

INSIGHTS ON THE POST 2015 PROCESS & THE SDGs
A contribution from the Governments of Colombia and Guatemala to start a substantive discussion
Open Working Group on the SDGs
14-15 March, New York

We believe that the cornerstone of this new development agenda should be a single set of Global Goals that will serve to align priorities, efforts and resources to tackle the major development challenges of our times. For that we believe that the MDG targets are an essential component.

These global goals could be defined by the following characteristics:

- **Universal** in scope, applicable and relevant to all countries, but allowing for *differentiation* in accordance with national contexts and priorities;
- Ensure that gains, especially in terms of **poverty eradication be irreversible**;
- Long-term sustained poverty eradication is only possible in a context of **sustainability**;
- All three dimensions of sustainable development need **targets and indicators**;
- **Global level issues** must be taken into account (eg trade, international finance, migration, SCP);
- **Equity** in terms of 3 dimensions: *Within countries, Between countries and Intergenerational*.

Relevance of the MDGs

The MDG targets must be an integral part of a post 2015 framework. The key issues the MDGs address need to remain as important in the post 2015 agenda as they have been to date.

Benefits of an integrated agenda

The Future We Want outcome document focused on integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. A single set of goals will serve to further align the UN system and the international community to focus on the most pressing challenges of today and of the future.

The global goals need to seek **structural and transformational change**. At the core of this integrated agenda, is poverty eradication, and ensuring that poverty becomes irreversible. A lesson learned of the MDG is that poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon that cannot be addressed merely within an agenda of minimums. Comprehensive poverty eradication demands investments and policies beyond a “pro-poor” focus. There is a need to go beyond merely addressing poverty and put in place the conditions, investments and policies needed to provide for the wellbeing of billions. Also, an emerging global middle class demands judicious use of limited resources to enable dignified happy lives.

The corollary to this understanding is that to address eradication of poverty we need sustainable development. Degradation of natural resources and resource scarcities contribute to the root causes of poverty and undermine the wellbeing of present and future generations. Changing sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (SCP) needs to be at the core of the new agenda.

A Conceptual Model

If transformative, structural change is what we are after, then there is a need to focus not just on the “what” we want to achieve, as is the case with the MDGs, but also on the “how” to achieve it. This requires a solid functional model that we can all envision and design. In the **Annex**, we present an illustrative proposal for further our deliberations.

Universal scope requires Differentiation

In order for the new agenda to be universal in scope, the model must provide for differentiation. We need a universal agenda because we face global challenges that need to be addressed at the global level, and because as a globalized society we are highly interdependent. However, there are regional, national and local specificities that must be taken into account.

As many have suggested, the best architecture could include

- **global goals** that focus on global development priorities & challenges, and
- **targets and indicators tailored** to national priorities and circumstances

We would propose that a **global dashboard with a core of agreed targets and indicators for each agreed Goal should be defined.**

In addition to this, countries can also add more specific targets and indicators to reflect national or regional priorities or circumstances.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Each country sets its own quantitative benchmarks and baselines. Capacity building and support needs to start immediately so that countries have clearly defined baselines prior to 2015. |
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The criteria for defining targets and indicators would be that these

- Reflect a spectrum of progress at least in three dimensions:
 - Development
 - Sustainability
 - Inclusiveness
- Be dynamic: countries can move to more ambitious deliverables as they achieve given indicators
- Be measurable: information/data exists or requisite capacity building *is within sight*

Ultimate deliverables for the Post 2015 Process:

- An agenda of **wellbeing** beyond minimums
- **Sustainability** for long-term human progress within planetary boundaries
- **Irreversibility** of the gains achieved
- **MDGs** are conserved
- The false poverty-sustainability divide is overcome
- A **universally relevant** agenda **sensitive** to **local** specificities through **differentiation**

ANNEX I

of the Concept paper by Colombia and Guatemala

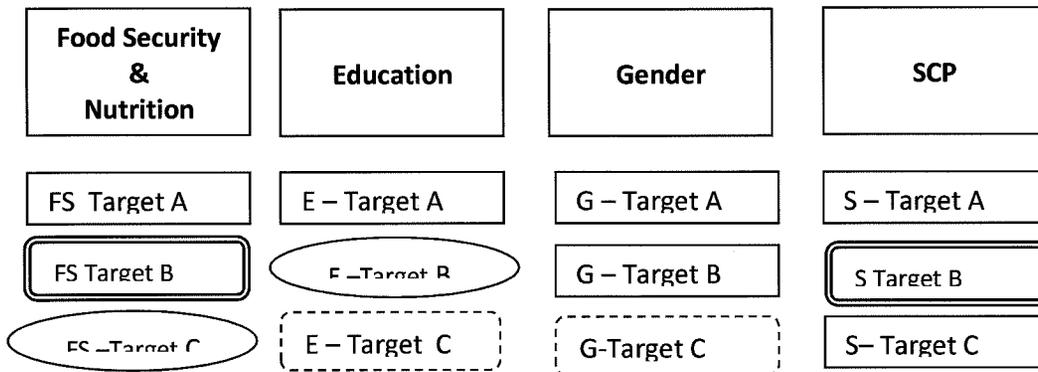
A general understanding of what the architecture of the Global Goals could look like, will help advance the deliberations and enable us to focus on substantive issues.

One issue that has been widely mentioned is whether items are “stand-alone” or cross-cutting. However, as shown below, this does not need to be a substantive issue. For example, in order to deliver on food security, there would be linkages with other possible global goals such as health and education, and therefore, there would be common or shared targets between goals.

Such an approach would deliver:

- An effective rendering of the inter-linkages between thematic areas, thus enabling the new agenda to really drive transformative change in sectors and line ministries.
- Options for reflecting the three dimensions (economic, social, environmental) across Goals
- Guarantees that “cross-cutting” becomes operational.
- A rationalization of the number of targets as key targets will be shared across Goals.

Note: the thematic areas for Global Goals described below are only for purposes of illustration.



Moving from the Concept to application.....

Thus, once concrete, measurable targets are defined, each target could fit under one or more Goals. The same could be argued for the MDGs. For example, although apparently only MDG 4-6 are health related, in fact from a more integrated perspective, other MDG targets also help to deliver on health:

- Target 1C: Hunger**
 Target 4A: Under-5 mortality rate
 Target 5A: Maternal mortality ratio
 Target 5B: Reproductive health
 Target 6A: HIV/AIDS
 Target 6B: HIV/AIDS treatment
 Target 6C: Malaria & other
Target 7C: Sanitation & drinking water
Target 7D: slum dwellers

Another aspect that the new model should include are elements for achieving truly transformational change and for delivering long-term well-being to billions by 2050. The diagram below provides an example of how this could be achieved while ensuring that the MDG targets are an integral part.

(Note: This paper does not seek to suggest that these are necessarily the elements that would constitute a candidate Global Goal on health; these are provided by way of illustration.)

EXAMPLE OF A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE GLOBAL GOAL ON HEALTH		
MDGs related to Health	Elements for Transformational Change & Well-being	Example of a Candidate Global Goal on Health
Target 1C: Hunger Target 4A: Under-5 mortality rate Target 5A: Maternal mortality ratio Target 5B: Reproductive health Target 6A: HIV/AIDS Target 6B: HIV/AIDS treatment Target 6C: Malaria & other Target 7C: Sanitation & drinking water Target 7D: slum dwellers	Increased healthy life expectancy	<u>Improved health life expectancy (HALE)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicable diseases: MDG 6 (6A, B and C) • Non-communicable diseases • Access to reproductive health: MDG 5B
	Increased life expectancy overall	<u>Increased life expectancy overall</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child mortality: MDG 4A • Maternal mortality: MDG 5A • Adult mortality
	Healthy context	<u>Healthy context</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve life of slum dwellers: MDG 7D • Water & sanitation: MDG 7 C • Access to healthy food & nutrition
	Infrastructure and human resources for health	<u>Infrastructure and human resources for health</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financing • Human resources for health delivery • Health infrastructure (hospitals, ambulances, roads)
	Universal coverage	<u>Universal coverage</u>