

Stakeholder Preparatory Forum for the Post-2015 Development Agenda Negotiations

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Intervention by
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Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you for this opportunity to add to the Secretary General's Synthesis Report, The Road to Dignity by 2030: **Ending** Poverty, Transforming **All** Lives, **and** Protecting the Planet.

It is absolutely a delight to see the genuine effort toward **transformative change**, and the bold statements in service of the people, the planet, and prosperity for all.

In particular, I am glad to see the six essential elements articulated by the Synthesis Report, which attempt to stitch together the otherwise disarticulated patchwork of goals that have emerged from the Open Working Group and High Level Political Forum processes addressing the post-2015 Agenda development.

- *Dignity: to end poverty and fight inequalities*
- *People: to ensure healthy lives, knowledge, and the inclusion of women and Children*
- *Prosperity: to grow a strong, inclusive, and transformative economy*
- *Planet: to protect our ecosystems for all societies and our children*
- *Justice: to promote safe and peaceful societies, and strong institutions*
- *Partnership: to catalyse global solidarity for sustainable development*

I'd like to make three basic points that might help focus the discussions that will surely follow:

First, I argue that Urbanization is, today, the single most significant driving force behind development. If we don't deal with the surging trends toward urbanization, we lose the game, it seems to me. Global development is not synonymous with urban development. We know that cities CAN have lower per capita ecological footprints. But they can **not**, as well. How do we make sure that urbanization happens in ways that support the SDGs?

But most significantly, I draw your attention to the idea of Participation. Forty-five years ago, Sherry Arnstein published her Ladder of Citizen Participation. She showed that we had, actually, a spectrum of actual approaches to citizen

participation—ranging from manipulation and therapy, through tokenism, to deeply held citizen power.

The People's Sustainability Treaties, which can be accessed at sustainabilitytreaties.org, are one model for distributed leadership and true participation. We need to reach far beyond Civil Society Organizations, to the actual grassroots—the Citizens of the World

Getting beyond mere inclusivity toward a truly participatory approach to implementation is the ONLY way to ensure that equity and ethics are actually permeated through the SDG Process.

Truly transformative partnerships give equal footing to our actual partners—the people for whom we seek to protect the planet.

Finally, I draw your attention to the meme of Appropriate Technology. A distributed, decentralized, democratized, and inclusive form of technology deployment. As E.F. Schumacher pointed out so cogently in 1973, in his book *Small is Beautiful: A Study of Economics As If People Mattered*, equity demands that we move firmly toward small-scale, decentralized, labor-intensive, energy-efficient, environmentally sound, and locally controlled deployment of technologies in all sectors.

Respectfully, I challenge the Secretary General, the United Nations, Member States, and Civil Society Organization to work, in the next few months, toward a truly transformative change agenda—one that simultaneously takes a top down, bottom up and middle out approach to a genuinely participatory global decision making.