

## **Towards a common European Vision on the Post-2015 Development Agenda**

*Policy Forum on Development, Brussels, 18-19 October 2012*

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and targets are derived from the Millennium Declaration which was signed by 189 countries at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in September 2000. They reflect a global consensus on the most pressing challenges with regard to poverty eradication and human development. The MDG framework consists of the Millennium Declaration, 8 Goals, 21 Targets and 60 Indicators.

With a Special Event to follow up on efforts made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals scheduled for fall 2013, the debate about what comes after 2015 has gained considerable momentum. The UN is organising multiple national and global consultations over the next months – with strong input from civil society. A High-level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, co-chaired by British Prime Minister David Cameron, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, will give recommendations on a vision of the post-2015 agenda in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2013. Commissioner Piebalgs is among the 26 members.

In parallel to the post-2015 discussions, the Rio+20 Summit initiated a process to formulate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – goals formulated along the format of the MDGs. An intergovernmental SDG working group is to be set up with a view to present a report to the 68<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly opening in 2013, containing a proposal for SDGs for consideration and appropriate action.

The EU aims at engaging in the post-2015 discussions in a proactive and transparent manner, with a view to achieving a post-2015 agenda that reflects the aspirations of the poorest people. In the European Commission's view, a future development agenda should be based on three key elements:

- a) A continuous dialogue with local actors, in particular civil society and local authorities. The European Commission recently concluded a public consultation on post-2015. Its results are currently being analysed and will be made available soon. As a follow up to this consultation, the Commission plans continuous and periodic exchanges with civil society and local authorities.
- b) A thorough review of what worked and what hasn't when trying to achieve the MDGs. The EU has recently adapted its development strategy through the Agenda for Change with a view to increasing the impact of EU development policies. In that same vein, the EU is currently internally reviewing its contribution to achieving the MDGs.
- c) A prominent role of insights from research and expert knowledge in our reflections on the way forward after 2015. Besides its general initiatives to enhance the role of research in the field of development, the Commission receives specific advice from a Scientific Advisory Board on key challenges for development policy. Also, the European Report on Development 2012/13 will provide independent expert knowledge and key recommendations on the future of the development agenda after 2015.

On the basis of these inputs, the European Commission will submit a Communication to EU member states containing proposals on the future of the post-2015 development agenda early 2013.

A first opportunity to dialogue with civil society organisations and local authorities, from the EU and the partner countries, on the post-2015 agenda will be provided during the next meeting of the Policy Forum on development to be held on 18-19 October 2012 in Brussels. Attached you will find the issues paper of the recently concluded public consultation. It contains key discussion points which will be essential for the planned Commission's Communication.