



## **Guidelines for the Social Watch Report 2013**

### **Ends and means Goals, rights and how we get there**

The global Social Watch report 2013 will be about “ends and means”. This provisional title means that we will look at the “ends” (the goals we want achieved) and the means (policies and resources) that are mobilized (or not) to make them happen.

At the global level key social justice goals were spelled out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the outcome of several UN Conferences in the nineties, after the end of the Cold War. Social Watch was created in 1995 precisely to follow up on the Social Summit (that spelled out an ambitious agenda of poverty eradication and full employment) and the Beijing Conference on Women that decided on a program of action towards gender justice. In the year 2000 the Millennium Summit summarized those aspirations in the “Millennium Declaration”. A set of eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was spelled out as a minimum set of the most urgent objectives to be achieved by 2015.

The Social Watch report 2013 can become a powerful evidence-based statement from civil society on the obstacles and failures of the current MDG approach and the need of a more comprehensive holistic development agenda – in all countries of the world.

Each national coalition should feel free to identify its own priorities. Are they adequately addressed by the current development framework? If not, what needs to change, nationally and internationally?

**The deadline for sending in the national reports is November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012.**

**A report can have no more than 1,700 words with two charts or tables,  
or  
2,300 words without tables or charts.**

**For any comments, doubts, queries, suggestions or inputs please  
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At the national level the guiding goals and aspirations are derived from national constitutions, international treaties, electoral campaign promises and very often impositions from powerful national or foreign actors, such as private or public lenders. Nobody comes out publicly to contradict human rights, poverty eradication or gender justice as objectives, but the actual means mobilized to achieve them are frequently not enough. Sometimes desirable “ends and means” seem to contradict each other. The pursuit of “peace and security” may interfere with “freedom and democracy” or “economic growth” may damage “environmental sustainability”. Or maybe the mean of choice (like for example attraction of foreign investment) does not lead to the desired results (more employment, poverty eradication, gender equality). Or maybe actual policies pursue some undeclared agendas. With so many countries currently undergoing “austerity” policies that result in budget cuts of essential services many wonder if there is really no alternative or if the burden is fairly distributed. The unprecedented confluence of a food crisis and climate crisis on top of the economic and financial instability is challenging decision-making everywhere.

Globally, the Social Watch report will be an unique opportunity to make an important contribution to the 2013 Summit on the Millennium Development Goals, by adding to the on going debate the voices from civil society. That Summit discussion will not only assess where we are in terms of accomplishing (or not) the MDGs, but will also be an important moment in shaping the so-called "beyond 2015 framework", which means deciding what the development agenda of the United Nations will be when the MDGs when "expire" in 2015. Simultaneously, according to what the Rio+20 Summit decided last June, a Committee made up of 30 governments will be set up to discuss global “Sustainable Development Goals”.

It is still unclear how the post-2015 process and the SDGs negotiations will relate to each other, but the UN has already launched 50 country consultations on the goal setting process (see below the list of countries) and nine global thematic discussions (see the list below). Civil society organizations will be invited to participate in both of these processes.

The Social Watch Report 2013 will take this opportunity to assess the usefulness of development goals (in general) and the MDGs (in particular) from the perspective of national Social Watch coalitions.

The redefinition of the development framework by the international community is a good starting point to ask ourselves what kind of framework would be needed at national level. What should be the basis of that framework? Should it be a set of numerical and time-bound targets or should it rather be based on rights?

Were the MDGs actually an effective instrument to guide policies of governments and to promote advocacy and monitoring activities of civil society? Did they effectively contribute to reduce poverty and hunger, to promote gender equality and empower women and to increase the provision of essential services for all? And if they were not effective, what were the reasons? Wrong goals? Wrong policies? Wrong priorities?

Based on the actual experiences, what kind of international framework would be most useful to support the ends that civil society aims to achieve? Is it one that helps channel more aid more effectively? Is it one that provides monitoring instruments? A forum to make governments accountable for the violation of rights? Can any of those be effective to counter the power of national or international actors that shape the agenda towards other ends?

The National Social Watch Reports 2013 can address the question of what a set of national

goals could be and what kind of international framework would be most useful. What is the existing framework of rights, goals and targets? Would new national goals and targets be useful or necessary? What is the best way to include human rights, peace and disarmament, environmental concerns, issues of equity and equality, as well as key concerns such as land grabbing, exploitation of natural resources, or disaster risk reduction?

The Social Watch report 2013 can become a powerful evidence-based statement from civil society on the obstacles and failures of the current MDG approach and the need of a more comprehensive holistic development agenda – in all countries of the world.

We expect over 60 national contributions to the coming global Social Watch report 2013. That means that each country has a limited space and it is therefore important that you prioritize your main message or messages, which is probably the issue that you are campaigning about or planning to raise in the immediate future.

The report can start by identifying what the current goals and priorities are, in the official discourse and in reality and then look at the gap between those aspirations and reality. Should the framework be different or is the problem one of implementation? Be specific and give examples. Give some space to the identification of actual problems and policies that need to change and then explain what needs to happen and what is being done to make it happen, including of course by civil society and by the members of the Social Watch national platforms.

In that analysis the regional and international framework can be very important for some countries and less so for others. It can be of help (for example, by setting standards that actually help improve local conditions) or it can be an obstacle (by imposing harmful conditions or by hindering the application of beneficial policies). Any conclusion on changes at international level that would be necessary or helpful can also be part of the report.

The electronic discussion about the theme of the Social Watch report 2013 was extremely lively and it reflected a variety of different priorities emerging, such as increasing inequalities, vulnerabilities related with environmental catastrophes or financial instability, food insecurity, land grabs, extractivism and security-related issues. Each national coalition should feel free to identify its own priorities. Are they adequately addressed by the current development framework? If not, what needs to change, nationally and internationally?

**Extension:**

A report can have no more than 1,700 words with two charts or tables, or 2,300 words without tables or charts.

**Deadline:**

The reports should be submitted to the Social Watch secretariat by November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012, so that the global report can be published by mid April 2013.

## Annex 1

### List of countries where UN-led consultations are planned

The objective of the country consultations is to stimulate an inclusive debate on a post-2015 development agenda by providing an analytical base, inputs and ideas that (a) build a shared global vision on the Future We Want, with clear recommendations for governments, civil society and broad stakeholders; (b) amplify the voices of the poor and other marginalized in formal negotiation processes; and (c) influence the intergovernmental processes so that they align with the aspirations of civil society for a post-2015 agenda.

Africa (S, E & W)	Asia & Pacific	Latin America & Caribbean	Arab States	Eastern Europe & CIS
Angola	Bangladesh	Brazil	Djibouti	Armenia
Burkina Faso	China	Costa Rica	Egypt	Kazakhstan
CAR	India	Colombia	Jordan	Moldova
DRC	Indonesia	Peru	Morocco	Tajikistan
Ethiopia	Lao PDR	Haiti	Sudan	Turkey
Ghana	Pakistan	Bolivia	Algeria	(+1 tbc)
Kenya	PNG	El Salvador		
Mali	Solomon Islands	Honduras		
Malawi	Timor-Leste	Santa Lucia		
Mauritius	Vietnam			
Mozambique				
Niger				
Nigeria				
Senegal				
South Africa				
Tanzania				
Togo				
Uganda				
Zambia				

**Notes:**

1. Cambodia, Philippines, Vanuatu proposed as stand-by countries.
2. Nicaragua, Guatemala, Ecuador and Chile are proposed as alternates.
3. Lebanon and Yemen are proposed as alternates.

## **Annex 2**

### **Themes of global meetings led by the UN agencies**

The nine thematic consultations will be based on the following topics below, which have been identified as particular issues of importance to the post-2015 debates:

- Inequalities (across all dimensions, including gender)
- Health (including issues covered by MDGs 4, 5, 6, plus non communicable diseases)
- Education (primary, secondary, tertiary and vocational)
- Growth and employment (including investment in productive capacities, decent employment, and social protection)
- Environmental sustainability (including access to energy, biodiversity, climate change)
- Food security and nutrition
- Governance (at all levels)
- Conflict and fragility (including post-conflict countries, and those prone to natural disasters)
- Population dynamics (including ageing, international and internal migration, and urbanisation)