

# The Sustainable Development Goals

Prof. Usha Vyasulu Reddy

# The streams

- The Development Discourse post WWII
- The Millennium Development Goals
- The Concept of Resilience in Development
- Environment and Climate Change
- Rio+20

# Post WWII

- Thought largely based on economic growth—  
i.e. growth theories
- Extensive dissatisfaction and criticism of these theories based on macro-economic and human development data
- Led to emergence of Human Development framework, which focused on human well-being, equity, rights and capabilities

# The MDGs

- Formed the basis for much of development work from 2000-2015
- Summative review shows success and failures in eradicating poverty, gender inequality
- Failure to adequately address issues of environment, climate change and sustainable development

# The MDGs

- Disparities in progress especially present in key population groups: women and men, persons with disabilities, youth, migrants and older persons and ethnic minorities groups
- UN High Level panel concluded that
  - “the MDGs fell short by not integrating **the economic, social, and environmental aspects of sustainable development** as envisaged in the Millennium Declaration”

# The Concept of Resilience

- Term hard to define but essentially means
  - “the ability of groups or communities to cope with external stresses and disturbances as a result of social, political and environmental change” (Adger, 2000)
- Resilience framework looks at causes of ‘vulnerability’—access to income, food security, education, health and social security safety nets which enable communities to have greater resilience to external stresses and disturbances.

# Environment and Climate Change

- Failure of the MDGs to adequately address this issue
- Global evidence pointing to rapid deterioration in the earth's ecosystem
- Intergovernmental process to determine the next set of goals started in 2010

# Run up to the Sustainable Development Goals

- Rio+20 (2012)
  - Two primary themes
    - a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication,
    - and an institutional framework for sustainable development
- 30 member open working group supported by the UN to frame the agenda
- Report presented to the UN in 2014
- Further refined and presented to the UNGA in 2015
- Adopted in UNGA in September 2015

# The Sustainable Development Goals

- Covering range of development issues included in the MDGs + Sustainable Development Discourse
- Seventeen (17 goals)
- 169 Targets
- Envisage transformative shifts from earlier thinking
- Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the SDGs has been set up in June 2015 to work out how to chart progress on each of the 17 sustainable development goals and targets..

# ICTs and SDGs

- ICTs not explicitly included in the goals
- Seen as 'critical infrastructure' and enablers of sustainable development
- Briefly expressed in Goal 4 as part of equitable development and lifelong learning.