The SDGs and the Post-2015 Process

Regional Conference on Sustainable Development

PDF printable version

Paula Caballero
Advisor to Minister María Angela Holguín, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia and Member of the High Level Panel
Director of Economic, Social, and Environmental Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Colombia
The Post 2015 exercise, which should be developed as a single overarching process, should culminate in agreement on:

A single agenda with a single set of Goals that will serve to align priorities, efforts and resources to tackle the major development challenges of our times.
Principles of the New Agenda

• The new agenda must be **universal** in scope, but allow for differentiation between national contexts

• **Equity** must be centerpiece:
  • *Within* countries
  • *Between* countries
  • *Intergenerational*

• Gains should be **irreversible**

• Long-term sustained poverty eradication is only possible in a context of **sustainable development**

• **Global level issues** must be taken into account (eg trade, international finance, migration....)
Concerns regarding the MDGs

• In the homestretch to 2015, efforts to accelerate MDG implementation could be undermined

• Basic issues prioritized by the MDGs would lose visibility and remain unfinished

• The focus on poverty eradication could be lost

We need to avoid it!
Continued Relevance of the MDGs

- The targets of the MDGs are so basic and essential that they must be included in a post 2015 framework.

- It is not valid to believe that the key issues the MDGs address will not remain as important post 2015 as they have been to date.

THE MDG TARGETS WILL LIVE ON
Drawbacks to 2 Separate Agendas

- Establishes a **divide between poverty and sustainable development** – these are not separate challenges

- Positions poverty eradication as **actionable only within an agenda of minimums**

- Comprehensive and **sustained poverty eradication** demands **investments** and policies **beyond a “pro-poor” focus**

- Sustained poverty eradication is not just about ODA
Drawbacks to 2 Separate Agendas

Fragments efforts and focus at both national and global levels

- Maintains an artificial separation between countries – and in some cases, within countries
- Will not reflect the planet in 20 years
- Makes it impossible to articulate global level issues
Drawbacks to 2 Separate Agendas

- Generates **unmanageable overlaps** between the two agendas: for example, in terms of finance, infrastructure (energy, water, housing, transport)
- Creates serious **difficulties** in terms of monitoring, reporting and overall accountability
- Creates **additional administrative burdens**: for example, two separate review conferences?
Benefits of Convergence

- Poverty is a **multidimensional** phenomenon
- Poverty gains must be **irreversible**
- An **agenda of minimums** will not deliver sustained, systemic poverty eradication – and will definitely not deliver long-term wellbeing ..... 
- Real poverty eradication demands that we also plan and provide for an **emerging global middle class**

*As Jeffrey Sachs recently said with regards to these two processes, keeping them apart would be “devastating to both agendas”.*
Benefits of Convergence

• The new agenda must reflect the deep interlinkages between issues: ...clean water and infant mortality; education and productive lives...

• As we exceed the planet’s carrying capacity, a BAU scenario cannot deliver sustained poverty reduction

• Degradation of natural resources and resource scarcities are root causes of poverty

• Sustainability is NOT a “green agenda”: it is about the sustained well-being of a globalized society on a planetary scale

“The main problem is overconsumption by the richest”.  
Professor Hans Rosling
A Conceptual Model (these potential global goals are for illustrative purposes only)

Food Security & Nutrition (FS)
Water (W)
Gender (G)
Equity (E)

FS-Target A
W-Target A
G-T Target A
E-T Target A

FS-Target B
W-Target B
G-T Target B
E-T Target B

FS-Target C
W-Target C
G-T Target C
E-T Target C
It is foreseeable that there will need to be a target linking food security – agriculture to water availability. This same target would therefore be relevant for a potential global goal on water.
Similarly, it is foreseeable that in order to deliver on a potential global goal on gender, access to services and resources would need to be ensured. Thus a target on access to water could be shared between a potential goal on GENDER and a potential goal on WATER.

Other examples of “shared targets” are indicated by the “small icons” located alongside the targets under the different potential global goals.
How does this work in practice?

• The following slides illustrate, using a potential Candidate Global Goal on HEALTH, how the MDG targets could be incorporated into a more comprehensive Global Goal in order to arrive at a single set of Global Goals for the Post 2015 framework.
In theory the MDG targets related to HEALTH are MDG 4, 5 and 6.

However, other MDG targets are clearly of great relevance to delivering health to the global population. These would include 1C (hunger), 7C (sanitation) and 7D (slums)
However, in order to fully deliver on sustained and irreversible gains in improved HEALTH for the global population, other elements should be considered. The column to the left indicates what some of these elements might be.

### MDGs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target 1C: hunger</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target 4A: under-five mortality rate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 5A: the maternal mortality ratio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 5B: reproductive health.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 6A: HIV/AIDS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 6B: treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 6C: malaria and other major diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 7C: drinking water and basic sanitation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Elements for transformational change and well-being

- Increased healthy life expectancy
- Increased life expectancy overall
- Healthy context
- Infrastructure for health and human resources
- Universal coverage
**Candidate Global Goal**

**Improved healthy life expectancy (HALE)**
- Communicable diseases: MDG 6 (Target 6A, B and C)
- Non-communicable diseases
- Access to reproductive health: MDG 5B

**Increased life expectancy**
- Child mortality: MDG 4A
- Maternal mortality: MDG 5A
- Adult mortality

**Healthy context**
- Improve live of slum-dwellers: MDG7D
- Water and sanitation: MDG 7C
- Access to healthy food and nutrition

**Health system**
- Financing
- Human resources for health assistance
- Health infrastructure (hospitals, ambulances, roads)

**Universal Coverage**

**MDGs**
- Target 1C: hunger
- Target 4A: under-five mortality rate
- Target 5A: the maternal mortality ratio
- Target 5B: reproductive health.
- Target 6A: HIV/AIDS
- Target 6B: treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it
- Target 6C: malaria and other major diseases
- Target 7C: drinking water and basic sanitation

**Elements for transformational change and well-being**
- Increased healthy life expectancy
- Increased life expectancy overall
- Healthy context
- Infrastructure for health and human resources
- Universal coverage
In this proposed global goal, all the MDG Health related targets are reflected. These are inscribed within potential targets that provide a more holistic approach to HEALTH.
### MDGs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target 1C: hunger</th>
<th>Increased healthy life expectancy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target 4A: under-five mortality rate</td>
<td>Increased life expectancy overall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 5A: the maternal mortality ratio</td>
<td>Healthy context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 5B: reproductive health.</td>
<td>Infrastructure for health and human resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 6A : HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Universal coverage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 6B: treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 6C: malaria and other major diseases</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Elements for transformational change and well-being

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Infrastructure for health and human resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Candidate Global Goal

**Improved healthy life expectancy (HALE)**

- Communicable diseases: MDG 6 (Target 6A, B and C)
- Non-communicable diseases
- Access to reproductive health: MDG 5B

**Increased life expectancy**

- Child mortality: MDG 4A
- Maternal mortality: MDG 5A
- Adult mortality

**Healthy context**

- Improve live of slum-dwellers: MDG 7D
- Access to healthy food and nutrition
- Water and sanitation: MDG 7C

**Health system**

- Financing
- Human resources for health assistance
- Health infrastructure (hospitals, ambulances)

**Universal Coverage**

In addition, as noted in the slide on the conceptual model, key targets may be shared between global goals. In this case, the linkages, for example to water, food security and infrastructure, are critical.
How does this work in practice?

- The following slide illustrates, using the same logic of the preceding example, how the model would apply to a potential Candidate Global Goal on FOOD SECURITY - in order to arrive at a single set of Global Goals for the Post 2015 framework.
Elements for transformational change and well-being

- Sustainable food supply
- Avoided food waste
- Productive soils and oceans
- Equitable access to food
- Healthy nutrition

Candidate Global Goal

Sustainability of food supply
- Avoid food waste across the production-supply-consumption chain
- Improved productivity of soils and oceans and avoided soil and ocean degradation

Equitable access to food
- Physical access to healthy food
- Economical access to healthy food
- Avoided price volatility

Nutrition control
- Avoided under and over-nutrition or obesity
- Zero stunting

MDGs

Target 1C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
Global food system management

Improved productivity of soils and oceans and avoided soil and ocean degradation

MDGs

Target 1C: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger

Candidate Global Goal

Sustainability of food supply

Avoid food waste across the production-supply-consumption chain

Improved productivity of soils and oceans and avoided soil and ocean degradation

Equitable access to food

Physical access to healthy food

Economical access to healthy food

Avoided price volatility

Nutrition control

Avoided under and over-nutrition or obesity

Zero stunting

CANDIDATE GLOBAL GOAL ON FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION

CANDIDATE

GLOBAL GOAL ON

FOOD SECURITY & NUTRITION
In addition to the MODEL for the Global Goals, it is also important to reflect on how we are going to deliver on a characteristic that there seems to be broad agreement on: the new development agenda must be UNIVERSAL.
Principles of the New Agenda

A framework that is:

UNIVERSAL & EQUITABLE

....requires a method for differentiation

Because:
- We face global challenges
- As a globalized society we are highly interdependent
- We have regional, national and local specificities
Balancing Requirements

Need to provide for:
- Global coherence
- Global level factors
- Minimum standards
- Comparability and aggregation at global levels

Balance between top-down & bottom-up

- Tailored to national priorities and circumstances
- Incorporating the multidimensional challenges of development including poverty eradication and sustainability
A Basic Architecture to Deliver on Differentiation

As many have suggested, the best architecture would provide for

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

How to make this operational?
How to deliver on these Principles: a two-tiered approach

Agreement on a few salient global priorities = Global Goals

Global dashboard with a nucleus of targets and indicators for each agreed Goal:

• Define a set of official targets and indicators under each Global Goal
• Countries can determine which they sign up to
In addition

- Countries can define additional targets and/or indicators
National Specificity

• Each country sets its own quantitative benchmarks and baselines
What the dashboard could look like: Criteria for setting targets and indicators

• Reflect a **spectrum of progress at least in three dimensions:**
  – Development
  – Sustainability
  – Inclusiveness

• **Dynamic:** countries can move to more ambitious deliverables as they achieve given indicators

• **Measurable:** information/data exists or requisite capacity building is within sight

*Note:* some targets will focus on specific issues, others should address interlinkages
Convergence in a Single Set of Goals Delivers

- An agenda of **wellbeing** beyond minimums
- **Sustainability** for long-term human progress within planetary boundaries
- **Irreversibility** of the gains achieved
- **MDGs** are conserved
- Overcomes the false poverty-sustainability divide
- **Avoids fragmentation** of efforts at national and international levels
- A **universally relevant** agenda **sensitive** to local specificities through **differentiation**
Our task is to come up with a framework and tools that are as effective as the MDGs were to enable us, as a global community, to tackle the great development challenges of our times.

Minister María Angela Holguín

Thank you