# A rough guide to emerging consensus and divergence in post-2015 goal areas

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**Key messages**

A close examination of recent key UN and civil society reports on post-2015 indicates:

- There is strong consensus on the importance of goals in some existing MDG areas such as education, health, gender and poverty, but details on targets and indicators still need to be worked out.

- There is less consensus on other possible goal areas, such as governance, though a great deal of interest in including them in some way.  Technical work on how these might be included at the goal or target level could clarify options and break ground on the politics.

- Several goal areas, such as urbanisation or social inclusion, still lack traction at the level of specifics, even though prominent actors frame them as central. Unless the Open Working Group elevates their importance as goals they may only feature as targets in other goals if at all.

# Acknowledgements

# Abbreviations

| | |
|---|---|
| **BGLP:** | Brazil Ground Level Panel |
| **CAFOD:** | Catholic Agency for Overseas Development |
| **CSOs:** | Civil Society Organisations |
| **EGLP:** | Egypt Ground Level Panel |
| **GCAP:** | Global Call to Action Against Poverty |
| **HLP:** | High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda |
| **IFP:** | International Forum of National NGO Platforms |
| **IGLP:** | India Ground Level Panel |
| **ILO** | International Labor Organization |
| **IOM** | International Organization for Migration |
| **MDGs** | Millennium Development Goals |
| **OHCHR** | United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights |
| **SDSN:** | United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network |
| **UGLP:** | Uganda Ground Level Panel |
| **UNDESA** | United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs |
| **UNDG:** | United Nations Development Group |
| **UNDP** | United Nations Development Program |
| **UNFPA** | United Nations Population Fund |
| **UNGC:** | United Nations Global Compact |
| **UN-HABITAT** | United Nations Human Settlements Programme |
| **UNICEF** | United Nations Children's Fund |
| **UNSG:** | United Nations Secretary-General |
| **WHO:** | World Health Organization |

# Level of similarity in approaches to possible post-2015 goal areas

| Goal area & Similarity rating | HLP | SDSN | UNGC | UNSG |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *GOALS FEATURED IN MOST KEY PROPOSALS* | | | | |
| **Education** ★★★ | Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning | Ensure effective learning for all children and youth for life and livelihood | Quality education for all | Provide quality education and lifelong learning. |
| **Gender** ★★★ | Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality | Achieve gender equality, social inclusion, and human rights for all | Achieve women and girl's empowerment | Tackle Exclusion and Inequality |
| **Health** ★★★ | Ensure Healthy Lives | Achieve Health and Wellbeing at all Ages | Universal health coverage | Improve health |
| **Energy** ★★★ | Secure Sustainable Energy | Curb Human-Induced Climate Change and Ensure Clean Energy for All (+ targets within other goals) | Sustainable energy for all | Promote inclusive and sustainable growth and decent employment – *Target on sustainable energy* |
| **Poverty** ★★★ | End Poverty | End poverty and increase prosperity via inclusive economic growth | End poverty and increase prosperity via inclusive economic growth | Eradicate poverty in all its forms |
| **Food Security** ★★ | Ensure food security and good nutrition | (1) End Extreme Poverty including Hunger; (2) Improve Agriculture Systems and Raise Rural Prosperity | Good nutrition for all through sustainable food and agricultural systems | End hunger and malnutrition |
| **Water & Sanitation** ★★ | Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation | Secure Ecosystem Services, Biodiversity and ensure Good Management of Water and other Natural Resources (+ targets within other goals) | Water and sanitation for all | Address environmental challenges |
| **Inclusive Growth & Employment** ★★ | Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods and Equitable Growth | (1) End poverty and increase prosperity via inclusive economic growth; (2) Achieve Development within Planetary Boundaries (target for each country to reach the next income level) | End poverty and increase prosperity via inclusive economic growth | Promote inclusive and sustainable growth and decent employment |
| **Peace & Stability** ★★ | Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies | Achieve Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, and Human Rights for all (target to 'prevent and eliminate violence against individuals, especially women and children') | Build peaceful and stable societies | Build peace and effective governance based on the rule of law and sound institutions. |
| **Governance** ★★ | Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions | Transform Governance for Sustainable Development | Good governance and realization of human rights | Build peace and effective governance based on the rule of law and sound institutions |
| **Environmental Sustainability** ★★ | Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably | (1) Achieve Development within Planetary Boundaries; (2) Secure Ecosystem Services, Biodiversity and ensure Good Management of Water and other Natural Resources | *Included as cross-cutting issue in other goal areas* | (1) Address environmental challenges; (2) Address climate change |
| **Global Enabling Environment** ★★ | Create a Global Enabling Environment and Catalyse Long-Term Finance | Transform Governance for Sustainable Development (targets on global governance & financing) | Good governance and realization of human rights (target on international trading and financial system) | Foster a renewed global partnership |

| GOALS FEATURED IN SOME KEY PROPOSALS | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Infrastructure & Technology** ⭐ | (1) Improve agriculture systems and raise rural prosperity (target on 'universal access in rural areas to basic resources and infrastructure services'); (2) Empower inclusive, productive, and resilient cities (target on 'universal access to a secure and affordable built environment and basic urban services') | Modernize infrastructure and technology |
| **Urbanisation** ⭐ | Empower Inclusive, Productive and Resilient Cities | Meet the challenges of urbanization |
| **Social Inclusion** ⭐ | Achieve Gender Equality, Social Inclusion and Human Rights for All (target to 'monitor and end discrimination and inequalities in public service delivery, the rule of law, access to justice, and participation in political and economic life') | Tackle exclusion and inequality |

## Similarity rating:

⭐⭐⭐     *Features at goal level in all key institutional proposals; Similar approach in most policy areas*

⭐⭐     *Features at goal level in most key institutional proposals; Similar approach in some policy areas*

⭐     *Does not feature at goal level in most key institutional proposals*

## Proposals:

**HLP:**     High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (2013): *A new global partnership: eradicate poverty and transform economies through sustainable development – the report of the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, New York: UN.

**SDSN:**     United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (2013): *An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development – Report for the UN Secretary General*, New York: UN

**UNGC:**     United Nations Global Compact (2013): *Corporate Sustainability and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda - Perspectives from UN Global Compact Participants on Global Priorities and How to Engage Business Towards Sustainable Development Goals,* New York: UN

**UNSG:**     United Nations Secretary General (2013): *A life of dignity for all: accelerating progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015 - Report of the Secretary-General*, New York: UN

# Analysis: consensus and divergence in post-2015 goal areas

In September a legion of UN member states, civil society groups and business representatives descended on New York to attend the 68th Session of the UN General Assembly. Here the anticipated Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Special Event resulted in an outcome document providing a roadmap on next steps in the process to agree future sustainable development goals. In the year or so leading up to this point there has been unprecedented engagement from governments, civil society, private sector and individuals contributing ideas and proposals on what post-2015 goals should address. Yet there have been few efforts to identify where the emerging areas of consensus and divergence are across the broad range of potential goal areas.

This paper responds to that gap with an analysis of where some of the key institutional proposals and civil society inputs to date come together and where they diverge. It aims to inform those contributing and seeking to influence work in the coming months to define new goals and targets, including that of the Open Working Group due to report its recommendations to the UN Secretary-General ahead of September next year. It offers a comparison of the **key institutional proposals** submitted so far - by the HLP[1], the SDSN[2], the UNGC[3] and more recently the UNSG[4] - as well as **major civil society inputs,** including the UN-led global consultations, coalition proposals and some of the latest participatory research on people's priorities. The findings of this study - summarised here and in the table above on approaches to possible goal areas - are based on a detailed analysis of each potential goal area available at Annex I and II. The scores of proposals put forward to date by individual organisations (civil society and others) are not assessed here, however each of these offers an important contribution to the debate and many are reflected in major coalition and consultation-based inputs that were assessed.[5]

We find that the key institutional proposals so far agree on the need to address twelve priorities at goal level. Most of these are already covered in some way by the existing MDGs - *education, health, gender, poverty, food security, environmental sustainability*, and a *global enabling environment* - while some only featured briefly as MDG targets within other goals (*water & sanitation; inclusive growth & employment*). Although all these objectives had a place in the current MDGs, proposals for future goals address most from a different perspective, taking account of MDG lessons, global change and new priorities. There are also some new goal areas - *energy*, *peace & stability* and *governance* - which are suggested across key proposals but were almost entirely absent from the MDGs. In addition to these twelve themes that the main proposals considered here put forward at goal level, there are further 'outlier' areas being suggested as goals by some of these proposals, including *infrastructure & technology, urbanisation* and *social inclusion*.

Based on an analysis of the similarities and differences in approaches to this set of potential goal areas, we identify three degrees of convergence indicated by star ratings:

*Features at goal level in all key institutional proposals, and proposals take a similar approach in most policy areas*

*Features at goal level in most of the key institutional proposals, and proposals take a similar approach in some areas*

*Does not feature at goal level in most key institutional proposals*

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[1] High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda
[2] United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network
[3] United Nations Global Compact
[4] United Nations Secretary-General
[5] Individual organisations' contributions can be consulted at the Future Goals Tracker database of proposals for post-2015 goals, and are represented in graphs at the Annex reflecting the number of proposals in each specific area.

**In the first group of themes framed as core post-2015 objectives across proposals (rated three stars) -** *education, health, gender, energy,* **and** *poverty* **- we find a high degree of convergence in the approaches to goals and targets.** There is still strong consensus on ending **poverty**, which is backed by proposals for getting to zero, leaving no-one behind and alleviating income poverty. There is also agreement amongst the key proposals so far on the need for a new approach that addresses vulnerability to disasters and climate change, in recognition that the impact of these can turn back progress on poverty, and on the need to make progress on both poverty and environment. However, beyond disaster resilience, ideas for concrete targets to address human and environmental development objectives in an integrated way remain limited in most proposals except that of the SDSN.

In **education**, proposals agree on the need to continue to focus on access, but also on a much broader agenda including skills for employment, and lifelong, quality learning. Within this there is an emphasis on literacy and numeracy as indicators of outcomes. In **health**, despite contention around the High Level Panel's exclusion of universal health coverage (UHC) from its suggested targets, UHC is advocated across proposals and also implied in the HLP's report, albeit not as a target. There is also agreement amongst key proposals so far on the need to reduce or end preventable maternal and child mortality; to promote sexual and reproductive health or rights and family planning; to expand immunisation rates; and to reduce or end non-communicable and communicable diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. There is a similarly high level of convergence amongst proposals on **gender**, with agreement on ending violence and discrimination against women and girls; promoting empowerment, equal rights and opportunities; and disaggregating data by gender. And in **energy** there is emerging consensus on a goal for universal access to sustainable energy, with targets to promote renewable energies; to improve energy efficiency; and to transition to clean energies, including by phasing out fossil fuel subsidies.

But despite the strong level of consensus in these goal areas amongst key proposals so far, there is also much that remains to work out in these areas. For instance, there are potentially useful suggestions for targets which do not consistently feature as they haven't gained as much traction as others, which could be due more to omission than a lack of agreement. In education, for example, some point to the need to set targets on gender parity, to improve technology and other facilities in schools, and to bring sustainability concepts into education curricula. In health some highlight the need to address broader contributors to health and wellbeing, for example diet, physical exercise, and mitigating alcohol or substance abuse. In energy there are some ambitious proposals for substantially altering our patterns of energy usage, or suggestions to include a target to finance the transition to green energies in developing economies.

There are also some clear differences in points of view that persist in these apparent areas of consensus. For instance, proposals on poverty still diverge in some important areas, including on whether $1.25 is an adequate measure of income poverty; or whether the emphasis should be on growth and entrepreneurialism, or prioritising the rights of the poorest to access basic services (or indeed both). Similarly, in health and gender the devil is in the detail, for example in language on sexual and reproductive 'health' or 'rights' - where some remain opposed to the latter. Moreover, tackling things like child marriage, or whether and how the burden of care falls on women, could be extremely significant for poverty and development but still lack traction across key proposals.

In sum, although proposals to date may agree strongly on the 'what' in the above goal areas – i.e. that they are important priorities deserving of a place in a post-2015 framework – there is still a job to do in these areas to agree remaining detail on the 'how', in terms of which specific wording, targets and indicators will make future goals in these areas most useful and effective.

**The second and largest group of potential goals (rated two stars) -** *food security, water & sanitation, inclusive growth & employment, peace & stability, governance, environmental sustainability*, and a *global enabling environment* **- remains more challenging. The key proposals so far still diverge in their approach to many areas, although they agree that these goals should be included.** In some of these there is perhaps simply more to work out rather than any fundamental divergence of approach. On **food security** proposals agree that a future goal should seek to end hunger, malnutrition and stunting, and that more sustainable fishing and food production would support this. However there is a range of areas that civil society actors have identified as important to ensure food security that is largely missing from institutional proposals: self-sufficiency and ownership of the means of food production, rural-urban linkages, employment along food supply chains, and social protection. Similarly, in **water and sanitation,** there is a diverse range of suggestions and approaches: - while most agree on sustainable water management, universal access to drinking water and sanitation, and targets for wastewater management, only some call for the costs of water usage to be borne by all stakeholders; for better governance of water systems management, cross-border flows and infrastructure services; or for more effective funding mechanisms.

Others in this group of potential goals face both political and technical challenges. While there is agreement amongst proposals on the importance of **environmental sustainability**, there is a lack of consensus about the range of issues and level of ambition that should go under this heading. Some suggested frameworks tackle the natural resource aspects of environmental sustainability under separate goals on energy, water and food, with a broader goal on sustainability as well, while others put most of the sustainability issues under this heading. In addition, moving ideas for goals and targets that effectively integrate poverty and environmental sustainability objectives forward remains a challenge at this stage in two main ways.

**Firstly it is politically difficult**: it blurs the lines on which funding sources would be used for which, with concerns that either could lose out. The politics are toughest however in relation to climate change, where the challenge lies in the debate underway on the thorny question of CBDR - 'Common but Differentiated Responsibilities' - or which countries pay most for (or act first on) climate change at the heart of these politics. Climate change has now been identified as the key determinant of whether future progress on poverty will be sustained, so the post-2015 financing landscape will have to take finance for climate action into account and define the relationship. The Climate Change Summit in New York in 2014 and the UNFCCC[6] are the main opportunities to agree action on climate change that supports a post-2015 agenda for development, but doing so will require departing from positions associated with troubled climate negotiations in the past. At this stage it remains unclear to what extent the road to post-2015 development goals and the path to a climate deal will come together, complement or undermine each other. But if it is the latter, there continues to be a risk that climate politics pose a threat to reaching agreement on the post-2015 framework as a whole, or that post-2015 goals fail to define a path for progress on poverty that is sustainable.

**Secondly, there is a technical challenge**. There is a lack of concrete ideas as yet to bring together poverty and environment (and specifically climate change) objectives. This reflects that in spite of growing political support for a merged set of post-2015 goals prioritising these as complementary objectives, there is still neither consensus nor even a clear path being sketched out on how to do this in practice. This technical challenge does not help solve difficult politics, and if policymakers are serious about making mutually reinforcing gains on both poverty and the environment, there is an urgent agenda to spell out what this means and back it up with detailed proposals.

Proposals on environment so far agree on sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems, and some on the need to monitor progress on environmental and social factors along with GDP. Disaster risk and greenhouse gas emissions are also priorities across most proposals. Yet alongside the challenge of limited suggestions that integrate poverty and environment, proposals in this area diverge substantially in their levels of ambition. Some call to legislate against drivers of environmental degradation; for all actors to pay the costs of pollution and use of natural resources; and to live within planetary boundaries including by transforming our patterns of consumption and production. In this vein several call for environmental monitoring and accountability systems, with an emphasis on private sector activities that have environmental impacts. A small minority also point to the role of education in driving social change to support greater sustainability. Others, however, stick to much more limited targets, mainly focused around the agenda of sustainable resources management. Similarly, although all acknowledge the imperative to tackle climate change, civil society frame this as central while most institutional proposals limit the focus of concrete targets to sustainable energy transition.

The other goal area in this set that faces comparable political and technical challenges is that of a **global enabling environment** (the successor to MDG 8 on global partnership). Most targets proposed in this area pose a political challenge, as they touch on the core of incentives driving systems of trade and finance. Because of this any future goal on global partnership would need to be carefully structured to work effectively, whether that means working with or around these incentives. Proposals call for a goal that creates an enabling environment in terms of finance, trade, taxation, aid, strengthened global architecture and partnerships, and supportive, accountable business practices. They agree on the need for long-term financing of future goals, and facilitating economic transformation in lower-income countries through access to intellectual property, innovation and technology. Overall, then, proposals to date in this area address a very similar range of objectives as those addressed by MDG 8 on global partnership – yet this is widely seen to have been one of the least effective goals in practice. It will therefore be essential that new goals do something very different to MDG 8 to ensure that promises for an enabling global environment bear fruit. A good starting point could be defining the specific accountabilities for all actors, and setting up systems that can effectively facilitate these accountabilities in practice.

Some proposed goals within this set are subject to strong debates on the approach. In **inclusive growth and employment**, even though most of the key institutional proposals agree on approaches to promote more sustainable

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[6] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

and inclusive growth (including on valuing factors beyond GDP, like environment and wellbeing; supporting enterprise development and economic activity; raising productivity and generating more and better jobs), civil society inputs diverge on how best to achieve inclusive growth. They place a stronger focus on equity than on growth in its own right, emphasising employment rights, and highlighting the importance of supporting small, micro, and informal enterprise development, as opposed to growth or enterprise development in general.

Finally, there are those goals within this set which remain politically contentious even though lessons during the MDGs reflect that they can have a positive or negative influence on development outcomes, whether in their own right or for outcomes in other areas. **Peace & stability** and **governance** appear as goal areas across the key proposals, and this in itself signals a step-change in development thinking since the MDGs were agreed, where aspects of these agendas were relegated to the preamble rather than goals and targets. There is now apparent consensus amongst some of the main proposals to date in many aspects of these agendas. In governance, they agree on the need for transparency and accountability, strong institutions, and on fighting corruption. Most also propose targets on civil and political or human rights. In peace & stability there is growing consensus around reducing or eliminating violence, particularly against women and children; on the link between peace and development; and that economic inclusion, addressing inequalities and ensuring access for all groups to public services can strengthen these links. There is also agreement on the importance of rule of law and effective, inclusive institutions. Proposals suggest that this requires making institutions of justice and security fair, non-discriminatory and accessible to all groups.

Yet in spite of quite a high degree of consensus building around what priorities would be useful in these areas, it is far from guaranteed that they will survive intergovernmental negotiations and appear as goals in a post-2015 framework. For one they have not been part of the MDGs or traditional aspects of the development agenda in many contexts, but more importantly, some still perceive them to touch too closely on matters of domestic politics and sovereignty to address at global level. Adding to the political challenge here is the fact that key proposals also diverge in their approach to some potential target areas. For example, in peace and security only some address drivers of conflict, such as the flow of arms or land rights, and in governance there is divergence on whether to focus more narrowly on civil and political rights or also on the wider agenda of economic, social and cultural rights. Moreover, any proposals on governance cannot avoid contending with the argument that there are not enough quantitatively measurable facets to this agenda, for example as noted in the interim report of the Open Working Group, and proposals demonstrating the contrary have yet to be put forward.

**The third group of possible goal areas (rated one star) -** *infrastructure & technology, urbanisation, social inclusion* **- are not suggested as goals by most key proposals to date, and are unlikely to find a place at goal level in a future framework, although they may feature as targets within other goals.** These outlying themes are addressed in different ways by different actors, and only one or two of the key institutional proposals suggest they should be included as goals in a new framework. They could still gain traction, however, in the coming period of work by the Open Working Group, and some make a strong case for their inclusion at goal level.

For instance, proposals for a goal on **social inclusion** to address social and economic inequities – mainly coming from the SDSN and civil society inputs – highlight the importance of strengthening economic and political participation, ensuring access for all groups to legal and public services, and ending discrimination on the basis of gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic location or other groupings. Proposals in this area also call for data disaggregation to monitor progress against all post-2015 goals by gendered and group-based inequalities. It has been controversial that the HLP and other actors tasked with taking the post-2015 agenda forward have not proposed a goal to address inequalities, especially given that evidence indicates inequality has undermined MDG progress and could similarly hold back progress on a future agenda for development. In addition to targets on income inequality (suggested by some key proposals within a poverty or inclusive growth goal), there is therefore a strong case to address the wider aspects of inequality beyond incomes that a goal on social inclusion could encompass.

Even if there is no specific goal on social inclusion to address the wider inequality agenda, however, group-based inequities are likely to be addressed through disaggregated approaches to measuring outcomes for the poorest in other goal areas. They could also be addressed through relevant targets in other goal areas, as could the remaining outlying areas of **infrastructure and technology** and **urbanisation**, and others not covered in this report where there has been significant policy interest, like **migration** and **population**.

Comparing the areas of consensus between key proposals so far with recent results from *My World* (the UN's global survey on people's priorities for future goals) reflects that the priorities most voted for by people around the world are also areas that key proposals agree should feature as goals and where there is significant overlap in approaches to targets. It is telling that *an honest and responsive government*, for example, features within the four top priorities for

voters, along with *education, healthcare* and *better job opportunities*, all of which have garnered over 600 000 votes to date:

### *My World votes across goal areas*
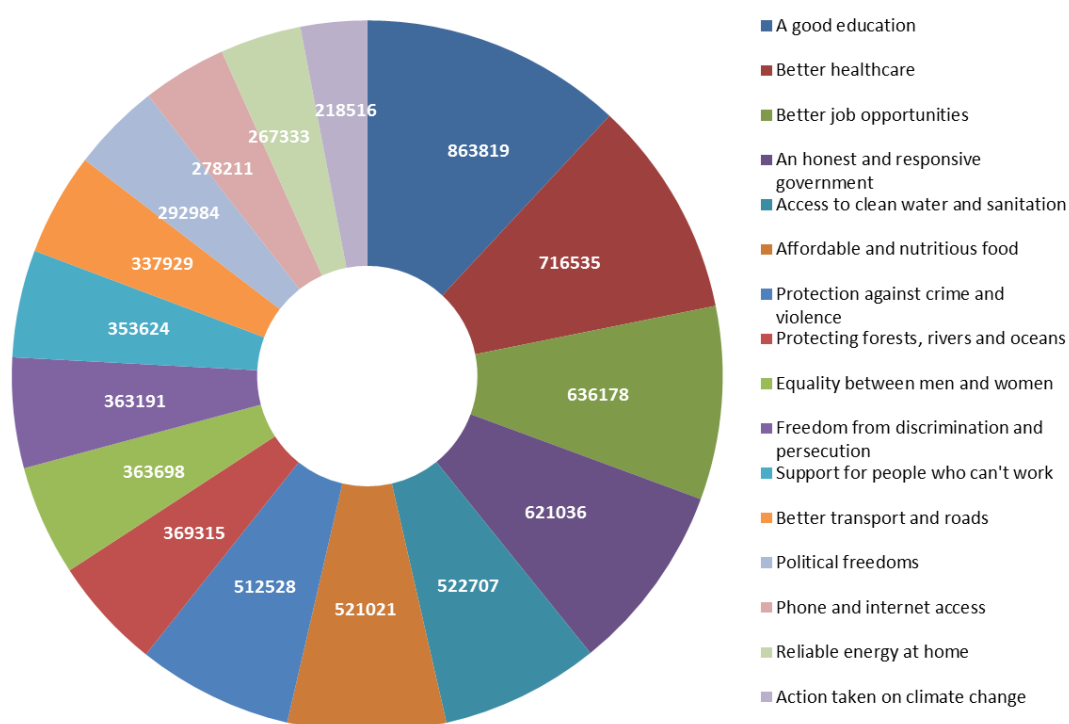


This indicates that people's priorities also reflect global changes and new priorities that aren't part of the current MDG agenda, including jobs and governance. It will be important that those taking forward work to define the post-2015 framework in the coming period seek to ensure that such areas remain on the agenda, even in cases where the politics is a challenge.

However post-2015 goals take shape, there is already a clear consensus emerging that a much more ambitious and comprehensive agenda is called for than the MDG framework offered. New areas are appearing across key proposals that didn't feature in the MDGs, and the bar of ambition is being raised in those areas that did. This points firmly to the question of financing a future agenda, which proposals agree will need to be a strongly collective effort involving more actors more substantially than in the past. This means a strengthened role for governments in raising more of their own development resources, and for private sector finance to be mobilised at scale, even if ODA continues to play the defining role for some countries.

The importance of the civil society contribution through post-2015 proposals and other inputs is also highlighted by this review. Civil society has offered valuable ideas so far that are sometimes missing from the proposals of institutions or expert groups, in areas like social inclusion (where most institutional proposals have focused more narrowly on incomes), governance and accountability, and a global enabling environment. It is no coincidence that these areas are among the most politically difficult, and it is therefore essential that civil society continues to be given space to help shape an ambitious framework in the coming phase of intergovernmental work and negotiations.

# Conclusion

Many of the same priorities as those covered by the MDGs, like ending poverty and providing essential public services, are also top priorities for the emerging post-2015 framework. In these areas there is lots of consensus on the approach to goals and targets, even where this involves addressing them in new ways. In spite of this there remains work to be done towards agreeing detail on the range of targets and indicators, and resolving persisting differences in some areas.

Goals in which there is less agreement so far face both political and technical challenges. These are broadly associated with their status as new goals not addressed in the MDG agenda, where there is consequently a more limited technical and political precedent through which to address them in a new framework. The present challenge in these areas is to break new ground on both fronts – for goals that are most controversial a crucial step will be ensuring that there are robust technical proposals available to help break ground on the politics. Recent *My World* survey results reflect that including some politically difficult areas like governance in a new framework will also be important to answer to people's main priorities.

In areas that are not new but in which the MDGs weren't effective, like global partnership, it will be essential that new approaches go further or work differently to avoid repeating poor results. And for possible goals where there is even less consensus on the approach across key proposals to date, or even on their inclusion in new goals, priorities could still be carried through to the final framework as targets in other goals, or in the approach to measuring future progress. Moreover, there is still scope for the report of the Open Working Group to elevate their prominence in the coming months.

This paper presents a rough guide on the state of consensus and divergence in proposals on future goals so far, but it is possible that a very different picture will emerge as the post-2015 process enters the intergovernmental negotiations phase next year. At that stage there will inevitably be less space for the range of actors to influence the outcome, which makes the period from now up to the UN Secretary-General's report in a year's time a crucial window of opportunity. In the immediate period there is also scope for the state of consensus and divergence to go in new directions, as many of the potential goal areas analysed here are yet to be discussed by the Open Working Group. As this group comes together this month to resume its schedule of meetings, it would do well to take account of the wealth of ideas already on the table.

> **To read the goal-specific analysis on which this summary is based please refer to *Annex I: Goals featured in most key proposals* and *Annex II: Goals featured in some key proposals.***

# Annex I: Goals featured in most key proposals

## Education

Education features as a goal across all four of the key proposals, and almost a quarter of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker[7] address it as a goal or target area.
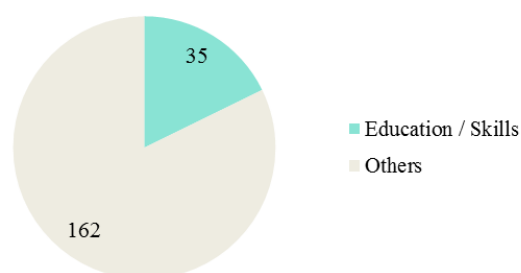
*Degree of similarity:* ⭐ ⭐ ⭐

| | |
|---|---|
| *HLP:* | *Provide Quality Education and Lifelong Learning* |
| *SDSN:* | *Ensure effective learning for all children and youth for life and livelihood* |
| *UNGC:* | *Quality education for all* |
| *UNSG:* | *Provide quality education and lifelong learning* |

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*



*Similar approaches*

- There is a continued focus on education access, and all proposals expand significantly from this into a wide range of new target objectives, particularly lifelong learning and the quality of education. However, approaches to ensuring access vary.

- All proposals reviewed highlight the links between education and employment. The focus here is on technical and vocational skills for employment (or self-employment); targets propose increasing the % of young adults or adults with the skills for employment (e.g. HLP; UNGC), or focusing on unemployment rates (e.g. SDSN).

    - Civil society has called for 'practical' skills for entrepreneurship (UGLP, 2013) and skills that are 'relevant to work and life' (UNDG, 2013b).

- Civil society and institutional proposals agree on the need for improving the quality of education by improving learning outcomes.

    - Most institutional proposals focus within this on literacy and numeracy (HLP; SDSN; UNGC, 2013); and few address drop-out / completion rates (SDSN; UNDG, 2013b).

- Gender parity is not consistently addressed, however most proposals address gender parity implicitly within wording on access, e.g. 'all girls and boys'; 'every child' /'all children'.

    - Civil society consultations highlight the importance of girls and women also having access to post-primary and post-secondary learning opportunities (UNDG, 2013b).

*Divergences*

- There is divergence in proposals on the level of education that all children or adults should have access to, e.g. just primary (UNGC); primary and lower-secondary (HLP); early childhood development, primary, secondary and lifelong learning for employment (SDSN); early childhood development through to post-primary schooling, life skills and vocational skills (UNSG; UNDG, 2013b).

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[7] Individual organisations' contributions were not assessed here, but can be consulted at the Future Goals Tracker database of proposals for post-2015 goals, and are represented in the accompanying graphs reflecting the number of proposals in each specific area. The Future Goals Tracker is the world's most comprehensive, regularly updated database of proposals for new goals.

- SDSN frames education and effective learning as cross-cutting, with a range of implications outlined across its four dimensions of sustainable development ('Economic Development and Eradication of Poverty; Social Inclusion; Environmental Sustainability; Governance, Peace and Security').

- UNGC, SDSN and civil society (UNDG, 2013b) propose that education curricula should integrate sustainable development concepts at all levels, and others propose investment in 'transformative' education to tackle discriminatory social norms (Burns et al., 2013).

- UNGC and civil society proposals mention the importance of adequate and safe educational facilities, with an emphasis in the UNGC proposal on computer and digital facilities, and within civil society consultations on a range of dimensions of 'healthy learning environments' ('*safe, disaster sensitive school buildings and classrooms, safe and clear drinking water school feeding programmes*') (UNDG, 2013a).

- Civil society inputs also call for education in conflict and disaster zones, and for participatory governance structures in education (e.g. UNICEF & UNESCO, 2013).


## Gender

Gender features as a goal in three of the four main institutional proposals, and in the fourth as a key aspect of a wider goal on exclusion and inequality. 14 per cent of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker address gender as a goal or target area.
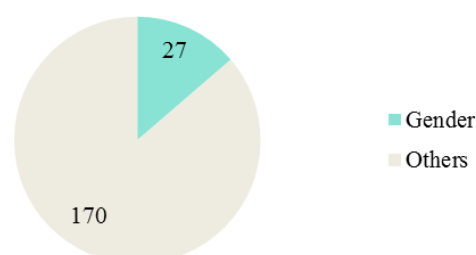
*Degree of similarity:* ⭐ ⭐ ⭐

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*

**HLP:** *Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality*

**SDSN:** *Achieve gender equality, social inclusion, and human rights for all*

**UNGC:** *Achieve women and girls' empowerment*

**UNSG:** *Tackle Exclusion and Inequality*



- Gender: 27
- Others: 170

*Similar approaches*

- There is consensus on preventing and ending violence against women and girls (/children) across all of the proposals reviewed.

  - Most proposals specify 'zero tolerance' (UNSG) or 'preventing and eliminating' all forms of violence against women and girls /children (HLP; SDSN), while one (UNGC) proposes a target to reduce it by at least 50 per cent.

  - Specific aspects mentioned in civil society proposals include domestic violence (CAFOD), or sexual violence and freedom from fear (UNDG, 2013a); the UNSG report also mentions the exploitation of women and girls.

- Proposals agree on promoting empowerment and ending discrimination against women and girls.

  - Within this most specify the importance of women's participation in political, economic and public life (HLP; SDSN; UNSG; UNICEF & UN Women, 2013; UNDG, 2013b);

  - UNGC puts forward a narrower proposal for a target on the proportion of women in leadership positions.

- There is also convergence among proposals on equal rights for women in a range of areas, particularly owning or inheriting land or property (HLP; UNGC; Burns et al., 2013); equal pay for equal work (UNGC; UNSG).

- Almost all proposals call for data disaggregation by gender for monitoring post-2015 goals.

*Divergences*

- Civil society proposals highlight the link between gender discrimination and social norms, specifically calling for discriminatory social norms to be tackled (CAFOD; 62 CSOs; UNDG, 2013b). Some call for gender responsive and rights-based governance systems (UNDG, 2013b), and for equal opportunity (IGLP, 2013).

- Only the UNSG's report links women's empowerment with skills development.

- Only some proposals address ending child marriage (HLP; UNSG; UNICEF & UN Women, 2013), and only some (mainly civil society) inputs address the burden of care that women face (addressed by CAFOD; UNICEF & UN Women, 2013).

## Health

Health features as a goal across all four key institutional proposals, and it is addressed in over a quarter of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker.
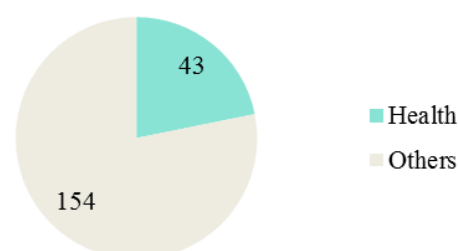
*Degree of similarity:* ⭐ ⭐ ⭐

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*

**HLP:** *Ensure Healthy Lives*
**SDSN:** *Achieve Health and Wellbeing at all Ages*
**UNGC:** *Universal health coverage*
**UNSG:** *Improve health*



*Similar approaches*

- All proposals except that of the HLP put forward a target for universal health coverage, however the HLP notes UHC is implicit within its targets.

- There is strong consensus on reducing or ending preventable maternal and child (under-5) mortality.

- Some proposals seek to ensure sexual and reproductive health and rights (HLP; UNSG), while others propose sexual and reproductive health or healthcare and family planning (SDSN; UNGC), with no mention of 'rights'. Other inputs are mixed, but most refer to sexual and reproductive health rather than rights (UNDG, 2013b; WHO & UNICEF; 62 CSOs).

- All proposals seek to reduce or end non-communicable and communicable diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria (HLP report, UNGC; UNSG report), and some highlight additional priorities, e.g. the HLP report also mentions 'neglected tropical diseases and priority non-communicable diseases'; and the UNSG report also seeks to 'reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases, including mental illness, and road accidents'.

- Several proposals suggest targets to expand immunisation rates, including the HLP, SDSN, UNSG and civil society consultations (UNDG, 2013b).

*Divergences*

- Some proposals focus on lifestyle choices or environmental factors within health objectives:

    - The SDSN proposal calls for healthy diets, physical activity, and avoiding unhealthy behaviours (e.g. smoking and excessive alcohol intake); while the UNSG report calls in general for promoting 'healthy behaviours'.

    - Several civil society proposals outline links between environmental damage and health (UNDG, 2013a); curbing alcohol and addictive substance abuse and promoting mental health (IGLP, 2013) and overall well-being (UGLP; WHO & UNICEF, 2013).

- Civil society points specifically to women's and children's health and diseases (UNDG, 2013a), and chronic malnutrition (UNDG, 2013b).

- Some proposals mention the link between health and water and sanitation (UNSG; UNDG, 2013a).

# Energy

Energy features as a goal across three of the main institutional proposals and within the fourth as a key aspect of the goal on inclusive and sustainable growth and decent employment. 13 per cent of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker address energy.

*Degree of similarity:* ⭐⭐⭐

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*

**HLP:** *Secure Sustainable Energy*

**SDSN:** *Curb Human-Induced Climate Change and Ensure Clean Energy for All (+ targets within other goals)*

**UNGC:** *Sustainable energy for all*

**UNSG:** *Promote inclusive and sustainable growth and decent employment – Target on sustainable energy*
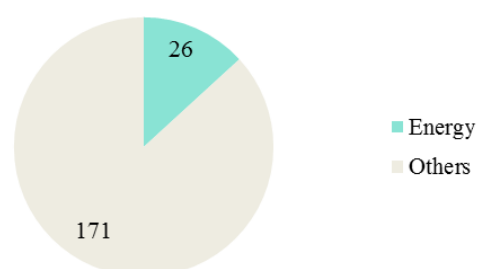


*Similar approaches*

- There is consensus amongst institutional proposals and in civil society consultations on a goal for universal access to sustainable energy (HLP; SDSN; UNGC; UNDG, 2013b; World We Want, 2013a), with some specifying 'modern energy services' (HLP; UNGC). Most emphasise the importance of technological solutions to bring this about, and some call for new partnerships to facilitate the necessary financing and infrastructure.

- Almost all proposals contain targets on the share of renewable energies in the mix of energy supply.

    - The HLP and UNGC propose doubling the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix, SDSN proposes decarbonizing the energy system, and consultations suggest increasing the share of renewable energy (UNDG, 2013b; World We Want, 2013a).

- Almost all proposals advocate for improving energy efficiency (HLP; SDSN; UNGC; UNDG, 2013b; World We Want, 2013a), and SDSN identifies the importance of technology transfer for this.

- Most institutional proposals agree on a need to transition to clean energies in a way that does not hamper economic growth or universal access, pointing to the need for common but differentiated responsibilities in a new framework that takes account of countries' different stages of development.

- Most institutional proposals agree on a need to phase out fossil fuel subsidies.

    - The SDSN goes further in identifying a need for "incentives, including pricing greenhouse gas emissions, to curb climate change and promote technology transfer to developing countries".

*Divergences*

- The SDSN report focuses on the links between energy and climate change, calling for transformations in our economic structure and way of life, while other proposals take a narrower technical approach in favour of cleaner and smarter energy provision, without making explicit any implications for wider economic and social systems.

- The HLP and SDSN touch on the question of financing energy systems transition in the global south.

-  UNGC includes a target to reduce particulate concentration of urban air pollution by 50%.

## Poverty

Poverty features as a goal across all four institutional proposals, and income poverty is addressed as a goal or target area in 14 per cent of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker.
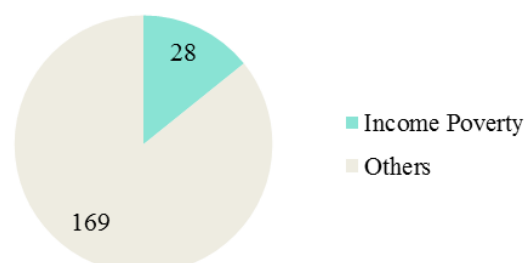
*Degree of similarity:* ⭐ ⭐ ⭐

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*

**HLP:** *End Poverty*

**SDSN:** *End poverty and increase prosperity via inclusive economic growth*

**UNGC:** *End poverty and increase prosperity via inclusive economic growth*

**UNSG:** *Eradicate poverty in all its forms*



*Similar approaches*

- All institutional proposals put forward a target to end (or 'bring to zero') absolute income poverty, defined as people living on less than $1.25 a day.

    - Several institutional and civil society proposals note the need to raise the poverty line in relation to the context – for example the HLP proposes also reducing 'the share of people living below their country's 2015 national poverty line' and urges countries to "adjust their poverty line upwards over time" (HLP).

- All institutional proposals mention inclusive poverty-reducing growth as an instrument to tackle poverty, and most focus within this on employment, entrepreneurship and productivity.

    - The HLP and civil society focus in particular on attaining self-sufficiency through access to land and other assets: the HLP includes a target on 'secure rights to land, property and other assets', and several civil society inputs point to the importance of secure land access /rights.

- Almost all institutional proposals (except UNGC) and inputs from civil society identify vulnerability to risks and shocks as a dimension of poverty that needs to be addressed within a poverty goal, pointing to disaster risk reduction as an important objective.

    - Proposals highlight the risks posed by both environmental /natural disasters (UNSG; HLP), and insecurity /violence and conflict (UNSG; SDSN).

    - The HLP proposal includes a target on social protection coverage and to "build resilience and reduce deaths from natural disasters".

    - The UNSG and civil society inputs propose investing and building resilience in those communities most vulnerable to disaster risk (UNSG, UNDG, 2013a, Beyond 2015 et al., UNDG, 2013b).

    - The SDSN proposal frames disaster risk reduction specifically in the context of cities investing in resilience alongside other threats of climate change (SDSN).

- The HLP proposal and civil society inputs conceive of poverty as multidimensional, and the UNSG calls for a 'multifaceted approach' to poverty including both immediate and underlying factors.

    - Civil society inputs focus primarily on the inadequacy of present definitions of poverty, and expanding the concept of poverty from the focus on incomes to many other areas, particularly self-sufficiency and well-being.

    - The HLP highlights that world leaders have acknowledged a range of features and risk factors to poverty beyond incomes.

- Although reports point out the need to make progress in both poverty and environment objectives, few make concrete proposals for goals or targets to do this in an integrated way.

    - The UNSG and SDSN reports seek to integrate poverty and environment objectives: the SDSN addresses poverty within its four dimensions of sustainable development (alongside social inclusion, environmental

sustainability and governance), and the UNSG states that: "poverty needs to be tackled in the frame of sustainable development, not as a separate problem."

- Several civil society inputs mention the links between poverty and environment objectives, but beyond proposals on disaster resilience there are few specific targets proposed that address these together.

*Divergences*

- Some civil society inputs advocate for a rights-based approach to addressing poverty, e.g. the *Participate* study proposes introducing quotas for the most marginalised to access services, and ensuring programme success indicators '*are linked to positive impacts for the poorest and most marginalised*'(Burns et al., 2013).

- Several civil society inputs discuss poverty as deeply linked with much wider issues of policy coherence, including the need for reform in financial markets, tax, trade and intellectual property rights (e.g. 62 CSOs, 2013).

- Only SDSN focuses on hunger as a key dimension of poverty.

- UNGC is the only institutional proposal to build employment /decent work and child labour targets into a poverty goal, and the only one to mention a target on reducing the Gini coefficient within its goal area.

# Food Security

Food security features as a goal across all four institutional proposals, and is addressed in a quarter of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker.
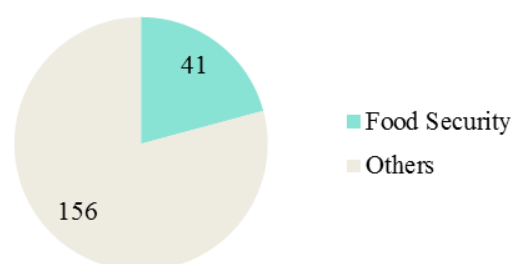
*Degree of similarity:* ⭐ ⭐

**HLP:** *Ensure food security and good nutrition*

**SDSN:** *(1) End Extreme Poverty including Hunger; (2) Improve Agriculture Systems and Raise Rural Prosperity*

**UNGC:** *Good nutrition for all through sustainable food and agricultural systems*

**UNSG:** *End hunger and malnutrition*

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*



41 Food Security
156 Others

*Similar approaches*

- All proposals agree on ending hunger, and most propose ending malnutrition (SDSN; UNGC; UNSG; UNDG, 2013b; Beyond 2015 et al.; World We Want, 2013b). Some proposals also put forward targets to address stunting (HLP; UNGC; UNSG).

- Most proposals call for increasing agricultural productivity in a sustainable manner in order to bring about greater food security and nutrition.

- Sustainable food production is a strong theme across proposals, with some specifically noting the need to rebuild fish stocks (HLP, UNGC); and others the sustainability of agricultural practices in general (HLP; SDSN; UNGC; UNSG; UNDG, 2013b; World We Want, 2013b).

- Almost all proposals (except the report of the UNSG) note the need for a target to reduce food loss and waste (post-harvest).

*Divergences*

- SDSN proposes universal access in rural areas to basic resources and infrastructure services necessary for agricultural production. Several civil society inputs have a similar focus, on the themes of 'self-sufficiency', 'empowerment' and 'ownership' of means of production to achieve food-security, while institutional reports focus more on the role of agri-business in improving rural livelihoods.

- Specifically, civil society proposals highlight the importance of rural-urban linkages and employment along the food chain, and the need to prioritise the needs of women and small scale producers (UNDG, 2013b; IGLP, 2013).

- Civil society inputs also mention the need to end 'practices that contribute to hunger', including agricultural subsidies and land grabbing (Beyond 2015 et al.; CAFOD, 2013).

- UNGC proposes that ending hunger and food insecurity will require 'stable and adequate incomes for all' and 'child and maternal care and strengthened social protection for vulnerable populations'.

## Water & Sanitation

Water or water and sanitation feature as a goal in three of the institutional proposals, and in the fourth within the wider goal on environmental challenges. A quarter of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker address water and sanitation.

*Degree of similarity:* ⭐ ⭐

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*

*HLP:* *Achieve Universal Access to Water and Sanitation*

*SDSN:* *Secure Ecosystem Services, Biodiversity and ensure Good Management of Water and other Natural Resources (+ targets within other goals)*

*UNGC:* *Water and sanitation for all*

*UNSG:* *Address environmental challenges*
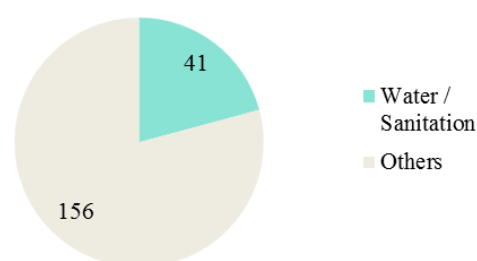


*Similar approaches*

- Most proposals cover the need for more sustainable water management, although they diverge in their specific approaches to this. The HLP, SDSN and UNGC state the need for targets that bring freshwater use in line with supply, and others, including civil society inputs, focus on the need for sustainable and/or integrated water management (often in the context of wider sustainable resource use) (SDSN, UNSG, UNDG, 2013b; UNDG, 2013a).

- Some proposals, including from civil society, suggest that there should be targets for wastewater management at the national level (HLP; UNGC; UNDG, 2013b; UN-Water). The SDSN places the focus here on transparency and accountability for pollution and use of environmental services, where all users (individuals, governments and businesses) pay the social cost of this.

- Most propose universal access to drinking water and sanitation, although specific targets vary (HLP, SDSN, UNGC, UNDG, 2013b).

*Divergences*

- In those proposals that frame water in the context of wider resource and environmental sustainability objectives, there is a particular focus on making sure the cost of water/resource usage is factored in by all stakeholders, so that resource use reflects its environmental cost.

  - In contrast, the proposals of the HLP and the UNCG focus more on water usage, WASH, and the cross-cutting impact on health and life chances. They emphasise the role of infrastructure in service delivery and hygiene objectives.

- While institutional proposals in water management focus mainly on a technical approach, civil society proposals identify more governance-related factors around who should be involved in the management of supply, cross-border flows, and infrastructure services. Civil society inputs covering this identify problematic governance in the water sector (UNDG, 2013a; UN-Water; UNDG, 2013b).

- Civil society inputs to the UNDG consultation (2013b) specify the role of governments in managing competing demands and water security at the local, national, regional and global level, and the need for funding mechanisms to facilitate effective water resources management.

- SDSN highlights the need to address water pollution and adverse trans-boundary impacts.

- Civil society proposals also diverge in identifying the need to focus on the quality of water or wastewater management, arguing that the focus has been skewed during the MDGs towards access and not enough on improving services.

## Inclusive Growth & Employment

Inclusive growth features at the goal level across all four institutional proposals, and almost a quarter of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker address equitable growth and employment.

*Degree of similarity:* ⭐ ⭐

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*



| | |
|---|---|
| **HLP:** | *Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods and Equitable Growth* |
| **SDSN:** | *(1) End poverty and increase prosperity via inclusive economic growth (2) Achieve Development within Planetary Boundaries (target for each country to reach the next income level)* |
| **UNGC:** | *End poverty and increase prosperity via inclusive economic growth* |
| **UNSG:** | *Promote inclusive and sustainable growth and decent employment* |
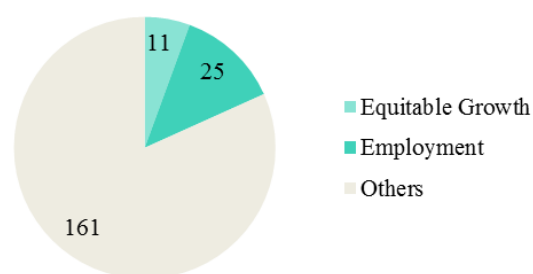
*Similar approaches*

- The key institutional proposals agree strongly on the need for more sustainable and inclusive growth.

- Most institutional proposals (HLP, SDSN, UNSG) suggest that GDP is not an adequate measure of what is valued, and that it will be necessary to devise new measures that also value the environment and wellbeing.

- Institutional proposals seek to support enterprise development and economic activity, particularly through improved access to finance, including for women and marginalised groups (UNGC; HLP), and through improved infrastructure and services (HLP; UNGC).

  - Most proposals mention an enabling environment for entrepreneurship or reducing barriers to starting a new business (HLP; UNGC; UGLP, UNDP & ILO).

  - Civil society inputs differ here in that they mainly focus on small, micro and informal businesses as opposed to broad support for an enabling business environment.

- Most UN and civil society proposals note the importance of raising productivity or productive capacity: either by raising labour productivity (UNGC) or economic productivity as a whole, moving towards more value added and/or diverse forms of production, and generating higher-value goods or jobs (HLP; UNGC; UNSG UNDG, 2013b, UNDP & ILO and UNDG, 2013a).

- Most proposals highlight the need for coherent employment-generating economic policies (UNSG; UNDG, 2013a; UNDG, 2013b; UNDP & ILO; HLP). Institutional proposals include targets on increasing employment (HLP) or reducing unemployment (UNGC; SDSN).

  - Most proposals specify the need to support youth employment and entrepreneurship (often in skills-related aspects of education proposals), and many also make explicit the need for labour market policies to target groups in addition to youth (particularly women, marginalised groups, those with disabilities).

- Proposals address the need for more inclusive and equitable growth, though some civil society inputs and the SDSN differ in their approach.

- More and better job opportunities ('decent jobs /employment') are identified across UN and civil society proposals as key to inclusive growth or social inclusion. Civil society inputs agree on the need to focus on the quantity and quality of jobs.

- Most proposals address social protection for those out of work. Civil society inputs highlight the need to safeguard social security (BGLP, IGLP, UNDG, 2013a, UNDP & ILO, CAFOD; UNDG, 2013b), and the UNGC, UNSG and HLP call for social protection systems.

- There is some overlap with the education theme, which covers proposals on skills and training for employment. Proposals in education highlight in particular the need for youth skills and matching these with labour market demand.

*Divergences*

- While there is consensus on the need for more inclusive, sustainable growth, different Institutional proposals outline different ways to get there.

    - UNGC discusses 'green growth' with a strong focus on employment and enhanced CSR (ensuring companies 'do no harm' and also support more sustainable inclusive growth);

    - The UNSG places much emphasis on decent employment and redistributive policies (alongside environmental sustainability);

    - SDSN proposes decoupling growth from unsustainable patterns of production and consumption, with a narrative on "the right to development within planetary boundaries';

    - The HLP outlines targets on jobs and enterprise development, along with actions to support businesses (improvements in infrastructure, effective and efficient governance, cross-border collaboration to facilitate trade in new markets and responsible business practice in line with principles of transparency and accountability).

- Some Institutional proposals combine inclusive or equitable growth objectives with employment in the same proposed goal (HLP; UNSG), while some combine growth and poverty in a single goal (SDSN; UNGC).

- The HLP and UNGC have a stronger emphasis on an enabling environment for business and entrepreneurship than other UN and civil society approaches. For instance, with targets on the number of new start-ups and the value-added of new products (HLP); UNGC specifically highlights the need to remove barriers to entry for new businesses.

- Civil society inputs in contrast have a stronger focus on small, micro and informal enterprises. Consultations recommended special support measures for these enterprises, such as better access to finance, business development services, strengthening their legal, commercial and property rights (UNDG, 2013b; UNDP & ILO).

- While many civil society inputs do discuss growth in similar terms to Institutional proposals, consultations with civil society reveal much questioning of the growth paradigm, with calls for more inclusive economic policies, including through fairer trade and tax regimes, and a stronger focus on equity than on growth in its own right (Beyond 2015 et al., 62 CSOs, BGLP).

- Civil society inputs have an emphasis on employment rights, highlighting the need to address exploitation and 'risky jobs', and to protect workers' rights and voice (BGLP, IGLP, UNDG, 2013b, Burns et al., 2013).

    - The *Participate* study highlights factors that can erode employment rights and the decent work agenda, such as policies prioritising inflation control over employment, concessions to certain companies (e.g. mining industry) within countries, and the concentration of capital in certain sectors. It proposes that a future framework should support those in the informal sector and the transition to formal employment, and that the poorest should have control over productive assets (Burns et al., 2013).

- Only UNGC proposes eliminating child labour, and looks at ways to raise labour productivity through other development goals (education, health etc.).

- *Income inequality:[8]* There are divergent approaches to inequality.

  - The UNGC and SDSN proposals include targets to address income inequality - UNGC proposes reducing national Gini coefficients by 30%, and SDSN proposes to 'reduce by half the proportion of households with incomes less than half of the national median income (relative poverty)'. Both the UNGC and SDSN view greater income equity as means to reach inclusive sustainable development, and in addition SDSN seeks to address this through wider factors including participation, social ethics and human rights.

  - Other institutional proposals focus instead on addressing a more limited agenda of 'inequality of opportunity' (HLP; UNSG).

  - Civil society inputs take a range of approaches to income inequality, and many agree with those UN reports that recognise income inequalities as a starting point to tackle wider inequalities (UNDG, 2013b; BGLP; UNDP & ILO, 2013), and /or suggest specific indicators for monitoring income inequality (62 CSOs; Beyond 2015 et al.). However, most civil society groups call for an ambitious and wide-ranging agenda to tackle inequality, including and beyond incomes, and outline the need to address structural inequalities, e.g. based on gender, social norms, discrimination and governance.

  - E.g. *Participate* research highlights intersecting inequalities that perpetuate marginalisation of certain groups defined by their identity, economic status or geographic location, suggesting a holistic and nationally-based approach is required to address these structural inequalities (Burns et al., 2013). *See further details in the overlapping theme of 'Social Inclusion'.*

## Peace & Stability

Peace and stability feature as a goal in three of the institutional proposals, and in the fourth as a target within the wider goal on 'gender equality, social inclusion, and human rights'. 12 per cent of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker address peace and stability related factors.

*Degree of similarity:* ⭐ ⭐

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*

| | |
|---|---|
| **HLP:** | *Ensure Stable and Peaceful Societies* |
| **SDSN:** | *Achieve Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, and Human Rights for all (target to 'prevent and eliminate violence against individuals, especially women and children')* |
| **UNGC:** | *Build peaceful and stable societies* |
| **UNSG:** | *Build peace and effective governance based on the rule of law and sound institutions* |



Peace / Security
Others
23
174
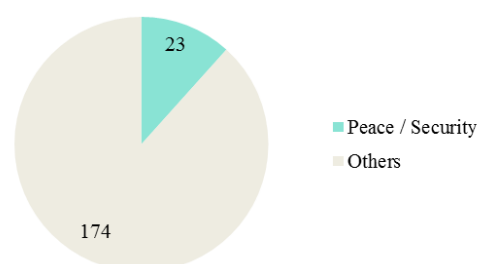
*Similar approaches*

- There is consensus across proposals on reducing or eliminating violence, with the HLP and UNGC proposing a specific target on reducing violent deaths per 100,000, while UNGC specifies a 20 per cent reduction. Civil society inputs differ somewhat here in terminology, with some using wording on 'freedom from violence (and fear)', particularly for women and children (UNDG, 2013b).

- All proposals point out the mutually reinforcing links between peace and development. Within this most focus on economic inclusion and addressing inequalities as key tools for promoting peace. Specifically, there is a high degree of consensus around promoting inclusive economic opportunities, addressing inequalities and ensuring access for all groups to public services.

  - The SDSN proposes a target on reducing by half the proportion of households with incomes less than half of the national median income (SDSN), the UNGC proposes improving access among all ethnic,

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[8] See also the overlapping theme of 'Social Inclusion'.

religious and social groups to justice services and economic opportunity (UNGC), and civil society consultations point to the importance of reducing inequalities across social groups and regions within countries (UNDG, 2013b).

- An approach based on strengthening rule of law, particularly through effective and inclusive institutions, is common across proposals.

    - Specifically, making institutions of justice and security fair, non-discriminatory and accessible to all groups is a strong theme for both institutional and civil society proposals (HLP; UNDG, 2013b; SDSN).

    - Civil society inputs highlight the importance of non-discrimination in security, justice and other institutions to raise trust in society (UGLP, UNDG, 2013a).

*Divergences*

- Institutional proposals tend not to focus on external drivers of conflict within this goal area, although two note the importance of reducing organised crime (HLP; UNGC). In contrast, civil society proposals and the UNGC proposal have a stronger focus on external drivers (UNDG, 2013b; 62 CSOs; EGLP, 2013), particularly illicit flows of arms, drugs, finance, natural resources and human trafficking (UNDG, 2013b; UNGC).

- Proposals from civil society and from UNGC also mention the importance of mediation and dispute resolution (UNGC; CAFOD), and working through community-based and traditional institutions (CAFOD).

- Some proposals discuss transparency and accountability as tools that can help with peace building by eliminating bribery and corruption (UNSG; UNDG, 2013b; IGLP, 2013).

- Only the UNGC notes ways in which private sector can play a role to set standards on safety, crime, money transfers, discrimination etc.

- Only one on the civil society inputs reviewed discusses land rights and management as a driver of conflict.

## Governance

Governance features as a goal across all four institutional proposals, and a quarter of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker address national level governance and rights.

*Degree of similarity:* ⭐⭐

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*

| | |
|---|---|
| **HLP:** | *Ensure Good Governance and Effective Institutions* |
| **SDSN:** | *Transform Governance for Sustainable Development* |
| **UNGC:** | *Good governance and realization of human rights* |
| **UNSG:** | *Build peace and effective governance based on the rule of law and sound institutions* |



Pie chart: 47 National Level Governance & Rights; 150 Others
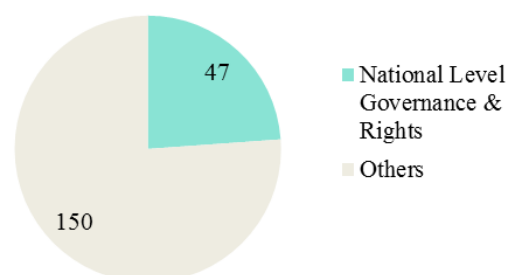
*Similar approaches*

- There is similarity across proposals in recognising the need
for transparency and accountability for effective governance, and particularly transparent and accountable institutions.

- There is consensus on the need for transparency through access to information. This is central to both UN and civil society proposals on governance.

- Proposals agree on the need for accountability, mainly in the context of ensuring effective institutions and reducing bribery and corruption (HLP; SDSN; UNGC; UNSG; UNDG, 2013b and other civil society proposals). However, few propose ways of translating this into a concrete target.

- All institutional and civil society proposals mention civil society participation (or 'participatory governance') to improve accountability and governance objectives (62 CSOs; SDSN; UNSG; UNDG, 2013b; UNGC; HLP; BGLP).

    - For instance, the UNSG's report calls for: "citizens' involvement in policymaking and their oversight of the use of public resources."

    - UNGC suggests involving business alongside state agencies and civil society to minimize or eliminate bribery (UNGC).

    - The *Participate* study suggests building participatory governance: "Involve citizens in creating, monitoring and implementing policies, by generating genuine dialogue between marginalised groups and authorities at the local, national, regional and global levels" (Burns et al., 2013).

- All proposals mention human or civil rights, with some calling for specific civil and political rights (HLP; UNDG, 2013b), and others for respect for a broader human rights agenda (SDSN; UNGC; UNSG).

- Civil and political rights mentioned as targets within the HLP and civil society proposals include freedom of speech, association, peaceful protest and access to independent media and information (HLP; UNDG, 2013a).

- Proposals that address human rights mainly call for respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in general (SDSN; UNSG), or for improving the awareness and implementation of the existing UN human rights conventions and instruments (UNGC).

    - Most civil society inputs go further on human rights than institutional proposals.

*Divergences*

- Civil society proposals contain greater emphasis on increasing political participation than institutional proposals, and overall they put forward greater levels of ambition in the areas of human rights, global governance and accountability.

    - E.g. Some civil society proposals (e.g. Beyond 2015 et al., 62 CSOs, Burns et al., OHCHR & UNDP) apply a broader definition of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, while most institutional proposals focus on a more specific set of civil and political rights.

- *Participate* research advocates for involving marginalised groups in defining the rights that matter to them and prioritising these (Burns et al., 2013).

- Most civil society proposals address questions of global and national level governance as inter-linked factors, while some institutional proposals (that of the HLP and the UNSG) address them separately. CAFOD notes that "international and national legislation must work effectively for poor people".

- Some of the civil society proposals and the SDSN proposal specify the need for accountability for a post-2015 framework itself (Beyond 2015 et al.; 62 CSOs).

    - The SDSN proposes that governments and businesses commit to transparent monitoring and annual reports on progress against SDGs, and independent evaluation of major companies' reporting; similarly, civil society proposes a 'mandatory reporting regime for business' (62 CSOs).

- While most civil society consultations and the SDSN proposal have a strong emphasis on corporate accountability, institutional proposals focus more on accountabilities for governments and institutions.

- Some proposals seek a target on universal legal identity through birth registrations (HLP; UNSG).

- The UNGC proposes a target on '*competitive and transparent procurement processes through public advertising of all government procurement cases*' (UNGC).

# Environmental Sustainability

Environmental sustainability features as a goal in three of the institutional proposals, and in the fourth as a cross-cutting issue in other goal areas. A quarter of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker address sustainability factors.

*Degree of similarity:* ⭐ ⭐

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*

**HLP:**   *Manage Natural Resource Assets Sustainably*

**SDSN:**  *(1) Achieve Development within Planetary Boundaries; (2) Secure Ecosystem Services, Biodiversity and ensure Good Management of Water and other Natural Resources*

**UNGC:**  *Included as cross-cutting issue in other goal areas*

**UNSG:**  *(1) Address environmental challenges; (2) Address climate change*
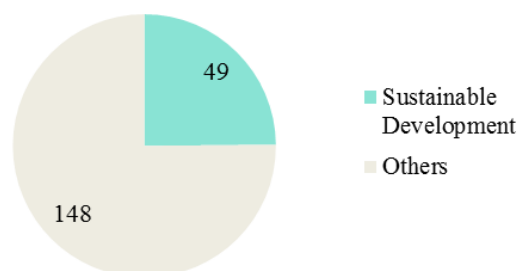


*Similar approaches*

- All proposals seek to address environmental challenges alongside poverty in recognition that progress on poverty could otherwise be unsustainable due to environmental degradation and climate change.

    - Although reports point out the need to make progress in both poverty and environment objectives, few make concrete proposals for goals or targets to do this in an integrated way.

- All institutional proposals except that of UNGC have a dedicated goal on environmental sustainability, and all including UNGC integrate it as cross-cutting (UNGC builds this into goals on sustainable water, food and energy resources).

- All institutional proposals call for sustainable management of natural resources or ecosystems, and the HLP and SDSN subscribe to the Aichi biodiversity targets.

- Sustainable resource management targets address energy, forests, soil or agricultural land, fresh water and fisheries or oceans (HLP, SDSN, UNSG).

- All proposals seek to address climate change, although approaches to this vary (see below).

- Civil society consultations and UN proposal (HLP; SDSN) highlight the need to go beyond GDP as an indicator of prosperity, to also include environmental and /or social factors. Some of these proposals suggest putting in place greater financial value and incentives for sustainable environmental resources management.

- The SDSN, UNGC and UNSG reports, as well as several civil society inputs (Beyond 2015 et al., 62 CSOs, UNDP & UNEP), note disaster risk reduction in the context of environmental sustainability or climate change. The HLP addresses this within the proposed poverty goal.

- Almost all institutional proposals and some civil society inputs highlight the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

*Divergences*

- SDSN and UNGC propose pricing carbon.

- The SDSN has some of the most ambitious proposals to protect natural resources and ecosystems, proposing the adoption of legislation to address the drivers of ecosystem degradation, and that governments, businesses and individuals should '*pay the social cost of pollution and use of environmental services*' (SDSN).

- SDSN puts forward a vision for an over-arching 'planetary boundaries' goal, integrating within this economic, social and environmental targets.

- In most institutional proposals climate change is addressed within energy goals, while consultations have a strong focus on climate change mitigation in its own right.

    - Civil society inputs make clear proposals to tackle climate change through a range of measures, including through more ambitious climate negotiations and /or climate finance (Beyond 2015 et al.; 62 CSOs), and one mentions the need for developed countries to take responsibility for climate change (UGLP).

- Unlike institutional proposals which are mainly based on a narrative of continued but more inclusive growth, several consultations call for transformation in production and consumption patterns to support environmental sustainability (62 CSOs, UNDG, 2013b; UNDG, 2013a; BGLP).

    - E.g. UNDG, 2013b outlines transformational shifts necessary for sustainability, including changing our economic paradigm, the modes of production and consumption, and bringing about better governance and education for sustainable development.

- The HLP and SDSN propose environmental monitoring and accountability systems:

    - The HLP identifies a need to: '*publish and use economic, social and environmental accounts in all governments and major companies*' and '*increase consideration of sustainability in x% of government procurements*' (HLP);

    - The SDSN proposes that in addition to reporting on their contribution to planetary boundaries based on expanded GDP measures that include environmental and social indicators, countries should participate in regional and global monitoring systems for environmental protection, and that there should be payment by individuals, governments and business for the cost of pollution and environmental services (SDSN).

- Some civil society inputs also call for monitoring and accountability, with an emphasis on sanctions or deterrents against corporate activities that lead to pollution or undermine sustainability objectives (Beyond 2015 et al.; IGLP, 2013) or '*incentives for innovations that protect the environment*' (UGLP).

- Civil society input highlights the need for ensuring sustainable ecosystem services in contexts where extractive industries are a major source of wealth (UNDG, 2013b).

- The UNGC proposes targets on urban air pollution and reducing emissions from the construction and operation of buildings.

- Some civil society proposals and that of the UNGC point to the role of education in driving the necessary changes amongst individuals and within society to contribute to sustainable development and transformations in consumption and production patterns (UNCG; UNDG, 2013b; UNDP & UNEP).
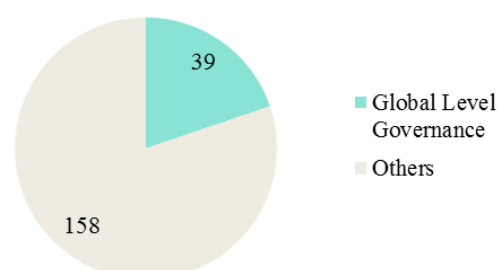
## Global enabling environment

A global enabling environment features at goal level in three of the institutional proposals, and in the fourth as a target in the goal for governance and human rights. A fifth of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker address factors of global governance.

*Degree of similarity:* ⭐ ⭐

    *No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*

**HLP:** *Create a Global Enabling Environment and Catalyse Long-Term Finance*

**SDSN:** *Transform Governance for Sustainable Development (targets on global governance & financing)*

**UNGC:** *Good governance and realization of human rights (target on international trading and financial system)*

**UNSG:** *Foster a renewed global partnership*



Pie chart: Global Level Governance = 39; Others = 158

*Similar approaches*

- UN and civil society proposals call for future goals that create an enabling environment in terms of finance, trade, taxation, aid, strengthened global architecture and partnerships, and supportive, accountable business practices.

- Institutional proposals highlight the need for long-term financing of future goals.

    - Most propose that domestic resources and private finance should play a stronger role in future development finance, and that this will require strengthening domestic resource mobilisation and multi-stakeholder partnerships, a stable global financial system and innovative financial instruments (UNSG; HLP; SDSN).

- There is also a need for continued official development assistance (ODA), particularly in low-income, conflict-affected and otherwise vulnerable states, and high-income countries should reach past commitments to ODA levels at 0.7 percent of GNI (HLP; SDSN; UNSG; CAFOD). Some proposes that in future development assistance should be used to leverage private funds and efforts for development (UNGC; UNSG).

- There is consensus among most institutional and civil society proposals in calling for decisive global measures to combat tax secrecy, tax havens, and illicit financial flows through strengthened global cooperation (UNSG; HLP; SDSN; IGLP; Beyond 2015 et al.; 62 CSOs).

- Fairer terms of trade features strongly across proposals. Specifically, the need to remove agricultural subsidies (HLP); removing barriers (e.g. duties, quotas) to market access for Least Developed Countries (UNGC; UNSG), and lowering restrictions and tariffs on green goods and services (UNGC).

- Proposals call for new and more effective global partnerships to support financing, trade, tax and other factors of an enabling environment.

    - SDSN suggests that managing globalisation effectively, particularly multinational corporations' activities across jurisdictions, requires more effective global cooperation between countries;

    - The HLP and UNSG propose that post-2015 goals should catalyse new partnerships;

    - UNGC proposes "a robust business engagement framework that can broaden the participation of companies, deepen commitments on core issues, upgrade partnerships and collective action, strengthen capacity for supporting business implementation at the national and local levels, and leverage the potential of private finance and investment" (UNGC, 2013).

- Most UN and civil society reports call for supporting development, particularly economic transformation in lower-income countries, through access to intellectual property, innovation and technology (UNSG; SDSN; HLP; 62 CSOs).

*Divergences*

- UNGC, SDSN and civil society inputs highlight the need to transform business practices so that they can support future development objectives. This involves effective monitoring of and accountability for corporate practices, in line with principles of inclusive sustainable development. There is particular emphasis for stronger reporting and accountability for the environmental degradation caused by some corporations (SDSN; Beyond 2015 et al.).

  - SDSN proposes aligning private incentives with the public interest, and UNGC proposes *'a robust business engagement framework that can broaden the participation of companies, deepen commitments on core issues, upgrade partnerships and collective action, strengthen capacity for supporting business implementation at the national and local levels, and leverage the potential of private finance and investment'* (UNGC).

- Some civil society coalitions call for radical reforms towards a fairer global system, critiquing the lack of specific proposals from the High Level Panel on strengthening global partnership. For instance, one civil society input proposes reforms of economic and social structures which '*should include the regulation of financial markets, the restructuring of unfair trade regimes and of intellectual property rights*' (62 CSOs, 2013).

- The HLP proposes reforming the global financial system and architecture to avoid future crises and promote stable long-term investment (HLP; 62 CSOs, 2013), while the SDSN frames this as an agenda beyond Sustainable Development Goals.

- Some highlight the importance of helping finance energy transition in the global south, and ending producer subsidies on fossil fuels to help catalyse transitions to cleaner energies (SDSN; UNGC).

- The UNSG and HLP advocate that the financing principles agreed at Monterrey should underpin commitments to finance post-2015 goals, and for reaching a development-oriented conclusion of the WTO Doha Round of trade negotiations.

- The UNSG calls for further debt relief for heavily indebted countries (UNSG).

# Annex II: Goals featured in some key proposals

## Infrastructure & technology

One UN proposal addresses infrastructure and technology at goal level, and SDSN addresses infrastructure as a key target for agriculture systems and rural prosperity, and for the goal on cities. 14 per cent of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker address infrastructure and technology.

*Degree of similarity:* ⭐

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*

**HLP:** -

**SDSN:** *(1) Improve agriculture systems and raise rural prosperity (target on 'universal access in rural areas to basic resources and infrastructure services'); (2) Empower inclusive, productive, and resilient cities (target on 'universal access to a secure and affordable built environment and basic urban services')*

**UNGC:** *Modernize infrastructure and technology*

**UNSG:** -



27 — Infrastructure & technology
170 — Others
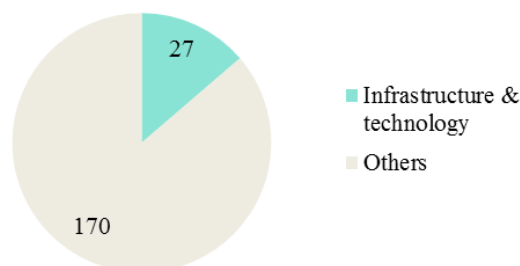
### Similar approaches

- SDSN proposes a range of approaches to pro-poor infrastructure through targets within goals on 1) agriculture and rural prosperity and on 2) inclusive, productive, resilient cities. The SDSN proposal calls for universal access to infrastructure services in rural and urban contexts, including mobile and broadband communications alongside a range of other services (land or housing; water, sanitation, modern and sustainable energy, transport, etc).

- The HLP agrees on the need for universal access to infrastructure including transport and ICT, proposing a target to '*Strengthen productive capacity by providing universal access to financial services and infrastructure such as transportation and ICT*', within the proposed goal to '*Create Jobs, Sustainable Livelihoods, and Equitable Growth*'.

### Divergences

- UNGC proposes a goal to 'modernise infrastructure and technology', calling for more sustainable infrastructure through reducing carbon emissions in building construction.

- Some civil society inputs are sceptical of an over-reliance on technology to solve development challenges (CAFOD; 62 CSOs).

- Civil society warns against unintended impacts of infrastructure projects and advocates consulting and involving affected communities right through from design to planning and execution of these projects.

- The UNSG report only briefly mentions infrastructure in the context of tackling exclusion and inequality.
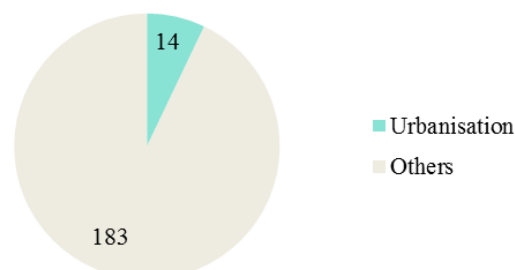
## Urbanisation

Urbanisation is addressed at goal level in half of the key institutional proposals, and features in less than a tenth of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker.

*Degree of similarity:* ⭐

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*

**HLP:** -

**SDSN:** *'Empower Inclusive, Productive and Resilient Cities'*

**UNGC:** -

**UNSG:** *'Meet the challenges of urbanization'*

Pie chart: 14 Urbanisation, 183 Others

### Similar approaches

- Of the main institutional proposals, only SDSN and the UNSG suggest addressing urbanisation as a stand-alone goal area: SDSN seeks to "*empower inclusive, productive and resilient cities*", and the UNSG calls for future goals to "*meet the challenges of urbanisation*". The HLP report also mentions the relevance of urbanisation, including as a cross-cutting issue for other goal areas.

- Proposals that address urban issues agree on the need for more sustainable cities (UNSG; SDSN), and some specify the need for more environmentally sustainable, energy efficient transport and infrastructure systems (SDSN; UNDG, 2013b; UNFPA et al. 2013).

- There is agreement among the SDSN, UNSG and civil society inputs on the need to raise urban living standards, particularly in urban slums, through expanding access to employment and livelihoods, infrastructure (including ICT & housing) and service provision (SDSN; UNSG; UNDG, 2013b; UNFPA et al. 2013; Burns et al., 2013).

### Divergences

- Some proposals highlight the importance of investing in disaster risk reduction in urban areas, and addressing the vulnerability of urban slum dwellers to disasters and climate change.

- The UNSG report and civil society inputs highlight links between rural and urban areas, and the need to ensure that economic, land management and environmental conditions in rural areas do not drive unsustainable urbanisation (UNSG; UNDG, 2013a; UNFPA et al. 2013).
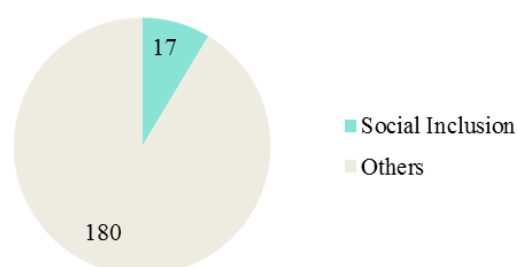
## Social Inclusion[9]

Social inclusion is addressed at goal level in half of the main institutional proposals, and less than a tenth of all proposals recorded in the Future Goals Tracker address this.

*Degree of similarity:* ⭐

*No. of proposals in Future Goals Tracker:*

**HLP:** -

**SDSN:** *Achieve Gender Equality, Social Inclusion and Human Rights for All (target to 'monitor and end discrimination and inequalities in public service delivery, the rule of law, access to justice, and participation in political and economic life')*

**UNGC:** -

**UNSG:** *Tackle exclusion and inequality*

Pie chart: 17 Social Inclusion, 180 Others

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[9] See also the overlapping theme of 'Inclusive Growth & Employment – Income Inequality'.

*Similar approaches*

- From among institutional proposals, only the SDSN and UNSG report address social inclusion.

- There is consensus among those UN and civil society proposals that address social exclusion and inequality on the need for solutions to involve strengthening economic and political participation, ensuring inclusive access to legal and public services and ending discrimination.

- They also agree on the need for data disaggregation in order to monitor gender and group-based inequalities.

- The UNSG proposes a goal to tackle exclusion and inequality through inclusive economies with access to "*decent employment, legal identification, financial services, infrastructure and social protection*", where all are able to contribute to and participate in governance.

    - SDSN proposes a range of overlapping measures: "*gender equality, social inclusion and human rights for all*", addressing inequalities in public service delivery, rule of law, access to justice and participation in political and economic life.

- The SDSN specifies monitoring its proposed target on inequality and discrimination "*on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, national origin, and social or other status*". Civil society inputs agree on the need to disaggregate data to unmask gender and other group-based inequalities (UNDG, 2013b).

*Divergences*

- Civil society inputs suggest that addressing social exclusion requires tackling inequality and discrimination through wide-ranging measures, including:

    - Economic transformation; ending discrimination or inequalities in legal and public service access; changing social norms; strengthening governance and tackling corruption through improved transparency and accountability (Beyond 2015 et al.; UNDG, 2013b; IGLP; CAFOD; UNDG, 2013a; UNICEF & UN Women, 2013; Burns et al., 2013).

- Civil society inputs propose addressing social exclusion and inequality in their own right, and by monitoring for equitable outcomes across other goal areas (UNDG, 2013b).

    - E.g. that all other goals should be articulated '*in terms that specifically seek equality in outcomes*' (UNICEF & UN Women, 2013).

- Several civil society proposals note the importance of social protection in addressing inequality and social exclusion for the most disadvantaged and excluded groups (Beyond 2015 et al., IGLP; UNDG, 2013a; UNICEF & UN Women, 2013).

- *Income inequality:*

- The UNGC and SDSN proposals include targets to address income inequality.

    - UNGC proposes reducing national Gini coefficients by 30%, and SDSN proposes to '*reduce by half the proportion of households with incomes less than half of the national median income*'.

    - Most civil society proposals agree on addressing income inequality, however overall they seek to address this as part of wider intersecting inequalities and social exclusion. *See further details in the overlapping theme of 'Inclusive growth & Employment – Income Inequality'.*

- The HLP and UNSG take a different approach, focusing specifically on 'inequality of opportunity'.

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