



Post-2015 intergovernmental negotiations session

22-25 June 2015

Additional EU comments on the draft declaration

25 June 2015

Introduction (§1-9)

We broadly welcome the thrust of these introductory paragraphs. Yet we believe they could set out more clearly the purpose of the agenda, as well as its transformative, universal and integrated nature.

For example it should be clearer in §3 that the agenda aims at eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development. These are fundamentally interlinked and each is a prerequisite to achieving the other. A reference to our commitment to eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 should be added.

We welcome the emphasis put on our resolve to leave no-one behind. We also believe a reference to inequality would be well placed in §7.

World leaders could make a strong re-commitment not only to off-track MDGs but to the Millennium Declaration in its entirety.

The Declaration should be stronger in rhetorical terms: in §2 for example there can be no doubt that the targets are going to be realized. The “if” should be replaced by “when”.

Our commitment and shared principles (§10-11)

We would like to recall that we can only understand the reference to CBDR in the context of principle 7 of the Rio Declaration, which refers to common but differentiated responsibilities related to global environmental degradation. It cannot apply to the entirety of issues to be addressed in the post-2015 development agenda. In addition, the world has changed dramatically over the last decades, including the nature and magnitude of our global challenges, their cause and effects, and our respective capabilities to address them. The post-2015 development agenda needs to respond to these evolving dynamics, in light of different national circumstances. The EU and its member states are committed to addressing these evolving realities and responsibilities, and acknowledge the particular situation and concerns of the most vulnerable countries.

We reaffirm the problem with singling out CBDR amongst other Rio principles. Other principles are relevant, for example the “polluter pays” principle.

Our world today (§12-14)

We appreciate and support the general thrust of these paragraphs, and think these could be further built on.

As regards §12, it is indeed crucial to outline the challenges we face (to which population growth could be added), but we might also want to stress areas where progress has been achieved and opportunities should be seized. Climate change should also be better reflected in that paragraph.

It is also important to cite issues facing countries in all stages of development, in line with the universality of the agenda.

As for migration specifically, we have two comments: (i) we should refer to refugees and displaced persons here; (ii) migration should not only be mentioned as a challenge. Well-managed migration could also be emphasised as an opportunity and potential development enabler in another paragraph.

Our vision (§15)

On the one hand, there is some valuable language in this paragraph for some of the agreed priorities. On the other hand, we would want to see better balance and integration among the three dimensions of sustainable development, with the environmental dimension fundamentally absent –the word “sustainable” does not even feature in this vision.

We miss references to freedom and peace in this vision, as well as youth.

The vision should also address the new Global Partnership that will be needed to realise the agenda and that should transform and strengthen the way in which the international community works together. It is important to convey that our vision can only be achieved if we all contribute meaningfully.

The new agenda (§16-29)

We strongly endorse the objective of communicating the agenda in a concise and clear manner.

In §17 we need to fine-tune the language on non-discrimination by adding “age” and “and/or other status”. This is indispensable if we want to truly leave no one behind.

The language on gender equality should be strengthened in §15 and §18.

We are concerned about the way policy space is referred to in §19, as well as in §35.

We stress the importance, which could also be reinforced, of §27 and suggest it could be moved to the first section of the Declaration.

Implementation (§30-37)

In its current form we consider the section on implementation to be unbalanced, with a focus on international efforts and financial MoI, as well as unnecessarily long and descriptive.

We believe the draft shouldn't go into details on specific MoI that will be covered in the Addis outcome. Instead, this section should outline the key principles of the Global Partnership (eg. universality and shared responsibility, national ownership, appropriate commitments for all, policy coherence, multi-stakeholder approach) and note that a comprehensive set of MoI have been agreed as described in part II. The scope, if mentioned, should therefore be comprehensive, as discussed in the FfD process.

We miss a reference to multi-stakeholder approaches and partnerships.

We believe the role of national parliaments should be further highlighted (eg. ensuring national ownership, enacting legislation, adopting budgets).

Follow-up and review (§38-39)

This section should more clearly – though concisely – set out the purpose of the follow-up and review framework, and its role as an essential cornerstone of the agenda.

Clear references to the fundamental concepts of monitoring and accountability need to be added.

The importance of the active engagement of all stakeholders should be stressed.

References to accountability also need to be strengthened to reflect that all countries are working towards a shared agenda and have mutual responsibilities for achieving progress on global public goods.

We also need to underline the need to build on existing mechanisms, (including in order to avoid duplication, make best use of existing resources and limit administrative burden).

On-going work to make the UN development system more fit for purpose should also be reflected, including for instance by adding a supportive reference to the on-going ECOSOC Dialogues on the Longer Term Positioning of the UN Development System.