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Statement submitted by Pragya, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* [E/2014/1/Rev.1](#), annex II.



Statement

Although the past nine years have shown a healthy movement towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the disappointments and gaps indicate the areas in need of attention during the post-2015 period.

Traditionally neglected and excluded groups on the social, economic and geographic margins have remained deprived of the benefits of development. Inequities have grown and the festering dissatisfaction has contributed to violence and conflicts, in turn eroding the gains made. These inequities are often perpetuated by local political structures, indicating the critical need for a rights-based approach and an inclusive agenda within nations after 2015.

It is becoming evident that in their singular focus on enhancing access to services for education, health and livelihoods, most developing countries have compromised on the quality of the services, greatly reducing the real value of those services. Quality enhancement in services therefore needs to be at the centre of the post-2015 period.

The world has encountered additional generic challenges (financial and food crises) that have had disproportionately higher effects on developing countries and disadvantaged populations. These are eroding and reversing the progress made, revealing the fragile nature of those gains and the need to strengthen basic conditions, which would help improve resilience. After 2015, Governments must target these challenges and ensure the sustainability of development gains.

National Governments in developing countries have been hamstrung by weak governance and political instability and constrained by poor basic conditions, insufficient resources and unfulfilled commitments made in the framework of development cooperation. In the future, cooperation partners should invest in supporting developing nations to improve basic conditions, address the neglected populations on the margins of society, strengthen local governments and create an environment conducive to respect for rights.

The next 12 months will require concerted efforts to be made to ensure continuity between the Millennium Development Goals and the sustainable development goals. The focus should be on establishing mechanisms that ensure that there will be no regression in the progress made and on designing policies and programmes that will ensure progress on identified gaps and emerging challenges. Development cooperation will be critical to enable national Governments to frame their post-2015 agenda with a specific focus on existing and emerging issues and neglected populations, while improving basic conditions and overall governance.

In the post-2015 period, global partnerships must prioritize fragile and conflict-prone areas and excluded and vulnerable populations in order to correct past oversights and ensure maximum development gains in the next phase. In addition, there should be a concerted effort to engage youths and women, who have the greatest potential for bringing about long-term gains at the deepest levels, and build human and institutional capacities, as this will contribute to catalysing and sustaining development. Building an information society and an effective legal framework, particularly in fragile States and States affected by political instability, would empower people, enabling them to make their voices heard and demand their

rights, and in turn increase the accountability of Governments and development mechanisms.

Development cooperation after 2015 needs to expand and propel newer relationships, in recognition of the responsibilities and potential of other development actors and institutions. We encourage the building of South-South relationships aimed at sharing and development support, public-private partnerships aimed at a responsible business sector, and Government-civil society collaborations for effective national policies and programmes. We hope that in the post-2015 period we will be able to hold on to the gains made, avoid any loss of momentum or erosion in progress made and push forward towards equitable and inclusive development.
