



THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY BEYOND 2015: PROPOSALS FROM THE CDP

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Key points

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- Lessons of the MDGs and development in the past decade
- Post-2015 goal setting to focus on MD vision of inclusive globalization: equity, sustainability, stability/security
- Alternative development policy strategies are needed – in relation to macro economy, social policy, and national and global governance

Vision of the Millennium Declaration

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- To ‘spare no effort to free our fellow men and women from the abject and dehumanising conditions of extreme poverty.’
- Principles of solidarity, equality, dignity and respect for nature.
- 4 priorities: development, human rights and democracy, conflict and peace, environment
- Plus concrete goals: the MDGs



MDGs: Achievements

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- Global consensus on poverty as key objective and policy priority.
- Galvanised public opinion (public, politicians, businesses, media)
- Outcomes? difficult to attribute impact:
 - Important progress but uneven across goals and countries;
 - Maternal mortality and hunger show particular deficiencies.
 - Extent of poverty still too large and pace of progress too slow in many areas and countries.

Some controversies about goals:

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1. Poor design as development goals – not a reliable framework for evaluating development progress

- inconsistent methodology
- biased against countries that start low
- can distort national priorities
- application undefined: global or regional or national targets?

Some controversies about goals:

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2. Too narrow in scope

- Neglect or weak on some important development objectives gender empowerment, employment, climate change
- No quantification of goal 8.
- Lack of attention to important norms and principles (equality/empowerment). Fall short of some human rights standards
- Simplification of development process: where is macro-economy? Productive capacity? Transformative agenda for social justice? Conflict?

3. Process for setting goals top down : lack of participation

How should we view goals?

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- As mobilising towards vision of the Declaration.
 - ▣ Inclusive globalisation;
 - ▣ Focus on the poorest.
- To abandon goals after 2015 would encourage move away from this global vision and idea of global solidarity.

New global challenges

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- Sustainability and climate change becoming critical
- Rising inequality unjust: a threat to political stability and to progress in poverty reduction
- Youth unemployment rising globally, also threatens political stability and undermines human capital
- Financial and food crises associated with rising insecurity and high levels of hunger and malnutrition.

The way forward: guiding considerations

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- How should we define progress? Start from Sen's view of development as freedom.
 - ▣ Multidimensional human centred view of progress
 - ▣ Must be sustainable
 - ▣ Must be equitable and reduce disparities
 - ▣ Must reduce human insecurity.
- Address key global issues: employment, climate change, global market instability (finance, food, fuel)
- Need to take into account macro and meso policy levels; and be applicable to North as well as South

What this means in contrast to existing goals

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- Inequality reduction central – applied to all goals, and a goal in itself.
- Environmental sustainability (goal 7) broadened to include carbon emissions.
- Goals extended to political freedoms (as in Declaration).
- Draw on human rights agreements and commitments.
- International partnership to be strengthened, and to include labour mobility.
- Reducing/avoiding insecurity fundamental and applies to all goals
- Goals to be *universally* applicable, to industrialised as well as developing countries

Participatory processes

- Principles and global goals to be determined in a participatory way, as a result of global consultations and discussions.
- National goals to be determined nationally, through national commissions, in line with global principles and goals, through participatory processes.
- Reports on national goals and progress to be reported on globally to ensure global progress.

Enabling conditions

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The MDG approach did not focus on mechanisms for achieving the goals.

The post-2015 approach must support:

1. Alternative development strategies at macro-level. Growth must be inclusive and sustainable.
2. Universal social policies to protect poor, reduce insecurity, counter discrimination and promote growth.
3. Democratic rights and participation.
4. A supportive international environment that:
 1. Recognises true development is *internally driven*.
 2. Recognises diversity and heterogeneity among nations
5. Stronger and more democratic global governance which regulates trade and finance and technology transfer to support growth and sustainability.