



Sustainable Development Goals: Focus on Nigeria

Iloputaife Chinelo Oluchi

Postgraduate Student, Department of Social Work, University of Ibadan

olycholy@gmail.com

Name of your Supervisor: Professor Olufemi Kalesanwo

Email: kalepay@yahoo.com

kalesanwo.olufemi@oouagoiwoye.edu.ng

Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also known as the Global Goals were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 but came into effect in January 2016. The SDGs replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which was started in year 2000 and ended in year 2015.

The objective was to develop measurable, universally-agreed goals that meet the urgent environmental, political, social, health and economic challenges facing our world and other time bound targets with stated deadline of 2030.





Goals	Objective	Description
Goal -1	No Poverty	By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere.
Goal -2	Zero Hunger	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition by 2030.
Goal -3	Good Health and Well-being	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages by 2030.
Goal -4	Quality Education	Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education by 2030.
Goal -5	Gender Equality	To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
Goal -6	Clean Water and Sanitation	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all by 2030.
Goal -7	Affordable and Clean Energy	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all by 2030.
Goal -8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth.



Goal -9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation by 2030.
Goal -10	Reduced Inequality	Reduce inequality within and among countries by 2030.
Goal -11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
Goal -12	Responsible Consumption and Production	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
Goal -13	Climate Action	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
Goal -14	Life Below Water	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
Goal -15	Life on Land	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, combat desertification and halt biodiversity loss.
Goal -16	Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development; provide access to justice for all.
Goal -17	Partnerships to achieve the Goal	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



These 17 Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities

All the 17 goals are interrelated and based on the principle of “no one is left behind”. Success in one goal leads to success in other goals. There are 169 targets for the 17 goals that covers every aspect of human life. With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, these 17 goals are expected to be met before year 2030 elapses.

Achieving the SDGs requires the partnership of governments, private sector, civil society and citizens to make our world better.

Besides the 2030 Agenda, African countries have committed to implement the African Union Agenda 2063 ‘The Africa We Want’ which is a master plan to build a more prosperous Africa in 50 years. A plan for transforming Africa into global powerhouse of the future. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development acknowledges the importance of the AU Agenda 2063 and considers it an integral part of it.

Summary of the Aims of the SDGs

The fundamental aim of both MDGs and SDGs is attaining ‘Sustainable Development’, which according to the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future (generation) to meet their own needs.” This simply means is to end human suffering, to protect the planet And promote peace and prosperity through sustainable means. .These goals are not just desirable but indispensable and achievable.

2nd African Youth SDGs Summit (AYSDGs) (2018)

One people, different cultures.....



The African Youth SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) summit is a continental annual gathering of African youth. The aim is to mobilize, sensitize and inspire the youth to participate actively in the implementation of the SDGs, Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. This great summit was launched in Ghana in year 2017 in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

African youths met again in Ghana for the 2nd AYSDGS on 7th to 9th of November 2018 with theme “Partnership with the Youth to Achieve the SDGs: Moving From Policy to Actions”. About 1,240 delegates representing 43 countries were in attendance. We discussed, connected and advocated to move from policy to action in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. The summit consist of peer learning workshop, youth innovation fairs, high level plenaries, ministerial dialogue, parliamentary forum, partners side events, exhibitions, cultural night and African Youth SDGs Achievers Award.

Resolution made from the summit is a call government to take actions on the SDGs, to bring these goals to reality, we don't just want to know these goals, we want to feel their impacts.

African youths should lead by example, embodying the values of SDGs and Agenda 2063 in all they do.



The Nigeria picture



The Federal Government has put some mechanisms in place to ensure the implementation of the SDGs. There is the establishment of the office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs which is a carry-over from the former MDGs under the presidency. There is also a House Committee on SDGs at the lower chamber, while there is a counterpart Senate Committee in the upper chamber to also provide oversight function and appropriate appropriation for SDGs. There is an Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs established to guide the coordinated engagement with Ministries, Departments and Agencies. There is also a Private Sector Advisory Group on SDGs and the Civil Society Strategy Group on SDGs.

A lot of programmes, interventions and funds/aids has released to meet these goals it is hoped that the Federal Government, State Governments and other relevant authorities saddled with implementing, monitoring and oversight of the execution of the laudable projects do not shirk their responsibilities. They must ensure that the massive aids, which are meant for infrastructural development, socio-economic empowerment and poverty alleviation, are judiciously utilized for the good of the teeming masses. The last thing we



should hear is that the funds were brazenly and recklessly diverted, looted or misappropriated.

In spite all these, Nigeria still faces a number of problem which unemployment 18.21 million people are underemployed. Unemployment moved 3.3 million to 20.9 million National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) 2018 as of 2015, Nigeria’s unemployment rate was at 4.31 2017 18.8% to 23.1% in third quarter of 2018

In 2018, 90.8 million people are living in poverty in Nigeria, a 2019 survey report that 91.6 million people are living in extreme poverty-World Poverty Clock. Nigeria has become the capital of poverty.

Most Nigerian leaders come to power with nothing! No plans, no heart but to loot. All the factors that made Nigeria fail the MDGs are still not addressed; poor leadership, no reliable date, no proper measurable or evaluation process, mismanagement of funds, to mention but few.



Nigeria youths have realized that our country is ours to repair and build. Many African youths are taking active intentional steps to meet the SDGS irrespective of all odds. A lot of alliance and coalitions are formed. African youths are working in their capacity, in their own little and mighty ways to meet the SDGs.