



Formulation of the SDGs Rev 1

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Dear Friends,

This month we shall take a brief look into the ‘Formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2016 – 2030’.

The year 1992 saw the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) at Rio, calling for global initiatives focusing upon protecting the environment while pursuing humanity’s developmental efforts. In spite of the well intentioned proposals, the actual progress was very slow, and was full of several hurdles and conflicts.



However, as the new millennium was approaching, the UN adopted a very bold initiative: The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that set clear global targets aimed at addressing pressing social issues like poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy, lack of education and health care etc. As we have discussed before, these goals were set-up for a period of 15 years, till 2015.

Two decades later after Rio, the world leaders again met at Rio in 2012 to reconsider sustainable development. By this time, nearly 12 years of MDGs implementation experience was on hand, and there was considerable progress achieved, though there were several gaps. Perhaps this experience prompted Columbia to propose the idea of the SDGs at a preparation event for Rio+20 held in Indonesia in July 2011. This suggestion was picked up, thus defining the beginning of the formulation and implementation of the SDGs for the next 15 years, 2016 through 2030.

Three Major Pillars

The entire concept may be sourced to 3 major developments:

- Achievements of MDGs in spite of all hurdles
- Latest scientific findings on ‘Planetary Boundaries’
- Guaranteeing basic human needs for all of humanity

As stated earlier, the success (even though uneven and partial) offered hope for doing better. In addition, the latest scientific findings on the nine planetary boundaries established beyond any doubt that the Mother Earth needed urgent corrective measures. We had already crossed 3 significant boundaries: biodiversity loss, climate change and nitrogen loading of the coastal waters. At the same time, there was a broad consensus including the developed nations that humanity would not be able to enjoy the benefits of development if a significant segment

remained poor and impoverished. The necessity for ensuring basic human rights including food, shelter, education, healthcare and livelihoods are essential.



The SDSN and SRC along with inputs from others proposed a ten-point draft proposal for considerations at the Rio + 20 summit, as shown below. This was provided as a starting point to the members of the Open Working Group.

As noted before, Colombia proposed the idea of the SDGs at a preparation event for Rio+20 held in Indonesia in July 2011. This idea was incorporated into the

outcome document of Rio + 20: 'The Future We Want'. This document proposed a list of 'Thematic areas and cross-sectoral issues'. We have re-grouped them in the following table: OWG Proposals and Final SDGs. The first 3 columns touch upon the 3 basic pillars of sustainable development: people, planet and profit. The last category indicated the need for special attention to a few geographical areas, notably among them, we can see the continent of Africa.

The OWG developed a website where all interested parties could submit their ideas and suggestions, which they called e-Inventory. India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka formed one group of countries, who could, in turn, send one representative to the OWG. The deliberations of the OWG group took place as shown in the image below.

The image shows the cover of a research paper. On the left, there is a logo for the 'Sustainable Development Solutions Network' (SDSN) with the text 'A GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS'. Below the logo is a blue box with the title 'Sustainable Development and Planetary Boundaries' and 'BACKGROUND RESEARCH PAPER'. At the bottom left, the authors are listed: 'Johan Rockström and Jeffrey D. Sachs with Marcus C. Öhman and Guido Schmidt-Traub'. On the right side, there is a list of ten goals:

- Goal 1: Ending Extreme Poverty
- Goal 2: Achieving Development within Planetary Boundaries
- Goal 3: Achieve Gender Equality, Human Rights and the Rule of Law
- Goal 4: Achieving Food Security and Rural Prosperity
- Goal 5: Empowering Inclusive, Productive and Resilient Cities
- Goal 6: Achieving Health and Wellbeing at all Ages
- Goal 7: Ensure Effective Learning for Every Child for Life and Livelihood
- Goal 8: Curbing Human-Induced Climate Change
- Goal 9: Securing Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity
- Goal 10: Transforming Governance for Sustainable Development

Source: <https://courses.edx.org/courses/course-v1:SDGAcademyX+PB001+3T2019/courseware/eaecef61d4ac4fc8aeb93b1d4ec295b9/41f0245ef979431ba83cf27f4974569f/>

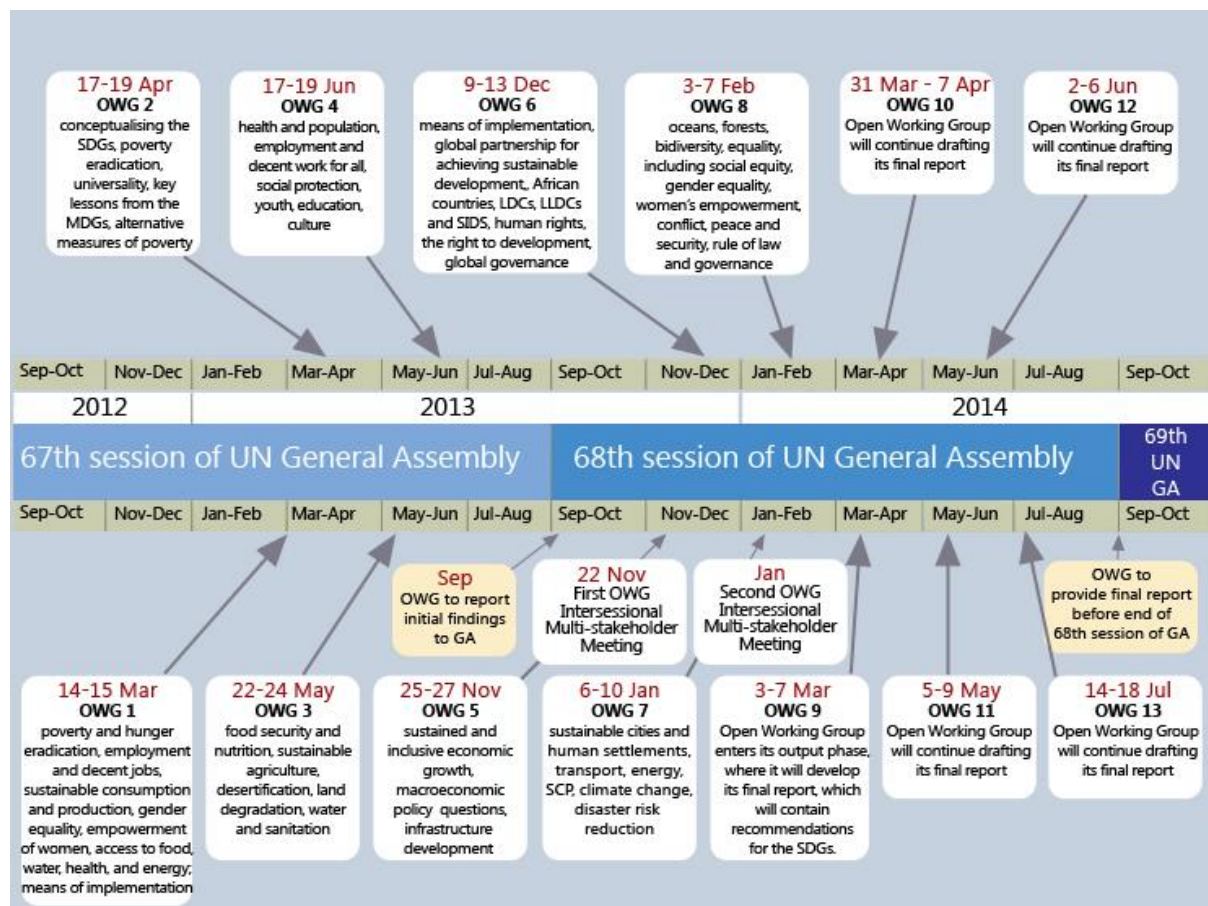
Sustainable Development Goals

The Rio + 20 meet also resolved 'to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process on sustainable development goals that is open to all stakeholders, with a view to

developing global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the General Assembly'. An open working group was constituted 'comprising of thirty representatives, nominated by Member States from the five United Nations regional groups, with the aim of achieving fair, equitable and balanced geographical representation'.

The open working group (OWG) was tasked to 'decide on its methods of work, including developing modalities to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience'. The OWG submitted its report outlining the 17 sustainable development goals for adoption by the UNGA.

The Table showing OWG Proposals and Final SDGs follow this colour coding: **yellow** for those in the proposal finding direct place in the SDGs and **orange** for new or derived goals from the proposals.



Source: <https://www.sustainabledevelopment2015.org/index.php/intergovernmental-processes/sustainable-development-goals/open-working-group/>

Means of implementation

The experience of the MDGs had clearly indicated the need for providing all necessary resources required for implementation, including Finance, Technology, Capacity-building, Trade and Registry of commitments. Capacity-building involved preparing the recipient communities capable of receiving the required inputs, and use them in a self-sustainable

manner later. The terms of international trade have a significant impact on poverty of nations, and the need for fair trade was highlighted.

You might recall the final SDGs as a birthday-cake model showing all the 17 goals as shown below.

OWG Proposals and Final SDGs						
Sl. No.	People	Planet	Profit	Geographical category		
<i>Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions</i>						
<i>Peartnerships to achieve the goal</i>						
1	Poverty eradication	Energy	Energy	Small island developing States		
2	Food security, nutrition, sustainable agriculture	<i>Life below water</i>	<i>Industry, innovation and infrastructure</i>	Least developed countries		
3	Water and sanitation	<i>Life on land</i>	Sustainable tourism	Landlocked developing countries		
4	Health and population	Sustainable cities and human settlements	Sustainable transport	Africa		
5	Promoting full and productive employment, decent work for all and social protection	Oceans and seas	<i>Sustainable cities and communities</i>	Regional efforts		
6	Disaster risk reduction	Climate change				
7	Sustainable consumption and production	Forests				
8	Education	Biodiversity				
9	Gender equality and women's empowerment	Desertification, land degradation and drought				
10	<i>Reduced inequality</i>	Mountains				
11		Chemicals and waste				
12		Mining				

Adapted from:

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=2&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwidzouKpJnmAhXsXsKHcZFCO4QFjABegQICRAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fsustainabledevelopment.un.org%2Fcontent%2Fdocuments%2F733FutureWeWant.pdf&usg=AOvVaw3w3jxaJCEI_o-rbiPrE50S

