

Joint Statement by Development Ministers of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden on Nordic cooperation towards eradicating poverty and ensuring sustainable development for all

The Nordic Development Ministers remain committed to promoting poverty eradication through sustainable development as we scale up our efforts to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015 and shape an ambitious agenda with a set of universal, clear and measurable goals for the period after 2015.

We will work together at the United Nations, with civil society and other partners, based on long-standing Nordic cooperation and contributions towards official development assistance, as well as shared values and models of democracy, human rights, rule of law, gender equality, reduction of inequalities and inclusive growth.

Promoting the rights and fulfilling the needs of children and the most vulnerable and marginalized people, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, ethnic or other minorities remains a cornerstone of Nordic development cooperation.

As donors we acknowledge our responsibility to finance development activities in a way that makes the system more effective, efficient and coordinated. Financing for sustainable development, including –domestic resource mobilization, is central to the successful implementation of the post-2015 agenda.

We urge all partners to intensify existing and innovative efforts to mobilize resources for sustainable development and poverty eradication, including by using public funds and market policies as catalyst for private investments and trade. The Nordic countries stand by their commitments to Official Development Assistance (ODA), which will remain important, in particular for the least developed, fragile and conflict-affected countries and communities.

We embrace accountability and transparency, multi-stakeholder approaches and value the right of citizens to know what has been achieved. Our involvement in multilateral cooperation, whether in the UN and its funds and programmes or in International Financial Institutions explores innovative ways to reform structures and approaches with focus on results. The same applies to our efforts in bilateral co-operation at country level. Our approach is to work together with others, build bridges and partnerships, not work in isolation.

The Nordic countries remain committed to advance, inter alia, the following:

- Reaching agreement in the United Nations on an ambitious post-2015 agenda including a set of sustainable development goals for the post-2015 era, which are universal in nature, include clear and measurable goals, have as a key objective the eradication of extreme poverty by 2030 and promote sustainable development in all three dimensions - economic, social and environmental. The goals should be firmly anchored in the international human rights framework, based on good governance, rule of law, peace and stability and address climate change.
- Nordic countries will pay particular emphasis to the promotion of gender equality and the rights of women and girls, as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights. We need to ensure that gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and the full enjoyment

of their human rights is both included as a stand-alone goal and mainstreamed throughout the post-2015 agenda.

- Free and compulsory high-quality education and equal opportunities for vocational and higher education and health care for all are the cornerstones in the Nordic societies and areas where we will continue to collaborate closely also internationally.
- We will also work with the UN and partner nations on Sustainable Energy for All and ensuring that sustainable management of the environment, natural resources and oceans, and tackling climate change are integrated in the post-2015 agenda.
- Reinforce our work to raise international support for the inclusion of peaceful societies and freedom from violence as a sustainable development goal in the future post 2015 framework. Our collaboration with regard to the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding with strong ownership of the fragile countries themselves will be strengthened.
- Strengthen our collaboration to promote the inclusion of democratic governance and the rule of law as a sustainable development goal in the post 2015 framework.
- When defining means of implementation and accountability of post-2015 agenda, the Nordic countries emphasize the importance of country ownership, inclusive development