

## Post-2015 Development Agenda

### Fair Trade Movement's position

April 2013

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have played an important role in drawing attention to the symptoms of today's pressing development issues but not to their root causes. The 8 goals have not "changed the rules of the game" and will leave -when ending in 2015- an unjust world with scores of people still living in poverty and marginalization.

The Fair Trade movement believes that any future framework needs to be built on the understanding that the existing system is the cause of the plethora of problems that are seen today. The **primary purpose of any future framework should be to create a just and sustainable world** in which every human being can realise their rights and live free from poverty.

Therefore the Fair Trade movement demands the inclusion of the following four key factors.

#### 1. *Fairness* as a core value of the new framework

**Fairness must be recognised as an overall value** that has to be implemented across the board in any new framework, especially regarding the common but differentiated responsibilities. Because fairness affects every actor in a manifold of ways it qualifies as a cross cutting theme that should be monitored with indicators for fairness in interaction, such as trade and treaties, and in distribution of resources and duties. It is an important indicator for human progress.

One of the key aims of the post-2015 framework must be a specific focus on and **prioritisation of those who have until now been mostly excluded**. The abolishment of discriminatory and unjust policies and actions is important for the progress towards greater equity.

#### 2. *Trade* as a tool for sustainable development

Trade can be a fundamental driver of poverty reduction and greater sustainable development, but only if it is managed for that purpose. Marginalised producers and workers can have better control of their lives if they are better organised, resourced and supported. **Trade rules and practices should be reformed to allow trade to be a tool of empowerment and an engine for development**, e.g. by **ensuring access to markets under Fair Trade conditions**.

The need to ensure that trade policies do not negatively impact on people's perspectives for development in any country and preferably support the goals of development is fundamental to the success of any future post-2015 development framework. To achieve this, the objectives of all trade policies must be based on the economic, environmental and social pillars of sustainability and also respect, protect and fulfil human rights and ensure Policy Coherence for Development.

Trade and investment agreements must aim at cooperation rather than competition between countries, they must help to lift people out of poverty, rather than creating a competition between countries that ends in a downwards spiral as far as social, environmental and economic conditions are concerned

**Supply chains must be transparent and respect human rights as well as labour and environmental laws**, effectively banning e.g. the worst forms of child labour. Due to the asymmetries of power within the market, minimum social and environmental standards, better yet more ambitious private schemes, have to be implemented and controlled at every stage enabling the consumer to make an informed decision.

### 3. To each actor its responsibility

All actors have responsibilities and an important role to play.

**Governments** must put in place investment, tax and financial regulations that harness globalisation to the profit of people, not only share-holders. They can also lead by example by adopting clear ethical and Fair Trade procurement policies, as a growing number of **local authorities** are already doing. The **private sector** must integrate Corporate Social Responsibility at the core of its operations, not only as a PR tool. **Civil Society Organisations** have a key role, but they must also show they are transparent and accountable. **Citizens** should be engaged to also share the burden of sustainable development.

**Partnerships** are indispensable in overcoming poverty and inequalities at local level and in achieving sustainable economic growth and inclusive development at national and global level. The new framework must therefore support multistakeholder partnerships for (sustainable) development between governments, local authorities, business, civil society organisations citizens. They will benefit all stakeholders if they are managed in an equitable and responsible way based on interdependence and transparency. It is important that all stakeholders assume responsibility and are held accountable for this new development framework. It will not succeed if all responsibility falls only on the shoulders of governments.

### 4. Fair Trade as best practice “partnership for sustainable development”

**Fair Trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect that seeks greater equity in international trade.** It is an excellent example of a successful partnership where many stakeholders around the world and at different stages along a supply chain come together to ensure market access for disadvantaged producers and workers, guarantee sustainable livelihoods, respect labour standards, phase out child labour and encourage environmentally-sustainable farming and production practices.

Fair Trade is not charity but enables producers and workers to maintain sustainable livelihoods through long term trading partnerships for development. Numerous studies<sup>1</sup> have shown that Fair Trade works and its long and successful presence in large markets has proven that it is both feasible and scalable. **In order to take full advantage of the opportunities trade and the private sector offer for sustainable development Fair Trade needs to be supported.**

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1 <http://www.fairtrade-institute.org/db/publications/index>