

Dialogue on MCG - CANSA Network Comments

From: "shaheen"
Date: Mon, 7 Feb 2011 11:48:06 +0500
To: mohan munasinghe
Cc: CANSA <cansa@googlegroups.com>
Subject: Re: Millennium Consumption Goals (MCG) for the rich

Dear Mohan:

It's a great idea. However, I do feel that one of the reasons the MDGs are falling woefully short is because they are too ambitious, vertically and laterally. Could one consider 2-3 MCGs and address them in depth. For instance, at first glance, a few of the ones you suggest seem to collapse into each other, e.g., carbon emissions and transport.

Best regards
Shaheen

On 7 February 2011 09:24, Saleemul Huq wrote:

Mohan,

Excellent initiative.

With regard to setting a "wealth line" (similar to "poverty line") instead of picking a percentile why not pick an income (or wealth) number? Eg 200,000 USD annual income (or 1 million USD in assets)?

Saleem

At 05:00 AM 2/10/2011, Anna da Costa wrote:

Dear Professor Munasinghe,

I thought you might like to see this Worldwatch blog posting inspired by your proposal:
<http://blogs.worldwatch.org/transformingcultures/mcgs/>.

It is indeed a fascinating question which also leads me to question our ultimate "development" goals - as you state in point 6 around our measures of development/wellbeing. If in one part of the world we seek to "develop" and in the other we seek to "de-develop", it is surely crucial that we question what we *mean* by development and what our ultimate objectives truly are. Is growth in consumption always an outcome of development? And furthermore, is consumption always a bad thing, or does it depend *what* we are consuming/producing?

Such an interesting idea and vital exploration... I look forward to staying connected with this discussion!

With all best wishes,

Anna

From: Mohan Munasinghe
To: Anna da Costa; saleemul.huq; shaheen: CANSA
Sent: Wed, 10 February, 2011 11:52:09 PM
Subject: Re: Millennium Consumption Goals (MCG) for the rich

Anna, saleem, shaheen, sanjay and other CANSA colleagues,

Thanks for your support.

I have already seen the Worldwatch posting and many others. The key questions you raise and some others are on the list I have circulated to stakeholders. The dialogue has just started. We also have a prelim. web site:

<http://www.millenniumconsumptiongoals.org/>

Regards, MM.

At 01:17 PM 2/14/2011, Jyoti Parikh wrote:

Dear all,

During Rio conference , we published the work "Consumption Patterns: Driving force for climate change" showing 80:20 ratio fo may of the consumed goods and services. That time many were convinced that the emissions are rising because of population pressure. There was much appreciation for this point of view and several conferences and books and reports were written. Yet, after a while it again went back to technological fixes. No one wants to put a cap on lifestyle but they will do this by technologies. Models after models have shown that no amount of technologies will fix this unless we have some limits. While MDG's are accepted and desired by the countries themselves - or so they say-MCG's are not originatng from those who have to do this! I very much hope that things change! jyoti

Dr. Jyoti K. Parikh,
Executive Director,
Integrated Research and Action for Development
(IRADe),
C-50, Asian Games Village Complex,
Khelgaon, New Delhi-110049.
Tel/Fax:26495522/26495523
Website: www.irade.org

On 14 February 2011 07:54, Mohan Munasinghe wrote::

Jyoti,

Thanks for this. The MCG will be on the UN agenda, but we need not wait for that process to evolve slowly. Many communities and cities have contacted me about establishing MCG at the

local level (usually carbon emissions, energy, water, land use, etc.) -- even individuals. This is a trend to be encouraged! Once such grass roots effort gets going, govts. and negotiators will also have to move.

Regards, Mohan.

Date: Thu, 24 Feb 2011 08:27:37 +0000
Subject: Re: Millennium Consumption Goals (MCG) for the rich
From: Anna da Costa
To: Mohan Munasinghe

Dear all,

I just wanted to let you know that [Chinadialogue](http://www.chinadialogue.net) are running a series this week on Wellbeing Economics that ties very closely to this discussion and is well worth checking out. There are a wide range of articles exploring questions of growth, happiness and alternative measures of wellbeing, which I am sure would benefit greatly from the input/commentary of CANSA members.

As a small contribution, I have also written a blog for this on Professor Munasinghe's proposal for MCGs: http://www.chinadialogue.net/weblogs/4/weblog_posts/257.

With all the best,

Anna