

**Feedback on the draft Elements Paper:  
Key Messages for the Post-2015 Development Agenda Declaration**  
Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment



The offerings of the Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment (TT) to the draft elements paper are grounded in the belief that inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement is a critical condition for ownership and commitment to the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Building on the Secretary General's (SG) call for a truly participatory course of action (\*para 20) the TT recommends that the declaration highlight principles of inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement:

**3. How will we do this.**

The TT welcomes the statement that we need to build an enabling environment for development, including through good governance and the rule of law at all levels. It also welcomes the statement that we need to create and nourish diverse multi-stakeholder partnerships including with civil society. The TT recommends strengthening this section with the following additions:

- 1) Individual and joint participation of various and diverse stakeholders – each with their own resources and comparative advantages – is needed to tackle the complex challenges the SDGs seek to address. “Inclusive partnerships must be a key feature of implementation at all levels” (para 31) and meaningful participation of stakeholders, including civil society, will be fostered from design, to implementation and review of the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- 2) Multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with civil society, need to be supported through appropriate legal, regulatory and policy environments. An “enabling environment [...] must be secured for the free, active and meaningful engagement of civil society” (para 78). It is essential to add explicitly that such an enabling environment – to be established in law, policy and practice – must be consistent with internationally agreed rights including the freedoms of peaceful assembly, association and expression.

**4. Follow-Up and Review.**

The TT recommends adding the SG's call for a culture of shared accountability with multi-stakeholder participation (para 146). Multi-stakeholder participation in monitoring should be fostered.

**5. Our commitment.**

The reference to international law, human rights and freedom should be retained and strengthened by reaffirming press freedom and access to information, as well as the freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, which the UN SG recognizes as enablers of sustainable development (para 78).

\*All quotes are from the Synthesis Report.

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