Asia Development Alliance (ADA)

ADA Statement on the UN HLP
Report on Post 2015 Development Agenda

12 June 2013

1. We, members and partners of the Asia Development Alliance (ADA) composed of national and sub-national development CSO/NGO platforms in Asia cautiously welcome the final report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda released on 30 May 2013 and at the same time express our concerns and disappointment about its adequacy in addressing key challenges identified in the ADA's statement (Bangkok, 2 Feb. 2013) and response to the communiqué of the 4th HLP (Bali, 27 March 2013)

2. The title of the report "A New Global Partnership: Eradicating Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development" as well as the "five big, transformative shifts" and "12 Illustrative Goals and Targets" seem to capture our expectations and preoccupations and they are undoubtedly much better than the MDGs framework. Looking closely into the detailed contents of the report, however, the analysis and recommendations contained in the report seem to be 'new' but is lacking in the aspect of being refreshing and adequately inspirational, 'bold' but not visionary and ambitious and 'practical' but not transformative and radical.

3. Below are our assessment and recommendations in terms of our perspectives and proposals in our previous statements which are believed to be important for its improvement in the follow-up process, in particular, drafting of the UN Secretary General's report to the UN General Assembly.

4. First of all, we are pleased to note that some issues and concerns we highlighted were recognized and reflected in the report which we think are positive and significant contribution of the HLP to the Post-2015 development agenda.

   1) Reaffirmation of human rights including the right to development as well as universality, equity, sustainability and solidarity as basic principles under 'forge a new global partnership' (page 9)
   2) Recognition of the universal agenda and 'the need to promote a single and coherent post-2015 development agenda'
   3) More comprehensive scope of the post-2015 development goals such as inclusion of the illicit financial flows, money-laundering, tax evasion and hidden ownership of assets (goal 12), peace and security aspects of development (goal 11), and health, food and nutrition, water and sanitation, energy, job in a more explicit manner (goal 3-8)
   4) Recognition of international migration, urbanization and technology as factors (page 18)
   5) Recognition of other global cooperation forms such as g7+, G20, BRICS, Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) (page 24)
   6) Emphasis on 'sustainable production and consumption',
   7) Emphasis on 'data revolution' for better monitoring and accountability in measuring progress'

5. However, we remain concerned because the report failed to address the following important issues which we believe are essential if we are to 'end poverty and transform economies through sustainable development and global partnership'.

   1) Urgent need to address rising inequality - global and national – as top priority specific goal.
   2) Mainstreaming human rights through human rights-based approaches to development
   3) How to operationalize important human rights standards such as the 1986 UN Declaration on the Right to Development and the core human rights treaties, in particular, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and its Optional Protocol was not properly addressed,
   4) How to utilize the existing available monitoring and accountability human rights mechanisms such as the UN special procedures, treaty bodies, Universal Periodic Review (UPR), in particular, the UN Independent Expert on Extreme Poverty, Human Rights and International Solidarity, Equitable and Democratic International Order,
   5) Reaffirmation of the 2011 Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA) for Least Developed Countries (LDCs),
   6) Urgent need to address debt cancellation in terms of historical and ecological debt
   7) Financial Transaction Tax (FTT) and disarmament as innovative sources of financing for development
   8) National and international supervisory mechanisms to promote transparency of national and transnational corporations, and regulate speculative financial capitals including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights,
   9) A more just, fairer and equitable global financial and trade architecture and framework as an essential part of democratic global governance,
   10) Need to strongly promote global governance and inclusive partnership indicating clear roles each development actor need to play in new development frameworks,
   11) Recognition of the internationally recognized principles of common but differentiated responsibilities
   12) Urgent need to operationalize the Green Climate Fund (GCF) with full participation of civil society
   13) Alternative measurement system of wellbeing or happiness beyond GDP

6. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the HLP members for their efforts and also urge the UN Secretary General to produce a truly inspirational, visionary and transformative post-2015 development agenda.

7. We also assure our full commitment and support to make the Post-2015 Development Agenda process and final outcome more meaningful and beneficial to specially billions of people living in poverty, injustice and insecurity for survival.

8. We look forward to receiving a report by the UN Secretary General for further dialogue and engagement in the months to come and beyond.   <end>

Asia Development Alliance (ADA)
is a regional forum of national and sub-national development NGO/CSO platforms in Asia to promote more effective communication, coordination and cooperation in the Post-2015 Development Agenda process.
It was officially launched in Bangkok on 2 February 2013.

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