



Combined comments submitted by members of the Health in Post-2015 NGO Coalition and other civil society organizations on the final draft of the outcome document for the UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda

(Suggested wording is indicated in **bold**, and incorporates language suggested by other major groups civil society and coalitions.)

Overall comment

The Health in Post-2015 NGO Coalition urges strengthening health and wellbeing in the preamble and declaration of the final outcome document. While we welcome the fact that the substantive issues of paragraph 24 have been amended to reflect current terminology and in some cases, an expanded agenda (i.e. the addition of hepatitis), we note with concern the weakening of the language regarding the proposed action to be taken by all. We wish to see the strongest possible language in order to ensure that existing commitments and pledges translate into reality by 2030.

Transforming our World by 2030 – a New Agenda for Global Action

I. Preamble

People

We **pledge** [~~DELETE: want~~] to ensure that all human beings can fulfill their potential **and fully realize all of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, without discrimination on any grounds.** We want to end poverty in all its forms; end hunger and malnutrition; promote human dignity; combat inequalities in and between countries; achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; ensure quality **inclusive** education, water and sanitation and a healthy life and well-being for all; and **we want to** secure the **participation** of all people and groups, including children, **empowering vulnerable sections of society and marginalized groups, in** the realization of the new Goals and targets. **We pledge to ensure that no one is left behind. We recognize that the realization of gender equality is a prerequisite for the achievement of all sustainable development goals.**

II. Introduction

7. In these goals and targets, we are setting out a supremely ambitious and transformational **and achievable** vision. We envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive. We envisage a world free of fear, **discrimination** and violence. A world [~~DELETE: with~~] **where all people can enjoy their human rights to** universal **and equal** access to quality, **inclusive** education, [~~DELETE: and to~~] health and social protection, where physical, mental and social well-being are assured. A world where access to safe and affordable drinking water

is a basic and universal human right; where food is safe, affordable and nutritious; where there is adequate and accessible sanitation. A world where human habitats are safe, resilient and sustainable and there is affordable, **accessible**, reliable and sustainable energy.

Rationale: getting rid of the ‘**and to**’ is a very small change which can make a big difference as ‘quality’ will refer to ‘health’ as well as education. Adding ‘**inclusive**’ ensures that they are available to vulnerable or marginalized sectors of society, including those with disabilities.

13. Almost fifteen years ago, the Millennium Development Goals were agreed. These provided an important framework for development and significant progress has been made in a number of areas. But the progress has been uneven, particularly in Africa and least developed countries, and some of the MDGs remain off-track, in particular those related to gender equality and **reproductive**, maternal, newborn and child health **and persons with disabilities are invisible**. We recommit ourselves to the full realization of the off-track MDGs. The new Agenda builds on the Millennium Development Goals and seeks to complete what these did not achieve.

Rationale: This would include MDG Target 5b and recognize that persons with disabilities have not been well-served by the MDGs

15. We recall **and reaffirm our commitments to fully implement** the outcomes of **all** major UN conferences and summits which have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and have helped to shape the new Agenda. These include the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development; the Millennium Declaration; the World Summit on Sustainable Development; **the International Conference on Population and Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women**; the World Summit for Social Development; and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (“Rio+ 20”), **the Addis Ababa Action Agenda**, among others, and **their [DELETE: its] follow-up and the outcome document of their review conferences**.

Note: This includes the ICPD and Beijing Conferences, which are only found in the Annex on the Chapeau to the OWG report

III. The new Agenda

(i) Well-being

17. We are announcing today 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 associated targets which are integrated and indivisible. Never before have world leaders pledged common action and endeavour across such a broad and universal policy agenda, **which is essential for the wellbeing of all people, leaving no one behind, and the planet**. We are setting out together on the path towards

sustainable development, devoting ourselves collectively to the pursuit of global development and of “win-win” cooperation which **will [DELETE: can]** bring huge gains to all countries, **all peoples** and all parts of the world. We will implement the Agenda for the full benefit of all, for today’s generation and for future generations. In doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to international law and emphasize that the Agenda is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with **international human rights and fundamental freedoms** and the rights and obligations of states under international law.

(ii) Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights / sexual and reproductive health and rights.

19. Realizing [DELETE: Working for] gender equality, the human rights of all women and girls and their empowerment will make a crucial contribution to progress across all the goals and targets **must be addressed in a cross-cutting way throughout the sustainable development agenda.** The achievement of full human potential and of sustainable development is not possible if one half of humanity continues to be denied its full human rights and opportunities. Women and girls must enjoy **their rights to** equal access to education, **health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights, justice, economic resources, land, inheritance and other resources,** and political participation **and decision-making at all levels,** as well as equal opportunities with men and boys for employment and leadership, **ensuring equal pay for work of equal value and redistribution of unpaid care and domestic work.** All forms of gender inequality, discrimination and violence against women and **[DELETE: children, both boys and] girls, including harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation** will be eliminated **[DELETE: combatted].**

Rationale: We support the inclusion of sexual and reproductive health and rights in the Declaration. This paragraph should be the one where it should be added. Should it not be possible to get ‘**sexual and reproductive health and rights**’, the next preference is ‘**sexual and reproductive health, reproductive rights and the rights of women, men and youth to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality**’.

(iii) Comprehensive sexuality education

23. We commit to providing **inclusive and equitable** quality education at all levels – early childhood, primary, secondary and tertiary. All people irrespective of gender, age, race or ethnicity, **or any factor,** including persons with disabilities **or living with HIV and AIDS,** indigenous peoples, children and youth in vulnerable situations, should have access to learning that helps them acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society **including setting the foundations of health promotion across the life course.** We will strive to provide children and youth, **with particular attention to adolescent girls,** with a

safe, nurturing environment for the full realization of their rights and capabilities, including through education on human rights, gender equality, peace, non-violence, comprehensive sexuality education cultural diversity and sustainable lifestyles, as well as supportive families, schools and stronger communities.

Rationale: Quality education is not just reading, writing and arithmetic, it also means learning about the skills that will lead to a happy and successful life for all children and adolescents that will enable them to participate fully in society. This is the most appropriate place where '**comprehensive sexuality education**' can be added.

(iv) Health

24. To achieve this new Agenda, the human right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health must be fulfilled. To extend healthy life expectancy, **ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing** for all, **across the life course**, we must achieve universal health coverage, **including financial risk protection and first reaching those furthest behind and those most at risk of marginalization and exclusion.** No one must be left behind. We commit to accelerating the progress made to date in reducing infant, child and maternal mortality **and morbidity** by ending all preventable deaths of **newborns**, infants, children adolescents and pregnant **women** by 2030. We are committed to ensuring universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, including for family planning, information and education, **and the protection of reproductive rights and the rights of women, men, and youth to have control over and decide freely and responsibly on matters related to their sexuality.** We will equally accelerate the pace of progress made in fighting malaria, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, hepatitis, **tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke**, and other communicable diseases and epidemics. At the same time we are committed to **[DELETE: devoting] greater efforts to prevent and control [DELETE: tackling] non-communicable diseases – cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and dementia, improve mental health, and address social and environmental determinants of health.** The role of communities in providing health care, in particular to marginalized populations, should be fully recognized and supported.

Rationale: Paragraph 24 on health includes many important issues and is well-balanced. We welcome the recognition of the importance of achieving universal health coverage but note that it does not reflect the intent of target 3.8, nor does it focus on first reaching those furthest behind.

The paragraph has been weakened by the adding of '**devoting**' and '**tackling**' in front of communicable diseases. While '**committing**' is not as strong as actually '**doing**', it was asked for in the discussions in the June IGN, so the above is a possible way of strengthening this important sentence.

If not included under gender, a reference to reproductive rights could be added here.

With these amendments this paragraph fully reflects the health goal, which must be achieved as part of a successful post-2015 development agenda.

(v) Vulnerable sections of the population

22. Vulnerable sections of the population who must be empowered, and whose needs are reflected in the goals and targets, include children, **adolescents**, youth, persons with disabilities, **people living with and affected by HIV or AIDS, men who have sex with men, people who use drugs, sex workers, transgender people**, and older persons; the needs of others who are vulnerable, such as migrants and indigenous peoples, are also reflected. People living in areas affected by conflict, terrorism and complex humanitarian emergencies are also experiencing severe challenges.

Rationale: From a health perspective, paragraph 22 does not fully include all of the vulnerable sections of the population.

Supporting organizations:

ACCES, Association pour la coopération, l'échange des connaissances et l'expertise pour l'accès universel à la santé- Tunisia
Action Canada for Sexual Health and Rights
Action on Smoking and Health US
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Cancer Society
Association "Groupe Tawhida BenCheikh", Tunisia
Astra Network
CLAN (Caring & Living As Neighbours)
Commonwealth Medical Trust (Commat)
Community and Family Aid Foundation, Ghana, Management
dance4life
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Episcopal Relief & Development
Family Care International
Federation for Women and Family Planning, Poland
Framework Convention Alliance for Tobacco Control (FCA)
Global Health Council (GHC)
Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS (GYCA)
Global Social Observatory
Handicap International Federation
Healthy Caribbean Coalition
International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB)
International HIV/AIDS Alliance

International-Lawyers.Org
International Pediatrics Association
International Union Against TB and Lung Disease (The Union)
Ipas US
LIVESTRONG Foundation
Management Sciences for Health
NCD Alliance
NCD Child
Pathfinder International
Rutgers
Taskforce on Women & NCDs
Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)
World Heart Federation
World Lung Foundation (WLF)
Worldwide Hospice Palliative Care Alliance (WHPCA)
YouAct, European Youth Network on SRHR