



**POVERTY ERADICATION IN POST MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
EXPERIMENT: THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVE, PROSPECTS AND PROJECTIONS ON
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

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Abstract

Global fight against poverty is long-aged and coordinated. The Millennium Development Goals launched in September 2000, and the Sustainable Development Goals launched in September 2015 following the expiration of the MDGs are both developmental agendas championed by the United Nations. They both identify developmental needs and set clear, concise, time-bound and measurable goals and targets towards eradicating poverty. However, while the MDGs were targeted at plugging the global population of the poor by 'half', the SDGs are designed to completely end the population of people living in extreme poverty by 2030. This paper seeks to examine the prospects of the renewed post MDGs experiment – the SDGs, and projections for achievement of 'no poverty' by 2030. The study is anchored on the economic growth model of the neoclassical theory. Documentary method of data collection was employed relying on secondary data from books, journals, and official documents. Data were analyzed using qualitative descriptive approach. The paper while affirming the possibility of achieving extreme poverty eradication worldwide, however, posits that much would depend on the level of stakeholders' commitment to the course, availability of funding and the extent to which global leaders and the UN system is able to mobilize the world and its resources towards achieving the set goals and targets.

Keywords: Poverty, Development Goals, Perspectives, Prospects, Projections

Introduction

Since the year 2000 when the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were unveiled till now, some level of success has been recorded in the journey towards poverty eradication, not just in the reduction in the number of people that are extremely poor worldwide, from about

1.9 billion as at 1990 to about 698 million today (World Bank, 2022), but also an improvement in the overall standard of living of the poor, leading to the recent upward review of the poverty line measurement yardstick, from the previous USD1.25 per day, to USD1.90 (World

Bank, 2021). While this may seem a notable improvement, extreme poverty is a dehumanizing reality that must be totally and completely stamped out, and not just alleviated (Achanya, 2015).

It has been estimated that 12.7 per-cent of the world population live on below USD1.90 a day (UN, 2021; World Bank, 2021). This figure is a great improvement on the 37 percent level as at 1990 and 44 percent in 1981 (UN, 2001). But 12.7 percent of the current global population size of 7.3 billion means that a massive 698 million people still live way below the poverty line. This many believe is totally unacceptable and should be addressed. Importantly because, Global wealth has been divinely structured to go round even if not 100 percent equally. While it has been argued by many school of thoughts that everybody cannot be extremely rich, nobody deserves to be extremely poor. Latest World Bank estimate put global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at USD77.8 trillion (World Bank, 2021). Using simple mathematics, current global GDP divided by current global population size equals USD10,657 per capita. While the real world wealth distribution may not be that simple, it at least demonstrates that global wealth is sufficient to go round and ensure that no one is extremely so poor that they go to sleep without sufficient food, shelter and clothing. Unfortunately, hundreds of millions of people around the world still find themselves in this precarious and dehumanizing situation. In Nigeria, it was recently reported that over 133 million Nigerians are living below the poverty lines (NBS, 2022), a report that leave many

bewildered despite local, national and global efforts targeted at eradicating extreme poverty.

Recall it was this dehumanizing situation and the desire to consolidate on the gains of the MDGs that on the 25th of September 2015, the 193 member countries of the UN General Assembly met in New York and adopted a new development agenda captioned 'Transforming our world'. The agenda outlined plans and targets for ending extreme poverty and hunger in all countries of the world, protecting the physical environment and ensuring global sustainable growth and development. This marked the official unveiling of the UN championed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Armed with 17 goals (no poverty; zero hunger; good health and wellbeing; quality education; gender inequality; clean water and sanitation; affordable and clean energy; decent work and economic growth; industry, innovation and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; sustainable cities and communities; responsible consumption and production; climate action; life below water; life on land; peace, justice and strong institutions; and partnerships for the goals) and 169 targets, the initiative which became effective in January 2016 targets ending global poverty, inequality and environmental exploitation by 2030 (World Bank, 2021).

The idea of setting Sustainable Development Goals was first officially discussed at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development which was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. At the summit, the 192 UN member states committed to the process of designing sustainable development goals while the communiqué that

evolved from the conference, captioned, “The future we want”, asked that the goal take effect as a successor to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which ended by 2015 (UN, 2016). The summit also called for the formation of an open working group to come up with a draft agenda for the initiative. A 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) of the General Assembly was given the task of preparing a proposal on the SDGs.

The intergovernmental open working group held its inaugural meeting on March 14-15, 2013 in New York, and published its final draft of 17 suggested goals in July 2014. The document was presented to the UN General Assembly that September, triggering debates and negotiations on the proposals. According to the reports, to arrive at the final position, the UN conducted a series of “global conversation” that included 11 thematic and 83 national consultations, and door-to-door surveys. An online survey (My World) was also launched requesting inputs from the global public on what the priority focus of the SDGs should be. The results of the consultations were integrated into the General Assembly discussions. At the UN General Assembly meeting which held in New York on September 25-27, 2015, the harmonized Sustainable Development Goals were adopted and unveiled to the world (UN, 2016).

The goals were designed to function as a development compass for global stakeholders to ensure purposeful and guided strategies and actions for sustainable social, economic and ecological development. The goals have been applauded as perhaps the foremost UN initiative till date to have received as much

global input, explaining the enthusiasm and optimism among diverse stakeholders that this just might be the panacea for eliminating extreme poverty, inequality and environmental bastardization if implementation is purposefully managed.

Conceptual Issues: MDGs versus SDGs

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) launched in September 2000, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) launched in September 2015 following the expiration of the MDGs are both developmental agendas with several similarities. They both identify developmental needs and set clear, concise, time-bound and measurable goals and targets towards meeting them. However, while the MDGs were targeted at plugging the developmental loopholes by ‘half’ (for example, halving global poverty by the year 2015), the SDGs are designed to completely end (to zero level) the population of people living in extreme poverty. While one says “let’s half the number of people that are hungry by 2015”, the other says, “let’s eradicate hunger by 2030”). While the MDG1 – treated poverty and hunger together, the SDGs treated them as two separate issues. But like the MDGs, the SDGs also highlighted both issues as of critical importance, having them occupy number one and two positions, respectively in the list of 17 goals (UN, 2001; UN, 2010; UN, 2021).

The SDGs expanded the focus on women empowerment and the role of international, national and subnational governments and local communities in the global sustainable development efforts. Also,

the evolution of the SDGs was much more broad-based, with contributions from all nooks and crannies of the world, including civil society groups, media, NGOs, corporate organizations, diverse interest groups and government at all levels. The outcome could not have been but more comprehensive and far-reaching (UN, 2016).

Also worthy of mentioning is the new emphasis on the quality of education as against quantity (total enrolment figure) as emphasized 22 years ago in the MDGs. The stronger emphasis on ‘sustainable development’ in the SDGs is also striking. The world has come full cycle to realize that development is meaningless if it is not sustainable – taking into cognizance the impact of our every action on future generations and outcome. There is also greater emphasis on the environment and efforts that must be made going forward to preserve global flora and fauna if we are to have a sustainable future (UN, 2016).

Interestingly, while the MDGs treated poverty and hunger as a developing or least developed countries’ issue; the SDGs treated them as global issues that affect all countries of the world, irrespective of their socioeconomic ranking. This is as much more realistic and sustainable treatment of global poverty. The SDGs is indeed much more ‘sustainable’ approach to global development. The SDGs recognized that while the present is important, the future is even more so, and that we can seal the fate of our unborn children and grandchildren by the actions and decisions we take today. The new SDGs go much further than the MDGs, addressing the root causes of poverty and the universal need for

development that works for all people. It has also done a better job in reiterating the synergy that exists between the three pillars of sustainability – social, economic and environmental. And of course, the SDGs were made more robust from experiences learnt and shortcomings observed in the MDGs which came fifteen years earlier. The new initiative is now expected to complete what the earlier one started (UN, 2021).

Overview of the Journey so far in Extreme Poverty Eradication

While there have been several initiatives before it, the emergence of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) could arguably be the turning point in the global efforts towards extreme poverty eradication. The eight Millennium Development Goals that preceded the SDGs focused on reducing extreme poverty in the low income countries, increasing literacy and child enrolment in schools and fighting diseases and infant and maternal mortality rates, among other targets (Achanya, 2016). According to the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-Moon in the forward to the 2014 MDG Report, “the MDGs have made a profound difference in people’s lives. Global poverty has been halved five years ahead of the 2015 timeframe. Ninety percent of children in developing regions now enjoy primary education, and disparities between boys and girls in enrolment have narrowed. Remarkable gains have also been made in the fight against malaria and tuberculosis, along with improvements in all health indicators. The likelihood of a child dying before age five has been nearly cut in half over the last two decades. This means that about 17,000 children

are saved every day. We also met the target of halving the proportion of people who lack access to improved sources of water” (NAN, 2013).

According to the same report, in 1990, almost half of the population in developing regions lived on less than USD1.25 a day. This rate dropped to 22 percent by 2010, reducing the number of people living in extreme poverty by 700 million. The target of halving the proportion of people living without access to an improved drinking water source was achieved in 2010, five years ahead of the schedule (UN, 2010). In 2012, 89 percent of the world’s population had access to an improved source, up from 76 percent in 1990. Over 2.3 billion people gained access to an improved source of drinking water between 1990 and 2012. Substantial gains have been made towards reaching gender parity in school enrolment at all levels of education in all developing regions. By 2012, all developing regions have achieved, or were close to achieving, gender parity in primary education. Worldwide, the mortality rate for children under age five dropped almost 50 percent, from 90 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 48 in 2012. The school enrolment rate in primary education in developing regions increased from 83 percent to 90 percent between 2000 and 2012 (UN MDGs Report, 2014).

Similarly, according to World Bank data, in 2012, people that lived on less than USD1.90 a day reduced to 896 million, compared with 1.95 billion in 1990, and 1.99 billion in 1981. Global extreme poverty has been halved within the last three decades even though with

regional disparities. As the curtain closed on year 2015, give and take, the MDGs was adjudged as a remarkable success, not only in these achievements but also drawing global attention to critical human wellbeing issues and for creating diverse international, national and subnational for a for them to be discussed and possibly addressed (World Bank, 2012).

Using the newly poverty adopted poverty measurement benchmark of USD1.90 per day, a report released by the World Bank on October 4, 2015 projects that the number of people living in extreme poverty around the world would likely fall to under 10 percent of the global population by the end of 2015, igniting hope that after all, global poverty could be eradicated by the new target year of 2030, all things been equal. The report projects 702 million people or 9.6 percent of the world’s population will be living in extreme poverty by year end 2015, down from 902 million people or 12.8 percent in 2012. These projections show us that we are the first generation in human history that can end extreme poverty. This new forecast of poverty falling into the single digits should give us new momentum and help us focus more on the most effective strategies to end extreme poverty – with these strategies in place, the world stands a vastly better chance of ending poverty by 2030 and raising the life prospects of low-income families (World Bank, 2015).

However, the foregoing, there are regional disparities in prospects and projections. For instance, the world’s poorest population is largely concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia and the Pacific, with the three regions accounting for

95 percent of global poverty. While some regions have made rapid progress towards poverty alleviation in the last three decades or more, others have actually seen worsening poverty. For example, as at 1990, East Asia accounted for 550 percent of global poverty while Sub-Saharan Africa accounted for 15 percent. But by the 2015 World Bank estimates, the situation was reversed. Sub-Saharan Africa now account for 50 percent of the global poor while East Africa has seen a dramatic fall in poverty rate to 12 percent. So while good progress has been made in the fight against extreme poverty since 1990, the huge regional disparities and retrogression of the Sub-Saharan African region remains a cause for grave concern. While Sub-Saharan poverty had fallen from about 56 percent in 1990 to a new projection of 35 percent in 2015, the continent has not made as much progress as the rest of the world. Rapid population expansion, slower global growth, high incidences of internal conflicts, high unemployment rate, low capacity building and utilization and the culture of over dependence on the highly volatile commodity exports, are some of the key issues militating against poverty eradication in the African continent (World Bank, 2015, Achanya, 2015).

Theoretical Perspective on the Development Goals

This study is anchored on the economic growth model of the neoclassical theory. The model developed by Robert Solow and Trevor Swan in 1956 centered macro economists' attention throughout the 1960s and 1970s on

tangible (physical) capital formation as the driver of economic growth (Solow, 1996). Harrod (1939), Domar (1946) and Solow (1996) explained the long-run growth path of advanced capitalist economies in terms of accumulation of capital and technological progress. The sole concern was the growth in income (Amuka, 2014). The model gave insight to what technology can do to explain the difference in the rate of growth between two countries. In the model, a country which is more capital intensive in production process tends to grow faster and have higher standard of living than another country which is less capital intensive (Falade, 2008; Ugwuanyi, 2010).

Achievement of SDG-1 targeted extreme poverty eradication has its foundation in the economic growth model which states that: long-term poverty requires sustained economic growth, which in turn depends on technological advancement, capital accumulation and by extension – equality and the physical environment (UN 2001; Oduola 2006; Falade, 2008, Achanya, 2016).

Towards achieving economic growth, the SDGs can effectively play two key roles: first as 'ends' and secondly as 'means to the ends'. For example, the goal of SDG-1 to end poverty in all its forms everywhere and eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere is an 'end' in achieving economic growth, simply because it is a 'societal goal' set to eradicate all form of poverty by 2030. Similarly, SDGs are also the 'means to the ends', that is, the SDGs are the 'means' to achieving rapid 'economic growth' and further development. Essentially, SDGs are the

various “Capital Inputs” to achieving economic growth. This point can be elaborated with several examples for instance, ‘a well fed worker is a healthier worker and a more productive worker, as is a better educated worker. Improved water and sanitation infrastructure raises output per capital accumulation through various channels, such as reduced illness. Many of the SDGs are not only a part of the capital accumulation, but they can also contribute to the accumulation of other forms of capital. Human capital in the form of good health, for instance, also contributes to human capital in the form of education and skills. Water and sanitation infrastructure contributes directly to good health. Natural capital has similar feedback effects. Fish stocks, soil nutrients, and clean air all contribute to good health.

The links between capital accumulation, economic growth and the SDGs can be summarized as follow: that while the goal for extreme poverty, zero hunger and good health and wellbeing are part of the “human capital” grouping, those for water and sanitation and slum dwellers are part of the “infrastructure” grouping. Similarly, while the Goal for technological innovation and diffusion are a part of the “knowledge capital” grouping; that for income poverty is part of the “household income” grouping. While meeting the Goals for poverty, hunger, education, gender equality, health environment, among others is vital for overall economic growth and development, however, it is a mistake to talk simply about the level of economic growth needed to achieve the Goals in a country without also thinking about the kinds of investments that will achieve the goal of extreme poverty eradication and

thus also support overall economic growth (UN, 2001).

The SDGs has three pivotal focuses – poverty, equality and the physical environment. Because of its overbearing implications, poverty eradication remains the dominant theme in the SDGs. And the reason for this is not farfetched – ecological degradation, human right abuses, discrimination against women, child labour and abuse, social exclusion and discrimination, among other sustainable issues – are more rampant in an environment where poverty is rife. None of these issues can be meaningfully tackled if extreme poverty is not.

Poverty and environmental well-being have a closely knit, cause and effect relationship. Poverty could be the direct or indirect result of environmental degradation. A typical example is the case of the coastal parts of Nigeria’s Niger Delta where decades of poorly managed oil exploration activities have battered the aquatic life, robbing the host communities of their traditional fishing and farming industries and rendering their lands infertile for agricultural purposes. On the other hand, poverty could lead to environmental degradation. Communities and households that are unable to afford cooking stoves for example would easily resort to tree felling as an alternative. This could result in environmental hazards such as deforestation, desertification and bio-diversity loss. Also, the need for survival and self-preservation in the face of acute shortage in resources drives impoverished households and communities into violations of the physical environments such as unauthorized fishing and hunting,

deforestation, among others, all of which could endanger biodiversity in the flora and fauna.

Poor conditions of the physical environment portend great threat to the physical, psychological and economic well-being of the poor. The condition of the physical environment where a child grows up, for example, could play a significant role in determining the state of their health, longevity, educational attainment, financial success and their overall emotional and behavioural outcome. A well nurtured physical environment plays a great role in improving the human condition and lifting the dismally poor above the poverty line as it creates diverse economic opportunities and enhances overall well-being.

The relationship between environmental wellbeing and poverty are so interwoven that it would be mistaken to tackle one in the absence of the other. In fact, when poverty isolates humans, nature and the physical environment becomes their greatest companion and friend, providing them warmth, shelter, food and hope for survival. Conversely, when nature begins to react to its violations by humans, and global warming, climate change, deforestation, desertification and other natural disasters begin to take toll, the poor is the most vulnerable victim. It is therefore in the best interest of the poor that environmental sustainability is achieved in all ramifications. The more battered the physical environment, the higher the possibility of extreme poverty.

Strategic options available to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

As seen in the October 2015 reports of the World Bank, the progress that has been made so far gives optimism that eradicating global extreme poverty is possible by 2030, and that the SDGs could consolidate the gains recorded by the MDGs in tackling the menace. But while the SDGs have been hailed as well-thought-out Goals towards eradicating global extreme poverty, that is exactly what they are – goals. Their actualization will be determined by several factors.

Availability of funds would be critical success factor. Calculations from the intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing have put the cost of economic empowerment towards eradicating extreme poverty at about USD66bn (£43bn) a year, while annual investments in improving infrastructure (power, water, agriculture, transport, telecommunications) could be up to a total of USD7trillion, globally. While funding may not be a major challenge for the developed countries, same cannot be said of the developing countries of the third world or Africa. It has been repeatedly acknowledged that the low income countries may not be able to achieve these goals without adequate support from the wealthy nations. Initiatives such as the Addis Ababa action agenda and the Green Climate Funds are yet to be fully activated. Against this backdrop, meeting critical requirement especially funding needs of the sustainable development remains a major challenge for stakeholders and would be one of the key factors that could make or mar the SDGs.

Also, without the needed institutional framework and political structure in place, the

realization of the SDGs will be a mirage. While the United Nations and its agencies continue to champion the course, there is need for a more structured, formal and direct governance structure to enforce and monitor compliance from the global to the communities' level. Global, national and subnational governmental commitments remain key. As comprehensive a plan as the SDGs, the goals will not be realized if the global community does not commit to them. Global community in this instance would include national governments, corporate institutions, civil society groups, and international development and finance agencies, NGOs, among others. it would entails forging close alliances and partnerships among these stakeholders and a strong commitment to the course. To succeed, the SDGs must become embedded in the constitutional, legislative, legal and regulatory frameworks of governments at all levels, with well laid out implementation strategies in place.

Periodic reviews and measurement of progress will be needed. While 2030 remains the target for the actualization of set goals, extensive periodic reviews, say, every five years, should be carried out to determine progress and plug observed loopholes. This would allow for redirection and re-strategizing where necessary to ensure that the initiative is not derailed.

Communities' mobilization and ownership is another important factor. Without the buy in and ownership of these goals by the different communities, progress in their actualization could be stalled. A lot of work would need to be done to give adequate publicity to the SDGs in languages that the

ordinary citizens in the different countries could clearly understand, no matter how remote their locations in the global map. The SDGs must be taken out of its current 'paper' format and to come alive in a way that the ordinary man on the street can relate with.

Implementation process for the development goals must be simple and clear with room for periodic review and modification. Realistic, measurable and time bound implementation steps must be agreed by stakeholders in the different countries. Like the process that brought the SDGs into being, these implementation processes must be broad-based in scope, taking into cognizance the views and expectations of all member states and global institutions. In the same vein, the implementation processes must recognize the differences in the circumstances of countries and stakeholders and give room for customized solutions that meet peculiar needs. Implementation must be tailored with considerations for the peculiarities of the individual member states while pursuing the same goals and targets.

Effective mobilization of corporate institutions would be a critical success factor. In a world were titan corporations exist, some of which are richer than some several countries put together, and their role in the implementation of the SDGs cannot be overstressed. Also, corporations have perhaps the biggest environmental footprints among global stakeholders and must be mobilized to play a critical role in efforts to enhance the well-being of the social, economic and physical environments.

Similarly, effective integration of the three pillars of sustainability would be needed. To be successful, champions of the SDGs must be able to show the clear and interwoven relationship between and among the three pillars of sustainable development – social, economic and physical environment. Incorporating all three in developmental plans and implementation strategies, and giving all three equal attentions would ensure that all the 17 goals are met. Also, effective grassroots education and enlightenment would ensure that much needed awareness is created among all stakeholders on the importance of sustainability for the socioeconomic and environmental well-being of all.

Global champions of the SDGs must continuously and clearly define and redefine roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders where necessary at all times. For the sustainable development goals to be achieved everyone must understand and key into the different roles expected of them. Government at all levels is critical players in economic, social and environmental activities, both as investors and owners of means of production and also as regulators. Especially in developing and low income countries, the states own much of the means of production. Since a critical economic activity revolves round them, government's action or inaction determines the extent of social, economic and environmental well-being. Government have the responsibility to ensure sustainable governance which means putting policies and public administrative structures in place that promote economic prosperity, environmental equality, and social equity for all. Government must be able to champion inclusive growth and development

that impacts the very poor and enhance their socioeconomic condition.

Also, unsustainable government policies and practices can impair the wellbeing of the people and the environment. This is because government policies and activities could have adverse environmental footprints and also because they are the regulators of the environment, their role in achieving the sustainable development goals is indeed, massive.

After government, corporations are next biggest economic, social and environmental stakeholders. In their production life cycle, from sourcing for raw materials, through production, marketing and distribution, the activities of corporations have great impact on the environment. Because their environmental footprints are huge – in fact, the bigger a corporation the more their environmental footprints – corporate institutions should be made to adopt sustainability as an integral part of their everyday business processes and practices. Sustainability should be adopted at the board level, as a business strategy that could drive profit and return on investments, enhance service delivery and market share and help build legacy brand that would outlive generations.

One of the biggest challenges confronting the drive towards sustainability is the erroneous belief among private institutions that environmental sustainability and profitability are mutually exclusive, and that one can only be achieved at the expense of the other. The assumption cannot be more wrong. Environmental sustainability remains the

bedrock for any 'sustainable', development or profit. The sooner the corporate institutions begin to build sustainability into their policies and practices, the sooner they would begin to grow in a sustainable manner. As the World Business Council for Sustainable Development puts it, business cannot succeed in a failed society.

Apart from government and corporate institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society groups, individuals, families and communities, multilateral agencies, global financial institutions all have big roles to play in the drive towards eradication of extreme poverty, entronement of equity and justice and attainment of environmental sustainability. All these and many more are the collective role and responsibility of all and sundry towards the achievement of the 2030 goals and targets.

Concluding Remarks

Extreme poverty remains a global albatross that must be eradicated, not only because it dehumanizes but also because it constitutes a great threat to global peace and security, much of the rebellion and armed conflicts around the world have their origin in economic exclusion and social deprivation. The Arab Spring which started in December 2010 in Tunisia easily comes to mind. By bringing poverty and injustice to the front burner with the hope of tackling it, global leaders are not necessarily doing anyone a favour. It is in the global interest to end absolute poverty. As the story of the origin of the Arab Spring has thought us that the abject poor do not believe they have much to live for; and when socioeconomic circumstances

compel them to go down, it costs them nothing to take millions of others along with them.

Also, extreme poverty constitutes a great threat to the ecological system. Environmentally unfriendly practices such as deforestation, bush burning, unauthorized hunting and fishing, among others, are sometimes direct result of attempts by the socioeconomically deprived to get basic food, shelter and petty income for survival. Any effort to pursue sustainable development would be futile if economic and social empowerment does not take center stage. In other words, eradicating extreme poverty in its different forms – social deprivations and subjugation, environmental degradation and economic exclusion and suppression – which is the overriding goal of the SDGs and a good reason for that matter – there can be no meaningful development in a world where billions of people, including children, still wallow in squalor and go to bed hungry. As such, addressing global poverty issue go beyond just having it at the front burner of global discourse. it would entail aggressive efforts at tackling the menace. Those regions where poverty is rife and economic resources are inadequate must be empowered using multidimensional channels. These may include but not limited to direct investments, economic aid, skills transfer, entrepreneurial development, capacity building, innovative transfer, among other forms of deployment southward.

As the train towards 2030 journey on, the global environmental system must also tackle the cause, rather than dwelling on the effects of global warming or climate change.

Global impending danger has been pampered for way too long. It is time to end it. For instance, worsening climate crisis must be taken seriously by all. With climate crisis getting worse by the day across the world, the ice cap is melting causing so many coastal areas to be flooded. The melting of the ice cap will also disrupt ocean current, this is true because the world has not stop the production of carbon dioxide. If the world continues to produce carbon dioxide at the same rate, it is very likely that the climate crisis will even get worse, putting the entire global environment and humanity at serious peril, and the goal of extreme poverty eradication, impossible.

Overall, achieving the 17-points Sustainable Development Goals as planned by 2030 would mark the beginning of the end of extreme poverty, hunger, environmental degradation and socioeconomic exclusion and it would also mark the beginning of a more secure and peaceful world order. While these may sound over optimistic and even utopian, the relative progress made with the MDGs is an indication that the extreme poverty eradication is possible. However, much would depend on the level of stakeholders' commitment to the course, availability of funding and the extent to which global leaders and the UN system is able to mobilize the world and its resources towards achieving the set goals and targets. If the SDGs are met come 2030 the world would have made great progress in its journey towards a more sustainable future.

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