

THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

José Antonio Ocampo
Kapuscinski Lecture

Columbia University, September 24, 2013

BACKGROUND

- ❖ One of the success stories of the United Nations has been its capacity to serve as the forum to agree on global development goals.
- ❖ The UN “Development Decades”.
- ❖ Global Conferences and Summits.
- ❖ Millennium Development Goals.
- ❖ Two parallel processes now under way:
 - Definition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), following the Rio + 20 Agreement.
 - The Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- ❖ Highly participatory processes, including member states and civil society.

REPORTS ON THE TABLE

- ❖ Two major reports:
 - UN Task Force
 - High-Level Panel
- ❖ Three additional ones:
 - Secretary-General Report to the General Assembly
 - Contribution of the UN Regional Commissions
 - Report of the UN Development Group on the “Global Conversation”

THE MDGs

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure Environmental Sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

THE MDGs: THE PROS

- ❖ Concise set of clear and measurable, mostly human development goals
- ❖ High level of visibility.
- ❖ Used for advocacy but also for the design of development strategies.
- ❖ Strongly backed by the Bretton Woods Institutions, the official development assistance community and numerous civil society organizations
- ❖ This realized the aim of using the representative character of the UN to lead global action.
- ❖ Much better monitoring relative to previous processes.

THE MDGs: THE CONS

- ❖ Highly centralized process of defining goals and targets, with little participation of member states.
- ❖ Viewed as “donor-centric”.
- ❖ Weakness of the “Global Partnership for Development”.
- ❖ No economic issues, even crucial ones: “productive and decent employment” adopted in 2005 but not as a goal.
- ❖ Clearly incomplete targets in many areas, including gender and environment.
- ❖ Many targets drafted in such a way that they were relevant only for the poorest countries.

THE VISION

- ❖ The UN Task Force: vision based on the fundamental principles of respect for human rights, equality and sustainability.
- ❖ High-Level Panel: “Our vision and our responsibility are to end extreme poverty in all its forms in the context of sustainable development”.
- ❖ The vision proposed by the UN Task Force is broader: it adopts a human rights based framework, and places issues of inequality at the center, beyond those associated with extreme poverty

AREAS OF CONSENSUS

- ❖ The agenda should encompass the three dimensions of *sustainable development*: economic, social and environmental.
- ❖ It should be a *universal* agenda, thus applicable to developing countries but also to developed countries (to their domestic employment and inequalities).
- ❖ Leave ample space for national policy design and adaptation to local settings. This is essential for the “ownership” of the goals and strategies.
- ❖ It should have a few “bold but practical”, measurable goals.

SOME OF THE MAJOR ISSUES ON THE TABLE

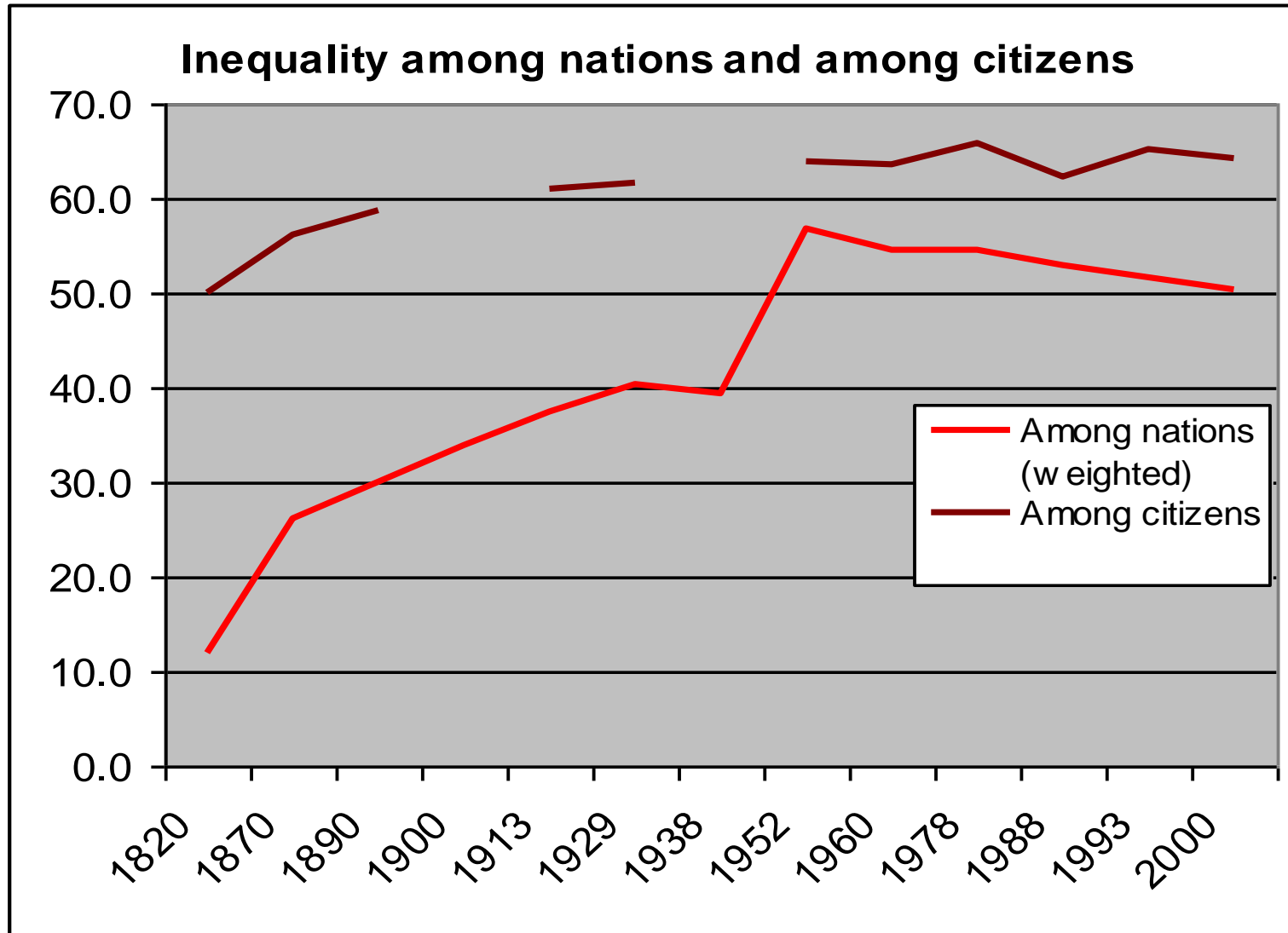
- ❖ The character of the “Global Partnership for Development” and associated economic development issues.
- ❖ Domestic inequalities as a (or the) major “emerging issue”. What does “inclusive growth” mean?
- ❖ [How to share the costs of moving towards sustainable patterns of production and consumption?]
- ❖ The role of peace and good domestic governance in the agenda.
- ❖ Monitoring and accountability for international commitments.

THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT (1)

- Inequalities in income per capita across countries explains about three-fourths of global inequalities.
- This means that the major determinant of global poverty is where people are born.
- Hence the central role of *economic* development of low and middle-income countries as a way to reduce global poverty.
- The central issue is facilitating the structural change (from production of primary goods into manufacturing and services) that characterize this process...
- ... avoiding both low and middle-income traps.

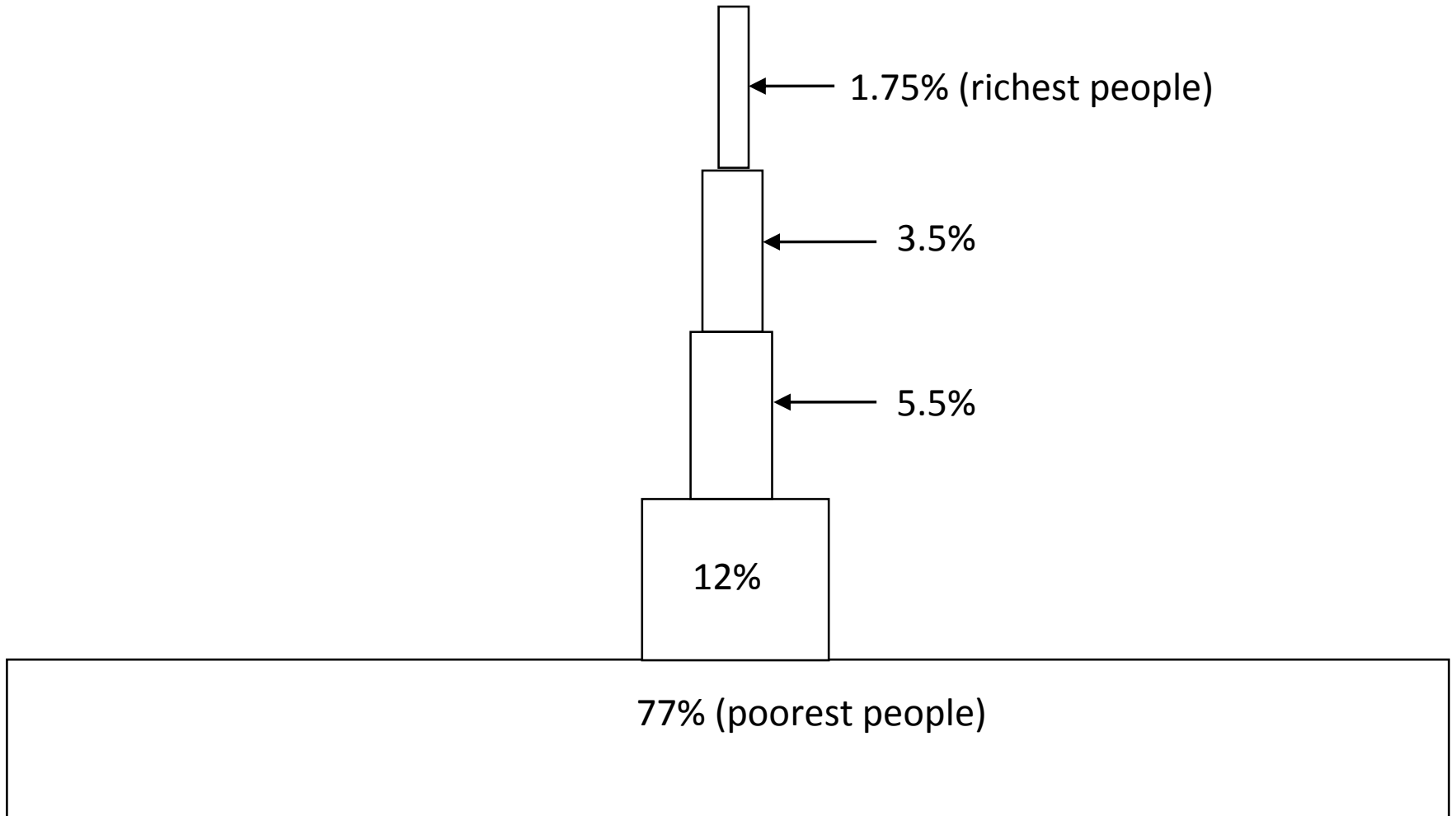
INTERNATIONAL INEQUALITIES EXPLAIN THREE-FOURTHS OF GLOBAL INEQUALITY

Estimates by Branko Milanovic



THE RESULT: MILANOVIC'S GLOBAL PYRAMID

Breakdown of world population according to quintiles of world income



THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT (2)

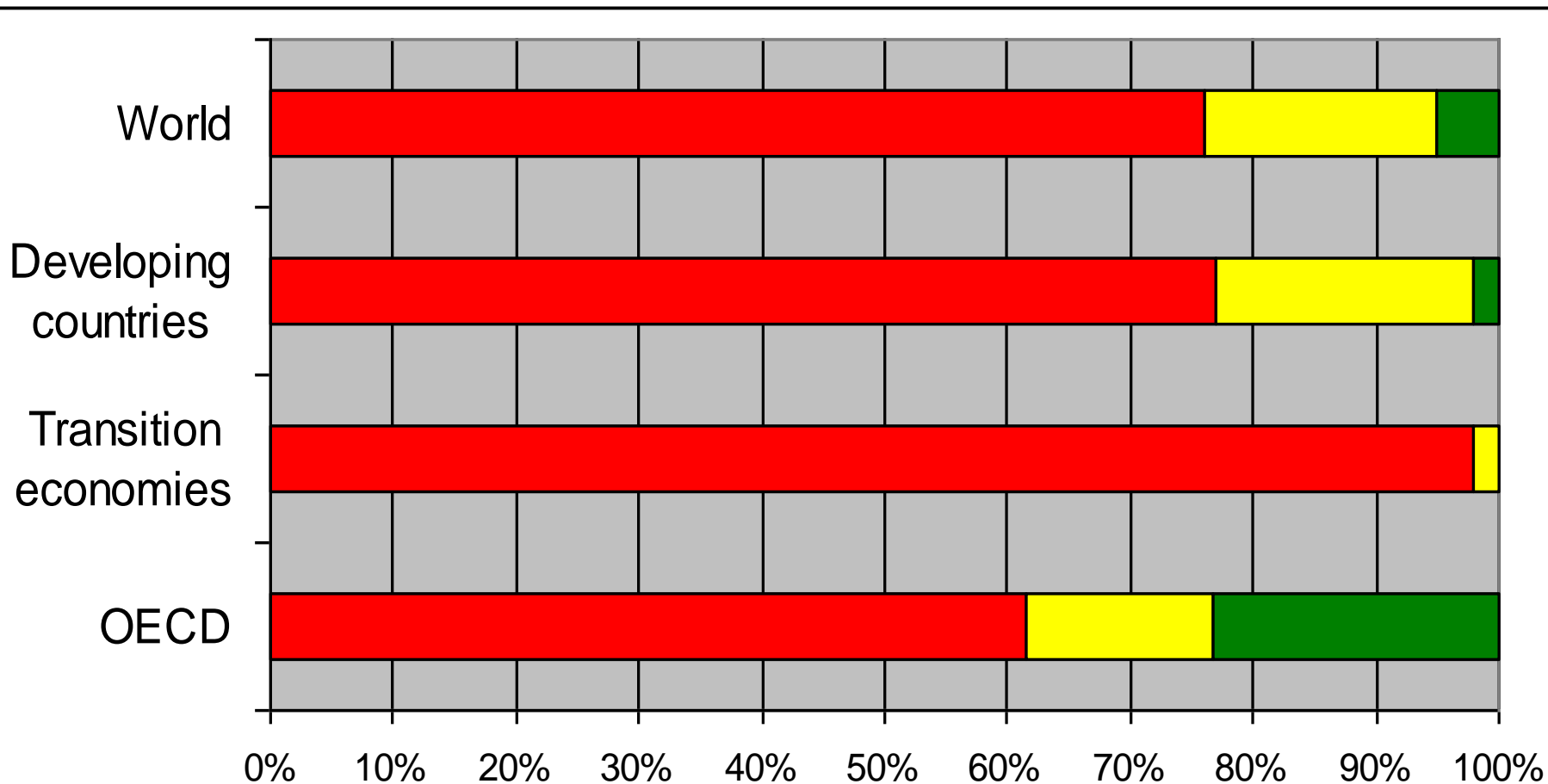
- The High-Level Panel proposes in this regard a collection of multi-stakeholder partnerships.
- The engagement of civil society, the private sector, foundations, and academia in achieving the global development goals is essential, but *inter-governmental* cooperation has to be at the center.
- This should include a change in the rules that govern global finance, trade, and technology generation and transfer...
- ... and it must broaden and strengthened the participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting.

THE CENTRAL ROLE OF DOMESTIC INEQUALITIES (1)

- Perhaps the most important “emerging trend” has been the rise of domestic income inequalities, in developed and developing countries alike.
- For high and many middle-income countries, poverty is essentially an issue of inequality.
- Inequalities cut across other dimensions, notably gender and ethnicity.
- Reducing income inequality should, therefore, be one of the major goals of the Post-2015 agenda.
- It is hard to argue that this should be addressed by national not global policy, due to the vast differences in views about acceptable levels of income inequality.

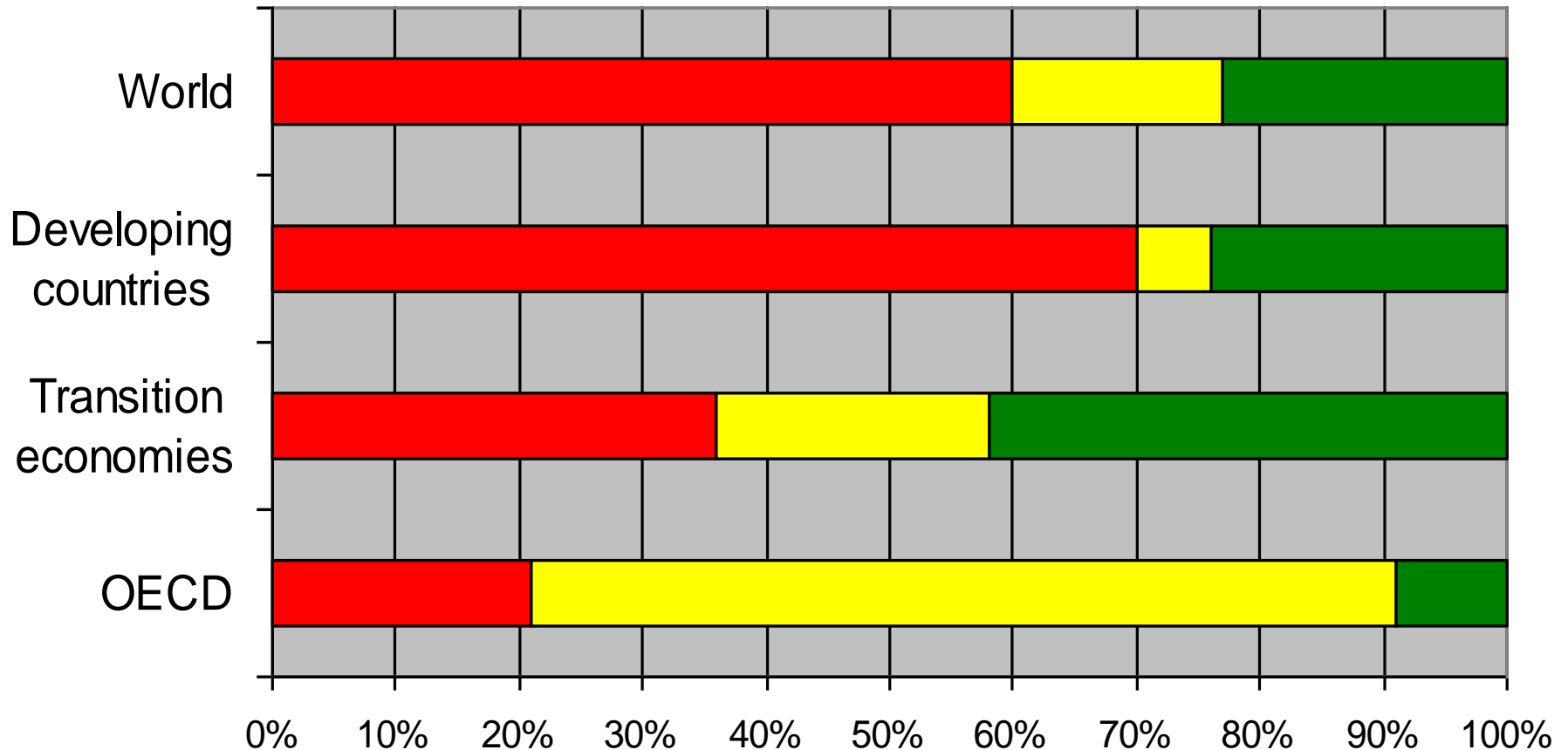
INCOME DISTRIBUTION TRENDS IN THE LAST FOUR DECADES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Percentage of population of 85 countries, according to Andrea Cornia



THE SITUATION IMPROVED SOMEWHAT IN THE FIRST DECADE OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

Percentage of population of 114 countries , according to Andrea Cornia

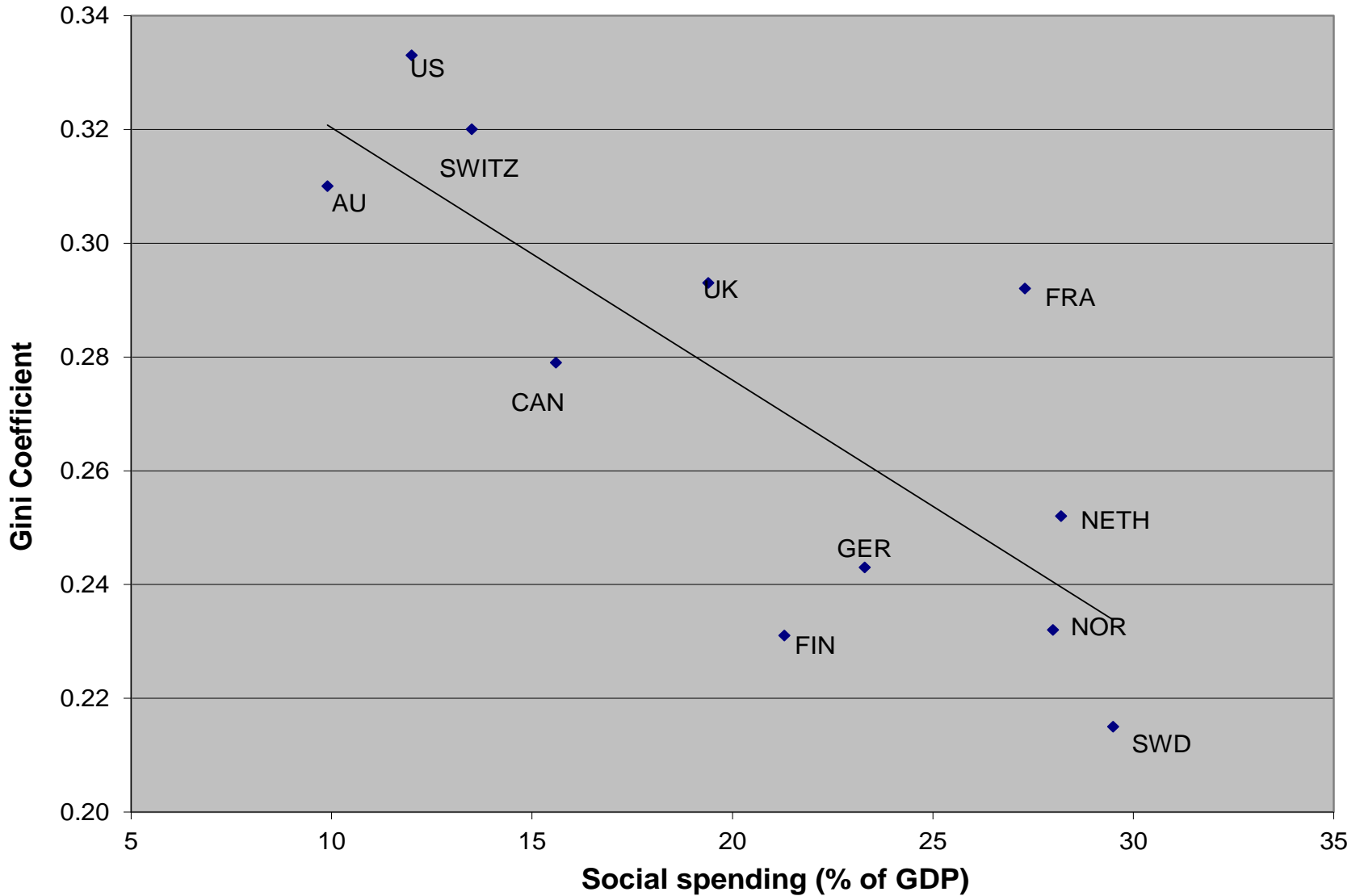


THE CENTRAL ROLE OF DOMESTIC INEQUALITIES (2)

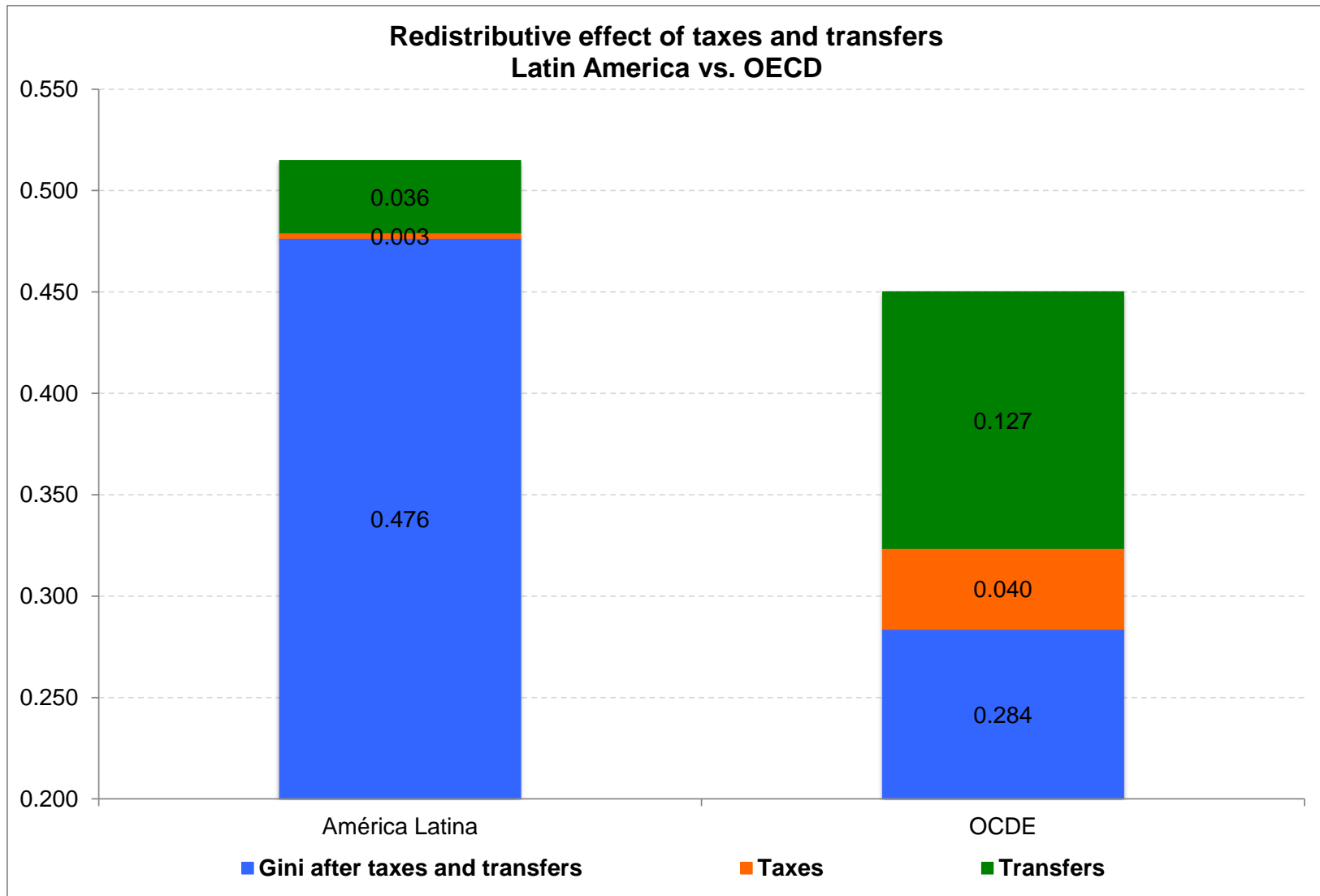
- Four essential ingredients of “inclusive development”:
 - Productive employment
 - Universal social services
 - A redesigned “care economy”
 - Redistributive fiscal policies.
- The first three are areas where multi-stakeholder processes and “social innovations” can play a central role...
- ... but they should always operate under a broader state-led policy framework.

INEQUALITY IS LOWER IN THE MORE ENCOMPASSING WELFARE STATES

(Korpi and Palme)



THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF REDISTRIBUTIVE PUBLIC SECTOR FINANCES: LATIN AMERICA vs. OECD



PEACE AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

- High-Level Panel: “peace and good governance as core elements of wellbeing, not an optional extra”
- But, what are the contours of the *development* agenda, as opposed to the broader UN agenda?
- Focus on the *linkages* between peace and security and the three dimensions of sustainable development rather than with peace as such.
- Difficulty in defining measurable targets for “good governance”. So, include it the framework rather than as a specific goal (same as human rights)...
- ... and include good *global* governance, not only good *national* governance.

MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- The UN development agenda has a poor record of monitoring, and no accountability.
- The MDGs: advance in monitoring.
- But the Post-2015 must go beyond that, including a “data revolution”.
- It is inevitable that that goals and targets be closely monitored but not legally binding.
- But need for evaluations at a high political level, and in some cases with clear system of accountability (e.g., on the 0.7% ODA target).
- Use the ECOSOC system for monitoring of UN goals.

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