Introduction

Twenty years ago, a commitment to achieve sustainable development was laid down by representatives of governments, international organizations and civil society in Rio de Janeiro. The Rio Declaration introduced a new paradigm that implied integrating social equality, economic growth and environmental sustainability. Several years later, the
Declaration’s objectives were confirmed and refined to focus on poverty eradication, sustainable consumption and production, and environmental protection. What’s more, eight specific development goals to be reached by 2015 were set. Has there been success in fulfilling these Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) so far? And if they have been achieved successfully, what will happen after the year of 2015 comes?

This paper aims to remind the readers, be it policy makers or other involved stakeholders, of the importance of sustainable development, MDGs, post-MDGs processes and most of all, the awareness of people, in relation to these concepts, necessary for securing their effectiveness and future.

To discuss the issue of development goals we not only need to map past proceedings in the area, but have to consider each individual’s contribution to a sustainable society. When approaching the research question What should follow the MDGs, what is the future of development?, we decided to find out three aspects that should help us discover an answer to it: An evaluation of the MDGs to analyze, whether the initiative is effective and therefore should be continued; an introduction to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), that is the most probable post-2015 agenda; and a concise, but comprehensive, survey to show the reader to what extent the public, government officials and non-governmental organizations are aware of MDGs, their effectiveness, SDGs and the future of development. We believe that without awareness of actors involved in the processes, there is no future for the will be.

Since we would like to focus on the opinion of and situation in our respective home countries, we will comment on the standpoints of populations from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary.

The main motivation for this research is our interest in the field of international relations and issues related to sustainable development, and the timeliness of the particular topic chosen. We also wanted to learn about the extent of Central European countries’ contribution to the development goals and raise awareness of problems faced by every one of the world nations that were the reasons for setting these goals up.

As a methodology, qualitative approach is applied in the research, utilizing secondary data as a primary tool to analyze the concepts, proceedings and cases. Using a survey as a quantitative tool of analysis is significant due to its first-hand and up-to-date approach.
1 Theoretical background

Analyzing Millennium Development Goals strategy within its future and processing of gained results is based on sustainable development and human development theory.

1.1 Sustainable development theory

“Sustainable development” has replaced concepts such as “growth”, “modernization” and “progress” as the unifying concept for whole world development strategies and programs.¹ There are many definitions of sustainable development, but they have a common feature that we can represent under the World Commission on Environment and Development’s landmark: “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”² The theory of sustainable development comes from conflicts - conflicts that arise from trying to fulfill understandable wishes but these wishes can at the same time oppose to each other. For example, if there is a wish to breathe clean air and, at the same time, there is a wish to use the car for transport. These two wishes then, however understandable or common, are affecting each other negatively. And the question is - how to decide which of these wishes should be fulfilled and which should not?³

Experts believe that meeting the needs of future is embodied in today’s decisions and although it seems impossible to meet some of the contradictory wishes in the short run – i.e. to achieve industrial growth and to preserve natural resources, in a longer term it is possible. Because today we can decide to use responsible means of development.⁴

As R. Estes mentions: “Sustainable development practice consists of development-focused interventions that seek to promote and enhance the social, political, and economic well-being of people within an ecologically sustainable context at all levels of social organization.”⁵ And MDGs are then a clear example of theory taken to practice.

⁴ World Bank, Ibid
1.2 Human development theory

The human development theory was introduced by Mahbub ul Haq in 1966 and expanded by Amartya Sen. According to Mahbub ul Haq, the main aim of the theory is to draw attention to mass poverty and the importance of well-being contrary to economic indicators. Development projects should deal with “human balance sheets” of the countries, that involve the quality human resources, income distribution, employment rates, and the culture of the society. More attention should be given to “basic human needs” not only to economic indicators. Not every country with a high GNP contributes to high level of prosperity. Developed countries should help developing ones and should share their wealth with them.

Amartya Sen claims that development depends mostly on the level of „freedoms enjoyed by members of society“7. These freedoms, such as access to education, health care, political and civil rights, are mainly dependent on economic indicators and technological development. Development cannot occur without removing the main “sources of unfreedom”2 that are poverty, low level of literacy, bad economic conditions or low level of security. The freedom of market is also a consent part of economic growth.

Level of development can be measured by the Human Development Index (HDI). This index is based on “three essential elements of human life - longevity, knowledge and decent living standards.”8 Longevity expresses the life expectancy at the time of birth. Knowledge is also an important indicator, because access to high quality education can help the society to reach economic and welfare development. The last indicator can be measured by income per capita. As it was mentioned before, high level of GNP does not mean that there are no differences between social groups, or literacy rate is not dealing with gender inequalities.

2 Evaluation of the Millennium development goals

This chapter gives an overview of the progress, which has already been made, the impact of the financial crisis and the rising importance of emerging economies.

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2.1 Evaluation of indicators

Millennium Development Goals, a global initiative endorsed by United Nations states goes back to United Nations Millennium Summit in September 2000. World leaders met in UN New York Headquarters to set up a vision for next decade summits and conferences. They adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, a commitment to a new global partnership that set up a series of time-bound goals, known today as MDGs. This strategy is slowly entering into its last two years, so there is for sure an imminent need for evaluation of the progress. How far did we get? Can we really meet goals within the 2015 deadline? How are these goals contributing to the world’s development?

There is a very important feature to mention about the MDGs program. This initiative, contrary to other ones, not only set up the wishes and goals but it also framed these ideas into a structured plan with specific numbers. The purpose of this research is to evaluate how this plan is moving forward.

There has definitely been a success noted in reaching the goals. Some of the biggest ones were halving the extreme poverty that was accomplished already in 2010, five years prior to the plan’s deadline. During the same period, also the number of people lacking dependable access to improved sources of drinking water was halved. The child mortality fell by more than one third and girls managed to equal the boys in the primary school enrollment. All these achievements are amazing and remarkable, but there is still a lot ahead of us. Although the progress is accelerating, it is very uneven among regions. We also have to take into consideration the consequences of the 2008/2009 financial crises that has slowed down the progress for some MDGs.

Though some progress was marked in decreasing the maternal mortality, the reality is still too far from the wished goal. Since 1990, the mortality ratio (deaths per 100,000 live births) has been halved, but the intended ambition was to bring it down by three quarters. From 1990, the maternal deaths have been cut down worldwide by 47%, but the progress is very unproportional among the regions. Robert C. Orr commented on it in the Council on Foreign Relation conference: “We have to go after the hardest places and the hardest issues.

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And maternal health has been the most resistant to change, the most stubborn.” Access to the improved sources of water follows a similar scenario. The difference is that the unevenness shows not among the regions but between the rural and urban areas. People from rural areas have up to 5 times lower probability of access to the improved water sources.

As the United Nations Secretary-General stressed in the Millennium Development Goals Report 2012 - “Hunger remains a global challenge”. Despite the decrease of income poverty, the progress in reducing undernourishment and child under nutrition is very slow, especially in some regions. There are also other tricky situations when evaluating the MDGs than unevenness and slow pace of the progress generally, it is the difference in relative and real numbers. For example, there was a notably huge reduction in share of urban populations living in slums, but absolute number has still grown.

MDGs are also about cooperation. They made the governments cooperate, and not only them. T. Charles Cooper believes that to achieve the goals, “not just the governments but also the civil society and the private sector are cooperating on designing the programs.” MDGs are also a momentum for “organizing the international nonprofit community to some extent around the concepts of each MDG.” MDGs went through a lot of changes, too. They achieved some progress by changing their strategies. As Worthington suggests, the development is not happening just through redistribution of the wealth from the developed to the developing countries. It goes down to the people, to the farmers who are able to feed their families by the crops they grow.

2.2 Impact of the global financial crisis

The financial crisis impacted both the developing countries and the developed ones. Capital flows to developing countries were drastically reduced, and the global partnership became weaker than it was before the crisis.

Despite the fact that actions have been taken promptly, goals have not been reached mainly in the areas of poverty reduction, mortality of children and mothers, diseases

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reduction; or improving in areas as education or health care. High cost of food and energy, and high unemployment rates are among the biggest barriers in reaching MDGs. Experience showed that only one percentage reduction in the GDP can increase the number of people in poverty by millions. As an impact of the crisis, trade restrictions were introduced. These have a direct effect on prices of food, health care equipment and medicine, education or energy. As a result, the price of food has grown, a lot of households cannot afford to buy food, receive primary education or get the required health care. Higher unemployment is reducing the income of households, as well as that of government officials. As a consequence of trade restrictions and growing unemployment in export-oriented, non-agricultural countries, the gender issue is also getting worse, women are more discriminated.

Mr. Sanchez claims there is a synergy between nutrition, transport and achievements in education, because if pupils are well nourished, they will perform better at school; and if roads are better, transport is easier and there is no limited access to education, nutrition and sanitation. There is definitely a need to build the infrastructure to have a better access to food, water and sanitation.

Local financial, governmental and trade systems should also be changed. There is a need to develop the private business sector and the investment inflows on the one hand, and improve the environment for local producers on the other. What’s more, developing economies face high level of tax avoidance and corruption, and principles of good governance are not respected. This situation also affects local producers, who have to deal with many other problems, which decrease their productivity, i.e. bad infrastructure, lack of well-educated local workforce, as well as hardly reachable and expensive raw materials from abroad, low-quality of local products, and an illicit economy.

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2.3 New actors

The financial crisis has changed the number and the composition of actors, a shift from G-8 to G-20 has occurred and a new level of global governance has been created. New social and economic policies have been adapted based on models from emerging economies such as China. The main aim of the Beijing Consensus is to realize state-led integration. New extra costs are making it more difficult to reach MDGs though. These extra costs are related to changes in demographic development or climate, more development aid is needed, infrastructure is getting more expensive, and social protection programs are also costly. New donors, the emerging economies, are playing an important role. These countries belong to the group called BRIC, whose development models are more similar to models from the western world. 21

The BRIC group consists of Brazil, Russia, India and China. According to economic forecasts, these emerging economies will replace the strongest economies of the world in this century. 22

On the Brasilia BRIC summit in 2010 BRIC countries summarized how they will help other countries to reach MDGs. BRIC provide financial aid and technical support to third world countries to implement development and social protection policies. The emerging economies provide grants, interest-free loans and aid on one hand, and technical cooperation, know-how, personal trainings and payments for extra costs on the other. All of the countries actively contribute to the World Food Program (WFP), which contributes to improvement of health care system. The main activities of the WFP are hunger reduction strategies for children and mothers, school meals, “food fortification and micronutrient supplements”, food for work and cash for work programs, and “implementation of food, cash or voucher transfers” (BRICS Research Group, 2012) 23

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Brazil: Almost all of the financial and technical support is provided by multilateral channels. According to the BRICS Research Group (2012) Brazil provides significant help by improving the health care, agricultural and educational system, introducing e-government, protecting the environment, providing professional trainings, and helping with the production of renewable energy and urban development. This country also strongly cooperates with ECOWAS\textsuperscript{24} in Africa.\textsuperscript{25}

Russia: The closest country to the European Union not only provides financial aid and technical cooperation to Asian and African countries, but also cooperates with the Union within the area of Eurasia.\textsuperscript{26}

India: The EXIM bank of India provides high investments to neighboring countries. India is not only active in the Southeast Asian region, but in Africa, too. India cooperates on high level with the ECOWAS and helps to implement public sector projects.\textsuperscript{27}

China: As indicated by the BRICS Research Group, China provides “complete projects, goods and materials, technical cooperation, human resources development cooperation, medical teams sent abroad, emergency humanitarian aid, volunteer programs in foreign countries, debt relief”. This country provides high level of financial aid and technical cooperation, financial aid mostly being provided by the EXIM bank.\textsuperscript{28}

3 Sustainable development goals as the post-2015 agenda

The question in our paper’s title reveals the main issue which the delegations of Member States focused on during the UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. The Rio+20 Summit, or the Earth Summit, as it was named due to its importance for the future of our world and nature, brought up the agenda on development after 2015, a year when projects connected to MDGs shall come to an end or be revised. The eight MDGs, analyzed in previous chapters of this research paper, range from reducing extreme poverty by half to stopping HIV/AIDS from spreading and providing universal primary education. Their importance is not only in their tasks, but especially in their ability to

\textsuperscript{24} ECOWAS- Economic Community of West African States
\textsuperscript{25} Krystel Monpetit. Ibid, p. 4-6
\textsuperscript{26} Krystel Monpetit. Ibid, p. 11-13
\textsuperscript{27} Krystel Monpetit. Ibid, p. 8-11
\textsuperscript{28} Krystel Monpetit. Ibid, p. 6-8
bring together all nations and all world leading development institutions in agreement, and as such need to be continued until they bring sustainable solutions.\(^29\)

The outcome document of Rio+20, entitled “The Future We Want”, calls for a range of actions, including “launching a process to establish sustainable development goals”.\(^30\) An agreement to secure a new set of goals that would succeed the MDGs should be made and they shall be based on common goals, shared interests and respective capacities of participants. Sustainable development goals (further referred to as SDGs) need to reflect lessons learned from MDGs, so as the SDGs process becomes one of the future solutions to challenges to be integrated into a single unified process for all countries within the post-2015 development agenda.\(^31\)

Visible support for new global sustainable goals is coming mainly from environmental and development NGOs at the moment. The UN is working with governments, civil society and other partners to build on the momentum generated by the MDGs and continue with an ambitious post-2015 development agenda. However, there is a great amount of confusion around development goals within all Member States including states of Central Europe at present. Therefore, there is a need to update the ongoing process and reflect on recent developments, i.e. use of new media in raising awareness about the state of the world and the SDGs at work.

A single coalition is not needed, but a shared vision for what the goals must deliver, and a common analysis of how we maximize their efficiency, are necessary. The post-2015 movement should be connected to the diverse and vibrant civil societies in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and in particular in BRICS countries, now including South Africa and Mexico (so called BRICSAM), as these countries will be central to many of the goals that are set, and their opinion shall be central to the creation and implementation process of SDGs.\(^32\) The UN needs to deliver a process which all people understand and all participants want to invest in.


There has been progress since the start of MDGs and new or updated projects have been launched in recent months to update the process leading towards meeting the goals, e.g. in August, Mr. Ban Ki-moon set up a new independent global network of technical institutions, research centers and universities to help find solutions for some of the world's most pressing environmental, social and economic problems. There has also been a program launched to advance Internet access in developing countries in order to help them become sustainable economies. However, the issues dealt with in MDGs have not been taken care of fully and will most probably remain huge even after 2015. For instance, 61 million children still don't have the chance to go to school, and only 18 out of 131 countries are to meet the target for all girls to go to school by 2015. In the age of financial crisis, the most prevalent obstacles remain to be financial resources and marginal awareness of both the size of problems dealt with, and the MDGs and SDGs themselves.

There already is a consensus on several core principles, which need to form the foundations of the SDGs process. The goals should be universal - there must be measurable targets and indicators for all countries, both in the developed and developing world; holistic - they need to capitalize on synergies across sectors, acknowledging and best managing trade-offs; equitable - the framework must target inequality both within and between countries, and respond to the needs of the most vulnerable and marginalized communities; and inclusive - the goals must be formed through an open, transparent, and accountable process.

In the current discussions on SDGs, two processes led by the UN need to be remembered – the still ongoing implementation and review of the MDGs and the post-2015 UN Development Agenda.

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Evans and Stevens discuss what should follow the MDGs in their paper published in 2012 and predict following possible outcomes:

1. “Full SDGs” - universal and binding set of goals covering economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development comprehensively
2. “SDG-Lite” - a package of goals, which has been set in an ad hoc way due to certain controversial elements vetoed during the negotiation process
3. “MDGs+” – revise poverty-oriented goals that are either less, or more coherent than the current goals
4. “Hybrids” – various SDGs/MDGs blends, e.g. SDGs running alongside MDGs
5. “Car crash” – failure to agree on any set of goals at all

The main question remains about whether the new set of goals should be represented by the SDGs, an enhanced version of MDGs, or by the combination of both, and what should the focus be - whether the environmental goals, focused on sustainability, should be mixed with the poverty-focused development goals.

As for the SDG process itself, a few potential scenarios for the future exist:

1. SDGs will become a separate set of goals to the post-2015 goals
2. SDGs will constitute the basis for post-2015 process, ensuring sustainability
3. SDGs will represent the post-2015 agenda

The third possibility is one of the future options, however, a full replacement of MDGs with SDGs is not probable especially because the SDGs alone respond to environmental issues only and that fact would compromise the progress made on the development side. As a unique opportunity, the possibility to integrate both, the environmental and development agendas, should rather be considered.

There are a number of cross-cutting issues common to MDGs and SDGs to be addressed. Points that have been included in the SDGs agenda so far are demonstrated in the following table.

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Table 1: Tentative blueprint for the scope of SDGs as by March 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDGs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overarching goal</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty eradication, environmental sustainability, sustainable consumption and production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dimensions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-carbon economy; Social foundation; Environment sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cross-cutting themes and approaches</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable development (SD) in a globalizing world</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and SD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Means of implementation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional framework for SD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and equality etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Priority areas</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food, water, sanitation, access to energy, oceans and seas, forests, desertification, health, education, shelter, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Broader challenges</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rise in unemployment and food price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inequality between the rich and the poor both at global and national levels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An increasing number of natural and man-made disasters, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Emerging possibilities</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green jobs and social inclusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilience and disaster preparedness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South-South and triangular cooperation, public-private partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovative financial mechanisms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthened institutional framework for SD, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: ‘IGES Rio+20 Issues Brief Series’, 2012, edited by the authors

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development brought a commitment to a global mandate with a timeframe for agreement on post Rio+20 processes. The follow-up Rio Declaration on Environment and Development states that the foundation of good environmental governance is access to information and decision-making. Considering that, a series of national consultations of vulnerable communities and people impacted by poverty have been launched and will run until next year. All results coming from the consultations must be carefully considered in the formation of the SDGs.

Further development in post-2015 agenda will be known on 1st February 2013, when Secretary General Ban Ki-moon’s High-level Panel is going to launch a report on post-2015 plans. In our opinion, the SDGs, in any form, will be the key part of post-2015 development and as such need to be carefully, without an unneeded rush, thought out and consequently implemented.
4 Introducing surveys conducted

As part of our research, we conducted a survey to find out to what extent the public, government officials and non-governmental organizations are aware of (the public), fulfill and evaluate (the officials and NGOs), and participate (both) in the MDGs and SDGs programs, what they think about their effectiveness and their alternatives, and where they see the future of development. We have prepared two questionnaires – one for the government officials and NGOs, and another one for the public, since the target groups differ in terms of experience and work area, and as such need to be addressed in slightly different ways. While we chose a target group of university students for the public questionnaire and set up questions more directly, simply and briefly for them, for the official questionnaire we chose a more formal language, more complex questions and more space for open-ended answers. In both cases, we designed the questions in a way that would give us information not only about whether people know the concepts, but about how those affected them and their community, and what they think about them. In this way, we obtained both quantitative, showing us numbers of participants answering our ‘yes/no’ questions, and qualitative answers, giving us explanations. The reason behind this is the fact that the ‘why’ questions often show more interesting points and bring more value into a research like ours than the ‘how many’ questions.

Public survey evaluation

The target group for public survey⁴⁰ comprised of university students from the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary, representing Central Europe. We restricted the age group by a maximum of 26 years of age and left the questionnaire open to students of any field. The target group is important since our hypothesis is that its members are the potential figures who will be drafting and implementing future development projects in all areas of their jobs.

The questionnaires were available online in the period of 26th November to 17th December 2012, during which random 122 respondents filled them in. We offered Czech, Hungarian and English versions. The following graph shows representation of respondents according to nationality and country of origin:⁴¹

Graph 1: Pie graph showing respondents’ nationality and origin distribution

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⁴⁰ Its full version is available in the appendix
⁴¹ The group called Hungary-Slovakia represents respondents whose nationality is Hungarian and the country of origin is Slovakia, it was included as a separate group, since their group proved large and therefore significant. However, the countries’ division among population represented is only informative and shall show that the target group consists of Central European inhabitants
Only 39 respondents out of 122 (app. 32%) know the UN and have heard about the MDGs, while 80 (app. 66%) don’t know the MDGs and 3 know neither. This shows very little awareness about the MDGs plan among people questioned, who were taken as a sample population.

**Graph 1:** Pie graph showing the awareness about the UN and the MDGs

All respondents who gave a negative answer to the second question were automatically taken out of the questionnaire and did not continue with further questions, the following observation is therefore based on the 39 participants who know about MDGs.

According to 15 (38.5%), the MDGs are successful, and according to the remaining 24 (61.5%), the MDGs are inefficient. There are several reasons for why they believe the MDGs plan is inefficient - progress in least developed countries is very slow, there is too little participation of developed countries, some of the issues are not dealt with in all countries in need, the situation in most areas is still visibly worsening, supervision and evaluation is insufficient, the goals are too optimistic, power games decide the importance of individual
issues and programs, the actions leading to reaching the MDGs are unenforceable, there is unwillingness of certain countries to fulfill them, financial resources are insufficient.

The two goals being most effectively fulfilled, according to the students, are the reduction of child mortality and developing a global partnership for development (both named by 19 people). The highest priority is given to the issue of maternal health, the least to goal no. 8. The latter is an unusual finding, since even those who believe in the success of MDGs, gave lowest priority to the Global partnership for development, of which the MDGs projects are part of. Majority sees a better alternative in smarter allocation of financial resources.

Findings about the awareness of SDGs are more positive than the ones concerning MDGs – 20 (51.3%) respondents know them. Still, their effectiveness, as part of the post-2015 agenda, is being questioned. The respondents appreciate that SDGs consider lessons learned from previous years, longer time horizon, define issues more narrowly and that indicators are set for developing countries as well as for developed ones.

Majority of 67% (26 students) think the contribution of their home country isn’t sufficient. At the same time, all of the respondents who know MDGs contribute to sustainable development themselves - by volunteer work at home and abroad, recycling, micro financing projects, financial contributions, supporting fair trade products, responsible behavior, voting responsible representatives, raising awareness of the problems and suggesting solutions. However, many of them are pessimistic about the impact of an individual. That’s where plans similar to MDGs should take over, in a more visible and effective way.

The survey showed that so far the MDGs related programs are part of the internal knowledge of students of social sciences (mainly those majored in International Politics), MOFA officials and NGOs, whose work is closely related to the agenda of MDGs and SDGs. More information and promotion should be targeted at population from different fields than social sciences, since most of the respondents who are well-informed come from these. More information of quantitative nature should be given when raising the public awareness, therefore showing specific targets and specific achievements.

Instructions and patronage from an upper level are necessary if we are to combat problems of global scale, however, the implementation should come from the bottom first. Countries and people can contribute by keeping self-sufficiency.

There are possible limitations of the public survey. No member of our team has had prior experience with conducting a survey, therefore we encountered some difficulties and

42 Three people feel they won’t be more effective, 8 believe they will and 9 don’t know
there are still aspects to be improved in all the stages of the process using this research method. Percentage inaccuracy may occur due to rounding numbers, which was used in order to simplify the statistical overview. We also received a limited number of respondents, probably due to the short time period we made questionnaires available for elaboration; therefore the survey is used as a supportive material, not as the main basis of the research.

5 National standpoints

5.1 Czech national standpoint towards MDGs

This section is handling Czech approaches towards MDGs. Most of the text is based on a survey conducted with the Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), while comments come from an interview with Ing. Petr Pavlík, M.A., CSc.

Millennium Development Goals

While evaluating the MDGs, the Czech MOFA is stressing the eradication of extreme poverty, which reached the top place in development efforts of the partner countries. It further mentions the effect of MDGs – bringing the topic to the international discussion and creating the instruments for achieving the goals. Defining the eight goals also set up a simple, understandable and, due to the indicators, well measurable action plan. The importance of setting up these goals has also enabled to gather a huge amount of data providing a better understanding of the world’s situation. And last but not the least, there are the mobilization of the financial sources for official development aid and activation of the global public awareness concerning the development.

According to Petr Pavlík, MDGs are so complex and complicated that it is practically impossible to fulfill them completely. However, it is still very important to set them up. In order to solve a problem, one needs to define it first. Not until then is it possible to find ways towards its solution, and the way is often more important than the goal itself.

43 Interview with the Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid of the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs, detailed data on their website <www.mzv.cz/rozvoj> (Prague 12 December 2012)  
44 Interview with Petr Pavlík, an expert in developing studies, currently lecturing at the University of Economics (Prague, 10 December 2012)  
45 Interview with Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Ibid  
46 Interview with Petr Pavlík, Ibid
The most essential goals, according to MOFA, are the access to drinkable water, although it is already stated within the fulfilled goals and so is the eradication of poverty and hunger that will stay pivotal in the future, too. Aid should also be targeted towards accessibility to various sources of energy, safe environment, executive and public affairs improvement, and transparency. According to Pavlík, the most important goals to achieve are Goals number 1 and 2. Without fulfilling them, he says we can never achieve bigger progress within Goals 3 to 8. Then he adds: “All the goals are important. According to me, there is one crucial goal missing - the elimination of major armed conflicts. I suppose this goal should be as important as goals number 1 and 2.”

The benefit of the goals is always relative with respect to the point of view, whether it is economical, social, cultural, political or related to human rights. The crucial components of future global development framework, according to MOFA, are well administrated public affairs (including respecting of democratic and human rights values), sustainable development (including three pillars - economical, environmental and social), global framework for responsibility and development. Generally, the MOFA is not supporting development goals that would be formulated in a sense of simplified and perceived world ‘South vs. North’ and ‘donor vs. beneficiary’ approach and sticking to the Official Development Assistance (ODA) as the only means to eradicate poverty.

To make the development goals more efficient, they should contain formulation of procedure for achieving the goals, indicators of measurability that would consider the differences among states, and a more efficient system of responsibility for achieving the goals. The goals should create a partnership for development that would embrace all development actors including the newly emerging donors and private sector. Coherent policies for development on all levels and financing from various sources (domestic, international, public and private) should be accented.

Pavlík also adds that the political system of a developing country is heavily influencing the achievement of MDGs in the country. “Basically, it is naturally better to have market economy than centrally planned one and parliamentary democracy than one party rule. Equally important is the legal and institutional framework, level of respecting human rights, enforceability of law and others. Despite that many totalitarian regimes are successful in particular areas that they have attached importance to. It is interesting to compare particular

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47 Interview with Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Ibid
48 Interview with Petr Pavlík, Ibid
49 Interview with Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Ibid
50 Interview with Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Ibid
demographical and social indicators of Cuba (life expectancy, infant mortality, literacy rate, etc.) to some other Latin American countries, especially in the area of Central America and the Caribbean.”

*Future of Millennium Development Goals*

Talking about the post 2015 development and continuation of the initiative, MOFA believes that contrary to some limits the development framework based on MDGs should be continued by using a similar initiative. That should proceed from the MDGs and contain revised goals and new goals, including the set up of instruments and indicators. Pavlík believes that it is needed to continue with a similar initiative, because many of the goals were not fulfilled although there was significant progress.

Whether this post-2015 development could be well managed by the SDG’s framework is difficult to judge. Based on the Rio+20 declaration, the goals should be limited in amount, communicated easily and applicable to all countries. The defining of the concrete areas is part of present intergovernmental process that is closely watched by the Czech Republic.

*Economical perspective of development*

The hypothesis that MDGs may be fulfilled if the financial crisis didn’t slow the pace of development strategies, is a matter of reservation for the MOFA. MDGs are influenced by many factors, i.e. the environment and political situation development, therefore it is very difficult to evaluate, whether the economical factor itself could enable the fulfilling of MDGs. Concerning the suggestion, whether deepening of crisis would cause a need to reformulate the SDGs, the MOFA suggests that deepening of the crisis would probably result in bigger pressure to reduce public budgets intended for development aid, but it would not necessarily mean that reformulating of SDGs is needed.

MOFA is also reconfirming an important influence of BRICS countries on the improvement of some development indicators of MDGs. For example, owing to China’s development, the number of people living under the poverty line has dropped. Another significant effect on the global development is the fact that these countries emerged as donors.

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51 Interview with Petr Pavlík, Ibid
52 Interview with Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Ibid
53 Interview with Petr Pavlík, Ibid
54 Interview with Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Ibid
of development aid and intensification of South-South cooperation and trilateral cooperation that present a great potential for fulfilling MDGs.55

*Czech Republic’s involvement*

The Czech Republic (CR) is actively taking part in the work of organizations within the UN system, attends discussions about development as part of relevant working groups and platforms. The CR contributes financially to activities of these institutions and pays attention to implementation of accepted commitments. MDGs present the framework for the work of MOFA. The Foreign Development Policy Concept for the years 2010-2017 is based on MDGs, implying that the programs of cooperation with individual priority countries work in close relation with MDGs. There are currently five priority countries in the Czech concept - Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ethiopia, Moldova and Mongolia. Bilateral foreign development cooperation is further executed in the following project countries56: Georgia, Cambodia, Kosovo, Palestinian Autonomous Areas, and Serbia.

Each country was chosen according to criteria that reflect the balanced approach between ‘foreign development cooperation’, as means to eradicate poverty and to fulfill the MDGs, and ‘development cooperation’, as the component of Czech foreign policy. A new sector of priorities, which resulted from experience from the previous period and comparative advantages of the CR, was set up for the period of 2010-2017. One of the priorities is experience with the process of political, economical and social transformation. As the UNDP report mentions: “Although their official development allocations are small, these countries accumulated successes, best practices; and lessons learned in transition and development have value that go beyond dollars, Euros, and shares of GDP. While working to redress the remaining barriers to social inclusion at home, the Central European countries can simultaneously make much-needed contributions to the global development agenda.”59

Sector priorities also reflect general priorities of international community set up especially by MDGs. Development aid focusing on the ‘water topic’ and sanitation or inclusive education are being considered for successful Czech development aid.60

55 Interview with Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Ibid
56 Project countries also represent priority countries, but without an umbrella program of cooperation.
57 Interview with Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Ibid
58 Meaning Central European countries
60 Interview with Department of Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, Ibid
5.2 Slovak Republic and development goals

This section gives a glimpse at the standpoint of the Slovak Republic and describes how Slovakia contributes to the fulfillment of MDGs and the formulation of SDGs. Our questionnaire was answered by Ms. Valeria Zolcerova, an employee of the Development and Humanitarian Aid Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia and by Mr. Juraj Mesik, who was a Community Foundation Senior Specialist in the World Bank from 2003 to 2008.  

The standpoint of the Slovak Republic

Ms. Zolcerova evaluates MDGs as a successful program, they contributed to high level of progress in every area, but they were not fully achieved. Mr. Mesik thinks that realization of MDGs was partially successful, but not in every sector and every country. Mr. Mesik claims that strategic development goals are not the best solution to solve problems; they are only compromises which were made on ideological political basis.

Ms. Zolcerova claims that new goals are focusing more on climate change, as SGDs or the program Energy4All, the last one being an initiative of the European Union. Alternative initiatives, i.e. programs related to energy production, are crucial, because “without energy the development cannot exist”. New initiatives of Rio +20 are also focusing on stabilizing the situation after natural disasters and reducing consequences of the climate change.

Mr. Mesik believes that development goals are not formulated in the right way. Essential goals that could contribute to development are missing, i.e. stopping the population growth, ensuring the adaption to the current climate change, increasing of food security or increasing the relevance of received education. Mr. Mesik also claims that the most important goal should be the improvement of health care system, not only to prevent diseases or infections, improve child and maternal health, but to give the necessary education to young women about birth control.

Ms. Zolcerova states that development goals can be effective only if partners are working together, here can be emphasized the role of “Global Partnership”. Reaching of goals depends mainly on the willingness of the government and local institutions and capacities, not on the political regime of the country. The government can be under the pressure of civil

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62 Valeria Zolcerova, Development and Humanitarian Aid Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia
society to act. The most useful goals are eradicating poverty, improvement of health care educational system, because without reaching these goals the development cannot happen.

Ms. Zolcerova declares that SDGs are dealing with actual problems and they are supposed to be more effective than MDGs. New goals have been formulated by experts in this area taking into account actual needs and problems. On the other hand Mr. Mesik thinks that SDGs are not formulated according to actual problems it is necessary to change them.

From the BRIC countries Russia and China are the main aid providers but they also have to face the consequences of the economic crisis. Mr. Mesik states that Cuba is more significant player as emerging economies, the USA or some EU countries. Cuba provides significant aid related to health care.

**Slovak Republic’s involvement**

MDGs are significantly contributing to the development mainly in third world countries. The Slovak ODA (Official Development Assistance) agency mainly deals with the following goals which are reducing poverty, improving health care, gender equality as well as improving education system. Slovakia contributed to improving situation mainly in countries as Afghanistan, South Sudan, Kenya, and Mongolia.

The Slovak Republic provides not only development assistance, but technical assistance too

The current development strategy of the Slovak Republic is following the principles of the EU development policy, UN and OECD. The OECD plays a crucial role in evaluating results.

The Slovak ODA pays significant attention to improving women’s position in the education system and to the labor market. Projects have taken place mainly in Afghanistan and Sub Saharan Africa. The success can be measured, because the ratio of women in school and workplaces has grown. For example, some education programs in Afghanistan were focusing on the business environment where women were taught how to do business. Basic principles of law, marketing were also taught.

As technical assistance, Slovakia helps countries which are facing problems of transfer from one political and economic system to another. The most significant contribution has

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64 Presentation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia on the topic of MDGs and support of gender equality, position of women from the view of the official development aid of the Slovak Republic
happened in Afghanistan. The NGO called People in Peril helped mostly with development of rural area and supported the business environment via program “Socio- economic development in at the rural area”.

5.3 Hungary and development goals

This section is devoted to describing Hungary’s contribution to MDGs and SDGs. Unfortunately, the contacted officials and NGOs did not respond to our e-mails, that is why this chapter presents the Hungarian standpoint based on official documents and studies only.

Hungary’s Involvement

As a member states of the UN and the EU, Hungary contributes to MDGs and to programs led by the EU. Hungary also devotes certain percentage of gross national product to development and humanitarian aid projects. As an impact of the crisis, the percentage of GNI offered to the humanitarian and development aid has been decreased during the last years.

The biggest improvement was made in “eradicating extreme poverty and hunger”, helping to deal with rural development, and providing access to clean water. Hungary also contributes to improve educational and health system, and decrease the inequality between men and women. A big attention is also given to climate change and environmental issues.

The most preferred goals are poverty reducing, fight against climate change, deal with environmental issues and establish a stronger global partnership via bilateral and multilateral agreements.

Donor countries can be divided into two groups as main donor countries and countries were projects were realized on ad hoc basis. Main donor countries are Afghanistan, Western Balkan countries, Ukraine, the Palestine Authority and Vietnam. Projects on ad hoc basis have been realized in “Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Macedonia, Mongolia, Montenegro, and

in Yemen, Sub-Saharan Africa in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. "69 The most of the development aid is provided to Southern and Central Asia, Europe, and Middle East and North Africa. 70

As a post-communist country, Hungary has relevant experience with changing of political and economic system and can give appropriate help and recommendations. Hungary led the Provincial Reconstruction Program in Afghanistan in 2006. 71 Hungary is helping not only to develop the primary education, but the secondary and the tertiary education too. A practical institution was established in Kenya, “Education Centre in the forest of Ngong (Kenya), named after the Hungarian doctor Imre Loeﬂer” 72 Hungary also contributes to education of children with physical disabilities. A day-care centre was established in Sub-Saharan Africa. 73

It is well known facts that sick and underfed population is unable to learn and apply the curriculum. That is why it is very important to deal with improvement of health care and food capacity and security. Hungary helps with agricultural production, “water management and sanitation”, and environmental protection. Hungary thinks that without quality sanitation and clean water it is impossible to reduce poverty. “Our aim is to promote the water agenda in the green economy with a view to improving the linkages between development and energy, and between agriculture and food security”. 74

69 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, ‘Report on Hungary’s Humanitarian and Development Aid programs in 2010’ (Beszámoló Magyarország 2010. évi hivatalos nemzetközi fejlesztési és humanitárius segítségnyújtási tevékenységéről), (MOFA of Hungary website) <http://www.kormany.hu/download/3/a9/40000/Besz%C3%A9m%C3%A1ol%C3%B3B32010NEFE.pdf> accessed 22 December 2012, p.4
70 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Ibid, p.20
71 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Ibid, p.8
72 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Ibid, p.16
73 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Ibid, p.18
74 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Hungary, Ibid, p.8
6 Conclusion

The main aim of our paper was to evaluate and write about the future of a unique project. We can consider MDGs as a unique project, because for the first time not only goals and wishes were set up, but a structural framework and plan for them, too. The most significant development has occurred in eradicating poverty and providing clear water. Not in every region is it possible to reach MDGs, especially people living in rural areas have difficulties to access food, clean water, health care or education. A positive result of MDGs projects is the strengthened cooperation - not only among states, but among non-governmental sector as well.

The economic crisis has also had its impacts on MDGs, but developing countries have to face food and security crisis and trade barriers. This increased the price of food, health care, education and energy, and created new challenges in accomplishing development goals. From the financial side, the tax evasion and the level of corruption have increased, governments are not respecting the principles of good governance and are not willing to cooperate with the civil society. The crisis also has its impacts, as mentioned before, but without the crisis most goals would still not be reached by 2015, because if the aid goes to countries with weak policies and institutions, as stated in a World Bank report.

The global crisis has weakened the position of traditional strong economies and new actors are more significantly dealing with development cooperation. These emerging economies of BRICS are financially highly contributing to reaching the MDGs, but are also notably criticized for their standpoint towards human right protection.

This year, new goals have been formulated during the Earth Summit. The main aim of the new initiative is to be more applicable on the global level after 2015. Within the post-2015 agenda it is important to play more attention towards NGOs and the civil societies of receiving countries to reach more sustainable development.

Technical development also plays a key role; there is a need to have more developed technological equipment in developing countries. But this aim is not feasible in countries with low level of literacy and energy supplies, these problems should be solved first.

In formulating the post-2015 agenda there is a question of what should be the more central goals - the environment, the sustainability or the poverty reduction. The most important is to learn from shortcomings of the MGDs to formulate more effective development goals in the future. The role of the UN should be to cooperate not only with governments and NGOs but with the civil society in both developing and developed countries.
From the national standpoints and official documents, it is clear that the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia highly contribute to accomplishing MDGs and take their part in the formation of post-2015 agenda. They do cooperate with the UN bodies and as part of the European Union attend EU development aid programs. The receiving countries are also very similar. All of mentioned countries think that the priority goal is the goal of eradicating poverty and the securing of clean water resources, because starving and sick population is unable to be educated. And education is the key element of development.

The post-2015 agenda should be more focused on the achievement of unreached goals and dealing with new problems caused by the climate change and environmental disasters.

The public survey showed us what can and should be done about MDGs after 2015, about SDGs and about sustainable development generally in the future, according to people. The respondents might be partly uninformed, or even wrong, in their opinion, however, they all share the belief that much needs to be done in the area of sustainable development and that is the most important starting point. We think the UN should promote MDGs more among young people. The EU, and our countries as its part, spend millions of Euros to develop these goals and citizens do not know about it. If they knew, there would be more people contributing to the achievement of MDGs.

All in all, SDG discussions should definitely not detract from fulfilling MDGs. A set of global goals that are truly universal, that integrate development and the environment, and annihilate the causes of our current crises need to be designed. The UN and its developed members should work closely, support and assist developing countries with practical help and advice in designing and implementing programs and policies on their way to achieving the SDGs. The UN should seek strategic opportunities at all levels to engage with key constituencies and institutions related to the development of the new framework and support discussions and events connected with it. The development and monitoring of the framework needs to include consultations at local, national, regional and global level, especially engaging the civil society most directly challenged by global problems.
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Appendix

Millennium Development Goals: Brief introductive evaluation of some of the targets

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The first target is to halve the proportion of people whose income is less than $1 a day between 1990 and 2015. Extreme poverty fell in every region, including the sub-Saharan Africa (the highest poverty rates), but not everywhere by the same percentage. Looking closer at the developing regions, the proportion of people with income lower than $1.25 a day fell from 47% in 1990 to 24% in 2008. In reality, it means 600 million people less live in extreme poverty.

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

The target aims at ensuring that by 2015, children everywhere - boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling. In the developing regions the net enrollment rate for children (group of primary school age) increased from 82% (of the whole age group in the country) in 1999 to 90% in 2010. The largest increase was achieved in sub-Saharan Africa, still the final percentage of 76 is the lowest among other developing regions, whose improvement was not that large, but most of them achieved the rate of more than 90%. However, there were still 122 million illiterate people between 15 and 24 years of age in 2010.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

The main strategy is to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015. The results of this goal were measured through the so called Gender Parity Index (GPI), which should preferably be in the area between 97 and 103 points. Most of the developing regions made a huge progress towards this goal, the lowest numbers having been reached in the sub-Saharan region. There are huge discrepancies among the three types of education (primary, secondary, tertiary) though. In developing countries, the higher the education, the lower the GPI (less girls than boys enrolled). Contrary to this, the tendency in developed countries has exactly the opposite

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76 „The old ‘dollar a day’ poverty line was chosen to represent the threshold of extreme poverty. Based on new data, consumption of $1.25 a day in 2005 prices now represents the best estimate of the extreme poverty line. The new line is the average line for the poorest 15 countries.” (Worldbank Website) <http://iresearch.worldbank.org/PovcalNet/index.htm> accessed on 12 December 2012

77 Illiteracy, as defined here, means a missing capability to write and read a short simple statement about everyday life.

78 Gross enrolment ratio (girls’ school enrollment to boys’ enrollment ratio)
direction – the higher the education, the higher the share of girls taking part in the enrollment. A vast, but still slow, progress appeared in the women’s representation. In 2012, women presented 19.7% of parliament members worldwide, which means a 75% increase from 1995.

**Goal 4: Reduce child mortality**

The UN target is to reduce the under-five mortality rate by two thirds between 1990 and 2015. The total decrease within the developing regions was 35% (from 97 deaths per 1000 live births to 63) between 1990 and 2010, but none of the countries (not even the developed countries) reached the one third of the original status yet.

**Goal 5: Improve maternal health**

The target of this goal is to reduce maternal mortality ratio by three quarters between 1990 and 2015. The decline of maternal mortality ratio (maternal deaths per 100 000 live births) was 47% between the years 1990 and 2010, which means 245 000 saved lives. But the difference between developing and developed regions is alarming – in developing regions, the maternal mortality ratio is 15 times higher than in the developed ones.

**Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**

The target here is not only to halt, but also to begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015. Generally, the number of newly infected people is decreasing, but the pace is different among the regions. There were 2.7 million newly infected people in 2010, 390,000 out of those were children, representing a decrease by 21% compared to the year of 1997. Alarmingly, out of 33 countries, where the new infections are spreading, 22 are located in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability**

This goal should be accomplished by integrating the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programs, and reverse the loss of environmental resources. Due to less deforestation, establishing of new forests and expansion of existing forests, the net forest loss decreased by over 3 million hectares per year in the past ten years. There was also a notable decrease in carbon dioxide emissions, partly supported by the economic crisis that pushed the emissions down from about 30.2 billion metric tons in 2008 to 30.1 billion metric tons in 2009, presenting a 0.4% decrease as a whole. Another target, the access to safe drinking water, which was supposed to be halved by 2015, was already met in 2010. In that year, 89% of the world’s population, compared to 76% in 1990, was using the improved sources of water.
Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

The net aid amounted to $133.5 billion in 2011, representing 0.31% of developed countries’ combined budget. Although this sum represents an increase in absolute dollars, in real terms it is actually a drop of 2.7% over 2010. The peak of ODA (official development assistance) was in 2010. The fiscal constraints of OECD countries are also negatively affecting the aid budgets.

Questions of the Public Survey

0. Faculty, study field, nationality, country of origin

1. Have you ever heard about the UN (United Nations)?
   A, Yes
   B, No

2. Do you know what the MDGs are?
   A, Yes
   B, No

3. Do you think they are being successfully fulfilled?
   A, Yes
   B, No (Why not?)

4. Which of the goals do you think are the most effective?
   A, Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
   B, Achieve universal primary education
   C, Promote gender equality and empower women
   D, Reduce child mortality
   E, Improve maternal health
   F, Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
   G, Ensure environmental sustainability
   H, Develop global partnership for development
5. Arrange the priority areas from question no. 4 according to how important they are, in your opinion

(1 = most important, 8 = least important)

A - Poverty
B - Education
C - Equality
D - Child mortality
E - Maternal health
F - Diseases
G - Environment
H - Global partnership for development

6. Do you know a better alternative to MDGs-related programs?

A, More power given to local institutions
B, New institutions (not UN related)
C, Financial resources should be better allocated
D, Your opinion, suggestion:

7. Have you ever heard about SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)?

A, Yes
B, No

8. Do you think they will be more effective than MDGs?

A, YES
B, NO
C, I do not know

9. Why do you think so?

10. What issue areas do you think are missing among MDGs and should be added to post-2015 agenda, after MDGs expire?
11. To what extent and how has meeting the MDGs influenced you and your community?

12. Do you think your country’s contribution to sustainable development is sufficient?
   A, Yes
   B, No

13. How do you and how can you (in the future) contribute to sustainable development (e.g. by volunteering, recycling, ...)

Official’s questionnaire

To Whom It May Concern,

we are students participating in program Regional Academy on United Nations which is an initiative of the Academic Council on the United Nations System in close cooperation with the United Nations specialized agencies in Vienna (CTBTO, UNIS), the Czech and Hungarian United Nations Associations, the University of Vienna, the University of Economics (Prague), the University of Szeged, the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, the European Peace University, the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. This international project aims to assist students of international relations in deepening their knowledge of United Nations’ mission, values, and work.

Within this program we are processing partial projects with UN topics. Our team is focusing on the role of Millennium Development Goals and their future. We decided to include the national standpoints (opinions of state and non-governmental institutions and public opinion) into the project. That is why we are turning to you now and kindly ask you to answer the following questions or express your opinion. Your involvement helps us to develop a high quality study that will be presented at the UN Offices in Vienna in January and consequently also be published.

Thank you

1) How do you evaluate the efficiency of Millennium Development Goals?
2) Should UN continue with similar initiatives after 2015?
3) Are the Sustainable Development Goals an adequate solution of global development after 2015?
4) What are the alternative development initiatives?
5) How does the Czech Republic/Slovak Republic participate in development initiatives of United Nations?

6) What is the way to make the Sustainable Development Goals more efficient?

7) Which goals prefer Ministry of Foreign Affairs/NGOs?

8) Which goals are more or less useful?

9) In your opinion the successful achievement of goals depends on the regime of the country?

10) Have you ever been engaged in achieving MDGs? Have you ever been successful in accomplishing some of the goals? In which sector?

11) If there was no financial and economic crisis, would be MDGs achieved by the initial plan?

12) Based on your experiences SDGs were formulated according to actual problems?

13) If the financial crisis is getting deeper, it will be necessary to modify SDGs?

14) In your opinion what will be the impact of possible fail of the euro zone on MDGs/SDGs?

15) Which countries from BRIC(S) provide the most significant help?