From MDGs to SDGs and Post-2015 Development Agenda
- a Call for Statistical Community-

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Outline

Why a new agenda for development?

- **Success of MDGs**: MDGs has been effective in mobilizing worldwide awareness on development challenges, leveraging resources, guiding development efforts and increasing accountability.

- MDG target year (2015) is fast approaching

- **Emerging global challenges**, not fully captured by MDG framework.

- Recognized the need to transformative change for inclusive, people-oriented, sustainable development.

Today's global challenges

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- Persistent inequalities

- Food and nutrition insecurity

- Knowledge challenge

- Growing environmental footprints

- Conflict, violence and insecurity

- Governance deficits at all levels

- Changing demographics (migration, urbanization, ageing)

➔ **Urgent need to find new pathways in pursuit of inclusive, equitable and sustainable global development**

Setting up a process….

- 2010.9   MDG Summit requested the SG to initiate
    thinking on the global development agenda beyond 2015

- 2012.1   SG established/appointed:
    - **UN System Task Team (UNTT)**
    - **Special Advisor on post-2015 agenda**

- 2012.6   SG established:
    - **High-level Panel of Eminent Persons**

- 2013.1   GA established:
    - **Open Working Group on SDGs**

- * Meanwhile, UNDG initiated **national consultations**, and **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN**) was launched.
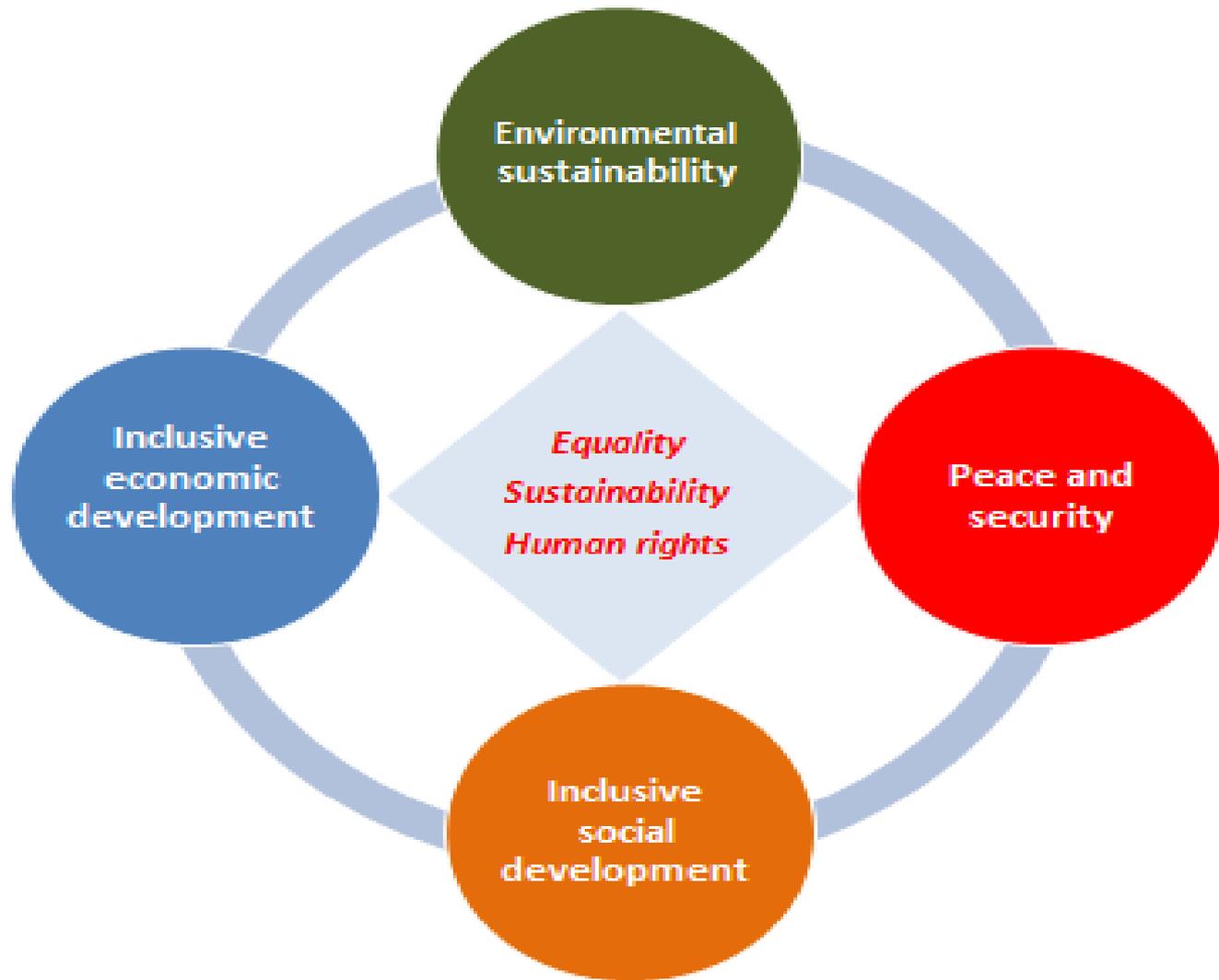
Analytical work to support the post-2015 discussion

Report: "Realizing the Future We Want for All"

- Analytical report of the UN System Task Team (UNTT), submitted to the SG in 2012

- UNTT involves 60+ entities of the UN System and beyond, co-chaired by UNDP and UNDESA

- First set of recommendations on contours of the post-2015 development agenda

- To serve as a point of reference for further consultations

Vision: The Future We Want for All

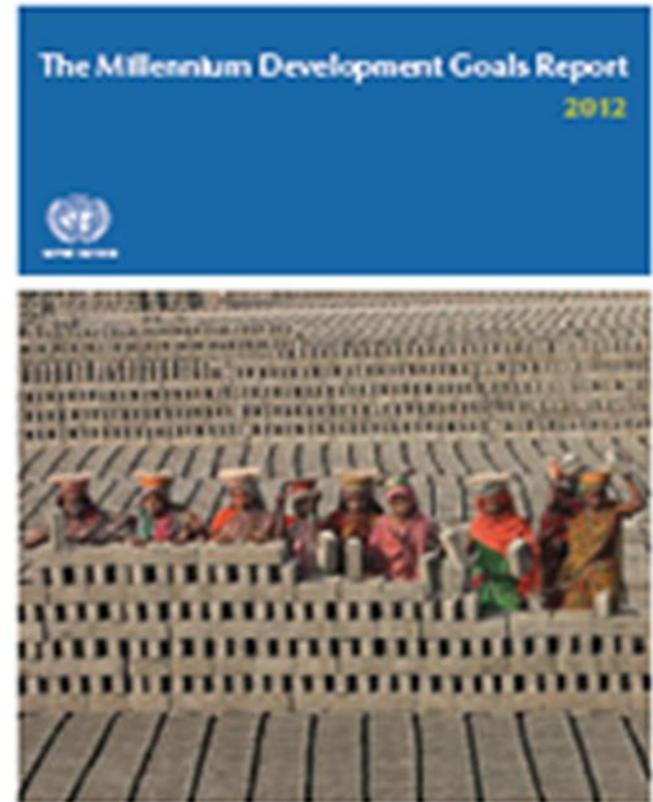# The formulation of new development agenda requires…

- A high degree of policy coherence at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels is necessary.

- The process must be open, inclusive and in consultation with all stakeholders.

- Build on core values outlined in the Millennium Declaration and the experiences gained with MDGs.

- Should be consistent with the formulation of the SDGs.

Lessons learnt from MDG monitoring

Lessons learnt from MDG Monitoring

- Assessment by Inter-agency Expert Group (IAEG) on MDG based on the experience of monitoring MDGs over the past 10 years.

- IAEG-MDG consists of 27 UN agencies

- Its Task Team produced a paper in March 2013, reviewing the strengths and shortcomings of the current set of MDG Indicators, and submitted it to UNTT as technical inputs to guide the formulation of a new development monitoring framework.

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2012

Lessons learnt: strengths

- The MDG framework **reinforced the importance of statistics** for policy decision making. Useful format with a set of concrete goals, targets that could be monitored by statistical indicators.

- **Improvement of statistical capacity** . The agreed framework fostered strengthening of statistical systems to produce quality data, improved coordination between government offices and developed partnerships between national and international statistical systems.

- Consequently, **improved data availability, quality and comparability.**

Lessons learnt: shortcomings

- **Limited involvements of statisticians** in the process of defining development goals.
- Targets and indicators were perceived as **"top-down" initiative** led by international agencies.
- **Inconsistencies between goals, targets and indicators.** Some were not well-aligned, poorly defined (ex. Goal 7).
- Some targets were **too ambitious** (ex. Goal 4).
- Global targets were **incorrectly interpreted** as national targets, which distorted priority setting.
- The framework does not adequately address **inequality issues.**
- **Discrepancies** between national and international data created problems and tension.

Rio+20 outcome and SDGs

Rio+20

- After 20 years since the UN Earth Summit, Governments gathered in June 2012 and reaffirmed their commitment to sustainable development.

- Its outcome documents have several explicit reference to the importance of statistics and needs for statistical activities.

Rio+20 outcome document

- Recognize the need for **broader measures of progress** to complement GDP, and request UNSC to launch a programme of work (para 38) => **Created a FoC group at UNSC in 2013.**

- Invite governments to **improve knowledge and statistical capacity** on job trends, developments and constraints and integrate relevant data into national statistics (para 62)

- Recognize that **integrated social, economic and environmental data/information** and effective assessment of implementation is important for policy making process. (para 98)

- Recognize the importance of **space-technology-based data** in situation monitoring and reliable geospatial information for sustainable development policy-making (para 274)

Rio+20 outcome: SDGs

- Requests to **formulate sustainable development goals (SDGs)** through an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process that is open to all stakeholders

- Incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their inter-linkages

- Build upon international commitments already made

- Coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015

=> Established an Open Working Group of 30 representatives nominated by Member States

Way Forward: Converging Work Streams

- **HL Panel on Eminent Persons** will publish a report in May 2013.

- **UN Task Team** to continue analytical work, technical support to Open Working Group. => submit a report to GA in September 2013.

- Inter-governmental **Open Working Group** to work on SDGs
   => submit a report to GA in September 2014.

- **UNDG to continue consultations** (83 national consultations and 11 thematic consultations)

- **Launch of official debate on post-2015 at GA in September 2013**.

The post-2015 development framework process and the SDG process to converge into a single, integrated sustainable development agenda.

Role of the Statistical Community

- Appropriate and timely participation in the consultation on the post-2015 agenda at various levels.

- Early engagement in the process of formulating the targets and indicators, to ensure the best option is considered.

- Advance the statistical concept of "broader measure of progress".

- Once the targets and indicators are set, consider the appropriate coordination mechanism for monitoring and reporting.

- Enhance statistical capacity building efforts to meet the new data demand.

Thank you !

Sustainable Development Goals as agreed at Rio+20:

- Sustainable development goals should be action oriented
- Concise and easy to communicate
- Limited in number
- Aspirational
- Global and universally applicable
- Taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development
- Progress towards the achievement of the goals needs to be assessed by targets and indicators