



United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

**High-level Task Force on Implementation of the Right to Development,
22-26 January 2007**

**Information note on implementation of recommendations of the 7th session of the
Working Group on the Right to Development: the criteria for periodic evaluation of
global partnerships from the perspective of the right to development**

1. In resolution 1/4 (paragraph 1), the Human Rights Council endorsed the conclusions and recommendations adopted by consensus by the WG on the right to development at its seventh session in January 2006 (E/CN.4/2006/26), including the adoption of criteria for the periodic evaluation of global partnerships as identified in Millennium Development Goal 8 (MDG 8) from the perspective of the right to development, and the application of these criteria, on a pilot basis to selected partnerships (paras 67 and 77 of the report). The criteria are annexed to this information note.
2. The mandates of the Working Group and High-Level Task Force on the implementation of the right to development (hereinafter: Task Force) have been extended for one year, in order to consider the outcome of the application of the criteria (paras 2 & 3 of the resolution).

Objective of the exercise

3. According to paragraph 77 of the Working Group's report, the mandate of the high-level task force was to be renewed for a period of one year, in order to apply the criteria for the periodic evaluation of global partnerships from a right-to-development perspective on a pilot basis to selected partnerships, with a view to operationalizing and progressively developing them, thus contributing to mainstreaming the right to development in the policies and operational activities of relevant actors at the national, regional and international levels, including multilateral, financial, trade and development institutions. The progressive development of the criteria could entail further refinement, and possible reformulation, depending on the outcomes of the exercise.

Scope of the exercise and actors involved

4. As a first step in a longer-term process, prior to the actual application of the criteria, it will be important to elaborate a strategy for their application. It is therefore proposed that the short-term outcomes of this first step in the process be: to further develop the strategy of assessing global development partnerships by means of the right to development criteria adopted by the Working Group, through lessons learned in a selected number of partnerships.
5. In line with the practical and action-oriented outcomes reflected in the Working Group outcomes over its past sessions, it is imperative that the implementation of

the right to development be supported by an operational framework that is conceptually and methodologically rigorous. Equally importantly, building upon comparative experiences in the actual implementation of other partnership monitoring frameworks, to the extent of legitimate overlap with the right to development criteria, will help ensure that the application of the evaluation criteria do not inadvertently ‘reinvent the wheel’. A comparative and contextualised approach will enable efforts to apply the criteria to build upon important lessons of experience worked out elsewhere, bringing the actual results of that experience to bear to the extent relevant to the right to development process along with strategic and methodological insights. It will also, by inference, help to reveal in a practical sense the distinctive attributes brought by the right to development, vital for the operationalisation and progressive refinement of the criteria.

6. A partnership to consider is that involving OECD and UNECA/NEPAD. Aspects of this partnership were considered at the meeting of the Task Force in November 2005, in particular the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), for which NEPAD drew inspiration from the OECD Peer Review Mechanism; and the biennial ECA/OECD-DAC “Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in the context of NEPAD”, of which the inaugural report was published in early summer 2005.
7. The focus of this segment of the process is on drawing lessons from the similar processes that are taking place in the field of development, with a particular focus on aid policies and practices, the dimension of the right to development most elaborated upon in the Working Group’s report. These processes are: the aforementioned ECA/OECD-DAC “Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in the context of NEPAD”, the implementation and monitoring of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM).
8. The ECA/OECD-DAC Mutual Review of Development Effectiveness in the context of NEPAD is a biennial consultation mechanism between Africa and OECD countries to assess and monitor progress in delivering on commitments and achieving goals. It was initiated by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee (HSGIC) and developed by ECA and OECD jointly over the period 2002-2004. Mutual accountability and development performance are central themes of this initiative, covering a range of leading issues and related commitments undertaken by Africa and its OECD partners, along with relevant action agendas either underway or need to better address these issues and meet the commitments. Importantly, it does not seek to generate new commitments, but rather to track implementation of commitments already made.
9. The inaugural Mutual Review report, published in early summer 2005, focuses on the following seven key areas: MDGs – progress and prospects; Africa agricultural performance and trade issues in perspective – achievements, constraints and challenges; political and economic governance – challenges of building a capable State; capacity development; aid flows – making aid available to generate dynamic African growth and achieve the MDGs; improving the quality of aid – issues and challenges; ensuring coherence in African and OECD policies to enable Africa to achieve the MDGs.

10. One of the reasons for inclusion of the Paris Declaration is that since its adoption in March 2005, significant conceptual and methodological advances have been made to monitor international partnership commitments that overlap – to a degree – with those identified by the WG. The Paris Declaration implementation process provides an important opportunity for integrating human rights and aid effectiveness principles and for ensuring that, combined, these principles can enhance the objectives of the RtD. The relevance of the Paris Declaration can also be seen in the fact that the commitments and associated quantitative targets form part of the Mutual Review process, underscoring the particular relevance of aid policies and practices in the present context.
11. Finally, the APRM has been selected, as there is widespread consensus that the APRM process is entirely driven and owned by Africans and thus authentically African. Similarly, the conceptual and empirical linkages between Right to development and development - accountability, nondiscrimination, ownership - are strongly enshrined in the APRM methodology.
12. The relevant partners to be consulted would be: OECD, UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and the NEPAD and APRM Secretariats (Johannesburg/Pretoria), in order to discuss a number of topics: a) methodological approach to the processes in which they are involved (OECD: Paris Declaration and Mutual Review; UNECA/NEPAD: Mutual Review and UNECA/NEPAD/APRM: APRM); b) substantive topics of mutual interest (e.g. overlapping components of the right to development and development, such as participation, accountability, non-discrimination, ownership etc, and how concepts of common concern can effectively be operationalised, monitored and evaluated in practice); and c) lessons learned so far.
13. Representatives of the abovementioned organizations have been invited to the third meeting of the Task Force, to be held in Geneva, from 22 to 26 January 2007. The deliberations at the meeting will feed into the report of the Task Force, which is to be submitted to the eighth session of the Working Group on the Right to Development, scheduled to meet in Geneva from 26 February to 2 March 2007.

Outcome of the exercise

14. The final outcomes of the exercise would be two-fold, related to the two main objectives reflected in the Working Group's recommendations: a) information on the compliance by these partnerships with the criteria, at the first instance ("operationalizing the criteria"); and b) more detailed information will have been obtained on the criteria's adequacy to assess global partnerships from an RtD-perspective, in the sense that compliance of global partnerships with essential elements of the right to development can be sufficiently established ("progressively developing the criteria"), which would serve to further enhance their quality.
15. The Task Force meeting in January 2007 would ideally make concrete suggestions to the Working Group in this regard, including the actual application (piloting) of the criteria in selected countries. Consideration could be given to including a country from Africa that has been involved in the APRM process.

ANNEX
**Criteria for periodic evaluation of global development partnerships – as identified
in Millennium Development Goal 8 – from the perspective of the right to
development**

Extract from report of 7th session of the Working Group on RtD, E/CN.4/2006/26, para.

67

- (a) The extent to which a partnership contributes to creating an environment and supports a process in which all human rights are realized;
- (b) The extent to which a partnership respects the right of each State to determine its own development policies, in accordance with its international obligations;
- (c) The extent to which partnerships for development promote the incorporation by all parties concerned of all human rights, and particularly the right to development, into their national and international development strategies, and the extent to which partner countries receive support from international donors and other development actors for these efforts;
- (d) The extent to which policies supported by a partnership ensure the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals, on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of the benefits resulting therefrom, as required by article 2, paragraph 3, of the Declaration on the Right to Development;
- (e) The extent to which a partnership values and promotes good governance, democracy and the rule of law at the national and international levels;
- (f) The extent to which a partnership values and promotes gender equality and the rights of women;
- (g) The extent to which a partnership reflects a rights-based approach to development, and promotes the principles of equality, non-discrimination, participation, transparency and accountability;
- (h) The extent to which the priorities set by a partnership are sensitive to the concerns and needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized segments of the population, and include positive measures in their favour;
- (i) The extent to which a partnership applies human rights impact assessments and provides, as needed, for social safety nets;
- (j) The extent to which a partnership recognizes mutual and reciprocal responsibilities between the partners, based on an assessment of their respective capacities and limitations;
- (k) The extent to which a partnership includes fair institutionalized mechanisms of mutual accountability and review;
- (l) The extent to which a partnership ensures that adequate information is available to the general public for the purpose of public scrutiny of its working methods and outcomes;
- (m) The extent to which a partnership provides for the meaningful participation of the concerned populations in processes of elaborating, implementing and evaluating related policies, programmes and projects;
- (n) The extent to which, in applying the preceding criteria, statistical and empirically developed data are used, and, in particular, whether the data are disaggregated as appropriate, updated periodically, and presented impartially and in a timely fashion;
- (o) The extent to which a partnership contributes to a development process that is sustainable and equitable, with a view to ensuring continually increasing opportunities for all.
