

Fifteen years ago, the United Nations orchestrated perhaps the largest international effort for development by devising the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Although we have yet to fully achieve many of the MDGs, the world today is a far healthier one, in which cross-border coop-

GLOBAL GOALS FOR OUR GENERATION



eration and support has influenced the face of social and physical wellbeing in almost every country.

This year, the U.N. created the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a vision for how the world should ideally look in another 15 years. However, this time around, it employed a much more collaborative process. Where the MDGs were criticized for being created behind closed doors, the SDGs sought to include in their inception the very people they hoped to impact. They were created with input from the many stakeholders who will one day make them a reality.

For the SDGs that center on improving the health and well-being of people around the world, we are one of those stakeholders. As future physicians, we will be tasked with solving many of the challenges that the SDGs bring to the forefront of the world's attention. We will be asked to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages. Some of us will be a part

of promoting innovation to build resilient infrastructure to end larger societal ills, such as poverty, hunger and gender inequality. And all of us will have skills necessary to reduce inequality within and among countries.

But my colleagues have often wondered, how can we develop these skills as students? When August comes around, our time starts slipping through our fingers like sand and our brains overflow with information that will guide our journeys into the world of medicine. Yet, for many of my colleagues and me, what inspires us in those journeys are the incredible moments we bear witness to while working with communities that have far fewer resources than we do.

Seeing these communities flourish, and staying informed about others like them around the world reminds us that we have the ability to give back to not only our local community, but also our global community. We at *The New Physician* hope that this issue will help empower you, as a student, to make a difference in your community and many others around the world. And we'd like to inspire you to join the movement to make the SDGs less of a vision and more of a reality. ●

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