

Concept Note
Ministerial Meeting
MDGs Follow-up Meeting (Draft)
2-3, June 2011, Tokyo

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I. Background

In September last year, the international community took the opportunity to focus on critical development issues at summit level. UN High-level Plenary Meeting on the MDGs successfully raised global awareness on the need to make continuing progress to achieve the MDGs by 2015. World leaders reaffirmed their commitment to poverty reduction, adopting the action-oriented outcome document. The outcome document has its significant value on collectively assessing the current situation and clarifying what we should tackle in what way.

Nonetheless, it seems that the more the international community comes close to the achievement of the goals, the more it is required to hone its efforts. In order to realize full attainment of the goals, the support has to be reached to everyone in diverse situations. Simple increasing inputs may not always be an answer for the last push towards the goals. With five years ahead, bridging well-planned strategies backed by good practices to implementations meeting local needs is becoming crucial.

Closing the MDGs Implementation Gap with Equity, Focus on the Vulnerable and the Perspective of Human Security

In the last decade, we have made significant strides towards the Millennium Development Goals, reducing poverty, empowering women and increasing access to basic services like health care, education and clean water. However, in many cases, progress has slowed, indicating the presence of underlying obstacles yet to be tackled. In several countries, inequalities and disparities – based on geography, poverty, gender, ethnic identity, other individual characteristics such as disability - have become apparent. At the same time, the multiple crises of the past years – which, by disproportionately affecting certain parts of the population can worsen existing inequalities – have highlighted the importance of ensuring that MDG gains are sustainable.

In this regard, structural shortfalls including unresponsive institutions and poor implementation exacerbate disparities. In some countries, increasing income inequality among regions, gender and ethnic groups has accompanied growth due to the lack of a system to deliver appropriate social services. If undernourished, unhealthy and uneducated individuals cannot take part in the economy, sustainable progress cannot be achieved and it threatens future growth. Capacity shortages are also serious obstacles to service delivery in many countries. Rural areas suffer most from poor roads, inadequate schools and communications shortfalls. Poor data, monitoring and evaluation caused by information and capacity constraints impede appropriate planning and policy actions. As a result, it leads to further widening gaps and disparities in MDG progress towards achieving the MDGs.

Even best strategies and great plans fail if they overlook these complex realities and

variety of needs of each country and local communities. The international community needs to recognize that there is “heterogeneity” among countries, coming from unique conditions, opportunities and constraints of each region, country and community. The efforts for the progress over the next five years need to be carefully tailored to unlock the bottlenecks while reflecting the diversity of the situations and being designed to have no one left behind. We can do this if we adopt smart strategies that are focused on effective implementation, and bring together the shared knowledge and comparative advantages of partners gathered over the last ten years.

For example, several cases suggest that national commitment backing planning and policy initiatives played as a foundation for success. Clear messages sent from the highest level are an indispensable vehicle to mobilize people and resources towards the progress. Other cases indicate that surprising experiments and innovations to address implementation bottlenecks pushed forward the progress. It is also important to note that partnerships with donor countries, regional neighbors, as well as through public-private partnerships are quick route to success. Human security approach focusing more on the protection and empowerment of individuals and communities is also important. Policies and programs to overcome inequalities and address exclusion should identify needs of individuals and communities. Despite these invaluable lessons, the problem is that they are not adequately reflected in planning and implementation at national and sub-national levels. In this respect, it would be important to recognize that while there are some universal principles and strategies that have broad applicability, “no one size fits all” in terms of strategy. Certain actions will be more important in certain contexts and therefore greater weight may need to be placed on them.

The meeting will provide a great opportunity for participants to introduce their own good practices and also learn from others about projects/programs focused on hard-to-reach regions and groups. It is the first and important step to make the achieving year of 2015 “everyone’s 2015” through an intensive focus on implementation and addressing inequity.

Strengthening Coordination among a Broad Range of Stakeholders

Removing the final hurdles towards the achievement of the MDGs also requires unanimous efforts by all stakeholders including actors at the country level. While cooperation with private sector and civil society is manifested in the High Level Plenary Meeting (HLPM) outcome document, it does not fully articulate the “how.” Exploring concrete ways for cooperation and coordination is the next challenge ahead. Enhancing cooperation with the emerging donors is another key factor in realizing the MDGs.

Furthermore, properly understanding and leveraging the current complex global

architecture is an unavoidable element in the era when the development issues are increasingly discussed at multiple fora. Growing awareness on the issue is welcomed, but there should be an “intersection” to exchange wisdom acquired at each forum. The meeting will also provide a unique opportunity for all stakeholders to exchange knowledge and advancement, and deepen the thoughts on possible collaboration.

Accelerating Results to Achieve the MDGs by 2015 and Envisioning “Beyond 2015”

For all stakeholders, the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 is the ultimate objective and the commitment made by the world leaders. Maintaining this unique political momentum, accelerating the progress with enhanced efforts and achieving all the goals by 2015 should be a primary objective.

On the other hand, the international community should make constant review of what can be improved (“*kaizen*” in Japanese) in the mid and long-term. There are factors crucial for reducing poverty but not well-articulated in the goals, indicators and targets. For instance, economic growth and delivery of services to the poor are the key drivers to achieving the MDGs. As seeing the impact of economic crisis over the development, the MDG progress requires stable economic growth. At the same time, the implementation of distinguished policies, strategies and models are highly dependent on the partner countries’ capacity of service delivery that varies by local context and circumstances.

Bearing the strong determination to achieve the current MDGs in mind, we should envisage an inspiring vision that deals with the remaining gaps beyond 2015 through identifying the crucial elements for the next stage. The meeting will discuss “way forward” beyond 2015, using the lessons learnt in a decade under the current MDGs.

II. Outline

(1) Objective

Towards the achievement of the MDGs by 2015 and beyond, bridge the outcome of the MDGs Summit with concrete and effective actions through a global dialogue among a broad range of stakeholders

(2) Agenda

(i) Plenary Meeting 1

Ministerial Discussion: ***“Human Security and Equity in the achievement of the MDGs”***

(ii) Breakout Sessions

Breakout Session 1: *Accelerating Results in Health and its related MDGs*

The goal of the session is to convene key stakeholders from UN agencies, the World Bank and other multilateral organizations, NGOs, private-sector and academic institutions to discuss cutting edge strategies and frame concrete actions towards achieving the health-related MDGs, and to discuss innovative approaches to achieving results and how to achieve the broader health system strengthening necessary to sustain progress.

The first breakout session, “what actions should the global community take towards achievement of MDGs 4 and 5?” will highlight the latest debates and results in maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH), innovative strategies, and the transformation of evidence into effective policy to deliver concrete actions and results for improved MNCH while stressing the important role of the efforts for achieving the MDG 6. The second breakout session, “preparing the health systems for the challenges beyond MDGs era” will provide a unique opportunity for exchanging ideas and intellectual innovation to advance the direction of beyond-MDGs agenda. The session would be based upon the lessons learned from the MDGs progress so far, such as the global efforts to combat infectious diseases of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and significance of equity-based approach in fighting against polio. Both sessions will be organized to promote debate, discussion, and an open exchange of ideas.

Breakout Session 2: *Accelerating Progress in Education and its related MDGs*

In the Breakout Session 2, participants from various fields are expected to focus on the ‘improvement of education quality’ and ‘equity’ in order to achieve the education-related MDGs and the EFA goals. This session will aim to discuss those two issues, the importance of which are growing among the challenges to be addressed by the international community, to identify obstacles and bottle-necks that hinder their realization, and to share concrete approaches and good practices effective to solve them. The session is also expected to play a role in providing useful suggestions for setting agenda for the next UN MDGs Meeting to be held in 2013.

Possible discussion topics are the followings:

- (1) In view of the fact that the world’s net enrolment rate in primary schools has been improving, what kind of challenges should the international community intensively address during the next five years to achieve the education-related MDGs and the EFA goals? In particular, what are major obstacles and bottle-necks in improving the quality of education and ensuring equity?
- (2) What are effective approaches and concrete interventions to achieve quality education and equity? How can education strengthen ability of individuals and skills to supply more employment opportunities? Are there good practices to be shared among donors and international organizations?

Breakout Session 3: *Narrowing the Implementation Gap: National and Community-based Approaches*

Human security, which emphasizes on “protection” and “empowerment” through the comprehensive collaboration among stakeholders, is a key concept in pursuing the acceleration to the achievement of the MDGs, ensuring sustainability, and providing quality service delivery. In this regard, strengthening governance in a transparent and accountable manner is one of the most important elements contributing to protection and empowerment of people as well as their capacity building.

Session 3 will discuss cross-cutting drivers of acceleration and sustainable and practical approaches to support policies and strategies at national level as well as to enhance service delivery at local and community level. It aims to share good practices, successes and proven high-impact interventions which have narrowed the implementation gaps for MDG acceleration at the country level as well as to identify developing countries and donors' roles on it. Governments, representatives of UN agencies, NGOs and private sector and expert will discuss on narrowing the implementation gap from the perspective of human security from their respective view point. The session will also look at building effective partnerships - follow-up to HLPM pledges from a representative sample of countries/pvt sector partners; SSC, and knowledge sharing

Breakout Session 4: *Partnership for Sustained, Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth*

At the New York MDGs Summit last September, world leaders reaffirmed that promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth is necessary for accelerating progress towards achieving the MDGs. While no universally-applicable recipe for economic growth exists, there would be some common ingredients contributing to economic growth. This session focuses on one of the vital ingredients of economic growth, which is the flow of external resources, and examines how official development cooperation in particular can be effectively used and its role to achieve sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth considering its characteristics.

In addition to domestic resources of developing countries, external resources, not only aid from traditional donors, but also private sector investment, South-South cooperation, engagement of civil society, including philanthropy organizations and foundations are playing a vital role in achieving MDGs. The increased number of players and diversified type of resources is one of the major characteristics of the evolving global development architecture.

This session invites participating countries attaining high economic growth rate to share their experiences. It will provide us with useful suggestions on achieving sustained, inclusive, equitable economic growth in the current global development architecture. It also provides an opportunity to discuss a desirable future partnership among various actors and resources.

(iii) Plenary Meeting 2

Discussion, ***“Orchestrating Our Efforts—Bridging the Fora”***

(3) Outcome Document

The meeting will launch a document highlighting elements discussed at the plenary meetings and breakout sessions of the meeting (TBD)

(4) Meeting Format

June 2-3, 2011

Mita-Kaigisho, Tokyo

Hosted by Government of Japan, co-organizing with UNDP, UNICEF and World Bank

*Several related side-events are being planned during/before/after the meeting. Details will be informed shortly.

III. Program

DAY 1

9:20-10:10 Opening Ceremony

- Welcome Remarks by PM Naoto Kan (TBD)
- Keynote Speech by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon (TBD)
- Keynote Speech by UNDP Administrator/Chair of undg Helen Clark
- Keynote Speech by UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake
- Keynote Speech by the World Bank Managing Director Mohmoud Mohieldin

10:10-11:15 Plenary Meeting 1

Interactive Ministerial Discussion on “Human Security and Equity in the achievement of the MDGs

- Moderator: FM Takeaki Matsumoto (TBD)
- (Representative from developed countries)
- (Representative from emerging countries)
- (Representative from developing countries)
- (Representative from civil society)
- (Representative from business)
- Resource Person

11:20-12:50 Lunch Break

12:50-15:20 **Breakout Session 1 and 2**

Breakout Session 1: Accelerating Results in Health and its Exterior

Breakout Session 2: Accelerating Progress in Education and its Exterior

15:20-15:30 **Coffee Break**

15:30-18:00 **Breakout Session 3**

Breakout Session 3: Narrowing the Implementation Gap: National and Community-based Approaches

DAY 2

9:30-12:00 **Breakout Session 4**

Breakout Session 4: Partnership for Sustained, Inclusive and Equitable Economic Growth

12:10-13:40 **Plenary Meeting 2**

I. Report of breakup sessions

II. Adoption of the Outcome of the Meeting

Discussion, ***“Orchestrating Our Efforts—Bridging the Fora”***

-representatives from other fora such as LDCIV, G8/G20, HLF4, WB/IMF, Rio+20,

-UN—UNDP Administrator/Chair of undg Helen Clark

Wrap up and way-forward

Closing Remarks by FM Takeaki Matsumoto (TBD)

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