

**Yale GJP** Human Rights & Economic  
Justice: Essential Elements of the Post-MDG Agenda

# Closing Address

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# Focus versus Academic Creativity

**To be successful as academics, we (distributive) must distinguish ourselves by developing new views on existing issues – disagreeing with those who have worked on these same issues before – or else pioneer a new issue.**

**To be successful in promoting justice, we (collective) must focus our energies upon a politically achievable goal or schedule of goals and then collaborate in realizing this goal together.**

**Engineering research: how to try out reform projects on a small scale, how to build reasoned public support for them.**

# Why are We so Ineffective?

**Interdependent problems of process and substance, exemplified by inequality spirals.**

**Very well resourced prudentially motivated agents who are very effective at overcoming their differences and taking concerted political action (TRIPS).**

**Failure of morally motivated people to coordinate upon a single reform goal or reform agenda.**

# Successfully Promoting Justice

## How to select a priority goal

1. Intrinsic Importance
2. Achievable
  - a. Inspirational for a wide range of morally motivated agents
  - b. Appealing to some powerful prudentially motivated agents
  - c. Not totally unacceptable to powerful prudentially motivated agents
3. Strategic (facilitates realization of other important goals)
  - a. Distinctive “signature” goal/ achievement, build confidence, aura of success
  - b. Serves as a model
  - c. Shifts distribution of power

# Candidate Institutional Reform Priorities

... around which a large international moral-prudential movement could form: of NGOs, progressive politicians and policy makers, intellectuals and citizens.

1. **Global Health goal: Health Impact Fund**
2. **Illicit Financial Flows goal: Universal Automatic Information Exchange, alternative minimum tax for multinational corporations with proceeds going into a Human Development Fund**
3. **Trade Fairness goal: tax on protectionist measure such as subsidies, export credits etc. provided by affluent countries to their corporations, with proceeds going into a Human Development Fund**
4. **Environmental goal: international phase-out and time-bound ban on the environmentally most damaging fossile fuel extraction activities such as coal extraction and gathering crude oil by hydraulic fracking or from bituminous (“tar”) sands**