

The Necessity for Political, Economic, Social and Environmental Goals for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

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Abstract

The winding up of the MDGs in September 2015 as elicited the proposal for SDGs which in all likelihood will be adopted at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly. The achievement of MDGs has generated mixed reactions from stakeholders and there is a growing consensus for an improvement in the goals and targets for the post-MDGs. In order to have a comprehensive goals and targets that will meet the development aspirations of developing countries, this paper evaluates the methodological accuracy for the inclusion of political, social, economic and environmental goals to give a fresh perspective for the adoption of sustainable development goals (SDGs). The analysis shows that the developing regions that performed unimpressive on the MDGs are also fraught with poor ratings in good governance indicators (SSA, SAS and MENA) while regions (LAC, EAC and EAP) that performed creditably well also exhibited good ratings in good governance indicators. Using robust linear regression, findings show that good governance indicators (political stability, rule of law, control of corruption and accountability) and socioeconomic factors have an impact on GDP per capita suggesting that political, economic and social factors are critically important for achieving economic development. In the final submission, a maximum of 10 goals and 70 targets are adequate for the adoption of SDGs.

Keywords: MDGs, SDGs, Good governance indicators, World Economies

1. Introduction

The year 2015 heralded the final evaluation of the successes and failures of the millennium development goals (MDGs) since the creation of the agenda by 189 member states of the United Nations (UN) in September 2000. These goals were unanimously agreed upon in response to the growing demand to tackle development challenges especially in the developing countries by 2015. They set targets for goals pertaining to poverty, education, gender, health, environment and global partnerships.

In the real sense, the goals are aimed at motivating developing countries to accelerate their development efforts rather than the developed countries that had already attained and surpassed the targets many decades ago. A former UN official stated that the purpose of the goals was to encourage all countries to strive for accelerated human development (Vandemoortele, 2009). However, MDG8 explicitly state the vital role of global partnership in which the developed countries have significant roles to play in achieving development targets in developing countries. For instance, the developed countries have a responsibility to ensure ease of market access, reduction in debt burden and providing development aids to the developing countries. Since this is a joint effort, the developing countries also have the obligation to improve good governance and coordinate effective macroeconomic policies for meeting development goals and aspirations. These expectations or obligations that are politically economic in nature should have been part of the leading goals of MDGs.

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We cannot overemphasize the importance of broad-based economic growth through massive investment in real sectors of the economy as a means of reducing the risks of costly economic and socio-political disruptions and instability. The fact still remains that many developing countries are vulnerable to supply shocks owing to their heavy reliance on commodity exports and importation of intermediate and final goods. The problems associated with export-dependent countries facing a supply or demand shock include, rising balance of payment deficits, inflationary pressure, massive currency devaluation, plummeting external reserves, increasing sovereign risk and debt burdens. Therefore, many households are caught up in the poverty cycle and the slow growth of industrialisation has further compounded meeting the development needs of the developing regions.

Recently, many countries were hit with the global financial and economic crisis (GFEC) between 2007 and 2009. This crisis caused setbacks to many countries on meeting the development targets by 2015 especially in the developing regions that depend on development aids from high-income countries where the crisis originated from. Undoubtedly, accelerated inclusive economic growth still remain a potent tool to fight against poverty but it is insufficient if policy-makers fails to create the transmission mechanisms that will improve the standard of living and the quality of life of the citizens.

Given the mixed development outcomes in different countries, there is a momentum by the world's governments to adopt a new round of global goals for post-2015 agenda. The UN is bracing up for a summit by September 2015, to adopt a post-2015 development agenda. Several workshops and conferences are advocating the adoption of sustainable development goals (SDGs). The idea of SDGs was first conceived by the global sustainability panel appointed by the UN Secretary-General Ban Kin Moon in the lead up to the Rio+20 summit in June 2012. At present, the recommendation of the open working group of the general assembly of the UN grouped the SDGs into 17 goals and 169 proposed targets. The proposed goals and targets made inroads into urbanisation, infrastructure, good governance and climate change although there are ongoing lobby to drop some political, economic, social and environmental goals that threatens national sovereignty.

On this note, it is critically important that the SDGs consider all ingredients of sustainable development and set-up an effective machinery to achieve all goals and targets within the reliable time-frame for all countries. The goals and targets to be adopted by representative countries should be development driven in all ramifications. In other words, it should encompass all the real problems facing the developing regions.

Inasmuch as the goals centred around human well-being, it fails to recognise that the fundamental goals of improving quality of life also lies in the determination and commitment of political leaders to focus on human-centred development. According to Aryeetey *et al.* (2012), the goals do not directly tackle issues of discrimination, exclusion, inequality, violence or government repression, which are important drivers of poverty, as well as poor development outcomes in themselves.

However, the enforcement of MDGs has no level of legalisation and therefore makes states actors to lack the political will to take up responsibilities for achieving development outcomes. There has been lack of ownership and leadership to pilot the MDGs at the local, national, regional and international levels. Failure to adapt MDGs to national needs and specify accountable parties' role in its implementation further exacerbated the lacklustre achievements in some developing regions.

The MDGs will be more complete, coherent and realistic if the goals include political, economic, social and environmental goals. It can be argued that the goals and targets of the MDGs are inadequate in assessing the development needs in the developing countries given their peculiarly unstable political economic systems. On this basis, the inclusion of broad-based political, economic, social and environmental goals and targets in the SDGs will more

than likely achieve the desired outcome for all countries in the developing regions of the world.

The key objective is to recommend robust post-2015 goals and targets that would include virtually all critical indicators of sustainable developments. This paper is aimed at improving the content and structure of SDGs by using developing regions as a case study. Given the wide-ranging development needs of these regions, meeting all the goals and targets with limited resources within a period of 15 years will be daunting except there is a strong political will back-up with robust resource mobilisation strategy for this purpose.

The following research questions shall be answered;

- What can be learnt from the successes and failures of the MDGs in the last 15 years?
- Can the inclusion of political, economic, social and environmental goals lead to a more successful outcome in the foreseeable future?
- What is the policy implication of adopting SDGs in all the developing regions?

The motivation for this study is underpinned by the clarion call on all development experts to embrace a holistic development agenda capable of eradicating poverty and boosting shared prosperity for current and future generation.

The remainder of the paper is structured as follows. Session 2 reviews the issue surrounding the MDGs. Session 3 explains the linear regression for our statistical analysis. Session 4 describe the data, analyse and explain the empirical justification for the necessity of political, socio-economic goals in the SDGs. Session 5 concludes with policy recommendations for the realisation of SDGs.

2. Literature Review

There have been development strides by many countries since the declaration of MDGs in 2000. The pace of reducing poverty, improving literacy levels, reducing child mortality and maternal mortality have been accelerating in many countries of the world. However, substantial literature have discussed the MDGs from divergent perspective but very few attention were given to examining the structure and content of the MDGs. The MDGs fell far short of integrating the political, economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development. A single overarching thrust is to include all these goals and targets that are fundamental to achieving sustainable development.

2.1 Issues Surrounding MDGs

As we approach the timeline for the MDGs, consensus is building-up that many developing countries would not meet the targets by 2015. The MDGs comprises of 8 goals, 18 targets and 48 indicators and these are sets to be achieved by 2015 using 1990 as a benchmark. According to Rippin (2013), the goals, targets and indicators evolve out of the resolutions of 23 international conferences and summits held between 1990 and 2005.

In the address delivered by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, the lack of progress towards the MDGs was linked to ‘unmet commitments, inadequate resources, lack of focus and accountability and insufficient interest in sustainable development’ (UN, 2010). This statement particularly indicts some developing countries’ shoddy performance towards achieving the MDGs.

Public analysts and researchers have given different accounts in relation to MDGs. Some argue that the goals are technically unfeasible, too ambitious and over-optimistic especially for African countries (see Mishra 2004; Oya, 2011). For instance, there is high poverty rate in SSA compare to the low poverty rate in Latin America, Middle East and North Africa before the advent of MDGs, which therefore suggest that the latter regions are more likely to achieve the MDGs within the timescale than the former region. Similarly, Clemens *et al.* (2007) argues that the MDGs cannot be fully accomplished because of how

the goals were designed. On the contrary, Barnes and Brown (2011), MDGs is ‘unambitious when viewed against the sheer volume of unmet basic human needs’.

On the drafting of MDGs, Amin (2006) argues that the entire creation process of the MDG structure was driven by the United States, Europe and Japan, and co-sponsored by the World Bank, IMF and OECD. There was generally very insignificant involvement of the developing countries and civil societies in the creation process (Kabeer, 2005; Wage *et al.*, 2010). Although, some of the outcomes of past summits and conferences were incorporated in the MDGs, it nevertheless was not drafted from wider consultative groups including civil societies, interest groups, private and public institutions.

Furthermore, other researcher have identified that the MDGs are not comprehensive as it fails to include goals such as peace, security, disarmament, adult literacy, reproductive health, human rights and democracy (Mohindra and Nikiema, 2010; Hill *et al.*, 2010; Robinson, 2005; Haines and Cassels, 2004). These findings are correct to a large extent because the achievements of economic goals are built on stable political and social systems.

For national ownership of the MDGs, Manning (2010) states that at least ten countries included new goals or amended those of the MDGs. For instance, Albania, Iraq, and Mongolia included goals on good governance and/or combating corruption; Armenia, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan adjusted goal 2 to include providing eight or nine years of education to all children; and Colombia and Mongolia added relevant national infectious diseases to goal 6. Another 15 countries added or modified targets, and 25 more added or modified indicators. Also, the region of Latin America and the Caribbean went beyond the MDG target of universal primary education to set a secondary education target of 75 percent of children by 2010.

It is important to bear in mind the impact of state fragility on achieving MDGs². Fragile states are countries plagued with conflicts and post-conflicts arising from weak political, economic and social systems. Apparently, a lot of these fragile states are from sub-Saharan Africa countries (Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo DR, Cote d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo and Zimbabwe) that have had a long period of wars and incessant political crises. This further justify the poor accomplishment of MDGS in SSA compare to less fragile states in South Asia, South America, East Europe, Middle East and North Africa.

Hartgen and Klasen (2013) investigate the usefulness of the fragile state in tracking the levels and progress of the MDGs. They found that countries suffering from fragility and macroeconomic vulnerability such as SSA have a worse performance in terms of MDGs. They argue that one of the main reasons why SSA countries show the lowest levels in the MDG indicator is attributed to the fact that the region shows the highest share of fragile states in the developing world (see also, World Bank 2010, 2011). By and large, setting a key political goal that addresses the issue of fragility of state will go a long way in making political actors to pursue good governance and build effective institutions for the survival of the sovereign state.

In contrast to criticisms in meeting the MDGs by some developing countries, Tabatabai (2007) argue that the function of the MDGs was to accelerate trends which would encourage weak performers to lift themselves up to the average level. Similarly, Easterly (2009) argue that MDGs is a motivational device to increase development efforts in poor countries rather than being used as measures of performance to judge whether a country has succeeded or failed. He argues that the goals had the unfortunate effect of making the

² Stewart and Brown (2009) describe fragile states as countries that are failing or at high risk of failing. They further fragility based on the Country Policy and Institutional Assessment (CPIA) to be characterised by weak state policies and institutions, which undermines the capacity of countries to deliver services to their citizens, control corruption and provide sufficient accountability as well as creating a high risk of violent conflict.

successes in Africa look like failure because of the way the MDGs was designed. Fukuda-Parr *et al.* (2012) made similar assertion that MDGs are benchmarks for gauging progress toward important objectives and should not be treated as planning goals.

The progress of MDGs can be measure by reliable statistics. According to Leo and Thuotte (2011), up to a third of countries lack data on indicators like extreme poverty, undernourishment, primary enrolment rates, gender parity in primary school, child mortality, maternal mortality, HIV prevalence and sanitation. The available data that is used for analysis are estimated or derived from various modelling techniques and are prone to inaccuracy and unreliability. Given the problem of monitoring and reporting, it is important that the post-MDGs agenda should initiate a robust system of global accountability and transparency for development outcomes.

On a final note, it is important to point out that MDGs have stimulated international political consensus, increased advocacy on developmental issues, enhanced the targeting and flow of aid and improved the surveillance of development projects. Increased advocacy on development issues has been echoed by experts as a critical success of MDGs. It is believed that the challenges identified about the MDGs should be critically reviewed for the adoption of a more comprehensive goals and targets for the SDGs.

3. Methodology

The robust linear regression is used to analyse the impact of political, economic, social and environmental goals on GDP per capita. The linear regression model accounts for White-corrected standard errors in the presence of heteroskedasticity. The model is reasonably efficient and unbiased. The classic linear model relates the endogenous variable y_i to exogenous variables $x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \dots, x_{ip}$ for $i = 1, \dots, n$, such that;

$$y_i = x_i^T \beta + \varepsilon_i, \quad i = 1, \dots, n$$

Where $x_i^T = (x_{i1}, x_{i2}, \dots, x_{ip})$, $\beta = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \cdot \\ \beta_p \end{pmatrix}$ and ε_i , the error term is a random variable with

expectation zero.

The linear regression model is therefore expressed in this form;

$$GDP_{\theta} = \beta_0 + \beta_1 \Delta agric_t + \beta_2 trade_t + \beta_3 \Delta oda_t + \beta_4 \Delta ind_t + \beta_5 \Delta fdi_t + \beta_6 reg_t + \beta_7 pol_t + \beta_8 govt_t + \beta_9 acct_t + \beta_{10} law_t + \beta_{11} corr_t + \varepsilon_t,$$

Where the indicators include $\Delta agric_t$ is the lagged difference of percentage of agriculture value added to GDP; $\Delta trade_t$ is the lagged difference of ratio of trade to GDP; Δoda_t is the lagged difference of percentage of net official development assistance received to GDP; Δind_t is the lagged difference of percentage of industry value added to GDP; Δfdi_t is the lagged difference of the percentage of foreign direct investment inflows to GDP; reg_t is the average ranking of regulatory quality; pol_t is the average ranking of political stability; $govt_t$ is the average ranking of government effectiveness; $acct_t$ is the average ranking of voice and accountability; law_t is the average ranking of rule of law; $corr_t$ is the average ranking of control of corruption. The sign, magnitude and level of significant of the parameters will explain the importance of the exogenous variable as a key driver of growth.

4. Findings and Discussion

The MDGs are designed to be appraised and measure in a quantitative format. Therefore, this session discusses the political, economic, social and environmental

dimensions essential for SDGs. We further discuss the implication of our results in the light of the challenges the developing regions are facing and the critical areas of development desiring urgent attention.

4.1 Statistical Analysis of Developing Regions

We present the development of MDGs between 2002 and 2013 by juxtaposing the selected targets and the political nature of the six developing regions, namely sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), South Asia (SAS), Middle-East and North Africa (MENA), Latin America and Caribbean (LAC), Europe and Central Asia (ECA) and East Asia and Pacific (EAP). We assume that data stays the same for years not available. We present six plots of the percentile rank of good governance indicators for six regions (ranges from 0 (lowest) to 100 (highest) rank) from 2002 to 2013 in **Error! Reference source not found.** Also,

Table 1 report selected MDGs of these regions between 2002 and 2013.

On MDG1 about eradicating poverty and hunger, SSA lagged behind in performance on poverty gap ratio and prevalence of undernourishment compared with other regions. In fact, SSA has the lowest percentage change (18.04%) in poverty reduction among all the regions. MENA region has the highest youth unemployment and this menace has been attributed to be the major cause of the Arab Spring that began in 2010. The ratio of employment to population has increased significantly for LAC and marginally for SSA, MENA and ECA while it reduced for SAS and EAP. The LAC region has performed creditably well in targets for MDG1 and this can be attributed largely to top performance in the six indicators of good governance. The SSA, MENA and SAS have performed below expectation in the targets also because their rating in the good governance indicators revealed the lowest. For instance, MENA took over from SSA in 2011 with the lowest politically stable region. This could be attributed to the Arab spring that originated from Tunisia and later spilled over to Egypt, Libya, Syria, Iran and Yemen. Also, SSA performed abysmally low in rule of law indicator followed by MENA.

On MDG2 about achieving universal primary education, SSA region performed worse in primary enrolment and completion compared to other regions, although there have been an increase of about 22% in both from 2002 to 2013. Surprisingly, the MENA region outpaced other regions in primary enrolment while EAP performed best in primary completion rate. This indicates that despite the poor governance indicators in the MENA region they placed high value on primary education than SSA region.

On MDG3 about promoting gender equality and empowering women, ratio of female to male in primary, secondary and tertiary is relatively low in SSA compared to other regions. The LAC region show best performance on these targets compared to others. However, the SSA has the highest ratio of female to male labour force participation rate. The MENA region has the lowest participation ratio which further justifies its low rank on good governance indicator of voice and accountability.

On MDG4, MDG5 and MDG6 relating to health matters, SSA and SAS performed poorly on reducing child and maternal mortality compared to other regions, although they had decline in these rates over a 12 year period. They also did abysmally with proportions of births attended by skilled health personnel. SSA has the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis although it marginally decline by 21.8% and 18.5% respectively, from 2000 to 2013. Given the health challenges of SSA, they have the lowest life expectancy, followed by SAS. The SSA rank lowest in government effectiveness and second lowest on control of corruption in the good governance indicator, which is a further proof of the deplorable state of the region's health sector.

On MDG7 that deals with environmental sustainability, the LAC has the lowest Co2 emissions, followed by SSA. The reality is that the low carbon emission in SSA can be attributed to low industrialisation and not necessarily due to improved environmental practices. On improved water access and sanitation facility, SSA performed inadequately compare to other regions. Also, SAS and EAP have not performed well especially on improved sanitation facility. This poor performance of SSA, SAS, MENA and EAP can be justified by the poor ranking of the good governance indicator on regulatory quality.

On MDG8 that deals with global partnership for development, the EAP and LAC have the highest net inflows FDI to GDP which could perhaps have positive impact on MDGs. The FDI net inflow and net ODA received by SSA have declined significant from 2002, 2013 by 26.11% and 47.4% respectively. ECA region has the highest total debt service to GNI but that has not militated to their impressive achievement of MDGs. The SSA, SAS and MENA have the lowest internet users which further prove the regions' poor rating on voice and accountability and rule of law.

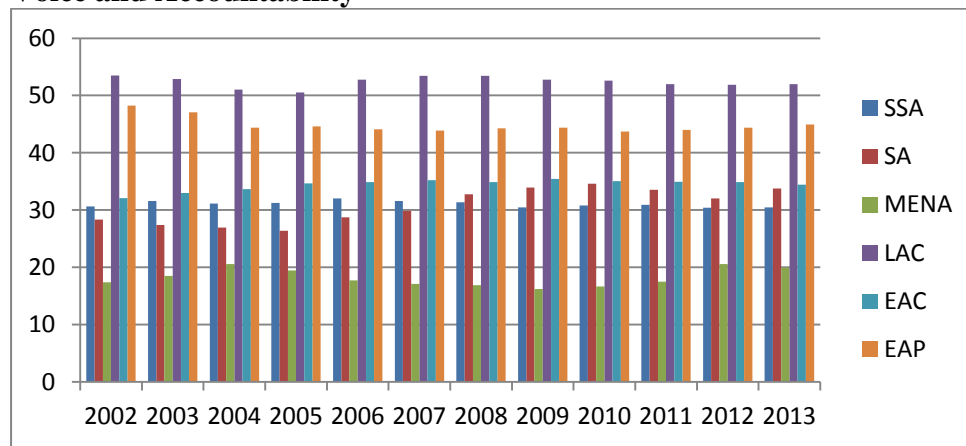
Table 1: Development of Selected MDGS between 2002 and 2013 by Developing Regions

Goals and Targets	SSA		SAS		MENA		LAC		ECA		EAP	
	2002	2013	2002	2013	2002	2013	2002	2013	2002	2013	2002	2013
Goal 1: Eradicate Poverty & Hunger												
- Poverty gap at \$1.25 a day (PPP) (% of population)	57.11	46.81	44.1	24.5	3.83	1.69	10.22	4.63	2.13	0.49	27.34	7.93
- Employment-to-population ratio, 15+, total (%)	63.58	64.67	57.41	53.95	39.15	40.60	43.96	62.37	50.08	51.41	70.58	67.89
- prevalence of undernourishment (% of population)	26.62	19.45	20.01	16.30	9.50	8.64	11.49	7.83			17.94	10.90
- Unemployment, youth total (% of total labour force ages 15 – 24)	14.13	12.88	9.29	10.23	29.55	31.09	15.76	13.26	21.38	20.51	11.79	11.42
Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary education:												
- net enrolment rate, primary (% of primary school age)	63.63	77.94	81.08	94.19	91.23	96.66	95.07	93.65	95.11	94.63	95.04	95.31
- primary completion rate, total (% of relevant age group)	57.40	69.62	73.57	91.07	85.94	94.88	95.48	94.73	98.43	98.55	92.07	105.02
Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women												
- Ratio of girls to boys in primary and secondary (%)	84.18	89.86	82.15	97.08	90.73	93.64	100.67	101.94	93.74	97.68	97.71	99.98
- Ratio of female to male tertiary enrolment (%)	66.61	64.11	67.27	78.22	87.86	102.58	119.13	127.99	100.59	104.92	90.36	112.54
- Ratio of female to male labour force participation rate (%)	82.59	84.28	43.72	38.82	24.57	27.52	62.72	67.83	69.61	68.19	81.16	79.23
Goal 4: reduce child mortality												
- mortality rate, infant (per 1,000 live births)	89.4	61	64.6	44.6	33	21.3	24.6	15.5	31.7	19.9	29.6	16.1
Goal 5: improve maternal health												
- maternal mortality ratio	830	510	370	190	110	78	110	87	44	28	130	75
- Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	42.06	48.62	36.22	49.99	78.04	89.01	85.24	92.38	90.14	96.88	84.95	92.44
Goal 6: combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases												
- Prevalence of HIV, total (% of population ages 15 – 49)	5.74	4.49	0.33	0.25	0.11	0.11		0.49				
- incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 people)	346	282	219	186	51	40	62	46	126	66	152	117
- life expectancy at birth, total (years)	50.76	56.91	63.44	66.89	69.53	71.58	71.96	74.69	69.49	72.50	71.67	73.98
Goal 7: ensure environmental sustainability												
- CO2 emissions (kg per PPP \$	0.39	0.26	0.44	0.34	0.43	0.35	0.289	0.211	0.74	0.44	0.67	0.58

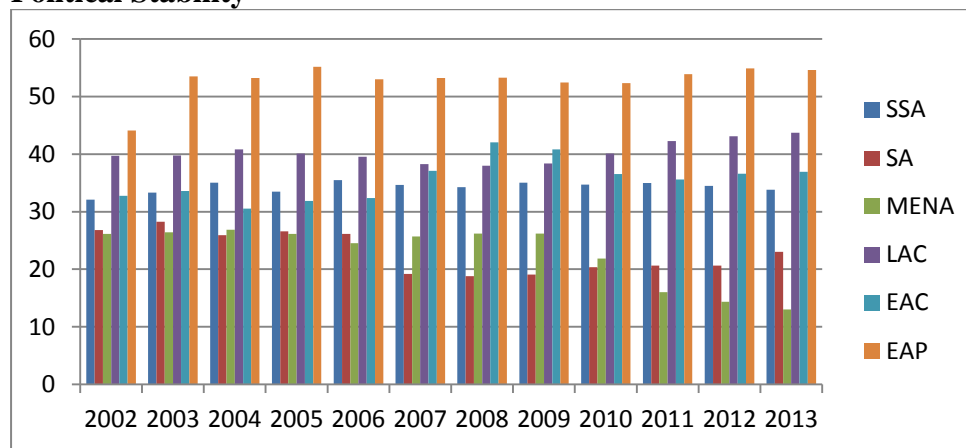
of GDP)													
- Proportion of population with an improved water access	56.56	64.44	81.94	91.17	88.60	89.69	90.32	93.84	92.34	94.83	82.34	90.89	
- proportion of population using an improved sanitation facility	26.54	29.58	30.96	39.83	81.13	87.98	75.41	80.95	90.11	94.12	52.44	66.87	
Goal 8: develop a global partnership for development													
- Foreign direct investment, net inflows (% of GDP)	3.14	2.32	1.01	1.37	1.97	1.64	2.99	3.30	2.55	2.25	2.95	3.64	
- Net ODA received (% of GNI)	5.61	2.95	1.02	0.59	1.09	1.72	0.29	0.18	1.25	0.46	0.37	0.10	
- Total debt service (% of GNI)	3.99	1.86	2.98	2.24	4.33	1.54	7.11	3.56	11.72	16.35	4.43	1.056	
- Internet users (per 100 people)	0.88	16.92	1.46	13.74	2.82	34.14	8.34	45.81	6.00	45.90	4.41	39.48	

Source: World Development Indicators (2014)

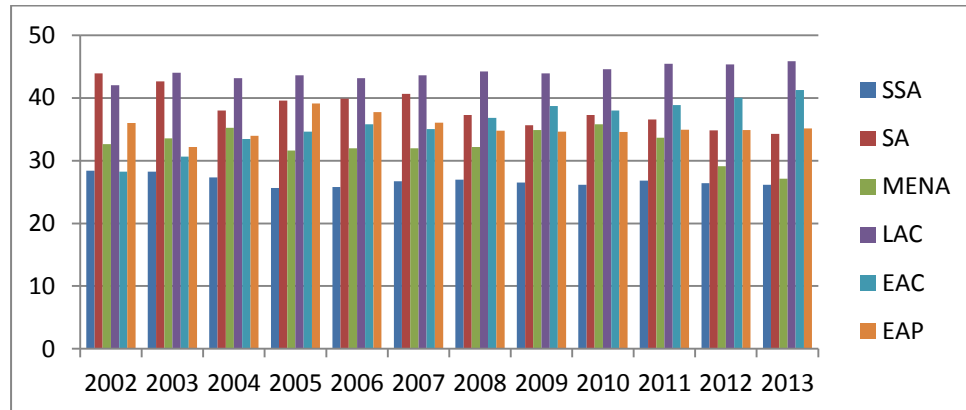
Voice and Accountability



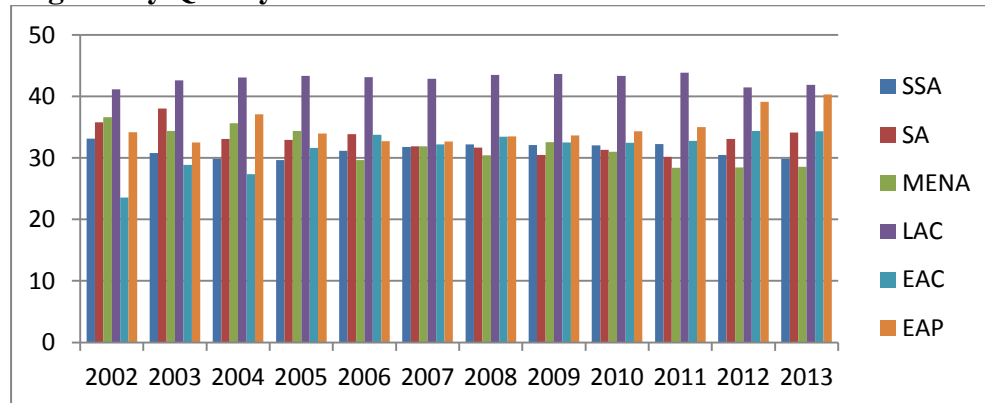
Political Stability



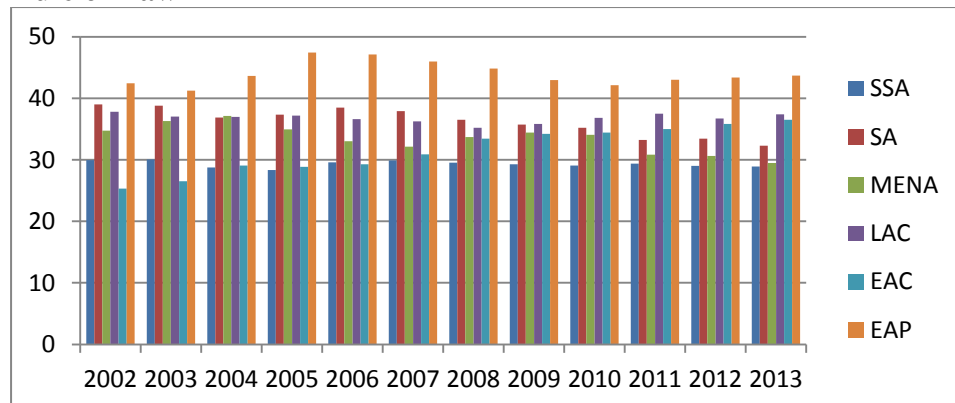
Government Effectiveness



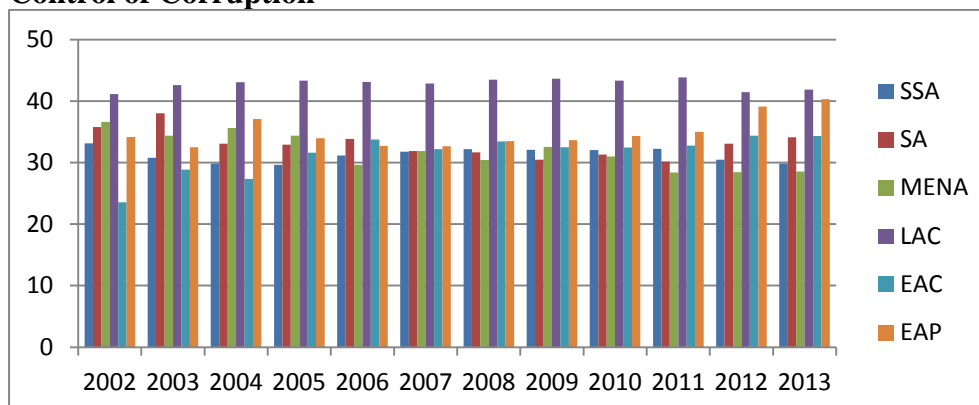
Regulatory Quality



Rule of Law



Control of Corruption



4.2 Relationship between Development and Political and Socioeconomic Goals

We used annual data that cover the period between 1960 and 2014 for SSA region. For the dependent variable, we shall use GDP per capita as a proxy to measure economic development. For the explanatory variables, we shall use 11 variables as a proxy for political and socioeconomic indicators.³ We applied interpolation and extrapolation to fill in data that are either omitted or not available from the starting date. With the likelihood of measurement error arising from this technique, there is less much we can do to alleviate the problem from the standpoint of analysing long data of many variables. The use of real GDP per capita is sufficient for our analysis although we recommend that robust developmental policy framework aim at achieving inclusive growth that is capable of improving significantly the living standards and quality of life of the people is absolutely vital.

In SSA region, indicators such as political stability, government effectiveness and accountability have positive significant impact on development. However, the control of corruption is negatively significant although we expect that the higher the control of corruption, the higher the level of development. Industry and agriculture value added to GDP contribute significantly more to development which suggest that SSA regions needs to do more in the area of building modern agriculture and industrialisation in order to reduced unemployment and poverty dramatically.

In SAS region, the coefficients of accountability and rule of law are positive and significant suggesting that these indicators will increase development. Also, agriculture value added to GDP has a positive and significant impact on development. The coefficient of the net inflow FDI is negative and significant. The SAS has the lowest FDI net inflows among all the regions but it is expected that inflows of FDI should increase development.

In MENA region, all the good governance indicators had no significant impact on development suggesting perhaps the nature of political system that is far less democratic that pervade most countries in the region. However, industry and agriculture value traded to GDP contribute positively significant to development. Unexpectedly, FDI net inflows have negative significant impact on development.

In LAC region, only control of corruption has a positive impact on development. Expectedly, value of industry to GDP and FDI net inflows have a positive significance on development. In EAC, the coefficient of government effectiveness is positive and significant suggesting that increase in government effectiveness yields higher development. However, the coefficients of control of corruption and rule of law are positive and significant. Also, industry value to GDP has a positive impact on development. In EAP region, none of the

³ I used the good governance indicators as a measure of political factors (Source: Kaufmann, D., Kraay, A. and Mastruzzi, M. (2010), The Worldwide Governance Indicator: 2014 update). I obtained the socioeconomic facts from the World bank indicators database.

good governance indicator had an impact on development. However, the coefficient of the industry value added to GDP is positive and significant.

In summary, all development indicators are fundamental to achieving sustainable development in developing regions. Particularly, building effective and efficient institutions, combating corruption, promoting modern agriculture, accelerating industrialisation and promoting green economy are vital for the development of current and future generations.

Table 2: Linear Regression Results

	Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)	South Asia (SAS)	Middle-East & North Africa (MENA)	Latin America & Caribbean (LAC)	European & Central Asia (EAC)	East Asia & Pacific (EAP)
Explanatory variables	Coeff.	Coeff.	Coeff.	Coeff.	Coeff.	Coeff.
Regulatory Quality	.003 (.021)	-.005 (.004)	.006 (.011)	-.0003 (.002)	.001 (.003)	-.001 (.001)
Political stability	.031* (.017)	.004 (.004)	.009 (.006)	-.0001 (.005)	.001 (.001)	-.001 (.002)
Govt. effectiveness	.054* (.028)	.005 (.007)	-.0003 (.008)	.001 (.006)	.005* (.003)	-.007 (.006)
Accountability	.094** (.035)	.009** (.004)	.006 (.008)	-.005 (.004)	-.002 (.002)	-.004 (.003)
Rule of law	-.063 (.044)	.018*** (.006)	-.011 (.009)	-.003 (.006)	-.008* (.005)	.008 (.005)
Control of corruption	-.017* (.009)	-.004 (.005)	-.003 (.003)	.005* (.003)	-.002* (.001)	-.0001 (.001)
Agriculture	.025* (.013)	.009* (.005)	.029* (.017)	.001 (.007)	-.007 (.014)	-.006 (.003)
Trade	.003 (.004)	.001 (.003)	.004*** (.002)	.001 (.001)	.0002 (.002)	.0005 (.001)
ODA	-.064*** (.018)	-.005 (.012)	-.020 (.016)	-.048 (.035)	.025 (.264)	-.006 (.029)
Industry	.037*** (.011)	.007 (.007)	.006 (.004)	.007*** (.002)	.032** (.012)	.010*** (.003)
FDI	-.055 (.009)	-.019* (.011)	-.015** (.007)	.014* (.008)	.001 (.002)	.003 (.005)
Constant	-3.05** (1.32)	.048 (.049)	.026*** (.007)	.530 (.211)	.106*** (.033)	.208 (.213)
Observations	54	54	54	54	54	54
R-squared	0.629	0.224	0.314	0.414	0.582	0.783
(Q)	3.61	7.52	39.29***	16.09	7.35	14.52
(Q ²)	5.26	2.05	17.52	7.64	0.57	1.44

Note: significant level is denoted as 1% (***), 5% (**) and 10% (*). The Ljung-Box Portmanteau (Q) with 4 lags was used to test the autocorrelation and heteroskedasticity in the standardised residuals (Q) and squared residuals (Q²), respectively

4.3 Achieving Recommended SDGs in Developing Regions

A new development framework to supersede the existing MDGs that expires September 2015 has culminated into the proposed SDGs. The strong connection between political, economic, social and environmental goals is fundamental to sustainable development. It is recommended that the new agenda should consist of goals, targets and

indicators that are reflective of these four interrelated perspectives of sustainable development. However, the proposed SDGs have been trimmed down and refined to 10 goals and 70 targets from the 17 goals, 169 targets and over 250 indicators recommended by the open working group of the General Assembly of the UN. The recommended goals and targets for sustainable development is presented

Table 3. These goals and targets are of high priority and the time horizon set for 2030 is plausible to fast-track sustainable development in the globe, particularly the developing countries. The proposed 10 SDGs are briefly explained as follows.

Goal 1: Promote Good governance and effective institutions

This goal is seen as the foundational core for which other goals can be achieved and sustained. The role of political office-holders and policy-makers in promoting good governance in all ramifications cannot be over-emphasized. Good governance is a core element of wellbeing. Building responsible and efficient public institutions should be capable of promoting rule of law, ensure transparency and accountability, guaranteeing property rights, fundamental human rights, access to justice, tackle bribery and corruption.

Effective institutions are building blocks of a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future. Transparency and accountability makes institutions work efficiently and effectively. Zero tolerance for acts of bribery, corruption, money laundering, tax evasion and illicit financial flows will promote sustainable democratic governance and development. The level of corruption and other related offences in developing regions are heart-breaking and there are several allegations that funds allocated to MDGs projects has been misappropriated and never accounted for. It is imperative that setting goals and targets around issues like accountability, transparency, efficient institutions, political stability, regulatory quality, media censorship, bribery and corruption will ensure that domestic and international development funds are judiciously utilised.

Many countries in the developing world are plagued with endemic corruption, illicit financial flows, partial judiciary, weak institutions, constitutional crisis, succession and legitimacy crisis, lack of transparency and accountability, which are all detrimental to achieving sustainable development. Sound institutions are needed to meet people's fundamental demand for security, justice and welfare. Apparently, without good governance and strong viable institutions, there will be less chance of sustainable development. The civil societies should be given a voice in ensuring that the implementation of the new agenda to improve the overall well-being of the people. Therefore, this goal should take a centre stage in the new development agenda.

Goal 2: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

The goal of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger is vital for achieving sustainable development. To sustain the basic needs of the society in the foreseeable future, investment in economically productive activities is crucial. With faster sustainable economic growth, extreme poverty can be eradicated by 2030. To surmount the challenges of unemployment and resource scarcity, there is need for sustained, long-term, inclusive growth which would systematically lead to the decline of endemic poverty and income inequality.

Industrialisation is the engine of growth which is capable of pulling the masses out of extreme poverty. Manufacturing has enormous potential to absorb labour and developing countries have a mammoth skilled and unskilled young population. The small-and medium-scale enterprises have made important contribution in job creation, poverty reduction and economic growth in the developing countries. The government should design and start the implementation of a credible policies that will make these enterprises to contribute substantially to sustainable development.

Despite the growing wealth in the world, inequality gap is expanding as well. Current statistics shows that the 1.2 billion poorest in the world account for only 1% of the world consumption while the billion richest consume 72%. Economic diversification, infrastructural development and private sector development will create more jobs, reduce inequality and expand the economy. Also, the rapid urbanisation in developing countries should be used as a veritable tool for promoting business, trade and investment necessary for development. With robust structural transformations in developing economies, there is a potential for more inclusive and sustainable growth that could bridge the per capita income gap between developed and developing countries.

Furthermore, it is very essential to provide social and economic welfare to less privilege of the society. The category of vulnerable people that should be accommodated to have a functioning system include, disabled people, elderly people, orphans, refugees and structurally unemployed. People should be covered by social protection systems as a means of improving welfare. Governments should build and sustain the social protection systems as a means of promoting income security, access to better nutrition, healthcare and education.

According to FAO (2015), about 795 million people are undernourished globally. The report attributed the hindrance to progress to less inclusive economic growth as well as political instability in some developing regions. The unfinished business of MDG1 should be tackled vigorously in the new agenda especially in the areas of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, combating the prevalence of undernourishment and the proportion of underweight children under 5 years of age. Improved land management, availability of fertilisers, efficient irrigations systems and crop diversification will ensure food security necessary for human development.

Goal 3: Provide Standard Education and Continuous Learning

Educational attainment is one of the most basic ways of improving well-being. Quality education reduces poverty, improves healthy living, reduces family size and fertility rates. Achieving human literacy through private and public investment bring enormous political, social, economic and environmental benefits to individuals and societies.

Despite the importance of literacy to human development, there are challenges towards improving human literacy. For instance, 130 million out of 650 million children of primary school age are not learning the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic (EFA Global Monitoring Report, 2012). Unfortunately, conflict-ridden countries in the world are faced with more challenges of primary and secondary school enrolment and completion. According to EFA Global Monitoring Report (2012), at least one in five children has never even been to school in more than 20 countries. National educational policies should focus on increasing the rate of enrolment and completion at all levels. Training teachers and improving their welfare would benefit learners immensely as well.

There is need for a holistic reform of the educational sector for the purpose of achieving literacy for all. This will have ripple effect in the areas of increasing productivity, reducing social vices, promoting good governance and achieving overall development. The new agenda will continue from the unfinished business of MDG2 by ensuring that the quality of education received by citizens will potentially lead to sustainable development.

Goal 4: Ensure Healthy Lives and improve well-being for all

To ensure healthy lives, continuous progress in ensuring universal health coverage and access to efficient and effective health services are critically important. Achieving health coverage for all might be over-ambitious but with a strong political will it could be achieved. A healthy society is a wealth society such that people will be physically, mentally and economically productive.

Many developing countries achieved remarkably at combating the spread of HIV/AIDS leading to a dramatic decline in transmission rate. The availability of antiretroviral drugs for victims have further contributed to increase in life expectancy. The spread of tuberculosis and other infectious diseases still poses major challenge for many developing countries.

Furthermore, there are new emerging communicable and non-communicable diseases that usually put the vulnerable in the society at risk of deaths. It is appalling that every year, almost 7 million children die before their fifth birthday (WHO, 2013). Most of these deaths are preventable but the endemic poverty of families make mother and child vulnerable to epidemics. The WHO (2013) estimates a woman dies from complications of pregnancy or childbirth every minute and a half. Women living in poverty, in rural areas and adolescents are especially at risk. Childhood immunisation should be expanded in order to improve the health status of citizens in present and later life. Further increase in investment in the health sector will improve general well-being and build stronger societies and economies. More health awareness promotion and disease prevention strategies should be adopted to improve well-being.

Goal 5: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

The growth in new technology and innovations in product design are gradually changing production patterns to becoming more sustainable. This sustainable pattern of production could be given a boost by government enforcing the importance to report on corporations' social and environment impact as part of their annual reports. Governments should set the policy framework that will encourage the use of green technology as veritable tool of promoting sustainable development. Pursuing green economy will conserve natural resources for future generation. It is very important that consumers be socially aware and environmentally conscious of their consumption patterns. They should take responsibility in the areas of reducing food waste and other areas of waste drastically while industries cut down on industrial waste as well. The developed countries' per capita income are the highest and therefore must take responsibility on sustainable consumption and production. Working towards sustainable agricultural consumption and production will ensure food security for today and future generations.

Goal 6: Ensure Gender equality and Women empowerment

Social and economic policies should be geared towards eliminating all forms of discrimination including gender, age, religion, race and disability. Rough estimate show that one billion women are subject to sexual or physical violence every year because they lack equal protection under the law⁴ and 200 million people are distressed because they lack equal opportunities to acquire the skills required to secure decent jobs and livelihoods.⁵ A large proportion of female still live in extreme poverty. More policies and initiatives are desirable to allow women and girls to have equal access to financial services, infrastructure, health services, security, education, labour market, social welfare, right to own lands and other assets.

The prevalence of child marriage in some countries have an underlying linkage to culture, religion and ethnicity. However, the merits of abolishing child marriage far outweighs its demerit especially in the areas of promoting literacy, eradicating poverty, reducing maternal mortality and combating the spread of HIV/AIDS. In particular, it has been found that increasing educational attainment for women reduces child mortality. According to

⁴ *Who Speaks for Me?* Ending Child Marriage (Washington DC); Population Reference Bureau 2011.

⁵ World Bank, 2012. "World Development Report. Gender Equality and Development."

Gakidou *et al.* (2010), more schooling for girls and women between 1970 and 2009 saves the lives of 4.2 million children. The statistics reveals that, over the last decade, 15 million girls aged 10 – 14 have been married (Population Reference Bureau, 2011).

Many societies that have become prosperous understood the immense contribution of women. According to the Hausmann *et al.* (2012), the countries with small gender gap are the same countries with the highest ratings for international competitiveness and further findings show that the economic participation of women drives household income growth. More women should be given participatory role in the political, social and economic life of a society.

Despite that half of the population of the world are women, all forms of discrimination against girl child and women are still rampant in many countries and must stop because they are inimical to sustainable development. The barrier that limit women from reaching their full potential in the society must be demolished in order to achieve sustainable development. This deserves a standalone goal and policy action to completely eradicate the gender imbalances must be forthwith pursued with determination.

Goal 7: Develop Physical Infrastructural and Technology

Given the huge infrastructural deficits in developing economies, an increase in public investment should have a stronger effect on output growth, employment generation and general improvement in the standard of living of the people. The emphasis on green economy is not only a necessary condition but a sufficient one for sustainable development. By adopting green economic policies in building construction, electricity generation, mining activities, agricultural production, clean transport, waste recycling and so on, will certainly save natural resources for future generation. In fact, moving to sustainable modes of production on a massive scale will accelerate the achievement of sustainable development. Gradually, more developing countries are considering the option of public-private partnership (PPP) as a viable option for infrastructure development in particular. The combination of infrastructure development and entrenching of strong policies and institutions would act as a catalyst for inclusive growth and poverty reduction.

As important as energy is to development, it is shocking that over 1.3 billion people in the globe do not have access to electricity. In fact, about 2.6 billion people still burn wood, dung, coal and other traditional fuel inside their homes, resulting in 1.5 million deaths per year (WHO, 2006). The consumption of energy is growing at an alarming rate in both developed and developing countries which is causing enormous strains on the planet. This is why we need new sustainable sources of energy especially renewable sources (wind, solar, bioenergy, geothermal, hydropower and green power) in order to reduce poverty and sustain development. According to the UN reports (2015, pg. 44) “Investments in efficient energy usage, renewable energy sources, reducing waste and less carbon-intensive technologies can have financial benefits as well as environmental ones”. Since the developed countries have taken the lead in developing cleaner and more efficient technologies, the technology should be accessible to developing countries in the renewed global partnership.

Goal 8: Provide Adequate Physical Security

Promoting peace and stability is a building block for sustainable development. The lacklustre performance on MDGs by fragile states prone to political instability justifies the necessity for governments to maintain peace and stability with all means possible. Short or prolonged conflicts usually devastate development and it takes huge finances and many years to rebuild war-torn or conflict-ridden countries. According to OECD (2013), more than 50 per cent of the total population in extreme poverty will reside in place affected by conflict

and chronic violence. A peaceful and stable society is capable of ending extreme poverty and accelerates human development.

Achieving lasting peace and stability requires building strong law enforcement bodies, stronger institutions for conflict resolution and mediation, adhering strictly to rule of law, promoting good governance, impartial judiciary and expanding economic empowerment. Furthermore, local, national, regional and global cooperation is required to maintain progress against violence and instability. Many countries in the developing world are still classified as fragile states because of threat of political instability, human right abuses, violence and civil conflicts. All fragile states should be supported by stakeholders to building lasting peace and security in the interest of all. The growing threat to cyber-security should be a shared responsibility for member states to tackle for the prevalence of global peace.

Goal 9: Ensure natural resources and environmental sustainability

The protection and preservation of the earth's natural resources and ensuring environmental sustainability is fundamental to sustainable development. The scarcity of natural resources should make efficient management a matter of priority for the benefit of future generations. In order to incorporate sustainability into corporate reporting, the UN is leading the initiative in the areas of UN System of Environmental-Economic Accounting, the Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services and corporate sustainability accounting (UN, 2013).

The unsustainable production and consumption patterns are causing massive environmental degradation in the areas of deforestation, pollution, high carbon emissions and sewage problems. The changing climatic conditions and further rise in natural disasters including drought, floods and storms poses unprecedented threats to humanity. For sustainable development to be achieved, all stakeholders must take concrete action now or else the cost of dealing with the consequence after will be unbearable. Although, few multinational companies are leading the transformation to a green economy, others need to join in using environmentally friendly production system in order to achieve sustainable development. Developed nations can prevail on their multinational corporations to report on the social, environmental and economic impact of their activities. Better still, a robust treaty should be signed by all member states to limit greenhouse gas emissions in order to have a more stable climate and sustainable environment.

Access to safe drinking water is essential for every human being. According to UNICEF/WHO (2012), more than 2 billion people gained access to basic drinking water between 1990 and 2010, but 78 million people still remain without this basic need. There is a going threat to water scarcity, therefore better water resource management is critical to ensure universal access to safe drinking water.

Goal 10: Develop a Collaborative global development

The level of collaboration for global development has not been very effective in tackling the myriad challenges of developing countries. If indeed the MDGs were designed to improve human development in the developing region then, there has to be greater solidarity than what we currently have. The Rio conference provides vital principle essential to forge a new global partnership. They include, universality, equity, sustainability, solidarity, human rights, the right to development and responsibilities shared in accordance with capabilities.

Furthermore, the global economy should be restructured such as to facilitate financial and economic stability, provide long-term private financial investment, and encourage open, fair and development-friendly trade (UN, 2013). Financial market stability is also critical for long-term growth and sustainable development. An open and fair global trading system creates a platform for countries to grow and develop uninhibited.

The developed countries have a crucial role to play in developing new clean technologies and accelerate the reduction of unsustainable consumption. The developed country should encourage transfer of technology, innovation and share best practises with the developing countries. Also, they must do more towards ensuring that their multinational companies pay taxes fairly and comply with environmental standards in countries they operate. Most proceed of corruption and money laundering find their ways to developed economies, and therefore they should assist in repatriating stolen money and assets to their country of origin. In the long-term prosperity of all, collaborative engagements among nations will serve that purpose.

Table 3: Recommended SDGs and Targets

Recommended Goals and Targets	
Goals	Targets
<i>Goal 1:</i> Promote Good governance and effective institutions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Adopt zero tolerance for bribery and corruption</i> 2. <i>Provide sufficient transparency, accountability and regulatory quality</i> 3. <i>Ensure Political stability and absence of violence</i> 4. <i>Improve public institutional effectiveness and efficiency for service delivery.</i> 5. <i>Pursue peaceful political succession and state legitimacy</i> 6. <i>Ensure Rule of law and independent judiciary</i> 7. <i>Protect fundamental Human rights</i> 8. <i>Access to information laws and media freedoms</i> 9. <i>Asset disclosure by public officials</i> 10. <i>Vibrant civil society and interest groups</i>
<i>Goal 2:</i> Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. <i>Full and productive employment for all through public and private sectors development.</i> 12. <i>Eradicate hunger and malnutrition by improving food security through modern agricultural system</i> 13. <i>Reduce income inequality</i> 14. <i>Broad based economic growth</i> 15. <i>Poverty eradicating macroeconomic framework</i> 16. <i>Provide economic and social welfare for unemployed, disable and the elderly</i>
<i>Goal 3:</i> Provide Standard Education and Continuous Learning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 17. <i>Achieve universal primary and secondary school education for both male and female</i> 18. <i>Increase post-secondary education for both male and female</i> 19. <i>Improve technical training and apprenticeship programmes</i> 20. <i>Improve adult literacy for all</i>
<i>Goal 4:</i> Ensure Healthy Lives and improve well-being for all	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. <i>End preventable infant and under-5 deaths</i> 22. <i>Reduction in maternal mortality</i> 23. <i>Universal access to Reproductive health</i> 24. <i>Eradicating polio, measles and other communicable and non-communicable diseases.</i> 25. <i>Combat the spread of HIV/AIDS</i> 26. <i>Availability of drugs and vaccines</i> 27. <i>Public policy for universal health coverage.</i> 28. <i>Health education for increasing life expectancy</i>

<p><i>Goal 5:</i> Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p>	<p>29. Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources 30. Reduce food waste and all other means of waste generation 31. Encourage companies on green technology to achieve green economy 32. Promote sustainable public procurement</p>
<p><i>Goal 6:</i> Ensure Gender equality and Women empowerment</p>	<p>33. End child marriage 34. Encourage female political participation 35. Advocate gender equality in political, economic and public life. 36. Zero tolerance of violence against girls and women including female genital mutilation, domestic violence and rape. 37. End all forms of exploitation of women and girls</p>
<p><i>Goal 7:</i> Develop Physical Infrastructural and Technology</p>	<p>38. Access to affordable internet services 39. Increase broadband mobile telecommunication penetration and coverage 40. Access to modern efficient energy sources and increase the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix 41. Pursue urban renewal 42. Fast track industrialisation 43. Embark on Rural infrastructural development 44. Facilitate low-cost mass housing 45. Modern transportation system 46. Foster innovation and promote private sector development</p>
<p><i>Goal 8:</i> Provide adequate physical Security</p>	<p>47. Eliminate cyber crime 48. Combat religious extremism and terrorism 49. Protection against crime and violence 50. Encourage peace-building and peace-keeping 51. Improve community policing 52. Enhancing the capacity, professionalism and accountability of law enforcement agencies and the judiciary</p>
<p><i>Goal 9:</i> Ensure Natural Resources and environmental sustainability</p>	<p>53. Improved air and water quality 54. Efficient waste management systems 55. Safeguard ecosystems, wildlife and marine species and biodiversity 56. Reduce emission of greenhouse gases 57. Reduce all other forms of pollution 58. Eliminate gas flaring and oil spillages 59. Tackle desertification, deforestation and land degradation 60. Disaster risk reduction policies</p>
<p><i>Goal 10:</i> Develop Collaborative global development</p>	<p>61. Increase official development assistance and foreign aid 62. Relief of debt for highly indebted countries and poor countries. 63. Combat illicit financial flows and tax evasion, and increase the recovery of stolen assets. 64. Promote an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system 65. Ensure Fair and equitable trade relations 66. Prosecution of civil conflicts and war criminals. 67. Creating a global financial architecture that will maintain stability of the financial and economic systems. 68. Increase collaboration and transfer of knowledge, technology and innovation through foreign direct investments.</p>

	<p><i>69. Improve data quality and sharing best practices on development outcomes</i></p> <p><i>70. Respect for universal human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants and refugees.</i></p>
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4.4 Financing SDGs

Without mincing words, adequate funding is required for the listed goals and targets to be achieved by the set date of 2030. About \$2 trillion to \$3 trillion a year of public and private money is required to meet SDGs over 15 years. The huge cost outlay portends a grave danger to achieving the goals by 2030 although there have been an improvement in domestic resource mobilisation in the areas of taxation, natural resources extraction and investments in many developing countries to augment the official development assistance received from foreign partners.

However, many developing countries have a very weak system of taxation. It is evident that public revenue account for less than 15% of GDP in many developing countries, compared with an average of 34% for developed countries. Particularly, taxation reform should clearly focus on simplifying the tax systems and broaden the base to make collections easier. In addition, the money and capital markets should be developed in a manner to provide an alternative source of funding. The mammoth infrastructural needs of the developing countries requires a massive internal and external financial commitments. The World Bank in particular should offer a wider and more standardised menu of credit guarantees. The supply of long-term finance for sustainable projects in developing countries should be provided by international financial institutions to augment other sources of financing. For instance, funding for sustainable development projects could be accessed from the over \$5 trillion in sovereign wealth fund. Developing countries can intensify the strategy of public-private partnership in infrastructural development as well. Other important sources of long-term financing from private capital can come through the mutual funds, pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, development banks and other private corporations.

In conclusion, aid agencies should support strategic funding of infrastructure and institutions that enhance human development. Specifically, the cost-benefit analysis should be painstakingly carried out on each goal and target. Strong political will by respective sovereign states is critically fundamental to the realisation of SDGs. With this in mind, SDGs projects would be better implemented, monitored and evaluated.

5. Conclusion

In this paper, we have analysed the imperative for the inclusion of political, economic, social and environmental goals and targets in achieving sustainable development. It is critical to consider all the elements of well-being if indeed we aim to meet the SDGs by 2030. For sustainable development to be achieved, people's ownership and participation is fundamentally important. By drawing lessons from the successes and failures of the MDGs, the UN member states needs to forge a consensus that is driven on achieving sustainable development outcomes for all regions, particularly the developing region.

Our analysis filled this gap by recommending concise goals and targets for the SDGs which can easily be used as a weapon of advocacy for implementation, evaluation and monitoring. The MDGs have been centred on policy outcomes and has neglected the necessary inputs underpinning the realisation of goals and targets. Indeed, if we are determined in achieving sustainable development in the next 15 years, then there is need to combine both political, economic, social and environmental goals as a matter of priority.

On the basis of findings, the following few recommendations are put forward;

1. The goals should not exceed 10 with clear targets and accurate measure of indicators.
2. Targets for each goal should be country-specific. For instance, the target could be stated as ‘Eradication of extreme hunger and poverty by each country by 2030’.
3. The SDGs should be subjected to a ratification process for inclusion in the UN Treaty Database and member states should make SDGs an act of parliament.
4. An independent body or agency should be adopted by the member states of the UN for the purpose of monitoring and peer reviewing the progress of SDGs to further enhance accountability, cooperation and consolidation.
5. There should be robust data collection and storage for sustainable development to improve the quality of statistics and information available to governments and stakeholders for effective decision-making, update priorities and ensure accountability.

In conclusion, to translate the vision and goals of the post-2015 agenda into practical reality, governments need to assume responsibility of setting national targets, policies, plans and regulations. If developing countries can sufficiently mobilise domestic resources then this will engender fiscal reliance and responsibility, and promote sustainable growth and development.

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