

Countries set to adopt sustainable goals soon

AGE CORRESPONDENT
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With the millennium development goals set to reach their December 2015 deadline, a new set of transformative sustainable development goals will be adopted by many countries, including India, as a part of the post-2015 development agenda.

Experts assert that these new global goals would lead policy formulation and funding for the next 15 years, and said that India needs to learn from previous experiences to achieve these goals for inclusive and sustainable development. Niti Aayog member, Dr Bibek Debroy, said India has made notable progress towards reaching the MDGs, but achievements across the goals vary. He

asserted that while preparing for implementation of the development agenda post-2015, a key element was learning lessons from the previous approach India has taken towards meeting MDG targets. "It is my expectation that the new development agenda will be more inclusive and sustainable," he said, while speaking at an event organised under the "Knowledge Partnership Program." The programme is an initiative of the British government's department for international development and implemented by consortium led by IPE Global Private Ltd.

Commending India on its leadership role in global deliberations on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), UNDP India director Dr Jaco Cilliers stressed: "As the country

with the largest proportion of young people, India is putting in place ambitious programmes to improve skills of its workforce and ensure employment for all, which is at the core of the global agenda to ensure inclusive growth for all countries in the world."

IPE Global chairman and managing director Ashwajit Singh said the global conversation was slowly crystallising around a new set of goals which takes into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development. "It is encouraging to see how some of the specific proposals advocated by Indian civil society are getting their due attention."

At the event, a publication, *Human Development in the Global South*, was also released.



UN Women Office for India, Bhutan, Maldives & Sri Lanka representative Rebecca Reichmann Tavares (from left), economist and Niti Aayog member Bibek Debroy, UN Information Centre for India and Bhutan director Kiran Mehra-Kerpelman and Dr Nagesh Kumar, head of the United Nations economic and social commission for Asia and the Pacific, release a report on the Millennium Development Goals in New Delhi on Tuesday.

— SONDEEP SHANKAR