

11 March 2026



MALAYSIAN
CSO-SDG
ALLIANCE

Beyond GDP

Measuring Progress, Creating Impact Forum
Key Findings of MCSA Beyond GDP Initiative





MADANI

- “We need a more meaningful notion of prosperity that is based not on materialistic choice and consumerism but on a more holistic idea of wellbeing. Prosperity based on ethical satisfaction is embedded in community rather than a perpetual quest for more material goods. It couples individual concerns with social responsibilities; a condition that includes obligations and responsibilities to others, indeed to the whole of the natural as well as the social world.
- The journey towards such a holistic notion of prosperity must begin with the realisation that neoliberal economy has failed to tackle inequality and social inclusion. Indeed, it is now widely recognised that capitalism itself is crumbling and it is part of the problem rather than an aspect of the solution.
- Thus, economies require judgements: what kind of growth is good, what kind is harmful to society, what kind will enhance inclusivity, and what kind is sustainable, and, also, what kind will destroy the environment.”

Pg 17-18 SCRIPT/Malaysia Madani



UN SEC GEN

“...now is the time to correct a glaring blind spot in how we measure economic prosperity and progress. When profits come at the expense of people and our planet, we are left with an incomplete picture of the true cost of economic growth. As currently measured, gross domestic product (GDP) fails to capture the human and environmental destruction of some business activities. I call for new measures to complement GDP, so that people can gain a full understanding of the impacts of business activities and how we can and must do better to support people and our planet.”

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, pg 5 Our Common Agenda – Report of the Secretary General

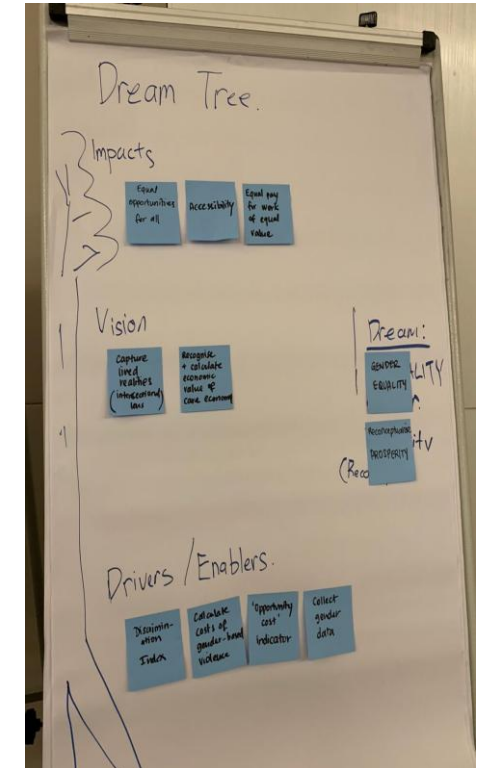
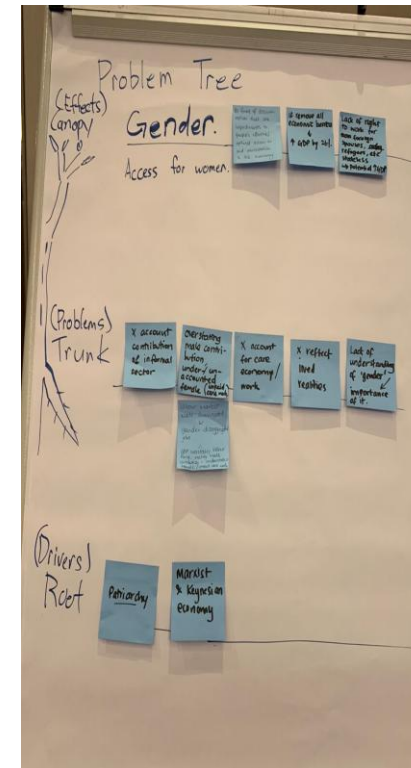


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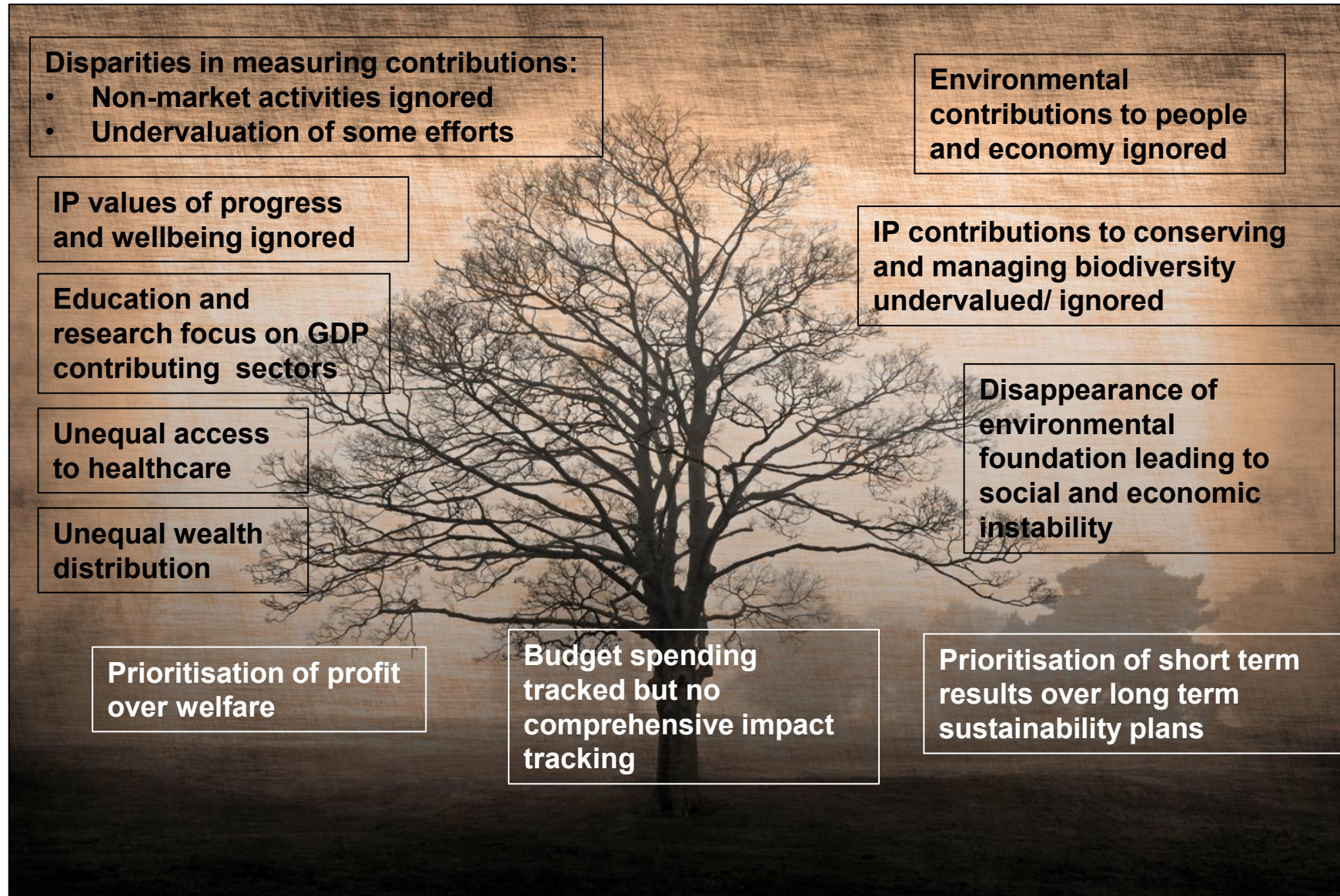


Breakout Group : Objective

- Problems arising from the use of GDP as a measure of progress and the drivers of these;
- An ideal of what a Malaysia Beyond GDP would look like and key enablers to get there;
- Key stakeholders involved / impacted by the present situation and those who should be involved in the transition from the present to the ideal;
- Key actions and timelines to transition to a Beyond GDP Malaysia



Problem



IDEAL

Highly productive society

Healthy quality of life

Equal accessibility to
work opportunities
with equitable pay

Work life balance

High societal resilience

Equitable access to basic
necessities and services

Equal educational
opportunities

Healthy environment

Ambient air quality index

Resource management for
more equitable distribution of
wealth



Healthcare prioritises wellbeing,
focusing on preventive care, food
security and health literacy

Open access educational resources,
collaborative research, dissemination
of knowledge for the betterment of
society

Diverse programmes for
diverse talents and skills for a
future ready workforce

Incorporate environmental
data into wellbeing indices

FPIC engagement with IPs for
meaningful and effective
engagement

Holistic environmental
education to shift relationship
between man and
environment

Enablers

- **Better data availability, collection and disaggregation to aid understanding of various drivers of well-being**
- **Mainstreaming the need for Beyond GDP and a shift in culture to focus on other values for society to embrace new metrics of progress.**
 - a. This involves awareness raising with stakeholders about the limitations of GDP and the importance of focusing on well-being, sustainability, and social equity as indicators of true development.
 - b. Use lived realities examples
- **Good governance:**
 - a. Political will and policy changes.
 - b. Transparency and Accountability for trust building
 - c. Decentralisation, participatory approach and inclusivity - A bottom-up approach leads to more equitable and sustainable development outcomes
 - d. Established decision support system tools - Decision support tools enable policymakers to evaluate the impact of policies across various dimensions, such as social, economic, and environmental, helping them make more holistic and sustainable choices.
- **Literacy and Education so communities can better engage and contribute to shifting to well-being focused measures.**
- **Incorporate different aspects of capital, such as natural, social, and human capitals so economic development integrates environmental health, social cohesion, and human well-being.**
- **Shift to indigenous knowledge and traditional practices which offer sustainable and community-centred approaches to resource management.**
 - a. Recognizing these contributions is vital for preserving biodiversity, promoting sustainability, and integrating culturally relevant practices into national development.

Recommendations for B-GDP Framework

Values

Co-existence
with nature

Community
Well-Being

Inclusivity

Justice

Intergenerational
justice

Lived Realities

Economic

Social

Environmental

Cultural

Multi - stakeholders

Communities

Civil Society/
academia

Corporate
Sector

Government

Next Steps

Short-Term (Next 1–2 Years)

- Formalise a **NSA/CSO–DOSM working mechanism** on B-GDP
- Support CSO capacity for **CGD**: to gather and share detailed, reliable community data that adds depth to national statistics.
- Enhance **public communication** of progress metrics, for both the GDP and the Beyond-GDP context
- Explore developing a **weighted composite indicator** pilot: Begin early efforts to design a single progress index that combines GDP with other key indicators, including deciding what to measure, where the data will come from, how everything will be fairly combined into one overall score, and assessing the effectiveness and feasibility of such a composite indicator.

Medium to Long-Term (Beyond 2 years)

- To **institutionalise community data mechanisms** by developing mechanisms within national statistical and measurement processes to systematically integrate citizen-generated data and community narratives, enabling ongoing use of these data in policy monitoring, evaluation, and planning.
- Support **alignment of ministry KPIs** with well-being and sustainability indicators
- Develop a **national Beyond GDP dashboard** with widely agreed GDP and other indicators
- Subject to its feasibility, finalise the components and weightage of the **composite indicator** and run a **pilot** to test its efficacy
- Institutionalise **participatory processes** with NSAs/CSOs and communities

Appreciation

MCSA B-GDP 2023 WORKSHOP:

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THANK YOU

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Workshop on Pact for the Future Highlights_MCSA CSO SDG Video:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QrHn-RZxIrqFgom-CpCRYy9QJ5CJJkP7/view?usp=sharing>