

Call for Papers – International Workshop

The Millennium Goals and Beyond:

Reflections on an international development policy agenda after 2015

Bonn, 21 – 22 November 2011

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were drawn up at the dawn of the 20th century as one of the most far-reaching development agendas ever proposed. The premise was simple, but ambitious: by the year 2015, the world's governments committed to making significant progress toward reducing the worst forms of human deprivation and suffering from the face of the earth. This deadline is fast approaching. In the lead-up to 2015, the international development community is embarking on two parallel processes: on the one hand, evaluating the success of the MDG agenda—were the goals met?—and on the other hand, discussing possible instruments and targets that will provide a framework for development policy after 2015.

To contribute to this discussion about the future of development policy beyond the Millennium Development Goals, the German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE) is organizing an international workshop on 20-21 November 2011 in Bonn, in cooperation with the Poverty Reduction, Equity and Growth Network (PEGNet) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ). The emphasis of the workshop is not so much on evaluating progress toward the achievement of the current MDGs, but instead on critically assessing what worked and what did not and use it to look into the future. Our aim is to bring together academics from different disciplines and practitioners from development cooperation so that expert knowledge informs the development of new policies.

We are looking for original empirical and theoretical contributions that have implications for concrete policy recommendations in any of the four broad areas outlined below:

1. *The necessity of a new global development agenda.* The first theme of interest is whether an international goals system such as the MDGs is a desirable and adequate framework for planning, carrying out and achieving human development policies. We would like to investigate the very process of goal-setting by encouraging comparisons with non-MDG development policy and with other goals systems. What are the positive effects of having an internationally agreed framework, and what are the drawbacks? Can achievable development goals reflect universally shared values and global solidarity?
2. *The content and purpose of a new global development agenda.* The second topic for potential contributions is the specific content of actual or planned goals. We would like to highlight two main issues here: first, at a broader level, the question is whether the emphasis should be on goals as the means or as the end. Should a new goals system be

limited to the level of final goals (as is the current one), or should it include instrumental goals such as the preservation of global public goods, redistribution or private sector development? The second set of questions has to do with what the actual goals should be. Do the current MDGs cover all the important areas, or are they neglecting key issues (or, conversely, do they include inadequate goals)? What new topics should be covered? How can the current development goals be reconciled with multidimensional notions of deprivation? How can the content of future development goals be consistent with that of other goals systems such as the Paris Agenda, the Busan Process, the Rio plus 20 Agenda or the Copenhagen Declaration?

3. *Measuring progress towards the goals.* Perhaps one of the most difficult aspects of a broad, long term international goals agenda is to measure their success, and especially to establish causal relationships between programs / policies and outcomes. We seek papers that contribute to two specific issues. *First* is the question of what indicators should look like so that progress can be measured adequately and efficiently: what is the level of analysis? Should output, outcome, or impact be measured? How can qualitative aspects be included? Should they be formulated in relative or absolute dimensions? How does indicator formulation affect the actual goal? How can goals be formulated in a distribution-sensitive way? *Second* is the question of how to measure and evaluate progress. The required data for evaluation is often not available in developing countries and data collection is costly and time consuming. Additionally, concerns about the reliability of data raise doubts about the adequacy of monitoring and evaluation instruments and potential ways to improve them.
4. *The way towards a new consensus.* The final set of questions has to do with the process of formulating and implementing a new system of goals. What should such a process entail? We are seeking contributions related to the mechanisms through which goals are established, particularly about the role of different actors such as developing country governments, the donor community (including new donors), civil society and the business sector. How can the legitimacy of the goal formulation process be guaranteed? In addition to goal-setting, we are interested in exploring the ways in which a new goals system should be implemented. What should be done differently compared to the implementation of the MDGs? Which actors should be responsible for steering and financing a new goals agenda? How to align a new goals framework with the changing context of international cooperation, in particular the shift away from traditional aid?

Because of the multidimensional nature of deprivation and development, we especially encourage submissions that build on concepts and established methodologies of different disciplines such as economics, political science, sociology, statistics and law.

The format of the workshop will be designed to stimulate interactions between researchers and policy makers. In each session, short presentations by a group of academic experts will be followed by comments from policy experts. Ample opportunity for debate will be provided.

Abstracts of up to 1000 words must be submitted by email by September 1, 2011. Accepted participants will be notified within 30 days of this deadline. Authors will be expected to submit a full draft of their papers or presentations by November 1, 2011.

Unfortunately, travel and accommodation expenses cannot be covered. Participants from developing countries can apply for a travel grant by BMZ.

For further information, or to submit abstracts, please contact Alejandro Guarín (Alejandro.Guarin@die-gdi.de) or Markus Loewe (Markus.Loewe@die-gdi.de).