Beyond 2015:  
How can we put political governance and conflict indicators on the global development agenda?

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Governance and conflict are mentioned in 2 Chapters:

- II. Peace, Security and Disarmament
- V. Human Rights, Democracy and Good Governance

The MDGs refer to these chapters:

- III. Development and Poverty Eradication
- IV. Protecting our common environment
## The discrepancy: Millennium Declaration and MDGs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UN Millennium Declaration</th>
<th>Millennium Development Goals</th>
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<tr>
<td>II.8. “free our peoples from the scourge of <a href="#">war</a>”</td>
<td>Not included</td>
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<td>II.9. “to end illicit traffic in <a href="#">small arms</a>”</td>
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<td>II.9. “to fight <a href="#">transnational crime</a>”</td>
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<td>V.24. “We will spare no effort to promote <a href="#">democracy</a> and strengthen the <a href="#">rule of law</a> as well as respect for all internationally recognized <a href="#">human rights</a>”</td>
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Why bother? Governance matters

- Economic effects: institutional quality has been shown to be closely related to growth & broader measures of socio-economic development

- Normative component: individual rights and liberties

- Most affected: Africa (corruption) and Muslim World (political rights)
Costs of inter- and intra-state war are high
- for warring countries (economic and psychological costs)
- for neighbors (see Collier 1999, Geneva Decl. Sec. 2008)
- and for donors/developed countries (e.g. pirates off Somalia)

Widespread violence delays development

Most affected: Africa (war) and Latin America (crime)
Examples of cross-country indicators for measuring political governance issues mentioned in the Millennium Declaration:

- Democracy & political rights (Polity IV, Freedom House)
- Human rights (Political Terror Scale, Physical Integrity Index)
- Rule of law & corruption (Transparency International)
- Government effectiveness (Worldwide Governance Indicators)
Examples of cross-country indicators for measuring security issues mentioned in the Millennium Declaration:

- Battle deaths (Uppsala Conflict Database)
- Homicides (WHO, UN)
- Small arms proliferation, arms trade (Small Arms Survey, SIPRI)
- Organized crime, narcotrafficking (Economist Intelligence Unit)
Criteria for assessing cross-country indicators

➢ Technical feasibility
  - problems that are solvable at reasonable costs
  - problems that are not currently solvable

➢ Political feasibility
  - political resistance on recipient side
  - political reluctance on donor side
Democracy is widespread today, but the process of democratization has stagnated in the last decade.
Example: Democracy and income, 1960-2006
Young democracies often struggle with guaranteeing the human rights of their citizens.
Most developing countries struggle with maintaining the rule of law due to large-scale corruption

Corruption Perceptions Index 2006 (red = low)
Violence creates insecurity and obstructs development in many regions of the world
On the micro-level, there is much less data coverage due to the high costs of household surveys.
The feasibility of putting political governance indicators on the global development agenda

- ARMS TRADE
- CONFLICT
- DEMOCRACY
- POLITICAL RIGHTS
- CORRUPTION
- CRIME
- GOVERNMENT EFFECTIVENESS
- MDGs
Obstacles to change

- Strong political constraints to changing policies in most affected countries
- Even if leaders are willing, they might no be politically capable of changing governance performance significantly

- Probably no first best solution but maybe second-best solutions
Insisting on the inclusion of governance/conflict indicators in a revised version of the MDGs might produce negative externalities on the whole process.

Use governance/conflict issues as a bargaining chip to increase the weight of equity and economic inclusiveness indicators because their realization tends to imply improved governance.
Governance standards vary strongly across regions, which makes it difficult to establish global standards.

Instead: regionally organized peer reviews could find a majority.

In depth country-studies focused on political acceptable issues ➔ identify critical constraints with regard to specific governance issues.

(each country obliged to do a specific government assessment and to identify a strategy to improve situation on specific issues – peer review mechanism)

Focus upon process-oriented goals instead of outcome-oriented goals.
Advantages

- Acceptance/ownership due to similar regional norms & greater options
- Examples: NEPAD, DAC peer review
- Governments have manoeuvring space to choose certain issues out of a range of topics
- Soft pressure to improve governance avoiding defiance

Disadvantages

- Low comparability
- More process-oriented, no universal objectives
There is an additional strategy that could provide additional security indicators:

- There is already not sufficient data for most of the current MDGs (http://www.mdgmonitor.org/map.cfm)
- Both, included and new indicators (e.g. homicides as a measure of security) would profit from international efforts to build better data

This is costly, but a prerequisite for seriously conducting evidence-based policy-making
Thank you for your attention