

**Forum:** Special Conference

**Issue:** Realization of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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## **Introduction**

The UN Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development was adopted during the UN summit on the 25-27 of September 2015. There are 17 goals and 169 targets in this new agenda. They relate to the eradication of poverty, health care, gender equality, fighting against climate change, promotion of economic growth and creating workplaces, improvement access to modern energy sources, expansion of services in the field of water and sanitation, security of cities and other settlements. Nations should develop ways how to realize this agenda in each country.

## **Definition of key terms**

### Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are the eight international development goals that were established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000. All 189 United Nations member states at the time (there are 193 currently), and at least 23 international organizations, committed to help achieve the following Millennium Development Goals by 2015:

- To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- To achieve universal primary education
- To promote gender equality and empower women
- To reduce child mortality
- To improve maternal health
- To combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
- To ensure environmental sustainability
- To develop a global partnership for development

### Extreme poverty

A condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education, and information. Currently, extreme poverty widely refers to earning below the international poverty line of \$1.25/day (in 2005 prices), set by the World Bank. This measure is the equivalent to

earning \$1.00 a day in 1996 US prices, hence the widely used expression, living on "less than a dollar a day."

### Sustainable development

The development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In order for the sustainable development to be achieved it is necessary to harmonize three elements: economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.

### Environmental sustainability

The rates of renewable resource harvest, pollution creation, and non-renewable resource depletion that can be continued indefinitely.

### Universal Primary Education

The second MDG goal which is to ensure that "by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling".

### **Background information**

In September 2000, building upon a decade of major United Nations conferences and summits, world leaders came together at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to adopt the United Nations Millennium Declaration. The Declaration committed nations to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty, and set out a series of eight time-bound targets - with a deadline of 2015 - that have become known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The final MDG Report outlined significant changes in the situation in the world. The 15-year effort was named as the most successful movement against poverty in history. According to the Report, since 1990 the number of people living in extreme poverty has declined by more than half and the proportion of undernourished people in the developing regions has fallen by almost half. The primary school enrolment rate in the developing regions has reached 91 percent, and many more girls are now in school compared to 15 years ago. Other achievements include some success in fighting against HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, declining under-five and maternal mortality rates, and ensuring more people to have access to improved sources of water.

The situation in the world still needs to be improved, however, and that is why the new Agenda on Sustainable Development was adopted in 2015. The new Sustainable Development Goals are build on the success of the MDGs and aim to go further to end

all forms of poverty. The new Goals recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and addresses a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. The purpose of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its aims are fully expressed in its Preamble:

*“This Agenda is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom. We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. We are determined to take the bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. As we embark on this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets which we are announcing today demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve.*

The UN 2030 Agenda is designed to stimulate actions of the world community in the following areas: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership

### **Major countries and organizations involved**

All UN Member States are involved in achieving the goals set by the UN 2030 Agenda. The UN Organizations indeed should also take part in the implementation of the Agenda, and one of the most important roles is played by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life.

### **Possible Solutions**

The implementation of the SDGs will rely on countries' own sustainable development policies, plans and programmes, and will be led by countries. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be a compass for aligning countries' plans with their global commitments. Nationally owned and country-led sustainable development strategies will require resource mobilization and financing strategies. All stakeholders:

governments, civil society, the private sector, and others, are expected to contribute to the realization of the new agenda. A revitalized global partnership at the global level is as well needed to support national efforts. This is recognized in the 2030 Agenda. The process of SDGs implementation should be monitored both by the national governments and the United Nations. For this monitoring it is necessary to develop a global set of indicators as well as the States' own national indicators to assist in monitoring progress made on the goals and targets.

### **The main web links**

1. Sustainable Development Goals: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>
2. United Nations Development Program: <http://www.undp.org/>
3. Millennium Development Goals: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>