

theguardian

Global Development Professionals Network

Promoting understanding, dialogue and debate among global development professionals

SUPPORTED BY

BILL & MELINDA
GATES foundation

Letters: how important are ethics to the post-2015 agenda?

Ethics should be as central to development as sustainability - when shaping new agendas we should start by facing injustices

Guardian Professional, Thursday 6 June 2013 05.19 EDT



Let us know what you think of stories, interviews and comments on the Guardian's global development professionals network. Photograph: David Sillitoe for the Guardian

The High Level Panel is to be commended on the breadth and depth of their work. The vision and strategy they are putting forward is comprehensive and doable, or at least one would like to think so. However, I do have some observations. It seems that there is one step missing from this entire process: a critical, reflective look at what some of the obstacles are that get in the way of any goal being actually achieved. The post-2015 development agenda is once again an ideal vision, the goals are 'ideals'. I would like to see us approach this from a different perspective - an approach which begins by addressing global injustices and considering the reasons why these happen.

We need to gain a greater knowledge and understanding of why so many children, women and men are left behind; why some human lives are valued more than others. Some difficult and uncomfortable questions need to be asked and confronted. In a world there is so much affluence but also the existence of extreme poverty for a large number of people is a moral failing on the part of public institutions and individuals.

I would suggest that we broaden the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development to include ethics a key aspect. Just as we cannot conceive of development without sustainability, we should not conceive of sustainable development without ethics. Incorporating ethics this way will allow for a more critical discussion and

analysis of the development processes and realities, and therefore help us to understand where we are, how we got here and where we need to go.

Anna Malavisi

PhD student, Michigan State University, department of philosophy

Views and reviews is a weekly space to share the correspondence we get from our readers and also for our members to tell us what global development books you are reading. Sign up here to become a member

More from the Guardian [What's this?](#)

[No butterfly, no backstroke bitching ... a new set of swimming pool rules](#) 05 Aug 2013

[Simon Cowell's lovechild story illustrates the bikini doctrine](#) 01 Aug 2013

[Prince William: BBC says sorry for promo image with penis drawn on it](#) 01 Aug 2013

[Peter Dowling: Australian MP mixes sexting with a nice glass of wine](#) 06 Aug 2013

[Teenagers arrested over suspected swan theft](#) 06 Aug 2013

More from around the [What's this?](#)

web

[Is the Midwest The Next Silicon Valley?](#) (Faces of Innovation)

[10 Cars That Retain Their Value When You Sell in Five Years](#) (TheStreet)

[5 Most Sinful Cities in America](#) (TheStreet)

[Is Brooklyn Decker the Most Attractive Swimsuit Model in the World?](#) (StyleBistro)

[Revenge of the Luddites](#) (Ideas Lab)

Ads by Google

[Mom: \\$10,000 Scholarship](#)

No GPA, No Essay, No Stress! Apply Now. Takes Only 1 Minute.

[www.Scholarships4Moms.net](#)

[Social Workers with a BSW](#)

Earn an MSW in as little as a year One-year program online through USC

[msw.USC.edu/Virtual-Academic-Center](#)

[Grants For Online Schools](#)

You May Qualify For School Grants. No Obligation To Enroll. Apply Now!

[www.classesandcareers.com/schools](#)

© 2013 Guardian News and Media Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved.

;