

*“INDICATORS FOR THE POST-2015  
SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA”*

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*WHAT IS THE POST 2015 SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT AGENDA?*

*AN ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS THE UNMET NEEDS  
AND PROMISES*

# THE CURRENTS OF CHANGE

The UN SG action agenda identifies 6 drivers of change

- Demographic transformation
- The emergence of new centres of economic dynamism
- Accelerating inequality within and across nations
- Challenges to the existing social contract by a disillusioned and mobilized citizenry
- Technological and organizational transformation linking people directly
- Climate change

# GLOBAL ACTION PATHS TO ADDRESS DRIVERS

- Integrated solutions across interconnected issues areas such as development, peace and security, human rights and humanitarian action
- Universal dialogue
- Mobilization of new constituencies to join Governments and international organizations
- new norms, structures and processes for international cooperation

# MOVING TOWARDS 2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The next five years will be crucial for

- defining and agreeing on a common vision for the future,
- making path-shaping investments,
- broadening the base of constituencies working together and
- adopting a flexible but robust international architecture that can address the increasing stresses on our international system.

# ELEMENTS OF POST 2015 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

- Accelerate progress on the Millennium Development Goals
- Address climate change
- Forge consensus around a post-2015 sustainable development framework
- Prevention
- Building a safer and more secure world by innovating and building on our core business
- Supporting nations in transition
- Working with and for women and young people

*LESSONS LEARNED FROM IMPLEMENTING  
MDGs AND SOME OTHER GLOBALLY AGREED  
GOALS*

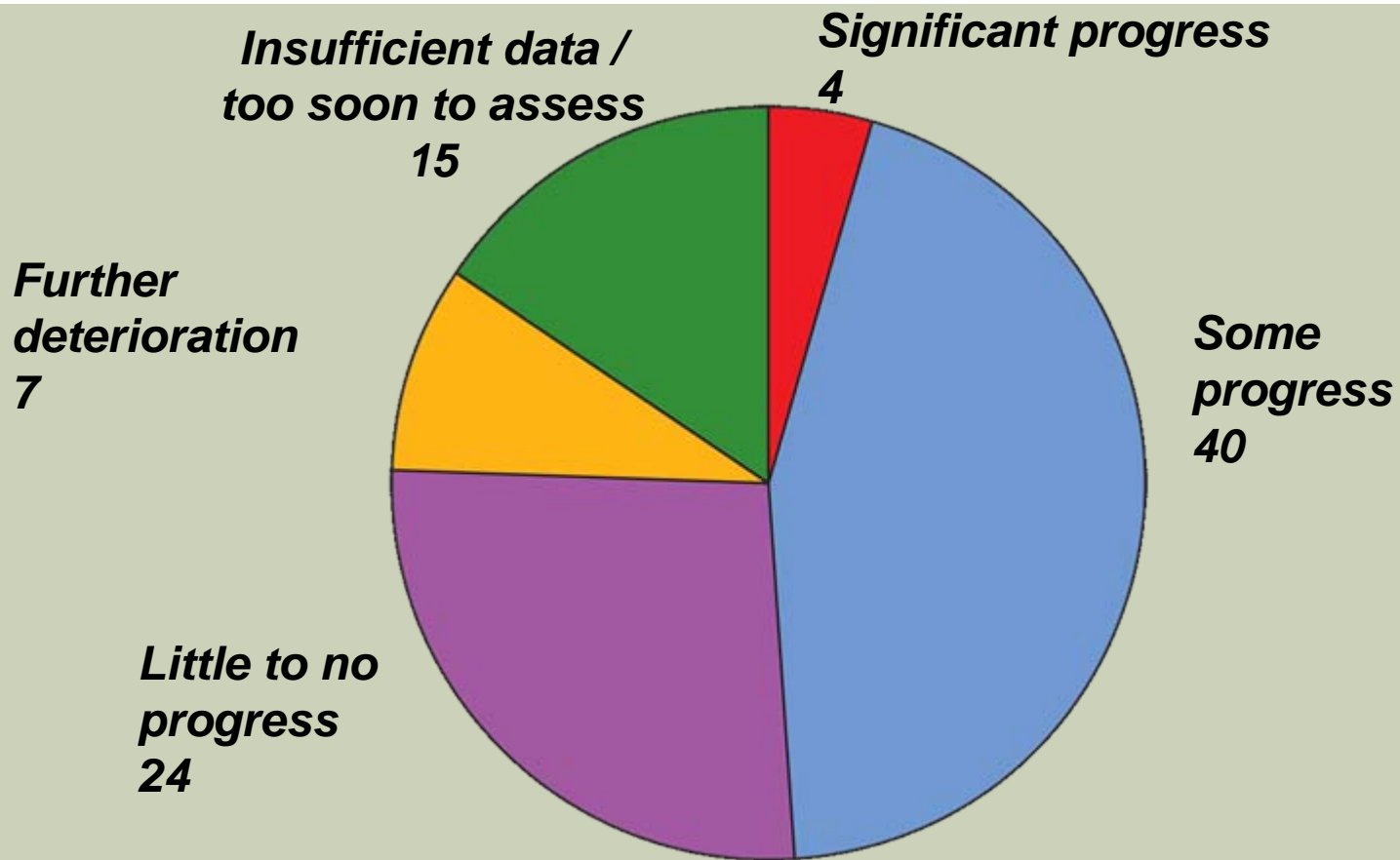
Data Gaps: *“what can’t be measured, can’t  
be managed”*

# MDGS AND GECS FACTS

- 8 MDGS
- 18 TIME BOUND TARGETS AND
- 48 QUANTITATIVE INDICATORS
  - SOME PROGRESS, THREE BEING MET BY 2015
- UNEP GEO-5 ANALYSIS OF 90 GLOBALLY ENVIRONMENTAL AGREED GOALS
  - SOME PROGRESS, ONLY 4 ARE SOMEHOW MET



# REALIZATION OF GLOBAL GOALS: ANALYSIS IN GEO-5



90 Internationally agreed goals and objectives assessed

# WHICH INDICATOR FOR MEASURING PROGRESS

- Provide relevant and robust measures of progress towards the targets of the Millennium Development Goals
- Be clear and straightforward to interpret and provide a basis for international comparison
- Be broadly consistent with other global lists and avoid imposing an unnecessary burden on country teams, Governments and other partners
- Be based to the greatest extent possible on international standards, recommendations and best practices
- Be constructed from well-established data sources, be quantifiable and be consistent to enable measurement over time

# CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS IN MEASURING MDGS

- The lack of adequate data
- The availability of data needed to calculate the indicators in each country depends on the capacity of the national statistical services to produce the necessary data and/or to report them in a timely manner to the relevant international agencies
- Slow communication of recent data from countries
- Lack of compilation of the indicators (leading agencies to make estimates based on data available on related variables or other methodologies)
- Risks of sampling errors for survey data
- Timelag between surveys

# CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS FOR MEASURING MDGS

- Difficulties to have disaggregated data
- Limited reliability of some datasets (e.g. difficulty in distinguishing deaths related to pregnancy from deaths that are not)
- Differences in use of terminology: (the definition of *skilled* health personnel)
- Absence of trend data for newly monitored indicators
- Incomplete measurements or proxies
  - The designation of an area as protected is not confirmation that protection measures are actually in force.
  - Data from administrative sources on access to water sources generally refer to existing sources, whether used or not

# SOME CONCEPTUAL LIMITATIONS OF MDGS

- Focus on developing countries
- Sustainability overlooked
- MDG 7 scope too broad for easy definition of targets and indicator
- **Interlinkages between SD pillars not reflected**
- National circumstances downplayed

*POST RIO+20: ROAD AHEAD*

# SDGS IN "THE FUTURE WE WANT"

## PARAGRAPHS 245-251

- Recognize the importance and utility of a set of sustainable development goals,
  - Based on Agenda 21 and the JPOI and all the Rio Principles,
  - Taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities
  - Contribute to implementation of the outcomes of all major summits
  - Incorporate in a balanced way three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages.
  - Coherence with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015.

# SDGS IN “THE FUTURE WE WANT” PARAGRAPHS 245-251

- Sustainable development goals should be
  - action- oriented,
  - concise and easy to communicate,
  - limited in number,
  - aspirational,
  - global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities ...
- progress towards the achievement of the goals needs to be assessed and accompanied by targets and indicators, while taking into account different national circumstances, capacities ...
- need for global, integrated and scientifically based information on sustainable development.



# FOCUS OF UN TASK TEAM ON SDGS (INDICATORS WORKING GROUP)

- Options for long-term and intermediate targets
- Nexus between globalized, nationalized and localized targets be incorporated and operationalized in the post-2015 development agenda?
- Use of quantitative and qualitative targets in the post-2015 development agenda
- Which fields would require what kind of targets?
- Which advantages and disadvantages could the use of only quantitative or qualitative targets have?

# FOCUS OF UN TASK TEAM ON SDGS' INDICATORS

- Options to reflect inequalities in a new monitoring framework
- Possible role of enablers addressing the means to achieve the goals and of the inter-linkages between the three pillars of sustainable development
- Targets and indicators to guide an understanding of the factors determining achievement
- Issues in relation to current national statistical capacities and data availability
- Possible role of sub-national and regional institutions in the monitoring of targets and indicators

# RELEVANT ISSUES

## FOR GOALS

- Aspirational and Universal goals
- Non regression (MDGs)
- Coherency: reflect and interlink the 3 pillars of SD

## FOR INDICATORS

- Definition of flexible but concrete indicators
- Consideration of enablers
- Data sources and related capacity
- Data quality/reliability
- Methodologies
- Periodicity

# THANK YOU!

*Without clear metrics for measuring progress towards sustainable development, achieving internationally- agreed goals will remain elusive. In bringing sustainability to the core of decision-making, rethinking the way economic development and human well-being are currently measured and monitored becomes crucial. This requires a broader set of indicators for measuring economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development that go beyond GDP, the most used indicator of development.*

United Nations (2012). Resilient People, Resilient Planet: A Future Worth Choosing. Report of the United Nations Secretary- General's High-Level Panel on Global Sustainability. United Nations, New York, NY.