

# German Medical Association

Federation of the German Chambers of Physicians



## The Sustainable Development Goals

### The Physician's Perspective

# Millennium Development Goals (in place since 2000)

## Three health-related goals



### Goal 4 – Reduce child mortality

The mortality rate of children under five has been reduced by 53% (goal of 67%)

### Goal 5 – Improve maternal health

Maternal mortality has fallen by 45% (target was 75%)

### Goal 6 – Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

- New HIV infections declined by approx. 40%
- Global malaria mortality rate decreased by 58%
- Global TB mortality rate fell by 45% between 1990 and 2013



MDGs have generated a lot of commitment and resources

→ **Development assistance for health more than tripled after 2000**

# Millennium Development Goals

## Possible reasons for success



- The MDGs prioritized health and stressed the essential role of health in development
  - Of the eight goals, three dealt with health-related issues
- Concise list of time-bound, measurable and easy to communicate goals and targets
- Annual evaluation and reporting in the media to
  - Keep MDGs high on the agenda
  - Ensure accountability
  - Celebrate successes and identify room for improvement

# Millennium Development Goals

## Limitations of the MDGs



- Targets for developing countries created by few stakeholders without adequate involvement of developing nations
  - Dependent on financing from developed states
- Issues excluded from the goals received little global or national attention
  - Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) were excluded from MDGs, but represent a significant and growing proportion of the burden of global disease
- MDGs did not consider the root causes of development problems, but instead fostered band-aid solutions
- Progress uneven across countries

# Sustainable Development Goals

## Adopted by the UN in Sept. 2015



### THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development



- **17 goals** (cf. MDGs 8)
- **169 targets that support the goals** (cf. MDGs 21)
- Health does not occupy the central role in the SDGs that it did in the MDGs

## Goal 3

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

- Only health-related goal (cf. MDGs 3)
- Encompasses 9 targets and 4 tools for implementation
- Ten health-related targets incorporated into other goals



# Sustainable Development Goals

## Targets of Goal 3 (by 2030)



- Reduce the global **maternal mortality** ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
- End preventable **deaths of newborns** and children under 5
- End the **epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases** and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases
- Reduce by one-third premature mortality from **NCDs** through prevention and treatment, and promote mental health and well-being
- Strengthen prevention and treatment of **substance abuse**, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol



# Sustainable Development Goals

## Targets of Goal 3 (by 2030)



- Halve (by 2020) global deaths and injuries from **road traffic accidents**
- Ensure universal **access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services**, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programs
- Achieve **universal health coverage (UHC)**, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential healthcare services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all
- Substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from **hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution** and contamination



# Sustainable Development Goals

## Mechanisms for implementing Goal 3



- Strengthen implementation of the **Framework Convention on Tobacco Control** in all countries, as appropriate
- Support research and development of **vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries**, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines in accordance with the Doha Declaration and, in particular, provide access to medicines for all
- Substantially increase health financing and the **recruitment, development, training and retention of the health workforce in developing countries**, especially in LDCs and SIDS
- Strengthen the capacity of all countries, particularly developing countries, for **early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks**

# Sustainable Development Goals

## Commendable developments



- The goals were drafted using a bottom-up approach, based on wide-ranging consultations
- SDGs address the unfinished MDG agenda
- SDGs broadened the focus to all countries, including wealthy nations
- SDGs acknowledge the shift in the global burden of disease towards NCDs
  - This target also addresses the increasing burden of mental health challenges
- SDGs recognize the importance of the health workforce in developing countries

# Sustainable Development Goals

## Commendable developments



- SDGs recognize the importance of early warning, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks
- SDGs incorporate injuries from road traffic accidents
- SDGs include prevention and treatment of substance abuse, particularly the harmful use of alcohol
- **SDGs call for universal health coverage, including financial risk protection**

# Sustainable Development Goals

## What the critics say



- Health's lower profile in the SDGs → less political attention beyond the health sector on a national level
- SDGs are overly expansive, complex and lack focus
  - Many goals and targets are aspirational, overambitious, vague or unquantifiable  
.... reads like long wish list
- Only 13 of the 23 health-related targets establish quantitative thresholds
- STDs are omitted (except HIV)



# Sustainable Development Goals

## What the critics say



- Too little attention paid to how goals and targets will translate into action
- Substantial new financing will be needed, unclear where money should come from
- No mention of major risk factors, e.g. unhealthy diet, obesity, inadequate physical activity, high systolic blood pressure
- No articulation of a rights-based approach in the health goal

# Sustainable Development Goals

## Keys to success of SDGs



- Meeting the SDG goals will require a paradigm shift
  - Inter-sectoral and intra-governmental coordination will be required
  - Ministries other than health will also have to introduce reforms
- Implementation will require a great deal of new investment
  - New mechanisms for financing health systems
  - Effective use of domestic resources
  - Response from major donors will be most crucial
- Alternatives to setting unattainable “zero targets”
  - Prioritized list of measurable goals, targets and milestones
  - Model mortality rates under different degrees of health sector investment

# Sustainable Development Goals

## Keys to success of SDGs



- A new approach must be taken to the development and pricing of vaccines and drugs
- There must be a much greater focus on prevention, rather than a reliance on the fallback of treatment
- The system of indicators needs to be designed and used to effectively guide policies
  - The global indicator framework is currently undergoing an open consultation to discuss possible refinements until Sept. 28, 2016
- Specific efforts must be made to elevate social justice and human rights as underlying principles for achieving sustainable health for all
- Focus must be expanded to include **all** countries



# Sustainable Development Goals

## Why all countries?



- Sustainable economic growth, or sustainable consumption and production patterns, have an impact on all countries
- Policy changes are needed in most countries to achieve an economic and social model which is both sustainable and socially just
- Developed countries cannot buy their way out by simply increasing development funds
- Economically advanced nations can become leading examples of sustainable development





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