

# A REVIEW

## A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development

Report of  
UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on  
Post-2015 Development Agenda



PALLI KARMA-SAHAYAK FOUNDATION (PKSF)

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## **A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development**

Report of  
UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on  
Post-2015 Development Agenda

An edited version of the  
Proceedings of a Seminar  
organised to review  
the HLP Report



**PALLI KARMA-SAHAYAK FOUNDATION (PKSF)**

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## **A Seminar on**

**Post-2015 Development Agenda:**

**A Review of UN Secretary-General's High Level Panel Report**

Organized by

**Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)**

on July 20, 2013

PKSF Auditorium, Dhaka

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## **Keynote presentation**

**Dr. Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad**

Chairman, PKSF

## **A Review**

**of the Report of the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the  
Post-2015 Development Agenda,**

**Appointed by the UN Secretary General (HLP):**

*A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies  
through Sustainable Development*

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## **Comments on the HLP Report by**

**Md. Shahidul Haque**

Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**Mr. Md. Nojibur Rahman**

Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division

**Dr. Mesbah ul Alam**

Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief

**Rasheda K. Choudhury**

Executive Director, Campaign for Popular Education, (CAMPE)

**Mr. Md. Abdul Karim**

Managing Director, PKSF and Chair of the Seminar

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## Prefatory Note

On July 20, 2013, Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) organized a seminar of special nature. The focus of the seminar had been on the examination of the spirit of the contents of the Report concerning Post-2015 Development Agenda. This Report has been prepared by the High Level Panel, which is constituted of some eminent persons. Ban Ki-Moon, the Secretary General of United Nations appointed this panel for the task. This Report has come under review of almost all sections of people who contemplate on global development situation. In particular, it has created some high waves within the developing countries since they are chronically involved in the strategies of survival in an otherwise hostile climate of international relations.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), right from its inception is committed to create social and economic opportunities for the poor. This involves constant efforts in activities of poverty alleviation and PKSF's mission is to fight social exclusion in terms of delivery of social services and thereby to establish human dignity for all. Three of the five shifts included in the Report of the High Level Panel are intellectually and fundamentally related to the mission of PKSF. May be, it is not in the same vocabulary, but PKSF always insists on the objective of *leave no one behind*. This shift only reasserts that PKSF is working in the right direction. In order to maintain accountability and transparency, PKSF has to be cautious and selective in its operations but this organization is keen to see that everyone gets the benefit of development and social services. The second shift of the Report asks to *put sustainable development at the core*. PKSF is relentless to add practical value to this objective. ENRICH, one innovative programme of PKSF, seeks to address the holistic development and welfare of the marginalized families. The methodology through which ENRICH is being implemented has been conceived to take into account the local, social, economic, occupational and environmental conditions of the people and the expected outcome is sustainable development. *Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth*. This is the third shift of the HLP Report. PKSF activities are planned and executed to a large extent in conformity to this objective. In spite of being one of the large actors in matters of micro-credit operations, PKSF believes that creation of sustainable employment opportunities is the key to bring in qualitative changes in the life of the poor.

So, PKSF felt that like many other groups, organizations, research bodies and institutions, it should also make a statement as its response to the HLP Report. Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, an internationally acclaimed economist and Chairman of PKSF has been associated with many forums that work as think tanks to issues contained in the HLP Report. PKSF thought it a worthwhile endeavour to ask important persons to take part in a seminar session devoted to articulate intellectual reaction to this significant Report. PKSF feels happy and proud that while Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad made the keynote presentation, Ms Rasheda K Choudhury, Executive Director, Campaign for Popular Education and former Adviser to the Caretaker Government; Mr. Md. Shahidul Haque, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Md. Nojibur Rahman, Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division and Dr. Mesbah ul Alam, Secretary, Department of Disaster Management and Relief were present as discussants. Mr. Md. Abdul Karim, Managing Director, PKSF, chaired the seminar session. The present booklet is an edited version of the proceedings of the seminar organized to review the HLP Report.



## keynote presentation

### A Review

of the Report of the High Level Panel of  
Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda,  
Appointed by the UN Secretary General (HLP):

*A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform  
Economies through Sustainable Development*



**Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad**

Chairman, PKSf

Chairman, Dhaka School of Economics

## INTRODUCTION

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were picked by experts, sidestepping the guiding principles outlined in the Millennium Declaration. It may be recalled that the Millennium Declaration, in fact, has proposed an overall framework for pursuing human progress, in terms of: freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, and shared responsibility of managing world economic and social development as well as threats to international peace and security. The programme contents that it has outlined also talk about peace, security and disarmament, development and poverty eradication, protection of common environment, human rights, democracy and governance, protecting the vulnerable and so on. Not only that the MDG agenda have ignored these overarching issues, except for poverty eradication, but have also not addressed certain major development and climate change related issues such as, equitable economic growth, energy, climate change, and production and consumption patterns.

Given that the MDG agenda remain bereft of a framework for people-centred, equitable, and inclusive sustainable development, even substantial progress in relation to MDG targets would not and has not generated a momentum to that end. Yet, the MDGs have been sought to be implemented around the world with much gusto, the like of which has not so far happened in relation to any other globally agreed agenda.

The main reason may not be far to seek. Seven of the 8 MDGs, excluding Goal 8, as

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Dr Ahmad is a widely renowned and recognized economist, particularly in the area of development economics. He is the Coordinator of Bangladesh Climate Change Negotiating Team, in the UNFCCC process. e-mail: qk\_ahmad@yahoo.com

Page references throughout the paper relate to the HLP Report.



formulated, are easily understandable and the targets identified under them are quantitatively measurable. Perhaps largely for the reason that the MDG agenda has caught the imagination of the governments, civil societies and other stakeholders around the world.

As of today (20 July 2013), only 894 days remain for further attainment of MDG targets. Enhanced efforts are encouraged and are pursued in many countries to achieve more (where there are still shortfalls) or beyond (where targets have already been achieved) in relation to the targets under different MDGs. Further MDG achievements will certainly be welcome, as the post-2015 agenda come into force.

The notable achievements in respect of many MDG targets in many countries including Bangladesh, which is in fact a star performer and the enthusiasm and experiences engendered by the MDG agenda as well as the absence of a broad framework and non-inclusion of certain key issues in the MDGs can be and are generally considered as points of departure in the discourse towards formulating the post-2015 agenda.

## FORMULATING THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

While the UN-initiated work on **post-2015 development agenda** ahead of the June 2012 Rio+20 Conference, **the post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs)** formulation process owes its origin to the outcomes of the Rio+20 Conference. A mandate was set so that between Rio+20 and end of 2015, an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process is made open to all stakeholders with a view to developing global SDGs to be agreed by the General Assembly. It is expected that the final outcome will be on the basis of an orchestrated convergence of the UN-initiated post-2015 development agenda and the Rio+20 Conference-initiated SDG formulation processes. Henceforth, we shall refer to the post-2015 development framework and action programme as the post-2015 agenda.



The post-2015 agenda formulation process is a global multi-dimensional and multi-stakeholder exercise. The overall purpose is to create a framework that is inclusive of all countries, developed and developing, and all populations regardless of who and where they are. There would be a broad common work programme, with country specifics to be worked out by respective countries within that broad framework. It will be people-centred and take into consideration all key aspects of sustainable development under its three pillars (economic, social, and environmental). All UN agencies, governments of all countries, the parliamentarians, civil societies, people with disabilities and other specially disadvantaged groups and all major groups (business and industry, children and youth, farmers, indigenous peoples, local authorities, NGOs, scientific and technological communities, women, and workers and trade unions) are encouraged to participate in the debates and in providing their own views on what the realities are as perceived by them and what needs to be included in the agenda. Many of these groups are quite active, while others are perhaps not. But, space exists for all; even so, certain disadvantaged groups remain also disadvantaged in terms of access and facilities for them to make their contributions and even to the information that they may participate. Despite this limitation, the post-2015 agenda formulation process is open and participatory, as opposed to the closed door manner of the selection of the MDGs.

There are multiple processes feeding into the UN coordinating facility that is working to bring the myriad recommendations into an overall framework and a set of goals and associated targets and indicators applicable to all countries, reflecting the key concerns and the best possible ways forward, emanating from all those recommendations, which the UN General Assembly can agree and adopt.

While national, parliamentary, civil society and other stakeholder consultations have been generating and submitting their contributions, the UN actors dedicated to the process include the following:

- UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, appointed in January 2012
- A Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on Post-2015 Development Agenda, appointed in June 2012
- The High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (HLP), appointed in July 2012
- UN General Assembly (UNGA) Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals, established in January 2013

The UN System Task Team has submitted its first report *Realizing the Future We Want for All* in June 2012 and is working to further develop various relevant aspects. The UN OWG has been working to formulate its proposals. The fourth OWG session was held in June 2013 and more sessions are planned this year and beyond before its work concludes. The Secretary General's Special Advisor supports the process of development of a sustainable framework with appropriate goals, targets, and indicators for the post-2015 development process and works in consultation with member states, the UN stakeholders and key external constituencies and advises the Secretary General on all matters relating to post-2015 agenda. The HLP has submitted its Final Report to the UN Secretary General on 30 May 2013.

So far we have tried to give a brief view on how the global efforts towards the formulation of the post-2015 agenda are being conducted and the progress up to now. The specific purpose of this paper is, however, to review the Final Report of the HLP.

## REVIEWING THE HLP REPORT

It is clear that both the Millennium Declaration and the MDGs have importantly informed the HLP exercise. The forward looking sustainable development framework outlined by the HLP can be traced in a major way to the Millennium Declaration, and the 12 Goals chosen appear to have broadly followed the nature and pattern of the MDGs, of course with some new ones added. The dovetailing of the proposed framework with the proposed goals and targets has been done in an appreciable manner, to the extent the formulation of the goals and targets proceeds.

There was not much expectation, which was at least my impression, that the HLP would produce a Report that would help galvanize the debates on post-2015 development process. But, it is to be acknowledged up front that, in this context, the Report is a significant boost.

### The Proposed Five Shifts

First of all, the Report has called for transformative shifts, five of them, to drive the post-2015 development. These are:

**1. Leave No One Behind.** This means that regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race or other status, everybody should be included, with their universal human rights and socio-economic opportunities ensured.

**2. Put Sustainable Development at the Core.** The integration of social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability, which has been much talked about but remains unachieved by any country, should be realized by mobilizing social, economic and environmental actions undertaken together by all countries, given their respective responsibilities and capacities.

**3. Transform Economies for Jobs and Inclusive Growth.** This requires people-centred diversification of economies, creating equal opportunities for all, specially focusing on women, youth, people with disabilities, and other disadvantaged groups. For the created opportunities to be taken up by those for whom these are intended, particularly the various disadvantaged groups, the access to quality education, skill training, healthcare, clean water, electricity, telecommunication and transport facilities should be ensured.

**4. Build Peace and Effective, Open and Accountable Institutions for All.** Recognizing that freedom from fear, conflict and violence as the most important fundamental human right, it is called for the international and national institutions be geared in terms of their mandates, abilities, effectiveness, transparency and accountability towards ensuring fundamental rights for everybody anywhere in the world. The shift called for, therefore, is the recognition and establishment of peace and good governance as core elements of wellbeing, not optional extras.

**5. Forge a New Global Partnership.** This is a call for shared responsibility in promoting sustainable development world-wide, each partner playing its role on the basis of their respective responsibilities and capabilities. In the process of building partnership for

different areas of action, the voices of all stakeholders, particularly those of the disadvantaged populations, must be properly represented. The partnerships built must be transparent and everyone (countries, institutions, individuals) must be accountable.

The Report also calls for a **data revolution** for sustainable development, which would mean disaggregated reliable data, covering all relevant aspects, for all sectors of the economy and all segments of population everywhere. A very tall order, but this is a critically important need for purposeful and effective policy making, programme designing and monitoring of the outcomes.

Indicating that the goals and targets being put forward are to be driven by the five shifts outlined, the HLP has proposed 12 Goals and 54 associated targets, which have been indicated as illustrative. It has been mentioned that the targets listed require further technical work towards improving their appropriateness. To be sure, the targets would be national, which can be aggregated at the global level for the global picture. Very importantly, it has been proposed that “Targets will only be considered ‘achieved’ if they are met for all relevant income and social groups” (p. 29).

### The Proposed 12 Goals

The Goals proposed are:

1. End Poverty (poverty considered is income poverty and has been defined with reference to the poverty line of PPP \$1.25, national poverty lines are also recognized)
2. Empower Girls and Women and Achieve Gender Equality
3. Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning
4. Ensure Healthy Lives
5. Ensure Food Security and Good Nutrition
6. Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation
7. Secure Sustainable Energy
8. Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods and Equitable Growth
9. Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainability
10. Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions
11. Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies
12. Create a Global Environment and Catalyze Long-term Finance

Obviously, these are worthy Goals reflecting a vast improvement on MDGs, although they appear to be patterned on MDGs with broadly similar sequencing (poverty, gender and education, health and nutrition, water and sanitation and Goal 12 being on global partnership). The innovation, in keeping with some of the dynamics of the proposed five shifts, lies in the choice of Goals 7 to 11, which take on board the issues relating to energy, jobs, sustainable livelihoods, equitable growth, sustainable natural resource management, good governance and effective institutions and stable and peaceful societies.

The 54 targets shown under the 12 Goals spell out many different concerns to be addressed in the post-2015 development period, which is conceived to be up to 2030.

## THE KEY ISSUES IGNORED OR INADEQUATELY REFLECTED IN THE GOALS AND TARGETS PROPOSED

Let me now turn to the key issues which the HLP Report has failed to include in goals and targets addressed, either totally or in a proper manner.

### Poverty

Poverty is multidimensional, and it has been so recognized in the HLP Report. Hence, a meaningful poverty eradication strategy must address the multiple deprivations, which include not only economic, social, and environmental constraints but also structural constraints such as discrimination, violence, and conflicts. Although some of these issues are included in other Goals, poverty measurement has been proposed to be treated mainly with reference to income, and a poverty line income of \$1.25 (PPP) per person per day has been suggested.

The national poverty line has also been included as an additional yardstick. But that is often based on the cost of basic needs, which is also a narrow concept in view of the wide-scale multidimensionality of poverty. Having recognized the multidimensionality of poverty, the Report has failed to take it into account in proposing the methods of poverty measurement.

It may be noted here that one way of measuring multidimensional poverty is to specify a poverty line for each key dimension and a person may be defined to be poor if he/she is poor with reference to any one of those dimensions. But, there are methodologies available for combining the dimensions and associated one-dimensional gaps into a multidimensional poverty measure.<sup>1</sup>

### Hunger

Hunger is, in fact, higher now at around 925 million compared to around 780 million in the mid-1990s, for various reasons including conflicts and climate change impacts. Understandably, hunger is pervasive among the disadvantaged groups. In this backdrop, more prominence should be given to ending hunger by its inclusion in Goal 5, although ending hunger and protecting the rights of everyone to have access to sufficient, affordable and nutritious food is a target under this Goal.

### Inequality

Inequality has been recognized as an overarching problem but it has not been frontally attacked, either as a Goal or part of a Goal or even as a target under any Goal. The inclusion of equitable growth in Goal 8 is a step in the right direction, which, if implemented properly may improve the prospects of those at the wrong end of inequality. But, no redistribution through, for example, progressive taxation and social protection via transfer payments and other means has been proposed as a target.

Also, the emphasis of the HLP on inequality seems to be posited with reference to nation states. Regarding global inequality, it has been suggested that “Low and middle-income countries are now growing faster than high income ones, which helps to reduce global inequality” (p. 4). The burden is placed on the low and middle-income countries, and nothing has been specifically asked of the developed countries to do to reduce global inequality.

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<sup>1</sup> Sabine Alkire and James Fester, “Counting and Multi-dimensional Poverty Measurement”, Journal of Public Economics, Vol. 95, Issues 7-8, August 2011.

Tackling inequality, nationally and internationally, is very important for sustainable development so that it must not be ignored in goal and target setting. It may be incorporated in Goal 8 with appropriately designed targets.

### **International Governance and Financial Infrastructure**

Under Goal 12, a target has been included relating to the implementation of reforms towards ensuring stability of the global financial system. But, what reforms? International governance in terms of management and functioning and decision-making processes of international institutions, including UN, particularly the Bretton Woods Institutions, is highly iniquitous, because of contribution-based voting rights or the clout of the global power structure. This issue has been basically ignored. In order to promote an equitable global system, it is essential that both global governance and global financial architecture are so reformed as to allow the currently voiceless countries and populations to have their perspectives and voices reflected in the international governance and in the management and operations of international financial architecture.

### **Job Creation**

Job Creation is part of Goal 8 and the focus on young people is a target under it which recognizes important aspects of sustainable development. While it is to be recognized that market create jobs, there is a problem in the present ruling paradigm of neo-liberalism that promotes the interests of the empowered while it further disempowers the powerless. Therefore, in order to create jobs for the disadvantaged groups, indeed for people at large, it is essential to introduce market reforms and reorientation of economic policies towards a participatory framework to enable the ordinary people, particularly the disadvantaged segments of the population, to participate meaningfully in the market, be it in the realm of production or of distribution or of providing various services. There is nothing said, either in the Report or in the Goals and targets, relating to promoting such an enabling environment for an equitable and participatory economic system.

### **International Movement of People**

International Movement of People has been recognized in the HLP Report along with goods and services, which, would enable more people and more countries to benefit fully from globalization (p. 54). But, neither in the Goals nor in any of the targets, international movement of people has been included.

International migration of workers is indeed an important contributor to growth in both sending and receiving countries. To facilitate worker migration from the sending countries so that the migrating workers are not exploited by unscrupulous recruiting agencies and other middle-people and to ensure their labour and human rights in the receiving countries are very important issues.

At the same time, the number of climate change-induced displaced people in the highly climate-vulnerable countries is sharply increasing. The Cancun Agreement (CoP 16) recognizes this and states that such displaced people should be rehabilitated within their countries, regionally, and internationally. This is something that needs to be given emphasis in any process of sustainable development.

One would, therefore, find it essential that migration of all types would find a place in the post-2015 agenda. I strongly suggest that it be incorporated in the agenda, perhaps in HLP-proposed Goal 12 as a major target.

## Climate Change

Climate Change has been recognized in the Report and it acknowledges that poverty and climate change are intricately related. Indeed, increasing climate change impacts widen and deepen poverty. But, despite recognizing the intensifying threat from climate change, this issue has not been frontally addressed. It remains neglected in the HLP proposals, just as it was in the MDG agenda. However, aspects of it have been introduced in the HLP Report as targets under different goals such as the vision of keeping global average temperature below 2°C by the end of this century compared to the pre-industrial level under Goal 12 and aspects of clean energy promotion under Goal 7. But, there is no mention of adaptation to the climate change impacts already faced by many countries, particularly the highly climate vulnerable countries. Financing, technology transfer, and capacity enhancement support from international community to the vulnerable countries are crucially important in this context. At the same time, of course, drastic reduction of GHG emissions commensurate with below 2°C global warming is the other crucial aspect of climate change management. It is also the case that environmental degradation is accelerating in many countries around the world.

In the context of climate change management, disaster risk reduction (DRR) is a particularly important issue. An effective DRR programme can help reduce adverse impacts of natural disasters which are increasing in both frequency and devastation as climate change intensifies. Hence, DRR should be given due emphasis in the Post-2015 Agenda.

In order to give due emphasis to the urgency of environment and climate change management, a separate Goal should be introduced with such wording as: Environmental Protection and Climate Change Management. Targets relating to environment and climate change included under other Goals and other pertinent targets such as DRR can make up the targets under this Goal. Of course, appropriate indicators under the chosen targets will need to be formulated.

## Urbanization

Urbanization is one other emerging major issue. Rapid urbanization takes place largely due to rural-urban migration. Urbanization offers both opportunities and challenges. Unless the challenges in relation to urban services and infrastructure can be addressed effectively in the face of rapid and unplanned urbanization, any opportunities arising is likely to remain unrealized and urban centres are eventually likely to become, by and large, unlivable and a drag on national socio-economic progress instead of remaining or becoming stronger drivers thereof.

This issue has not been taken on board by the HLP. But, it is important enough to find a place at least in terms of a properly defined target, perhaps under Goal 9 which has to do with sustainable management of natural resource assets.

## Goal 12

Goal 12 and the targets under it remain rather porous. However, it has been pointed out in the Report itself that more work is needed to further clarify the issues and concretize the proposals under this Goal. This is a crucial task and must be treated as such and addressed purposefully by all concerned. In this context, the following comments may be pertinent.

On the financing of post-2015 agenda, most of it, as the HLP suggests, is to come from



domestic sources (p. 12). Regarding international financing, a target under Goal 12 states that developed countries should make concrete efforts to fulfill their long-standing commitment of providing 0.7% of their respective GDPs as official development assistance (ODA) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20% of their GDPs to the least developed countries (LDCs). But, in respect of further long-term international financing, the most important source, as suggested by the HLP, is the private sector which consists of various funding mechanisms (p.12). These private sources are sure to be too difficult for the LDCs, small island developing states (SIDS) and lower-middle income countries to access. The whole issue of financing needs to be carefully thought through and discussed by all concerned along with other components (such as technology and capacity enhancement support) of means of implementation. It is important that means of implementation issues are outlined in relation to the responsibility of both developed and developing countries in concrete terms so that performance of the Parties can be monitored in a meaningful manner.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

Our purpose in this paper has been to look at the strengths and weaknesses of the HLP Report. The Report provides a major building block, particularly in proposing the five transformative shifts, an overall sustainability framework and a set of relevant Goals and targets for sustainable development in post-2015 period. But, there remain critical gaps, particularly from the point of view of developing countries, specially the LDCs. Most of the gaps identified in this paper must receive adequate emphasis in the final agenda, if it is to be capable of delivering the desired results in relation to people-centred, equitable, and inclusive sustainable development nationally and globally.





The Chairman of the session, the keynote speaker and the discussants on the dias



A section of the audience of the seminar

...the report is not bold enough... this could have been more visionary and forward looking... it has failed my expectations!



**Md. Shahidul Haque**

Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

First of all, let me congratulate Prof. Kholiquzzaman for putting up a very comprehensive paper outlining major areas as well as the shortcomings of the report. After his presentation, it is difficult to add further as to what has not been said. I will, nevertheless, try to reinforce his observations and add few more to that.

Speaking about the process of formulation of the post-2015 development agenda, as has been very eloquently narrated by Prof. Kholiquzzaman, let me mention that this panel report is one of over 100 reports being submitted to the Secretary General based on which he will submit his own report to the General Assembly. This HLP report will certainly carry weight because of the high credentials of the panelists, but we still have opportunities to include our views in the Secondary General's report. This is the best part of the current post-2015 process which we have never seen in the past— the most inclusive and transparent approach.

Before going to the analysis, I seek your attention to the report of the Secretary General that was published during the Rio+20 conference. In that report, the Secretary General has suggested a 'comprehensive paradigm' for revisiting development frameworks which he thought was extremely important for setting the tone of future development agenda. I would request you to anchor our arguments within that paradigm.

The Secretary General recommended inclusion of three core issues—human rights, equality and sustainability. Around these, he said there could be three major clusters for enhancing development.

First, environmental sustainability. Within the environmental sustainability, the Secretary General suggested for inclusion of protection of bio-diversity and ensuring stable climates and resilience to natural hazards into the core of the agenda. It is no secret that Climate change today takes away 1% of global GDP. If it continues unmitigated like this, it will consume 4% global GDP. In our case it will be much higher. The HLP report does not address this issue adequately.

Second, peace and security. He clearly mentioned that if there is no security, there will be no peace and consequently no development. Even the development attained so far could be wiped out because of absence of peace and security. Again, peace and security are

compromised because of conflict in controlling access to natural resources. Today, a majority of the conflicts are within the boundaries of the countries because of the fight for natural resources, particularly in the African countries.

Lastly, the Secretary General underscored the need for inclusive social development. But in the HLP report some of these issues failed to draw much attention, in particular, eradicating income poverty, hunger and reducing inequalities.

In his new paradigm, prescribing the procedure to achieve the goals, the Secretary General recommended the use of some 'enablers' such as disaster response measures, fair rules for managing migration and reducing the impacts of climate change. These very important issues have not featured well in the HLP report. It is time that we bring back these issues in the negotiating table.

The HLP report is titled 'A New Global Partnership'. But regrettably there is no guideline for building that partnership. How can we have partnership without equal distribution of resources in a world which is unequal? If 1% of the population enjoys 40% of global wealth as opposed to 1/3rd of the population having 1% global wealth, such a huge inequality cannot bring any meaningful development which will be inclusive and rights-based. The HLP report has failed to address the fundamental questions of ensuring the availability of resources for development, despite the fact we have an agreement- a declaration for financing and development where things are clearly laid out.

Population dynamics is an important area for deliberation. Issues like population growth, aging and declining fertility need to be given importance for a balanced growth both in developed and developing countries. If we look at any report, be it global, national or regional- we will find migration being recognized as a highly important component for development. Many targets and indicators can easily be formulated to strengthen migration governance regime. Similarly, urbanization is also extremely important as 3/4th of the world population will be living in cities by 2030. Therefore, planned cities are essential to secure and maintain development. But the HLP has strangely left out the whole aspect of population dynamics.

Next is the issue of burden-sharing. In the past, the development process had been unequal because of a lot of reasons including exploitation and deprivation among states and within states. But it is a matter of deep regret that even on 0.7% issue, the report is hesitant to make a bold commitment, although this is an issue settled long ago. There is no clarity on climate financing either.

Coming back to the issue of inequality, let me take this opportunity to refer to the recent book by Professor Amartya Sen - *An Uncertain Glory* - where he has compared Bangladesh with Nepal, China and India. He has shown clearly that even if a country achieves economic growth but fails to distribute the economic gains, the social achievements will ultimately falter. The essence of this is that if you have fast economic growth and if you do not address inequality, you will eventually hurt the people whom you want to serve. We can use this study as a reference material.

Before I end, let me inform you that after circulation of the report, the LDC group has raised objections strongly. While appreciating the stress on productive capacity which was a high priority in the IPOA, the LDC group has raised their concern on not using UN recognized



classification of countries. As you will see this report has used categories, such as -middle income, low income and high income countries as opposed to LDCs. The LDC group has also called for preferential treatment in regard to international support including ODA, trade, market access, investment, technology and knowledge transfer.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the report is not bold enough. I thought this could have been more visionary and forward looking. But it has failed my expectations!

Lastly, may I mention that we from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Bangladesh Missions have been actively engaged in the negotiations in a number of platforms, including in Geneva and New York. We even had detailed discussion with the Advisor of the British Prime Minister on Post 2015 Development Goals. Within the global debate, we have taken a lead in two areas - population dynamics and climate change. We are trying to incorporate the recommendations of Dhaka Declaration\* on population dynamics, adopted by 50 countries across the globe.

I can assure you of our continued engagement on the issue.

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\* Dhaka Declaration was adopted at the Global Leadership Meeting on Population Dynamics in the Context of Post-2015 Development Agenda, Dhaka, 12-13 March 2013.

**For the first time in history... the profession of statistics has been given a central role during the formulation of the MDGs.**



**Md. Nojibur Rahman**

Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Mr. Md. Nojibur Rahman thanked the keynote speaker Dr. Q. K. Ahmad for his comprehensive critical appreciation of the High level Panel Report. He divided his discussion into three parts (i) general comments, (ii) the issue of data revolution and (iii) what should we do in Bangladesh.

In his general comments, Mr. Rahman said that he is highly impressed because the Panel report didn't end up with a pessimistic view of our future. It has tried to instill a sense of optimism among us and it included everything that can be done by 2030. He expressed his satisfaction since the Report has addressed the key issues.

He referred to one of his personal experiences. He attended a civil society forum in Africa within three days from the launching of the Report and he found some insightful analysis from the civil society group. The group basically alleged that this report is tilting towards the private sector and to substantiate that some statistical figures were also provided. The private sector has been mentioned 120 times in the report while the government sector has been mentioned 180 times and the civil society has been mentioned only 30 times. He also referred to what the Foreign Secretary, an earlier discussant, has pointed out that the Prime Minister of UK even in his own country has been alleged to be biased towards the private sector while he had been trying to glorify the role of the private sector. These have been his general comments.

The other issue he mentioned was that the representation of LDC group in the panel report is quite disappointing. The lack of emphasis on matters related to LDCs can easily be identified. In one of the meetings of LDC caucus, the group wanted to insist that the committee on development policy which works as the think tank for the LDC group has been working on what could be the Post-2015 Development Agenda. The committee on development policy puts emphasis on an alternative development strategy. Even if the Report underpins five transformative agenda, it has been alleged that it basically fails to draw from what the committee on development policy has already done, thinks Mr. Rahman. Those activities might be a part of the letter that the Chair of the LDC group might have addressed to the Secretary General or to the panel. So, there are two issues here: (i) the civil society's grievance and (ii) the LDC group's response that relevant issues have not been adequately reflected in the Report, Mr. Rahman pointed out.

Continuing on the Foreign Secretary's reference to RIO+20, Mr. Rahman wanted to make a detour to the Istanbul process. He remarked that while the LDC countries had together adopted the Istanbul programme of action in May 2011 and it was naturally expected that the high-level panel would draw heavily on that because the Post-2015 Development Agenda will have to address the needs of the poor who are mainly the inhabitants of LDCs both in Africa and Asia. But that didn't happen, commented Mr. Rahman.

On the issue of **data revolution**, Mr. Rahman noted that the high level panel acknowledged that the MDG be taken as a scientific approach since it was based on huge statistical figures and indicators. For the first time in history, he said, the profession of statistics has been given a central role during the formulation of the MDGs. Even if the MDGs were not prepared by professional statisticians, they were asked to find out the baseline for 1990. And the inter agency forum had been guided heavily by the UN statistical commission, which meets annually in New York. So, that was an acknowledgement, which underlines the need of disaggregated data and the need to access the information in terms of implementing different programmes and actions. If that does not happen, any activity or programme is bound to fail and there would be no accountability. If the government undertakes certain programmes where no information is available for the people, in that case there is no accountability for delivering or not delivering the programmes they promised. So, on account of this, and he wanted to refer to what Dr. Ahmad had a little while ago mentioned regarding one consultative session held in Bali, where the issue of data revolution came up prominently. There was a consensus that under the Post-2015 Development Agenda, one can notice that the Report in most places doesn't refer to "development agenda" rather it only mentions "post-2015 agenda", he noted. So, in the Post-2015 Development Agenda the statistics will have to be given a key role.

Mr. Rahman referred to a couple of issues and identified that some gaps exist in data. Even in MDGs, there are 40 countries who can't provide data on their achievements and thus in terms of MDGs, the performance cannot be properly evaluated. There should be a global partnership on access to development data and this is very important. The primary step should be the identification of existing gaps; inflow of different data from different regions should then follow for necessary connection and convergence and thereby the prominent discrepancies can be found out. Secondly, these countries should find out a strategy so that a common strategy is drawn to ask the international community to create a database, and thirdly and most importantly, a baseline data should be made available. The panel's expectation is that by January 2016, the baseline data should be ready. Apart from the five transformative shifts, there is a paradigm shift that seeks to establish that data should not only be generated by the government statistical officers, rather there has to be involvement of the international organizations, the civil society and the private sector. Mr. Rahman asks for appropriate action in this regard.

Now to concentrate on **Bangladesh perspective**, the Foreign Secretary has already mentioned that in all international forums, Bangladesh is often seen as a leader. In terms of a country with ideas and experience, our presentations have always earned commendations. So, a lot of people look for Bangladesh's wisdom. However, Bangladesh often plays the role of a debut to a lot of these processes. The high level panel says that the statistical community should not stop at creating data only but also disseminate them. Data should be prepared by the statistical community and that should be a part of the statistical decision-making process. This has been happening in Bangladesh from March 2012 while the panel was created in July 2012. Thus we can say that Bangladesh is the leader by example. The Bureau of Statistics works in a consultative process with all segments of



people of the community (for example, the committee is headed by a university teacher of the Statistics department or a Statistics expert from the civil society, etc.). So, the data revolution has really taken place in Bangladesh. And the international negotiators should know about this state of things in Bangladesh and this should occupy the centre of the debate acknowledging the activities of the developing countries.

It has been said that the high level Report is very bold, practical and visionary and it is not prescriptive. But we find that at places the Report is very prescriptive. On page 24, it says, “Government should adopt UN System of Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) and World Bank’s Wealth Accounting and the Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES)”. In this kind of a process, a lot of stakeholders are involved. Our experience shows that the bigger institutions try to influence the whole process. In an annexure at the end of the Report, it is mentioned that Dr. Homi Kharas was brought from the Brookings Institution of USA and there are more institutions like this which tried to influence the Report. The



Bangladeshi experts who will be working on this Report should remember that the panel report is not the *final* step.

However, he thanked the panel since it has delivered the Report within 8 months, within the stipulated time. He also commented that there is nothing to be very excited about this since we’ll have to stick mainly to our national development rather than what is included in the UN reports. The promises we make to the people of our country are more important to keep. So, in an echo to Dr. Q. K. Ahmad’s words, he said that we should concentrate more on implementing our five year plan, sector plan, etc. which are of national importance and should not forget these while talking about the international reports.

Mr. Rahman remembered few words from an ex-UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld, “The UN has been created not to take people to heaven but to save them from hell”. Therefore, we should work on these panel reports keeping our national expectations in mind and to merge those as much as possible with the nation’s holistic development approach. We should work for the benefit of our people to keep our promises, he concluded.

**When we think of the impacts of climate change... we start losing hope. No specific guideline... in the Report to help the vulnerable people.**



**Dr. Mesbah ul Alam**

Secretary, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief  
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Dr. Mesbah ul Alam was very appreciative of the initiative taken by PKSf to provide a forum for the review of UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel Report regarding Post-2015 Development Agenda and expressed his keen interest on the issue. He recalled some of his experiences as the Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests. From that position he participated in three meetings of United Nations relating to RIO+20 and he was interested in the further discussions that followed those meetings. He agreed largely with the points that Dr. Q. K. Ahmad had raised and he felt the urge to supplement them with some more words.

Dr. Alam referred to a kind of case study of one Kamala Bibi, a poor flood victim of Bangladesh. She narrated a plightful and critical story of how micro-credit could be a trap for the poor. MDG 1 is about extreme poverty and hunger eradication for persons like Kamala Bibi. And then how does it address the problem of a flood victim from Bangladesh?

In a different case study of a flood victim from Cambodia we find a woman saying, "We lost everything in the floods last year and had to move to the city looking for work to feed ourselves. Now, all of us work on this construction site, even my ten year old daughter. We cannot afford to send her to school." And MDG 2 talks about achieving universal primary education!

A more critical dimension can be identified in the dialogue of an earthquake victim from Pakistan. She reports, "I lost my husband in the earthquake. His father took all the compensation provided by the authorities and gave me no share. Now, I have to feed my children on my own and thus I have started doing some tailoring work to earn an income. This means that I have to get up even earlier to do the cooking and go out to fetch water. I always feel unsafe when it is dark outside." This is a grave reflection on the condition of promoting gender equality in MDGs.

Persons like Kamala Bibi and the Cambodian and Pakistani women exist in our society and still we talk about achieving Millennium Development Goals and have now started talking about Post-2015 Development Agenda. Why? The discussions like this one provide floors to think and rethink and to exchange our views. We need to identify where do we stand and



where is our destination and how to make that journey secure. As the Secretary of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, Mr. Alam gave some statistical information:

**Impact of Disasters since last 12 years**

- 1.1 million people died
- 2.7 billion people affected
- 1.3 trillion USD damaged

**Impact of Disasters since the 1992 Rio de Janeiro Earth Summit**

Affected	4.4 Billion people
Damaged	2.0 Trillion USD
Killed	1.3 million people

**Impact by disasters**

<i>Hazard</i>	<i>People affected (millions)</i>
Flood	2437
Drought	1141
Storm	628
Earthquake	112

<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Damage (in USD)</i>
Storm	720 billion
Earthquake	636 billion
Flood	480 billion

<i>Hazard</i>	<i>Persons Killed</i>
Earthquake	759,708
Storm	237,268
Extreme temp.	156,770
Flood	155,799

**Impact by disasters in three countries**

China	2.5 billion people affected
India	928 million people affected
Bangladesh	136 million people affected

This is the context of our discussions about MDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda. In the Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel Report, the veritable focus is *leave no one behind*. It provides us the optimism that our Kamalas are also included here. 12 goals are mentioned in the Report which can make us quite hopeful. But, when we think of the impacts of climate change and of the affected people, we start losing hope. No specific guideline has been given in the Report to help the vulnerable people, he stated.

He referred to UN Secretary’s comment that “the damage by the disaster cannot be predicted”. So, what we can do? We have just to be prepared. In a meeting with US Army Core of Engineers, we came to assume primarily that if an earthquake of 6+ scale takes place in Dhaka city alone, about 100-800 million tons of debris will be generated and we do not even have the experience or planning or capacity to manage this huge debris. But the reality is that we might face this “unthinkable” disaster any time.

In his discussion, he particularly emphasized on climate change. Referring to climate financing, he stated that we have the experience of breaking promises and getting fooled. Now, there is “Green Climate Fund of UNFCCC” and as the Secretary of Disaster Management and Relief, he is the Alternate Member of that Fund. But, the framework of that Fund has not yet been developed. Allocation of funding of 0.7 per cent of GDP funding at the national level along with the contribution of the private sector are under consideration. But it is very difficult for the LDCs and lower middle income countries to allocate this amount of funding. For the private sector, this funding is in fact, a kind of profit maximization business. Particularly, the business sector of LDCs will always look for their profit but where is the guarantee of the return of the money? Insurance companies in the LDCs also do not have the competence to come forward.



Dr. Mesbah ul Alam remarked that proper framework is essential for climate financing. He also, like Dr. Q.K. Ahmad and Mr. Md. Nojibur Rahman, stressed on self-help. In the Sixth Five Year Plan and Sustainable Strategy Plan of Bangladesh, there are specific frameworks to support the climate vulnerable people and a complete instruction is in place about respective duties. If we can make ourselves prepared, I think we don't have much to worry, he said.

Among the 49 countries of LDCs, most are Asian and African countries. But one can hardly see a word in the international negotiation documents from the representatives of these countries. But still, we think that the two streams of Open Working Group and High Level Panel will converge and the Sustainable Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda will deliver something meaningful and we would expect our voice to be reflected in that discussion. So, in order to convey our voice to them, we have to articulate that forcefully. In fine, he informed the house that disaster management plans have been mainstreamed in every development plan at our national level, which we should carry through to the international level.

## The HLP does not make any direct mention of economic, cultural or social rights – such as the right to food, water, education and rights at work...



**Rasheda K. Choudhury**

Executive Director, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE)  
Former Adviser to the Caretaker Government

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We live in a time of sharply rising inequalities in which planetary boundaries are not respected and the human rights of billions of people suffering from injustice and deprivation living in poverty are denied on a daily basis. But, the silver lining in the cloud is that we can overcome it. Right policies and frameworks – combined with sound implementation strategies and strong political commitment – will enable us to transform our communities and to create a just world, **The World We Want**.

The HLP report includes a number of important recommendations that meet longstanding civil society demands and go far beyond the Millennium Development Goals. Some of the outstanding recommendations / features of the Report are the following.

The HLP is clear on the necessity of addressing social inequalities, and stresses that the Post-2015 development agenda “must ensure that . . . neither income nor gender, nor ethnicity, nor disability, nor geography, will determine whether people live or die, whether a mother can give birth safely, or whether her child has a fair chance in life.” It goes on to add: “This is a major new commitment to everyone on the planet who feels marginalised or excluded, and to the neediest and most vulnerable people, to make sure their concerns are addressed and that they can enjoy their human rights.”

The HLP has placed poverty eradication and development within the context of human rights, which is mentioned 18 times in the report (plus another 14 times in an appendix of issues raised during consultations). The report states that “new goals and targets need to be grounded in respect for universal human rights” and that we must “achieve a pattern of development where dignity and human rights become a reality for all”. It has categorically mentioned that human rights are a key principle for global partnership.

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This commentary draws heavily on the ‘Position Paper’ prepared by the Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), a worldwide movement of anti-poverty campaigners, human rights activists and NGOs. CAMPE is a founder member of GCAP. GCAP organised and supported consultations on the Post-2015 development agenda in forty countries in collaboration with its partners like ‘Beyond 2015’. GCAP constituents also participated in regional and thematic consultations as well as HLP meetings.

However, human rights are too often narrowly framed in the report in terms of civil and political rights with lack of explicit reference to economic, social and cultural rights. In fact, the HLP does not make any direct mention of economic, cultural or social rights – such as the right to food, water, education and rights at work – nor does it address the need for access to justice and remedy when these rights are denied.

The report notes that people living in poverty “suffer first and worst from climate change” and that if we do not address climate change, “we will not succeed in eradicating extreme poverty”. It also includes an indicator on capping global temperatures at 2°C above pre-industrial levels.

We know that without peace, there can be no development and without development, there can be no enduring peace. The HLP addresses this by making peace one of its new top line goals, adding that peace is a 'core element of well-being, not an optional extra'.

However, the report misses out on the fact that most contemporary conflicts are caused by greed and competition for natural resources. The indicators and targets also need to have a greater focus on global and regional actors who fuel conflicts, not just domestic governments. The Post-2015 framework should reiterate the principle of "Do No Harm" that requires governments to ensure that their actions and those of the private sector do not fuel conflict. The framework should also address government's military expenditure, particularly as it diverts resources from social spending. Somehow the HLP Report has maintained a strange silence about the spiraling growth in defense spending by most of the developed and developing countries !!

Noting that the MDGs did not include metrics on good governance or effective institutions, the HLP recommends a topline goal focusing on these issues. Like peace, the HLP says that good governance is “not [an] optional extra”. The report also includes a target on guaranteeing people's right to information and access to government data. Access to information is crucial for civil society and others to track a government's performance.

A statistical discussion may seem academic, but we know that if we are to eradicate poverty and inequality, it is essential to track a government's performance across different communities and not just at the national level. The HLP has acknowledged this and maintained that “to ensure equality of opportunity, relevant indicators should be disaggregated with respect to income (especially for the bottom 20%), gender, location, age, people living with disabilities, and relevant social groups. Targets will only be considered ‘achieved’ if they are met for all relevant income and social groups.” The HLP has also called for national level monitoring and regional peer reviews. This could be comparable to the Universal Periodic Review that regularly tracks every country's human rights performance. If implemented through proper and empowered mechanisms, national level monitoring will be a great tool for making governments accountable.

***In addition to the points mentioned above relating to human rights, gender justice and peace, there are unfortunately a number of other areas where the HLP misses the mark . . .***

Income inequality across the planet is rising sharply as the top 0.5 % of the global population holds over 35% of the wealth. The HLP report has acknowledged that inequality is a cross-cutting issue, but it has emphasized ‘equality of opportunity’ rather than redistribution ! Inequality is absent from the proposed goals and indicators. Equality should

be a Goal for the Post-2015 framework and indicators could be related to a nation's Gini Index or Palma Ratio. The HLP Report has maintained that it is up to national governments to formulate policies on this key issue. But, unfortunately, widening gap in poverty is too serious an agenda to be tackled by national governments only because of the complexity related to the issue of distribution of wealth and income. To eradicate poverty, it is essential to address the causes of the growing income gap.

Domestic revenues are the most important sources of financing sustainable development. But there are no binding mechanisms. The Post-2015 plan must also include more specifics about a state's responsibility to respect rights and deliver essential services in line with the International Declaration of Human Rights.



The benchmark indicator of US\$1.25/day is too low. More accurately, it is 'hunger' not a 'poverty' line. The HLP says it hopes this figure will be raised to US\$2/day by 2030, but this is too low a figure and too distant in the future. The Post-2015 framework should track people living on at least US\$2 and US\$4 per day. As our colleagues at the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) noted, US\$1.25/day is "what Bangladeshi workers producing garments for global markets are paid today, as are construction workers building skyscrapers and football stadiums in Gulf countries and agricultural workers producing for global food corporations. Corporate accountability can not be left out of the equation if we are to truly tackle the roots of extreme poverty."

Apparently the HLP over-relied on the private sector, without providing sufficient oversight or regulation. We know that there are numerous 'grey areas' – anti-poor corporate practices like land grabbing, mega-mining and indiscriminate privatization of social services like education, health, sanitation and water, which must also be addressed adequately. In the years since the Millennium Declaration, it has become even more apparent that economic growth is not sufficient to eliminate poverty and that it can exacerbate inequality if the

growth is not inclusive. It's good that the HLP Report has acknowledged that profits and GDP are not the best indicators for companies and governments. But while it has recognized that environmental impact must be taken into consideration, it is surprisingly silent on social impact !

While the HLP Report mentions Social Protection in reference to the principle of 'Leave No One Behind', the authors have suggested that universal social protection is 'utopian' and risks undermining the quality of such systems. But we must keep in mind that Social Protection is an internationally-acknowledged human right, which, national governments have an obligation to fulfill. Joint research by the IMF and ILO and many other in-depth investigations have demonstrated the economic feasibility of national social protection schemes and their effectiveness in addressing inequality and we should not overlook or undermine the value of social protection.

Finally, the focus of the HLP Report is mostly on national governments but the driving force of change has been assumed to be the private sector ! But history has shown that it's the people, who need to be at the centre-stage of development, otherwise, conflicts, tensions and inequalities will keep on increasing and our decision makers have to recognize the strength of the human potential, the complexity of the global governance structures, the volatility of national governments and the vulnerability of the marginalized people. We must acknowledge that its not only equality but also inequality that needs to be focused and addressed. Do we look at a glass and define its contents as "half full" or "half empty" ? That's the challenge for all of us including the HLP, despite the good intentions and explicit commitments to development for all.

## Chairman's remarks

The Panel wanted to put sustainable development at the core of all programmes and agenda, transform the economies for job and inclusive growth and development.



**Md. Abdul Karim**

Chairman of the Seminar  
Managing Director, PKSF

The Chair of the Seminar Mr. Md. Abdul Karim moderated the whole session. At the beginning of the seminar, he welcomed the speakers and guests of the seminar and gave a short background of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel Report regarding Post-2015 Development Agenda.

He mentioned that the high level panel was constituted by the Secretary General of the United Nations with three distinguished persons as Co-Chairs (i) the British Prime Minister, (ii) the Liberian President and (iii) the Indonesian President. They met in a number of places to finalize this report and one of the meetings was held in Monrovia on February 1, 2013.

The Communiqué of Monrovia meeting mentioned: "Our vision and our responsibility are to end extreme poverty in all its forms in the context of sustainable development and to have in place the building blocks of sustained prosperity for all".

As we speak today here, about half a billion people all over the world are living below an international poverty line of US\$ 1.25 a day.

In fact, the report aims at eradicating extreme poverty from the world by 2030. The High Level Panel started with the MDGs and RIO+20 process and they wanted to explain what is to be kept, what is to be amended, what is to be added etc. But the starting point was the MDGs. Bangladesh has done a lot of work to present to the global community about what could be the sustainable development goals after 2015 when MDG period would be over. The Government efforts are there, the People's Forum is there, Civil Society is there and they all have worked. From MDGs to SDGs, Dr. Q. K. Ahmad who makes the key presentation this morning, has played a leading role and today when we are going to make a review of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel Report of Post-2015 Development Agenda, we are fortunate to have him among us.

Mr. Md Abdul Karim made some brief concluding remarks. He referred to the work of the



HLP. At London, New York and Bali, the High Level Panel worked very hard for the world poor and they have developed a document called “Big Five Transformative Shifts” in the Agenda. They wanted to leave no one behind so that everyone is brought above the poverty line. Instead of reducing poverty the panel has emphasized on ending extreme poverty. The Panel wanted to put sustainable development at the core of all programmes and agenda, transform the economies for job and inclusive growth and development.

The Panel emphasized the need for building effective, open and accountable institutions based on freedom from fear, conflict, violence, etc. They also emphasized the need for forging a new global partnership based on solidarity, cooperation and accountability for mutual respect and benefit of the humanity. Starting from Vision to Action, the Panel emphasized all along that the document should be realistic and must aim at not only reducing but eradicating poverty. It has also highlighted the necessity for quality of statistics and the data revolution. He drew the attention of the Secretary, Statistics and Informatics Division on this issue.



After the keynote presentation, the Chair thanked Dr Q K Ahmad for presenting some informative and visionary statements. He thanked him for highlighting the important sections of the High Level Panel Report and his emphasis on the need for forwarding our comments well ahead of the deadline of the MDGs which would end in 894 days from that day. The Chair applauded him for raising the important national issues which we should prioritize such as human poverty alleviation, hunger eradication, reduction of economic disparity, meaningful role for the youths of the country, handling of the climate victims, etc. Another important issue emphasized by him was the negotiation for 0.7 per cent of the GDP from the developed donor countries which they are supposed to contribute as Official Development Assistance (ODA). At the end, the Chair thanked the panel of the seminar for their insightful comments and suggestions. He also thanked everybody present in the seminar.



## The Post-2015 Development Agenda

“ must ensure that . . . neither income nor gender, nor ethnicity, nor disability, nor geography, will determine whether people live or die, whether a mother can give birth safely, or whether her child has a fair chance in life. ”

### It further adds:

“ This is a major new commitment to everyone on the planet who feels marginalised or excluded, and to the neediest and most vulnerable people, to make sure their concerns are addressed and that they can enjoy their human rights. ”

### **The response of International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) to HLP's target to eradicate poverty:**

“ US \$ 1.25/day is what Bangladeshi workers producing garments for global markets are paid today, as are construction workers building skyscrapers and football stadiums in Gulf countries and agricultural workers producing for global food corporations. Corporate accountability can not be left out of the equation if we are to truly tackle the roots of extreme poverty. ”



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