

Promoting peace, security, justice and governance in the post-2015 development agenda

Declaration of Brazilian Public Security Experts

Brazil is a major player in defining the future of global development. Together with 192 other United Nations (UN) member states, Brazil is debating the place of the peace, security, justice and governance in future Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs will replace the remarkably successful Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed in 2000 and which expire in 2015. Starting next year, the SDGs will provide a road-map for development, set benchmarks to measure progress, and serve as a tool to press for change. Brazilian diplomats are working with counterparts at the UN and in other regional groupings to ensure its interests get a fair hearing.

Brazilian government and civil society representatives are actively influencing the terms of the debate on the SDGs. The Minister of Foreign Affairs personally championed the Rio+20 conference in 2012 and called for an agenda focused primarily on social development, poverty reduction, environmental protection as core priorities. Then, as now, the Brazilian government side-stepped sensitive issues such as security, justice and governance. And yet it is precisely these issues - together with health, education and good quality services - that the majority of Brazilians are concerned about. A special High Level Panel appointed by the United Nations Secretary General in 2013 strongly urged governments to give peace, security, justice and governance a special hearing. Some Brazilian diplomats are still reluctant to give them a chance.

The future of the post-2015 development agenda is much broader than poverty reduction, inequality and environmental protection, as important as these issues are. It is also about ensuring a more legitimate and effective multilateral order that guarantees freedom from both fear and from want. For years Brazil has been demanding a greater say in shaping international politics, including issues of peace, security and development. The Foreign Ministry is apprehensive about the intentions of some countries that favor unilateral decision-making at the expense of a multilateral world order. Brazilian diplomats are worried that the inclusion of issues of peace, security, justice, and governance in the SDGs could securitize the development agenda and reinforce a unilateral worldview. Oddly, they do not envision security and development as fundamentally interconnected and essential pillars of a forward-looking poverty- reduction agenda.

Brazilians can seize the opportunity to break the impasse when it comes to including peace, security, justice and governance in the post-2015 agenda. There is an historic opportunity to correct the neglect of these issues in the creation of the 2000 Millennium Declaration which gave rise to the MDGs. There are in fact many areas of consensus between governments and civil societies in the North and South and agreement on the importance of a genuinely universal development agenda. Virtually everyone agrees that the SDGs must have the world's poor at the center of the picture, whether they reside in Bogota, London, Managua, New York, Rio de Janeiro or Lagos. To be successfully implemented, the SDGs must unite countries in global cooperation for a common agenda. At a minimum, they should guarantee access to safety and justice for the world's 7.1 billion people, ensuring that the excluded are assured of their basic rights and entitlements.

Violence, injustice and impunity are problems that affect upper-, middle- and lower-income countries alike. They are not issues restricted to the poor. Notwithstanding important dividends generated by the MDGs, they did not prevent the escalation of violence in many parts of the world, including Brazil. Insecurity and injustice drags down macro- and micro-economic development, reduces competitiveness, and erodes the quality of life for all people, especially young men, women and girls. There is considerable empirical evidence that improvements in safety and access to justice are essential to ensuring that the poor achieve their full development potential. This is true from rural villages to urban shantytowns, where many of the poorest of the poor are likely to reside in the next 20 years. What Brazil can and should do is work with partners to identify appropriate development goals, targets and metrics that are not top-down, but rather bottom-up and emphasize a safe and just society for all. These new metrics would privilege the views and experiences of the disenfranchised and emphasize reductions in impunity and injustice.

Brazil has an historic opportunity to redefine the direction of development. At a minimum, Brazil can support the adoption of a robust SDG that gives peace, security, justice and governance a prominent place in the agenda.

Beginning with draft SDG 16, Brazil can support goals, targets and indicators that promote peace, ensure safety, access to justice and end of impunity for those who most urgently need it, especially the poorest of the poor. Brazilian civil society organizations are already endorsing a priority agenda for public security that calls for homicide reduction, police reform, modernization of the criminal justice sector, drug policy reform and the construction of a new federal pact to promote safety for all. By meeting these minimum targets at home, Brazilian civil society groups and local governments are sending a positive message for building peace, safety, and access to justice into the multilateral architecture of a global development agenda.

We, the undersigned, support a positive global development agenda that includes peace, security, justice and governance.

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For more reading on Brazil´s position in relation to the post-2015 agenda consult:

[O risco de atrapalhar](#) (July 2014)
[Brasil lidera racha polêmico sobre novos objetivos do milênio da ONU](#) (July 2014)
[Peace and the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Understanding the Brazilian Perspective](#) (June 2014)
[Dispatch to Brazil: Give Peace a Chance in the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) (March 2014)
[Why Peace Needs To Be On the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) (February 2014)
[O Brasil dará uma chance à paz na agenda pós-2015?](#) (March 2014)
[New UN Development Agenda Gives Peace a Chance](#) (May 2013)
[Promoting Peace in the post-2015 Framework: the role of rising powers](#) (Feb 2013)
[Less Violence, More Development](#) (April 2013)
[Time to Deal with the Epidemic of Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (February 2013)
[Prevenção à violência e Agenda das Metas do Milênio e Desenvolvimento Pós-2015](#) (January 2013, pg. 45)
[Why Personal Security Should be Part of the Post-2015 Development Agenda](#) (November 2012)