Executive Summary

Report of a Community Consultation on the Proposed UN Development Goals for 2015-2030

Organized by the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area
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Overview of the UNA-NCA Consultation Event. On October 29, 2013, the United Nations Association of the National Capital Area (UNA-NCA) convened 100 representatives of civil society organizations, universities, businesses, philanthropies and some UN and US agencies to review and discuss the new report presented to the Secretary General of the UN titled A NEW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: ERADICATE POVERTY AND TRANSFORM ECONOMIES THROUGH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT—The Report of the High-Level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This consultation is part of an historic effort to engage citizens around the world and in eleven locations across the US, organized by the Chapters of the UN Association of the USA, with support from the UNA-USA Headquarters. The results of these consultations will be presented to the Secretary General to consider with leaders of all member nations of the United Nations, as they decide on the final development goals for 2015-2030. The HLP report is unique and forward thinking in two principal respects: (1) it stresses the need for economic growth with equity for all, especially for jobs, to be integrated with programs that address basic human and social needs of those trapped in poverty; and (2) it also recognizes the need to link future development programs aimed at eliminating extreme poverty, with emphasis on peacebuilding and the global environment challenges. The UN report asks all countries of the world, including the US and other countries with developed economies, to analyze forthrightly their common needs to address economic, human and social needs of the poor everywhere at the local, regional, national, and global levels.

The UNA-NCA, which serves its members and others in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Northern Virginia, invited local community organizations and international organizations as partners to address the development goals locally, regionally, nationally and globally, learning from each other. The UN report and the UNA-NCA consultation emphasized the importance of encouraging the responsible involvement of locally based businesses and global corporations in the private sector in partnership with the UN, the public sector and community based organizations, referred to as CBO’s or NGO’s.

The present document is an executive summary of the complete report published in December, 2013. The keynote speakers at the conference were, Kathy Calvin, President of the UN Foundation; Homi Kharas, of The Brookings Institution and the lead author of the UN report; Sam Worthington, President of Interaction; and Terri Freeman, President of The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region. The speakers’ full speeches and the facilitators’ presentations summarizing the nine round table discussions, which formed an essential part of the UNA-NCA website: www.unanca.org. With its overarching mission seeking to educate and enlighten students, opinion and policy leaders, UNA-NCA is making a continuing commitment to apply the themes and goals for 2015-2030 to all of its programs such as Global Classrooms and Advocacy.

We invite you to join together with us in making these goals for 2015 to 2030 apply to our own communities in the National Capital Area and the focus of support for global development programs.

Don Bliss, President, UNA-NCA  
Steve Moseley, Chair, UNA-NCA Advisory Council  
December 2013
I. KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

Drawing upon the discussions from the roundtables and the principal speakers, the organizers of the Consultation present the following key findings and recommended follow-up actions.

Key Findings

1. High, energetic interest expressed by large numbers of participants to address issues raised by the HLP report, as discussed at the consultative meeting, locally, regionally, nationally, and globally.

2. Broad endorsement of the 12 goals in the report as the basis for action; a few differences and concerns were voiced about resource issues and lack of evident financing strategies.

3. The need for more active (and activist) efforts to engage Americans to understand and engage with the post-2015 goals and plans throughout the Washington Metro area.

4. The need to assess candidly the inequities in the US and our Washington Metro area, and the other barriers to realization of the HLP goals in the National Capital Area, along with the need to find additional opportunities to explore local, national and international linkages and partnerships on these issues and goals.

5. The identification of many potential partnerships and points of collaboration among local, regional and international institutions in our National Capital Region that could share a common agenda for long-term social policy action based on the HLP report, and the need directly to address poverty, the environment, fair treatment of women, economic growth inequities, education quality and the extraordinary disproportionate incarceration of people of color, especially black and brown youth.

6. The need for more partnership, collaboration and exchange of information through “sister cities” and similar programs by which communities in the National Capital Region share “best practices” with communities in other nations.

7. The need for more engagement on these issues, such as including the disenfranchisement of voters in the District of Columbia, with local political and opinion leaders and with local elected officials and the media.
8. The need to explore and define more fully the opportunities for business and community leaders to engage in a range of public and private partnerships to carry the goals forward.

9. The need to define more clearly the opportunities, political space and partnerships or collaborations needed between and among national and local governments to empower communities and civil society organizations in those communities to lead their own development plans and actions on these goals.

10. The need for the United Nations and its agencies and programs to strengthen their capacity to engage and more actively assist and support member states in practicing good governance and effectiveness in combating corruption so that countries can effectively carry out the reforms needed to support and implement the HLP goals.

11. The need to take all necessary steps to apply the rule of law and international human rights declarations of the UN and to implement existing global treaties to ensure inclusive participation of women, disadvantaged minorities and the disenfranchised segments of the populations (both urban and rural) who are most often isolated by their absolute poverty because of low skills and limited education, disabilities and older age.

12. The need for the UNA-NCA to identify and actively pursue further conversations leading to action on issues raised by the HLP. The UNA-NCA might, for example, facilitate further dialogue of round table groups such as the one on Women and Girls and collaborate with other bodies with a local focus but with missions consistent with the HLP report.

Over the next several months, UNA-USA and the UNF will integrate the findings, notes and recommendations from the 11 U.S. consultations in a final report on The World We Want and present it to the Secretary General of the UN. The UNA-NCA will also encourage its members and other interested organizations to have their members and other citizens in the region vote to express their priority ranking of the goals at http://www.the World We Want.org. The target is to receive a million votes from across the country by the end of the campaign. This will be following UNA’s ongoing advocacy for commitment by nation states of the UN, and will include approaching U.S. policy leaders to support this important framework and goals for 2015 - 2030.
Plans for Follow-Up by UNA-NCA

The UNA-NCA will follow up on the consultative meeting in the following ways:

1. *Conduct additional round table discussions.* A number of the consultation participants voiced the desire for UNA-NCA to convene continuing discussions among the roundtable participants on each topic. The UNA-NCA committed to pursuing this in partnership with interested organizations and individuals attending or invited to the meeting.

2. *Apply The World We Want framework to the UNA-NCA Program Year Agenda.* UNA-NCA will be carrying forward its 2014 programs within the 2015-2030 *The World We Want* Goals framework, including its Global Classrooms Program with some 2400 students in 84 middle and high schools in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia, and its annual Model UN Conference with the State Department and UNA-USA. Also, the framework will be used in UNA-NCA’s ongoing working task forces and program committees on International Law, Sustainable Development, Human Rights, Peace and Security and in its Young Professionals programs.

3. *Establish a Task Force on Exploring Global and Local Issues.* Members of the task force will be drawn from the UNA-NCA Advisory Council, the UNA-NCA Board Members and other key local institution leaders who have helped to sponsor, plan and lead the organization of this consultation. In some cases other local organizations may be willing and able to take the lead.

4. *Create Strategic Plan Partnerships.* As part of its new Strategic Plan for 2014-2016, UNA-NCA will explore partnerships with organizations interested in collaborating on the agenda of *The World We Want*, over the next three years, through advocacy, communication and program outreach, with policy leaders in our National Capital Area for local, regional, and global participation. This may include exploring collaboration between local organizations in the region and local organizations with similar missions in other nations. UNA-NCA also welcomes opportunities to join and support other organizations on these issues and the 2015-2030 agenda.
II. SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL COMMENTS FROM THE ROUND TABLES

Facilitators were given three questions to start the nine round table conversations: Do you believe that the crosscutting themes and the 12 goal areas address adequately the development agenda we need or want? On the topics for your table, do the proposals in the High-Level Panel report capture the key issues? What new approaches, if any, would you recommend?

Economic Growth, Jobs and Poverty

- To achieve the goal of not just reducing but actually eradicating poverty, inclusion of all people—directly or indirectly—in a process of rapid economic growth and associated policy development is imperative, regardless of age or present marginalization, with a disaggregated understanding of the poorest populations. (The HLP definition of eliminating extreme poverty in the poorest countries, is the goal of everyone reaching at least $1.25 of income per day.)

- Ethically minded private businesses and entrepreneurship for creation of quality jobs for both educated and uneducated people are necessary but not sufficient.

- Safety nets must be strengthened.

- Rapidly growing cities are central to economic growth and decent housing for slum dwellers is at the core of sustainable urban areas.

- The United Nations should concentrate on facilitating peer learning and ensuring credible spokespersons such as Mohamed Yunus, the founder of the Grameen Bank, originally in Bangladesh, and which has grown now to be the leader of micro enterprise lending practices in many countries.
Building Bridges: Bread for the World Addresses Poverty and Hunger Internationally and within the United States.

Bread for the World, an advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C., addresses hunger globally and within the U.S. The Bread for the World Institute provides policy analysis on hunger and strategies to end it. The Institute educates opinion leaders, policy makers and the public about hunger in the United States and abroad. It has pressed for a final surge of support for achievement of the MDGs prior to 2015 and, like many other CSOs at the UNA-NCA The World We Want consultation, participates in the dialogue on post-2015 goals. At the same time, in its reporting on hunger in the USA, it disaggregates data by state, with quantitative data on Washington, D.C.

Building Partnerships

- Without new partnerships, The World We Want cannot be achieved.
- Forging new partnerships, globally, nationally and locally, is vital to secure funding, to drive new commitments, and to support the future generation of leaders.
- Tripartite partnerships of private businesses, public-sector organizations and civil society bodies have potential to enrich the traditional PPP public-private for profit partnerships.

Partnerships in Practice: Help for Non-Profit Fundraising in Washington DC

In 2008, when the financial market crashed, eight organizations in Washington, DC, came together to provide civil society organizations (and other organizations relying on financial assistance from companies such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac) accurate information about the current financial environment and how it would affect their fundraising efforts, including the risk that the conservator of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac might terminate their $47 million in annual charitable giving. Because all these organizations and their constituencies were affected by the situation, they all had a vested interest in building a strong partnership to understand what would become the new norm for fundraising. A new Nonprofit 911 forum was established as a partnership in response to this situation.  

Source: The Community Foundation
- Specifically and collaboratively defined common objectives, agreed tasks, mutual benefit and mutual accountability and monitoring of metrics characterize successful partnerships.

**Environment and Energy**

- Interweaving of sustainable environment and other social and economic development goals was a major achievement of the HLP.
- While round table participants recognized the political difficulty in this, more attention than is given in the HLP report is needed to the challenges of climate change; political feasibility is a critical criterion for choice, but the boundaries of political feasibility need to be pushed.
- In contrast to climate change, energy received welcome and specific emphasis in the HLP report.
- Family planning and population stabilization, as well as climate adaptation and resilience, merit greater attention.

**Peace and Stability**

- Including peace and stability in the post-2015 goals *must* be a top priority. The HLP report should not be a high water mark, but a stepping stone.
- Recognition of the universality of the peace and security challenge—globally, nationally and locally—is imperative, and effort is needed to find language for it that is widely acceptable.
- Concerns in the US about becoming the world’s policeman make the UN peace and stability agenda resonate powerfully in the US.
- Peace building must strengthen leaders and reinforce sovereignty, rather than undermine it.
- Violence damages communities and destroys development, everywhere.
- Peace begins locally and sustainable peace must be locally sustainable.
- International collaboration and U.S. leadership are important in deploying UN forces to implement the responsibility to protect.
Good Governance and Effective Institutions

- Good governance strengthens achievement of all HLP goals but achieving success is hard, and hard to define, especially given the universality of the problem.

- Civic education, civic engagement, participation, independent media and transparency are fundamental to good governance, including effective institutions, but are challenging in poor environment.

- Civic education and engagement are a critical part of universal quality education.

- Corruption is the biggest impediment to good governance and accountable institutions, throughout the world.

- UN capacity-building and dissemination of good practice complement and reinforce the building of local government for better governance, with local, national and global links and incentivized actors in the public, private for-profit and civil society sectors.

- Greater international efforts to combat corruption are essential to HLP goal achievement.

Equality and Equity for Women and Girls

- The post-2015 development agenda must be rights-based.

- The engagement of men is central to achievement of equitable outcomes for women and girls.

- Implementation must be the central concern: Treaties are often ratified and laws adopted with little implementation, accountability or monitoring.

- Women’s political empowerment and power-sharing at all levels of government, globally, nationally and locally, are essential for equitable outcomes of HLP goals.

- The conversation at the round table must continue.
**Equity for Women and Girls and the Engagement of Men**

During the conversation one man observed that men’s sense of identity is much more sensitive than is realized. A lot of men, he said, would read the HLP goals and feel threatened, so it’s beneficial to include the men in the empowerment of women. As countries urbanize, he noted that social changes can lead in turn to domestic violence. He concluded that society needs to revisit the definition of what it means to be a man and what it means to be a woman.

**Education and Lifelong Learning**

- Encouraging students to become global citizens at an early age, with emphasis on lifelong learning, is a welcome shift from the MDGs.

- Recognizing the right to education and lifelong learning and achieving access to education and lifelong learning for all—especially marginalized populations—remain large challenges, globally, nationally and locally.

- Acknowledging inequities at home facilitates dialogue with others about inequities elsewhere.

- Local relevance of the theme is universal but only individual, country-determined targets are acceptable.

**Learning from Each Other in Support of Education for All**

About 250 million primary school-age children around the world are not able to read, write or count well enough to meet minimum learning standards, including girls and boys who have spent at least four years in school. Partly in response to this situation, *Women Thrive Worldwide*, a US-based civil society organization with affiliated NGOs in a Global Partnership Network, is engaging in post-2015 advocacy on education, along with other NGOs. It organized a 2013 International Women’s Day briefing on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC, with two American congressmen and education experts from the several Global South countries. Similarly, the Community Foundation for the National Capital Area in Washington, DC, reports that the city has universal pre-kindergarten education for its resident youth and observes that possibly the international community could learn something from Washington, D.C.
Financing for Development

- Critical negatives: Not to see financing as a donor-recipient relationship nor, in relation to development assistance, as a “trade-off” between funding alleviation of poverty at home in developed countries and addressing the needs of poor people in poor countries.

- Recognize the cross-over between local and international operations. There are similarities between success in Boston and Bangladesh and beyond: practicality in budget planning, recognizing need for operating expenses, setting achievable targets.

- Base financing on learning from each other, collaboratively, with mutual accountability.

- While they are not always successful, public-private partnerships are crucial instruments for future financing; policy-incentivized private funds from all sources will be a major part of development financing.

- Need for a culture shift, especially among some NGO’s, toward a development perspective and away from a charity orientation, which negatively affects financial sustainability, institution building, and capacity building.

Youth Development and Training

- Go beyond educating to educate: Focus on learning outcomes and learning relevant to jobs.

- Global Education First: Access and connectivity through global citizenship.

- Unique opportunity in the Washington Metro area to talk with and learn from elected and appointed government officials.

- More emphasis is needed on the “community” between the “individual” and the “nation.”
Strengthening Youth Identity through Global Citizenship.

The Executive Director of a Washington DC non-profit working with young African-American males from marginalized areas spoke at her round table on her experience in helping unmotivated black males to develop a sense of identity. She found that integrating global citizenship into the curriculum and experience of marginalized youth gave them a sense of connection to the world and that this in turn strengthened their self-confidence and ability to engage with the communities around them. Visiting the Holocaust Museum and learning about violence in Syria and Northern Ireland, for example, opened the eyes of these young males to the world around them, and gave them a sense of the common humanity of all mankind. She hoped that the UNA conversations on *The World We Want* would continue beyond the October 2013 consultative meeting.
The UN High Level Panel Report
Seven Crosscutting Themes:

- Peace
- Inequality
- Climate Change
- Cities
- Young People
- Girls and Women
- Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns

Five Transformative Shifts:

1. Leave No One Behind
2. Put Sustainable Development at the Core
3. Transform Economies for Jobs and Inclusive Growth
4. Build Peaceful and Effective, Open and Accountable Public Institutions
5. Forge a New Global Partnership
Illustrative UN Development Goals: 2015-2030

- End Poverty
- Empower Girls & Women and Achieve Gender Equality
- Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning
- Ensure Healthy Lives
- Ensure Food, Security, and Good Nutrition
- Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation
- Secure Sustainable Energy
- Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Equitable Growth
- Manage Natural Resource Assests Sustainability
- Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions
- Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies
- Create a Global Enabling Environment and Catalyse Long-term Finance
The UNA-NCA would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous contributions to this Community Consultation on the Proposed UN Development Goals for 2015-2030.
Established in 1953, UNA-NCA is one of the oldest and largest divisions of the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA). In 2009, the UN Foundation and UNA-USA formed a strategic alliance to strengthen the US-UN relationship. Together they are the single largest network of advocates and supporters of the United Nations.

With the help of over 1,000 members, volunteers, and supporters in the greater Washington area, UNA-NCA works to build public knowledge, strengthen UN-US relations and aid the UN in achieving its goals.

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