

# From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals

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## 〈Abstract〉

This paper revisits the background and circumstances existing before and leading to the introduction of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2000 and presents and discusses the goals achieved. Successes and failures of the MDGs are analyzed and reasons for such results are postulated. It is shown that the MDGs were well-meaning, produced outcomes that were hitherto unseen, and saved millions of lives all over the world. On the other hand, flaws of the MDGs are revealed including their core “Top Down” approach and an imbalance in results are seen. The successor to the MDGs were the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and it is expected that they will not only continue the work of the MDGs, but will be carried out with an improved and better-informed management organization, while keeping the stakeholders including those at the grassroots level (in the form of local groups, NPOs, and associations) both involved and kept abreast of decisions in a speedy manner. Such wider involvement is expected to improve the lives of many more millions of people by 2030, the completion date of the SDGs project.

## 〈Keywords〉

MDGs Lessons Learned, Post-MDGs, Grassroots Involvement

## 1 Definition and Conception of International Development

International Development may be defined in many ways, with reasons for this rooted in the different dimensions it has due to region, country and geographical conditions surrounding it. However, regardless of the definition, it can be perceived at a fundamental human right. In this paper, the term ‘International Development’ will be used to describe a process to reduce poverty, illiteracy and diseases, and to improve the environmental preservation and empowerment of women in developing countries. This forms the backbone of the argument for looking at and handling it as a human rights issue, not simply as a question of economic growth. ‘Development has been defined simply as change and (Brookfield: 1975, Robert Chambers:1997) adds a positive spin to this definition by describing development as ‘good change’.<sup>(1)</sup>

Its purpose is to make people aware of their latent potential and make them ready to actively participate in improving the overall socio-economic condition of poor people’s lives.

‘Development is a process by which the members of a society increase their personal and institutional capacities to mobilize and manage resources in order to produce sustainable and justly distributed improvements in their quality of life consistent with their own aspirations.’<sup>(2)</sup> As Todaro states, ‘development must be conceived of as a multidimensional process involving major changes in social structures, popular attitudes, and national institutions, as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality, and the eradication of absolute poverty.’<sup>(3)</sup> As above, there are many different ways to describe international development, but most definitions include the concepts of global poverty and

inequality (Haslam, 2012; Baker, 2013; Potter, 2014). International development is not only about understanding why issues of poverty and inequality exist throughout the world, but also how to go about solving these complex issues.

Many orthodox economists may define development as the achievement of economic growth and hence improved living standards. It is achieved by improving the use made of a country's human, natural and institutional resources. GNP (Gross National Product) measures progress in line with this definition. It has been seen in many countries both in developed and developing countries that, in any country, GNP itself does not have any social impact without equitable distribution economic growth. For example, some Middle Eastern countries have a very high gross national income from their petroleum exports yet, upon comparing their GNP to their average life expectancy, infant mortality rates and literacy rates, we can see that the latter are not satisfactory. Therefore, while economic growth is an important factor for a country's development, equal distribution (among members of that society) is more important. At the same time, we need to keep in mind that, as a country's national economy is improved, it can bring about a trickle-down effect to the disadvantaged members of that society, especially when such development is properly targeted. Thus, keeping all of this in mind, we need to redefine the concept of 'development' and, above all, development should mean bringing a 'good change' in the socio-economic condition of the poorest of the poor population in a region or country.

'In the past two decades, development historians have expanded their field with projects and discussions that are "longer" in time, "deeper" actor wise, and thematically "wider" than earlier analyses, and which defined development rather historically as a hegemonic "intellectual and ideological project" producing and dominating the postcolonial Third World.'<sup>(4)</sup> International development or global development is a broad concept denoting the idea that societies and countries have differing levels of 'development' on an international scale. These levels and concepts are the basis for international classifications such as 'developed country', 'developing country' and 'least developed country', and for fields of practice and research that in various ways engage with international development processes. 'International

development' is different from the simple concept of 'development'. Whereas the latter, at its most basic, denotes simply the idea of change through time, international development has come to refer to a distinct field of practice. It remains closely related to the set of institutions - especially the Bretton Woods Institutions - that arose after the Second World War with a focus on economic growth, alleviating poverty, and improving living conditions in previously colonized countries.'<sup>(5)</sup> Unfortunately, during the Cold War, development had been put in a framework of whether countries belonged to the USA or USSR blocks, or were present or former European colonies.

## 2 Historical Evolution of International Development

The history of development in the developing world began soon after the Second World War. The United Nations (UN) is an international organization founded in 1945 after the Second World War, committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards and human rights. The main priority of the UN was to "achieve international cooperation" in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all. Since the 1950s, the UN's United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has been playing an important role in the international development arena. It advocates for change and connects countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life for themselves. It provides expert advice, training and grants support to developing countries, with increasing emphasis on assistance to the least developed countries.

The Marshall Plan, (officially, the European Recovery Program (ERP)) ran from April 1948 to December 1951 and was devised to foster economic recovery in certain European countries after the Second World War. The Marshall Plan was named after Secretary of State George Marshall. Marshall spoke of the urgent need to help the European recovery in his address at Harvard University in June 1947. At that time the terminology 'development' was not used, rather the word 'reconstruction' was more widely mentioned. Later, the Colombo Plan was established with

the aim of providing economic development plans and facilitating technical and financial assistance for development projects in South, Southeast and East Asian countries.

The World Bank was established with an intention to enhance the international development programs in developing countries through their soft loans, grants and technical assistance. The World Bank, officially called the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development is an international cooperative organization established in 1945 under the 'Bretton Woods Agreement' to assist the economic development of backward nations by the advancement of loans guaranteed by member governments. The Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) was established in 1948 to run the US-financed Marshall Plan for reconstruction of that continent which had been ravaged by war. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) as officially born on the 30 September 1961. The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) enabled effective development through inclusive partnerships for development and, together with the OECD, helped ensure better lives for people in the developing world by the four ways of:

1. Understanding development finance,
2. Strengthening aid delivery,
3. Improving development policy,
4. Building partnerships for development

Beside the above-mentioned international organizations, NGOs (Non-Governmental Organizations) as we know them today are generally thought to have come into existence around the mid-nineteenth century as vital actors in international development. It was only about a century later that the importance of NGOs was officially recognized by the United Nations. At the UN Congress in San Francisco in 1968, a provision was made in Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations framework that qualified NGOs in the field of economic and social development to receive consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. The term referred to by the acronym NGO refers to an organization that is neither a part of a government nor a conventional for-profit organization. Usually set up by ordinary citizens, NGOs may be funded by governments, foundations, business communities, or individuals. Some avoid formal funding altogether and are run primarily by volunteers. NGOs are

highly diverse groups of organizations engaged in a wide range of multifaceted development activities and take different forms in different parts of the world. Some may have charitable status, while others may be registered for tax exemption based on recognition of social purposes.

The United Nations' members countries and international development organizations including the World Bank, IMF and ADB together have taken some collective initiatives on international development milestones with key phrases including trickle-down, agricultural productivity, reduction of illiteracy, communicable diseases, poverty and gender gaps, and raising awareness of environmental preservation. Some of their initiatives in the 20th century can be listed by decade embarked on, and include 'trickle-down' (1950's), 'Green Revolution' (1960's), 'Basic Human Needs (BHN)' and 'Health for All' (1970's), 'Institutional and Social development' (1980's), 'Education for All' and 'Earth Summit' (1990's). Most of these initiatives were set up having some regional and/or individual country's improvement at their heart, and this is shown by the goals they have achieved over the years including a tripling of world food production, emerging growth in Less Developing Countries (LDC) including their GNP, improved literacy rates, raised life expectancy at birth and lowered infant mortality rate. In the same period the world population increased only two-fold. Unfortunately, even the tremendous economic growth of past decades didn't play an important role for the poor people, because the economic and ample food growth did not trickle-down to the disadvantaged people at the grassroots level. Despite the dynamic economic and food developments, still two-thirds of the world population, particularly in the LDC couldn't reach their Basic Human Needs (BHN) of shelter, food, clothes, and access to education and health services. One of the reasons of that development failure is 'it has been seen in many countries that initiative of development achievement does not have any social impact without proper equitable distribution of its economic growth (to the) particular country's disadvantaged people'<sup>(6)</sup> One contributing reason is that most development strategies adopted a 'top-down' approach which bypassed those who most needed to be beneficiaries.

The UN system and development organizations follow a 'top-down' development approach. In a purely, 'top-down' system, higher levels have more power in

development planning at national levels. They have control over everything from decision-making to evaluation, so those at the regional level are unable to start fulfilling their own roles until they receive direction or guidance from the top. Compounding this, the field level then has to wait for the plan of action to come from the regional levels. The heartland of development at the ‘grassroots level’ just carry on by doing what they are told to do by the top level, regardless of their real needs in terms of resources and expedience. The top-down approach bypasses the people and does not emphasize the importance of listening directly to people’s problems at the grassroots level before coming to a decision. As a result, the real beneficiaries of the development activities are not welcomed as members who can participate in planning, decision-making and evaluation of their own development. Developing countries are heavily dependent on donor agencies for their program yet it must be remembered that, for better or worse, the donors’ policies and expertise are also incorporated into the recipient country’s projects.

### 3 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015

It is necessary to consider the development failures of the past decades, and to overcome the existing crucial issues of development problems of LDCs. At the beginning of the new millennium, world leaders gathered at the UN to shape a broad vision to fight poverty in its various dimensions. That vision, which was translated into eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), remained the overarching development framework for the world for 15 years. On 8 September 2000, the leaders of 189 countries signed the historic millennium declaration at the United Nations Millennium Summit, and this was followed by the adaptation of the UN Millennium Declaration by 191 UN’s member states at that time, and at least 22 international organizations. This showed their commitment to help achieve the following Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. The MDGs goals were as follows:

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

### Goal 8: Global partnership for development

The United Nations’ ‘The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015’ states the remarkable achievements of the MDGs. Table 1 references the goals listed above, and shows that extreme poverty declined from 47 percent to 14 percent globally, and the number of people living in extreme poverty declined by more than half, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015. Furthermore, the number of out-of-school children of primary school age worldwide fell by almost half to an estimated 57 million in 2015, down from 100 million in 2000. Many more girls were, in 2015, attending school compared to 15 years prior. The developing regions achieved the target to eliminate gender disparity in primary, secondary and tertiary education. In South Asia, only 74 girls were enrolled in primary school for every 100 boys in 1990. In 2015, 103 girls were enrolled for every 100 boys. The global under-five mortality rate declined by more than half, dropping from 90 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2015.

**Table 1: Achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (Comparison of Before and After)**

Goal 1:	Year (1990) 47 percent	Year (2015) 14 percent
Goal 2:	Year (2000) 100 million	Year (2015) 57 million
Goal 3:	Year (1990) Girls enrolment 74% (Boys enrolment 100%)	Year (2015) Girls enrolment 103% (Boys enrolment 100%)
Goal 4:	Year (1990) 12 million	Year (2015) 6 million
Goal 5:	Year 1990 and 2000 380 and 330	Year (2013) 210
Goal 6:	Year (2000) 3.5 million	Year (2013) 2.1 million
Goal 7:	Year (1990) 2.3 billion	Year (2015) 4.2 billion
Goal 8:	Year (2000) US\$ 81 billion	Year (2014) US\$ 135 billion

Source: *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, 2015, UNDP, New York*

Since 1990, the maternal mortality ratio declined by 45 percent worldwide, and most of the reduction occurred in 2000. New HIV infections fell by approximately 40 percent between 2000 and 2013, from an estimated 3.5 million cases to 2.1 million. Terrestrial and marine protected areas in many regions increased substantially since 1990. In Latin America and the Caribbean, coverage

of the terrestrial protected areas rose from 8.8 percent to 23.4 percent between 1990 and 2014. Official Development Assistance from developed countries increased by 66 percent in real terms between 2000 and 2014, reaching US\$135.2 billion, based on information given by the UN 'The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015'.<sup>(7)</sup>

### 3-1 Millennium Development Goals' Impact in Asia and African Countries

'Asia and the Pacific has led the world in the drive to achieve the MDGs, with the proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 per day projected to fall from 53% in 1990 to 12% by the end of the year.'<sup>(8)</sup> This final assessment, presented in 2015, of regional progress of the MDGs presented an optimistic picture of how far regional areas could develop. Yet, it underlined the crucial need to address ongoing challenges in the post-2015 development agenda. To maintain the momentum for the post-2015 agenda, the ESCAP (Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific) report noted that the region needed to address three key areas of implementation: extending the benefits of technology to all, mobilizing the necessary financial resources, and building statistical systems that can monitor the progress of the poorest groups to ensure that no one is left behind. The MDGs era had seen significant transformation in the African development context. The prospects of Africa in 2015 are noticeably different from what they were in 2000. Africa achieved amazing gains, including bridging the gender gap in primary enrolment, placing more children in primary school, reducing child and maternal deaths, increasing the representation of women in national parliaments, and reducing the prevalence of HIV/AIDS.

Since 2000, however, the performance of Africa lagged behind other developing economies of the world on MDGs progress, especially in terms of poverty, food security, and job creation. Although Africa made remarkable progress in a few areas, it was not able to even approach the MDGs by the target year of 2015, showing how both African countries and the international community needed to mobilize more resources and combine them with additional effort. This is particularly true for sub-Saharan Africa. Recent data indicates that structural development in Africa has had minimal impact on the lives of the poorest.

### 3-2 Evaluation of the Millennium Development Goals

In 2015, Rome, the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Director-General Jos. Graziano da Silva, recognized the great effort made by countries (72 out of 129 countries) around the world which led to the near achievement of the MDGs target to halve the proportion of hungry people by the 2015 deadline. 'Out of the total 72 countries, 29 have also met the more stringent goal to halve the number of hungry people as laid out by governments when they met in Rome at the World Food Summit (WFS) in 1996. "Since 1990, 216 million people have been freed from hunger," he said.'<sup>(9)</sup> He also noted however that almost 800 million people still suffer from chronic undernourishment. Figure 1 shows evidence of major accelerations in rates of progress during the 2000s, with the exception of maternal mortality, which experienced a more modest acceleration. The upshot is that somewhere between 21.0 million to 29.7 million more people are alive today than would have been the case if countries had continued their pre-MDG rates of progress.

**Figure 1: 21 Million Extra Lives Saved Due to Accelerated Progress of MDGs**

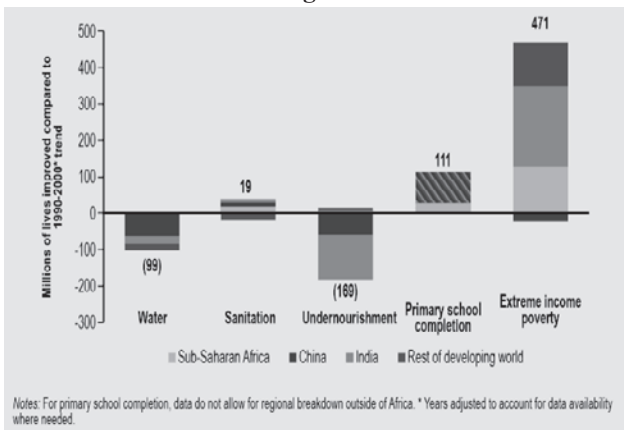


Source: J. McArthur and K. Rasmussen, 'How successful were the Millennium Development Goals?' *The Brookings Institution*, 2017

Figure 2 shows an estimate of the number of lives improved, or not, due to changes in trends on a range of indicators. The positive results here are that as many as 111 million more people completed primary school and 471 million extra people have been lifted out of extreme poverty as of 2013 (the most recent year with available data), compared to 1990s trends. However, for water and undernourishment, accelerations in the majority of developing countries were outweighed by slowdowns in the rate of progress in many populous countries.

The successor to the MDGs, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>(10)</sup>, will forge a global commitment that goes beyond the reduction of hunger seeking instead to totally eradicate it, the FAO Director-

**Figure 2: Millions of Lives Improved as of 2015 Due to Accelerated Progress of MDGs since 2000**

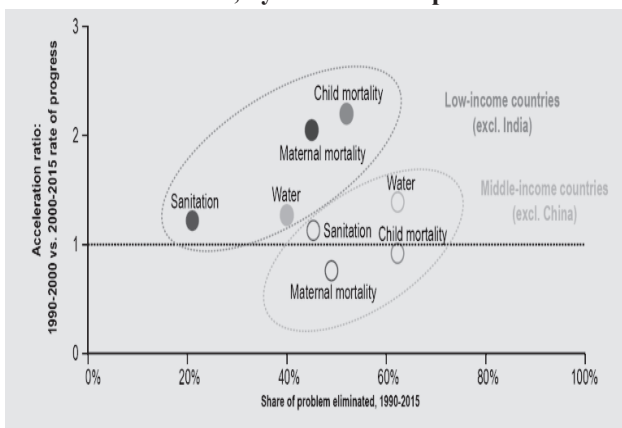


Source: J. McArthur and K.Rasmussen, b ‘How successful were the Millennium Development Goals?’ The Brookings Institution, 2017

General said. Some of the countries involved have received the UN award for their remarkable achievements in attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for reducing poverty and child mortality and empowering women, and those countries include Bangladesh and Nepal in Asia, and Gambia and Niger in Africa. Having made encouraging progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), developing countries have the opportunity to use the newly launched Sustainable Development Goals to tackle remaining challenges and achieve a development breakthrough, according to the MDGs report 2015.

Differences were noted among participants. Findings of the Brookings Institution Report highlight a major difference in trends among low-income countries (LICs) versus middle-income countries (MICs). Figure 3 illustrates this by plotting average (population-weighted) rates of progress for both LICs and MICs, when excluding India and China from the respective calculations. The

**Figure 3: Acceleration versus Progress During the MDG Era, by Income Group Countries**



Source: J. McArthur and K.Rasmussen, b ‘How successful were the Millennium Development Goals?’ The Brookings Institution, 2017

vertical axis shows how much each group’s annual rate of progress changed before and after 2000: a ratio of 1 indicates no change, a ratio of 2 indicates a doubling in the rate of progress, and so forth.

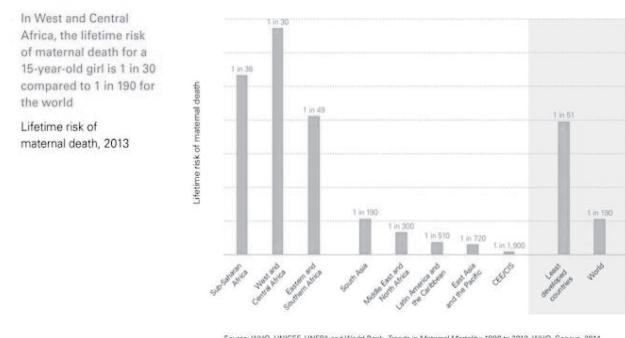
‘The findings dispel some common myths about the MDGs. They show that, especially on matters of life and death, 2015 outcomes were not on track to happen anyhow. Some shifts were dramatic, and Africa was responsible for many of the greatest incremental gains, not simply China and India. However, outcomes on basic needs were mixed. The diversity of trends prompts clear questions of why: What differences in public and private action led to such different results across geographies and issues?’<sup>(11)</sup> Answering such questions is crucial if the world is going to have a shot at achieving the U.N.’s ambitious new Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

**3-3 Criticism of MDGs Development Strategic Weakness**

The MDGs halving the proportion of people living in extreme poverty, measured internationally as living on less than \$1.25 a day, was, in 2010, five years ahead of schedule. Yet more than a billion people still lived in extreme poverty and still face danger to their lives and limitations to their future development. Figure 4 shows how maternal deaths are increasingly concentrated in sub-Saharan, west, and central Africa. Furthermore, although an increase in primary-school attendance rates was accompanied by reduced disparity between boys’ and girls’ attendance, the gender gap remains large particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

The MDGs agenda’s weakness has been criticized on a number of counts. ‘The MDGs present an agenda rather than a development strategy. While clearly rooted in the

**Figure 4: Millennium Development Goals failed the world’s poorest children**



Source: Provided in Figure

“human development approach”, they have been interpreted in isolation from the Millennium Declaration. ‘The MDG agenda is not explicit as to the perceived structural causes of poverty and social exclusion, nor in regard to the strategies and policy actions necessary to address the structural causes to facilitate their achievement.’<sup>(12)</sup> Some focal points of the MDGs that have been criticized are given below.

- no consultations with all stakeholders
- target setting was blind of “non-linearities” in trends
- failing to take into account the initial conditions of the various regions and countries
- focus on minimum achievements didn’t capture the challenges
- overemphasis on “outcomes” rather than on development “processes”
- not delivered on all the commitments it made to the global partnership for development

#### **4 From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals**

Some developing countries have made substantial progress towards achievement of the MDGs, although the progress is highly variable across goals, countries and regions. Bangladesh and Cambodia have startling, for example, have seen startling economic growth, and developing countries as a whole reduced their poverty rate by half between 1990 and 2010. However, some countries and regions lagged behind. ‘The probable shortfall in achievement of the MDGs is indeed serious, regrettable, and deeply painful for people with low income. The shortfall represents a set of operational failures that implicate many stakeholders, in both poor and rich countries.’<sup>(13)</sup> Still today, many people are facing problems in their daily lives such as poverty, human rights, education and healthcare, showing that there is a long way to go to overcome remaining problems. The Rio+20 conference (the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development) in Rio de Janeiro, June 2012, galvanized a process to develop a new set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which would carry on the momentum generated by the MDGs and fit into a global development framework beyond 2015. In July 2014, the UN General Assembly Open Working Group (OWG) proposed a document containing 17 goals to be put forward for the

General Assembly’s approval in September 2015. This document set the ground for the new SDGs and the global development agenda spanning from 2015-2030. SDGs goals are given below.

- Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all
- Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all
- Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation
- Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
- Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
- Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

#### 4-1 Paradigm Shift Necessary to Implement Sustainable Development Goals

Paradigm Shift: A concept identified by the American physicist and philosopher Thomas Kuhn to show a fundamental change in the basic concepts and experimental practices of a scientific discipline. Kuhn presented his notion of a paradigm shift in his influential book *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions* (1962). This terminology is today widely used in international development arena. Over time many new development issues have arisen in developing countries and the dominant development conventional policies and approaches are incompatible to overcome the existing problems in the international development world. Therefore, a fundamental change in the basic concepts and practices of a scientific discipline is necessary in a prevailing of Sustainable Development Goals framework.

In the late 20th century, it came to refer primarily to Third World debt. The IMF (International Monetary Fund) and World Bank took an initiative, as a paradigm shift of international development, namely the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs). These are documents required before a loan proposal by Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC). The IMF specifies that the PRSP should be formulated according to five core principles. The PRSP should be country-driven, result-oriented, comprehensive, partnership-oriented, and based on a long-term perspective. There were many challenges to PRSP effectiveness, such as state capacity to carry out the established strategy. Criticism of PRSP includes aid conditionality, donor influence, and poor fulfillment of the participatory aspect.

In 1996, the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) adopted the New Development Strategy (NDS). Declaring an improved quality of life for all to be the primary goal of development, the NDS set forth a development vision with emphasis on three key underpinnings: social development and environmental improvements (including poverty reduction), gains in social infrastructure, and environmental sustainability and regeneration. Economic growth from a medium and long-term perspective should be driven by the participation of

developing countries in the globalization process. 'The NDS declares that development assistance can do no more than complement the efforts made by citizens, organizations, institutions and government of developing countries, and that ownership by developing countries will accordingly be of the utmost importance to the achievement of Sustainable Development.'<sup>(14)</sup> The NDS assigns sustainable development importance as a means of improving the quality of life for all, and sets forth a vision of development for that purpose. The World Bank and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) are actively involved in the NDS initiatives to address poverty issues in developing countries. The World Bank considers efforts in three areas fundamental to the task of effectively reducing poverty for (i) broad-based economic growth, (ii) developing human capital, and (iii) the creation of social safety nets for vulnerable groups (World Bank: 1996). Frameworks for steady economic growth will be essential if the poor are to benefit from the growth.

#### 5 Recommendation and Concluding Remarks

As mentioned in this paper, the MDGs have achieved some goals in particular regions and countries. Due to the strategic weakness of the MDGs, financial constraint of developing countries, and lack of proper development policies, many countries couldn't achieve their target. From the soul-searching coming from failure to achieve goals, it seems necessary to adopt a stronger monitoring process. Furthermore, the United Nations and industrialized developed countries should have a commitment with financial and technical support to form a real development partnership to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by the year of 2030 with the aim of leaving no one behind in the world.

Clear evidence has been seen in the MDGs failure in some developing countries, where governments struggle with a vast array of challenges such as financial constraint, lack of technical know-how in their development approaches and a dearth of sound advice on problems that developing countries frequently face. Due to political instability and lack of social infrastructure, they found it difficult to attract global investment. Thus, a concerted effort to strengthening inter-governmental collaboration, and enhancing capacity and efficiency would be an excellent complement to the SDGs. A tripartite collaboration among government, Non-Governmental



Organizations (NGO) and corporates may play an important role to ensure the success of the SDGs in developing countries.

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