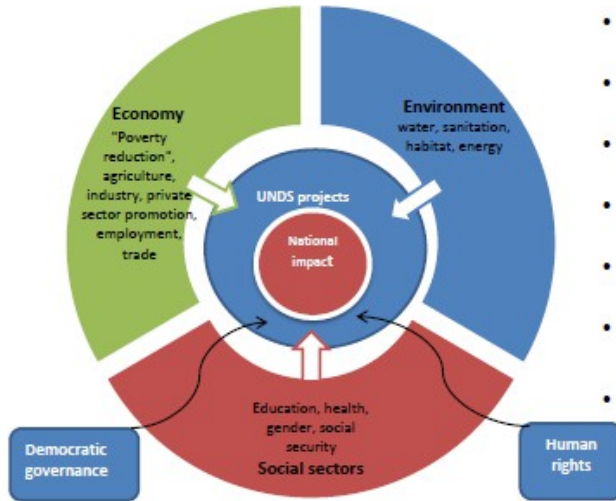


Sustainable or human development?

Are we barking up the  
wrong trio?

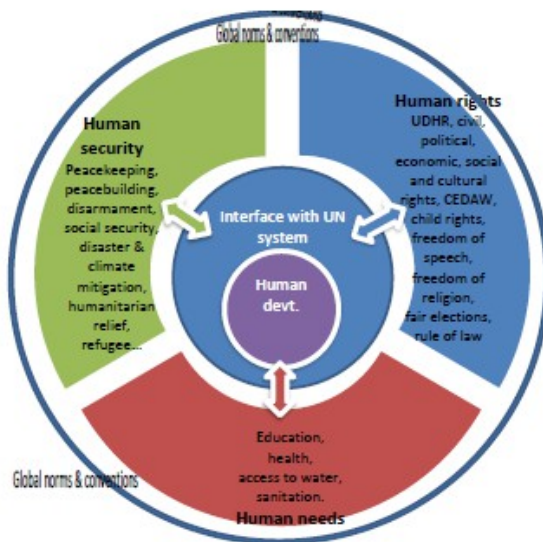


## Sustainable development: sectors first



- Macro: top-down perception
- Development as physical process
- Organizations driving the process
- Sector-based operations
- Focus on MDG achievement
- Not sensitive to inequalities
- Non-sectoral themes need "mainstreaming"

## Human development: people first



- Micro: bottom-up perception
- Development seen as people-oriented
- Agenda driven by human aspirations
- Operations based on norms & values
- Focus on 2000 Millennium Declaration
- Sensitive to inequalities
- Integrated approach

"The MDGs had demonstrated the importance of being able to measure and monitor development progress. Thus, the emphasis in the book on finding ways of measuring sustainable development (SD) is very welcome and the issue deserves to be highlighted. Having said that, I have certain misgivings about the SD paradigm. In many ways it looks like business as usual, but with greater attention to the environment. This is fundamentally a top-down approach in which "investments" of various kinds, including in social capital, are intended to result in human well-being. The approach puts emphasis on investment, physical output and sectors. These can be measured, which is a plus.

"But a real UN approach to development and to the post-2015 agenda should be inspired by the totality of the 2000 Millennium Declaration (and not just the two chapters which led to the MDGs). It should be based on the 1990 concept of human development, make people the central focus, and be based on a different trio: human need, human security and human rights. This approach would encompass the whole range of UN functions and it would be grounded in the many conventions and norms which UN members have agreed to over the years. Measuring progress towards human development would mean monitoring the degree of compliance with these many norms and standards."