

**Manila Declaration by Parliamentarians and Civil Society on
the MDG Acceleration and the Post 2015 Development Agenda, 20-21 November 2012**

26 members of parliament and 32 civil society leaders from 13 countries from Southeast, East, Northeast Asia and the Pacific hereby adopt this Declaration, in presence of 35 representatives of development partner organizations and 4 parliamentarians from Africa and the United Kingdom as solidarity delegations.

1. We acknowledge that Parliamentarians and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have been instrumental in promoting human development, democratic governance and sustainability by working closely with Executives, and thus have contributed to the progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the region. With only three years left before the target year of the MDGs, Parliamentarians and CSOs play vital roles in accelerating progress towards the achievement of the MDGs in the region.
2. We recognise, as one of the three pillars of the State, Parliaments through their legislative, oversight, budget approval and representation duties are key stakeholders in accelerating progress in achieving the MDGs and ensuring that the poorest and the most marginalized in society will be at the centre of the new development agenda.
3. We further recognise that CSOs have an important responsibility for accelerated achievement of the MDGs and promoting an inclusive post-2015 development agenda, as key groups for accountability monitoring and by being a bridge between the people and decision makers.
4. While reaffirming that we uphold the core principles outlined in the Millennium Declaration and the ICPD Programme of Action, namely equality, human rights, democratic governance, and sustainability, we recognise that the MDGs have not maximised their potential as a unique framework for clarifying accountability and measuring commitments to ensure that every individual enjoys the right to live his or her life with dignity and with full enjoyment of human rights.
5. We therefore emphasise that our MDG acceleration efforts in the remaining three years as well as formulation of a new global development agenda beyond 2015 must be firmly based on critical lessons learned from the experience of the MDGs and other international development agendas, including the ICPD+20 review, and must include the fundamental principles of gender equality as central to not just to the pillar on equality but also for the pillars on human rights, democratic governance and sustainability.
6. **Human rights and democratic governance:** We urge that the post-2015 agenda will be fully aligned with international human rights standards and principles. We will continue to promote inclusive and participatory governance mechanisms at all levels and pledge to increase human rights protection, including through adequate investments for the enjoyment of all rights. Key issues include:
 - 6.1 A respect for the rule of law;
 - 6.2 Ensuring political commitment for investments of maximum available resources for the enjoyment of rights, through evidence-based, and participatory budget and expenditure tracking;
 - 6.3 A human rights-based approach in both the content and process in accelerating the MDGs and in the post 2015 framework, including Goals and indicators which are both qualitative and quantitative;
 - 6.4 A clear commitment to women's, adolescent's, and youth's right to health, including their sexual and reproductive health and rights;
 - 6.5 Clear commitment to children's rights; and
 - 6.6 Establishment of a clear time-bound and measurable mechanism for monitoring accountability for post 2015 development agenda, building inter alia on the experience of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism.
7. **Equality:** We will strive to ensure that appropriate measures to protect and promote equality, equity, and social inclusion are incorporated into laws, policies and programmes in our countries. In particular, future development targets and indicators should be designed to highlight rather than mask inequities.. Key issues include:

- 7.1 The importance must be given to countries in special needs such as LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, targeting most vulnerable people and countries;
 - 7.2 Inclusion of a goal for gender equality *and* gender-disaggregation for each indicator in the post-2015 development agenda;
 - 7.3 The need to ensure disaggregated data which is the basis for accountability for progress for all sectors of society and to address inequalities; and
 - 7.4 Ensuring that the marginalised groups such as persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples are able to effectively participate in development and implementation of policies, plans and programmes.
- 8 **Sustainability:** Recognizing that sustainable development is the only path to human development and prosperity in the long run, we will also strive to ensure the more effective integration of social, economic and environmental sustainability, peace and security, and recognition of impact of climate change into a framework of environmental justice reflected in our respective government's MDG acceleration efforts as well as its overall positioning towards the post-2015 development framework. Key issues include:
- 8.1 Sustainable management of the natural resources including protection of biodiversity;
 - 8.2 Security of land rights of communities and indigenous peoples especially in face of extractive industries and infrastructure projects;
 - 8.3 Ensuring lands and vital resources of communities are free from security risks, bombs and landmines, and making people's safety and security at the centre of all peace processes; and
 - 8.4 Increased capacities of communities and other stakeholders for preparedness and disaster risk reduction and building resilience.
- 9 Moving forward, we emphasise that the early engagement of Parliaments and CSOs as well as synergies between them, among other stakeholders, are vital to the success of an integrated post-2015 development agenda that includes ICPD Programme of Action commitments, while also noting that parliaments must have sufficient capacity to engage in the post-2015 development agenda implementation in terms of their constitutional duties, and that CSOs also must have sufficient capacity to advocate for the effective implementation of the development agenda. CSO must have an enabling environment to advocate for the effective implementation of the development agenda.
- 10 The post-2015 development agenda will need to be accompanied by a clear commitment for financing. We recognise the need for effective and equitable financing for development and mobilisation of domestic resources and effective ODA. We recognise that the mechanisms for accountable and transparent public expenditures need to be put in place.
- 11 We, Members of Parliament, agree that Parliaments need to consider the most effective institutional mechanisms for acceleration of the equitable delivery of the MDGs and our engagement in the post-2015 development framework. We commit to initiating discussions on appropriate foras to ensure the legislature takes a leading role in formulation and implementation of a new development agenda.
- 12 Representatives of CSOs hereby commit to continuing and enhancing efforts to hold duty bearers to account for full achievement of agreed development goals, to advocating for a people-centred development agenda, and to working collaboratively with both Parliaments and Executives.
- 13 We parliamentarians and CSOs are calling on the UN to ensure clear and integrated post-2015 and SDG processes, which emerges from inclusive and transparent consultations. We are calling for development goals which are global and universal. We, Members of Parliament and CSOs call on the UN to facilitate engagement of parliamentarians and CSOs with the UN High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on Post-2015 Development Agenda to ensure our meaningful participation.
- 14 Finally, we Members of Parliaments and representatives of CSOs resolve to ensure that acceleration of achievement of MDGs as well as the process of formulation of post 2015 development agenda is participatory and inclusive, promoting realisation of human rights and reflecting the aspirations of people we represent – especially the poorest and the most marginalized.

Adopted on 21 November, 2012, Manila, the Philippines