

# GERMAN REVIEW ON THE UNITED NATIONS | Abstracts

VOLUME 62 | 2014 | No. 6

## What Future Development Goals?

Jürgen Maier · Marie-Luise Abshagen pp. 243–248  
**Sustainable Development Goals –  
 Quadrature of the Circle?**

Next year, UN member states will adopt a global development agenda for the time after 2015. Its purpose will be on the one hand to continue the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which expire in 2015, and on the other hand to develop the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This so-called post-2015 development agenda not only aims to tackle fundamental challenges in the areas of development, e.g. poverty, diseases or illiteracy, but also threats to the environment like land degradation and polluted oceans. While the drafting of this agenda is not yet finished, it has already become clear that major problems will arise in the areas of environmental protection and the securing of sustainability goals.

Jan Vandemoortele p. 249  
**Comment: On the Successes of the MDGs**

The main reason for the MDGs successes lies in their DNA, which consists of three C's: clarity, concision and computability. The proposed new agenda does not adhere to the three C's, but has become overloaded with fuzzy targets that will pose serious problems of measurability.

Thomas Pogge p. 250  
**Comment: The MDGs Are a Moral Scandal**

Using the example of MDG 1, reducing extreme poverty and hunger by half, the author shows that most of the goals were not ambitious, several times redefined and readjusted during the agenda period, and thus unhelpful.

Arron Honniball · Otto Spijkers pp. 251–256  
**Global Public Participation in the Drafting of the  
 MDGs and SDGs**

By comparing the drafting and negotiation process of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the late 1990s with that of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the authors demonstrate major differences. Whereas the MDGs have been drafted and negotiated with scarce public participation, the UN Secretariat aimed to do better with the SDGs. The authors conclude that great strides have been made in terms of

public outreach. But in terms of effective participation, significant deficiencies still exist.

Sophie Hermanns pp. 257–261  
**EU, UN and the Post-2015 Development Agenda –  
 An ›Ever Closer Partnership‹?**

As a political entity *suis generis*, the European Union's role as an actor in its own right at the United Nations and in the negotiations on a post-2015 development agenda is complicated. The ongoing negotiations offer a unique chance for the EU to not only distinguish itself as a global actor and to set precedents for stronger involvement in the United Nations, but also to catalyze stronger internal EU integration.

Johannes Wendt pp. 262–266  
**The G77 at Fifty. Supermajority Power With Little Effect**

50 years ago, 77 developing countries created the Group of 77. Its main task was and is to represent and defend the interests of the developing world against the developed world, primarily in forums like the UN General Assembly and the UN Conference on Trade and Development. ›Mouthpiece‹ and ›trade union of the poor‹ are some labels tagged on the group. These are sugar-coated terms that represent the largely fruitless, now five decades long effort to establish a ›new economic world order‹ or to implement the 0.7% aid target. As host of the anniversary conference in June 2014, Bolivian President Evo Morales demanded, among other things, the abolition of the UN Security Council. Despite this, his flourishes fell upon deaf ears. What is the G77? What does it do? The article draws a picture of an organization with high ambitions, but little effect regarding its key demands.

“The Gaza Blockade Must Be Lifted” pp. 267–270

Interview with Pierre Krähenbühl, General-Commissioner of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA), on the scale of damages of the last Gaza war and the responsibilities for it, priorities for the reconstruction, a necessary paradigm shift and stronger commitment from Europe when it comes to reaching a durable solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.