
The Future Development Goals (FDGs)

Humanity needs a successful development Agenda for 2030 - 2050

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Alexandre Caldas

alexandre.caldas@kiplomacy.org

Kiplomacy, LLC, Brookfield Place, 200 Vesey Street 24th Floor, New York, 10281 NY, USA

Abstract

Proposing the concept of *Future Development Goals (FDGs)* is both *courageous* and *timely*, as a disruptive change and innovation in policy and scientific narrative. The most compelling approach is not simply to argue that the SDGs failed, because they have fallen significantly short of their intended ambitions, while still achieving progress in several domains. Rather, the paper argues that the SDGs represented Humanity's most ambitious *diagnosis* of global challenges, but the world of 2030 is fundamentally different from the world of 2015. The challenge is therefore not merely implementation failure; it is the need for a new *architecture* for Humanity capable of addressing a more complex, interconnected, AI-driven, climate-constrained and geopolitically fragmented world. This policy paper therefore positions the *Future Development Goals (FDGs)* as the natural successor to the SDGs, building upon their very limited achievements while correcting their structural limitations through the One Humanity Framework and One Humanity Index. The FDGs were built using a Five Pillars Architecture (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership) and a Triple-S Framework (Simple, Scalable and Sustainable), constituting a next-generation operating framework for Humanity in the period 2030–2050. Being **Simple** - simplicity is needed to be impactful and effective; **Scalable** - scalability is needed to traverse across the global, regional and national scales to the subnational, local, community, and personal levels scales; and **Sustainable** - sustainability and resilience is needed to adapt to scenarios and shocks. We discuss below the proposed and provocative *seminal* concept framework paper. *It is time for Humanity.*

Introduction

In 2015, the international community adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, establishing seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as Humanity's common roadmap. It was the most ambitious global development compact ever agreed by the United Nations.

A decade later, the evidence is unequivocal. While significant progress has been achieved in selected areas, the world is not on track to meet the SDGs by 2030. The 2023, 2024 and 2025 global assessments conclude that most targets remain off-track, with poverty, inequality, debt, conflict, climate disruption, biodiversity loss and institutional fragmentation threatening the realization of the Agenda. Only a small fraction of SDG targets are currently progressing at the pace required for achievement by 2030.

This paper proposes a transition from the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to a new framework for the period 2030–2050: the Future Development Goals (FDGs). The FDGs are built upon three core principles:

1. Humanity as a single, globally inter-connected and inter-dependent, system;
2. Future-oriented governance and anticipatory decision-making;
3. Operational intelligence powered by real-time data, geospatial analytics and artificial intelligence.

The operational backbone of the FDGs is the One Humanity Index, a multidimensional framework, structured around five interconnected pillars:

- People
- Planet
- Prosperity
- Peace
- Partnership

Together, they provide a practical architecture for measuring, managing and accelerating progress toward Humanity's collective future.

1. Conceptual Foundations of the Future Development Goals (FDGs)

The Future Development Goals (FDGs) emerge from a growing body of scholarship and policy debate recognizing that the world is entering a new phase of development characterized by unprecedented technological change, planetary pressures, geopolitical uncertainty and systemic interdependence. While the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represented the most comprehensive global development framework of the early twenty-first century, increasing attention is being devoted to the question of what should succeed Agenda 2030 and how future development frameworks should be designed.

The intellectual foundations of the FDGs build upon several complementary schools of thought. First, the SDGs themselves established the principle that development challenges are interconnected and require integrated solutions across social, economic and environmental dimensions (United Nations, 2015). However, recent post-2030 debates have increasingly highlighted the limitations of static goals, sectoral approaches and periodic monitoring systems in addressing rapidly evolving global risks and opportunities. The growing discussion on the future of development governance suggests the need for more adaptive, intelligence-driven and anticipatory frameworks capable of navigating uncertainty beyond 2030.

Second, the FDGs draw inspiration from the field of **Futures Studies** and the origins of **Science Foresight** (Martin, B., 2010), which emphasizes foresight, scenario planning and long-term thinking as essential tools for decision-making under conditions of uncertainty, complexity and instability. Rather than focusing exclusively on present challenges, Futures Studies seeks to identify emerging trends, transformative technologies and alternative futures that may shape human development over coming decades (Inayatullah, 2018). Closely related is the concept of **Anticipatory Governance**, which argues that governments and institutions should develop capacities not merely to react to change but to anticipate, prepare for and shape future developments through proactive policy interventions (Fuerth & Faber, 2012).

Third, the FDGs are informed by **Resilience Theory**, which recognizes that societies increasingly operate in complex and dynamic systems exposed to shocks, disruptions and nonlinear change. Resilience thinking shifts attention from optimizing current conditions toward strengthening the capacity of societies to absorb, adapt and transform in response to crises ranging from climate change and pandemics to geopolitical conflicts and technological disruption (Folke et al., 2010). This perspective aligns closely with the FDG emphasis on sustainability, adaptability and future readiness.

The framework also draws upon influential contributions in ecological economics and sustainability science. **Doughnut Economics** (Raworth, 2017) proposes that humanity must operate within a “safe and just space” that balances social foundations with ecological ceilings. Similarly, the concept of **Planetary Boundaries** (Rockström et al., 2009; Steffen et al., 2015) highlights the biophysical limits within which human civilization can safely develop. These approaches reinforce the FDG proposition that future development must be simultaneously human-centred and planet-centred.

The FDGs further build upon the tradition of **Human Development**, pioneered by Amartya Sen and institutionalized through the United Nations Development Programme. Human Development expanded the understanding of progress beyond economic growth by emphasizing human capabilities, wellbeing, dignity and freedom (UNDP, 1990). The FDG pillars of People, Prosperity, Peace, Planet and Partnership can be understood as a contemporary extension of this human-centred development paradigm.

Finally, the FDGs are grounded in **Systems Thinking** and **Complexity Science**, both of which view societies as interconnected systems characterized by feedback loops, non-linearity and emergent behaviour. These perspectives suggest that development outcomes cannot be fully understood through isolated indicators or sectoral interventions. Instead, progress requires integrated intelligence capable of understanding relationships across multiple scales—from global systems to local communities and individual citizens (Meadows, 2008). The One Humanity Index operationalizes this principle by combining multidimensional indicators, geospatial intelligence, artificial intelligence and real-time analytics into a unified framework for decision-making.

Taken together, these intellectual traditions provide the conceptual foundation for the Future Development Goals. The FDGs do not seek to replace the achievements of the SDGs but rather to extend and evolve them into a next-generation development architecture capable of addressing the realities of the period 2030–2050. By integrating sustainability, resilience, anticipatory governance, systems thinking and human-centred development into a single operational framework, the FDGs seek to provide Humanity with a more adaptive and future-oriented roadmap for collective progress.

Table 1. Progressive Conceptual Journey toward the FDGs

Concept	Contribution	Limitation	FDG Response
SDGs	Global development framework	Static and largely reactive	Future-oriented framework
Human Development	Human wellbeing	Weak future orientation	Human Future Readiness
Planetary Boundaries	Ecological limits	Environment-centric	Humanity + Planet integrated
Doughnut Economics	Social and ecological balance	Limited operational governance	One Humanity Index

Concept	Contribution	Limitation	FDG Response
Resilience Theory	Adaptation to shocks	Limited policy architecture	Triple-S Framework
Anticipatory Governance	Future preparedness	Limited global framework	FDGs governance model
Systems Thinking	Interconnected systems	Difficult operationalization	Five Pillars Architecture
Complexity Science	Non-linear dynamics	Limited policy translation	Real-time intelligence

2. The SDGs: Humanity's Most Ambitious Development Agenda

The SDGs emerged from a historic global consensus.

The Agenda sought to eradicate poverty, reduce inequalities, protect the planet and strengthen global partnerships through seventeen goals, 169 targets and more than 250 indicators. It recognized that development challenges were interconnected and required integrated action.

The SDGs introduced several transformational innovations:

- Universality (all countries participate);
- Integration of social, economic and environmental dimensions;
- Principle of "Leaving No One Behind";
- Strong monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
- Global mobilization of governments, civil society and the private sector.

Few international frameworks have generated comparable levels of political support. By 2025, 190 of 193 UN Member States had presented Voluntary National Reviews demonstrating continued commitment to the Agenda.

Yet commitment alone has proven insufficient.

3. The Unrealised Promise of Agenda 2030

The evidence now demonstrates a widening gap between ambition and delivery.

The 2023 SDG Special Edition described the global promise of sustainable development as being "in peril." Midway to 2030, only approximately 15% of targets were on track, while many showed stagnation or regression.

The 2024 SDG Report confirmed that progress remained far below required levels across poverty, hunger, climate action, biodiversity and peace.

The 2025 Sustainable Development Report reached a similar conclusion:

- None of the 17 SDGs are currently on track globally.
- Only about 17% of targets are progressing adequately.
- Fiscal constraints, debt burdens and geopolitical tensions are major barriers.
- Developing countries face structural financing gaps.
- Global public goods remain systematically underfunded.

Five structural weaknesses explain this outcome:

- Fragmented Governance

The SDGs remain organized largely around sectoral silos.

- Reactive Rather Than Anticipatory Systems

The framework measures current conditions rather than future risks.

- Weak Integration of Technology

Artificial Intelligence, digital twins, predictive analytics and geospatial intelligence were not central design elements in 2015.

- Insufficient Financing Architecture

The global financial system continues to allocate capital inefficiently, particularly for developing countries.

- Absence of a Humanity-Centered Paradigm

The SDGs focus primarily on sectors and outcomes rather than Humanity as an integrated system.

4. Why the World Needs Future Development Goals (FDGs)

The world of 2050 will be fundamentally different from the world envisioned in 2015.

Humanity faces unprecedented transformations:

- Artificial Intelligence;
- Quantum Computing;
- Synthetic Biology;
- Climate Disruption;
- Demographic Change;
- Multipolar Geopolitics;
- Resource Competition;
- Large-scale Human Mobility;
- Digital Identity and Trust Challenges.

The next development framework must therefore move beyond sustainability alone.

It must become a framework for:

- Resilience;
- Adaptation;
- Anticipation;
- Collective Intelligence;
- Human Dignity;
- Long-term Stewardship.

The FDGs propose precisely this shift.

5. The One Humanity Framework

The FDGs are grounded in a simple premise:

Humanity is one interconnected system sharing one planet and one common future.

The One Humanity Framework introduces a holistic architecture organized around a Five Pillars Architecture:

People

Human dignity, health, education, equality, wellbeing and human rights.

Planet

Climate stability, biodiversity, natural resources and planetary boundaries.

Prosperity

Inclusive growth, innovation, finance, infrastructure and economic justice.

Peace

Security, trust, governance, institutions, culture and social cohesion.

Partnership

Global cooperation, multilateralism and collective action.

Unlike the SDGs, these pillars function as an integrated system rather than separate thematic goals.

6. Design Principles of the Future Development Goals (FDGs): the Triple S Framework

Simple, Scalable, Sustainable

One of the principal lessons emerging from the implementation of Agenda 2030 is that complexity can become an obstacle to action. While the Sustainable Development Goals provided a comprehensive framework for development, their operationalization often became fragmented across institutions, sectors and governance levels.

The Future Development Goals (FDGs) and the One Humanity Index (OHI) have therefore been designed around three foundational principles that seek to maximize impact, adoption and long-term resilience:

6.1 SIMPLE: Simplicity as a Strategic Advantage

The most transformative systems in human history have often been based on simple organizing principles.

The FDGs seek to move from the complexity of 17 Goals, 169 targets and hundreds of indicators toward a more intuitive Humanity-centred framework built around five interconnected pillars:

- People
- Planet
- Prosperity
- Peace
- Partnership

This simplification does not imply reductionism. Rather, it enables decision-makers, communities, businesses and citizens to understand and engage with the framework more easily.

A simple framework creates:

- Better communication;
- Greater public ownership;
- Improved political adoption;
- Stronger accountability;
- Faster decision-making.

In an era of information overload, simplicity becomes a strategic asset.

6.2 SCALABLE: From Humanity to the Individual

Most development frameworks have been designed primarily for national-level implementation.

The FDGs introduce a fundamentally different architecture.

The same framework can be applied consistently across multiple scales:

Table 2. Scalability of the FDGs

Scale	Application
Global	Humanity-wide monitoring
Regional	Continental and regional cooperation
National	Government planning and policy
Subnational	Provinces, states and municipalities
Local	Cities and communities
Organizational	Institutions and enterprises
Personal	Individual wellbeing and contribution

This scalability enables unprecedented policy coherence.

For the first time, Humanity can utilize a common framework capable of linking global priorities with local realities and individual action.

The One Humanity Index operationalizes this principle through geospatial intelligence, artificial intelligence and digital platforms capable of generating insights at any scale.

6.3 SUSTAINABLE: Resilience for an Uncertain Future

The SDGs were conceived during a period characterized by relative optimism regarding globalization and international cooperation. The period since 2015 has demonstrated that Humanity operates in a world increasingly defined by:

- Pandemics;
- Climate shocks;
- Geopolitical conflicts;
- Financial crises;
- Technological disruption;
- Mass displacement;
- Information disorder.

The FDGs therefore place resilience at the centre of development.

Rather than focusing exclusively on desired outcomes, the framework also measures the capacity of societies to anticipate, absorb, adapt and transform in response to shocks.

The objective is not merely sustainable development. The objective is sustainable and resilient development capable of enduring uncertainty and enabling future generations to thrive.

From Triple-S to Humanity-Centred Development

Together, these three principles create a new design philosophy for global development:

Simple enough to be understood by everyone.

Scalable enough to be implemented everywhere.

Sustainable enough to endure the challenges of the twenty-first century.

The Future Development Goals and the One Humanity Index are therefore not merely a new set of indicators, nor simply a successor framework to the SDGs. They represent a new architecture for Humanity: simple enough to be understood by all citizens, scalable enough to connect global ambitions with local realities, and sustainable enough to guide decision-making through the uncertainties of the twenty-first century. In this sense, the FDGs move development thinking from measurement to navigation, from sustainability to future-readiness, and from fragmented action to a shared project for Humanity.

Figure 1 – Architecture of the Future Development Goals (FDGs)



The framework combines a Triple-S design philosophy (Simple, Scalable and Sustainable), a Five Pillars Architecture (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership), and the One Humanity Index as its operational intelligence backbone. The architecture is designed to function across all scales, from Humanity-wide monitoring to regional, national, subnational, local, community and individual applications.

7. The Future Development Goals (2030–2050)

The FDGs expand development thinking beyond sustainability toward future readiness.

Five transformative shifts characterize the FDGs.

Table 3. Transformation shift from SDGs to FDGs

SDGs	FDGs
Sustainable Development	Future Development
Sectoral Goals	Systemic Outcomes
Monitoring	Prediction
Annual Reporting	Real-Time Intelligence
Government-led	Whole-of-Humanity Approach

Moreover, the FDGs introduce a novel development architecture: being **SIMPLE** (simplicity is needed to be impactful and effective); **SCALABLE** (scalability is needed to traverse from the global, regional and national scales to the subnational, local, community, and personal levels scales); and **SUSTAINABLE** (sustainability and resilience is needed to adapt to scenarios and shocks). The FDGs therefore become not merely a development agenda but a strategic navigation framework for Humanity.

8. Methodology: The One Humanity Index (OHI)

The operational backbone of the Future Development Goals (FDGs) is the One Humanity Index (OHI), a multidimensional scorecard designed to measure, monitor and guide development progress across all scales of human activity. The OHI translates the conceptual architecture of the FDGs into an operational intelligence framework capable of supporting evidence-based decision-making at global, regional, national, subnational, local, community and individual levels.

The methodology is structured around the **Five Pillars Architecture**:

- **People** – human dignity, health, education, equity and well-being;
- **Planet** – environmental sustainability, climate resilience and stewardship of natural resources;
- **Prosperity** – inclusive economic development, innovation and opportunity;
- **Peace** – governance, security, justice and institutional trust;
- **Partnership** – cooperation, solidarity and collective action.

Each pillar is measured through **strategic indicators**, creating a scorecard of **25 indicators** that collectively capture the multidimensional nature of sustainable and future-oriented development. Indicators are distributed across the five pillars to maintain balance between human, environmental, economic, governance and cooperation dimensions. This structure intentionally balances simplicity with analytical robustness, allowing decision-makers to understand performance rapidly while maintaining sufficient depth for policy analysis.

The OHI methodology follows four guiding principles:

1. **Integrated Measurement** – recognizing that development outcomes emerge from interconnected social, economic, environmental and governance systems.
2. **Multi-Scale Application** – enabling assessment at global, regional, national, subnational, local, community and individual levels using a common framework.
3. **Data-Driven Intelligence** – combining traditional statistics, geospatial information, administrative data and emerging digital sources.
4. **Future Readiness** – complementing retrospective measurement with indicators that assess resilience, adaptability and preparedness for future shocks and opportunities.

The OHI is not conceived merely as a statistical index. It functions as an operational intelligence platform that integrates data analytics, geospatial intelligence, artificial intelligence and policy benchmarking to transform development measurement into development intelligence. By generating comparable scores across all five pillars and across multiple scales, the framework enables governments, institutions, communities and citizens to identify priorities, monitor progress and design targeted interventions.

Figure 2 – Architecture of the One Humanity Index (OHI)



Through this methodology, the One Humanity Index operationalizes the Future Development Goals and provides a practical mechanism for translating the vision of a Humanity-centred development agenda into measurable and actionable outcomes for the period 2030–2050.

The One Humanity Index operationalizes the Future Development Goals through a Five Pillars Architecture and 25 indicators, integrating statistical, geospatial, administrative and AI-enabled data sources into a multi-scale intelligence framework for policy analysis, benchmarking, monitoring and decision support.

9. Operationalizing the FDGs: The One Humanity Index

One of the principal weaknesses of Agenda 2030 has been the gap between vision and operational execution.

The One Humanity Index addresses this challenge.

The Index provides:

- Global monitoring;
- National benchmarking;
- Subnational intelligence;
- Real-time analytics;
- Artificial Intelligence-assisted policy support;
- Geospatial visualization;
- Early warning capabilities.

The operational platform (available at <https://kiplomacy.app/oh-index>) already demonstrates operational feasibility through country intelligence products covering nations as diverse as Mozambique, Afghanistan, Haiti, Tunisia and Kiribati. These intelligence briefs identify national priorities, policy gaps and strategic interventions using a common Humanity-centered framework.

Table 4. Comparative Use Case Analysis of the One Humanity Index (OHI)

Country	Region	Development Context	Key OHI Findings	Strategic Value for Decision Makers
Mozambique	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low-income country highly exposed to climate risks and development constraints	Strong potential in natural resources and demographic growth; challenges in resilience, infrastructure and poverty reduction	Prioritization of climate resilience, infrastructure investment and development financing
Afghanistan	Asia	Fragile and conflict-affected state facing institutional and humanitarian challenges	Severe deficits in governance, prosperity and social services; resilience dependent on stabilization and international cooperation	Humanitarian prioritization, institutional recovery and targeted international support
Haiti	Caribbean	Small Island Developing State exposed to chronic political instability and disasters	Structural vulnerabilities across governance, security and economic pillars; high exposure to natural hazards	Integrated resilience planning, governance reform and disaster risk reduction
Tunisia	North Africa	Middle-income country undergoing economic and governance transition	Strong human capital and institutional foundations; challenges in economic competitiveness and youth employment	Economic transformation, innovation policy and investment attraction strategies
Kiribati	Pacific	Small Island Developing State facing existential climate threats	Extreme climate vulnerability despite strong community resilience and social cohesion	Adaptation finance, relocation planning and long-term climate resilience strategies

Comparative Insights Across the Five Countries

The application of the One Humanity Index across five countries spanning four continents demonstrates the adaptability and scalability of the framework. Despite significant differences in geography, income levels, governance structures and development trajectories, the OHI provides a common analytical language through which national priorities can be assessed and compared.

Three key findings emerge from the comparative analysis.

First, development challenges are highly interconnected. Countries experiencing weaknesses in governance and peace dimensions frequently demonstrate corresponding weaknesses in prosperity and human development outcomes, reinforcing the systems-based approach underlying the FDGs.

Second, resilience emerges as a cross-cutting determinant of future readiness. Whether confronting climate threats in Kiribati, institutional fragility in Afghanistan, disaster exposure in Haiti or economic transition in Tunisia, the ability to anticipate, absorb and adapt to shocks becomes a critical factor influencing long-term development trajectories.

Third, the OHI demonstrates that development intelligence can move beyond measurement toward actionable policy guidance. Rather than simply reporting indicators, the framework identifies strategic intervention areas, enabling governments, development partners and investors to prioritize resources where they can generate the greatest impact.

The comparative application of the One Humanity Index therefore provides an initial proof of concept for the operationalization of the Future Development Goals. By transforming multidimensional development data into decision intelligence, the OHI offers a practical mechanism for supporting evidence-based policymaking, strategic foresight and future-oriented development planning across diverse national contexts.

This transforms development measurement into development intelligence.

Section 9A. Comparative Analysis: SDGs vs FDGs

Table 5. A strategic comparative analysis between SDGs and FDGs

Dimension	SDGs	FDGs
Time Horizon	2015-2030	2030-2050
Core Logic	Sustainable Development	Future Development
Governance	Reactive	Anticipatory
Data	Periodic	Real-Time
Technology	Supporting	Foundational
Scale	Mainly National	Global - Personal
Measurement	Indicators	Intelligence
Objective	Sustainability	Human Future Readiness

The comparison between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Future Development Goals (FDGs) highlights a fundamental evolution in Humanity's approach to development. While the SDGs were designed for the period 2015 - 2030 and focused primarily on achieving sustainable development through sector-specific goals and indicators, the FDGs are conceived as a future-oriented framework for 2030 - 2050. The shift is not merely chronological; it reflects a transition from managing present challenges to anticipating and navigating future transformations. In this sense, the FDGs move from a reactive model of governance toward an anticipatory model capable of addressing emerging risks, opportunities and systemic disruptions.

A second major distinction lies in the role of data, technology and scale. The SDGs were built around periodic reporting mechanisms and national-level implementation, whereas the FDGs are designed to operate through real-time intelligence, artificial intelligence, geospatial analytics and continuous monitoring. Technology is no longer viewed as a supporting enabler but as a foundational component of decision-making. Moreover, the FDGs introduce a scalable architecture that can be applied consistently from the global level down to regions, nations, provinces, cities, communities and even individuals, creating an unprecedented level of policy coherence and alignment across scales.

Ultimately, the FDGs redefine the very purpose of development. Whereas the SDGs sought to achieve sustainability, the FDGs seek to build **Human Future Readiness** - the capacity of societies, economies and institutions to anticipate, adapt and thrive in a century characterized by rapid technological change, climate uncertainty, geopolitical transformation and increasing interdependence. Moving from indicators to intelligence, from measurement to navigation, and from sustainable development to future development, the FDGs represent a next-generation architecture designed to guide Humanity toward a more resilient, inclusive and prosperous future.

10. The FDG Transition Pathway (2025–2030)

Building upon the UN's Six Transitions framework, the FDGs propose a phased transition approach.

Phase I (2026–2030)

Transition and experimentation

- Pilot FDG indicators;
- Deploy One Humanity Index nationally;
- Integrate AI and geospatial intelligence.

Phase II (2030–2040)

Global scaling

- Adoption by UN Member States;
- Integration into national planning systems;
- Alignment of development financing.

Phase III (2040–2050)

Future governance architecture

- Predictive global monitoring;
- Humanity-centered policy systems;
- Integrated global resilience management.

11. Conclusion: From Sustainable Development to Humanity's Future

Agenda 2030 should not be viewed as a failure of vision.

Its greatest achievement was the recognition that Humanity's challenges are shared and interconnected.

Yet the next generation of global development architecture must move beyond *diagnosis* toward *impact*.

The Future Development Goals represent an evolution from Sustainable Development to Future Development; from fragmented goals to systemic intelligence; from reactive governance to anticipatory governance; and from a collection of national priorities to a shared project for Humanity.

The challenge before us is no longer simply achieving sustainability.

It is ensuring that Humanity can thrive in a century defined by artificial intelligence, climate disruption, geopolitical transformation and unprecedented technological change.

The Future Development Goals (FDGs) offer a pathway toward that future.

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