

## WHAT ARE THE BEST TARGETS FOR GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS?

- *Provide legal identity for all, including registering all births.*

*And not so smart targets?*

- *Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels;*
- *Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels;*
- *Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.*
- *Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms.*

*These targets are too broad to be useful and likely lead to wasted effort in trying to achieve them*

“...there is broad agreement that good governance (however that is defined) is preferable to poor governance, there is considerable disagreement over whether establishing specific goals and targets for governance is wise and will lead to meaningful improvements in governance”

## **A Step Towards Good Governance - Registering All Births As Part Of A Longer-Term Move To Providing Legal Identities**

Mary E. Hilderbrand, Distinguished Practitioner in Residence and Senior Lecturer, George H.W. Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University has compared social, environmental and economic benefits and costs to identify the best targets. This work was then peer-reviewed in an alternative perspective papers by Aart Kraay, Economist in Development Research Group at the World Bank and by Matt Andrews. Additionally, Martin Edwards, Director, Center for UN and Global Governance Studies at Seton Hall University presents a viewpoint papers concerning Hilderbrand's analysis. Ultimately, an expert panel consisting of Nobel Laureate economists will weigh up the economic, social and environmental benefits and costs of all targets discussed for the post-2015 development agenda to form recommendations.

**ABOUT POST-2015 CONSENSUS:** In a world of limited resources, we can't do everything, but how should we prioritize? The Copenhagen Consensus Center provides information on which targets will do the most social good relative to their costs. The final decision on choosing goals will definitely rest on a number of factors, not just economics – but knowing the costs and benefits provides an import piece of information. Together, with the input of renowned experts from the UN, NGO and private sectors, our 60 teams of economists produce research papers to establish the most effective targets within the 19 core issue areas.