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News Worth Knowing

Editor's note

Dear Federica, EBCAM has been trying to contact Mr Lanre Akinola with no success. Please get in touch via mail or, "a much deeper, faster and more ambitious response is needed" if the world is to meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

That is the sombre assessment by UN Secretary-General António Guterres in the [latest progress report](#) on the 17 goals. [Warnings like this](#) have become the norm since the SDGs were adopted to succeed the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 (MDGs).

Disappointing, but not surprising.

The [aspirational nature of these goals](#) - including 'zero hunger' and 'no poverty' - is too generic to constitute a practical policy objective, and hard to reconcile with the reality of development progress in regions like sub-Saharan Africa.

Put differently, it should have been obvious in 2015 that the SDGs will mostly be missed.

The causality between having such goals, and incidents where they're actually met, is also dubious - usually boiling down to effective national policies in overachieving countries.

The defense is that global development goals foster cooperation and, if nothing else, provide a target to aim at. But it's questionable whether progress towards achieving things like 'no poverty' would be any different today without the MDGs and SDGs.

It's hard to argue with the motivation behind global development goals, but it can be equally difficult to see what the point of having them is.

Today's picks

From the continent

Ethiopia's parliament has passed a bill opening its financial sector to its 5 million strong diaspora, enabling them to buy shares in domestic banks, and to start lending businesses. This is part of a reform drive under prime minister Abiy Ahmed aimed at boosting investment. **More:** [Reuters](#)

A second person has died of Ebola in Goma, a city of around 1m people in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, amid growing concerns that efforts to contain a more than year-long outbreak are faltering. Last month the World Health Organization declared it an international emergency following confirmed cases in neighbouring Uganda. **More:** [BBC](#)

The Daily Stat

121.011 BARRELS

The amount of oil Angola exported in the second quarter, amounting to sales worth \$8.5bn.

More: [AllAfrica](#)

The Global Perspective

Mumbai-listed Vedanta resources has launched arbitration proceedings against plans by Zambia's government to liquidate its Konkola Copper Mines project. Tension between miners and authorities is rising in Africa's second-biggest copper producer amid plans to increase taxes on the sector. **More:** [Reuters](#)

Football world governing body FIFA is due to officially take over management of the Confederation of African Football today for at least six months, following a string of corruption and mismanagement allegations against the organisation. FIFA announced the unprecedented measure in June. **More:** [Africanews](#)
