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**World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings 2012**  
**Post-2015 Global Development Framework: Is There a Role for a**  
**Next Generation of MDGs?**

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. The topic of the next generation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is obviously one that is central to the World Bank's work, and this is a discussion that we are excited to be a part of.

Let me begin by noting that, while we are here to discuss the post-2015 framework, we must not forget that there is still much to accomplish on our existing agenda. With over one billion people still living in extreme poverty, accelerating progress towards the eradication of extreme poverty must remain our primary goal, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, regions which are significantly behind the targets set in 1990. Likewise, most fragile states are also unlikely to meet the MDGs by 2015. Beyond the poverty targets, progress in human development, particularly in reducing infant and maternal mortality, will require substantive and sustained effort for a long time, especially in the poorer regions.

As we look to the post-2015 framework, I think a useful starting point is to look back at the MDGs, and what role they've played in the global development agenda. The MDGs served as an important catalyst to encourage the development community to focus support on poverty reduction and improvements in human development. They gave a tangible burst of energy to our development efforts, attracting great attention from both governments and publics, and that energy translated into greater resource flows. But we could have done better if solutions at the country level would have been linked to implementation strategies right from the start. And I think we're coming to realize that in fragile states we need different solutions altogether, ones in which an emphasis on capacity to implement is front and center.

The next set of MDGs needs to take these lessons into account. A new framework should be a catalytic force for transformation in developing countries and for the empowerment of the poor. While this discussion is still obviously in its early stages, I see four key issues that I hope will be addressed by this new framework.

One, we need to think about looking beyond monetary poverty measures, to reflect the multifaceted nature of poverty today. We need to focus on both people and the planet, emphasizing sustainability and underlining the fact that developed and developing countries alike have a stake in preserving our shared environment. This includes considering moving beyond GDP to measure the sustainability of growth through natural capital and wealth accounting.

Two, I believe we need to give greater attention to questions of equity, which were largely neglected in the existing MDG framework. Because if we do not create incentives to focus resources on the hardest to reach groups, and if we do not address inequality of opportunities head-on, our progress on poverty reduction could be significantly eroded by inequalities.

Three, we must recognize that the implementation of a new set of MDGs will require multi-sectoral solutions. Siloed approaches, where we address each narrow issue or sector in isolation, won't work.

And four, the framework needs to be designed in a manner that ensures no poor individual nor poor country is left behind. It is not good enough that we make progress in most countries but not in fragile states, for example, or that we help millions escape poverty but fail to reach the most marginalized. Indeed, fragile states are systematically behind on achieving every MDG, and we need to collectively think how solutions can be tailored to their special needs. The new MDGs must be truly universal. We need to ensure that progress in global goals is not driven by the achievements in just one or two large countries. Towards this end, we must pay more attention to poverty reduction strategies that address the needs of *every* poor country – large or small.

And this brings me to the heart of what I want to discuss today, which is what role the World Bank Group has in all of this, and specifically what we can do to assist countries with their development priorities within a new MDG framework.

I believe the World Bank Group is uniquely positioned to help countries translate global goals into country specific targets and actions, ones that cater to the specific needs of their populations and country characteristics. This is a crucial element of the next generation of MDGs. We need to build a framework that is at once universal and reflects our collective global priorities, while simultaneously recognizing the diverse demands and particular circumstances of individual countries.

To give one example, large emerging economies like India and fragile states like the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) both need to tackle poverty. Yet the nature of the poverty challenge in the two countries is very different, including the actors involved and the types of development interventions that are likely to prove successful.

The World Bank Group can serve as a bridge between the global and the national, the universal and the particular, partnering with our clients to help each one of them do their part in contributing to our collective worldwide effort. We can work with India, the DRC, and every other country to develop strategies for making progress on the new MDGs, supporting country-led solutions to local priorities to help advance our global vision.

In assisting our clients in driving forward their own efforts to meet this new set of goals, we can be a valuable partner across all stages of the project life cycle. With our strong analytic capabilities, we can help countries assess budget implications of MDGs. We can help countries identify priority areas where they can get the most bang-for-the-buck in making progress toward the goals. We can help them design tailored solutions to the concrete problems hindering their progress, and work with them and other partners to implement these projects. We can help strengthen the capacity of national statistical agencies. And we can help design and implement monitoring and evaluation frameworks, so that we can learn what's working and fix what isn't. In brief, there's a lot the World Bank Group can do to help our clients achieve their development goals, and we look forward to building on this work to help them contribute to achieving the next generation of MDGs.

In addition to this work in translating global goals into country-specific targets and actions, there are two other aspects of the new MDG framework for which I believe the World Bank Group has an important role to play. The first is using our convening power to help mobilize the financial resources that will be needed to meet the next generation of development goals.

The second is capitalizing on our global networks to broker knowledge exchanges across countries and institutional boundaries, sharing lessons on what works under what conditions. In particular I want to highlight the usefulness of South-South knowledge exchanges in allowing developing countries to learn from one another's experiences in tackling common challenges, including both successes and setbacks.

In closing, let me simply note something which is perhaps self-evident but which I believe bears repeating: the value of goals and targets ultimately lies in their ability to change behaviors, incentives, and actions. We must come up with a new MDG framework which galvanizes us to take action, one which is commensurate with the urgency of the task at hand, ending global poverty. I'm excited to be a part of this discussion, I hope all of you are as well, and I greatly look forward to carrying on this conversation in the coming weeks, months, and years.

Thank you.

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