



HLP report : A transformative vision, but implementation and responsibilities that need to be strengthened

With some reservations, the International Movement ATD Fourth World welcomes the report published by the High Level Panel, named by Ban Ki-moon, to make “bold but practical” suggestions for the Post-2015 development agenda.

The report underscores some remarkable successes linked to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in particular in the area of health. It also recognizes that these goals did not sufficiently seek to reach people living in the most extreme poverty, those who are the most excluded. The goals did not seriously take into account a comprehensive human rights framework; the importance of good governance; and the social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainable development. They remained silent on the devastating effects of conflict and violence.

This report offers a vision of a new type of development, based on five ‘transformative shifts’ with the eradication of extreme poverty a central component. However, the translation of this vision into the ‘illustrative goals and targets’ set out in the annexes is much more debatable, and leads us to question whether the ‘shifts’ are sufficiently transformative and whether their implementation will render the desired results.

This report offers a universal programme centred on people and concerned about the planet, based on our common humanity, and addressed to developing and developed countries alike. We approve this vision, which has been long awaited. Indeed, no developed country has succeeded in eradicating extreme poverty, and thus none can give lessons to others. Developed and developing countries must pool their efforts and knowledge in order to fight poverty and climate change together. The report, however, uses an indicator which contradicts this desire for universality. Measuring extreme poverty by the \$1.25 per-day threshold is simplistic and misleading: it renders extreme poverty in developed countries invisible. Never eradicated, it has now been aggravated by the 2009 economic and financial crisis. Furthermore, the \$1.25 threshold is so marred by approximations that it is not reliable at an international level.

The report affirms that a new model of development is necessary, based on five main ‘transformative shifts’, in which each and every State, institution and person has a share of responsibility:

1. *Leave no one behind*, by continuing to work toward eradicating extreme poverty and discrimination in order for everyone to enjoy their human rights. ATD Fourth World particularly applauds this priority, which should be implemented in keeping with the Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in September 2012.
2. *Place sustainable development at the core*, and to act now to stop the alarming rate of climate change and damage to the environment, which constitute an unprecedented threat to humanity. ATD Fourth World emphasizes that for families in extreme poverty, the danger is already present as they already suffer the devastating consequences of a polluted environment, with no clean water or sanitation, living and working in the most polluted conditions, and the most vulnerable to landslides, floods, and other extreme climatic phenomena.
3. *Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth*. A profound economic transformation is needed to eradicate extreme poverty, particularly in production and consumption models, in a world with limited natural resources. The report insists on the necessity of creating decent jobs but seems to set aside the goal of universal social protection, as the indicator given in Annex II does not cover 100% of people in poverty.

June 6 2013

4. *Build peace and effective, open and accountable public institutions.* Peace and good governance must be recognized as essential elements for well-being. Transparency must become the rule, in order for all people to know, amongst other things, how taxes, aid and income from mining industries are spent. ATD Fourth World stresses that all institutions should find ways to end discrimination, particularly discrimination against people because of their poverty. As recognized by the HLP, extreme poverty does not result only from economic deprivation, but also from stigmatization and discrimination, deeply imbedded in all cultures, subjugating certain people and certain populations, and thus legitimizing their not being treated as equal human beings.
5. *Forge a new global partnership,* instilling a spirit of solidarity, of cooperation and of mutual responsibility between governments; people living in poverty or marginalized groups; multilateral institutions; companies; and academia. ATD Fourth World welcomes the fact that people living in poverty be considered as necessary partners, and not as 'beneficiaries', or 'target populations' of programmes set up by others. But because of the immense power imbalance between the relevant partners, the meaningful participation of people in poverty will be possible only if backed by strong determination, and the provision in development policies and institutions of the necessary human and financial investments to create greater equality. Anti-poverty policies and programmes are more meaningful and effective when people living in extreme poverty can contribute to the understanding of sustainable development and participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of development policies and programmes, which should above all reinforce and support the efforts they are making, on a daily basis, to overcome extreme poverty.

Ends.

Press contact

Jo-Lind Roberts

+33 (0)1 30 36 22 18

+33 (0)6 63 31 17 82

jolind.roberts@atd-fourthworld.org

[Twitter.com/ATD4thWorld](https://twitter.com/ATD4thWorld)