

## History of Beyond 2015

### 2010: The start of the campaign

Shortly after the MDG Summit in 2010, a small number of CSOs came together to start working on influencing the next global development agenda. These CSOs were:

- Bond (UK), who had been coordinating UK advocacy around the 2010 Summit and were looking to work on an influential global agenda
- CAFOD (UK), who had undertaken a research piece called '100 Voices', exploring Southern opinions on what, if anything, should replace the MDGs
- Trocaire (Ireland), who had undertaken a research piece called 'Leading Edge 2020', looking at the role of CSOs in the future
- CIDSE (Belgium)
- Christian Aid (UK)

At this stage, few people were prepared to talk about the post-2015 agenda. Most CSOs, governments and UN officials were reluctant, preferring to focus energies on achieving the MDGs by 2015. These five CSOs, however, supported the need to continue focusing on the MDGs but felt it was critical to start discussing the post-2015 agenda at an early stage to ensure a participatory, inclusive process which responded to the voices of those most affected by poverty.

With these aims in mind, these CSOs launched Beyond 2015 as a global campaign, setting broad goals which would enable a wide range of CSOs throughout the world to work together. These goals are:

- A global, overarching, cross-thematic framework to succeed the Millennium Development Goals, reflecting Beyond 2015's policy positions.
- The process of developing this framework is participatory, inclusive and responsive to the voices of those directly affected by poverty and injustice.

In order to bring the campaign to a global audience, the conversation was taken to the **World Social Forum** in Dakar (Senegal) in **February 2011**. Two meetings were organised – a closed meeting with two dozen colleagues from throughout the world to create the first draft of the '**Essential Must Haves**', and a larger public meeting which brought together almost 100 people, to refine the 'Essential Must Haves' and plan future work. The Essential Must Haves were then further refined via an online process with the growing campaign.

In June 2011, the Executive Committee of Beyond 2015 (consisting of the 5 original CSOs + WWF UK) decided to move the campaign's secretariat to Concord, the European NGO confederation for relief and development in order to further 'internationalise' Beyond 2015. Around this time, the Executive Committee expanded to include Sightsavers, Retrak, WAGGGS and VOICE Bangladesh.

At this stage Beyond 2015 was encouraging the UN to lead this process – the first active response to this demand was that the President of the General Assembly organised a '[Development Dialogue](#)' focusing on the post-2015 agenda on 14 June 2011.

In September 2011, Beyond 2015 convened a workshop at the [CIVICUS World Assembly](#) in Montreal, to share the work of the campaign with a global audience and to plan strategically

together. This session also provided an opportunity to hear about the UN planned process of national, thematic and global consultations on the post-2015 framework.

By December 2011, Beyond 2015 had grown from 5 CSOs in 3 countries to 262 CSOs in 65 countries!

### **2012: Beyond 2015 and the start of the UN consultations**

By early 2012, it was clear that the UN Secretary General was going to elect a High Level Panel to provide initial recommendations for the post-2015 framework. Beyond 2015 lobbied hard for the inclusion of a civil society representative on the Panel, and put in place a process to nominate potential civil society representatives. These nominations were shared with the UN Secretary General in April 2012. In May 2012 the composition of the HLP was clarified, and Mrs Graça Machel, one of the Beyond 2015 nominations, was appointed.

In 2012, Beyond 2015 became more strategic, developing an annual influencing strategy to guide the work of the campaign. This strategy led to the development of various Working Groups and Task Forces (see, for example, [here](#) and [here](#)) to lead on specific parts of the strategy.

In February 2012, the mandate of the original Executive Committee expired and a new committee, better reflecting the more global nature of the Beyond 2015, was elected, with six CSOs from the global south and six from the global north: BOND (UK), CAFOD (UK), CESR (USA), ECOWEB (Philippines), GCAP International, Justice, Development and Peace Commission (Nigeria), Save the Children UK, Secretariat of the Africa Decade of Persons with Disabilities (South Africa), Sightsavers (UK), The Seed Institute (Kenya), VOICE (Bangladesh), World Wildlife Fund (UK). The Seed Institute and CAFOD were elected as co-chairs of the Executive Committee.

At this time, a lot of energy was spent in attempting to ensure that the UN was putting in place a consultation process which was participatory, legitimate and responsive to the voices of those most affected by poverty and injustice. The aim was to ensure that the national consultations organised by the UN, for example, meaningfully included civil society organisations who had been working on this agenda, and directly took into account the voices of people experiencing poverty and marginalisation.

### **Mid-2012: Civil society deliberations at the national level**

In summer 2012, Beyond 2015, working with GCAP and the International Forum of National NGO Platforms, secured funding from SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) to support a series of national CSO deliberations in 30 countries: 12 in Africa, 10 in Asia and 8 in Latin America. At a similar time the Participate initiative was launched by Beyond 2015 and IDS, aiming to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalised communities have the opportunity to shape post-2015 policymaking and that a future global framework reflects the priorities of those directly affected by poverty and injustice.

In September 2012, Beyond 2015 again took the conversations to the CIVICUS World Assembly, where we collectively agreed on the Montreal Declaration and Plan of Action, stating that the 'process on the post-2015 development agenda must be open, inclusive, transparent, consultative, and take the aspirations of people most affected by poverty and climate change, as expressed by those people themselves, as a starting point. We collectively stated that the process must be founded on principles of social justice, solidarity,

human dignity, and freedom, and be free from all forms of discrimination.’ At this stage we stated that our overarching vision was ‘the eradication of poverty, the reversal of growing inequality, and the fulfilment of environmental sustainability and human rights.’

### **Beyond 2015’s content thinking**

At this time we also selected lead agencies for Beyond 2015 to create campaign input into the 11 UN Thematic Consultations. Specific position papers were created by drafting groups from the campaign, all of which were signed off by the Executive Committee. These position papers continue to form the basis of much of Beyond 2015 messaging in relevant fora. Shortly after, Beyond 2015 established a further strand of work to develop collective thinking on the post-2015 agenda – a content dialogue around VPVC (Vision, Purpose, Vision and Criteria for a post-2015 framework). Two lead authors and a drafting team were selected, representing different parts of the campaign (Regional Coordinators for the Beyond 2015 / GCAP / IFP project, representative of the Participate Initiative, the Executive Committee, Beyond 2015 consultant who was working across the 11 thematic consultations etc). The first VPVC workshop was held in Geneva in January 2013, and the second will be held in Nairobi in June 2013.

From September 2012 – May 2013, Beyond 2015 influenced the High Level Panel, whose report was published on 30 May 2013. Beyond 2015 engaged with the HLP meetings in New York, London, Monrovia and Bali. In Monrovia, Beyond 2015 coordinated responses to a number of the HLP’s ‘framing questions’ and shared these with HLP members and advisors. We also highlighted messages from the VPVC workshop in Geneva. For the Bali meeting, an interim synthesis of the national deliberations was shared with the HLP and key messages from VPVC and the thematic deliberations were shared.

### **Post High Level Panel and national deliberations**

Since the High Level Panel and the national deliberations, Beyond 2015 has been working hard to develop a campaign position on the content, via its VPVC process, which has seen workshops in Geneva, Nairobi and London. Task Forces are currently working on the targets, and the campaign will again meet in Pretoria in March 2014 to make further progress on concrete targets. This VPVC iteration will be a crucial influencing tool for the campaign throughout 2014.

### **Open Working Group and the Special Event in September 2014**

To the best of our capacity Beyond 2015 has been engaging with the Open Working Group and the September Special Event, in the following ways:

- Through the UN Working Group, ensuring that our messages are taken to the OWG meeting
- Engaging with the process to develop the UNSG’s annual report
- Engaging with and influencing the Outcome Document for the September Special Event
- Organising a high level event at the September Special Event (co-hosted by Colombia and Sweden) focusing on bringing the voices of the national level to decision makers

### **Building partnerships and capacity**

Beyond 2015 has always been built on the principle of equal partnership between the global North and global South. The campaign is led by an Executive Committee composed of equal numbers of organisations which predominantly identify as ‘northern’ and ‘southern’. Beyond 2015 currently brings together more than 1000 civil society organisations from 132 countries

all over the world. Of these, 56% are Southern CSOs and 44% are Northern CSOs - in 41 countries in Africa, 29 countries in Asia and the Pacific, 35 countries in Europe, 2 countries in North America and 26 countries in Latin America.