

# MDG's Post 2105: Beacons in Turbulent Times or False Lights?

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## Question for this Session

- How should new thinking about development and its measurement be reflected in post-2015 Development Agenda
- How to avoid the logic of a one-size fits all Development Approach
- Agreement about targets and Indicators for intermediate processes

## Quick recall: Strong points of MDG's

- Clear message
- Multidimensional focus on poverty
- International consensus
- Potential discussion on responsibility and accountability

## Quick recall what happened

- MDGs have reduced the message of the 2000 Millennium Declaration
- MDGs have unintentionally led to a constrained development agenda ( MDG paradox)
- Donors have often not kept their promises
- System remains asymmetric, driven by donors

# Points in MDG debate Relevant for a post development agenda

- Social economic and theoretical framework
- Growth /Employment
- Knowledge
- Infrastructure
- Inequality
- Vulnerable groups
- Gender
- Demographic trends
- Sustainability/Climate
- Food security
- Peace and Security
- Human Right
- Participation
- Global public goods
- Global governance

## New Thinking about development and measurement in post-2015 Development Agenda

- Distinguish between agenda and specific goals : *Discussion on post 2015 agenda should be first on issues then on goals.*
- A development agenda is not an agenda for developing countries, even more so now than in 2000

- (Financial) Globalization has made all countries more interconnected... greater inequality within and between countries.
- A development agenda should include policies in rich countries, both of how these affect their own citizens and how these affect people in LDC.
- Thus development goals also for rich countries ?

# “new” development thinking

Do we need new thinking or  
apply thinking to new challenges ?

- Geopolitical systemic changes
- Different global governance
- Greater inequality
- Location poverty different
- Increasing insecurities
- Climate Change



# New development Thinking ?

Not anymore the

three G's :Growth, Governance, Grants/aid  
(which aid donors often had on the back of  
their mind)

New development thinking:

Use the Millennium Declaration as starting  
point for new development thinking

# New Development Thinking and Measurement

- New development Issues are not all measurable very well
- Key issues can not be captured by composite indices as e.g. GDP

Either because of complexity and/or because indeces involve political decisions on which there is no consensus.

## New Development Thinking and Measurement

- Discussion in Stiglitz, Sen, Fitoussi report on climate change: sustainability index need be based on projections.
- Discussion on Decent Work Index: no agreement between all constituents

*Thus rely on a dash board of indicators*

A post 2015 development system should not fall in the trap of excluding those issues which are not measurable.

Lets not forget the current NSA system and GDP was developed on the basis of ideas of Keynes after the global crisis in the 1930's

# One size fits all

- The MDGs have not been formulated as a “one size fits all approach “
- We notice a MDG paradox
- Although MDGs were not conceived as one size fits all, it became nevertheless so resulting from too strict neo classical interpretation ( 3 G approach)
- Those issues which were not included became excluded

# One size fits all

Development Agenda post 2015:

A system of global governance which clearly recognizes policy space.

The developments since 2000 have given ample demonstration of that.

Most successful countries did not follow the one size fits all policy Washington Consensus Prescriptions

# One size fits all

- Improved Global Governance means for the UN system policy coherence but not policy dictate.  
( G20 welcome as acknowledgement of shifting economic powers but not as new global governance)

# One size fits all

- Dani Rodrik suggest besides policy issues which needs to be clearly handled at international level ( global public goods) and those handled at national level two others

1. Beggar thy neighbor policies

2. Beggar thyself

First part of global governance

Second not ....(unless violation of international rights)

## Targets and Indicators for intermediate processes

- Recall Hierarchy of Needs of Maslow and Discussions on Basic Needs in the 1970's
- Targets and indicators are needed for intermediate processes when intermediate processes contribute to a useful objective it self or to another objective
- Participation, arriving at a social contract
- Employment, Clean water



## MDG's Post 2105: Beacons in Turbulent Times or False Lights?

Yes... if they are the outcome of a participative process which is not donor driven but based on critical analysis of a new development agenda