

The Secretary-General's High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post 2015 Development Agenda

Inputs of Dr Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul on behalf of local and sub-national authorities New York, 25 September

Initial reactions, based on the experience of sub-national governments, to the questions addressed in *The Scene Setter* .

Headline message for the expectations and outcome of the panel

The recommendations of the panel should contribute to a global post-2015 agenda inspired on the Millennium Declaration but bringing together the Rio +20 outcomes and already look at the future towards the Third Conference on Sustainable Urban Development in 2016

This agenda should be rooted in the needs of the people and communities. The success of our recommendations will be assured if we develop a sense of ownership and accountability at all levels, international, national and sub-national-local levels.

The future global agenda should be applicable to both developing and developed countries. It should further promote a high degree of policy coherence at the global, national but also sub-national levels; define shared responsibilities and a more balanced approach among all levels of government, local stakeholders and development partners.

It is this broad involvement of all stakeholders and a strong anchor on community needs that will make us successful.

Immediate actions that would help maintain momentum to meet the MDGs

The world has change over the last 15 years since the MDGs where defined. Despite strong efforts and the effectiveness of MDGs, the pace in progress towards poverty eradication has been slow and uneven. Multiple and intertwined crises have emerged coexisting against an unsustainable depletion of the world's natural resource base. Over 70% of the world's poor live now in middle income countries, and increasing percentage in cities. The traditional rural-urban patterns are changing drastically.

In an urbanized world, local governments play increasing roles in the provision of basic services that are central to the reduction of poverty and

disease. 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, international agencies and their capacity to build strong partnerships with civil society and private sector.

A strong call to support the implementation at local level to accelerate MDGs implementation, strengthening the role of Local Governments and building strong local coalitions including all stakeholders could make the difference in the next three years.

Key gaps in the current MDG framework and priority new challenges for the development framework

The MDGs agenda does not sufficiently address **who and how** should be acting to achieve the goals. This is something that the new agenda needs to address.

There is a further a need for a fundamental revision of the global partnership: the institutional and financial framework that should underpin the goals and targets. The new framework should be supported by a stronger and more democratic international governance structure that includes new stakeholders and covers issues and regulations not being addressed at present.

Addressing not only concrete targets but the increase of inequalities within and across countries and regions will become more and more important in the intertwined world. Many identify inequalities as the Achilles heel of the MDGs.: 5% of the world population use 23% of the global energy supply. Roughly 40% of the world's population lacks access to adequate sanitation, and another 1.2 billion people have no facilities at all. This reality is no longer about least developed countries and fragile states alone.

New challenges

There are further new factors that should get greater relevance, such as urbanization, climate change adaptation and access to new technologies. Some of the solutions reduce patterns of energies consumption, disaster risk reduction and comprehensive planning require adapted local strategies and more integrated territorial approach with appropriate involvement from all levels of government.

A large part of this discussion should focus on financial institutions that can support governments (at all levels) that have the responsibility of addressing needs and managing local development.