

## **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: INDICATORS OF SOCIAL PROGRESS OR AID MODALITIES?**

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Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are *indicators of progress* reflecting the *social efficiency* of the international community's efforts to assist development. This is a consolidated response of both donors and recipients, elaborated under the auspices of the United Nations, to the question - *what?* we want to get as a result of the development process? In this way, SDGs and MDGs differ from the indicators of Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, reflecting the *legal* or *procedural efficiency* of IDA administration (without any reference to social outcomes), elaborated under the auspices of the OECD and answering the question - *how?* (how best) we can achieve goals of development?

Given that most of the MDGs were sufficiently concrete and accompanied by adequate indicators of progress, nevertheless a number of targets and indicators was underdetermined. Accordingly, instead of the 8 MDGs 17 SDGs appeared, as well as 169 proposed targets for these goals and 304 proposed indicators to show compliance.

But such a strong specification is fraught with a number of dangers. Do we have a risk of substitution of social efficiency measures (**what to achieve**) by procedural efficiency performances (**how to achieve**)? Whether we stipulate the "only right" way for the development of dozens of completely different aid recipient countries? Whether we neglect a differentiation of regional approaches by the imposition of a single, rather narrow point of view? After all, we all eventually need social progress, but the way to achieve it could or even should vary.

To answer the above questions, we analyzed several hundred statements made by members of the Open Working Group on SDGs (united 70 states sharing 30 seats) in the course of unprecedented in its transparency consultation process of elaborating SDGs and Post 2015 Development Agenda.

We found out a differentiated position of traditional donors from developed countries, emerging donors (BRICS countries) and Arab donors (such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait), as well as of aid recipient countries from Eastern Europe, Africa, South-East Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and small island developing States. Different groups of donors and recipients have different interpretations of the concept of poverty, and have a different vision of how to reduce the poverty.