



PEOPLE’S VOICES – ISSUE BRIEF to the SDG OPEN WORKING GROUP...

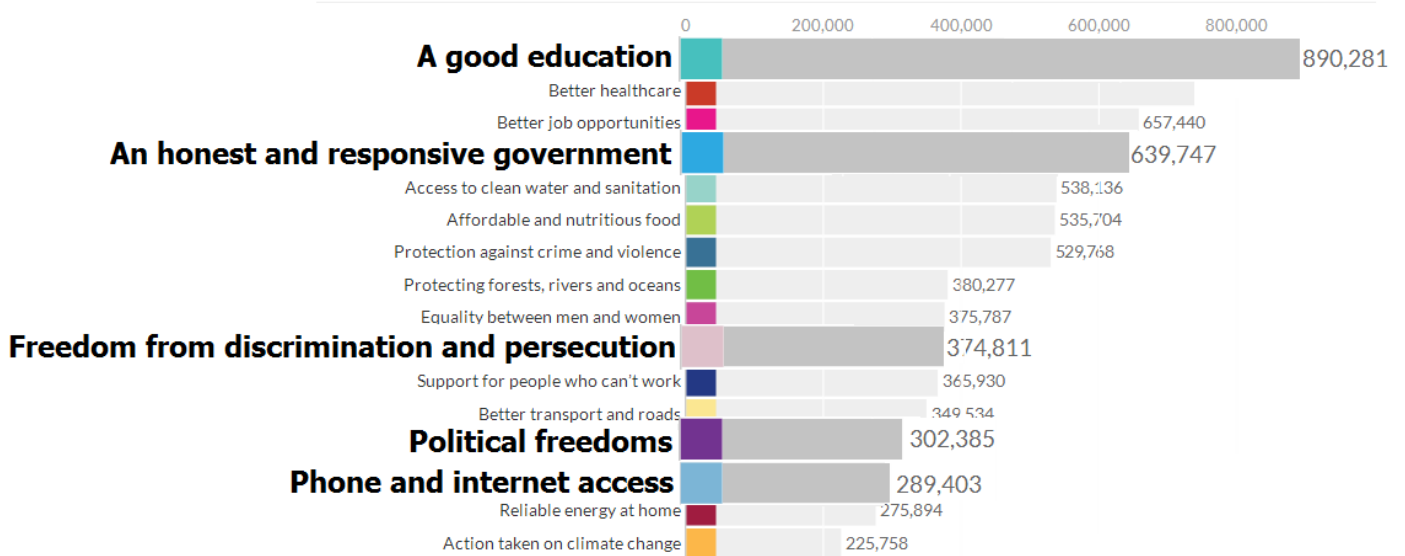
... to convey the views of experts of all walks of life that contributed to the Global Post-2015 Conversation so far via national, regional, thematic consultations and the MY World survey¹

6th session (9-13 December 2013): means of implementation (science & technology, knowledge-sharing & capacity building); global partnership for achieving sustainable development; needs of countries in special situations (African countries, LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS, MICs); human rights; global governance

People in the UNDG Post-2015 consultations emphasise the need for a universal agenda that applies to everyone in all countries because our world is linked inextricably through the global economy, a shared ecosystem and our ability to instantly share ideas. Better governance, of markets and of the environment, underpins many of their calls. They demand that this new agenda be built on human rights, and universal values of equality, justice and security. There is also a strong call to retain the focus on concrete goals, yet improve dramatically the way we measure progress against them. This requires a ‘data revolution’ paired with a participatory framework for monitoring to ensure accountability during implementation.

MY World total votes as of 25 November 2013

1,266,005 votes for All Countries & Country Groups / All Genders / All Education Levels / Age Group (All Age Groups)



Participants in the global conversation focus on development outcomes – expressing their needs and describing how these were being met. But they also underline the importance of **credible means to implement the future agenda so that development truly benefits the people.**

¹ The UNDG comprises 32 UN funds, programmes, agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development. For over a year, it has been facilitating a global conversation to help realise the Secretary-General’s vision that the discussions on the future development agenda be open and inclusive. This initiative aims to provide a space for people’s voices, with a particular view to reaching out to poor and marginalised people. So far, the process has involved over 1.6 million people in 88 national dialogues, 11 thematic consultations, regional discussion fora, via a web platform (www.worldwewant2015.org) and global survey (www.myworld2015.org).

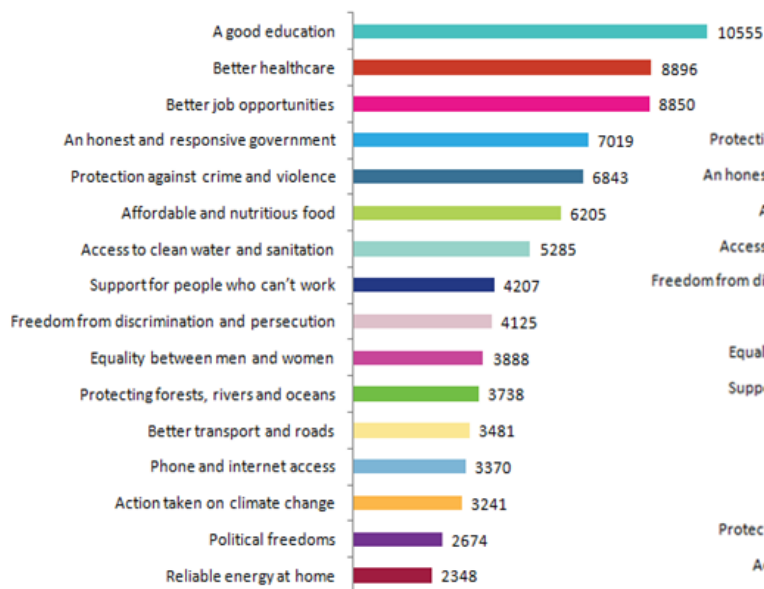
Comparative Analysis:

The World	MICs	LDCs
1 A good education	1 A good education	1 A good education
2 Better healthcare	2 Better healthcare	2 Better job opportunities
3 Better job opportunities	3 Better job opportunities	3 Better healthcare
4 An honest and responsive government	4 An honest and responsive government	4 Protection against crime and violence
5 Access to clean water and sanitation	5 Protection against crime and violence	5 Affordable and nutritious food
6 Affordable and nutritious food	6 Affordable and nutritious food	6 An honest and responsive government
7 Protection against crime and violence	7 Access to clean water and sanitation	7 Access to clean water and sanitation
8 Protecting forests, rivers and oceans	8 Better transport and roads	8 Freedom from discrimination and persecution
9 Equality between men and women	9 Support for people who can't work	9 Phone and internet access
10 Freedom from discrimination and persecution	10 Protecting forests, rivers and oceans	10 Equality between men and women

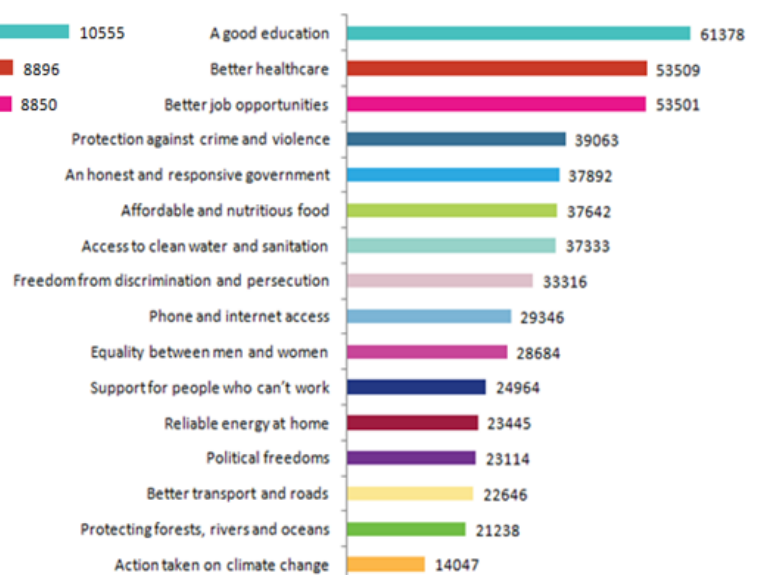
In the MY World survey, people around the globe identify the same top seven priorities that relate to satisfying basic needs and providing an enabling environment to do so.

Votes from people in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC) reflect this general trend. Beyond that, compared to the global average, voters from SIDS place a slightly greater emphasis on 'action taken on climate change' and respondents from LLDCs assign a greater importance to 'phone and internet access'.

SIDS Priorities



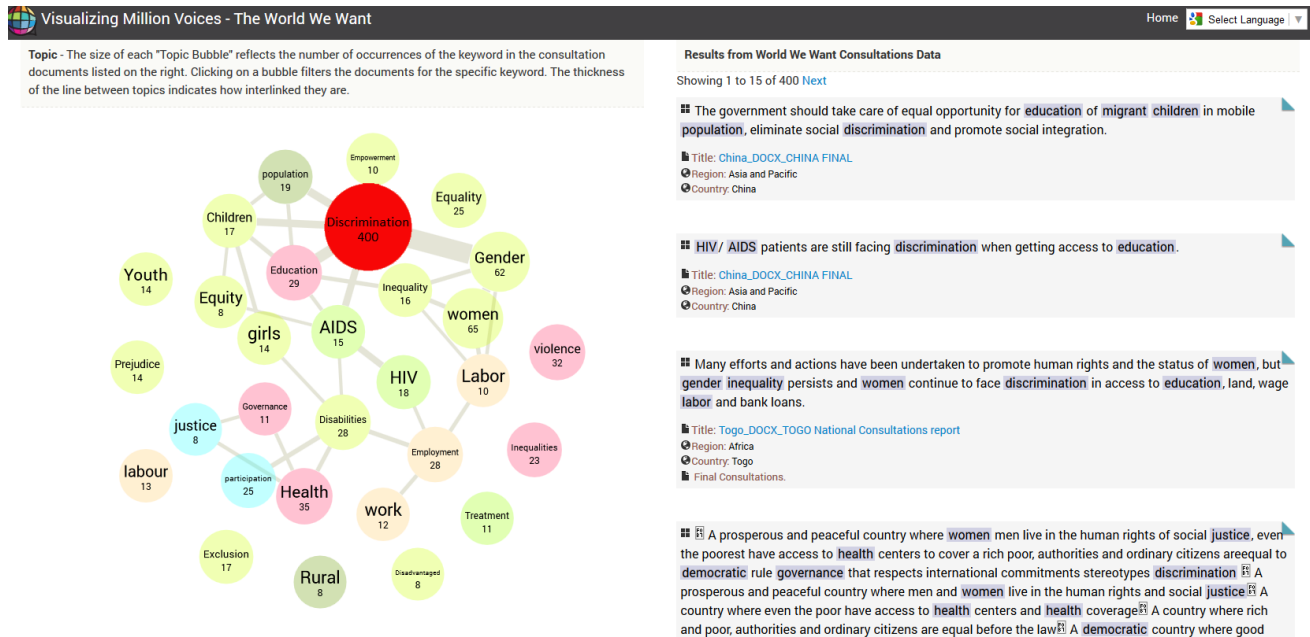
LLDC Priorities



The consultations in **Sub-Saharan Africa** are marked by a perceptible confidence and a readiness to explore different ways of tackling development challenges. This optimism is coupled with a strong emphasis on the need for economic structural transformation to achieve more inclusive growth. The region’s relatively large young population is seen as a formidable resource that could spur further progress. Despite the optimism, the consultations highlight the considerable challenges that still lie ahead. Here, the consultations highlight intraregional differences. For most low-income countries, meeting basic human needs and poverty reduction are central themes, while addressing inequalities, migration issues, environmental sustainability and the promotion of good governance resonate more with lower middle-income and middle-income countries. Similarly, good governance, peace, security, human rights and the rule of law, environmental sustainability and addressing inequalities are highlighted more by countries that are rich in mineral resources. Infrastructure development and regional integration is a recurring theme in all countries but is strongly emphasised by participants in landlocked countries.

Across all regions and thematic debates, the consultations contain many calls for more attention to be paid to **universal human rights** as a systematic guiding principle. Many people clearly perceive inequalities as a breach of these rights. This is expressed in the way that people articulate their frustration with the various forms of discrimination and exclusion that they experience. It is frequently associated with calls to be treated with dignity and respect. Therefore, participants in the global conversation argue that goals should not just be for some people, or not just for some people in some countries: they should be for everybody. Awareness of the link between the environment and human rights has also grown, in particular the rights of this and future generations to natural resources and a healthy environment.

“To be able to achieve a better future for young Afro-Ecuadorians, it is necessary to begin a process of social inclusion and respect the rights of the Afro-Ecuadorian people.”
 – Young Afro-descendant, National Consultation, Esmeraldas , Ecuador”



Keyword Analysis (above): People emphasise discrimination towards women, children and people living with HIV/AIDS and related inequalities of access to education (the thicker the connecting line, the more often the link was mentioned)

Moreover, the consultations indicate forcefully that today's global challenges cannot be approached in silos: progress in all of them is required at the same time. There is a need for a **holistic approach that takes into account the issue of sustainability in all its dimensions** – economic, social and environmental.

Tackling the key development challenges — and their universal nature — cannot be reduced to rich countries providing aid to developing countries to eliminate extreme poverty. Participants in the global conversation argue that each country needs to take on commitments and responsibilities to overcome sustainability challenges. These objectives require supportive **global institutions and international policy coherence**

While recognising the continued importance of official development assistance (ODA), especially for countries in special situations, participants

call for diversifying sources of development **finance**, enhancing domestic resource mobilisation, tackling tax evasion and avoidance, and introducing international taxation measures. They underscore the need to manage the international financial system to limit volatilities (especially for vulnerable economies and people), excessive risk-taking and inequalities in pay and rewards. People identify the need for long-term predictable and sustainable financing in order to build the necessary infrastructure to deliver essential services such as water and sanitation or energy.

Concerns are expressed about the impact of international **trade** agreements on traditional industries and local livelihoods. There is a widespread perception that small-scale producers and rural farmers in low and middle-income countries are particularly affected by trade liberalisation. There are also concerns raised over the rise of protectionist measures introduced since the onset of the global economic crisis. Calls are made for a conclusion of the Doha Development Round so that developing countries can be granted market access, providing an enabling environment for countries to build their productive capacities.

"I want to see a world beyond 2015 where technology is used more and more as a means of achieving development goals."

- National consultation, Zambia

Technology transfer and knowledge sharing are identified as major drivers of growth and innovation. Education is seen as a powerful tool to drive the changes necessary for sustainable development. It can contribute to making individuals and communities not only responsive to and prepared for challenges, but also a truly proactive force in triggering market and political pressures to move the

agenda forward by empowering everyone to make informed decisions as citizens, workers and consumers. Discussants point out the role of rich countries in taking the lead in transforming to more sustainable consumption and production patterns, and showing how knowledge and technology can be harnessed to this effect. Participants in some of the lower middle-income countries, for example in Asia, note that while the initial economic gains have lifted their economies out of the low-wage/low-skills end of global production chains, their lack of a highly skilled workforce and their limited investments in research, science and technology are preventing these economies from competing with the high-skills and high-innovation

"The separation into stand-alone targets on poverty, hunger, nutrition, health, water and education — which reflects the work of the different UN agencies — by and large has contributed to fragmented implementation of the [MDGs], and has discouraged coordinated, multisectoral approaches needed to deliver greater and more sustainable improvements... The use of a high-level integrated framework illustrating the roles of different sectors can facilitate coordinated, multisectoral actions — all of which are necessary, but none alone are sufficient to achieve food security and nutrition goals."

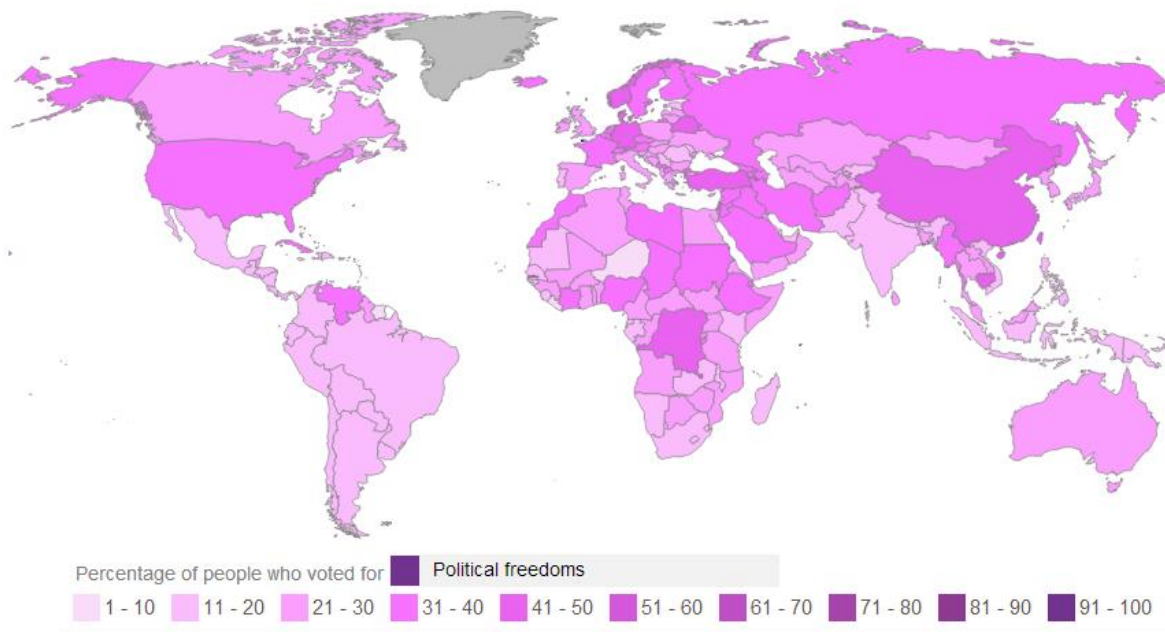
- Participants in thematic consultation on hunger, food security and nutrition

products of advanced economies. The popular perception is that the current global trade and finance architecture is structured such that these countries will be unable to break free from this trap.

People also identify **South–South solutions** as a way to take forward the post-2015 development agenda. Consultations in Asian and Africa demonstrate enthusiasm for increased cooperation in the areas of food security, technology transfer, inclusive finance, transport and communications networks, and reliable energy sources. In several Arab States, participants also express an interest to strengthen South–South solutions within the region to improve prospects for job creation and investments.

The need for **multi-stakeholder partnerships** to effectively deliver sustainable development results is highlighted by many discussants. There are calls for strengthened institutions and capacities across all levels of governance to provide an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder engagement, including incentives for collective action, integrated approaches and providing access to information. Successful collaboration already manifests itself in different sectors, such as delivering antiretroviral drugs at affordable prices in developing countries. There are many calls to scale-up such initiatives and to apply them to other areas, such as water and energy. The role of a vibrant private sector with a stake in contributing to national and local sustainable development is seen as pivotal. The consultations emphasise that this requires a legal and fiscal framework that is conducive to investment. They also underscore that businesses need to be accountable to the public, especially for the management of public goods and services. Social and environmental standards should be set and enforced at national and global levels.

Participants in the global conversation argue that **empowerment** of individuals and civil society in governance systems is necessary to tackle inequality and promote social inclusion. In seeking to foster active and meaningful participation from the ground up, the post-2015 agenda should ensure that civil society participation is facilitated via a rights-driven framework, which protects and promotes freedom of information, expression, movement, association and assembly.



Heat Map (above): This is where MY World voters prioritise 'Political freedoms' around the globe (the darker the colour, the higher the proportion of votes for this specific issue)

The imperative for better and enhanced **data and monitoring** is repeatedly raised throughout the global conversation. Statistical systems in some countries have not been strong enough to track progress in a timely or comparable way. Some countries, in particular middle-income countries, have not found the MDG framework useful in tackling social exclusion among groups consistently left out of progress. The use of averages and aggregates as the main measures for tracking progress on most of the MDG indicators serves to mask a series of major, persistent and sometimes widening inequalities among different population groups and between urban and rural areas. The call for a “data revolution” requires a disaggregation by age, gender, region, rural/urban population or relevant local community, in order to make sure that no one is left behind from the benefits of development.

“Require government reports that are transparent and accessible to the public. Conduct public opinion polls; consultative meetings of associations on various economic and social issues.”
- Recommendations of focus group participants, national consultation, Iraq

The call for enhanced data is also expressed as a way to create **new forms of accountability** that should be an integral part of the future development framework. The use of information and communication technology, including social media, is highlighted as one way to achieve this greater monitoring of development progress. The consultations have opened doors for continued participation – not just in this process to determine the world’s priorities, but also to hold governments, business, international organisations and civil society to account for achieving them. Greater commitment, stronger action, enhanced resources and better partnerships will be required to deliver the ‘world we want’.



**A MILLION VOICES:
THE WORLD WE WANT**

A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE WITH DIGNITY FOR ALL

Explore perspectives from people around the globe on the future development agenda: #amillionvoices #post2015

<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/millionvoices>