

Moving Beyond Income: options for a Multidimensional approach

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UN RC/UNDP RR

In Argentina

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- It is necessary “to think about new concepts and parameters that better reflect our reality” [...] and “to avoid reductionist categories like Middle Income Countries that create obstacles even to work with international organizations such as FAO and PAHO”

Ms. Ana Ciuti, Director General for International Cooperation. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Argentina

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- “Middle Income Countries (MICs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are continually stating that development challenges don’t suddenly expire or lessen when an arbitrary GDP per capita threshold is passed. Multidimensional measures of Progress are needed”

Ms. Helen Clark, UNDG Chair and UNDP Administrator

Towards a multidimensional metric of development progress: available options

- **The Human Development Index.** Since its introduction in 1990, this index has long given a better sense of human development status, “beyond the tyranny of GDP as the sole measure” (H. Clark).
- Basic development status as a combination of education, health and income indicators

The Millennium Development Goals

- Established in 2000 by the GA, the MDGs provided a broader view of development status in terms of several dimensions reflected in the 8 MDGs
- Including income, health, education, W&S, biodiversity protection, gender equality,

Multidimensional Poverty and Progress

- UNICEF's Multidimensional Child Poverty Index
- Multidimensional poverty index, by Oxford's Poverty and Human Development Initiative
- UNDP/RBLAC Multidimensional progress

ECLAC's Structural Gaps Analysis

- “ECLAC has insisted on the need of having a finer look to evaluate the development challenges and needs of each country”
- “in the document ‘MICs: a new approach based on structural gaps’” (2012) the concept of development structural gaps was introduced as an alternative criterion to *per capita* income *for the allocation of* resources from the international cooperation”
- 11 interrelated and flexible gaps, using external or internal points of reference: per capita income, inequality, poverty, savings and investment, productivity and innovation, infrastructure, education, health, fiscal, gender, environment

Sustainable Development Index

- Human Sustainable Development Index: to the three components of the HDI (health-life expectancy, education-mean years of schooling, and income-GDP per capita) is added a fourth one: carbon emissions per capita
- SDG Index (Developed by the SDSN): proposes an initial country-level SDG index for all countries that measures SDG achievement across the 17 goals, and ranks countries, in a preliminary way, relative to peers (e.g. in a given geographic region)

SD Index for Argentina

- UNDP Argentina, in collaboration with national authorities and experts, will present in April 2017, a National Human Development Report, which develops a preliminary SDI for the country and for the provinces.
- Based on the SHDI and the SDG Index
- Will present possible ways to strengthen the national statistical system

The way forward: the challenge of data quality and comparability

- As previously shown, there are a number of measurements and categories “beyond income” and GDP, which reflect more accurately the realities of countries, especially those now referred to as “middle income”
- These measurements offer broader and more flexible options “beyond the tyranny of GDP”
- However, it is apparent that looking ahead, the international community needs to agree on a number of core variables and calculation methodologies, that will facilitate comparability and reliability
- A case in point: countries are already calculating multidimensional poverty and SDG indexes which incorporate different variables and calculation methodologies

Information for sustainable development

- Strengthen national statistical systems
- Need to harness the “Data Revolution”
- Mega data and public data
- Culture of evaluation
- Experimental methods

To promote evidence-based public policies, and to promote and to monitor sustainable development.

Thank you