



Evaluation and Agenda 2030



Ziad Moussa
ziad@ioce.net

Trending influences in the SDGs debate:

1. Return into favor of protectionism



Return into favor of protectionism

Some economists increasingly argue that economically open countries have not been able to deliver the right outcomes for too many people.

The return to favor of protectionism and closed borders is an instinctual – and in many ways logical – response to personal insecurity.

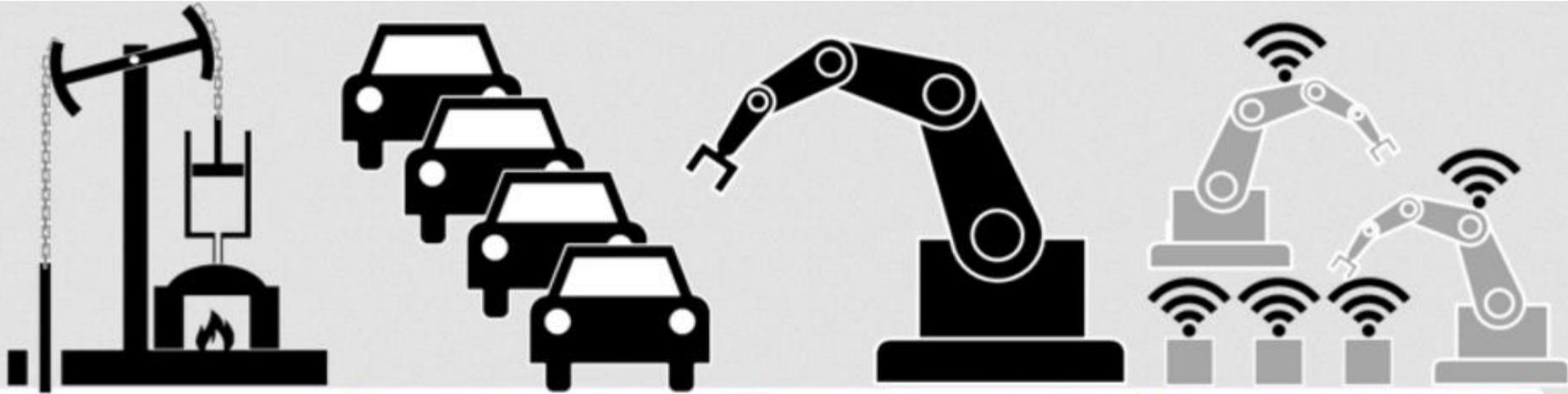
A complete rethinking of how economic systems function is needed, by improving, adjusting, and better targeting existing policies...

... and better understanding what people really want and need.

This makes a strong case for the universality of the SDGs, particularly for the Global North (the debate being more “classical” in the Global South).

Trending influences in the SDGs debate:

2. The 4th Industrial Revolution



1st

2nd

3rd

4th

Mechanization,
water power, steam
power

Mass production,
assembly line,
electricity

Computer and
automation

Cyber Physical
Systems

The 4th Industrial revolution

A Fourth Industrial Revolution is taking over and blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres (artificial intelligence, robotics, the Internet of Things, autonomous vehicles, 3-D printing, nanotechnology, biotechnology, materials science, energy storage, quantum computing...)

To date, those who have gained the most from it are consumers who can afford it (ordering a cab, booking a flight, buying a product, making a payment, listening to music, watching a film, or playing a game—any of these can now be done remotely), as well as a handful of “ahead of the curve” providers.

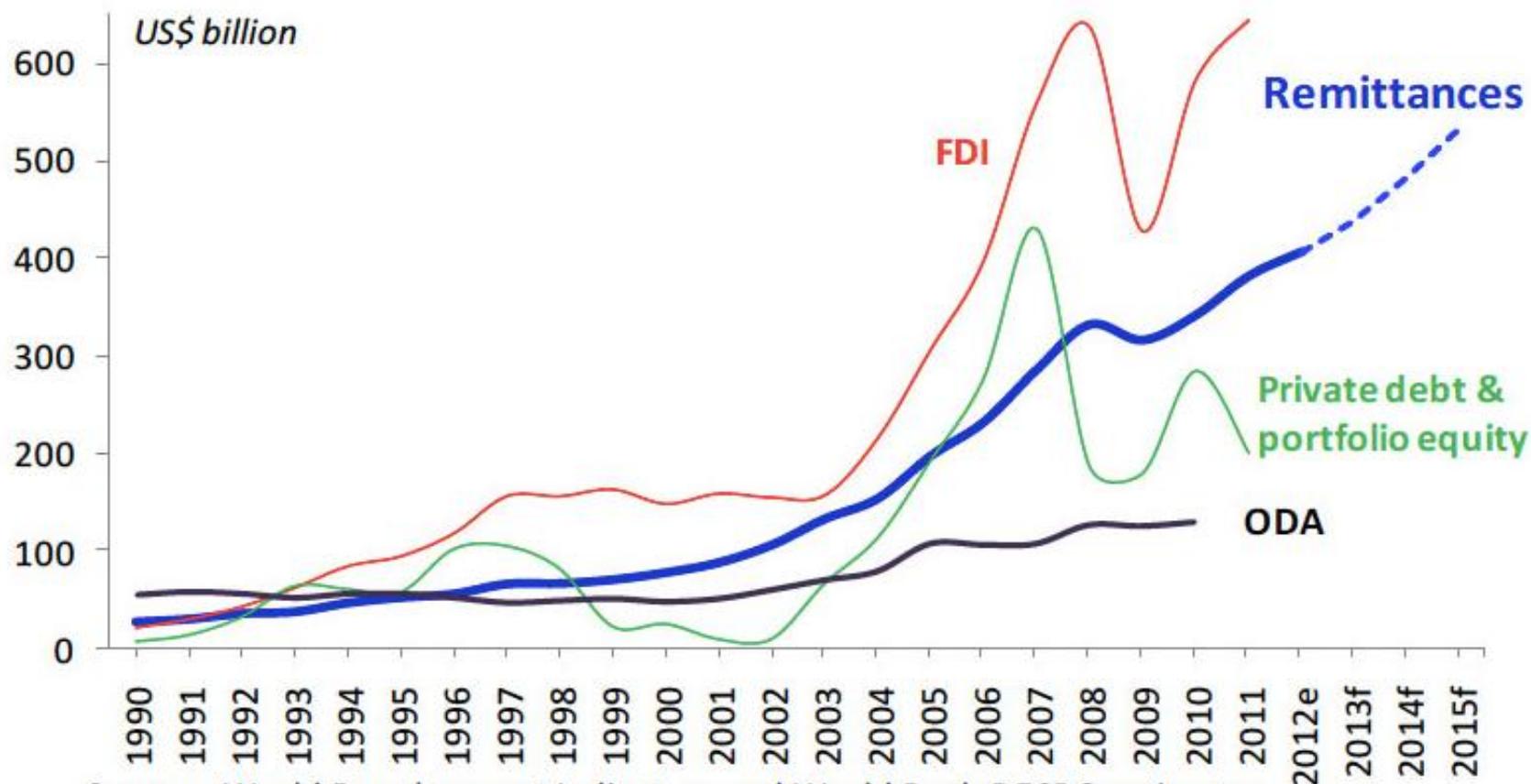
Some socio-economic implications of this 4th Industrial Revolution:

- Displacement of workers to machines
- Talent more than capital will be key
- increase segregation into low skill/low pay vs. high skill/high pay

Trending influences in the SDGs debate:

3. ODA is not anymore the single most important player for developing countries

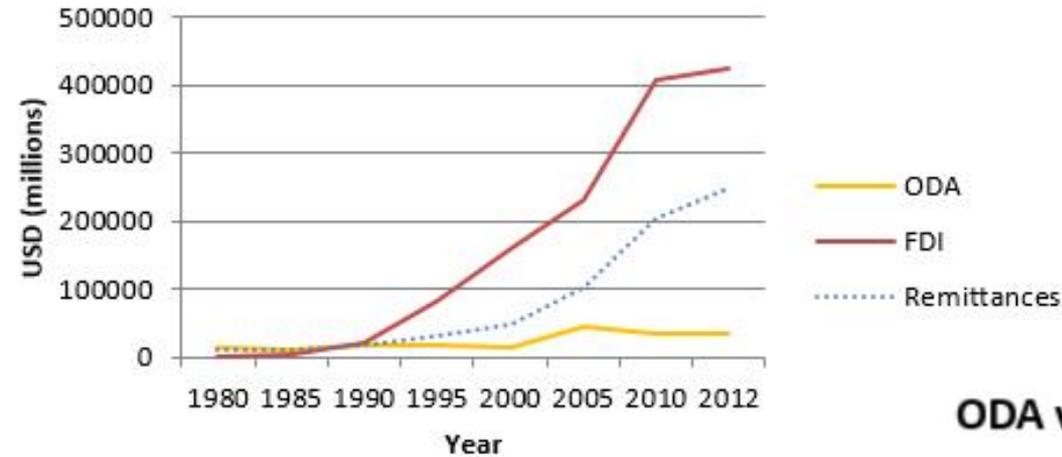
Figure 1: Remittances and other resource flows to developing countries



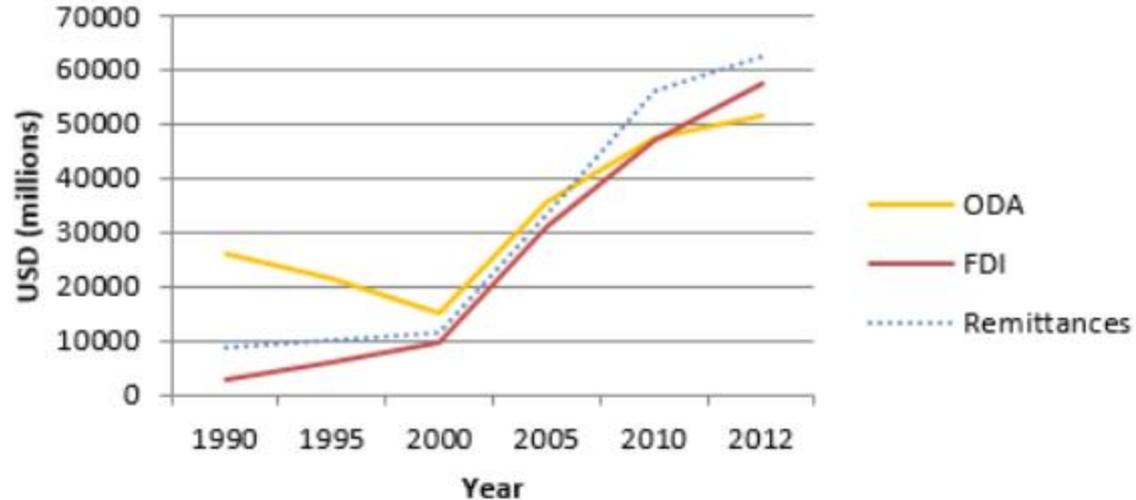
Sources: World Development Indicators and World Bank DECPG estimates

... and disaggregation is always enlightening

ODA vs. FDI vs. Remittances, Developing Countries in Asia



ODA vs. FDI vs. Remittances, Developing Countries in Africa



SDGs are the results of a global political consensus...



The 2030 Agenda emphasises a “robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework”. For the first time ever the evaluation profession has had such a high profile in a global level agreement.

... yet this consensus is not always unanimous

The MDGs were criticized for being too simple and narrow-focused, but conversely the SDGs have been criticized for being too complex to realistically achieve.

“Promising everything to everyone gives us no direction. Having 169 priorities is like having none at all.”

Target 12.8 for example: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.” (!!)

One of the most controversial issues around the SDGs is to find the \$17 trillion to finance them, particularly for developing countries... Results from the Addis Ababa “Financing for Development” summit and the recent deadlocks in the Climate accord do not bode well for the coming 15 years (minus two already...)

Lessons from the MDGs, RIO+20 and beyond

Lessons from the Rio+20 conference highlight 2 facts:

1. Meeting development challenges requires greater awareness of how economic, social and environmental conditions inter-relate.
2. Greater capacity building for transdisciplinary problem solving and innovation is needed
3. Evaluation models that capture complexity to inform policy are needed and...

However, Evaluation Has Not Yet Reached Its Full Potential

Despite its success and growing acceptance in many parts of the world, evaluation has not yet been embraced as widely as it should be. In many organizations and countries, there is inadequate appreciation of what evaluation is, how it differs from policy research, performance measurement or performance auditing, and how it can help improve on a practical level policy-making and program implementation efforts.

Super EvalHERO to the rescue



How may I help you?

Evaluation of the SDGs



The Government of Finland has been instrumental in financing a publication series tackling the evaluation of the SDGs

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Briefing
Policy and planning
Keywords: Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Issue date: July 2016

Briefing
Keywords: Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)
Issue date: April 2016

Briefing
Counting critically: SDG 'follow-up and review' needs interlinked indicators, monitoring and evaluation
Global indicators are important for understanding progress towards each of
Policy and planning
Keywords: Monitoring and evaluation (M&E), Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), policy
Issue date: September 2016

Policy pointers
Measurement is not enough: monitoring must be accompanied by evaluation that addresses the complexity of the SDGs and how

Policy pointers
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for follow-up and review processes that examine progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Such processes are needed at international and regional levels, but especially at the national level. To be maximally

Policy pointers
National evaluation systems need to be grounded in a philosophy and practice of evaluation that is consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals' interconnected nature.

Five considerations for national evaluation agendas informed by the SDGs
Each country sets its own national agenda and strategy within the broad contours of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), yet the Agenda gives little explicit guidance on how to do this. However, there



Evaluation of the SDGs: early lessons

National governments seeking to evaluate ongoing progress towards the SDGs find little guidance in the 2030 Agenda.

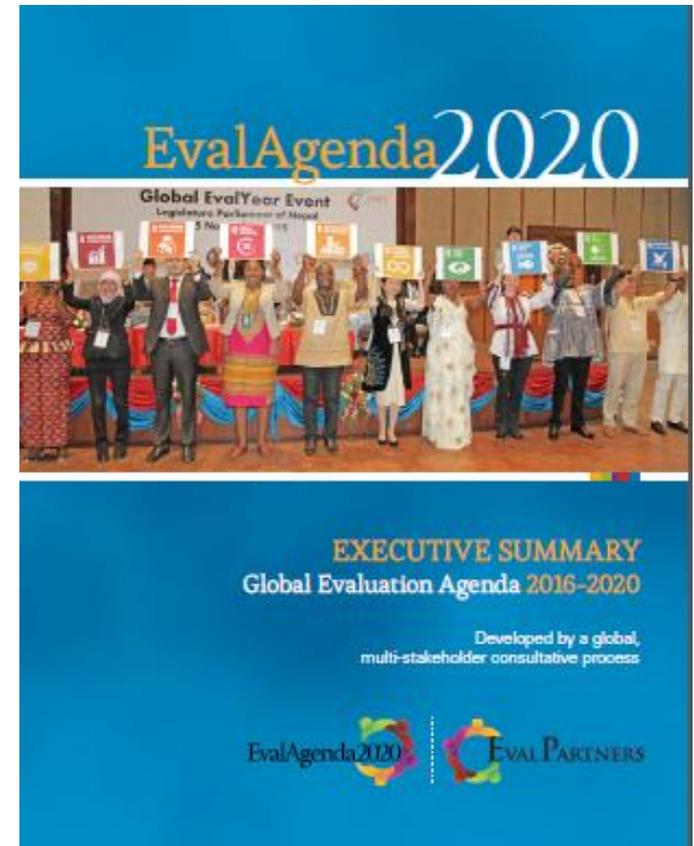
It encourages governments to create national follow-up and review processes, but has little to say about the priorities and issues that should shape evaluation agendas.

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) process reveals very little awareness about what evaluation is and how it could be used to support the 2030 Agenda. For example

- Help decision makers understand complex contexts
- Supports management that can adapt to changing circumstances,
- Strengthen the policy coherence between sectors/actions undertaken by different types of stakeholders



- Advocates and promotes demand and use of evaluation in evidence-Based policy making at international and national levels
- Creates a global movement to position evaluation in the policy arena
- Promotes evaluative thinking





Evaluation: adding Value and Learning to the SDGs, commonly referred to as EvalSDGs has established itself as a key stakeholder and reference group in the ongoing debate around the SDGs.

The central paradigm of EvalSDGs is that **evaluation has the capacity to step beyond compliance into engagement** in performance assessment, learning, strengthening of accountability mechanisms, as well as feeding into policy and decision-making processes. This is done through a four-fold action programme:

1. Promote Evaluation in relation to the SDGs
2. Act as a platform for dialogue on the role and practice of evaluation and the SDGs
3. Assist in strengthening VOPE & evaluator capacities to evaluate SDGs
4. Foster inter-linkages related to the evaluation sector and the SDGs process

EvalPartners Vision: Evaluation contributes to improved lives of all citizens, a sustained planet, strengthened prosperity on the basis of equity, partnerships and peace.

EvalAgenda 2020 Goal: Evaluation is an integral part of all efforts by government, civil society and private sector



Flagship Program 1: Strengthen National Evaluation Systems

Objective: increase integration of evaluation in national systems (NES) for the SDGs

Key activities:

1. Conduct multi-stakeholder consultations on NES & the SDGs with at least 15 countries
2. Support follow-up activities from the consultations
3. Engage EvalPartners networks in strengthening national processes for evaluation
4. Prepare a major event for the HLPF Voluntary National Reviews in 2019

Flagship Program 2: “Evidence matters” campaign

Objective: Raise the profile of evaluation amongst a wide range of stakeholders

Key activities:

1. Investigate demand for evaluation with new stakeholders (e.g. civil society, environmental action groups, private sector, academia, media)
2. Simplify evaluation language for better communication
3. Generate key messages and easily disseminated communication tools for use

Cross-cutting strategies:

1. Continue VOPE strengthening activities
2. Take a strategic approach to managed growth and governance in line with EvalAgenda2020 (clear criteria & consistent processes across networks)
3. Active fund-raising for above activities
4. Continue to promote and expand EvalPartners principles and approaches through network activities

Five Take-Away Messages

1. Think beyond individual policies, programmes and projects. The integrated, interconnected nature of development means that the value of evaluating single interventions may be limited. Determining whether a set of policies or strategies work together sufficiently to address the root causes of a particular social problem bears higher value from an SDG perspective
2. Examine macro forces influencing success and failure. Evaluation agendas must carefully consider political, economic, ideological, environmental, socio-cultural and technological circumstances that affect the success or failure of a policy, strategy or program.
3. Take into account multiple definitions and measures of 'success'. Even if an intervention or strategy achieves prescribed goals or targets, these could have been set unrealistically low (or high), or might have been developed without sufficient consideration of stakeholders' perspectives on what 'success' looks like.

Five Take-Away Messages

4. Recognize the importance of culture. The 2030 Agenda frequently refers to the importance of context in development. However, it fails to give the same recognition to culture. It is essential to prepare frameworks and toolkits that explain concepts, options and methods. Evaluators' competencies in assessing cultural influences must also be strengthened.
5. Shift towards evaluative thinking and adaptive management. Viewing development from a complex systems perspective requires a shift away from relying on 'predict-and-act' models. It also needs to develop capacities that can accommodate continuous cycles of experimentation, enable evidence-informed learning, and adjust strategies and actions before too many resources have been wasted.

KIITOS!

