

BACKGROUND PAPER 3

Briefs on Selected Focus Areas:

Focus area 2. Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition

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Focus area 5. Gender equality and women's empowerment

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Focus area 6. Water and sanitation

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Focus area 8. Economic growth

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Please direct comments on specific focus areas to the appropriate author(s) by 1 June 2014.

IRF2015 is a collaboration of 11 leading research institutes from across the globe that responds to the need for independent, rigorous and timely analysis to inform the evolution of the post-2015 development agenda and the concurrent intergovernmental process on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed to at Rio+20. IRF2015 partners envision a post-2015 development agenda that is universal in scope, takes an integrated approach to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of global development challenges, and can lead to more sustainable and equitable development outcomes for all.

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FOCUS AREA: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY, AND NUTRITION

Summary: All five proposals include a dedicated goal for food security and nutrition. All go beyond hunger to include systems of food production and sustainable agriculture as part of their goal proposals.

OWG Focus Areas	<p>Sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring year-round access by all to affordable, adequate, safe and nutritious food; • Ending child malnutrition and stunting; • Increasing agricultural productivity, including through adequate irrigation, seeds and fertilisers, while in parallel halting and reversing land degradation, drought and desertification; • Improving efficiency of water use in agriculture; • Eliminating use of toxic chemicals; • Enhancing all forms of agricultural biodiversity; • Promoting indigenous and sustainable farming and fishing practices; • Strengthening resilience of farming systems and food supplies to climate change; • Enhancing adherence to internationally recognized guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forests, including full consultation with local communities; • Improved access to credit and other financial services, land tenure, and agricultural extension services, for all, including smallholders, women, indigenous peoples and local communities; • Increased investment and support to research and development on sustainable agricultural technologies; • Reducing post-harvest crop losses and food waste along food supply chains; • Addressing harmful agricultural subsidies; • Addressing price volatility, including through market information and oversight on commodity markets.
HLP	<p>Goal: Ensure food security and good nutrition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End hunger and protect the right of everyone to have access to sufficient, safe, affordable, and nutritious food. • Reduce stunting by x%, wasting by y%, and anemia by z% for all children under five. • Increase agricultural productivity by x%, with a focus on sustainably increasing smallholder yields and access to irrigation. • Adopt sustainable agricultural, ocean and freshwater fishery practices and rebuild designated fish stocks to sustainable levels. • Reduce postharvest loss and food waste by x%.
SDSN	<p>Goals: 1. End extreme poverty including hunger; and 6. Improve agriculture systems and raise rural prosperity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1A: End absolute income poverty (\$1.25 or less per day) and hunger, including achieving food security and appropriate nutrition, and ending child stunting (MDG 1). • 6A: Ensure sustainable food production systems with high yields and high efficiency of water, soil nutrients, and energy, supporting nutritious diets with low food losses and waste. • 6B: Halt forest and wetland conversion to agriculture, protect soil resources, and ensure that farming systems are resilient to climate change and natural disasters
UNGC	<p>Goal: Good nutrition for all through sustainable food and agricultural systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eradicate calorie-deficient hunger and halt increase of rates of obesity and of malnutrition. • Eliminate stunting of children under two years of age through appropriate micro-nutrients. • Double the productivity of LDC agriculture. • Stop and turn back annual increases in greenhouse gas emissions and deforestation resulting from farming and livestock production by 2020. • Bring down the share of overexploited ocean fish stocks by 20 per cent. • Reduce amount of food lost through poor storage and waste by ½.
FAO, IFAD, WFP	<p>Goal: Food security, nutrition, and sustainable agriculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All people have access to adequate food all year round. • End malnutrition in all its forms, with special attention to ending stunting. • All food systems become more productive, sustainable, resilient and efficient – minimizing adverse environmental impact without compromising food and nutrition security. • All small food producers, especially women, have secure access to adequate inputs, knowledge, productive resources and services, to increase productivity, sustainability, and improve their income and resilience. • More efficient post-production food systems that reduce the global rate of food loss and waste by 50 percent.

How might the following elements of a post-2015 goal framework be incorporated in sustainable agriculture, food security, and nutrition?

Grounding in the MDGs:

- Eradicating hunger is a critical part of the MDGs, appearing in MDG1 as “Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger,” with a target to “halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.” Further, target 7a (“integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs”) includes an indicator to measure proportion of fish stocks within safe biological limits.
- Proposals for post-2015 address hunger as a stand-alone goal and expand beyond the MDG target to address agricultural productivity and its impact on the environment, quality of nutrition, and overconsumption.

Interlinkages:

- All five proposals connect hunger, nutrition and **health**, particularly in terms of diets and nutritional deficiency that cause stunting or anemia in children. SDSN includes this under its goal on extreme poverty.
- Four proposals make the link to the need to increase yields and the efficiency of food production in terms of **land, water, and fertilizer**. Three specifically address conversion of **forests** to farmland. Two explicitly connect agriculture to both its impact on **climate change** and climate impacts on agriculture. One addresses sustainability more broadly
- SDSN, OWG, and proposals from FAO/IFAD/WFP link agriculture not only to food security but also to the **rural economies** that rely on agriculture. OWG, HLP, SDSN, and UNGC mention agricultural **subsidies and trade policies** and their impacts on agricultural production.
- The relationship between this focus area and **energy** is not directly addressed in several proposals and their targets (though all make the connection in explanatory text).

Complementary principles of universality and differentiation:

- Proposals recognize that sustainably producing sufficient food for a world of 9 billion people will require action everywhere. The following are examples of how universality and differentiation manifest in the context of food.
- All proposals target an **end to extreme hunger**, requiring action and/or support from all countries to eliminate hunger wherever it exists.
- All proposals mention **agricultural subsidies**, where a number of developed country policies disadvantage smallholders and may be inconsistent with providing equal opportunity for producers and food security worldwide.
- Four proposals include targets for **sustainable agriculture**. However, the ways in which each country’s food production patterns might need to shift differ. For example, arid or water stressed regions may need to improve irrigation efficiency; in other places excessive fertilizer application has polluted nearby water bodies, and for others restoration of degraded land may offer a chance to improve water availability and nutrient content of soils while increasing ecosystem health.
- **Food loss and waste** is mentioned in all proposals. Each country’s actions would depend on an analysis of where and how food is lost or wasted.

Key Questions

- Are the proposals sufficient to address multiple dimensions of sustainable agriculture, food security, and nutrition? For example, has the composition of diets (increasing consumption of meat and animal products) been overlooked?
- How can the framework apply specifically in emerging economies and elsewhere that face a combination of problems emblematic of both developed countries and least developed countries (e.g. both hunger and obesity)?
- Though patterns of unsustainable agricultural production exist worldwide, several proposals mention smallholders specifically. How can a post-2015 framework ensure sustainable patterns on the part of large agribusiness?
- Do the proposals contain what is necessary for a transformation in nutrition and agricultural practices?

FOCUS AREA: GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Summary: Of the proposals reviewed, all suggest a dedicated goal for 'gender equality and women's empowerment' (though formulations vary) as well as mainstreaming of gender in targets across other goal areas. Most of the proposals reflect a human rights lens; a holistic perspective that tackles the three drivers of women's discrimination (lack of physical, economic and decision-making autonomy); a shift from focusing on outcomes and placing more importance on the process of achieving the proposed goal, as well as sensitivity to differential realities of women in the countries across the globe.

There is a lack of alternative frameworks that are generated by local and community-based groups likely to be impacted by global frameworks. Some proposals include gender equality under a goal for social justice and equal rights for all or, as in the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, couched within the context of rethinking models for sustainable development.

OWG Focus Areas	<p>Gender equality and women's empowerment. Inter-linkages with focus areas on poverty, food security, water, energy, health, employment and economic growth considered critical.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ending all forms of discrimination against women of all ages; • Ending violence against girls and women in all its forms; • Ensuring equal access to education at all levels; • Ensuring equal employment opportunities for women and equal pay for equal work; • Equal access to assets and resources, including natural resources management; • Ensuring equal participation of women in decision-making in public and private institutions; • Ending child, early and forced marriage; • Reducing the burden of unpaid care work; • Sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights; • Promoting the availability of gender disaggregated data to improve gender equality policies, including gender sensitive budgeting.
HLP	<p>Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against girls and women • End child marriage • Ensure equal right for women to own and inherit property, sign a contract, register a business and open a bank account • Eliminate discrimination against women in political, economic and public life
SDSN	<p>Achieve gender equality, social inclusion and human rights for all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure gender equality, human rights, the rule of law and universal access to public services • Target 4a. Monitor and end discrimination and inequalities in public service delivery, the rule of law, access to justice, and participation in political and economic life on the basis of gender, ethnicity, religion, disability, national origin, and social or other status. • Reduce relative poverty and other inequalities that cause social exclusion • Target 4b. Reduce by half the proportion of households with incomes less than half of the national median income (relative poverty). • Prevent and eliminate violence and exploitation especially for women and children • Target 4c. Prevent and eliminate violence against individuals, especially women and children
UN Women	<p>Gender Equality, Women's Rights and Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom from violence against women and girls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prevent and respond to violence against women & girls ○ Change perception, attitudes and behaviors that condone violence against girls and women ○ Ensure security, support services and justice for women and girls • Gender equality in the distribution of capabilities and resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce maternal mortality and ensure women's and girls reproductive health and rights ○ Promote education and skills for women and girls ○ Ensure women's access to energy ○ Ensure sustainable access to water and sanitation ○ Eradicate women's poverty ○ Promote decent work for women ○ Build women's access to and control over productive assets

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reduce women's time burdens ● Gender equality in decision-making power in public and private institutions (voice, leadership and participation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Promote equal decision making in households ○ Promote participation in public institutions ○ Promote women's leadership in the private sector ○ Strengthen women's collective action
UNGC	<p>Achieve Women and Girls' Empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase the proportion of leadership positions held by women in public and private sectors to 40 per cent or better. ● Universally recognized and enforced equal pay for equal work. ● Full and equal access of women to ownership, property rights and land titles. ● Reduce rates of violent acts committed against women and girls by at least 50 per cent.
Asia and the Pacific	<p>Gender Equality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Women's rights as workers and holders of economic assets; ● Education ● Rights and participation of women in situations of conflict and transition to peace; ● Sexual and reproductive health and rights; ● Advancing women's agency and participation in political life (national and local governments); and ● Elimination of all forms of gender-based violence.
Latin America and the Caribbean	<p>Gender equality and women's empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tackle women's unequal access to economic livelihoods opportunities (formal employment and living wage) ● Recommend policies and laws that support women's unpaid care work and recognize with indicators its contributions to sustainable development ● Develop innovative social protection policies and remove conditionalities that increase women's unpaid care work ● Ensure equal rights for all citizens and eliminate gender based violence and discrimination ● Ensure non-discrimination regarding sexual orientation and gender identity ● Expansion access to care services
African Union	<p>Gender Equality and women's empowerment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Enhancing women's occupational mobility and eliminating gender based wage inequality ● Ensuring women's access to and ownership of land and other productive assets, credit, extension services and training ● eradicate all forms of violence against women and children and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation and early marriage ● Eliminate gender based discrimination in political, economic and public decision making processes ● Provide adequate resources to strengthen women's voice and ensure full and equal participation in decision making bodies ● Build women's productive capacities as agents of change ● Strengthen women's capacity and leadership skills ● Create legal frameworks that protect their engagement in political and decision making processes

How might the following elements of a post-2015 goal framework be incorporated in gender equality and women's empowerment?

Grounding in the MDGs:

- Proposals build on MDG Goal 3 on gender equality and women's empowerment and targets on education, child mortality, maternal mortality and combating HIV/Aids.
- Some of the MDGs' shortcomings that current proposals seek to remedy include:
 - Failure to establish the **linkages and causality** between targets for gender equality, leading to disparate efforts at both international and local levels;
 - The targets focused on the symptoms of gender equality rather than addressing the **root causes** of the problem. For example, targets to end poverty and hunger were approached as projects of some line ministries rather than as part of an integrated agenda to achieve gender equality;
 - Women's participation, role and contributions to the economy were overlooked.
- Current proposals focus on structural causes of gender inequality; on increasing women's choices and control over their own lives beyond the removal of immediate hardships. The support for this approach is echoed in the GADN 2013, UN Women, 2013; the Common African Position and other regional consultative efforts¹.
- The Women's Major Group (WMG) coordinating the input and participation of Women and Feminist organizations in the United Nations processes on Sustainable Development Goals and the Post--2015 development agenda identifies key prerequisites to a transformative development agenda that include **strengthening sustainability**, putting **human rights at the center** of the agenda and **promoting transparency**, and **meaningful engagement** of civil society and social justice movements.
- Emphasis is on **women's capabilities**, development outcomes and ensuring essential human rights for women and girls, and the creation of enabling conditions to help them realize their full potential. Such an approach requires, for example, coupling increased school enrollment for girls and bringing women into the labor market through enactment of anti-discriminatory laws. More important is the call for a **shift in macro-economic policy frameworks** with a focus on local revenue as the primary resource base for investment in women's capital. The proposed goals thus pursue a holistic approach which includes among others women's capacity to fully participate in decisions that affect their lives.

Interlinkages:

- In addition to a separate goal, proposals call for integration of gender based targets in across **all goals** in order to ensure their meaningful achievement as well as to improve investments in building the capabilities of women. This includes mainstreaming gender equality targets in **poverty reduction; income and inclusive growth, education; health; water and sanitation; and energy** goal areas.

Complementary principles of universality and differentiation:

- Gender inequality exists across the world and for that reason the approach to women's rights ought to be universal its application. Violence against women and girls for instance is a universal phenomenon. However differentiation needs to be reflected in both the design of the goals and the development of national, regional and continental targets and indicators that best reflect the lived realities of women and girls in different national contexts. Some ways in which a framework might reflect these contexts include:
 - Develop a set of goals and targets that reflect the barriers to gender equality and women's empowerment;
 - Prioritize resource allocation to benefit the world's poorest and most marginalized women;
 - Commit to redistributive models and policies that result in the creation of equal social and economic opportunities for women;
 - Retain the flexibility to accommodate women in countries with specific needs such as LDCs, countries in conflict and others more prone and vulnerable to economic stress;
 - Shift away from targets that measure national averages to a focus on women from poor and most marginalized

¹ A review of current proposals on gender equality revealed little difference between the frameworks proposed by the UN and those proposed by regional bodies in the sense that the UN frameworks seem to be drawn from inputs (at various stages) from civic and other groups across the globe. The result is proposals primarily echo and tweak the UN position more than frame the goal and targets differently.

- groups within a country;
- Include targets that reflect multiple dimensions of women's social exclusion and discrimination;
- Design household level targets and indicators where social inequality is often rooted;
- Match proposed gender goals and targets with key regional instruments (e.g. the SADC Gender protocol) thus making the important connection between the regional realities and the global targets).

Key Questions

- How should women's economic empowerment be approached and assessed?
- What ways are there to connect with women in communities that have not necessarily been able to make inputs into what to date has been primarily a UN-led process?
- What kind of instruments and targets are required to ensure downward accountability by governments and others?
- What public policies are needed to offset the difficulties associated with achieving gender equality and women's empowerment?
- Are proposed targets under key thematic goals transformative and would these adequately facilitate gender equity and women's empowerment?

FOCUS AREA: WATER AND SANITATION

Summary: Universal access to safe drinking water and sanitation is at the core of water and sanitation proposals, but there is broad consensus that the topic area goes well beyond basic access. The OWG Focus Areas Document, for example, recognizes that the whole water cycle needs consideration for a water-secure world. Approaches vary given the many linkages to other goal areas; the HLP and UN Global Compact suggest a dedicated goal for water and sanitation, whereas SDSN positions water and sanitation targets under several linked goal areas.

OWG Focus Areas	<p>Water and sanitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure access to safe and affordable drinking water and adequate sanitation for all, especially for women and girls, including in households, schools, health facilities, workplaces and refugee camps; • Provide adequate facilities and infrastructure, both built and natural, for safe drinking water and sanitation systems in all areas; • Extend wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse; • Improve water-use efficiency; • Bring fresh water extraction in line with sustainable supply; • Enhance effective water governance including catchment area based integrated water resources management and appropriate trans-boundary co-operation; • Expand water-related vocational training at all levels; • Protect and restore water-linked ecosystems like mountains, watersheds and wetlands; • Eliminate the pollution and dumping of toxic materials in water bodies, and protect aquifers; • Eliminate invasive alien species in water bodies; • Invest in water harvesting technologies; • Reduce risks and impacts of water-related disasters; • Appropriate means of implementation.
HLP	<p>Goal: Achieve universal access to water and sanitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide universal access to safe drinking water at home, and in schools, health centres, and refugee camps • End open defecation and ensure universal access to sanitation at school and work, and increase access to sanitation at home by x% • Bring freshwater withdrawals in line with supply and increase water efficiency in agriculture by x%, industry by y% and urban areas by z% • Recycle or treat all municipal and industrial wastewater prior to discharge
SDSN	<p>Goals: 6. Improve agriculture systems and raise rural prosperity; 7. Empower inclusive, productive and resilient cities; and 9. Secure ecosystem services and biodiversity, and ensure good management of water and other natural resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6c. Ensure universal access in rural areas to basic resources and infrastructure services (including water and sanitation). • 7b. Ensure universal access to a safe and affordable built environment and basic urban services (including water, sanitation and waste management). • 7c. Ensure safe air and water quality for all. • 9a. All governments and businesses commit to the sustainable, integrated and transparent management of water resources, et al, to support inclusive economic development and achievement of all SDGs.
UNGC	<p>Goal: Water and sanitation for all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universal access to affordable and safe fresh water • Universal access to basic sanitation facilities by 2020 and improved sanitation facilities by 2030 • Fresh water use brought in line with supply • Ensure establishment and full implementation of national water effluent standards

How might the following elements of a post-2015 goal framework be incorporated in Water and Sanitation?

Grounding in the MDGs:

- Proposals are **grounded in MDG 7c**: “By 2015, halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.” They include targets for access, but the **ambition is higher**; *universal* access.
- The scope also extends beyond that of the MDGs’ focus on basic needs to a **more comprehensive approach** that include environmental and economic aspects of water by setting targets for efficiency and sustainability in addition to access.

Interlinkages:

- The Rio+20 outcome document stated that water is “at the core of sustainable development as it is closely linked to a number of key global challenges”. There is consensus that water is intrinsically linked to many other goal areas; all four proposals explicitly link water to **poverty eradication, sustainable agriculture, food security and nutrition, health and population dynamics, sustainable cities and human settlements**. Three of four proposals further link water to **education, ecosystems and biodiversity**. Two proposals make linkages to **energy, industrialization, infrastructure, and climate change**. Explicit linkages to **sustainable production and consumption, gender, peace and jobs** are made in only one proposal. Linkages are similar for sanitation, in part because of its close dependency on water (both in policy and practice); links to health, food and rural infrastructure goals are most prominent.
- HLP suggests a **dedicated goal** for water, but stresses that goals **must interact to provide benefits**. Along this line, UN-Water has recently argued that only a dedicated goal allows for the holistic management of the water cycle that is needed to realize the benefits of water for other goal areas. SDSN proposes that water and sanitation targets should instead be **positioned under goal areas to which they have the strongest links** and are crucial enablers.

Complementary principles of universality and differentiation:

- Universality is reflected in the wording of goals and/or targets (e.g. goals; “water and sanitation **for all**” (UNGC) and “achieving **universal** access to water and sanitation” (HLP), targets; “universal access to affordable and safe fresh water” (UNGC) and “ensure safe air and water quality for all.” (SDSN).
- Targets need to address **access, efficiency, and sustainability aspects** of water and sanitation to be constructively applicable to all countries. In countries where basic access is not ensured this is highest priority, whereas countries with acceptable service levels will focus on improving efficiency and sustainable management. The OWG Focus Areas best reflect a scope that would **stimulate action in low-, middle-, and high-income countries alike**, but all five proposals move beyond a single focus on basic access (i.e. low-income country focus).
- Proposed targets are **not quantified**, thus **allowing for differentiation**. Some targets specify spaces (e.g. home, schools, health centres, refugee camps), which may limit their relevance to some specific settings.

Key Questions

- Does a dedicated goal or integrated approach more successfully handle the interlinkages between water and sanitation and other goal areas, and take into account the multiple roles water plays in sustainable development? How does the design affect the principles of universality and differentiation?
- Is the water cycle or water-related policy objectives a more useful entry point to capture and frame a universal water goal?
- In addition to the proposed targets, are there other water and sanitation issues or roles that should be considered?
- How should post-2015 reflect needs for a global transformation within the area of water? Do current proposals adequately address this need?

FOCUS AREA: ECONOMIC GROWTH

Summary: Proposals for goals on growth have linked objectives for economic growth and poverty reduction. Two proposals (OWG and HLP) combine these with objectives for jobs and the quality of employment, and two (OWG and UNGC) link them directly to equity. Only one links growth and environmental sustainability (SDSN). One proposal focuses on macro-economic factors, addressing growth separately from poverty eradication.

OWG Focus Areas	<p>Economic growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancing macroeconomic policy coordination; • Fostering conducive regulatory and fiscal systems to promote sustainable development; • Encouraging structural transformation towards higher productivity sectors and activities; • Substantially improving energy and resource productivity of economic activities; • Promoting entrepreneurship, small and medium scale enterprises, and innovation; • Creating productive, well-paid jobs; • Promoting investments in infrastructure such as roads, railways, ports, electricity, and communications; • Strengthening productive capacities in all countries with a particular focus on LDCs, including through technological upgrading and value addition; • Promoting an open, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system; • Promoting trade facilitation and preferential market access for LDCs; • Ensuring debt sustainability; • Facilitating international technology cooperation and technology transfer, particularly for environmentally sound technologies; • Developing and using evidence-based, high quality, timely, disaggregated data sources.
HLP	<p>Goal: Create jobs, sustainable livelihoods, and equitable growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of good and decent jobs and livelihoods by x. • Decrease the number of young people not in education, employment or training by x%. • Strengthen productive capacity by providing universal access to financial services and infrastructure such as transportation and ICT. • Increase new start-ups by x and value added from new products by y through creating an enabling business environment and boosting entrepreneurship.
SDSN	<p>Goals: 1. End extreme poverty including hunger; and 2. Achieve development within planetary boundaries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1a. End extreme poverty, including absolute income poverty (\$1.25 or less per day). • 1b. End hunger and achieve food security, appropriate nutrition, and zero child stunting. • 1c. Provide enhanced support for highly vulnerable states and Least Developed Countries, to address the structural challenges facing those countries, including violence and conflict • 2a. Each country reaches at least the next income level and promotes decent work. • 2b. Countries report on their contribution to planetary boundaries and incorporate them, together with other environmental and social indicators, into expanded GDP measures and national accounts. • 2c. Rapid voluntary reduction of fertility through the realization of sexual and reproductive health rights in countries with total fertility rates above [3] children per woman and a continuation of voluntary fertility reductions in countries where total fertility rates are above replacement level.
UNGC	<p>Goal: End poverty and increase prosperity via inclusive economic growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate extreme poverty (\$1.25/day per capita in 2005 real US dollars). • Create jobs through decent work sufficient to keep unemployment below 5%, including for women as a group, and below 10% for youth. • Eliminate child labour. • Ensure full access to private finance, including basic savings, loans and growth capital products, on fair terms including for women and marginalized groups. • Reduce by 30% the Gini co-efficient rating in each country.

How might the following elements of a post-2015 goal framework be incorporated in economic growth?

Grounding in the MDGs:

- The MDGs recognize the relationship between incomes and poverty at the level of the individual or household (under target 1a – reduce the proportion earning less than \$1.25/day by 50%).
- In 2008, the MDGs adopted a target under Goal 1 to “achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, including women and young people.”
- The absence of a general economic growth goal has been cited as a gap in the MDG framework.

Interlinkages:

- Economic growth is linked to **poverty eradication** in all proposals, as a necessary but not sufficient condition, and like poverty is linked to action in all other goal areas. Proposals highlight inclusive growth.
- The link between economic growth and **jobs** is made in all proposals, some emphasizing the productivity of workers and the creation of livelihood opportunities.
- SDSN highlights the links between **population** and economic growth, poverty eradication and sustainable development.
- Economic growth is linked to **environmental sustainability** and **climate change** in the proposals, though this link is made primarily in descriptive text or in targets highlighting the need for sustainable consumption and production.
- Equitable progress towards goals on **health, education, infrastructure** and **agricultural productivity** is linked to progress on achieving economic growth, being critical enabling factors.
- Economic growth is linked to access to services – **health, education, water, energy, governance** – through its effects on individuals’ incomes and public revenues.

Complementary principles of universality and differentiation:

- Most proposals for including growth in the post-2015 framework focus on the **human-scale** and **people**. Differentiation between countries is reflected in one proposal [SDSN] with a target ‘Each country reaches at least the next income level’.
- Two proposals [SDSN, UNGC] that include a poverty reduction target use a **common metric** (\$1.25 per day). One proposal [CIGI] suggests also using **national poverty lines**.
- One proposal [SDSN] suggests a particular focus on the structural **challenges faced by the Least Developed Countries**.
- The potential for economic growth to impact on poverty reduction and resource consumption is universal; the significance of this impact, nationally and globally, varies between countries.

Key Questions

- Should the post-2015 development agenda focus on the outcomes of growth (e.g. incomes and employment) or on economic growth itself? Should this be measured using GDP or an alternative measure?
- Should a goal for inclusive growth be integrated with a goal on income poverty and income inequality? While deeply entwined conceptually, should these be considered together or separately for the purposes of a goal framework? What might be lost or gained in either approach? Similarly, how should employment or decent jobs be incorporated, including jobs in the informal sector?
- What should the post-2015 agenda include concerning international cooperation and agreement for global public goods that enable growth, such as an open, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system or stability in the international financial system?
- What is “transformative economic growth”? Is this only growth that raises production and consumption to levels that eradicate poverty? Is this growth that allows continuous expansion of production and consumption? Is it growth that is compatible with sustainable production and consumption, within ecological limits?