**Environmental studies (CE151)**

**Mechanical engineering group 7**

**UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMEMT GOALS**

The united nations describes the sustainable development goals as a call for action by all countries regardless of their economic structure(i.e rich, poor and middle class) to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. These 17 enlisted goals were adapted by all United Nation member states and the European union in 2015 as part of their 15-year plan named “**2030 Agenda for sustainable development.”**

In the last five years of implementation, there has been a significant improvement in most of the goal areas such as education, hunger, work and job creation. However, inequalities and climat change have had little or no improvement.

**CLIMATE ACTION (SDG 13)**

The 13th sustainable development goal is the united nation’s urgent need to combat climate change and its adverse effects on the planet.

This goal was ratified by united nation member states and the European union. It had **5** **targets and 1062 actions** to be taken. There are **42 publications** so far on this goal.

**TARGETS**

**Target 13.1**;

This target seeks to strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in the world.

**Indicators; (indicators are managing tools to help countries to develop strategies for achieving the targets.)**

13.1.1; record of number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100,000 people.

13.1.2; number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies.

13.1.3; proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national risk reduction strategies.

**Target 13.2;**

Integrate climate change measures into national policy strategies and planning.

**Indicator;** countries may have to communicate and adapt to strategies that may help them withstand the adverse effects of climate change and greenhouse emissions without threatening food productivity. Such a target requires a national adaptation plan and communication with other member states.

**Target 13.3;**

Improve education awareness creation and sensitization on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.

**Indicator;** integrate these sensitizations into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula.

**Target 13.4a**

Implement the commitment undertake by the developed countries to contribute 100 billion dollars annually to address the needs of developing nations with respect to taking action towards climate change.

**Target 13.4b**

Capacity building in developing countries.

**Why there is little or no improvement in the 13th SDG**

The unabated increase in climate change is mainly as a result of negligence and unwillingness of the global community to take full responsibility towards the reversal of this problem. The united nations declared 2019 as the second warmest year on record in the warmest decade (2010- 2020) which had its fair share of destructions such as wildfires, hurricanes, drought, floods and many other disasters.

The two classes of countries(developed and developing) are on opposite sides in the fight against climate change since the developed countries have surprisingly had a decline in gas emissions by 6.5% over the last two decades. Meanwhile the developing countries in the quest to increase productivity and industrialization have had a significant increase in greenhouse emission by a whooping 43.2% in the last two decades.

Another flaw detected by researchers on why there has not been any significant improvement in this goal and many others is that the sentimental visions that helped in the preparation of these goals have been tarnished and derailed by political manipulations and also unrealistic data.

Most of the leaders of the UN member states also saw the sustainable development goals as a poverty-ending venture and hence did not fully commit to the rest of the goals.

Lastly, most of the targets were based on unrealistic data and hence did not point out the real nature of the problems facing the world as described by ‘Magaret Satterthwaite’

**References:**

**Knowledge and politics in setting and measuring the SDGs- (Serge Kapto and Sakika Fukudar-Parr**

**UNITED NATION official website; (sdgs.un.org/goals)**

**wikipedia**