Towards a progressive and more coherent social policy framework: connecting concerns, notions and discourses.
A think piece

UN DESA Expert Group Meeting on "Strengthening social development in the contemporary world" New York, May 2015

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Flow of thinking

1) World we want vs world we have

2) What is social *development*?

3) What is social p*olicy?*

4) The scope for - progressive - social policy in the SDG era
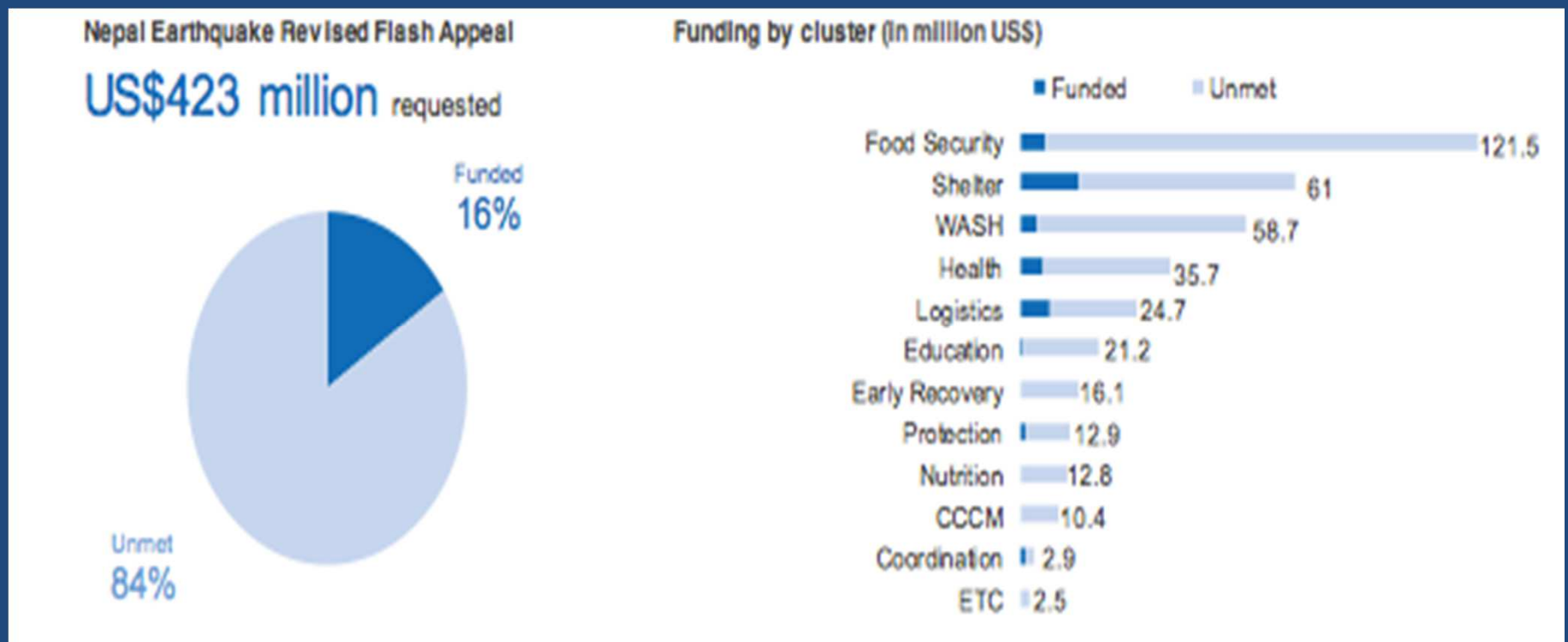
5) Conclusion?

1) World we want vs world we have

Picasso painting for $179 Million

- Private wealth

Nepal earthquake response needs $420 mill, receives $66 mill

Nepal Earthquake Revised Flash Appeal

US$423 million requested

Funded 16%

Unmet 84%

Funding by cluster (in million US$)

■ Funded ■ Unmet

Cluster	Amount
Food Security	121.5
Shelter	61
WASH	58.7
Health	35.7
Logistics	24.7
Education	21.2
Early Recovery	16.1
Protection	12.9
Nutrition	12.8
CCCM	10.4
Coordination	2.9
ETC	2.5

- enormous public poverty

Intra and inter-Country Inequality, 2007

Richer classes · Poorer classes · Poorer countries · Richer countries

100,000
80,000
60,000
40,000
20,000
0
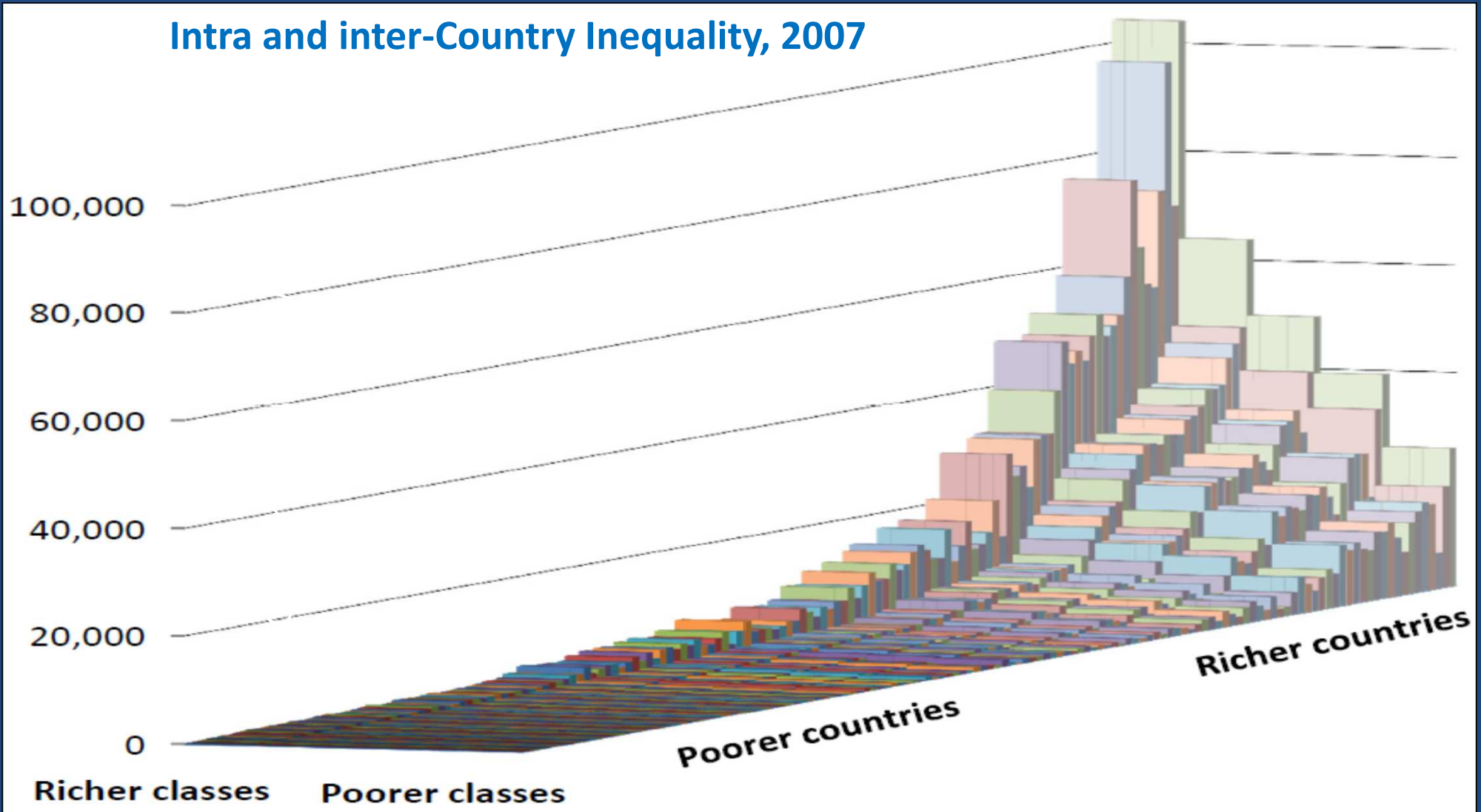
Source: Ortiz and Cummins. 2011. *Global Inequality.* UNICEF

NatCatSERVICE

Loss events worldwide 2014
Geographical overview

Munich RE

Winter damage
USA, Canada, 5–8 Jan

Severe storms
USA, 18–23 May

Floods
United Kingdom,
Dec 2013–Feb 2014

Floods
Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Serbia, Croatia, Romania,
13–30 May

Typhoon Rammasun
China, Philippines, Vietnam,
11–22 Jul

Drought
USA, 2014

Severe storms
France, Belgium,
Germany,
7–10 Jun

Winter damage
Japan, 7–16 Feb

Typhoon Kalmaegi
China, Philippines, Vietnam,
12–20 Sep

Flash floods
USA, 11–13 Aug

Hurricane Odile
Mexico, 11–17 Sep

Severe storms
USA, 2–4 Apr

Cyclone Hudhud
India,
11–13 Oct

980
Loss events

Severe storms
USA, 27 Apr–1 May

Drought
Brazil, 2014

Severe storms
USA, 3–5 Jun

Floods
India, Pakistan,
3–15 Sep

Earthquake
China, 3 Aug

Source: Munich Re, NatCatSERVICE, 2015

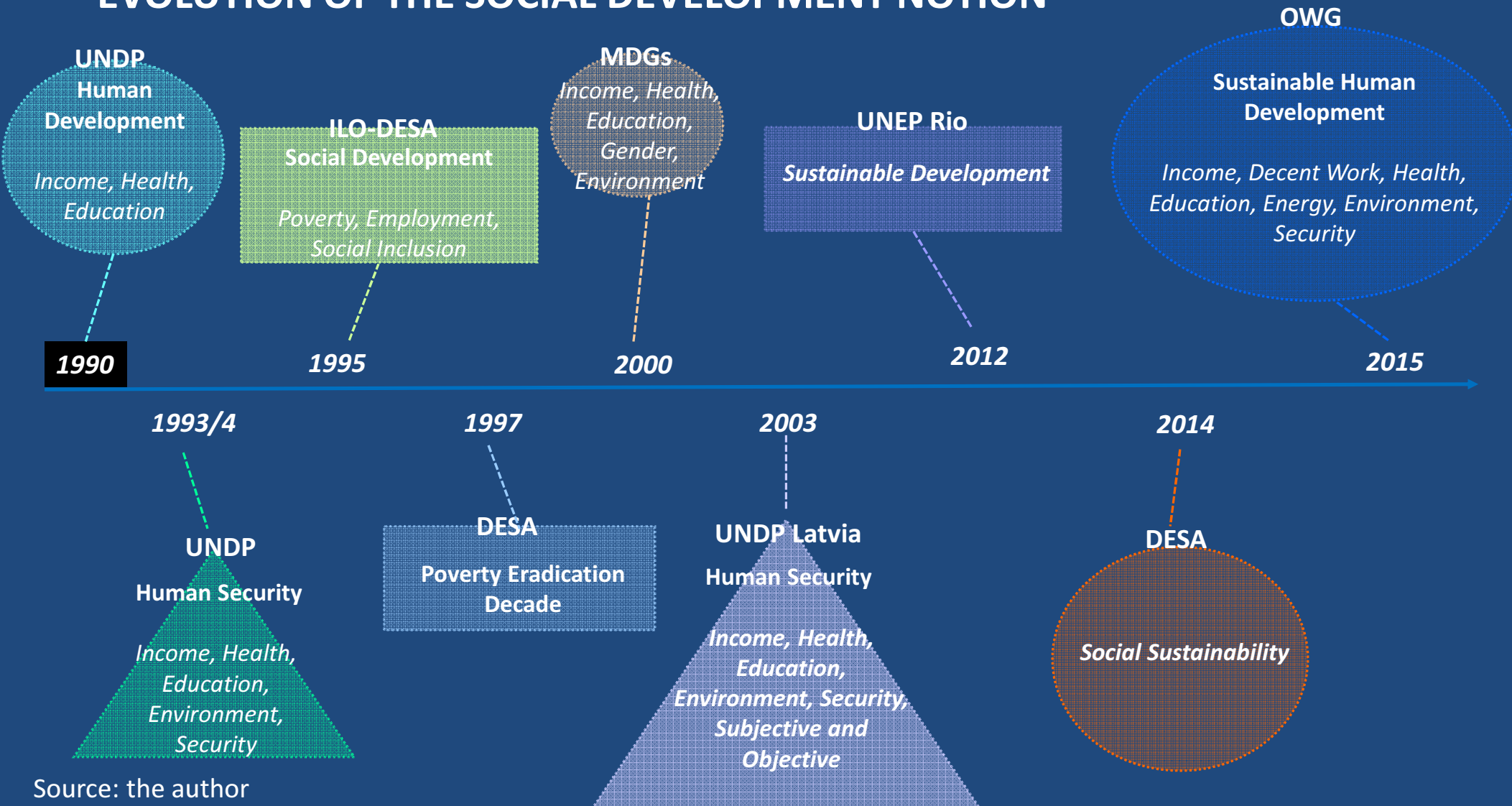|	
○	**Loss events**
◯	**Selection of catastrophes** Overall losses ≥ US$ 1,500m
●	**Geophysical events** (Earthquake, tsunami, volcanic activity)
●	**Meteorological events** (Tropical storm, extratropical storm, convective storm, local storm)
●	**Hydrological events** (Flood, mass movement)
●	**Climatological events** (Extreme temperature, drought, wildfire)

Alternative notions of   social development/social policy

- Integrating sustainability
- Recognising and using the concept of "capitalism" to explain public poverty and private wealth, and planetary destruction
- Replacing the primacy of the profit motif in favour of ecological sustainability and social equity

2) Social *development*

EVOLUTION OF THE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT NOTION

UNDP Human Development

Income, Health, Education

ILO-DESA Social Development

Poverty, Employment, Social Inclusion

MDGs

Income, Health, Education, Gender, Environment

UNEP Rio

Sustainable Development

OWG

Sustainable Human Development

Income, Decent Work, Health, Education, Energy, Environment, Security

1990 **1995** **2000** **2012** **2015**

1993/4 **1997** **2003** **2014**

UNDP

Human Security

Income, Health, Education, Environment, Security

DESA

Poverty Eradication Decade

UNDP Latvia

Human Security

Income, Health, Education, Environment, Security, Subjective and Objective

DESA

Social Sustainability

Source: the author

ONTOLOGY

- mapping of meaning of words = specification of a conceptualisation
- each group associates different meaning

Social development

- Working for a convergence of meanings
- Referring to each other's terminology
- Using social development concept to shape social policy

3) Social *policy*

Social policy traditions

- **"Nordic" welfare state tradition**

- **Intended policy outcomes**

SDGs

Table 1. Social policy – different approaches

| Policy domain	Primary social development objective	Welfare state role/ rights approach	Human Security objectives	"Function"/Outcome	SDG reference
i) Policies addressingcpublic goods/services	**Human/social development; Right to basic social goods and services**	√			
Food and nutrition			√	"protection" in wide sense of word	SDG 2
Education		√	√		SDG 4
Health		√	√		SDG 3
Drinking water and sanitation measures					SDG 6
Housing programmes		√			
Electricity /access to energy		√			SDG 7
Access to transport/transportation		√			SDG 9
Access to communications					SDG 9
Early child care, elderly care, care for people with disabilities				reproduction	SDG 3, 4, 5, 11
Family planning/reproductive health/sexual and reproductive rights				reproduction	SDG 3; 5

Table 1. Social policy – different approaches

Policy domain	Primary social development objective	Welfare state role/ rights approach	Human Security objectives	"Function"/Outcome	SDG reference
ii) Policies addressing socio-economic insecurities	**Right to basic income and decent work; Poverty eradication.**				
Employment schemes for decent work		√	√	production	**SDG 8**
Youth employment drives		√			**SDG 8**
Land reform/access to land		√			**SDG 5**
Tribal land and commodity rights		√			
Formal sector social insurance		√		protection	**SDG 1**
Micro credit/micro asset schemes		√		protection	
Area/regional development		√		production	**SDG 9**
Urban renewal		√			**SDG 11**
Industrial policy		√		production	**SDG 9**

iii) Social assistance policies and programmes, addressing income poverty, SPF	**Right to basic income; Poverty alleviation**	√				
Food-security related		√	√		protection	**SDG 1, 2, 8**
Income poverty-related		√	√		protection	**SDG 1, 8**
Age-related					protection	
Conflict, emergency-related		√			protection	**SDG 16**
iv) Policies for voice and social inclusion	**Social inclusion and human rights**					
Tools for social inclusion		√			redistribution	
Affirmative action legislation for gender, caste, ethnic, religious equality		√			redistribution	**SDG 5**
Freedom of media; internet access		√				**SDG 16**
Freedom of organisation and collective bargaining		√				**SDG 8, 16 (implicitly)**
Rights of civil society to organise and mobilise		√			production	**SDG 8, 16**
Right to information		√				**SDG 16**
Legal instruments to address exclusion practices		√			redistribution	
Local self governance provisions		√				
v) Policies for sustainability	**Sustainable human development**	√			production, redistribution	**SDGs 12-15**
Source: Builds on Koehler 2014.						
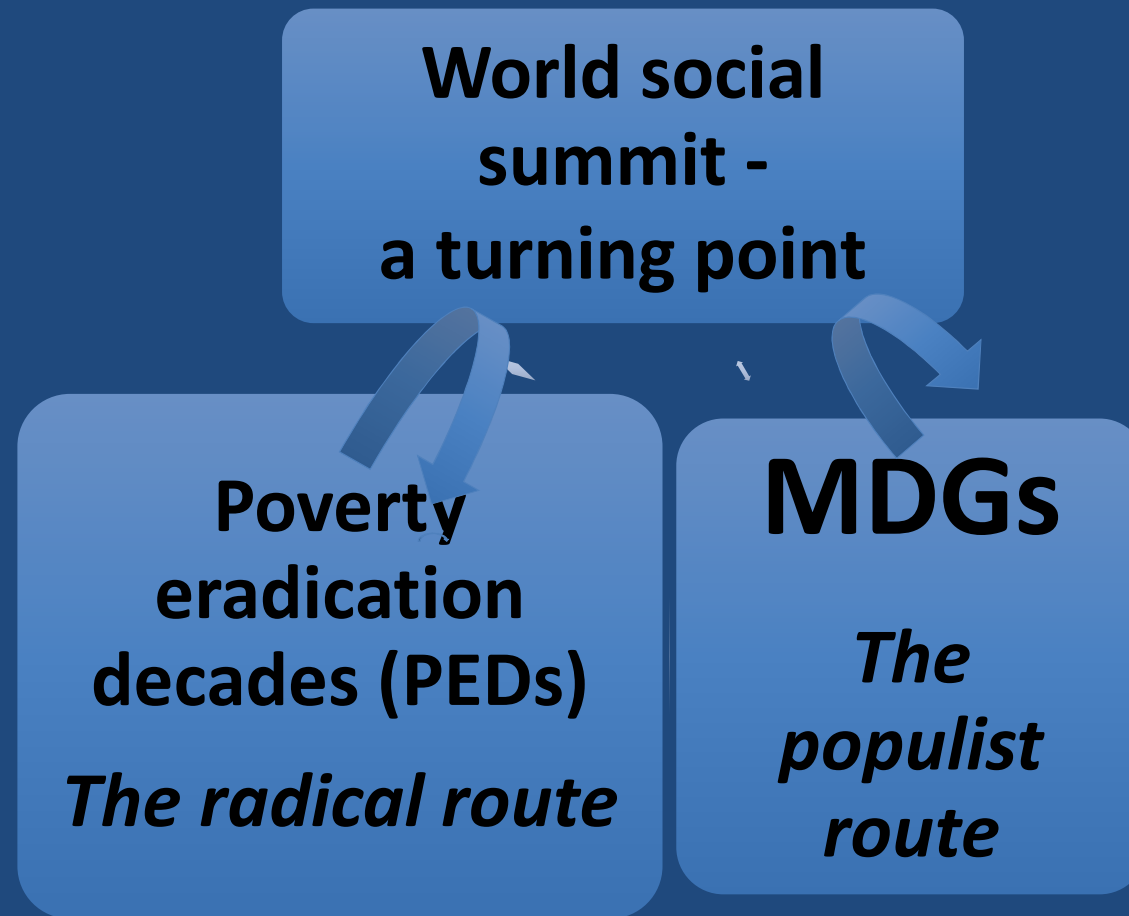
4) The scope for - progressive - social policy in the SDG era?

1. **Linking employment/decent work and minimum income guarantees/social protection floor**
2. **Linking employment/decent work and sustainable development**
3. **Linking employment/decent work and the care economy**
4. **Sustainable consumption and production and social policy**

Linking SPF and decent work

Linking employment/decent work and minimum income guarantees/social protection floor

- Minimum income precondition for decent work
- Minimum income - the Keynesian demand argument
- Making the decent work argument equally "palatable"/popular

Changing the normative hierarchy

Linking employment/decent work and sustainable development

Linking employment/decent work and the care economy

Sustainable consumption and production and social policy

- Eco-social rational: economic decisions subordinated to ecological and social justice considerations
  - From production of material goods to creation of services
  - Recognising planetary boundaries
  - Valorising the care economy

The sharing economy - pointer for post-growth (de-growth)

Source https://www.google.com/search?q=sharing+economy

Conclusions

- Connect social development concerns, notions and discourses for a progressive and more coherent social policy framework
- Recognise the impact of the capitalist logic
- Radically rethink social policy