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DRAFT REPORT

on the EU and the global development framework after 2015
(0000/0000(INI))

Committee on Development

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CONTENTS

	Page
MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION	3
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.....	10

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the EU and the global development framework after 2015 (0000/0000(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,
- having regard to the report adopted in July 2014 by the UN Open Working Group for Sustainable Development Goals,
- having regard to the report adopted on 8 August 2014 by the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing,
- having regard to the Ministerial Declaration of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, of July 2014,
- having regard to the United Nations ‘Millennium Development Goals Report 2014’,
- having regard to the 2014 Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) entitled ‘Sustaining Human Progress: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Building Resilience’,
- having regard to the May 2013 report of the UN High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda,
- having regard to the report of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012,
- having regard to the June 2012 report of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda to the UN Secretary General, entitled ‘Realising the future we want for all’,
- having regard to the resolution entitled ‘Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals’ adopted by the UN General Assembly at its High-Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals, at its sixty-fifth session in 2010,
- having regard to the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020,
- having regard to the declaration and action plan adopted at the High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Busan in December 2011,
- having regard to the UNDP report entitled ‘Beyond the Midpoint: Achieving the Millennium Development Goals’, which was published in January 2010,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the human rights legal framework,

- having regard to the work of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, led jointly by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the UNDP, with support from all UN agencies and in consultation with relevant stakeholders,
- having regard to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action,
- having regard to the 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development,
- having regard to the European Consensus on Development¹ and the EU Code of Conduct on Complementarity and Division of Labour in Development Policy²,
- having regard to Article 7 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU), which reaffirms that the EU ‘shall ensure consistency between its policies and activities, taking all of its objectives into account’,
- having regard to Article 208 TFEU, which stipulates that ‘the Union shall take account of the objectives of development cooperation in the policies that it implements which are likely to affect developing countries’,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 2 June 2014, entitled ‘A decent life for all: from vision to collective action’ (COM(2014)0335),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 13 May 2014, entitled ‘A stronger role of the private sector in achieving inclusive and sustainable growth in developing countries’ (COM(2014)0263),
- having regard to the Commission staff working document of 30 April 2014, a toolbox entitled ‘A right-based approach, encompassing all human rights for EU development Cooperation’ (SWD(2014)152),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 27 February 2013, entitled ‘A decent life for all: Ending poverty and giving the world a sustainable future’ (COM(2013)0092),
- having regard to the Commission communication of 12 September 2012, entitled ‘The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe’s engagement with civil society in external relations’ (COM(2012)0492),
- having regard to the Commission’s public consultations on the preparation of an EU position, entitled ‘Towards a Post-2015 Development Framework’³, which ran from 15 June to 15 September 2012,
- having regard to the joint statement by the Council and the representatives of the governments of the Member States meeting within the Council, the European Parliament and the Commission on the European Union Development Policy entitled

¹ OJ C 46, 24.2.2006, p.1.

² Council Conclusions 9558/07, 15.5.2007.

³ http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/millennium-development-goals/index_en.htm

‘The European Consensus’¹,

- having regard to the Commission communication of 12 April 2005 entitled ‘Policy Coherence for Development’ (COM(2005)0134), and the conclusions of the 3166th Foreign Affairs Council meeting of 14 May 2012, entitled ‘Increasing the Impact of EU Development Policy: an Agenda for Change’,
 - having regard to Regulation (EU) No 233/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2014 establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation for the period 2014-2020²,
 - having regard to its recommendation to the Council of 2 April 2014 on the 69th session of the United Nations General Assembly³,
 - having regard to its legislative resolution of 2 April 2014 on the proposal for a decision of the European Parliament and of the Council on the European Year of Development (2015)⁴,
 - having regard to its resolution of 13 June 2013 on the Millennium Development Goals – defining the post-2015 framework⁵,
 - having regard to the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 19 May 2014 on a rights-based approach to development cooperation, encompassing all human rights,
 - having regard to the Foreign Affairs Council conclusions of 12 December 2013 on financing poverty eradication and sustainable development beyond 2015,
 - having regard to the General Affairs Council conclusions of 25 June 2013 on the Overarching Post 2015 Agenda,
 - having regard to Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Development (A8-0000/2014),
- A. whereas in 2000 all the relevant stakeholders came together to set the MDGs with a view to achieve concrete development and poverty eradication goals by 2015;
- B. whereas the level of achievement of MDGs varies, with visible positive effects on reducing extreme poverty;
- C. whereas access to quality education and training for every child, young person and adult is an essential prerequisite for breaking cycles of inter-generational poverty;
- D. whereas the new development framework offers an opportunity to secure the broad involvement of local authorities;

¹ OJ C 46, 24.2.2006, p. 1.

² OJ L 77, 15.3.2014, p. 44.

³ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2014)0259.

⁴ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2014)0269.

⁵ Texts adopted, P7_TA(2013)0283.

- E. whereas the private sector provides 90 % of jobs in developing countries, and thus is an essential partner in the fight against poverty;
- F. whereas the Council conclusions of December 2014 will set out a coherent set of principles and the main lines of the negotiating strategy;

I. The Millennium Development Goals: assessment and new challenges

- 1. Stresses that the MDGs defined in 2000 figure among many successes in middle-income countries and developing countries and that these results must be correctly analysed and lessons learnt for the post-2015 development framework;
- 2. Recalls that, although the MDGs have made a profound difference in people's lives, key issues such as human rights violations, armed conflicts and terrorism, climate change, food insecurity, migration, unemployment, demographic changes, corruption, resource constraints, unsustainable growth, and financial and economic crises still pose extremely complex and interrelated challenges for the next decades;
- 3. Stresses that the new framework should respond effectively to these challenges and tackle important issues such as respect for the dignity of every human being, justice, equality, good governance, democracy, the rule of law, peace and security, climate change, disaster risk management, inclusive and sustainable growth, health and social protection, education, research and innovation, and the central role of women in the new development framework;
- 4. Underlines the fact that the new development framework must be universal in its nature, while also taking into account different national circumstances, capacities, policies and priorities;
- 5. Calls for the EU to continue to lead the process and welcomes the consensus that the post-2015 agenda needs a renovated global partnership;

II. Priority areas

Poverty eradication and sustainable development

- 6. Stresses that poverty eradication together with sustainable development should be the underlying theme of the new development framework;
- 7. Underlines the fact that the future framework should address the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty and inequality, which go beyond a lack of income;
- 8. Stresses that there is an important interconnection between good governance, sustainable economic growth and the reduction of social inequalities;

A human rights-based approach

- 9. Welcomes the inclusion of the promotion of a human rights-based approach among the Sustainable Development Goals; expresses concern, however, at the fact that a more ambitious approach has so far not been embraced, and stresses that such an approach is essential for tackling the roots of poverty and economic inequality;

10. Calls for the EU to emphasise the importance of prioritising within the post-2015 agenda the adoption and implementation of an appropriate legal framework and the fact that national policies should fight corruption, ensuring access to judicial institutions that are impartial and independent;

Conflict prevention, post-conflict recovery, peace-building and promotion of lasting peace

11. Considers that the post-2015 framework should reflect the peace-building and state-building goals agreed in Busan;

Climate-change mitigation and disaster-risk reduction

12. Considers that climate change mitigation needs to be effectively mainstreamed in the post-2015 development framework, taking into consideration the strong linkages with several other priorities;
13. Emphasises the importance of including in the new framework capacity-building measures to effectively reduce disaster risk and strengthen resilience;

Food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, combating land degradation, water and sanitation

14. Welcomes the fact that food and nutrition security is emerging as a priority area for the new development agenda; stresses, in this connection, the importance of addressing the linkages with improving the productivity of sustainable agriculture and fisheries;
15. Stresses the importance of implementing the Rio+20 commitments on land degradation;
16. Points to the importance of considering access to safe drinking water, sanitation and integrated water management as an emerging priority;

Health and education

17. Takes the view that the health sector is crucial to the economic and social development of societies; calls for the EU, therefore, to focus on promoting equitable and universal health protection in the post-2015 agenda;
18. Stresses that development goes hand in hand with education; urges that access to all levels of quality education be reflected in the new development framework;

The central role of women in the new development framework

19. Welcomes the fact that empowerment of women was recognised as a priority in the post-2015 framework;
20. Reiterates the importance of eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls;

Inclusive and sustainable growth, employment and decent work creation

21. Underlines the fact that inclusive and sustainable growth, accompanied by decent jobs creation, resource efficiency and climate change mitigation, is crucial to the success of the post-2015 agenda;
22. Calls for the EU to promote an enabling environment for entrepreneurship, trade, investment and innovation;

The private sector

23. Stresses that the private sector should be a key driver of inclusive and sustainable growth;
24. Welcomes the Council recommendation to place an increased focus on supporting micro, small and medium-sized enterprises;

Civil society

25. Recognises the crucial role which civil society organisations (CSO) play as enablers of development; stresses the importance of engaging in dialogue with organisations on the ground as part of the process of shaping the new development framework;

Local authorities

26. Underlines the importance of including local authorities in the new development framework; stresses that this would require a truly participatory process, conducted early on in the development phase;

III. Mobilising financial resources.

27. Recalls the importance of maintaining the current levels of ODA; calls for the EU to continue to work closely with other donors on developing further innovative financial mechanisms and new partnerships;
28. Calls for the EU to ensure that the blending mechanisms are transparent and accountable and have a clear sustainable development impact;
29. Calls for the EU to continue to work closely with developing countries in seeking to increase their domestic revenues and put in place sustainable and equitable tax systems;

IV. Indicators and accountability

30. Stresses that reliable data is crucial for devising appropriate policies on the new development agenda and for holding governments and the international community to account;

V. The need for a strong cohesive EU position

31. Welcomes the EU engagement in the post-2015 negotiations;
32. Welcomes the progress made by the OWG, but considers that the number of goals identified in its conclusions need to be simplified and significantly reduced;

33. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council and the Commission.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

I. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) - achievements and new challenges

In September 2000, the UN adopted a Millennium Declaration, followed by the setting up of concrete, time-bound targets to be reached by 2015.

The MDGs have made a huge difference in people's lives. At less than one year from the target date for achieving the MDGs the world has reduced extreme poverty by half and efforts in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis have shown impressive results.

Another important achievement of the MDGs is that it brought together governments, the international community, civil society and the private sector to achieve concrete goals for development and poverty eradication.

However, additional efforts are needed for halving the percentage of people suffering from hunger. The 2014 Human Development Report stresses that persistent vulnerability threatens human development, unless it is systematically tackled by policies and social norms.

Global challenges are expected to increase due to key issues such as poverty, human rights violations, armed conflicts and terrorism, climate change, food insecurity, migration, unemployment, demographic changes, corruption, resource constraints, unstable growth, financial and economic crises. New development pathways are needed that could lead to inclusive and sustainable development.

Therefore the post-2015 agenda needs a truly renovated global partnership, comprehensive in coverage, recognising the contribution of all types of instruments, and able to deal with technology and innovation, capacity-building and trade.

Why do we need this document?

Following the UN special event on MDGs (September 2013) and the reports on the post-2015, the negotiations of a new framework have intensified, namely through the discussions of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Intergovernmental Expert Committee on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDEF).

The overall EU position has been developed by the European Commission after intensive consultations, and endorsed by the Council and the European Parliament. The communication "Decent Life for All" lays the foundation of the EU position on the post-2015 agenda.

The Communication calls for tackling issues of global concern such as poverty, health, food security, education, gender equality, water and sanitation, sustainable energy, decent work, inclusive and sustainable growth, inequality, sustainable consumption and production, biodiversity, land degradation and sea and oceans. It also says that the post-2015 framework should ensure a rights-based approach and address justice, equality and equity, good governance, democracy and the rule of law, peaceful societies and freedom from violence.

The European Parliament has been deeply committed to obtaining an ambitious post-2015 development agenda. With this report we would like to contribute to the definition of a coherent and consistent EU position, to be adopted by the Council in December 2014. Council conclusions should set out the EU principles and main lines of its negotiation strategy.

III. Priority areas

Poverty eradication and sustainable development

The rapporteur reminds that the narrative of the OWG on sustainable development goals identifies a consistent number of emerging priority areas. There is a need to progressively focus on the central elements that should constitute a clear and limited set of universal and measurable goals.

Poverty eradication together with good governance, human rights-based approach and sustainable development should be the underlying themes of the new development framework addressing also the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty and inequality, which go beyond the lack of income.

Human rights- based approach

The post-2015 framework should ensure a human right-based approach, as well as the promotion of peaceful societies. Justice, good governance, democracy and the rule of law should also be addressed in the new agenda. The rapporteur strongly believes that a more ambitious approach should be embraced in this regard;

In this crucial moment of negotiations EU should integrate all the rights while engaging with third countries, which is of utmost importance for sustainable development.

The rapporteur would like to remind that to achieve sustainable development goals we need institutions at all levels that are effective, transparent, accountable and democratic. Thus, the rapporteur urges the adoption and implementation of an appropriate legal framework and national policies leading towards reducing corruption, ensuring that justice institutions are accessible, impartial and independent.

Conflict prevention, post-conflict, peace-building and promotion of durable peace

The EU has acknowledged that there cannot be sustainable development without peace and security, and that, vice versa, without development and poverty eradication there will be no lasting peace. Therefore, the post-2015 framework should reflect peace building and state building goals agreed in Busan. Promotion of peaceful societies should evolve as an important element of the new agenda.

Climate change and disaster risk reduction.

The climate change mitigation, as one of the biggest challenges of our time, needs to be urgently and effectively mainstreamed in the new development agenda. Closely related to climate change is disaster risk reduction, as well as strengthening resilience.

On disaster risk reduction it's important to recall that the poorest countries are the most exposed to risks, and there is a need to tackle all determinants of vulnerability.

Sustainable energy should also be seen as a crucial instrument to poverty eradication. That requires a strategic approach on diversification of sources, protection of ecosystems and natural resources, and integrated water management.

Food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture, land degradation, water and sanitation

The Rapporteur welcomes the fact that food and nutrition security is emerging as a main area for the new agenda and reminds that there is a need to create linkages with sustainable agriculture, fisheries, management of natural resources and climate change.

Your Rapporteur emphasises that additional efforts should be undertaken to end malnutrition, with special emphasis on children.

As underlined in Rio+20 commitments, land and soil degradation is a key area of sustainable development and green economy. Stopping land and soil degradation is therefore crucial.

The Rio+20 recognised that ‘water is at the core of sustainable development’ and its three dimensions. The rapporteur considers that the new agenda should encourage an integrated approach to water expressed in universally agreed goals, simple, measurable and able to focus policies, resources, and allowing stakeholders to deliver concrete outcomes that improve people’s lives, and protect environment.

Health and education

The Rapporteur stresses the importance of health and education for sustainable development. Therefore single goals addressing those issues should be reflected in the post-2015 agenda.

EU should focus on promoting equitable and universal health coverage by quality expenditure and access to quality health services in the new development framework.

Furthermore, the Rapporteur emphasises the need to enable access to all levels of quality education, in order to foster participatory citizenship and building of knowledge-based and innovative societies.

It is especially important to eliminate inequalities in access to health and education, and to work out measures within the new framework to reach the most disadvantages groups.

Central role of women in the new development framework

The Rapporteur welcomes the fact that empowerment of women was recognised as a priority in the post-2015 development agenda.

Furthermore, it is important to prioritise the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls. It is crucial that the EU sets elimination of all harmful practices including child, early or forced marriage and female genital mutilation as one of the top priorities under the new framework.

The new development framework should also include focus on ensuring equal access to employment, as well as equal pay for the work of equal value.

Inclusive and sustainable growth, employment and decent work

The global financial and economic crisis have slowed growth, and led in turn to an employment crisis. The Rapporteur stresses the importance of inclusive growth and the promotion of decent jobs.

The on-going discussions on the post-2015 framework offer a good opportunity for the EU to promote an enabling environment for entrepreneurship, trade, investment and innovation, which will be conducive to the reduction of inequalities and aimed at strengthening social justice.

Private sector

The private sector provides some 90 per cent of jobs in developing countries, and is thus an essential partner in the fight against poverty.

The Rapporteur believes that private sector should be the key driver of inclusive and sustainable growth. In this respect, he welcomes Council recommendations to increase focus on support to SMEs, as well as social enterprises and cooperatives, as key actors to promote sustainable development.

Civil Society

The Rapporteur is of the opinion that in the new post-2015 framework civil society organisations should play an important role by holding governments accountable, and by contributing to the creation of participatory societies responsible for their own development.

Local authorities

Local authorities should be included from the beginning in the new development framework through a truly participatory process. The Rapporteur is of the opinion that local authorities contribute significantly to development effectiveness since they know the best the needs of local communities and can address them in the most comprehensive way.

V. Mobilising financial resources.

The post-2015 goals should consider setting mutual goals and obligations for all countries, regardless of their income levels.

The rapporteur believes that the EU should continue to work closely with other donors on developing further innovative mechanisms for development and creating new partnerships, and complementing other sources of financing.

The rapporteur also recommends that the mechanisms of blending are transparent, accountable and with a clear sustainable development impact. Strongly recommends a cohesive and determined approach on fight against illicit financial flows, enhancing transparency and good governance.

The rapporteur believes that the EU should continue to work closely with developing countries in order to help them to raise domestic revenues, establish sustainable and equitable tax systems.

VII. Indicators and accountability

Reminds that reliable data is absolutely vital for devising appropriate policies and for holding governments and development stakeholders accountable. Recommends the EU to promote discussions on the best indicators to measure progress, inequalities and vulnerabilities.

VIII. The need to a strong, clear and cohesive EU position

The Rapporteur appreciates the EU engagement in the post-2015 negotiations, and for the insistence on a single, comprehensive framework, to be applied to all countries and addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development. Considers that the EU should be firm on substance and strategic objectives. Welcomes progress and contribution made by the OWG, but believes that the number of goals identified in the conclusions need to be simplified and significantly reduced;

Considers also that the EU should give an important contribution to define clear provisions to ensure human rights-based approach and good governance would be the underlying concept of the new framework.

The rapporteur considers also that the PCD is another crucial aspect for a successful post-2015 development agenda. Therefore, more detailed proposals on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture should be presented.

At last, your rapporteur stresses that the voices of countries and regional groups that support EU priorities, and share the some concerns should be heard and assume a catalytic effect inside regional groups.