

Neva Frecheville, CAFOD – opening remarks on ‘Welcome and the way forward’

- Thank you to the distinguished participants, whether they come from the UN, member states or civil society and especially to UN NGLS and UN DESA who have done so much to support and facilitate this opportunity for dialogue
- The post-2015 agenda has been built on collaborative, constructive engagement between people across the world, from different countries, constituencies and perspectives, both within the remit of the UN and outside of it. A groundswell of support has been created through meaningful dialogue with a diverse range of voices. This is the time to hear the voices of the people.
- We have learnt from the experience of the MDGs, looking back at what worked and what didn't work. The journey so far has shown us the gains and the gaps, and we must now ask ourselves what kind of transformative agenda we want to see that will deliver meaningful positive impact on the lives of people who need it most – those experiencing poverty and marginalisation on a daily basis, and to enable us all to live in a more sustainable, equitable way
- I want to very sincerely thank Ambassador Macharia Kamau. This journey has not always been easy. CSO space has not always been automatic. Just recently, as it has happened before, the doors for civil society almost got shut. We quickly put up a letter and even before we could sign it, Amb MK swiftly moved the member states to keep the door open.
- This is the moment in which people must be seen as active agents and drivers of change, not as passive recipients of development. Continuing with a top down approach would be a fundamental mistake that impedes ownership and implementation of this new agenda
- Now as we are at the beginning of the year 2015, the year when we look to member states at the UN to deliver across three major multilateral processes, the importance of continuing that open, positive and inclusive dialogue increases
- To introduce myself, my name is Neva Frecheville and I am lead policy analyst on post-2015 at CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development for England and Wales, a member of Caritas Internationalis, and also an active member the global Beyond 2015 campaign.
- Before I introduce the panellists, I'd like to emphasise that we're here to look at the way forwards. It is important that we are not bringing the same positions as last year, focusing on the goals and targets, but responding to the new challenges and concerns of 2015. The Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals has been agreed as the main basis for the new framework. Civil society must now voice its opinion on the outstanding issues of:
 - o The political declaration that will frame this agenda
 - o The means of implementation, both financial and non-financial
 - o Working on a set of robust, concrete and universal indicators that will meaningfully assess progress across all contexts and ensure that no one is left behind
 - o The accountability mechanism that supports implementation over the next 15 years
 - o And coherence and ambition to form a positive cascade across the Financing for Development, post-2015 and UNFCCC processes which culminate this year
- There are many moving parts that we need to respond to, to ensure a global agenda that delivers on people, planet and participation.