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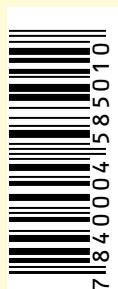
Progress Report on Nigeria's Implementation of SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals

Linkage between Open Government
Partnership and the Sustainable
Development Goals

Plus:

Book Reviews:

- ◆ **Strengthening Implementation of SDGs through Global Cooperation**
- ◆ **Goal 17 - Partnership: UNFPA's approach for transforming Africa and the world**

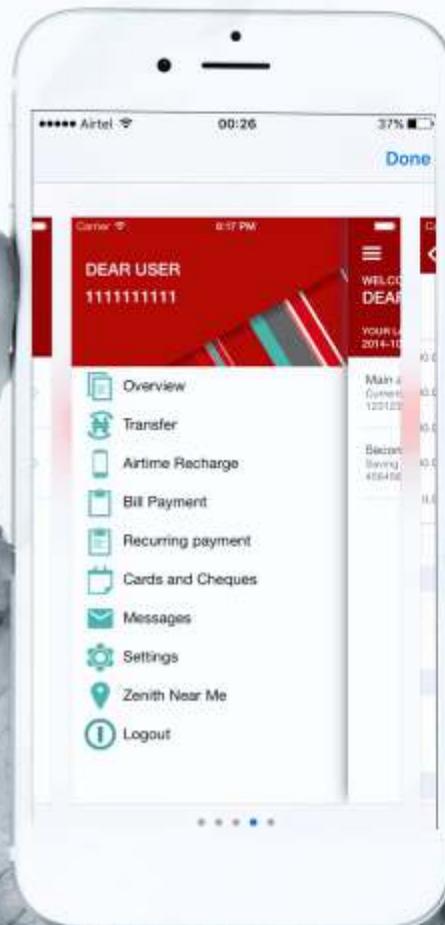




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Table of Contents

Contents	Page
Publisher's Letter	4
Progress Report on Nigeria's Implementation of SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals	5
Linkage between Open Government Partnership and the Sustainable Development Goals	23
Goal 17 – Partnership: UNFPA's approach for transforming Africa and the world (Book Review)	31
Strengthening Implementation of SDGs through Global Cooperation (Book Review)	34
Tit bits on SDGs	35



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Review of Nigeria's Progress in the Implementation of SDG 17

THE United Nations understands that genuine and meaningful partnerships are essential for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This informed the decision to adopt it as number 17 of the SDGs at the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York in September 2015.

SDG17 - Partnerships for the Goals emphasizes that the other 16 SDGs can only be realised with a strong commitment to global cooperation. It encourages all UN-member countries to explore the opportunities embedded in such collaborations because the sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society.

In adherence to the admonition of the world body, the Nigerian government has revitalized universal partnerships for sustainable development. In the implementation of SDG17, the government constituted and inaugurated the Sustainable Development Goals Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) on February 28, 2017. To further strengthen partnerships and broaden stakeholder participation in national SDGs programmes, it inaugurated the Donors' Forum on the Implementation of SDGs on April 28, 2017.

Since then, the Nigerian government has been collaborating with international organizations, development partners and the private sector in its developmental pursuit.

In this edition of the *SDGs Monitor Journal*, we review Nigeria's progress in the implementation of SDG17. After an in-depth assessment of progress towards SDG17, we find that despite the fact that the country has made noteworthy advances in meeting some of the targets of SDG17, more need to be done to accelerate progress. To put the country on the path to meeting the targets of SDG17, the study recommends that all stakeholders will have to intensify and focus their efforts on the areas where progress has been slow.

Our second report is an invited guest presentation by a non-governmental organization, Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) on the role of Open Government Partnership (OGP) in the implementation of SDGs in Nigeria. Written by JDPC's Ms. Jennifer Iwinosa, the report captures the linkage between OGP and the SDGs, especially how the multilateral initiative would help the country fast-track the implementation of some of the SDGs.

Happy reading!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ebere Onwudiwe".

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Progress Report on Nigeria's Implementation of SDG17: Partnerships for the Goals

Introduction

THE importance of partnerships and the contributions they can make to sustainable development informed the decision of the United Nations to adopt it as number 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for transforming the world by 2030.

According to the United Nations, partnerships as embedded in SDG17 are vital for the actualization of the global goals because they are “voluntary and collaborative relationships between various parties, both State and non-State, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task and to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits.”

Basically, SDG17 - Partnerships for the Goals emphasizes that the other 16 SDGs can only be realised with a strong commitment to global cooperation. It encourages all UN-member countries; including Nigeria to explore the opportunities embedded in such collaborations because a successful sustainable development agenda requires partnerships between governments, the private sector, and civil society. These inclusive partnerships built upon principles and values, a shared vision, and shared goals that place people and the planet at the centre, are needed at the global, regional, national and local levels for the effective realization of the SDGs (Maltais, Weitz, and Persson, 2018). Besides, they will require increasing international cooperation and improving coherence between policies and initiatives both domestically and internationally.

Tandon and Chakrabarti (2018), noted that among the 17 global goals, SDG17 stands out because the 70th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) held in New York in September 2015 was “the first time that partnerships were looked upon as a ‘goal’:

“Goal 17 calls for partnerships to mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, and particularly developing ones.”

For Planell (2018), the implementation of SDG17 will fast-track the achievement of the 2030 Agenda since it requires effective collaborations between all stakeholders in order to drive the SDGs. He said:

“Only through close collaboration can there be any possibility of finding global solutions to the world's current and future challenges. Partnerships are



included in the five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda, the so-called “5 P's”: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnerships.”

Planell believes that the construction of multi-stakeholder partnerships would not be an easy task. He, however, contends that “much can be achieved by working on the obstacles and difficulties: sharing knowledge and culture, innovative ways of working and collaborating, attracting more resources, uniting efforts and mobilising expertise.”

Clearly, SDG 17 reflects a holistic approach to the means of implementation for 2030 Agenda, including 19 targets that span finance, technology, capacity-building, trade and systemic issues. In addition, the means of implementation are integrated across the other goals, underlining their cross-cutting nature. It highlights that the concrete policies and actions of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) on financing for development (endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2015) provides a strong foundation to support the achievement of the SDGs. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda provides a new global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financial flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities. It includes a comprehensive set of policy actions, with over 100 concrete measures that draw upon all sources of finance, technology, innovation, trade, debt, and data, in order to support achievement of the SDGs.

Reflecting on the significance of SDG17, Amina .J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations said that ultimately, progress on all the SDGs will only be achieved through genuine and meaningful partnerships for action, finance and for innovation – the subject of SDG 17.

“This means partnerships between the UN and governments; partnerships with civil society, the private sector and, perhaps most important of all, partnerships with private citizens.”

She noted that SDG financing requirements are significant. According to her, although funding the SDGs is globally achievable, it is beyond the reach of low-income countries. She added that a blended financing framework holds the key to accelerated progress on the SDGs. “We need to leverage new partnerships in order to secure the financing needed,” Mohammed said.

Arthur (2017) also believes that SDG 17 is central to the realization of all the SDGs and is also at the core of achieving inclusive and sustainable industrial development. He said:

“Partnerships are intrinsic for trade capacity development, technology transfer, finance for development, and private sector involvement. Indeed, the implementation of the SDGs requires partnerships with a strong country ownership and the alignment of inclusive and sustainable growth policies, public and private investments and societal goals. Only this combination will allow the high-impact services that the international community can bring to support nations in their progress towards 2030.”

From the foregoing, it is clear that SDG17 is pivotal in achieving the global goals as it harps on the need for forging durable partnerships for sustainable development and cooperation as the way forward. This has become more imperative because Official Development Assistance (ODA) has remained steady but below target, at US\$147 billion in 2017. Moreover, humanitarian crises brought on by conflicts or natural disasters continue to demand more financial resources and aid.

Basically, SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals emphasizes that the other 16 SDGs can only be realised with a strong commitment to global cooperation.

Forging strong global partnerships would also be easier in contemporary society because the world is more interconnected than ever. Improving access to technology and knowledge is an important way to share ideas and foster innovation. Coordinating policies to help developing countries manage their debt, as well as promoting investment for the least developed countries is vital for sustainable growth and development.

According to *MDG Monitor*, one important aspect of SDG 17 is that it binds the other goals together:

“For one, it is quite content heavy as compared to other goals and subdivided into five crucial components; finance, capacity building, systemic issues, technology, and trade. The finance issue is very important since most developed nations are not living up to their agreement to apportion 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) as development aid to developing nations, by a 1970 UN resolution. These development financing allocations are very important since lack of development and social cohesion, and also extreme poverty in one nation can have adverse spill-over impacts in other nations, including economic downturns and refugee crises.”

With particular reference to the facet of Goal 17 on accountability and monitoring of data, *MDG Monitor* contends that if it is “taken seriously in SDG 17, this aspect could help in unlocking the full potential of all the SDGs to be a great influence for good. Creating people-centered strategies for gathering data, accompanied by strong citizen performance monitoring will be crucial to holding decision-makers accountable.”

As Maltais, Weitz and Persson (2018) rightly pointed out, “SDG 17 addresses these needs and calls for actions to increase capacity for implementing the SDGs at all levels. As such, meeting the targets and ambitions of SDG17 is absolutely essential for successfully advancing the entire SDG agenda.”

SDG 17 targets

The targets for SDG 17 are as follows:

Finance

- Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
- Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 percent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 percent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 percent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
- Mobilize additional financial resources for

Figure 1: Trend of SDG 17: – Partnerships for the goals



developing countries from multiple sources

- Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
- Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Technology

- Enhance North-South, South-South and

triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology, and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism

- Promote the development, transfer, dissemination, and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms,

including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed

- Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular, information and communications technology.

Capacity-building

- Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South, and triangular cooperation

Trade

- Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda
- Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020
- Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin

applicable to imports from the least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access.

Systemic issues

Policy and institutional coherence

- Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
- Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

- Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

Data, monitoring and accountability

- By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to

Table 1: The targets for SDG 17

Target	Indicator
(FINANCE) Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress.	Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services.
(TECHNOLOGY) Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism	Number of science and/or technology cooperation agreements and programmes between countries, by type of cooperation
(CAPACITY-BUILDING) Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.	Dollar value of financial and technical assistance (including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation) committed to developing countries.
(TRADE) Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020.	Developing countries' and least developed countries' share of global exports
(SYSTEMIC ISSUES) Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development.	Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development.

developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

- By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complements gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries.

SDG17: Birth of the Nigerian Private Sector Advisory Group

Cognizant of the vital role of SDG17 in driving the other 16 goals, the Nigerian government under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari has made conscious efforts to revitalize the universal partnerships for sustainable development. To effectively implement SDG17, the Nigerian government constituted and inaugurated the Sustainable Development Goals Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) on February 28, 2017. Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, Nigeria's Vice President who inaugurated the Nigerian PSAG on the SDGs described the event as the beginning of the unique partnership between the public and private sectors. According to him, through the PSAG, the Nigerian business community has a responsibility to ensure that they work collectively to do something for the society and their communities.

Mrs. Adejoke Orellope-Adefulire, Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (SSAP-SDGs) said the PSAG would also help the country address development issues sustainably and more optimistically. "The Public-Private Partnership (PPP) for Sustainable Development marks a new dawn in the implementation of pro-poor projects and programmes in Nigeria," she said.

Edward Kallon, former Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria, described it as a step in the right direction as the revitalized partnership places the private sector at the centre-stage and occupies the 'engine room' of the SDGs implementation process. He said:

"Progress, or the lack of it, will hinge heavily on the extent of private sector engagement. Private business activity, investment and innovation are the major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation. We should pursue a revitalized partnership both as a means to an end and an end in itself."

Kallon noted that the means of implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs are the basis for SDG 17 and its associated targets. He added that revitalized partnerships, especially with the private sector, will be critical for filling the funding gaps. According to him, it is estimated that up to seven trillion dollars will be

Clearly, SDG 17 reflects a holistic approach to the means of implementation for 2030 Agenda, including 19 targets that span finance, technology, capacity-building, trade and systemic issues.

required on an annual basis by developing countries to meet the SDGs. "Out of this and based on the current estimates, an annual funding gap in the order of 2.5 trillion dollars has been identified. A large share of the resources needed to fund the new agenda will come from the private sector - businesses, foundations and private investors," he said.

Tonye Cole, Executive Director and Co-Founder of Sahara Group, who has been a keen advocate for the SDGs, said the group would galvanize ideas and initiatives from various stakeholders to achieve accelerated and inclusive development across the nation. "We strongly believe that the achievement of the PSAG objectives will not only improve the global SDGs ranking of Nigeria, it will also improve the standard of living across the nation through the provision of sustainable solutions to basic problems," said Cole, who also represents Sahara Group on the Global United Nations Private Sector Advisory Group.

The PSAG aims at mirroring the Global Private Sector Advisory Group which was established by United Nations Sustainable Development Fund to effectively achieve effective public-partnerships for the global goals as a result of the numerous challenges faced during the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). (<https://www.sdgsfund.org>)

At the point of inauguration, the Nigerian Private Sector Advisory Group included key 13 key partners who share a commitment in achieving the 17 SDGs and an interest in corporate social responsibility. They include: Growing Businesses Foundation (GBF), Lagos Business School (LBS), Sahara Group Limited, British American Tobacco Nigeria (BATN), Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), PricewaterhouseCoopers Ltd. (PwC), Google, Unilever Nigeria, Airtel Nigeria, GT Bank, General Electric (GE), Dangote Group, Coca-Cola, Channels Television, Chamber of Commerce - Lagos/Kano, National Association of Small Scale Industrialists (NASSI) and the Nigerian Association of Small and Medium Enterprises (NASME). As the work is progressing, the number of organizations that make up this group has also been increasing. A few companies have now stepped up and continue to build

ownership and viable projects around the SDGs in Nigeria.

The PSAG has three main strategic objectives that support the implementation of SDGs in Nigeria. These objectives are:

- (i) To establish, in the short-term (2016-2020), a foundation for Private Sector and Foundations for the core Development Agenda and mobilize private sector members around the SDGs targets and the Global Compacts for business;
- (ii) To leverage, in the medium-term (2021-2025), the momentum of the vast resources of the private sector and stakeholder commitment to scale up sustainable development impacts; and
- (iii) To deliver, in the long-term (2026-2030) the Global Goals Promise.

As presented in the strategy document, the PSAG in Nigeria has since its inauguration been providing the guidance and strategic support to achieve more streamlined implementation of SDGs in Nigeria. By design, the group has been working to share ideas across industry sectors and regions with the aim of ultimately creating a connective platform for more impactful and local-driven models and solutions to achieve the SDGs.

In terms of structure, the PSAG consists of the following:

1. Two Co-Chairmen (one from the Private Sector Organizations and the other from a Foundation)
2. Lead, SDGs Public-Private Dialogue;
3. Lead, SDGs Research, Development and Capacity-Building;
4. Lead, SDGs Collaborations, Partnerships and Strategic Alliances;
5. Lead, SDGs Interventions and Impact Investments; and
6. Lead, SDGs PSAG Platform Management.

For proper alignment of programmes with government sectoral programmes, PSAG has also been working closely with Government Technical Working Groups (TWGs) that have been structured around related Nigerian Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (NERGP) policies and programmes, such as Agriculture, Agro-Allied and Food Security; Real Sector, Land and Energy development programmes; Human Capital Development; Environmental Sustainability; Infrastructure development; Institutional development; Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs); Finance and financial markets; Innovations, Science and Technology; Trade, Investment and Competitiveness, among others. Each TWG incorporates members of the Private Sector and Foundations, focused on specific SDGs related programmes and targets.

Overall, the PSAG is geared towards driving SDG17 in the following ways:

1. Working with the Office of the SSAP-SDGs to hold periodic Public-Private Sector Dialogues that will expand the engagement across the Private Sector and Foundations on SDGs; UNDP National Strategy and Action Plan for the Engagement of the Private Sector and Foundations in Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Nigeria.
2. Promoting and coordinating broad-based actions leveraging on the critical membership and umbrella organizations to deliver results;
3. Working to mobilize the entire Private Sector around the SDGs target priority areas for Nigeria;
4. Working to ensure that the entire Private Sector adopts the United Nations Global Compact for the Private Sector on Sustainable Development Goals beginning with its core members and thereafter the TWGs; and
5. Working to facilitate the UN Global Compact and provide the critical Private Sector Development that is required for the paradigm-shift in the Nigerian Business Environment to a Sustainable Development Mindset.

Inauguration of Donors' Partnership Forum on SDGs

In its efforts to further strengthen partnerships and broaden stakeholder participation in national SDGs programmes, the Nigerian government inaugurated the Donors' Forum on the Implementation of SDGs on April 28, 2017.

During the launch of the Forum, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo said that government was enhancing the existing partnership with the development partners in support of the SDGs implementation in Nigeria. He noted that as part of the SDGs implementation process, government has developed the relevant national, sub-national and sectoral strategies, plans and programmes. "More than ever before, we are forging partnerships and building synergies to galvanize stakeholders to mobilize the required resources for the implementation of the SDGs," Osinbajo said.

From the foregoing, it is clear that SDG17 is pivotal in achieving the global goals as it harps on the need for forging durable partnerships for sustainable development and cooperation as the way forward.

According to him, the SDGs Needs Assessment and Costing exercise, will set national targets, identify the full range of interventions to meet those targets, cost those interventions and evolve an appropriate financing strategy.

The SDGs Office has equally developed a donors' coordination compact to guide its work with international development partners to ensure that synergy is built across board with effective collaboration.

State governments in Nigeria are being encouraged to replicate this practice by leveraging the support of the private sector and International Development Partners to fast-track the implementation of SDGs programmes. A number of states have gone into collaborations and development partners are lending their support by aligning intervention programmes with the development aspirations of the states as espoused in the various state development plans.

The idea of the Donors' Forum on SDGs was conceived upon sound development tenets and agreements such as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), being the outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing Development as well as the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. These two instruments emphasize the place of collaboration between governments and multi-lateral organizations to achieve the desired development outcomes.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) serves as the anchor secretariat for the Forum and conducts the daily activities of the group.

Both the Private Sector Advisory Group on SDGs and the Donors' Forums have been functioning in a complementary manner, engaging the government, based on their comparative advantages and bringing their resources and ideas to bear, on the best ways of achieving the SDGs in Nigeria.

Development Partners Group on SDGs

The Nigerian government has equally been making enormous efforts to enhance the existing partnership with the Development Partners in support of the SDGs implementation in the country.

There are many avenues through which Development Partners have been playing important role in supporting the SDGs implementation. These include, but are not limited to: filling the financing gap through traditional aid (grants and loans); facilitating access to new financing instruments such as Green Bonds/Green Climate Fund; promotion of foreign direct investments; promotion of trade and enterprise development; promoting economic diversification and inclusive growth; provision of technical assistance, capacity development and expertise in specific areas; and promotion of science, technology and innovation to support the implementation of the SDGs.

According to Mrs. Orelope-Adefulire, SSAP-SDGs, Nigeria has enjoyed partnership and support of some international institutions such as the United Nations

To effectively implement SDG17, the Nigerian government constituted and inaugurated the Sustainable Development Goals Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) on February 28, 2017.

Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC), Civil Society Organisation (CSO), the Earth Institute of Columbia University and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

SDG17: Nigeria's Progress Report

The efforts of the Buhari administration to meet the targets of SDG17 appear to be yielding results. We present below our assessment of Nigeria's drive towards its implementation.

Finance

17.1: Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection:

With just ten million Nigerians paying tax in 2015 as against the labour workforce of 77 million in that year, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), tax evasion was — and remains — a source of serious concern. In a bid to curb the various loopholes in the country's tax system such as tax evasion, multiple taxation and non-payment of tax refunds, the Buhari administration introduced a number of tax reforms to diversify Nigeria's income base as well as improve domestic capacity for tax administration.

With the support of development partners such as the Department for International Development (DFID), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the administration has been implementing the reforms to among other things diversify Nigeria's income base as well as improve domestic capacity for tax administration. The development partners have been working with government agencies such as the Ministry of Finance and Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) to drive the reforms.

DFID has also supported Nigerian state governments to enhance their domestic revenue

mobilisation as part of a wider growth and employment programme (2009-2017). The support was given through the tax transparency programme on Exchange of Information.

As part of measures to bring transparency into the tax system, the Federal Government had in June 2017 signed an executive order which led to the commencement of the Voluntary Assets and Income Declaration Scheme (VAIDS). The tax amnesty programme, which started on July 1, 2017, offered a 12-month window of opportunity for taxpayers — both individual and corporate, home and abroad — to voluntarily disclose previously hidden assets and income for the purpose of payment of all outstanding tax arrears between 2010 and 2015, with incentives such as not paying the interest and penalties as well as immunity from prosecution.

With a target of raising at least \$1 billion from undeclared liabilities, VAIDS was geared towards raising the percentage of non-oil tax revenue from the six per cent it was at the time to the 15 per cent by 2020 while broadening the federal and state tax brackets. The initiative had sent Nigerians with assets abroad panicking with the government even employing the help of anti-graft agencies at some point.

Following the expiration of VAIDS, in October 2018, the Federal Government introduced the Voluntary Offshore Assets Regularization Scheme (VOARS) which mandated Nigerian taxpayers to declare and pay tax on their offshore assets. The scheme provided a platform for taxpayers, who have defaulted in the payment of taxes, to voluntarily declare their offshore assets in exchange for a one-time levy of 35% on all offshore assets. Like VAIDS, it also granted them immunity from prosecution.

In May 2019, Zainab Ahmed, Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning reconstituted the National Tax Policy Implementation Committee (NIPIC). Since then, the Federal Government through the NIPIC has been working to raise revenues for socio-economic development and public sector investment. Government is looking to raise revenues through a

hike in the value-added tax (VAT) from 5% to 7.5% (well below the West African average of 16%) and curtail arbitrage opportunities for tax evasion.

17.3.1: Foreign direct investments (FDI), official development assistance and South-South Cooperation as a proportion of total domestic budget:

And

17.5: Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries:

One of the strategic goals of the Nigerian government aimed at increasing the inflow of foreign direct investments (FDIs) into critical sectors of the Nigerian economy is the creation of enabling environment for investors. In the past few years, the Buhari administration has instilled a new culture of transparency and efficiency in the critical sectors and streamlined operations along best practices by implementing strategic reforms at every layer of the sectors. It has also put in place the right policies for a robust and investment-friendly atmosphere. The Buhari administration assured would-be investors of a secure Nigeria, where their investments would be safe and yield handsome returns. In addition, the administration has vigorously formulated and implemented economic policies aimed at engendering the Ease of Doing Business in Nigeria.

All these measures have created myriads of opportunities for investors in such sectors as oil and gas, telecommunications and ICT, financial services, maritime, manufacturing, automotive, agriculture, construction, mining, real estate and health, among others.

Investments in the Nigerian economy have continued to show strong signals in the past few years. The result is that Nigeria has recently been ranked the third largest recipient of foreign direct investment in Africa by Ernst & Young (EY). The EY Africa Attractiveness Survey 2019 Report, which was launched in Lagos, recently showed that FDI inflow into Nigeria stood at \$8billion in 2018. Egypt was the largest recipient of FDI in 2018 with \$12billion, while Algeria was second largest with \$9billion.

The data showed that the \$8billion invested in Nigeria were in 85 projects, which created 10,000 jobs. In terms of number of projects, South Africa was ranked as number one as 110 projects were created by FDI worth \$5billion, which created 12,000 jobs. The data said Africa's FDI was dominated by services projects making, which made two-thirds of the total. It noted that the services were majorly retail, financial services, telecoms, media, technology, business services and life sciences. The report read in part:

“West Africa was the fourth largest FDI destination in Africa in 2018. Over a five year period (2014 – 2018) West Africa was larger than East Africa in terms of FDI, and ranked third ...Nigeria and Ghana also attract the bulk of business services FDI, along with telecoms, financial services, manufacturing and automotive. China is the second largest

The PSAG aims at mirroring the Global Private Sector Advisory Group which was established by United Nations Sustainable Development Fund to effectively achieve effective public-partnerships for the global goals.

Figure 2: Largest recipients of FDI in Africa, 2018

Country	Jobs 000	Capital US\$bn	Projects
 Egypt	32	12	91
 South Africa	12	5	110
 Morocco	15	5	71
 Nigeria	10	8	65
 Kenya	6	2	64
 Ethiopia	16	7	29
 Ghana	7	1	30
 Algeria	10	9	18
 Cote d'Ivoire	4	2	30
 Zimbabwe	6	6	18
 Tunisia	10	1	19
 Uganda	6	0	17
 Tanzania	3	1	19
 Mozambique	1	2	15
 Zambia	2	1	15

Source: FDI Intelligence and EY Africa Attractiveness Report, 2019

investor into West Africa, but it has committed the most capital over the last five years.”

The Head of Markets, EY, Mr. Roderick Wolfenden, said investors in Africa described Nigeria as the most attractive destination for investment, while those that did not have investment in Africa described it as the worst investment destination. He said:

“This speaks volume to the perception gap that exists. Increase in intra-African trade would send a good signal that would address the perception gap people have about Africa. Nigeria is a key investor into the rest of West Africa. The key drivers of FDI in Nigeria would be sound economic reform agendas, economic growth, market size and the ease of doing business.”

However, Wolfenden added that the FDI in Nigeria was not creating a sufficient amount of jobs, compared to other countries.

One of the factors which have led to the increasing inflow of FDI in Nigeria is the fact that doing business in the country is now easier thanks to reforms led by the Presidential Enabling Business Environment Council (PEBEC) and supported by the UKaid-funded Policy Development Facility Phase II (PDF II). The facility, implemented by DAI since 2015, worked with government officials to improve economic and social policies. As one of DFID's key suppliers, DAI said it is

committed to achieving outstanding development results that represent demonstrable value for Nigeria.

The PEBEC, an intergovernmental and inter-ministerial body founded in 2016 and responsible for driving business reforms in Nigeria received immense support from PDF II advisors. Headed by the Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, PEBEC spearheaded a national reform process designed to improve the country's performance on the Doing Business index. This goal is in line with Nigeria's Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP 2017 - 2020), which aims for the country to rank above 70 by 2023.

Nigeria has equally been partnering with some developed countries in its bid to boost infrastructural development.

One of the strategic goals of the Nigerian government aimed at increasing the inflow of foreign direct investments (FDIs) into critical sectors of the Nigerian economy is the creation of enabling environment for investors.

Central to improving Nigeria's business environment was PDF II's support for a coordinated approach by government stakeholders, both in formulating and implementing necessary reforms, and engaging with national and international business stakeholders for feedback. The facility also commissioned research to develop an evidence base to guide PEBC's reform, including operationalizing an executive order to improve business transparency and efficiency.

PDF II helped set up a non-oil export community of practice to assist these businesses influence Nigeria's trade policy and increase their exports. The facility conducted Exporter Experience studies to understand trade challenges, which provided crucial evidence to support reform.

As a result, Nigeria introduced an automated electronic export process to remove barriers to cross-border trade. PDF II's embedded advisors also played a

critical role in facilitating Nigeria signing on to the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) in 2019.

Based on the support received from the UKaid-funded Policy Development Facility Phase II, Nigeria adopted and implemented investment promotion regimes through improvement in the Ease of Doing Business. This has improved Nigeria's ranking in the latest World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index. According to the Report, Nigeria ranks 131 out of 190 countries on the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index, moving up 15 places from 146th position in the 2019 Report. (See Table 2).

The country was also named among the top 10 most improved economies for its reforms across six of the report's 10 indicators:

Starting a business—reforms in Kano and Lagos reduced the time needed to register a company.

Dealing with construction permits—Nigeria eliminated a fee for construction permits for warehouses.

Getting electricity—Nigeria now allows certified engineers to conduct inspections for new connections.

Registering property—Lagos implemented a geographic information system for land administration.

Trading across borders—reforms in Kano and Lagos reduced export and import time through an upgraded electronic system and e-payment for fees.

Enforcing contracts—Nigeria introduced a pre-trial conference to enhance case management techniques. The Buhari administration also considers the anti-graft war as part of measures to attract foreign

Figure 2

TABLE 0.2 The 10 economies improving the most across three or more areas measured by *Doing Business* in 2018–19

Economy	Ease of doing business rank	Change in ease of doing business score	Reforms making it easier to do business									
			Starting a business	Dealing with construction permits	Getting electricity	Registering property	Getting Credit	Protecting minority investors	Paying taxes	Trading across borders	Enforcing Contracts	Resolving insolvencies
Saudi Arabia	62	7.7	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Jordan	75	7.6					✓		✓			✓
Togo	97	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Bahrain	43	5.9		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Tajikistan	106	5.7	✓				✓			✓		
Pakistan	108	5.6	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓
Kuwait	83	4.7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
China	31	4	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓
India	63	3.5	✓	✓						✓		✓
Nigeria	131	3.4	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	

Source: Doing Business database

investors to Nigeria and increase the inflow of FDIs because of its view that corruption that had dissuaded many investors from the country. So far, the Nigerian government has developed a constructive protocol for collaboration among the anti-corruption agencies, law enforcement and security agencies, as well the Whistle-Blowers' office on the recovery of stolen public funds which are estimated to be over N500 billion.

Additionally, there has been increased international cooperation and collaboration with countries such as the United Kingdom, the United States, Switzerland, France, Italy, and United Arab Emirates to ensure that all assets identified as stolen from Nigeria are recovered.

In June 2018, President Buhari assented to the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act to provide a domestic legal framework for getting international assistance in criminal matters. The measure has already strengthened the law enforcement agencies in obtaining evidence, investigating suspects, and facilitating the recovery, forfeiture, and confiscation of property proven as proceeds of crime. An example is the US\$300 million recently identified as part of the late General Sani Abacha money-laundering case. The Federal Ministry of Justice is working with the US Department of Justice to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expedite the repatriation of the funds.

Nigeria has equally been partnering with some developed countries in its bid to boost infrastructural development. In August, this year, President Buhari launched the Presidential Power Initiative to modernise the national grid in three phases: starting from 5 Gigawatts to 7 Gigawatts, then to 11 Gigawatts by 2023, and finally 25 Gigawatts afterwards. The programme in partnership with the German government and Siemens is to provide end-to-end electrification solutions that will resolve the transmission and distribution challenges in the sector.

The Nigerian government has continued to welcome and encourage private capital for infrastructural development through Public-Private Partnership (PPPs). Through the Road Infrastructure Credit Scheme, which Buhari started in January 2019, the government is giving incentives to private sector inflow of over N25 billion in 19 Nigerian roads and bridges of 794.4 kilometres across 11 states of the Federation.

To further enhance infrastructural development, the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) and the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) are collaborating to establish a robust legal and regulatory framework to drive PPP endeavors in the country. It was against this background that both organizations recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that would ensure an accelerated infrastructure development in the country.

Engr. Chidi Izuwah, ICRC's Director-General stressed the importance of the collaboration, especially at this time when the nation was in need of

A number of states have gone into collaborations and development partners are lending their support by aligning intervention programmes with the development aspirations of the states as espoused in the various state development plans.

workable development paradigms. He said that PPPs provided the needed plank to leverage private sector funding to develop infrastructure. "The primary aim of our working together is to ensure that Nigeria has the most innovative and investor-friendly PPP framework in Africa. This will enable Nigeria to become and remain the most attractive destination for Infrastructure Investments in Africa via PPP procurement," he said. He added that a good PPP environment will attract capital investments that will lead to accelerated infrastructural development and sustainable growth in Nigeria.

Technology

17.6.2: Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by speed:

The Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) has been making efforts to develop broadband infrastructure so as to deepen penetration among individual and corporate consumers of telecoms services.

One of such efforts is the licensing of infrastructure companies (InfraCos) to provide additional robust broadband infrastructure across the geo-political zones in the country. Six of the InfraCo

The Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) has been making efforts to develop broadband infrastructure so as to deepen penetration among individual and corporate consumers of telecoms services.

licences have been issued to five geo-political zones and Lagos carved out as the sixth zone because of its commercial centrality, while the last and the seventh licence for the North Central region is being worked on by the Commission.

As a result of the continuous implementation of the initiatives, broadband penetration in Nigeria, which stood at less than 10 per cent in 2015, has significantly increased to 33.72 per cent indicating that 64,366,778 Nigerians now access high-speed Internet on 3G and 4G networks. General Internet subscriptions have also increased from 95 million to over 122.6 million presently while voice subscriptions rose from 150 million to 175 million.

The value of fixed broadband subscriptions (per 100 people) in Nigeria was 0.038 as of 2018. Over the past 13 years, this indicator reached a maximum value of 0.063 in 2010 and a minimum value of 0.000 in 2005.

17.8.1: The proportion of individuals using the Internet:

The evolving internet market in Nigeria has continued to record improved performance. The latest statistics released by the Internet World Stats revealed that the country now ranks 7th in terms of countries with the highest number of internet users in the world. (Table 4 shows the Top 20 countries with highest number of internet users).

According to the report, Nigeria's total internet

users stood at 111.6 million as at the end of March 2019. It was further revealed that among the top 20 countries in the world, Nigeria's internet users grew the highest by 55,716% in the last 19 years.

Nigeria's internet or data market began to evolve in the year 2000 when the deregulation process of the telecom sector began. The deregulation of the telecom sector paved the way for private investors to provide services to Nigerians.

Basically, Nigeria's total internet users were estimated at just 200,000 in the year 2000 has since risen to high 111.6 million.

Capacity-building

17.9: Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation:

Capacity-building is critical for sustainable development in Nigeria because the actualization of the SDGs will depend to a great extent on the country's ability to build its human capital. Despite Nigeria's large population, the country has not been able to effectively develop the capacity of its citizens.

The 2018 World Bank Human Capital Index (HCI) ranked Nigeria 152nd out of the 157 countries. Nigeria

Table 4: Top 20 countries with highest number of internet users

Rank	Countries	Population 2019 Est. 2019 Est.	Internet Users (Mar 2019)	% of total population
1	China	1,420,062,022	829,000,000	58%
2	India	1,368,737,513	560,000,000	41%
3	United States	329,093,110	292,892,868	89%
4	Brazil	212,392,717	149,057,635	70%
5	Indonesia	269,536,482	143,260,000	53%
6	Japan	126,854,745	118,626,672	94%
7	Nigeria	200,962,417	111,632,516	56%
8	Russia	143,964,709	109,552,842	76%
9	Bangladesh	168,065,920	92,061,000	55%
10	Mexico	132,328,035	85,000,000	64%
11	Germany	82,438,639	79,127,551	96%
12	Turkey	82,961,805	69,107,183	83%
13	Philippines	108,106,310	67,000,000	62%
14	Vietnam	97,429,061	64,000,000	66%
15	United Kingdom	66,959,016	63,061,419	94%
16	Iran	82,503,583	62,702,731	76%
17	France	65,480,710	60,421,689	92%
18	Thailand	69,306,160	57,000,000	82%
19	Italy	59,216,525	54,798,299	93%
20	Egypt	101,168,745	49,231,493	49%

Source: Internet World Stats 2019

Figure 3: World Bank's Human Capital Index (HCI) - Countries at the bottom

Country	HCI value
Chad	0.29
South Sudan	0.3
Mali	0.32
Niger	0.32
Liberia	0.32
Nigeria	0.34
Sierra Leone	0.35
Mauritania	0.35
Cote d'Ivoire	0.35
Angola	0.36

Source: World Bank 2018

shared the bottom of the index with Chad, South Sudan, Niger, Mali, and Liberia. Nigeria's HCI value of 0.34 (countries are scored between zero and one) is lower than the global average of 0.57. It is also lower than the regional average and the average for nations in Nigeria's income bracket. According to the World Bank, Nigeria's poor ranking is based on the fact that its overall spending on health which is 0.76% of GDP is far too low while its educational outcomes are very poor.

The HCI index measures how much countries lose in economic productivity by under-investing in their people.

Based on this report, it is clear that education is critical to human capital development but even more critical for the development of human resources. As part of measures to build capacity, the Nigerian government is also implementing goal number 4 of the SDGs, which is Quality Education. The state of education in the country has remained a matter of concern as it has consistently ranked low in world rankings and is continuously plagued by underfunding, low-quality teaching personnel, poor infrastructure, poverty of curriculum, absence of dedicated practitioners, corruption, poor welfare package and strike actions which disrupt academic calendar. In fact, some of the common features of public schools in Nigeria are dilapidated structures, overcrowding, and lack of adequate furniture. From primary through secondary to the tertiary level, the rot is mind-boggling.

Nigeria's problem in the education sector is worsened by its huge population as the increase in population is not matched by a corresponding increase in facilities and infrastructure which ultimately impacts learning. According to the Global Partnership for Education, Nigeria faces the challenge of demographic pressure with about 11,000 newborns every day that overburdens the system's capacity to deliver quality education.

The situation is worse in the Northern part of Nigeria where almost two-thirds of students are functionally illiterate.

To reverse the trend and improve the quality of education, President Buhari pledged the commitment of his administration towards achieving inclusive and equitable quality education, and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. To achieve this goal, the Ministry of Education articulated a road map titled: *"Education for Change: A Ministerial Strategic Plan (2016 - 2019)." The ten pillars of the Ministerial Strategic Plan are as follows:*

- i) Addressing the out-of-school children phenomenon;
- ii) Strengthening basic and secondary school education;
- iii) Prioritising teacher education, capacity building and professional development;
- iv) Promoting adult literacy and special needs education;

The evolving internet market in Nigeria has continued to record improved performance. The latest statistics released by the Internet World Stats revealed that the country now ranks 7th in terms of countries with the highest number of internet users in the world.

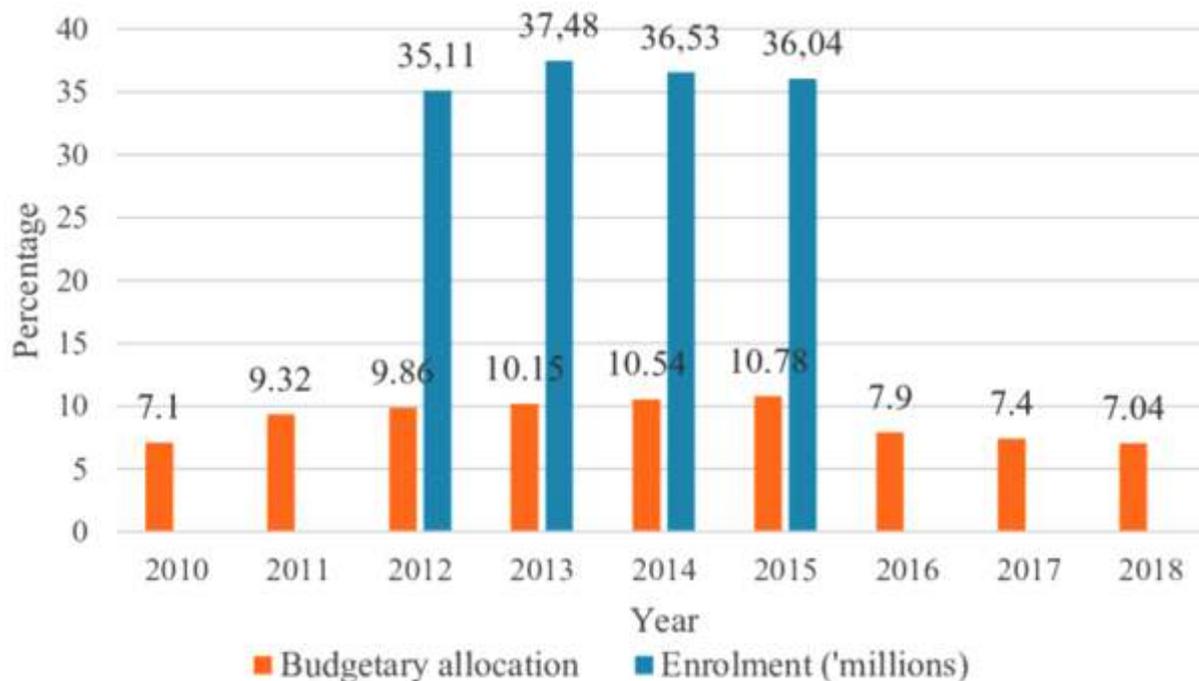
- iv) Reviving technical and vocational education and training;
- v) Driving Basic and Secondary Education Curriculum and Policy Matters;
- vi) Ensuring quality and access in higher education;
- vii) Institutionalizing education data and planning;
- ix) Promoting Information Communication Technology (ICT) in Education and
- x) Boosting Library Services in Education.

However, the Nigerian government has not been able to effectively implement its strategic plan for the education sector in the past four years as there has been a severe cut in financial allocation to the sector. Allocation to the education sector in the past few years has been much lower than the international benchmark of between 15 per cent and 20 per cent of the national budget required to bridge education funding gaps. The percentage of budgetary allocation to education consistently declined from 10.78% in 2015 to 7.04% in 2018. (See Figure 4) School enrolment has also been declining consistently over the years. This has been attributed to the unrests in the North-East geo-political zone and incomplete data from some states (Federal Ministry of Education, 2017).

In 2018, only 7.04 percent of the N8.6 trillion 2018 budget was allocated to education. The total amount allocated to the sector was N605.8 billion with N435.1 billion for recurrent expenditure, N61.73 billion for capital expenditure and N109.06 billion for the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC). That allocation is lower than the 7.4 percent the government earmarked for education in the N7.4 trillion 2017 budget.

As Nigeria's Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu rightly observed at Presidential Retreat on Education for Ministers held in Abuja in November 2017, it is unfortunate that from 1999 to date, "the annual budgetary allocation to education has always been between four percent and ten percent." He noted that none of the E9 or D8 countries, other than Nigeria, allocate less than 20% of its annual budget to education. He said:

Figure 4: Nigeria's percentage of budgetary allocation to education (2010 – 2018) and number of school enrolment (in millions) (2012 – 2015)



Source: Author's computation using data from World Bank (2018)

“Indeed even among sub-Saharan Africa countries, we are trailing far behind smaller and less endowed nations in terms of our investment in education. There is, therefore, a need for a major investment in education in the national interest.”

Obviously, underfunding is an albatross to the provision of quality education and capacity building in Nigeria.

Apart from poor funding of education, Nigeria does not have the right calibre of teachers in the school system. The statistics obtained from the Human Development Index of 2016 revealed that Nigeria did not have sufficient qualified teachers in primary schools. Only 66 percent of teachers in Nigerian primary schools were trained to teach. The implication is that about two out of every five teachers in Nigeria were not qualified to teach pupils. This shows that education is in disarray as people without requisite skills are being employed to transfer knowledge to hapless children.

Regrettably, tertiary education in Nigeria also continues to decline, as government is not making any conscious effort to improve funding. The consequence is the lack of commitment as well as passion by teachers who work in the sector. This has been at the heart of frequent industrial actions in the education sector often led by the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). The university teachers had embarked on strike for more than two months in 2017 and from November 2018 to February 2019 in protest over the failure of the government to implement an agreement, it signed with them to upgrade

infrastructures on campuses and improve staff welfare. The frequent strike actions by university teachers impacted the education sector in 2009 negatively leading to the production of what is commonly called “half baked graduates.”

However, in line with the dictates of SDG17, some of the international development partners and foundations have been partnering with Nigeria on capacity-building. They include the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), DFID and Ford Foundation.

To ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, UNESCO has built close partnership with a wide range of stakeholders and partners in Nigeria, such as governmental authorities, private sector, civil society organizations, universities, and individuals. One of such learning opportunities is the YouthMobile Initiative. It is UNESCO's global strategy geared towards engaging a critical mass of young people to acquire the basic technical skills and confidence to develop, promote, and market the mobile phone applications (APPs) addressing local issues for sustainable development.

Within the framework of this initiative, UNESCO collaborated with the Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) of Nigeria to implement a project tagged UNESCO-FCTA YouthMobile Project. This project started its first phase in June 2017, graduating over 400 beneficiaries in March 2018. The project empowers its beneficiaries with the capacity to develop mobile phone applications, promoting

In line with the dictates of SDG17, some of the international development partners and foundations have been partnering with Nigeria on capacity-building.

bottom-up approaches to innovation and youth involvement for sustainable development.

DFID has continued to deliver training to increase the skills of Nigerians, enabling them to find jobs.

Ford Foundation, one of the world's most renowned private foundations has funded Nigeria's capacity-building efforts, largely through initiatives on education. Over the years, the Foundation has partnered with Nigeria in all facets of the country's educational system, namely, primary, secondary and tertiary levels. According to Adeoti (2016), "the huge investments of the Ford Foundation in the areas of comprehensive high school education, teaching, and research as well as information and communication technology, no doubt, helped in identifying and nurturing the potential of Nigerian students for academic, technical or general education."

Nigeria has also been implementing effective and targeted local capacity-building through government agencies such as the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF), and Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB). The PTDF has been serving as a catalyst for sustainable capacity-building and skills acquisition in the oil and gas industry. Similarly, the NCDMB was established to also give Nigerians the opportunity to develop the much-needed capacity to provide the know-how needed in the oil and gas sector. Through the efforts of the Board, many Nigerians are now fully involved in the oil and gas sector as opposed to the situation in the past when it was dominated by expatriates.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

17.16: Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries:

The Nigerian government has been seeking collaboration and partnerships with international organizations, development partners and the private sector in its developmental pursuit. The Ministry of

Finance, Budget and National Planning has a department of International Corporation that is in charge of donor coordination and programme planning. Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) is in charge of coordinating public-private sector initiatives while the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment is responsible for investment and export promotion, business. Within the Ministry are the following two agencies - the Export Promotion Council and Investment Promotion Commission.

In the past few years, some international development partners and foundations have been collaborating with Nigeria to support the actualization of the other 16 SDGs. DFID has been collaborating with the Nigerian

government to save lives in the North-East by: providing essential items (such as food) or the means to buy them; agricultural support so people can grow their own food; and education so children do not miss out during the crisis and Nigeria's economic growth does not suffer in the long term.

It is also helping Nigeria reduce poverty and improve the lives of its citizens by: improving health services; increasing access to clean water and sanitation.

In 2018, Ford Foundation in strategic partnership with Fidelity Bank Plc and Bank of Industry (BoI) facilitated the launch of Aba Finished Leather Goods Cluster Financing Programme. The Foundation will be providing a grant that specifically focuses on strengthening the capacities of the leaders and beneficiaries even as monitoring structures to ensure loan repayments are instituted. Fidelity Bank will provide account management services to the loan beneficiaries.

Ford Foundation's Regional Director, Innocent Chukwuma, said the partnership is part of efforts to fulfil its commitment to leather manufacturers to encourage local production and increase campaign for adoption of made-in-Aba. He said the Foundation

The Nigerian government has been seeking collaboration and partnerships with international organizations, development partners and the private sector in its developmental pursuit.

The Nigerian government has been encouraging and promoting effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships so as to achieve the target of SDG17.

would be staking a grant of \$150,000 in the programme to drive social impact and enhance productivity.

The Foundation has also focused its funding efforts on building partnerships between government and civil society to promote the kind of effective governance required to sustain peace, strengthen democratic values, empower women, significantly reduce poverty and social exclusion throughout the country.

MacArthur Foundation has been partnering with the Nigerian government to in the anti-graft war by helping to strengthen accountability, transparency, and participation.

17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships:

The Nigerian government has been encouraging and promoting effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships so as to achieve the target of SDG17 in the following ways:

Embracing the Open Government Partnership

In July, 2016, Nigeria joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP), a multilateral initiative that was launched in 2011 to provide a platform for domestic reformers to secure concrete commitments and make their governments more responsive, accountable and transparent to their citizens. While joining the OGP, Nigeria made commitment in 14 areas which are categorized into the following four thematic areas:

1. Promoting fiscal transparency;
2. Access to information;
3. Anti-corruption and asset disclosure; and
4. Citizen Engagement and Empowerment.

The OGP recognizes the need for the National Action Plan (NAP) in attaining the SDGs. NAP is the articulated strategies for promoting fiscal transparency through more citizen participation in the budget-making process, implementation of open contracting in the public sector, enhancing disclosure in the extractive industries, improving the efficiency

and effectiveness of the tax system as well as improving the ease of doing business in Nigeria. The action plan also has strategies crafted to ensure that corruption is rooted out through the establishment of a public beneficial ownership register, the development of a platform for sharing information between government ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) to detect and prevent corrupt practices, the strengthening of asset recovery legislation and taking appropriate actions to coordinate anti-corruption activities. Under the citizen's engagement thematic area, the NAP will lead to the development of a permanent dialogue mechanism between citizens and government; review of legislation around transparency and accountability issues; and the adoption of a technology-based citizens' feedback on projects and programmes aimed at improving access to information by increasing compliance with the Freedom of Information Act.

The 2016 budget provided opportunity for collaboration and partnership through the following strategies:

Private Sector Investments: Implementing a roadmap to increase Private Sector Investment in Tourism, Entertainment & Sports;

Technology and Innovation: Creating high-technology innovation hubs to support growth in the Digital & Technology sub-sector;

Establishment of the IDPs Forum on SDGs: As part of the strategies to ensure inclusiveness in the implementation of the SDGs, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) Forum has been created. It is meant to generate information on the IDPs as well as create viable opportunity for responding to their needs; and

Inter-Agency Partnerships for SDGs Implementation and Coordination: To ensure effective implementation of SDGs, budgetary allocation has been made for the SDGs office in the 2017 budget and each MDA is mainstreaming SDGs into their programmes and activities.

Sub-National Government Policies for SDG 17: In tandem with Federal Government policies, the creation of the SDGs Offices in the States and Local Governments following the success stories recorded from the MDGs implementation, the SDGs implementation framework adopted the structure instituted during the MDGs. The structure in place includes the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President (OSSAP-SDGs) who is the coordinator of the SDGs in Nigeria but reporting directly to the President.

Civil Society Organization Policies for SDG 17: The Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Nigeria have also found it necessary to collaborate and partner with the different segments of government and society thereby necessitating the formation of the CSO advisory groups on SDGs, who are now mobilizing and engaging at different levels. The New Life Community Care Initiative (NELCCI) is also coordinating some CSOs on SDGs in the South East geo-political zone of Nigeria to

deepen advocacy, campaign and intervention activities for enhanced SDGs implementation in the region. The group aims to strengthen collaboration with appropriate state government institutions on, including the State SDGs units while doing so.

Establishment of the IDPs Forum on SDGs: As part of the strategies to ensure inclusiveness in the implementation of the SDGs, Internally Displaced Persons Forum has been created. It is meant to generate information on the IDPs as well as create viable opportunity for responding to their needs; and Inter-Agency Partnerships for SDGs Implementation and Coordination: To ensure effective implementation of SDGs, budgetary allocation was made for the SDGs office in the 2017 budget and each MDA is mainstreaming SDGs into their programmes and activities.

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Data, monitoring and accountability

17.18: *By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts:*

Presenting the first National Voluntary Review (NVR) on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in New York in July 2017, Mrs Orelope-Adefulire, SSAP-SDGs said that the Nigerian government has been working to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data through SDGs Data Revolution, Monitoring and Evaluation. According to her, an SDGs data mapping exercise has been concluded and a data supply responsibility framework agreed upon. Working in collaboration with the National Bureau of (NBS), the OSSAP-SDGs has done extensive work on ensuring the production and availability of the critical baseline data which was not available in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era.

The way forward

From the foregoing, it is clear that achieving the SDGs will require a strengthened commitment to partnerships and cooperation. Policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at

Despite some advances in meeting some of the targets of SDG17 in Nigeria, more needs to be done to accelerate progress. This demands that all stakeholders will have to intensify and focus their efforts on the areas where progress has been slow.

all levels, advanced by the commitment of all development actors, are needed to this end.

In their book: *SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals: A Review of Research Needs*, Maltais, Weitz and Persson recommend that governments and development partners must urgently collaborate to achieve Goal 17 targets.

“Urgent action is needed to mobilize, redirect and unlock the transformative power of trillions of dollars of private resources to deliver on sustainable development objectives. Long-term investments, including foreign direct investment, are needed in critical sectors, especially in developing countries. These include sustainable energy, infrastructure and transport, as well as information and communications technologies. The public sector will need to set a clear direction. Review and monitoring frameworks, regulations and incentive structures that enable such investments must be retooled to attract investments and reinforce sustainable development. National oversight mechanisms such as supreme audit institutions and oversight functions by legislatures should be strengthened.”

Conclusion

SDG17, which is incidentally the last among the sustainable development goals, is the most clearly focused on traditional development issues. It pulls together a host of targets covering long-running concerns such as levels of overseas development aid, debt relief and tax reform, the need for capacity-building in poorer countries, trade reforms, and the challenges associated with obtaining accurate data.

Despite some advances in meeting some of the targets of SDG17 in Nigeria, more needs to be done to accelerate progress. This demands that all stakeholders will have to intensify and focus their efforts on the areas where progress has been slow. This would help to put the country on the path to meeting the targets of SDG17 by 2030. ■

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Linkage between Open Government Partnership and the Sustainable Development Goals

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Introduction

TRANSFORMING public services to meet the true expectations of citizens and to create public value is indisputably a challenge requiring that the public sector innovates in order to address citizens' needs. Citizens and civil society have also an important role to play in improving and delivering public services. Experience shows that improving the design and quality of public services, coupled with efforts to foster public participation through closing the feedback loop, is a process that enables the government to build real bridges connecting each and every citizen. Engaging citizens in improving public services opens the possibility of renewing the social contract between government and citizens. Improving service delivery is also high on the Open Government Partnership (OGP) agenda.

The OGP, launched in 2011 by eight founding country members is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, ensure accountability, empower citizens, fight corruption and harness new technologies to strengthen governance, as well as creating partnerships with governments all over the world. The OGP has four thematic areas which are: fiscal transparency, anti-corruption, access to information and citizen participation and engagement.

Nigeria formally joined the partnership in 2016. At the centre of the OGP process are the principles of co-creation, co-ownership, and civic participation. This means the citizens and civil society working in partnership with government representatives to make governance and service delivery more effective. The goals of the OGP process are to ensure that governance is more participatory, responsive, transparent and accountable, and to improve service delivery in African countries, including Nigeria, with the ultimate objective of achieving sustainable development in the region as contained in Goal 16 of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One of the principles of the SDGs is: leaving no one behind - this is the core of the OGP agenda.

The SDGs are the blueprint set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global issues and challenges that individuals and



countries face, including poverty, education, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice. There are 17 goals and a total of 169 targets which are all interconnected. It is important to bear in mind that these goals and targets are expected to be achieved by 2030.

Both the SDGs and the OGP seek the broad engagement of society in the process of implementation, and aim at having a transformative impact on the quality of citizens' lives. Three ways of linking the OGP and the SDGs have been identified:

1. As stated earlier, OGP principles are clearly addressed in SDG16 which is to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels of governance and in other targets across the goals.
2. The principles of open government are embedded across many SDGs where transparency, participatory and accountable institutions are key to achieving a particular target.
3. The implementation of the 2030 agenda of the SDGs rests on the core OGP principles. The 2030 agenda calls for follow-up and review processes

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that are “open, inclusive, participatory and transparent” for all people, and will support the reporting by all relevant stakeholders.

There are a number of specific goals and targets amongst the 17 SDGs that directly relate to open government, in particular, the 12 targets of Goal 16 as follows:

1. Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.
2. End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children.
3. Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all.
4. By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crimes.
5. Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms
6. Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
7. Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels
8. Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
9. By 2030, provide legal identity for all including birth registration
10. Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with the national legislation and international agreements.
11. Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation for capacities building at all levels in particular in developing countries, for preventing violence and combating terrorism and crime
12. Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

The principles of open government support are greater than just the implementation of the SDGs. Properly applied, they reinforce the collaborative process of SDG implementation; including those that are outside government – such as civil society. This is because appropriately engaging citizens, civil society organizations and the private sector would lead to greater responsiveness and public satisfaction. This suggests that the government needs to ensure that work done to implement the agenda of SDGs and OGP is delivered in partnership with leading CSOs in the country.

The OGP recognizes the need for the National Action Plan (NAP) in attaining the SDGs. All National and sub-national governments in the OGP process are required to prepare action plans. To ensure adherence to the principles of co-creation and co-ownership, the development of these action plans should be carried out jointly by high-level government representatives and citizens groups, or rather, civil society.

The preparation of the national action plan should be through a multi-stakeholder process, with active engagement of citizens and the civil society. National Action Plans are at the very heart of OGP. It is therefore important that the national action plans are ambitious, effective and relevant to open government. All governments who subscribe to OGP are expected to prepare an annual self-assessment report every year.

In Nigeria, only nine out of the 36 states of the federation have adopted the principles of OGP. This has stalled the implementation and adoption of all OGP principles in the country with regard to the four thematic areas of the OGP. In Ogun State, for instance, the state government is yet to key into the principles of the OGP despite several calls by the Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development (CSCSD) in the state for it to do so. Due to the government's refusal to adopt the principles of OGP, the state budget – which is supposed to be a public document – cannot be accessed, even with the use of the Freedom of Information Act 2014.

In a survey on “Citizens Voice for A Better State” conducted in 2017 by the Justice, Development and Peace Commission to find out citizens' participation in governance, 77.5 percent of the 2,030 respondents to questionnaires noted that they did not participate in the governance of the state. On the issue of access to information, 64.7 percent of the citizens do not have access to information from the government.

Nigeria's Implementation of the SDGs

The Establishment of multi-layer and multi-cluster institutional frameworks for enhanced coordination and SDGs mainstreaming processes: The President appointed a Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (SSAP-SDGs) with the responsibility of ensuring both horizontal and vertical coherence between development policies, plans and strategies. An Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs has also been established, and operational guidelines to guide coordinated engagement with Ministries, Departments

and Agencies (MDAs) have been developed for it. Similar structures have been established at the sub-national levels.

In order to fully harness available resources and effectively engage other stakeholders, a Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) and a Donors' Forum on the SDGs have also been inaugurated. The Civil Society Organizations Advisory Group on SDGs is also already working towards meeting some SDGs targets, and is making good progress on inclusive education.

In addition, concerted efforts have been made to enhance the legislative and oversight roles of Parliamentarians on the SDGs implementation process, pursuant to which, two Select Committees on SDGs have been established in the Senate and the House of Representatives. As part of the national SDGs advocacy and campaign programme, the OSSAP-SDGs has entered into partnership with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to train graduating members to become SDGs champions in their local communities and in their various areas of national service deployment.

Existence of a Good Policy and Planning Framework: The recently-launched *Nigeria Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (NERGP)*, which is also the basis of the current medium and short-term budgeting frameworks, is to a large extent aligned to the SDGs. Similarly, many of the current State Development Plans (SDPs), including those of Benue, Taraba, Yobe, Kaduna, Ebonyi, Kano, Jigawa, Anambra and Delta States – to mention just a few – are aligned to the SDGs. Moreover, the alignment of aid planning, monitoring and evaluation of SDG implementation; and the SDGs data mapping exercise has been concluded and a data supply responsibility framework agreed upon.

Up-scaling the Conditional Grants Scheme: The Conditional Grants Scheme (CGS) is a counterpart contributory mechanism which incentivizes sub-national governments to mobilize resources towards accelerating progress in the SDGs core areas. In fact, the CGS is acclaimed global good practice in the implementation of the global development agenda. It is therefore being scaled up to reflect Nigeria's strong commitment to the implementation of the SDGs.

Identifying and Targeting the Poor and Vulnerable Groups: This aspect of identifying the poor and the vulnerable has been achieved through the establishment of a "National Social Register" for the poor and vulnerable households. A monthly conditional cash transfer of five thousand naira (N5,000) is made to such households as part of a national social safety net programme.

Using the Open Government Partnership to Address the Issue of 'No Poverty' (SDG1)

Overview:

Goal one of the SDGs is "No Poverty". The goal has 7 targets and 14 indicators. The targets are:

- 1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living

The OGP recognizes the need for the National Action Plan (NAP) in attaining the SDGs.

on less than \$1.25 a day.

2. By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all dimensions according to national definitions.
3. Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, and by 2030, achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.
4. By 2030, ensure that all men and women particularly the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services including microfinance.
5. By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations, and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.
6. Ensure significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources, including through enhanced development cooperation to provide adequate and predictable means for developing countries, in particular LDCs, to implement programs and policies to end poverty in all its dimensions.

Both the SDGs and the OGP seek the broad engagement of society in the process of implementation, and aim at having a transformative impact on the quality of citizens' lives.

Poverty eradication remains one of the major focus areas for the Government of Nigeria. Given the poverty profile of 62.6%, the Federal Government is aggressively pursuing strategies that will eliminate poverty in Nigeria.

7. Create sound policy frameworks, at national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies to support accelerated investments in poverty eradication actions.

Poverty eradication remains one of the major focus areas for the Government of Nigeria. Given the poverty profile of 62.6%, the Federal Government is aggressively pursuing strategies that will eliminate poverty in Nigeria, as are the other two tiers of government. To begin with, the government is implementing a National *Social Investment Programme* which focuses on providing Social Safety Nets for the poor and welfare for the unemployed, as well as job creation and skills enhancement with a target of creating about 3million jobs. Access to improved water source by the population currently stands at 60 percent and is expected to increase to 73.6 percent by 2020, with a resultant improvement in levels of sanitation and reduction in water-borne and other infectious diseases.

The National Social Investment Office located within the Vice President's office is coordinating the Social Investment Programme that targets the poor and the vulnerable. The programme is creating a database for unemployed youths and formulating a programme designed to cushion the immediate and devastating effects of poverty. The primary objective is to empower the poor and the vulnerable while also unleashing programme that will eventually take the poor out of the poverty bracket. To this end, the government has formulated a draft *National Social Security Policy* through the Ministry of Budget and National Planning. The document is to be ratified by the Federal Executive Council (FEC). In the meantime, the draft policy commits the Federal Government to dedicate national resources for the improvement of the lives of citizens and also strengthens the role of social protection in helping to distribute resources more broadly.

Given this background, the Federal Government of Nigeria has leveraged on its social reform agenda to

ensure a pro-poor, gender-disaggregated expenditure framework within the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF). The underlying goal is to produce an inclusive budget that will ensure equity and justice in the distribution of national resources.

As regards the level of citizens' engagement in the implementation of the National Social Investment Programme, the office of the Vice President, custodian of the programme, engages with civil society organizations to monitor and verify the implementation of the program. This aspect of the project is coordinated by Action-Aid Nigeria.

Federal Policy and Programme Drivers leading towards SDG1 target

The Government of Nigeria articulated the *Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Programme* as a direct response to address the state of endemic poverty. The programme provides targeted cash transfers to poor and vulnerable households with the final aim of lifting them out of poverty. A total of 765,760 beneficiaries are being selected (80 beneficiaries from each political ward across the 774 Local Government Areas) with the target of 30 percent to be achieved in the first year; 50 percent in the second year and 20 percent in the third year. The programme has provided hope and succour for the old, widows, the physically challenged and the sick in villages and rural communities.

To ensure increased access to primary and secondary schools, a *Home-Grown School Feeding Programme (HGSFP)* targeted 5.5 million primary school pupils for three years. The programme is aimed at increasing enrolment and completion rates at the primary school level. It also served to create jobs directly through the recruitment of cooks) and raise demand for local agricultural produce since the programme also places emphasis on building a community value chain. The local production and manufacturing of cooking utensils is yet another added value.

The Government recognises that creating a vibrant and viable Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSME) is the only solution to creating a strong economy and getting the majority of Nigerians to have a sustainable livelihood. To meet this objective, the *Government Enterprise and Empowerment Programme (GEEP)* was created to provide financial services access to traders, market women and women cooperatives; artisans and MSMEs; youth enterprise clusters; farmers and agricultural workers. It is a three-year programme which targets 1million traders, women cooperatives and market women; 200,000MSMEs; 260,000 enterprising youths and 200,000 farmers and agricultural workers.

Similarly, the *N-Power Programme* was designed to help young Nigerians acquire and develop life-long skills to become solution providers in their communities and players in the domestic and global market. It is created for graduate youths between the ages of 18-35. Its target is to reach 500,000 youths in

three years. The programme pays a monthly stipend of N30, 000 to participating graduates. Payment is made through mobile banking which enables it to get to those in remote areas.

Sub-national Government Level Policies and Programmes for SDG1

At the sub-national level, states have been actively involved in implementing various poverty eradication programs. Some of the programme includes Conditional Cash Transfers (CCT), Youth Empowerment, Livelihood, Community Development, School subsidies/fee waivers; vocational training and public works. The various programmes are designed to empower the poor and assist them to get out of poverty in a sustainable manner.

Most states in Northern Nigeria operate and manage CCT aimed at reducing the rate at which girls dropout of school due to early marriage; specifically, during the transition from primary to secondary school. This has contributed significantly to reducing gender disparity in education, and in promoting the education of the girl-child. Some states operate a CCT for households with school-aged children.

Innovations such as the Unconditional Cash Transfer (UCT) programme provide social security allowances for the physically disabled and the elderly. In the case of people living with disability, UCT empowers them and motivates and enables them to earn a living and take up vocations that will eventually get them out of poverty.

The Home Grown School Feeding Programme covering kindergarten and primary school pupils is working effectively in some states, in most cases as a partnership arrangement between Federal and state governments. The Federal Government provides the subsidy for the programme and the state make their own investment and increase the pool of beneficiaries. Findings indicate that the programme has already resulted in an increase in school enrolment rates; retention and completion; improvements in the health of children; empowerment of cooks as well as in improvements in the local economy. From monitoring

The Government of Nigeria articulated the *Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Programme* as a direct response to address the state of endemic poverty.

Most CSOs involved in implementing programmes to end hunger in Nigeria partner with donors and government.

of the HGSP of the Federal Government conducted by JDPC in Ijebu-Ode, all schools visited noted that there has been an increase in the retention of students in the schools as the programme is helping vulnerable children who do not have access to quality food at home due to poverty, to access quality food once every weekday schools are in session. Where cooks/vendors are women, their ability to earn a living from the provision of school meals also contributes to the empowerment of women.

Finally, some states are operating the 'Volunteer Corps Scheme' for unemployed graduates desirous of operating their own business. This scheme imparts skills to graduates and enables them to access funds to commence small businesses.

Civil Society Organizations Policy Initiatives for SDG1

Most CSOs involved in implementing programmes to end hunger in Nigeria partner with donors and government.

The 'Fresh and Young Brains' Development Initiatives' (FBIN) focuses on agriculture, entrepreneurship and climate change under organisations such as Youth Farm (Yfarm) and Volunteer for Life (VFL) are examples of such projects aimed at empowering young people to be economically independent and able to generate their own income.

Angel Support Foundation is a CSO which has embarked on an aggressive programme on food security and improved nutrition in schools, working to empower women and girls at the sub-national level.

The National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and the National Poverty Eradication Council (NAPEC) work on several poverty initiatives in collaboration with the Gender Advocacy for Justice (GAJ) to empower women, youths and the physically challenged to create their own income.

In six skills acquisition centres in the

Under the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), plans are underway to use various funding frameworks to incentivize improved performance in education and increase enrolment.

FCT, Action-Aid has trained 6,000 women and youths in livelihood schemes such as *Garri* processing, with 116 grinding mills. Livestock and petty trading activities were coordinated in 50 business awareness sessions for women in seclusion and persons with disabilities.

With funding support from the Federal Ministry of Water Resources, the Women Environmental Programme (WEP) trained over 200 women and girls in Taraba, Osun, Delta, Abia, Bauchi, Plateau, and Kebbi states for skills acquisition and livelihood support programme in water facility maintenance and management. The WEP also trained women in water and sanitation-related skills such as soap and detergent making, repair of water pumps and operation of water kiosks.

The Justice, Development, and Peace Commission (JDPC) established a vocational skills acquisition centre in 2018 to train citizens, especially youths, in various skills ranging from tailoring to catering to printing, makeup artistry and many more. This has helped many youths become self-dependent and raise sufficient funds to cater for their needs.

Ensure Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education and Promote Life Long Learning Opportunities for All (SDG4)

The Overview:

Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda is Quality Education. It aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. The goal has 10 targets and 11 indicators.

Nigeria's development and progress is heavily linked to access to quality inclusive and equitable universal education for all gender groups, including those with disabilities. A programme such as the home-grown school feeding programme is very effective in enhancing school enrolment and incentivizing learning.

The Nigeria Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (NERGP) emphasizes vocational and Technical Education, Information and Communication

Technology, technical engineering and scientific programmes with the objective of ensuring that youths and people living with disabilities acquire basic skills that will be useful and applicable in the job market.

Federal Policy and Programme Drivers towards achieving SDG4 targets

The Nigerian government collaborates with state and local governments and the private sector to establish and develop 'best-in-class model' vocational and technical institutes. The target is to enroll approximately 500,000 students in technical schools by the end of the plan period. The Federal Ministry of Education has developed a Ministerial Master Plan (Education Strategic Plan) that targets the revival of new post-secondary school trade centres and technical schools. The plan also aims to upgrade school infrastructure, provide teaching aids and equipment, and also, to improve the school curriculum.

The Education Strategic Plan, titled: "Education for Change" aims to improve quality and access to education by incentivizing performance and building the capabilities of teachers. The implementation of the strategies in this plan is expected to encourage schools to design and implement standard teacher coaching programmes, comprising peer review through classroom visits, collaborative lesson planning and weekly sessions. It is envisaged that the implementation of this plan will be carried out jointly with relevant education stakeholders, in order to ensure the appropriate and adaptive setting of programme objectives, tracking of progress and performance and facilitating the effective intervention and integration of lessons learned from the intervention.

In addition to enhancing the skills of teachers and improving the quality of education, implementation of the plan also aims to increase the proportion of teachers who have the minimum teaching qualification (the National Certificate in Education - NCE). Teachers who graduate will be issued with the NCE through the National Teachers Institute (NTI).

Other key programmes of the Federal Government are investments in science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, targeted at creating a critical mass of skills for sectors needed to transform the national economy. STEM investments need to commence at primary and secondary school level, and require the overhaul and review of the ICT curriculum which comprises computer science, information technology and digital literacy. Partnerships will be cultivated with private organizations to organize innovative ICT competitions and subsidize professional qualifications for ICT graduates. The government is also prioritizing the education of girls and the *Almajiris* through the building of special schools for girls in 13 pilot states, which will include 501 classroom blocks. A total of 125 day and boarding *Almajiri* and nomadic-based education schools will be built in some northern states

of Nigeria. These schools will be equipped with modern equipment and facilitating teaching aids.

Under the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFUND), plans are underway to use various funding frameworks to incentivize improved performance in education and increase enrolment. TETFUND will be used to create incentives and encourage students in high performing institutions. New scholarship schemes will be established while existing ones will be reviewed. State and Local Governments, private sector organizations and CSOs should be encouraged to provide scholarships and create endowment funds in trade centres, technical schools, universities and post-university skills development institutions.

Enhanced Digital Skills for Youths: The OSSAP-SDGs is working with the technology giant, Google to train 125,000 youths across the country through its Digital Skills for Africa programme. The purpose of the training is to improve the digital skills of young Nigerians; as such skills are essential for the jobs of the future. The training also aims to further equip the beneficiaries with the knowledge and exposure necessary to gain decent jobs, reduce income poverty and become key contributors to Nigeria's economy. The OSSAP-SDGs plans to expand the scope of beneficiaries of this training to benefit more young Nigerians, as it will contribute to achieving SDG1 on poverty reduction, SDGs indicator 4.4 on youths and adults with information and communication skills, SDGs indicator 8.5 on reducing unemployment rate, and SDG 17 on building partnerships for the SDGs implementation.

Sub-national Government's Policy Actions for SDG4

Across various states, access to quality education at both primary and secondary school levels presents considerable challenges. The problem is even more acute and compounded for the girl-child in Northern Nigeria. The Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) has assisted states to articulate their strategic plans with a focus on increased access for early childhood education and gender parity. All the states in Nigeria implement free and compulsory basic education to boost school enrolment and ensure retention of pupils in schools.

Interventions such as the provision of more classrooms and furniture, recruitment of qualified teachers, training, and retraining of existing teachers, and provision of learning and teaching materials are carried out to boost school enrolment and retention of pupils in schools.

Many States prioritize the creation of a friendly atmosphere at the primary (basic) level that will attract parents to enroll their children in school. Where this is achieved, children learn in a relaxed environment where they build confidence and bond together with their peers. The teaching methodology concentrates on tapping and discovering children's creative talent, and they are encouraged to express themselves. The trend and the shift in vocational and technical education across the states tend to concentrate on an educational

The elimination of gender disparities in education and access to education at all levels for the girl-child features as part of the policy thrust at the sub-national level.

curriculum that provides skills and training that will be relevant to the job market. This access also extends to tertiary and university education to increase the pool of skilled and qualified graduates who can produce and deliver for the economy. Vocational education development, with an emphasis on increasing female and male enrolment remains a top priority. This also entails prioritization of ICT development and education for the girl-child to acquire ICT skills. Skills in software development, hardware repairs and computer-aided graphic design are included in the school curriculum. In addition, hiring of science and technology teachers is emphasized to increase teacher: student ratio. ICT centres, laboratories, workshops, and libraries have been built to provide support to students in skills development.

The elimination of gender disparities in education and access to education at all levels for the girl-child features as part of the policy thrust at the sub-national level. The priority here is to achieve parity between males and females in access to quality education. At the same time, facilities for those with special needs are being developed. Such facilities include computers, vocational education tools and equipment, and better-equipped libraries to improve access to quality learning. Presently, attention is also shifting to schools in rural communities to ensure equal opportunities for the poor and those at the bottom of the economic ladder.

The tertiary education curriculum embraces gender studies, human rights and skills development, subjects that encourage sensitivity and promote inclusiveness of those at the bottom of the economic pyramid. Increased advocacy for human rights (including women rights) is expected to free a significant portion of Nigeria's population from economic bondage and slavery. The overall objective is to pursue the elimination of poverty, hunger, and disease, and to empower a greater percentage of the population to participate in productive activities and value addition.

The establishment of adult training centres is intended to improve access to quality adult non-

From all indications, it is clear that without the adoption of the OGP, the implementation of the SDGs will be almost impossible.

formal education. The aim is to create awareness and achieve some level of the ability to read and write. The aim is to produce at the sub-national level, skilled workers who will meet the requirements of the work force and employers, and the economic needs of the state. Overall, there is a conscious effort to achieve gender parity in the creation of opportunities for adult women.

The provision of adequate physical infrastructure at all levels of education for several categories of persons is integral to the development of education at sub-national levels. This entails functional libraries, sanitary facilities, computers, electricity and clean drinking water to provide a conducive learning environment. The policy also embraces the provision of infrastructure for persons with special needs. Students who attend schools in rural communities' and high-density areas in the urban areas will also have access to such infrastructures.

Scholarships for tertiary education are prioritized at sub-national levels, especially for programmes in the sciences, engineering, environment, medicine and biotechnology. Several governments also pay the external examination fees for secondary school students to enhance their access to higher education. Most current development flows in the education sector are focused on rendering technical assistance for basic, primary and secondary education.

All the governments at the sub-national level prioritize teachers' training and improvement to raise the standards and quality of education. The priority is the recruitment of qualified and well-trained teachers and the training and retraining of existing teachers with a view to improving teacher-student ratios and improving the performance of students and learning outcomes. Teachers with specialized skills are recruited to handle students with special needs. The Benue State government has introduced the Mobile School on Wheels programme for the training of youths in rural communities.

Civil Society Organizations Initiatives for SDG4

Civil society organizations are collaborating with

government at national and sub-national levels to improve access and job training for the youths and girls. 'Mind The Gap' has worked with the Federal Ministry of Education to train about 2,500 youths in solar power and renewable energy. The New Life Community Care Initiative (NELCCI) works closely with Enugu State's Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) under its SDGs campaign programme to monitor public basic education institutions in rural communities for quality of education, with a focus on teaching aids and educational supplies that enhance a good learning environment. Also, Action Aid has embarked on the provision of 129 blocks of three classrooms in the Federal Capital Territory. Other facilities provided include 1,026 tables and chairs and 30 toilet facilities.

The Civil Society Action Coalition of Education for All (CSACCEFA) conducted a capacity-building workshop for 60 national education stakeholders on SDG4. Participants included CEOs, youths, and government officials from MDA's in the education sector. CSACCEFA also supported the education of children in camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). It also aims to enrol 43,665 out-of-school children in 737 centres across five northern States (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe and Yobe states).

E-Way for Development is presently running a scholarship project focused on providing quality education for women, girls and boys at the Local Government Education Authority (LGEA) Primary School at Kado-kuchi. The project includes scholarships for some girls and boys at the LGEA primary School, as well as an adult literacy Centre, and a Women's Literacy Programme.

Justice, Development and Peace Commission's activities to ensure adoption of Open Government Partnership and implementation of SDGs

The Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development (CSCSD) headed by The Justice Development and Peace Commission in Ogun State drafted a social accountability document known as "The People's Manifesto". It was launched on February 5, 2019 at the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, Abeokuta. One of the demands of the manifesto is inclusive governance and the participation of people in decision making and governance. The adoption and signing into the OGP is emphasized upon in this social contract which is built on the basis of the 2030 Agenda.

Conclusion

From all indications, it is clear that without the adoption of the OGP, the implementation of the SDGs will be almost impossible. All CSOs, NGOs, and government institutions in all the 36 states of the federation are urged to imbibe and adopt 'The People's Manifesto', as it will foster the adoption of OGP across Nigeria and enhance the implementation of the SDGs. The signing of the social accountability document will also foster multi-stakeholder partnerships between governments at all levels and the Nigerian citizens. ■

Goal 17 – Partnership: UNFPA's approach for transforming Africa and the world

Review of a unique publication on SDG 17 that promotes partnership to transform Africa and the world

AN EXCLUSIVE publication on the 17th Sustainable Development Goal, entitled “Goal 17 - Partnership: UNFPA's approach for transforming Africa and the world” was published on September 26, this year, in New York, during the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly, by the United Nations Population Fund regional office for West and Central Africa, (UNFPA WCARO).

This publication responds to the desire to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were adopted by world leaders at the historic United Nations Summit in 2015, including Goal 17: “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.”

The preface of the book is co-signed by President Mahamadou Issoufou of the Republic of Niger and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed. They noted that the



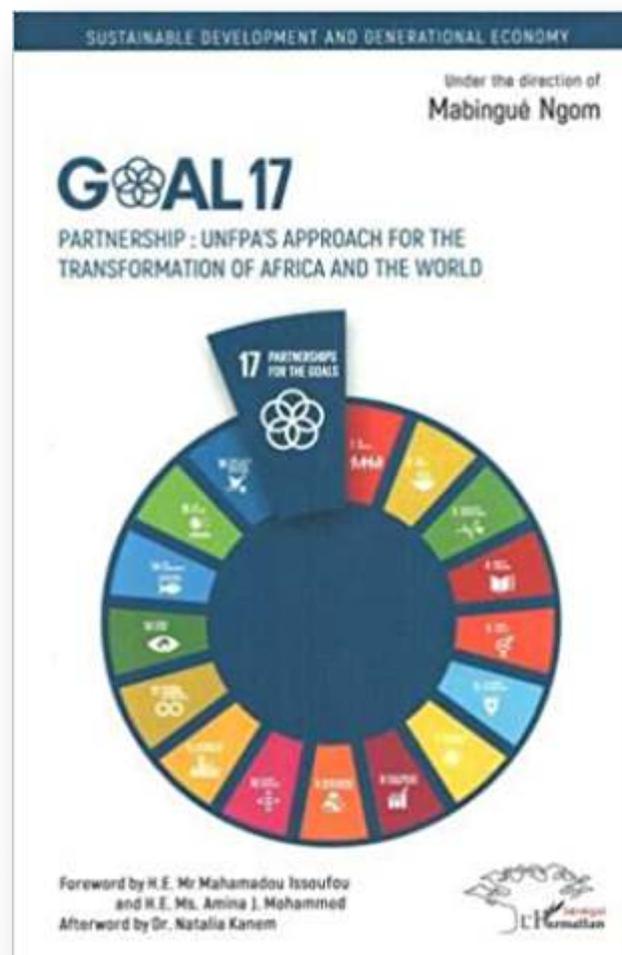
report highlights efforts by UNFPA and its many partners to implement SDG 17 in West and Central Africa. “In a region facing profound political, environmental and other pressures, we can derive both lessons and hope from this volume's insights and analysis. It is in the spirit of a shared commitment to the well-being of the region's people that we commend this report to a wide audience in and beyond the continent,” President Issoufou and Mohammed commented.

In 2015, the West and Central Africa regional office of UNFPA expanded partnerships at all levels, from community leaders to the largest UN agencies, Heads of State and Government, First Ladies, research institutions, civil society organisations and the private sector in Africa and internationally. The Sustainable Development Goal number 17, to which this book is devoted, aims to highlight the importance of partnerships in providing a global response to development issues.

The book is a true collective memory that aims to share with a wide audience the experience of the regional office for West and Central Africa in terms of partnership, and in particular the harnessing of the demographic dividend. According to UNFPA Regional Director for West and Central Africa, Mabingue Ngom, who supervised the publication, “the publication is the fruit of a collective reflection that mobilized more than 50 collaborators in some 20 countries.”

“The concept of partnership is presented in the first chapter, highlighting UNFPA's flagship projects, followed by a presentation on the key success factors that enable the organization, as it celebrates its 50th anniversary, to take stock of

The book is a true collective memory that aims to share with a wide audience the experience of the regional office for West and Central Africa in terms of partnership, and in particular the harnessing of the demographic dividend.



English version

the progress made and the progress still to be made,” Mabingue said.

In the Afterword, signed by UNFPA's Executive Director Dr. Natalia Kanem, she noted that the publication was finalized during the event “25 Hours of Dakar,” Senegal, where African youth had gathered to convey their message to world leaders ahead of the Nairobi Summit on ICPD25, scheduled for Nairobi from November 12 to 14, 2019. “The youths have expressed their vision of the Africa of tomorrow, the Africa of 2063... The Africa that these young people want; this new Africa that is within our reach, and without which we will not be able to achieve a better world, would only be an unfulfilled dream if we do not enter into partnerships.”

The book will be useful to a variety of actors, whether they are concerned about accelerating the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) or moving towards achieving the SDGs in Africa and elsewhere in the world.

Strengthening Implementation of SDGs through Global Cooperation

Title: SDG17 - Partnerships for the Goals: Strengthening Implementation through Global Cooperation (Concise Guides to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals)

Author: Monica Thiel

Publisher: Emerald Publishing

IN the book, *SDG17 - Partnerships for the Goals: Strengthening Implementation through Global Cooperation*, the author, Monica Thiel explores the impact and role of global partnership sustainable development change initiatives in the context of various types of partnerships in making progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 and improving partnership performance. She describes the concept of partnerships as an interesting and vital one for the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is mainly due to the multiple social and business relationships that shape and modify the partnership process and determine partner responsibility. Partnerships require systemic innovation within differing organizational structures and goals across sectors and industries. This makes each partnership unique and challenging - rather than a dull and repetitive process; it also, of course, makes the global implementation of the SDGs a particularly difficult process.

She contends that current partnership practices may hinder sustainable business benefits through a disregard for excellence



In the book, *SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals: Strengthening Implementation through Global Cooperation*, the author, Monica Thiel explores the impact and role of global partnership sustainable development change initiatives in the context of various types of partnerships in making progress toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17.

and a lack of deeper knowledge of how partnerships can impact corporate and public value.

She examines partnership types, trends, models, collaborative knowledge creation processes, activities, and patterns and describes how to formulate, integrate, implement, and monitor partnership performance. She discusses key areas that have been overlooked, current partnership performance trends and projections of change and transformation across sectors, and current guidelines for improving partnership performance. She addresses the definition of partnerships; cooperative value and knowledge creation and the challenges of collaborative governance performance in private-public and cross-sector partnerships; stakeholder tools and policies; examples of partnerships and the institutional factors and global partnership development challenges that contribute to success or failure; collective intelligence and regulatory practices; partnership intervention strategies through innovation, risk management, and governance mechanisms; and areas that have been overlooked in the pursuit of the objectives of sustainable development, including partnership performance and governance, the common good and cross-border partnerships among government, business, and society, and environmental, social, and governance investing.

Dwelling on Public/Private Partnerships/Role of Business, the author notes that often, partnership concerns are predominately focused on opportunistic business goals and benefits rather than the systemic partnering process itself. According to her, implementing the SDGs requires a critical examination of the public issues and the

project's context for temporary and long-term public-private partnerships.

Moreover, partnerships are often disregarded by some practitioners and scholars as an ineffective means to engage effectively with diverse stakeholders, due to the strong role and leadership of the private sector. Unsurprisingly, business is often viewed as a mechanism which provides higher efficiency than the public sector and fosters corporate and industry best practices for project success. This may be a consequence of blurred sectors and the significant use of business practices and tools for improving public performance.

The author submits that improving public-private partnership performance will require governments to take a key role in leading and governing the project resources in the partnership, while the private sector delivers the services.

Obviously, the book will challenge and broaden student and practitioners' partnership knowledge; and inspire them to examine various partnership types, strategies, trends, models, collaborative knowledge creation processes, activities and patterns.

About the Author

Monica Thiel, PhD, is Professor at the University of International Business & Economics in Beijing, China. She is also a Business and Government Strategy Consultant, an Editorial Board Member for *Frontiers' Journal Organizational Psychology* and *The International Journal of Innovation and Sustainable Development*, and a co-editor and author of books on corporate and government responsibility, and sustainable development.

Nigeria steps up efforts on new National Broadband Plan

THE Nigerian government recently inaugurated a committee to develop a new National Broadband Plan 2020-2025, to help reposition the country for a digital economy in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This followed the expiration of the previous National Broadband Plan in 2018.

The committee is co-chaired by the Chief Executive Officer, MainOne, Funke Opeke, and the former Executive Commissioner in the Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC), Bashir Gwandu.

Nigeria is said to have 37 per cent broadband penetration at present. Minister of Communications and Digital Economy, Isa Pantami, admitted that Nigeria has a problem of broadband penetration.

He noted that the digital economy currently valued at \$11.5trillion is strategically dominating the world's financial system, and makeup approximately 16 per cent of the global economy, according to Oxford economy.

Quoting the World Economic Forum, the minister observed that by 2022, about 60 per cent of the world economy would be digitalized, while by 2030; almost 85 per cent would be at digital.

He recalled that President Muhammadu Buhari recently launched a digital economy policy for Nigeria, which has eight pillars, including developmental regulation, digital literacy and skills, solid infrastructure, service infrastructure, digital services development and promotion, soft infrastructure, digital society and emerging technologies, and indigenous content. He said: "This committee that converges here is going to deliberate on one pillar that is very strategic among the eight, and at the same time, the success of the remaining seven depends on the success of this one. Solid infrastructure accommodates broadband and data centre, this is key because all other pillars rely on this very important one, and I think the work of the committee is going to address significantly one of the most important pillars. This will go a long way in supporting the National Digital Economy policy and strategy for the government of Nigeria. All the states and local government also have a role to play to make it very successful."

The Executive Vice Chairman of NCC, Prof Umar



Prof Umar Danbatta

Danbatta, observed that the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), recognized that in the 21st Century, broadband infrastructure is basic, and will ensure that people around the world have access to equitable and affordable broadband wherever they are and whatever the circumstances they are in.

Danbatta noted that broadband has the ability to deliver healthcare, best quality education even to generations unborn, the ability to streamline transportation, meet up with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the ability to transform the economy into a digital one.

The Chairperson of the Committee, Opeke, said the target is to achieve at least 65-70 per cent broadband penetration across Nigeria by 2025. She said broadband is critical, and Nigeria cannot be left behind, while Nigerians in the rural areas should be at the centre of the new broadband plan, which will help create jobs.

'SDGs addressing challenges posed by climate change'

THE Vice Chancellor of Igbinedion University, Okada (IUO), Prof. Lawrence Ezemonye, has called for new thinking and policy re-engineering in Nigeria's quest to address climate change.

According to him, the current perplexities in the nation's ecological matrices demand new thinking, policy re-engineering and legal audacity for effective inter-relations.

Ezemonye, who spoke during the maiden lecture of the institution's Centre for Climate Change and SDGs with the topic, "Global Transformation, Emergencies, Dilemma and Decisions", stated that global warming was a global issue with devastating impacts that affect ecological, economic, socio-political and environmental perturbations.

He stressed the need for a critical exposition that charts a course to change the narrative on the menace's resilience, vulnerability and adaption, with SDGs providing the panacea. "The Nigerian environment is characterized by a combination of natural features that makes it highly fragile and uniquely susceptible to emerging environmental perturbations," he said.



The guest lecturer and professor of Sustainable Development at the European Centre for Peace, United Nations University of Peace, Belgrade, Serbia, Richard Michael Pagett, said the United Nations-sanctioned Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were to end poverty of all forms globally by 2030, particularly terminating hunger, achieving food security and improving nutrition to promote enduring agriculture.

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Nigeria requires \$55bn annually to fund the SDGs, says OSSAP -SDGs

THE Nigerian government says the amount required annually to fund the 17 Sustainable Development Goals is \$55billion.

It disclosed this in Abuja through the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP -SDGs).

The SDGs are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. The goals address the global challenges faced by humans, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.

According to the United Nations, the goals interconnect, adding that in order to leave no one behind, it is important that countries of the world achieve each goal and target by 2030.

The Senior Technical Adviser to the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals, Bala Yunusa, stated that \$55bn was needed annually to sufficiently fund the SDGs.

He disclosed this when a delegation from the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre led by the Programme Manager, Kolawale Banwo, paid a courtesy visit to the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals, Mrs. Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire in Abuja.

Yunusa urged CISLAC to be part of the civil society advocacy group on SDGs, which is a multi-stakeholder engagement group, in order to enable it to push CISLAC's cause forward.

On her part, Orelope-Adefulire, who was represented by the Secretary of Programme, Hassan Suleiman, said her office would support CISLAC in the move towards the cleanup of Ogoniland.

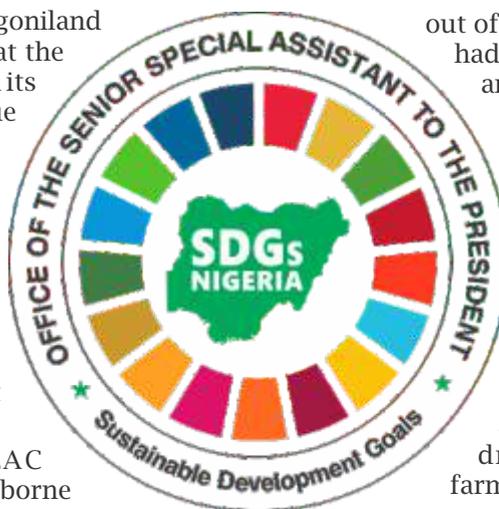
She said the cleanup of Ogoniland was an issue of concern and that the government was not relenting in its efforts to ensure that the issue was addressed head-on.

Orelope-Adefulire urged CISLAC to interface with relevant ministries and agencies like health, budget office, petroleum as well as the Ministry of Finance to add more impetus in their bid to tackle water pollution as a result of oil spillage in the Niger Delta.

The leader of the CISLAC delegation said their visit was borne



Mrs. Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire



out of the concern in Ogoniland which had been devastated by oil spillage and to seek for collaboration with OSSAP -SDGs to assist in fast-tracking the cleanup of the area.

Banwo noted that over time, the people of Ogoniland had faced water pollution occasioned by the oil exploration by oil companies in the Niger Delta, adding that this had adversely affected aquatic animals, contaminated drinking water and rendered farmlands unfit for agriculture.

How adoption of innovation, technology can accelerate actualization of SDGs

THE Nigerian government has been advised to continue to adopt innovation and embrace technology to accelerate actualization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to fast-track development. The Director, United Nations Information Centre (UNIC), Ronald Kayanja, gave the advice at the Celebrating The Unseen (CTU) Awards 2019, organized by the Moral Re-Armament (MRA)/Initiatives of Change Nigeria (IOFC), in Lagos.

While speaking on the theme, “Change: Action and Consistency, the Place of Innovation and the Sustainable Development Goals,” Kayanja, who was represented by the National Information Officer, UNIC, Dr. Oluseyi Soremekun, said that innovation and technology are central to achieving the 17 SDGs. He said to adapt to the growing complexity of the 21st century, the United Nations system will continue to innovate itself to provide dynamic solutions.

He added that partnership across sectors was important to accelerate progress on the most pressing issues.

In his keynote at the event, former Lagos State Commissioner for Agriculture, Dr. Charles Aderemi Akitoye, critically examined the country's match toward development and submitted that despite its numerous resources, Nigeria has failed to rise to its full potential as a leader on the continent.

However, he said rather than blame the leaders alone for the situation, the followers must be tasked to also take on the challenge of reforming the country. “What we

need to do is reorientate this nation. At the moment, we are wasting good resources,” he said. He believes that for Nigeria to make the desired progress, her citizens must know their rights and privileges.

While calling on the youth to stand up to fight for change and take on the gauntlet, he challenged the media to lead the change by always telling the truth.

Speaking on, “The Place of Women in Leadership and Governance,” the UN Women Country Representative for Nigeria and ECOWAS, Comfort Lamprey, said paving the way for more women in the political, business and civic arenas is an investment in more than just, equitable and peaceful societies. “Studies shows that women in positions of authority tend to resolve national crises without resorting to violence; advocate for social issues that benefit all, and allocate budgets to health and education,” she said.

Lamprey said that many factors contributed to Nigeria's poor track record on gender equality among which are lack of political will, weak institutions, and lack of an enabling legal framework for promoting it in the political arena. She said for progress to be attained, there must be improvement in legal, cultural, institutional and social barriers.

The President of CTU, Felicia Odetoyinbo, said the event was to identify and celebrate quiet performers in the society, who had distinguished themselves in public and private sectors. “This is the narratives that should be told in our society. We have had cleaners. Messengers, drivers that found huge sums of money and gladly returned same to the authorities and were returned to the rightful owners,” she said.

At the event, four non-governmental organizations, namely, My Niche Africa, Irobi Programme Initiative, Second Chance Care foundation, Sosia Renewable Energies, and two individuals, Showunmi Michael Thompson, a selfless volunteer teacher, and Julius Ade Iguve won the 2019 CTU awards.

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People First: The Primacy of People in the Digital Age

The Accenture Technology Vision 2016 identifies five technology trends fueled by the *people first* principle and that are essential to business success in the digital economy.

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- Platform Economy
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