

# Environment and Human security nexus in the context of SDGs

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# Background

< Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) >

2015

< Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) >

## MDG7: Environmental Sustainability

### Detailed goals

1. Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs; reverse loss of environmental resources
2. Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2010, a significant reduction in the rate of loss
3. Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

### Themes

- ✓ Developing country oriented
- ✓ MDG7 is not a clear quantitative goal
- ✓ Compare to other issues in MDGs, slow progress of deforestation, water scarcity and CO2 emissions
- ✓ Linkages between global and national goals

## Existing discussions

- Proposals by Columbia, Guatemala and Peru prior to Rio+20
- It is presented in the outcome document of Rio+20
- Initiatives to integrate it into the three pillars of sustainable development (Economic, Social, and Environment)
- It is the universal goal for both developed and developing countries
- It also includes new themes (Energy and disaster prevention)

## Points of contestation

- ✓ Linkages to MDGs
- ✓ Main Principles
  - Universality
  - CBDR principle
- Targeted Areas and Themes
- ✓ Measurement methods and Indicators
- ✓ Implementation (finance, capacity development, technology transfer) Governance
- ✓ Roadmap

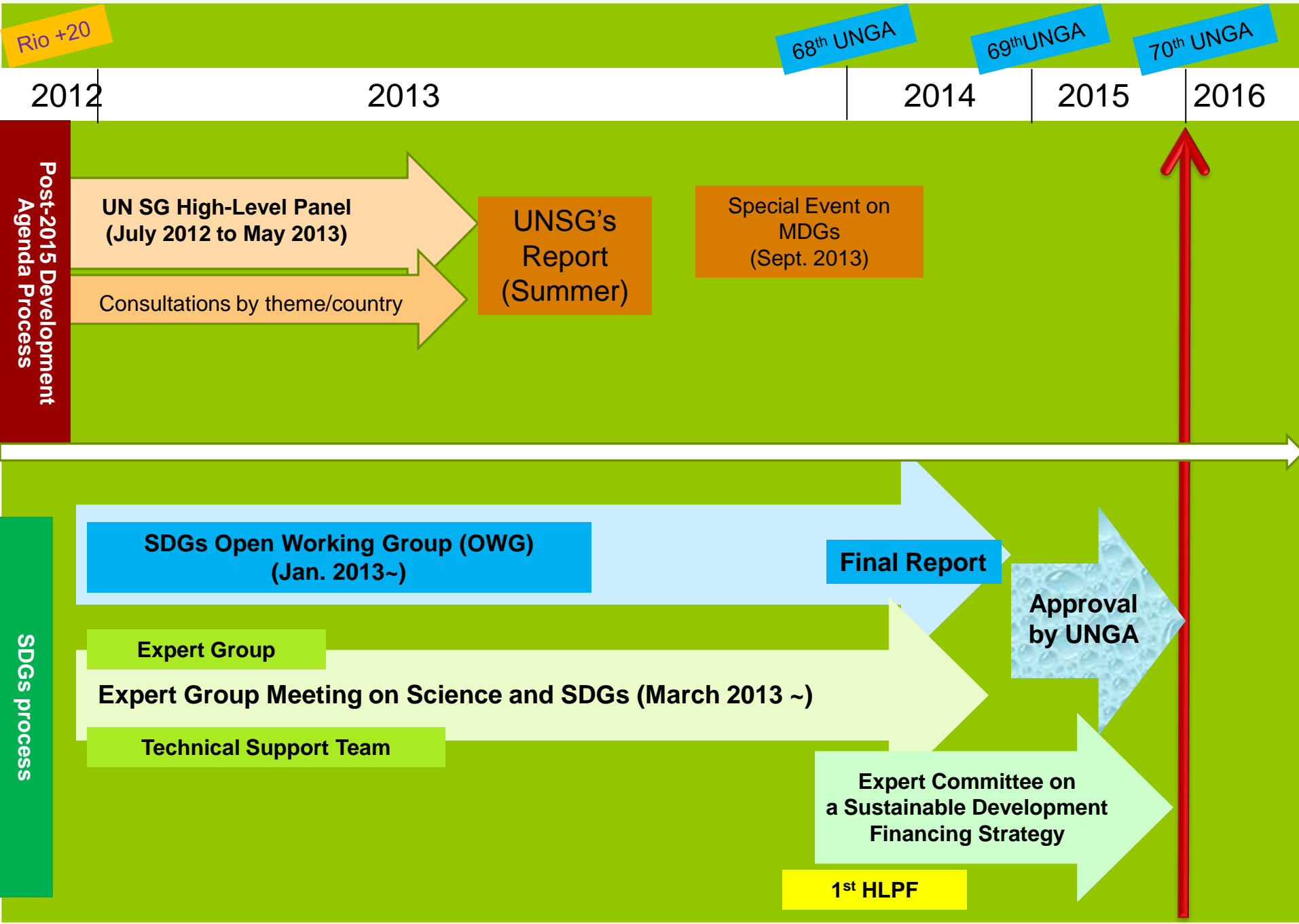
It is needed to examine and identify ways to correspond to earth system transformation from multiple perspectives

# What are SDGs ?

- Action oriented
- Concise and easy to communicate
- Limited in number
- Aspirational
- Incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of SD and their interlinkages
- Global in nature, universally applicable to all countries
- Taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development
- Respecting national policies and priorities
- Progress to be assessed by targets and indicators
- Consistent with international law, past commitments, outcomes of all major summits (Agenda 21, all Rio principles, JPOI)

**Taken from the lessons of successful global goals such as MDGs**

# Post 2015 Development Agenda, SDGs Process



# Post-2015 High Level Panel's Report

## 1. Leave no one behind

(poverty, human rights, basic economic opportunities)

## 2. **Sustainable Development** at the Core

(mobilize 3 dimensions together)

## 3. Transform Economies for Jobs

(SCP, Youth and Women, Cities)

## 4. Build Peace and Effective

(freedom from fear, rule of law, access to justice)

## 5. Forge Global Partnerships

(government ++, climate change, trade, financial stability)

Emphasizes  
**Data  
Revolution**

There have been little discussion on the HLP report at the SDGs OWG.

# Human and environment security nexus

- **Increasing threats** to development from emerging issues such as climate change, energy, natural disasters.
- **Population dynamics** including rural-urban migration and increasing urbanization requires actions on slum dwelling, sustainable transport, clean air and green space.
- Importance of healthy ecosystems and biodiversity for **human well-being and resilience** (particularly to reduce the vulnerability of those living in poverty)
- **Increasing food, water and energy insecurity** requires actions on sustainable consumption and production

How to mitigate these threats and risks to human development and protect environment simultaneously?

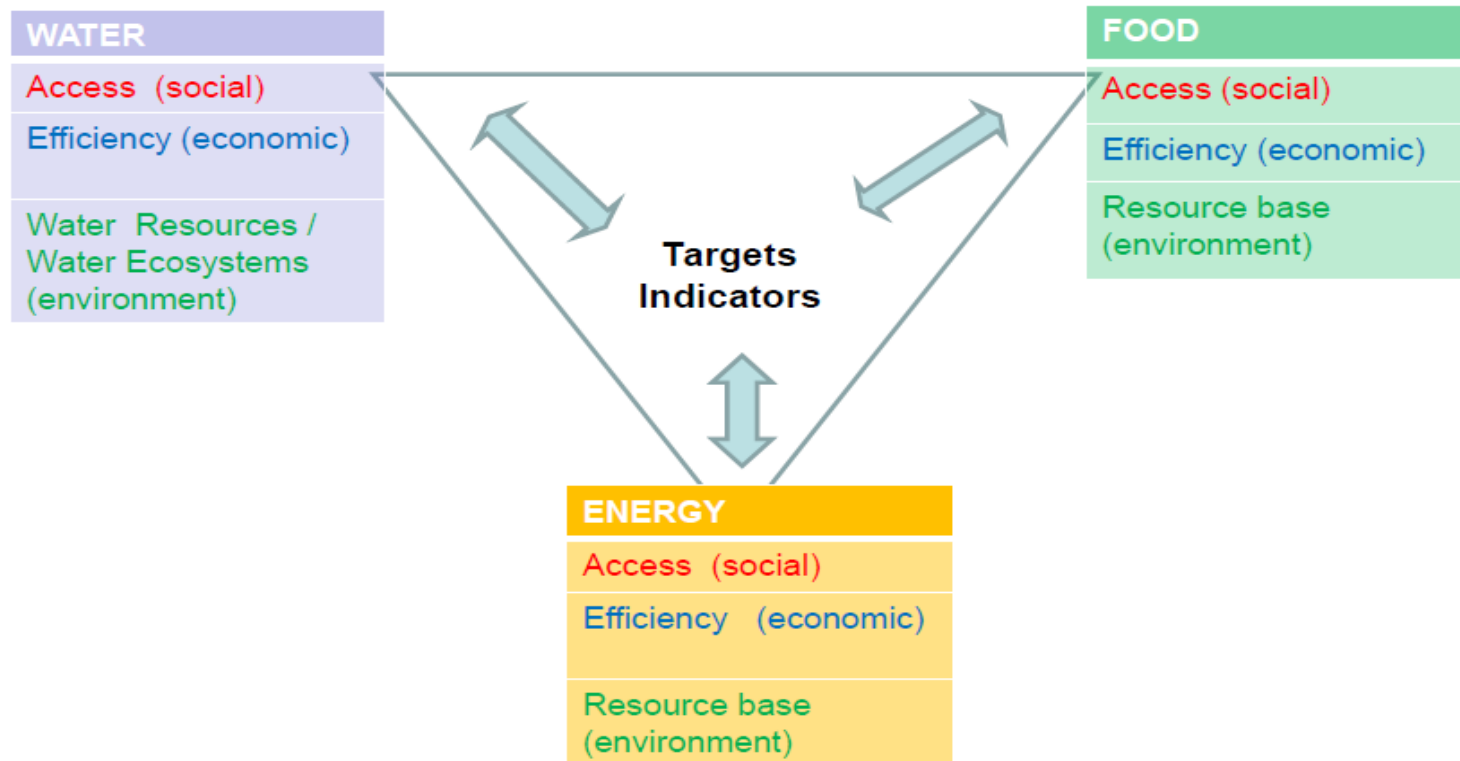
# Four schools of thoughts on environment and human security

| Schools   | Arguments   |
|---|---|
| <b>Toronto School</b><br>(by Uni. of Toronto)                       | Simple scarcity as a result of environmental change and population growth is only part of a much more complex picture, rather <b>resource scarcity</b> as a cause for insecurity and conflict |
| <b>ENCOP School</b><br>(by Swiss Environment and Conflicts Project) | Violence is most likely to occur in more remote areas, where environmental stresses coincide with <b>political tensions and inequitable access to resources</b>                               |
| <b>PRIO School</b><br>(by Inter'l Peace Research Institute in Oslo) | Violence in many developing countries occurs when different groups attempt to gain <b>control of abundant resources.</b>  |
| <b>Network School</b><br>(Matthew and MacDonald, 2004)              | Environmental degradation is one of the many <b>"network threats"</b> that face the world, such as climate change, and epidemic disease.  |

# Challenges

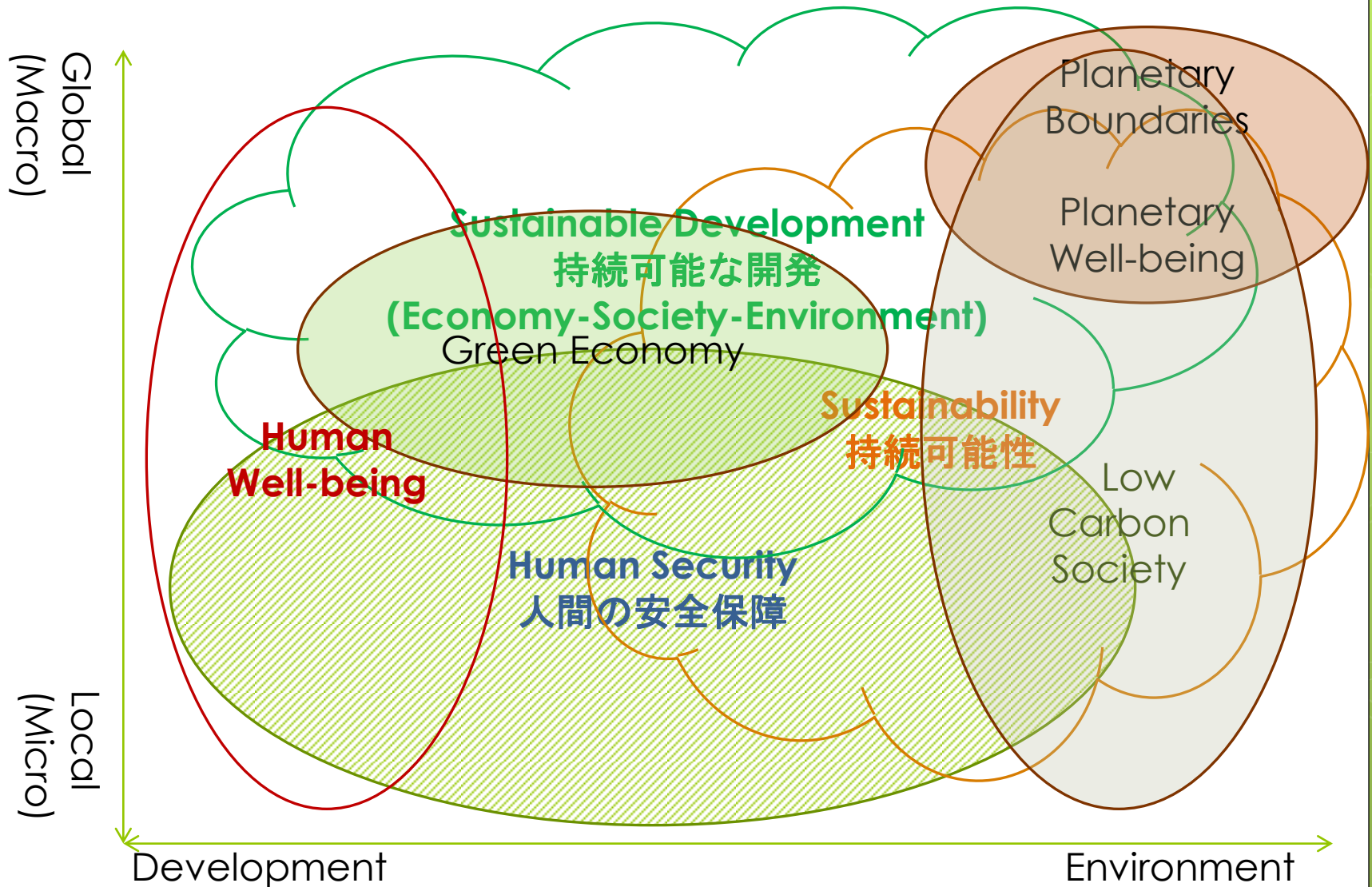
- **Human security** - Implementing body is primarily a “state,” not individual
- A principle of **“rights-based approach”** aims at capacity building of “individuals”
  - ⇒ **No direct answers to “shared responsibility” at global level**
- Concept of **“Sustainable Development”** address global agenda of “common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR)”, but does not directly address the needs of individual
  - Ensuring the Earth’s life support system is **enabling conditions for human well-being.**
  - How to address the **gaps among the global goals and different national circumstances?**

# Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus



- Important approach to look at **cross-sectoral linkages** in the context of SDGs.
- Putting people and their basic human rights at the centre of the nexus, but **lacks environmental considerations**.

# New Vision for Post-2015 Agenda?



# Other Fundamental Principles

stressed by post-2015 civil society consultations on environmental sustainability

- **Equity**

- Access to natural resources and the benefits of a healthy environment, decision-making processes

- **Human rights**

- Provides minimum substantive standards for environmental sustainability

- **Resilience**

- Ability to resist tomorrow's shocks without reversing today's achievement in human well-being
- Healthy ecosystems reduce people's vulnerability based on equitable communities

- **Others:** availability, efficiency, inclusiveness etc?

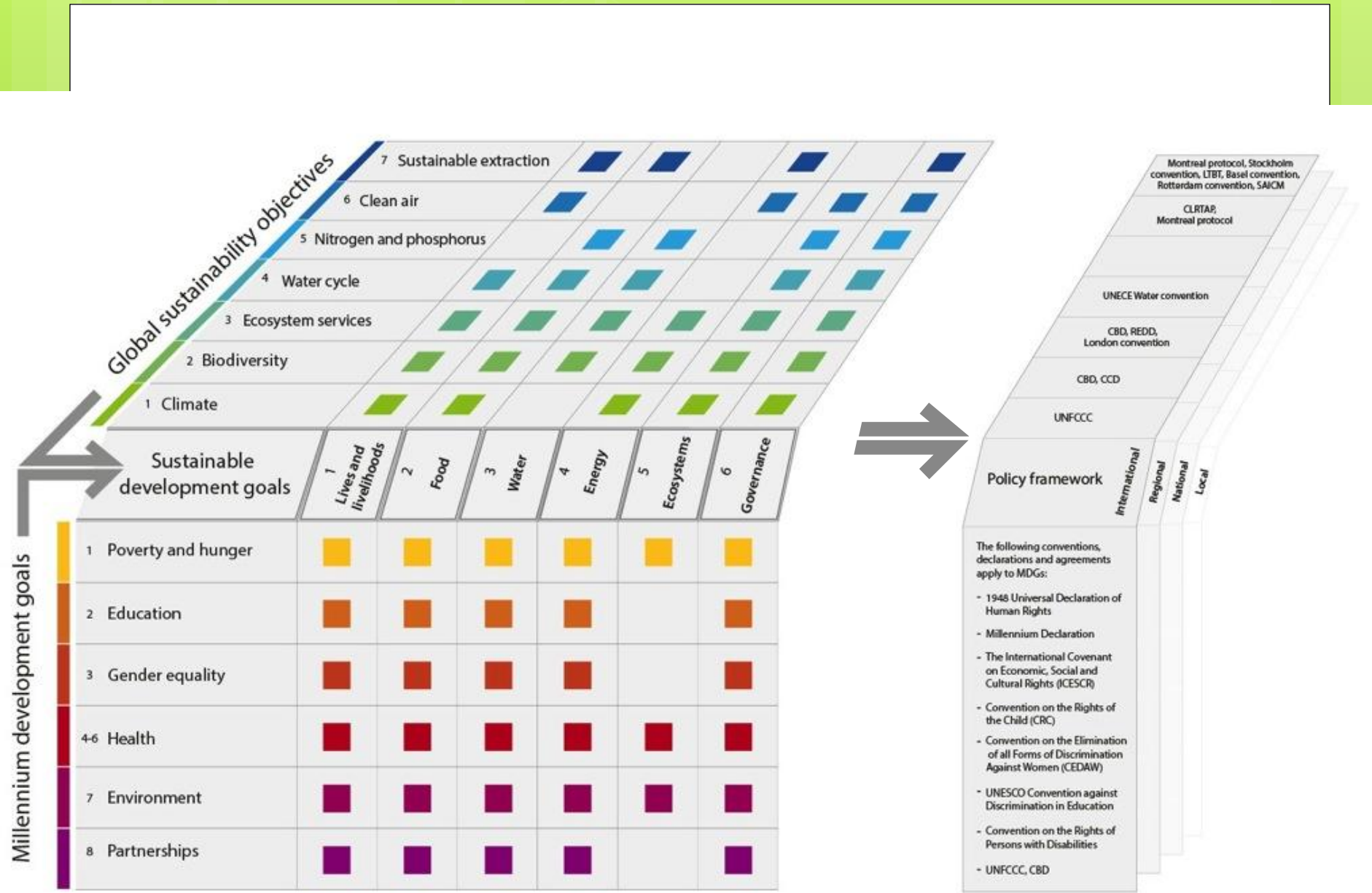
## 人類紀における「持続可能な開発」の再定義



Development that meets the needs of the present while safeguarding Earth's life-support system, on which the welfare of current and future generations depends

現在及び将来の世代の人類の繁栄が依存している地球の生命維持システムを保護しつつ、現在の世代の欲求を満足させるような開発

'Sustainable Development Goals for People and Planet.' *Nature* (Vol 495, 21 March 2013). By David Griggs, Mark Stafford-Smith, Owen Gaffney, Johan Rockstrom, Marcus C Ohman, Priya Shyamsundar, Will Steffen, Gisbert Glaser, Norichika Kanie and Ian Noble



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# An example: Possible set of goals (by IGES)

The poorer

The wealthier

| Focus Issues                         | Access to basic services                          | Increase efficiency   | Life style change  |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Climate change /Energy               | Access to electricity                             | Energy efficiency improvement in production                         | % of renewable energy use in daily life  |
| Fresh Water                          | Access to safe drinking water                     | Efficiency improvement of water use in agriculture                  | Reduction of fresh water use in daily life (including reuse of gray water)                 |
| Disaster risk reduction & Resilience | % of population with access to safe places/areas  | % of population living with strengthened physical infrastructure    | % of population with resilient infrastructure systems (decentralized and redundant)        |
| Biodiversity/Forest                  | Access to local natural resources such as forests | Efficiency improvement in producing forest products (such as paper) | Sustainable use of forest products (long time use and recycling)                           |
| Sustainable cities                   | Access to proper housing                          | Efficiency improvement in essential urban services                  | Reduction of energy use in houses and offices  |
| Sustainable transport                | Access to basic modern transport service          | Energy efficiency improvement in various transportation means       | Percentage of public transportation services (Modal shift and transport demand management) |

# Recommendations

by the High-Level Advisory Panel for 67<sup>th</sup> UNGA, in the “United Nations in the Age of Sustainable Development” Sept. 2013.

- Success of SDGs will depend of much greater **UN coherence and accountability**
- **High Level Political Forum (HLPF)** brings governments at high and ministerial levels to weigh in progress and challenges of achieving SDGs.
- Close bridge with financial institutions/forums (i.e. G20) and research communities (i.e. SDSN)
- UNGA establish several **standing committees** to oversee progress on the SDGs and major means of implementation
- Invite member states to consider adopting **a Universal Declaration of Sustainable Development**

Thank you very much for your attention.



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