

SDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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Context

- MDGs to expire this year
 - uneven record of “accomplishments”
 - But a failure in addressing the roots of underdevelopment
- Amidst multiple crisis of global capitalist system
 - Economic: massive unemployment, underemployment; “vulnerable employment” now 48%
 - Social: widening inequalities
 - Environmental: climate crisis; 3 of 9 planetary boundaries already breached
- This is the challenge and opportunity for 2015

The new SDGs

- (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 life-long 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;

The new SDGs

- (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 ("Acknowledging that the UNFCCC is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change ...");
- (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

Goal 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

2.1 by 2030 **end hunger** and **ensure access** by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.2 by 2030 end all forms of **malnutrition**, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons

2.3 by 2030 **double the agricultural productivity** and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through **secure and equal access to land**, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

Goal 2. End hunger , achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

2.4 by 2030 ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase **productivity and production**, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for **adaptation** to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters, and that progressively improve land and soil quality

2.5 by 2020 **maintain genetic diversity of seeds**, cultivated plants, farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at national, regional and international levels, and ensure access to and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge as internationally agreed

Goal 2. End hunger , achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture

2.a increase investment, including through **enhanced international cooperation**, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development, and plant and livestock gene banks to enhance agricultural productive capacity in developing countries, in particular in least developed countries

2.b. correct and **prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets** including by the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect, in accordance with the mandate of the **Doha Development Round**

2.c. adopt measures **to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives**, and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility

Some positive elements

- Inclusive process of consultations and OWG
- Recognition of important missing elements from MDGs: inequality, peace and security, etc.
- More attention to environmental dimension; climate change
- Universal (applies to all countries)
- Standalone MOI as well as goal-specific MOI

Negative or weak elements

- Does not adopt a rights-based framework (talks more about “access”)
- Does not address overconcentration of power and wealth within and between countries (i.e. need for redistribution)
- Fails to emphasize role of women, youth, indigenous peoples, small farmers, etc. as agents of sustainable development
- Sexual rights not accepted. Unpaid domestic and care work still rely on women
- Emphasis on “partnerships” (with the private sector)
- Technology focused on trade and private access
- **Overall, weak in commitment and does not challenge prevailing neoliberal development framework**

The question now is “how ”?

- **What would be the policies and measures implemented to achieving these goals and targets?**
- Vigorous debate on the question of balance in terms of obligations and burden-sharing (application of the CBDR principle)
- But **emerging consensus** among member states puts emphasis on role of **private sector** as drivers of innovation and development, and
- **private finance** as fuel for development, leveraged by public finance

Business perspective on Human Rights

“The UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights sets out a clear framework for this approach, which is not only a social responsibility but also a means for strengthening brand credentials, building customer loyalty and attracting investment”

- *UN Global Compact*

The business perspective on Goal 2

“Businesses are taking part through development of **new crops** and training of farmers in **new technologies**. Provision of affordable and quality inputs such as **seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, farm equipment**, water-conserving irrigation systems, processing or re-cycling of waste to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and bins and containers for fragile crops such as vegetables all play an important role in helping farmers increase the scale of their operations and incomes. There is mutual advantage in **integrating geographically and economically isolated, smallholder farmers** – many of whom are women - into national, regional and **global enterprises and their value chains.**”

- UN Global Compact

implications of this business perspective...

- Greater control of TNCs over production and markets through their “value-chains”
- Greater dependence of small farmers on corporate-controlled seeds, pesticides, production inputs, etc.
- Increasing gross incomes of small farmers but declining net incomes

Need to examine SDGs in the context of broader policy trends

1. New wave of **privatization** with the aim of capturing sectors that were previously public domain, such as water and sanitation services, education, health, pension systems, etc.
2. Investment **deregulation** by facilitating foreign direct investments, speculative capital, and systematic undervaluation of currencies of the South

Need to examine SDGs in the context of broader policy trends

- 3. Empowering corporations** with new privileges and rights to attack nations by forbidding states from interfering in economic affairs and reducing their role to narrow police functions
- 4. Subjecting nature** to the laws of the market and **enclosure of the global commons** by the corporate sector

So what is the emerging post-2015 development agenda?

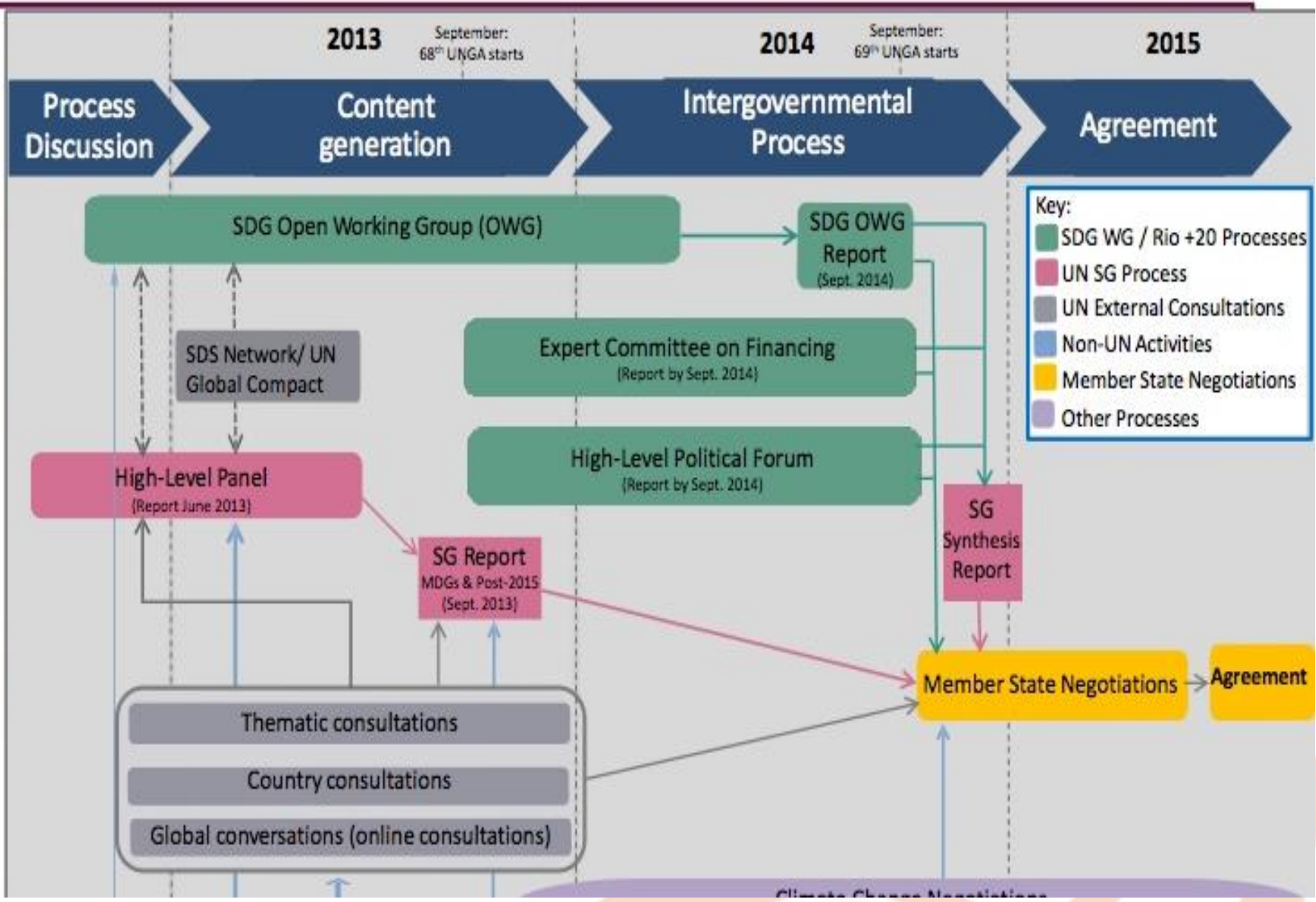
- An expanded and revamped MDGs?
- A vehicle for expanding and strengthening transnational corporate power?
- A strategy for reviving and legitimizing the global capitalist growth model?

What can we do about the SDGs?

- We need to be critical of this emerging Post-2015 development agenda
- opportunities for engagement:
 - SDGs are already agreed but indicators are still to be negotiated to March 2016
 - SDGs are global goals which would need to be translated to national goals, targets and indicators
 - More importantly, we need to be vigilant about what policies our governments will be implementing in the name of these SDGs/ sustainable development

Rio+20/Member State-driven Process

UN and SG-led Process



Ongoing efforts to achieve the MDGs

2015 January February March April May June July August September October November December 2016

PGA High Level Events



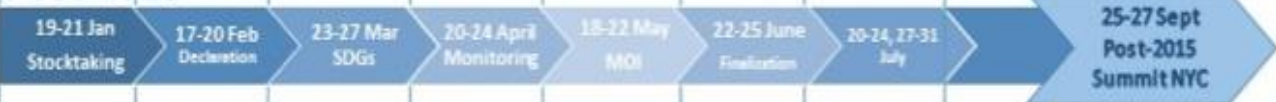
HLPF



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Post-2015



UNFCCC



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Ongoing efforts to achieve the MDGs

2015 Road Map

Implementation

