

Berlin Civil Society Center

Global Perspectives 2010

the international CSO leaders' forum

25 November 2010



Devising Joint Strategies towards the Full Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

OUTCOME

The second *Global Perspectives* conference addressed the questions:

- **How can we jointly secure the full achievement of the MDGs?**
- **What should we aim for after 2015?**

Over the last 10 years impressive progress has been made in the MDG process, especially at an aggregate level. Successful approaches are usually based on political will (and failures often document the lack of political support).

However, given what has been achieved so far and what still needs to happen in the remaining five years to 2015, there are enormously demanding challenges to be overcome. Quick and sizeable progress towards the MDGs depends first of all on Governments' commitment and prioritisation:

- Governments should mainstream the MDGs into their national policies, confirm and fulfil their aid commitments, tackling trade and debt issues as well as climate justice.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) should take a stronger lead in holding Governments accountable:

- CSOs should push for more transparency on Governments' bilateral and multilateral commitments and remind Governments of their duty to fulfil their promises. CSOs should more systematically use legal provisions and UN mechanisms to make sure Governments fulfil their responsibilities.
- CSOs should much more explicitly strive for the MDGs in the context of human rights, security, peace, democracy, equity and inclusion, encouraging bottom-up citizen pressure to make Governments act.
- CSOs need to collaborate much better among each other and in cross-sectoral partnerships in order to strengthen their impact on governments.

Avoiding the reduction of aid budgets and securing additional finance is crucial for achieving the MDGs. CSOs should better coordinate their activities and cooperate more closely in securing the required funds:

- CSOs should make a clearer "case for aid" developing a new narrative based on a deeper understanding of the roots of poverty, the concepts of sustainability and global justice and the indispensable requirement to overcome inequality and discrimination.

- CSOs should lobby Governments to ensure tax justice by reenergising existing tax systems and making them fair, clear and more efficient.
- CSOs should advocate for a “Robin Hood Tax” raising money from the financial sector for development and climate change. The countries of the Euro zone and some of the BRIC countries should be specifically targeted first to implement such a tax.
- In addition, CSOs should support the search for innovative finance instruments such as the global aviation or bunker tax, CO2 offsets and a better leverage of technology.

Beyond 2015 it is most crucial to make the MDGs a Southern-led movement, as opposed to today’s donor centric view. There is a need for continued improvement and adaption of the MDGs focusing much more on social, economic and climate justice. The global community has to strive for a just and sustainable world, investing in analysing current and emerging trends so as to better understand the impact they will have. CSOs need to look for innovative ways of how to approach new and ever more demanding challenges. They need to discuss more politically, looking beyond their usual partners in order to find new and seemingly unlikely allies, especially in the corporate sector.

The *Global Perspectives* participants agreed three main follow-up activities:

1. Developing a joint global campaign to build politics back into the MDGs pre-2015 (*lead: CIVICUS*)

The campaign should strengthen and improve the MDGs’ and the perception of our sector’s role in developing and developed countries, among key decision makers, the media and the public in general. We need a fresh approach focussed on inequality, gender and non-discrimination and should make much more explicit links to existing human rights conventions and instruments.

2. Putting our joint efforts behind existing initiatives aiming for a Robin Hood Tax / Financial Transaction Tax (*lead: Oxfam and CIDSE*)

Given the French and German Government’s support for a Financial Transaction Tax and France’s G 20 Presidency there is a unique window of opportunity over the next 6 to 12 months. The joint effort will have to start quickly to have a chance to influence developments, focussing on the Euro zone but with pressure also within the G20. It is not intended to start a separate effort but to support existing initiatives.

3. Starting a discussion about a joint post 2015 strategy (*lead: Berlin Civil Society Center*)

After the MDGs a “new narrative” replacing the traditional development approach is required and we need to feed in to official processes which will start happening over the next two years. Global justice in access to increasingly scarce resources, sustainable approaches in promoting development, a multi-dimensional perspective on well being and a different concept of growth are some of the issues to be reviewed. The Berlin Civil Society Center will offer a discussion platform for a joint post 2015 strategy.

Organisations interested in following up on any of these initiatives were asked to sign up for the respective project.