

Child-Focused Agencies' Response to the Zero Draft of the Outcome Document for the UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda – 22 June 2015

(ChildFund Alliance, Plan International, Save the Children, SOS Children's Villages, UNICEF, World Vision)

Background

We welcome the release of the zero draft of the Outcome Document for the UN Summit to Adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and highly commend the efforts of the co-facilitators. We welcome Member States' reaffirmation of the post-2015 development agenda being a "plan of action for people, planet and prosperity that also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom" and its strong commitment to leave no one behind.

This transformation can only succeed if 1) investments start with today's children so that change can be realized by 2030, and future generations can benefit and build on this progress, 2) all people, starting with children and youth, have an opportunity to learn about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and how these global aspirations relate to their own daily lives, 3) efforts are made in collecting quality, timely, reliable, and disaggregated data so that no one is left behind, especially children, including the use of alternative sources of data and innovative methodologies, 4) participation of people, including children and youth are a crucial element of Means of Implementation (MOI) and follow-up and review and 5) the social and economic groups that have been left behind by the MDGs and are in most vulnerable situations are identified and prioritized by the agenda and its actions.

Below is a summary of some key points for consideration to improve the zero draft from a child-focused perspective, as well as some specific text suggestions for each chapter.

DECLARATION

Para 1: We, the Heads of State and Government of the 193 member States of the United Nations, meeting in New York from 25-27 September 2015 as the Organization celebrates its seventieth anniversary, have agreed today on ~~a new global goals~~ **global plan of action** for the sustainable development of humanity and **the survival** of our planet.

Para 2: On behalf of the peoples we serve, we have adopted a historic agreement on a comprehensive and far-reaching set of universal goals and targets. ~~If~~ **When** these are realized, they will transform for the better the world in which we all live.

Para 3: We recognize that poverty eradication is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We ~~intend~~ **will** between now and 2030, to end poverty and hunger once and for all; to combat inequalities **within and between countries**; to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its resources; and to create conditions for sustainable, inclusive and sustained economic growth and shared prosperity.

Para 4: As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge ~~that nobody will be left behind~~ **to leave no one behind and to reach those furthest behind first.** We ~~affirm that wish to see the~~ goals and targets **will only be fully achieved when they are** met for all economic and social groupings.

Para 4bis: Today, most vulnerable children still live their lives in poverty, discrimination, violence and a degraded environment. With this agreement, we will work so that tomorrow's children are not born into such conditions.

Para 7: This is **an urgent** plan of action for people, planet and prosperity which also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom... We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet for **the survival of present and** future generations. We are determined to take...

Para 7bis: We suggest that para 44 become 7bis to recognize that sustainable development starts with today's children and youth. There should be stronger commitment to give the present generation of children and young people a voice in decision making. Young people themselves have urged to take an active role in shaping the new agenda. The new para 7bis would read as follows: *The future of humanity and of our planet lies in our hands. **The children and youth of today must be mobilized and engaged as positive agents of change if the Agenda is to succeed, and the SDGs must be a platform for young people to channel their infinite activism into helping others all over the globe.** ~~It lies also in the hands of today's younger generation who will pass the torch to future generations.~~ We have mapped the road to sustainable development; it will be for all of us to ensure that the journey is irreversible.*

Para 11: *The new Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law. It is grounded also in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development, **and existing human rights treaties and obligations including the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities and Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against women.** We reaffirm all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.*

Para. 12: ... Spiraling conflict, violence and extremism, **including violence against children and women,** humanitarian crises and a growing migration challenge threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades. ...

Para 15: In the goals and targets which we have agreed, we are setting out a supremely ambitious vision. We envisage a world in which every child and adult lives their lives free of poverty, hunger, disease, **discrimination, violence** and want. A world **in which they can enjoy** safe, ~~and~~ **nutritious and sufficient** food; affordable drinking water; universal access to **inclusive and equitable quality** education; physical, mental and social well-being. A world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality and all barriers to their empowerment in our societies

have been removed, and the protection, survival and development of every child to its full potential is pursued. A world where children and young people are active and invited participants in decisions that affect them and their communities. *And every child grows free from violence and exploitation.* A world in which their rights and dignity are universally respected, of peace, justice and equality, of respect for race and ethnicity; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realization of human potential for every woman, man and child while promoting shared prosperity. And one in which humanity lives in complete harmony with nature, *integrating fully the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.*

Para 15 bis Every child deserves quality education and healthcare, as well as growing up in an enabling and safe environment. The protection, survival and development of children to their full potential, including through education, is the foundation of stable societies and a critical element for future sustainable and inclusive economic growth.

(The new Agenda)

Para 16: We are announcing today 17 Goals with 169 associated targets. Never before have world leaders pledged common action and endeavor across such a broad policy agenda. We are setting out together on the path towards sustainable development, devoting ourselves collectively to the pursuit of global development and of "win-win" cooperation which can *make huge differences in the lives of all people, in all countries and parts of the world.* We will implement the Agenda for the full benefit of all, for today's generation and for future generations. In doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to international law and emphasize that the Agenda will be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of states under international law.

Para 17: This is an Agenda which encompasses all human rights and will promote dignity for all human beings – *every girl, boy, woman and man alike.* It will work to ensure that fundamental rights and freedoms are enjoyed by all without discrimination on grounds of *age*, race, colour, sex, language, religion, culture, migratory status, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic situation, birth or disability.

Para 18bis (7 from the FfD document): *We recognize that investing in children and youth is critical to achieving inclusive, equitable and sustainable development for present and future generations, and we recognize the need to support countries that face particular challenges to make the requisite investments in this area. We reaffirm the vital importance of promoting and protecting the rights of all children ,and ensuring that no child is left behind.*

Para 21. Vulnerable sections of the population whose needs are reflected in the goals and targets include children, youth, people living with disability and older people; the needs of others who are vulnerable, such as migrants and indigenous peoples, are also reflected. People living in areas affected by conflict, terrorism and complex humanitarian emergencies are also experiencing *an extra layer of challenges in addition to poverty, economic and environmental challenges experienced elsewhere.*

Para 22: We recognise the centrality of education to achieving this entire Agenda and commit to providing equal access to a quality and inclusive education for all at all levels - early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary, including through non-formal education - in safe and non-violent learning environments. All people irrespective of gender, race or ethnicity, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, children and youth in vulnerable situations, should have equitable access to good-quality education and achieve good learning outcomes that helps them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society.

Para 23: To ensure healthy lives ~~extend life expectancy~~ for all, we must achieve universal health coverage without financial hardship and prioritize reaching those furthest behind first. No one must be left behind. We commit to accelerating the progress made to date in reducing infant newborn, child and maternal mortality by ending all preventable deaths of infants newborns, children and expectant mothers by 2030. We shall ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education. We will equally accelerate the pace of progress made in fighting malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other communicable diseases and epidemics. At the same time we shall devote greater effort to tackling non-communicable diseases.

Para 24. We will seek to build strong economic foundations for all our countries. Sustained and inclusive economic growth is essential for prosperity. We will work to build dynamic, sustainable and people-centred economies, promoting full, inclusive and productive youth employment in particular and decent work for all that fulfils human rights and labor standards including those on child labor, particularly in its worst forms. All countries stand to benefit from having a healthy and well-educated workforce with the knowledge and skills needed for productive and fulfilling work and full participation in society. We will therefore adopt policies which increase productivity and productive employment, financial inclusion, agricultural and industrial development, sustainable transport systems and modern energy provision.

Para 26: We recognize that sustainable urban development and management are crucial to the quality of life of our people. We will work with local authorities and communities to renew and plan our cities so as to foster community cohesion and personal security and to stimulate innovation and employment. We will reduce the negative impacts of urban activities, including through the safe management and use of chemicals, the reduction and recycling of waste and more efficient use of water and energy. And we will work to minimize the impact of cities on the global climate system. Our cities and urban areas need to be safe, especially for vulnerable groups such as girls, boys, adolescents, and youth.

Para 28: Sustainable development cannot be realized without peace. The new Agenda recognizes the need to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies, based on respect for human rights (including the right to development), the rule of law and effective and accountable institutions. These are fundamental requirements for the achievement of sustainable development. Factors which give rise to violence, insecurity and injustice, such as corruption and poor governance, are addressed in the Agenda. We must redouble our efforts to end all

forms of abuse, neglect, exploitation, and violence against children, as well as to resolve or prevent conflict to support countries emerging from conflict situations so as to lay the foundations for sustainable development. We commit to remove the obstacles to the full realization of the right of self-determination of peoples living under colonial and foreign occupation, which continue to adversely affect their economic and social development as well as their environment.

Para 30: The new Agenda deals also with the means required for implementation of the goals and targets. We recognize that these will require the mobilization of financial resources (both public and private, domestic and international) as well as capacity-building, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and a wide range of other supportive policies and measures. Business, the private sector, **civil society and communities themselves** will feature prominently in relation to resource mobilization and implementation of the agenda.

Para 36: The scale and ambition of the new Agenda calls for a renewed and strengthened Global Partnership to implement it. This Partnership will work in a spirit of global solidarity, in particular solidarity with the poorest and the vulnerable **and will be underpinned by the principles of accountability and human rights**. It will facilitate an intensive global engagement in support of implementation of the goals and targets, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and other actors, **including communities themselves**, and mobilizing all available resources. Inclusive multi-stakeholder partnerships **at all levels, including the meaningful participation of girls, boys, adolescents, and youth**, will be needed to support specific priorities under the Agenda and to mobilize the requisite resources, **including for high quality disaggregated data and innovation**.

Para 37: We emphasize more generally the critical importance of engaging all relevant stakeholders in **in the design, implementation and monitoring of strategies and programs under** the new Agenda. Governments and public institutions will work closely in this regard with national parliaments, local authorities, international institutions, business and the private sector, civil society, academia, philanthropic organizations, voluntary groups, **local communities, boys and girls, adolescents, youth, people with disabilities, the most vulnerable and marginalized groups of people** and others.

Proposed new para 37bis in the Declaration chapter: **We stress the importance of the active participation of young people in decision-making processes, as the issues we are addressing have a deep impact on present and future generations and as the contribution of children and youth is vital to the achievement of sustainable development. We also recognize the need to promote intergenerational dialogue and solidarity by recognizing their views.**

Para 39: We also commit to **promoting processes that enable women, men, children and young people to participate in follow up and review, and to** scaling up substantially public-private cooperation to exploit the contribution to be made by a wide range of data, including geo-spatial information, **and data from third party sources**, in supporting and tracking progress.

Para 43: “We the Peoples” are the celebrated opening words of the UN Charter. It is “We the Peoples” who are embarking today on the road to 2030. Our journey will involve Governments, Parliaments, local authorities, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community, civil society – and ~~ordinary citizens~~ **people, especially those marginalized and in vulnerable situations**. Millions have already engaged with, and will own, this agenda. It is an agenda by and for the people – and this, we believe, will ensure its success.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND TARGETS

We support the proposed revision to Target 3.2 to reflect numerical targets for newborn and under-five mortality.

We support the proposed revision to Target 8.7 to eliminate the worst forms of child labour and end it in all its forms by 2025.

Para 2: The SDGs and targets are integrated and indivisible, global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities. Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances.

Para 3: The goals and targets will be followed-up and reviewed using a set of global indicators. These shall be complemented by indicators at the regional and national level to be developed by member states. Under the guidance of the Economic and Social Council and the UN Statistical Commission, the global indicator framework will be developed by the Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators and will be finalised by March 2016. This framework will be simple yet robust, address all SDGs and targets and preserve the political balance and ambition contained therein. **It will include qualitative and perception-based indicators.**

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Para 6: Efforts will be required to support international trade as an engine for development and to address debt and debt sustainability as well as key systemic issues. Commitments to harness the critical contribution to sustainable development of science, technology, innovation and capacity building are also essential. Transfer of technology will be an important dimension. We will seek to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data, including by gender **and age**, in support of the Agenda and its means of implementation.

Para 7: Successful implementation will also depend on the resources, knowledge and ingenuity of business, civil society, the scientific community, academia, research institutions, philanthropists and foundations, parliaments, local authorities, volunteers, **local communities, children, youth** and other stakeholders. We urge all to embrace our commitment to sustainable

development, including by directing investments and activities towards areas that contribute to sustainable development and away from harmful, unsustainable ones.

Para 7bis: Successful implementation will depend on public awareness of the goals and the targets. We intend, between now and 2030, to take action at local, national and global level to increase public awareness of critical issues framed by the SDGs. All people, starting with children, will be provided the opportunity to learn about the SDGs and equipped with resources so that they can take action in their communities.

Para 7ter: Learning about human rights, which is already an existing obligation, will further empower people to take action towards the goals. States should develop strategies and programmes to build greater awareness of human rights and the SDGs, such as through school and training curricula, information campaigns, and participatory dialogue and planning at national and local levels.

FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW

Para 1: A robust, effective, inclusive, **participatory**, and transparent follow-up and review framework, operating at the national, regional and global levels, will promote effective implementation of this Agenda and accountability to **all people**.

Para 3: Follow-up and review processes shall be **people-centred and** guided by the following principles:

Para 3a: They will address progress implementing the goals and targets in **all countries and for all people**, including the means of implementation in a manner which respect their integrated and inter-related nature.

Para 3c: They will be open and inclusive, **participatory, and responsive, strengthen accountability between states and citizens**, supported by an enabling environment for the **meaningful** participation of all people, **including children, young people, and disadvantaged and marginalized groups**.

Para 3d: **As much as possible** they will build on existing platforms and processes, **including international human rights mechanisms**, evolve over time and minimize the reporting burden on national administrations. Building on human rights mechanisms, **they will focus on progress for the social and economic groups that are most marginalized, and monitor inequalities within and between countries**.

Para 4: Building on existing reporting and planning instruments, such as national sustainable development strategies **and international human rights instruments**, we **commit** ~~encourage all member states~~ to develop **via transparent, accessible and participatory processes in**

collaboration with relevant stakeholders, ambitious national responses to the SDGs and targets by the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2016 ~~as soon as possible~~.

Para 4bis: To monitor the implementation of the sustainable development goals, it will be important to improve the availability of and access to data and statistics disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts. There is a need to take urgent steps to improve the quality, coverage and availability of disaggregated data to ensure that no one is left behind.

Para 5: Each member state ~~will~~ ~~could~~, at least once every four years, conduct robust, **participatory** and inclusive reviews of progress, based on a publicly available government progress report and complemented by contributions from civil society, academia, local government, the UN system, private sector and other actors. National parliaments play an important role in review processes as well as other national institutions such as National Sustainable Development Councils and local authorities.

Para 5bis: People's participation in all aspects of development – planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation – can change the dynamics and direction of accountability. Real-time monitoring initiatives, including participatory and people-led feedback mechanisms, can also be employed on a more regular basis to give more timely feedback on SDG progress, especially from the local/community level.

Para 10: Thematic reviews of progress may also take place at the HLPF and in other inter-governmental forums, including the ECOSOC functional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, **and should focus on progress for the poorest and most marginalized groups and key constituencies such as children and youth**. These reviews will be aligned with the cycle and work of the HLPF, where possible.

Para 11: Sufficient time should also be given at the HLPF, under the auspices of ECOSOC, to review progress on implementing the means of implementation of this Agenda.