

## Desigualdade na Agenda de Desenvolvimento pós-2015

Apresentação pela Relatora Especial do Conselho de Direitos Humanos das Nações Unidas para o Direito Humano à Água e ao Saneamento, Dra. Catarina de Albuquerque

### **INTEGRATING NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUALITY INTO THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA FOR WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

#### **Summary of the Report of the Special *Rapporteur* on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation to the UN General Assembly**

The discussion on the post-2015 development agenda presents an unprecedented opportunity to examine how human rights can address a number of blind-spots of the current Millennium Development Goals most notably their silence regarding non-discrimination and equality.

In her report, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation emphasizes two essential proposals

- a) that the new agenda cannot advance without the integration of non-discrimination and equality into water, sanitation and hygiene goals and targets, and also through a stand-alone goal on equality.
- b) that water, sanitation and hygiene must have specific goal, target and indicators on equal footing with other key priority areas for development.

The human rights to water and sanitation serve as exemplary illustrations of the importance of equality and non-discrimination, paired with equity. While inequalities are present in every country across the globe, they manifest themselves differently across regions and within countries.

Some types of discrimination, such as those based on gender, age or disability status are relevant across all countries, while others—such as those based on race or ethnicity—can vary from country to country. Regardless of these differences, patterns of exclusion are consistent across the world. If the future set of goals does not recognize this fact, it will fail to address the underlying truth behind the figures: MDG indicators are consistently worse for groups and individuals, who have a disability, live

in slums or rural areas, have a lower income, belong to an ethnic or linguistic minority, or are homeless.

#### **DEVELOPMENT, GLOBAL MONITORING AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

The current development agenda's focus on a set of measurable, time-bound goals has created a framework for assessing progress among countries and has placed issues on the agenda that might have otherwise been neglected – this was surely the case of water and especially sanitation. States and other actors in development attempt to deliver on what is measured and the MDGs have had a tremendous impact, including on national policy making, priority setting and budgetary allocations. Hence, up until now, the fact that MDG's were indifferent to the fight against inequalities, did not create an incentive for national governments, UN agencies and donors to focus on this crucial issue. However, if combating inequalities and promoting non-discrimination become one of the backbones of the future development agenda, global monitoring will harness the power of data to effectively addressing discrimination and inequalities.

Showing trends across the world conveys a powerful message and provides a tool to influence policies and target national or international funding, for the most disadvantaged and marginalized.

Since what is measured counts, the post-2015 development framework must be explicitly designed to reveal who remains invisible. A goal and targets dedicated to eliminating inequalities will help draw attention to the groups and individuals most in need, set incentives to end discrimination, trigger the creation of more precise data and adjust development aims to better respond to the reality on the ground.

#### **INTEGRATING EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION INTO THE POST-2015 FRAMEWORK**

A forward-looking post-2015 development agenda must push boundaries in order to change the status quo and improve the lives of those most affected by existing policies that perpetuate inequalities. As such, there is a need to redefine progress and address several challenges outlined in this report, for example

- **Measure inequality:** Goals, targets and indicators must be framed in a way to aim at reducing inequalities through targeting the most disadvantaged; they must not continue to focus solely on aggregate progress and outcomes.
- **Collect data on inequalities:** The current lack of data on certain issues is not accidental; neglect often coincides with a low political profile. A commitment to better and more accurate data collection is essential to identifying and monitoring inequalities.

- Go beyond disaggregation of data: By itself, disaggregation does not automatically result in the reduction of inequalities. It is the action of policymakers in response to the information revealed by disaggregation that can result in the required change which must be reflected in target setting.
- Monitor more than income inequity: In order to assess progress in reducing inequalities, monitoring must focus on the causes of lack of access to water and sanitation. For example, a person with a disability and a person from an ethnic minority might both be poor and lack access to facilities, but the reasons for their lack of access differ and the required policy responses to ensure access are distinct. In other cases, communities would have the money to pay for affordable water provision if available – but simply the reasons why they are not getting this service lie elsewhere.

#### **GOALS, TARGETS AND INDICATORS FOR WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE**

The report highlights some elements that should be addressed to make sure that goals, targets and indicators successfully monitor non-discrimination:

- Prioritize basic access and focus on progressive realization towards safe, sustainable water and sanitation for all, without discrimination.
- Address geographic inequalities, especially experienced by communities in remote rural areas and slums.
- Tackle inequities and disparities through policies benefitting the poorest of the poor.
- Address group-related inequalities that vary across countries, such as those based on ethnicity, race, nationality, language, caste and religion.
- Address impacts of individual-related inequalities present in every country, such as those based on sex/gender, age and disability—experienced in both in the public and private spheres.
- Address the need for adequate menstrual hygiene management for women and girls.

In her report, the Special *Rapporteur* puts forward proposals for better monitoring and target setting to meet human rights standards that are relevant to the sector, and that are feasible from the perspective of data collection. With the respective political will a future framework can be devised that puts equality and the realization of human rights for all at the heart of global development policy.