
Looking Beyond SDGS and The Challenge of Excrutiating Poverty in Africa: The Case for A New Global Development Framework

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ABSTRACT: *The study critically examines African excruciating poverty situation and the challenge of a new global development framework in view of the apparent failures of SDGs agenda in Africa and other developing countries. It articulates alternative approach towards legitimate global development governance. It concludes by proposing a new Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) to address core-development challenge in international context. The study also identifies the institutional framework, functions and approaches to the new Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) agenda.*

KEYWORDS: SDGS, excruciating poverty, Africa, global development framework

INTRODUCTION

The global governance infrastructure has experimented various governance system with little success over a long period of time. The purpose is to ensure the global world exists in an atmosphere of peaceful co-existence, fair play, security justice, economic prosperity, improved world benefits and reduced poverty! The initiative started in 1945 after the 1st world war with the attendant devastations. There were needs to urgently rebuild, reconstruct, rehabilitate and restore global hope. The United Nation (UN) was founded as a leading global governance institution to bring together diverse actors to coordinate collective action at the level of planetary world! After 1945 initiative, there are other efforts such as World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Trade Organization (WTO).

With more awareness on the growing world poverty which is clearly delineated along the lines of global south and global north, there was the need to be more creative in global governance mechanism. One of the most remarkable steps in this direction is the institution of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs was a good reminder to every nations of the world to take certain development indices very seriously in the collective march towards global

development and growth. With the expiration of MDGs in the year 2000, there is Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The SDGs has a broader perspective in the way it points to specific issues that needed to be addressed by every nations of the world; private sector; citizens for the entire world to be on growth pedestal.

As good as all these efforts are, the global governance architecture remains a theater of insecurity, poverty, widening gap between rich and poor nations; global injustices and economic problem. Apart from creating awareness, all the governance initiatives have not succeeded in advancing world benefits as originally envisaged.

The paper examines the SDGs as a global development agenda against the backdrops of its promises and eventual inability to address critical global development issues such as justice, security, poverty and equitable quality of life

SDGs and African Excruciating Poverty

At the start of SDGs, there were rays of hope in Africa. African leaders, development practitioners and stakeholders experienced a sign of relief. This is against the backdrops of the ineffectual Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Aside from merely popularizing development as a lexicon, the anticipated effects of MDGs were not fulfilled of course, the faults is not that MDGs is not a good agenda, but that the internal and external development environment acts as disincentive to meaningful development innovations. The challenge faced by MDGs is that it is routed in external ideological bias such that the receiving African development, configurations are already disfavored in the entire development template. It is better imagine the degree of hopes that the forthcoming SDGs will not subjected to the varies of ideological praxis.

As if the Africans were proved wrong, the SDGs have not been able to fulfill the much anticipated development growth. In 2022, we have just eight years to the expirations of SDGS. We recognise the fact that some critical development problems bestride the entire world with grave negative impacts on development calculations. There was global economic recession ; the COVID-19 pandemic and wars particularly the Ukrainian-Russian War. All these hiccups notwithstanding, a critical assessment of SDGs in Africa shows clearly that the agenda cannot and it is not capable of instilling any serious development due to structural distortion in global development calculation. Using the templates provided by Prof Adeyeye for assessing the performances of MDGs, we assess the ongoing SDGs as follows:

FICTION SDGS (GOALS AND TARGETS)	FACTS IN AFRICA IN 2022
Goal 1: No Poverty	There is increasing poverty in Africa. The poverty index is staggering. In 2019, 478 million people lived in extreme poverty. In 2021, the number has jumped to 490million. All these were without pandemic.
Goal 2: Zero Hunger	The increased hunger in Africa is of the same magnitude with increasing poverty.
Goal 3: Good Health and Well Being	The health infrastructure and support system in Africa is abysmally poor. It is becoming worse with each passing day.

Goal 4: Quality Education	Educational quality has not increase. It is also becoming worse such that there are fears whether African graduates will be competitive in future.
Goal 5: Gender Equality	Most institutional changes introduced to promote and institute gender quality in Africa has not attain desired results due to lack of political will by the political class.
Goal 6: Clean Water and Environment	Africa vast population still depends on sources of water that is not clean and sustainable.
Goal 7: Affordable Energy	There is over dependence on fossil fuel in Africa. Other alternative is basically not affordable.
Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	There is massive unemployment in Africa not to talk of decent work. In Nigeria for instance, it has reached 33.28 percent in 2020 unemployment is an anathema to Economic growth.
Goal 9: industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	There is a wild increase in infrastructure with rail and tech industry. However, it is not as significant as one had expected.
Goal 10: Reduced Inequality	The gap between the rich and poor has become wider despite recent attempt, the continent remains afflicted with entrenched poverty and alarmingly high and rising inequality.
Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities	Africa score low in this regard aside from the awareness created by SDGs.
Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production	The consumption of Africa are still without thought. Ideal of Production does not take into account implication for sustainability.
Goal 13: Climate Action	There is substantial awareness on climate change. Some conscious efforts are being made to take into account climate change related consideration.
Goal 14: Life Below Water	ADGS has created awareness that the ocean is fundamental to our very existence. This has to extent influence the way Africa related.
Goal 15: Life on Land	Life on land in Africa is generally not immune from forest degradation, loss of habitat for all species, increase in soil erosion, and land degradation, higher emission of carbon into the atmosphere.
Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Across Africa, there are strong personalities instead of strong institution are being developed. This has critical implications for justice and peace.
Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals	It is on record that Africans' endeavor to build partnerships with relevant organizations towards SDGS goal attainment. The challenge however is how these partnerships can be turned to true achievement.

The World in Dire Need of a New Global Development Agenda

Given the midterm reviews and apparent failure of SDGs development agenda with the African experience, it is important that we come up with alternative agenda. The new agenda should not be just any agenda for that matter, rather it must be an agenda that dynamic enough to recognize the problem of the world and master the required does of legitimacy and other enforcement mechanism.

The ongoing global economic crisis has shown that poverty, unemployment and other negative development indicators of third world countries are signs that they are weak, susceptible and are clearly immune to the previous MGDs and the current SDGs global development calculations

What we had before now are pockets of global governance without global government and that is the reason why past efforts have not succeeded beyond raising issues.

We need a completely new development understanding that we are all in a global world in which everyone is a global citizen. We need to put into front banner as a matter of urgency, those commonness in our humanity in terms of education, basic health, food security, democracy, environment etc. the envisaged new global development mass of critical standards on global commonness and develop compliance mechanism that would force all stakeholders to pay their agenda needs, the character of global government.

The global landscape therefore in need of a new sustainable governance structure that is effective. The world is very much in need of an entirely development paradigm far beyond ideological consternation. It really needs a new governance architecture that truly represents the entire globe in orientation and not the erstwhile month piece of sectional ideological underpinning

A Case for Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO)

It is certain that the SDGs' global agenda has failed woefully. It has actually gone the way of other previous agendas that were not properly rooted in terms of legitimate capacity for instigating proactive development facilitations¹¹. From the African perspective, the SDGs' is a cheer waste of time and resources. It has made African continent worse off. It is a seemingly unnecessary diversion that merely succeeded in raising false hope. Some African development experts see SDGs as another example of global guff. Despite the high sounding nature of SDGs and its attention catching goals, the African continent is still riddled with poverty, preventable diseases, high maternal mortality, illiteracy, lack of decent housing, water and educational infrastructure even at the most basic level!¹².

The position of this paper is very unambiguous! There is urgent need to establish a Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO). The proposed Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) should be an exclusive development-oriented mechanism whose mandate is to maximize the use of global development paradigm in order to plan, organize, prosecute and regulate global sustainable development activities. Unlike the presently ineffective SDGs agenda and the lack of effective institutional legitimacy to push critical global decisions the proposed Global Development Regulatory Organization should muster all the required legitimacy and be adequately positioned as the legitimate institution for promoting and enforcing global development agenda. The proposed (GDRO) would also be above the previous stop-gap measures of other development initiatives and institutions such as World Food Program, World Health Program e.t.c. Structurally speaking, the envisaged Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) should be established as a United Nations organ that develop minimum sustainable development benchmarks for all countries of the world, design appropriate checklists for development practices and acquire enough United nation legitimacy to instigate compliance through sanctions, force or both. It is by so doing that minimum compliance to development practices can be achieved by principal stakeholders. It is a better, approach than previous agenda that focuses on grandeur proposition but no method ensuring compliance¹⁴.

The envisaged Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) would operate by critically and dispassionately addressing global development issues and other globally sustainable development benchmarks. Its mandate would include making an informed analysis of common global sustainable development issues.

Its duties would also include the development of global consensus on key sustainable development parameters such as democracy, anti-corruption, human rights, access to basic education, health, housing, clean environment, and security. Its mandate should also include the design of appropriate checklists, and action plans for the benefit of all countries. The Global Development Regulating Organization (GDRs) should develop, nurture and sustain machinery for ensuring compliance with minimum global sustainable development benchmark.

As a pro-active global development agency, the internal organogram of Global Development Regulatory Organization should consist of a Secretariat for Global Sustainable Development (SFGSD); Sustainable Development Regulatory and Compliance Department (DFISD) Global Development Planning, Research and Statistics Department (GDPRSD); Sustainable Development Regulatory and Compliance Department (SDRCD) and the Department for International Sustainable Development (DFISD). The Secretariat for Global Sustainable Development (SFGSD) is to co-ordinate all global stakeholders in the march towards sustainable development. It is also the duty of (SFGSD) to establish a broad based consensus across stakeholders such as the United Nation, all countries of the World, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Private business sectors and other relevant stakeholders. The Secretariat for Global Sustainable Development (SFGSD) is expected to aggregate informed inputs from stakeholders and ensure that each of the stakeholders' buy into the global sustainable agenda. The secretariat is expected to secure the necessary moral and material support of all the stakeholders as far as sustainable development agenda is concerned. By so doing the envisaged Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) would have avoided the pitfall of past global development agenda that do not muster enough legitimacy.

The responsibility of (GDPRSD) is to develop, collate and maintain baseline data on minimum global issues; design sustainable development index (SDI) identify and reconcile all areas of development divergences across the world and build non-contestable synthesis and other development benchmarks that are suitable for appropriate global compliance.

The Sustainable Development Regulatory and Compliance Department (SDRCD) is to ensure compliance with minimum global development index. It is the duty of this department to ensure that nations across the globe comply with basic rules regarding issues such as human rights, anti-corruption, democracy, access to basic health, education, clean environment and security. It is the duty of (SDRCD) to muster necessary capacity to enforce compliance through sanction, force or both as witnessed in the case of UN/NATO activity in Libya when it became obvious that Muammar Gaddafi was bent on genocide that threatened not only the citizens of Libya but humanity in general.

The Department for International Sustainable Development (DFSD) within the proposed Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) should vigorously pursue sustainable development capacity-building and other compliance skills among the nations of the world. It is the duty of the department to propagate the ideals of global citizenship, highlight key features that make every citizen a global human being beyond national frontiers and teach ethics for sustainable development so that nations and citizens across the globe can understand, appreciate and internalize the imperatives of sustainable development practices.

There may be some initial fears as to the legal and other bureaucratic bottlenecks in order to establish the Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO). These fears are legitimate due to the protocols that are likely to be faced in the establishment of a pro-active international development agency which require strong legitimacy and enormous legal capacity to exert global governance in international development management sphere.

The take off point is for all the stakeholders to be fully convinced that the past and present global development agendas including SDGs have never been truly effective. They are mere stop-gap measures. Often times their objectives are too narrow. Past global development agenda are too thinly spread on the ground. Their goals neglect key issues and their outcomes immeasurable while some of the agendas have worked at cross purpose. They did not have the capacity to capture emerging issues beyond their original narrow mandate. Quite more importantly, they often lacked appropriate governance mechanism, the required legitimacy and support to drive global development management in a sustainable manner.

We need to fully convince ourselves that we need a strong, virile and legitimate agency with the full character of global governance mechanism to consciously plan, organize, execute, regulate and enforce the practice of sustainable development programs across the globe. Apart from the fact the envisaged Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) would target key issues, it is also expected to be all-encompassing in the manners it capture diverse problems across all human development exigencies in the areas of poverty, education, health, environment, security and other basic human development infrastructures.

When we are fully convinced about the above facts, the next step is for all development stakeholders to vigorously build up the required International support. Building up international support should not be difficult, as there is no nation that is totally immured to the problems of poverty, human security, health, education housing and infrastructural challenges. The recent global economic crisis that is still ravaging like a wild fire has shown very clearly that no nation is ubiquitous and totally immune thereby justifying the need for a global platform like the Global Development Regulatory Organization whose responsibility is to anticipate, prepare and ensure that every nation of the world maintain minimum sustainable development standards.

What are the advantages of the proposed Global Development Regulatory Organizations (GDRO). First, the GDRO is a conscious pre-emptive effort at promoting sustainable development in global context rather than the reactive fire-brigade approach of the previous efforts.

Secondly, the proposed (GDRO) is suppose to be based on internationally agreed framework while its target goals shall reflect only the universally shared values in the areas of sustainable development across human security, environment, basic education, health, housing and social infrastructures that cut across national frontiers.

Thirdly, while the goals of previous efforts at global development agenda are either too narrow like the Copenhagen Declaration or too unwieldy like the MGDs; the GDRO will focus on key sustainability issues that are firmly streamlined based on universally agreed frameworks for sustainable development.

Fourthly, the GDRO will make use of core-development practitioners across board to consciously plan and determine global sustainability Index (GSI); the design of feasible action-plans; prepare performance measurements and monitoring templates including compliance and enforcements procedures. In that wise, the GDRO would have avoided the problems of effective development impact measurements that has plagued past efforts particularly SDGs.

Fifthly, the Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) promises to be an effective agenda capable of maintaining global development equilibrium because of its capacity for maintain compliance. The deployment of minimal force and outright global sanctions by GDRO to any erring nations who fails to initiate and prosecute agreed development goals is an effective means of ensuring that development stakeholders stay on course instead of laize-faize method of the past development agenda.

Finally, the cardinal objectives of Global Development Regulatory Organization (GDRO) is to institute a global development management governance that is truly concerned with raising the bar of global sustainable development through admixture of mutual inclusivity, development of benchmarks for global development practices, build the capacity of stakeholders for effective global development operations, and ensure development compliance through proper monitoring and enforcement of development program implementations.

CONCLUSION

We should not pretend about it! The global development configuration requires as a matter of imperatives, certain form of global governance.

There can never be any effective global governance without a corresponding measure of global government. What we have had so far with initiatives like the SDGs were bold attempts at global governance. We have recorded little success in the previous attempt at global governance as exemplified in African encounter with MDG and ongoing SDG's global development agendum. The clear lesson from this is that any post-SDG or future global development agenda at global governance must endeavour to acquire the character of global government in term of legitimacy and enforceability of rules through appropriate sanctions for it to achieve the desired success.

We have a recent example in Libya in the past and recently in Russia in our hand when it became apparent from the perspectives of global sustainable development within the context of the values of human rights, right to freedom of expression and democratic rights, when Muammar Gaddafi and Putin were being made to respect cherished values of right to self-determination by NATO. The whole world became happy for it. We truly need a global institution that is legitimate. The institution must have the capacity to ensure that global institutions comply with minimum development standards in a unipolar world where everyone has become a global citizen.

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