

# *The key challenges for the post 2015 agenda*

## *What new goals for 2015?*

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# Where do we stand

**Overall but uneven success in MDGs; performances very different in different goals; deteriorated economic situation**

**2000: unprecedented commitment to end poverty**

- **Consensus: 147 governments, 189 countries on development efforts (overcome the lost decades)**
- **Multidimensional aspects of poverty emphasized**
- **High growth context**
- .....

**2013: risk of slow down of MDGs gains**

- **Aftermath of the economic and financial crisis**
  - Gaps in development aid; Stable aid flows;  in Spain, Greece...
  - **Increasing inequality between/within countries**
  - Focus on efficiency of sum spent and performances
- **Protectionism on the rise (?)**
- **Rising role of Brics (China) in international cooperation**

# **What was missing from MDGs?**

A non exhaustive ex post list includes:

- **(Goals on) sustainable Development (SDGs)** and climate change;
- **Inequality, vulnerability and exclusion;**
- **Jobless growth and growth with low quality employment;**
- **Migration related targets (and urbanization) -** increasing global population;
- **Tackling poverty in middle-income countries;**
- **Security, conflicts, fragile states related issues**

# Question: Can all (some of) these issues be integrated into simple measurable objectives?

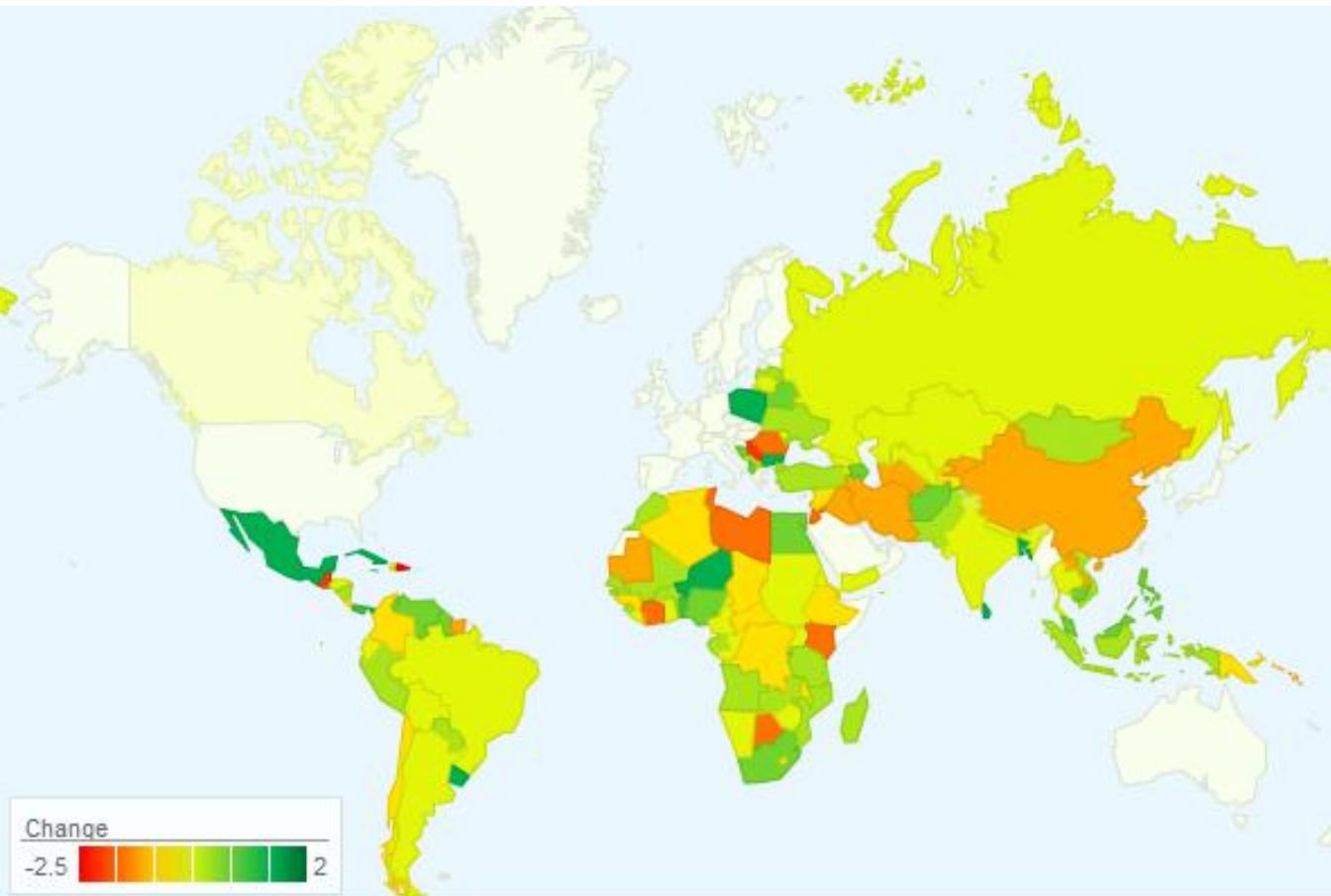
Difficult.

In all of the above, policy matters

Furthermore,

- Financial and economic crises make **donor countries more inward-looking**
- **New multilateralism in emerging economies**
- **I start with few data (the past) and insights (the future?)**

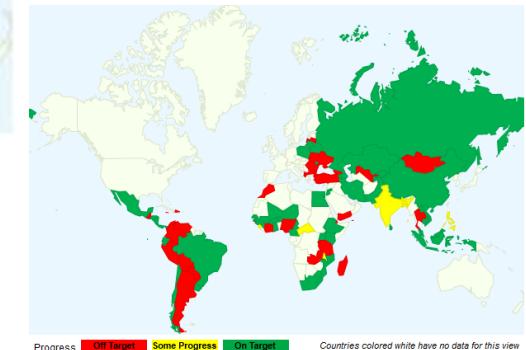
# The crisis leaves a legacy: MDGs progress (regress-stability)



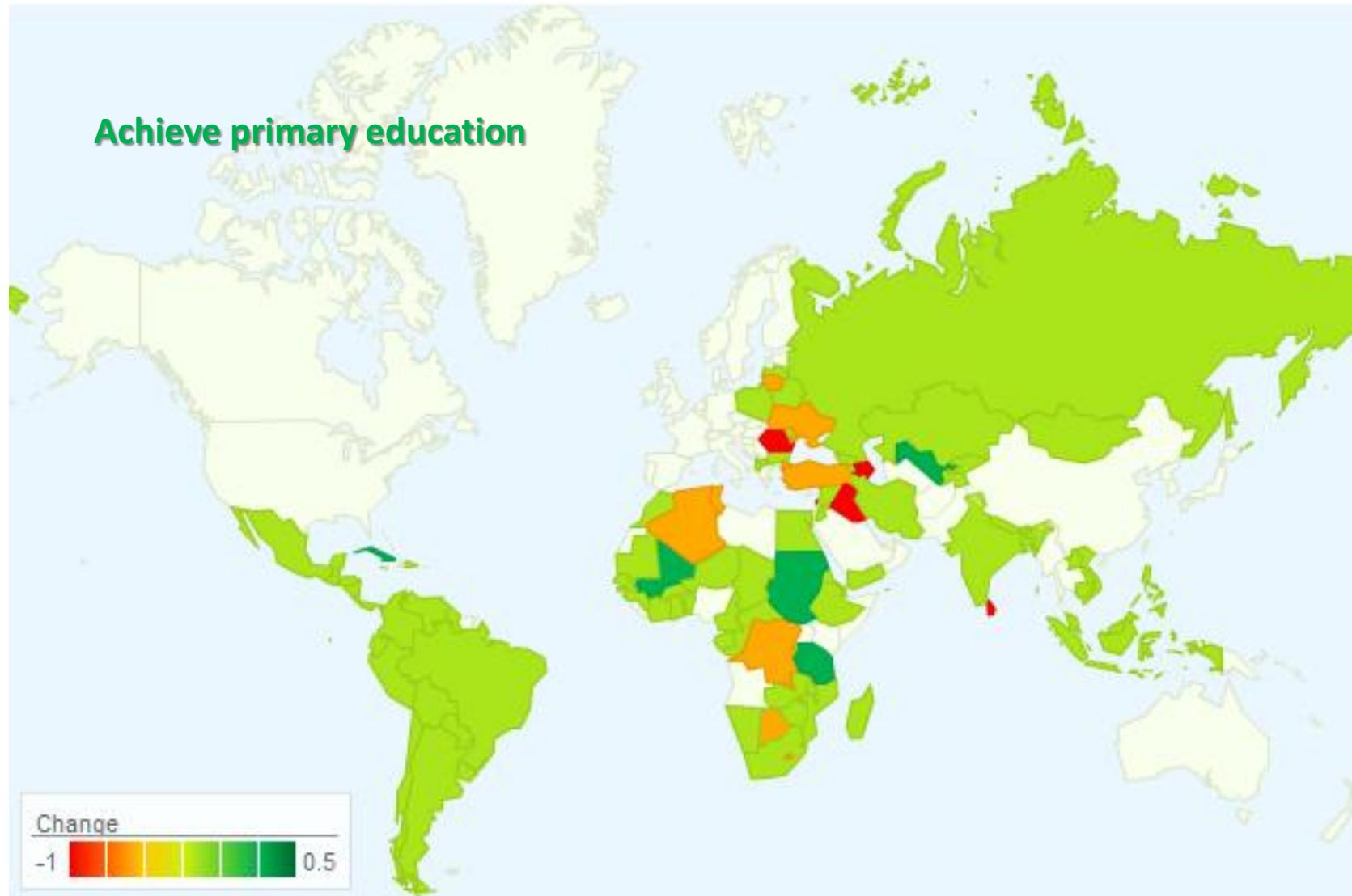
2010 - 2011

Significantly  
lower  
progress than  
before

2005-2011



# But progress in MDG2, education (even in 2010-2011)



**However, sometimes even the “good scenario”  
(meeting a goal) might not be enough.....**

## An example

- the universal primary education **MDG2 met** in nearly all countries. But....millions of students finish schooling without mastering basic literacy and numeracy. **Schooling doesn't necessarily produce learning or education.**
- **Learning targets are important.** Enrollment and completion goals are not enough: quality matters. **Any education goal needs to focus on learning**, not just outputs
- Several other examples like this one

# As an example, look at the Eurozone growth forecast for 2013

(World Economic Outlook, Oct. 2012)



# and at Eurozone math & science performance

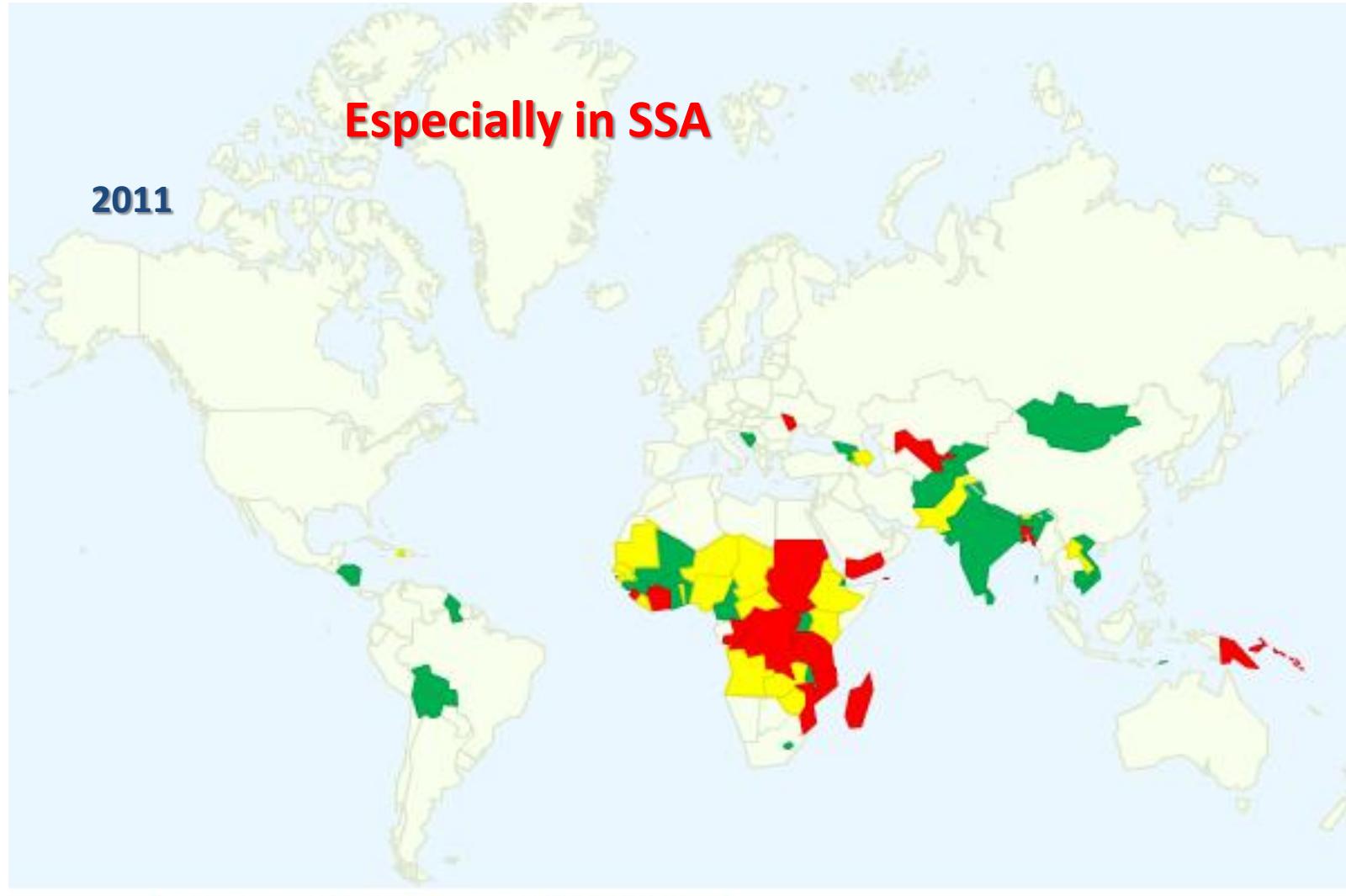
(PISA 2009: **Above** & **Below** OECD avg.)

**Need for School quality to grow!**



# Focus 2: little progress in MDG 7

Halve, by 2015, the Proportion of People Without Sustainable Access to Safe Drinking Water



Progress

Off Target

Some Progress

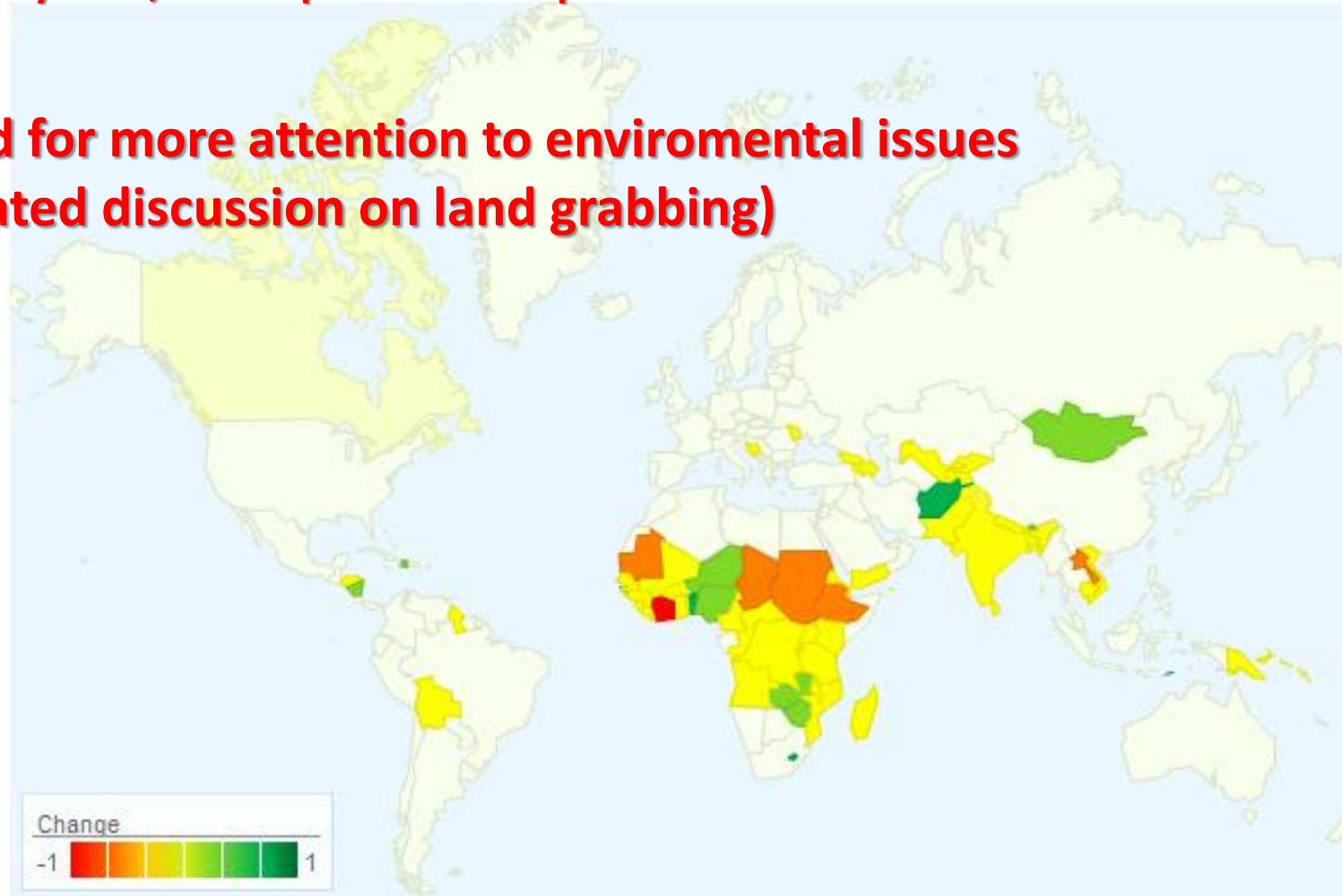
On Target

*Countries colored white have no data for this view*

# **Especially in the last year low income countries, MDG 7, 2011/2010**

**Halve, by 2015, the Proportion of People Without Sustainable Access to Safe Drinking Water**

**Need for more attention to environmental issues  
(related discussion on land grabbing)**



# Debate for post-2015 can be along two/three lines:

1. Should effort be put in **correcting flaws in composition and implementation?** Should MDGs **be renewed with an extended deadline?**  
**Too minimal**
2. Should MDGs be **replaced by a new set of more inclusive goals?**
  - Should we **forget about goals** altogether?
3. Should the debate focus on the relationship between **goals, policies and socio economic achievements?**

# (Good) metric is not enough... Policy matters

It is important to answer several questions:

- To what extent – if any- does **setting goals trigger the appropriate policy (also for donors)?**
- Are **well targeted goals self full-filling?**
- To what extent are **functioning institutions, good governance, appropriate policies in recipients countries key for goals to be achieved? And ownership?**
- **Have some goals being achieved independently from policy (e.g. growth due to natural resources)?**
- **Are achieved goals sustainable in the long term?**

# What did we learn from MDGs?

- Powerful mobilising tool, but resulted often in distorted policy
- The most interesting goals are the one where effective policy plays a key role in them being achieved (not those which can be achieved simply with growth)
- Strong focus on the social sectors, but inclusive growth, sustainability, good governance, etc. neglected
- Strong focus on aid, but lack of progress on donors' policy coherence
- Not yet a true global partnership, but often uneven 'power' relationship (donor-recipient, despite adding MDG 8)
- Data quality is important, accountability is key

# Some key messages emerge...

- The Post 2015 framework is an **opportunity to incorporate inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, equity issues, food security, peace, security, human rights .... Issue is HOW (specific targets?)**
- **Focus on specific needs of countries (and growing population)**
- Both developed and developing countries need to be **accountable**
- Increasing role for both private and public partnership (again an accountability issue arises) **Key roles for transparency and accountability;**
- **Not only fighting poverty, but enhancing resilience of vulnerable groups and countries (fragile)**
- **More difficult environment than at the start of XXI century.**
- **New goals should trigger a policy strategy not be confined to a (successful) narrative**

# Concluding.....

- It is not much a question of deciding specific (different) goals but of **understanding how policy making affects the results.**
- A goal attained without an underlying policy (e.g. because of external, possibly unintended, circumstances) can be easily reversed if circumstances change
- If the aim is a LT development, it is key to think about the **best policies, their interaction and trade offs.** This entails a focus on **developing partner ownership and accountability for all the actors involved** (including international organizations)
- Goals should be set **in the national context**, not to be biased against countries with low starting points

**Thanks!**