



UN Country Team in Jordan



## POST-2015 CONCEPT NOTE

### Dialogues on Partnerships with Civil Society

#### Overview

The post-2015 Development Agenda is the first major intergovernmental policy process in the UN informed by a comprehensive global consultation, reaching large numbers of poor and vulnerable people as well as policymakers, academics, experts, business people and interested citizens. The United Nations Development Group (UNDG) has guided this unprecedented effort, which has already influenced key reports such as that of the SG's High Level Panel, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, and the Secretary General's recent report on the MDGs and the post-2015 agenda: A Life of Dignity for All<sup>1</sup>. Several countries and organizations have indicated that the consultations have contributed to shaping their positions on the agenda.

Throughout the process, valuable insights as to what the most critical development issues are around the world were elicited, and consistent messages about people wanting to continue their involvement in shaping the agenda and in implementing it were recorded.

Supporting an inclusive dialogue on post-2015 is a mandate that has been given to the UN by member states. While the first phase of consultations focused on the issues and areas that should be included in a post-2015 development agenda, the **means of implementation to achieve these priorities** are becoming increasingly central to the debate going forward.

As part of the UNDG project "Continuing inclusive dialogue on the post-2015 development agenda," the element on "**partnerships with civil society**"<sup>2</sup> will build upon the diverse civil society engagement in previous UN-led consultations, with a focus on issues related to means of implementation<sup>3</sup> for the post-2015 development agenda. This conjuncture offers a timely opportunity to transition from "consultation" to "political partnerships for implementation" between States and civil society, with the aim of demonstrating concrete policy results.

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/A%20Life%20of%20Dignity%20for%20All.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> In addition to "partnerships with civil society" global consultations also include the following five other themes: Localizing the post-2015 development agenda; Helping to strengthen capacities and institutions; Participatory monitoring, existing and new forms of accountability; Partnerships with the private sector; Culture and development. 5-7 countries per theme have been identified to carry out consultations, based on demand through the RC system and with support of the co-leading agencies and the One Secretariat.

<sup>3</sup>As described in a UN Technical Support Team issues brief for the sixth session of the OWG on SDGs, "The notion of 'Means of implementation' describes the interdependent mix of financial resources, technology development and transfer, capacity-building, inclusive and equitable globalization and trade, regional integration, as well as the creation of a national enabling environment required to implement the new sustainable development agenda, particularly in developing countries."

The “partnerships with civil society” process will be co-led globally by the UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS), UN Millennium Campaign (UNMC), the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), and the UN Volunteers (UNV) programme.

### Dialogues on Partnerships with Civil Society in Jordan

Jordan was one of ten countries in the Arab region selected by the Regional UNDG (R/UNDG) in 2012 to participate in the post-2015 national consultations. Between October 2012 and May 2013 40 events were completed and the final national consultations report ‘Messages for the future we want’<sup>4</sup>, was launched on UN Day 2013. As a follow up to the consultations, the “Mark a Difference” campaign to promote the “My World” survey was launched in Jordan in May 2013 and collected so far more than 40,000 votes.

In 2014 the UNCT in Jordan has been selected as one of seven countries to run the second round of post-2015 national consultations under the theme “**Partnership with civil society and other actors**”, along Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lesotho, Saint Lucia and Tunisia.

The process of negotiating “political partnerships” between the actors involved, including finding common purpose, building trust, and fostering constructive working relationships, will be a key aspect of this exercise and form a component of its results. The UNCT has decided to also make concerted efforts to look at aspects concerning **engagement of the Private Sector**, as and where relevant.

Jordan has a vibrant civil society which was extensively involved during the first phase of consultations. Relevant NGOs, Civil Society and Community Based Organizations (CBOs), women's and social movements, youth and children, persons living with disabilities, vulnerable people and minorities have been part of this dialogue.

Civil society in Jordan manifested a strong desire during the first phase of consultations to have a stronger voice and an active role in shaping the future development agenda. It is therefore imperative to drill deeper into the issues emerged during the consultations and create opportunities for the civil society to engage on the implementation of the future agenda.

Moreover, the increasingly dynamism of private companies can lead to beneficial cross sector partnerships, thereby contributing to achieve mid and long-term development goals.

### Objectives

- Enable civil society to contribute substantively to shaping key policies related to the implementation for the post-2015 development agenda by sponsoring open dialogues with the

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<sup>4</sup> The full report can be found [here](#);

national government and key actors/stakeholders. Space needs to be found especially for those traditionally excluded from national policy processes.

- Enhance civil society influence in shaping Government of Jordan's positions in the post-2015 intergovernmental process;
- Assess and strengthen mechanisms to monitor the implementation of State-civil society partnerships, promote transparency, accountability and dialogue throughout the post-2015 development agenda.
- Support strategic alliances among civil society networks to strengthen constituencies and amplify action on the implementation, monitoring and accountability of the future agenda.
- Provide momentum around the priorities that emerged in the first phase of consultations<sup>5</sup>.

## Approach

The UNCT will facilitate the consultations through different activities to encourage the participations of different segments of the population and enhance people's ownership of the process.

The dialogue will build upon the main recommendations that emerged during the first phase of consultations and it will be aligned with the global post-2015 conversations with civil society<sup>6</sup>.

Under the guidance of the Office of the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, **UN Agencies** will lead the respective consultations within their mandated areas through their ongoing programming, and aim to further expand their network and reach out to new partner and target groups.

The **National Consultations Group** will develop nationally-tailored questions to ensure that discussions will lead to practical and meaningful recommendations for the implementation of the future agenda at national and local level. In order to have a common framework to analyse the findings stemming from the different national, regional and global consultations, questions will build upon those provided by the co-leading entities of the process<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>5</sup> These mainly include: a. "[Messages for the Future We Want](#)" b. "[A Million Voices: The World We Want](#)" c. "[A Life of Dignity for All](#)" c. "[Outcome document of the UNGA special event on MDGs and post-2015 agenda](#)"

<sup>6</sup> These include the UNDG-led Global Conversation, UN-NGLS Regional Civil Society Consultations, consultations organized by the High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Global Compact, UNMC Regional Parliamentary Processes, MY World, World We Want 2015, and UN DESA Major Groups and other stakeholders contributions to the post-Rio+20 processes.

<sup>7</sup> a) What policy initiatives related to means of implementation for the post-2015 agenda would you be interested in advancing through a political partnership between States and civil society? How have these key focus areas been chosen? b) What mechanisms will enable civil society to co-construct the policy design and implementation in a political partnership with States? What process and technical assistance would be necessary to support the realization of these partnerships? c) How would meaningful political partnerships be assessed? What criteria will be constructed to monitor and evaluate these partnerships?

The UNCT will also seek cooperation with **local NGOs** (e.g. Jordan Hashemite Charity Organization, Islamic Relief, SIGI) and draw on their expertise and work, mainly to map and engage civil society groups in Jordan.

The national consultations will provide inputs into the Secretary-General's report tentatively scheduled for November, and other regional and global discussions.

#### **Coordination structure:**

**The National Consultations Group (NCG)**, represented by UN agencies' post-2015 focal points, and co-chaired by 2 UN agencies, will meet regularly and coordinate the rollout of the consultations (TOR of the NCG is attached). The Resident Coordinator's (RC-O) office will cover the secretariat functions of the NCG.

**A national post-2015 facilitator** will support the national consultations process by leveraging engagement of civil society and other stakeholders and by assisting UN Agencies in carrying out their post-2015 related activities.

Efforts will be made to ensure regular exchange with Her Majesty Queen Rania's office related to HM's assignment as a Member of the Post-2015 High Level Panel of Eminent Persons. Members of the Royal family, the Secretary-General Envoy on Youth and other key personalities will be also involved in this dialogue.

#### **Activities will include:**

- Desk review of key post-2015 national and international documents, to align the second phase of consultations with issues, priorities and opportunities emerged so far (*by facilitator, with inputs from NCG and RC-O*);
- Mapping exercises to identify all relevant national stakeholders to be involved in the consultations. This will include civil society networks, government counterparts, the private sector, women movements, youth groups and others (*by facilitator, with inputs from NCG and local NGOs*);
- At government level, dedicated sessions with the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC), Line Ministries and national institutions to discuss preliminary and final outcomes of the consultations (*by mandated UN agencies, with support of the facilitator*);
- Forum discussions in Northern, Central and Southern Jordan with civil society to assess existing partnerships with the Government and to contribute with inputs at central and governorate level (*by mandated UN agencies, with the support of the facilitator*);

- Knowledge sharing workshops for civil society organizations and other stakeholders to exchange views and experience on implementation at community level and discuss potential collaborations (*by mandated UN agencies, with the support of the facilitator*);
- Dedicated sessions between the civil society and the private sector to discuss challenges and opportunities for partnerships (*by mandated UN agencies, with the support of the facilitator*);
- Interviews with local experts to capture in-depth views and complement findings with more articulated perspectives (*by facilitator and UNCG member*);
- Social media, virtual portals and e-consultations to reach the wide population, in particular women and youth (*by UNCG members and RC-O*).

Parallel to these activities, the UNCT will also widely promote the **“Mark A Difference” campaign** and disseminate the MY World survey. Online and offline activities will include, amongst other, a media and social media strategy, the consolidation of the network of the *“Mark A Difference”* volunteers and the organization of the MY World Podium tour in Jordan.

#### Outputs

- Interim and final reports outlining the main findings of the consultations, with clear recommendations and suggestions on the implementation of the future agenda at national level. This will be presented and discussed with the government as well as other relevant stakeholder (e.g. private sector and national institutions). The report will also feed into the global thematic report as well as into other global discussions.
- Production of thematic “think pieces” to contribute to the ongoing and future activities of all stakeholders involved in the process.
- Audiovisual products to inform the public on the outcomes of the consultations.
- The whole process will be also showcased through existing platforms such as the WorldWeWant<sup>8</sup>, Voices from Eurasia<sup>9</sup> and UNDG newsletters;

#### Synergies with other processes

At the national level, this process will benefit from and complement other processes such as:

- The National Resilience Plan (2014-2016);
- The United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2013-2017);
- Jordan National Agenda (2006-2015)
- The Beijing +20 National Consultations;

<sup>8</sup><http://www.worldwewant2015.org/>

<sup>9</sup><http://europeandcis.undp.org/blog/>

## Visibility and Communication Strategy

A dedicated and comprehensive outreach strategy will be designed by the RC-O, with the support of the UNCG to establish a constant dialogue with the general public, while reinforcing the participatory communication style of civil society networks. The combination of different outreach efforts and methods (traditional media, social media and meet/tweet-ups) will not only increase the visibility of the process, but also encourage and enhance partners' contributions at the national and local level. The communication strategy will be strongly linked to the advocacy campaign for the MY World survey.

## Guiding Principles

- The process is inclusive. It addresses gender issues, equally engages men and women, and it integrates views of persons living with disabilities;
- Youth participation is encouraged throughout the process;
- Efforts are made to reach out to those whose voices have not been heard, particularly focusing on disadvantaged and remote areas of the country;

## Funding

Total required (USD)	UNDG MDG Taskforce funding (USD)	Unfunded (USD)*
54,000	34,250	19,750

The UNDG MDG Taskforce will support the consultations with \$ 34,250. Since additional resources are required beyond the available seed funds, UN agencies are encouraged to allocate financial resources to contribute to the process. UN agencies will also make in kind contributions, including staff time, use of premises and facilities, etc.

## Timeline

The process encompasses the following milestone phases and steps:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Timeline</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
Desk-review, mapping of stakeholders and planning process	1 month (April)	Post-2015 facilitator with support of the National Consultations Group (NCG), and local NGOs
Thematic discussions, consultations, and dedicated activities	3 months (May-end/July)	Mandated UN agencies with support of post-2015 facilitator
Summary of key outcomes and recommendations	1 month (early/August)	Post-2015 facilitator with inputs from NCG
Compilation of outcomes and preparation of final report	August-September	Post-2015 facilitator with inputs from NCG
Dissemination and presentation of the report to the government, partners, donors, and national stakeholders.	Until 2015 (October – December)	Mandated UN Agencies, with support from NCG
Preparation of progress reports and newsletters	Monthly	Post-2015 facilitator and UNCG members
Communication and advocacy strategy	Continuous	UNCG members and RC-O