

A Stand-Alone Goal on Equality is Essential

We, the undersigned Civil Society Organizations representing constituencies from all corners of the globe, are deeply alarmed by the proposal to combine the Goal 10 on Equality with other listed goals. We urge your careful consideration of the following compelling reasons. As the Post 2015 agenda is meant to guide development efforts over the next 15 years, it must recognize inequalities as one of the most vital issues of our time by having a clear goal to tackle inequality and by including equality-related targets into other goals. These two approaches are mutually supportive. However, without a stand-alone goal on equality to deliver this clear message, the agenda risks losing the support of individuals, organizations and communities around the world.

1. A stand-alone goal on equality communicates a fundamental value underlying the Post-2015 development agenda. While we recognize that all goals under discussion are interdependent and mutually reinforcing, the decision to have a stand-alone goal on equality reflects the degree of importance that has been accorded to the problem of inequalities by the peoples of the world. Global consultations, civil society networks, Member States and the United Nations have firmly and repeatedly asserted that inequality is at the heart of many social, economic and environmental ills, including barriers to development, economic instability, mismanagement of natural resources, discrimination, lack of social unity, crime and conflict.

2. The Post-2015 agenda will be about the headlines. The visibility, potency, and support for implementation of the goals will be rooted, in part, in the manner in which they are articulated. By only mainstreaming equality throughout the goals, it will lose its visibility and recognition as an independent driver of many of the ills facing society.

3. The support of civil society highly depends on the articulation of equality as a stand-alone goal. Global Consultations consistently asserted the need for the eradication of inequality as a crucial element in any development agenda. Our trust in the legitimacy and success of the new Sustainable Development Goals will be undermined if this goal is removed.

4. Equality is an overarching value, far broader than economics. It addresses dimensions of social, educational, health, political, and many other forms of inequality. Unequal treatment of, and opportunities for, women and vulnerable groups of all kinds is an independent issue that cannot be subsumed within other goals. Equality, if combined with the goal on 'poverty eradication,' risks losing its multidimensionality - including challenges related to access, discrimination, voice, and many other non-fiscal concerns. Moreover, the SDGs must consider inequalities between nations.

5. A goal on equality exemplifies the universality of the goals. Equality as a global goal implies a responsibility on the part of every nation, including the richest, as it is a social ill from which no nation is immune. As a universal concept, it has the potential to encourage unified action across borders. A goal on equality can be a powerful force for global solidarity, but not if it is buried in other goals.

With a Stand-alone Goal on Equality, we can honor our commitment to leaving no one behind. We thank you for your understanding.

Signed on 19th – 24th of June 2014 by:

1	Academics Stand Against Poverty	International
2	ACPDH	Burundi
3	Action On Women Foundation	Uganda
4	Action on Youth Empowerment	Uganda
5	Africa CSO Working Group on Post-2015	African
6	African Monitor	African
7	Alliance contre la Pauvreté au Mali	Mali
8	Amnesty International	International
9	Association Congolaise pour le Développement Agricole ACDA	Congo Brazzaville
10	Association Nigérienne des Scouts de l'Environnement (ANSEN)	Niger
11	Association pour le Développement et de la Promotion des Droits Humains	Mauritanie
12	Association Pour Le Développement Rural Intégré De Nganda-Tsundi"ADERIGAS"	Congo, DR
13	ATD Fourth World	global network
14	Awake Rural Women	Nepal
15	Baha'i International Community	Global
16	Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre (BDPC)	Bangladesh
17	Beyond 2015	global network
18	Bioresources Development and Conservation Programme Cameroon	Cameroon
19	Bum Association of Health Personnel (BAHEP)	Cameroon
20	Center for Bangladesh Studies (CBS)	Bangladesh
21	Center for Woman and Child Development	Bangladesh
22	Center for Women's Global Leadership	International
23	Centre for Human Rights and Development	Mongolia
24	Centro de Estudios para la Gobernabilidad y Democracia	Nicaragua
25	CEPA	Laos
26	Climate Emergency Institute	Canada
27	Coastal Area Intervention Network (CAIN)	Bangladesh
28	Collectif Sénégalais des Africaines pour la Promotion de l'Education Relative à l'Environnement-COSAPERÉ.	Senegal
29	Community and Family Foundation	Ghana
30	Community Emergency Response Initiative (CERI)	Nigeria
31	Community Environmental Resource Centre (CERC) (Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE)	India
32	Community Initiative for Social Enhancement (CISE)	South Africa
33	Comunidad Raíz Zubia A.C.	México

34	Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd	International
35	Conservation of Flora and Fauna COFF	Pakistan
36	Consortium for Land Research and Policy Dialogue (COLARP)	Nepal
37	Coordinación de ONG y Cooperativas -CONGCOOP	Guatemala
38	CRESUNA - Africa	Uganda
39	Dalit Alliance for Natural Resources (DANAR)	Nepal
40	Dalit Alliance for Natural Resources(DANAR)-Nepal	Nepal
41	Dalit Alliance for Natural Resources(DANAR)-Nepal	Nepal
42	Dharamitra (Eco-Technology Resource Centre for Sustainable Development)	India
43	Disability and Development Cooperation (bezev)	Germany
44	EcoEquity	United States
45	Environment and Population Research Centre (EPRC)	Bangladesh
46	Environmental Quality Protection Foundation (EQPF)	Taiwan
47	European Environmental Bureau	International - Europe
48	Europia	UK
49	Federation of Democratic NGO's of Nepal	Nepal
50	Feminist Task Force	global network
51	FOKUS-Forum for Women and Development	Norway
52	Forest Environment Workers Union Nepal (FEWUN)	Nepal
53	Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood	International
54	Fundación Justicia y Genero	Costa Rica
55	GEADIRR	Cameroon
56	Global Action	Ireland
57	Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)	global network
58	Global Fund for Women	Global
59	Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction	global network
60	Global Partnership and Development	New Zealand
61	Gomal Damaan Area Water Partnership	Pakistan
62	Green Creation	UK
63	Green liberty	Latvia
64	Green Team Kenya	kenya
65	Greenspring Development Initiative	Nigeria
66	Health Development Initiative	Nigeria
67	Huirou Commission: Women, Homes and Community	Global
68	Indigenous Nationalities Women Youth Network	Nepal
69	Initiative for Equality (IfE) - Field Hearings network	global network

70	Initiatives pour le Développement Durable Et Prospective (ISDP)	Togo
71	Institute for Economic Research on Innovation	South Africa and International
72	International Association of Schools of Social Work	International
73	International Presentation Association of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	International
74	International Social Science Council	International
75	International Women's Anthropology Conference, IWAC	International
76	IntHum - Intercultural Laboratory	Italy
77	Italy Equality Group	Italy
78	IWRAW Asia Pacific	Malaysia
79	Journalists and Writers Foundation	International
80	Karama	Middle East and North Africa
81	Kenya Community Development Group	Kenya
82	Kirat Chamling Youth Society	Nepal
83	Kirat Youth Society (KYS)	Nepal
84	Medsin-UK	UK
85	MESA de Articulación de Asociaciones Nacionales y Redes Regionales de ONG de America Latina	International
86	Mukono Multipurpose Youth Organisation (MUMYO)	Uganda
87	Naqaa Sustainability Solutions	Saudi Arabia
88	National Council of Women, USA	USA+
89	National Forum for Advocacy, Nepal (NAFAN)	Nepal
90	NAWO - National Alliance of Women's Organisations (UK)	UK
91	New Integrated Collective Initiative for Poverty Alleviation	Cameroon
92	New Restoration Plan - Malawi	Malawi
93	NGO Committee on Human Rights	International
94	NGO committee on social development	International
95	Niger Delta Women's movement for Peace and Development	Nigeria
96	Open Streets Cape Town	South Africa
97	OSEC (Organization for Social and Economic Change)	Pakistan
98	Oxfam International	International
99	Pan African Vision for the Environment (PAVE)	Nigeria
100	Participatory Development Initiatives (PDI)	Pakistan
101	PATHIKRIT	Bangladesh
102	Peace and Life Enhancement Initiative International (PLEII)	Nigeria
103	Peace Islands Institute	United States
104	People Unity Yong Society (PUYS)	Nepal

105	Plan International	International
106	Planning and the Black Community Division of the American Planning Association	United States
107	Population Matters	UK
108	Presentation Justice Network	Ireland
109	Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOUG)	Uganda
110	Project 90 by 2030	South Africa
111	Psychology Coalition at the UN	UN Headquarters, NY
112	Recycle 4 Africa	Malawi
113	Red de Acción por el Agua - México (Freshwater Action Network - Mexico (FANMex)	Mexico
114	Réseau des Jeunes pour l'Eau, l'assainissement et le Développement Durable au Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso
115	Réseau des Organisations Féminines d'Afrique Francophone (ROFAF)	International
116	Restless Development	International
117	Rogers Foundation for Person-Centred Education	Hungary
118	Roless Institute	Kenya
119	SAMADANA/M - Centre for Nonviolence	Sri Lanka
120	SANAYEE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION SDO	AFGHANISTAN
121	Save the Earth Cambodia	Cambodia
122	Seeds for a Future	Guatemala
123	SERVITAS Cameroon	Cameroon
124	SHELTER	Bangladesh
125	Sindhica Reforms Society	Pakistan
126	Singing Across Borders/CA:s Sångskola	International
127	Sisters of Mercy, Mercy International Association at the UN	International
128	Society For Agriculture and Sustainable Development SASDev	Cameroon
129	SOS Children's Villages	International
130	Stichting Bakens Verzet (NGO Another Way)	Netherlands
131	Stichting Ultimate Purpose-Suriname	Suriname
132	Sub-Committee for the Elimination of Racism and other forms of Intolerance of the NGO Committee on Human Rights	UN Headquarters, NY
133	Sufuri Group	Kenya
134	Sustainability Institute	South Africa
135	Sustainable agriculture and environment	International
136	Sustainable Innovation initiatives	USA+ Trinidad and Tobago
137	Sustainable Rural Community Development	Malawi

138	Systems Innovations and Communication for Progress and Philanthropy (SICP)	India
139	Terra-1530	Moldova
140	The Future We Need	Ireland
141	The Second Chance Foundation	United States
142	Trades Union Congress (TUC) Ghana	Ghana
143	Transformation and Development Centre	Nigeria
144	Uganda Coalition for Sustainable Development	Uganda
145	Union de l'action feministe UAF	Morocco
146	Unitarian Universalist UN Office	United States
147	United Methodist Women, Global Justice office	USA+
148	Unity Society Nepal	Nepal
149	Utthan	India
150	VIMA'S WASH Enterprise	Ghana
151	Vision Africa Regional Network	Zambia
152	VIVAT International	International
153	WASH United	International
154	Women Acting Together for Change (WATCH)	Nepal
155	Women Environmental Programme	Nigeria
156	Women Peacemakers Program	Netherlands
157	Women's Awareness Support Group	Nepal
158	Women's UN Report Network	Global
159	WOPA Green Project	Kenya
160	YouLead-Collective (YLC)	South Africa
161	Youth NGO-Federation Nepal (YNF)	Nepal