruption, ensure the rule of law, and build resilience to shocks in all countries. We recognize the indispensability of economic and social justice, individual choice and opportunity for all. This includes the empowerment of women and girls; investments in young people's development and expanding social protection schemes; and ensuring universal learning and access to health care -- including sexual and reproductive health.
- **Creating wealth through sustainable and transparent management of natural resources:** It is imperative to change the current pattern of natural resource (both renewable and non-renewable) exploitation, in order to diversify our economic base and use natural resources sustainably. This must benefit local populations, whilst promoting sustainable development.
- **Partnerships:** Economic transformation will require partnerships with many actors, unified behind a common agenda. It must encourage national and local governments to work with the private sector and civil society to align their efforts behind sustainable development. Interactions between countries and new partnerships through trade, foreign direct investment and cooperation also have huge potential to bring about poverty eradication and prosperity for all. We look forward to discussing these important issues, including the means of implementation, at the fourth meeting of the High Level Panel in Bali, Indonesia.

This week's meeting in Monrovia is the midway point of a long consultative process. We will continue our consultations both within and beyond the Panel, until we will meet again in Bali, Indonesia, 25-27 March 2013. We thank the Government and people of Liberia for their warmth and hospitality.