

## Integrating Human Rights into the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

### Addressing inequalities and discrimination in the SDGs

#### Summary: Reducing inequalities and eliminating discrimination in Post-2015

To be truly transformative, the Post-2015 Development Agenda must focus on reducing inequalities and leaving no one behind, integrating the human rights principles of **equality and non-discrimination**, by:

- ✓ **In the Declaration:**
  - Stressing the commitment to reducing inequalities, leaving no one behind and promoting freedom from fear and want for all, without discrimination, grounded in the UN Charter and UDHR.
  - Incorporating a chapeau text calling for the disaggregation of data for all goals, targets and indicators, to the extent feasible, with all grounds of discrimination prohibited under human rights law.
- ✓ **In the Goals, Targets and Indicators:**
  - Highlighting 'Equality' as one of the critical elements to frame and communicate key OWG goals and targets that focus inequalities and discrimination e.g. Goal 5, Goal 10, amongst others
  - Identifying strong indicators that measure the reduction of inequalities, the elimination of discriminatory laws, policies and practices, and equity in global governance of development
  - Ensuring the disaggregation of data for all goals, targets and indicators
- ✓ **In the Review Framework:**
  - Committing to regularly review disaggregated data to ensure no one is being left behind
  - Integrating the monitoring of the progressive reduction of inequalities between social groups.
  - Integrating the monitoring of the reduction of inequalities between States, including the democratisation of governance, the elimination of obstacles to development and the coherence of trade, financial and investment agreements in line with human rights, including the right to development.

#### WHY SHOULD THE POST-2015 AGENDA ADDRESS INEQUALITIES?

Extreme inequalities are the defining issue of our time. The world is richer than ever before, but wealth and opportunities are increasingly concentrated in the hands of the few. Rising inequalities are undercutting development progress, frustrating poverty eradication, and producing social, political and economic instability. By not paying attention to who was winning and who was losing from development policies, the MDGs left the poorest and most marginalized increasingly far behind. This is why the new agenda must live up to the Rio+20 promise to “**strive for a world that is just, equitable and inclusive**”. The SDGs must place the human rights principles of **equality and non-discrimination** at its heart, ensuring the inclusion of marginalized, disempowered and excluded groups, and reducing inequalities within and between States, as part of poverty eradication.

#### HOW CAN WE MEASURE INEQUALITIES AND DISCRIMINATION?

It is possible to measure inequalities and discrimination (this is already being done), and we already know which policies can reverse these trends. Inequalities can be measured in relation to the horizontal inequalities between social groups (e.g. by using disaggregated data for all indicators to see the gaps in outcomes between men and women, or between different ethnic or other social groups) or in relation to vertical inequalities (e.g. by including indicators on income inequality, such as the Gini coefficient, Palma ratio or relative poverty). Discrimination can also be more directly measured by perception surveys or events-based data (including e.g. indicators on the perception of discriminatory treatment, indicators on hate crimes etc.). It is also possible to find indicators that reflect equity and fairness in the global governance and distribution of costs and benefits.

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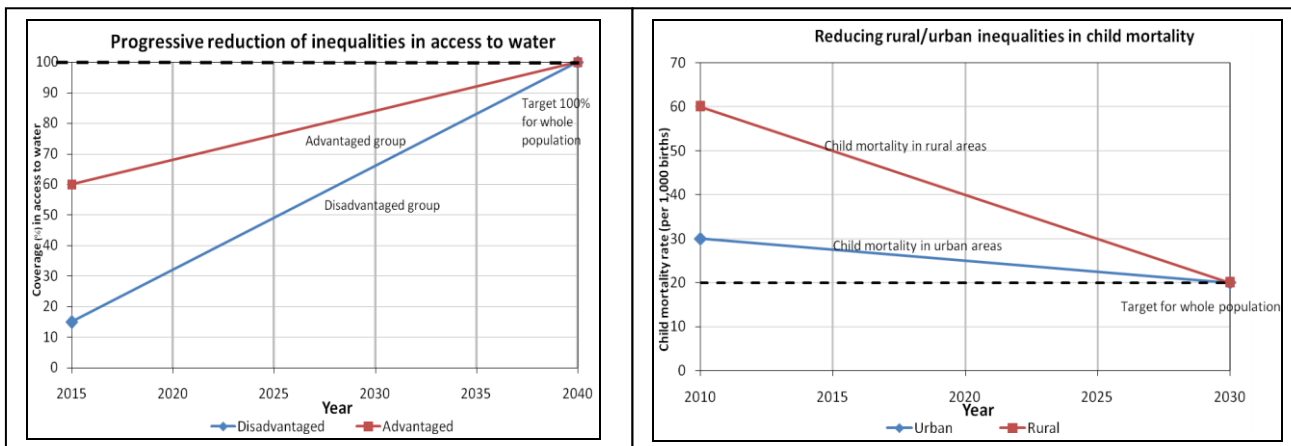
## WHAT CAN BE DONE TO ENSURE THE POST-2015 AGENDA ADDRESSES INEQUALITIES AND DISCRIMINATION?

- ✓ **The Declaration of the Post-2015 Outcome Document should reflect:**
  - **An unequivocal commitment that the SDGs will be human rights-based and inequality-reduction focused:** The Declaration should develop a powerful vision of a transformative, universal agenda built on the strong commitments of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to ensure freedom from fear and want for all, without discrimination. The imperative of reducing inequalities and eliminating discrimination should underpin the commitment to 'leave no one behind'.
  - **An overarching chapeau on data disaggregation, applicable to all goals, targets and indicators:** The Declaration should include an overarching chapeau on the disaggregation of data, which would call for a data to be disaggregated for all relevant goals, targets and indicators. This should emphasise a consistent approach to the disaggregation of data, grounding this to the extent feasible, in accordance with the grounds of discrimination prohibited under human rights law. Under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, States have committed to eliminate discrimination of any kind as to *race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property birth or other status*. The human rights bodies have also clarified that 'other' includes *age, nationality, marital and family status, health status, gender identity, place of residence, economic and social situation and other grounds*. Many groups are protected e.g. women, children, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, migrants, Afro-descendants, older persons etc.
- ✓ **The SDGs: Goals and targets and indicators should reflect this focus on inequality, discrimination and global equity:** The OWG Goals and Targets already reflect critical goals and targets aimed at reducing inequalities and eliminate discrimination e.g. Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 10 on reducing inequalities within and between States. The critical task now is to identify strong **indicators on inequality, discrimination and global equity**: The UN Statistical Commission's 'Technical Report' has already identified some critical indicators under Goal 10, which are included as examples below plus some others:
  - **Indicators on the extent of inequalities:** Indicators should measure income inequalities, as well as other economic social, political and environmental inequalities, e.g.:
    - Gini coefficient and/or Palma ratio, before and after taxes and social transfers
    - Changes in real disposable income and consumption by quintile
    - Proportion of households living below 50% median income (relative poverty)
    - Inequality gaps for selected social, economic, environmental and political SDG targets
    - Proportion of seats held in national parliament by social group
  - **Indicators on discrimination in laws, policies and practices:** Indicators that measure discrimination also need to go beyond inequalities between social groups to e.g. to eradicate violence, hate crime and xenophobia, and to overcome barriers to participation and promote affirmative action. It should cover issues indicators relevant to specific groups, including e.g. children, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities, indigenous peoples, migrants, Afro-descendants, e.g.:
    - Percentage of population reporting discriminatory treatment, disaggregated by social group
    - Number of hate crimes reported, disaggregated by social group
    - Prevalence of discriminatory provisions in existing laws and policies (e.g. HIV/AIDS by UNAIDS)
    - Proportion of people from disadvantaged social groups benefitting from affirmative action
    - Existence of an independent body to promote equality and non-discrimination
  - **Indicators on measures to address inequalities:** Indicators should identify existence of policies and programmes to address inequalities e.g.:
    - Percentage of population covered by minimum social protection floor
    - Progressivity of tax and social expenditures
    - Adoption of a financial transaction tax (Tobin tax) with proceeds directed to development
  - **Indicators on equity in global partnership and measures to reduce inequalities between States:**
    - Percentage of voting rights in international organizations of developing countries by GDP
    - Number of countries using of TRIPS flexibilities for public health
    - Degree of utilisation and implementation of SDT measures in favour of LDCs
    - MDG indicators on market access, agricultural subsidies and tariffs on textiles and clothing

## Integrating Human Rights into the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Addressing inequalities and discrimination in the SDGs

✓ **The Review Framework should incorporate:**

- **A commitment to review disaggregated data for all goals, targets and indicators:** The review of progress in meeting the SDGs should go beyond national aggregates and statistical averages, to review data that is disaggregated data to identify the relative progress of different groups and ensure that no one is being “left behind”. The participation of the most marginalized groups in the identification of indicators, the collection of data and the monitoring process is critical. The monitoring should also include the systematic sharing of information with the human rights mechanisms that are specifically tasked with monitoring discrimination (e.g. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women etc.)
- **A commitment to monitoring of the progressive reduction of inequalities between social groups:** The monitoring and review framework should also include a provision to regularly monitor the progressive reduction of inequalities between social groups to ensure that the most disadvantaged groups are catching up with more advantaged groups. Many tools and methodologies are available to measure progress (using averages, deprivation, inequality and equity perspectives). In the Post-2015 context, it would be useful to measure whether the rate of progress to achieve the target is on track for different social groups at interim periods e.g. 2015, 2020, 2025 - as the graphs below show. This would help to ensure that inequalities are being reduced and progress is being achieved for all social groups. Reaching universal (zero or 100%) targets will require paying special attention to the most disadvantaged groups to ensure that they progress faster than other groups so that they catch up and inequalities are progressively reduced.



- **A commitment to monitor the global partnership and greater equity in global governance:** The review framework should include the monitoring of the reduction of inequalities between States, by monitoring progress on relevant indicators identified in Goal 10, as well as in Goal 17 and the means of implementation under all Goals. The indicators chosen will need to be measurable with concrete targets set so that progress can be assessed, including on issues related to greater equity in global governance, the democratisation of governance structures, the elimination of obstacles to development and the coherence of trade, financial and investment agreements in line with human rights, including the right to development.