



UNPGA's High-Level Event of the General Assembly “Contributions of North-South, South-South, Triangular Cooperation, and ICT for Development to the implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda”

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Good morning and thank you Mr. Chair for organizing these topical debate, and thank you to all panelists for your contributions.

We appreciate to have the opportunity to comment on the main questions orienting our debate in these two days: given the overarching objective of the post-2015 development agenda is the eradication of extreme poverty, how should the various forms of international cooperation be strengthened to contribute to the achievement of sustained and inclusive economic growth?

We are all aware that women must become economically empowered this is highlighted in several of the MDGs.

In the North and in the South there are specific cultures where women have higher status and more political and economic power and there are also cultures where social and economic policies give more support to traits and activities such as caregiving, nonviolence, empathy – traits stereotypically considered feminine.

In the Post 2015 Development Agenda, our efforts should continue to make leaders and the public at large aware of the fact – **that what is good for women is good for the world** – as one of the most important and useful strategies for moving so-called women's issues to where they belong. We are appalled that in spite of the MDGs, the first thing that continues to be cut is funding for health, education, and social protection– in other words, funding for the care of people. The structural adjustment policies of the International Monetary Fund continue to demand this, with disastrous human and economic results for debtor nations. But notice that while we are told we don't have enough money for health care, education, and social protection, there always is enough money for bank bailouts, wars, and prisons – for controlling, hurting, and killing people and the environment, rather than for nurturing, empowering, and yes, caring for people. In a post-2015 world, the answer lies in a stronger and transparent effort to dedicate funding for peace and security, where women, children and men can live in dignity, freedom, and flourish. The challenge before us is to not only to improve living conditions of poor communities and that of women living in these communities, by delivering resources and services

to them more effectively, but to transform women's status by changing the way in which they are perceived by their families, communities and governments; also by enabling them to claim their rightful place as citizens, change-agents, leaders and stakeholders in development.

An important economic issue that should definitely be incorporated in the Post-2015 Development Agenda is how we measure productivity. These are on the positive side of GDP. But not only do these measures put negatives on the positive side: they do not include the unpaid caregiving work primarily performed by women in the "informal" economy, be it in their homes, or in their communities as volunteers – even though these services contribute most to everyone's social well being.

We already have a few economic interventions that give monetary value to caring and caregiving. Parental leave for both mothers and fathers especially paid parental leave and flexible work options. But we need many more. Indeed, they are investments in a successful postindustrial/information economy – an economy in which high quality human capital is the most important capital. This economy requires people able to learn, relate, work in teams, solve problems flexibly and creatively. And this high quality human capital is not just produced in universities or through job training. Findings from psychology, and more recently neurobiology, show that the quality of human capital is, to a much greater extent than has been recognized, shaped by the quality of childcare and early childhood education.

In making some contributions towards a second topical question, What forms of cooperation can best be utilized to help countries develop inclusive and robust economies and societies that provide employment and decent jobs for all?

There are many examples throughout the world of new types of social and environment related business that respect women, children, communities and their environments. Their processes should be understood and the lessons learned from them should be at the core of the Post 2015 development agenda. I happen to participate in one of them that just as we are having this panel, this best practice is receiving the 2014 MDGs in Brazil. *Adapta Sertao* is a collaborative partnership between civil society, private enterprises, public institutions and underserved communities of the semi-arid region of Brazil. *Adapta Sertao* was envisioned to increase agricultural production among subsistence family farmers operating in marginal lands. By disseminating water efficient irrigation technologies and regenerating the very stressed local bioma, called *caatinga*, *Adapta Sertão* was initially implemented to answer a necessity to reconsider public investment poorly allocated. Taking advantage of the new framework of Adaptation to climate we looked at where there was hope in solutions rather than an abundance of deficits. Eight years later, the project demonstrates that even in the most severe climatic conditions, it is possible to identify and augment business opportunities that ultimately include and benefit social and environmental regeneration. *Adapta Sertão* is led by women and carries in essence the principles of a new economy of care and responsibility. This and other examples of business as agents of world benefit should be the new references for North-South, South-South, and Triangular Collaboration. The post 2015 Development Agenda should consider adaptation to climate, the regeneration of the over stressed ecosystems and the essential work of care and care giving at its core. These emerging and urgent realities will help us tackle systemic problems with new solutions, which integrate the well being of

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people, the protection of the environment within an efficient allocation of human and financial resources.

Thank you.

More information about Adapta Sertao Project:

<http://www.adaptasertao.net>

<http://www.radioadaptasertao.com>

References:

<http://www.eco21.com.br/textos/textos.asp?ID=3258>

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