

BioRegional’s recommendations to the High-Level Panel on the post-2015 development agenda

## **Transferable learning from a successful civil society sustainable development framework**

**Who we are** - BioRegional are not for profit sustainability practitioners, working internationally with a broad range of partners to deliver cost competitive sustainable development on the ground in both low and high income countries.

We have actively participated in all post-2015 dialogues, and were early supports of the Sustainable Development Goals throughout the Rio+20 and CSD-19 processes

**One Planet Living - sustainable development framework and implementation tool** - One Planet Living is based on people, what they need and what they consume. It is a sustainable development framework that is transferable across sectors and can be implemented at all scales- from individuals, to the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, to construction and retail companies, to cities and municipalities and at the national level.

It is a simple, holistic framework that encompasses ten integrated social, economic and environmental principles, where each principle contains specific sustainability targets and indicators. To date, this framework is being implemented in 12 countries and the freely available online One Planet Living toolkit has been accessed by people in 51 countries.

The UN is in the process of recognising the One Planet Living programme as an official UN Partnership.

**We believe the lessons we have learned through implementing the One Planet Living framework are transferable and can inform the post-2015 sustainable development agenda.**

Therefore, based on our experience, please see our recommendations below for successfully delivering a post-2015 global framework:

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Rationale</b>
<b>1. One set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sustainable development is the route to absolute poverty alleviation.</li> <li>○ If there are two sets of goals (one set for sustainable development and one set for poverty alleviation), government funding will be divided between two processes therefore reducing the effectiveness and scope of all the goals.</li> <li>○ Two sets of goals will be harder to communicate and implement- there will undoubtedly be significant overlap between both sets.</li> </ul>
<b>2. A universal framework-</b> a set of goals that apply to both developing and developed countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Whereas the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) only applied to developing countries, post-2015 goals that seek to deliver sustainable development should apply to every country and person.</li> <li>○ Rates of consumption are highest in developed countries- therefore a post-2015 framework must address this issue if sustainability is ever to be realised globally.</li> </ul>
<b>3. An overarching goal on Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP).</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Only by addressing SCP can the world ever achieve sustainable development globally- climate change, inequity, food security, inclusive growth and so on, are all globally linked issues that are affected by the way people produce and consume.</li> </ul>
<b>4. A people centred set of goals-</b> based on how people live their lives, what people need and what people consume.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is human beings and our needs that drive unsustainable consumption and cause environmental degradation. Un-met basic human needs cause people suffering and inequity.</li> <li>○ The latest behavioural scientific research shows that to get people to understand and take action on sustainability they need to relate it to their homes, families and health.</li> </ul>

<p><b>5. A set of goals that can be applied at every scale and across different sectors.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is important to avoid silos- a key lesson of the One Planet Living principles is that because they are based on people's lives and are holistic they can be applied at every scale and across different sectors creating a "common language for sustainability".</li> </ul>
<p><b>6. A set of goals which can be applied to deliver sustainable cities or oceans, but <u>not</u> goals specifically on cities or oceans.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ People centred sustainable living goals should be used to make a plan for achieving sustainability at all scale cities or oceans.</li> <li>○ If there is a goal, for example on 'sustainable cities', this creates an overlap with other proposed goals such as 'sustainable energy for all'- sustainable energy would need to be implemented at the city level by individuals, businesses and the city government.</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. Goals that can be communicated easily and aspired to globally</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Goals need to achieve buy-in and gain the broadest possible commitment from civil society, not just from UN agencies or governments, if sustainable development is to be achieved.</li> <li>○ Therefore goals need to be simple, few in number and easy to communicate to people in all countries, at all stages of development.</li> </ul>
<p><b>8. An overarching goal that comprises 'sustainable living within the earth's natural limits'- which is guided by science and safeguarding the needs of present and future generation.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A sustainable development framework of goals should be shaped and guided by the need to safeguard and wisely manage wildlife and habitats (<i>Stockholm Principle 4</i>) and by natural resource limits and the needs of present and future generations (<i>Stockholm Principle 2 and Rio Principle 3</i>).</li> <li>○ BioRegional uses the ecological and carbon footprint as a top line overarching indicator which can also be used within resource goals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>9. Equity as a cross-cutting principle or overarching goal.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ All goals should be based on the principle that developed countries become more resource efficient, whilst developed countries grow in a sustainable and resource efficient way.</li> <li>○ BioRegional uses contraction and convergence of ecological and carbon footprint as one indicator for this.</li> </ul>
<p><b>10. An overarching vision for the post-2015 sustainable development framework could be: 'Good living for 7 billion people wherever they live in the world, within a fair and sustainable share of the world's resources, leaving sufficient space for wildlife and wilderness'.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A post-2015 sustainable development framework needs a strong vision that people around the world can get behind and aspire to deliver.</li> <li>○ In our view, this vision we suggest would draw in all of the preceding recommendations.</li> </ul>

A final recommendation we have is that governments could test a 'beta version' of a possible set of global goals before 2015. Such a pilot of goals could be conducted by a government at the national level and would enable governments to see how the goals could be implemented in practice and identify any potential issues, before they are agreed as part of a post-2015 global sustainable development framework.

For further information regarding these recommendations please contact:

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