



# SDGs

DFG Conference: New York April 2015  
Stephen D. Krasner  
Department of Political Science, Freeman Spogli Institute, Hoover Institution  
Stanford University

# Existing Critiques

- Too many indicators
- Many indicators are not scientifically well-grounded
- DFID “many proposed targets are either unworkable or unmeasurable.”
- German Development Institute:
  - Too many goals; states will focus on less critical



# Too Many Goals and Targets

- 17 Goals
- 169 targets
  - 29 % well developed
  - 54 require work
  - 17 require significant work



# Millennium Challenge Account as a Model



- 17 originally 16 third party quantified measures
- Measures in three buckets
  - Ruling justly
    - Democracy, corruption control
  - Investing in people
    - Mainly health and education
  - Economic openness
    - Sound macro policies plus market economy promotion

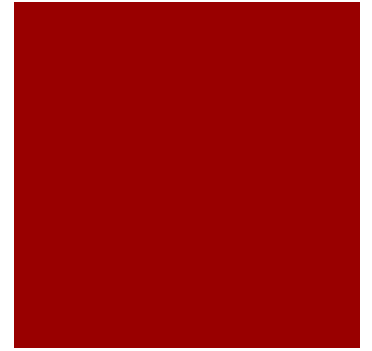
# Key Criteria for Selecting Indicators



- Relevant for growth
- Provided by third parties
- Publicly available/transparent
- Easily monitored
  
- legitimacy comes from
  - Transparency
  - Third parties

# Success of MCC

- Has focused attention of policy makers in potential recipient countries
- Has led to change in policies



# Implications for SDGs



- Identify targets that are SMART +
  - Smart:
    - Specific,
    - Measurable,
    - Achievable,
    - Resource-Based, and
    - Time-Bound)
  - +:
    - public,
    - provided by third parties
    - Nearly universal
    - Accessible to all

# Approval of Smart+ Targets



1. Committee of all member states
2. Committee of member states from region of submitting state
3. UN bureaucracy
4. Other international organization eg World Bank
5. Both 1 or 2 and 3 or 4



# Indicator Selection by Country

- Have each country select its own targets from approved list
- Possibly set-up national procedures for identifying each country's targets
- Addresses
  - Variation across countries
  - Legitimacy of obligations



# Monitoring

- Credible Third Party Experts selected by?
- Should be pro forma
  - Indicators are
    - Quantified
    - Publicly available
- Indicator must be based on outcomes not outputs



# Incentives?

- Special SDG Development Fund
- Funding provided to World Bank
- Funds released in tranches based on monitoring reports

