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Reimagining South Asia in 2030

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SDG Implementation Challenges in South Asia and Role of Global Partnerships

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Nagesh Kumar

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South and South-West Asia Office

Criticality of SDGs for South Asia

- The Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development, is a global compact comprising 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, seeking to eliminate poverty and hunger and provide a life of dignity to **all**
- The SDGs are especially relevant for eight countries of South Asia which, despite their economic dynamism and remarkable MDG achievements, account for 36% of the world's poor
 - And suffer from a number of development and infrastructure gaps, and low levels of human development
- Given South Asia's weight in the world population and poverty, the world cannot achieve SDGs with South Asia

Despite remarkable progress MDGs remain an unfinished agenda for South Asia

Goal		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		\$1.25 per day poverty Underweight children	Primary enrolment Reaching last grade Primary completion	Gender primary Gender secondary Gender tertiary	Under-5 mortality Infant mortality	Maternal mortality Skilled birth attendance Antenatal care (≥ 1 visit)	HIV prevalence TB incidence TB prevalence	Forest cover Protected area CO ₂ emissions per GDP Safe drinking water Basic sanitation
Asia-Pacific		● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	■ ■	■ ■ ■	● ● ●	● ● ●
South-East Asia		● ●	● ● ●	● ● ●	■ ■ ■	■ ■ ■	● ● ●	● ● ●
Pacific Islands		●	● ●	● ●	■ ■	■ ■	● ●	● ●
North and Central Asia		● ●	● ●	● ●	■ ■	■ ■	● ●	■ ■
Asia-Pacific LDCs		● ●	● ●	● ●	■ ■	■ ■	● ●	● ●
South Asia		● ●	● ●	● ●	■ ■	■ ■	● ●	● ●
South & South-West Asia	Afghanistan	■	●	■	■	■	●	●
	Bangladesh	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Bhutan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	India	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Iran (Islamic Rep. of)	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Maldives	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Nepal	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Pakistan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Sri Lanka	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Turkey	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

● Early achiever ● On track ■ Slow ▲ Regressing/No progress

Sustainable Development Goals

the unfinished MDG agenda

The first 7 goals represent the unfinished agenda of MDGs



1. End poverty
2. End hunger
3. Health for all
4. Quality education for all
5. Gender equality and women's empowerment
6. Drinking water and sanitation for all
7. Affordable and sustainable modern energy for all



Sustainable Development Goals

Some cross-cutting issues and drivers



8. Sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, decent jobs for all



9. Resilient infrastructure and inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation



10. Reduce inequality within and among countries



16. Peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development

Sustainable Development Goals

Some aspects of environmental sustainability



11. Sustainable and resilient cities and habitats



12. Sustainable consumption and production



13. Address climate change and its impacts



14. Sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources



15. Sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems and management of forests and biodiversity

Sustainable Development Goals

A renewed global partnership for development

17. Means of Implementation and revitalize global partnership for sustainable development

- Finance
- Technology
- Capacity-building
- Trade
- Systemic Issues
- Data, monitoring and accountability



Towards a policy agenda for SDG achievement in South Asia

- **Interrelationships between many goals and targets**
- **Positive spillovers of integrating economic, social and environmental pillars**
- **Identify key policy priorities for South Asia that will help maximize the interrelationships and positive spillovers**

Key policy priorities for South Asia to leverage synergies between the SDG targets

- **Job creation** through sustainable industrialization
- Closing **infrastructure gaps** for providing essential services to all
- **Universal** access to **health and education** to harness South Asia's youth bulge
- Universal **social protection** and financial inclusion
- Addressing **food security** and hunger through sustainable agriculture productivity improvements
- Promoting gender equality and **women's entrepreneurship** as a tool of empowerment
- Enhancing environmental sustainability through **low-carbon** climate resilient pathways

Institutional arrangements for implementation

- A high-powered coordinating or Steering Agency
- Focus on outcome-based approaches
- Strengthening decentralization
- Institutional and policy reforms
- Enhancing stakeholder participation
- Strong institutions, peace and justice (SDG 16)

Closing the capacity gaps through a renewed global partnership for development

SDG-17. Means of Implementation and revitalize global partnership for sustainable development

- Finance
- Technology
- Capacity-building
- Trade
- Systemic Issues
- Data, monitoring and accountability

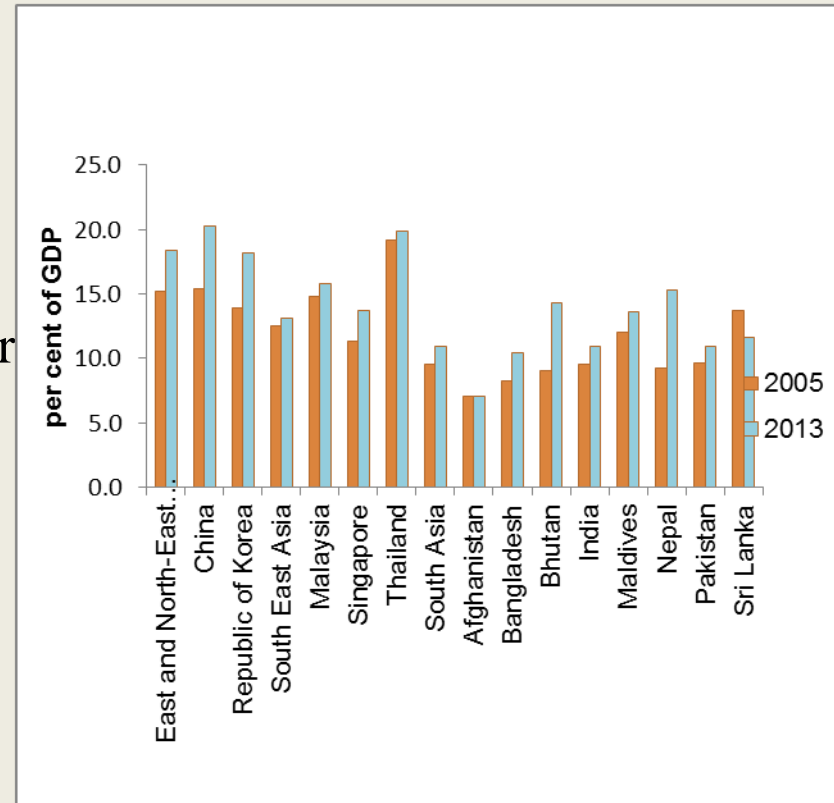


Finance

- Huge resource requirements for achieving SDGs in South Asia
 - 10-20% of GDP for meeting the social agenda
 - Around US\$ 5 trillion for closing the infrastructure gaps
 - Implementing the (I)NDCs will require substantial resources
 - US\$ 2.5 trillion for India alone

Assessing means of implementation for finance

- **Domestic resource mobilization**
 - Low tax to GDP ratios in South Asia
 - Tax potential, expanding the tax base, efficiency of tax collection etc.
 - Innovative taxes
 - Enhancing efficiency of public expenditure
 - Direct benefit transfers
- **Mobilizing private investments and PPPs**
 - Improving investment climate for domestic and foreign investments
 - Development and deepening of capital markets
 - Harnessing the public private partnerships
 - Importance of national development banks
 - Leveraging corporate social responsibility

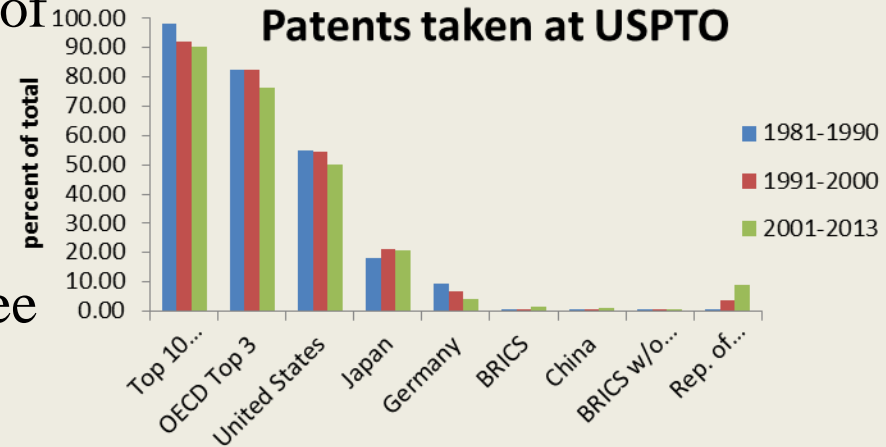


Global and regional partnership

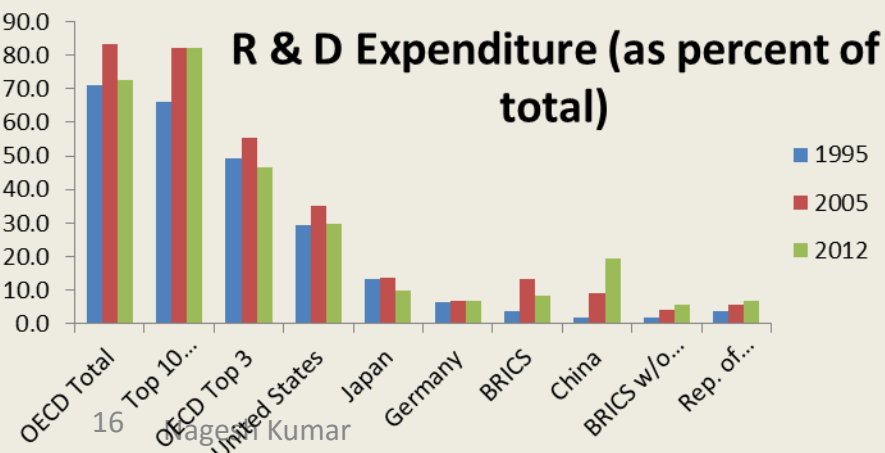
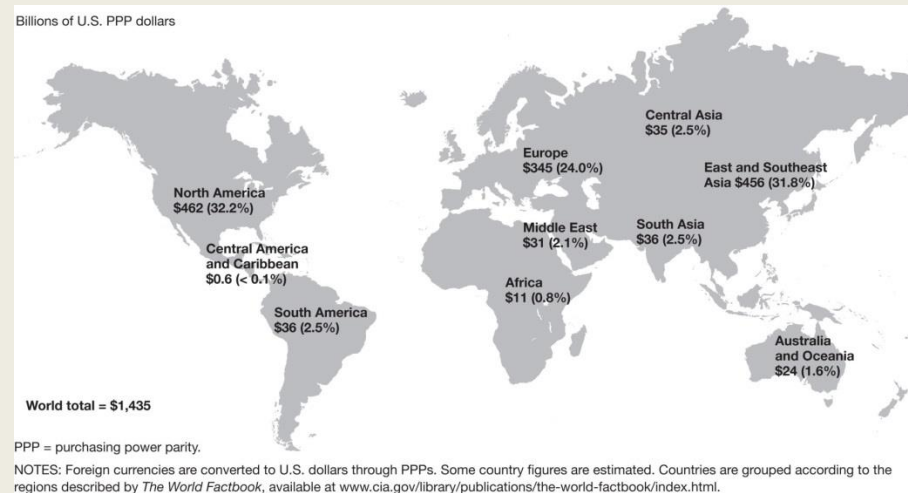
- Development of regional financial architecture
 - New multilateral development banks NDB and AIIB increase options for the subregion
 - SAARC Development Fund: whether a Development Bank be more effective?
- ODA: meeting the elusive 0.7% target
 - AAAA new targets for ODA
- South-South Cooperation playing a complementary role
- International tax cooperation
 - Curb illicit financial flows and transfer price manipulation
 - International financial transaction tax

Technology facilitation for SDGs

- Access to technology a major concern for implementing SDGs in the context of high concentration of technology generation activity
- The pattern of concentration has changed only slightly over the past three decades
- Access to environmentally sensitive technologies will be critical for implementing SDGs in South Asia



Geography of Innovation



Technology Facilitation for SDGs

- For easy access to technologies by developing countries
 - Moratorium on further strengthening of IPRs
 - Extending public health waiver to ESTs
 - Granting flexibility to developing countries in implementing TRIPs
 - Differential pricing for technology licensing
 - Strengthening TRIPs provisions (art 66.2) for transfer of technology including environmental technologies for developing and least developed countries
- Enhancing indigenous innovations
- Harnessing frugal engineering capabilities of South Asia for developing low-carbon affordable products and processes
- Pooling of resources for joint solutions for shared challenges

Data, Statistics and Monitoring

- Demanding data requirements to track progress on 169 targets; work in progress at IAEG
- South Asia faces significant challenges in measuring even most elementary data such as registration of births and deaths
- Variations in statistical capacities across countries; Bangladesh, India and Pakistan are best equipped in the region
- Regional cooperation important for evolving common standards and perspectives for methodologies and reporting and capacity building

Statistical capacity in South Asia, 2015

	Methodology assessment of statistical capacity (scale 0-100)	Periodicity and timeliness assessment of statistical capacity (scale 0-100)	Source data assessment of statistical capacity (scale 0-100)	Statistical capacity score (overall average)
South Asia	58	85	70	71
Afghanistan	40	73	40	51
Bangladesh	60	90	80	77
Bhutan	50	87	70	69
India	80	73	80	78
Maldives	50	57	60	56
Nepal	50	87	80	72
Pakistan	70	97	60	76
Sri Lanka	50	90	80	73

Regional Cooperation for SDGs

- Much potential of regional cooperation and coordination in implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda
 - Sharing development experiences
 - building up productive capacities through a coordinated industrial development strategy, strengthened regional connectivity and regional value chains
 - strengthening their collective energy and food security, and enhance resilience to natural disasters
 - Developing low-carbon pathways through pooling resources
- Regional and subregional follow-up and review
 - SAARC leaders have called for regional cooperation for contextualization of SDGs and coordination in implementation
 - SAARC Intergovernmental Group being set up to contextualize SDGs
 - South Asia follow-up and review
 - feeding into the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development that is serving the role of Regional follow-up and review at UNESCAP, feeding into the High-Level Political Forum

Concluding remarks

- The 2030 Agenda a unique opportunity to provide a life of dignity to all within a generation for South Asia
- South Asia's turn to lead the global achievements
- Accelerate achievements through exploitation of interlinkages
 - Seven key policy priorities: including industry-oriented job creating economic growth, closing gaps in basic infrastructure, providing universal education and health, social protection, women entrepreneurship, sustainable agriculture and low carbon growth paths
- Exploit the potential of domestic resource mobilization, PPPs and CSR, skills development, local innovative capacity and frugal engg.
- Stronger global and regional partnerships for finance, technology and statistics and data, and follow-up and review would be critical for achieving the SDGs

Thank you

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