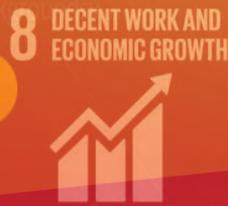


# Localising SDGs

## Perspectives from Developing Countries



**RIS**

Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries

विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली



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*This report is compilation of articles submitted by the participants of ITEC-Sustainable Development Goals. Usual disclaimers apply.*

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# PREFACE



**Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi**  
Director General, RIS

The SDGs mirror India's own development initiatives that are robustly on track to fulfil the aspirations of inclusive and sustainable development. With the aim of creating knowledge, awareness and simultaneously exploring the implementation strategies on the SDGs at the national and international level, RIS initiated a two-week training programme on SDGs under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in 2018. Last year, 32 participants from 24 developing countries participated in the course.

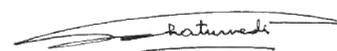
This year (in the second edition) the course was designed to orient the participants towards an integrated and cross-domain perspective on the SDGs, rather than individual goal centric approach. The course presented the global context as well as the localization strategies adopted by India. The course also covered issues related to monitoring and associated indicator framework. In the second edition 33 participants from 24 countries participated in the course, many of whom are very accomplished and playing key roles in their countries for implementation of the SDG agenda. The group benefitted from interaction and discourse with stalwarts from the fields of academics and policymaking.

The participants engaged in group deliberations and have produced analytical position papers that reflect national and global progress on SDGs. This publication is a compilation of articles and commentaries prepared by the participants individually and in groups. The thematic groups were assigned a mentor, who is a senior faculty member from RIS. The groups focused on the following broad dimensions: Integrated approach for SDG implementation - concept and governance implications; Monitoring, data and evaluation frameworks - sector specificities and emerging best practices; National strategy for sustainable and quality economic growth focused on resources, capabilities, and technological opportunities; and Importance of stakeholder partnerships for localisation of SDGs.

Apart from thematic orientation sessions and lectures, in order to demonstrate integrated nature of development challenges and expose the participants to practical issues of implementation, study tours were organised to Parliament of India and other line ministries. I thank the Hon'ble Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Dr Rajiv Kumar, Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Shri Hardeep Singh Puri (who is also Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation; and Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and Shri Pravin Srivastava, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) for interacting with the participants.

The participants also got wider exposure to the Indian history, society and culture with their visit to historical and popular sites in Delhi and Agra. They were provided with sizeable reading material to deepen their understanding on the issues. We are pleased to publish this short Report, comprising contributions from the participants. We are sure that the Report will be found interesting and useful reference by scholars, policymakers, and practitioners from developing countries. We are grateful to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India for their support and guidance in conducting this course. I thank senior faculty colleagues Mr Rajeev Kher, Prof Amitabh Kundu, Dr P.K. Anand, Prof T.C. James, Mr Krishna Kumar, Mr Subhomoy Bhattacharjee, Dr K Ravi Srinivas and Dr Beena Pandey for interacting, delivering lectures and mentoring the participants.

I am thankful to my colleagues Dr Sabyasachi Saha, Ms Prativa Shaw and the team led by Mr M. C. Arora for their efforts in organising this course. I also thank Mr Tish Malhotra, Mr Sachin Singhal and Mr Sanjay Sharma for their support in bringing out this publication well in time.



**Sachin Chaturvedi**

# SDG Implementation and Challenges: The Case of Peru and Ecuador

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## Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, signed in 2015 by 193 countries including Ecuador and Peru, proposes 17 Goals that cover the economic, social and environmental dimensions. Unlike the eight Millennium Development Goals with 21 targets, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have 169 targets mandating common responsibility of developed and developing countries towards global problems such as poverty and climate change.

In the following paper, we will discuss the experience of Peru and Ecuador in implementing the SDGs in their national development plans as an effort to align with the global agenda to overcome major issues that affect the Andean region and the world like extreme poverty, inequality and environmental degradation. Additionally, we will go through the challenges these countries face to accomplish the other SDGs.

## Peru Case Study: National Strategy for Sustainable Economic Development.

Peru is a South American country that has experienced remarkable growth within the last two decades. According to the World Bank

(2019) Peru has had two phases of economic development since the beginning of the new century. During the first phase, between 2002 to 2013, Peru was one of the fastest-growing economies in Latin America; this was the result of adequate and prudent macroeconomic policies and structural reforms. During this period, data from the World Bank (2019), indicates that poverty levels sharply reduced from 52.2 percent in 2005 to 26.1 per cent in 2013. Within the same period, extreme poverty fell from 30.9 per cent to 11.4 per cent.

During the second phase, between 2014 to 2018, the Peruvian growth levels have slowed down considerably amidst international trends mainly related to the reduction of commodity prices, especially in copper which is the leading Peruvian export.

According to the OECD (2016), the model that promoted Peru's growth has relied mainly on global economic trends. However, these are currently shifting and consequently, they represent an important risk for maintaining the impressive numbers that Peru had experienced over the past years. This is why the latest economic projections indicate a considerable reduction in exports and a rather conservative level of economic growth for Peru in the following years.

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Apart from impressive economic growth, Peru is considered a mega-diverse country. According to the World Bank (2013), Peru's territory contains "10 per cent of the worldwide species of flora, 2,000 species of fish; 1,736 species of birds (second ranking in the world in biodiversity); 32 species of amphibians (it ranked third place in the world); 460 species of mammals (ranking third in the classification); and 365 species of reptiles (ranking fifth in the classification). Therefore, to maintain this biodiversity, significant amount of monetary resources need to be invested. Furthermore, according to USAID (2017), climate change will challenge Peru's development efforts, especially for the most vulnerable populations and ecosystems.

In the same order of ideas, the World Bank (2019) stated that the Peruvian economy is constantly exposed to natural risks including weather phenomena such as El Nino. As a consequence, it is possible to see that Peru needs to design and implement a comprehensive policy of conservation and sustainability to protect its resources and to continue in the path of growth and sustainable development. In this regard, the Peruvian government has taken important actions and serious commitment to protect its natural resources and to tackle the several challenges that this country faces to overcome inequality and achieve sustainable development. One solid example of this commitment to sustainable development is the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. In what follows, the strategy for the implementation of the Agenda will be described.

### **The adoption and implementation of the SDGs in Peru**

As stated by UNDESA (2015), the 2030 Agenda requires a substantial change in the way of how policies are made on each country. In this regard, it is possible to state that, in the case of Peru, this change has started long before the adoption of the Agenda on 2016; this is why, at the moment, the country has been able to

achieve important progress in what refers to sustainability and the adoption of SDGs.

In 2016, the national strategic policies and programmes, previously designed to be achieved by 2021 (Peru's 200 years of independence), were updated to incorporate the 2030 Agenda. The result of this process was the elaboration of a proposal of the National Strategic Development Plan to 2030. This was possible owing to intense discussion and participation of government officials, key public servants, civil society, private sector representatives and academia. Nonetheless, it still has not been approved, and remains an ongoing process.

In 2017, following paragraph 79 of the 2030 Agenda, Peru submitted its first Voluntary National Report (VNR) to review the progress achieved in national and subnational levels. In this document, the Peruvian government explained the way that the 2030 Agenda was being implemented.

The described strategy to implement the Agenda included two main mechanisms. The first one is the construction of a concerted vision of future for Peru on 2030 (National Strategic Development Plan to 2030) and the second is to update process of all the plans and policies (previously designed to be achieved by 2021 - Peru's 200 years of independence).

The organization in charge of monitoring and reporting the progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the National Center for Strategic Planning (CEPLAN) which is the ruling body of the National System of Strategic Development. Its mission is to exercise leadership and orientation to all the entities involved in strategic planning to achieve a concerted vision of the future of the country (CEPLAN, 2019).

The proposal of vision of the future for Peru in 2030, proposed by CEPLAN, described in the VNR is as follows in Figure 1.

As shown in the graphic, this vision is based

on the five pillars of the SDG agenda: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. This vision has been shared with many stakeholders in a way to build a country vision that is fundamental to have a deep understanding of the country's national reality and aspirations. Simultaneously, it should consider trends and long term scenarios.

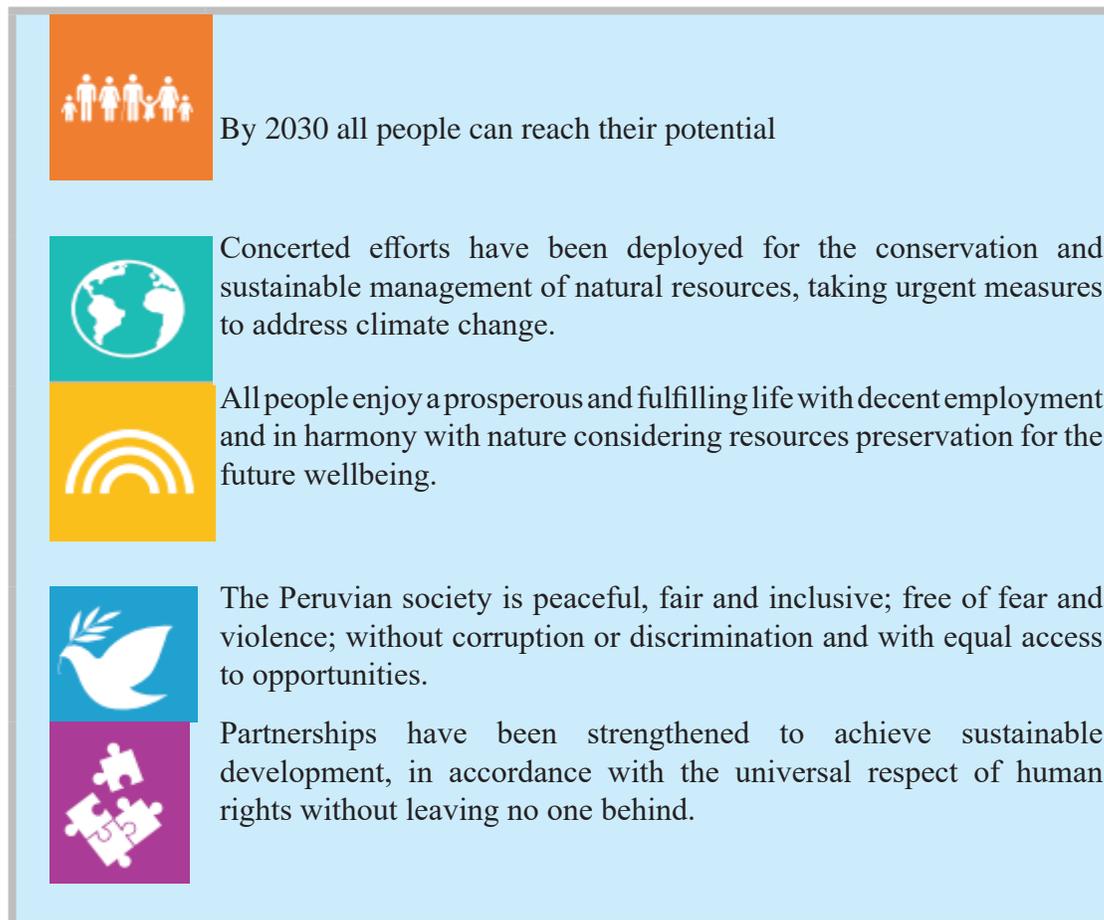
On the other hand, as it is widely stated, a monitoring and follow-up system needs to be created to measure each country's progress. In this regard, Peru has organized a follow-up scheme comprised of three complementary levels. a) the National Institute of Statistics (INEI) has created a System for Monitoring Indicators of the SDGs based on global framework indicators developed by the United Nations Statistical Commission, b) CEPLAN has developed illustrative indicators associated with

the proposed vision of Peru for 2030, and c) a follow-up system carried out by the Government and civil society. Also, the Peruvian government monitors public interventions through the indicators of the budget programmes (Peru VNR, 2017).

As of April 2017, of the 232 global indicators associated with the 169 SDG targets, 110 indicators were available with baseline. According to the Peruvian VNR, the current monitoring system has been developed with the support of the Statistics Division of the United Nations and contains information on household surveys and national censuses (CEPLAN, 2017).

Also, the Peruvian VNR states that the Peruvian government compromises to add annual monitoring reports to collect learning and information on indicators and actions

**Figure 1. Vision of the future of Peru in 2030**



Source: CEPLAN, Peru VNR, 2017.

undertaken by all involved stakeholders to contribute to the exchange of experiences and mutual learning (*Ibid.*).

The first national report was published by CEPLAN in December 2018 (CEPLAN, 2018). According to the UN (2017), the goals that have been advanced in Peru are Goal 1 on poverty elimination, Goal 2 on zero hunger, Goal 3 on good health and well-being, and Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy.

Finally, in February 2019, Peru requested to be included in the list of countries participating in the voluntary national reviews to take place at the 2020 High-Level Political Forum. This request has been accepted by the UN (Gobierno del Peru, 2019).

### **Main challenges of SDGs implementation**

According to the Sustainable Development Report (formerly SDG Index & Dashboards), a study which assesses countries' performance in the implementation of the SDGs, Peru is at position 52 among 162 in the index for the year 2019 (Sustainable Development Report, 2019). However, the position seems encouraging, keeping in mind that Peru faces important challenges to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

As stated in the 2018 National Report, the 2030 vision of future for Peru still needs to be approved by consensus in the proper national platforms for discussion. This vision should be built upon CEPLAN's proposal as well as other stakeholder's contributions. To be assumed as acceptable, it should be supported by the important country leaders of state and society. This future vision is of pivotal in importance to achievement of the SDGs.

Also, subnational governments should align their plans to those prioritized in the national level plans which have been already updated and aligned with the SDGs. For achieving this purpose intense capacity building and sensitizing campaigns should take place, especially in the cases of newly elected authorities. Finally, to implement effectively

better plans and policies, a critical evaluation of the progress achieved should take place. In this regard, as data availability becomes pivotal. It should get adequate attention also.

### **Ecuador Case Study: National Strategy for Sustainable Economic Development**

Ecuador has been committed since day one to accomplish the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development since it was approved by the UN General Assembly in September 2015. This Agenda represents, not only for Ecuador but for all Latin America and the Caribbean countries, and a total of 193 countries. It gives a unique opportunity to address big issues that the region needs to overcome like inequality in all dimensions, economic growth at the expense of the destruction of the environment, the development of cities without taking into account sustainability and our inability to mitigate the effects of climate change, etc. Therefore, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a call for the entire world to take urgent steps towards measures that mitigate poverty and hunger, guarantee the protection of the environment and that all people could enjoy peace and prosperity.

The Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador of 2008 is considered a very progressive legal framework in terms of rights compared to some other Latin American constitutions. For example, it is the first country to determine nature as a subject of rights (Campaña, 2013). In this sense, the Ecuadorian Constitution is oriented to establish a regime that provides inclusive development, social justice and equality in opportunities strengthening institutionalism, articulating all levels of government and promoting participation of civil society actors to achieve the principles of the Constitution.

The commitment of accomplishing 2030 Agenda was strengthened in 2017 through the executive power that ratified its willingness to align its national planning to the SDGs and by the legislative branch that through voting approved the country's mandatory task to

work on the implementation and fulfillment of the SDGs. The Ecuadorian Government's will to comply with SDGs and adopt 2030 Agenda is translated into President Lenin Moreno's Executive Decree No. 371 which declares: "As a public policy of the National Government, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aimed at meeting its objectives and goals within the framework of its alignment to the national planning and development". Consequently, national policies aimed to improve the lives of the Ecuadorian population will be lined up with the global Agenda. To achieve this aspiration, the National Secretariat of Planning and Development (SENPLADES) was created as a coordinating body that would guarantee the alignment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with the establishment of planning mechanisms in articulation with the Public Administration entities and different levels of government. Therefore, SENPLADES will be in charge of the monitoring process and evaluation of the SDGs.

### **National Development Plan 2017-2021 "A Whole Lifetime"**

The way in which Ecuador has implemented the SDGs to the national context is with the implementation of The National Development Plan (NDP) 2017-2021 called "A Whole Lifetime" organized into three axes, nine national objectives and 149 goals, as well as emblematic interventions that will guide public policies based on environmental sustainability and territorial development (Ecuador VNR, 2018). The NDP represents the roadmap of Ecuador's public management reflecting the principles of the Constitution which situates the human being as the main axis of public policy and subject of rights during their lifetime. Moreover, the NDP is part of the government's effort in achieving political, economic, social, environmental and cultural aspirations that reflect Ecuador as a plurinational and intercultural state (National Development Plan, 2017). Through this Plan, Ecuador seeks to advance towards a social

and environmentally sustainable economy becoming less dependent on the exploitation and exportation of natural resources.

Ecuador has always supported international initiatives for development. In fact, the National Development Plans 2007, 2009 and 2013 articulated with the then Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now the new National Plan for Development is aligned with SDGs implementing the adjustments based on the international commitment to achieve common goals to assure a life of dignity for all human beings. The National Development Plan is built on two central pillars: territorial equity and sustainable environmental. It proposes nine national objectives that have clear public policies and goals to be accomplished by 2021 which matches with the 17 SDGs of 2030 Agenda (National Development Plan, 2017).

### **The nine national objectives are:**

- Objective 1: Ensure a decent life with equal opportunities for all people
- Objective 2: Recognize interculturality and plurinationality, revaluing diverse identities
- Objective 3: Guarantee the rights of nature for current and future generations
- Objective 4: Consolidate the sustainability of the social and solidarity economic system, and strengthen dollarization
- Objective 5: Boost productivity and competitiveness for sustainable economic growth in a redistributive and supportive manner
- Objective 6: Develop productive and environmental capacities to achieve food sovereignty and rural good living
- Objective 7: Encourage a participatory society with a state that is at the service of its citizens
- Objective 8: Promote transparency and co-responsibility for a new social ethic

- Objective 9: Guarantee sovereignty and peace, and strategically position the country in the Latin American region and the world.

Additionally, the Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, in article 280, states that the National Development Plan is the instrument to which policies, programmes, and projects will be subject to and its observance will be mandatory for the public sector and a guideline for the other sectors in the country's attempt to eradicate poverty, promote sustainable development and achieve a fair redistribution of resources and wealth (Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador, 2008).

### **Ecuador's challenges in accomplishing the SDGs**

Sustainable Development emerges as a new way to conceive economic development taking into account elements that historically were not seen associated to each other like the protection of the environment and the quality of life of all human beings. It represents an alternative model to the traditional-quantitative approach to measure growth and could represent a radical change within society. Despite significant efforts, it is still difficult for the international community to translate the commitments and recommendations into concrete results, and on the other hand, the environmental element is still a huge challenge to accomplish for all countries.

Ecuador has registered promising progress over the last decade in regards to its development agenda. The National Development Plan aligned its strategies with the SDGs. However, even if they were very clear, in practice the implementations represented a real challenge. The inclusion of new components to the 2030 Agenda like climate change, economic inequality, need for innovation, and a transition towards sustainable consumption, etc. added difficulties to reach the proposed goals because Ecuador is facing problems mainly due to the end of the oil boom which is contracting the

economy and thus risking the financing to achieve the 17 Goals. Additionally, Ecuador faces problems incorporating a sustainable view to its local planning, the generation of alliances between the state, civil society, the academia and the private sector as well as addressing the debate and implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the local level.

Ecuador shows important progress in regard to social development. The national poverty index decreased 15 points between 2007 and 2016 and extreme poverty rates were reduced to half in the same period according to the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses -INEC (Andrade and Peña, 2018). There is also a considerable improvement in the coverage of health services and education with an investment of approximately 7 per cent of GDP in recent years (*Ibid.*). Moreover, Ecuador has made efforts to change its energy model by building nine hydroelectric and promoting the use of renewable energy as instruments of the economic and social activity of the country.

After an economic recession period caused by the fall of oil prices (the main Ecuadorian export) the appreciation of the dollar (national currency since 2000), terrible events such as the earthquake of April 2016, the Ecuadorian economy has begun to recover: the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 1.9 per cent in the second quarter of 2017 compared to the previous quarter (and 3.3 per cent compared to the same period in the previous year), reaching levels similar to those already existing at the beginning of 2015, before the economic contraction, according to figures from the Central Bank of Ecuador (ECB) (Quiñonez, 2018).

Despite these achievements, Ecuador still cannot overcome significant challenges like the eradication of poverty and discrimination in all its forms and corruption as well as national and regional issues such as social fragmentation, deficiency in the quality of public services and short-term planning regarding sustainability.

## Conclusion

Under the SDGs, each country has the freedom to choose the level of commitment to the sustainability Agenda. This issue causes a huge challenge for the achievement of the SDGs in general, as the commitment and compliance with the Agenda need to happen everywhere in the world to be successful.

In the cases of Peru and Ecuador, it can be seen that both countries have adopted tangible commitment to the 2030 Agenda by including the goals within the national planning programmes and in the case of Ecuador, even on a legally binding framework. This level of national compromise smoothens the path for the achievement of the SDGs. In spite of this, it is certainly not the case in every other country, which, for instance, might be still struggling to mainstream adoption of the SDGs as part of their national priorities for several reasons, whether it is a matter of resources, or even lack of political will.

From another perspective, historically economic growth and sustainable development have not been largely compatible. This situation gets even more critical in developing countries like Peru and Ecuador where the main economic activities are generally based on traditional exports such as ores and oil. In this model, promoting sustainable development and at the same time protecting natural resources leads to conflicting objectives. A shift in the economic model from merely extractive activities to non-traditional ones and sustainable production of goods and services with high value added would become pivotal for the achievement of the SDGs. That notwithstanding, we are aware that this shift would happen in the long term and with difficulties to become reality and that such an extent of change requires strong political commitment, consensus among stakeholders and even a cultural shift in the way things are done.

The Andean region also shares other common challenges to be overcome with regards to

economic development. For instance, human capital with adequate skills according to market needs is an issue that has to be attended with urgency. As it is known, people are the center of sustainable development, therefore, they should possess the skills needed by the labor market to boost productivity levels. A worker with proper skills and knowledge will be able to have access to an appropriate job, and thus to contribute to its personal economic growth, as well as the country's. This issue is related to SDG 8 "Decent work and economic growth". Some countries of the regions, such as Colombia have achieved important progress in order to set up a national framework of competences and skills, however Peru and Ecuador are still trying to decide the most appropriate model to align the market needs with skill development that can lead to a virtuous cycle of skilled workforce and productive business.

With regards to SDG 9 "Industry, innovation and infrastructure" the Latin-American countries are facing a huge challenge with regard to corrupt practices that is undermining the economic development related to this SDG. This is indeed an issue around the globe; however recent events related to the Odebrecht bribery scandal have harmed the economic growth of the region, amidst other above-mentioned circumstances. We believe that sustainable development will not be achieved if corruption keeps eroding the basis of the industry and economical model.

Regarding SDG 10 "Reduce inequalities", we can look that economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has been insufficient and has delayed the reduction of poverty and income inequality. Also, if population growth is considered, probably the number of people living below the poverty and extreme poverty line in LAC countries are likely to increase by approximately one million. In this sense, countries like Peru and Ecuador need to continue to put efforts to design public policies that see development in a multidimensional way and not only rely on

income measurements as the only indicator of success. Therefore, to reduce the inequality gap it is fundamental that elements like quality jobs, health, education, democracy, human security, and inequality acquire the same or greater importance. Observing development through a multidimensional lens is a very useful tool to design, implement, monitor and evaluate public policies to improve the quality of life of people.

Another important issue to reflect on is that even though some developing countries, such as Ecuador and Peru, have accomplished remarkable progress at national levels to implement the 2030 Agenda, local participation is still challenging. The complexity of these countries, which arises from the geographical and cultural diversity, aggravates the low participation and engagement on local levels as each community has different needs and realities that require to be fully grasped to accomplish local community involvement. In this regard, we believe that the participation of local stakeholders should be the cornerstone of the achievement of national objectives. In other words, SDGs implementation should not be a top-down process, but on the contrary, a bottom-up strategy as there is no way of achieving national goals without the participation of local actors.

Moreover, it is important to remember that traditionally our ancestor's society was focused on community participation with a deep understanding and commitment to nature preservation. For instance, one of the reasons why the Inca civilization was able to expand all over South America, was the solid community-based structure and impressive knowledge and management of natural resources, along with a nature-related cosmology.

Unfortunately, the strong connection with nature and the existence of solid community linkages have got lost at some point of the "modern development". In this context, we believe that our role model of development

should be a return to the roots of our society leading to community participation along with responsible consumption and usage of natural resources that may be restored as the key to a fulfilling and prosperous life.

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# Monitoring and Evaluation of SDGs: The Case for SDG 1 in Mauritius

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Rakesh Bhuckory\*

## Introduction

Mauritius is fully committed to the SDGs and since 2015, the country has worked closely with the UNDP to develop a Roadmap for the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda. The Roadmap mainstreamed the different Goals into our national policies. Ministries have been allocated specific responsibilities for the implementation part of the goals. At the same time in 2015, the Government of Mauritius adopted Vision 2030 which largely reflects the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As part of its commitment to implementing the SDGs, Mauritius presented its first Voluntary National Review Report to the High Level Political Forum of the ECOSOC on 18th July 2019. Since I led the VNR team which prepared the Report, I will dwell on some key challenges that a small state like Mauritius faces in the monitoring and evaluation of SDGs with emphasis on our work on SDG1.

## Status Review

The VNR process highlighted the importance of sustaining a coordinated and inclusive approach in the implementation of national policies and the SDGs themselves. For example, while working with Statistics Mauritius, we understood how data collection, policy monitoring and evaluation are key to understanding the SDGs. We assessed our own weaknesses and strengths

in these areas, where we need reinforcement so that the challenges ahead could be addressed more efficiently.

As part of the VNR Report, countries are called upon to provide an SDG Tracker which is an evaluation of progress, to assess where each country has reached in its implementation stage. It is very difficult to conduct this exercise unless credible data exists on individual indicators. In the case of Mauritius, the VNR Report revealed that while Ministries have excellent policies and frameworks for implementing each SDG and are working collaboratively with various stakeholders, data analysis and monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of policies remains difficult.

When we analysed policies for implementing SDG1, it was evident that for tackling poverty and growing inequality we would require enhancing the effectiveness of the social programmes in Mauritius, including in particular, by improving targeting and their reach to those most in need, and empowering the poor to become a more active agent of change – as opposed to passive recipients of assistance.

Mauritius has a dedicated ministry namely the Ministry of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment whose vision is the eradication of extreme and chronic poverty and the creation of an inclusive and more equitable society. Government introduced an excellent initiative,

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the Marshall Plan against Poverty which is a bold and innovative approach to tackle relative poverty. With the assistance from the UNDP, the country established a social register (SRM) of those living in dismal conditions and who require targeted measures and assistance. The plan is multi-dimensional and recipients receive cash transfers, are accompanied by social workers as they tackle life challenges such as education of children, skills training, job search or placement, setting up or improving a small business, social housing, child care, remedial courses among others. The Plan is an ambitious reform specifically designed to address persistent pockets of poverty and social exclusion in Mauritius. While the Plan refers to the official number of poor in the country as 33,600 households or 122,700 individuals, Government is initially focusing on the absolute poor, about 10,000 households or 37,000 people. Government also committed approximately US\$ 63 million or 2.2 billion rupees for the next three years to implement the Marshall Plan that constitutes 39 actionable and costed proposals.

Analyses and consultations leading to the formulation of the 2016 Marshall Plan against Poverty brought to the fore institutional weaknesses in the social protection system in Mauritius. These include the large number and fragmentation of schemes which create coordination challenges. These in turn have led to problems of overlap, inclusion and exclusion errors, and significant leakages to the non-poor, among others. Other weaknesses associated with the system include its emphasis on assistance as opposed to empowerment and the lack of a monitoring and evaluation culture across programmes, government entities and NGOs involved in the implementation of social protection programmes.

Two years after the implementation of the Marshall Plan and operationalisation of the SRM, Mauritius needs to further enhance its tools to gather, present and disseminate SDG data for ensuring their extensive and effective use by our policymakers. For example, there is

no appropriate tracking and monitoring of the SRM to fully understand the impact assessment of the investments made on those families. Hence, it becomes difficult to fully grasp where and how much progress is being made and where future interventions are needed. This situation with SDG1 is a common to other SDGs where gaps have been identified in the evaluation and monitoring of measures.

## Way Forward and Conclusion

During the ITEC programme, and through our interaction with various specialists and the visit to NITI Aayog, a major take-away for me has been the importance of assigning values to SDG indicators and how to work it backwards across a timeline. We should also need to devise a Report Card to measure progress. This is an imperative because as highlighted during the ITEC programme, goals and targets are themselves interdependent and must be pursued together. Hence, many indicators contribute to monitoring more than one target. In the case of SDG 1, we can only have a holistic picture if we analyse data for example on education, gender, housing and these data should be produced and analysed annually.

The need to develop an effective data management framework is crucial for Mauritius as a means to better track progress under each SDG. Indicators are the backbone of monitoring progress towards the SDGs. Hence, there is urgent need to develop a sound indicator framework. We also need to look at bridging gaps in existing indicators. One way forward that will be explored is building a collaborative approach with RIS and NITI Aayog through an MoU to help the exchange of expertise at different levels. After the first VNR exercise, Mauritius has to take stock of and revisit its mechanisms for data collection, evaluate nature of these data, their specifications, timeline for collection and disaggregation. Mauritius will also envisage developing a national dashboard to track SDG progress.

# National Development Strategy, SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation: Nigerian Experience

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Emmanuel Okpachu\*  
Muhammad Sani Isa\*\*

## I. Introduction

Nigeria's Vision 20:2020 represents an aspiration for Nigeria to have a large, strong, diversified, competitive and technologically enabled economy that effectively harnesses the talents and energy of its people and responsibly exploits its natural endowments to guarantee a high standard of living and quality of life for its citizens. It seeks to position Nigeria among the 20 largest economies in the world by the year 2020. It is, however, disheartening that the infrastructural facilities in Nigeria make the realization of the vision an uphill task. On the Global Competitive Index, Nigeria is currently ranked 119th out of 131 countries based on the state of her infrastructure.

Accelerated implementation of SDGs agenda to transform the world in 2030 can be achieved with scientific, systematic and coherent monitoring and evaluation system. This is because co-ordinated development Plans and schemes at all levels of governance provide the most pragmatic way for accomplishing these goals. There is a growing concern among policymakers that there is need to localize the SDGs or mainstream local development plans into the SDG framework. Either way or both ways will require metrics and dashboards for tracking inputs, outputs and outcomes that are associated with implementation of SDGs.

Recall that the seventeen goals of the SDGs are disaggregated and specified into 169 targets and 232 indicators. Planning, measuring, reporting and evaluating these seventeen goals, 169 targets and 232 indicators require huge statistics, metrics, and qualitative data that need to be expressed and understood in simple language to facilitate communication at all levels of governance on regular basis.

In view of the above thinking pattern, this paper provides report on progress and status of monitoring and evaluation of implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria. The paper is divided into five sections. Section one introduces the subject matter. Section two highlights the policy formulation and evaluation mechanism. Third section deals with roles of institutional frameworks. Fourth section explores the nuances of result based monitoring and evaluation techniques. The fifth section highlights lessons learnt. The last segment of the paper concludes by emphasising on the need to employ result-based monitoring and evaluation techniques to entrench good governance at all levels.

## II. Policy Formulation and Evaluation Mechanism

The vision or aspiration to develop Nigeria into one of the first 20 economies of the world by 2020 is linked to the Seven Point Agenda

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developed by the Government of late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. The Seven Point Agenda outlines the basic areas of; (1) Power and Energy (2) Food, Security and Agriculture (3) Wealth Creation and Employment (4) Mass Transportation (5) Land Reform (6) Security and the Niger Delta and (7) Qualitative and Functional Education. The achievement of the Seven Point Agenda can and will definitely boost the spirit of enterprise by the Nigerian fettered by backward infrastructure and daily struggle to overcome poverty. Before we discuss the challenge of infrastructural development as it affects Vision 20:2020, it is important that we outline the key assumptions of the vision.

Monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs must be accompanied by policy evaluation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) that addresses complexities of the SDGs and how they are mainstreamed into national, state and local development plans (Niestroy, 2014). In Nigeria, evaluating policies at federal, states and local governments are required for domesticating the SDGs in Nigeria. More importantly, a national policy formulation and evaluation is key for unlocking support, understanding and commitment required for monitoring and evaluation of progress and contributions in achieving the SDGs from federal states and local authorities. This requires extensive consultations and engagements between the Federal Government of Nigeria and sub-national Governments.

Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP), is a Medium-Term Plan articulated by the Federal Government of Nigeria as a development strategy for implementation within the period 2017–2020 (Federal Republic of Nigeria, 2017). The ERGP is designed to be consistent with the aspirations of the SDGs, specifically with regards to economic, social and environmental sustainability issues. ERGP builds on existing sectoral strategies and plans such as the National Industrial Revolution Plan and the Nigeria Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan.

The Vision of the ERGP is to have sustained inclusive growth for Nigeria. However, the ERGP objectives could be best achieved if supported by a strong monitoring and evaluation framework.

### III. Institutional Framework

In a bid to attain the SDGs, multi-layer and multi-cluster institutional frameworks were established to enhance monitoring and evaluation towards attainment of the targets. These institutions include the Ministry of Budget and National Planning, core civil service to drive the process, Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President (SSAP) on SDGs who is responsible for ensuring horizontal and vertical coherence and co-ordination of development policies, plans and strategies and implementation. Also, Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs has been established and operational guidelines for the same have been developed to guide coordinated engagement with Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). Similar structures are being established at the sub-national (State) level. To effectively engage stakeholders on monitoring and evaluation, a Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) and a Donors' Forum on the SDGs have recently been inaugurated. The CSOs Group on SDGs are already working towards some SDG targets. To enhance the legislative and oversight roles of Parliamentarians on SDGs monitoring and evaluation process, two select committees on SDGs have been established in the Senate and House of Representatives.

To aid planning, monitoring and evaluation of SDGs implementation, result-based monitoring and evaluation is being implemented in Nigeria. This entails baseline study and employment of logical framework. Baseline Information usually consisting of facts and figures collected at the initial stage of policies, plans and projects that provide basis for measuring progress in achieving targets and goals (Stiglitz, Sen, and Fitoussi, 2016). Sources for establishing baselines are administrative data, household, industrial employment surveys and geographical

## VISION 20:2020 AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

A vision is a clear mental picture of the future which must represent a significant improvement on the current state. A vision must necessarily be supported by a clear and realistic path to its realisation and requires consistent and sustained effort for its achievement. The vision statement for 2020 reads as follows: “By 2020 Nigeria will be one of the 20 largest economies in the world able to consolidate its leadership role in Africa and establish itself as a significant player in the global economic and political arena”. The previous administration had declared the intention to pursue the vision of placing Nigeria among the 20 largest economies in the world by 2020 and the current administration is committed to the attainment of this vision. The need to be ruthlessly committed to this vision becomes challenging and imperative when we realise that even within the African continent, many countries are placed before Nigeria. All relevant government and private institutions support vision 20:2020 because Nigeria can no longer be ridiculously described as “a giant with clay feet.” Vision 20:2020 Economic Transformation Blueprint seeks to position Nigeria among the 20 largest economies in the world by the year 2020 with a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of not less than

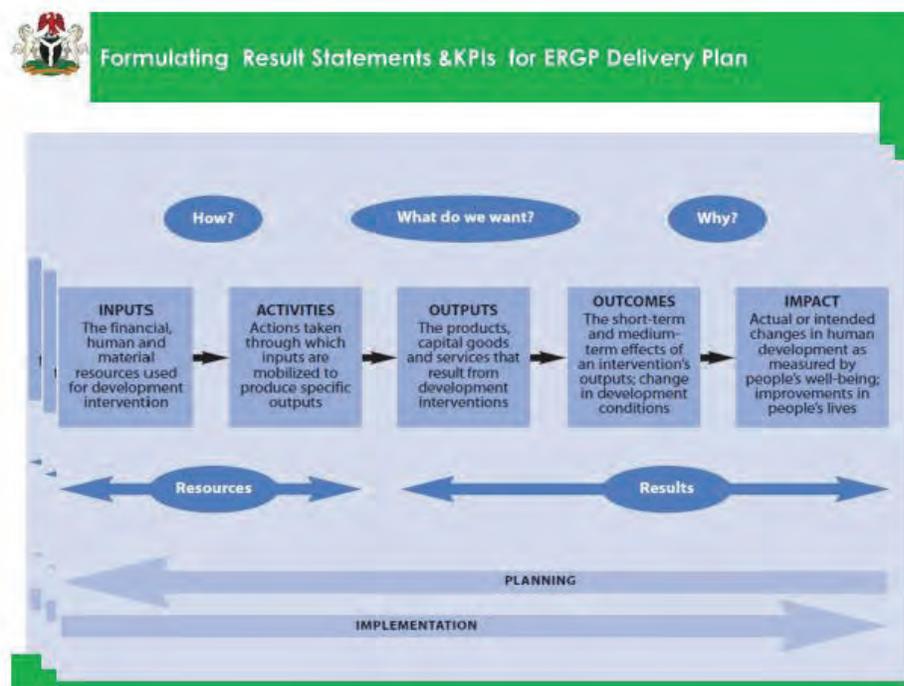
\$900 billion and a per capita income of over \$4,000. According to the National Planning Commission, the blueprint, which lays out the path for the rapid and sustainable growth of the country’s economy, represents “an intention to achieve a transformation of the Nigerian state across social, cultural and political dimensions.” It said the vision is for Nigeria to “have a large, strong, diversified, competitive and technologically enabled economy that effectively harnesses the talents and energy of its people and responsibly exploits its national endowments to guarantee a high standard of living and quality of life for its citizens.” The first chapter of the “20:2020 Economic Transformation Blueprint” approved by the Federal Executive Council covers the macroeconomic framework. It is a combination of propositions and projections designed to place the economy on a robust, double digit growth trajectory from 2010 to 2020. Chapters 2 to 4 of the blueprint consist of the three pillars on which the main frame of the vision is constructed, viz. guaranteeing the well-being and productivity of our people; optimizing the key sources of economic growth; and fostering sustainable social and economic development.

information system. Pre-monitoring or baseline data collection include establishment of the list of policies, programmes and projects. This is followed by developing policies, programmes and Logical Framework in a form of inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes into a manual to guide monitoring and evaluation exercise.

At the core of a monitoring and evaluation process is setting a Key Performance Indicator framework. A Key Performance Indicator (KPI) is an information kit (quantitative or qualitative) that provides a simple and reliable means to measure achievement that reflect the changes linked to a target and to help assess progress towards its attainment.

The KPIs must have SMART characteristics: addressing clearly what it wants to attain; must be measurable in quantitative terms (number, percentage etc) or qualitative terms e.g. ranking; must be achievable; and must be agreed by stakeholders; Quantitative indicators are statistical measures that measure results in terms of number, percentage, rate and ratio. Qualitative indicators, on the other hand, measure judgements, opinions, perceptions and attitudes towards a given target. Qualitative indicators measure results in terms of compliance with quality, regulation and timeframe

Impact indicators describe the changes in people’s lives and improvement in

**Figure 1: Logical Framework**

Source: Federal Republic of Nigeria (2017). Economic Recovery and Growth Plan Document

environmental sustainability at global, regional and national levels in the long term ( Federal Government of Nigeria 2017). They provide a broad picture of whether the development changes that matter to people and environment are actually consistent with SDGs. Impact indicators are usually contained in Long Term Plans such as the SDG 2030 and AU 2063. Impact Indicators in the ERGP are usually those derived from the SDGs and AU 2030. ERGP is, however, a Medium Term Plan aligned with the SDGs. Outcomes occupy the middle ground between outputs and impact, it is therefore possible to define outcomes that reflect the ambition of the SDGs (see figure 1).

#### IV. Key Lessons Learnt

Technology-based, open and transparent progress tracking and reporting systems for nationally agreed targets against set benchmarks is critical for the success of the monitoring and evaluation of SDG implementation. It is necessary to devise innovative adaptive and acceptable norms to overcome bureaucratic

bottlenecks often associated with monitoring and evaluation in a given political setting especially in a federal structure. Technical assistance is critical to successful monitoring and evaluation SDGs implementation in Nigeria. Effective global and national partnerships are therefore vital for the SDGs monitoring and evaluation process.

The objectives of Vision 20:2020 are indeed laudable and the above assumptions are clearly desirable. The GDP growth rate has varied between 9.42 in 1985, 3.4 per cent in 1995, 6.5 per cent in 2005 and 6.2 per cent in 2007. However, a look at the Global Competitive Index leaves us with a frightening situation of the 12 pillars relevant to the ranking, out of 131 countries, Nigeria is placed 95th over all. Anya comments further that on the state of institutions Nigeria is ranked 103rd, on infrastructure is ranked 119th, on health and primary education and 124th on higher education and training 103 and on technological readiness 90th. Even on the macro economy in which Nigeria scored highest, it occupied the 28th position and on the state of the

financial system, Nigeria is on the 56th position still below the median point in the rankings. Not surprisingly, on the knowledge economy index, Nigeria occupies a low 117th position out of 132 countries. This necessitates regular

## V. Conclusion

Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda to deliver the needs of humanity and the planet in 2030 requires systematic data management to provide necessary information for good governance. Attainment of the SDGs entails robust institutional framework and methodology for generating and processing data for effective communication. Nigeria has been able to implement the result based monitoring and evaluation techniques in tracking and communicating the progress towards attainment of SDGs at all levels of governance.

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# Achieving SDGs in Fiji: Progress and Challenges

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Arpana Pratap\*

## Introduction

With vast ocean resources, dense forests and an exotic tropical paradise for tourists, Fiji has the most developed economy in the Pacific. It has a total population of about 884,887<sup>1</sup> with a GDP per capita of \$6,202 (2018).<sup>2</sup> Fiji has a total land area of about 18,300 square km spread over an archipelago of more than 300 islands of which 110 are inhabited. Its economy is mostly dependent on tourism and remittances from Fijians working overseas with some reliance on fisheries, agriculture and forestry.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by Fiji in 2015 together with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Though Fiji is a small island state with less than a million population, is firm in its commitment to deliver on the SDGs. Fiji embraced its responsibility as a global citizen by promoting peace in turbulent regions around the world, acquiring a seat on the Human Rights Council, and passionately fighting for climate action. Fiji led the world through co-chairing of the United Nations (UN) Ocean Conference in 2017 and by being the President of the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) to the UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This built the momentum for climate and ocean action and attracted attention of climate vulnerable countries.

Fiji has made huge efforts and has been involved in a number of initiatives to achieve its SDG targets and presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the United Nation High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2019. With the creation of its National Development Plan, Fiji has incorporated the SDGs into this Plan.

In order to share ideas and knowledge and review its progress towards the development of its VNR report, a workshop was held in Fiji (2018) as a support mechanism for the completion of VNR reports to help some countries in the Pacific. This workshop focused on indicator development, planning and budget processes.

## Progress in SDGs

The SDG ranking of countries usually has a high correlation with the GDP per capita. However, according to the SDSN and Bertelsmann Stiftung, fifteen countries have their SDG ranking higher than their GDP per capita. Fiji is one of those countries who is performing well in its SDG achievement as compared to its national GDP per capita performance, together with China, Costa Rica, Peru and others.<sup>3</sup> This is due to their effective policies and strategies that they have put in place for the achievement of the SDG targets. Fiji has performed well

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in the areas of education (SDG 4) due to the Government's commitment to provide quality and free education.

A key part of the VNR report Fiji submitted to the HLPF included the approaches taken by Fiji to implement the indicator framework of SDGs into its National Development Plan. The linkage between the monitoring of SDGs with the performance measures used for the NDP with budget and resourcing (implementation processes) were highlighted.

The Pacific SDG Dashboard was created which is a dissemination platform for the 22 Pacific island countries and territories, it monitors progress against the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Pacific SDG Taskforce was created to work on the SDG indicators and this Taskforce agreed on a set of 132 indicators in 2017, subsequently endorsed as an element of the Pacific Roadmap for Sustainable Development.

Data is collected from a number of sources, including national household collections, civil registry data, education management information systems, health information systems, treasury papers, and published reports from countries and development partners.

Fiji has allocated the SDGs into sectoral plans and policies. Fiji also perceives some of the SDGs as cross cutting which include SDGs 10, 12 and 13. Due to the high vulnerability caused by climate change, Fiji prioritizes climate change issues under SDG 13 (SDG 13.1 is fully achieved<sup>4</sup>). The new Oceania dashboard shows that the Pacific island countries as a whole are performing very well in climate mitigation (SDG 13). There has been a good progress in the areas of education (SDG 4) and reduction in maternal and child mortality rates. Fiji invested in the education sector through introduction of free education, free textbooks and subsidised transportation to school in order to empower young and disadvantaged Fijians.

Fiji is a leader in the region in terms of the universal health coverage (UHC). Maternal

and child mortality rates have decreased. The poverty and inequality have also declined due to the nine consecutive years of economic growth in Fiji. SDG 3.1 and 3.2 are fully achieved by Fiji.<sup>5</sup>

Massive investment in infrastructure (SDG 6, 7, 9), its commitment towards the expansion of legal services and free access to justice (SDG 16) and effective partnerships (SDG 17) has been effective in providing access to critical services to the communities through investing in large scale infrastructure projects and the community-based development initiatives. Financial commitment (per its capita) of Fiji for the expansion of legal aid services makes it a world leader in the access to justice sector. This gives the low income Fijians greater security, assurance and legal protection in an equal society.

## Monitoring and Evaluation of SDGs

The most important considerations for sustainable development have always been incorporated into Fiji's national development priorities. Fiji has a 'whole of Government' approach and as a result, SDGs implementation has become everyone's priority.

Two National Development Plans were made in 2017. One of these is a five year plan (2017 - 2021) which is a comprehensive and is aligned to the long term 20 years Development Plan. The 20 year National Development Plan (NDP) is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It underwent a thorough national consultation and included all stakeholders and reflects the Government's commitment to achieve the SDGs. The NDP adapted a multi sectoral approach and also addresses important cross-cutting issues such as climate change, green growth, gender equality, disability and governance. Not only at the national level but the Government has integrated the SDGs into the sector level in the form of sectoral strategic plans and policies. The private enterprises, NGOs and CSOs and

individuals are also encouraged to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and in the process, the Fijian Government is helping advance socio-economic development and empowerment of Fijians.

In terms of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, Fiji has the National Development Plan as well as Sectoral Plans. The M&E systems are embedded into the Plan, including monitoring and evaluation templates, to monitor outputs and activities, and clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each ministries and agencies. Together with the national plan, a sector plan has an operational plan that includes its goals, objectives and key performance indicators. The budget evaluation criteria involves a realistic cost estimate and proposals must align with priority sectors and links to the ministry's national outcomes. The criterion for annual funding includes the alignment of projects/programmes with the NDP (and SDGs) and other national plans such as the Green Growth Framework.

In line with the goal of the Paris Agreement for a low-emission world, Fiji developed a Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) which is a 2050 pathway to decarbonize the Fijian economy. The Fijian Government had the technical support from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) for this initiative which contributes to reducing carbon emissions and integrating climate resilience with green growth development. Fiji also joined the 2050 Pathways Platform at COP23 which would see its transition towards a net zero-greenhouse gas, climate-resilient and sustainable development pathway involving long-term decarbonisation strategies.

## Financing for Sustainable Development

Financing for sustainable development has always been a challenge for the Pacific Small Island Development States (SIDS), especially when it is "climate-sensitive development".<sup>6</sup> The frequency and severity of extreme weather

events in the Pacific is predicted to increase and with this increase there is an extra financial burden to secure to address and plan for climate change adaptation. One example is the Cyclone Winston in 2016 which struck Fiji as a Category 5 cyclone and was one of the most powerful in the Southern Hemisphere. The damages were calculated to be F\$1.29 billion and losses were F\$0.70 billion which is equivalent to one fifth of the country's GDP in 2014. It reduced Fiji's economic growth by 2.5 per cent. Pacific SIDS are vulnerable to these extreme weather events and subsequent economic shocks often limit the resources and capacities to effectively plan for and respond to such disasters.

Fiji gives priority to climate change issues and increasing financing for climate change adaptation. Climate change represents an existential threat and funds need to be secured to adapt to its impacts. Fiji received substantial amounts of funding from the Green Climate Fund with just under 60 per cent allocated to adaptation, 36 per cent to mitigation and 5 per cent for both.

Apart from attracting foreign direct investment and private sector partnerships, the Pacific is also focusing on increasing the South South Cooperation. Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) plays the role of the Pacific regional platform for the South-South and other international groupings under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between PIDF and the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC). PIDF together with UNOSSC recently launched a publication on "Shaping the Future Regional South-South Cooperation: Sharing the ASEAN Experiences and Nurturing Synergies across Regions". PIDF sees South-South Cooperation as a key element of SDG implementation in the Pacific islands, as it brings in not only relevant and comparable expertise and exchanges but also a strong solidarity approach.

Fiji has taken a few steps to align its national budget and foreign aid to the NDP. However,

there are challenges associated with this which includes technical constraints in innovative financing instruments and limitation to domestic resources. This is further hindered by the complex reporting procedures for different sources of finances.

## Challenges

As a small island development state, Fiji faces many challenges, especially in terms of financial and technical resources as well as a weak institutional link between government, private sector and other stakeholders. There is a need to strengthen cooperation between these stakeholders and initiate discussions so the silo system of operation is minimized.

The struggle with synergizing data and its sources is ongoing. There is a need to have credible, reliable and clear data sources. Sometimes the different agencies responsible for data in different sectors are sensitive to sharing and management of their data. As a result, a lot of duplication and overlap of resources occurs. Data consistency allows for comparable indicators in both the plans and the budgets and ensures the associated monitoring framework to track both plan and budget performance in an integrated manner (rather than as parallel processes). It also minimizes duplication in terms of resource use for sector and national priorities. Also, consolidated reporting minimizes the burden of having to report to multiple instruments considering the fact that there can be capacity challenges. Bringing the SDGs from the global to the local level has been a challenge for Fiji as there was a lack of national action plan and targets. However, this issue was addressed through the development of the NDP. Making the SDGs known to local communities and individuals through consultations and awareness sessions has built the foundation for better outcomes. Developing toolkits and guidelines for communities would help them better understand the SDG processes and proper budget analysis tools will give a better accountability of what the government is doing to achieve the

targets of SDGs.

There are data/statistics gaps for effective monitoring in Fiji and the Pacific.<sup>7</sup> In order to address the national reporting needs, data production and use and the implementation of development priorities and resource components are critical. It provides a more effective use of national systems for results monitoring including the outcomes and output levels. Pacific island countries have capacity challenges and there is a call for consolidated reporting by the Pacific leaders which will lessen the reporting burdens. Continuous monitoring of priorities and budget resourcing allocations through relevant indicators contributes to consistent development of knowledge base for reporting. Once the global commitments are incorporated into the national plans, such as the NDP, the monitoring reports can form a firm basis for global reporting. Sometimes the processes don't have sufficient ownership at different levels, for example, the line ministries might have sector strategies, and the finance department leading on the budget, the planning department may lead on the national plan development and monitoring, etc. while the responsible institutions may have ownership, it may be often weak elsewhere. It is also difficult to ensure that the timelines are met when the responsible agencies are working in isolation. A central driver for linking these processes is essential.

In Fiji, there is insufficient capacity to coordinate and monitor plan implementation. In order to have an effective result for planned priorities and resource use, it is necessary to strengthen monitoring systems and adapting to different reporting requirements.

## Solutions Going Forward

Properly integrated plans and policies, and budgets with statistics for monitoring are key for the implementation of sustainable development. In addition, it is also important to link these processes to allocate resources to support the implementation. The publication of the NDP and the national targets should be readily avail-

able for the public and the sector plans should consistently make reference to SDGs that would ensure a synchronized approach.

Commitment to improve and implement consistent dialogue with line ministries is essential. An important step taken by the government towards this was the integration of SDGs into NDP, which is the ‘whole of government’ strategic plan.

There is a need to improve the existing resource base including technical capacity within institutions in Fiji and increase training/learning with development partners.

Engagement with political parties through regular updates to heads of government and policy makers, both national and internationally is essential. The Fiji Parliament is playing an active role in strengthening its support towards the promotion and implementation of SDGs.<sup>8</sup> In 2016, the Parliament undertook capacity building activities for the members and staff, developed a gender analysis toolkit and promoted SDGs through Speaker’s debate.

There is no single solution to integrating planning and budgeting processes. Consolidating central functions under one ministry, for example, combining finance and planning has proven to be successful. Some other innovative efforts include: strategic budget that allows sector priorities to be considered; consolidating indicator measures for national/sector plans and budget implementation; and involvement of the cabinet in decision making in the policy, planning and budget areas.

## Conclusion

Fiji’s commitment to the 2030 global sustainable development agenda is absolute and is a cornerstone of its national policies. Climate change is threatening the social and economic wellbeing not only of Fijians but the people of small and vulnerable developing states the world over. Engagement and dialogue, intertwined with genuine actionable commitment, is the only significant means of achieving success not just

for us, but for our children as well. Presenting the VNR, Fiji committed to have more protection for Fijians with disabilities, more girls in the education system, more connection to rural and maritime areas, more resources for young entrepreneurs, more support for women going through domestic violence and sexual assaults and more focus on the oceans tapping into blue economy and protecting coral reefs.<sup>9</sup>

### Endnotes

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# Mapping the Pathway from Developing to Developed Nation Status: A Caribbean Perspective

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Varsha Sankar\*

For many developing countries in the Caribbean region the untold truth lies in the bitter reality of corruption and mismanagement of public funds which have crippled our economies. It has been decades since individual countries in the region and their people have escaped colonialism and have gained Independence. Yet, for many of our people we have failed to escape from political and mental slavery. Our democracy has institutionalised our thinking. Partisan politics continue to create strife and division based on race, religion and ethnicity. The politicians now act as our puppet masters and many of us are fooled into believing that equal opportunity exists. Government come and government go – sweet words of betterment, equality, equity and justice for all fill the election arena. Yet, in 2019, the harsh predicament of our actions and inactions can be seen in the uneven distribution of wealth across the board. On the way forward, pockets of society are being left behind. The time has come; the voices of the voiceless must be heard. The oppressed must become empowered. We must demand better because we deserve better. And as our region journeys towards developed nation status we must unite hand-in-hand, side-by-side, as regional brothers and sisters, as pillars of strength supporting each other.

The United Nations agenda in the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals and the Sustainable Development Goals was centred at fostering integrated economic and human development plans. The 17 SDGs adopted by all nations are supposed to guide policy-making and policy implementation. Participatory governance and inclusiveness should be the basis of life-centric policy making by government officials and those in authority. But, it is clear, we have missed our targets and we continue to do so, because the underprivileged and oppressed continue to play an inactive role in our Parliaments.

In order to achieve the SDGs, the Caribbean region requires a paradigm shift. We must develop our capacity to think as independent countries under one umbrella. We must lead the way. We must recognize that our greatest asset lies in our human resources and our diversity. While our Government plays a vital role in the defence, protection and prosperity of our country and its citizens, each of us must hold ourselves accountable for our economic, social and judicial breakdown that now governs our region. Our wings are ready but our readiness must be there before we can fly. We must put an end to the blame game. We must release the strings to which we are politically attached and

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we must remove the racial and discriminatory blinders that mask our faces. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves. If we allow our fear to dictate our destiny, the end result will be our demise. We cannot and we must not allow our current and future generations to endure this ill-fate. We cannot wait for our leaders to lead. We must collectively emerge as one: one people, one region. And while the world has seen our descent, they can now view our rising.

What travesties have been done can be undone. What is broken can be whole again. Togetherness through love and respect can take our region into developed nation status. The roadmap for economic growth and sustainable development begins with us: a Caribbean people. Let us commit to leaving no one behind.

# Issues in Planning and Governance towards SDGs: Case from Honduras

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Juan Pablo Lopez Moncada\*

## I. Introduction

Honduras adopted in September 2015 the 2030 Agenda for the Sustainable Development Goals in the General Assembly of the United Nations. Until 2015 it had modest progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The pending challenges are being taken up again in the 2030 Agenda, but based on the lessons learned, the commitments to reduce the prevailing gaps, will be resumed with a multidimensional, intersectoral and participatory approach. In 2016 and 2017, progress has been made in building the necessary foundations to achieve the implementation of the 2030 Agenda successfully

Honduras must face great challenges to ensure that its population can have at least the basic services to lead a life. According to World Bank<sup>1</sup> estimates, Honduras is a low-middle-income country that faces significant challenges, with more than 60 per cent of the population living in poverty (2018). In rural areas, approximately one in five Hondurans lives in extreme poverty (less than US \$ 1.90 per day).

Although the economic outlook is positive, Honduras faces the highest levels of economic inequality in Latin America. Another of its great challenges is the high level of crime and violence. Although in recent years the number of homicides has decreased, Honduras continues

to have one of the highest rates in the world (43.6 murders per 100,000 inhabitants in 2017, according to the Violence Observatory of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (Castellanos).

Honduras is also susceptible to adverse natural phenomena such as hurricanes and droughts. Some measures to mitigate the impact of these calamities focus on strengthening the capacity of households to adapt, extend market-based risk management mechanisms and develop effective social protection networks.

World Bank studies have highlighted the importance of improving the quality of education and diversifying sources of rural income, since most Hondurans that are poverty stricken reside in these areas and depend on agriculture for subsistence. Other studies indicate that targeted social programs have shown potential to reduce poverty.

## II. Challenges to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

### Poor Statistical System

One of the main limitations in the evaluation of the results of the MDGs was the low availability of the information systems that integrated the registry of the operations carried out for the preparation and presentation of consolidated reports for their monitoring, evaluation and

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control, partly because of the precariousness of the data collection and coverage process, as well as the lack of reliability in the sources of information that evaluated the impact of public policies.

It is necessary that national statistical offices have quality information, with a higher level of disaggregation of data and with a wider coverage that serves both to measure progress, and to make government decisions based on evidence. To this end, national systems should undertake an analysis of their capacities to respond to the information demands of the sustainable development agenda; improve the way data is produced and used; close data gaps to avoid discrimination; build capacities and data culture; modernize data collection systems; disseminate data to promote transparency and accountability and, finally, the development of indicators to assess the new sustainable development goals.

### **Budget planning for the 2030 agenda**

The commitment assumed by Honduras at the United Nations Summit in September 2015, with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, implies a challenge and at the same time an opportunity to strengthen development planning and budgeting schemes or models that the country has adopted to overcome poverty and inequality, and in general to improve the living conditions of Hondurans. From the field of public management, the greatest challenge is to appropriate the 2030 Agenda, and with extreme rigor, internalize the long-term reach of the SDGs and avoid promoting separate agendas and fragmentation of actions.

### **Participation of the 2030 Agenda**

Generating an adequate participation and involvement of the different groups and national, public and private actors, constitutes an important challenge for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs, for which government consider designing

and implementing an effective strategy of sensitization and communication, based on sustainable and sufficient institutional and financial resources.

In the case of the private sector, the greatest challenge is their involvement and that they recognize the opportunity provided by the 2030 Agenda as it is a mechanism that incorporates, in the long term, sustainability in their strategies, businesses and thus achieve positive benefits with economies sustainable and equitable for the implementation of the Agenda.

### **Governance Framework for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda of the SDGs**

The major challenge in governance of the 2030 Agenda of SDGs is the application of its mechanisms and instruments approved by the country for the process of implementing the Agenda, preparation and presentation of different country reports on progress and other specific SDGs. It also implies that this framework may undergo revisions and modifications, both for the dynamism of the Agenda and for its characteristics of integrality, universality and not leaving anyone behind as well as for the link that it will have with the country's development planning within the framework of long term vision.

## **III. Implementation of SDGs: Stakeholders**

### **Central Government**

The Presidency of the Republic decided that the Secretariat of State for General Government Coordination (SCGG) would assume the leadership of the 2030 Agenda. This determination is based on the legal functions empowered by Decree Law No. 266-2013, as assistant to the President in the formulation of the national strategic planning attached to the Country Vision, the formulation of public policies, among other functions.

The main objective is to achieve that all levels of the central government (Sector Cabinets, Secretaries of State, Centralized and Decentralized Institutions), in coordination with other powers of the state and municipal governments, assume their commitments in the pursuit of achieving the goals of the SDGs.

### **Secretaries of State**

They are responsible for coordinating the actions of public institutions in the process of implementing the 2030 agenda as well as coordinating with sectors by the precise elements and budget planning. Among them are the following :

- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock
- Secretary of Infrastructure and Public Works
- Secretary of International Relations and International Cooperation
- Finance Secretary
- Secretary of Security (violence prevention)
- Secretary of Health and the Honduras Fund for Social Security

The essential problem that is found in each of the aforementioned Secretaries is that there is not enough trained staff that can socialize and follow up properly, the Central Government must create committees, with statistical capacity so that the achievements and barriers to the advancement of the 2030 agenda have been compared annually.

### **National Congress of the Republic**

It is the entity responsible for harmonizing the legal framework of Honduras with international agreements and treaties. Special commissions should be an essential factor for analytical considerations when planning the budget, because political factors often veto proposals proposed in the framework of the SDGs

interfering in the development of the agenda and breaking the objectives already agreed.

### **Civil society**

The civil Society is responsible for ensuring compliance with the 2030 agenda, through the participation and inclusion of various groups focused on working on these issues. They are called to participate in high-level technical meetings, where they are allowed to share their experiences of the work done in communities which were in need, both in large cities and in rural areas. The participation of Civil Society must play a role in the non-partialization of the agenda, one of the greatest risks faced by certain groups of civil society is active participation in certain political groups, losing the focus of the Development Objectives, not distinguishing between races, gender, or economic conditions.

### **Private sector**

Private sector plays a fundamental role in development process and it directly participates in three of the fundamental pillars of the SDGs: social, prosperity and environment. The Chamber of Commerce of Honduras, must develop a private public agenda together with the government to encourage the population for self-sustainable development mechanism. This must be the response of the requests made by private sector associations in Honduras to support and consolidate data in favour of social, environmental, and economic issues, the pillars of the 2030 Agenda. With this, these unions have been able to participate in a wider space where 142 companies, which contribute significantly to the national GDP and that already develop sustainability reports using GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) methodology, have defined, by consensus, a first set of goals and objectives-viz. SDGs 4: Quality education, SDG 7: Affordable and non-polluting energy, SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth, SDG 12: Responsible production and consumption, SDG 13: Climate action, and SDG 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions Goals.

This is an exercise of the private sector of Honduras under the leadership of the Honduran Council of Private Enterprise (COHEP) and the Secretariat of General Government Coordination, as responsibility for the 2030 Agenda

### **Municipalities<sup>2</sup>**

Honduras is a country with experiences and lessons learned in carrying the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at the municipal and local level, developed within the framework of the Observatory System for the Monitoring of the Millennium Goals, executed by the UNDP, under three components: 1) knowledge management; 2) strategic planning and harmonization; and, 3) institutional strengthening. This system proposed the construction of capacities to achieve territorial development in a set of 65 municipalities in three regions: 1) Western, (including municipalities of the departments of Intibucá, Ocotepeque, Lempira and Copán); 2) North, (with municipalities of Atlántida, Colón, and Gracias a Dios); and, 3) South, (including municipalities of the department of Valle and a municipality of Choluteca). It was proposed to provide the country with tools to assess the impact of national and external policies and investments around the MDGs, generating instruments for the development of local capacities in the construction and evaluation of public policies that allow improving efficiency and effectiveness of spending and public investment, and to strengthen participation processes at the local level. With the aim of improving municipal management, 177 municipalities in the country were incorporated into the Local Capacity Building Project

### **International Cooperation for Sustainable Development**

The implementation of the SDGs require proper coordination with the development cooperation actors, as they play important role in the financing of programmes and projects, in the three dimensions that make up the

SDGs. Among the main areas of cooperation undertaken by various agencies including the UN agencies that are aligned with the Country Vision (2010-2038)<sup>3</sup>, are as follows:

- Alignment of the UNDP Country Program with the following regional initiatives: the Mosquitia; the Dry Corridor; the Lenca region; the 30 municipalities with the highest levels of violence.
- The development of tools such as RIA (Rapid Integrated Assessment) and the construction of “combos”, through a holistic approach to accelerate the execution of SDGs.
- Subscription with FAO of the Country Programming Framework (MPP) that highlights four priority areas of intervention; 1) food security; 2) the development of the territories; 3) risk management and; 4) resilience to climate variability.
- The UNICEF Cooperation Programme from 2017-2021 focuses its assistance and collaboration efforts on Honduran children in conditions of greatest disadvantage.
- WFP’s Strategic Country Plan is aimed at serving the poorest and most vulnerable population in the departments of the South and South-West zones, traditionally with food insecurity and prone to droughts and floods and with high levels of chronic malnutrition.
- The Pan American Health Organization prioritizes, in its Country Strategy, its lines of action: “Advise on the implementation, monitoring and implementation of SDGs 3 and health-related goals in the 2030 Agenda”.
- UNFPA links its Country Programme (2017-2021) to: a) support the Government’s activities to combat inequalities; b) promote the existence of peaceful and inclusive societies, free from fear and violence; c) promote the protection of human rights; and d) promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.
- ONAIDS has decided to support the country

by coordinating strategies and actions focused on working to respond to the AIDS epidemic in the integral framework of the SDGs, under the guidelines of the “2016 Political Declaration to end AIDS: accelerate the AIDS response for rapid action against the AIDS epidemic and its eradication in 2030,” through the implementation of the 2017-2021 ONAIDS Strategy.

- The Office in Honduras of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has identified the thematic priorities of: i) Expansion of the democratic space; ii) Early warning and protection of human rights in the high-level political forum - United Nations Economic and Social Council national examination for voluntary review agenda 2030, 32 situations of conflict, violence and insecurity; and, iii) Fight against impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law.
- The UN Women office, based on the needs identified in the country, the global objectives in its Strategic Plan, and the 2030 Agenda, has prioritized three areas of action: i) Leadership and participation of women in all levels of decision making; ii) economic empowerment of women; and, iii) elimination of violence against women.

#### IV. Conclusion

For Honduras, the Sustainable Development Goals means a closer approach to the international community and other actors interested in sustainable development, and a way to share our experiences and efforts to fulfill the commitment assumed in September 2015. We recognize the need to count on with our own National SDG Agenda, which is inserted in the National Development

Planning System. This National Agenda must comply with the fundamental principles of universality, integrality, participatory, inclusive and democratic principles. There is a consensus that the Agenda 2030 is an opportune instrument and a platform for planning the economic and social development of the country, with sustainability and equity, which promotes great transformations, and is conducive to draw the great long-term strategic lines that guarantee well-being of its population. The Government is aware of the need for efficient, effective and timely information systems that allow measurement of progress in the implementation of the agenda. There is need to redouble the efforts to structure true monitoring and evaluation systems, as it is also important to strengthen the institutional framework of SDGs and their capabilities. In other words, it is of the utmost importance to create the conditions for the viability and appropriation of the agenda so that it is an Agenda for all. This would imply having sufficiently strong and credible governance mechanisms that support an extensive and complex social framework of governance but that must be simple, practical and functional to facilitate the processes of consensus and agreements, necessary for making the best decisions and moving more quickly in the direction of achievement of the SDGs.

#### Endnotes

1. <https://datos.bancomundial.org/pais/honduras> Evaluation Annual.
2. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HvCY1TOOf4rY3x1o2WKf20lwlyowdgcn/view> Institutional memory of the association municipalities of Honduras
3. [n.undp.org/content/honduras/es/home/sustainable-development-goals/background.html](http://n.undp.org/content/honduras/es/home/sustainable-development-goals/background.html) United Nations Development Program in Honduras



# Overview of the National Priorities of Suriname towards Achieving the SDGs

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Gita Jhinkoe Rai\*

## I. Introduction

Suriname, a former plantation colony of the Netherlands, is an upper middle income country, situated in South America. It is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean and the neighboring countries French Guiana, Guyana and Brazil. The population consists of approximately 534.189 people and the official language is Dutch. The majority of the people live in and around the capital Paramaribo. Suriname is considered to be a culturally Caribbean country and is a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The population is diverse due to different ethnic groups with their specific religion, cultural habits and languages.

Suriname was originally populated by indigenous people, who are now a minority group. The largest ethnic group is the descendants of contract laborers from India, followed by the Maroons and Creoles, the descendants of African slaves. Furthermore, there are Japanese people whom also are descendants from citizens from Java, and Indonesia, Chinese people and people of mixed ethnicity. The main resources of income are mineral resources (gold, oil, bauxite) and agriculture (rice and banana)<sup>1</sup>.

## II. National priorities for Suriname

According to the World Bank, one of the major development challenges in Suriname is inequality (Country Program Document for Suriname, 2016). This is a result of historical inequities among regions and different groups in the Surinamese society. Issues related to a shortage of finances result in limited financial expenditures in health and education. The government strives for availability and accessibility of quality services to all groups, which should be optimal, sustainable and financeable<sup>2</sup>.

The eight national SDGs priorities<sup>3</sup> which are identified for Suriname are: agriculture and food security; natural resources management, including fisheries management and oceans governance; water resources management; energy (incl. renewable energy and energy efficiency); climate change and sea level rise; biodiversity conservation; waste management and chemicals management; and sustainable tourism.

The cross cutting themes are: Poverty eradication, gender equality, health equity

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(strengthening of health systems), Quality education, Finance, technology transfer and capacity building (SIDS, 2014).

### III. Development Plan of Suriname

According to the National Development Plan of Suriname, the central goal of Suriname's development effort is that: "Each individual and group contributes to Surinamese society on the basis of the rights and responsibilities in a state system, in which people live happily through the eradication of hunger and poverty and where safety and social security are guaranteed, that the community lives in a sustainable balance with nature and that other people in the world community live on the basis of mutual economic advantage and have respect for international law"<sup>4</sup>.

The development policy in Suriname is based on four pillars<sup>5</sup>: strengthening development capacity; economic growth and diversification; social progress/ inclusion and use and protection of the environment.

In the following sections an overview of the activities on each pillar related to the SDG goals<sup>6</sup>, is presented:

**First Pillar- Strengthening Development Capacity:** The development capacity means that human resources at all levels are involved in the process (link with Goals 4 and 8). In addition, key institutions in the public sector must be transparent and linked to production, investments, the private sector and public private partnerships (link with Goal 17). To reach this, the following conditions must be in place: physical infrastructure, (link with Goal 9), transport, (link with Goal 11), energy, (link with Goal 7), water, (link with Goal 6), knowledge sector (link with Goal 4), ICT, (link with Goals 4,9 and 17), institutional framework for planning, (link with Goals 9 & 17), safety, (link with Goal 16), marketing and entrepreneurship have been adequately developed (link with Goal 8).

**2nd pillar- Increasing economic growth and diversification:** Natural resources (mining of bauxite, gold) are exploited with minimal environmental harm (link with Goal 8) and harmonious collaboration between companies of the mineral sector (link with Goal 8). The access of Surinamese products to regional and international markets has increased (link with Goal 17) as well as job creation (link with Goal 8). The income of citizens has improved (link with Goal 8) and there is equity in development in the city and the interior (link with Goal 11).

**3rd pillar- Social Progress/ inclusion-** the prosperity and well-being of citizens has improved. This implies equal opportunities for development for each citizen through education and gender equality (link with Goals 4, 5 and 10), a good distribution of incomes (link with Goals 8 and 10), housing for everyone (link with Goal 11), quality health care available (link with Goal 3), security and safety are guaranteed (link with Goal 16), poverty reduction (link with Goal 1) and job creation (link with Goal 8).

**4th pillar- Use and Protection of the Environment:** the focus is on activities on sea level rise (the Atlantic Ocean). This means that the damages caused by sea level rise (link with Goals 13, 14 and 15) has to be minimized, reduction on the use of harmful pesticides and chemicals during agricultural and mining activities (link with Goals 13, 14 and 15), sustainable use of forestry activities according to the Development Plan 2017-2021 and Suriname's national and international obligations (link with Goals 11, 13, 14, 15 and 17).

The Central Bureau of Statistics in Suriname made an attempt to link the SDGs to the National Development Plan. When the National Development Plan (NOP) is compared with the SDGs, we can see that all the SDG goals are incorporated in the Plan.

- Economic Goals: SDGs 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 17
- Social related Goals: SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 16, 17

- Environment related Goals: SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15

The majority of the goals are cross cutting and do not stand alone. According to the sustainable development agenda, the SDGs are not legally binding. Governments are expected to take ownership and establish national frameworks for the achievement of the 17 Goals in 2030. Countries have the primary responsibility for follow up and review of the progress made in implementing the Goals, which will require quality, accessible and timely data collection.

Currently, Suriname neither has a National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) nor a formally accepted National SDGs list of indicators as yet. These products are in a final stage and will be formally accepted very soon. There is a good collaboration between the Central Bureau for Statistics and the stakeholders of the government, the private sector and the UN agencies.

#### IV. CARICOM Core SDG indicators

As part of the CARICOM, Suriname has joined the CARICOM Technical Working Group on SDGs in 2017, who worked on the CARICOM Core set on SDGs. This is a set of 125 indicators, which make it possible for the Caribbean countries to compare their progress. The working group created a set of four criteria which the SDG CARICOM Core set has to comply with. The four criteria that make an indicator “Core” are as follows:

- The goal should be linked to National/Regional Planning/Priorities to provide a clear overview of the progress to development (relevance)
- The indicators must be suitable to measure the specific goals for the diverse population in the CARICOM (leave no one behind)
- The unique vulnerability of SIDS (Small islands developing states) must be seen (uniqueness)

- National/Regional and international comparable (to be able to compare).

In addition, Suriname also became part of the CARICOM Technical Working Group on Environmental Statistics in 2017, which is responsible for data collection on Environmental Statistics. Furthermore, Suriname is also part the UN Expert Group on Environmental Statistics. The General Bureau for Statistics, which is the main responsible unit for the monitoring and evaluation SDG's, is frequently trained by regional and international organizations on data collection for the SDG's. In addition to the SDG indicators, the MICS (Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey) 6 and the administrative data of the ministries provides a good baseline for some of the SDGs. The 6th MICS 2018 was a very important survey which could provide baseline data for the SDGs. Most of the MICS indicators are social indicators. The data from Surveys like MICS (latest 2010), Household Budget Surveys (2013/2014), and data from the Population and Housing Census (latest 2012) is only available for certain years, so the data needs to be updated (Central Bureau for Statistics Suriname, 2018).

Before implementing the SDGs it is crucial that the society becomes aware of the benefits of this programme. Currently, different steps are being taken before the actual implementation of the program starts: awareness sessions for stakeholders, local communities, and the private sector and youth organizations are involved to ensure their participation and ownership regarding the SDG's (ECLAC, 2017). Awareness and sensitization is an ongoing activity and it is of major importance to let the people's voices be heard at all levels, from the politician to the farmer in the farms and the child in the schools. Local authorities have the task and responsibility to localize the community needs and implementing the activities on community level. The involvement of local authorities has the benefit that they could play an important role in the data collection on the district and region level. This approach provides more

insights on the outcome of activities in urban and rural areas (UNDP Suriname, 2016).

## V. Challenges and opportunities

Implementation of the SDG's goes along with challenges and threats. The country has not formulated a vision or strategy on technological development yet, and this obstructs the planning, implementation and monitoring the progress towards attaining goals/decision taking for the implementation of activities. Furthermore, there is no official SDG committee installed yet which results in a delay of activities. This installation will take place very soon as well as the formalization of the national SDG indicators of Suriname.

Another challenge is the lack/ shortage of financial and human resources<sup>7</sup> (expertise and research capacity), due to devaluation and brain drain. Human resources and capacities are required to develop clear indicators to monitor the progress. For some indicators data is only available for the urban or the rural areas of Suriname. The majority of the surveys do not have data for the interior due to the high cost. For some indicators (particularly the "new" environment related indicators) there is no data available and the standard surveys do not collect these indicators. A specialized survey is needed to collect this data. Lack of financial and human resources makes it hard to have specialized surveys. In this regard, for the implementation and monitoring of the SDG's, more training and capacity is needed in data collection for the new indicators.

The current national planning system of Suriname needs to be adjusted, and aligned with the

district decentralization programme, so that efficient and adequate planning, decision-making, implementation and fundraising at district and local levels can take place. Funding of project activities is needed for planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation at all levels: international, regional, national,

district and local.<sup>8</sup> (). To reach sustainable and equitable development in Suriname, investments in time, human and technical resources are a prerequisite.

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# SDGs, National Priorities and Indicators across Five Developing Countries

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# SDGs, National Priorities and Indicators across Five Developing Countries

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## Introduction

The path to socio-economic development of all countries lies in the pillars of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In the pursuit of equality and equity for all, these pillars must be strong and durable to withstand any volatility that may arise. This process requires resilience, political will and unwavering commitment from the people if these countries are to move from a developing to developed in the long-term. In this paper we conducted an investigation into five developing countries: South Sudan, Tajikistan, Trinidad & Tobago, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. A brief synopsis of each country's national vision was given along with the core national priority. A comparative analysis mapped the indicators with the associated priority to create a cross-indexed indicator framework which gives a vivid picture of the commonalities across developing countries. By reviewing official governmental plans, the paper highlights two similar patterns in national priorities. First, most countries emphasize the SGD-9, which is to develop industry and infrastructure. Second, most countries continue the unfinished agenda of MDGs since they still prioritized the goals of basic needs such as food, water, energy, gender and education.

## SOUTH SUDAN

The government of the Republic of South Sudan

launched the national priority gender equality indicators to help in tracking progress regarding attainment of goal 5 and other SDG targets.

The process of developing the indicators was led by South Sudan Bureau of Statistic in collaboration with Juba University School of Development Studies and the Ministry of Gender Social Welfare and Religious Affairs with the support of UN Women.

The indicators include a complete set of priority gender indicators covering six thematic areas including economic, education, health, leadership, and political participation, human right and ICT. The indicators have been aligned to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators developed at global level.

Currently the national development plan [NDP] and the SDGs present unprecedented data requirements on social economic and demographic aspects including women in leadership and decision making positions, women in labour forces, ownership of land and control of assets by women, access to reproductive health services, gender based violence [GBV], access to education of girl children, women in conflict situation etc.

The development of the national priority gender equality indicators [NPEI] is a timely effort to track progress and explore gaps on gender inequality to redress by the different

sectors. These indicators are critical to putting the spotlight on gender inequality and the need to realize the rights of the marginalized who are always left behind.

The set of harmonized gender equality priority indicators was developed through a highly participatory and consultative process by a technical committee with representation from the Ministry of Gender Social Welfare and Religious Affairs and Juba University School of Development Studies.

As executive director South Sudan Bureau of Statistics says that South Sudan is a front runner in localizing SDGs and the NDP is gender responsive in all the pillars. South Sudan Bureau of Statistic is committed to ensuring alignment and production of gender responsive statistics to help in tracking of SDG 5 and other SDG targets.

According to UN women country representative Ms Hodan Addou there is need for harmonized set of statistics for evidence based planning and programming and to support accountability efforts at all levels. She emphasizes the need to align national indicators to SDGs indicators as South Sudan embarks on localizing SDGs. She said that in order to monitor progress in gender equality and the advancement of women and to guide policy, it is crucial that reliable and timely statistics be available, yet official national data on basic demographic and social topics for gender analysis are at times deficient or unavailable.

There is, therefore, a need to integrate and harmonize gender equality indicators in the national indicators framework, strengthen coordination and partnerships with ministries, departments and agencies. During a consultative meeting held in 2016. It was noted that government agencies need to continuously track implementation, identify information gaps and engage a core team to fully understand that gender indicators are required mostly at services level to ensure that no one is left behind in the development process. The national priority

gender inequality indicators will help in tracking implementation of government programmes from a gender perspective. The indicators are appropriate instruments for delivering SDG 5 and related frameworks including policy and planning frameworks to achieve gender equality in South Sudan. The national gender equality data needed for monitoring gender equality. In conclusion, overall the indicators will contribute to the strategy towards sustainable development goals.

## TAJIKISTAN

The Republic of Tajikistan is a country located in Eastern Europe and Central Asia with a population 8.5 million, 49per cent of the population are women, and 35 per cent are youth (under 14 years old), which makes Tajikistan one of the youthful countries in Central Asia. Hydropower, freshwater recourses, and varied natural resources act as favorable conditions for growing organic food products. Tajikistan is full of opportunities for brisk growth of eco-tourism, which is in line with the fundamental principles of human development in the context of access to natural resources. Tajikistan as a member of UN follow the Global Goals, that represent a universal call to take measures to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Thus, Tajikistan developed National development strategy 2030.

The Government of Tajikistan has identified four strategic development goals for the next 15 years which are fully aligned with the SDGs:

- Ensure energy security and efficient use of electricity (SDG 7);
- Exit from communication dead-lock and turn country into a transit path (SDG 9);
- Ensure food security and people's access to good quality nutrition (SDG 1 and SDG2);
- Expand productive employment (SDG 8)

To mainstream SDGs in the national agenda of Tajikistan, the government has adopted the

National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS-2030) and Mid Term Development Programme of Tajikistan for 2016-2020 (MTDP-2020). The two priorities identified in the National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS-2030) are ensuring energy security and the efficient use of electricity (SDG 7) and ensuring food security and access of population to quality nutrition (SDG 2). It also focuses on interconnected issues of gender equality, industrialization (innovation and infrastructure within SDG 9), access to safe drinking water, and climate change. Issues like justice and corruption also need immediate attention. In 2017 the Voluntary National Report analyzed the process of the SDGs implementation at the country level and integration of the 2030-Agenda based on thematic Goals. Objectives of Sustainable Development Review was prepared on the basis of a series of consultations at the national and regional level, with the broad participation of stakeholders: governmental experts, including sectorial and local level specialists, UN agencies, and parliament members, civil society, academia, entrepreneurs and media, as well as representatives of the development partners in Tajikistan. Two major issues identified by Tajikistan government are efficient utilization of water resources and employment for the youth (VNR Tajikistan, 2017).

The Agency on statistics under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan is responsible for monitoring and evaluation in Tajikistan. Every year the Agency collects data from the ministries and agencies. Reviews produced by the international organizations, expert evaluations, monitoring results of regional development programs, and other information from international sources. Also analyze 46 indicators of which, 19 are economic, 19 social, five for the field of energy, and three for the rights and management.

For achieving SDG according to National priorities, planning, strengthening civic engagement and public awareness to promote multi-stakeholders, and dialogue on Agenda

2030 - SDGs, NDS/MTDP which determines the long-term directions of socio-economic development of the country are necessary. It is critical to increase the level of participation of civil society and a wider population in SDGs implementation at both national and regional levels focusing development efforts to address the key and cross-cutting priorities having catalytic effect on achievement of NDS/SDG goals. The country need to continue capacity building of the Government officials and CSO for planning and monitoring of development strategies. Also increasing level of public awareness about SDG and NDS will help for effective realization of future activities to achieve SDGs in Tajikistan.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Nestled in the heart of the Caribbean, lies one of the major economic hubs -Trinidad and Tobago. The country is mainly driven by its energy sector which provides the main source of revenue. However, within recent times, T&T has suffered tremendously from the oil and gas price shocks and this has resulted in a ripple effect to the other sectors of society. As such, the current Government has had to restructure the country's budget in order to absorb the decreases in revenue without grossly impacting its national vision. This downturn in the economy coupled with the lack of diversification of the economy has now placed Trinidad and Tobago as one of the top countries with a negative aggregate economic growth outlook in the globe (WTO, 2019).

In a bid to foster economic growth and sustainable development, the Ministry of Planning and Development has now reengineered and reformulated its Vision 2030 National Development Strategy (NDS) in which the global SDGs are incorporated. This national strategy focuses<sup>1</sup> on five main areas: Building Globally Competitive Businesses (SDGs 8, 9 and 12); Improving Productivity through Quality Infrastructure and Transport (SDGs 6, 7, 9 and 11); Putting People First: Nurturing Our

Greatest Asset (SDGs 1, 3, 4, and 11); Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic Development (SDG 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15) and Delivering Good Governance and Service Excellence (SDGs 10, 11).

Furthermore, the report indicates that the national outcomes, outputs and indicators have been developed to measure, monitor and track the progress of the localised goals through consultations with the relevant stakeholders at the various Ministry levels. Despite these measures, a true assessment can only be determined by the level of impact that each has on the citizenry of the country from the bottom to top.

## UZBEKISTAN

Uzbekistan is a country located in the center of Central Asia, with a population of 33.5 million people. It gained independence in 1991. Although rich in natural resources (gas, gold, uranium, and others), Uzbekistan is a doubly landlocked country. Uzbekistan is now the world's fifth-largest cotton exporter and sixth largest producer. The republic is undergoing structural reforms to transform the economy, industry, education, finance and banking, tourism and transport. All reforms are interlinked with the SDGs.

To strengthen the effectiveness of reforms, in accordance with the Resolution of the United Nations General Assembly No. 70 adopted at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015, as well as in order to organize systematic work for the consistent implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN Global Agenda until 2030, on October 20, 2018, the Government approved 16 National Sustainable Development Goals and 127 related tasks for the period until 2030.

Under this Government Decree, the implementation of the National SDGs for the period until 2030 is coordinated and supervised by the Deputy Prime Minister and the Ministry of Economy and Industry was

appointed as the main responsible body, which has the right to make decisions on the proper implementation of the National SDGs, binding on the other government bodies responsible for its implementation and attracting relevant specialists, experts, including foreign, as well as scientific and other institutions for the research and resolution of relevant issues related to the implementation of National goals and objectives.

Besides, under this Decree was approved a roadmap for organizing the implementation of the National Sustainable Development Goals and Tasks for the period up to 2030.

To inform public about SDGs the national portal<sup>2</sup> is created, which contains all the information related to the implementation of the SDGs by the Republic, such as legislative acts, events, results, and dashboards.

According to the UN website, in 2019 the Republic has a global index of 71.1 and a regional average score of 70.4 for achieving the SDGs. A detailed review of UN statistics shows very good country progress in achieving SDGs 1, 4, 7 and 13, and moderately improving for the implementation of SDGs 2, 3, 8, 9 and 11.

A very important task to achieve the SDGs is monitoring and evaluation. The responsible authority attracts local specialists and foreign experts to develop an optimal solution to this issue.

The government of Uzbekistan has recently indicated its readiness to present its VNR in ECOSOC's High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2020. Thus, the government is currently at a very early stage of the preparation of the VNR. An introductory workshop on VNR is being planned with the support from UN ESCAP for the national stakeholders to see where the gaps are (e.g., in terms of data, capacity, and resources) to prepare a strong VNR, as well as describe the necessary steps for a successful VNR. After those workshops, during next year authorities will be preparing

to perform VNR and to optimizing road map for achieving SDGs in further.

For Republic it is very important to achieve all 16 SDGs, but we can dedicate our next priorities as SDG 6, SDG 7 and SDG 9 (for provide comfortable housing, upgrade environment and infrastructure for tourism, new plants and factories).

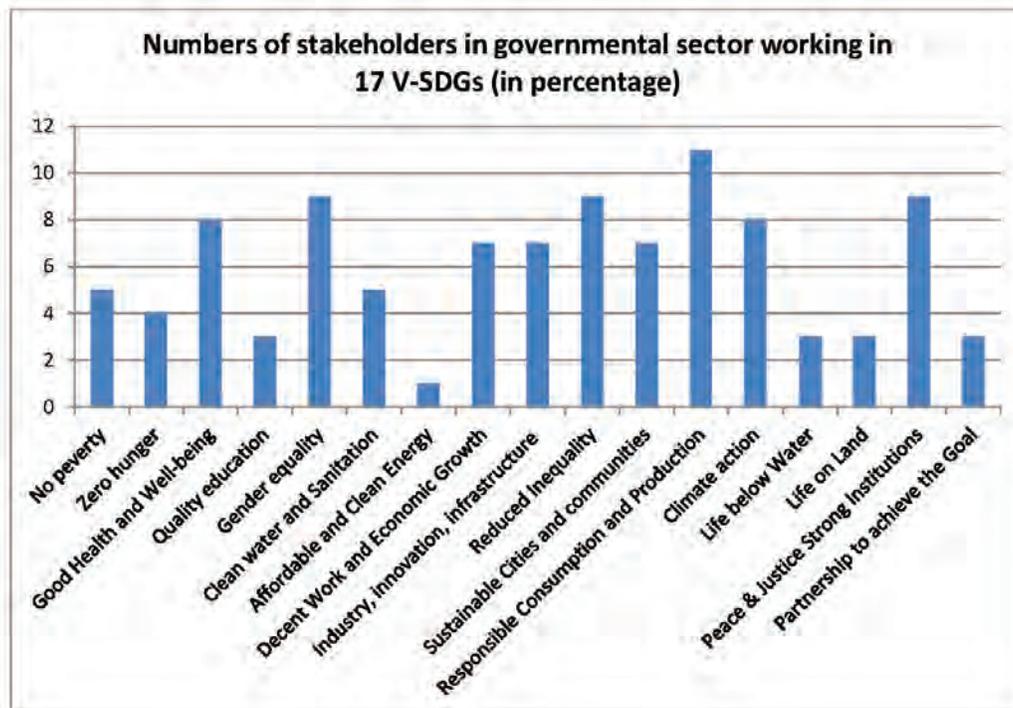
### VIETNAM

Vietnam is a single-party country ruled by the Communist Party (CPV). It is located in South East Asia with a population of over 97 million people (Worldometers 2019), and a total land area of 310,070 square kilometers (Worldatlas 2019). The country has very strong commitments to sustainable development. Since 2004, CPV has issued the Strategic guidance on sustainable development (MoPI 2018, p.87). The country has been working on 17 Vietnamese Sustainable Development Goals, with 115 targets (MoPI 2018, p.87) as well as integrated

SDGs in National Socio-Economic Development Plans throughout 2016-2020 indicators (MoPI 2018, p.14).

The priority of Vietnam is economic development by industrialization. Vietnam has been implementing Doi Moi (economic reform) policy since 1986, shifting from the heavily central-planning model (Vyllder & Fforde1988, p.13) towards the market-oriented economy (Mai 2004, p.21), and has gained the over 6 per cent of GDP growth annually during the past decade (IMF 2018, cited in Ahmed 2019). To maintain the momentum of this economic growth, in 2018, the CPV issued the Direction to Plan the National Industrial Development to 2030, which states: “As of 2030, Vietnam achieves the goals of industrialization, modernization, and becomes a modern industrial country, in the top three leading ASEAN countries in industry...” and “As of 2045, Vietnam becomes a modern industrial country” (CPV 2018)

**Figure 1: The percentage of Vietnamese governmental institutions being assigned to be responsible for SDGs**



Source: Red Communication 2018

**Table 1: Outcomes of the Implementation of Cleaner Production Strategy in 2015**

Indicators	Cleaner production goals		Figure in 2015
	Goals in 2010-2015	Goals in 2016-2020	
Percentage of industrial business having proper awareness of cleaner production (%)	50	90	55
Percentage of business implementing cleaner production and reducing energy and ingredient consumption per product unit (%)	25	50	24
Percentage of the Provincial Department of Industry and Trade assigning specialists-officials on cleaner production (%)	70	90	73

Source: Vietnam Cleaner Production Centre, 2015 (MoPI 2018, p.64)

**Table 2: The summary of Prioritized SDGs in the five developing countries as of August 2019**

No.	Country	National Prioritised Goals	SDG number
1	South Sudan	Gender equality	5
2	Trinidad & Tobago	5 themes	3,4,6,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15
3	Tajikistan	No Poverty; Zero Hunger; Affordable & Clean Energy; Decent Work and Economic Growth; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	1, 2, 7, 8, 9
4	Uzbekistan	Clean water; Clean energy; Decent jobs and Economic Growth Industry, innovation and infrastructure	6, 7, 8, 9
5	Vietnam	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Responsible Consumption and Production	9, 12

As Vietnam set high priority for industrialisation, the SDG9 is the desired destination for the country. As of 2018, industrial sector accounted for 26-28per cent of the GDP (MoPI 2018, p.55). The portion of natural resources exploitation has reduced, while the portion of industrial production has been gradually rising from 13.7per cent of the GDP in 2015, to 14.3per cent in 2016, to 15.3per cent in 2017 (MoPI 2018, p.56). To ensure the environmental and sustainable perspectives in the transition to mass industrialisation, Vietnam has set the priority to the SDG12, which promotes green production and consumption.

A report of Red Communication (2018, p.14) indicates that SDG12 has the largest number of stakeholders from the governmental sectors, which is 11per cent of the total number of governmental institutions working on SDGs. (See Figure 1). Preliminary assessment of some targets of SGD12 was conducted in 2015, with two out of three targets exceeded the desired outcomes. In overall, the sustainable development vision of Vietnam is towards sustainable industrialization and production, which is adhered to in SDG 9 and SDG 12. The assessment has indicated the positive tendency of the country in achieving these goals.

## Cross Country Analysis

Two common patterns can be identified from the above analysis. First, four out of five countries prioritize SDG-9 (Trinidad & Tobago, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam). It is obvious that industry and infrastructure will be the desired long term goal of many countries. Second, four out of five countries (South Sudan, Trinidad & Tobago, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan) prioritize SDGs from one to eight, which are considered as the unfinished agenda of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Apparently, the basic needs, e.g. food, water, health, gender equality, education and enough energy, are the areas where governments of developing countries need to allocate more resources and efforts.

## Concluding Remarks

The above-mentioned national priorities are selected from the mutual criterion, which is the government strategic plan in each of the five countries. It also depends on the number of governmental stakeholders and the governmental resources allocation to the prioritized goals. However, this selection largely bases on individual analysis, being built on individual background and existing literature. Consequently, this paper invites the participation of more analysts from the same five countries, or from other countries, to identify the clearer common patterns in the prioritization of the SDGs, and to provide a broader view into the international spectrum of SDGs prioritization to the policy-makers.

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# SDGs: Stakeholder Partnerships and Localisation Efforts

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# SDGs: Stakeholder Partnerships and Localisation Efforts

## Introduction

The past few decades have seen a shift in the role of organisations in society. Consequently more and more members or representatives of different impacted groups are claiming their right to be informed, consulted on and involved in organizational decision-making. Furthermore, advancements in the understanding of how stakeholders contribute to the creation of value over the last few years have challenged organisations to refine their approach to engagement.<sup>1</sup> Since the first United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 1992 - known as the Earth Summit- it was recognized that achieving sustainable development would require the active participation of all sectors of society and all types of people. Two decades after the Earth

Summit, the importance of effectively engaging sectors of society was reaffirmed by the Rio+20 Conference.

In 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that aims to end poverty, tackle inequalities and combat climate change. We need everyone to come together be it governments, civil society, scientists, academia and the private sector to achieve the sustainable development goals.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Plan is not limited to sustainable development goals but also discussed Tools of achieving. The Goal 17 specifically promotes Global Partnership for sustainable Development, complemented by Multi-stakeholders strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.



Figure 1: SDGs 17 and Global Partnership

Source: <https://www.sembcorp.com/en/sustainability/our-approach/sustainable-development-goals/>

Partnerships with the public and private sectors and civil society garner these partnerships with knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources. It shares its leadership that leads to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, particularly developing countries.<sup>2</sup>

Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) are integral to the development and adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since its adoption, MGoS have been actively working towards its implementation, through projects, initiatives, advocacy, knowledge-sharing, and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. MGoS often work in partnership with other sectors, including governments.<sup>3</sup>

### Definition of Stakeholders in SDGs

Stakeholders are those who participate and / or are affected (negatively or positively) by the outcome and the impact of SDGs, as agencies, organizations, groups or individuals.

Stakeholder should be there to share in SDGs, be active and successful group in the SDGs and achieve the criteria in Figure 2.

Affected Groups (stakeholder) May consist individuals or institutions may be indirectly involved or affected because of their technical expertise or public and private interest in

actions, policies or programme or they may be linked in some way to those who are directly affected. Such stakeholders may include different organisations, various intermediary or representative organisations, private sector, and technical and professional bodies.<sup>4</sup>

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development decided that the United Nations inter-agency task team will work with 10 representatives of civil society, the private sector and the scientific community to prepare the meetings of the multi-stakeholder forum on science, technology and innovation for the SDGs,

Goal number 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals provides for strengthening of means of implementation and revitalising the Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development. The overall target is to enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries. It also aims to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships. The 2006 General Assembly resolution “Towards global

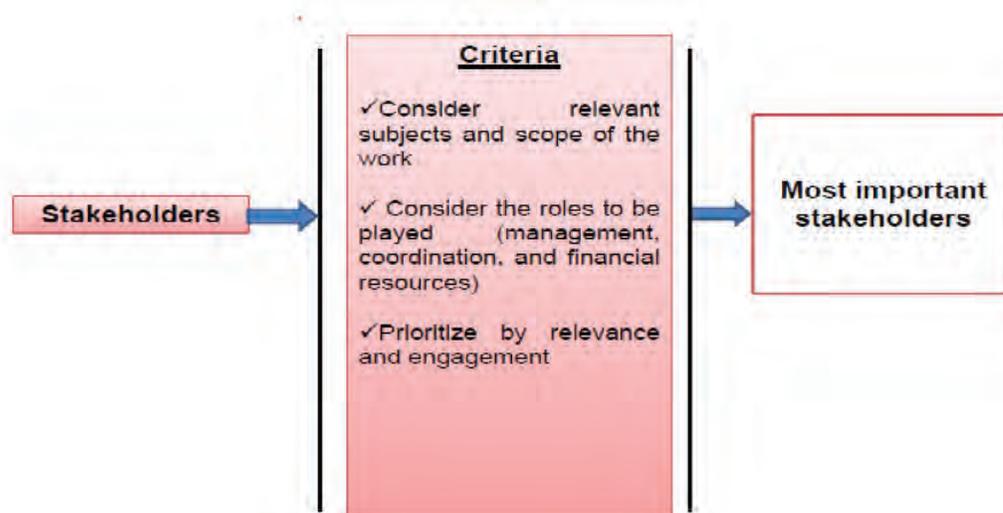


Figure 2: Stakeholder Criteria

partnerships” defined these partnerships as voluntary relationships between various public and non-public parties in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task.

According to Fowler (2000), Multi-stakeholder partnerships are voluntary associations between different stakeholders such as civil society organizations, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, and international organizations. Fowler (2000) describes the features of partnerships as follows:

- Working together to accomplish agreed results and accepting joint responsibility for achieving them;
- Partnership carries with it long-term involvement;
- Partnership requires defined mutual roles and responsibilities – as covenants not contracts;
- Partnership is about trust, respect, integrity, accountability and equality;
- Partnership requires an acceptance of the principle that the local organisation has the right to set the final agenda for its own work;
- Partnership must not lead to a situation where the link between an organisation’s constituency and its leadership is weakened;
- When negotiating relations or contributions from outside the ‘partnership’, the spirit and letter of an existing partnership must be taken into account and respected;
- Within a partnership, neither party can unilaterally accept other relational conditions that materially influence the partnership; and
- Partnership must not alter the basic priorities related to the identity, vision and values of any of the organisations.

The Multi-stakeholder Social Protection Systems and Floors Partnerships for SDG 1.3 aims to create alliances for the accomplishment of SDG target 1.3 to implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and

measures for all, including floors. It is an orchestrated effort, based on each partner’s comparative advantage, to support countries in extending social protection systems including floors providing at least, at a nationally defined minimum level, access to essential health care and basic social protection for all, based on the ILO Social Protection Floors Recommendation, 2012 and grounded in international human rights instruments.

### The benefits of Partnerships

The benefits of consensual and interest-based partnerships are many. It helps to establish a culture of joint problem-solving, and builds new channels of communication among stakeholders working for a common good. In all negotiations, each stakeholder has something that the others want. This ensures that participants maintain interest and requires them to engage each other and push for agreement. From this, participants can establish action points that allow each stakeholder and community member to get more of what they prioritise most without reducing the priority and value that accrued to others (Innes and Booher, 2010; Turner et al., 2015).

When communities engage directly with senior decision-makers and other stakeholders in open, public and direct engagements, parties can ensure that claims are accurate, comprehensible and sincere. When no one decision-maker controls deliberations, everyone involved can have equal access to all the relevant information and ability to speak and be heard. This allows communities to challenge public pronouncements made by more senior decision-makers without fear, which creates a sense of direct and fair ‘talk’ where nothing is ‘off the table’. Communities can use information from their everyday lives and knowledge constructed jointly through interaction with other parties to engage decision-makers. Decision-makers can use the platform to answer questions, and collaboratively plan next steps with communities.

## Localising of SDGs: Brief Scenarios

One concept that may assist in SDGs contextualisation and community participation is that of collaborative rationality. According to Innes and Booher (2010), this is a practice by which various groups and organisations in the community engage on an issue to inform a joint decision in the context of ever-changing and sometimes conflicting information sources. While contextualisation and localisation are necessary processes across the SDG agenda, it is particularly interesting to look at how this can play out for SDG3 on health. Both this goal and its targets have individual and institutional features, with needs often defined by specific group and geographic characteristics. Certain aspects must be kept in mind when undertaking the contextualisation of health-related SDG targets, a point which is true for most of other SDGs too. First, it must be understood that that SDG implementation, promotion and experience of benefits may be limited by the extent to which the local community perceives targets as being driven by the state or by the global community. The left-behind must be seen as collaborators in their own development, not merely targets of assistance – which will allow state and global development partners to identify specific horizontal inequities between and within communities. These are equal partners in development whose contribution is also invaluable in the realisation of all SDGs by 2030.

Since the Earth Summit in 1992 – and reaffirmed by the Rio+20 Conference – nine sectors of society, officially called “Major Groups”, were recognised as the main channels through which broad participation would be facilitated in UN activities related to sustainable development<sup>5</sup>:

### Women

The Women’s Major Group (WMG) was created at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where governments recognized Women as one of the nine important groups in society. The WMG is an official participant in the United

Nations processes on Sustainable Development. Other processes use the major group or similar systems, with the WMG active in the processes of the United Nations Environment Programme since 1996.

The Women’s Major Group has the responsibility to facilitate women’s civil society active participation, information sharing and input into the policy space provided by the United Nations (e.g., participation, speaking, submission of proposals, access to documents, and development of sessions.<sup>6</sup>

### Children and Youth

United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) for young under 30 years old is thereto representing the voice of children and youth around the world.<sup>7</sup>

### Indigenous Peoples

There are approximately 370 million Indigenous Peoples in the world, belonging to 5,000 different groups, in 90 countries worldwide. Indigenous achieving sustainable development

Peoples are found in every region of the world, but about 70 per cent of them live in Asia. Indigenous Peoples constitute about 5 per cent of the world’s population, yet account for about 15 per cent of the world’s poor. Examples of Indigenous Peoples include the Inuit of the Arctic, Native Americans, hunter-gatherers in the Amazon, traditional pastoralists like the Maasai in East Africa, and tribal peoples in the Philippines. While there is no universally accepted definition for “Indigenous Peoples,” there tend to be common characteristics among them, including:<sup>8</sup>

- They often have small populations relative to the dominant culture of their country;
- They usually have (or had) their own language;
- They practice distinctive cultural traditions;
- They have (or had) their own land and territory, to which they are connected to at various levels; and
- They self-identify as Indigenous.

## Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)

The NGO Major Group is tasked with facilitating the participation and enhancing the engagement of non-governmental organizations in the processes directly and indirectly related to the High Level Political Forum.<sup>9</sup>

## Local Authorities

The Local Authorities Major Group (LAMG) brings together international networks and organizations that represent local and subnational governments from all continents in the world. Accommodating more than half the global population, cities represent both the greatest challenge and the greatest hope for a sustainable future in the 21st Century.<sup>10</sup>

## Workers and Trade Unions

Workers and trade unions represent the voices and interests of hundreds of millions of workers from across the globe. The Major Group brings together several different types of worker organisations from national trade union centres, to regional trade union organisations, global union federations and trade union solidarity support organizations.

## Business and Industry

The Global Business Alliance (GBA) is coordinated by the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC). The GBA includes the WOC, UN Global Compact, and many industry organizations who, along with their member companies, are advancing the role of industry in sustainable development<sup>11</sup>, but in local level Business and Industry includes industrial companies that can play a major role in the implementation of SDGs, which can be local or multinational as these companies affect pollution and resource use as well as unemployment in countries.

## Scientific and Technological Community

The Scientific and Technological (STC) Major Group provides governments, policy makers

and Society the understanding of the limitations and parameters imposed by the laws of Nature and indicates what is scientifically and technologically achievable based on what we know now and on what we can do with the knowledge and technological tools we have in hand - including those being developed with potential success.

## Farmers

The Farmers Major Group was created to provide an inclusive space for all farmers and peasants from around the world to coordinate positions, statements and overall participation and engagement in UN processes related to sustainable development. The Organising Partners of the Farmers Major Group are the World Farmers' Organisation and IFOAM - Organics International, who are jointly accountable for carrying out all responsibilities and duties.

## Case studies from Countries

### State of Palestine

#### *Partnership and stakeholders in Palestine*

Awareness Building & Stakeholders Involvement: Palestinian government support relationship with internal organisations and civil society. The Palestinian government collaborated with Palestinian civil society and private sector as a means of achieving sustainable development; therefore, it has adopted an inclusive policy in the creation of national and sectorial policy agendas. The government aims to develop and strengthen its partnerships with the civil society and the private sector in the execution of its agenda, especially in areas of education, healthcare and social protection.

Palestinian state built the national team of SDGs. The team has 24 members, which includes all groups related to sustainable development (government, NGOs, private sector, development experts). The capacity of

the national team members was built through participation in two external workshops (Beirut, Amman) to consolidate the knowledge background, discuss/review the sustainable development agenda and enforcement follow up mechanism at the national and international level, besides reviewing and evaluating whether the sectoral strategies suit the sustainable development agenda 2030 and the team of SDGs includes<sup>12</sup>. The important dimensions of the partnerships on SDGs include the following:

- Coordinating Council of CSOs, presents viewpoints and standpoints of CSOs regarding SDGs follow up and enforcement. Some CSOs are involved in SDGs follow-up and enforcement through the twelve national action teams on SDGs were formed, led by government entities in question in coordination with related partner UN organisation. These teams include representatives from NGOs, private sector, experienced academic institutions and UN organisations on the SDG vested to each team. All team, except for two, were given an SDG, where one has both the SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), while the other team has environment related SDGs 15, 14, 13 and 12. SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals) is closely related to all national action groups, so incorporated in work and fields of all action teams.
- Ministry of Local Government which supports and leads the local sustainable development trends as one of the long term strategic goals. Local entities were involved in SDGs through determining development planning basis at local level, referred to as 'strategic development planning of the Palestinian cities & towns', and approved by the respective policy paper. Local plans were associated with the national plans through four main fields with different branches; environment and infrastructure, local economic development, social development and management and good governance.

- The private sector is taking part in the national team through two private sector representatives, with recommendation from the private sector consulting council.

*Palestine has many of international relationships with organizations which supports the implementation of SDGs in Palestine as<sup>13</sup>:*

- The partnership between the State of Palestine and the European Union remains one of the most important strategic partnerships due to the continued support of the European Union to the Palestinian people and government in strengthening the Palestinian institutions and in attaining sustainable development.
- Partnership with the United Nations development assistance framework in Palestine to ensure that international developmental support aligns with the national priorities. The Palestinian government also hold bilateral relationships with UN agencies that work within Palestine.

*Palestinian National policy to implementation the Goal 17*

- Effective, Efficient Public Financial Management: Management with a particular focus on strengthening macroeconomic/ fiscal policy, public debt management and procurement.
- Improving Palestine's Business Environment: Mobilize revenue by expanding the tax base; enhancing tax collection, restoring foreign aid levels and rationalizing expenditures.
- Promoting Palestinian Industry: Attract domestic and foreign direct investment, focusing on construction, tourism, agriculture, energy and ICT sectors.
- Responsive Local Government: Support and protect national products, increase competitiveness and expand import substitution.
- Broadening Palestine's International Participation

- Enhance ICT's role as a business enabler.
- Strengthen Palestine's cyber security and ensure the ICT sector's freedom from external threats and domination.
- Strengthen service delivery through partnerships with the private sector and civil society.
- Fulfill obligations arising from Palestine's accession to international treaties and membership in international organisations.

Despite of the importance of the civil society organisations role in development process especially in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this role is facing a lot of challenges as<sup>14</sup>:

- Many partners are not actively involved in development (e.g. private sector, civil society organizations, labour organizations).
- Absence of a culture of volunteerism, In addition to the ambiguity about the concept of civil society organizations.
- The negative view that civil society is not a natural product of the development of Arab societies, but has been imported from foreign society.
- NGOs plans are not associated with the national plan. Moreover, there is no mode of communication and exchange of information between the Government and NGOs regarding SDGs.<sup>15</sup>

## Republic of South Sudan

### *Various stakeholders in South Sudan*

- Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning of the Republic of South Sudan
- Responsible for the economic development policy.
- Responsible for harmonizing the long term national development concept with SDGs.
- Help render assistance in providing relevant institutions with integrated management and coordination.

### **UNDP**

- Has an abundant experience in the implementation of MDGs.
- Provide consultancy services in assessing SDG indicators and defining the national indicators; and
- Help other institutions mobilise financial resources for compiling the SDG indicators and support the enhancement of their human resources capacity.

In collaboration with other sectors in South Sudan they have initiated a project called LOGOS in partnership with local NGOs, and had rendered tremendous help in localizing and improving the lives of locals. Furthermore, it will be noted that the Ministry of Finance and Economy Planning in partnership with local civil societies has played a great role in sensitizing the grassroot people to know the meaning of development and its positive impact and benefit in improving their well being.

### ***Civil Societies Organization***

Civil Societies organisation played an important role in holding government accountable for keeping its promises. They do this by closely following and participating in policy process in relation to SDGs. Through their advocacy activities they can lobby for the SDGs to be integrated in to local policies. They can also act as watchdog of the grass root level by monitoring the progress made by the government and by highlighting the problematic areas and have indeed help country like South Sudan with 75 per cent of its population still has no access to communication and has high illiteracy rate. This civil society like community has contributed largely by informing locals about development issues and made the grass root people to migrate from their villages to urban areas to live better life and have access to sophisticated basic needs. Other civil societies and NGOs have tried their best in reaching to these areas to sensitise people as well as helping them in development.

The civil society has becomes stakeholder and

partner in accountability towards government monitoring. Many NGOs advise people to fight for their own rights and also educate them to hold their government accountable for any failure. These measures taken by civil society have resulted in different activities, accountability and contestation as their central role.

## Zimbabwe

In partnership with UN Agencies Zimbabwe came up with a National Social Protection Policy Framework in 2016 aimed at “reducing extreme poverty through empowering and building resilience in poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged households”. The policy proposes that all the 500,000 households which are deemed to be below the Food Poverty Line be considered as eligible for all forms of social assistance, at least in the short to medium term. “In the long term, all the 900,000 households should be targeted as the country moves towards universalization of social assistance to all deserving households” says the document. This is done in partnership with various UN AGENCIES which include the World Food Programme, UNICEF, and International Labour Organisation. This partnership is a step towards the attainment of SGD 1 of eradicating Poverty by 2030.

Partnerships in Zimbabwe have been used to provide social protection to vulnerable members of society in fulfillment of Goal 1 of eradicating poverty. In partnership with UNICEF, the Government of Zimbabwe has been implementing the Harmonised Social Cash Transfer Program (HSCT) meant for providing income to vulnerable labour constrained households. A total of 600,000 households living in extreme poverty are targeted by the programme. The HSCT is an unconditional cash transfer programme that was designed to provide monthly cash payments to ultra-poor and labour constrained households. With 16.2 per cent (504,000 households) of the households living in extreme poverty, this would translate to US\$13.89 per household for whole of the

2017 or US\$1.16 per household per month. An average household size is 4.2 persons; hence each individual would be getting US27 cents, assuming that the full allocated amount is fully disbursed. In complementing Government efforts, UNICEF under the HSCT made cash transfers of US\$13.7 million in 2015. The combined HSCT support managed to reach over 55 thousand households, UNICEF projects to increase HSCT support to US\$16.2 million in 2017, more than double the government budget of US\$7 million.

In the area of child protection, the Government of Zimbabwe in partnership with UNICEF developed the National Action Plan for Orphans and other Vulnerable Children which provides a framework for coordinated action to ensure that orphans, vulnerable children and their families, in Zimbabwe, have incomes and access to basic services, and that all children are protected from abuse and exploitation. In this strategy a pool fund was mobilised known as Child Protection Fund which is managed by UNICEF and accessed by all development partners as well as local NGOs and Civil Society Organisations. NAP is a planning framework to guide activities of all stakeholders assisting children to meet their needs, fulfil their rights and ensure children do not suffer from any deprivation, lack of access to social services and from abuse, neglect and exploitation under the leadership and oversight of Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Government of Zimbabwe. The long-term vision for children is sound growth and development of all children in Zimbabwe by 2020 and this can be achieved, through the desired impact on orphans and vulnerable children having improved health, nutritional, educational and psychological wellbeing.

## Who is involved in Partnerships

There are several actors who are involved in the Global Partnership for Development. In Zimbabwe the following are involved in Development at Community, District, Province

and National Level. Key stakeholders in the implementation of SDGs include but not limited to the following:

- Government (National and sub-national structures);
- Private Sector (both Domestic and Foreign);
- Community-Based Organisations;
- Development Partners;
- Youth Organisations;
- Women's Organisations,
- Organisations representing People Living With Disabilities ,
- Local Authorities,
- Faith Based Organisations and Religious groups
- The general citizenry.

At National level, Zimbabwean Government has gone extra miles in localising SDGs by coming up with Vision 2030 which seeks to move Zimbabwe towards an Upper Middle Income Economy by 2030. The thrust of Vision 2030 is to provide an opportunity for reconstruction and transformation of the economy to one which is capable of creating maximum opportunities for people to live a full and dignified life, taking advantage of the immense and diverse domestic resource endowments, tapping into investment prospects from international markets. Key areas of focus are on governance, social protection, infrastructural development, tourism as well as ease of doing business.

The United Nations Team in Zimbabwe, in support of national development priorities and in partnership with development partners, is supporting Government of Zimbabwe under the 2016-2020 Zimbabwe United Nations Development Assistance Framework (ZUNDAF). The United Nations, through the ZUNDAF, continues its support in poverty reduction, advancing good governance and gender equality, and enhancing service delivery in education, health, water and sanitation, protection, and food and nutrition security. Greater allocation of national budget on social

services, acceleration of reform efforts to bring new investments to the country for sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth, and continued development partners' financial and technical support is critical to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Zimbabwe. When Zimbabwe was faced with two consecutive years of severe drought (2015-2016), the United Nations heeded the Government's call for assistance. There was effective Government and UN coordination efforts and generous financial and in-kind contributions of development and humanitarian partners. The active role of non-governmental and civil society organisations, and the resilience of communities, Zimbabwe has emerged from the drought. Throughout its humanitarian, as with its development work, the United Nations has been guided by the principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Owing to the successful concerted efforts, the country's focus has now been re-balanced to medium to long term development in line with its development agenda and the SDGs. The UN is following suite.

Together with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and other partners, the UN is supporting national efforts to combat new HIV infections and renewed efforts at eradicating TB and malaria, through a continued emphasis on education and prevention efforts, while providing treatment, care and support. In response to national programmes to improve food and nutrition security at national and household levels, the UN is supporting the Government in formulating relevant policies to guide agricultural growth, forestry and fisheries management and more effective use of land resources; implementing field programmes to increase agricultural production and competitiveness and to reduce malnutrition; and productivity; and building resilience through promotion of climate smart agriculture and providing food assistance for asset creation and maintenance. Efforts are ongoing to promote gender empowerment and

equity by addressing the fundamental problems that underlie women's limited representation in national decision making bodies, access and ownership over productive resources, early pregnancy, child marriages, concerns around gender-based violence, and unacceptable high maternal mortality ratio. The ZUNDAF has been instrumental in complementing national efforts to stabilize and sustain the provision of social services: health, education, water and sanitation, protection and promotion of human rights.

### Challenges in Partnerships and Way Forward

The primary goal of partnerships in social development is to strategically join efforts to reduce poverty, address inequalities and social injustices through the redistribution of resources, and through social and economic development programmes. This can only be achieved when there is a true commitment from all partners involved to take up the challenges of building partnerships which could provide a negotiated framework for a partnership strategy for social development. These challenges include:

- understanding the role of the state,
- redefining partnerships,
- empowerment of NGOs to be service deliverers and advocates,
- the creation of an enabling environment,
- recognition and balancing of social development partners' strengths and weaknesses,
- An agreement on the social development agenda and a plan for sustainable social

development.

- Coordination of different partners for the achievement of common good

An underlying assumption of partnership co-operation is that the organisations concerned will become more competent in reaching their goals beyond this specific relationship. Fowler (2000) suggests that there is a need to identify sufficiently distinctive ways of relating that may help to build a negotiating framework and he puts forward a set of relational principles that can assist partners in building this framework. Not every relationship in development is a "partnership" and nor should it be. To work well the development system needs all sorts of relationships; partnership is but one of them. This therefore means that a partnership strategy needs to be in place to provide broad guidelines, each kind and level of partnership need to be uniquely negotiated, planned, designed and maintained. Absence of such strategy may result in partners working in silos without complementing each other's efforts in delivering services to the citizenry.

### Egypt

#### *Partnership and stakeholders as an effective way to implement SDGs*

Inspired by the ancient Egyptian Civilization, linking the present to future, the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt Vision 2030 represents a foothold on the way towards inclusive development.

Thus cultivating a prosperity path through economic and social justice and reviving the role of Egypt in regional leadership. It also represents

*As an essential driver of economic growth and job creation, the Private Sector has become an indispensable partner in development. This Conference aims to highlight new paths for local and regional partnerships between the Private Sector, Governments, and International Organizations, and identify business opportunities in support of the SDGs in the Region.*

*The Role of the Private Sector in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals", Regional Conference, December, 2017*

**Egypt's Vision 2030**

The new Egypt will possess a competitive, balanced and diversified economy, dependent on innovation and knowledge, based on justice, social integrity and participation, characterized by a balanced and diversified ecological collaboration system, investing the ingenuity of place and humans to achieve sustainable development and to improve Egyptians' life quality.

**Table1: Partners relevant to the development of sustainable development frameworks**

Governmental Sector	Non- Governmental Sector
Ministry of International Cooperation	NGOs
UNDP Egypt	CDAs
Ministry of Planning	Civil Society
Ministry of Housing and Utilities	University and Research Centers
Ministry of Health	Syndicates
Ministry of Transportation	National Councils
Ministry of Energy and Electricity	Parliament
Ministry of Trading and Industry	Local councils
Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Resources	Political parties
Meteorological Authority	Others
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
Others	

an embodiment of the new constitution's spirit, setting welfare and prosperity as the main economic objectives, to be achieved via sustainable development, social justice and balanced, geographical and sectoral growth.

Therefore, SDS has been developed according to a participatory strategic planning approach; as various civil society representatives, national and international development partners and government agencies have collaborated to set comprehensive objectives for all pillars and sectors of the country.<sup>16</sup>

**Key Messages of Egypt VNR 2018**

- Egypt is committed to progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy, Egypt Vision 2030, is in line with SDGs. The national strategic plan's three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) are based on ten pillars covering broadly the SDGs. The plan provides programmes, policies and measurable indicators in order to put Egypt on the right path toward sustainable development.

- Egypt embarked on a very comprehensive and home grown economic reform programme that is supported by the international financial institutions starting November 2016. The Government of Egypt took very bold and timely measures as well as overdue reforms to put the economy on the path towards a more stable resilient economy. After a challenging year, economic fundamentals are stabilizing with reduction in fiscal deficit, curbing in the rate of inflation, waning in external deficit and increasing in the growth rate of output; all of these are met with increased confidence from domestic and international investors. The Government of Egypt is committed to pursuing its agenda of economic reforms to create an enabling environment for inclusive growth and sustainable development.
- Egypt is mindful of the vulnerable groups who are likely to be more adversely affected by stabilization and reform programmes. In order to leave nobody behind, the Government of Egypt has scaled up its social protection programmes and has improved their target mechanisms. In addition, the Government of Egypt is allocating more resources to the more deprived areas to provide better quality of public services and infrastructure.
- Egypt is pursuing an ambitious plan to upgrade its infrastructure across all sectors and all regions within the country. The energy sector witnessed a substantial upgrade in its capacity to produce, transport and distribute electricity. Egypt increased its capacity to produce electricity by at least 15 Gigawatt of electricity using very advanced, sustainable and efficient technologies. Indeed, the energy strategy aims at increasing the share of the renewable energy to reach 42 per cent by 2035. The government has also enacted major reforms in the legal framework of its electricity sector opening the door for increased participation of the private sector and effective regulatory role of the state. All of these efforts in the energy sector are consistent with Egypt's vision to become the energy hub of the Eastern Mediterranean. Egyptian network of highways witnessed major extensions and improvements. The national highway project is a much-needed project to link distant parts of Egypt beyond the main cities and the Nile Valley in order to create economic opportunities and to expand beyond the narrow valley.
- The growing population consisting mainly of youth represents both a challenge and an opportunity. It is a challenge since the government needs to continuously scaling up the country's infrastructure and housing units especially for low-income groups. This explains Egypt's heavy investment in infrastructure projects as well as social housing projects. On the other hand, this young sizeable population would be an asset if these young people obtain adequate quality education and training that prepare them for the fourth industrial revolution.
- Water scarcity within Egypt and regionally is a key challenge for the growing population; especially that the agricultural sector consumes almost two thirds of its supply of fresh water. Ensuring sustainable water resource management is a matter of high priority to the Government of Egypt.
- Egypt Vision 2030 and the 2030 Agenda are implemented by engaging all stakeholders. The role of the private sector and the civil society is key in the realisation of these goals. The inclusivity and transformability aspects of the 2030 Agenda and its national counterpart necessitate active contribution of the private sector and the civil society in the achievement of all the goals. The Government of Egypt realizes this fact and is capitalizing on the positive synergies between the governmental efforts, private sector efforts and civil society efforts to achieve this ambitious agenda.<sup>17</sup>

***Description/achievement of initiative***

Egypt is committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and has already taken important steps. In February 2016, Egypt officially launched its Sustainable Development Strategy: Egypt Vision 2030. The strategy spans the three dimensions of SD, viz; economic, social and environmental. Efforts are underway to align the Strategy’s key performance indicators to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The Government formally submitted to the UN system in Egypt,

including UNDP, its needs for coordination and technical support to advance with the roll-out of the 2030 Agenda. These include stakeholder engagement, M&E, reporting, localizing the SDGs and data.

***Implementation methodologies***

- UNDP will assist the Ministry of International Cooperation institutional set and organizational systems to lead the process of SDG mainstreaming.
  - Arrangements for Capacity-Building and Technology Transfer;
  - Building national capacity to monitor and evaluate SDG (working with national Statistical Office-CAPMAS). Building capacity of policy makers and raising awareness of national counterpart, parliamentarians, and officials.
  - A review management group (RMG), composed by two UNDP members (one monitoring & evaluation officer, one programmer officer) and one member from the Government focal point on SDGs. The group will assist in identify the relevant SDGs stakeholders, advocacy and awareness raising actions, carrying out the day-to-day implementation of the review process including logistics and ensuring the quality of the review report and major deliverables.<sup>18</sup>
- Table1: Partners relevant to the development of sustainable development frameworks

***Mechanisms to integrate beneficiaries in planning and implementation:***

- Participation
- Information and Communication Systems.
- Transparency
- Regular consultation
- Decentralization
- Raise public awareness
- Institutional support and capacity building

***Needs of preparing and implementing a national strategy for sustainable development in Egypt:***

- Building an institutional structure for sustainable development at the national level
- Preparation of a national strategy
- Provide financial resources for implementation
- Integration and information capacity support
- Institutional support and capacity building
- Strengthen capacity to implement multilateral environmental agreements
- Technical and material support from the international community

***Some of the main challenges, which Egypt faced:***

- Failure to involve development partners (such as the private sector, civil society organisations, labour organizations, and the media) in policymaking and development planning processes in Egypt, which affects the quality of policies adopted and the effectiveness of their implementation; although the 2030 Agenda stresses the importance of partnerships in achieving sustainable development plans.
- The Egyptian political culture is characterized by the absence of a culture of volunteerism, citizenship, and respect for pluralism, even though there may be confusion about the

concept of civil society and the areas of work and practices.

- Emphasizing that civil society and its components are not partisan but political because of their interest in development, human rights and improving economic conditions.
- Another challenge facing Egypt civil society is the point of view that modern civil society is not a natural product of the development of society, but has been imported from abroad.

### Mozambique

According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) report on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Mozambique had the lowest index of the human development in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region in 2015.<sup>19</sup> In our understanding, this shows the level of failure we have had in the implementation of previous programs and strategies. In addressing this issue Mozambique must rethink its approaches, methods and in some circumstances its strategies to be implemented.

For instance, with regards to the education sector, which we believe that is of a paramount importance to achieve a good human development index, a lot of good progress has been made. From 1975 to 2009 the Government made significant achievements regarding the number of people accessing school. This is indicated by the number of schools built which has resulted in a reduction of the level of illiteracy. On the other hand, regarding teacher training and approaches to teaching little attention were given.

Another aspect we may mention is the fact that Mozambique has had many changes on the curriculum since 2004. However, we wonder if those programmes were thoroughly experimented to the meeting of goals and objectives previously planned. Our

understanding is that Mozambique by 2015 has not indeed achieved more than fifty percent as the UNESCO report mentions. This in turn has affected the education sector and has had an impact on all other sectors of society.

Notably, one important move made by the government of Mozambique was the distribution of free studying material and the implementation of bilingual system of education. By making books accessible to children it has positively impacted the learning process for them. But, there is a big problem that still exists. The material was only easily accessed at the city level and not at the district level, thereby creating a huge gap in terms of the quality of education and its equal distribution.

With regards to bilingual education, we can consider this to be the first step to achieving SDGs. In doing so, we must take into consideration the values of the people first and foremost. Bilingual education is in our understanding an important approach in the advancement of education.

According to Samora Machel, the late President of the Republic of Mozambique □ Education should give us a mozambican personality without any subservience, assuming our reality, contact with the others, critically accepting the ideas and experiences of other people, and also share with them our own reflection" (MACHEL, 1973).

Implementing education, according to Samora Machel's view, is one of the ways we may try to think towards responding to the needs of the development of education. This in turn influences the quality of the index of human development.

It is well known that in Mozambique there are many stakeholders in support of the activities in education sector. Each stakeholder has their own approaches and methods to address education. But somehow there seems not to be a very good linkage amongst the stakeholders regarding the implementation of the educational programmes.

As an example, we have ADPP as a very important stakeholder in teacher training course and GIZ Pro education in new teacher training institutes. It is known that these two mentioned agencies play very important roles in the education sector. But it is not clear how the two will work together towards achievement of the SDGs different approaches.

If we assume that the linkage between the stakeholders does not converge, then we are not fully and effectively complying with the SDG 17. Strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnerships for sustainable development are required if progress is to be made.

We have mentioned earlier in this paper that we find education to be a key aspect for the improvement of the human development index because it encompasses all other areas.

If we are to successfully comply with the Goal 17 we have to rethink our partnership at the local level.

At present we are of the opinion that many existing partnerships in African countries, as well as in Mozambique, are influenced by those who are financially powerful. This in turn has created a dynamic power play in these partnerships excluding those to who are not deemed as financially powerful. This can create a system which can potentially lead to the failure of the implementation of SDGs.

In our analysis of partnerships, we must rethink our approaches to its formation. Thus, we are suggesting that all of the educational processes should value local culture and tradition whilst engaging other people, as the late President of the Republic of Mozambique Samorara Machel suggested.

## Conclusion

- Stakeholders are considered the most important actors and influencers in the preparation of the plan necessary for the implementation of the SDGs. The number

of actors may vary from country to country and the degree of influence of each of them in the implementation of the SDGs be different.

- The level of democracy may play a role in improving stakeholder participation in the implementation of the SDGs.
- Stakeholders could be the NGOs, Women Union and youth and any group that can affect SDGs in these countries.

## Endnotes

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# Social Sector and SDGs: Progress and Challenges for Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam

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# Social Sector and SDGs: Progress and Challenges for Cambodia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam

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## CAMBODIA

### SDG 1: No Poverty

#### Achievement

Poverty in Cambodia was reduced from 53.3 per cent in 2004 to 13.5 per cent in 2014, making it one of the impressive poverty reductions observed anywhere in the world. The average of poverty reduction has been more than 1.5 percentage points per year. Around 80 per cent of Cambodian lives in rural area, it is no surprising that rural poverty has evolve at the same pace as the national trend.

#### Challenges

Even though, the poverty in Cambodia has been reduced but also it can back to poverty. Future poverty reduction will also depend on Cambodia's ability to address the issue of vulnerability to poverty. It is important to consider that increased consumption financed by borrowing may be masquerading as poverty reduction, and that poverty and vulnerability may be more significant than previously thought.

#### Implementation

In the past, efforts have been implement various social policies, specifically to ensure that poor and vulnerable people receive support through the establishment of orphanages, facilities for people with disabilities, maternal

and newborn care centers, health services, subsidy to poor people who need treatment or child delivery service, free primary and secondary education, etc. Otherwise, the Royal Government established the National Social Security Fund for Civil Servants (NSSFC), the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), National Fund for Veterans (NFV) and the People with Disabilities Fund (PWDF), to guarantee a stable income for citizens through pensions, healthcare, employment injury allowance, disability allowances and other allowances.

### SDG 2: Zero Hunger

#### Achievement

In 2014, 32 per cent of Cambodian children under 5 were stunted. It is a significant improvement since 2010, when over 40 per cent were stunted. The children in rural areas are more likely to be stunted than children in urban areas.

#### Challenges

Some challenges that are being faced include (1) the quickly changing context of Cambodia's development status including population growth, socio-economic conditions, urbanization, migration, climate change; (2) diet quality of pregnant women and children under 5 remains inadequate; (3) public budget is needed for sustainability and private investments are still lacking; (5) increase in incidence of obesity especially among women

of child-bearing age; and (6) the need to make for more diversified agricultural production and protection of natural resources crucial for agriculture, forestry and fishery.

### **Implementation**

The National Strategy for Food Security and Nutrition (NSFSN) 2014-2018 aimed to improve physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences and optimize the utilization of this food to keep a healthy and productive life. The Mid-Term Review of the Strategy was conducted in 2017 to incorporate the National Action Plan for Zero Hunger Challenge in Cambodia 2016-2025 and inform the preparation of the NSFSN 2019-2023.

## **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being**

### **Achievement**

Average life expectancy increased from 61.9 years in 2000 to 68.7 in 2005 (with gender average for men at 66.7 years and women 70.7 years). Achievements have been made towards reducing infant and maternal mortality, new HIV infection and AIDS related deaths, caused by other communicable and non-communicable diseases and risk factors affecting the health of the people. Maternal mortality decreased from 472 per 100,000 live births in 2005 to 170 in 2014. Likewise, infant mortality decreased from 66 per 1,000 live birth in 2005 to 28 in 2014.

### **Challenges**

Infant and maternal mortality and under 5 mortality and prevalence of malnutrition is still high if we compared to other countries in the region. Lack of knowledge of sexual and reproductive health of adolescent and youth and increased adolescent pregnancies were emerging issues. HIV prevalence remains high. TB drug resistance and malaria remains a clinical challenge. Alcohol and drug use, insecurity,

urbanization, environmental deterioration, and climate change all pose threats on the health of the population. Otherwise, health system is major challenges faced include: Health services quality, inadequate capacity of public health system, investments on health infrastructure including technology and information, inappropriate health care medications and the mushrooming of private clinic also poses managerial issues .

### **Implementation**

The Health Strategic Plan 2016-2020 (HSP3) is MOH's strategic management tool to guide the MOH and all health institutions as well as concerned stakeholders to effectively and efficiently use their available resources to translate health strategies into action. The National Strategic Plan for a Comprehensive and Multi-sectorial response to HIV/AIDS (2019-2023) is under developed while the sustainability roadmap which is the RGC's 2013 seven-point policy on HIV/AIDS and the RGC's 2019 policy circular 2013 are being implemented.

## **SDG 4: Quality Education**

### **Achievement**

Cambodia achieved gender parity in education sector, and is beginning to tilt in the favour of girls in recent years. The gender parity index of gross enrollment rate at both lower secondary education and upper secondary education increased from 1.1 in 2015 to 1.2 in 2018. Adult literacy rate also increased from 80.5 percent to 82.5 percent over 2015-2018.

### **Challenges**

There are some challenges which addressed including: equitable: (1) equitable and inclusive access for the children to all levels of education and training, (2) transition from primary to lower-secondary and high drop-out rates at the lower-secondary levels, (3) quality issue from pre-primary to tertiary educators, and

(4) life-long learning, which is a key to life-long employment and allow adoption of skills and knowledge to the structural change of the economy, is still a new concept for many people.

### **Implementation**

The MOEYS has developed and adopted the National Education 2030 Roadmap for CSDG4, which provides the overarching framework for a long-term holistic sector-wide approach for the development and delivery of education services and set priorities and strategies on how Cambodia will achieve these targets.

## **SDG 5: Gender Equality**

### **Achievement**

MOWA continues to promote Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) as a tool for gender mainstreaming across sectors and to engage with the MEF. Women leadership has been a significant increase over the past decade. In 2018, about 25 per cent of member of National Assembly and 19 per cent of member of the Senate are women. Women represented 41 per cent of civil servants in 2017 showing a steady increase of approximately 1 percentage point a year. The RGC also developed a five-year Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence against Children 2017-2021, which is led and coordinated by Ministry of Social Affairs Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MOSVY). In 2019, MOSVY established the Committee on Leading and Coordination for implementation for this action plan.

### **Challenges**

Social norms related to gender relations continue to constrain development of women's potential and hinder their empowerment in economic, social, public and political life. The general attitude of rural parents towards the education of their daughters results in low participation of girls in STEM fields. Additionally, positive parenting practices are still not widely understood and encouraged.

### **Implementation**

The RGC is committed to promote positive social norms through the implementation of national laws, policies, plans and programmes at all levels. The Ministry of Women's Affairs, with partnerships and support from relevant ministries, institutions and partners, has contributed to foster gender equality in key strategic policies and reform programmes.

## **SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**

### **Achievement**

MIH is the key agency in designing and implementing the management of piped water supply to urban population. The water supply at urban areas reached 45.41 per cent. The actual number of people surveyed keep increasing from over 3 million in 2016 to 4 million in 2018 and the trend keeps going up signifying an increase in the capacity of clean piped water supply, affordability, sustainability and coverage. The piped water supply will reach 90 percent of the population in 2023 and 100 percent in 2015.

### **Challenges**

Cambodia has a problem related to water quality and stability of water supply at the timely manner in both wet season and dry season. We need to develop water storage and delivery system as well as capacity. The climate change is the critical challenge affecting the surface and ground water, and ability to supply clean water to the rural people. In the other hand, declining fund supported by development partners, lack of participation of women, and limited financing sources to accommodate rising demand of infrastructure investment in the rural area are the other main challenges.

### **Implementation**

The National Strategic Plan on Water and Rural Sanitation 2011-2025 helps guide actions and implementation plans to expand connections and supply of clean water, wells and ponds,

distribution of filtration tanks and installation of storage tanks. All rural communities will have access to clean water and sanitation and to live in a clean and hygienic environment, eliminating open defecation which is expected to have significant effects on women and children in 2025. In addition, special cooperation effort with various international development partners such as JICA, AusAid, KOICA, and CHINA ODA will also accelerate the expansion of Piped Water Supply for all on the basis of Safe, Clean, Reliability and Affordability of Water Supply.

## **SDG7: Affordable and Clean Energy**

### **Achievement**

Priority is given to development of power generation capacity and national network of distribution of high voltage electricity to all cities and provinces, with regional sub-stations. Up to date, there are high voltage network of 2,141 Km and 31 national substations covering directly 20 municipalities and indirectly five provinces. Cambodia is now able to produce power locally a total of 2,174 MW from hydropower dams (1,329 MW), biomass, renewable, fuel oil and solar (340 MW), and coal power plants (505 MW) plus import of 442 MW from Vietnam, Thailand and Laos. In 2018, 349 licensees were approved to supply electricity to 14,072 villages (99.32% of all villages in Cambodia). Infrastructure development progress include 31,356 Km of medium voltage network, 16,233 transformers, 32,118 Km of low voltage network throughout Cambodia. Currently, electrical/ infrastructure enables to supply electricity to 12,305 villages- a 86.85 per cent of the total villages in Cambodia.

### **Challenges**

National energy policies and strategies of Cambodia indicate alignment with the targets of Goal 7 and related CSDGs. However, significant financial resources are still needed to be invested in key infrastructures such as power station, national grid, substation, power management

technology. These investments are to ensure that rural areas enable to access clean energy with accurate measurement, efficient and sufficient energy supply. Despite speedy progress of power development in Cambodia, there are a number of challenges including power sources, network connection, financial support, abundant renewable energy sources, and energy loss. Access to clean cooking fuel remains a great challenge for RGC.

### **Implementation**

The Ministry of Mines and Energy (MME) is updating the Power Development Master Plan and continue to develop additional power generation capacity, transmission substations and distribution networks to ensure that Cambodia has sufficient clean and sustainable energy for the growing demand. There are two strategic targets that drive the energy development in Cambodia including by 2020, all villages to be connected to some sorts of electricity supply; and by 2030, at least 90 per cent of all households accessed to grid quality electricity, just as if connected to the national networks. Private sector financing will be key sources for renewable energy development and energy efficiency. Government can encourage investment by developing enabling environment (legal framework) for clean energy.

## **SRI LANKA**

### **SDG 1: No Poverty**

#### **Achievement**

More than 4.1 per cent of the population lives below the national poverty line in Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka has made considerable progress in reducing poverty in the past decade with the incidence of poverty declining at the national levels as well across different population groups. Thirty four per cent of the Sri Lankan population received benefits of social assistants programme such as Samurdhi, elders subsidy etc. and 45 per cent of elderly population is covered by social protection schemes. Many

social protection programmes have been implemented in Sri Lanka targeting vulnerable segments of the population such as poor, elderly, disable children and women. The Government has allocated a reasonable budget on poverty reduction.

### Challenges and gaps

Despite Sri Lanka performance with regard to poverty deduction over the past two decades there exist significant geographical variations. The poverty headcount varies district from 0.9 per cent in Colombo and 18.2 per cent in Killinochchi. However, most of the districts with high poverty are less populated. Measure should be taken to eradicate poverty in lagging region areas.

## SDG 2: Zero Hunger

### Achievement

Sri Lanka is an agricultural country. The major exports crops are tea, rubber, coconut and spices represent the largest contribution to the agricultural GDP followed by paddy. At present 80 per cent of Sri Lanka's food requirement is produced domestically and less than 20 per cent is imported.

### Challenges and gaps

The current situation of nutrition is no adequate for achieving in SDG targets. Nutrition situation has hardly changed from 2006 – 2007. Addressing the multi national problem of hunger food security and multi nutrition needs approach with a vast number of policy programmes. Recommendations are required along with concrete implementation plan. Extreme climate changes such as severe droughts and floods are frequent occurrences in Sri Lanka. It mostly effects to agriculture in country.

## SDG 3: Good Health and well being

### Achievement

Sri Lanka is well known for achieving outcome

such as lower maternal and child mortality and rising life expectancy. However major issues associated with the rapid increase of non communicable diseases coupled with the swift rate of the population. Aging and changes in diseases pattern have a contributed to transforming the healthcare needs of the country. Sri Lanka's performance with regard to mitigating certain communicable diseases such as Malaria and Tuberculosis also nor worthy. Dengue requires close attention. Road accident is also on rise. Sri Lanka rapidly aging population increasing prevalence of chronic kidney disease increasing the household income coupled with unhealthy food habits alcohol and tobacco consumption.

### Challenges and gaps

Sri Lanka faces great challenges in terms of the threat forced by NCD. Seventy per cent of all government hospitals have been overcrowded. Cardiac Vascular, cancer, diabetic chronic kidney diseases are major NCDs burdening the country population. Heart diseases are the leading cause for death. In addition chronic kidney disease is in the country. Shortage of primary healthcare a challenge these have resulted in secondary and territory care institutions becoming over crowded. The overcrowding and long waiting list at the government facilities not propelled patients to seek private health care with their own expenditure.

The quality of the country's health care sector needs further improvement maintaining health stand in the area of infrastructure equipment health care staff, patient safety. Sri Lanka government focusing attention on improving the provision of the healthcare services to the health care sector.

## SDG 4: Quality Education

### Achievement

Sri Lanka introduces free education and largely contributed ensuring that every child has to be educated. Sri Lankan government has taken

measures that every child has to be compulsory educated till grade 13 and no one left behind. The free midday meal programme is an important executed programme. Scholarship scheme for talented student from poor family is an executed programme to enter better school in the country. This scholarship scheme consists with monthly bursary. Distribution of free text books and free uniform materials are executed programme.

### Challenges and gaps

Early education centers lack adequate resources for teaching and learning, specially, for children with special needs. The quality and relevance of both university and Technical and vocational training education also needs to improve according to *employability*. Over 50 per cent of students are enrolments in the art and social science, while enrolments in the natural sciences are much lower. Lack of job specific skills, lack of equipment and facilities in the rural education institutions, lack of proper parallel higher education are major issues in the country.

## SDG 5: Gender Equality

### Achievement

Sri Lanka was ranked at 73 out of 198 countries in the UNDP's gender equality index which measures gender equality using three dimensions. Reproductive health empowerment and labour market participation.

### Challenges and gaps

Key issue is the failure to translate the female education in labour market, female participation for political activities.

## SDG 6: Clean water and Sanitation

### Achievement

Sri Lanka has made good progress in terms of access safe drinking water around 88 per cent of household and access to safe drinking water.

### Challenges and gaps

The quality of safe drinking water is issue in north central and northern province. It has been found that the availability of hard metals and agro chemical largely caused water become unsuitable for drinking in agriculture areas. As a result chronic kidney disease of unknown etiology is a notable issue. The lack of institutional coordination is also a challenge for the water sector. There are major national agencies and sub national agencies involving for supply for drinking water and drainage facility. Proper coordination among them is also essential for achieving the national targets.

## SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy

### Achievement

The energy sector faces an important role of SDG in Sri Lanka. A major achievement of the energy sector is the near universal coverage domestic supply of electricity reaching nearly 100 percent of the household in the country. This has been achieved by persistence efforts of the government through the rural electrification programme. Ceylon Electricity Board the Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy has longed a community based power generation project titled 'Sooriya Bala Sangramaya' battle for solar energy in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Authority, Ceylon electricity board and Lanka Electricity Company Pvt Ltd to promote small rooftop solar power house hold, religious places, commercial establishment and industry. It is expected to add 10 000 MW by 2025 through this intervention.

### Challenges and gaps

Rising fossil fuel dependency has become a major challenge in the energy sector. The country has made in terms of electrification renewable energy sources, play and important role and there is much potential for further utilization renewable energy sources including solar energy.

## VIETNAM

### Achievement

According to VNR report in 2018, prominent achievements are Vietnam's GDP growth in 2016, 2017 and 2018 reaching 6.7 per cent, 6.2 per cent, 6.8 per cent, 7.08 per cent respectively; while multi-dimensional poverty rate decreased from 9.9 per cent in 2015 to less than 7 per cent in 2018. Health insurance coverage rate reached 89 per cent in 2018; the enrollment rate at the right age of primary school is 99.0 per cent in the 2017 -2018 school year.

In 2016, the percentage of households with hygienic water sources reached 98 per cent and the proportion of households with access to electricity was 99 per cent. The proportion of the population using the internet is over 60 per cent in 2018. The issues of natural resource and environmental management have also been improved, forest coverage increased, reaching 45 per cent in 2018

Vietnam also takes steps to strengthen gender equality in all areas of politics, economy, culture and society; reduce inequality and improve access to information and laws for people; focus on disadvantaged groups in the society such as the poor, the disabled, ethnic minorities through the implementation of a series of policies to ensure no one is left behind.

Vietnam has issued an Action Plan with a clear assignment of responsibilities of stakeholders in implementing SDGs from central to local levels including National Assembly, Government, line ministries, social organization, business community and residential community.

Besides, Vietnam also enhances comprehensive and profound international integration while strongly promoting global partnerships and public-private partnerships to secure resources for sustainable development.

### Challenges

In the implementation process, Vietnam still faces many challenges in society, environment,

responding to climate change, difficulties in financial resources, the level of connection between sectors and fields as well as limited capacity for monitoring and monitoring the implementation of sustainable development.

But in the coming time, Vietnam will continue its efforts to implement the Action Plan, promote sustainable economic growth in parallel with: the implementation of social progress, justice and environmental protection; management and efficient use of natural resources; proactive response to climate change; and ensuring that all people are able to develop their potentials to participate in and enjoy equally the achievements of development; and strive for establishing in Vietnam peace, prosperity, fairness, civilization and sustainability.

### Conclusion

Cambodia has made good progress on many fronts, and for both the six priority goals (SDG 1 to SDG 6) and the full set of CSDGs, most targets are on or above track. Even though Cambodia has made achievement, we still have the challenges which are the obstacle of implementation. Data quality and management is a key challenge facing the implementation of CSDGs. Administrative data systems in many goal areas still need strengthening. In addition, like many other countries in the region, the lack of reliable data is a big challenge in judging the progress accurately.

Sri Lanka faces several challenges with regard to the implementation of SDGs. Particularly in the areas of financing technology development, capacity building, trade and investment as well as systematic issues such as policy and institutional coherence, multi stake holder partnership, and data monitoring and accounting. In recognition of the need to shift toward to more innovative, knowledge based economy we propose several measures to improve the technology and digitalization sectors in Sri Lanka. And also raise awareness of SDG and build capacity of stakeholders involved to in planning,

implementing and the monitoring the SDGs. In Vietnam, there is need to continue to improving the relevant legal environment to resolve policy gaps and facilitate SDG implementation; raising awareness and actions of the whole society about sustainable development and sustainable development goals; mobilising the participation of both political systems, ministries, branches, localities, agencies, business community, social organizations, population communities, development partners in implementation SDG agenda; promoting coordination between relevant parties, especially between Government agencies, businesses, socio-political organizations, socio-professional organizations and the international community in implementing Sustainable Development; maintains coordination mechanisms among stakeholders to periodically monitor and evaluate the results of implementing the Action Plan; providing solutions and sharing initiatives and good practices to achieve the SDGs.

Mobilization of domestic and foreign financial resource, especially resources from the private sector to implement the national SDGs. There is also need for integrating sustainable development objectives in the process of developing annual socio-economic development plans, development strategies, policies and plans of ministries, branches, localities and agencies. Incorporating SDG indicators and indicators into periodic National Statistics surveys and other investigation programs. Efforts should be made to enhance international cooperation to promote financial and technical support and transfer for SDG implementation. It should also be ensured that there is a sufficient number of people working in statistics and strengthening training classes so that statistical workers can have sufficient knowledge and knowledge to perform the job effectively.

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# National Strategy for Economic Development and SDGs: Country Profiles

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# National Strategy for Economic Development and SDGs: Country Profiles

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## I. ARMENIA

### Armenia Development Strategy (ADS) priorities and main objective

The ADS covers the period of 2018-2025 and is the country's main socioeconomic development strategy and the basis for medium-term, sectoral and other programme documents. Being the primary guide of the Government, ADS is based on the following four priorities: Growth of employment; Development of human capital; Improvement of social protection system; and Institutional modernization of the public administration and governance.

**Growth of employment:** During the first five years of ADS, employment growth will be recognized a key priority, highlighting activities aimed at creation of quality, well-paid jobs. The activities of the RA Government will be directed at the creation of possibilities for everyone to get fair income according to the working efforts exerted.

**Development of human capital:** Activities aimed at development of human capital will be geared at enhancing the scope, quality and accessibility of primary services (including healthcare, education, science, culture and primary infrastructures) with a special emphasis on nature-human relationships and harmonious development as well. The activities aiming at personal development of the citizen of RA, his/

her professional growth, civic education and enhanced cultural level will be always under the strong focus of the Government, fostering the willingness of each person to live in the homeland.

**Improvement of social protection system:** Activities aimed at improvement of the social protection system will be geared at improvement of the effectiveness of current systems (including improvement of the targeting) and creation of the basis for financial stability in the long-term, ensuring provision of comprehensive social guarantees, essential reduction of social risks and reduction of poverty. At the same time, activities will be implemented in the medium term to gradually transit from delivery of primarily monetary social aid to vulnerable population groups to provision of needs-based complex packages of social assistance. Implementation of the programme will guarantee for each member of the society the strong feeling of being protected and socially secured by the own state.

**Institutional modernization of the public administration and governance:** Activities aimed at institutional modernization of the public administration system will adhere to the adopted fundamental policies and will be geared at improving the public efficiency, growth of public resources and their targeted use, improvement of service quality and accessibility,

reduction of corruption, transparency of decision-making, and increased civil society participation in these processes.

## II. INDONESIA

Since 2007, the Government of Indonesia has been implementing a programme to shift household fuel from kerosene to LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas). The reason is the low availability of Indonesian and world oil. Subsidies for kerosene are very high at around Rp.15-20 trillion every year. LPG is difficult to mix, and the level of pollution is lower than kerosene. Initially, this LPG was for the poor, amounting to around 52 million LPG packages. But the fact is that many poor people are not open-minded and prefer to sell LPG cylinders to other people because of their ignorance. The vast area and big population of Indonesia, makes socialization of the use of LPG a long time process. There are many challenges, such as: there are still many people who continue to use kerosene; there are certain people who deliberately hoard kerosene and sell it at high prices; Scarcity of kerosene; Uneven socialization of the use of LPG has caused many casualties, such as the case of a gas cylinder that exploded due to pipe damage or due to the community's ignorance to use it.

Prabumulih, South Sumatra, Indonesia, is an energy independent city. Prabumulih is an oil and gas drilling city but with the lowest regional budget rate in South Sumatra. So that in 2010 carried out a programme to build a gas network installation in the city. Initially the government used funds amounting to Rp. 48 billion from the regional budget to install a gas network for 4,650 households. Five years later, this programme can be enjoyed by residents by enjoying inexpensive energy. Then in 2015, the government added the installation of 2,626 gas networks in which all costs came from the State Voters and Enterprises namely PT Pertamina. At present around 20 per cent of Prabumulih residents have been benefitted by this service and they use IT and digital platforms to find out the amount of their bills and pay online through

the Sumsel Babel Bank net banking.

Bojonegoro Regency, East Java, Indonesia, stores oil and gas supplies that are capable of supplying 20 per cent of national needs. In 2011, the Bojonegoro Regent, Suyoto initiated regional regulations to process oil and gas natural resources by local people, where the proceeds from oil and gas processing had to be left for endowments at the East Java Bank, and in 2016 total servant funds reached Rp. 100 billion. These servant funds are used for the sustainable and inclusive development objectives of Bojonegoro.

## III. VIETNAM

National strategy for sustainable Economic development of Vietnam

Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung signed Decision No. 432/QD-Ttg on approving the Vietnam Sustainable Development strategy for the 2011-2020. And in order to maintain and develop economy, Vietnam focuses on the following objectives:

- To maintain sustainable economic growth, gradually carry out green growth, develop clean and renewable energies.
- To improve the quality of growth, ensure macro-economic stability, especially financial and monetary policies.
- To transform the growth model from width to both depth and width based on effective exploitation and use of natural resources and progressive scientific-technological advances to raise productivity and competitiveness of goods and services, efficiency of the economy in general and investments in particular.
- To develop and carry out green growth model, ensure the development of low-carbon economy. Economically and effectively use energy; develop clean and renewable energies to guarantee the national energy security. Gradually implement market-oriented energy prices, gradually

raise the ratio of clean and renewable energy in the energy consumption structure in Vietnam. Design an environmental-economic cost accounting system and add environment and social aspects to the System of National Accounts (SNA).

- To pursue sustainable development in industrial sector with professional structure, environmentally-friendly technology and equipment; proactively prevent and handle industrial pollution, develop “green industry”, give priority to the development of sectors, technologies and products that are environmentally-friendly, speed up high-tech technological development in big cities. Gradually formulate environmental industry. To carry out sustainable production and consumption.
- To intensify mass application of cleaner production in order to increase the efficiency of natural resources, materials, energy, water while reducing emissions and pollution rate, protect the quality of the environment, people’s health for sustainable development. To develop a civilized, harmonious and environmentally-friendly consumption culture. Gradually implement eco-label and green shopping. Develop an eco-product market and community-based initiatives for sustainable production and consumption. Apply policies to correct unreasonable consumption behaviour.
- To ensure food security, develop agriculture and rural areas in a sustainable manner. To ensure food security through protecting 3.8 million hectares of rice land, food supply, nutrition demand and food accessibility of people in accordance with the Politburo’s conclusions and Government’s resolutions.
- To shift the structure of agriculture and rural areas towards industrialisation; promote regional advantages; develop quality agricultural products; combine production with local and foreign market in order to lift the efficiency of using natural resources (land, water, forests, labour and capital); heighten income per hectare of cultivated land and per working day; improve farmers’ living standard; sustainably develop craft villages; speed up the application of scientific and technological advances in production, processing, storage, particularly the application of biotechnology in creating crop plants and domestic animal’s varieties and production process that yield high productivity and quality; adjust and supplement agriculture-forestry-aquaculture planning schemes in each economic zone or inter-regional economic zone towards sustainable development, combine production with market, raw material zones with processing industry.
- Sustainable development of rural areas must include four processes: industrialization and modernization; urbanization; population control; environmental protection. Investments should focus on developing technical infrastructure and improving the life quality of farmers in terms of economic, cultural, social, environmental and democratic aspects. The process of urbanization and modernization of rural areas must comply with the norms of building new rural areas, lessen development gap between urban and rural areas in terms of material and spiritual aspects.
- To give priority to developing key economic zones capable of leading overall development while focusing on supporting disadvantaged regions so as to create a balanced development space, gradually narrow social and economic gap between regions and localities. Key economic zones will play as the engine to motivate mountainous, remote, bordering and island areas. Design proper mechanisms and policies to spur growth in all regions, promote advantages of each region and formulate inter-regional linkages.

## IV. NIGER

Niger's national strategy for Sustainable Economic Development is called Sustainable Development Inclusive Growth Strategy (SDIG). It's a long-term strategic vision for the development of the Nigerien society. This vision must serve as a frame of reference for all the government's strategies and actions in accordance with the November 25, 2010 Constitution, which stipulates in its article 146 paragraph 1 that "the action of the State in the field of economic and social development policies is supported by a strategic vision."

Thus, SDIGS constitutes the trajectory of a desired future, resting on strategic directions that are widely shared and accessible. This short document highlights the following elements: the Methodologies and the development challenges faced by the country.

### Methodologies

The approach to formulate the Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy (SDIGS Niger 2035) involved four (4) steps:

- Formulation of the basis for a retrospective and a prospective analysis;
- Strategic and prospective analysis of key development dynamics;
- Formulation of development scenarios for Horizon 2035; and
- The formulation of the long-term strategic vision and directions.

These four steps are completed by a fifth devoted to the deployment and operationalisation of the vision and long-term strategic orientations in Niger's short and medium-term planning documents.

The SDIGS Niger 2035 document was formulated through a process that extensively mobilized the various components of the nation (government, partners, civil society, women organizations etc).

The development challenges faced by the country

The diagnostic analysis highlighted five plus one (5+1) development challenges in Niger. These are :

- Security of the territory;
- Modernisation of the State;
- Modernization and revitalization of the rural sector;
- Développement of human capital;
- Development of a dynamic private sector;
- Demographic transition.

These six challenges are seen as an interdependent set, where intervention in each area enhances progress in all other areas. Special emphasis will be placed on the Modernization and revitalization of the rural sector, the Development of human capital and the Development of a dynamic private sector.

### Modernization and revitalization of the rural sector

The analyses conducted as part of the framework of the 3N Initiative and in preparation for the National Agricultural Investment Programme (PNIA), indicate that only an average annual agricultural growth rate, equal or greater than 6 per cent over the 2015–2035 period, will make it possible to achieve the development objectives in terms of economic growth and structural transformation, as well as reducing under-employment and poverty.

Rural poverty should fall from 62 per cent in 2015 to about 35 per cent in 2035. The absolute number of the rural poor is expected to stabilize at its 2015 level (between 9 and 10 million). A more productive agricultural sector should also favour the emergence of a dynamic rural economy, capable of providing decent jobs to youth in rural areas and curb rural exodus.

Finally, increase in farming incomes and diversification of the rural economy should reduce the vulnerability of rural households to climate change and natural disasters. This growth must allow the achievement of the 'zero hunger' goal.

The following orientations have been defined to achieve this goal of transforming the rural world:

Strategic pillar	Strategic directions
Modernization and revitalisation of the rural world	Revitalise traditional rain-fed farming
	Continue and accelerate investments in irrigation
	Restructure and modernize livestock rearing systems
	Sustainably manage the environment, natural resources and energy
	Develop innovative decentralized approaches in rural areas
	Ensure a harmonious and integrated land management;
	Continue the reforms already initiated in term of targeted training, legal and regulatory measures, and massive investments in public goods

### Development of human capital

Niger cannot hope to achieve the desired levels of rapid, sustained, and inclusive growth without significantly raising the health and education level of its people. This objective is both essential and realistic and will be achieved through:

Strategic pillar	Strategic directions
Development of human capital	Improve the quality of basic education
	Strengthen and improve literacy
	Reorient secondary and higher education toward professional, technical, and scientific sectors
	Raise the level of education of those working in the informal sector
	Improve the healthcare system
	Ensure access to drinking water, sanitation, and a decent standard of living

### Development of a dynamic private sector

Niger must have to succeed by 2035. Therefore, diversification of its economy and the absorption of young people in the labour market is essential, making it necessary in turn for the private sector to progressively take over the baton from the extensive agriculture and livestock sectors. However, the reforms necessary to promote private sector development are highly dependent upon the public authorities. For real change to take place in the private sector, interventions should focus on the following key orientations:

Strategic pillar	Strategic directions
Developing a dynamic private sector	Further improve the legal framework of the business environment
	Improve the availability and quality of basic infrastructure
	Make regional integration an effective part of economic planning
	Develop services and the craft industry in urban and rural areas

## V. IRAQ

The Iraqi government has tried since the previous periods to develop sectoral medium and short development plans in order to achieve long-term SDGs there are health, social and agricultural plans, especially water resources and many others, but these plans did not achieve the goals and objectives of sustainable development in Iraq. The main reason for this is Iraq's continued exposure to external and internal problems. For example that the National Development Plan 2013-2017 did not achieve the national development goals due to the so-called double shock 2014-2015 (decrease oil prices globally and ISIS entry to Iraq).

Therefore, the Iraqi government tried in the last national development plan 2018-2022 to take into account the possibility of exposure to unexpected problems. An important approach to risk management, and another important strategy is the strategy to reduce poverty in Iraq after it neared 23 per cent, which was adopted in the last national development plan for 2018-2022.

The Government of Iraq recently issued the first voluntary report of the SDGs in 2019, which discusses the reality of sustainable development and the aspirations to be considered. It is now in the process of producing monitoring reports for the 15 states on the SDG.

Despite these circumstances, Iraq has made some progress in the field of sustainable development. There has been a significant increase in the number of schools and universities, especially after the private sector in education played a major role. Primary education is up to 94 per cent in 2018.

### **Goal 3: Ensure healthy living and promote the well-being of all ages**

The health aspect affects human potential in all activities of life. The mother and child health has improved significantly, as the number of maternal deaths during childbirth and the number of deaths of children under five

years has decreased. The number of deaths of children under the age of five in the nineties was up to 60 deaths per 1000 live births due to the economic blockade in that period and low per capita income. In 2014 the number declined due to improved per capita income but did not reach the desired limit due to the exposure of Iraq during that year to the terrorist operations. Due to the lack of security and stability access to health centers was difficult. With the beginning of 2018 the security situation improved. The per capita income improved and the increased awareness contributed to the drop in mortality rate to 14 deaths per 1,000 live births.

### **Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote continuing education opportunities for all**

The cultural and educational aspect of the human upbringing impacts the way of thinking and behavior. Education enables the individual to obtain intellectual abilities that help him to get jobs and a better life. Iraq has recently witnessed a marked improvement in the number of schools from previous years, especially after the entry of the private sector in the field of education. It has played an effective role in containing the deficit in the number of students each year; the number of primary schools reached about 14,024 in 2017, compared to 10779 in 2015.

### **Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

Women represent half of the society. They are the main partners of men in achieving economic development. The political process is a necessary and women must become active part of it. Iraq has 25 per cent women representatives in parliament. But it still needs to improve. The role of women in economic participation is declining as the unemployment rate among females is on the increase.

### **Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and between countries**

The process of social development can not

be complete unless there is a balance in the development process at the geographical level within the country. The Iraqi government has shown great interest in this issue by attempting to implement the reconstruction projects of the liberated areas and allocating funds to concentrate the investments there.

The issue of social welfare has been a clear concern of the Iraqi government. It has increased projects to build social welfare units in recent years to reach about 99 units in 2017 from 94 units in 2014.

### **Goal 16: Promote the establishment of peaceful societies**

This goal is linked to the existence of peace and community security and acceptance of the other and the renunciation of all forms of community violence. Iraq has recently witnessed a marked improvement in the security situation, which resulted a decline in cases of deliberate killings, in 2017 the Ministry of Interior recorded 1513 cases of killings and 53 victims of human trafficking.

### **Challenges and Recommendation**

1. There is need for development of health institutions in a manner that they meet the needs of the citizen and at the lowest cost.
2. There must be end of military operations as well as of terrorist groups.
3. Resettlement of displaced families and reconstruction of areas affected by terrorism in a way that they can exercise their vital activities, is another priority.
4. There is need to raise the level of income per capita and provide adequate employment opportunities for all working groups
5. Reduce poverty to 25 per cent in 2022 and eliminate unemployment.
6. Another aspect is achieving economic diversification.

Develop the educational institution and spread awareness of the importance of education.

## **VI. Nepal**

Being one of the signatories of Agenda 2030, Nepal is making many attempts to internalise and harmonise SDGs in national policies, plan and programmes. It was one of the leading country which published its Sustainable Development Goals 2016-2030 National (Preliminary) Report, 2015 which overviewed the targets and achievements of MDGs, existing policies and institutions, likely issues and challenges Nepal had to face during 2016-2030. Realizing the fact that, strong political will and leadership was required to implement the ambitious, indivisible and interrelated 17 goals, 169 targets 479 indicators (244 global and 245 national) strong institutional mechanisms have been established. The Central Steering Committee chaired by Prime Minister, responsible for policy coordination and aid harmonisation, The Implementation and Coordination Committee chaired by Vice Chairman of National Planning Commission (NPC), responsible for planning, budgeting and reporting, and seven Thematic committees (specific goals) headed by Members of NPC have been constituted.

The Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission is making annual goals wise resource mapping on the basis of budget allocated in different sectors covered by 17 goals since FY 2016/2017. Apart from this, SDGs has become one of the budget code whereas direct/indirect contribution to the SDGs is one of the criteria for project prioritisation.

The Fifteenth Periodic Plan with 25 Years' Long Term Vision has introduced long term national goals focusing on socio-economic and environmental aspect.

The indicators defined and the targets fixed under the above mentioned goals are harmonised with SDGs. Result framework which is under consideration has tried to capture the periodic progress of SDGs which are fixed for the year 2019, 2022, 2025 and 2030. Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), also called rolling budget, which

helps in keeping fiscal discipline and assure the rational allocation and expenditure of limited resource has also taken SDGs as a major criteria for budget assurance to the respective projects. Transformation of Nepal from Unitary system to Federal Republic Democratic Nepal and adoption of SDGs took place in the same year. Therefore federal government has the major responsibility to harmonise the national framework to provincial and local governments' policies. Unless subnational governments internalise and take the ownership of these goals it's almost impossible to achieve the targets set by country. Therefore the continuous consultations, workshops and capacity building programs are going on as a part of implementation of SDGs. Likewise SDGs friendly planning, monitoring and evaluation framework has been developed and executed. Government has developed 117 indicators for provincial level and SDGs localization manual to local is under consideration.

### **Goal 1: Eradicate poverty in all its forms everywhere**

Nepal has developed 14 national indicators along with 14 global indicators in SDG 1. The government has allocated 1.59 per cent of total budget in 24 projects in the fiscal year (FY) 2019/2020 AD which directly contribute to the SDG 1.

In the base year 1990, 42 per cent of people were below the national poverty line. Nepal has almost reduced the poor percentage by half i.e. 21.6 per cent against the target 21 per cent during 2000-2015. The midterm review of fourteenth periodic plan has shown that the population below national poverty line has declined to 17.5 per cent by the end of FY 2017/18. The targeted programme on vocational training and entrepreneurship building, focus on social sectors like health and education is the reason behind its success.

### **Goal 3: Ensure healthy living and promote the well-being of all ages**

Nepal has developed 32 national indicators to internalize 27 global indicators. The table shown above represents only ten indicators out of 59.

Nepal had successfully achieved the targets of reducing child and maternal mortality rate. The maternal mortality rate on 100,000 live birth was 850 in the year 1990 which was reduced by three-fourth i.e. 258 against 213 which was supported by births attended by skilled health personnel which was only 7 per cent in 1990 and rose by 55.6 per cent against the target 60 per cent in 2015. Therefore if Nepal can sustain the MDGs in that case it can also successfully achieve the target of reducing maternal mortality to 70 and percentage of birth attended by skilled health workers with 90 per cent by the year 2030. Like maternal mortality, Nepal is on track to reduce the infant mortality rate and under five mortality rate.

The government has allocated 5.38 percent of total budget under 36 projects for the FY 2019/2020 which directly contribute the SDG 3.

Nepal Sustainable Development Goals Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030 defines Goals 3 and 4 as an exercise to enhance human capabilities which are not only ends of development in themselves, but are also the means for a more productive economy and a society. To translate it into realities Nepal has developed 35 national indicators bounded by 11 global indicators. According to the resource mapping under 7 projects, the current budget of federal government contributing SDG 4 is 1.34 percentage.

Relying on the achievement of MDGs, it can be said that Nepal can easily achieve the enrollment and gender parity index however it has a huge challenge in producing skilled, entrepreneur and quality human resource.

### **Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**

According to population census 2011, the

total percentage of woman in Nepal is 51.2. The state has taken different legal actions for the establishment of gender friendly governance. The Constitution has secured the Right to Equality (Art.18), Right of Women as fundamental right (Art. 38). It has also adopted the policies of justice and inclusion (Art 51j) which mentions special provision for women.

SDG 5 is defined as goals for higher human aspiration by Nepal Sustainable Development Goals Status and Roadmap: 2016-2030. The country has developed 22 national indicators internalizing 14 global goals. Gender is not a stand-alone goal. It is a cross cutting issue which has multi-dimensional relation with remaining goals. Considering this facts, there are only 4 dedicated projects with minimal budget allocation i.e. 0.05 percent in the FY 2019/2020.

### **Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and between countries**

Nepal has developed 16 national indicators under 11 global in in indicators SDG 10. It is an outcome of investment on other goals. The government has no specified budget allocation under this goal. This goal reflects the socio-economic, political and governance system within and across the societies and countries. Nepal needs synergetic effort to achieve the targets.

### **Challenges**

1. One of the major challenges of Nepal is availability of disaggregated data in national and subnational levels. More than 100 indicators are yet to be developed. Unless all the indicators are quantified with certain target it's hard to take the measures to achieve them.

2. Reducing the population living below the national poverty line that exists in different strata of society (marginalized and vulnerable groups, women, and children), halving the multidimensional poverty index, providing social protection to all the needy people in

present scenario of sluggish economic growth.

3. Financing deficit is one of the feature of LDCs. SDG 1, requires average 153 billion, SDG 3 requires 134.2 billion, SDG 4 requires 306.2 billion, SDG 5 requires 15.6 billion and SDG 16 requires 2.8 billion Nepali Rupees to be borne by government (54.7 percent), private sector (36.6 percent), Cooperatives and NGOs (4.3 percent) and Households (4.4 percent) per annum.

4. Governance of SDGs in all the tiers of government is another challenge with certain standards and benchmarks

5. Horizontal and vertical policy integration among the different tiers and departments of government (economic growth, health and education facilities, employment generation, gender equality).

6. All goals are equally important and should be achieved within the specified time frame, Nepal needs to reprioritize goals and indicators (ending poverty, hunger, health, education, gender equality). Therefore a review should be made on, whether 479 indicators are equally applicable and achievable or not, excluding SDG 14 in the national context.

7. Environmental shocks like earthquake, floods push thousands of population back to poverty zone.

### **Recommendations**

- Revising indicators.
- Conducting survey, census, and case studies to generate disaggregated data.
- Mobilizing internal and external resources to achieve high, sustained and inclusive economic growth.
- Reviewing macroeconomic policies, social protection schemes for establishing disaster resilient infrastructure.
- Encouraging active and change oriented participation of all the stakeholders.



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