



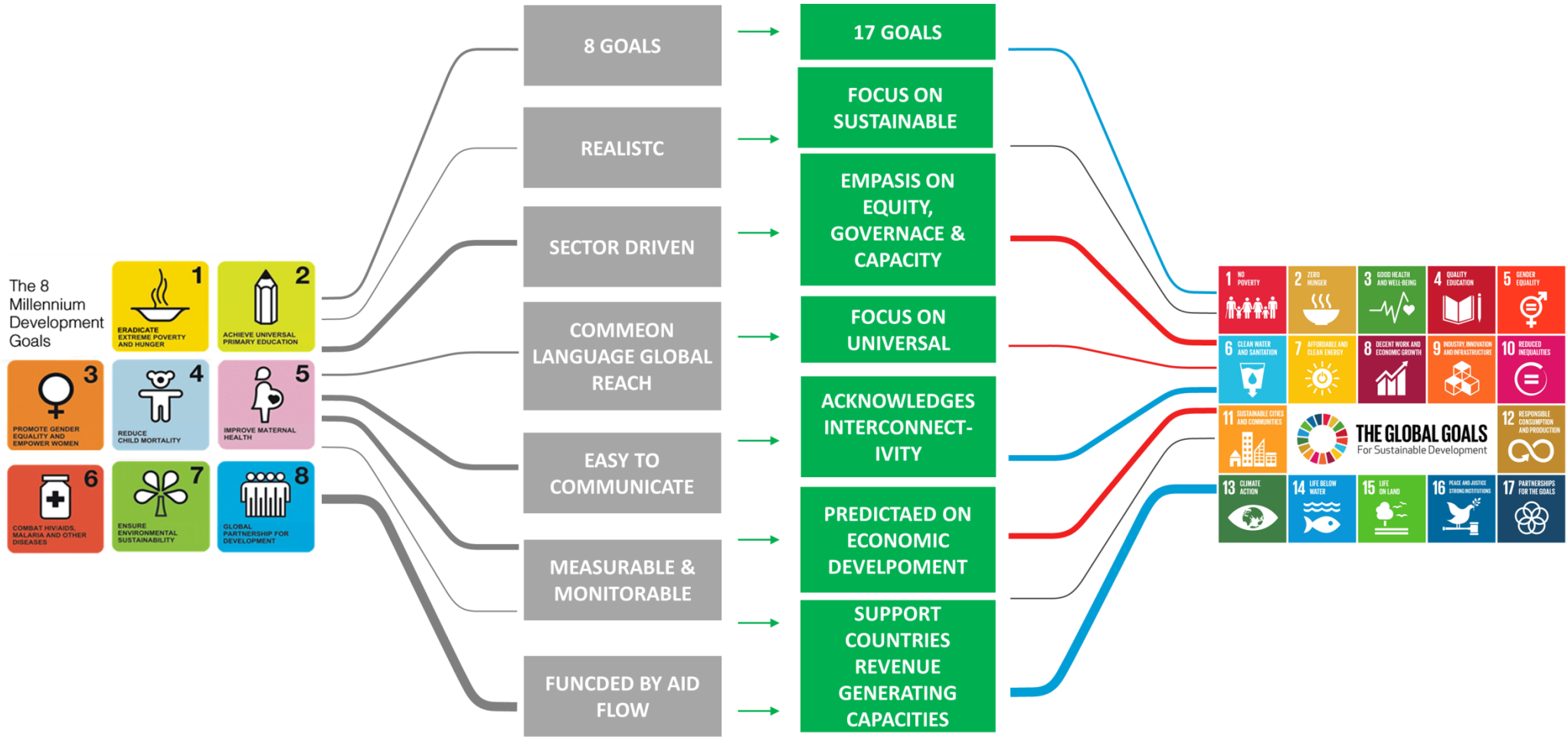
# Accelerating the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda through Research in the Americas

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# The Shift from MDGs to SDGs



# SDGs: A Universal and Transformative Framework

Five essential elements for delivering the SDGs agenda, namely:



## Three other "Ps" also important

1. Policy
2. Power relations
3. Purpose

*Key approach:* influence and collaborate with other SDG areas in order to protect and promote health

# Health and the SDGs

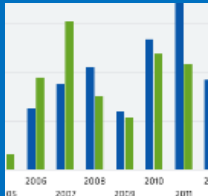
“Health is a precondition, outcome, and indicator of a sustainable society, and should be adopted as a universal value and shared social goal and political objective for all.”

(Rio 2012)



# New Landscapes of Inequality

- Individuals living in poverty in wealthy countries account for majority of the world's poverty-related illnesses.
- There are many factors that contribute to health inequalities. Migration, gender, weak systems, occupation, and environmental settings all play a role in health outcomes.



## Regional Messages emerging from Post-2015 Consultations:

- The Region has changed – this must be taken into account
- Equity should be “hardwired” into the Post-2015 goals
- Call for a new development model based on structural change for equality and environmental sustainability
- Need to measure better
- Good Governance and promotion of South-South cooperation
- Strengthening of social participation mechanisms



# Public Health Challenges

*“The challenges facing public health, and the broader world context in which we struggle, have become too numerous and too complex for a business-as-usual approach”*

Dr. Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization



- As we transition into the SDG era, public health must be prepared to address pressing new challenges
- The long-standing need to build national capacities and improve monitoring systems must be met
- Public health must shift its focus away from controlling infectious diseases towards a more comprehensive approach

# SDG 3: Ensuring Healthy Lives and Promoting Well-being for All

- Achieving the health targets set by the SDGs will require cross-cutting approaches
- This implies that major advancements of the SDGs for health will occur under the purview of sectors outside of health

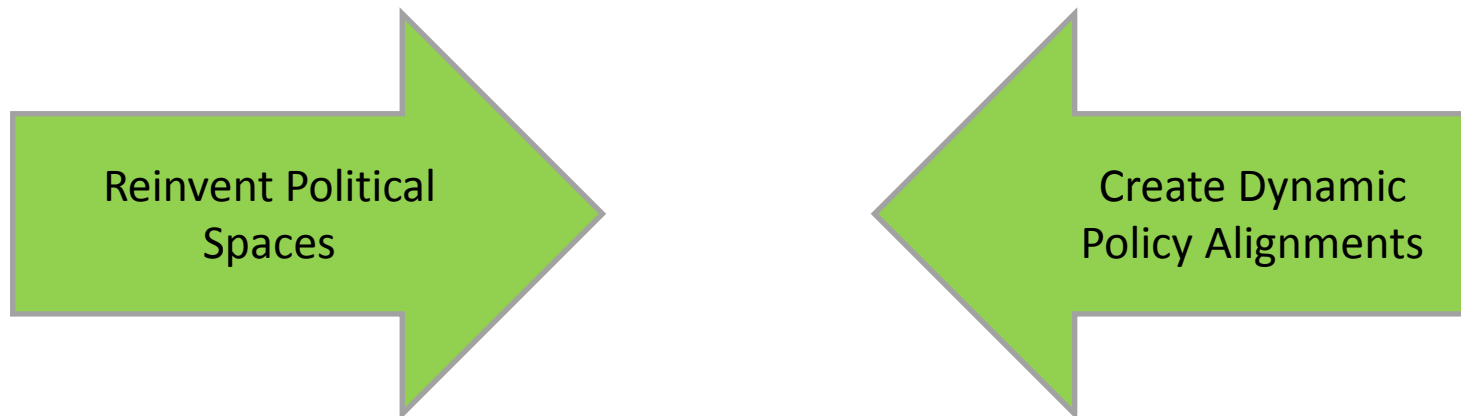
The SDGs present a unique and exciting opportunity to:

*“strengthen governance for health – the underlying assumption of which is that deliberate action is needed to influence governance in other policy arenas to protect and promote health”* World Health Organization (WHO)



# Rethinking Health Leadership

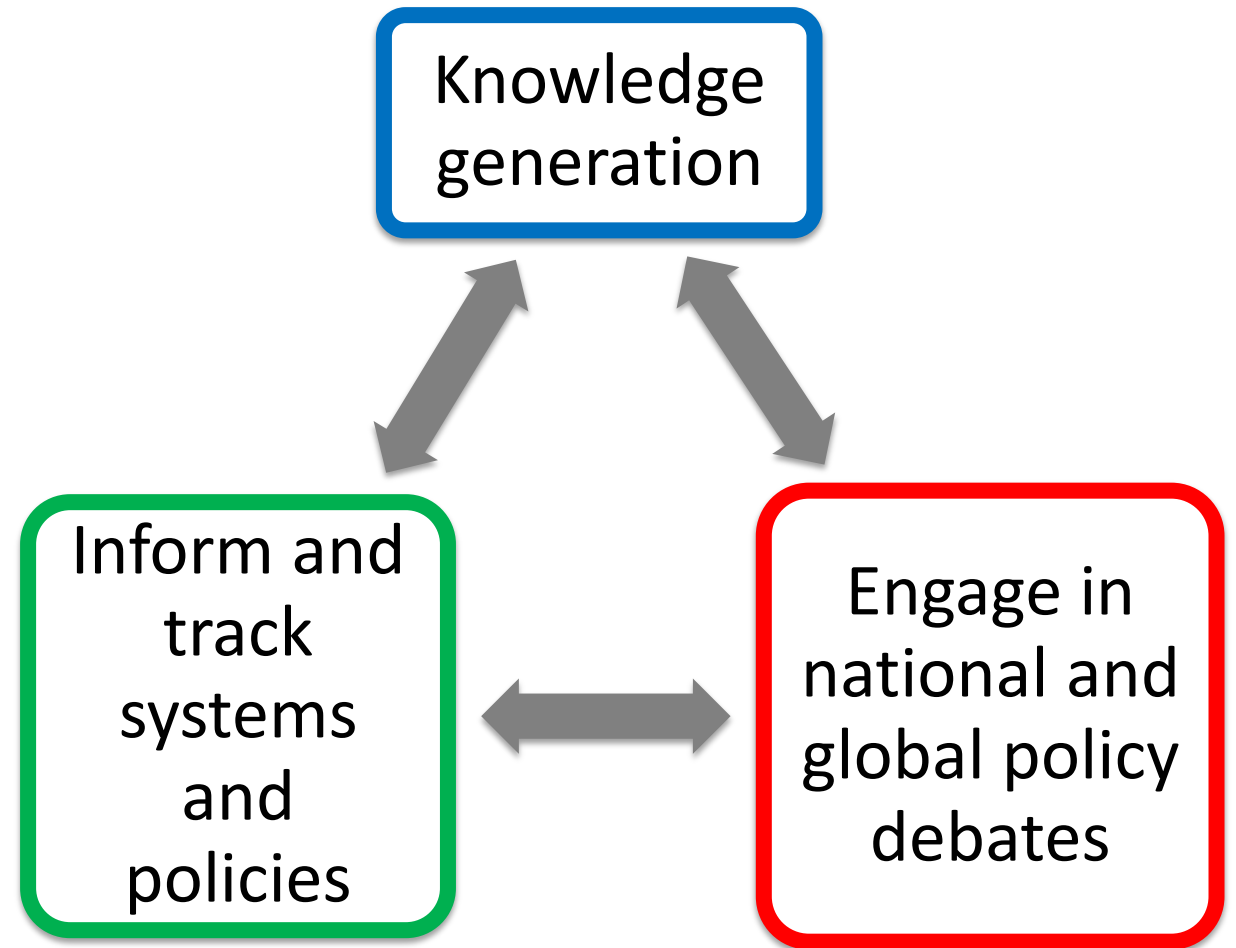
- Health must be positioned in the arenas where decisions are made by heads of government, political leaders, and in other sectors
- Transformational approaches to global development





# Enablers in achieving the SDGs

- Quality research
- Evidence-based policies
- Intersectoral approaches
- Monitoring systems to track progress and support accountability
- Collaboration and collective action



# Role of Researchers



- Be a powerful voice for governance of the SDGs
- Ensure accountability for the implementation of the SDGs agenda
- Engage stakeholders in SDGs implementation
- Ensure knowledge sharing and joint learning
- Identify the research that already exists as well as the gaps
- Build a stronger evidence base on the intersections between equity and health in the Region

# Role of Researchers (continued)



- Create innovative strategies to achieve better health
- Ensure that the SDG Agenda becomes everyone's agenda
  - I. Where are the most vulnerable populations?
  - II. How can they best be reached?
  - III. How will we measure impact?

# Windows of Opportunity

## Policy Research

### Academic institutions

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- Engage with the SDGs Indicator Framework
- Measure outcomes of policies, especially Regional inequities
- Contribute to ensuring political accountability
- Provide direct input to high-level processes

## Regional Opportunities

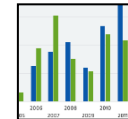
### Partnerships

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- Health in the Americas, Health Agenda of the Americas and the Equity Commission
- Habitat III, COP and 9<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Health Promotion
- Collaborating Centers: Upcoming meeting with a core focus on the SDGs

# In Conclusion

- Cannot achieve health-related targets using only the tools we have today;
- There is a need to go beyond the targets to ensure that we do not get lost in averages;
- The SDGs agenda cannot be treated as merely a ‘technical agenda’;
- We must address the political and commercial determinants of health if we want to ensure that no one is left behind;
- Researchers play a key role in the implementation of the SDGs agenda and could capitalize on their close links with the community;







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# Thank you