



Report:
Symposium on Sustainable Development
Goals (SDGs)

June, 26 2015
Guest House,
Anton de Kom University
Paramaribo, Suriname

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Preface

The Board of the Institute of International Relations of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname (IIR/Adekus) is pleased to present the outcome of the symposium on “Sustainable Development Goals” organized under the auspices of the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname in collaboration with the United Nations in Suriname.

This symposium, which may be considered as a success, is originally initiated by the IIR/Adekus, and executed by a working group under the leadership of the Dean of Social Sciences, and comprising of representatives of the Institute for Women, Gender and Development Studies, the Child Rights Institute, the Student Commission and the IIR/Adekus. Support and funding are provided by the UN RC Office and UNDP Country Office in Suriname.

Civil society participation takes an important place within the current context of defining Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, civil society organizations voices are important to ensure that the new goals include their interests and that their participation in national development decisions is recognized.

This symposium, being the first in Suriname, is meant to inform and create awareness among local academic community and student bodies regarding the current ongoing process of negotiations related to the Post 2015 Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, but moreso to inspire the academic community and students to give their views and voice by actively taking part at the national consultations which is due to take place.

The outcome of this symposium will be presented to the Gouvernement of Suriname to be included in the national country paper on the SDGs.

It is also proposed to incorporate the SDGs in the curriculum and research programs of the University with the objective to actively contribute to the monitoring of the progress of the SDGs.

As stipulated during the symposium, the working group is currently exploring the possibilty of organizing a seminar on SDGs for scholars and policymakers from Suriname and the wider LAC region.

Finally, the IIR/Adekus want to express its sincere appreciation to the Dean of Social Sciences for her leadership, the working group for having organized this event, the UNDP and other UN agencies in Suriname for their valuable support as well as all participants who have contributed to the success of the symposium on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Paramaribo, July 2015

The Board of the Institute of International Relations

J.H.Kolader
Chairman

1. Welcome/Introduction

The master of ceremony, Mrs. Thea Smith, welcomes the participants after introducing herself. She highlights the intention of the University, in specific the Faculty of Social Sciences, to discuss the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) and also to formulate a vision of the Academic and Student community which could be handed over to the UN through the ministry of Foreign Affairs and the community.

And she continues to elaborate on the purpose and objective of this Symposium and welcomes the first speaker to make his remarks.

2. Opening remarks

Remarks by the Chairman Institute of International Relations (IIR), Ambassador H. Koluder

He extended his appreciation to the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences who immediately recognized the importance of this event for the Academic and Student community and willingly took the lead in the process when the IIR approached her with the proposal. He also extended his appreciation to the UN Resident Coordinator's office and UNDP for partnering with the institute, and providing support and funding of the symposium. The instrumental role of Mr. Martoredjo of the UNDP and Mrs. Pahalwankhan of the RC Office, in facilitating the process of preparation and interaction was also highlighted.

Following the bottom up approach, civil society participation takes an important place within the current process of defining Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, civil society organization's voices are important to ensure that the new goals represent their interests and that their participation in national development decisions is recognized. That is why it is important that the SDG's should be considered as guiding principles in formulating national development policy. He continues by noting that the aim of the symposium is to widen and deepen the understanding of SDGs among students and academia and also highlights the fact that the IIR wants to live up to its mandate by contributing towards development of knowledge and critical thinking among, academia, policy makers, practitioners and specialists in the area of International Relations, an area of high importance for the national policy of a country. The expectation coming out of this symposium is that continued

and durable partnership will emerge between the UN, Adekus i.e. Faculty of Social Sciences and the IIR, which will be beneficial in addressing Suriname's development which is influenced by rapidly changing international, hemispheric and regional landscapes.

Remarks written by the chairman of the Institute of International Relations (IIR) is enclosed as annex 1.

Remarks by the Dean of faculty of Social Sciences, Mrs. L. Monsels

Mrs. Monsels starts by extending her congratulations to the Institute of International Relations and the United Nations organizations for this initiative.

She posits that the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Anton de Kom University should be at the center and play a major role in developing knowledge and skills needed to address Suriname's developmental and social challenges. She therefore immediately recognized the importance of this symposium when proposed by the IIR.

According to Mrs. Monsels the event should not only contribute towards awareness building and information sharing on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but also development of knowledge and critical thinking among academia and students in general, and an encouragement for them to actively take part in national discussions on the post 2015 Development Agenda and SDGs.

The Faculty also wants to be in the forefront and contribute actively towards monitoring and evaluation of development efforts, provide sound academic research and analysis of Suriname's development plan, objectives, goals and indicators including analysis related to the MDGs and SDGs.

As the largest faculty, the Faculty of Social Sciences, is well endowed with the minds and mandate but at times miss the necessary resources and infrastructure. She therefore calls upon the national and international institutions to join forces with the Faculty and to collaborate in addressing the developmental challenges of our beloved country and its society. The Dean continues by stating that not only Social Sciences, but also the Technical and Medical Faculty surely will contribute to the SDGs in their own ways.

She further proposes a follow-up activity where high-level academic discourse on the SDGs could take place with participation of local and regional research fellows and policy makers. An

event as described could encourage the academic staff to share their thinking and inter-act with colleagues of the region, while products such as seminar report or academic journal articles could be forthcoming. But there must also be an inter-action with students of the region. The university is ready to contribute to national discussions on the Post 2015 Development Agenda, by specifically integrating the SDGs in its research program.

Written remarks by the Dean is enclosed as annex 2.

Remarks by the Deputy Resident Representative of UNDP, Mr. Armstrong Alexis

Mr. Alexis began by offering an apology for the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Representative, Mr. Richard Blewitt, who was unable to be at the symposium. He is based in Trinidad and Tobago, but has responsibilities in the Twin Island Republic, Suriname and the Dutch Antilles, which makes it impossible for him to be in Suriname all the time.

Mr. Alexis starts his remarks by noting that today's event marks the political beginning in one that is expected to be a long journey of local discussion, debate, discourse and dialogue on the future we want for the people, for our planet and for the prosperity of all the citizens. He posits that "As we launch the local discussions on sustainable development goals at the Post 2015 Development Agenda, we are placing Suriname's development in context and we are helping to shape a more sustainable path for development where no one will be left behind". Mr. Alexis continues by stating that the sustainable development goals is the clearer call for all countries to end poverty and hunger, combat inequalities and ensure lasting protection of the planet and to create conditions for inclosing and sustaining economic growth and set prosperity.

The SDGs are coming as the follow-up of the MDGs and are expected to deal on the unrealized goals set at the beginning of this millennium. It is undeniable that the MDGs had a significant impact on development worldwide. Coming after what has been put to as the lost decade of the 1990, the era of the MDGs was meant to achieve 8 targets; such as halving the extreme poverty, halting the spread of HIV and AIDS and achieving universal primary education.

In Suriname for instant, infant mortality rates have decreased from 20/1000 in 2005 to 17.9/1000 in 2008, and by 2012 it has decreased further to 14.6/1000. Despite the successes of the MDGs there is still work to be done. The new agenda will build on the MDGs and will complete whatever the

MDGs did not accomplished. The primary emphasis therefore of the SDGs will be to end the poverty and hunger, secure education, health, achieve gender equality and empower women and girls, combat inequalities within and between countries, economic growth and sustainable lifestyles for all, promote safe and inclusive cities, protect the planet, fight climate change, strengthen governance and promote peaceful/safe society and revitalize the global partnership in development. The SDGs will become the global compact to guide the actions for human development everywhere. Here in Suriname the agencies of the UN will work with government, civil society, the private sector and the academia to implement this new agenda. As the country settled down after the recently held national election, the plan on how best to describe the SDGs in the national discussion, planning and policy formulation must be encouraged as all partners from all sectors must play their role in shaping the national discussion.

Mr. Alexis notes that the academic community has the most fundamental role to play in elaborating the significance of this new compact and its relevance to development primary settings in Suriname. Academia's interpretation of what these goals mean to Suriname is a primary and critical element of the process in building knowledge within society. The discussions among and held by academia can help shape national understanding of the issue, sharpen national interest and raise awareness about the journey and how Suriname can realize true benefit for its people and for the country as a whole.

UN system in Suriname, according to Mr. Alexis, is pleased to be partnering with the University, Academia and Students community, in this the first of public event on the SDGs, and look forward to continuing working with the group along the journey which is only now beginning. The University, Academia and Students community are encouraged to take on the responsibility of educating the public about the SDGs, by first educating them self. The UN in Suriname is available to support the University's efforts related to research, measurement of progress, analysis and reporting on the human development as the result of the SDGs. The UN is at disposal as international partners to assist and contribute to the achievement of the goals by 2030.

In closing and on behalf of UN system in Suriname, Mr. Alexis wishes to congratulate the organizations of this symposium, Faculty of Social Sciences of ADEKUS, colleagues of UN, and UNDP for their commitment to this event. He ends his remarks by stating that "You are the first of the starters block and I trust that the success of this event will serve to inspire the many other activities that have been planned to promote and build understanding of the SDGs" and looks forward to the outcome of the discussions.

After the remarks of Mr. Alexis, the official opening session of the Symposium is concluded. Mrs. Smith concluded her task as the MC, while Mrs. Renuka Biharie took over and chaired the following proceedings.

3. Presentation by representatives of the UN on Sustainable Development Goals

The presentation was made by Mrs. Farah Pahalwankhan (RC Office), Mrs. Judith Brielle (UNFPA) and Mrs. Min Yuan (UNICEF), and highlighted the following:

- RIO + 20: where it started
- Process Post 2015 Development Agenda
- The transition from MDG to SDG
- 17 Sustainable Development Goals

The presentation started with a video message from the UN SG, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, and Ms. Amina Mohammed, Special Advisor on SDGs.

- In 1992 the “Earth Summit” was held in Rio de Janeiro where the Agenda 21 was adopted. Twenty years after the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, where countries adopted Agenda 21 - a blueprint to rethink economic growth, advance social equity and ensure environmental protection. In 2012 there was another conference, the Rio+20 UN Conference Sustainable Development. One of the main outcomes of this conference was the agreement by Member States to launch a process to develop a set of SDGs. This conference provided the basis for the conceptualization of the SDGs and gave the mandate that the SDGs should be coherent with and integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015. The MDGs were vertically meaning that they were standing on their self. The tendency was to look at them by themselves and the same counts for the silo approach, because agencies that had these goals in their mandate tend to look at them by themselves. The notion then was the north south approach, while now we have seen that even within the south there has been experience how to continue and exchange what we have been learning. So now from a South South approach. A participatory approach started which was facilitated by the UN and led by the member states. There were discussion papers, special sessions and meeting where every member gave their input. Also Participatory and multi-sectoral approach with e.g. Civil Society, Academics, and Conceptual framework developed building on lessons learned from the MDGs. All of this were put into the “*The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet*” report. One of the major agreements was that “we need to finish the job”. The philosophy behind the SDGs is leaving no one behind; life of dignity for all, trying to guarantee that there is equity and prosperity within the life support systems and to increase capital for greater resilience and intergenerational equity. The important aspects of the post 2015- development agenda is to promote ownership, forging

new connections, national policy action and right enabling environment and leaders to take action.

They then shared a video of preparation of the SDGs

The Post-2015 Development Agenda will be launched in September 2015, which is the target date for realizing the MDGs. Its launches a transformative agenda which place sustainable development at its core.

It is the start of:

- A second phase that will complete the unfinished agenda and build on their achievements toward;
- A legally binding and universal agreement from all the nations of the world.

If member states agree at the UN summit in New York in September, the draft set of 17 SDGs will become applicable from January 2016. The expected deadline for the SDGS is 2030.

In his synthesis report on the SDGs, UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon, in a bid to help governments to frame the goals, clustered them into six "essential elements": dignity, prosperity, justice, partnership, planet and people.

It's about the awareness that there are SDGs and the realization of these goals is about having the right financial and human resources. It is everyone's business to help achieve these goals. The highest gender is still the implementation, but that can be solved.

Slides of the presentation is presented in annex 3

4. Presentation by the representative of the ABS, Mrs. J. Keenswijk – Fung A Loi, on the relevance of data

Mrs. Keenswijk's presentation comprises of the following:

- A short background of the MDGs (and the country reports)
 - The Relevance of Data
 - Post 2015 development agenda and the Proposed SDGs
 - Transition from MDGs to SDGs
 - Role of the University
 - Closing and Special remarks
- In September 2000 the Millennium Declaration was signed. The MDGs consist of 8 main goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators originally. Officially there were 3 MDG reports published in Suriname. Report one was the baseline report that was written in 2004 but published in 2005. This report was coordinated by the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation; it was a joint effort, the MDGs were linked with the Multi-Annual Development Plan (MOP 2001-2005), the data reporting was coordinated by the ABS. There were 3 MDG technical clusters meaning that the goals were divided in sections according to the subjects. In these clusters the National institutions were responsible in the gathering and analyzing of data.

- The second report was the MDG progress report published in 2009 and it was meant to measure progress made. This report was prepared using the same method as the first report. Just as the first report there were a lot of challenges, but the report came through.
- The relevance of data is, that it strengthens capacity in reporting and policy making on development issues, it makes possible to internationally compare Suriname with other countries in the region and the world.
- Data makes it possible to calculate projections, estimates, scenarios, it is also needed to track achievements, challenges and best practices.
- Without data planning, monitoring and evaluation are impossible; and a country and its society will be completely lost without data.
- Data analysis is of even bigger importance than data collection, for policy making purposes.
- The post 2015 agenda is based on "sustainable development" approach by integrating social-gender, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability.
- The SDGs are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states will be expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 15 years. It follows and expand on, the MDGs, which are due to expire at the end of this year
- The role of the university: it may provide technical assistance and expert advice regarding measurement of the SGD's for Suriname, analyzing and interpreting of data for reporting- and policymaking purposes, take a leading role in report writing of the achievements and progress of the SDGs, execute research activities and finally support on formulating definitions and methodologies regarding the SDG's, specifically on "problem" subjects (e.g. poverty, gender etc.)

As closing remark, Mrs. Keenswijk notes that the CARICOM has adopted a Caribbean specific MDGs, with a small adjustments to the goals and specifically linked to the region. In the future there will be a specific formulation for the Caribbean specific sustainable development goals, but that is still being negotiated.

Slides of the presentation is presented in annex 4.

5. Q & A

The Q and A session gives the participants the opportunity to dialogue with the speakers. As the facilitator announces the session gives opportunity for an honest and open conversation/dialogue on the subject matter.

Questions/remarks and feedback are presented in table 1.

Table 1. Questions and answers for clarifications after the presentation

Nr	Questions/Remarks	Answers/Responses
<p><i>Presentation 1</i></p> <p>1</p>	<p>A) Mr. Ferdinand Baal lecturer at the Faculty of Technological Sciences: The possibilities of the university to work on the SDGs were discussed, but I think that the different studies lack sufficient resources to do so. I want to plead for more funds, lecturers and students to do so.</p> <p>B) Remark lecturer Technological Sciences: I want to emphasize and show on the fact that within the university there must be cooperation. Within the university there are projects (1-6) of which project 3-6 has a lot in common with this topic and there is little cooperation.</p> <p>Lecturer Mr. Tjien Foe: A start should be made for an intensive awareness campaign. The fact that there are just a few academics of the Technological Sciences present is not a good sign. People are probably not aware of the importance of such an event. The importance of the Technological Sciences should be underlined. Most of the SDGs have linked with the agricultural sector.</p>	<p>Mrs. Renuka Biharie: the Dean has mentioned all of this in her openings speech, where she highlighted that the university must have more resources available. We are than looking at the UN and the ABS to partner with/support; after all that is what this symposium is about. That is why we began to first involve both the students and the lecturers of the university in this important Development Agenda for the next 15 years.</p> <p>Mrs. Judith Brielle: It is being facilitated and we're looking at making connections between universities (to network) regionally but also globally. It shows that within universities and academic communities a lot is being done via social media channels, e-learning and e-dialogue. We can facilitate and look what the possibilities are for strengthening of the network between the universities and Think Thank on the area of the SDGs.</p>

2	<p>Student Mr. Ommen: There is a youth organization UNMDG (MDG Youth Ambassador program) that execute projects to help achieve the MDGs. Little did I hear something about cooperation between the university and this organization? We also started already with the awareness. I want to know when the university is ready for cooperation with this organization so that the awareness process can be strengthened because it's clear that we as the youth are crucial within this program.</p>	<p>Mrs. Judith Brielle: It is clear that this is a process. As the UN we have started to have awareness sessions with the youth. For instance we have started with awareness sessions on SIDS with the youth parliament. Thus it is of great importance that the different organizations should know when and where to participate.</p> <p>Mrs. Renuka Biharie: The youth ambassadors are also invited for today's symposium. This is the first attempt and at the follow-up activities all the relevant actors will be included also.</p> <p>(Response from the public indicates that a representative of the MDG Youth Ambassador's organization is present).</p> <p>Mr. Alexis Armstrong: In order for Suriname to accomplish any program of the SDG we are going to have to produce data and that can not only be the responsibility of the government. One of the major responsibilities of the university is conducting research. When looking at the SDGs we realize that there are a lot of issues that provide opportunities for research. Adekus is probably in a better position to do research, so the role of the university is critical. Research can help in the sharing of knowledge. There are so many things that the university can conduct research on and that could be one of the area's in which the UN system would be interested in collaborating with the university. By conducting research and produce the results that is where we're going to make the difference. For all of my research so far you may be the first university in the region</p>
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		engaging on the discussion of the SDGs.
Presentation 2 3	Lecturer Julia Terborg: We had the MDGs and 2015 is the year of evaluation; it is very important to take the lessons of the MDGs. To efficiently achieve goals, it is important to differentiate data to a number of factors. The recent MDG report is still really general and it is not clear on how the inequality is reflected. There are many groups that got insufficient attention, thinking about "Leaving no one behind". It is also important for Suriname to compare itself with other countries. We must look what is important for us, the national priorities. Also within the Caribbean, it is important to ascertain and monitoring specific/national indicators.	
4	Question from the audience: How much time was put in the measurement of the MDGs, is it the same as when measuring in the interior and/or the city? Which strategy is used to go from MDGs to SDGs?	Mrs. Jo-Ann Keenswijk-Fung A Loi: Nationally and internationally there are ongoing consultations of which Suriname is also involved. As a country, you must ascertain what the priorities must be and the country must be able to measure itself with the region and the rest of the world. To can go from MDGs to SDGs is a national approach. Regarding the different indicators it is about research on national level where there is an indication to see how things are going and to work further from there on.

		<p>Mr. Ruben Martoredjo: Today's initiative is meant to hear from i.e. the university community what their ideas are and what should be the priority for Suriname. The intention is for each country to discuss internal what the priorities are for them. The goal of today's event is to give each segment of community the opportunity to give their view and to have a voice.</p> <p>Mrs. Judith Brielle: Countries decide; it is on to them to decide what the final priorities are; globally and regionally. What is included: some measurement points that are linked to a number of national surveys. National data is included.</p>
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6. Working groups

After all the presentations the participants were given the opportunity to participate in working groups. The working groups are organized around the themes of economic, social, gender, and environment and each group will have to discuss and answer the same set of questions.

The questions to be answered were:

1. Which goals are important for Suriname and what can be done to realize these goals?
Which steps should be undertaken?
2. Which conditions are of importance in the context of these goals?
3. Specific contribution of the university (monitoring, data/research, education and services)
4. Proposals for next steps

The four working groups received approximately 45 minutes to discuss and answer the questions, following which each group had to report in plenary.

Group reports:

1. Group "Economic"

The group is reviewing the following SDGs:

Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- Education: Education is different; you have people who can learn out of books and people who have a lot of talents and can work in a different way. There must be schooling where scientific research is done and schooling which will work with talents. When we think about the people in the interior, we won't obligate them to learn language and arithmetic but rather let them use their talents.
- Open a short term food bank where people who can't afford food, can get help
- Employment
- Family Planning, to create the awareness among the ones that can't afford having more children
- Projects => obligatory military service / Practical professional knowledge
- Creating a good business climate
- Housing shortage : creating affordable housing and plots

Answer on question 3:

- The university should conduct research which will not only be cheaper for the country but also give students the opportunity to gain experience in their field of study.
- There should be a National Research Agency (No longer individuals / consultants)
- Collaborations between Institutes and Faculties with the government
- Commission which will lead in research should be established
- Multidisciplinary commissions
- Research budget
- Advise the government on financing proposals / research for funds -> and the results should be presented to the government.

Answer on question 4:

- Take initiatives
- Thesis should be used where possible
- Thesis Topics related to the SDGs should be offered to students
- Awareness through the media, through commercials
- Policy for dropouts: take in and guiding

This group ended its presentation with two quotes, namely:

- 1) *Where there is poverty there is wealth*
- 2) *Work with each other not past each other*

3. Group "Gender"

This group is reviewing:

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries and 16 Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

The group chooses this topic, because currently it is a hot issue in Suriname, rather to choose a fast growing economy or good nature.

Answer on question 1:

- Protecting the mangrove forests and mangrove growth (goals 15 and goal 6)
- Analyze and adapt Legislation
- Supervision if the laws are respected

Answer on question 2:

- Land use; the group thinks about the sustainable management of forests
- Enforcement of law

Answer on question 3:

- Education, research, services through data collection, monitoring specially aimed at the needs of Suriname.

Answer on question 4:

- Men, means and money; meaning there is need for teachers, students and resources to make research possible.
- Teachers should guide the students in choosing their course.

7. Q & A

The Q and A session gives the participants the opportunity to make remarks, request clarification or raise a question related to the presentations made by the 4 working groups.

Questions/remarks and feedback are presented in table 2.

Table 2. Questions and answers after the presentations of the working groups

<i>Working groups</i>		
1	<p>Audience Question: As mentioned earlier, Suriname has no clear definition of poverty yet. Shouldn't the university help with this issue? There should be a dialogue in order to formulate the definition.</p> <p>Remark from the audience: It has been indicated not to teach in the interior, than to</p>	<p>Member group 4 "Social": Though it isn't discussed in our group, I think it is possible. If indeed a research office is established at the university, this must be one of the first tasks to do. It is also important that this office should be cooperating with official committees of the government.</p> <p>Remark of Mr. Ruben Martoredjo: I noticed that only one goal is being used in the presentation. There is a reason why</p>

	<p>only work with the talents they have but that is not correct. The UNESCO has as one of its important visions to respect each other's culture, so in this case you interpreted it incorrect.</p>	<p>inequality is specifically upgraded as a separate goal, because often progress is made in terms of poverty alleviation but in terms of inequality the gap within a certain community/country seems to be widening.</p> <p>Member group 4 Social: That was not stated. Not everyone is able to get education through schooling, in this case it is better to work with the talents which such a person does have. Once you reach a particular age it is difficult to go back to school, it is than easier for such a person to develop his talent and work further in developing his skills through on the job training.</p>
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8. Closing

The facilitator indicates that the session reaches its end and thanks all the participants, with special vote of thanks to the people that made the day a success.

Annex 1

Welcome Remarks by the Chair of the Board

Institute of International relations (IIR),
The Anton de Kom University of Suriname
at the opening of

Symposium on:
"Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"

26 June 2015, University Guesthouse

Madam of Ceremonies,

Mrs. L. Monsels, Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences,

Mr. Armstrong Alexis, Deputy Resident Representative of the UNDP, and other representatives
of UN Agencies in Suriname,

Representative of The Bureau of Statistics

Members of the Academic Staff/Lecturers of the Adek University

Students of the Adek University

Members of the Working Group of the Symposium (representatives of Institute of International
Relations,, Institute for Women, Gender and Development Studies, Child Rights Institute and of
the Student Commission of the Faculty of Social Science.)

Distinguished guests and members of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed an honor and pleasure for me to welcome and address you this morning at the
start/opening session of this important symposium on: *"Sustainable Development Goals
(SDGs)"*.

At the outset I would like to extend our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the Dean of the
Faculty of Social Sciences, Mrs. Monsels, who immediately recognized the importance of this
event for the Academic and Student community and willingly take in lead in the process when
we of IIR approached her with the proposal.

We also extend our appreciation to UN Resident Coordinator's office and UNDP for partnering with our institute, and supporting and funding this symposium. We recognize the instrumental role of Mr. Martoredjo of the UNDP and Mrs. Pahalwankhan of the RC Office, in facilitating the process of preparation and inter action.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the members of the working group, established by the Dean, and comprising of members of the IWDS, UK, IIR and representative of the Student Commission .

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen,

Following the bottom up approach, civil society participation takes an important place within the current process of defining Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, civil society organizations voices are important to ensure that the new goals represents their interests and that their participation in national development decisions is recognized.

The Institute of International Relations of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname (IIR/ADEKUS), in fulfilling its mandate to inform and educate the Surinamese society on the developments in the area of International Relations, recognizes the need to collaborate with the United Nations Office of the Resident Coordinator (RCO), and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Child Rights Institute and Institute for Gender Studies, took the initiative in preparing for this Symposium on "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)".

This symposium is meant to inform and create awareness among local academic community, and student bodies regarding the current ongoing process of negotiations related to the Post 2015 Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals, but more so to inspire the academic community and students to give their view and cast their voice by actively taking part at the national consultations that is due to take place.

This brings me to note that the SDGs should be considered as guiding principle and targets in formulating national development policy. In participating in the discussion on the SDGs, the University community takes part in the proposal for the formulation of national development policy

This initiative aims at widening and deepening the understanding of the sustainable development goals among academics and students against the backdrop of current global process of negotiations in deciding which goals will be prioritized in follow-up of the MDGs.

Distinguished, Ladies and Gentlemen, the IIR wants to live up to its mandate by contributing towards development of knowledge and critical thinking among, academia, policy makers, practitioners and specialists in the area of International Relations, an area of high importance for the national policy of a country . Conscious of this fact was exactly the fundamental thinking for the establishment of this institute, more than 10 years ago.

Our expectation is that coming out of this symposium continued/durable partnership will emerge between the UN, Adek University of Suriname i.e. Faculty of Social Sciences and the IIR, which will be beneficial in addressing Suriname's development influenced by a rapidly changing international, hemispheric and regional landscapes.

May I wish you fruitful discussions and I am looking forward to the outcome of your deliberations.

Thank you.

Annex 2

Remarks by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences

of
The Anton de Kom University of Suriname
at the Opening of the Symposium on SDGs
–26 June, 2015, University Guesthouse

Mr. Armstrong Alexis, and other representative of the UN Agencies in Suriname

PS' of the Various Ministries

Chairs and members of the various institutes of the faculty of Social Sciences

Colleagues lectures, Academic staff and Students of the Adekus

Distinguished guests,

Members of the Press,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor as the Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname to address you this morning, at the opening of the Symposium on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

First of all, let me extend my congratulations to the Institute of International Relations and the United Nations organizations for this initiative.

Allow me also to extend my sincere gratitude to the members of working group for an excellent job in preparing for this event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Faculty of Social Sciences of the Anton de Kom University should be at the center and play a pivotal role in developing knowledge and skills needed to address Suriname's developmental and social challenges.

I therefore immediately recognize the importance of this symposium when proposed by the IIR.

This event should not only contribute towards awareness and information sharing on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but also development of knowledge and critical thinking among,

academia and students in general, and encourage them to actively take part in national discussions on the post 2015 Development Agenda and SDGs,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I recognize the challenges related to capacity and systems when moving up from 8 goals of the MDGs to 17 Goals of the SDGs. Closer collaboration with national institutions such as the National Planning Office and General Bureau of Statistics are among the low hanging fruits and could immediately lead to strengthening of data provision and analysis and improvement of national planning and monitoring capacity.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Faculty, with its various specialized institutions, wants also to be in forefront and contribute actively towards Monitoring and Evaluation of development efforts, provide sound academic research and analysis of Suriname's development plan, objectives, goals and indicators including analysis related to the MDGs and SDGs.

As the largest faculty we have the minds and mandate but at times miss the necessary resources and infrastructure. We therefore call upon the national and international institutions present here such as the General Bureau of Statistics and the UN, to join forces with us and let's collaborate in addressing the developmental challenges of our beloved country and its society.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Although we are looking forward to the result of today's deliberations, our minds are already taking a leap considering a follow-up where high-level academic discourse could be taking place on the SDGs with participation of local and regional research fellows and policy makers.

An event as described could encourage our academic staff to share their thinking and interact with colleagues of the region, while products such as seminar report or academic journal articles could be forthcoming.

I hope that this could trigger your interest while we as a faculty and our institutes are ready and open to discuss.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Allow me to bid you all a fruitful deliberation at this symposium

I Thank you.

Annex 3



**Symposium on Sustainable
Development Goals (SDG's),
een bijdrage van de Universiteit**



The Relevance of Data

J. Keenswijk – Fung A Loi
Manager Social Statistics Division
General Bureau of Statistics (GBS)



Vrijdag 26 juni 2015
University Guesthouse



**Symposium on Sustainable
Development Goals (SDG's),
een bijdrage van de Universiteit**



The Relevance of Data

J. Keenswijk – Fung A Loi
Manager Social Statistics Division
General Bureau of Statistics (GBS)



Vrijdag 26 juni 2015
University Guesthouse

Outline of the presentation

- Short background of the MDG's (and the country reports)
- The Relevance of Data
- Post 2015 development agenda and the Proposed SDG's
- Transition from MDG's to SDG's
- Role of the University
- Closing and Special remarks

MDG's 1990 - 2015

In September 2000 the Millennium Declaration was signed. The MDG's consist of 8 main goals, 18 targets and 48 Indicators originally.

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

De acht Millennium Ontwikkelingsdoelstellingen zijn:

- 1. Extreme armoede en honger bestrijden
- 2. Basisonderwijs voor iedereen
- 3. Gelijke kansen voor de vrouwen
- 4. De kindersterfte terugdringen
- 5. De gezondheid van moeders verbeteren
- 6. Hiv/aids, malaria en andere dodelijke ziekten bestrijden
- 7. Zorgen voor een duurzaam milieu
- 8. Een wereldpartnerschap voor ontwikkeling creëren

Country MDG reports

1. Suriname MDG baseline report 2005
 - Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation
 - Joint effort
 - Multi-Annual Development Plan (MOP 2001-2005) strong link with the MDG's
 - GBS coordinated the data reporting
 - National institutions contributed in the gathering and analyses of data
 - National MDG steering committee
 - SIMDG committee (compiling Social-/Gender and Environmental statistics)
 - 3 MDG technical clusters
 - Support from the UN

2. MDG Progress Report 2009
 - Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation
 - Joint effort
 - Multi-Annual Development Plan (MOP 2006-2011) strong link with the MDG's
 - GBS coordinated the data reporting
 - National institutions contributed in the gathering and analyses of data
 - National MDG technical committee
 - Support from the UN
 - Preparations for an NSDS (2010-2014)
 - 3 MDG technical clusters
 - Education, Population, Families & Households, Health
 - Work, Economy, Poverty
 - Decision making, Crime

3. MDG Progress Report 2014

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Joint effort
- Development Plan (OP 2012-2016) strong link with the MDG's
- GBS coordinated the data reporting
- National institutions contributed in the gathering and analyses of data
- National MDG drafting committee
- National MDG steering committee
- Support from the UN
- 3 MDG technical clusters (support of UNDAP PCG members)
 - Population, Families & Households, Health
 - Economy, Education, Work, Poverty
 - Decision making, Crime, Environment

The Relevance of Data

- Regular reporting on the achievement of the MDG's
- Strengthen capacity in reporting and policy making on development issues
- Internationally comparable with other countries in the region and the world
- The government needs data to measure the status of developments and evaluate implemented actions; where do we stand, what do we want to reach, why are we not progressing according to plan, what should change to reach our goals etc. Data makes it possible to calculate projections, estimates, scenarios.
- Data is needed to track achievements, challenges and best practices. Without data planning, monitoring and evaluation are impossible!! and a country and its society will be completely lost
- Data analysis is of even big importance as data collection, for policy making purposes.

Some quick examples of data and data analysis

Target 1.A: Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day

Concerning target 1A Suriname is facing the issue of inequality. Due to limited data availability it is not clear to what extent inequality exists.

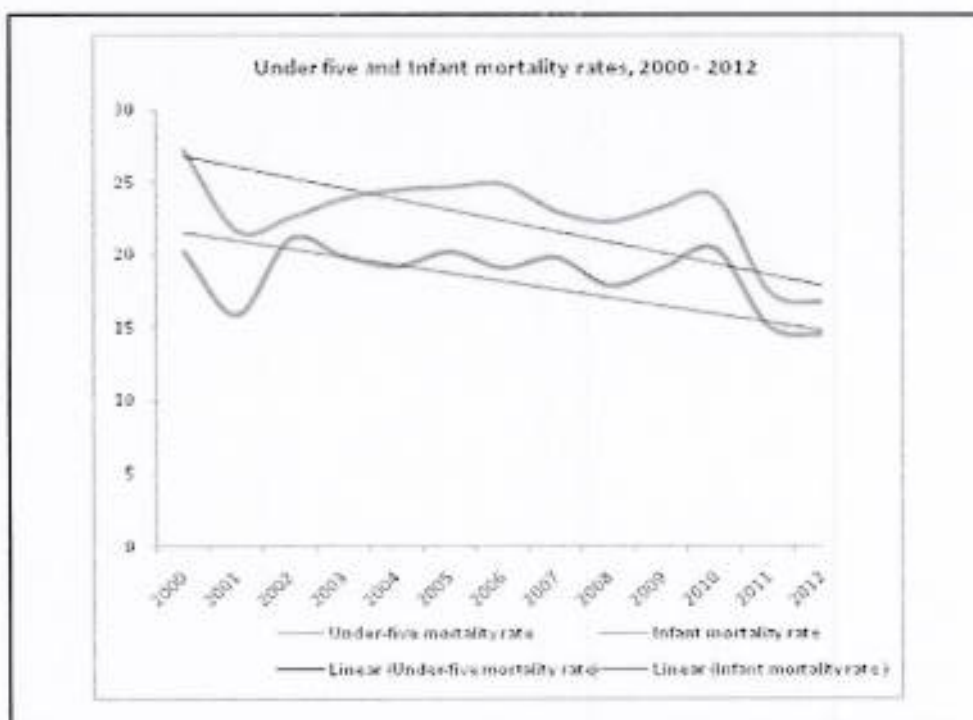
Indicators	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
1.1 Proportion of population below \$1 per day	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1.2 Poverty gap ratio	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1.3 Share of poorest quintile in national consumption	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4.93	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Target 4.A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate

Year	4.1 Under-five mortality rate	4.2 Infant mortality rate
2000	27.2	20.2
2001	21.7	15.9
2002	22.6	21.1
2003	23.9	19.9
2004	24.5	19.2
2005	24.7	20.2
2006	24.9	19.1
2007	23	19.8
2008	22.3	17.9
2009	23.3	19.1
2010	24	20.4
2011	17.5	15.1
2012	16.8	14.6

Indicator 4.1: The under-five mortality rate for children measures the probability that the child will die before reaching the age of five. The data shows that there was an increase from 22.3 /1,000 live births in 2008 to 24 in 2010, and a decrease to 16.8 in 2012.

Indicator 4.2: The infant mortality rate measures the chance that the child will die before even reaching the age of one. The IMR shows a similar trend as the <5 MR. The data shows that there was an increase from 17.9 /1,000 live births in 2008 to 20.4 in 2010, and a decrease to 14.6 in 2012. It should be noted that both under five mortality and infant mortality have recorded a decrease in 2011 and 2012.



There has been a steady decrease in both infant and under 5 mortality rates from 2011.

The Government of Suriname has set out policies to tackle child mortality:

- Child immunization, as part of the prevention and primary health care program, is free of charge.
- The Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination for girls at age 9 to 12 years has been introduced in October 2013.
- The national Safe Motherhood and New-born Health Action Plan 2013-2016 has been developed.
- Children aged 0 to 16 years are amongst the first population groups to benefit from free access to basic health care.

Target 7.C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation

- Target 7C is on track, with more than 90% of households in Suriname having access to an improved water source and sanitation. Also the use of improved water sources and sanitation in the rural interior has increased.

Indicator	2000	2004	2006	2010	2012
7.8: Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source (%)	72.6	86.8	91.7	95	93.7
7.9: Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation (%)	88	90.1	89.9	91	91.3

Post 2015 development agenda 2016-2030

- Based on "sustainable development" approach by integrating social-gender, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability
- The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states will be expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 15 years.
- The SDGs follow, and expand on, the millennium development goals (MDGs), which are due to expire at the end of this year.

SDG's consists of 17 main goals, 169 targets and their indicators.

The SDG's:

- 1) End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- 2) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- 3) Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
- 4) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- 5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- 6) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
- 7) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
- 8) Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
- 9) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation
- 10) Reduce inequality within and among countries
- 11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
- 12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
- 13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- 14) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- 15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
- 16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- 17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable dev.

De duurzame ontwikkelingsdoelen

1. Uitbannen van alle vormen van (extreme) armoede
2. Einde aan honger, zorgen voor voedselzekerheid en duurzame landbouw
3. Gezondheidszorg voor iedereen
4. Inclusief, gelijkwaardig en kwalitatief onderwijs voor iedereen
5. Gelijke rechten voor mannen en vrouwen en empowerment van vrouwen en meisjes
6. Schoon water en sanitair voor iedereen
7. Toegang tot betaalbare en duurzame energie voor iedereen
8. Inclusieve, economische groei, werkgelegenheid en fatsoenlijk werk voor iedereen
9. Infrastructuur voor duurzame industrialisatie
10. Verminderen ongelijkheid binnen en tussen landen
11. Maak steden veilig, veerkrachtig en duurzaam
12. Duurzame consumptie en productie
13. Klimaatverandering tegengaan
14. Beschermen en duurzaam gebruik van de oceanen en zeeën
15. Beschermen van ecosystemen, bossen en biodiversiteit
16. Bevorderen van veiligheid, publieke diensten en recht voor iedereen
17. Versterken van het mondiaal partnerschap om doelen te bereiken

Transition from MDG's to SDG's

- The MDGs provided a focal point for governments on which to hinge their policies and overseas aid programs to end poverty and improve the lives of poor people – as well as provide a rallying point for NGOs to hold them to account – they have been criticized for being too narrow.
- The eight MDGs – reduce poverty and hunger; achieve universal education; promote gender equality; reduce child and maternal deaths; combat HIV, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; develop global partnerships – failed to consider the root causes of poverty, or gender inequality, or the holistic nature of development. The goals made no mention of human rights, nor specifically addressed economic development.
- As the MDG deadline approaches, around more than 800 million people do not have enough food to eat. Women are still fighting hard for their rights, and millions of women still die in childbirth.
- The SDG's need to address the multiple interlinked global challenges of: eradicating poverty, ensuring environmental sustainability, achieving economic equity, ensuring gender equality, tackling climate change, building resilience, managing equitable distribution of natural resources, realizing human rights, and reducing inequality between

The Role of the University

- Technical assistance and expert advice regarding the measuring of the SDG's for Suriname
- Analyzing and interpreting of data for reporting- and policymaking purposes
- A leading role in report writing of the achievements and progress of the SDG's
- Execute research activities
- Support on formulating definitions and methodologies regarding the SDG's, specifically on "problem" subjects (e.g poverty, gender etc)



Thank You

Annex 4



The Post 2015 Development Agenda 'Sustainable Development Goals'

**Anton de Kom University of Suriname
SDG Symposium
26 June 2015**



Presentation Overview

- RIO + 20: where it started
- Process Post 2015 Development Agenda
- From MDG to SDG
- 17 Sustainable Development Goals



RIO+20 Outcomes

- One of the main outcomes of **Rio+20 UN Conference Sustainable Development** (Rio de Janeiro, June 2012), was the agreement by Member States to launch a process to develop a set of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
- Rio+20 provided the basis for the **conceptualization of the SDGs** and gave the mandate that the SDGs should be coherent with and **integrated into the UN development agenda beyond 2015**.

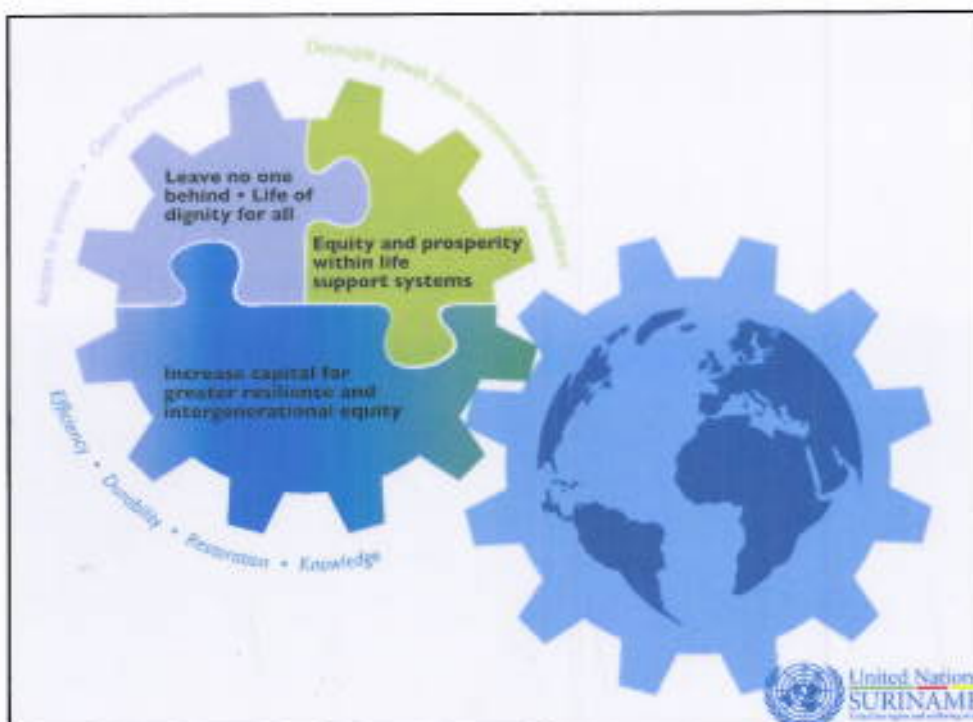


From MDGs to SDGs



A Participatory Approach

- The process of arriving at the Post 2015 Development Agenda is **Member State-led process – UN facilitated**
- Discussion papers - Global conversations - Special sessions and meetings - Integration of other commitments (e.g. SIDS)
- Participatory and multi sectoral approach with e.g. **Civil Society, Academics**
- Conceptual framework developed building on **lessons learned from the MDGs** and identifying interlinkages
- UN Secretary General Synthesis Report (December 2014: *"The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet"*): the need to **"finish the job"**



From MDGs to SDGs

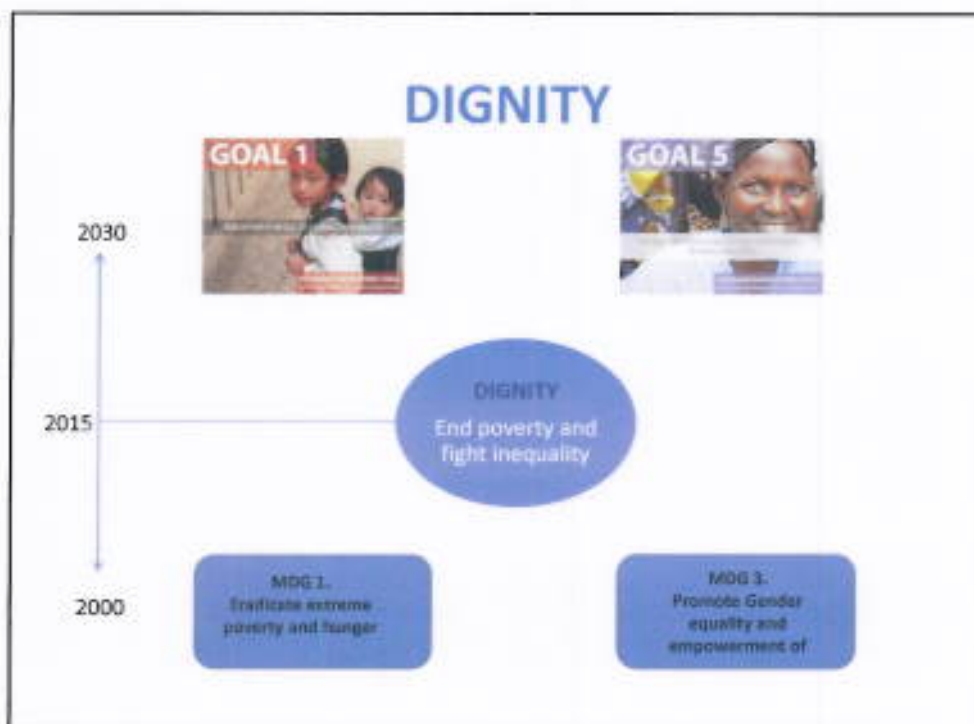
- If member states agree at the UN summit in New York in September, the draft set of **17 SDGs** will become applicable from **January 2016**. The expected deadline for the SDGs is **2030**.
- In [his synthesis report on the SDGs](#), UN secretary general Ban Ki-moon, in a bid to help governments to frame the goals, clustered them into six “essential elements”: **dignity, prosperity, justice, partnership, planet, people**.



Post-2015 Development Agenda

Six essential elements for delivering the SDGs





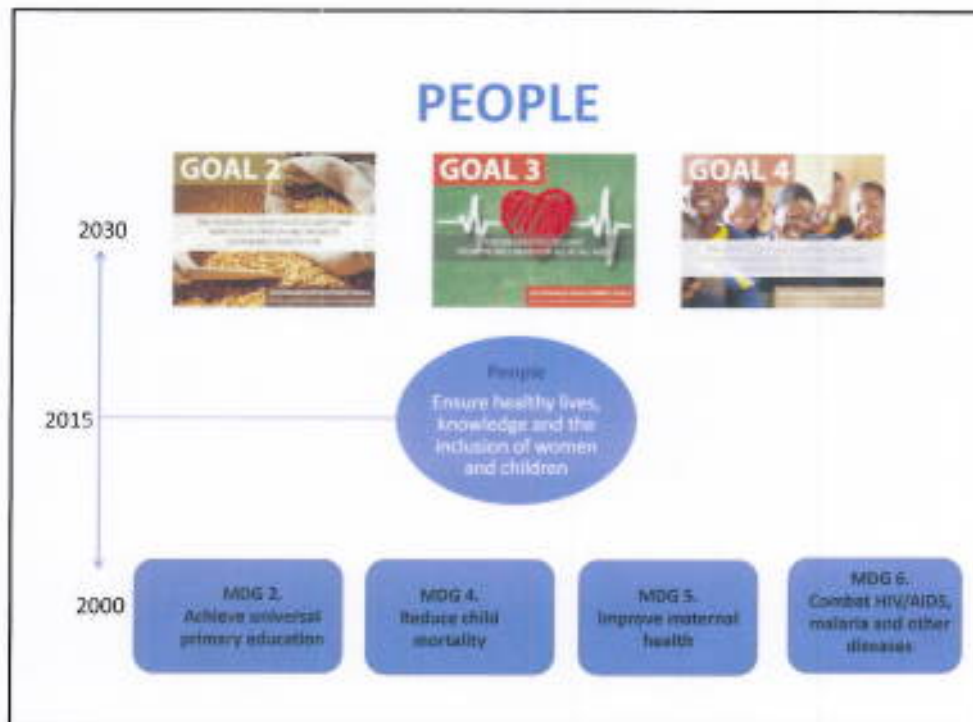
The Sustainable Development Goals

DIGNITY

SDG 1.
End poverty in all its forms everywhere

SDG 5.
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

 **United Nations**
SURINAME
Realizing the Sustainable Development Goals



The Sustainable Development Goals

PEOPLE

SDG 2.

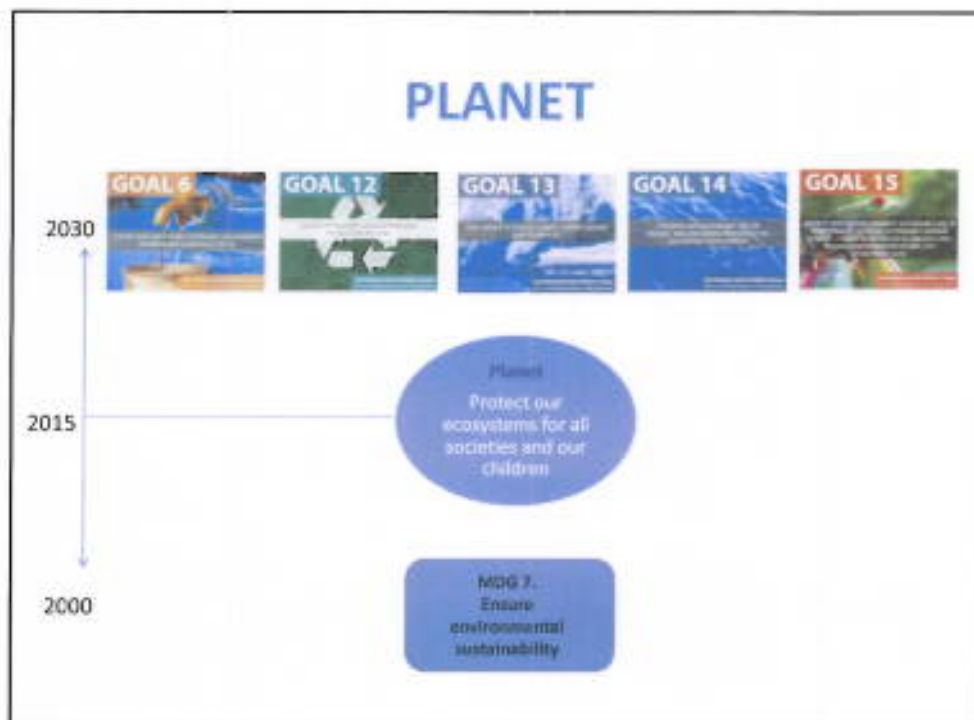
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 3.

Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 4

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all



The Sustainable Development Goals

PLANET

SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

SDG 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

SDG 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

SDG 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

SDG 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



The Sustainable Development Goals

PARTNERSHIP

SDG 17.

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



United Nations
SURINAME



The Sustainable Development Goals

JUSTICE

SDG 16.

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels


 United Nations
SURINAME



The Sustainable Development Goals

PROSPERITY

SDG 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries

SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable