



Press Release, 27 June 2013. For immediate release

Deliberating High Level Panel proposals for a post-2015 global development framework from Ground Level perspectives

In June and July, *Participate* will be facilitating four 'Ground Level Panels' in Egypt, Brazil, Uganda and India to mirror the UN High Level Panel for a post-2015 development agenda. The Ground Level Panels will comprise a diverse group of 10-12 participants who experience poverty, insecurity and exclusion on a daily basis.

Participants, including urban slum-dwellers, disabled people, ex-slaves and bonded labourers, sexual minorities, people living in conflict and natural disaster-affected areas, rural poverty, or geographically isolated communities, nomadic and indigenous people, and internally displaced people will evaluate the UN High Level Panel's (HLP) recommendations for a post- Millennium Development Goal framework. They will make their own recommendations of what is needed in global development policy to end poverty, based on 'ground level' experience.

The Ground Level Panel discussions will take place over six days in each country. On the final day, outreach events will be held where the Panelists will present their recommendations to local and national audiences, including decision-makers, the media and civil society organisations. Recommendations will also be communicated to the UN High Level Panel as a reality check to their proposals. The outreach days will be an opportunity for the media and decision-makers to interact with the Ground Level Panelists to hear their perspectives of what needs to change and how change must happen if it is to be sustainable. The Panelists will also offer critical viewpoints on the UN High Level Panel's recommendations for a post-2015 development agenda.

The Ground Level Panels will be hosted by the following organisations from *Participate's* Participatory Research Group:

- The Centre for Development Services (CDS) in Egypt, 17-20 June. **Outreach days: 25 June (English seminar) and 26 June (Arabic seminar) Location: CDS main meeting room, 4 Ahmed Pasha Street, 10th Floor, Garden City, Cairo.** www.cds-mena.com
- International Movement ATD (All Together for Dignity) Fourth World and Instituto Raízes em Movimento in Brazil, 30 June-4 July. **Outreach day: 5 July. Location: Auditório do Clube da Engenharia, à Avenida Rio**

Branco, 124 – 22º, Rio de Janeiro. www.atd-fourthworld.org,
www.raizesemmovimento.org.br

- Restless Development in Uganda, 6-10 July. **Outreach day: 11 July, Location: TBD.** www.restlessdevelopment.org
- Praxis – Institute for Participatory Practices in India, 14-18 July. **Outreach day: 19 July. Location: The Constitution Club of India, Vithal Bhai Patel House, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110 001**
www.praxisindia.org

Ground Level Panel participants with experience of living in extreme poverty and marginalisation will be available for interview, as will representatives from *Participate*.

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Notes to Editors:

For more information on the Ground Level Panels please visit:
www.participate2015.org/events or contact:

- **Thea Shahrokh, Participate, IDS.** t.shahrokh@ids.ac.uk
Phone number: +44 (0)7717 131 348
- Lisa van Dijk, CDS, Egypt
lisa@cds-mena.com
Phone number: +20227957558
- Mariana Guerra, ATD4th World, Brazil
mariana.guerra@atd-quartmonde.org
Phone number: +55 21 82091660
- Natalie Newell, Restless Development, Uganda
natalie@restlessdevelopment.org
Phone number: +256 777 14 65 60
- Pradeep Narayanan, Praxis, India
pradeepn@praxisindia.org
Phone number: +91 11 23711849, +91 11 23327337

Who are the Ground Level Panelists?

Information about the Ground Level Panels will be released in advance of each Panel's outreach day. Two panelists from India and Brazil are profiled below:

India Ground Level Panelist

S. Mohammad Ismail, Aged 29 years. ⁱ



I was one of the members of the rescue team that brought hundreds of people affected by the Tsunami to safety. I cherish my role in this effort.

I was a victim of polio attack at the age of 8 years, and am inflicted with 70% disability. I am educated until Class XII in the Corporation School and have been looking for a job for many years.

Son of a vegetable vendor, my family was uprooted due to eviction. In 2002, the slum in which we lived was notified for eviction as the land was required for developing a commercial boating club. Despite protests, and without any advance warning, one morning, we were among 1500 families whose houses were demolished by a crane. Our belongings were thrown out. The people were loaded in trucks and taken to a place in the outskirts of the city, now called Kannagi Nagar, especially created for evicted families. The place had no facilities for water or electricity, and each family was provided a rented accommodation. Kannagi Nagar has now become a stigmatized place identified with crime. The Police enter houses in Kannagi Nagar at any time without even being apologetic.

I recently got a job in a private company and when I had to submit my proof of address, the company got to know I was from Kannagi Nagar. My appointment was cancelled.

While I have faced discrimination owing to my status of disability and urban poor, I envision a world that is characterized by jobs for all; clean habitat; safe spaces for children; common school system and an effective police that is not imprisoned by stereotypes.

Brazil Ground Level Panelist

Edson Gomes Loiola Filho



I am a social-environmentalist, and member of the NGO, *Verdejar Socioambiental* that has worked for over 15 years for the preservation of the Misericórdia. I am one of the founders and president today.

Born and raised in favelas of Complexo do Alemão, the Massif of the Misericórdia Range has always been my backyard and enchanted world. As a teenager I was really into music and drawing, I copied everything I saw, from simple drawings to photos, and then started drawing from my imagination. I had a troubled youth, like the majority of young people in this region, with a fragile family structure, and a great deal of violence within it. I was revolted with all I saw and

experienced in my life, and the world of illusions around my reality caused frustration. I lost the sense of what I enjoyed and what was good for me and directed my anger to the path that was wide open, to the closest reference of power: the drug dealing gangs.

I made myself violent, almost drowned love inside me, made myself strong and respected without really being anything. I lost myself and got frustrated and tired of that world which I discovered to be meaningless. Without options and no idea on where and how to start living again, with no perspective and no dreams, I saw an opportunity in the dreams of two other people: one, Ana Paula, a friend from childhood who always supported me and Luiz Poeta, whom I had met at the end of the 90s. They were both dreaming of transforming those hills where I played as a child into an Ecological Park. *Verdejar* was my only option.

It was the work of these two people that woke me up and made me dream again. Their dreams became mine and some of my own became theirs as well. Today, everything I went through built who I am, and I am grateful for that. That revolt from youth still exists strong, but full of love and hope, surrounded by friends, brothers and sisters of struggles, work and life. Together we try to turn these feelings into ideas and actions that may contribute to the dreams of others; of those who might be asleep, and create new paths for them to find other meanings in life and love that exists in it.

Format of each Ground Level Panel

The Ground Level Panel discussions will take place over six days in each country. The first two days will be an opportunity for panelists to build relationships and understand the post-2015 policy context. They will discuss the history and process of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and how these relate to the national context. They will explore what has been achieved globally and nationally and reflect on the current post-2015 development policy context.



The following three days will be spent reflecting on the UN High Level Panel's (HLP) recommendations for a new development framework. The Ground Level Panels will be presented with the 'five transformative shifts' recommended in the HLP reportⁱⁱ. The HLP outlines these as 'the priorities for a forward-looking, compelling and integrated sustainable development agenda'. From this, the Panels will work to identify what their vision for development is, and the specific

actors and proposals that would drive these transformations – as the High Level Panel has done with their illustrative goal framework. Each Ground Level Panel will build a set of recommendations that present an alternative vision of development. These visions will relate to the specific context that those people are immersed in, and their own experiences of change.

On the final day, the Ground Level Panels will draw together their recommendations and present them to local and national audiences, including decision-makers, the media and civil society organisations.



ⁱ The profile image has been altered to protect the identity of the panelist

ⁱⁱ A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development: The Report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda:

http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/HLP_P2015_Report.pdf

Participate is co-convened by the Institute of Development Studies and Beyond 2015, but the initiative is only possible because of the energy, expertise and vision of the number of organisations who are funding and facilitating the participatory research. Participate is funded by UK aid from the UK Government.

For more information: **web:** www.participate2015.org **email:** participate@ids.ac.uk **twitter:** @participate2015