



Regional Initiative
Latin America and the Caribbean
Free of Child Labour



International
Labour
Organization

Latin America and the Caribbean:
**Towards the
first generation
FREE OF CHILD LABOUR**

.....
An integrated and interdependent analysis of
the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
in relation to target 8.7



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First published 2017

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FUNDAMENTALS

Latin America and the Caribbean: towards the first generation free of child labour. An integrated and interdependent analysis of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in relation to target 8.7 / International Labour Office, Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch (FUNDAMENTALS); ILO DWT and Country Office for the Andean Countries. - Lima: ILO, 2017.

ISBN: 978-92-2-129108-4 (Web PDF)

International Labour Office. Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work Branch; ILO DWT and Country Office for the Andean Countries

child labour / Caribbean / Latin America - 13.01.2

Also available in Spanish: *América Latina y el Caribe: hacia la primera generación libre de trabajo infantil. Una lectura integrada e interdependiente de la Agenda 2030 a la luz de la meta 8.7*, 978-92-2-331240-4 (Web PDF), Lima, 2016.

ILO Cataloguing in Publication Data

NOTE

This publication has been produced by CEPEI for the ILO, under the technical coordination of the Fundamentals team in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This publication was made possible through funding from the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AECID), through project RLA/14/04/SPA, the Andalusian Agency for International Cooperation for Development (AACID), through project RLA/15/01/SPA and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency (ABC), through project RLA/0953PBRA.

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PART 2

**THE 2030 AGENDA.
PRINCIPLES AND
VALUES OF THE
WORLD WE SEEK**

In 2000, the United Nations adopted the “[Millennium Declaration](#)”, affirming the collective responsibility of world governments to uphold human dignity, equality and equity at the global level and the duty of world leaders to all people, “in particular, the children of the world, to whom the future belongs” (§ 2).

In order to bring these principles into action, in 2001 the [Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#) were introduced as a global development agenda consisting of eight goals broken down into targets to be achieved, for the most part, before the end of 2015.

Figure 13

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)



Source: United Nations.

By the end of the deadline, significant progress was achieved, including the reduction of global poverty income by more than 50% between 1990 and 2015, however some targets were not met.¹²

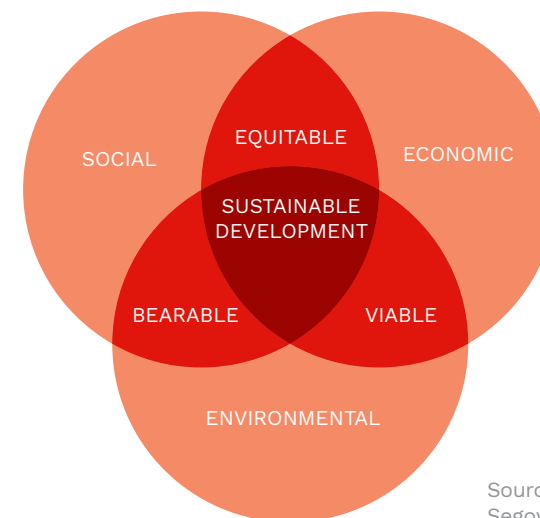
On the basis of the experience gained with the MDGs, the United Nations launched a broad and participatory process of negotiations aimed at defining the new development agenda. Member States, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, prominent international figures and the United Nations system as a whole all participated.

The [Rio+20 Conference](#), convened in 2012, marked a milestone in this process by defining that the new goals should be based on economic, social and environmental sustainability, and designated them as Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The **links** between the three spheres of sustainable development has since become a central part of the new agenda. This has led to the challenges in implementing the SDGs and their targets on the basis of their **interdependence**, calling for an action that during the negotiation process became known as the “no silos” approach and allowing to establish a model for equitable, viable and bearable development.

This approach represents significant improvements over the MDGs: it requires all actors to approach development from a holistic perspective, whereby countries can harness the extensive synergies existing between the SDGs “so that implementation of one will contribute to the progress of others.”¹³

Figure 14

The three dimensions of Sustainable Development



Source:
Segovia and Ortega (2012).

¹² United Nations (2015).

¹³ See: [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, § 11.

In September 2015, as a final outcome of the negotiations, countries adopted the document “[Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)” (the 2030 Agenda). This was a new expression of the global commitment to face the challenges left unmet by the MDGs and deepen and broaden the vision to promote social, economic and environmental sustainable development.

At the core of the Agenda are 17 Sustainable Development Goals detailed in 169 targets, as a set of commitments by governments aimed at achieving the elimination of extreme poverty, reducing inequalities and protecting the environment in the next 15 years. This will be done through promoting a development model based on equity and economic growth sustained by the creation of decent work.

Figure 15
 The 17 Sustainable Development Goals



Source: United Nations.

The 2030 Agenda

has been criticised by some for being too ambitious and broad, but the degree of complexity involved in moving towards a new model of sustainable development requires it to be that way. The new agenda is inclusive, inspiring and focused on transforming reality, consequently, it needs to be ambitious and broad.

The SDGs are framed within a set of working values, principles and guidelines defined in the 2030 Agenda, which serve as a guide to effective implementation.

The values are mentioned in the preamble to the document and refer to five **“areas of critical importance:”**

- 1**  **PEOPLE:**
Dignity and equality.
- 2**  **PLANET:**
Sustainable environmental management.
- 3**  **PROSPERITY:**
Although prosperity is in itself a value, it is stated here that prosperity must occur in harmony with nature.
- 4**  **PEACE:**
Again, a critical area that is in itself a value, associated with justice and inclusion.
- 5**  **PARTNERSHIP:**
Strengthened solidarity, focused in particular on the poorest and most vulnerable.

Within these values, the 2030 Agenda outlines a set of principles intended to serve as a guide to their achievement, including:

PEOPLE CENTRED

People and their realities should be at the core of all Development Goals and ultimately benefit from any progress made. States have declared that the goals and targets should be “transformative, far-reaching and people-centred” (§ 2).

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

This is a principle of equity, which states that the benefits of development must be shared by all groups of people. Given that “dignity of the human person is fundamental”, the SDGs and targets must be achieved for “all nations and peoples and for all segments of society,” giving priority to “the furthest behind” (§ 4).

UNIVERSALITY

It reflects the indivisibility of the SDGs and targets by expressing that “These are universal goals and targets which involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike” (§ 5).

NO SILOS

This principle strongly emphasizes the interdependence and correlations existing between different SDGs and demands states to assume an integrated work dynamic, paying attention to both each goal and target as well as to the multiple relationships established among the whole set of goals and targets (§ 5).

COMMON BUT DIFFERENTIATED RESPONSIBILITIES

Achievement of the proposed goals and targets is a common task for which we are all responsible, but the extent to which the different countries have historically contributed to damaging the planet and the technical and financial resources available to them complete the measure of their responsibility. Thus, the 2030 Agenda reaffirms the application of “all the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, including, inter alia, the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities” (§ 12).

The reference to human dignity invokes elements of the Millennium Development Goals and brings the SDGs closer to the field of human rights: The reference that the goals and their targets must be met for all nations, peoples and social segments raises the need for joint achievement as the only strategy and spells out the priority given to those groups ‘furthest behind,’ pointing out the importance that equity must have in implementing the new agenda. The reference to inclusion points to establishing decent work as one of the pillars of the proposed sustained, inclusive and sustainable development model.

Figure 16
 Sustainable development values, principles, goals and targets within the framework of the 2030 Agenda



Source: Compiled by author.

This is coupled with a new working dynamic: A holistic approach based on synergies and the interconnections that characterize the 2030 Agenda.

The *Sustainable Development Solutions Network*,¹⁴ states: “The complexity of sustainable development is such that a huge number of the targets are interlinked, creating a web of complex relationships.”¹⁵ Based on this idea, David Le Blanc (2015) presents the SDGs as a web in which different targets are directly associated with one goal, but indirectly influence the achievement of others.

14 This is an initiative launched in August 2012 by UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon, bringing together scientists, academics, civil society and the private sector to share their knowledge for overcoming the obstacles encountered on the path of sustainable development at the local, national and global levels. It seeks to improve joint learning and help to rejecting the compartmentalisation of technical and political efforts by promoting integrated approaches.

15 SDSN (2015).

Table 1
SDGs ranked by the number of interlinkages to other goals through their targets

Sustainable Development Goal	Number of other goals to which the goal is connected
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	14
10. Reduce inequalities within and among countries	12
1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere	10
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	10
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	8
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	8
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	8
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	7
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	7
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	6
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	6
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	6
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	6
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	3
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation	3
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	2

Source: Le Blanc (2015).

It is necessary to demonstrate a clear connection between the sustainable development goals and their targets in order to have effective policies aimed at achieving them, as Le Blanc argues:¹⁶ “In designing and monitoring their work, agencies concerned with a specific goal (e.g. education, health, economic growth) will have to take into account targets that refer to other goals.”

This perspective allows one to think of the SDGs as a network with links between the different components of sustainable development. This raises a debate on “policy coherence,” a concept which, broadly, refers to the policies implemented by one actor positively impacting others and reinforcing each other;¹⁷ and, in its narrower sense, refers to the need for such policies not to hinder the objectives pursued by one’s own policies.¹⁸

Sustainable development requires policies that will foster sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work. These crosscutting themes have direct links to eliminating child labour. In fact, this is an element that is strongly correlated with the whole set of SDGs, while drawing from progress on individual goals.



The role of Latin America and the Caribbean in defining the 2030 Agenda

Latin America and the Caribbean was not merely a witness to the development of this new Agenda for Development. In spite of not presenting themselves as a unanimous and independent block, countries of the region aligned themselves with several of the proposals generated at the G77 + China summit for forming the 2030 Agenda, namely:

1. Recognition of poverty as a multidimensional issue.
2. Recognition of the relevance of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities to the full range of sustainable development issues.
3. Commitment to finding solutions to climate change.
4. Expansion of the indicators to measure the development of the countries beyond the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita.

¹⁶ Le Blanc (2015), p. 9.

¹⁷ Barry, King and Matthews (2010).

¹⁸ Ashoff (2005).



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