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# Position Paper

On the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals



As a network of peacebuilding organizations, constituted regionally and with a global reach, GPPAC's position on the post-2015 process is based on a shared concern over the unfinished aspects of the MDGs and the economic policies that have caused or exacerbated human displacement, human insecurity and conflict. Through their practice, GPPAC member organizations have actively engaged in building locally-based mechanisms for mediating social tensions, generating early warning and supporting early action, and empowering socially excluded groups such as women, youth, minorities, displaced persons and the poor.

GPPAC's network is committed to the pursuit of equality and dignity for all, and firmly believes that the realization of peaceful and stable societies goes hand-in-hand with the establishment of a more just international economic system. The mutual dependency between sustainable economic growth and peace is well established,<sup>i</sup> and for progress to be made in either issue, it is vital that the post-2015 agenda reflects the values of both. Countries with higher levels of peace tend to experience faster economic growth with higher levels of social harmony and be more resilient to external shocks, whether they are economic, geopolitical or natural disasters.<sup>ii</sup>

As peacebuilding organizations, we are pleased to see that efforts have been made to put people at the centre of sustainable development and to strive for a more just, equitable and inclusive world, including for those living under foreign occupation. We particularly welcome the inclusion of a Peace Goal and gender justice in the Outcome Document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals,<sup>iii</sup> and the tackling of several driving factors of conflict throughout the document, as highlighted below. However, the document as it is now, does not go far enough.

- The Goal's language needs to be strengthened, it is not enough to promote peaceful societies, states must commit to making concrete and measurable steps towards this end. This is not just an issue for poorer countries; uneven development has also resulted in social marginalization and the perpetuation of violence in and against poor communities in developed countries.
- There needs to be commitment to including women in peace processes and to the protection of human rights defenders.
- Targets must also include long-term measures for sustainable peace infrastructure such as dispute resolution mechanisms and education on non-violence. Education on non-violence should be a target under the Peace Goal so as not to be forgotten amongst other education targets.
- There is also grave cause for concern over opening Overseas Development Assistance for financing counter-terrorism measures. Although this is an important issue, a people-centered approach to development is a vital part of achieving the same ends, that of countering violent extremism through tackling the root-causes of violence. We need guarantees in the document that the building of capacities in this area will not divert urgently needed funds for a people-centered, 'human security' approach to development, to fund the heavy militarization of developing countries instead.
- We also need guarantees that there will be transparency in the military and private security sectors so that they may be held accountable to the communities they intend to serve.

What follows is an overview of all goals and targets in the Outcome Document that relate to conflict prevention. GPPAC Suggests changes under goals 1, 4, 11 and 16, which marked in **bold** in the table.

Proposed Goals in the Outcome Document	Targets in the Outcome Document / Suggested changes
<b>Goal 1.</b> <b>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</b>	1.1 by 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day
	1.4 by 2030 ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights, <b>[ADD: including the right to free, prior and informed consent, before the implementation of policies affecting]</b> economic resources, <b>[DELETE: as well as]</b> access to basic services, <b>[ADD: housing rights,]</b> ownership, <b>[DELETE: and]</b> <b>[ADD: as well as]</b> control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance.
	1.5 by 2030 build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters
	1.b create sound policy frameworks, at national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies to support accelerated investments in poverty eradication actions
<b>Goal 4.</b> <b>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all</b>	4.7 by 2030 ensure all learners acquire knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including among others through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development <b>[Move to: Goal 16]</b>
<b>Goal 5.</b> <b>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</b>	5.1 end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
	5.2 eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
	5.5 ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life
	5.a undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance with national laws
<b>Goal 10.</b> <b>Reduce inequality within and among</b>	10.2 by 2030 empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status

<b>countries</b>	10.3 ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including through eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard
	10.5 improve regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen implementation of such regulations
<b>Goal 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</b>	11.4 strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage <b>[ADD: including indigenous concepts and values of what constitutes development and a 'good life']</b>
<b>Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</b>	13.1 strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries
	13.2 integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning
	13.3 improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning
<b>Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</b>  <b>[CHANGE TO: Achieve peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels]</b>	16.1 significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
	16.2 end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children
	16.3 promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all
	16.4 by 2030 significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime
	16.5 substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms
	16.6 develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
	16.7 ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels <b>[ADD: ... including by building local capacities for peace through the provision of inclusive and reactive local government structures, mechanisms for the peaceful contestation of electoral results and other governmental processes and decisions.</b>
	<b>[ADD: ensure the participation of women in all mediation processes for the peaceful resolution of social tensions and conflict]</b>

	16.8 broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
	16.9 by 2030 provide legal identity for all including birth registration
	16.10 ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
	<b>[ADD: ensure transparency in the security sector, including private security services and the arms industry]</b>
	16.a strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building <b>[ADD: civilian]</b> capacities at all levels, in particular in developing countries, for preventing violence and combating terrorism and crime
	16.b promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

<sup>i</sup> See (2011) World Bank, 'World Bank Development Report,' available at:

[http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDRS/Resources/WDR2011\\_Full\\_Text.pdf](http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWDRS/Resources/WDR2011_Full_Text.pdf) See also the 2013 Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, 'A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies Through Sustainable Development,' available at: <http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf>

<sup>ii</sup> See (2011) Institute for Economics and Peace, 'Pillars of Peace,' available at: <http://economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Pillars-of-Peace-Report-IEP.pdf>

<sup>iii</sup> See OWG Outcome Document, available at:

[http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518SDGs\\_FINAL\\_Proposal%20of%20OWG\\_19%20July%20at%201320hrsver3.pdf](http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4518SDGs_FINAL_Proposal%20of%20OWG_19%20July%20at%201320hrsver3.pdf)