

The UN Development Agenda - some highlights

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Further information:
globalfactcheck.org
ungoals.org
The diagram does not mean that the author considers particular targets or indicators appropriate or more important.

Should countries prioritise survival of the most vulnerable?

The 2020 goals for water and sanitation:
Part of the Istanbul Programme of Action reaffirmed by leaders in 2015: "an integral part of the new Agenda" (see below right).

The 2025 goals in Agenda 21 were agreed in Rio in 1992.
Reaffirmed by UN members in Rio in 2012 ("fully implement"); by leaders in 2015 in effect along with other conference and summit outcomes (paragraph 11, below); and by UN members in 2015-17, including in resolution 72/223.

Leaders in 2015:

Our shared principles and commitments ...

11. **We reaffirm the outcomes of all** major United Nations **conferences** and summits which have laid a solid foundation for sustainable development and have helped to shape the new Agenda. These include the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the World Summit on Sustainable Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Beijing Platform for Action and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development. We also reaffirm the follow-up to these conferences

<p>Now: "Human rights" (Leave no-one behind) Agreements from 1940s onwards, including right to information.</p>	<p>Overdue: Publicity campaign on all the agreed goals from conferences and summits. Promised in 2002 (Monterrey). Reaffirmed in effect in 2015 (Addis and New York Summit). Never delivered. Governments instead mislead on "MDGs" and "SDGs".</p>
<p>All countries "should take immediate measures to provide shelter to their homeless poor" - Agenda 21 (7.9)</p>	<p>"As soon as possible": Halt the rise in greenhouse gas emissions</p>
<p>"We commit to take action towards ...eradicating hunger at the earliest possible date." - World Food Summit 2009</p>	<p>By 2020 "Solemn commitment" to strive for water, sanitation and internet for all humans in Least Developed Countries. Survival, nutrition, trade goals in same Programme. Immunisation for all human children (World Health Assembly) Biodiversity targets (Aichi, 2010). The 21 "SDG" targets for 2020 include: Progress on greenhouse gases. Safe management of chemicals. Road deaths halved. Protect water ecosystems, forests, species. Employment. Climate finance - Richer countries to "mobilize" \$100bn/year for poorer countries.</p>
<p>"As quickly as possible" Develop programmes and initiatives to reduce disparities in child and maternal deaths "between and within developed and developing countries" - Johannesburg 2002</p>	
<p>"States shall provide...notification ...to potentially affected States on activities that may have a significant ...transboundary environmental effect" Rio Principle 19</p>	
<p>"integrated environmental and economic accounting in all...States at the earliest date" - Agenda 21 (8.42)</p>	

All other agreed UN principles, goals and targets

All agreements made/reaffirmed by the General Assembly unless ended.

A common error or lie is to equate "MDGs" or "SDGs" with the agreed UN development agenda.

By 2030
"SDG" targets.

Indicators (they are described as indicators, not criteria) are an "initial set" to be "refined and reviewed" (resolution 72/313). The targets and current indicators on "extreme poverty" and "undernourishment" do not mention a money measure, calories, the World Bank or FAO.

Some current goals are more ambitious than similar "SDG" targets and would mean faster progress in other targets. For example, safe water helps survival and health.

16.10 **Ensure public access to information** and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

16.6 Develop effective, **accountable** and **transparent institutions** at all levels

Immediate measures to eradicate forced labour.

Urgent action on **climate change**. As soon as possible, fully operationalize the Green **Climate Fund** through its capitalization.

Urgent, significant action to reduce degradation of natural habitats and halt loss of **biodiversity**.

All agreed at the 2015 Summit.

By 2025

Water, sanitation, drainage and waste services adequate for all humans
- Agenda 21 (7.38)

World Health Assembly **health** targets.

"SDG" targets:
End child labour.
Child **nutrition** targets.
Reduce **marine pollution**.

Overdue:
Progress reports reasonably well publicised, on:

The Millennium Declaration
Generally wider and more ambitious than the "MDGs" proposed in 2001, so several well-publicised "MDG" targets were redundant. The Declaration mentions no easier "1990" baseline but affordable, safe water: undocs.org/A/RES/55/2, para 19.

World Food Summit pledge to halve the 1996 number (not "1990-2" as FAO now claims) of "undernourished" people by 2015: fao.org/NEWS/1998/FAOipu.htm

2015 targets on **Education for All**: targets on Population and Development (1994), and from Johannesburg (2002) including towards **equality of child survival**.

The 2020 goals for Least Developed Countries (2011).

The 21 **2020 "SDG" targets** as a whole.

"Immediate" and 2025 goals of Agenda 21 - which nations agreed in 2012 to "fully implement".

A **key mandate** is from resolutions 66/288 (Rio 2012) paragraph 83, 67/290 paragraph 7, 68/1, and 70/1 (2015 Summit) paragraphs 82 and 84.

This mandate for around 50 nations at the UN Economic and Social Council and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development for all member states is to **follow up all conferences and summits** in the "economic, social, environmental and related fields".

We might think other General Assembly resolutions, not only conference and summit agreements, are also part of the agreed UN agenda.

A further point is this. In or after a deadline year, which of the following is consistent with a pledge to "spare no effort"? A. Trying to meet the target as soon as possible and reporting on results, or B. Not trying?

Leaders in 2015:

64. **We support the implementation of** relevant strategies and programmes of action, including **the Istanbul Declaration** and **Programme of Action**, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024, and reaffirm the importance of supporting the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the programme of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, **all of which are integral to the new Agenda**. We recognize the major challenge to the achievement of durable peace and sustainable development in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations.