Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: 
Africa’s Challenges and PAID’s Response

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Abstract
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been adopted by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that expired in 2015. Like the MDGs, the SDGs seek to fight against poverty and hunger, promote human rights, and empower all in the society especially women and girls. To support the achievement of the SDGs by African countries, the International Association, Pan African Institute for Development (PAID), during its 47th Governing Council Meeting held in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on the 16th – 17th of December 2015 discussed “Africa’s development challenges and PAID’s response”. The Meeting notes that Africa’s development challenges are numerous and multi-faceted. Hence, timely achievement of the SDGs will require an integrated multi-stakeholder approach. This paper reviews the progression from the MDGs to the SDGs, particularly key weaknesses of the MDGs that have been strengthened in the SDGs agenda, and makes proposals for enriching the SDGs further with PAID’s guiding principle of concerted, decent and sustainable development. The paper further discusses how PAID can support implementation of the SDGs agenda through a variety of training activities, research and development programs, and consultancy/support services.

Keywords: SDGs, MDGs, PAID, social economy, sustainable development, development challenges, climate change.

Introduction
On 25 September 2015, the UN General Assembly launched the New Development Agenda for all countries under the theme: “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. The New Development Agenda has 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. The SDGs replace the eight MDGs that were launched in 2000 for a 15 year period (2000 – 2015). The SDGs agenda (2016 – 2030) builds upon the outcome document of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20 Conference). The Conference adopted the Brundland’s definition of sustainable development, and integrated the UN’s three economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development around the themes of people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership (United Nations, 2013).

Like the MDGs, the fight against poverty and hunger, promotion of human rights for all, and empowerment of women and girls are paramount to achieving the SDGs. This is particularly so for Africa, where only a few of the MDGs were achieved by 2015. PAID agrees with the SDGs agenda that sustainable development requires intergenerational equity in the use of resources. PAID agrees also that meeting the needs of the poor and most vulnerable persons is essential for sustainable development. Nevertheless, PAID believes that the three dimensions of sustainable development, adapted from the Brundtland’s definition are highly aggregative. PAID posits that it would be preferable that the SDGs agenda rests on Six Pillars of Development, namely; social pillar, cultural pillar, economic pillar, legal pillar, political pillar, and ecological pillar.

1 Presentation at the Symposium “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals ” on 12-14 April 2016 Held at King Fadhl Palace Hotel, Dakar, Senegal by Laboratory for Analysis, Research and Development Project, Senegal Association of Economists, School of Dakar
According to PAID, there is urgent need for speedy achievement of the SDGs in Africa. Hence its 47th Governing Council Meeting held in IPD – AOS Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 16 – 17 of December 2015 was dedicated to discussing “Africa’s development challenges and PAID’s response”. The Ouagadougou Declaration grouped Africa’s development challenges under three thematic areas, as follows: social economy thematic area; regional trade and coordination, and urbanization thematic area; and environmental sustainability, security and good governance thematic area.

What PAID defines as the social economy challenges are mainly a weak industrial base, low level of development financing, and high level of youth unemployment. PAID believes that a virile social economy requires viable family and community economies founded on organic agriculture, artisanship and processing. For the regional trade coordination and urbanization thematic area, growing within-country and cross-border value chains, and adopting the “smart” city concept for planned urbanization should be prioritized. The development priorities for the environmental sustainability, security and good governance thematic area include the enactment and enforcement of ecologically sound production principles, and building peace through public enlightenment and sensitization. PAID can support the speedy achievement of SDGs through training, action-research and support-consultancy, and also support education sector reforms in African countries to strengthen the absorptive capacity of the social economy.

The remaining part of this paper is divided into four sections. The section below discusses the movement from the MDGs to the SDGs. This is followed by a review of the conceptual framework of the SDGs agenda. Here also the paper explains the expediency of incorporating PAID’s development concept into the SDGs agenda. Thereafter, the resolutions of the 47th Governing Council Meeting on the theme, “Africa’s development challenges and PAID’s response” are summarized. This is followed by a presentation on how PAID can support Africa’s development through training, action-research programs and consultancy/support services. Next, the paper emphasizes how reforming Africa’s education system can strengthen the capacity of its citizens to absorb development. In conclusion, it is noted that success of the SDG agenda in Africa calls for effective and continuing collaboration of all the key development stakeholders.

1. Moving from Millennium Development to Sustainable Development Goals

On 25 September 2015, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted the New Development Agenda “Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Like the MDGs, the fight against poverty and hunger, the promotion of human rights for all, and the empowerment of women and girls are paramount for the SDGs. The SDGs are set to tackle the “unfinished business” of the MDGs, in addition to taking up other overarching development goals. The adoption of a simple, clear and time-bound framework, with assessable indicators, was a key strength of the MDGs. Tracking the implementation performance of the MDGs created the need to gather and analyze data periodically. Moreover, the MDGs successfully turned the attention of the world to many development challenges in the Low Income Countries (LICs), and enormous resources have been mobilized by countries, donor organizations and multilateral agencies to improve living conditions in Africa and other low income regions.

These gains notwithstanding, the MDGs are criticized for employing aggregated targets and indicators that gloss over within-country specificities. Many development experts believe also that the MDGs focus excessively on the ends (particularly the health sector outcomes), without considering the means to achieving them and how the process of achieving them is connected to other activities and sectors. The MDGs framework is also criticized for applying a one-size-fits-all development planning template for all countries irrespective of difference in initial conditions (United Nations, 2013; United Nations, 2015; Wikipedia, 2016; World Health Organization, 2016).
Table 1 summarizes Africa’s performance scorecard for the health related MDGs as assessed by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2015. It shows that Africa failed to meet the required level of performance for most of the targets. For example, the deficit percent for Target 1C, “halve between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger” was 43 percent. Equally, the deficits for Target 5.A “reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio”, and Target 7.C “Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking-water” were 69 percent and 47 percent respectively. However, the continent fared well on Target 6A and 6C relating to reduction in incidences of HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Measurement of the Targets and Africa’s Performance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Target</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 1.C Halved between 1990 and 2015 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger</td>
<td>Percent reduction in proportion of underweight children under-five years of age, 1999 – 2015</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 4.A reduced by two thirds between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate</td>
<td>Percent reduction in under-five mortality rate, 1990-2015</td>
<td>67</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Measles Immunization coverage among one-year-olds” (%), 2014</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 5.A reduced by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio</td>
<td>Percent reduction in maternal mortality ratio, 1990-2015</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Births attended by skilled health personnel (%), 2013</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 5.B Achieved, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health</td>
<td>Antenatal care coverage (%): at least one visit, 2013</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unmet need for family planning (%), 2015</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 6.A Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>percent reduction in HIV incidence, 2000-2014</td>
<td>&gt;0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 6.C Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases</td>
<td>Percent reduction in incidence of malaria 2000-2015</td>
<td>&gt;0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent reduction in incidence of tuberculosis 1990-2014</td>
<td>&gt;0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Target 7.C Halved, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking-water</td>
<td>Percent reduction in proportion of population without access to improved drinking-water source, 1990-2015</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent reduction in proportion of population without access to improved sanitation, 1990-2015</td>
<td>50</td>
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Source: Adapted from (World Health Organization, 2016) page 7

Furthermore, as an improvement over the MDGs, the SDGs agenda is more encompassing: firstly, it covers all countries and regions of the world, based on the premise that vulnerable people exist everywhere; secondly, in the healthcare sector, the SDGs cover communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injuries; and thirdly, the SDGs link health, education and productivity outcomes to urbanization, pollution and climate change. Clearly, the SDGs agenda promotes an integrative development model that connects health, education, climate change, infrastructure development, social networking, and human development as components of
sustainable development. In other words, the SDGs framework recognizes that policies made in all sectors do have profound effects on human development, and also notes at the same time that success in human development will impact positively on other sectors like transportation, agriculture, housing, trade and foreign policy. More specifically, the SDGs agenda mainstreams healthcare and health equity in all policies and pays considerable attention to systematic follow-up and review of implementation at local, national, regional and global levels.

Table 2 compares the 17 SDGs and the 8 MDGs under three broad development components, namely; human capital accumulation, sustainability of the physical environment, and partnerships for development. The MDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 focusing on human capital accumulation are replaced with SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8. For sustainability of the physical environment, SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 replace MDG 7. In terms of partnerships for development, SDGs 10, 16 and 17 replace MDG 8. While the SDGs and the MDGs are comparable for the human capital accumulation component in respect of the number of goals, the SDGs are more for the remaining two components, namely; sustainability of the physical environment, and partnerships for development. Clearly, the SDGs bring out more clearly what needs to be done and reduce the risk of some aspects of the problem being lumped under broad sub heads. The above analysis shows that the SDGs are more specific in identifying the problems, which makes implementation and monitoring much easier than was the case with the MDGs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HUMAN CAPITAL ACCUMULATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SDGs - Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere. Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.</td>
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<th>SUSTAINABILITY OF THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT</th>
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<td>MDGs - Goal 7: To ensure environmental sustainability.</td>
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<th>PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEVELOPMENT</th>
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<td>MDG - Goal 8: To develop a global partnership for development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDGs - Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries. Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.</td>
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Source: Compiled by the Author

2. Conceptualizing Sustainable Development
The United Nations (2015) rightly notes that the SDGs agenda is founded on the need to simultaneously achieve socioeconomic growth and development, and environmental sustainability. Typically, sustainable development
connects people, time and space. As a people concept, sustainable development should address the needs of people, which requires that the process be participatory. As a time concept, the decisions taken today ought to take account of past developments and at the same time account for future implications. As a space concept, the intended and unintended consequences of an action or activity on the immediate and distant environment should be considered. Therefore, human-centeredness, responsible use of resources and intergenerational equity are important for sustainable development, no matter how it is defined. Although sustainability is often associated with the environment, the term can most appropriately be applied to other aspects of life; hence we can speak quite legitimately of sustainable agriculture, tourism, production, consumption, education and so on.

As shown in Figure 1, the SDGs agenda adopts the Brundtland’s social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The social dimension intersects the environmental dimension to make development bearable. The intersection of the social and the economic dimensions makes development equitable, while the intersection of the economic and environment dimensions renders development viable. Therefore, the intersection of the three dimensions – social, economic and environment – makes development sustainable.

![Figure 1: Brundtland’s dimensions of Sustainable Development Source: (Wikipedia, 2016)](image)

It can be argued that the SDGs agenda focuses more on the time concept of sustainability than the people and space concepts. Equally, the SDGs agenda articulates what causes development (that is, the entry conditions), and what happens when development has taken place (that is, the end points or outcomes), but says little about the processes by which development takes place. Taking into account the implementation processes would have drawn the SDGs agenda to consider how to address differences in cultural preferences, bottlenecks associated with the political architecture and bureaucracies, and the legal framework and justice administration systems; the structural factors that make or mar the implementation success of many development programs in Africa. Indeed, many would agree that poor program implementation and follow-up are sources of major setbacks for many LICs (African Development Bank, 2010; African Union, 2013; Banke, 2013).

2. PAID’s Development Concept

PAID refers to ‘development’ as the planned, global and cumulative process through which a people can benefit from the resources of its environment by using appropriate methods and techniques, to equitably and sustainably satisfy everyone’s needs, by transforming the resources into goods and services and opening up competitively to the entire world. PAID’s development concept has a number of implications. Firstly, being a ‘planned, global and cumulative process’ connects PAID’s development concept to the people, time and space concepts of sustainability. Secondly, seeing development as a ‘process’ means it has to achieved through deliberate actions (IMF, 2014). Thirdly, to ‘benefit from the resources of its environment’ means development has to be founded on what the society has and should aim at self-sustainability. It also means that reforming
the environment to render it more conducive to development is important for sustainability. Fourthly, ‘using appropriate methods and techniques’ implies that the technology that suits the context and level of development should be applied. This includes re-engineering and adapting foreign technology for more local content, and investing in green technologies and energy-saving innovations (Essia, 2016).

To ‘equitably and sustainably satisfy everyone’s needs’ implies that income should be equitably distributed (Essia, 2016). At the same time, vulnerable persons who are unable to compete favorably should be given special consideration. It follows also that consumption and production should be need-oriented and waste eliminated. Also, ‘by transforming its resources into goods and services’ it is meant that building the capacity for transforming resources to good and services is important to the development process. Lastly, ‘opening up competitively to the entire world’ means that the people and enterprises should be able to compete globally. This means the population should have the required technological culture, infrastructures, and incentives (Essia, 2016; Nkurayija, 2011).

Furthermore, PAID believes that human capital is the instrument and, at the same time, the purpose of development. Moreover, “concertation” is the sustainable means by which people can be organized into viable groups and communities of practice. PAID considers continuous training and orientation as the most appropriate means of ensuring that the population has the required knowledge, attitude and behavior, and is enabled to engage in appropriate practices (United Nations, 2015). PAID believes that the multiplicity of cultures, geographical settings, and potentials, justifies plurality of development pathways. Each people, according to its own genius and identity, should adopt suitable development options, and strive to collaborate and work with others based on mutually agreed terms. PAID is opposed to any form of external domination. PAID adopts a micro-level approach to the implementation of development programs. PAID’s intervention programs focus primarily on the population on the ‘field’. The ‘field’ for PAID represents the environment where people, particularly those at the margins of society, live and strive to meet their needs in agriculture, industry, and delivering services. PAID’s development concept considers seriously engaging the people to determine their problems, mobilize them to find the solutions, and connect them to other actors and stakeholders. PAID believes that a development program should incorporate pilot schemes or laboratories to demonstrate how the desired change can be achieved (Kamdem, 2012; Essia, 2016).

In effect, PAID agrees with the SDGs agenda that intergenerational equity in the use of resources is important for sustainable development, and equally that focusing primarily on the poor or most vulnerable persons is essential for sustainable development. PAID agrees also that African countries have to deal with low technological knowledge and skills, climate change, infrastructural deficiencies, weak education and healthcare systems, and food insecurity and micronutrients deficiency. However, PAID believes that development should be concerted, decent and sustainable. Concerted development implies that the processes of development should be all inclusive, with emphasis on broad stakeholder consultation and consensus building. Concertization should help in collectively identifying development goals and setting up the governance architecture to realize them. Decent development involves implementing concerted decisions, creating decent jobs, preserving human dignity, greening the economy, promoting waste management and recycling, and respecting vegetal and animal species. So, in effect, by sustainable development, PAID implies improvements in well-being that take into account intergenerational equity and aim at achieving overall economic, social, legal, political, cultural and environmental balance. These form the six pillars of development described briefly below:

- **Social Pillar** – promoting social cohesion and discouraging all forms of discrimination will strengthen group solidarity and self-help consciousness. The social pillar places premium on viable family and community economies.
• Cultural Pillar – incorporating creativity, innovativeness, entrepreneurship, and maintenance culture into learning/teaching will catalyze cultural progression and technological rebirth.

• Legal Pillar – accessible and affordable justice administration system that particularly protects the poor, clear definition of property rights, availability of a functional alternative dispute resolution system will strengthen the rule of law, ensure timely resolution of dispute and support peace building.

• Political Pillar – broad-based participation of the people in political activities at all levels is needed to reduce exclusion and ensure that policy making and budget implementation take into account the needs of the people. At the national level, this requires that citizens join political parties, register to vote during elections, own valid voters’ cards, vote during elections, and offer to be voted for. The political pillar supports good governance and sound institutions.

• Ecological Pillar – regenerative use of natural resources based on the principles of reduce, reuse, recycle, and restore will conserve exhaustibility assets, and ensure maximal utilization of available resources. The ecological pillar ensures respect for the human dignity, and protection of vegetal and animal species.

Figure 2 illustrates the six pillars of PAID’s development concept. It also illustrates how combining the different pillars impact directly on development sustainability. The details are discussed below:

• Ecological pillar + Political pillar = Acceptable - choices that protect vegetal and animal species and are determined consensually are widely acceptable.

• Political pillar + Legal pillar = Justiciable -the combination of the political pillar and the legal pillar make development activities and programs justiciable. In other words, robustness of the political and legal systems promotes respect for the rule of law.

• Legal pillar + Economic pillar = Accountable - combining the legal pillar with the economic pillar makes the development process accountable. In other words, accountability is promoted when the legal system is sound and economy is productive with income more equitably distributed.

• Economic pillar + Social pillar = Equitable - the joint realization of the economic pillar and the social pillar renders development equitable. It follows that social cohesion and economic productivity enhances equitable income distribution.

• Ecological pillar + Cultural pillar = Adaptable - achieving the ecological pillar and cultural pillar together makes development adaptable. Protecting vegetal and animal species and preserving sound cultural norms make development adaptable.

• Cultural pillar + Social pillar =Renewable - the cultural pillar and the social pillar together make the society renewable. In other words, a development process that upgrades the cultural milieu and at the same time promotes social cohesion will make the society reproduce itself faster.

Figure 2 shows also that development that is acceptable, justiciable, accountable, equitable, adaptable and renewable is certainly sustainable. PAID’s development concept additionally identifies the key development stakeholders, for example; political actors, social groups and service providers, natural resource managers, jurists and legislators, traditional and natural leaders, and economic actors, and their respective roles in the development process.
3. Africa’s Development Challenges and PAID’s Responses
The 47th Governing Council Meeting of PAID, held in IPD – AOS Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso on 16 – 17 of December 2015 focused specifically on “Africa’s Development Challenges and PAID’s Responses”. Based on PAID’s development concept, the priority for the social economy thematic area is to grow viable solidarity economies for families, communities, countries and the region. As indicated in Table 3, the major development challenges for the social economy thematic area are weak industrial base, subsistence agriculture, inadequate development finance, and high level of youth unemployment. The development priorities for the regional trade coordination and urbanization thematic area are to grow country-level and regional value chains and “smart” cities. The development challenges for regional trade coordination and urbanization thematic area include slow pace of regional integration, poor urban and regional planning, and weak capacity for managing migrations. The priorities for environmental sustainability, security and good governance thematic area are the enactment of ecologically sound production principles, and promotion of peace building within countries and across the region (Ndongko and Essia, 2012; Nkurayija, 2011). The summary of development challenges faced by the sub-region in the third thematic area include: weak capacity for managing conflicts and dealing with disasters, and poor security preparedness; weak governance and slow pace of decentralization; and poor and inconsistent environmental management process.

Table 3: Africa’s Development Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Priorities for the Thematic Areas</th>
<th>Development Challenges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Regional trade coordination and urbanization thematic area – growing country-level and regional value chains, and “smart” cities.</td>
<td>Low commitment to regional economic bloc, and conflicting activities of the economic blocs. Dealing with urbanization and emerging urban and peri-urban slums. Migration, over-crowded and growing criminalities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PAID can competently participate in ensuring that Africa deals with its development challenges and achieves the SDGs on or before the deadline of 2030 in the following ways:

I. Social economy thematic area
   • Training of skilled negotiators and social entrepreneurs for governments and NGOs. Creating incubators to nurture and grow business ideas into enterprises.
   • Training representatives of relevant NGOs and community leaders on preparing healthy foods and drinks using local farm produce.
   • Strengthening the capacity of business membership organizations (BMOs) for market making and accessing innovations.
   • Spreading “climate smart” agriculture techniques with demonstration farms and basic agro-processing technologies.
   • Training the managers of local cooperatives and SHGs on fund raising and preparing fundable proposals.
   • Providing consultancy services for municipal and state governments on sound public finance management system.
   • Training representatives of NGOs on non-confrontational advocacy techniques and how to track public spending.
   • Conducting diagnostic studies on how to mainstream TVET and ICT in formal and non-formal education systems, and reduce skill mismatches in countries within the sub-region.

II. Regional Trade Coordination and Urbanization thematic area
   • Consultancy services to identify informal cross-border product chains, and determine how to formalize and grow them.
   • Studies to determine potential local and regional product chains and propose how to grow them.
   • Training town and urban planners on development coordination and the “smart city” concept.
   • Consultancy services to establish demonstration sites for recycling and production and utilization of biodiesel.
   • Training programs for refugees and repatriated migrants on life skills and how to re-integrate into productive life.

III. Environmental Sustainability, Security and Good Governance Thematic Area
   • Training government officials and NGOs representatives involved with security and crises management on conflict resolution and peace building.
   • Consultancy services on the appropriate ways to reintegrate refugees and other victims of conflicts.
   • Supporting the creation of Peace Clubs and sensitization of the youths against armed violence and wars.
   • Training public servants on decentralization.
   • Supporting the creation of CSO-public-private partnerships to support implementation of government decentralization programs.
   • Research programs on how to promote ‘climate smart’ agricultural practices.
4. Grow Africa’s Absorptive Capacity for Sustainable Development

Generally, in Africa the capacity of the indigenous people to absorb capital and take ownership of the development dynamics has remained very low. In addition to having the appropriate infrastructures, the absorptive capacity of an economy depends on the level of technological knowledge and technical skills of its people. This puts education at the center stage of sustainable development for African countries. It follows also that for many African countries the education system would have to be restructured to encourage the accumulation of more cognitive skills and vocational competencies. Basically, ICT, TVET, entrepreneurship, logical reasoning and critical thinking, and creative writing would have to be mainstreamed into the education curriculum from the basic education level up to the tertiary level. To be more venturesome and innovative, young Africans would need to learn how to study, eat and think right, and produce and sell at the same time. In other words, education has to train young Africans to know, think, do, and communicate at the same time (Essia, 2016; Power, 2008; National Academy of Science, 1999; Essia, 2013).

More specifically, the education system reforms should connect the pupil/students to African norms and values, such as; the extended family system, respect for elders, sanctity of the marriage institution, and value for the family. Young Africans should also be enlightened on the health benefits of traditional African cuisine and drinks. They should be exposed to African music, dance, arts and festivals.

Moreover, the youth should connect schooling to the development needs of his/her immediate and wider environment. Joining healthy social networks, working within teams, and initiating programs based on innovative ideas should be essential aspects of schooling. Youths need to know their fundamental human rights and how to seek redress when their rights are violated, and where to seek the redress. They need also to know how to register businesses, the applicable taxes and incentives, how to secure credit, and the procedures for exports/imports (Nkurayija, 2011; René Kemp and Saeed Parto, 2005; Salim, 2014).

At the tertiary education level in particular, teaching/learning should aim at equipping the learners with deep mastery of the philosophy and practice of their chosen specializations, alongside exposure to the general areas identified above. This would involve knowing how to build and use conceptual models within the discipline, and also, how the knowledge can be applied to solve problems under different circumstances. The students would equally need to develop interest for participating in political activities at all levels. This is very important, at present only a few educated Africans actually vote at elections. Africa is far from seeing the desired changes when only a few educated persons participate actively in politics. Lastly, the students/trainees need to know how to protect and conserve ecological assets, and understand the links between protecting vegetal and animal species and sustainable development. Knowing why the ecological balance ought to be maintained should also be linked to the how to reduce, reuse, recycle and restore natural resources (Sharon B. et al., 2011; Nkurayija, 2011).

5. Concluding Remarks

After over fifty years of existence, PAID has remained committed to the development of Africa through training, action-research and support/consultancy. PAID is willing to share its experiences with other tertiary educational institutions in the sub-region. PAID solicits the partnership and collaboration of governments, multilateral institutions, and other NGOs within and outside the continent, towards enhancing Africa’s development and pressing on to achieve the SDGs within the stipulated time. PAID envisions a world that is just and supportive of the plight of poor and vulnerable people, wherever they may be. PAID visualizes the African continent with its states and peoples standing tall in the comity of nations; a continent where individuals, businesses, and
institutions are connected by efficient transportation systems, functional education and healthcare, electricity, internet, and banking services. All hands have to be on deck to ensure that the continent take advantage of the opportunity offered by the SDGs agenda.

References


