

Initiative for post-2015 agenda begins

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Post-2015 development agenda has to focus on agriculture development, including increasing investment in agriculture, since it is the sector in which most of the poor people in the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) like Nepal depend on, according to under secretary general and high representative for Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, United Nations, Gyan Chandra Acharya.

"There is a need to mobilise national resources effectively, while emphasising that the developed countries have a greater responsibility in providing the much needed resources in the context that MDG 8 — global partnership for development — has remained one of the weakest areas," he said, addressing the 'High-level dialogue on Linking Istanbul Plan of Action with Post-2015 Development Framework,' organised by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) here today.

Economic growth did not get enough attention while formulating the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as it had focused on human development more, he said, adding

MDGs that are due to expire in 2015 have been partly successful as some goals and targets have been met by many countries, including LDCs like Nepal. "The partial success of the MDGs needs to be appreciated."

The Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA), which takes a holistic view of LDC development, including building productive capacity, needs to be taken into account while framing post-2015 development agenda, he said. "Agenda has to be more ambitious than MDGs, and issues set forth in IPoA must be integrated in them."

As the 2015 deadline for the MDGs is fast approaching, with the possibility of many of the MDGs being unmet by the deadline, progress should be accelerated and challenges

should be prioritised, according to Acharya.

There are several initiatives going on at the national, regional and international levels to devise a development agenda for the post-2015 landscape.

With the core focus on poverty reduction, MDGs have been partly successful in that they have played an important role in getting countries focus on national development efforts and making development strategies more result oriented.

"However, the post-2015 agendas should address the MDGs weaknesses like flawed design and concept," said executive chair of SAWTEE Dr Posh Raj Pandey.

"The 'one size fits all' approach, ignorance of interdependency among the various goals, silence on distribution

aspect, assumption of linear progress and outcome, and not fully reflecting national priorities are some of the lessons to learn despite, its simple framework with limited goals and targets that are measurable in many instances," he said, adding that the new development agenda should also address the emergence of new actors like assertive private sector, vocal civil society, and fast changing technology.

Devising the post-2015 development agenda offers an opportunity to contemplate on the strengths of MDGs to devise more inclusive development approaches for addressing the pressing development challenges, said executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Dhaka Professor Mustafizur Rahman.



Minister for Home and Foreign Affairs Madhav Prasad Ghimire at a high-level dialogue organised by SAWTEE, in Kathmandu, on Wednesday.

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