



A WIDER PERSPECTIVE

Special Thematic Event on “Building Synergy and Coherence in the Implementation of the Istanbul Plan of Action in the Context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda”

Presentation at the Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN HQs
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Introduction

- **Highlight:** the overlap and synergy between the 5 objectives and 8 priority areas of the IPoA and the 17 SDGs – and stress that the 2030 Agenda aptly recognises the need for special attention to the LDCs
- **Question:** What are the measures the development partners and international organizations should adopt to scale up support and facilitate the realization of the IPoA and the 2030 Agenda by the LDCs?
- Focus on 5 sets of **concerns** (which emerge from 5 UNU-WIDER research programmes)
 - In 5 **minutes** + a **conclusion**
- WIDER web-site: see <https://www.wider.unu.edu/>

1. Growth and Poverty (GAPP)

- Carried out 16 carefully designed country case studies from the 24 most populous countries in sub-Saharan Africa
 - Covering almost 75% of the African population and 9 of the largest 10 countries
 - Focus on monetary and non-monetary indicators of well-being
- Key message: There is a lot to celebrate in African development + those which succeed have taken agriculture and economic transformation serious
- Yet, key challenges remain:
 - By 2013 GDP/capita was only 7.7% higher than in 1974 => growth remains indispensable
 - Aid to LDCs is falling => risk of leaving those most in need behind
- For more on GAPP: see <https://www.wider.unu.edu/project/reconciling-africa%E2%80%99s-growth-poverty-and-inequality-trends-growth-and-poverty-project-gapp>

2. Research and Communication on Foreign Aid (ReCom)

- Brought together more than 300 researchers from 59 countries; who produced 247 original studies under 5 core themes (including gender equality) + a synthesis paper
- Key message: aid is effective, and has a very respectable rate of return; including in places with weak institutional environments
- Yes, there is also a lot to improve:
 - Fragmentation remains high and very costly, and see <https://www.wider.unu.edu/publication/aid-post-2015-world> for 15 succinct ReCom findings/recommendations

3. Learning to Compete (L2C)

- A four year UNU-WIDER, Brookings and AfDB research programme, which offers a comprehensive, comparative, cross-country analysis of Africa's economic transformation and industrialization experience
- And 3 high profile books are just about to be launched (including contributions by Nobel price laureates)
- With 3 key messages: business as usual is not enough; structural transformation is very slow; and employment creation is severely lagging
- So only with a more strategic approach to industrial policy, the role of the state and private sector, and a strong commitment of the region's political leadership can Africa industrialize
- <https://www.wider.unu.edu/project/learning-compete-l2c-accelerating-industrial-development-africa>

4. Development Under Climate Change (DUCC)

- WIDER has carried out a series of comprehensive country level climate change assessments and developed cutting edge approaches to evaluating energy policy choices
- Key messages:
 - Deliberate long term planning accounting for the many uncertainties in climate change impacts is critically needed for effective **adaptation**; and successful implementation and deepening of the CoP21 agreement is crucial for **mitigation**
 - At the same time: LDCs have intrinsic advantages in renewable energy production. Africa's large hydropower potential could be linked with its very substantial wind and solar resources to generate clean reliable power at low cost
- For more on DUCC: see <https://www.wider.unu.edu/project/ducc-%E2%80%93-development-under-climate-change>

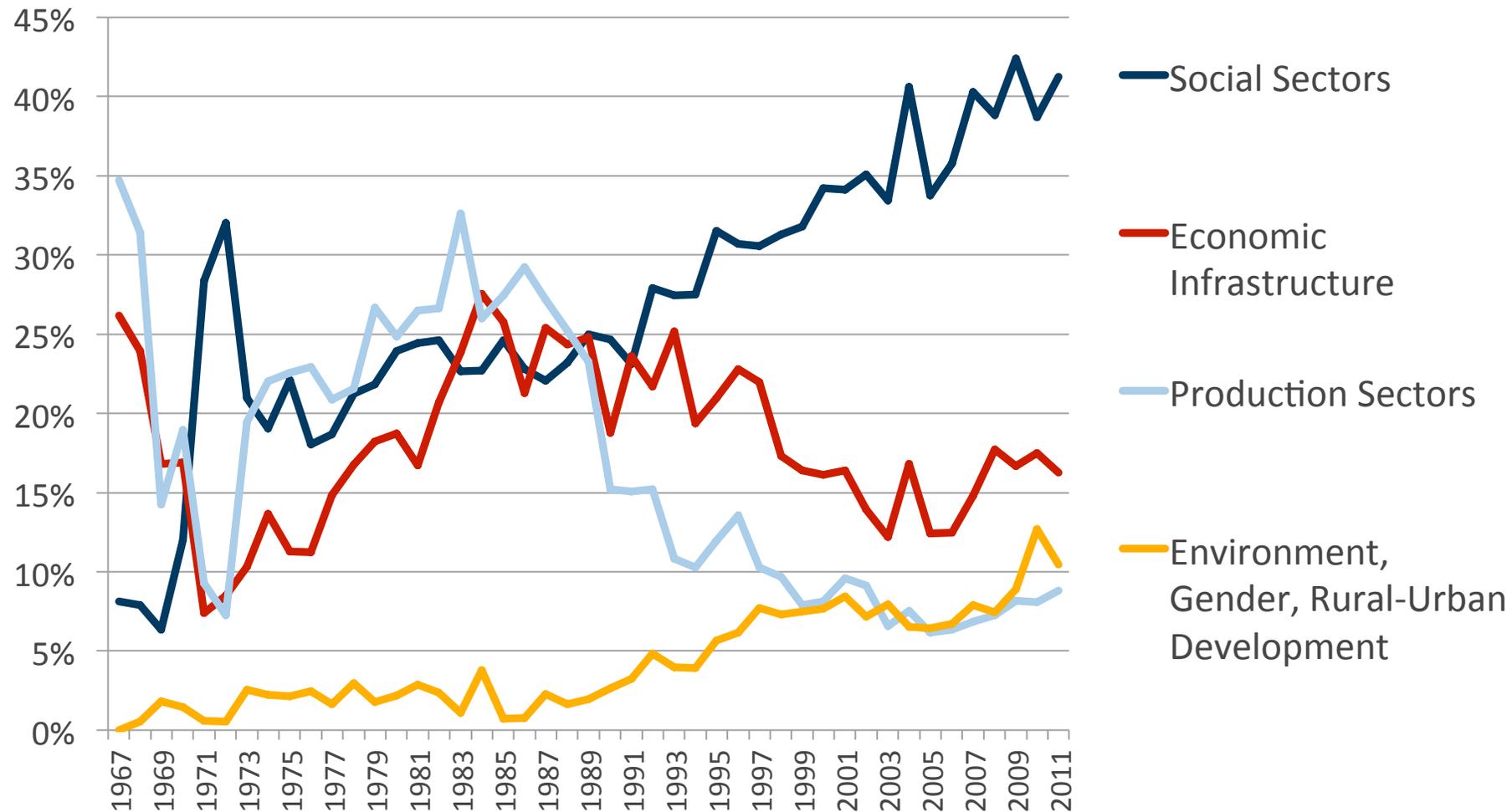
5. Data to Support the SDGs

- WIDER is home of the World Income Inequality Data Base (WIID) – so what do we know about global inequality trends?
- A key message: technical assistance and capacity building is critical in developing the necessary data systems called for
- But it is not only technical issues that are faced: widespread political sensitivities exist – and the lack of data by gender is striking
- For more on the WIID: see <https://www.wider.unu.edu/project/wiid-world-income-inequality-database>

UN High-Level Panel report on the post-2015 development agenda

- Called for:
- “..A quantum leap forward in economic opportunities and a profound economic transformation to end extreme poverty and improve livelihoods...”

But What Will Happen to Development Finance Post-2015?



A Dilemma

- Where does: growth, jobs, improved livelihoods, poverty reduction, and reduced inequality (including gender equity) come from?
- In the years to come it will be even more critical than in the past to work on:
 - Creating a conducive physical and policy environment
 - Mobilising the necessary financial resources (private and public) for investments in infrastructure and human capital
 - Generating new ideas and knowledge
- Scaling up as suggested here is indispensable for the success of the IPoA as well as the 2030 SDG agenda



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