

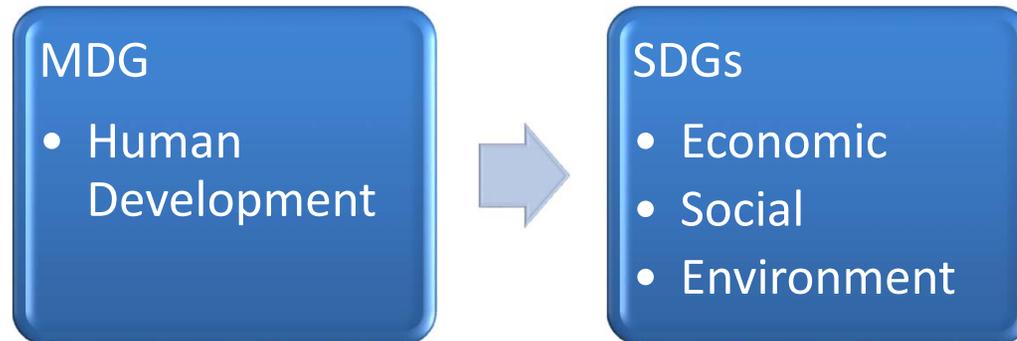


Sustainable Development Goals: Keeping the Promise Alive

Samanthi Bandara

What does SDG agenda say?

- A massive transformation



- The agenda is timely and relevant for the entire world.
- Particularly, this opens a novel space to South Asia to streamline the development process more inclusive and sustainable.

From MDGs to SDGs



MDGs: There were only 8 Goals and 18 measurable Targets to be achieved by 2015

SDGs: There are 17 Goals and 169 Targets to be achieved by 2030

Achieving SDGs by 2030 could be a difficult task unless all stakeholders work in harmony. Proper awareness & coordination is the key to success



Pyramidal SDG's Agenda for Post 2015

Everything depends on the well protected strong base of the pyramid

Human Dignity

[Goals: 1 - No poverty, 2 - No hunger, 3- Good Health, 4 - Quality Education, 5- Gender Equality, 6-Clean Water & Sanitation, 16-Peace and Justice]

Inclusive Economic Growth

[Goals: 8-Good Jobs & Economic Growth & 10 - Reduce Inequality]

Sustainable Production and Consumption of natural resources

[Goals: 7-Clean Energy, 9-Innovation & Infrastructure, 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities, 12-Responsible Consumption & 13- Protect the planet]

Pyramid should have a strong base with well protected Biodiversity, Ecosystems & Environment [14-Life below water, 15-Life on Land & 17-Effective Partnerships]

(Source: Nanayakkara, W.(2017), In-House Presentation, IPS)

Common sustainable development challenges of South Asian countries

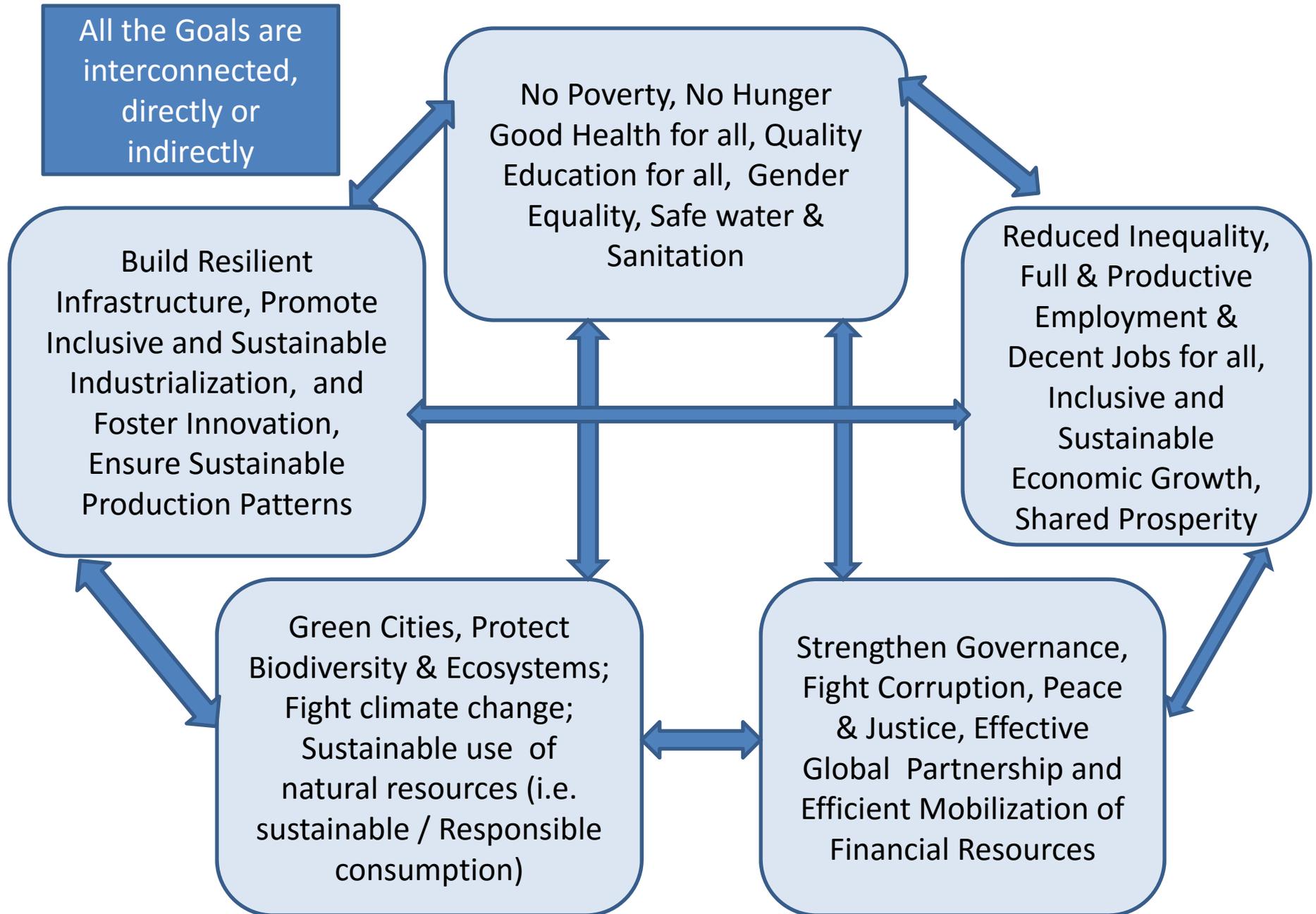
Key challenges:

- Slow economic growth
- Human development challenges
- Environmental sustainability

Other common challenges

- Absence Institutional integration and coordination mechanism at national and regional level
 - Horizontal Integration
 - Vertical Integration
- Interventions are outcome-based approaches. It should be problem driven approaches
- Lack of Integration with private sector
- Inadequate fund
- Lack of Integration within the goals

A holistic view of integrated Economic, Social and Environmental Issues



Responding to development challenges

- Appropriate structural changes
 - Industry oriented structural changes for expanding decent jobs in formal sector
 - Agriculture modernization for improving productivity in agriculture sector
 - Trade facilitation within and among countries
- Investing in human development
- Enhancing female empowerment
- Investing in infrastructure facilities
- Universal social protection network
- Investing in environmental sustainability
- Diversify the source of funds
- Local and regional integration and monitoring

Who has the responsibility?

Slogan: No country is left behind

- National level –
 - Public entities, private sector, NGOs, and community participation
- Regional Level
 - Signatories and regional networks (e.g. SAARC)
- Global level
 - The international agencies and developed countries to provide technical and financial assistance no country is left behind, as the main theme of SDGs is that no one should be left behind

Effectively implementing policies that strengthen South Asia regional cooperation

- A Regional Integration Platform

- Act as a apex body in SGDs

E.g. ESCAP established Asia-Pacific Forums on Sustainable Development

- Bring best practices and knowledge sharing among countries

- Hosting a web system to monitor the progress by archiving data/indicators (e.g. Department of Census and Statistics, Sri Lanka)

- Maintain any digital or printed media on the progress

Thank you!



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