

Working with the grain to change the grain: Moving beyond the Millennium Development Goals

21st November 2011

Phil Vernon & Deborrah Baksh

International  Alert.

Figure 1. United Nations Millennium Declaration	
I	Values and principles Promote dignity, freedom, equality, equity, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature, shared responsibility and the sovereignty of nations.
II	Peace, security and disarmament Be more effective in maintaining peace and security by providing the resources and means necessary for conflict prevention, dispute resolution, peace-keeping, post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding, and disarmament.
III	Development and poverty eradication Promote and create global and national environments conducive to development and to the eradication of poverty, and make sufficient resources available.
IV	Protecting our common environment Promote the principles of sustainable development.
V	Human rights, democracy and good governance Support countries to implement democracy, promote a respect for human rights and fight all forms of discrimination and violence against women.
VI	Protecting the vulnerable Ensure the protection of civilians in emergency situations and strengthen international cooperation and coordination of humanitarian assistance.
VII	Meeting the special needs of Africans Assist Africans to bring about poverty eradication, sustainable development, lasting peace, through debt cancellation, better market access, enhanced aid, and increased foreign direct investment.
VIII	Strengthening the United Nations Increase the effectiveness of the UN in order to fight poverty, disease, injustice, violence, terror and encourage development for all people.

The Millennium Development Goals

1. Poverty
2. Primary school attendance
3. Gender empowerment
4. Child health
5. Maternal mortality
6. HIV/AIDS, Malaria etc.
7. Environmental sustainability
8. Global partnerships

Problems with the MDGs

- Confusion between political & technical
- Too narrow
- Confuse ends with means
- Unrealistic
- Globally conceived measures of local change
- Perverse incentives

An alternative conceptual approach to development?

- Vision-based
- Pathways to progress
- Focused on societal progress
- Subsidiarity: broadly conceived at global level...
- ... while strategies set and monitored at national, local, household, individual levels
- Pays attention to history
- Humble



THE VISION

Access to
justice, equality
before the law

Voice and
legitimate
leadership

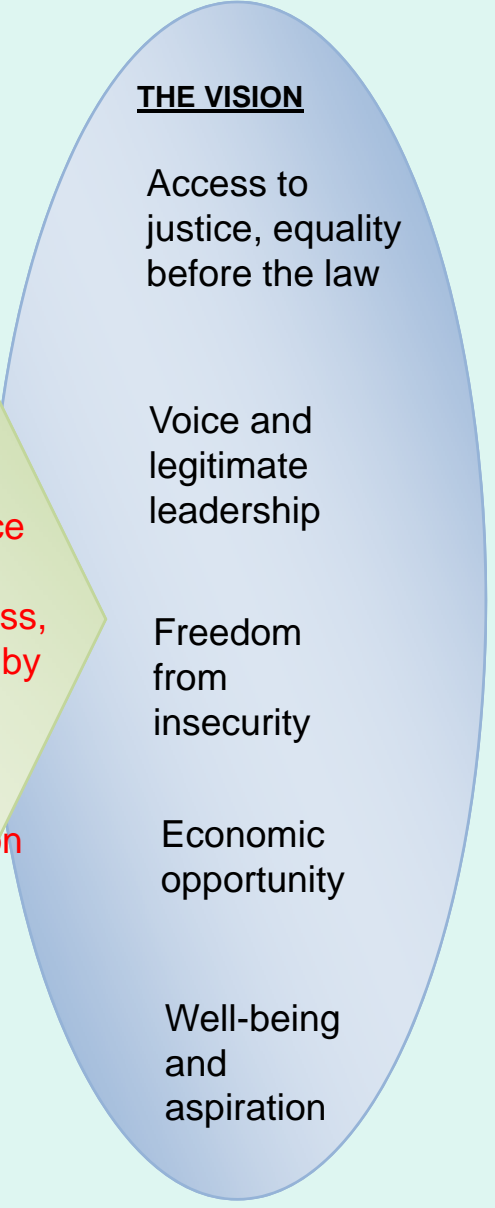
Freedom
from
insecurity

Economic
opportunity

Well-being
and
aspiration



Strengthened institutions & values which underpin peace and enable human progress, characterised by effective leadership, relationships and negotiation



DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES

Opening access to political & economic opportunity; an increasingly dynamic civil society

The establishment of states with a strong sense of membership by & accountable to the people, and whose governments adopt “developmental” goals and policies

Establishing, gradually extending & eventually universalising the rule of law

Evolving from personal to impersonal forms of participation in the economy, politics and civil society

Sustained, shared economic growth

Developing a culture that encourages initiative and supports creativity

The transfer of control of organised violence from powerful factions to the accountable state

Adopting increasingly democratic, or representative & accountable forms of government

Strengthened institutions & values which underpin peace and enable human progress, characterised by effective leadership, relationships and negotiation

THE VISION

Access to justice, equality before the law

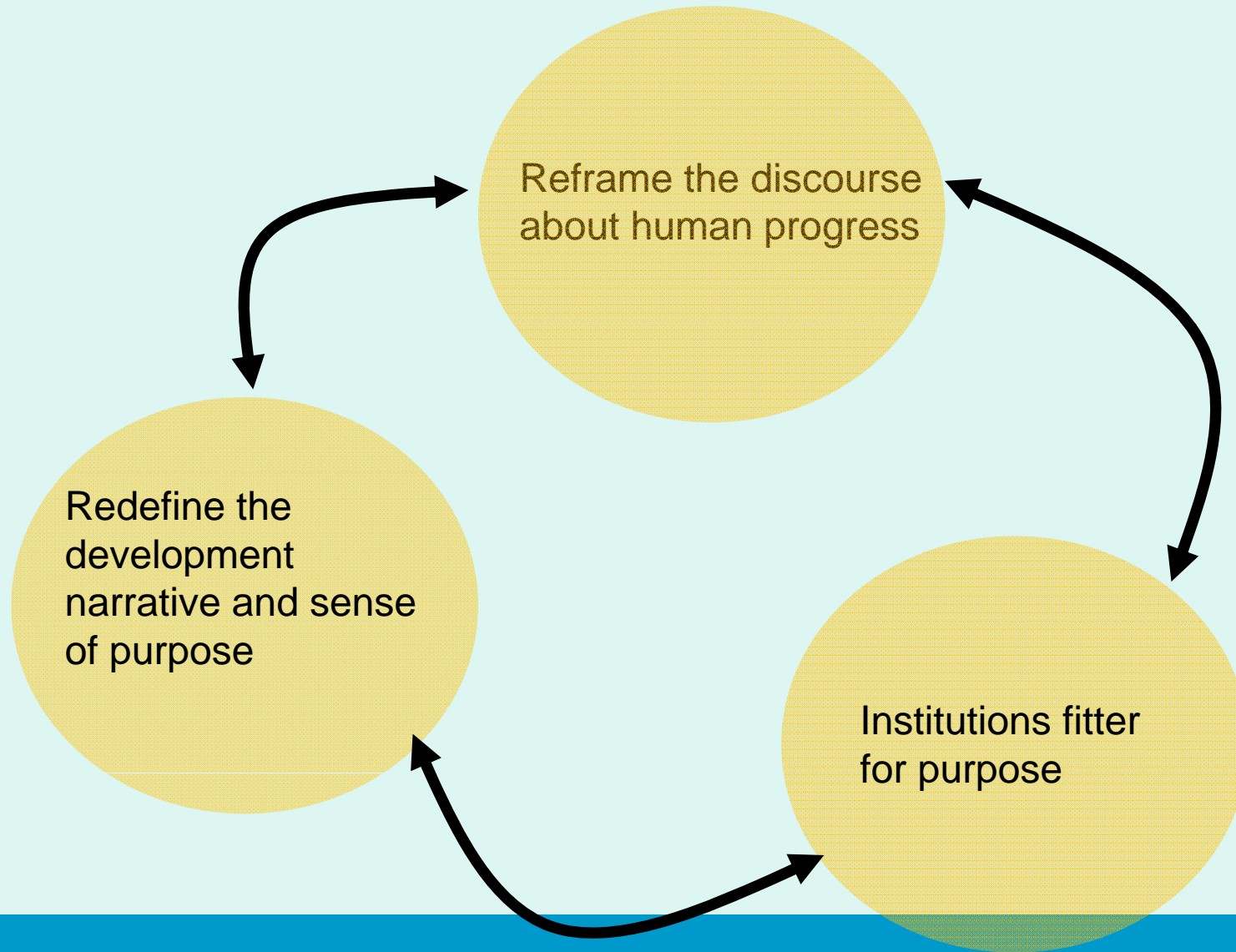
Voice and legitimate leadership

Freedom from insecurity

Economic opportunity

Well-being and aspiration

Conclusions



Busan: six measures of success

- Recognition of a paradigm change
- Acceptance of uncertainty, impotence and lack of known methods/tools
- Disagreement
- Replace “aid effectiveness” with “effective development”
- Commit to improved collaboration at national level
- Commit to operationalise new thinking on peacebuilding/statebuilding

Report available at...

- <http://www.international-alert.org/sites/default/files/publications/MDG.pdf>