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ZOFIA WYSOKIŃSKA

Millennium Development Goals/UN And Sustainable Development Goals/UN As Instruments For Realising Sustainable Development Concept In The Global Economy

Abstract

This article presents the results of analysis and evaluation of the main effects of the implementation of the eight UN Millennium Development Goals, in force until 2015, and to demonstrate differences between and prospects for implementation of the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, covering 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) established by the international community for the next 15 years. The article also presents the contribution of the European Union as a key global donor of development aid for developing countries, especially for the least developed countries (LDCs), as well as plans for Poland's implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda SDGs.

Keywords: *Millennium Development Goals, Sustainable Development Goals, European Union, Poland*

1. Introduction

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are contained in the Millennium Declaration of 2000, ratified at a summit of 189 Member States of the United Nations. The eight Millennium Goals contained in the Declaration constitute obligations on the part of the international community to: 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; 2) Achieve universal primary education; 3) Promote

gender equality and empower women; 4) Reduce child mortality; 5) Improve maternal health; 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; 7) Ensure environmental sustainability; and 8) Develop a global partnership for development. The deadline for achieving these goals was set forth in the declaration as the year 2015, and already in June 2012 at the UN Conference in Rio de Janeiro (Rio+20) the decision was undertaken to specify additional targets and tasks related to each goal, as described below.

2. The Millenium Development Goals and the targets related to their realization

GOAL 1: The eradication of extreme poverty and hunger by halving, between 1990 and 2015, the number of persons whose income was less than \$1 a day;

GOAL 2: Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.

GOAL 3: Eliminate gender disparity by eliminating all discriminatory barriers on access to education at the primary and secondary levels by the year 2005, and eliminate all discriminatory barriers on access to education at all levels by the year 2015;

GOAL 4: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate;

GOAL 5: Reduct by three-quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio;

GOAL 6: Halt by 2015 and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other dangerous diseases; achieve, by 2010, universal treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who have it; limit the number of new infections of HIV/AIDS and stop the spread of malaria and other life-threatening diseases; and prevent the spread of new diseases;

GOAL 7: Integrate the the methods and concept of sustainability to the management of natural resources by incorporating the principle of sustainable development into national strategies and programmes, and develop and apply methods to reverse the loss of natural resources and stop the degradation of the environment and reduce biodiversity loss by 2010; halve, between 1990 and 2015, the number of persons who are deprived of access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. By the year 2020 significant improvements in the conditions of daily life for at least 100 million slum dwellers should be attained.

GOAL 8: Creation of a global partnership agreement for development, including a trade and financial system accessible to all and based on clear, non-discriminatory regulations which provide legal certainty. All members of the

system must be required to engage in activities promoting good practices in governance and the elimination of poverty, taking into particular account the needs of the least-developed states, landlocked countries, and island states, (in particular by increasing their access to the markets of the developed countries, engaging in debt reduction schemes, and increasing developmental aid); elaborating strategies to ensure youth employment; increasing the access of developing countries to medicines and drugs; and ensure to all the opportunity to take advantage of technological advances.¹

In order to make the realization of the proposed programmes possible it was proposed to finance them within the framework of the Official Development Assistance agency, via a surcharge of up to 0.7% of the Gross National Income of the assisting countries, and in 2006 the offer of such developmental assistance by the EU countries was fixed at at least 0.33% of each Member State's Gross National Income. In addition it was decided to offer debt reduction relief to the most debt-ridden and most underdeveloped countries, as well as to organize a debate on the topic of possible assistance offered by the countries able to contribute to global public goods.

The effects of the activities were described in *The Millenium Development Goals Report 2009*,² and while not entirely satisfactory they nevertheless reflect that a certain progress was made towards realization of the goals and targets which were to be fulfilled by 2015. The most important achievement in the context of poverty-reduction was that the number of people living on less that \$1.25 per day was reduced from 1.8 to 1.4 billion persons. The Report, which was published prior to the financial crisis, estimated that in 2009 between 66–90 million people around the globe would be living in conditions of extreme poverty.³ With respect to basic primary education for children in the developing countries, it was reported that in 2007 88% of children had a primary education, which represented an increase from the 83% in the year 2000. In addition the under-five mortality figure decreased from 12.9 million in 1990 to 9 million in 2007. This problem mainly concerned the regions of sub-Sahara Africa and South Asia.⁴

The latest, and as of this moment final, analysis of the results of implementation of the MDGs contained in *The Millenium Development Goals*

¹ The Millenium Development Goals Report 2010, <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202010%20En%20r15%20-low%20res%2020100615%20-.pdf>

² The Millenium Development Goals Report, 2009; http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG_Report2009_ENG.pdf; The Millenium Development Goals Report 2010, <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/pdf/MDG%20Report%202010%20En%20r15%20-low%20res%2020100615%20-.pdf>

³ Ibid., p. 4.

⁴ Ibid., pp.4–5.

Report 2015, allows for a positive, although still not entirely satisfactory, assessment of the progress made so far, as described below with respect to each Goal⁵:

Goal 1: The proportion of people living on less than \$1.25 a day was reduced from 50% of the inhabitants of the developing countries in 1990 to 14% in 2015, which means that during this time over a billion persons escaped conditions of extreme poverty. During this same time the proportion of malnourished persons in the developing countries decreased by one-half. Despite that, however, over 800 million persons around the globe still live in poverty, and the inequality gap between the richest and the poorest inhabitants in the world is growing. A similar inequality is observed between the inhabitants of cities of rural areas.

Goal 2: The indicator of the number of children enrolled in primary schools in the developing countries rose to 91% in 2015. The lowest proportion is in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, but at the same time the greatest progress was noted in these countries in the most recent reported years. The risk of not completing one's schooling is four times higher for children from the poorest homes than for those from the most well-off homes.

Goal 3: The aim of eliminating inequality in access to education at all levels has been achieved in the developing countries as a whole. In addition in the last two decades the number of female parliamentary representatives has increased in 90% of the developing countries, although at the same time it must be noted that only one-fifth of parliamentarians are women. Women are also more likely than men to be afflicted by poverty, and discrimination against women in the workplace and in public life continues to be a great problem on a world-wide scale.

Challenges, achievements, and best practices and barriers in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2002 the German Development Cooperation has supported Cambodia, and especially the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA), in putting policies and strategies in place to substantially reduce gender-based violence. One of the main achievements was the Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence that was passed by the Parliament in 2005.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EU Plan of Action on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development (2010–2015)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the MENA region – i.e. in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia – Germany's "Economic Integration of Women in the MENA Region" focuses

⁵ Elaborated based on The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015; United Nations, New York, 2015, [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%2011\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%2011).pdf), Overview, pp. 4–10 and https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/datablog/2015/jul/06/what-millennium-development-goals-achieved-mdgs_

on gender inequalities and gender stereotypes at the workplace, and conducts media campaigns with public and private stakeholders
Gender Equality is under-funded
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2012 Official Development Assistance (ODA) fund stood at \$126 billion, and there was a decline in allocable aid for gender equality of \$22 billion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an urgent need to channel more funds towards women's political and economic empowerment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited funding for women's rights and gender equality is a crucial factor constraining achievement of the MDGs for women and girls
Women have been the most affected by the global recession
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women have been most the affected by unemployment, underemployment, wage cuts, reduced benefits, a decreased demand for migrant workers, lower remittances, lack of assets and credit, higher food and fuel prices and higher prices for medicines
Governments have cut back on social protections such as healthcare and employment⁶
<p>Goal 4: Between 1990 and 2015 the global indicator for the mortality rate of children under five has declined by more than one-half – from 90 per 1,000 live births to 43. In addition, it is estimated that vaccinations against measles helped almost 15.6 million children avoid death from the disease between 2000 and 2013. However every day about 16,000 children die, the majority from diseases which could have been avoided. The mortality rate for children from the poorest homes is almost twice as high as that for children from well-to-do homes.</p> <p>Goal 5: Since 1990 the maternal mortality ratio has fallen globally by 45%. In 2014 over 70% of childbirths took place with the assistance of qualified medical personnel, in comparison to 59% in 1990.</p> <p>Goal 6: New instances of HIV infections fell by 40% between 2000 and 2013. In 2014 over 13.3 million people with HIV received ant-retrovirus treatment (ART), a massive increase from the 800,000 who received such treatment in 2003. It is estimated that over 6 million children under the age of five avoided death from malaria in sub-Sahara Africa between 2000 and 2015. It is also estimated that the preventive measures, diagnosis, and treatment of tuberculosis saved about 37 million lives.</p> <p>Goal 7: Since 1990 we have practically eliminated the emission of substances destroying the ozone layer, and it is predicted that the ozone layer will regenerate itself by the middle of this century. At the same time, CO2 emissions have grown by 50% in comparison to 1990, and climate changes threaten progress made in other environmental areas.</p>

⁶ Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls – Gaps & Lessons Learned – CSW 58, <http://www.graduatwomen.org/challenges-achievements-implementation-millennium-development-goals-women-girls-gaps-lessons-learned-csw-58/>

The number of persons living in informal housing areas (i.e. slums) in the developing countries fell from 40% in 2000 to slightly less than 30% in 2014. However, one-third of the inhabitants in the world still do not have access to appropriate sanitation. In 2015 91% of the world's population had access to safe drinking water, compared to 76% in 1990. This target was achieved five years ahead of schedule. However, the problem of water scarcity continues to affect 40% of the global population, and it is estimated that this problem will intensify in the future.

Goal 8: Developmental assistance increased by 66% between 2000 and 2014, reaching 135 billion USD. The number of subscriptions to mobile phones rose tenfold in the last fifteen years, to up to seven billion in 2015. Internet access also rose dramatically, from 6% in 2000 to 43% in 2015, which means that almost one-half of the world's population now makes use of the internet.

3. Most important obstacles and limitations to achieving better results in the implementation of MDGs

Although significant achievements have recorded with respect to the MDG targets worldwide, progress has been uneven across regions and countries, leaving significant gaps. Millions of people are being left behind, especially the poorest and those disadvantaged because of their sex, age, disability, ethnicity, or geographic location.⁷

Gender inequality persists

Women continue to face discrimination in access to work, ownership of economic assets, and participation in private and public decision-making. Women are also more likely to live in poverty than men. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the ratio of women to men in poor households increased from 108 women for every 100 men in 1997 to 117 women for every 100 men in 2012, despite the declining poverty rates for the region as a whole.

Women remain at a disadvantage in the labour market. Globally, about three quarters of working-age men participate in the labour force, compared to only half of working-age women. Women earn 24 per cent less than men globally. In 85% of the 92 countries with data on unemployment rates by level of education for the years 2012–2013, women with advanced education have higher rates of

⁷ *Op. cit.* The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015; United Nations, New York, 2015, [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%2015\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%2015).pdf), p. 8–9. Comp. also: Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls – Gaps & Lessons Learned – CSW 58, <http://www.graduatewomen.org/challenges-achievements-implementation-millennium-development-goals-women-girls-gaps-lessons-learned-csw-58/>

unemployment than men with a similar education level. Despite continuous progress, today the world still has far to go towards equal gender representation in private and public decision-making.⁸

Big gaps exist between the poorest and richest households, and between rural and urban areas

In the developing regions, children from the poorest 20 per cent of households are more than twice as likely to be stunted in growth as those from the wealthiest 20 per cent. Children in the poorest households are four times more likely to be out of school as those in the richest households. Under-five mortality rates are almost twice as high for children in the poorest households as for children in the richest. In rural areas, only 56 per cent of births are attended by qualified health personnel, compared with 87 per cent in urban areas. About 16 per cent of the rural population does not make use of improved drinking water sources, compared to only 4 per cent of the urban population. About 50 per cent of people living in rural areas lack improved sanitation facilities, compared to only 18 per cent of people in urban areas.⁹

Climate change and environmental degradation undermine the progress achieved, and poor people suffer the most

Global emissions of carbon dioxide have increased by over 50 per cent since 1990. Addressing the unabated rise in greenhouse gas emissions and the resulting likely impacts of climate change, such as altered ecosystems, weather extremes and risks to society, still remains an urgent, critical challenge for the global community.

An estimated 5.2 million hectares of forest were lost in 2010, an area about the size of Costa Rica. The over-exploitation of marine fish stocks led to declines in the percentage of stocks within safe biological limits, down from 90 per cent in 1974 to 71 per cent in 2011.

Species are declining overall in terms of both numbers and distribution, which means they are increasingly threatened with extinction. Water scarcity affects 40 per cent of the world population and is projected to increase. Poor

⁸ *Op.cit.* The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015; United Nations, New York, 2015, [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf), pp. 8–9 and 28–31.

⁹ *Op.cit.* The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015; United Nations, New York, 2015, [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf), pp. 59–61.

people's livelihoods are more directly tied to natural resources, and as they often live in the most vulnerable areas, they suffer the most from environmental degradation.¹⁰

Armed conflicts remain the biggest threat to human development

By the end of 2014, armed conflicts around the world had forced almost 60 million people to abandon their homes – the highest level recorded since the Second World War. If these people were a nation, they would make up the twenty-fourth largest country in the world. Every day 42,000 people on average are forcibly displaced and compelled to seek protection due to armed conflicts, almost four times the 2010 number (11,000). In 2014, children accounted for half of the global refugee population under the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. In countries affected by armed conflict, the proportion of out-of-school children increased from 30 per cent in 1999 to 36 per cent in 2012.

Fragile and conflict-affected countries typically have the highest poverty rates. During recent years the increasing number of deaths reflects the extremely violent fighting in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan following the withdrawal of western combat troops. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict killed 2,500 people last year, mostly civilians, while fighting in Libya, Yemen and the Central African Republic also contributed significantly to the rise in overall deaths. In 2008, sixty-three armed conflicts led to 56,000 fatalities, whereas 180,000 people – more than three times as many – died in 42 conflicts in 2014.¹¹

Millions of poor people still live in poverty and hunger, without access to basic services.

Despite enormous progress, even today about 800 million people still live in poverty and suffer from hunger. Over 160 million children under the age of five have stunted height for their age, due to malnutrition. Currently, 57 million children of primary school age are not in school. Almost half of global workers are still working in vulnerable conditions, rarely enjoying the benefits associated with decent work and wages. About 16,000 children die each day before celebrating their fifth birthday, mostly from preventable causes. The maternal mortality ratio in the developing regions is 14 times higher than in the developed regions. Just one half of pregnant women in the developing regions receive the recommended minimum of four antenatal care visits. Only an estimated 36 per cent of the 31.5 million people living with HIV in the developing regions were receiving ART in 2013. In 2015,

¹⁰ *Op.cit.* The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015; United Nations, New York, 2015, [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%2015\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%2015).pdf), pp. 53–55.

¹¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/may/20/armed-conflict-deaths-increase-syria-iraq-afghanistan-yemen>

one in three people (2.4 billion) still use unimproved sanitation facilities, including 946 million people who still practise open defecation. Today over 880 million people are estimated to be living in slum-like conditions in the developing world.¹²

4. Poland and the Millenium Development Goals

Poland accepted the Millenium Declaraton, which means it was obligated to fulfill its tasks to help implement the targets set forth under the Declaration to ensure that the elucidated goals are attained by the year 2015. Poland participates in the programmes of rendering foreign assistance to the poorest countries. Its efforts are aimed at bringing about the social and economic development, as broadly understood, of its partner countries in various areas. Many of Poland's assistance projects served, either directly or indirectly, to help achieve the realization of the MDGs. The debt reduction schemes and financial activities undertaken through the intermediacy, in part, of the EU budget, helped achieve the first Goal, namely the reduction of world poverty. Polish bi-lateral projects in the areas of education, health and welfare, and protection of the environment helped the less advanced countries attain the targets set forth under Goals 2, 4, 6, and 7. It must be kept in mind however that realisation of Goals 1–7 depends, in the first instance, on the developing countries themselves putting to good use the help they receive under the umbrella of Official Development Assistance. The task of the developing countries is to develop global partnerships aimed at development, hence to implement Goal number 8.

Poland also joined the *Call for Action Declaration*, announced, on the initiative of Great Britain, on 31 July 2007. The British-sponsored activities are designed to build a broad alliance of countries striving to achieve the full realization of the Millenium Development Goals. This *Declaration* has gathered together a broad array of governments as well as representatives of international business, NGOs, and religious organizations. So far the *Declaration* has been signed by fourteen states, including, among others, Japan, the USA, Canada, Germany, Italy, France, Norway, Spain and Portugal, as well as three developing states – Ghana, India and Brazil – and the European Commission. A separate *Declaration* in the same spirit has been signed by 21 of the largest business representatives (including Bill Gates) and eight religious organizations.

Poland's support for the above-mentioned *Declaration* meant that the country was taking a wider role in the world debate over cooperation in the areas of

¹² *Op.cit.* The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015; United Nations, New York, 2015, [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf), p. 23.

development and the elaboration of new methods to combat poverty. In addition, by joining the *Declaration* Poland was enhancing its image as a developed country which was joining the group of donor countries granting developmental assistance.¹³

5. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were formulated in August 2015 following a discussion stretching back to the 2012 Working Group, which consisted of representatives of 70 countries. The discussion was focused on the results and effects of the implementations of MDGs, including the barriers which had appeared to attaining the effects earlier-envisioned and the ensuing problems and needs connected with their implementation in future years. Gaining consensus on such a broad development agenda was an achievement in itself, but the real work started in January 2016. What really sets the SDGs apart from their predecessors is their universal nature. By recognizing that the MDGs failed certain people and countries, the 2030 Agenda sets out to “reach the furthest behind first” and concludes with a pledge that “no one will be left behind”.

This new, wider approach better reflects the global changes and is based on the conviction that **the elimination of poverty and sustainable development are strictly interconnected and mutually reinforcing. For these reasons SDGs are focused on three dimensions: social, economic, and ecological.** Instead of the eight Goals and 21 tasks of the MDG, the new agenda comprises 17 Goals, 169 tasks, and 304 indicators.

On 25 September 2015 the participating countries adopted a set of goals to **end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all** as part of a new Sustainable Development Agenda.¹⁴ Each goal has specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years, until the year 2030.

The new 17 goals proposed as SDGs are as follows:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages.
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

¹³ Compare: <https://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/Milenijne,Cele,Rozwoju,53.html>

¹⁴ Compare <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>

6. Ensure the availability and sustainable management of clean water and sanitation for all.
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.
9. Build a resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation.
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum).
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss.
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.
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development.¹⁵

Within the goals are 169 tasks, aimed at putting meat on the bones. The tasks under goal one, for example, include halving the number of people living in poverty by 2030, and eradicating extreme poverty (people living on less than \$1.25 a day). Under goal five is the task of eliminating violence against women, while goal 16 contains the task of promoting the rule of law and equal access to justice.

Goal 17 allows for a range of measures, including financial support and debt relief, the transfer of technologies and scientific know-how to developing nations on favourable terms, and the establishment of an open, non-discriminatory and equitable trading system to help developing nations increase their exports.

Instead of the previous division into donors and recipients of assistance, the new agreement on SDGs is of a universal nature and creates global partnerships based on the joint responsibility and joint obligations of all partners. It also brings about changes in the structure of financing development. In recent years it has been noted that that the Official Development Assistance (ODA) fund was not in

¹⁵ <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

and of itself sufficient to guarantee permanent economic growth to the countries of the global South. A large role was played by other forms of financial flows. While the financial assistance of the ODA amounted to 135 billion USD in 2013, remittances from migrant workers exceeded 330 billion USD and other financial flows (for example direct foreign investments) amounted to 500 billion USD. It was thus recognized that the most important factor was to make use of national incomes, and in this respect international cooperation was essential to enforce tax obligations and combat tax avoidance and illegal foreign tax havens, as well as to build a transparent and user-friendly tax environment. At the same time, however, Official Development Assistance will continue to play an important role, especially if it can attract other sources of funding in order to provide assistance to, above all, countries afflicted by armed conflict and the unstable and/or least developed countries, where inflows of market capital are small and subject to high risk. This means the continued close collaboration between donors in the private sector and civil societies.

6. The Role of the European Union in the Implementation of SDGs

The EU actively participated in the preparation of the SDGs and has been fully engaged in implementation of the 17 goals of Agenda 2030. With this aim in mind it has taken the decision to introduce the Agenda 2030 into its community policies, both internal and external, as well as to adapt its activities to the realization of the 17 SDGs. The EU, which contributed 58 billion euro of ODA, remains the world's largest donor of developmental assistance, mainly directed to developing countries, in particular to the least developed countries (LDCs), making them an integral part of its foreign policy. Within this framework of global solidarity the EU will support all efforts to implement SDGs in the countries most in need. The majority of EU Member States have committed themselves to increasing their contributions to ODA in order to reach the level of 0.7% of their Gross National Incomes by 2030.

Within the framework of its official policies the EU has rigorously applied and actively promoted compliance with the principle of gender equality, as well as supported all efforts to strengthen the position of women in both public life and the workplace. Thanks to its cooperation and partnerships with the private sector the EU has declared it will increase funding to support investments in such sectors as: infrastructure, energy, and assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). With respect to its trade policy, the EU has guaranteed LDCs tariff- and

quota-free access to the European Internal Market for all their exports,¹⁶ with a total value of 35 billion € annually, including exports of pro-ecological goods. The EU has also obligated itself to assure that at least 20% of its developmental assistance within the framework of the ODA will go to support education and healthcare in the LDCs. In addition the EU Framework Programme in support of research and innovation (Horizon 2020 – 77 billion €) is open to scientists from the LDCs.

Within the context of its policies supporting the fight against climate change, the EU has agreed to designate 20% of its financial assistance, or about 14 billion €, to this end until 2020. In addition at least 25% of the funds of the European Investment Bank will be designated to counteract the effects of climate change and to promote that EU policy at the global level. The EU will invest 1.3 billion € until 2020 to a special fund aimed at protecting the environment and world public goods from the negative effects of climate change, for example including 154 million € for the protection of forests and 81 million € for clean water projects. The EU has also agreed to finance common projects for the management of chemical and other wastes, inasmuch as the lack of economic efficiency and resources to manage this problem particularly touches the poorest countries.¹⁷

7. Poland's implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda SDGs

The adoption of the new development goals offers reason to assume that developmental cooperation will remain a key element of Poland's international relations in the upcoming years. The (im)migration crisis in Europe has reminded the world that today more than ever an effective mechanism is needed for redistributing global wealth and building stability. At the same time the intensified application of developmental assistance to the changed international situation makes it clear that it will focus on climate, trade, investment flows, and security policies.

¹⁶ Wysokińska Z., "Foreign Trade in Environmental Products; The WTO Regulation and Environmental Programs," *Global Economy Journal*; Volume 5, Issue 3, Article 5, USA 2005, page 25. <http://www.bepress.com/gej/vol5/iss3/5>; as well as Wysokińska Z., "Transition to a Green Economy in the context of European and Global Requirements to achieve the main goals of Sustainable Development," *Comparative Economic Research*, Volume 16, Issue 4, (December 2013), pp. 203–224.

¹⁷ European Commission – Fact Sheet; Sustainable Development Goals and the Agenda 2030; http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_MEMO-15-5709_en.htm; compare also: European Commission welcomes new 2030 UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-15-5708_en.htm;

Poland adopted a governmental policy paper, entitled *A Multi-year Program For Developmental Cooperation, 2016–2020*,¹⁸ which reflects this focus, at the same time confirming that implementation of the identified SDGs is of strategic international importance in Poland's developmental cooperation activities, the geographical and substantive components of which will be to provide the developing countries and their societies with developmental and humanitarian assistance as well as, in the sphere of global education, to help raise the awareness and understanding of all parties to the problems associated with global interdependence.

Priority activities in Poland's international developmental cooperation include the promotion of good governance, the development of democracy and human rights; and the development of human capital, entrepreneurship and the private sector; as well as the promotion of sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, and the sustainable development of rural areas. Poland has elaborated concrete results it aims to attain for each of the priorities it has identified as part of its developmental cooperation. All of them are in accordance with the 17 SDGs, and their attainment will be Poland's contribution to the fulfilling its obligations under the 2030 Agenda.

A significant part of the financial assistance in Poland's programme is allocated to priority countries within the context of Poland's developmental assistance cooperation with Polish NGOs, institutions within the public finance sector, the Polish Academy of Science, and Polish Universities. Polish assistance is also carried out in cooperation with Polish diplomatic personnel and its diplomatic institutions and missions abroad.¹⁹

With respect to Poland's future developmental policies and strategies, it seems to me that it is well worth taking into consideration the astute observation of P. Kugiel from PISM (the Polish Institute for International Affairs) that "Poland has taken the decision to increase its contributions to ODA in the nearest upcoming years to the level of 0.33% GNP and to make better use of this instrument in the context of realizing its foreign policy goals. This decision, connected with additional financial contributions of up to three billion PLN, will give Poland greater opportunities to influence the process of overcoming the financial crisis and stimulating growth in the EU neighbourhood countries. At the same time the increased financial assistance will, *inter alia*, facilitate the more active participation

¹⁸ <https://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/m/Wieloletni,program,wspolpracy,rozwojowej,na,lata,2016-2020,przyjety,przez,Rade,Ministrow,2353.html>; see also: <https://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/Agenda,Zrownowazonego,Rozwoju,2030,2370.html>, <http://odpowiedzialnybiznes.pl/aktualno%C5%9Bci/realizacja-nowych-celow-zrownowazonego-rozwoju-onz-bedzie-wyzwaniem-dla-polski/>

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, <http://odpowiedzialnybiznes.pl/aktualno%C5%9Bci/realizacja-nowych-celow-zrownowazonego-rozwoju-onz-bedzie-wyzwaniem-dla-polski/>

of business circles in assistance activities, allow for expanded stipends and training programmes for talented persons from developing countries, as well as promote the export of green technologies thanks to the synergy between developmental policies and climate policies. At the same time making better use of all available instruments will increase inter-departmental coordination in government and improve the coherence of internal policies with the aim of coordinating ODA assistance with Poland's strategic goals." (Kugiel 2015)

8. Conclusions

The final evaluation of the main results of implementation of the 8 MDGs in the world economy can be summed up as follows:

The MDGs have triggered unprecedented efforts worldwide in the fight against poverty, hunger, disease, and environmental destruction, but until now the effects, which have been related mainly to mitigation of the negative and growing impacts of climate change, increasing global hunger, and the continuing fallout from the economic and financial crisis, are still not fully successful.

Successful realization of the MDGs and the later SDGs depends above all on appropriate planning and successful financing efforts. The projects currently selected have greater chances than the projects undertaken in previous years, as the income and financing contributed by the richest countries is significantly greater than it was thirty years ago. The implementation of the MDGs was financed primarily from the Official Development Assistance (ODA), the contributions of which were relatively small compared to what was actually needed to reduce poverty in the world and find and implement solutions to the other pressing problems outlined in and addressd by the MDGs. The hopes for a more successful realization of the SDGs and greater achievements in comparison to the MDGs are based on the incorporation of the private business sector and NGOs, as well as public-private partnerships, into the implementation of developmental assistance programmes. At the same time the main achievements of the MDGs should to be kept in mind, including the following:

- The number of people living on less than \$1.25 a day has been reduced from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015, although the target of halving the proportion of people suffering from hunger was narrowly missed.
- Primary school enrolment figures have shown an impressive rise, but the goal of achieving universal primary education has also been narrowly missed, with the net enrolment rate increasing from 83% to 91% during the recent years.
- About two-thirds of developing countries have achieved gender parity in primary education.

- The child mortality rate has reduced by more than half over the past 25 years – falling from 90 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births – but it has failed to meet the MDG target of a drop of two-thirds.
- The global maternal mortality ratio has fallen by nearly half – short of the two-thirds reduction the MDGs were aiming at.
- The target of halting and beginning to reverse the spread of HIV/Aids by 2015 has not been met, although the number of new HIV infections fell by around 40% between 2000 and 2013. Some 2.6 billion people have gained access to safer drinking water since 1990, so the target of halving the number of people without access to safe sources of water was achieved in 2010, five years ahead of schedule. However, 663 million people across the world still do not have access to safe drinking water.
- Between 2000 and 2014, overseas developmental assistance from rich nations to developing countries increased by 66% in real terms, and in 2013 reached the record figure of \$134.8 bln (£80.3 bln). Global access to the internet increased from 6% to 43%.

The adoption by the UN General Assembly of the new agenda contained in the 17 Strategic Development Goals of Agenda 2030 constitutes the next step forward in the global collective effort to attain tangible and measurable improvements in the quality of life of billions of persons in the world over the next fifteen years. In comparison to the previous MDGs, the new propositions contained in the SDGs add a series of additional elements to the main aspects of the sustainable development strategy, considered in its economic, environmental, and social aspects. These additional elements include the following:

- Sustainable development based on stable economic growth and making full and productive use of available human capital;
- Reduction of the growing inequality both within and between countries in terms of their economic development;
- Building a economic infrastructure and promoting industrialization based on accelerating innovation and sustainable models of production and consumption, as well as the sustainable development of cities;
- Developing a system for sustainable management of water resources, including making better use of the resources of oceans, seas, and other marine areas;
- Developing a system for sustainable management of the forests and preventing environmental degradation of the land and loss of biodiversity;
- Promoting peaceful and inclusive social development based on international partnerships and providing guarantees, to all inhabitants of the world, of access to institutions which will guard and protect their human and social rights and provide a stable social order.

This new developmental agenda is of a more universal nature and includes the taking of responsibility therefore by the entire international society – developed countries, developing countries, and the international organizations given the responsibility therefore. Important roles in implementation of the Agenda 2030 will also be played by the private sector and NGOs.

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Streszczenie

MILLENIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS/UN AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS/UN JAKO NARZĘDZIA REALIZACJI KONCEPCJI ZRÓWNOWAŻONEGO ROZWOJU W GOSPODARCE GLOBALNEJ

Celem artykułu jest przedstawienie wyników analizy i oceny rezultatów wdrażania 8 Milenijnych Celów Rozwoju ONZ obowiązujących do roku 2015 oraz wykazanie różnic i perspektyw implementacji nowej Agendy 2030 obejmującej 17 Celów Zrównoważonego Rozwoju (SDG) ustalonej przez społeczność międzynarodową na kolejne 15 lat. W artykule zaprezentowano również wkład Unii Europejskiej jako głównego światowego donatora funduszy w ramach pomocy rozwojowej dla krajów rozwijających się, w tym zwłaszcza dla krajów słabiej rozwiniętych (LDC) oraz plany dotyczące wdrażania Agendy post-2015- SDGs przez Polskę.

Słowa kluczowe: Milenijne Cele Rozwoju, Cele Zrównoważonego Rozwoju, Agenda 2030, Unia Europejska Polska