Future Movement for Sustainable Development Goals

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Abstract   Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) become a very important subject matter to put as an international agenda after 2015 where MDGs is going to be completed. We all acknowledge that MDGs (8 components) target is significantly achieved, so that is needed to refer it as a lessons learned and a movement for international development agenda to make a continuously and advance in the future. It is also in line to previous common consensus resulted by Open Group Discussion (March 13-14, 2013). Moreover Indonesia, who President SBY took a crucial role in the panel initiated by UN SG, has a strong commitment to follow up MDGs achievement. The main question: what's kind of movement is proper to be taken for the future steps? The first important thing is to have a real concept that is agreed to be implemented as international community agenda. The second step is to establish a special body to be in charge. The third is to conduct SDGs international campaign to promote it and at the same time try to convince donor countries as well as business groups to contribute a support this efforts.

Keywords   Post Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), International Development Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Future Steps

1. Introduction

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is one of the international agendas to realize multiple development purposes for the people's interests. All member countries have been implementing it and, to certain extent, the target goals are mostly achieved. Or, at least, many countries have been experiencing how to accelerate their developments by using a measured international commitment. Nevertheless, as we all know, MDGs scheme will be ended by the end of 2015 which means that we will soon be missing a very important development scheme that is actually still needed by mainly developing countries or especially poor countries.

The United Nation (UN) slightly realizes to continue international development missions when MDGs scheme is ended. It was shown in UN Secretary General (SG), Ban Ki moon's initiative in organizing an Open Working Discussion (OWG) to discuss the new scheme of the international development agenda in the post 2015, later on agreed to be followed by formulating a new international development scheme and almost coming to a common consensus known as so called Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which was also recommended in the Rio +20 Conference in Cancun, Mexico, 2012.

This article is trying to explore the type of SDGs agenda that can be implemented in the post MDGs. This is, of course, by first identifying the lessons learned from the MDGs implementation, the inspiration of which is based on Indonesia's cases, and later trying to as well offer the strategy and focused agenda. I hope that this can at least be used as one of the strategic ideas to be further discussed by international developmental actors or stakeholders.

2. The Post MDGs Scheme, SDGs?

Global development paradigm scheme called the MDGs is not something that has just appeared, but it has resulted from a long process leading to the formulation of the eight goals. I noted that it has at least been explored through more than 10 conferences held, namely: (1) Children's Summit, New York, 1990; (2) UN Summit on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 1992; (3) Human Rights Conference Vienna, 1993; (4) International Conferences on Population and Development, Cairo, 1994; (5) World Summit for Soc. Devpt., Copenhagen, 1995; (6) World Conferences on Women, Beijing, 1995;(7) Shaping the 21st Century(IDG); (8) We thePeoplesKoffiAnnan2000;(9) A Better World for Allun, OECD, IBRD, IMF, 2000; (10) UN Millennium Declaration, 2000; (11) Road Map(MDGs) UN, 2001; (12) The Inter Agency and Expert Group, 2002.

MDGs Declaration is the result of an agreement by 189 countries (developed and developing) and later signed by 147 countries. It was declared in New York in 2000 aiming at achieving 8 focused agendas, namely : (1) to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; (2) to achieve universal primary education; (3) to promote gender equality and women empowerment; (4) to reduce child mortality; (5) to improve maternal health; (6) to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases; (7) to ensure environmental sustainability; and (8) to develop a global partnership for development.

Indonesia has been showing a strong commitment in implementing the MDGs agenda which becomes an

integrated program between the national and local authorities. According to the official report, in supervising and evaluating it, Indonesian authority uses the following three categories: (1) has been reached, (2) the significant progress (expected to be achieved by 2015), (3) still requires hard work.[1]

The MDGs targets that have been reached, among others are:

1. Objective1-the reduction by half the proportion of people with incomes less than U.S.$ 1 per day, which has declined from 20.6 percent in 1990 to 5.9 percent in 2009.
2. Goal 3-gender equality at all levels of education will be achieved as shown in Enrollment (NER) of girls to boys in primary school/MI/Package A and SMP/MTs/Package B with numbers respectively 99.73and101.99, and the number of literate women to men aged 15-24years was 99.85 in 2009.
3. Goal 6-the prevalence decrease of tuberculosis of 443 cases in 1990 to 244 cases per 100,000/per-capita in 2009.

The implementation of MDGs, as officially admitted, still requires more attention, especially about poverty. We all know that poverty is a complex and multidimensional problem, in that it requires a comprehensive approach as it relates to so many factors. In short, much time is still needed to get rid of it by using a proper strategic approach which is not merely based on the domestic experiences, but also on a rich perspective from different countries. Indonesia, in this context, really realizes the need of sharing experiences to gradually eradicate poverty and other MDGs targets.

Being aware of the fact that SDGs is newly announced and conceptually still not matured, all agree that it is of necessary to improve MDGs achievement through new related continuous international agenda and movement. For that purpose, there seem to have been a couple of related activities undertaken such as conferences (and alike) to discuss and formulate the concepts and agendas expected to be implemented for the developing countries. In other words, we still need related efforts to develop SDGs scheme in the years to come, similar to that conducted in Colombo Sri Lanka on 17-18 June 2014.

3. Lessons from the MDGs: Indonesia's Case

Conceptually MDGs has been appreciated by many people from different countries and backgrounds. Why? Because it has a clear agenda, objective and target by covering 8 goals as previously mentioned. Particularly in Indonesia, the MDGs has been implemented by functioning related

government agencies, which become across department integrated development agenda from national to local levels. At national level, it has been authorized to the Minister of National Planning Agency to nationally coordinate as well as encourage all stakeholders to do relevant efforts in achieving MDGs. In addition, National government has been providing special incentives to local governments which was marked as 'successful' in implementing MDGs programs. MDGs indeed is seen to have been in line with the needs of the people for better life in more modern ways, and if the program runs as expected, the government can surely take benefit from it as its success story.

The Implementation of MDGs in Indonesia, to some extent, could be used as a reference for the future international development agenda movement such as SDGs. Below are at least seven lessons that can be learned from and shared by this country:

a. Has authorized national institutions to coordinate and make a progress report to the UN. As an international development agenda and movement, it definitely needs a special national government body that takes a communication and administration role to related international agencies, i.e. BAPPENAS (National Planning Body). This body has been also taking a central coordination role for regional and local authorities in planning and implementing development agenda including MDGs.

b. Local governments have a very important role in implementing MDGs. National government encourage local governments to make local integrated development programs where MDGs are included. The achievement of MDGs has been always reported by local authorities to BAPPENAS.

c. There is a road map to achieve the MDGs as the main reference used by stakeholders in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of MDG acceleration. The roadmap was formulated by involving all stakeholders including civil society groups.

d. There has been a plan in trying to integrate goals, targets and indicators of the MDGs into planning and budgeting by both central and local governments.

e. Rewards for local governments have accelerated efforts to achieve the MDGs. To encourage local government actors in implementing MDGs through local development agendas, national government has been providing a special reward for successful local governments.

f. All related stakeholders such as parliamentarians, academicians, experts, media and NGOs, have been encouraged to take a certain role in promoting and/or implementing MDGs. Those mentioned communities have been generally involving in the campaign and advocacy.

g. Indonesia was invited by the OECD to be included as an enhanced engagement country along with developed countries(G-20)

However, there are also constraints encountered in implementing it, among others are: (1) the financial burden the state has to bear, i.e, to finance social sectors such as education, health, etc. while at the same time it has to pay international loans; (2) the lack of commitment of local governments to implement MDG-based integrated regional development.

4. SDGs Focus, An Idea

Sustainable development Goals (SDGs) is a concept as well as an agenda how to maintain MDGs achievement can be sustainable in the post 2015 even more advance in the future for the benefit of the people. It is, admitted or not, inspired by sustainable development concept that has been well known and considered to be used as a fundamental principle in planning and managing to every state development. This principle is always connecting between the present development needs and the future generation interests by which both government and people have obligation to clearly standardize it. In this subject, economic growth is unavoidable need for the people, but it must be compromised with the better survive of future generations.

For developing countries including Indonesia to day, which is also in line with MDGs agendas, have been achieving much progress in economic and social aspects. But, being realized it or not, it still remains several "home works" for the government particularly in connection with the issues on people prosperity and environment exploitation regarding to the economic growth ambition in the capitalism expansion era in across the world. Without considering the above aspects, the future development for most developing countries can be, direct or indirectly, trapped by capitalism interests – an emergency situation for sustainable development vision, moreover for Indonesia as a tropical and rich country. It is because, to be frank, many government officials as well as politicians from the developing countries are in fragile to be influenced by pragmatism temporary values (money oriented).

Based on the above reasons, in the post MDGs which SDGs is an offered alternative strategic international agenda need some focuses on more comprehensive application of the development. In certain cases, developing countries which want to get out of the bondage of life's difficulties really need to find a pattern of development that can create more prosperous societies. In short, development programs to be formulated later in SDGs, therefore, should cover at least the three things below:

1.   Focusing On Social Welfare

Social welfare which is defined as the quality of life is the sustainability of the 8 goals achievement of the MDGs. The concept of social welfare which was started in the 19th century, precisely in1940, by European countries known as "welfare states" was first used as a British political philosophy called "Common Good". The term welfare state was first introduced by William Temple who published a book called Citizen and Churchman, in which he compared the country ruled by a dictator with a" welfare state" in the growing democracy. Furthermore, the term was used by a politician named Clement Attlee as a jargon in the election campaign in 1950, and has been widely used ever since.[2]

The underlying idea of the welfare state is a state power management which is implemented through a deliberative policy and administration in an effort to reduce or even eliminate the possible role of the market. The welfare state concept is described in at least the following three things[3]:

a.   Minimum guarantee of the individual and family income regardless of the value and ownership of their work according to the market.

b.   Minimize the unsafe / uncomfortable (in-security) situation when facing "social uncertainty" (e.g. sickness, old age, and unemployment) that would threaten the individuals and families.

c.   Guarantee every citizen regardless of their status or social class with excellent social services.

The Indonesian social welfare itself has been formulated in the constitution of the State and is known as general welfare that is used as the country goal, in that it reads "General welfare" which was later revealed in Article 34 paragraph (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia Year 1945 mandates the state to take care of the poor and neglected children. It was further included in the basic statement which reads "in order to 'get social justice' for all Indonesian people. Also, it was   described in Law No. 6 of 1974 on Basic Provisions of the Social Welfare Section 1 and states that" Every citizen has the right to get a standard social welfare as well as possible and is obliged to participate as much as possible in the social welfare efforts. It was further stated in Law No. 11 Year 2009 on social Welfare which reads "to achieve a decent and dignified life, as well as to fulfill the right for the basic needs of citizens in trying to achieve the social welfare, the state must organize and develop it in a planned, purposeful, and sustainable way.

Social welfare is a necessity for every person and it is the obligation of the state to gradually realize it. This means that the concepts and social welfare indicators should be clearly formulated. Social welfare is intended to improve the quality of life, in that social connections such as those associated with the use of Information Technology (IT) must get special attention. Young children should have the opportunity to participate in high school, and every citizen for instance must get good health insurance, free from terrorism threat, their rights-minority rights are to be protected, and so on. Basically, the new scheme post 2015 development must ensure social welfare improvement program becomes the

2 Brian Lund, Understanding State Welfare: Social Justice or Social Exclusion? (London: Sage Publication, 2002),
3 Asa Briggs, "The Welfare State in Historical Perspective", in Christopher Pierson and Francis G. Castels   (eds.), The Welfare State Reader (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2006)

main focus.

2. Eco-environment Sustainability.

As a basic principle of sustainable development, environmental sustainability is must to be considered for the future generation. It means, we needs a change of paradigm in exploiting environment by considering both people prosperity oriented and better of life for future generation. In term of economic development agenda, as is defined as green economy, as an economy that results in reducing environmental risk and ecological scarcities, and that aims for sustainable development without degrading environment.4 In other words but the same meaning, green economy is also called as grow green, that is how to generate economy activity that preserves and enhances environmental quality while using natural resources more efficiently.5

Green economy is an alternative approach by continuing to have economic growth more advance as is encouraged by modernism paradigm in one hand, and keeping a balance eco-environment on the other hand. In short, this approach can serve as a model approach for economic development that will no longer rely on economic development which is based on exploitation of the natural resources. It is a big jump that can leave economic practices which are merely concerned with short-term gains. The thing to do now is campaigning for environmental governance and development of the green economy, urging each country to develop sustainable energy sources, promote the use of renewable energy, and increase public awareness in support of environmental care. It is also important to strengthen public-private partnerships for sustainable forest management,

The determination of environmental taxes needs to be taken into consideration in order to achieve green economy targets. Industries with high pollution levels need to be subjected to compulsory levies so that future industrial sectors are more concerned about the quality of the environment. The cooperation between the government and the community through community-based forest management in Indonesia has been running through the community forest program. Private sectors are also encouraged to develop more environment- friendly products, whereas people are encouraged to use more environment-friendly products. The role of government is crucial in providing incentives and ease business practices in order to support environment-friendly investments in achieving the green economic growth.

3. Global-local Partnerships

It is of high demand to strengthen the global-local and public-private partnerships to accelerate social welfare. International development agencies are therefore still required to facilitate poor countries or poor communities to achieve improved quality of life, not only with money but also with experiences, to stimulate multi-national companies (MNCs) and local-national business groups in improving Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs for social welfare.

Global-local partnership is basically intended for developed countries to assist developing countries and the poor, but in fact some developing countries in Asia and Africa offer assistance to other developing countries. Indonesia for instance looks for ways to help neighbors which are still poor. Global-local partnership actually encourages all countries to have the same opportunities, but in certain cases developed nations do too much protection to the farmers in their countries, so that the products of farmers from outside is not easy to get. Rich countries should be encouraged to provide foreign aid in the form of "official development assistance" (ODA) to poor countries amounted to 0.7% of the total national income of donor countries.

Global-local partnership has already been done for long time through G to G scheme known as "sister city or sister province" between local governments in Indonesia and local governments in foreign countries. Lack of finance and human resources with good command in English, however, have become constraints faced by local governments in Indonesia. In the future, these constraints must be overcome in order that global-local partnership can be well realized. In addition, global-local partnerships aiming at international promotion for the SDGs are encouraged to convince donor countries and business groups to contribute and support these efforts.

5. Conclusions

In conclusion, apart from several constraints, the MDGs program that has been implemented in a great number of countries all over the world has brought about some improvement in many different aspects of people's lives and hence need to be continued in the follow up program called SDGs. The Indonesian case, where the government integrate MDGs program into national through local levels with expected accountability, and the strategy to encourage local governments nationwide to compete in the achievement of the 8 goals of MDGs by giving them incentives as reward for the successful ones, can be made as reference to be applied elsewhere on this planet.

The upcoming SDGs program which is grounded on MDGs program will have to focus at least on the three things, namely: social welfare, eco-environment sustainability, and global-local partnerships and in order to make it a great achievement, SDGs program should continue achieving the MDGs as progressively as possible and is expected to come up with more applicable breakthroughs in an attempt to answer present and arising problems encountered worldwide. Also, The United Nations and other international institutions such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, IDB, etc. must have a strong commitment about this program and surely support from all the target countries and private

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4 En.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_economy.
5 Chapple, Karen, *Defining the Green Economy: A Primer on Green Economic Development*, University of California, Berkley, USA, 2008.

sectors will have to be obtained. Only by so doing, this world can be made a better place for us to live. Therefore, let us now take a chance and be the agents of change for the world with SDGs.

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