

## Response to UN Secretary-General's Synthesis Report: The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives, and Protecting the Planet

Kindernothilfe is a charitable organization which has been working together with our partners in 29 countries to implement the rights of children for more than 50 years. We acknowledge the broad and participative Post-2015 process so far as well as the Secretary-General's Synthesis Report reviewing inputs from a wide range of stakeholders. We support the need for a universal, people centered, planet-sensitive sustainable development agenda which leaves no one behind.

Kindernothilfe strongly agrees that the new agenda must ensure that all actions respect and advance human rights in full coherence with international standards. Therefore the agenda as well as the set of goals and targets should rest on a **human-rights based approach** and strive to fulfill - among others - explicitly the right to education, health, clean water and food as well as **the rights of children according to the UN-Convention on the Rights of the Child**.

We welcome the report's view on **eradicating poverty by 2030** as the overarching objective of the sustainable development agenda and underline the need to consider the multi-dimensional aspects of poverty. The multi-dimensionality of poverty which is reflected in the social reality of far more than one billion people worldwide should therefore find its expression in the goals, targets and indicators on poverty. The new development agenda must consider the structural causes of poverty and ensure that the most vulnerable groups - to which children and young people belong - gain fast and sustainable improvements.

Bearing in mind that more than a quarter of the world population is under the age of fifteen and that young people represent the majority in many of the least developed countries we fully agree that young people are the "torch bearers of the next sustainable development agenda through 2030" (p. 3). And indeed, "integrating their needs, rights to choice and their voices in the new agenda, will be key factors for success" (p. 21). Recognizing the crucial role and the potentials of children and young people for sustainable development a **meaningful participation** of them must be ensured within the whole process – including implementation and monitoring.

Kindernothilfe welcomes the recognition of the **right to education** and the need for high-quality education and life-long learning starting with good early childhood education. At all levels, there is a strong need to offer relevant, culturally adaptable and inclusive educational opportunities which address all section of the population to prevent discriminations within the educational system. Education is a key element for sustainable development. Therefore the right to education and its legal implications should be explicitly expressed in the new agenda.

Although much has been accomplished within the last fifteen years, of all the MDGs, the least progress has been made toward the child- and maternal-health goals. We strongly believe that it is necessary to mobilize additional resources to fill this gap.

The report demands “to ensure that women, youth and children have access to the full range of health service” (p. 21). In order to achieve universal access to health coverage, comprehensive, quality and effective health care systems for all, especially for vulnerable children, are needed. To build upon the successful investments in MDG 6 with regards to HIV/Aids, the UNAIDS approach “End of Aids till 2030” has to be considered in the Post 2015 agenda. Additionally a fast access initiative is needed for the treatment and testing of children under the age of three affected by HIV/Aids, neglected within this issue so far.

Lastly, we would like to add two important child rights issues which have not been raised explicitly in the report of the Secretary General:

- In the context of decent work (goal 8 of the OWG) the issue of **child labour** should be considered. Over 264 million children between five and seventeen worldwide are engaged in some form of work, accounting for almost 17 per cent of the whole child population. About 85 million, i.e. almost one third, are engaged in hazardous work, endangering their health, safety and moral development.
- In the context of “safe and peaceful societies” (p.23) the **situation of children in fragile states and states affected by conflicts** should be taken into account. The post 2015 agenda should contribute to the comprehensive implementation of the right to protection in armed conflicts as well as to the implementation of the first optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts.

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