



CONTENTS

- Introduction
- The context, debates, and emerging issues
 - SDGs and MDGs
 - Building on the MDG experience
- Thinking ahead on SDGs
 - What could be a possible set of SDGs from an Indian perspective?
- Challenges and further steps
- Conclusion

This Policy Brief has been prepared by **Shilpi Kapur Bakshi and Ipsita Kumar**, TERI.

The Energy and Resources Institute
Darbari Seth Block, IHC Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110 003

Tel. 2468 2100 or 4150 4900
Fax. 2468 2144 or 2468 2145
India +91 Delhi (0) 11

www.teriin.org

India and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Introduction

An agreement by member states to establish a process to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was one of the main outcomes of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), popularly known as the Rio+20, convened in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. The idea of having SDGs was introduced in the run up to Rio+20 by the Governments of Colombia and Guatemala, and later supported by many countries.

The goals are intended to advance sustainable development through greater integration of its three pillars: economic, social, and environmental. It is also expected to guide and contribute to transformative change as stipulated in the Rio+20 Outcome Document, *The Future We Want* (hitherto referred to as the Outcome Document) in support of 'rights-based, equitable, and inclusive processes that enhance sustainability at global, regional, national, and local levels'.¹ The document clearly reaffirms the member states' commitment to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

The Outcome Document specifies the key attributes of the SDGs as mentioned in Box 1.

This Policy Brief, based on research on current international developments and consultations with policy-makers and other stakeholders, seeks to make suggestions on how India should engage with

Box 1

SDGs need to:

- Be universally applicable
- Include common but differentiated responsibilities
- Include a proper implementation framework
- Have accountability mechanisms that define and clearly specify the roles of various stakeholders
- Encourage democratic participation and transparency

¹ UNCSD (Rio+20) Outcome Document; Last accessed on 21 October 2013 from <http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/futurewewant.html>

the design of SDGs and ensure an alignment of its own Plan goals with the SDGs wherever possible to establish a greater synergy and efficiency in the achievements of these goals.

- It examines some of the critical issues in the debate around the design of the SDGs in the light of India's own Plan goals, and also as an active participant of the Post-2015 Development Agenda process;
- It analyses what could constitute a possible set of SDGs from an Indian perspective; and
- It identifies the challenges that India could face in operationalizing the goals.

The context, debates, and emerging issues

SDGs and MDGs

The discussions around the SDGs track have been accompanied by an important parallel track on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) beyond 2015, and the Post-2015 Development Agenda is becoming an umbrella term for both the tracks. Unlike the MDGs which was a very top-down, exclusive process, the Post-2015 Development Agenda calls for 'open, inclusive consultations involving civil society, the private sector, and academia and research institutions from all regions, in addition to the UN system to advance the development framework beyond 2015'.² The Post-2015 Development Agenda 'should build on the lessons learned from working towards achieving the MDGs which have been providing the structure for the UN's development activities since the Millennium Summit in 2000'.³ This agenda is due to come into play after the MDGs expire on 31 December 2015.

There is now widespread agreement among many member states in support of a convergence of the two tracks to create one set of development goals. The United Nations Secretary General (UNSG) has echoed this sentiment, saying that the 'MDGs and SDGs are mutually supporting concepts and the SDGs should accelerate and continue the work begun with the MDGs'.⁴ He explicitly 'called on the Open Working Group (OWG)⁵ to build on

the recommendations of the UN-HLP Report (2013)⁶ [...] and to coordinate elaboration of the SDGs with the Post-2015 Development Agenda'.⁷

Efforts are being made to avoid the exclusive process that characterized the identification of the MDGs in 2000, limiting the decision-making to government bodies with advice from experts. The process of designing SDGs is instead being seen to follow a multi-stakeholder process which includes participation of civil society — especially people at the grassroots and the most marginalized groups — in identification of priority areas, designing the set of goals and indicators, as well as in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

Figure 1 summarizes the timelines of the key milestones that have led to the two tracks: SDGs and MDGs beyond 2015, and their convergence to formulate the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

In a Brainstorming Session organized by TERI in January 2013 on the subject of SDGs, it was highlighted⁸ that the debate on whether and how the MDGs beyond 2015 and the SDGs should be converged is revolving around three strands:

- **Should SDGs finish what was started by the MDGs?** The MDGs included 8 goals and 21 targets. However, some of these target indicators did not completely address the objective of the goal. One example is from Goal 1 on eradicating extreme poverty and hunger. Although the goal seeks to *eradicate* extreme poverty, the target is to halve the population of people living below US\$ 1 a day. The target could be further enhanced to *completely eradicating poverty*. Therefore, should SDGs consider revisiting the MDGs and taking them forward to achieve what the goals hoped to achieve?
- **Should SDGs follow an MDG+ process?** This strand of the debate holds that the SDGs should add to the goals what the MDGs missed out on, such as goals on energy, sustainable lifestyles, sustainable cities, and others. In this view, SDGs would be like an add-on to the current MDGs.

² <http://www.post2015hlp.org/about/>

³ http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/mdg_goals/post-2015-development-agenda/

⁴ <http://www.un.org/sg/statements/index.asp?nid=6654>

⁵ As a part of the SDG process, a 30 member Open Working Group (OWG) was established on 22 January 2013 by decision 67/555 of the United Nations General Assembly. The international discussions on the SDGs are taking place formally through the Open Working Group (OWG) following agreement at the 2012 Rio+20. Some of the seats are shared; for example, India shares its seat with Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The OWG is in charge of elaborating on the Sustainable Developments Goals (SDGs). The OWG began its work in March 2013 and

has outlined its programme of work until February 2014, with a series of meetings based on different thematic areas.

⁶ The recently published Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel (HLP) of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda is one of the key inputs the UNSG will draw upon when making his recommendations to the UNGA in September 2013; Last accessed on 3 October 2013 from <http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf>

⁷ <http://www.iisd.ca/download/pdf/enb3201e.pdf>

⁸ Ms Caitlin Weisen, Country Director, UNDR, New Delhi was one of the panelists in the Session and shared these views in particular.

■ **Should SDGs adopt a new and radical approach?**

Although there is a need to obtain and sustain what the MDGs tried to achieve, the SDGs need to be formulated keeping in mind all the three pillars of sustainable development, and the path towards SDGs should not just stop at the MDGs but should look beyond it.

Further, the means of implementation of SDGs must be supported by actions from developed countries at the international level, such as time-bound financing targets, associated macroeconomic policies including trade and economic policies, technology transfer, and other resources to assist and enable developing countries' efforts in this direction.

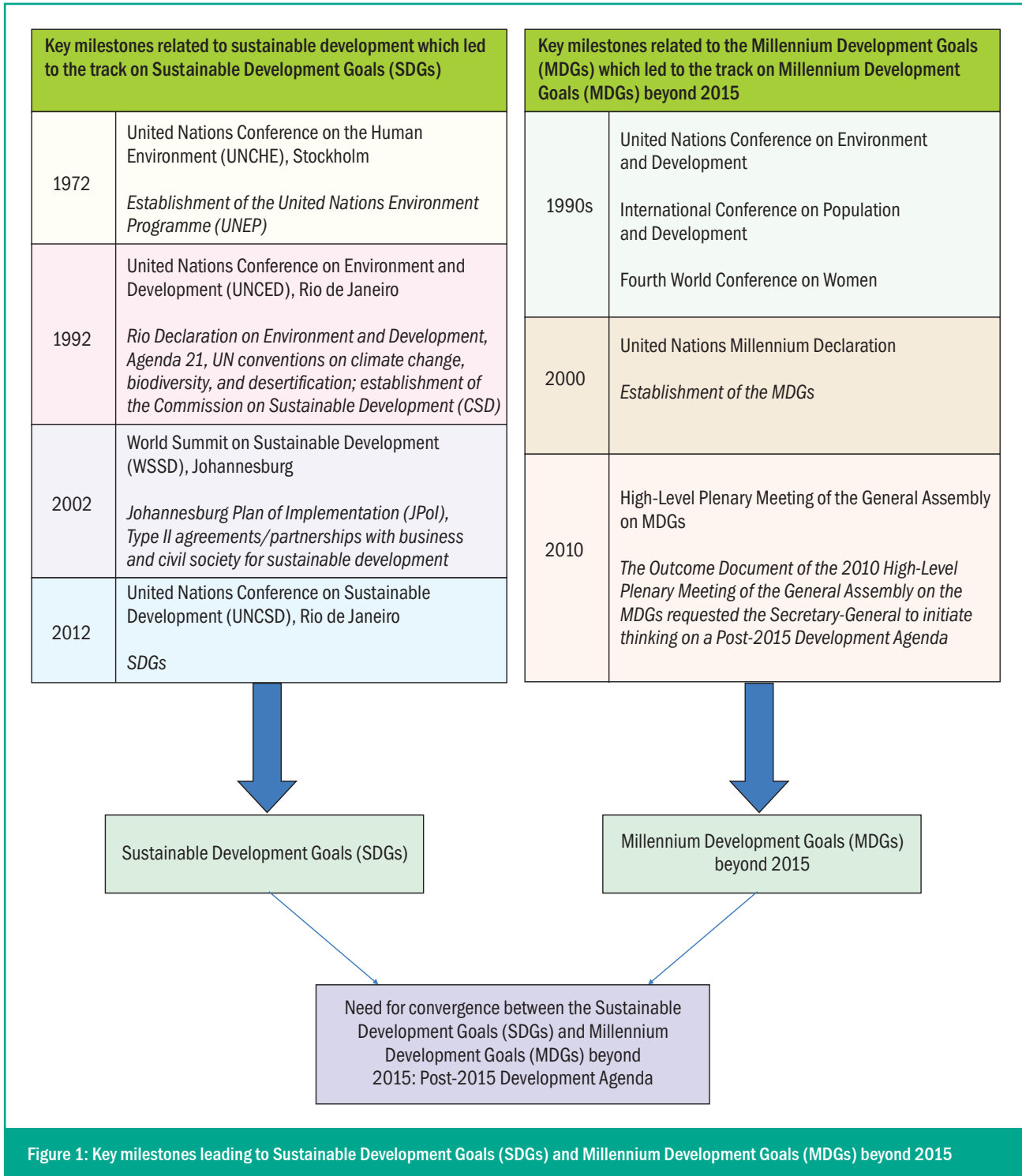


Figure 1: Key milestones leading to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) beyond 2015

Building on the MDG experience

In September 2000, the United Nations adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration⁹ to commit to a new global partnership to reduce extreme poverty and set out a series of goals with time-bound targets. These came to be known as the MDGs, which had 8 goals, 21 targets, and 60 indicators¹⁰ to be achieved by the end of 2015.

The focus of the MDGs on national and global averages and progress resulted in the masking of the much slower progress in, or even the growing disparities of such indicators at the sub-national level and among specific populations.

Regarding the progress on MDGs, the existing literature points out that achievement of the goals of different countries varies significantly. Given the general “one size fits all” nature of the MDGs¹¹, the issue of distribution was missed from any discourse on development and poverty eradication and commitments were focused on global averages; for example, to halve, by the year 2015, the number of poor people, and to reduce maternal mortality by three quarters, and under-

five child mortality by two thirds. The MDGs overlooked the way in which overlapping inequalities constrain the life chances of excluded groups and reinforce their social exclusion¹². However, redressing discrimination and inequalities will be essential if global opportunities for progress are to be shared by those most in need of its benefits¹³.

Although the MDGs did mention environment as a part of Goal 7, which was to ensure environmental sustainability, the goal missed out on many crucial aspects of the environment and in most cases, did not completely address the challenge through the means of targets and indicators.

The MDGs were only focused on the developing countries, while the SDGs need to have goals which also target developed countries. It is vital to ensure the active involvement of the developed countries, given their massive use of resources in the past and therefore to look at both, intra- and inter-country equity in achieving the SDGs.

Some specific shortcomings of the MDGs and the failure of the support framework are highlighted in Table 1.

Table 1: Millennium Development Goals: What went wrong?

Millennium Development Goals: What went wrong?		
Structural Issues	Problems with the Goals	Financial Support
Assumed “one size fits all” characteristics	Focus on meeting specific, absolute, and measurable aspects of poverty and under-development, such as hunger, or infant mortality	Targets and indicators for Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) were not backed up by any quantitative or time-bound targets
No goals or commitments for developed countries No compulsion for members to follow the MDGs	Failed to tackle the root causes of poverty and underdevelopment	Levels of international aid have been minimal and have not been able to play any significant role in fostering achievement of MDGs and targets
No indication of what happens if goals are unmet at the end of the target period	Little progress with MDG8: Fair open trading system, dealing with the debt problem, providing access to medication in developing countries, and making available the benefits of new technologies, including ICTs	Overall ODA required for supporting the MDGs estimated to be US\$ 195 billion in 2015 (equivalent to 0.44 and 0.54 per cent of the combined GNP of donor nations ¹⁴); in 2012, the net ODA from developed countries was US\$ 125.6 billion, a meagre 0.29 per cent of donors’ combined gross national income (UNDP, 2013)
Goals decided through closed door discussions, left out many critical issues	Lack of accountability in the global partnership under MDG8	Inappropriate administration of funds in some cases

⁹ UN Millennium Project 2005. Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals. New York

⁹ <http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://mdgs.un.org/UNSD/MDG/Host.aspx?Content=Indicators/OfficialList.htm>

¹¹ Vandemoortele, J (2011), The MDG Story: Intention Denied. Development and Change, 42: 1–21.

¹² Kabeer N (2010a), “Can the MDGs provide a pathway to social justice? The challenges of intersecting inequalities”. IDS (Institute of Development Studies), Brighton, United Kingdom. Kabeer N. 2010b. “MDGs, Social Justice and the Challenge of Intersecting Inequalities.” Policy Brief 3. Centre for Development Policy and Research, London

¹³ UNSTT (2012), Addressing inequalities: The heart of the post-2015 agenda and the future we want for all. UN system task team on the post 2015 UN development agenda.

In sum, the MDGs have not succeeded in integrating all the principles outlined in the Millennium Declaration, which includes reducing inequality. In the Executive Summary of the HLP¹⁴ Report, it is mentioned¹⁵:

[T]he MDGs fell short by not integrating the economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration, and by not addressing the need to promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production. The result was that environment and development were never properly brought together. People were working hard — but often separately — on interlinked problems.

So the important question at this point is how should the SDGs address these shortcomings which have surrounded the MDGs?

Thinking ahead on SDGs

To address the shortcomings of the MDGs, and issues around global and national sustainability requires that SDGs include not just what affects us as individuals, such as poverty eradication, health, and energy, but also those factors that affect global society as a whole — climate change, and food and water security. Through SDGs, we aim to address not just the pressures on the environment and people but also the impacts that the environment and the people living in it will face. This requires a frontal engagement with the three pillars of sustainable development.

How should these three pillars be integrated into the structure of the SDGs? This is an important question that is witnessing a growing debate, and two approaches are being discussed:

- To have three separate sets of goals — social, economic, and environmental — for the three pillars of sustainable development
- To integrate the three pillars of sustainable development in each goal

While some members of the OWG, such as India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, talk about having separate social goals, economic goals, and environmental goals, others, such as the group consisting of Colombia and Guatemala,

talk about the integration of all three pillars of sustainable development within every goal that is identified.

One of the reasons for supporting the first approach is that often developing countries believe that not delineating separate goals might lead to environmental goals taking undue primacy over economic and social goals. Also financial and technical assistance are often allocated under social, economic, and environmental heads and not marking these heads under SDGs might lead to confusion and reduced assistance.

India should actually adopt the second approach as it may be more appropriate considering the inter-linkages and cross-cutting nature of many sustainable development challenges along with integrating the three pillars of sustainable development in each goal. This would also be more aligned with its own direction on its Five-Year Plan goals. The targets and indicators with respect to a goal should reflect all the pillars of sustainable development. India's 12th Five-Year Plan is titled *Faster, More Inclusive, and Sustainable Growth* and envisions simultaneous achievement of these elements as crucial for the success of the Plan. The Plan says, '[it] must be guided by a vision of India moving forward in a way that would ensure a broad-based improvement in living standards of all sections of the society through a growth process which is faster than in the past, more inclusive, and also more environmentally sustainable'¹⁶. The Plan, thus, calls for more attention to be given to the issue of sustainability. It states, 'No development process can afford to neglect the environmental consequences of economic activity, or allow unsustainable depletion and deterioration of natural resources'.

What could be a possible set of SDGs from an Indian perspective?

Taking forward these ideas and learning from the MDGs, and arguing for the case of convergence of the SDGs and the MDGs beyond 2015, we propose a set of goals that could be considered as a possible set of SDGs (see Table 2). These goals attempt to capture the principle of universality and human and ecological well-being, and could be adapted to take a differentiated approach depending on their respective responsibilities under international agreement and taking into account variations in development levels. Also included in these goals are cross-cutting and interlinked objectives, such

¹⁴ The High-level Panel (HLP) consists of 27 members with a mandate to give advice on the global development framework beyond 2015. It includes representation from civil society, private sector, and government.

¹⁵ http://www.un.org/sg/management/pdf/HLP_P2015_Report.pdf

¹⁶ Point 1.45 in the 12th Five Year Plan Document; Last Accessed on 3rd October 2013 from http://planningcommission.gov.in/hackathon/Macroeconomic_Framework.pdf

Table 2: Possible set of SDGs

Possible Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Potential Sub-Goals	Example of Linkages with Cross-Cutting Objectives
Ensuring sustainable energy for all	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Universal access to modern energy ■ Enhancing energy efficiency ■ Protecting the environment by increasing share of renewable energy ■ Cleaning the fossil fuel sources of energy 	<p>Poverty eradication: Reduces time and income poverty</p> <p>Gender equality: Reduces the time and physical burden on women and also creates livelihood opportunities for women</p> <p>Employment creation: Facilitates promotion of household level enterprises and creates livelihood opportunities in renewable energy sector</p> <p>Environmental health: Reduces indoor air pollution and improves environmental health</p> <p>Human health: Improvement in environmental health also promotes human health</p> <p>Resource efficiency: Promotes energy use efficiency</p>
Ensuring universal access to potable water and sanitation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Access to reliable clean water supply to households including safe drinking water ■ Improving water use efficiency and reduce water loss ■ Water resource conservation and management ■ Access to safe drinking water and improved sanitation and hygiene ■ Addressing contamination and pollution of surface water and overuse of groundwater ■ Managing wastewater based on the concept of reduction/omission, treatment, reuse/discharge 	<p>Poverty eradication: Reduces time and income poverty, and is essential for ensuring food and energy security</p> <p>Gender equality: Reduces the time and physical burden on women who collect the water from source improving their health and education outcomes</p> <p>Environmental health: Proper sanitation, particularly solid waste and wastewater management, prevents contamination of the environment and natural resources</p> <p>Human health: Reduces the physical burden on women and children, who collect the water from source; proper sanitation reduces other health risks</p> <p>Employment creation: Water and wastewater management can create employment opportunities for local inhabitants</p> <p>Resource efficiency: Promotes water use efficiency and management</p>
Ensuring sustainable cities and safe and secure human settlements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Access to shelter for all ■ Promotion of green buildings ■ Improvement of public transport in the more populous cities ■ Encouraging green cover and open spaces in cities ■ Ensuring resource use efficiency (water, energy, materials) of construction ■ Improvement of road infrastructure in cities ■ Improving infrastructure of non-motorized transport ■ Reducing the number of traffic accidents resulting in death or serious injury ■ Promoting environmentally sound waste disposal, treatment, and recycling 	<p>Poverty eradication: Reduces urban poverty and improves quality of living</p> <p>Gender equality: Reduces the time and physical burden on women in the household, positive social impacts on women with access to shelter and transport infrastructure</p> <p>Environmental health: Improved public transport and use of renewable energy reduces environmental pollution</p> <p>Human health: Improved indoor climate in buildings has a positive impact on human health; increased share of non-motorized transport and public transport reduces air pollution and improves human health</p> <p>Employment creation: Well-managed cities can provide an economic environment capable of generating employment opportunities</p> <p>Resource efficiency: Promotes resource use efficiency of different kinds by improving public transport and promoting green buildings</p>

Possible Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Potential Sub-Goals	Example of Linkages with Cross-Cutting Objectives
Fostering disaster risk reduction and creating resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Having in place early warning systems ■ Reducing the risk of disasters ■ Improving rehabilitation and resettlement for all disasters ■ Arrangements for long-term disaster recovery ■ Disaster resilient infrastructure ■ Adopting and implementing policies and plans that integrate comprehensive and multi-sectoral measures to strengthen resilience 	<p>Poverty eradication: Reducing the risk of getting affected by disasters reduces the chances of falling into poverty; disaster risk reduction protects development investments and helps societies to accumulate wealth in spite of hazards</p> <p>Gender equality: Promotes gender parity in educational outcomes by reducing negative impact on education (which is higher for girls); reduces vulnerabilities and helps build capacities of women and girls placed at heightened risk of disaster</p> <p>Environmental health: Reduces environmental degradation and improves natural resource management</p> <p>Human health: Reduces hazard impacts on human health and well-being; safer, better prepared, and resilient health-care facilities improve health outcomes</p> <p>Employment creation: Reduction in losses to economic infrastructure prevents destruction of employment opportunities</p> <p>Resource efficiency: Prevents loss of resources that comes with destruction</p>
Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Addressing water pollution ■ Promoting water conservation and management ■ Managing land use change ■ Managing waste ■ Addressing climate change through moderating greenhouse gas emission levels ■ Combating desertification ■ Preserving mountain ecosystems ■ Conserving biodiversity ■ Promoting eco-tourism, forests, and tree cover ■ Responsible mining ■ Promoting sustainable procurement 	<p>Poverty eradication: The poorest sections of society are the closest to the natural resource base, as their livelihood and daily activities are linked to it; any changes, positive or negative, would affect them the most</p> <p>Gender equality: Women are more dependent on natural resources and better quality of natural resources enhances the well-being of women in many ways</p> <p>Environmental health: Reduces degradation and contamination of natural resources and the natural environment</p> <p>Human health: Improved environmental quality impacts human health positively</p> <p>Employment creation: Preservation and conservation of natural resources generates livelihoods</p> <p>Resource efficiency: Prevents loss of resources that comes about with degradation</p>
Ensuring food security – production, access, and nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Encouraging sustainable agriculture with focus on increasing small landholder productivity and income ■ Access to healthy and adequate food for all year round ■ Ending malnutrition amongst all sections of society ■ Building enduring adequate infrastructure for farming societies, including improved irrigation, storage, and transport facilities, etc. ■ Preventing loss and wastage of food ■ Risk reduction techniques to mitigate the impacts of floods, droughts, etc., on yield 	<p>Poverty eradication: Increases income of agricultural farmers, and those related to the agricultural sector</p> <p>Gender equality: Reduces malnutrition among women, creates improved opportunities for women farmers, etc.</p> <p>Environmental health: Sustainable agriculture prevents degradation of natural resources and environmental resilience</p> <p>Human health: Helps reduce stunting and infant/child mortality related to hunger and malnutrition</p> <p>Employment: Creates incentive to work in farming</p> <p>Resource efficiency: Required to promote sustainable agricultural practices and to prevent wastage of resources</p>

Possible Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Potential Sub-Goals	Example of Linkages with Cross-Cutting Objectives
Promoting human resource development – focus on education and skill enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Universal primary and secondary education ■ Ensuring quality of education (pupil-teacher ratio, trained, and professional teachers) ■ Reducing drop-out rates ■ Increasing the average years of education ■ Enhancing vocational and/or skill training for the youth 	<p>Poverty reduction: Higher education in many respects would mean income rise as well as reduction in inequality</p> <p>Gender equality: Sending girls to school reduces gender inequality and enhances the spill over on other aspects of life such as health and awareness</p> <p>Employment: Higher education and a better skill set creates more capable youth; this would lead to better opportunities for the society as a whole and increase their employability</p> <p>Environmental health: Education and spread of awareness and knowledge reduces misuse of environment and natural resources</p> <p>Human health: Education and awareness promotes healthy behaviour and improves health outcomes</p>
Protecting the oceans and marine ecosystems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Protecting the oceans and marine ecosystems by banning/reducing the use of practices that may cause irreversible damage to the ecosystem ■ Restoring the damages caused to the ecosystems ■ Ensuring sustainable livelihoods and sustainability of other economic activities dependent on the ecosystems ■ Reducing/preventing ocean acidification ■ Preventing overexploitation of the coastal areas ■ Reducing the pollution and the waste disposed in coastal areas and the oceans ■ Reversing the effects of loss of habitat in the oceans 	<p>Poverty reduction: As a link to sustaining livelihoods of the fishing community</p> <p>Gender equality: Women are highly involved in fishing activities and this would reduce their vulnerability</p> <p>Environmental health: Helps preserve biodiversity and a multitude of environmental/ecosystem services</p> <p>Human health: Pollution of coastal areas increases health burdens on the communities living close to the coastal region</p>

* The term 'completed' is used because enrollment may not necessarily imply that they have finished their education.
 Source: Based on stakeholder consultations

as poverty eradication, reduction in gender inequality, enhanced employment and livelihood opportunities, improved health (environmental and human) outcomes, and fostering resource efficiency.

Challenges and further steps

India needs to actively contribute to the relevant inter-governmental negotiations that are taking place in the lead up to 2015. It is essential that India has a plan in place to engage with positions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda emerging from forums such as BRICS (association of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), IBSA (India, Brazil, and South Africa), and the G20 (Group of 20 major economies). The SDGs agenda, as it unfolds at the international level, will generate many challenges

within the national context that will need to be addressed if progress has to be made. What are these challenges and the possible means to address them?

- **Raising awareness about the SDGs among the public, and deciding to what extent they are (to be) integrated with the national goals and priorities will pose an important challenge:** Sensitization work will be needed by both the civil society and the governments to create public awareness to encourage meeting of the goals. In the near future, it will also be important to build consensus around the key themes and strategies for the Post-2015 Development Agenda among the members of the civil society. This will enable greater mobilization of energies, inputs, and insights necessary to shape an agenda that is strongly rooted in the principles of

human rights and social justice while also setting the stage for the supporting and monitoring processes that need to be in place once the new development agenda is adopted.

- **The direct involvement of communities in the agenda setting process:** Direct involvement of communities — with a special focus on women and other socially excluded groups — will help create the basis for a locally relevant and accountable development framework.
- **Developing a clear commitment within government:** A clear commitment at the highest level for implementation of the goals and integration of policy objectives in different sectors, and the involvement of other stakeholders including the civil society, will require creating a framework, including a focal point to facilitate and monitor the progress towards these goals.
- **Strengthening the federal structure and institutions:** Though the federal system is well placed to implement a sustainable development agenda, its various tiers and actors need to be strengthened and sensitized in terms of human and financial capacity to enable improved service delivery and governance. It is important to recognize the central role of participatory processes involving local bodies including Gram Panchayats, other Village Local Bodies (VLB), and Urban Local Bodies (ULB) for realizing socio-economic development while protecting the environment. There are some capacity constraints, notably at the state and local panchayat levels, in terms of technical and financial resources which need to be addressed.
- **Collection of data, monitoring, and accountability:** Local, national, and global data collection, which is highly disaggregated and uses new tools such as GIS mapping, remote sensing, and social networking, will need to be undertaken. As part of the financing mechanisms, international organizations such as multilaterals and bilaterals, funds and foundations, and programmes of the United Nations should support the national governments in designing, collecting, and harmonizing the data.
- **Continuous sustainability assessments:** Consolidation of information and data already available that highlights the country's trends on factors depicting sustainability (or unsustainability) is required.
- **Networks of innovators and social entrepreneurs should be strengthened and supported:** Such networks should be strengthened and supported (possibly using a model similar to the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research) and efforts should be increased towards forming and funding more cross-cultural teams and relationships to promote knowledge sharing across both North–South as well as South–South.
- **Financial and technical support by the developed world:** Support that mobilizes additional resources in innovative ways without diverting national or multilateral assistance from the imperatives of development and poverty alleviation is required.
- **Diversifying funding sources can be an important part of achieving sustainability:** The options include:
 - Expanding the resource base through stronger and more predictable partnerships with major donors;
 - New approaches for pooling private and public revenue streams to scale up or develop activities for the benefit of partner countries. Here Public–Private Partnerships (PPP) must play an important role in financing sustainable development, particularly for infrastructure and urban development;
 - New revenue streams (e.g., charges, fees, taxation, bond raising, sale proceeds, or voluntary contribution schemes) earmarked for environmental and developmental activities on a multi-year basis; and
 - New incentives (financial guarantees, corporate social responsibility, or other rewards or recognition) to address market failures or scale up ongoing developmental activities and resource and environmental management.
- **Diffusion and transfer of technology to India and other developing countries should be facilitated:** New technologies also offer tremendous opportunities to deliver public services, including healthcare, education, and basic infrastructure, to more people at a lower cost and with a much lower use of primary resources. It may also help to identify technologies where capabilities (North–South and/or South–South) could be combined

with needs to deliver appropriate solutions, and also explore ideas such as eco-patent commons and technology commons in the line of creative commons that foster knowledge sharing and promote sustainable development.

- **South–South Cooperation to supplement North–South Cooperation:** More innovative ways and thinking is required to creatively involve these groups in producing more effective outcomes. South–South Cooperation in sharing of knowledge, experience, and learning has to be accompanied by a significant enhancement of North–South aid and technological flows. The importance of Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) should not be diluted. With many developing countries facing contracting capital flows, economic slowdown, and fiscal difficulties, the need for enhanced ODA becomes even more critical than before.

Conclusion

For the achievement of sustainable development in the long run, it is essential to have the right type of goals and indicators that, in addition to being global in nature, should not ignore the national context. There should be convergence of the SDGs and the MDGs beyond 2015. All pillars of sustainable development should be integrated in every SDG that is framed.

The role of civil society will be very important for the success of such goals, and therefore, it is important to mainstream them into the planning process. It is also necessary to have clear means of implementation for the SDGs, which can be the building blocks including financing, governance, and availability of technology.

References

- Kabeer N (2010a), “Can the MDGs provide a pathway to social justice? The challenges of intersecting inequalities”. IDS (Institute of Development Studies), Brighton, United Kingdom
- Kabeer N (2010b), “MDGs, Social Justice and the Challenge of Intersecting Inequalities.” Policy Brief 3. Centre for Development Policy and Research, LondonVandemoortele, J. (2011), The MDG Story: Intention Denied. Development and Change, 42: 1–21
- UNSTT (2012), Addressing inequalities: The heart of the post 2015 agenda and the future we want for all. UN system task team on the post 2015 UN development agenda
- UN - HLP (2013), A new global partnership: eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development. The report of the High-Level Panel (HLP) of eminent persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. United Nations
- UN Millennium Project (2005), Investing in Development: A Practical Plan to Achieve the Millennium Development Goals. New York

NOTES

This is part of a series of policy briefs by TERI based on its research work in specific areas. These briefs are made available to members of parliament, policy-makers, regulators, sectoral experts, civil society, and the media. The briefs are also accessible at <http://www.teriin.org/policybrief/>. The purpose is to focus on key issues and list our policy recommendations to encourage wider discussion and debate. We would very much value your comments and suggestions.

Previous policy briefs

Title	Date
1. Strengthening agricultural biotechnology regulation in India	September 2010
2. Critical non-fuel minerals security: why India urgently needs to have a policy in place	December 2010
3. India's coal reserves are vastly overstated: is anyone listening?	March 2011
4. Don't tinker with the clock to save energy	August 2011
5. Governance of mining in India: responding to policy deficits	June 2012
6. Enhancing water-use efficiency of thermal power plants in India: need for mandatory water audits	December 2012
7. Petroleum product pricing reforms in India: are we on the right track?	March 2013
8. Shale gas in India: look before you leap	June 2013
9. Engagement with sustainability concerns in public procurement in India: why and how?	August 2013

For more information contact:

Dr Shilpi Kapur Bakshi

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)
Darbari Seth Block,
IHC Complex, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi- 110003

Tel: 24682100 or 41504900
Fax: 24682144 or 24682145
Web: www.teriin.org
E-mail: shilpi.kapur@teri.res.in



The Energy and Resources Institute

