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MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AS AN INSTRUMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

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Abstract. During Millennium Summit in 2000 in New York, 189 member countries of the United Nations accepted Millennium Declaration. It contains Millennium Development Goals which are a form of road map for realization of development aid based on sustainable development in developing countries. The article discusses this problem.

Key words: Millennium Development Goals, sustainable development, developing countries

INTRODUCTION

The problem of huge economic disproportions between rich highly developed countries and poor developing countries has been one of the most significant challenges facing world economy and international community for many decades. The success of Marshall Plan resulted in big hopes connected with economic aid, this time delivered to developing countries, particularly with its specific form – development aid. It was expected that it would eradicate structural gaps in developing countries in the form of currency, food, or qualified workforce.

The years were passing and economic inequality between highly industrialized and developing countries, despite the increase in donations of the West, instead of narrowing, quite opposite was expanding, also in the absolute dimension of terrible poverty, counted by the number of famine and people dying from hunger. Everyday 24,000 people, mainly children, die of hunger and famine. Every year about half a million mothers die during birth due to the lack of proper medical healthcare. Below the poverty line

which is 2 USD a day, is half of the world population. It means in fact exclusion from social, economic and political life [Armutsbekämpfung... 2001].

Highly unsatisfactory effects of development aid, deepening dramatic economic situation of many developing countries during the last two decades of the 20th century, the fall of bipolar system, opening of China to the world economy and its active participation in the process of globalization, entering of international community into the third millennium, all of that caused acceptance by 189 member countries of the UN during the Millennium Summit in 2000 in New York Millennium Declaration. It includes Millennium Development Goals – MDGs which are some form of road map on the way to realization of development aid based on sustainable development in developing countries. The article concerns this problem.

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Although on the UN forum are accepted many declarations and resolutions which are later difficult to realize or execute¹ in certain time perspective but it does not change the fact that there took place a significant breakthrough. There is an important difference between recommendations, as it was in case of Commission of Lester Bowles Pearson, Willy Brandt and the Declaration signed by 189 countries. Besides MDGs contain concrete obligations and even if it was obvious from the beginning that they would not be fully realized in due time (as until today most of developed countries did not realize recommendations and postulates of L.B. Pearson Commission and then W. Brandt about the necessity of donating 0.7% of GD for development aid) [Development... 2010], but they are important guidelines about directions and ways of donating development aid for the countries which signed Millennium Declaration, both donors and beneficiaries. For example, one of the main donors, Germany, prepared on the basis of MDGs “Aktionsprogramm 2015” accepted by Gerhard Schröder on 4th April 2001 [Aktionsprogramm... 2015]. For many governments of developing countries Millennium Development Goals are a form of compass and a document which they can relate to initiating programmes and projects within development aid and demanding from highly developed countries money for their realization.

Millennium Development Goals include eight goals and eighteen targets (Table 1). The first six goals have very concrete dimension, especially due to the fact that they are connected with even more concrete targets – defined by 2015 time perspective. One could, of course discuss how real are the targets [Die Millennium... 2006], but it is difficult to wonder that the period of 15 years was assumed. The dimension of such big problems as chances for surviving or not of millions of people (particularly in the context of the fourth goals concerning reduction of child mortality) is, looking at this issue from purely human not economic point of view, definitely too short time.

MDGs is accompanied by not only concrete goals and targets but also the whole network of indicators on the basis of which one can control the realization of the MDG

¹ E.g. until today the execution of the resolution of the UN Security Council no 242 on withdrawal of Israel armed forces from territories occupied after the Six Day War in 1967 [Deszczyński and Gawrzył 1990, p. 15].

Table 1. Millennium Development Goals and Targets
Tabela 1. Milenijne Cele i Zobowiązania Rozwoju

Goals – Cele	Targets – Zobowiązania
1	2
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger 1. Wyeliminować skrajne ubóstwo i głód	Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger Do 2015 roku zmniejszyć o połowę liczbę ludzi o dochodzie nie przekraczającym 1 USD dziennie (w porównaniu z 1990 rokiem) Do 2015 roku zmniejszyć o połowę liczbę głodujących ludzi
2. Provide universal primary education 2. Zapewnić powszechne nauczanie na poziomie podstawowym	Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling Do 2015 roku zapewnić wszystkim dzieciom przynajmniej wykształcenie podstawowe
3. Promote gender equality and empower women 3. Promować równość płci i awans społeczny kobiet	Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and in all levels of education no later than 2015 Do 2015 roku wyeliminować nierówny dostęp płci na wszystkich stopniach edukacyjnych a do 2005 roku do pierwszego i drugiego stopnia
4. Reduce child mortality 4. Ograniczyć umieralność dzieci	Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate Do 2015 roku zmniejszyć o 2/3 wskaźnik umieralności dzieci w wieku do lat 5 (w porównaniu z 1990 rokiem)
5. Improve maternal health 5. Poprawić opiekę zdrowotną nad matkami	Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio Do 2015 roku zmniejszyć o 3/4 wskaźnik umieralności matek
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases 6. Ograniczyć rozprzestrzenianie się HIV/AIDS, malarii i innych chorób zakaźnych	Halve halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS Halve halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases Do 2015 roku powstrzymać rozprzestrzenianie się HIV/AIDS i ograniczyć liczbę nowych zakażeń Do 2015 roku powstrzymać rozprzestrzenianie się malarii i innych groźnych chorób i ograniczyć liczbę zachorowań
7. Ensure environmental sustainability 7. Zapewnić ochronę środowiska naturalnego	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers Wprowadzić zasady zrównoważonego rozwoju w krajowych programach i zapobiegać dalszemu niszczeniu środowiska naturalnego Do 2015 roku zmniejszyć o połowę liczbę ludzi pozbawionych stałego dostępu do czystej pitnej wody Do 2020 roku osiągnąć znaczącą poprawę warunków życia przynajmniej dla 100 milionów mieszkańców slumsów

Table 1 – cont. / Tabela 1 – cd.

1	2
8. Develop a global partnership for development	Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system
8. Stworzyć globalne partner-skie porozumienie na rzecz rozwoju	<p>Address the special needs of the least developed countries</p> <p>Includes: tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' ex-ports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous ODA for countries committed to poverty reduction</p> <p>Address the special needs of landlocked developing countries and small island developing States</p> <p>Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries through national and international measures in order to make debt sustainable in the long term</p> <p>In cooperation with developing countries provide young people access to workplaces in decent and productive conditions</p> <p>In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs and health service in developing countries</p> <p>In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications</p> <p>Stworzyć transparentny i nikogo niedyskryminujący system handlowy i finansowy</p> <p>Wyjść naprzeciw szczególnym potrzebom najsłabiej rozwiniętych państw – LLDC, m.in. przez zniesienie cel i kontyngentów na towary przez nie eksportowane, zwiększenie skali redukcji długów, umorzenie długów zaciągniętych w ramach ODA</p> <p>Uwzględnić szczególne potrzeby śródlądowych krajów rozwijających się i położonych na małych wyspach</p> <p>Rozwiązać problem zadłużenia krajów rozwijających się przez podjęcie narodowych i międzynarodowych kroków, służących utrzymaniu ich długoo-kresowej zdolności do spłaty zadłużenia</p> <p>We współpracy z krajami rozwijającymi się zapewnić młodym ludziom miejsca pracy w warunkach godnych i produktywnych</p> <p>We współpracy z branżą farmaceutyczną zapewnić niezbędne lekarstwa i pomoc medyczną</p> <p>We współpracy z sektorem prywatnym udostępnić krajom rozwijającym się nowe technologii, zwłaszcza informacyjne i komunikacyjne</p>

Source: <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Indicators/OfficialList.htm>.

Źródło: <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Indicators/OfficialList.htm>.

goals. On the official list of the UN from 18 August 2006 there are 48 indicators. For example, realization of the goal no 1 – eradicate extreme poverty and hunger can be checked by five indicators, e.g. what is the change in the share of population with income not exceeding 1 USD daily or what is the share of one fifth of the poorest in GNI, percentage of underweight children below five years of age [<http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Host.aspx?Content=Indicators/OfficialList.htm>, 18.8.2006]. Goal no 2 achieve universal primary education is controlled using three indicators, e.g. index of adult literacy, number of first grade pupils who finish five grades.

Even more general goals, no 7 and particularly no 8 undergo evaluation. For example, goal no 8 – create global partnership for development, and within it, target no 13 – address the special needs of the least developed countries, e.g. tariff and quota free access for the least developed countries' exports; enhanced programme of debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) and cancellation of official bilateral debt can be checked by indicator share of tariff and quota free global import (expressed quantitatively, excluding weapons and arms) of highly developed countries from developing countries and LLDC, percentage share of the value of goods and services export in debt servicing or total net ODA for LLDC and GNI percentage share of donor.

Although in a direct way MDGs say about sustainable development only in case of goal no 7, related to protection of natural environment but also realization of other goals, in practice means propagating and striving for achievement of sustainable development. It is most often defined as self-reliant development based on effective use of available resources (self-reliance) in such a way to adjust it to the specifics of culture, history, ecology of particular countries [Deszczyński 2001]. Its internal limits are indicated by satisfying basic human needs, its external limits are formed by preservation and not burdening of natural environment.

In the strategy relating to environmental values traditional way of understanding of economic development is rejected, including universal production factors connected with it, such as – capital, labour, technology. The goal is not to, as it used to be called, the highest abstract indicators – GDP or investment rate, but improving situation of particular group of people who had lived so far in a given territory, observed certain system of values and had defined economic resources. MDGs were accepted using this philosophy.

The idea of sustainable development was directly related to also three targets connected with seventh goal. It is postulated to introduce the rule of sustainable development in country programmes and stopping further devastation of natural environment and by 2015 halving the number of people without permanent access to clean, safe water and by 2020 achieving significant improvement of living conditions for at least 100 million slums inhabitants.

In MDGs a lot of space was devoted to the problem of sustained development as a result of increasing awareness among political and economic elites of the West that developing countries are not able by themselves defeat growing economic and social problems they have to face. Their further aggregation, in the most pessimistic scenario can threaten even the basis of our civilization. Developing countries attempt at all cost to deal with the problem of lack of currency or debt repayment. Because of that they excessively exploit their natural resources, e.g. cutting down rainforests which play an important role in CO₂ absorption. Despite the development aid donated by Development Assistance Committee (DAC) countries it is estimated that 140,000 square kilometres of rainforests are cut down annually.

A significant role in implementation of Millennium Development Goals was played by the Report of United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, headed by the former Norwegian Prime Minister G. H. Brundtland. In the document which was presented in 1987, named “Our Common Future” the main point was to make public, basically politicians, economists and representatives of business groups, aware that:

1. Satisfying current needs should not restrict the possibility of their fulfilling in the future.
2. There must exist intergenerational solidarity and equality, i.e. achieving consumption on the appropriate level today is as much important today as securing it for the next generations [Our Common... 1987].

G.H. Brundtland report resulted in acceptance of Agenda 21 in 1992 in Rio de Janeiro during United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. Within the framework of the programme "Centenary of Ecology" there were proclaimed many undertakings directed at environment protection. There was organized, e.g. Commission for Sustainable Development – CSD.

ACTIONS STIMULATING REALIZATION OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

During the period of 2000 – 2005 many international conferences devoted to realization of Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals took place. In November 2001 within the round of World Trade Organization – WTO in Doha were continued negotiations on trade liberalization, mainly access to the markets for agricultural products from developing countries. They were not successful, as in case of WTO summit in Hong Kong in December 2005, where in the latter case there was accepted initiative "Aid-for-Trade". Its goal is to create possibilities to generate and manage trade exchange, thanks to the resources of development aid.

In 2002 in Monterrey took place conference on development financing and in Johannesburg world summit on sustainable development in the context of Rio Declaration (1992) and MDGs review. In the Monterrey Consensus it was indicated that in order to achieve MDGs it is necessary to take actions in six areas, in order to:

- 1) mobilize domestic resources of developing countries,
- 2) mobilize international resources, including foreign direct investment,
- 3) increase international trade exchange,
- 4) increase international financial and technical cooperation for development,
- 5) take up actions for reduction of external debt,
- 6) address systemic issues, i.e. enhance the coherence and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trade systems [<http://www.un.org/ctd/docs/monterrey.php>].

Even more abundant with events connected with realization of MDGs was the year 2005. Beside the World Summit in New York, the meeting of G-8 in Gleneagles on the turn of February and March 2005, 96 countries and 26 organizations accepted Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. It includes 56 targets and 12 indicators enabling control of their realization, mainly five basic principles which should be taken into account in donating development aid [Paris Declaration... 2005].

The first rule – ownership has to guarantee bigger role of developing countries. It is important, since despite numerous declarations, including strongly emphasized the partnership rule, the dominating and dictating part were donors. Now it has to change. Developing countries are better oriented as their own economic and social needs, form and extent of development aid. It is them which are to decide what the priority is – to

achieve abstract economic results or rather improvement of standard of living of concrete group of people according to the idea of sustainable development. Ownership of developing countries will enable coordination of regional and local undertakings initiated by various countries and international organizations giving development aid. Highly developed countries should offer good advice, and first of all strengthen institutional structure of beneficiaries without which ownership rule will stay only on paper.

Two next rules of alignment and harmonization are addressed to previous donors to take into account used by beneficiaries development strategies, institutions and procedures in giving development aid. Thanks to that probability of occurring institutional barrier on the side of developing countries will decrease. Accordingly harmonization means necessity of coordination of common undertakings of donors both in case of particular developing countries and the problems they want to solve by means of development aid.

The rules of result oriented management and mutual responsibility are targeted at both parts of development aid process. The first rule has to improve decision making process and tighter regime of development resources management. The second rule makes responsible for realization of the planned development results both donors and beneficiaries.

Accepting Paris Declaration was to enhance effectiveness of development aid. It is basically the evaluation of donor's initiatives in specific place and time, taking into account the degree of realized assumptions, own and beneficiary expectations, accordance with the goals declared on international forum, e.g. realization of the Millennium Development Goals in the extent of sustainable development. Possibility of evaluation of effectiveness concerns therefore various forms of development aid, and within its framework, thanks to that it becomes real even in the conditions of poorly developed state system of reporting in developing countries.

For example, we can check to what extent it would be effective to build water source in city X, in country Y on the basis of criteria accepted in advance in investment project, e.g. from the point of view of long-term efficiency of equipment for water-taking, its efficiency, influence on health situation of the people using the water source, etc. How much did the project cost, whether it was built in planned time and according to the preliminary of financial sources. In a similar way we can check effectiveness of realization of the programme assuming that in city X, in country Y all children, including girls will be involved in at least primary education. We can analyse in what percent it was able to achieve it in relation to boys and girls, respectively in the first and subsequent years of education. In case of lack of effectiveness we should draw general conclusions, so that we will not repeat the same mistakes in similar cases.

The efforts in this direction were made during Accra Forum in 2008. In the document, so called Agenda for Action, it was recommended to change deeply relations between partner countries and donors, advising to:

- 1) use first of all ownership rule,
- 2) increase predictability and transparency to help beneficiaries in budgeting, planning and implementation of their development strategies,
- 3) define its conditionality in cooperation with beneficiaries on the basis of their own development plans, which in fact is a fundamental change,
- 4) making visible and significant progress in untying of aid,

5) apply reduction of fragmentation of aid through by improving division of labour among donors [Development... 2009, Agenda... 2008].

Reviewing the goals of development aid during the last fifty years one can clearly see their evolution – from instrumentalization in which in a more or less covert way were realized political and economic goals of donors, to even greater taking into account, not only in declarations but also in practice, the interests of beneficiaries. Too little time has passed to state whether it is only a tactical change on the side of highly developed countries or is it of strategic character and will bring positive changes in developing countries comparable to those which were caused by the aid within the Marshall Plan after Second World War in Western Europe.

CONCLUSION

The dominating view in the past was that for our civilization there are no boundaries for economic and technological progress, and the level material civilization which we achieved was identified with a great victory of humanity over nature. Only at the beginning of the 70s in the 20th century appeared first critical opinions. People started to think more deeply about the complex of phenomena which can accompany further unrestrained world economic growth and advocacy of consumption lifestyle, so characteristic for the West and willingly accepted (syndrome of the effect of consumption demonstration) by societies of developing countries. Intellectual elites, and later political ones became more and more aware of significance of the changes (particularly in longer perspective) between the scale of economic activity and growing trend of further material and civilization progress on the one hand, and on the other hand possibilities to preserve natural environment and supply of natural resources, fuel and other necessary for humanity resources. One of the most important issues was advocating sustainable development.

It is especially important in case of developing countries, because of the area they occupy and demographic potential, and the lack of general infrastructure (not only material and social, but also legal one) which would be a safeguard for sustainable development. The threshold here is the year 2000. MDGs were accepted in this year, where the interests of developing countries were taken into account, also in the context of preference for sustainable development model.

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MILENIJNE CELE ROZWOJU INSTRUMENTEM ZRÓWNOWAŻONEGO ROZWOJU W KRAJACH ROZWIJAJĄCYCH SIĘ

Streszczenie. Podczas Szczytu Milenijnego w 2000 roku w Nowym Jorku 189 państw członkowskich ONZ przyjęło Deklarację Milenijną. Zawiera ona Milenijne Cele Rozwoju, które stanowią swoistą mapę na drodze do realizacji pomocy rozwojowej opartej na zrównoważonym rozwoju w krajach rozwijających się. Temu problemowi poświęcono niniejszy artykuł.

Słowa kluczowe: Milenijne Cele Rozwoju, zrównoważony rozwój, kraje rozwijające się

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