

Surabaya Declaration

The Parliamentary Event on MDGs Acceleration and Post-2015 Development Agenda held in Surabaya, the Republic of Indonesia, 12-13 November 2014, discussed on the recent trends and progresses of the MDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The event was held at the time when MDGs is running towards its finish line, while the global arena begins its discourse to chart the development agenda beyond 2015.

The event was attended by (...) members of parliaments from (...) countries from Asia and the Pacific in the presence of representatives of development partner organizations as well as civil society organizations. The event hereby adopts a Surabaya Declaration on MDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Promises of MDGs

1. There are positive progresses on the achievement of MDGs in Asia and the Pacific. At the same time, there are more to be done to meet the promises of MDGs. Being aware of the MDGs deadline that is fast approaching, the MDGs acceleration and innovation efforts are necessities to speed up the attainment of these millennium commitments.
2. Despite of progress to halve poverty across the region, Asia and the Pacific have been too slow in their efforts to reduce the number of people living in hunger and children who experiencing chronic undernutrition.
3. A comprehensive transformational change and accelerated actions are needed to address the root cause of poverty. There are no better ways to lift people out of poverty than to enabling and expanding access to income generation and distribution, health and education opportunities as well as life expectancy.
4. Limited progress has been made to reduce maternal mortality and the under-five mortality rate in the region. Lack of awareness in reproductive health, access to reproductive rights combined with minimum skilled-birth attendants as well as poor health infrastructure are hampering progress in reducing maternal mortality rate.
5. To speed up the progress, more efforts needs to be done in terms of: increasing health budget and ensuring its proper disbursement; enhancing people awareness on health related issues; recruit more skilled-health personnel and acknowledge their professional status, as well as distribute them to the remote and rural areas; ensure universal access to health care and treatment services while at the same time providing adequate health infrastructure and facilities within poor and marginalized area. Parliaments have the responsibility to ensure that their Governments are working in relentless efforts to meet the goals.
6. The growing population of Asia and the Pacific poses challenges to the change of energy consumption and migration pattern, degrading the environmental resources.

7. A concerted effort is needed to allocate more resources to build sustainable sanitation infrastructure and raise the public awareness on the importance of access to sanitation for all.
8. Asia and the Pacific are prone to the climate change. Small island developing states in particular will be confronted with rising sea levels. Yet, Asia and the Pacific is a potential contributor to the accumulation of CO² globally.
9. In this critical moment, there is a need to contribute to the urgent reduction and phase down of greenhouse gas emission, translating climate leadership into actions. Business as usual is no longer a viable option. Parliament has the responsibility to act by providing political legitimacy for the promotion of sustainable development through the use of eco-friendly materials and further exploration of new and renewable energy resources.

Moving Beyond 2015

10. We are at the defining moment to take part as a global community, making the contribution in shaping the post-2015 development agenda. This is the time for us to signify the legitimacy of ours within the arena of decision-making process at the national and international levels. We have the opportunity to ensure that development policies and plans are drawn up through participatory and inclusive processes—with the poorest, the most marginalized and vulnerable society at the centre of discourse—and with regular progress reports submitted to parliament for review.
11. The discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda should reflect the lessons of both successes and failures in achieving MDGs. The Post-2015 Development Agenda should also be long-term, ambitious, time bound, action-oriented, measurable, achievable, specific, concise, resourceful and responsive to the changing global landscape.
12. The formulation of post-2015 development agenda has to be addressed in a balanced manner which would fully incorporate all three pillars of sustainable development—economy, social and environment—and their linkages.
13. The Post-2015 Development Agenda should be universal while taking into account different national condition, capacities and levels of development as well as respecting national policies and priorities.
14. The Post 2015 Development Agenda must address the structural causes of poverty, inequalities and deprivation within and between countries through integrated policies, focussing on accessible and inclusive growth, human rights, social justice, and sustainable development.
15. Maternal, newborn and child health, and widening the universal access to sexual and reproductive health, including family planning, as well as reducing the prevalence of communicable diseases and controlling the spread of non-communicable diseases should continue to be priorities in the next development agenda.
16. The international norms, the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations have guided the global community to maintain global peace and security. Yet, conflicts

and wars remain. The scourge of war including conflicts has brought the untold sorrow to mankind. To this end, the Post-2015 Development Agenda should carry the mission and culture of peace, non-violence acts as well as respect to international law and to all human rights; send the message to the world that peace should prevail for the good of mankind.

17. People all over the world are aspiring to have accountable, honest and responsive governments. They have the right to do so and even to be heard. In this respect, building responsive and legitimate institutions, establishing a democratic parliament, promoting respect for human rights and rule of law are mandatory for the foundation of well-being. These should be included in the new development agenda; they are ends as well as means.
18. The development agenda should go beyond MDGs. A quality development agenda should be sustainable. All aspects of decent living condition: education, water, health, sanitation, work, food security and nutrition, among many others should become priorities in the coming development agenda.
19. With due consideration to the population dynamics of Asia and the Pacific, and its impact to the attainment of many development objectives; changes in demographic trends should be integrated in formulation of the post 2015 development goals, targets and indicators.
20. The world needs a new stronger and binding committent to address the adverse impact of climate change build on the common but differentiated responsibility principle.
21. Gender equality and women empowerment perspective need to be integrated into each goal of the post 2015 development agenda.
22. The new framework for development will certainly demanding a timely, accurate and reliable data. A robust, improved and integrated international and national statistics, data system and standard of measurement should be developed to support the attainment of the development goals.
23. It is important to foster stronger inter-parliamentary engagement in MDGs-related issues and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
24. The parliamentary experiences echoed in various multilateral arenas are a critical lesson learned that fundamental to the achievement of MDGs and the formulation of Post-2015 Development Agenda. It is important therefore for Asia and the Pacific States to have their joint composition of delegates representing both parliament and government as national representatives at the inter-governmental negotiation process to formulate the post-2015 development agenda. At the same time, the debate should also continue in the table of national parliaments as a way of engaging them in the global consultation of Post-2015 Development Agenda.