

CARE International's Response to Post-2015 Zero Draft **Declaration**
 Priority Issues (12 June 2015)
**Specific recommendations in italics*

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Focus on Preamble/Declaration section

Issue	Paragraph/Section	Response
CARE PRIORITY ISSUES		
Sexual, reproductive health and rights	Para 23	<p>Our position: (1) Ensure equitable access to quality sexual reproductive and maternal health services for all. (2) Improve access to family planning as a critical step in increasing women's and adolescent girls' health and autonomy.</p> <p>Zero draft recommendation: We welcome reference to universal access to SRHR. But as SRHR is about much more than "increasing life expectancy," <i>we urge including brief, but specific text that, "access to quality SRHR is integral to gender equality, poverty reduction and women's empowerment."</i></p>
Economic empowerment		<p>Our position: Economic empowerment is not only instrumental, and must include universal social protection systems that especially empower women. For example, national conditional cash transfer systems should break patterns of inequitable traditional gender roles by involving men in caring duties; and educational graduation strategies should secure women and adolescent girls equal rights to economic opportunities and access to independent financial services.</p> <p>Zero draft recommendation: We welcome the specific references to "financial inclusion" in the declaration, "financial services" in the SDGs, and the clarity of this important specification. <i>We strongly recommend reiterating that, while women's economic empowerment is a means to economic growth, it is also a matter of human rights and equality, in and of itself. More attention to unpaid care work is needed, with a reference that, "all states will take steps to develop mechanisms for valuing the unpaid work that women are already doing."</i></p>
Climate change	Para 27; 12, 13&41; 24&26	<p>Our position: (1) The post-2015 development framework must reflect the integral link between tackling climate change and sustainable development, as the first threatens the achievement of the second. A standalone goal, as well as an integrated approach to other goals/targets, is needed to give climate change the clear place it warrants in the sustainable development framework, Too little progress has been made in tackling climate change and its</p>

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impact on poverty and inequality over the past 15 years. (2) It is essential to ensure gender balance in the governance systems of climate-related decision-making processes, and to provide fair access to climate finance.

Zero draft recommendations: We welcome the reference to climate change in the declaration, Goal (13) and other relevant SDGs, and the specific link between sustainable development and the UNFCCC. *But to incorporate fully the fundamental threats that climate change pose to sustainable development, the framework must be significantly strengthened through at least the following five changes in the declaration.*

(1) Para 27 - *Incorporate clear reference to:*

- *the 2/1.5 degree goal (now is only contained in Annex 3, which has unclear future);*
- *the need to phase-out fossil fuel emissions and pursue 100% access to sustainable, renewable energy for all, no later than 2050; strengthening the role of adaptation to climate impacts and addressing loss and damage.*

(2) Para 15 – *Include briefly the vision of complete de-carbonization of our economies.*

(3) Paras 12 and 41 - *Specifically refer to the role of climate change as a severe risk to sustainable development, which is not captured by the term “environmental degradation.”*

(4) Para 13 – *Declare the commitment to cross-cutting application of climate change across relevant goals and targets in this para.*

(5) Paras 24-26 – *Enshrine the commitment to shift to **renewable** energies.*

Rationale: A Declaration without these changes would send a disappointing signal by political leaders just a few months before the Paris climate conference. It would also reflect disregard for the daily reality of (a) millions of the poor and vulnerable, for whom the impacts of climate change are unfolding rapidly and undermining their livelihoods and food/nutrition security, as well as (b) the rapid development of renewable energies -- a key energy source for multiple purposes. Gender equality is a fundamental right, and investing in

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		gender equality and women's empowerment has shown to bring wider benefits for adaptation to climate change and sustainable development.
Peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at levels	Para 28	<p>Our position: The post-2015 Declaration and framework need to address the needs – and potential – of people living in insecure contexts, with special attention to women and girls. The negative effects of conflict and natural disasters often disproportionately affect the people least able to cope with them and exacerbate inequities and pre-existing vulnerabilities. No country experiencing conflict has met a single MDG.</p> <p>Zero draft recommendations: We welcome SDG 16 on “peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at levels.” <i>The Declaration should reflect this by committing to the following:</i></p> <p><i>Para 28 -- “Support the crucial role of women in conflict prevention, crises and peace-building processes, and promote the equal participation of women in decision-making processes, including peace processes.”</i></p>
Gender Equality and Women's empowerment	Throughout and Para 18	<p>Our position: A standalone goal and cross-cutting integration is needed because too little progress has been made in tackling gender inequality over the past 15 years. Gender equality matters both because it is a fundamental right and because it has been proven that investing in women brings wider, transformative benefits across the spectrum of economic and sustainable development</p> <p>Zero draft recommendations: We strongly welcome the Declaration's clarity in asserting gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment (GE/WE) as a critical standalone goal a cross-cutting issue for all other goals. <i>It is a major step forward, and crucial to retain in the Declaration.</i> This reflects the efforts of thousands of women across the globe --together with visionary member states -- to ensure GE/WE in this historic framework.</p>
Governance and accountability		<p>Our position: For sustainable development to be achieved, civil society must be robust, able to hold their government to account and to contribute to national debates on social outcomes from economic gains. Poor and marginalized people, in particular, must be able to monitor the ways in which public finances are spent, and to hold both public and private actors fully</p>

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accountable for: implementing development goals, delivering services, and for meeting their obligations to protect human rights and the environment.

Zero draft recommendations: *We welcome reference to “shared accountability” of all actors, but the text must clarify how private actors will be held accountable by regional or international bodies. This section should call more explicitly for full respect for the human rights of all people and the elimination of discrimination and violence, in order to ensure the spirit of “no-one left behind.”*

At the global level, the post-2015 system for follow-up and review must include:

(1) Universal accountability framework to which member states will commit, rather than a voluntary framework that disproportionately emphasizes monitoring and knowledge-sharing, but does not ensure accountability.

(2) A strong, multi-tiered accountability system that enables broad participation and shared, collaborative problem-solving to enable achievement of each SDG. This system should mirror and strengthen existing participatory monitoring mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels.

(3) Clearly-defined mechanisms for holding states to account for meeting their commitments. The global thematic review and knowledge-sharing proposals are crucial for problem-solving and exchanging best practices, but they need specific mechanisms to ensure full implementation.

At the national and local levels, the post-2015 SDG accountability system must include:

(1) Clearly-defined, systematic processes for monitoring states' progress and following up with those who fall short of their commitments.

(2) Valuable **qualitative** data from citizens and officials through participatory accountability, as well as **quantitative** progress-benchmarks.

(3) Systematic mechanisms to ensure meaningful feedback from women, men, girls and boys.

(4) Clearer, more detailed reference to justice systems that would provide redress to persons who experience rights violations. While it is essential to integrate existing accountability mechanisms, including human rights treaty-body reviews, into any new accountability framework, it is not sufficient.

(5) Transformation of “Existing institutions and structures” to include meaningful participation, especially of women, youth and socially marginalized groups and include specific measures to ensure the active role and participation of women, youth and civil society.

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GENERAL ISSUES IN THE ZERO DRAFT *DECLARATION* OF CONCERN TO CARE INTERNATIONAL:

Structure of draft	9 points in Preamble, followed by the OWG targets and indicators	<i>We welcome the significant, positive features in the structure and overview of the Zero Draft Declaration, notably (1) the revised, 9-point action areas aimed at summarizing the SDG framework and (2) the bold, ambitious language and clear vision articulated to rally citizens and officials to action. However, the crucial theme of sustainable energy is missing, for example, and we recommend:</i> <i>(1) Further revision to incorporate the full scope of the SDGs and</i> <i>(2) A commitment by member states to take steps to identify potential mechanisms of accountability, resource-mobilization, implementation and monitoring remain to be seen. (Perhaps will be clearer after FFD outcome.)</i>
No-one left behind	Throughout and Para 21	We welcome the clear commitment to leaving no one behind , but believe that the Declaration should call for specific measures to ensure its achievement – starting with disaggregation of all data collected by age, sex and additional indicators to identify vulnerable/marginalized groups in each society, and implement SDGs accordingly. To elevate this point to a clarion call for post-2015 , we have advocated for ensuring that all vulnerable/marginalized groups are made visible to the greatest extent possible, listing members of the following: adolescent girls, indigenous peoples and local communities, afro-descendants, rural women, urban poor, slum dwellers, survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking, persons living with HIV or AIDS and persons living with disabilities, migrants, domestic workers and others working in informal sectors such as sex workers, those in high-risk occupations, people experiencing discrimination on the basis of their sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, older persons living in poverty or neglect, and the displaced and refugees, especially women and children, and all those living in conflict-affected, humanitarian and environmentally-fragile settings.

For further information or questions, please contact:

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