The High Level Panel is to be commended on the breadth and depth of their work. The vision and strategy they are putting forward is comprehensive and doable, or at least one would like to think so. However, I do have some observations. It seems that there is one step missing from this entire process: a critical, reflective look at what some of the obstacles are that get in the way of any goal being actually achieved. The post-2015 development agenda is once again an ideal vision, the goals are 'ideals'. I would like to see us approach this from a different perspective - an approach which begins by addressing global injustices and considering the reasons why these happen.

We need to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of why so many children, women and men are left behind; why some human lives are valued more than others. Some difficult and uncomfortable questions need to be asked and confronted. In a world there is so much affluence but also the existence of extreme poverty for a large number of people is a moral failing on the part of public institutions and individuals.

I would suggest that we broaden the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development to include ethics a key aspect. Just as we cannot conceive of development without sustainability, we should not conceive of sustainable development without ethics. Incorporating ethics this way will allow for a more critical discussion and
analysis of the development processes and realities, and therefore help us to understand where we are, how we got here and where we need to go.

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