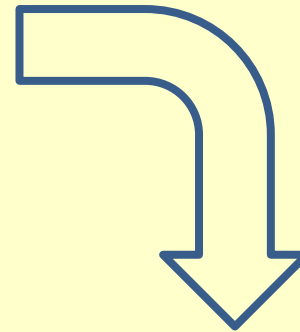


From MDGs to SDGs: sequel or reboot; flop or flourish?

Jan Vandemoortele

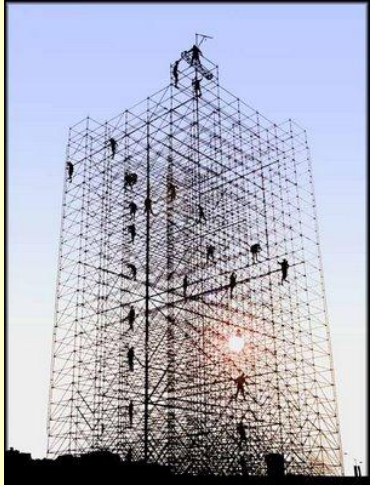
Formerly with UNICEF, UNDP and ILO,
co-architect of the MDGs



MDGs in retrospect

- ✓ No counterfactual, no clear attribution
 - ☞ no meaningful conclusion
- ✓ Helped to demystify ‘development’ for general public, journalists, teachers, ...

SDG-process



- ✓ Participation and consultation
- ✓ Areas of concern
- ✓ Link between global goals and national targets

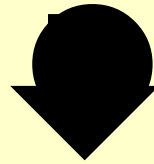
SDGs: 3 challenges

1. Three C's
2. Basic premise

*“Poverty eradication is the
greatest global challenge”*



LNOB

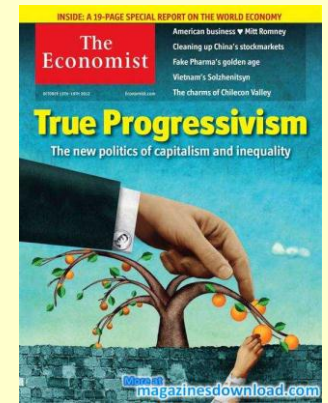


First among 169: ‘by 2030, eradicate
extreme poverty for all people
everywhere, currently measured as
people living on less than \$1.25 a day’

*“The most important problem we are facing now, today, is rising **inequality**”*

Robert Shiller (2013)

*“Growing **inequality** is one of the biggest social, economic and political challenges of our time”*

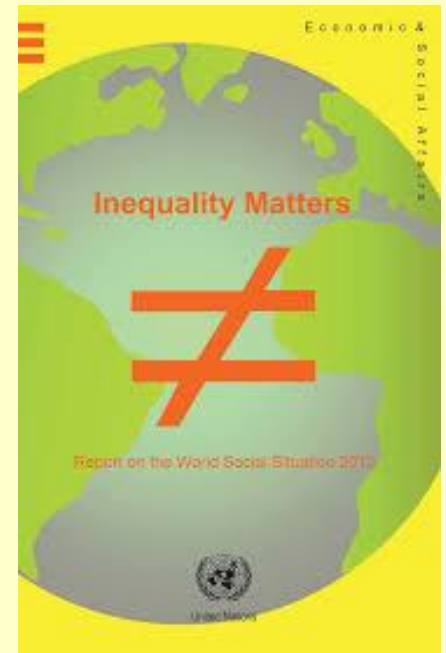
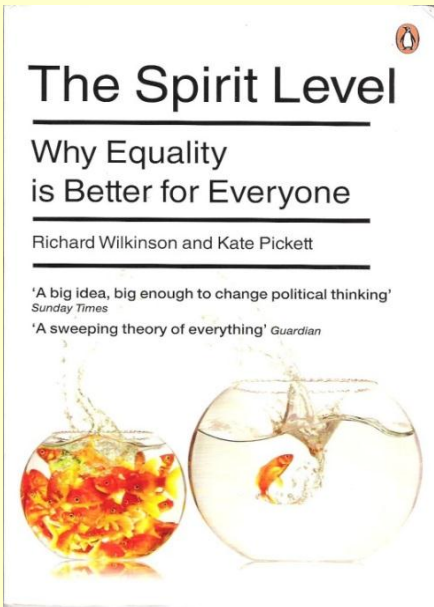
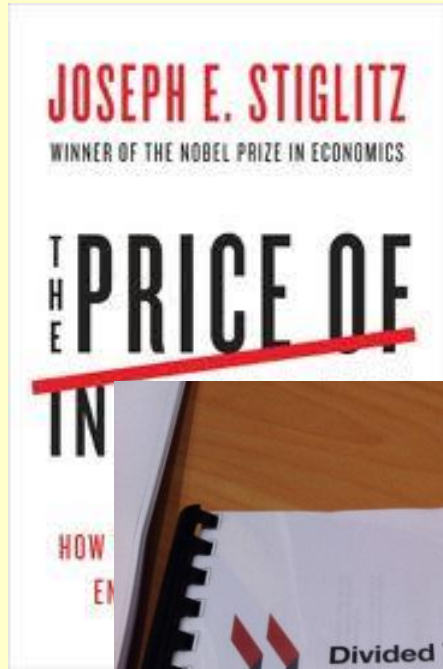
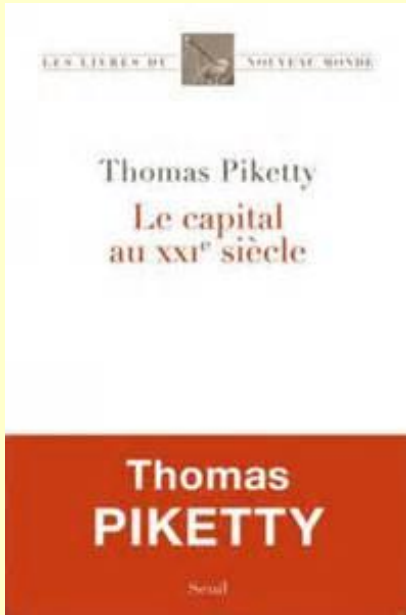


(2012)

*“...societies are increasingly under pressure from rising income **inequality**”*



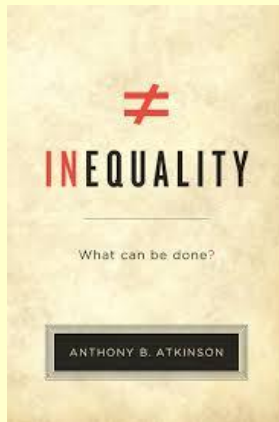
(WEF)



✓ Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

10.1: By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

Not about inequality!



“one of the themes of this book is that we need to consider the distribution as a whole”

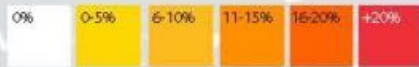
SDGs: 3 challenges

1. Three C's
2. Basic premise
3. Universality

ACUTE MALNUTRITION GLOBALLY

Countries with the highest incidences of acute malnutrition.

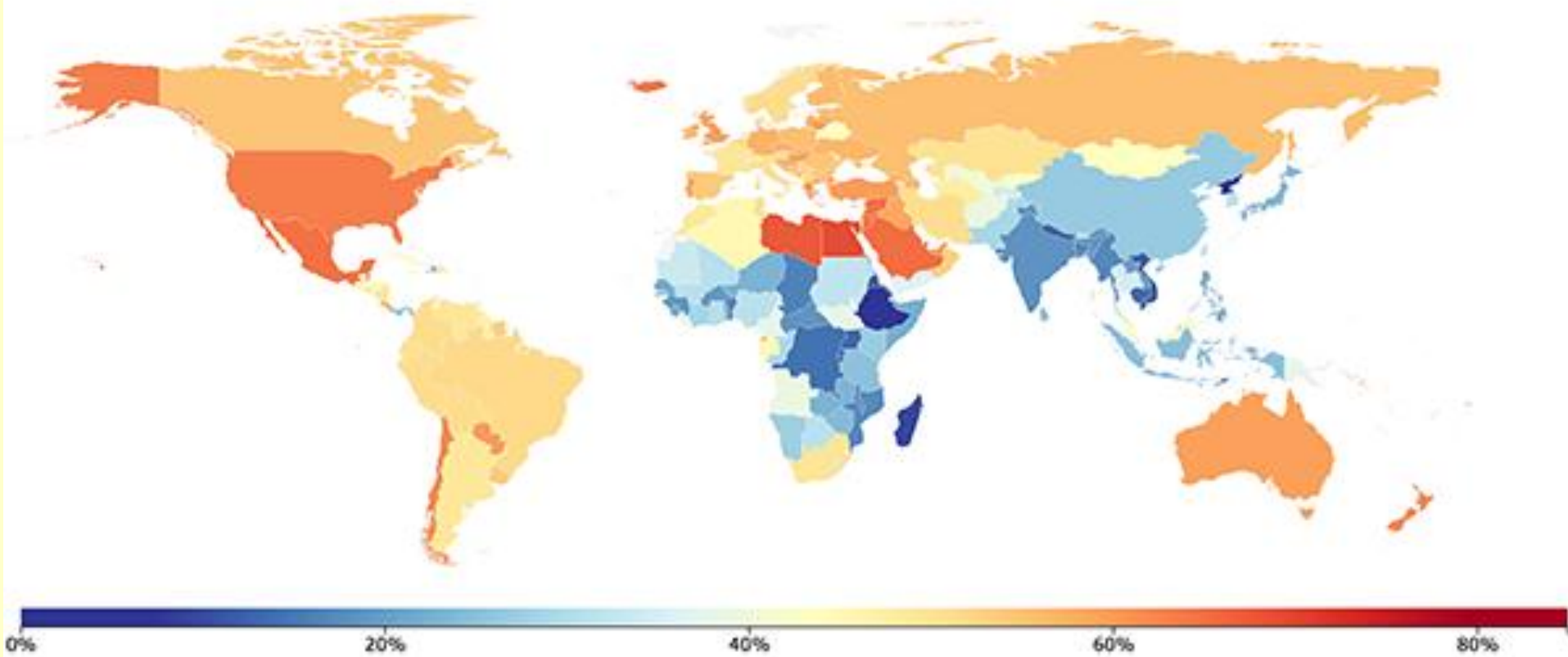
Source: The State of the World's Children 2008, UNICEF



This MUAC measuring tape is used to measure a child's "middle upper arm circumference," a key estimate in determining child's state of malnutrition and risk of death.

Overweight and obesity patterns (BMI ≥ 25) for both sexes adults (20+)

Overweight and obesity prevalence in 2013



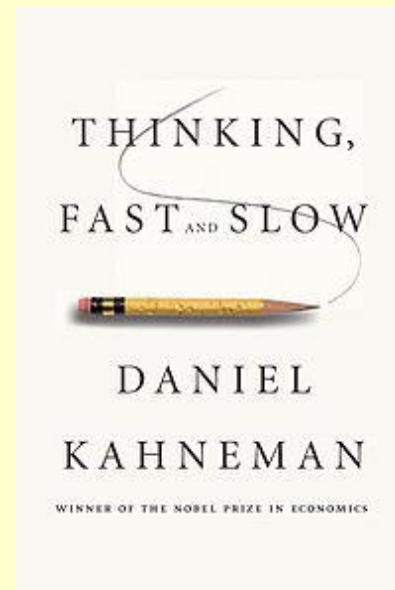
SDGs ≠ universal agenda

SDGs ≠ equity agenda

Yet, claim SDGs=paradigm shift widespread,
universal agenda that addresses inequality

Why?

Answer: *“A reliable way
to make people believe in
falsehoods is frequent
repetition, because
familiarity is not easily
distinguished from truth”*



SDGs: way forward

- ✓ At country level
 - Translate
 - Not only targets 1.1 and 2.1

- ✓ At global level

Target 1.2

By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

- Deliberate and sustained efforts
- Public register of national definitions
 - to avoid they get changed later!

SDGs: suggested approach

✓ At country level

- Translate
- Not only targets 1.1 and 2.1, but also target 1.2
- Fix target 10.1 – *Palma ratio*

✓ At global level

- Aggregate narrative?
 - ✓ Go beyond global statistics
 - ✓ No colouring of world maps
 - ✓ Country stories ≠ anecdotal data
 - VDGs & CDGs; Uganda & Belgium

