

The UN Development Agenda Some agreed aims

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"Immediate"/"urgent"/ "as soon as possible"/overdue

"As soon as possible":
Halt the rise in
greenhouse gas
emissions.

Not fulfilled:
"Human rights"
(Leave no-one behind)
Agreements from **1940s** onwards,
including
the right to
information.

All nations "should take **immediate**
measures to provide **shelter** to their
homeless poor"
- Agenda 21 (7.9), reaffirmed 2017.

"We commit to take action towards
...**eradicating hunger** at the
earliest possible date."
- World Food Summit, 2009.

"States shall provide...**notification ...to**
potentially affected States on activities
that may have a significant...
environmental effect"
Rio Principle 19, reaffirmed in "2030 Agenda"

"integrated **environmental** and
economic accounting
in all...**States at the earliest date"**
Agenda 21 reaffirmed in "2030 Agenda"

SDG 8.7: "Immediate" measures to
eradicate forced labour.

SDG 13: "Urgent" action on climate
change. 13.a:
operationalize Green Climate Fund through its
capitalization **as soon as possible.**

14.4: Restore fish stocks in the shortest
time feasible.

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

"As quickly as possible"
Develop programmes and initiatives to
reduce disparities
in child and maternal deaths
"between and within developed
and developing countries"
Johannesburg Plan, 2002.

Overdue:
Publicity campaign
on more ambitious goals
than 'MDGs' or 'SDGs'
from conferences and summits.

Not just "MDGs" or "SDGs".
Promised in 2002 (Monterrey).
Reaffirmed in effect in 2015 (Addis, and in 2030 Agenda).
Never delivered.
Instead, governments mislead that "MDGs"
and "SDGs" are all of the goals, or the most ambitious.

Overdue:
Progress reports
reasonably well publicised, on:

The Millennium Declaration
Generally wider and more ambitious than the "MDGs"
proposed in 2001. 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 (agreed in 1994).
Targets from Johannesburg (2002) including towards
equality of child survival.

The **2020 goals** for Least Developed Countries
(2011).

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

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

A key but neglected mandate:

UN members have agreed that the Economic and
Social Council, and the High-Level Political Forum on
Sustainable Development for all member states, are to
follow up all conferences and summits in the
"economic, social, environmental and related fields".
see General Assembly resolutions 66/288 (Rio 2012),
67/290, 68/1, and 70/1 (2015 Summit).

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. When a deadline year arrives,
and afterwards, 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 to reach or report on agreed goals?

By 2020

In "Least Developed Countries":
Water, sanitation and internet for all
humans. Beyond 'MDG' targets on
child and maternal **survival** and child
nutrition. Least Developed Countries
to double share of **exports**.
Istanbul Programme. "Solemn commitment" by many
nations in 2011 to "strive" for targets.

Immunisation
for all human children
(World Health Assembly target).

Biodiversity
targets (Aichi, 2010).

21 "SDG" targets for 2020 include:
progress on **greenhouse gases;**
safe management of **chemicals;**
road deaths halved; protect **water**
ecosystems, forests, species;
employment. Richer countries to "mobilize"
\$100bn/year **climate finance** for poorer
countries.

(End violent conflict in Africa)
- African governments' aim.

The UN goals of **water and sanitation**
for all humans in least developed countries
by 2020 are part of the Istanbul
Programme of Action 2011-2020.
In 2015 leaders reaffirmed this and
stated that it is **"an integral part of the**
new Agenda" .

'2030 Agenda' includes goals for 2020
of the Istanbul Programme for Least Developed Countries:

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.

By 2025

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

Global nutrition targets
(World Health Assembly 2012,
http://www.who.int/nutrition/topics/nutrition_globaltargets2025/en/)

Non-communicable
disease targets (voluntary, WHO)

-SDG* targets for 2025:
End child labour.
Child nutrition targets.
Reduce marine pollution.

(End hunger in Africa by 2025)
- African governments' goal

The UN goals of **water and**
sanitation for all by 2025
were agreed in Agenda 21, Rio 1992.
In 2012 UN members reaffirmed
Agenda 21 in Rio ("fully implement")
and said it is important to base new
SDGs on it. In 2015 leaders reaffirmed
it in effect (paragraph 11, below);
UN members did so in 2015-17,
including in General Assembly
Resolution 72/223 of December 2017.

A/RES/70/1 Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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

'2030 Agenda' reaffirms
more ambitious goals than some 'SDGs':

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, including the outcomes of the **Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.**

By 2030

Many "SDG" targets.

It is important to understand that **some current targets - more ambitious than the corresponding 2030 "SDG" targets - also imply faster progress on other targets.** For example, safe water by 2020 or 2025 would help survival and health (and need competent administration).

The SDG indicators are not "criteria". Nor are they fixed, but only an "initial set" to be refined and reviewed" (resolution 72/313). The targets and current indicators on "extreme poverty" and "undernourishment" do not mention, and so are not formally agreed as relating to, a money measure, the strange ideas of using spending or calories, or the World Bank or FAO.

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 actual, more ambitious, UN development agenda reaffirmed in 2015-17.

Draft, 10 November 2018.

By Matt Berkley.

For further information see:
globalfactcheck.org or ungoals.org.

This diagram does not necessarily mean the author considers particular targets or indicators appropriate, or more important than other issues.

Should countries
prioritise survival
of the most vulnerable?