Closing Address

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Thank you to

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Victor Mutai
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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 fossil fuel extraction activities such as coal extraction and gathering crude oil by hydraulic fracking or from bituminous (“tar”) sands