Good Governance for Sustainable Development
A work in progress

Dr. Shiv Someshwar
The Earth Institute, Columbia University
ssomeshwar@ei.columbia.edu

Difficulties of Governance in a Globalized World

Manner of exercise of power
Purposeful guidance of processes with social implications

- Coordination across diverse actors
- Growing demands for participation in decision making
- Multinational corporations are key
- Regulatory and tax arbitrage leakage
- Cooperation in a multi-polar world
Falling Poverty Rates


Falling Poverty Rates... *Not fast enough*

Under $1.25/ day

2030: 1090 / 98 million

The Economist
Population Projections

Source: UN Population Projections

Economically Used Resources Globally, 2030

BAU - In 2030 2X of 2005

Materialflows.net
"PLANETARY BOUNDARIES"

Mobile Subscribers Worldwide, 1990-2013

ITU World telecommunication / ICT Indicators
Falling Cost of Genome Sequencing

Governance, Development & Failures of BAU Trajectory

- Prosper and converge, stagnate, or fall deeper into poverty
- Insufficient public revenues to invest in public goods
- Inadequate job opportunities, rising social unrest
- Women and girls remain disempowered
- Race to the bottom on taxation, labor, environmental standards
Governance, Development & Failures of BAU Trajectory

- Cooperation of nation states critical on environmental threats
- Declining ODA trend
- Continue on path of environmental degradation
- Population of 9+ billion – contributing to unprecedented crises

Global Framework of Cooperation for Sustainable Development

- Right to development
- Equal opportunities to share in progress
- Raise living standards, narrow gap between rich and poor countries
- All countries share in promoting sustainable development
- Countries with high current and historic per capita use of resources decouple resource use from economic growth
Good Governance for Sustainable Development

• Respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms
• Upholding the rule of law
• Ensuring effective participation
• Promoting transparent, accountable, and effective institutions

Requires

• Fair and viable financing to reduce poverty/inequalities
• Promote employment and financial stability
• International rules on finance, trade, corporate reporting, technology, and intellectual property
• Stamp out corruption

Based on

• Framework for convergence of living standards
• Using scientific evidence
• Values of responsibility, solidarity, and tolerance
• Graduated global rights and responsibilities

Positioning Governance in SDGs

• Open Working Group (draft, Sat., July 19)
  – Proposed goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

• As a separate goal?
  – MDGs experience (with 7 and 8) is valuable
• Each goal articulating governance arrangement(s)?
  – Complexity, flexibility?
• Designed redundancies
  – Responsive to diverse spatial and temporal dimensions
  – Each SDG specifying key particularities of governance
  – Primary cross-thematic, cross-SDG

Nations and citizens as champions of SDGs and their implementation