



Sustainable Development Goals

United Nations defines Sustainable Development as: "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." After three year long negotiations following Rio+20 summit in 2012, the 193 member states of United Nations have finally reached consensus on Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or Global Goals. The agenda document lists out 17 goals and 169 associated targets to be achieved by the year 2030. These goals encompass the three pillars of sustainable development – social, economic and environmental. The goals aim to build on the work of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which had a fifteen year agenda (2001-2015) to tackle global issues.

Unlike the MDGs which were developed by a relatively small group of international development experts and donors, the SDGs are a product of a multi-stakeholder drafting process. Thus these goals represent a political process involving participation and diversity. While the MDGs had focused only on developing nations, SDGs have goals that target developed countries as well. The developed nations have been tasked with creating sustainable cities, better education, security and cleaner agriculture.

Although MDGs had touched upon 'environment' as a part of its seventh goal, it had missed out several crucial environmental aspects. It was grossly inadequate in addressing the complexity of environmental challenges by means of set targets and indicators. SDGs have taken conscious steps towards bridging this gap. SDGs are thus more comprehensive than MDGs in addressing the causes as well as the consequences of poverty and inequality.

One of the major obstacles in achieving the MDGs was the insufficient flow of aid funds from developed countries. The SDGs have put sustainable and inclusive economic development at the core of the strategy and attempts to address the ability of countries to meet social challenges largely through improving their own revenue generating capabilities. Another major obstacle has been the lack of consistent data for monitoring, evaluating and holding accountability of the progress of MDGs. The SDGs aims to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts by the year 2020.

During the past fifteen years, it has been observed that peaceful, reasonably well-governed countries have prospered. Experts predict that after 2015, the majority of those in extreme poverty will be living in conflict-affected states. As a result of conflicts, poor governance and environmental degradation, Poverty is most persistent in these regions. It is true that a great deal has been achieved by several countries including India, China and Brazil in achieving different Millennium Development Goals. However, with regard to countries like China, Vietnam which has attained considerable success with MDGs, the prevailing absence of freedom and civic spaces is an area of concern.

With paucity of funds and impediments in the transfer of technology, it is to be seen how SDGs would be able to address different social and environmental challenges in the coming fifteen years.

17 Global Goals

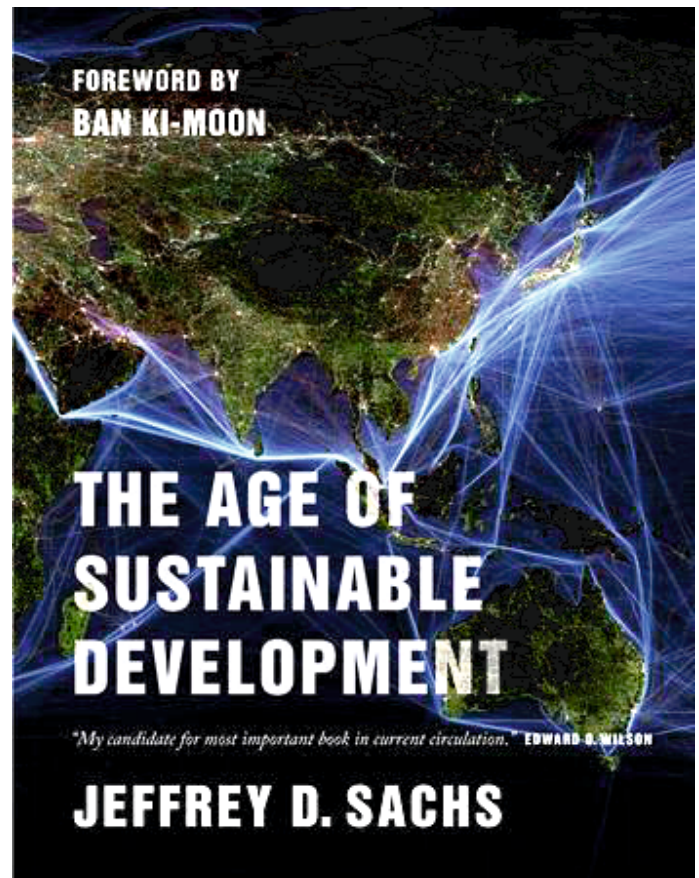
- 1 End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- 2 End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
- 3 Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- 4 Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- 5 Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- 8 Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- 9 Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- 10 Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- 13 Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- 14 Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- 15 Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- 17 Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Book Scan

'The Age of Sustainable Development'

by Jeffrey D Sachs

Publisher: Columbia University Press(2015)



“The Age of Sustainable Development’ focuses on the issues related to global society and world economy in the context of environment sustainability. It recommends a holistic framework, in which the society aims for environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive development, underpinned by good governance. This book describes key challenges and solutions for sustainable development. The author tries to inspire people from different countries to engage in problem solving, brainstorming and in determining new and creative ways to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth.”

India's Progress in MDGs

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme Hunger & Poverty

- In 1990, the all India Poverty Head Count Ratio (PHCR) was estimated to be 47.8%. In order to meet the 2015 target, the PHCR level has to be 23.9%. In 2011-12, the PHCR was 21.9%.
- In 2015, malnourishment declined to 40 percent. This is still below the target of reducing malnourishment to 26 percent.

Goal 2: Achieve Primary Education

- The Net Enrolment Ratio in primary education (2013-14) increased to 88.08%.
- At an average, the Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds rose to 86.1%.
- At the national level, male and female youth literacy rate is likely to be at 94.81% and 92.47% by 2015.

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

- At present, the proportion of seats in National Parliament held by women is only 12.24% against the target of 50%.

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

- India's Under Five Mortality (U5MR) declined from 125 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 49 per 1,000 live births in 2013. The MDG target is of 42 per 1000.
- Infant mortality rate stands at 40 per 1000 in 2013 against MDG target of 27 per 1000. IMR is lowest in Kerala (12) and highest for Madhya Pradesh (54).

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

- India is required to reduce Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) to 109 per 100,000 live births by 2015. In 2009, MMR had declined to 167 per 100,000 live births.
- Delivery in institutional facilities increased from 26 percent in 1992-93 to 72 percent in 2009.



Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Other Diseases

- Adult prevalence of HIV/AIDS came down from 0.45 percent in 2002 to 0.36 in 2009.
- Tuberculosis prevalence per lakh population declined from 465 in year 1990 to 211 in 2013.
- Incidence of Malaria consistently fell from 2.12 per thousand in 2001 to 0.72 per thousand by 2013, but slightly increased to 0.88 in 2014.

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

- Forest cover has increased to 21.23 percent - an increase of 5871 sq. km, and protected areas cover to about 4.83 percent of the country's total land area.
- The overall proportion of households having access to improved water sources increased from 68.2 percent in 1992-93 to 90.6 percent in 2011-12

Goal 8: Develop Global Partnership for Development

- As of 2014, India has the second largest telecom network in the world after China with 946.4 million.
- Total number of Internet subscribers has increased from 198.39 million in 2013 to 259.14 million in 2014, with an annual growth of 60%.

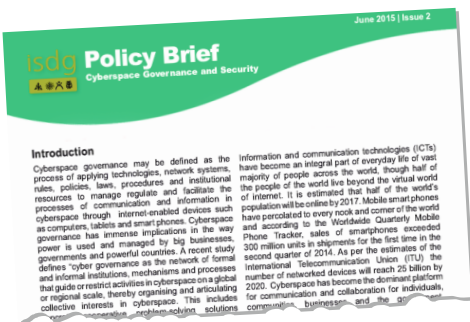
ISDG Updates

Seminar on Cyber Security and Governance | 19th June 2015

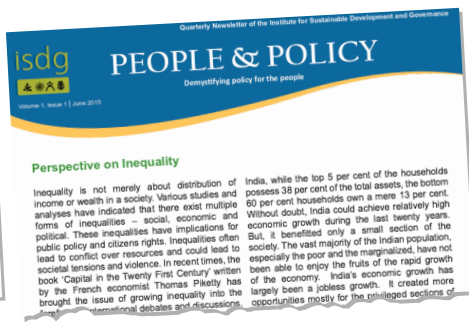
ISDG organised a National Seminar on 'Cyber Security & Governance' at the Press Club, Thiruvananthapuram. The Hon'ble Minister for Home & Vigilance, Shri. Ramesh Chennithala inaugurated the Seminar. Defence Analyst Dr. Cherian Samuel, Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA), New Delhi delivered the keynote address. Dr. K.M. Shajahan also gave an insightful presentation. Shri. John Samuel, President, ISDG moderated the panel discussion. The seminar saw huge participation from academia, media and students.



Recent Publications



'Policy Brief –
Cyberspace Governance & Security'



'People & Policy' –
Inequality



'Kerala Budget Watch' –
Focus on SCSP/ST

Forthcoming Event: National Seminar on Development, Decentralization and Democracy – Oct 12, 2015



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