

Towards Sustainable Development: Lessons from MDGs & Pathway for SDGs



Towards Sustainable Development: Lessons from MDGs & Pathway for SDGs

Edited by

Syed Munir Khasru

Chairman

The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG)

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Foreword



Syed Munir Khasru
Chairman
The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and
Governance (IPAG)

In September 2000, leaders of 189 countries gathered at the United Nations headquarters and signed the momentous Millennium Declaration, in which they committed to achieving a set of 8 measurable goals that range from curbing extreme poverty and hunger to promoting gender equality and reducing maternal & child mortality, by the target date of 2015. Agenda 2030 is an intergovernmental agreement that has been designed to guide global development efforts over the subsequent fifteen years, between 2015 and 2030. Its cornerstone, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), has replaced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which influenced the development narrative until 2015. The new goals are designed to build on the MDGs and mitigate the gaps.

While there were only 8 MDGs, there are 17 SDGs, with 169 associated targets, and 304 proposed indicators. The MDGs were revolutionary in providing a common language to reach global agreement. The 8 goals were realistic and easy to communicate, with a clear measurement and monitoring mechanism. Despite the enormous success made regarding the MDGs, progress has been uneven. With the aim of creating a new, people-centered, development agenda, a global consultation was conducted and a bottom-up, holistic

approach was embraced. Civil society organizations, citizens, scientists, academics, and the private sector from around the world were all actively engaged in the process, reflecting the significance of multilevel stakeholder participation. As the world prepares for the ambitious targets posed by Agenda 2030, we need to pull together the lessons learned from MDGs and collaborate effectively towards that end.

Against the background of these ground realities, The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG), has taken the initiative to publish the book *Towards Sustainable* Development: Lessons from MDGs & Pathway for SDGs. The book has articles from well-respected and seasoned experts, policymakers, practitioners and academicians in diverse but closely related areas of economic growth & sustainable development. The rich pool of writers represent global, regional, and national experts with experience and knowledge on key areas like resilient and equitable economic growth, technical and policymaking aspects of sustainable development, and environmental & geopolitical implications of attaining the 2030 Goals. From US to UK, India to Egypt, and Bangladesh – the book has contribution from some of the leading experts from around the world. Our sincere thanks to the authors who have positively responded within a short span of time to make this initiative a success.

The diverse nationalities and areas of expertise of the writers speak of the rich intellectual content of the book which will undoubtedly make significant contribution in enhancing the knowledge and strengthening the understanding on the key parameters of Agenda 2030, particularly in multilevel stakeholder participation. The seemingly conflicting goals of promoting economic growth while protecting the environment, boosting the private sector while improving well-being of the marginalized can be achieved by making implementation strategies of the SDGs more affordable and

equitable for developing economies. Towards that end, this book is a positive step by raising awareness through greater dissemination of knowledge and better appreciation of the trade-offs resulting from the choices that the countries will have to make in the coming days. Choices that will have direct effect in their long term goal of achieving economic growth that is resilient & green, efficient & equitable.

As part of our strong commitment to adhere to highest professional standards and academic excellence, IPAG welcomes comments and suggestions that will add positive value to further additions to the IPAG Knowledge Series that will continue to be published in the future. It is quite an auspicious occasion as the book is being launched in the Autumn of 2017 in New York, few blocks away from the UN headquarters where both the MDGs and SDGs were formulated within a span of fifteen years.

Best wishes,

Syed Munir Khasru Chairman, IPAG

Felicitation



Abul Maal A. MuhithFinance Minister
Government of Bangladesh

I congratulate The Institute for Policy, Advocacy, and Governance (IPAG) on the publication of the book *Towards Sustainable Development: Lessons from MDGs & Pathway for SDGs.* I hope that this book will to become a milestone in the field of development economics and will reach a broad spectrum of stakeholders.

I am also pleased that that the Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance, Government of Bangladesh (GoB), and IPAG are jointly organizing a half-day seminar on experiences of developing countries transiting from MDG to SDG to be held on October 10 (Tuesday), 2017 in New York. This is a timely initiative as the MDGs and SDGs are pillars of the development agenda and framework of activities which have been adopted by national policies and priorities and also by development partners. Bangladesh, one of the emerging economies in South Asia, has had remarkable achievements in fulfilling the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The final MDG progress report published by General Economics Division (GED)

of the Bangladesh Planning Commission indicated Bangladesh's remarkable progress in the areas of poverty alleviation, food security, gender parity in education sector, and public health, namely reducing infant and maternal mortality rate.

In the context of Bangladesh, having a holistic idea of the performance of the country in achieving MDGs, the factors that led to the progress, and the opportunities for along with the accompanying achieving SDGs challenges, is crucial. As Bangladesh embarks onto the journey of achieving the SDGs in 2017, it is important to build on the successes of MDGs. The Government of Bangladesh considers sustainability as one of the key factors in economic growth. In achieving the target of becoming a Middle Income Country, we need to ensure a sustainable and resilient economic growth in all areas encompassed by the 2030 Agenda. Despite the welcome noteworthy success in MDGs, we opportunities to explore the challenges faced and lessons learned in order to formulate policies that will ensure continued accomplishment. Towards that end, both the publication of the book and the seminar organized by ERD, Ministry of Finance, and IPAG are commendable initiatives that will go a long way in strengthening initiatives towards realizing the SDGs for Bangladesh and other developing countries.

Best wishes,

Abul Maal Abdul Muhith, MP