Governance and SDGs

Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Asia: Toward a Common Language for Governance, ISAP 2014
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Pacifico Yokohama

Norichika Kanie
Tokyo Institute of Technology
UNU–IAS
1. What is “Sustainable Development” as an ultimate goal?

Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Brundtland Report, 1987)

Changing relations between human and the Earth → re-definition of Sustainable Development (from pillars to nested)

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

We are here but our mindset is here.

RETHINKING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE ANTHROPOCENE

The role of SDGs

- Secure necessary conditions for development
- Remove obstacles for development

For these purposes...

- Secure Planetary Well-being (pre-condition)
- Avoid/remove obstacles such as disaster and war, and/or improve resilience against them
- Secure resources (natural, social, economic, etc.)

From goals for developing country to all countries


Dave Griggs (2013)
The document contains a table and a diagram summarizing the SDGs / Post MDGs Process (as of July 2014). The table and diagram are depicted in the upper and lower parts of the page, respectively.

### SDGs / Post MDGs Process (as of July 2014)

**2013**
- **SDGs Process**
  - Expert Group Meeting on Science and SDGs (Mar. 2013)
- **Post MDGs Process**
  - Stakeholder Meetings, World Conference on ESD

**2014**
- **SDGs Process**
  - Expert Group Meeting on Science and SDGs (Mar. 2013)
  - Technical Support Team
  - Expert Committee on a Sustainable Development Financing Strategy
- **Post MDGs Process**
  - Non-ministerial meeting
  - High-level Stock Taking Event on Post-2015 Agenda

**2015**
- **SDGs Process**
  - Integrating Post MDGs and SDGs process
  - By June 2015
  - Implementing Post MDGs and SDGs process
- **Post MDGs Process**
  - Post-2015 Agenda
  - High-level Stock Taking Event on Post-2015 Agenda
  - High-level Stock Taking Event on Post-2015 Agenda

**Challenges**
- 17 goals
- 169 targets proposed
- Governance??

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**SDGs Process**
- 1-2 Jul. (NY)
  - The Role of Partnerships and their Contribution to the Post-2015 Development Agenda
- 3-29 Sep. (NY)
  - 69th UNGA
- 30 Jun. - 3 Jul. (NY)
  - Expert Committee on a Sustainable Development Financing Strategy
- 16-29 Sep. (NY)
  - 70th UNGA
- 21-25 Sep. (TBC)
  - UN Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda

**Post MDGs Process**
- 24 Sep. (TBC)
  - Approval by UNGA
- 24-28 Mar. (Paris)
  - UNFCCC COP 21/CMP 11
- 10-12 Nov. (Okayama, Japan)
  - World Conference on ESD
- 24-28 Mar. (Sendai, Japan)
  - 3rd World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

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**By June 2015**
- UN Summit to adopt the post-2015 development agenda
- Implementing Post MDGs and SDGs process

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**Challenges**
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Goals and Regimes

Goals - aspiration
Raise levels of ambition

Regimes (UNFCCC, CBD, etc) - rule-based

Originally ambitious, but recently face difficulties (Copenhagen, etc)
Bottom-up (pledge)

Menu of Targets for the Sustainable Development Goals: Two Approaches

Regional, national, and local targets are connected directly to the global target.

Regional, national, and local targets are nested within targets at higher levels.

A Multi-layered Approach for SDGs

Targets – Multi-layered

- Take advantage of diversity of stakeholders dealing with issues and generating new ideas – focal points for stakeholders

• Global targets – guide the actions
• Sub-global targets, where possible and relevant
  - Avoid “one-size-fits-all”: take advantage of diversity, while guiding actions of stakeholders
  - Design to help achieve the global goals and targets
  - Strong international review and accountability mechanism are key for making progress
• Indicators are selected based on the capabilities
  - Important in defining baselines and starting points
A Multi-layered Approach in the text

Multi-level approach in the OWG texts

“Targets are defined as global targets, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances.” (Zero draft rev1, 30 July)

“Targets are defined as aspirational global targets, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances.” (OWG Outcome doc. Introduction, 19 July 9:23am)
Effective governance: The capacity of institutions to resolve problems of public policy and implement effective rules. Crucial issues for the 21st century include the ability of institutions to engage in long-term planning for sustainable development and planetary stewardship, and to deal with interconnected problems of earth system governance.

Equitable Governance: Equitable application of the rule of law and equity in the distribution of wealth and opportunity within society.
How to integrate governance?

Stand-alone, integrated, or other?
• Stand-alone has best chance to be comprehensive and include all three aspects.
• Integrated has ability for well-crafted targets and indicators in specific issue areas.
• Other options: Offer chance for creative integration of governance.