

From MDGs to SDGs - implications for development cooperation

At the Millennium Summit in September 2000, 189 member states of the United Nations adopted the Millennium Declaration, including commitments to poverty eradication, protecting environment, etc. UN Secretary-General's Road Map for implementing the Millennium Declaration in 2001 drew eight goals from the Millennium Declaration.

In response to the views that the development of MDGs lacked consultation and thus ownership, forming SDG involved 3 years of extensive consultation at various levels (national, regional and global) with various groups and channels (inter-governmental process, CSO consultation, support of UN system). Importantly, the SDG in fact represents integration of two tracks – post MDG and Rio process (Rio+20 outcome).

The SDG, with 17 goals and 169 targets, was adopted by 193 UN members on 25 September 2015. Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) adopted in July 2015 laid foundation, providing global framework for financing sustainable development.

Some of the key features that differentiate SDGs from MDGs include (i) emphasis on no one left behind (ii) it concerns all, both developing and developed countries (iii) expanding scope from poverty reduction to sustainable development (iv) inclusion of human rights, peace and security, etc which are in MD but not in MDGs (v) identifying the means of implementation for each goal.

A wide range of means of implementation is outlined in SDGs; mobilization of financial resources from various sources, investment in areas which support for instance rural infrastructure, North-South, South-South, and triangular development cooperation, capacity building, scholarship programme and so on. Besides financial support, North-East Asian countries have already been engaged in a variety of those development cooperation activities, which is now clearly spelt out as key means of implementation of SDGs.

The table below shows examples of areas and development cooperation and issue areas highlighted in SDGs.

Areas of development cooperation	Target areas in SDGs
Mobilization of resources...	Resources - for poverty eradication ... particularly for LDCs (Goal 1) - conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems / for financing sustainable forest management and providing adequate incentives to developing countries.. (Goal 15) - ODA and financial flows, including FDI, to where the need is

	<p>greatest, in particular LDCs, African countries, SIDS and LLDCs, to reduce inequality (Goal 10)</p> <p>- ODA commitment (by developed countries), mobilize additional financial resources; (Goal 17)</p>
Increase investment..	Investment in rural infrastructure, agricultural research, technology development etc, particularly for LDCs (Goal 2. to end hunger, achieve food security)
Capacity building	<p>- Capacity for early warning, risk reduction, and management of national and global health risks [Healthy lives and well-being for all (Goal 3)</p> <p>- in water-and sanitation-related activities and programmes (Goal 6)</p> <p>- Technology and capacity building through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation (Goal 17);</p>
International cooperation	<p>- International cooperation to increase the supply of qualified teachers (Goal 4)</p> <p>- in water-and sanitation-related activities and programmes (Target 6.a)</p> <p>- to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology.(Target 7.a) to for affordable, modern and sustainable energy for all</p>
Scholarship programme	For inclusive and equitable quality education.. particularly for LDCs, SIDS and African countries (Goal 4)
Targeted support	Enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, LDCs, SIDS, and LLDCs, for sustainable and resilient infrastructure (Goal 9 and 11)