



What if new economic classifications unlocked progress?

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Beyond Classifications

Within Reach

Transitional

Visionary

UNCERTAINTIES

Collaboration, Systems

MEGATREND (Most significant)

Future Humanity

TRENDS

Cross-Sectoral Partnerships
ESG & Beyond GDP
Government Agility
International Collaboration

TECHNOLOGIES

Artificial Intelligence
Real-Time Analytics

SECTORS IMPACTED

All Sectors

KEYWORDS

Development
Financial Aid
Global Cooperation
International Finance
National Income

Dynamic metrics replace traditional country development and income classifications, driving greater global cooperation, more effective trade flows, and innovation aligned with shared global goals and challenges and enabling progress beyond financial aid.





WHY IT MATTERS TODAY

The UN Environment Programme-led Inclusive Wealth Index measures produced capital, natural capital, and human capital for

140
countries

Globally, the wealth growth rate as tracked by this index is **significantly lower than GDP growth.**

The world is facing complex, interconnected challenges that traditional metrics fail to capture. Climate change, social inequality, and technological disruption are reshaping our global landscape in ways that GDP alone cannot measure. The UN Environment Programme-led Inclusive Wealth Index measures produced capital, natural capital, and human capital for 140 countries.⁹⁸⁵ Globally, the wealth growth rate as tracked by this index is significantly lower than GDP growth.⁹⁸⁶

Beyond the minimum resources required for health, education, and economic growth,⁹⁸⁷ financial aid has not always resulted in greater development. Classifications have long guided decisions on financial aid, policy and resource allocation.⁹⁸⁸ However, the main organisations responsible for a lot of the aid and development support – the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme – have different classifications,⁹⁸⁹ agreeing on only 20–25% of countries⁹⁹⁰ (most of which are ‘developed’⁹⁹¹), which affects how and when countries receive aid. While identifying that the economic impact of foreign aid is hindered by insufficient data, other challenges include unclear time frames necessary for achieving an impact and the complexity of mediating factors.⁹⁹²



THE OPPORTUNITY



BENEFITS

Enhanced global cooperation;
progress beyond GDP;
better resource allocation;
accelerated progress towards
shared global goals.



RISKS

Increased complexity in
international relations and aid;
difficulty achieving consensus on
new metrics; shift away from the
needs of local populations.

Aided by advanced machine intelligence, development and income classifications are replaced with dynamic metrics that form the basis of global collaboration, allowing tracking of global cooperation patterns, trade flows, and progress towards shared local, regional and global goals. By matching country needs and capabilities with aid or other forms of support enables evidence-based partnerships that prioritise local needs and progress beyond financial aid.

International cooperation shifts towards flexible networks and agreements addressing emerging challenges. Countries engage through partnerships that recognise their unique strengths and shared challenges⁹⁹³ rather than historical economic metrics. As the basis of a dynamic form of cross-border collaboration,⁹⁹⁴ innovation grows as nations focus on reporting their unique contributions to global progress. Increased cultural exchange fuels creative solutions to shared challenges, and development paths are as diverse as the needs and communities they represent.



As a future opportunity, development and income classifications are replaced with dynamic metrics that form the basis of global collaboration, **allowing tracking of global cooperation patterns, trade flows, and progress towards shared goals**