

**STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SECTOR
INSTITUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA**

PRESENTATION

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Outline

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- Introduction
- Concepts: development, sustainability, sustainable development
- Institutions for sustainable development
- Interventions for strengthening public sector institutions for sustainable development.
- Conclusion

CONCEPTS

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1. THE CONCEPT OF DEVELOPMENT

- Development is defined as ‘an evolutionary process in which the human capacity increases in terms of initiating new structures, coping with problems, adapting to continuous change, and striving purposefully and creatively to attain new goals (Du Pisani, 2006).

- Development is a social condition within a nation, in which the needs of its population are satisfied by the rational and sustainable use of natural resources and systems (Reyes, 2001)
- Development is a multidimensional process that involves major changes in social structures, attitudes, and institutions, as well as economic growth, reduction of inequality, and eradication of absolute poverty (Todaro and Smith, 2006) .

2. SUSTAINABILITY

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- Sustainability is the capacity to maintain some entity, outcome or process over time (Basiago, 1999).
- The concept connotes improving and sustaining a healthy economic, ecological and social system for human development.
- Sustainability is the efficient and equitable distribution of resources intra-generationally and inter-generationally with the operation of socio-economic activities within the confines of a finite ecosystem (Stoddart, 2011).

3. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (SD)

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- SD may be defined as development that meets the needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Schaefer & Crane, 2005).
- The idea of sustainable development assumes that there is interdependence between economic development of societies and the environmental quality. It also states that there exists a significant correlation between future economic growth and preserving the environment in the best possible condition for next generations.

- Sustainable Development is an approach to development which uses resources in a way that allows them (the resources) to continue to exist for others (Mohieldin, 2017).
- SD can be related to organizing principle for meeting human development goals while at the same time sustaining the ability of natural systems to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend (Evers 2017) .

Sustainable development, a historical perspective

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- SD as a concept, derives from economics as a discipline.
- The discussion regarding whether the capacity of the Earth's limited natural resources would be able to continually support the existence of the increasing human population gained prominence with the Malthusian population theory in the early 1800s (Dixon and Fallon, 1989).

- Malthus postulated that human population tended to grow in a geometric progression, while subsistence could grow in only an arithmetic progression, and for that matter, population growth was likely to outstrip the capacity of the natural resources to support the needs of the increasing population.
- Therefore, if measures were not taken to check the rapid population growth rate, exhaustion or depletion of natural resources would occur, resulting in misery for humans (Eblen & Eblen, 1994).

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE ENVIRONMENT, ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

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- The best choices are likely to remain those that meet the needs of society and are environmentally and economically viable, economically and socially equitable as well as socially and environmentally bearable.
- This leads to three interconnected spheres or domains of sustainability that describe the relationships among the environmental, economic, and social aspects of SD.

- Everything man does or plans to do on earth has implications for the environment, economy or society and for that matter the continued existence and wellbeing of the human race.
- When the concepts contained in the three spheres of sustainability are applied well to real world situations, everybody wins because
 - natural resources are preserved,
 - the environment is protected,
 - the economy booms and is resilient, social life is good because there is peace and respect for human rights (DESA-UN, 2018).



□ Source: Wanamker, 2018

PILLARS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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- SD emphasises a positive transformation trajectory anchored essentially on social, economic and environmental factors (Taylor (2016),.
- The three main issues of sustainable development are:
 - ▣ economic growth,
 - ▣ environmental protection and
 - ▣ social equality(Taylor, 2016)

Pillar	Explanation
1. Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A system of production that satisfies present consumption levels without compromising future needs• It was believed that economic growth would be accompanied by the technological advancement to replenish natural resources destroyed in the production process (Cooper & Vargas, 2004).• It has been realised that natural resources are not infinite; besides not all of them can be replenished or are renewable.
2. Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social sustainability encompasses notions of equity, empowerment, accessibility, participation, cultural identity and institutional stability• Concept implies that people matter since development is about people.• Basically, social sustainability connotes a system of social organization that alleviates poverty.• “social sustainability” relates to the nexus between social conditions such as poverty and between social conditions such as poverty and environmental destruction.

Pillar	Explanation
3. Environmental Pillar	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• It is about the natural environment and how it remains productive and resilient to support human life. Sustainability relates to ecosystem integrity and carrying capacity of natural environment (Brodhag & Talier. 2006).• It is about the natural environment and how it remains productive and resilient to support integrity and carrying capacity of natural environment (Brodhag & Taliere, 2006).

INSTITUTIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

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- A Report by United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (Undesa, 2020) entitled “A Compendium of National Institutional Arrangements for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” provides insights based on country reports on institutional support for implementing 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.
- The Report is based around nine (9) rubrics that I seek to highlight.

1. National strategies and plans

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- Most countries have incorporated implementation of SDGs as part of their national development plans.
- In other countries new national strategies for implementation of SDGs have been developed.

2. High-level institutional arrangements for SDG implementation

- Whole of Government Approach (WOGA) used in implementation of the SDGs.

3. Engagement of local authorities in SDG implementation

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- Many countries in Africa have organized the implementation of the SDGs around existing local government structures.

4. Parliamentary engagement around the SDGs

- Parliaments provide oversight and allocate resources.
- They are expected to provide enabling legislation to support implementation of SDGs and oversight implementation.

5. Engaging and equipping public servants

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- The Undesa Report citing National Voluntary Reviews (NVRs) notes that this approach has not been used by many governments.

6. Civil society and private sector engagement in **SDG** implementation

- It is recognized that it is necessary to move to a whole-of-society approach in order to give momentum to implementation of the SDGs.

7. Monitoring and review of the SDGs

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- Countries have identified national targets and indicators for implementation of SDGs
- This approach provides clear mechanism for tracking implementation of SDGs

8. Engaging supreme audit institutions on SDGs

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- Independent oversight bodies that are supreme audit institutions (SAIs) can play a role in the follow on implementation of SDGs.
- Audit of government preparedness and performance thereof

9. Budget processes and the SDGs

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- Needs assessment for implementation of SDGs must be undertaken to enable governments make budgetary provisions.

INTERVENTIONS REQUIRED TO STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONS THAT SUPPORT SD

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- Oversight institutions
 - ▣ Enabling Legislative and Policy frameworks at both national and local government levels
 - ▣ Environment audits
- Capacity development and the role of Management Development institutions
 - ▣ Enable public sector leadership to effectively engage using the whole of Government Approach (WOGA) or Whole of Society Approach (WOSA)
 - ▣ Enable non-state actors to effectively engage government

- Public awareness of SDGs and the role of individuals in sustainable development
- Institutionalization of engagement of non-state actors.
- Public Service role:
 - ▣ to be enhanced through structures for implementing sustainable development programmes
 - ▣ Build facilitative capacity
- Domestication implementation of SDGs through the national budgetary processes

CONCLUSION

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- Public Sector institutions are key to sustainable development in Africa
- There is therefore need to provide legislative /policy framework to spell out roles for these institutions in promoting sustainable development
- Involvement of the whole of society in matters sustainable development is critical

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