

One Human Family, Caring for Creation: acting together to deliver a sustainable future
Caritas Internationalis response to 'Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development'

Caritas Internationalis welcomes the release of the **draft outcome document for the post-2015 agenda on July 27, 2015**, which establishes a level of ambition that all Member States will need to embrace in order to transform **our common home** for the better. It embraces the **dignity of the human person** and effective **participation by all** as key elements in the fight against poverty, and reaffirms the **indivisible and integrated** nature of the goals. The ambitions set in this document cannot falter at implementation; much more must be done beyond September.

Preamble

We support the expansion of the preamble preface to include a description of what the goals seek to achieve, the **'Eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions and ending hunger'**. We also welcome the link to **the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals** and the commitment to action over the next fifteen years.

- Under **People**, the **elderly** should be included
- We welcome the inclusion of reference to sustainable consumption and production under **Prosperity**
- We propose including the qualifiers **genuine and lasting** to **Partnership** (as in paragraph 7)

Introduction

We welcome the declaration which has increased in strength and impact but propose areas that could be strengthened as follows:

- Paragraph 4: the emphasis on leaving no one behind throughout the document is strong but must be reinforced by a tangible commitment that will translate into meaningful change. We propose: **As we embark on this great collective journey, we pledge that nobody will be left behind. Recognizing the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we affirm that no goal or target can be considered met unless met for all economic and social groups** ~~wish to see the goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all economic and social groupings. And we will endeavour to reach the furthest behind first.~~
- Paragraph 8: qualify sustainable energy with **renewable**. This should be applied also to all other reference to energy throughout the document
- Paragraph 14: Qualify the new approach as a **sustainable development approach**

The New Agenda

- Paragraph 25: we support the commitment to end hunger and malnutrition and to achieve food security and to support small farmers
- Paragraph 28: we suggest deletion of **'We will build strong economic foundations for all our countries'** as it dilutes the following definition of **prosperity** which calls for a more equitable and inclusive world where wealth is shared and income inequality addressed

- Paragraph 31: we welcome the inclusion of reference to global average temperature increases of below **2 degrees or 1.5 degrees Celsius** in the fight against climate change. We support the inclusion of the text marked for further consideration
- Paragraph 38: we propose the final sentence should read: ***'We acknowledge the role of the diverse private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to the cooperatives to multinationals, and that of civil society organizations and philanthropic organizations in the implementation of the new Agenda and the need to ensure accountability of their actions.'***
- Paragraph 40: we propose addition of a sentence which reads ***'We commit to ensuring that this linkage is supported by concrete commitments to finance the SDGs and address the systemic issues.'***
- Paragraph 44: Caritas Internationalis welcomes the importance given to the **family as contributors to development** and we add that **faith-based institutions** are key enablers in facilitating families to undertake this role effectively.

Means of implementation

- Paragraph 64: We recommend removal of ***'We decide that'*** so that the sentence begins: ***'[T]he Technology Facilitation Mechanism will be based on a multi-stakeholder collaboration...'***

Follow up and review

We strongly support **country-owned follow-up and review processes** and support the commitment to a participatory follow-up and review where all people at all levels are included. We particularly commend **principles d and e**, as they are most important in outlining how people will be able to play a role in the implementation, follow up and review of this Agenda, especially the poorest, most vulnerable and marginalized people.

- Paragraph 70 (h): we welcome the recognition of capacity building support for countries but we continue to stress the need to build data literacy so as to enhance the capacity of communities to effectively participate in the follow up and review.
- An additional item for inclusion would be ensuring that all Member States make efforts to educate and popularise the agenda in addition to ensuring that people are informed of all available channels on how to participate.
- Para 74; we propose adding ***'We encourage all member states to develop as soon as possible ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of this Agenda, including quantified baselines and benchmarks for progress. These can support the transition to the SDGs and build on existing planning instruments, such as national development and sustainable development strategies, as appropriate. People, and the civil society organizations which represent them, should be included in this process.'***
- Paragraph 75: we propose making the language more specific, committing to a standardized timeframe as was the case with the MDGs: ***'We also encourage member states to conduct regular reviews of progress at least every four years at the national and sub-national levels which are country-owned and country driven. Such reviews should draw on contributions from civil society, the private sector and other actors, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes.'***