

World Vision's Response to the UN Secretary General's Synthesis Report
The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and
Protecting the Planet

December 5, 2014

World Vision welcomes the UN Secretary General's report: **The Road to Dignity by 2030** as an urgent call to the international community to deliver on the promise of discussions to date on what should replace the MDGs. We affirm the early recognition in the report of the need to invest in the unfinished work of the MDGs, and to use them as a springboard for the future we want. This is particularly urgent, in our view, in light of the millions of people, especially women and children, who have been left behind in the progress that has been secured to this point.

We are particularly encouraged by the affirmation that no one should be left behind (para 51) and the commitment to using a 'transformational approach' (in 3.2) whereby no goal or target will be considered met unless met for **all** social and economic groups (para 65). The call to pay special attention to the people, groups & countries most in need – reflects World Vision's aspirations for the framework. In addition to children and youth, we are pleased to see special attention being given to those groups of people who are often uncared and unreached, including slum dwellers, people with disabilities, minorities, refugees & displaced populations (para 51, para 68).

The commitment to the most vulnerable is reflected in the prominent inclusion of peace and stability throughout the report. As negotiations shift to the means of implementation, **we would like to see more discussion of how those people in the hardest and most remote places to live will benefit from the framework**. In relation to peace and stability, this means tackling the drivers of conflict (access to resources, arms, drugs and human trafficking). We are encouraged by the proposition that public funds must positively impact the poorest and most vulnerable in all societies (para 90). More thinking of this type is required. It is necessary but insufficient to note that success is dependent on the inclusion of all. We need to proactively articulate the strategies that will enable us to reach those furthest from potential global targets.

While it is clear that the Report fully comprehends the importance of 'young people' as a broad category to the success of the new framework, **we are troubled that children appear to be too frequently absent or conflated with youth**. Nor are children's voices listed as amongst those who need to be heard (para 65). We strongly recommend that the language of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is used when referring to anyone under 18. Children have specific needs and heightened vulnerabilities by virtue of their age and dependency in early life and as such should be explicitly and specifically addressed within a rights based framework.

Despite clear and consistent references to gender, we do not believe that the Report engaged with gender equality in a meaningful way. The way that women, youth and children are clustered throughout the report is problematic. **We call for the proposed zero tolerance for violence against women and girls to be extended to specifically include children and not only girls**. An inclusive, human rights based approach to which the Report explicitly aspires must necessarily include consideration of the rights and vulnerabilities of boys who are both survivors of and central to solutions to gender based violence.

We welcome the broad emphasis in the document on participation and particularly, the recognition that no society can reach its full potential if whole segments of that society, especially young people, are excluded from participating in, contributing to and benefitting from development (para 68). **Unfortunately, however, the section on monitoring, evaluation and reporting falls short**

on citizen's (including children and youth) participation and presents citizens largely as beneficiaries of the accountability process. In addition, it is silent on the use of citizen-generated data. It would appear that the synthesis report has missed the opportunity to reflect the emerging themes from the consultation on Participatory Monitoring and Accountability, other than the need for participation.

World Vision affirms the emphasis on partnerships throughout the document and particularly the inclusion of partnerships as one of the six essential elements for delivering the new framework (paragraph 66, 80-81). World Vision also welcomes Section 4.3 (investing in capacities) and noting that, especially in fragile contexts, there is significant potential for cross-sector partnerships to make strong contributions in strengthening capacity in government as well as in the local business sectors. **Whilst the emphasis on partnerships is welcomed, World Vision believes that we must go further. We would also like to see an emphasis on these cross-sector partnerships being focused on the needs of the most vulnerable.**

We note the following omissions from the current draft and encourage their inclusion in the final draft:

- **Hunger**, and the imperative to address it, is grossly under-represented in the document, despite the fact that it is one of the defining experiences of exclusion and marginalization;
- The lack of reference **birth registration** (or the broader category of civil registration and vital statistics) despite the recognized importance of improved data and services;
- While we are pleased at the suggestion that inclusive growth be measured in ways that go beyond GDP and account for human well-being, sustainability and equity (para 72), given the focus of the report on economic transformation, we were disappointed not to see a stronger commitment to the **elimination of child labour** in line with the proposed OWG targets.

As the Report consistently notes, the ideas with which it engages are a product of a long and ongoing process of consultation. Ultimately, the challenge is to ensure that the voices from people across the world - particularly the most vulnerable children and youth - are reflected in the framework and subsequent actions. We look forward to that ongoing dialogue.