

## Response to UN-NGLS Consultation on Post-2015 Reports

### What do you agree with about the HLP narrative sections and why?

The narrative of the HLP Report provides a strong framework for incorporating participatory processes as part of the Post-2015 agenda. New technologies and new challenges related to poverty reduction, labor markets, and equitable access further change our understanding of what is needed for eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development. The Report recognizes this shifting historical and economic context, and provides a framework that reflects the challenges of today's world.

The international library community welcomes the High Level Panel's recommendations — with particular attention to the calls for improved access to information, government accountability, and opportunities to acquire skills to get decent jobs and livelihoods. We welcome the HLP recommendations for improving governance through open data, access to information and technologies, and citizens' participation in political processes. New technologies have changed the way people communicate with each other and how information is shared. The Report understands this, and calls for a data revolution to improve the quality of the information available to citizens and build upon mechanisms such as crowdsourcing and open source platforms.

### What do you disagree with about the HLP narrative sections, and what do you propose instead?

Vulnerable communities often lack access to the necessary information to make informed decisions. Even though the report calls attention to this issue, it fails to provide a framework to address this concern. Development initiatives must give attention to community members' information needs and the venues through which that information is delivered. With shrinking development aid, governments should start focusing on using existing infrastructure for promoting human development and providing access to new technologies. Existing infrastructure systems such as libraries and community centers can help promote development goals at the national levels. The following are some proposals that could be considered:

- **Emphasize the Importance of Communal Safe Spaces:** Goals related to education and empowerment of girls and women are dependent in providing a space where citizens not only feel safe, but can also feel part of a community and can exchange their experiences. For example, libraries (e.g. Libraries for Peace Project) can provide a space where people can convene to build their communities, promote a culture of peace, and learn.
- **Recognize the Importance of Informal Education in Development Strategies:** Geographic distances create barriers for education, particularly in rural regions. Informal education and online education are tools that can be used to reach those communities and promote human development.
- **Mainstream ICT skills in Education and Employment Strategies:** In today's job market, basic ICT skills are considered essential for people entering the workforce and those trying to find better jobs. ICT skills are not only required for jobs in the IT sector, but the demand for them cuts across sectors — from agriculture and construction to education and service industries. Increasing access to information technologies and ICT skills training to citizens all ages should be included in the Post-2015 development strategy.

### **What do you agree with about the goals, targets and indicators and why?**

Out of the proposed goals for the Post-2015 Agenda, (e.g.: Post-2015 HLP Report, SDSN Report, and the Global Compact Report) the High-Level Panel Report provides the most inclusive and holistic proposal. The illustrative goals included in the HLP Report not only address human development concerns, but the report also includes specific goals for sustainable development and good governance, which is a major improvement from the MDGs framework.

We welcome proposed goals related to: ending poverty, empowering women and girls, providing quality education, ensuring healthy lives, creating jobs, ensuring good governance, and ensuring peaceful and stable societies. We look forward to specific proposals for indicators in each one of these areas and wish to reiterate the importance of access to information in achieving all development goals.

### **What do you disagree with about the goals, targets and indicators, and what do you propose instead?**

The HLP Report provides a good benchmark for targets and indicators for the Post-2015 Agenda. However, there is room for improvement in the following areas:

- **Non Formal and Informal Education:** The proposed goals, targets, and indicators fail to incorporate non formal and informal education as tool for increasing access to primary, secondary, and tertiary levels.
- **Technology Infrastructure needed for Ensuring Good Governance:** Access to information and data goals need to be supported by specific targets related to the type of technology and infrastructure that is needed for achieving this goals. Proposed targets could include:
  - Universal and affordable access to the Internet and computing technology.
  - Increase e-governance services at national and state/provincial level.
  - Increase the # of countries that incorporate Open Government Partnership in their national and state strategies.

This submission is a collaboration of Beyond Access and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). For more information visit: [www.beyondaccess.net](http://www.beyondaccess.net) and [www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)