

Position Statement on Post-2015 Development Agenda

Institute for Economics and Peace & Club de Madrid

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The Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) and Club de Madrid welcome the High Level Panel Report released in May 2013 and the Secretary General (SG) Report to the General Assembly.¹ The results of extensive consultation internationally via hundreds of thematic meetings with experts, civil society and over 1.2 million people through the MyWorld surveys has underlined the global desire for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda.

Peace and Inclusive Shared Societies are two clear universal themes relevant to all countries and contexts, in order for this development agenda to meet the expectations of the five transformational shifts called for in the High Level Panel Report: leave no one behind; put sustainable development at the core; transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth, build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all; forge a new global partnership. These two themes are core to any framework and implicitly identified in the current draft goals in the High-Level Panel Report.

¹ *A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.*

The Institute for Economics and Peace and the Club de Madrid believe:

1. *Peace and Inclusive Shared Societies are intertwined and universal concepts that must be explicitly identified as central and integral to the post-2015 agenda.*

- Peace in both its negative and positive forms needs to be included in the post-2015 development agenda. Negative peace or the absence of violence and conflict is critically important as violence destroys hard-earned development gains and impedes institutional, economic and social development. Positive peace looks at the formal and informal institutions and attitudes that help move a society away from violence and sustain peace in the long term.
- Inclusive Shared Societies or social cohesion is a cross-cutting issue in the post-2015 agenda that aims to address inequalities within societies in order to ensure participation from excluded groups. The World Bank noted that, 'even within countries, development investments produced unequal benefits.'²
- It is important that the new development agenda be bold and ambitious with the aim of shifting the focus from the negative (what we don't want) to the positive (what we want).
- By shifting the focus to the positive, it will be possible to better track, understand and direct resources towards the drivers of peace and inclusion for positive long term social development.
- This acknowledges the fact that positive processes can operate separately and independently from negative processes. What is needed to stop violence and reduce social exclusion can be very different from what is needed to create lasting peace and build shared, resilient societies.
- Peace and Inclusive Shared Societies are intimately intertwined with the concept of resilience. As external environmental, geopolitical, and economic risks increase, the importance of resilience will also increase. The post-2015 development agenda should pre-empt this by including goals that will lead to the development of data that will inform the vulnerability of nations to external and internal shocks.

2. *Improved data collection and metrics are essential to better understand progress in building Peace and Shared Societies.*

- There is a lack of data to adequately measure Peace and Social Cohesion. Data gaps are especially acute in low-income contexts, although they do extend to higher income countries as well.
- Data generation needs are critical at the sub-national level in order to capture vertical and horizontal group based inequalities.
- The process of gathering peace and shared societies-related data should be seen as part of a wider program to build national statistical capacity.
- Encourage the development of datasets, other than through government and in addition to national statistical offices to help fill data gaps and to create verification and accountability.
- Define a set of clear baseline metrics and how they should be measured so that there is uniformity of data that is comparable across countries. Make sure all data collected is disaggregated. This would be needed both at the national and sub-national levels.
- Start testing data collection in some areas to determine the practical steps needed to obtain accurate measures.

The annexed supportive paper further elucidates the underlying thinking behind this statement and gives a more in depth explanation of the perspectives of the Club de Madrid and the Institute for Economics and Peace on the relationship between Peace and Shared Societies and the importance of including these concepts in the post-2015 agenda.

²"Inclusion Matters: The Foundation for Shared Prosperity" World Bank, 2013.