

**Conceptualizing a Set of Sustainable Development Goals**  
**Special Event of the United Nations General Assembly Second Committee**  
**ECOSOC Chamber, UN North Lawn Building, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

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1-Three main issues:

I-How could SDGs complement, build upon, the MDGs? And integrate Sustainable Development, be integrated, into the post-2015 development agenda?

II-How could SDGs balance, integrate, the three pillars of Sustainable Development?

III-How to develop universal goals that take into account differences in national realities, capacities and levels of development?

In order to inform the initial discussions of the “Open Working Group”.

2-I will address the three questions from three different perspectives:

I-Context.

II-Content.

III-Process.

Hopefully not exceeding three minutes for each perspective.

## I-Context:

### 1-Comparison between MDGs and SDGs:

- SDGs more complex: additional considerations (three pillars)
  - + broader in nature (not limited to developing countries).
- Both imply identifying a set of Goals and therefore Targets: simple,  
Straightforward (catchy)
- Post-2015 Agenda, or framework: broader than just a set of goals.
- =Conclusion: Difference in nature + difference in scope.
- SDGs + post-2015 development agenda=broader.

### 2-Pre-MDGs:

- 1990s: Post-Berlin Wall.
  - Decade of the Summits.
  - Culmination in the Millenium Summit.
  - MDGs: non controversial + consensual + relatively simple process.

### 3-MDGs & Beyond:

- 2000s: 9/11 + security priorities.
  - Review Summits
  - Revisiting + Disillusionment in previous agreements
  - Emerging Challenges: financial crises
    - + gap of confidence
    - + costing (Climate change 100 billion per year @ 2020  
Biodiversity more)
    - +controversial subjects (green economy, governance)
    - +sustainability challenge.

### 4-Conclusion: (1) Completing MDGs for the time being: before 2015

- +evaluating progress + lessons learned:
  - carrying over incomplete work and valid, legitimate goals.
  - +Inclusion, “setting” the post-2015.
- (2) Need for: a-integration of pillars in carried-over goals.
  - b-integration of SD nature in post-2015 agenda.
- (3) Different sets of goals for different sets of countries
- (4) Common goals with different responsibilities.

## II-Content:

### 1-New generation of goals:

- Same fields, with new level of complexity, in accordance with new context:

Addressing quality of achievement

- +Addressing New & Emerging Challenges.

i.e: education with employment, quality of health care,

children mortality with equal opportunity, scientific research with application

environment with growth, social services with profit.

### 2-Specific goals for sustainability: Climate change + biodiversity

- +Integration of pillars in carry over goals

### 3-Universal but Different Realities:

- +Different sets of Goals

- +Costing + Identifying means of implementation.

- +MRV

- +Rio principles: CBRD

- +in accordance with previous agreements, not revisiting

- +partnership goals (developed + developing / vice versa)

### III-Process:

#### 1-Proliferation of Processes:

- Panel
- Task Force
- SDG OWG
- OWG MoI

- Inclusive (better than MDGs+ openness indispensable)
- Transparent.
- Intergovernmental
- Process (vs MDGs)
- Stakeholders
- Not at the expense of MDGs.

#### 2-Reporting to 68<sup>th</sup> UNGA: Country Driven / with Panel and Secretariat input + NGOs.

- Inter Governmental Process

#### 3-Convergence + Coordination + Coherence = Complementarity

Not: Divergence + Competition + Incoherence

#### 4-Commence substantive work now, without altering Rio outcome (until appointment of 30 members).

- This event was supposed to give input to OWG!
- OWG was supposed to be established beginning of September at the latest.

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