

THE LIMA DECLARATION

Representatives of international volunteer cooperation organisations and volunteer-involving organisations from around the world gathered in Lima 19th – 22nd October 2014 for the annual meeting of the International Forum for Volunteering in Development (Forum). Forum is a global network of organisations involved in international volunteering, working in collaboration with national and local volunteer organisations to promote the recognition of volunteerism for development.

Sustainable Development is not possible without volunteers. At its heart, volunteerism is based on people working together to contribute to just and peaceful change in communities across the globe. The act of contributing out of one's own free will, for broader societal benefit, is fundamental to our humanity and to the creation of an equitable and peaceful world.

This declaration is a statement of our agreed priorities and messages as international volunteering cooperation organisations for the Post-2015 Development Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and a commitment – to take action to ensure that volunteers' priorities are reflected in the new development framework and the SDGs.

We therefore:

Celebrate the contributions of millions of volunteers worldwide to supporting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the contribution that volunteers will make to the SDGs;

Affirm that the full potential of volunteers to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs can be unlocked only by an SDG framework that explicitly recognises and supports volunteerism¹;

Further affirm that volunteerism represents a people-centred and rights-based approach to sustainable development that empowers people to determine and participate in their own development as active citizens and to contribute to social cohesion;

Build on key United Nations resolutions that have recognised volunteering and volunteer groups².

¹ See attached Appendix I – Analysis of Outcome Document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

² This includes the UNGA resolution on the Tenth anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (A/RES/66/67), which “reaffirms the need to recognize and promote all forms of volunteerism in order to engage and benefit all segments of society” and “welcomes the expanding involvement of the private sector in support of volunteerism, and encourages its further engagement through the expansion of corporate volunteering and employee volunteer activities”; The future we want (Rio+20 Outcome Document, A/RES/66/288), which underscores the fact that sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of volunteer groups (among others); Integrating volunteering in the next decade (A/RES/67/138), which recognises volunteerism as “an important component of any strategy aimed at such areas as poverty reduction, sustainable development...”; and the modalities resolution (A/RES/67/290) establishing the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which welcomes volunteer groups to participate in HLPF meetings and “encourages [them] to autonomously establish and maintain effective coordination mechanisms for participation...”.

At a crucial moment in the Post-2015 Development process, we call on Member States to ensure that volunteerism is recognised in the Post-2015 framework, especially in the SDGs by:

- Recognising “volunteer groups” as a named partner and relevant stakeholder in the definition, implementation and accountability structures of the SDGs.
- Embedding a strong participation and governance goal which supports citizen-led engagement within the goal, target and indicator structure and supports an active role for citizens, including volunteers, in any accountability mechanism to monitor progress toward the SDGs.
- Creating a supportive, enabling environment at national level for local, national and international volunteerism.
- Promoting the systematic involvement of volunteer organisations in development planning and implementation to actively engage local communities as experts in their own development.
- Ensuring that decisions on means of implementation and global partnerships for development recognise volunteer groups as a vital resource.

To ensure that these priorities are reflected in the SDGs, we commit to:

1. Communicate these priorities strongly and consistently to our national governments and work with them to champion volunteering for development in the intergovernmental negotiations;
2. Build a broad, active, vocal coalition of partners from a range of sectors to support us in communicating these priorities to decision-makers;
3. Take targeted, collective, global action on International Volunteer Day 2014;
4. Promote the stories and achievements of volunteers through the 500 Days, 500 Ways campaign - www.500ways.org.

In closing this conference, we reaffirm that volunteerism is one of society’s most vital assets and deserves greater recognition as a key partner in sustainable development. We re-commit to take action, individually and collectively, to ensure that the role of volunteering in development is recognised and supported in the SDGs.

Appendix I

Analysis of Outcome Document of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals

Achieving full recognition of the role of volunteers in the Post-2015 Development Agenda will foster the commitment of volunteers, volunteer groups and volunteer-involving organisations to support the implementation of the SDGs by enabling capacity building, skills development and service delivery across all goals.

Volunteers are not a cost-free delivery mechanism but rather are best utilised alongside a well-trained and well-resourced workforce to extend the reach of services and ensure their relevance to the communities they seek to assist.

When supported and utilised effectively, volunteers can and do play a crucial role in the successful implementation of all goals and target areas being discussed within the SDG framework.

Volunteers, volunteer groups and volunteer-involving organisations are committed to support the following concrete elements currently contained in the proposed SDG framework:

In the proposed SDG 1 *End poverty in all its forms everywhere*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Continue to develop volunteer programs that provide concrete opportunities for wider participation in development processes, including by the marginalised and excluded, to ensure wider reach and improved qualitative outcomes of basic service delivery.
- Support and complement the public provision of essential services for basic human needs through volunteer action, with the ultimate goal of eradicating poverty in all its forms.

In the proposed SDG 2 *End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Complement the capacity of government institutions to ensure access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all people, with the ultimate goal of ending hunger.
- Encourage capacity building and skills development in the area of sustainable agriculture through community and volunteer initiatives to spread knowledge about sustainable agricultural practices to the most remote areas, reaching the most vulnerable people.

In the proposed SDG 3 *Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Recognise, encourage and facilitate capacity building, skills development and service delivery in the area of health through community and volunteer initiatives to widen access to health services and raise awareness of issues related to prevention and care for national and global health risks.
- Complement and strengthen the capacity of all countries, particularly developing countries, for early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks, including through strengthening the role of community health organisations.

In the proposed SDG 4 *Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Encourage and facilitate capacity building, value education and vocational skills development through complementary and flexible forms of non-formal education and volunteer initiatives to enhance inclusive and equitable quality education and provide life-long learning opportunities for all.
- Ensure equal access to vocational training as well as complementary forms of non-formal education such as service learning and community-based grassroots learning for the vulnerable.

In the proposed SDG 5 *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Work with governments, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in fostering the recognition and value of volunteer engagement of young girls and women in the social, economic and environmental spheres.
- Mobilise volunteers to actively engage and promote public campaigns and support outreach programs to foster attitudinal and behavioural change among boys and men with respect to violence against women.
- Enhance opportunities for women and young girls to engage in the public sphere as equal participants by providing volunteer opportunities, vocational training and leadership mentoring opportunities to ensure access to decision-making processes.

In the proposed SDG 6 *Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Cooperate with local authorities in the improvement of local capacity for self-sufficiency through volunteer programs designed to empower grassroots-level water resources management.
- Provide capacity development support to ensure access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all.

In the proposed SDG 7 *Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Complement and strengthen the capacity to deliver public infrastructure to expand access to a sustainable supply of clean energy for all, especially in developing countries, and particularly Least Developed Countries.

In the proposed SDG 8 *Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Facilitate skills development through community and volunteer initiatives to increase employability and social entrepreneurship, especially of women, young people and people in vulnerable situations.
- Promote the notion of “decent work” through “volunteer work” as a mechanism that

strengthens human agency, dignity, a feeling of self-respect and a contributor to society.

- Support volunteering as a renewable resource for social and environmental problem-solving.

In the proposed SDG 9 *Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Encourage and facilitate awareness raising and capacity building through online and offline community and volunteer initiatives to encourage the development of local solutions through grassroots innovation.

In the proposed SDG 10 *Reduce inequality within and among countries*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Facilitate awareness raising and capacity building through community and volunteer initiatives to enhance social cohesion through the provision of opportunities for civic engagement across diverse socio-economic groups.
- Foster active engagement of people in their communities through volunteerism and encourage people to take charge of the issues affecting their livelihoods.

In the proposed SDG 11 *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Facilitate awareness raising and capacity building through community and volunteer initiatives to enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation as well as participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management.

In the proposed SDG 12 *Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Encourage and facilitate awareness raising and capacity building through community and volunteer initiatives to foster sustainable lifestyles and encourage civic engagement in favour of sustainable development in its three dimensions.

In the proposed SDG 13 *Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Implement volunteer programs aimed at bolstering the capacity and resilience of communities to respond to, withstand and recover from adverse environmental situations and environmental disasters.
- Respond to and prevent disasters by involving volunteers in educating and training communities in climate-related disaster response.
- Develop volunteer initiatives to build human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

In the proposed SDG 14 *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Encourage and facilitate capacity building and skills development in the area of conservation

and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources through community and volunteer initiatives to spread knowledge and encourage recommended practices in the field in the most remote areas, reaching the most vulnerable people.

In the proposed SDG 15 *Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Encourage and facilitate capacity building and skills development in the area of terrestrial ecosystems through community and volunteer initiatives to spread knowledge and encourage recommended practices in the field in the most remote areas, reaching the most vulnerable people.

In the proposed SDG 16 *Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- Foster civic engagement through volunteerism as an essential mechanism for building the necessary trust to ensure open dialogue between stakeholders and the sense of community ownership in the peacebuilding process.
- Encourage and facilitate community and volunteer initiatives to raise awareness on a culture of peace and non-violence and promote social cohesion and reconciliation.
- Actively promote the engagement of people through volunteerism in the development of national civilian capacities to positively contribute to peacebuilding efforts.

In the proposed SDG 17 *Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*, volunteer organisations commit to:

- **Data, monitoring and accountability**
Contribute to the enhancement of national and international capacities to collect relevant, disaggregated data on progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by training, supporting and deploying volunteer capacity in support of governments and the United Nations in the acquisition and analysis of relevant micro-data critical to measure and evaluate progress against the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Capacity building**
Enable capacity building, skills development and service delivery across all goal areas through community and volunteer initiatives to spread knowledge and participatory practices fostering community ownership and long-term results and ensuring effectiveness of measures at national, sub-national and local level.
- **Finance**
Support the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals through the implementation of volunteer-led communications campaigns in developed countries aimed at educating citizens about the need to implement fully the acquired ODA commitments such as the 0.7% of GNI in ODA to developing countries.