

# SDGs/Post 2015, and relevance of UNEP



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# UNEP Post 2015 Note #1: The “how to” of achieving an integrated agenda

- A checklist:
  - Build on existing commitments = GEGs and MDGs
  - Measurable, smart, balanced goals and indicators = solutions based targets
  - Three substantive principles (“trilogy”)

## UNEP Post 2015 Note #1



### Integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development

*How to achieve a balanced, ambitious and inclusive framework*

The Post 2015 agenda promises a historical opportunity to shift from development in silos to a more integrated approach; a view reinforced by the Rio+20 Outcome, MDG Summit Outcome, and the UN Secretary-General's report 'A life of dignity for all'. The question is how?

Considerable progress in human development has been achieved, but environmental degradation continues largely unabated, preventing the success of efforts to address poverty once and for all. Growth and prosperity are being achieved at the expense of the planet's life support systems, and at the expense of greater inequality. Disasters (both natural and man-made) are reversing development gains. The three dimensions of sustainable development are clearly inter-dependent.

Rio+20 committed Member States to develop a set of sustainable development goals (and targets and indicators) that would be balanced, coherent and comprehensive. Three basic interlinkages underpin this cohesiveness and can be used as a “filter” to assess the completeness and robustness of the future goals, targets and indicators:

1 **Leave no one behind and provide a life of dignity for all:** The poor, vulnerable and marginalized groups – in both developed and developing countries – need opportunities for sustainable livelihoods and should be ensured of a minimum level of social and environmental protection and a basic standard of living. The approximately 1.2 billion people living in extreme poverty must be enabled to achieve a life of dignity. Those affected by extreme poverty and chronic unemployment, by lack of access to services (water, sanitation, energy, markets, health, education, shelter), by lack of rule of law, by discrimination, and unable to live in a clean and healthy environment, need to be at the centre of the future sustainable development agenda.

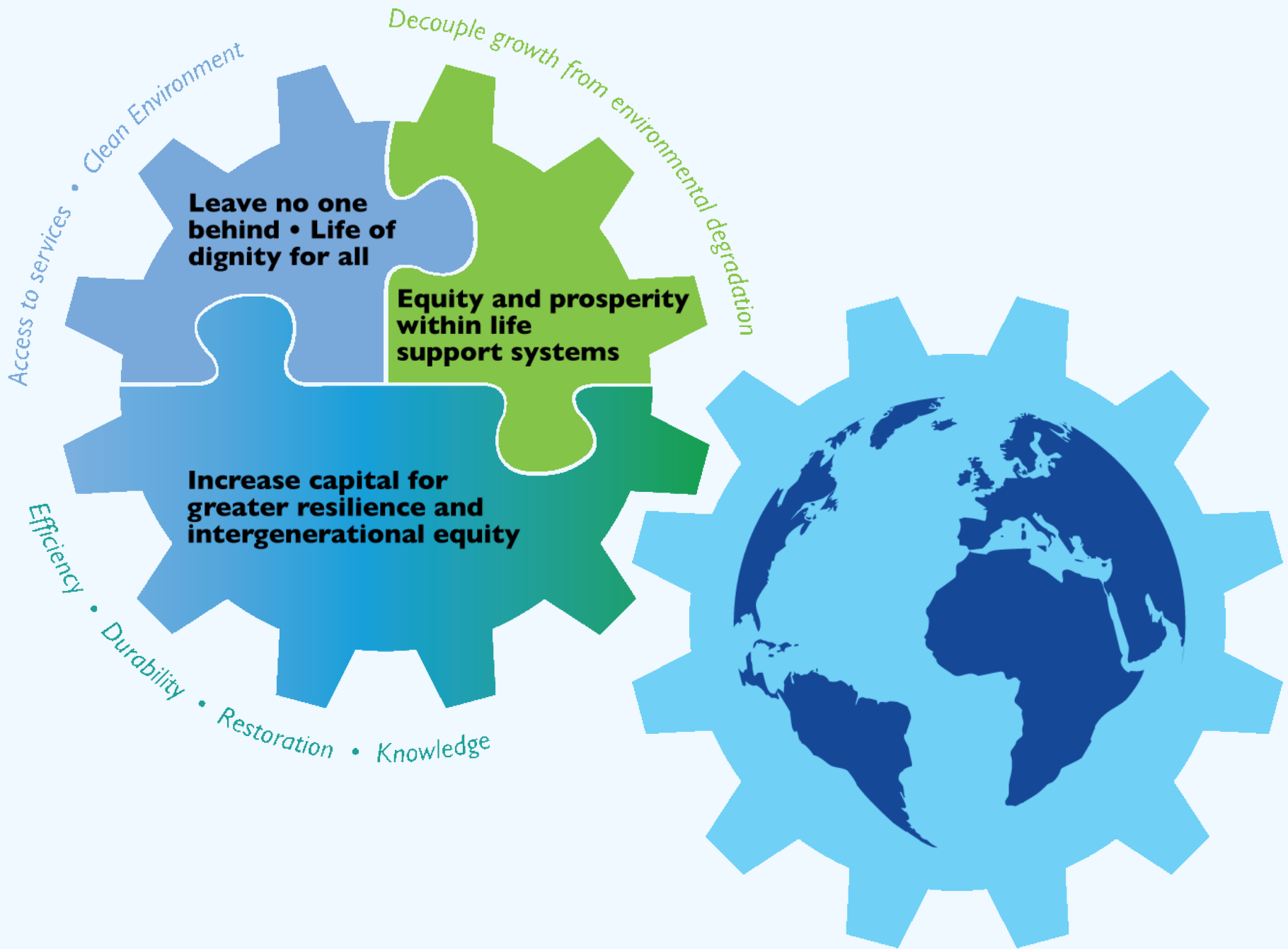
Affordable solutions for breaking the poverty trap and assuring basic livelihoods are available that do not further degrade the environment. Innovative and green technologies can simultaneously increase employment, foster better use of science and traditional knowledge, upscale provision of basic services, and at the same time protect the environment.

2 **Achieve greater prosperity in an inclusive manner within the capacity of the earth's life support system:** The continued well-being of humanity, and the functioning of the economy and society, ultimately depends upon responsible management of the planet's finite natural resources, and protection of social and cultural heritage. Future prosperity will require that economic growth no longer degrades the environment.

We need to change the production systems, employment patterns and technologies in every country, as well as accompanying behaviors that influence consumption and societal cohesion – in other words, a universal transition towards an inclusive green economy and sustainable consumption and production. In doing so, pervasive and deep rooted inequalities and discrimination should be addressed (including equitable access to natural resources).

Sustainable consumption is not necessarily about consuming less, it is about consuming better – what we buy and how we live in an intelligent, safe and environmentally sustainable way. Sustainable consumption can yield a variety of interlinked economic, social and health benefits, including greater access to markets, social innovation, job creation, reduced obesity, and civil society empowerment. Protection, improvement and wise use of the global life support system is needed in order not to cross ecological or social thresholds that would undermine or reverse development gains. Countries are faced with different thresholds, but crossing the cumulative thresholds of the global commons, such as oceans and climate, will affect all countries whether developed or developing and ultimately the poorest will suffer as they are the most vulnerable, and lack the capacity to deal with the effects.







- OWG SDG Co-chair's Zero Draft Document:
  - Comprehensive coverage of key issues in 17 goals
    - Covers all unfinished MDG agenda issues
    - Additional social and economic agendas
      - Social protection; inclusive/sustained/sustainable economic growth; employment; industrialization; infrastructure
    - Good coverage of key environmental issues
      - But there are some gaps: e.g. chemicals and waste; marine debris; drylands issues;





- Insufficient integration:
  - Of environment into : Economic growth; employment; health; education; poverty
  - Of social and economic issues into: Oceans, Biodiversity and ecosystems, energy,
- Some transformational goals and targets, but more could be done to arrive at an ambitious agenda
  - Not all targets are SMART (yet)
- Difficulty of selecting among goals and targets;
  - Risk that reducing goals may result in less integration
  - What criteria ?



– CBDR is a contentious issue

- But close to agreement that it will be a universal set of goals
- Will differentiation be among targets or within targets?
- Issue of “preferential differentiation” for LDC, LLDC, SIDS



## – Means of Implementation

- Finance
  - Institutional frameworks and reforms
  - Capacity building and technology transfer
  - but could be more so (e.g. policy reforms; monitoring, reporting and accountability; Multi-stakeholder partnerships)
- Insufficient focus on Inter-generational equity (future needs)





- UNEA High Level Segment Dialogue on SDGs and Post 2015 Agenda, including SCP

- Proposed focus on 7 concrete issues of relevance to an integrated approach to sustainable development:

- Leave no one behind
  - » Poverty and sustainable rural economies
  - » Poverty as a multi-dimensional issue: focus on universal coverage of sustainably-derived water and energy
- Live within safe operating space
  - » Employment and SCP
  - » Sustainable consumption
- Build assets for the future
  - » Healthy and clean environments
  - » Restoration of natural assets
  - » Long-lasting, low-carbon, resilient infrastructure, buildings and products



- UNEA Outcome

- High Level Political Forum
- UN SG's Synthesis Report to UN General Assembly
  - Will build mainly on OWG SDG report, but also finance, UNEA, and other elements
- UN GA debate on Post 2015 : September 2014 to September 2015, culminating in the Post 2015 Summit in September 2015.



**Thank you**

