

Delivering Prosperity to the people through our voice and action for sustainable development

Mr. Henry Ekwuruke, Executive Director of the Development Generation Africa International (DGAI) participated in the historic event, where more than 150 world leaders gathered at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 25 September, 2015 to adopt the new and ambitious development blueprint known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This momentous agenda will serve as a launch pad for global action to promote shared prosperity and well-being for all over the next 15 years. The new SDGs contains - 17 goals and 169 targets. These goals, opined the United Nations Secretary – General Ban Ki-moon, are “a promise from our leaders.” and because the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are in sync with Nigeria's priorities as we believe the newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) could transform the nation and set us on the path to sustainable peace and prosperity.

“We want to change our world, noted German Chancellor Angela Merkel, and we can” “Take your passion and compassion – and let's make the global goals a global reality,” urged the UN Secretary-General, as he further urged us to: “hold our leaders to them. Demand that they deliver.” The SDGs aim to end poverty, hunger and inequality, tackle climate change, and build resilient infrastructures and peace – all to be achieved between now and 2030. Effectively taking over from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). “You voted for change and now change has come said, President Buhari of Nigeria.

In particular, efforts will be deployed and redoubled to reduce maternal mortality to below 70 per 100,000 live births, and end HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other tropical diseases; to ensure quality education and gender equality; achieve universal access to safe (clean) drinking water and energy for all; address climate change; and achieve at least a 7% global economic growth, reduction in conflicts, among other major goals. Africa also has an Agenda 2063 of its own!

“Given that most of the SDGs and their targets align with Nigeria's priorities, said Development Generation Africa International (DGAI), Chief Administrative Officer Mr. Eluwa Austin, the nation under President Buhari, may well be on the brink of a massive transformation.”

Agenda 2063 and the SDGs are linked and clear: “We want a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development,” specifically an annual growth rate of at least 7% (the same as the SDGs target), a healthy and nourished citizens, and a three-fold increase in food and agriculture. Under aspiration 6, Africa hopes to achieve development, “relying particularly on the potential of women and youth.”

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) boss, Mr. Carlos Lopes says that “the both agendas converge and are linked. He further opined that Africa will have their own agenda and establish dialogue with the universal agenda, stating that “African countries creating development plans on the basis of Agenda 2063 may decide to infuse SDG-related activities in those plans.” He however warned that African countries must generate internal revenue and not rely too heavily on donor funds to achieve sustainable development and Agenda 2063.

Earlier in New York, the Roman Catholic Pontif, Pope Francis at the United Nations General Assembly 70th Session, speaking to heads of states and other dignitaries had warned: “a selfish and boundless thirst for power and material prosperity leads both to the misuse of available natural resources and to the exclusion of the weak and the disadvantaged.” The SDGs promise to “leave no one behind.”

Nigeria's Minister of Environment, Amina Mohammed who was former United Nations Special Adviser on Post-2015 Planning (Agenda 2030) hopes that the “SDGs, just like the MDGs will galvanize the continent (Nigeria) into taking action to achieve set goals. Specific indicators for the SDGs is due to be released this March 2016, which will help to measure progress that each country makes to achieve set targets.”

Development Generation Africa International is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council since 2015, a member of the Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa (PCHPA), Action 2015 and Action2030, and the Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNGO), we promote peace, women rights and social dialogue for the achievement of sustainable development. We are the Torch-bearers of sustainable development goals and its local voices, we want to implement and monitor it, to join in delivering prosperity to our people and planet! We are fueling the future @thedgai