The Agenda 2030 – Driver of Change Towards Global Sustainability?

Tilman Altenburg, Markus Loewe
Ringvorlesung, 20. Oktober 2016
1. Global Megatrends towards 2030 – big challenges (TA)
   ⇒ The Agenda 2030, a driver of change?
2. The Agenda 2030: How it unfolded (ML)
3. Assessing the Sustainable Development Goals: Debate (ML/TA)
4. Open debate
Global Megatrends towards 2030 – Big challenges
1. World is changing – **to find pathways to a sustainable future we need to understand major trends**

2. Some fairly linear, easy to extrapolate: demographic trends, urbanization …

3. Others potentially disruptive: IT-revolution, Internet of Things; low carbon economy; scarcity of fertile land …

⇒ Here: Some highlights, especially on disruptive trends, not a “full list”

⇒ Questions, not yet answers …
Some trends explored in-depth in this lecture series:

- Social protection and social cohesion (Loewe)
- Decarbonization (Altenburg)
- Water-land-food interdependencies (Müller-Mahn)
- Inequality (Negre)
- IT and exclusive societies? (Buhr)
- Poverty eradication (Grimm)
Our current development pathway is unsustainable – need to invent new models of human development with sustainable footprint.

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/f1/Human_welfare_and_ecological_footprint_sustainability.jpg
Global Megatrends towards 2030: Challenges

Mankind is transgressing various „planetary boundaries

Source: Rockström et al. in Nature 461, 24 September 2009
Global Megatrends towards 2030: Challenges

Decarbonisation requires radical overhaul of fuel-based economies

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Redrawn from PriceWaterhouseCoopers Low Carbon Economy Index 2015
Huge uncertainties involved:

- (When) will the world economy decarbonise? In time or delayed?
- Pathways?
- Environmental consequences?
- What will a Green Economy look like? R&D? Tax policies? Trade policies?
- Social and geographical implications?
Global Megatrends towards 2030: Challenges

Population is growing rapidly in the poorest countries. Africa will quadruple population by 2100
Global Megatrends towards 2030: Challenges

Extreme poverty is declining …

**FIGURE 2.1** The Global Poverty Headcount Ratio and the Number of the Extreme Poor, 1990–2013

- Poverty headcount ratio (% of people who live below $1.90)
- Number of people who live below $1.90 a day (right axis)


*Note:* Poverty is measured using the 2011 US$1.90-a-day PPP poverty line.

World Bank, 2016: Taking on Inequality, Washington, D.C.
.. but much too slowly in Africa and South Asia

**FIGURE 2.3** Regional and World Trends, Number of the Extreme Poor, 1990–2013

𝘭ોખ્ની પોરીના લોકોની સંખ્યા, એકત્રિત પીઠપત્ર, 1990–2013

- East Asia and Pacific
- Eastern Europe and Central Asia
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Middle East and North Africa
- South Asia
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- World


*Note:* Poverty is measured using the 2011 US$1.90-a-day PPP poverty line. The breaks in the trends shown in the figure arise because of the lack of good-quality data.

World Bank, 2016: Taking on Inequality, Washington, D.C.
Global Megatrends towards 2030: Challenges

- Will poverty decline at the current rate? Will pockets of poverty remain? How to deal with them?
  - 0.5 $/day poverty does NOT decline!
  - Poverty in failing states?

- How will poverty evolve when Africa has 4x more inhabitants?
Urbanization accelerating globally..

- 1950: 700 million
- 1990: 2.3 billion
- 2010/15: 3.5 billion
- 2050: 6.5-7 billion (80% of global pop.)

• Same amount of infrastructure will be added as has been built since the beginning of industrialization
  • China: more cement used 2008-10 than during entire 20th century in US
• … will use up most of the CO2 budget (1.5°C Scenario), if conventional materials are used
Unprecedented global boom of consuming middle classes adds to pressure on global resources

https://qzprod.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/middle-class-spending.png?w=611
Global Megatrends towards 2030: Challenges

How are trends towards urbanization and fast expansion of consuming middle classes compatible with decarbonization?

– Car ownership? Meat consumption?
– Sustainable megacities?
– Innovative urban cultures?
Megatrend ‘Digital economy’:

- New opportunities to enhance firm productivity … but little effect on aggregate labour productivity

World Bank, World Development Report 2015, Wash. DC
Global Megatrends towards 2030: Challenges

Automation of jobs likely to accelerate

Figure O.18 From a technological standpoint, two-thirds of all jobs are susceptible to automation in the developing world, but the effects are moderated by lower wages and slower technology adoption.


World Bank, World Development Report 2015, Wash. DC
Global Megatrends towards 2030: Challenges

US: 47% of jobs: high probability of being substituted within 1-2 decades

Frey and Osborne, 2013
Inequality is reduced globally (rise of Asia) but increases within countries

World Bank, 2016: Taking on Inequality, Washington, D.C.

Returns to capital and labour diverging => unprecedented accumulation of wealth among ultra-rich

The 62 richest people in the world are worth more than the poorest 50%

Total wealth $bn

Source: Oxfam/Forbes
Summing up:

– Big changes happening
– Uncertainty about the future

All are interdependent:

Decarbonisation as a risk for industrial development/welfare … and driver of innovation

Urbanisation and rising middle classes as opportunity (> productivity, technological change) and risk (GHG emissions, resource depletion)

IT as driver of innovation, dematerialization of growth … but destroyer of jobs … etc

Net effects?

Strong plea for addressing the big questions in teaching & research and understanding the interdependencies!
„Business as usual is no longer an option, whether in terms of human dignity, equality or sustainability“

(EU Council, 16 December 2014)

⇒ Can the Agenda 2030 become a driver of change?
How has the 2030 Agenda evolved?
Early 1980s: many DCs highly indebted

- IMF, WB & other donors made new credits conditional on implem. of Stabilisation and Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPs)

- These programmes were based on „Washington Consensus“ ideology:
  - Poverty reduction comes quasi automatically with growth…
  - and growth requires first of all consolidation (less inflation, less public debt, less trade deficit)

But SAPs had only limited success:

- income poverty rates decreased in some DCs but stagnated in most
- indicators for education and health deteriorated in many DCs
- negative effects on environment in many DCs
- but governments of DCs did not feel responsible for these results: blamed donors

=> Three reactions
First reaction

Frustration: legitimacy of DC as such was called into question

- WB suggested to ‘bring DCs back in the driver’s seat’ to improve their ownership: DCs should develop their own Poverty Reduction Strategies

- OECD DAC starts debate on aid effectiveness: suggests 6 easily acceptable International Development Goals (IDGs) and 5 principles for all development co-operation geared to the achievement of these goals

**IDGs:**
1. halve share of people in poverty
2. primary education for all
3. progress toward gender equality
4. reduction by 2/3 in child mortality
5. reproductive health services for all
6. reverse loss of environmental resources

**Paris Declaration 2005**
**Accra Agenda 2008:**
1. ownership of DCs
2. donor alignment
3. donor harmonisation
4. managing for results (incl. coherence)
5. Mutual accountability of donor and partner countries
Call for a more „human development“

• UNICEF (1987): „Structural adjustment with a human face“

• UNDP establishes “Human Development Indicator” and “Human Development Reports” to measure non-financial aspects of dev’t

• manifold world conferences on social and environmental issues:
  1990   Education for all (Jomtien)
  1990   Children (New York)
  1992   Sustainable development (“Earth Summit”, Rio)
  1994   Natural disasters (Yokohama)
  1994   Population and development (Kairo)
  1995   Social development (Kopenhagen)
  1995   Women (Peking)
  1996   Habitat (Istanbul)
  1997   Nutrition (Rom)
…
Third reaction

Call for a more „sustainable development“

Concept developed during 1970s and 1980s but established at the international level in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio.
The Millennium Declaration (2000):

- Reforming the United Nations
- Protecting our common environment
- Development and poverty eradication
- Solving the special problems of Africa
- Human rights, democracy and good governance
- Protecting the vulnerable
- Peace, security and disarmament

MDGs:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
The MDGs

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5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development
Motives for establishing the MDGs

• Rescue Millennium Declaration from oblivion
• Strengthen accountability of policy makers in DCs and ICs
• Establish new deal between donor and partner countries: partnership instead of dependence of DCs
What did the MDGs achieve?

Rescued Millennium Declaration from oblivion:

- frequently taken up by media
- mobilised people and societies everywhere
- brought problems of DCs back to awareness of people in donor countries

Reasons?

- **limited** number of goals
- all **relevant** and **plausible**
- **easy** to understand, accept and communicate
What did the MDGs achieve?

**Strengthened accountability of policy makers in DCs and ICs:**

- policy makers make increasingly reference to their contributions to MDGs
- ODA increases…
- especially for LDCs …
- and especially for education, health
- Aid effectiveness is given more attention

**Reasons?**

MDGs are **SMART goals:** specific, measurable, agreed upon, realistic, time-bound

MDGs are **goals for people:** final end goals rather than instruments of development:
Governments of DCs are still in the driver’s seat
Figure 2: Development of ODA

What did the MDGs achieve?
What did the MDGs achieve?
What did the MDGs achieve?

Establish new deal / consensus between donor and partner countries:

- DC governments assume more responsibility
- Donor countries increase ODA spending
- ODA becomes better focused
- Significant progress of debt relief

Reasons?

- MDGs are relevant (by objective and subjective criteria)
- Goals for people: final end goals rather than instruments of dev’t
When 2015 approached, it was clear that a new agenda should repeat the strengths of the MDGs but avoid its weaknesses

**Strengths:**

- **Relevant** (by objective criteria) and plausible / acceptable (from people’s subjective perspective)

- **Short list of understandable goals:** easy to remember and easy to communicate

- **Goals for people:** final end goals rather than instruments of development, measuring outcomes, not inputs

- **SMART** (specific, measurable, agreed, realistic, time-limited) and hence suitable for measuring progress

**Weaknesses:**

- **non-comprehensive:**
  MDGs cover only parts of Millennium Declaration
  only some aspects of poverty and very incompletely sustainability issues

- **focus on DCs / non-universal:**
  many goals are irrelevant for within ICs;
  some goals are over-ambitious for DCs; others are trivial

- **Do not deal with trade-offs between goals:**
  short vs. long-term goals, economic vs. social vs. environmental goals
Who selects the new goals?

• Once again some representatives of OECD countries and international organisations
• Or the governments of all UN member countries
• Or just a group of countries (selected randomly or by election)
• Or a group of experts?
• Or all citizens of all countries of the world
Who selects the new goals?

MEMBER STATES

- Secretary-General
- Deputy Secretary-General

SG’s Special Adviser on Post-2015 Development Planning (ex officio member of HLP)

Informal Senior Coordination Group
(SG Special Adviser, Co-chairs UN Task Team and UNDG MDG Task Force)

LEADERSHIP

SECRETARY-GENERAL

High-level Panel
- Deliverable: Report to the SG by 31/05/13

Open Working Group
- Deliverable: Report on SDGs to 68th GA

UN Task Team
- Deliverable: Output to inform SG report
- Technical support to OWG

UNDG Nat. & Glob. Thematic Consultations
- Deliverable: Output to inform the SG report (also available to HLP)

Regional Consultation
- Deliverable: Output to inform the SG report (also available to HLP)

UN Global Compact
- Deliverable: Output to inform the SG report (also available to HLP)

SDSN**
- Deliverable: Output to inform the SG report (also available to HLP)

WORKSTREAMS

ONE SECRETARIAT

- Independent Secretariat to HLP
- UNTT Core Team Reporting to chairs of UNTT
- Post-2015 Team (cross-UN team supporting the UN process through the Informal Senior Coordination Group)

**no change to existing reporting lines.
** Sustainable Development Solutions Network
Which are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
The goals of the 2030 Agenda

1. No Poverty
2. No Hunger
3. Good Health
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Renewable Energy
8. Good Jobs and Economic Growth
9. Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace and Justice
17. Partnerships for the Goals

*with 169 targets and 230 indicators
The goals of the 2030 Agenda

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
# The goals of the 2030 Agenda

| 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* |
## The goals of the 2030 Agenda

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<td>14.</td>
<td>Conserve and sustainably use the <strong>oceans, seas and marine resources</strong> for sustainable development</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of <strong>terrestrial ecosystems</strong>, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Promote <strong>peaceful and inclusive societies</strong> for sustainable development, provide access to <strong>justice for all</strong> and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</td>
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<td>Strengthen the <strong>means of implementation</strong> and revitalize the <strong>global partnership for sustainable development</strong></td>
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SDGs als integrierte Nachhaltigkeitsziele?

- Social Goals 1-6
- Economic Goals 7-9
- Ecological Goals 12-15
- Goals 16 & 17: Governance, partnership
- Goals 10 & 11: Inequality, cities
How do we assess the SDGs?
Real progress in many ways …

+ Integrated approach
+ Agenda process more inclusive (compared to MDG)
+ Applies to all (including industrialised) countries, recognising common but differentiated responsibility
+ Recognition of planetary boundaries and explicit focus on various dimensions of environmental sustainability
+ Inequality recognised as important goal, principle of „leaving no one behind“ rather than averages
Agenda 2030 – concluding assessment

... but unresolved issues

– Too long list of goals, targets and indicators => risk of arbitrariness
– Many indicators not SMART (and lack of data) => accountability problems
– Some targets not relevant
– Lack of ambition in some goals
– Potential trade-offs not addressed
– Mixes targets and means of implementation

Overall: An important global agenda ... with a lot of room for improvement => opens up a big research agenda
Thank you ! – your opinion ?

Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) / German Development Institute
Tulpenfeld 6
D-53113 Bonn
Telefon: +49 (0)228-949 27-0
E-Mail: DIE@die-gdi.de
www.die-gdi.de
www.facebook.com/DIE.Bonn