2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Process and Key Issues

PRESENTED AT
APPRECIATION COURSE ON
2030 AGENDA: FRAMEWORK ISSUES AND IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

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1. Introduction

❑ At the seventieth session of the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015, the member states have adopted the declaration
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

❑ 17 Goals with 169 Targets came into effect on 1 January 2016 and will guide the international development agenda over the next 15 years

❑ A global indicator framework comprising a list of 230 unique indicators was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 47th Meeting in March 2016

❑ "Follow-up and review" mechanism is being given shape with High Level Political Forum (HLPF) at the centre

❑ Debates on implementation of SDG are being widely discussed across the world

❑ **Lessons leaned from MDGs in the lead up to the SDGs**

- A lack of consultation at the design stage led to many stakeholders seeing the MDGs as donor-centric

- The MDGs was inadequate to fully take into consideration different national contexts and varifying starting points in terms of development progress

- The MDGs were also designed with little attention as to how they might be implemented

- Discussions regarding financing the development agenda began only after the MDGs had been adopted

- While financing was at least considered, albeit at a late stage, discussions regarding the *means of implementations* (MoIs), such as institutional set-up and coordination between partners, were entirely absent

- In addition, MDG monitoring and evaluation systems were also perceived as weak

- Rahman et al. (2014) showed that those countries that did perform well had already prioritised issues highlighted by the MDGs, such as poverty, health, and education

2. Key elements of the SDGs

People:
to ensure healthy lives, knowledge, and the inclusion of women and children.

Dignity:
to end poverty and fight inequality.

Planet:
to protect our ecosystems for all societies and our children.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Prosperity:
to grow a strong, inclusive, & transformative economy.

Partnership:
to catalyse global solidarity for sustainable development.

Justice:
to promote safe and peaceful societies, and strong institutions.

It is critically important to keep the key elements of SDGs in perspective

❑ The synthesis report of the Secretary General on the post-2015 agenda, "The road to dignity: ending poverty, transforming all lives and protecting the planet" was published in December 2014

❑ The report presents **six elements** for delivering on the SDGs which "… would help frame and reinforce the universal, integrated and transformative nature of a sustainable development agenda …"
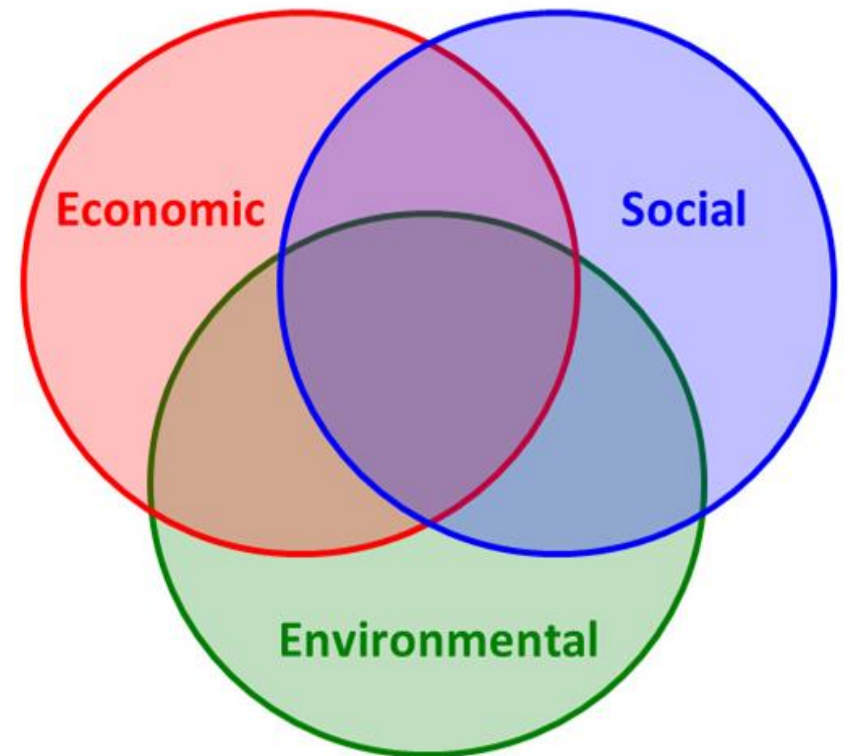
New areas of SDGs will call for greater effort and resources at the country level

❑ Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy

❑ Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure

❑ Goal 10: Reduced inequalities

❑ Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities

❑ Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production

❑ Goal 13: Climate action

❑ Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions

Three pillars of Sustainable Transformation

Economic

Social

Environmental

3. Distinguishing features of the SDGs

Leave no one behind

- SDGs are inclusive in nature
- Recognizing that the dignity of human person is fundamental, it is expected that the goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society.
- Endeavor will be made to reach the furthest behind first

Universality

- Sustainable Development Goals and targets are universal which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike.
- SDGs are accepted by all countries and is applicable to all, taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities

Integrated and transformative

- SDGs are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimension of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental
- SDGs are transformative which aims to shift the world on to a sustainable and resilient path

Country prioritization

- Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances.
- Methodology yet to be fully developed, but emphasis should be on weaker areas of MDG achievement
- No bias for stronger areas of MDG achievement
- Must integrate Goal 10 (Reduced inequality) and Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions)
- Should not opt for the lowest possible measure

3. Distinguishing features of the SDGs

Means of implementation (MoI)

❑ Separate Goal (17) for MoI

❑ MoI targets are included under each goal

Systemic issues

❑ Creating conducive environment through global trading system

❑ Intellectual property rights

❑ Technology transfer

❑ Climate change

Synergies among targets

❑ Progress in ending poverty cannot be achieved without also addressing food security and macroeconomic policies to promote full and productive employment. Success in these areas will also lead to better health and wellbeing

Trade-offs

❑ Increasing agricultural land use to help end hunger could reduce biodiversity, overuse and pollute water resources, and have negative downstream effects on marine resources – all of which could ultimately exacerbate food security

Ownership trap

❑ Current global development architecture are creating doubt among developing countries of falling into an ownership trap

UNFCCC Paris Agreement on Climate Change

When adopted?

- In December 2015, the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP21/CMP1) convened in Paris and adopted the Paris Agreement
- Adopted after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda

Objectives

- To keep a global temperature rise for this century well below 2^0 Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5^0 above pre-industrial levels

Other information

- On 5 October 2016, the Secretary-General of the United Nations announced that the conditions for the entry into force of the Paris Agreement were met and that it shall enter into force on 4 November 2016

4. Parallel processes

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)

When adopted?

- The framework was adopted at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held from 14 to 18 March 2015 in Sendai, Japan
- Adopted before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda

Objectives

- To adopt a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction
- To complete the assessment and review of the implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*
- To identify modalities of cooperation based on commitments and modalities of periodic review to implement a post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction

4. Parallel processes

Education 2030: Incheon Declaration

When adopted?	• The Incheon Declaration at the World Economic Forum in May 2015, constitutes the commitment of the education community to Education 2030, which is reflected in SDG4 • Adopted before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda
Objectives	• Urged countries to increase public spending on education within each country context, and adhere to the benchmarks of allocating at least 4-6% of GDP and/or 15-20% of total public expenditure
Other information	• The Declaration entrusts UNESCO to lead, coordinate and be the focal point for education within the overall SDG coordination

Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA)

When adopted?

- In July 2015, the Heads of State and Government and High Representatives gathered in the *Third International Conference on Financing for Development* and adopted the AAAA
- Adopted before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda

Objectives

- To follow-up on commitments and assess the progress made in the implementation of the *Monterrey Consensus* and the *Doha Declaration*
- To further strengthen the framework to finance sustainable development and the MoI for the 2030 agenda
- To reinvigorate and strengthen the financing for development follow-up process to ensure that the actions which were committed are implemented and reviewed in an appropriate, inclusive, timely and transparent manner

Tenth WTO Ministerial Conference in Nairobi

When adopted?

- The WTO's 10th Ministerial Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya, from 15 to 19 December 2015. The Conference was the first such meeting hosted by an African nation
- Adopted after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda

Objectives

- To conduct the accession process for the new member countries to WTO
- To develop a Post-Bali / Nairobi Work Programme that is realistic, balanced and meaningful – that reduces trade barriers, contributes to global economic recovery and growth for all
- To come into force of the Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). So far 63 out of 110 required countries have accepted this agreement

Elements of an effective follow-up and review mechanism

❑ **Framework**

- The follow up and review mechanism may be broad conceptualized at three levels,

  - ➢ *Policy making and oversight* – provided by the ministers and senior officials

  - ➢ *Provision of data and information and technical analysis* – provided by Secretariat and experts from the member states

  - ➢ *Validation of the process* – ensured through multi-stakeholder participation in public forum (including the private sector and other non-state actors)

- Annual HLPF

  - ➢ The forum meets every year under the auspices of the ECOSOC

- Four Yearly Summit

  - ➢ HLPF will meet every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly

- UN Regional Commissions

  - ➢ The five UN regional commissions (UNECA, UNECE, UNECLAC, UNESCAP, UNESCWA), among others, share a key objective of promoting of regional implementation of internationally agreed development goals, particularly the SDGs

5. Follow-up and review mechanism

Elements of an effective follow-up and review mechanism

❑ **Operational tools and modalities**

1. National Voluntary reporting

2. Thematic reporting

3. Integrated reporting

❑ **Data and information**

▪ Availability of relevant, timely and comparable data and statistics constitute the fundamental basis for having a credible monitoring and review mechanism

❑ **Resources**

▪ Mobilisation of necessary resources – human, financial and institutional in favour of a monitoring and review mechanism demands concerted and targeted efforts

5. Follow-up and review mechanism

Elements of an effective follow-up and review mechanism

❑ **Popular participation**

- ▪ To what extent the member states are willing to demonstrate their political commitment towards a global/regional follow-up and review mechanism will largely define the substance of the mechanism

❑ **Feedback loop**

- ▪ There has to be a feedback loop in the monitoring and review mechanism to ensure compliance of the commitments undertaken by the country reviewed

❑ **Integration among national (sub-national) – global – regional (sub-regional) reporting**

6. Implementation challenges with regard to the SDGs

Integration in the national planning process

Financial and non-financial resources

Partnership and stakeholder participation

Challenges

Institutional mechanism for implementation

Data for monitoring

7. Concluding remarks

- ❑ An ambitious global development partnership launched at a time of challenging international environment

- ❑ Systemic issues should be given attention to at every opportunity

- ❑ Political will – global, regional and national – will be of the critical essence

- ❑ Need to have a strengthened accountability and legitimacy process

THANK YOU