SDGs and National Readiness

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Would you vote for a politician who would promise:

To end poverty in **all its forms everywhere**
To ensure healthy lives and... **well-being for all at all ages**
To ensure availability...of water and sanitation **for all**
To ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy **for all**
To achieve full and productive employment and decent work **for all** women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
To provide access to justice **for all** and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions **at all levels**

I would not!
The SDG process is less and less convincing

The SDG process had initially shown promise:

• A good start with the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons (12 goals, 52 targets)
• Good continuation with the report of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (10 goals, 30 targets)
• Many good proposals from Save the Children, the ENVforum, the Copenhagen consensus, IGES, etc.

A bad ending with the Open Working Group: a 100% diplomatic and unrealistic wish-list of 17 goals and 169 targets
Like MDGs, SDGs should be about priorities

If everything is a priority, nothing is a priority
### Challenges for developing Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Average cost of implementing SDGs for the Asia-Pacific region</th>
<th>8.2% of GDP</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost for Bangladesh</td>
<td>16.4% of GDP</td>
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Source: UNESCAP: 10 Asia-Pacific countries accounting for 80% of population and 80% of GDP of Asia-Pacific developing countries

Spending on Education in Bangladesh = 3% of GDP
Readiness in Asia

• Most Asian countries have sustainable development institutions, policies and goals.
• Most Asian countries have indicators that allow for monitoring of sustainable development progress

ENVForum sample: *Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Singapore* and *Vietnam*