



Assessing the Sustainable Development Goals and Its Application in Nigeria

Marcus Garvey ORJI

Sustainable Development Centre, University of Abuja, Nigeria

Email: marcusorji@gmail.com

Abstract: Sustainable development is maintaining a delicate balance between the human need to improve the way of life, maintain and guarantee the continuity of a business and feeling of well-being on one hand, and preserving natural resources and ecosystems, on which we and future generations depend. The United Nations Agenda 2030 is a plan of action for people, the planet, and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in greater freedom. The United Nations recognizes that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. All countries and all stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan. UN is resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. UN is determined to take the bold and transformative steps that are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets demonstrate the scale and ambition of this new universal Agenda. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social, and environmental. The objective of this study is to make a literature review of the 17 United Nations sustainable development goals in terms of concepts, institutional perceptions, and global challenges if any.

Keywords: Sdg, no poverty, zero hunger, good health and wellbeing

I. Introduction

Poverty is the state of lack of resources that can guarantee a minimum standard of living. According to Aggreh, Orji. And Nworie (2022) Poverty refers to the inability of someone to attain a minimum standard of living. The poor lack command over basic consumption needs. This means that poverty presupposes there is an inadequate level of consumption which gives rise to insufficiency in food security, clothing, and/or shelter. Thus, people are said to be poor if their measured standard of living in terms of consumption or income is below the poverty line.

Magaji (2002) saw poverty as a condition in which the resources of individuals or families are grossly inadequate to provide a socially acceptable standard/condition of living. According to Orji, Olaniyi, and Adeyemo (2022), poverty represents hopelessness, restlessness, joblessness, voicelessness, hunger, disease, and social imbalance. A poor man has no voice, even among his family members because nobody regards him or his opinion. They classified poverty into different types to understand their impact on humanity such as;

- a. Absolute poverty; is used to describe an individual or household below a minimum acceptable level which has been fixed over time as a global stand for meaningful human existence. Absolute poverty also referred to as subsistence poverty is grounded on the idea of subsistence – the basic condition that must be met to sustain a physically healthy existence. Individuals or groups who lack basic needs of food, shelter, and clothing fall under this category.
- b. Relative poverty; is used in positioning the individual or household compared with the average income in the country, such as the poverty line set at one-half of the mean income or the 40th percentile of the distribution which often varies with the level of average income. It exists when people may be able to afford the necessities of life but are not able to maintain an average standard of living
- c. Chronic/Structural poverty; is used when it is persistent or long-term. Its causes are more permanent and depend on a host of other factors such as limited resources, lack of skills for gainful employment, locational disadvantage, or endemic socio-political and cultural factors.
- d. Conjectural/Transitory poverty; is used if the poverty is temporary/transient or short term and caused mainly by transient factors such as natural or manmade disasters (wars and environmental degradation) or structural changes induced by policy reforms which result in loss of employment, loss in value of real income, assets, etc (Orji et al, 2022).

But our emphasis in line with SDG 1 is on absolute poverty. The main objective and targets of SDG 1 are; 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day; By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions; Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable etc. But the pertinent question is what efforts and how are Countries going about this about the Global economic crises facing all nations? Nigeria has taken several measures to alleviate poverty for sustainable development, such as; conditional cash transfers to the poorest of the poor; Small business loans; and providing affordable energy to stimulate economic production as recently witnessed in Kano main market and Ariara market in Aba, Abia State with some still under construction.

II. Research methods

2.1 Sdg Goal 2; Zero Hunger

If we are going to end hunger then we must achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Hunger is an uncomfortable or painful physical condition caused by insufficient food consumption. According to Nafees, Zaid, and Shah Nawaz (2021), Food security is defined as "When all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life." Food insecurity is described as "limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe foods or limited or uncertain ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways" Poverty exists with food insecurity and is the leading cause of hunger, malnutrition, low-income, illiteracy, homelessness, inadequate housing, social discrimination. The growing number of populations is overstressing natural resources, i.e., water, housing, and electricity in the cities have not been able to fulfill the requirement of people moving into the city. As a result, low-cost housing is being built, and many people are bound to live in the slums and hamlets, having more people

in a one-room shed. The people living in the slums also face the problem of food security and nutrition due to low poverty (Nafees et al, 2021). In other words, there is a linkage between urbanization, overstressing natural resources, poverty, and hunger. Food insecurity is a multi-dimensional concept, and it affects every section of the population in different ways: children and mothers are also prone to food insecurity due to various factors such as overpopulation, gender inequality, lack of education, and poverty. Overpopulated areas have the problem of food which can lead to malnutrition among children, especially in rural areas like some slump areas in Abuja.

The main objective and targets of SDG 2 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular, the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food all year round; By 2030, end all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons; By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, Indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment, etc. To end hunger, the problem of food insecurity must be addressed, by identifying the major causes. For our purpose, we can identify the causes of food insecurity as;

- a. Climate change; leaves a deep impression on food security in different ways. It affects the crops, livestock, forestry, fisheries, and aquaculture. Thus, climate change can lead to hunger and food insecurity.
- b. Population growth; various scholars have different thoughts regarding population growth and food insecurity. Malthus gave an inverse relationship between the population and resources, a rapidly growing population becomes a burden on resources. So, he introduces positive checks (war, natural disaster, calamities) that occur if we do not control the population growth. (Nafees et al, 2021). So there is a linkage between overpopulation and hunger.
- c. Other causes of food insecurity can lead to hunger such as conflict and political instability as has been witnessed in various internally displaced places in Nigeria North East region; there is also the problem of urbanization- which shows an expected decline in the rural population, which means the population at worldwide will need to produce more food with fewer farmers to meet the growing demands in cities.

III. Results and discussion

3.1 Sdg Goal 3; Good Health and Well-Being

The objective is to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Good health concerns the care of the human body and everything that can be done to protect it from sickness and intoxication and enable access to care. While, well-being can be defined as the state of being happy, healthy, or successful. According to Ruggeri et al (2020), Well-being has been defined as the combination of feeling good and functioning well; the experience of positive emotions such as happiness and contentment as well as the development of one's potential, having some control over one's life, having a sense of purpose, and experiencing positive relationship'. Well-being has been linked to success at professional, personal, and interpersonal levels, with those individuals high in well-being exhibiting greater productivity in the workplace, more effective learning, increased creativit

more prosocial behaviors, and positive relationships.

The focus of SDG Goal 3 states that; The rights to life and health apply to everyone, ensure healthy lives, and promotes well-being for all at all ages; By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births; By 2030, end preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under 5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births; by 2030, end the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases; By 2030, reduce by one-third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being, etc.

Everyone has the right to receive the health services they need; The cost of using health services should not put people at risk of financial harm; Some people such as mothers and children need extra help and protection; Progress in science and technology is needed to improve the health of people; There are human rights related to health and well-being, for example: Rights to health, Special protection for people who need it, such as mothers, children and older people, Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its use, International cooperation (this means states work together and with other partners such as civil society and global agencies).

The benefits of sustainable development are also felt across a wide cross-section of human health and well-being, including reductions in pollution- and environment-related disease, improved health outcomes, and decreased stress. As the threats of climate change become increasingly important, win-win strategies for mitigation, health improvement, and cost savings offer a range of advantages for various stakeholders. For example, greener healthcare operations can generate patient and worker health benefits while also saving energy, mitigating climate risks, and creating long-term cost savings.

3.2 Sdg Goal 4; Quality Education

The objective and targets of this goal are to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all; By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes; By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care, and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education; By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university; by 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship, etc.

A quality education focuses on the whole child—the social, emotional, mental, physical, and cognitive development of each student regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or geographic location. According to Agnihotri (2017), A good quality education provides all learners with the capabilities they require to become economically productive, develop sustainable livelihoods, contribute to peaceful and democratic societies, and enhance individual well-being' Characteristically, the term 'Quality Education' seems to be a subjective concept and the understanding of it may differ from person to person; however, several definitions regarding a quality education exist which testifies the complexity and varied character of the concept. For instance, UNICEF (2000) discusses five dimensions of quality

education, "healthy learners; conducive environments; relevant curricula; child-friendly pedagogy; and useful outcome. Quality education provided to society inspires creativity and innovation, moreover improves the nation's economy. The great Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world." Its importance is immeasurable because it is a self-enlightened process for a lifetime. This is so because quality education equips one with the capability to interpret things rightly and apply the gathered information in real-life scenarios, therefore it wipes out the wrong beliefs from one's mind and that makes one civilized and innovative (Thangeda, Baratiseng, and Mompati, 2016).

Education is not simply a content delivery system; rather, it is a system designed to help all children reach their full potential and enter society as full and productive citizens. UN former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon set the SDG process in motion in 2012 by declaring that every child must be in school, and the quality of those schools must improve so that students are prepared to be productive citizens, ready to lead the future (Agnihotri, 2017). The SDGs reflect a global consensus that education is a human right and a public good that is critical to the health and future of the world. But Nigeria is a nation of severe challenges, with millions of students unsettled and unschooled due to conflict and bad government failure to meet their funding commitments to education, especially for her poorest citizens. UNESCO's estimate of out-of-school children in Nigeria as of 2022 is approximately 20 million; with this number how can we talk of quality education in line with SDG 4? The fact speaks for itself, Nigeria has failed in implementing UN SDG 4 (Quality Education).

3.3 Sdg Goal 5; Gender Equality

The objective and target of this goal is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere; Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation; Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation; Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate; Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life; Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences, etc.

Gender equality is, first and foremost, a human right. It implies that women, men, boys, and girls of all classes and races participate as equals and have equal value. They enjoy equal access to resources, freedoms, and opportunities to exercise control. According to Jeff and Liisa (2016), the theory, concept, and politics of gender equality can be understood as part of the long-term historical struggle for equality and democracy, but with a focus on equality between and democracy among women and men, and genders more generally. The reference to democracy is evident in the politics of equal political representation, though often seen in many societies and historical periods as applying only to adult males. Gender equality entails not only political representation and political leadership, for example, by parliamentary election, but also rights and opportunities across all sectors of society, including economic participation, decision-making, valuation of behaviors, aspirations, and needs of women, men, and further genders, and freedom from violence.

In this process, or struggle, gender equality policies and interventions are important tools in enhancing women's rights and participation, yet that process of striving for greater gender equality is by no means unproblematic. Gender equality and gender equality policies can be short or long-term, and be seen in terms of equal opportunities, equal treatment, differential or affirmative treatment (within current inequality), equity (fairness), or equal outcomes (Jeff and Liisa 2016). While women account for half of the total population, they remain an underused resource, constituting less than a third of the actual workforce (Lagarde 2013). Worldwide, productivity growth and the pace of human development are slowing (ILO 2017), and women's full and effective participation in the workforce and decent work for all are critical to inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development, hence the need to implement the SDG 5 effectively in all countries of the world, especially Nigeria.

If we Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage, and female genital mutilation; And Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure, and social protection policies, and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate. Equally Ensuring women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life, then we will be able to achieve SDG 5.

3.4 Sdg Goal 6; Clean Water and Sanitation

The objective is to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. The goal six outcome targets include: By 2030, achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all; By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations; By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally; By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity; By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate, etc. The two means of implementing these targets are to expand water and sanitation support to developing countries and to support local engagement in water and sanitation management.

Access to clean water and sanitation is a basic human right that is still a challenge for millions worldwide. As of 2020, approximately 2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water services, and an estimated 4.2 billion people lack access to safe sanitation facilities (Sustainable Development Goals Report, 2022). The water crisis has severe impacts on health, well-being, and productivity, leading to millions of deaths each year from waterborne diseases like cholera, diarrhea, and typhoid fever. Women and girls are disproportionately affected. They spend hours collecting water and facing risks of violence and harassment due to inadequate sanitation facilities. Lack of safe water and sanitation also limits productivity and economic potential, perpetuating poverty. Marginalized communities are often excluded from basic services and infrastructure.

A safely managed drinking water service is defined as an improved source located on premises, available when needed, and free from fecal (*E.coli* or thermotolerant coliforms) and priority chemical contamination (from arsenic and fluoride). Nigeria's water and sanitation

crisis is severe. It affects millions in urban and rural areas, with flooding, poor management, scarcity, and limited access to sanitation facilities. This emergency has significant public health and economic implications. (Southern Voice, 2023). The importance of water is critical, however, even more important is the concept of clean water. It is estimated that each person on earth is required 20 to 50 liters of clean safe water every day. This clean water is to be used for drinking, cooking, simple hygiene, etc. According to Khalifa and Bidaisee (2018), several different factors contribute to the accessibility of clean water. These factors include physical, demographic, geopolitical, and lastly economic/socioeconomic status. Physically, some water supplies are difficult to access because of treacherous topographical factors and/or unbearable climate circumstances. This then would force individuals to access dirty water, out of desperation. Secondly, the demographics of a location can also affect the accessibility to clean water due to issues of overpopulation. For example, in cities that have large populations, some people cannot obtain the appropriate amount of water due to the high demand the population is consuming (Khalifa and Bidaisee, 2018). Geopolitically speaking, due to water being obtained from river water flow worldwide, people downstream of locations rely on people upstream to maintain the purity and cleanliness of the water. If a river runs through multiple countries, the likelihood of the water becoming contaminated is greater. Lastly, and most importantly, economic/socioeconomic will have clear implications on accessibility to clean water. Socioeconomic status is very complex means that it incorporates occupation, education, finances, and location influence (Root, Rodd, Yunus &, Emch 2013). All of these factors can influence how a population can access clean water and the sustainable development of a nation like Nigeria.

3.5 Sdg Goal 7; Affordable and Clean Energy

The objective and target of goal 7 is to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. By 2030; ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services; By 2030, increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix; By 2030, double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency; By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology; By 2030, expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, in particular, least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, by their respective programs of support, etc.

Our everyday lives depend on reliable and affordable energy services to function smoothly and to develop equitably. A well-established energy system supports all sectors: from businesses, medicine, and education to agriculture, infrastructure, communications, and high technology. Conversely, the lack of access to energy supplies and transformation systems is a constraint to human and economic development. According to Kumari (2021), Clean energy can be defined as energy that is derived from renewable and zero-emission sources. The energy saved by high-efficiency measures also comes under clean energy. The current trend of the use of fossil fuel as a major source of energy is unsustainable and harmful to the planet as well as its inhabitants, and also it enhances climate change which is one of the biggest threats to humans as stated by the United Nations UN Chronicle. Clean energy can be said as a pathway for climate change mitigation. Just have a look at the increasing number of vehicles and industries, they show that the economy is rising but the hidden charge is also there, global warming.

Renewable energy comes from naturally renewing but flow-limited sources; renewable resources are nearly limitless in terms of duration but have a limited amount of energy per unit of time (Küfeoğlu, 2022). Technological advancements have increased the consumption and interest in renewable energy sources, owing to rising pollution and rapid fossil fuel usage. Many nations debate energy, energy security, and global warming, and rules are being developed in this context. The energy produced by the use of sunlight and heat is called solar energy. Solar energy has different uses, and these can be generating electricity from solar energy or heating air and water. Winds occur in various regions of the world depending on atmospheric events. Winds, moving air, cause kinetic energy, which can be converted into electrical energy with the help of wind turbines (Küfeoğlu, 2022).

One of the important steps to be taken in line with this purpose is to realize financial flow just like the recent COP28 Conference in the United Arab Emirates where investment Banks stepped up their climate finance, the Inter-American Development Bank Group said it plans to triple direct and mobilized capital for Latin America and the Caribbean over the next decade, which should add up to about \$150 billion. The Asian Development Bank has a new climate policy that includes a goal to provide \$100 billion from its resources to climate-related investments by 2030 — \$20 billion more than an earlier commitment. Also, five Multinational Development Banks (MDB) have committed to putting clauses in their agreements and contracts to pause debt repayment in the case of a climate disaster. Advocates have been pushing for MDBs to do so, and it seems momentum is picking up. The World Bank is broadening the scope of those clauses so that they apply to more countries, including a pause on interest payments, and allow for related fees to be covered by concessional funds. Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will also expand its use of climate-resilient debt clauses, and the African Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and European Investment Bank will also use them (Saldinger, 2023).

Adaptation towards SDG-7 brings in new investments and creates a significant economy around it. While private investments and government spending in developed countries concentrate on achieving efficiency and renewable energy production, developing countries like Nigeria focus on obtaining access to electricity and clean energy sources. For example, Nigeria with an estimated population of over 200 million people cannot distribute up to 5000 megawatt of electricity, and the national grid collapses regularly leading to blackouts.

3.6 Sdg 8; Decent Work and Economic Growth

The main objective and target are to Promote sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all. Sustain per capita economic growth by national circumstances and, in particular, at least 7 percent gross domestic product growth per annum in the least developed countries; Achieve higher levels of economic productivity through diversification, technological upgrading, and innovation, including through a focus on high-value added and labor-intensive sectors; Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services; Improve progressively, through 2030, global resource efficiency in consumption and production and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation, by the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production, with developed countries taking the lead, etc.

In SDG 8, the UN outlined the need to "promote development-oriented policies that

support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services." The goal, tagged "Decent Work and Economic Growth", makes it necessary to consider the need to support the development of the SME sector.

Decent work means opportunities for everyone to get work that is productive and delivers a fair income, security in the workplace and social protection for families, better prospects for personal development and social integration. According to Ghai, (2003) the concept of "decent work" was launched in these terms in 1999, in the Report of the Director-General to the International Labour Conference meeting in its 87th Session. The idea both conveys the broad and varied dimensions associated with work today and encapsulates them in an expression that everyone can appreciate. But what does the notion of decent work comprise? Four components of the notion are elaborated in the same Report of the Director-General: employment, social protection, workers' rights, and social dialogue. Employment here covers work of all kinds and has both quantitative and qualitative dimensions. Thus, decent work applies not just to workers in the formal economy but also to unregulated wage workers, the self-employed, and home workers. It also refers to adequate opportunities for work, and remuneration (in cash and kind), and embraces safety at work and healthy working conditions. Social security and income security are also essential components defined according to each society's capacity and level of development. The two other components emphasize the social relations of workers: the fundamental rights of workers (freedom of association, non-discrimination at work, and the absence of forced labor and child labor); and social dialogue, in which workers exercise their right to present their views, defend their interests and engage in discussions to negotiate work-related matters with employers and authorities (Ghai, 2003).

Economic growth refers to an increase in the size of a country's economy over some time. The size of an economy is typically measured by the total production of goods and services in the economy, which is called gross domestic product (GDP). According to Mladen (2015), Economic growth includes changes in material production during a relatively short period, usually one year. In economic theory, the concept of economic growth implies an annual increase of material production expressed in value, the rate of growth of GDP, or national income. Growth can be achieved, for it does not achieve the developmental course of the economy.

Orji (2023) opined that sustainable development cannot be achieved without Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) especially SDG 8. MSMEs are the drivers of economic development around the world, providing long-term jobs and income even for the poorest. Their market power and potential for innovation make MSMEs key partners in achieving economic growth. Tax payments fund public services. Where MSMEs work in markets, sectors, and regions where many poor people live and work, they make a direct contribution to reducing poverty and inequality (pro-poor growth). Thus, Strong MSMEs can foster a culture of entrepreneurship in which decent jobs are the norm, human rights are respected, people earn a living wage or income, and excesses such as child labor or forced labor are a thing of the past.

3.7 Sdg 9; Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The goal is to build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation. The targets are to develop quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient

infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all; Promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and, by 2030, significantly raise industry's share of employment and gross domestic product, in line with national circumstances, and double its share in the least developed countries; Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets; By 2030, upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource-use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, with all countries taking action by their respective capabilities, etc.

SDG 9 encompasses three important aspects of sustainable development: infrastructure, industrialization, and innovation. Infrastructure provides the basic physical systems and structures essential to the operation of a society or enterprise. Industrialization drives economic growth, creates job opportunities, and thereby reduces income poverty. Innovation advances the technological capabilities of industrial sectors and prompts the development of new skills. Inclusive and sustainable industrial development is the primary source of income generation, allows for rapid and sustained increases in living standards for all people, and provides the technological solutions needed for environmentally sound industrialization.

But according to Mahadi (2023), it is very difficult to focus on all of the SDGs especially SDG 9 while also trying to decrease carbon emissions and limit the climate temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. The SDGs focus on improving the current world situation with the help of all countries, but challenges are much greater for undeveloped countries than developed countries at this stage

For example, SDG 9 aims to "build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation". This implies that countries should focus on affordable and equitable access for all such as trans-border infrastructure which will support economic development and human well-being, retrofitting industries to make them sustainable, efficient, and innovative. However, this change and innovation are more feasible in developed countries such as the UK, the USA, and the UAE, and much harder in poorer countries in areas such as South America, Africa, and Asia. Therefore, the SDGs need to take into consideration the poorer countries when thinking about developments, and how poorer countries will finance the required innovation. This sort of development will require energy, which also increases carbon emissions. Therefore, it is difficult to focus on SDG 9 when there has been a decision to limit temperatures to 1.5°C. For example, in China the current CO₂ emissions are 10,641 million tonnes per annum and 7.7 tonnes emissions (per annum) per capita; the causes of increase in current emissions in China are the country's large economy and population. Therefore, it is clear that emerging economies are producing a lot, and building more infrastructure, and that this is causing a lot of issues towards carbon emissions (Mahadi, 2023).

3.8 Sdg Goal 10; Reduced Inequality

The objective is to reduce inequality within and among countries. The targets are; By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 percent of the population at a rate higher than the national average; By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status; Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices

and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard; Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality; Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations, etc.

Inequality starts with the lottery of birth – who your parents are and where you are born – that accounts for variation in the resources and opportunities available to people. The social and economic inequalities and disadvantages in early life can limit opportunities for the realization of one's rights and the ability to realize one's full potential. Discrimination based on age, gender, ethnic or racial group, disability status, sexual orientation, migratory status, residence, or other factors serves to disadvantage some individuals in many different and often invisible ways, throughout their lives. These patterns of inequality get passed on from generation to generation. Therefore, early interventions and investing in all children, especially the poorest and most marginalized, are central to breaking intergenerational poverty and inequality.

According to Koh (2020) broadly speaking, inequality refers to the phenomenon of unequal and/or unjust distribution of resources and opportunities among members of a given society. The term inequality may mean different things to different people and in different contexts. Moreover, inequality encompasses distinct yet overlapping economic, social, and spatial dimensions. Economic inequality refers to disparities in income and wealth, while social inequality refers to differentiated rights and access to opportunities and social welfare or public goods based on race, ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality, disability, citizenship status, and/or residential status. Finally, spatial inequality refers to the spatial manifestations and implications of inequality, such as regional and rural-urban disparities. More importantly, these inequalities could be related to each other in complex ways across time, space, and place.

Debates about inequality are further complicated by the disjuncture between the moral ethics of equity and social justice, on the one hand, and the normative idea of "deservingness," on the other hand. The former school of thought argues for equity and equal treatment to all members of society based on social justice (e.g., fair and just distribution of wealth, opportunities, and social privileges between individuals in society). Such ideals are often challenged by on-the-ground realities when it comes to strategies and policies to reduce inequality (e.g., limited resources to satisfy everyone's needs, cyclical economic climates, changing political ideologies and policy foci, and gaps between policies and their implementation). The latter school of thought, influenced by theories such as the culture of poverty, judges and controls people's access to welfare resources on the prevalent normative basis of whether they "deserve" to be helped. According to this school of thought, people who experience economic inequality are perceived to be lazy, unmotivated, and uninterested in helping themselves, or they lack the necessary skills and knowledge due to their shortcomings. As a result, they are often seen and portrayed as "undeserving welfare leeches." (Koh, 2020)

Why do we need to reduce inequalities?

Inequalities based on income, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, religion, and opportunity continue to persist across the world. Inequality threatens long-term social and economic development, harms poverty reduction, and destroys people's sense of fulfillment and self-worth. This, in turn, can breed crime, disease, and environmental degradation. We cannot achieve sustainable development and make the planet better for all if people are excluded from the chance for a better life.

What can we do?

Reducing inequality requires transformative change. Greater efforts are needed to

eradicate extreme poverty and hunger and invest more in health, education, social protection, and decent jobs, especially for young people, migrants refugees, and other vulnerable communities. Within countries, it is important to empower and promote inclusive social and economic growth. We can ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of income if we eliminate discriminatory laws, policies, and practices. Among countries, we need to ensure that developing countries are better represented in decision-making on global issues so that solutions can be more effective, credible, and accountable. Governments and other stakeholders can also promote safe, regular, and responsible migration, including through planned and well-managed policies, for the millions of people who have left their homes seeking better lives due to war, discrimination, poverty, lack of opportunity, and other drivers of migration.

3.9 Sdg Goal 11; Sustainable Cities And Communities

The objective of SDG 11 is to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. The targets are; By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe, and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums; By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible, and sustainable transport systems for all, improve road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons; By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries; Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage; By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to the global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations, etc.

Meyer (2023) defined a sustainable city as one designed to address social, environmental, and economic impact through urban planning and city management. Many sustainable initiatives are achieved by building eco-friendly alternatives into city infrastructure, such as adopting walk and bike lanes. Regulations and fines can also achieve change: waste removal orders have proven to reduce landfill waste. Through planned infrastructure, public green spaces, smart waste removal, and more, cities can leave behind a net zero footprint for a more sustainable world.

According to Aggreh, Orji, Nworie & Aggreh (2022), SDG 11 directly addresses the relevance of cities and local governments in fighting poverty and achieving sustainable development by 2030. The responsibilities and opportunities of both regional and local governments are upturned in this manner. This shall also help them to access financial means to implement transformative projects and infrastructure, much needed to make cities resilient and sustainable.

Cities represent the future of global living. The world's population reached 8 billion in 2022 over half living in urban areas. This figure is only expected to rise, with 70 percent of people expected to live in cities by 2050. Approximately 1.1 billion people currently live in slums or slum-like conditions in cities, with 2 billion more expected in the next 30 years. However many of these cities are not ready for this rapid urbanization, and it outpaces the development of housing, infrastructure, and services, which led to a rise in slums or slum-like conditions. Urban sprawl, air pollution, and limited open public spaces persist in cities (Aggreh et al, 2022).

Good progress has been made since the implementation of the SDGs in 2015, and now the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies has doubled. For instance, we have Smart cities like Dubai. But issues remain and in 2022, only half of the urban population had convenient access to public transport. Sustainable development cannot be achieved without significantly transforming the way urban spaces are built and managed (UNDESA,2023). To achieve Goal 11, efforts must focus on implementing inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban development policies and practices that prioritize access to basic services, affordable housing, efficient transportation, and green spaces for all.

3.10 Sdg Goal 12; Responsible Consumption and Production

The objective is to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. The targets are to implement the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries; By 2030, achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources; By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses; By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse; Encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle, etc.

Responsible consumption means that buyers, whether involved in the economy as a private or public entity, or as citizen consumers must make their choice taking into account environmental impacts at all stages of the product life cycle (for both goods and services)". Responsible consumption aims to integrate social, environmental, and ethical aspects into purchasing decisions. Consumers committed to this model are informed individuals who seek to minimize the environmental footprint of their actions and have a positive impact on society.

Better consumption is not just about buying more sustainable products. Consuming sustainably also means wasting fewer available resources and using them more effectively. Companies, governments, and individuals all have an interest in limiting their consumption of water, gas, and electricity. Rising prices should help speed up the dissemination of best practices, but will not replace heightening people's awareness of the issues. Responsible production means producing goods and services ethically and sustainably.

According to Aggreh, Orji, Nworie & Aggreh (2022), SDG 12 projected that global resource use will increase fourfold within the next two decades if human society continues to grow at the current pace with which it expands. Taking urgent action today is crucial, as there is an enormous potential for integrated solutions to improve efficiency in terms of resource extraction, energy use, and waste management. Addressing, for instance, the 1.3 billion tons of food being wasted annually would both improve resource use and eliminate hunger (SDG #2); while port and carbon emissions, increase transparency (Ngwakwe, 2012). Continuing and increasingly rapid urbanization is likely to cause significant increases in the consumption of energy, land, and water, putting a large strain on natural resources in cities (Manfred & Oladipo, 2020). However, these trends also have transformative powers to encourage a change in consumer attitudes and behavior. A large chunk of buyers are drawn from public authorities and they have substantial market power. The purchasing decisions they make can help overcome these difficulties by influencing the development of new, more sustainable products and services. The negative environmental impacts and increased resource use caused

by the rapidly growing population can be ameliorated by smart urbanization and planning. By changing the way we produce and consume goods and resources, man's ecological footprint needs to be reduced so that economic growth and sustainable development can be concomitantly achieved. This goal can be further achieved when there is an efficient management of shared natural resources and the way toxic waste and pollutants are disposed of. A large share of the world population is still consuming far too little to meet even their basic needs. Halving the per capita of global food waste at the retailer and consumer levels is also important for creating more efficient production and supply chains. This can help with food security, and shift us towards a more resource-efficient economy (UNDESA, 2023).

3.11 Sdg Goal 13; Climate Action

The main objective of this goal is to take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. The targets are to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries; Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning; Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning; Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible, etc.

Climate action refers to efforts taken to combat climate change and its impact. Climate change is a systematic change in the long-term state of the atmosphere over multiple decades or longer. According to Kaddo (2016), the Earth's average temperature has increased by about 1 degree Fahrenheit during the 20th century (Global Climate Change: Effects). That might sound like it isn't a great change, but its effects on our environment have proven otherwise. The impacts of this small change in the temperature are many, from longer drought seasons and heat waves to more aggressive hurricanes. Furthermore, the increase in the earth's average temperature created a variety of problems that left a lasting scar on our environment. Greenhouse gases are thought to be the main contributor to climate change. They are very efficient in trapping heat into the atmosphere; therefore, it results in the greenhouse effect. The solar energy is absorbed by the earth's surface and then reflected in the atmosphere as heat. Then as the heat goes out to space, greenhouse gases absorb a part of the heat. After that, they radiate the heat back to the earth's surface, to another greenhouse gas molecule, or space. A large amount of climate change happens widely because we are burning fossil fuels and that increases gases such as CO₂, methane, and some other gases in the atmosphere. Climate change has affected many aspects of our planet. One aspect that has been greatly affected by climate change is the weather which has resulted in so many harsh conditions such as excess heat, bush burning, floods, landslides, etc, hence the need for climate action.

SDG 13 Goal calls for urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. It is intrinsically linked to all 16 of the other Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To address climate change, countries adopted the Paris Agreement at the COP21 in Paris on 12 December 2015. The Agreement entered into force less than a year later. In the agreement, all countries agreed to work to limit global temperature rise to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and given the grave risks, to strive for 1.5 degrees Celsius. The 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 22) to the UNFCCC took place in Marrakesh, Morocco. During COP 22, parties began preparations for the entry into force of the Paris Agreement, and to encourage actions to implement the agreement that will address climate

change. The 2023 COP28 ends with a call to 'transition away' from fossil fuels; UN's Secretary General António Guterres says the industry will phase out 'whether they like it or not. Also, the UN launches a \$46 billion appeal to respond to worsening crises in 2024. UN chief António Guterres emphasized that the era of fossil fuels must end with justice and equity. "Developing countries must be supported every step of the way. There are steps every one of us can take for a healthier planet. Act now, speak up, and show leaders that people are ready for change.

3.12 Sdg Goal 14; Life Bellow Water

The objective is to Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. The targets are; By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution; By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration to achieve healthy and productive oceans; Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels; By 2030, increase the economic benefits to small island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism, etc.

Healthy oceans and seas are essential to our existence. They cover 70 percent of our planet and we rely on them for food, energy, and water. Yet, we have managed to do tremendous damage to these precious resources. We must protect them by eliminating pollution and overfishing and immediately start to responsibly manage and protect all marine life around the world.

To address the issues raised by goal 14 we are to; Reduce waste – much of the waste that we produce on land ends up in the oceans. Stop using plastic bags: Usage and wrong disposal of plastic is a major cause of marine pollution; Never buy bottled water – boil, filter, chlorine, and rainwater, do what you can; and Organize a cleanup project for rivers and oceans. Engage the whole community to clean up a local river, seaside, or ocean (UNDESA, 2023).

3.13 Sdg Goal 15; Life on Land

The objective is to Protect, Restore, and Promote Sustainable Use of Terrestrial Ecosystems, Sustainably Manage Forests, Combat Desertification, and Halt and Reverse Land Degradation and Halt Biodiversity Loss.

The targets and indicators of goal 15 are; By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements; By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally; By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world; By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development; take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species etc.

Humans greatly benefit from many ecosystem services, such as clean air, purified water, and food provision. In addition, terrestrial ecosystems provide natural resources used in industrial processes and cultural services such as outdoor recreation. Other services that ecosystems offer include protection from natural disasters, such as flooding, and mitigation of the negative effects of climate change. Human activities that degrade ecosystems, including pollution and the overuse of resources, threaten animals and plants and, as a result, the provision of ecosystem services and their benefits to human wellbeing (Diaz et al. 2019).

Actions that can be taken are; recycling paper, glass, plastic, metal, and old electronics; Reducing the use of paper; Avoiding printing and substituting it with electronic devices or carriers; and Composting food scraps that can reduce climate impact while also recycling nutrients.

3.14 Sdg Goal 16; Peace And Justice Strong Institutions

The objective or focus is to Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. The targets or objectives of goal 16 include the following: significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere; End abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and all forms of violence against and torture of children; Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all; by 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime; Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms etc.

Peace means societal friendship and harmony in the absence of hostility and violence. In a social sense, peace is commonly used to mean a lack of conflict and freedom from fear of violence between individuals or groups. It is also seen as concord, or harmony and tranquility. It is viewed as peace of mind or serenity. It is defined as a state of law or civil government, a state of justice or goodness, and a balance or equilibrium of Powers. On the other hand, Justice is the quality of being just or fair. Superheroes fight for justice because they want everything to be fair and not let bad guys win (Aggreh et al, 2022; Orji. 2023). Without peace in the home and on the streets, within and between Member States, investment is difficult or impossible. Prosperity needs peace, between Member States, among peoples, within communities and families.

Forged from the fires of two world wars, the United Nations is dedicated to reducing the problems of war and conflict between states. It is based on the idea of international peace and human rights. As a precondition for the creation of long-term sustainable growth, it is necessary to create peaceful societies at all levels, while securing the rights of individual life (Colvin, 2022).

The international community has made important progress in establishing the goals of peace promotion and linking it to development, but there is less agreement on how greater peace and security are to be achieved. Ensuring conflict is suppressed, contained, and extinguished is a precondition for global development, but it also is a major headache for the UN Economic and Social Council.

SDG 16 if implemented very well can address many of the most important issues and promote the most promising policies for global violence reduction.

3.15 Sdg Goal 17; Partnership for the Goals

The objective is to Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. Some of the targets are: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection; Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection; Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources; Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress; Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries; and Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism etc.

The SDG-17 synthesis has been conducted by UNDESA to look at what is successfully driving progress in the areas of finance, trade, technology, capacity building, and systemic issues. The synthesis process involved searching through over 25,000 impact, performance, and process evaluations, as well as voluntary national reviews, statistical data, and systematic reviews carried out since the SDGs were launched in 2015, to find what was relevant to SDG-17. The most credible information was triangulated to arrive at a set of compelling lessons (UNDESA, 2023).

What do the preliminary lessons tell us?

The preliminary lessons focus specifically on the trade, finance, and technology aspects of SDG-17. The following sample of emerging lessons illustrates the evidence-based results that can be expected from this synthesis.

Trade-related lessons:

South-South cooperation shows promise to accelerate progress toward SDG-17 results by prioritizing mutual interests, trust, and ownership.

- a. Regional trade agreements are more effective than export subsidies in increasing the value of exports in middle-income countries.
- b. Entry into the World Trade Organization has a positive impact on the number of products traded, but not on the average volume of trade per product.
- c. EU food standards limit the ability of sub-Saharan African countries to increase their exports after entering into preferential trade agreements with the European Union.

Finance-related lessons:

- a. While green finance initiatives positively impact innovation in large Asian countries, the effects of current investments have been insufficient to accelerate progress in green innovation.
- b. Tariff reductions increase exports and innovation in various settings, but they also result in significant reductions in government revenue.
- c. Tax reforms, community-based tax collection, and VAT can partially compensate for reductions in tariffs by increasing tax revenue in low-income and middle-income settings.
- d. Where tax collection capacity increases and new donors step in, low-income countries are often less dependent on historical providers of Official Development Assistance.

IV. Conclusion

The SDGs, as part of the UN's "2030 Agenda" were meant as a global answer to the problems posed by looming environmental crises and poverty. The aim of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their 169 targets was to set an ambitious new plan to "end poverty without imposing significant costs on Earth's life-support systems". The SDGs have been successful in bringing attention to many different ecological and social crises and are an impressive product of political compromise and dialogue. This study draws its conclusion on the fact that The Global Goals can only be met if we work together. International investments and support are needed to ensure innovative technological development, fair trade, and market access, especially for developing countries. To build a better world, we need to be supportive, empathetic, inventive, passionate, and above all, cooperative.

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