

**AFRICAN CENTER FOR PROJECT MANAGEMENT/DIGITAL LEARNING
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ASSIGNMENT 2

DIPLOMA IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

SUBMITTED BY

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INTRODUCTION

Definition of key words:

Developed country countries: Cambridge Dictionary defines developed countries as an industrialized sovereign state, which is more economically developed with advanced technological infrastructures.

The United Nations define least developed countries (LDCs) as countries which exhibits the lowest indicators of socioeconomic development. The LDCs also have the world's lowest Human Development Index ratings (UN).

Inter-generational equity is concerned with the equity between present and future generations while ***Intra-generation generation equity*** is all about equity between people of the same generation.

Equality of women is an idea that advocates for women equal visibility, responsibility and participation of women and men in all spheres of public and private like. It also mean an equal access to and distribution of recourse between women and men ad valuing them equally.

- ***Economic Growth:*** A Country's economic growth is usually indicated by an increase in that country's growth domestic products. Generally speaking, growth domestic products is an economic model that reflects the value of a country's output. In another words, a country's GDP is that total on monetary value of the goods and services produced by that country over a period of time (Paulina M. 2018).

For example, let's say that the special cassava grow naturally only in the Country of South Sudan. Natives of South Sudan have used (for both sales and consumptions) this cassava for many years, but recently, a wealth Kenyan traveler came and discovered the cassava and bought samples back to Kenya. His Kenyan friends also loved the cassava, so the Kenyan traveler funded a large cassava exporting business in South Sudan. The new exporting business hired hundreds of South Sudanese to farm, plant, harvest, dry boy and ship the cassava to Kenya. In one calendar year, the cassava exporting business added over one billion dollars to the South Sudan growth domestic products because that's the total value of the goods and services produced by the new cassava exporting business. So since South Sudan growth domestic product increased, this means that South Sudan experienced economic growth.

To understand whether the developed nations hinders sustainable development in the least developed countries, we will take a look at the Istanbul Programme of Action project in Turkey.

Istanbul Programme of Action stets out a roadmap for the world's poorest nations to climb the ladder – but challenges progress. We live in a world of haves and have-not, of abject poverty and astonishing affluence. This is true of individuals, community and nations. At the global level, the so-called developed countries sit at the one end of the spectrum with least developed countries demanding as that sounds – at the other (*Essam 216*). There are six basic obstacles facing the least developed countries in its struggle for development:

1- The genesis/idea behind the creation of the Least Developing Countries (LDCs).

The LDC Group was established in the late 1960s to endure development aid targeting these who needed it the most. The long-term aid was for these countries to emerge from extreme poverty and economic vulnerability, to eventually gradate – catching up with economically better off countries. Some speculate that it was Henrey Kissinger who was behind the group's formations, however, claiming that then United States National Security Advisor (later the Secretary of State) conceived the idea of the LDCs as a way of weakening solidity within the Non Aligned Movement.

This group of states, empowered by oil producing countries, pushed for the United Nations resolution in May 1974, calling for a new international economic order to redress global power imbalances. According to historian like Vijay Pasha, Kissinger and his ally the former Western Helmut Schmidt, employed the clever old trick of 'divide and rule', serving the LDCs from the Organization of the Petroleum Exportation Countries (OPEC) within the Non Allied Movement (NAM). Fast forward today, we all agree on one thing – that the concept of a least developing group of countries must be made history. This raises the fundamental question: how many of these countries have graduated so far?

Although the progress is quit slow, the recent mid-term review of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA) for LDCs, a reviews of ambitious 10-year plan that aims to see half of LDCs (23) graduated by 2020. But since the creation of this group, only four countries (Botswana, Cabo Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Maldives and Samoa) have succeeded (*Essam Yssin Mohammed 216*).

On a positive note, two of these four countries (Maldives and Samoa) have graduated in the past few years, giving hope that graduation within the reasonable period of time is possible for the other least developing countries will soon follow. Although the creation of LDCs group was basically to weaken solidarity within the Non Aligned Movement, it's also crucial to acknowledge that the hindrance to sustainable development in the LDCs does not only come from the developed countries, but there also factors hindering least developing countries from reaching its development target by 2020 (*Essam Yssin 216*).

2- Domestic resource mobilization.

There is a strong need for the LDCs building capacity to mobilize financial resources locally. Tax reform – including the ability of the state to efficiently collect and manage tax revenues – could help raise finance in least developing countries. It's inevitably that the LDCs will continue to rely heavily on foreign assistance to harness the opportunity in the informal market, and enhance their technical and institutional capacities to mobilize reoccurs effectively.

3- Limited economic diversification

Least Developing Countries depend heavily on primary commodities, leaving them exposed to volatility on the commodities prices. This leads to Imbalance in balance in payment and economic instability. Some African countries such as Angola and Mozambique have been hit particularly hard. Some suggest this economic vulnerability is a major hindrance to LDCs graduation. I think this is an outdated argument – there isn't sufficient I think this is an outdated argument – there isn't sufficient evidence that primary product price volatility reduces total productivity or impacts GDP growth. In fact, much evidence suggests the most limiting factors are weak human resource and unstable institutions; countries that have made sufficient investment in building their human and institutional capital have been able to withstand temporary economic shocks. So, yes to economic diversification, but priority should be given to investments directed towards enhancing human and institutional capital (*Essam Yassin Mohammed 2016*).

4- Lack of progress on means of implementation

Many LDCs expressed frustration at lack of global support for means of implementation, including lack of reform to persistently unfavorable trade regimes, the divergence between pledged financial assistance and monies actually delivered, and token technology transfer. For example, the G8 group of countries fell more than US 10 million short on its Africa pledges for 2010 alone. Important as it is to focus on local reforms, it is crucial that sufficient attention is given to means of implementation. Without this, the graduation of LDCs remains a mere aspiration.

5- Proliferation of goals and targets

LDC delegates voiced concern about the mind-boggling number of goals and targets set by various global frameworks, including the Sustainable Development Goals, IPoA, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, to name a few. Keeping track of all these targets is exhausting and not necessarily the most efficient way of implementing development agendas. A coherent process with streamlined reporting mechanisms is the preferred way forward.

6- The private sector: high expectation

I was also struck by the emphasis on the role of the private sector both in financing and delivering development in LDCs. This has gained attention following growing donor fatigue and dwindling Official Development Assistance (ODA). Indeed, it is evident that ODA flows to LDCs have declined in real terms in the past few years. This is due to a number of reasons including a slowing economy in the developed world, corruption and 'poor governance' on the recipient side, the recent shift of resources to humanitarian crises, not to mention the rise of right-leaning populist governments in Europe.

But how will the private sector enhance aid effectiveness? For me, the incentives for private, for-profit stakeholders to engage in poverty eradication in the LDCs are still not clear. These are only five of many complex challenges LDCs grapple with on a daily basis. Concerted, coherent global efforts will be needed if we are to tackle these issues – and make the group of LDCs history (*Essam Yassin Mohammed 2016*).

QTN: - 2. How are the principle of intergenerational equity and intra-generational equity different from each other?

First, we have to define the two terms: inter-generational equity is concerned with the equity between present and future generations. It is important to understand that the concept on intergenerational enquiry focuses on the rights of future generations. According to this concept, each generation has the right to inherit the same diversity in the natural, cultural, health and economic resources enjoyed by the previous generations and to equitable access to the use and benefits of these resources. For example, imagine that a given generation anticipates that at the end of its existence a surplus is likely to be transferred to the next generation on top of the equivalent of what the current generation inherited to the previous one. If the constitution of such a surplus is likely, it should benefit the least well-off members of the current generation rather than the next generation as a whole. Intra-generation equity is concerned with equity between people of the same generation. It includes considerations of the distribution of resources and the justice between nations. It also includes consideration of what is fair for the people within any one nation.

QTN: - 3. How is equality of women related to sustainable development?

To begin with, it is important to note that women and girls, everywhere must have the equal rights and opportunity, and be able to live free of violence and discriminations. Woman's equality and empowerment is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, but also integral to all dimensions of the inclusive and sustainable development. In short, all the SDGs depend of the achievement of goal 5. Gender equality by 2030 requires urgent action to eliminate the many roots causes of discriminations that still curtail women's rights in private and public domains. For example, discrimination laws need to change and legislation adopted to proactively advance equality. Yet 49 countries still lack laws protecting he women from domestic violence, while 39 bar equal inheritance rights for the daughters and sons. Eliminating gender based violence is a priority, given that this is one of the most pervasive human right violations in the world today. Based on the date from 87 counties, 1 in 5 women and girls under the age of 50 will experienced physical/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within the last 22 months. Harmful practice, such as child married, steal the childhood of 25 million girls under the very year.

Women do 2.6 times more unpaid care and the domestic work than men. While families, societies and the economies depend on this work, for women, it leads lower earnings and less time to engage in non-work activities. In addition to the equals distraction of the economic recourse, which is not only a right, but accelerates development in the multiple areas, there needs to be a fair and balance of responsibility for unpaid care work between men and women. Sexual and reproductive rights are the critical in their own right. Shortfalls in these multiply other forms of discriminations, depriving women of educations and decent work for example. Yet only 52 percent of women married or in a union freely make their own decision about sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care.

Considering the contribution of women in the local and nation's economic activities, it is worth saying that woman's equality is a crucial element in achieving sustainable development. With stepped up actions on gender equality, part of the world can make progress towards sustainable development by 2030, leaving one behind.

QTN 4:- How can sustainable development be included in economic growth programs?

Sustainable development is the 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 while economic growth is an increase in the amount of goods and services produced per head of the population over a period of time.

QTN 5:- What are the major challenges confronting sustainable development?

Back in September, the United Nations ratified the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 17 goals that are intended to probe the blueprint of the next 15 years of the world's development. But while global leaders were signing the SDGs, less noticed was them more the 20 city and local leaders endorsed them, and they committed to implement them in their cities. This is interesting and encouraging as many of the goals fall within the city leader's responsibilities. As we all know that sustainable development is the development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, achieving that is the hardest job. Let's take a look at the major five challenges confronting sustainable development today.

a) The lack of data.

It may not be something completely new, but gathering detailed data is the most useful tool for any city policy makers to assess their resident's needs – and target their policies accordingly. Many cities in the developing countries lack essential up-to-date information on their subjects like populations, the needs, the housing, and transportations networks...etc. For example, in many states in South Sudan and other parts of Africa, many administrative officers do not have up-to date information, not even the statistic of the civil population.

It was only recently that the project like the Digital Matus made Nairobi's semiformal transit system, visible and novel research project which produced the first map of an informal transportation system in Nairobi, Kenya. Without this data, how can state officials and local government say whether they are making the progress on the Goal 11 – that is, to make the cities "inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"? How can they know its basic services are reaching their poorest populations, in line with the SDGs' "Leave none behind" agenda? How are citizens supported to hold their local government accountable for their actions? There have been growing awareness on the need for the disaggregated data, with a number of initiatives – from a Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data to citizens-generated data and data collected by slums dwellers themselves – looking for filling the gaps (*Paila Lucci 2015*).

b) Leaders do not know their targets.

With the 17 goals and 165 targets, city officials need to prioritize their responses. Trying to do too much may result in achieving very little (*Paila Lucci 2015*). While this is common sense from the practical perspective, it also leads to a real risk of short-term political calculations giving priority to target that are easier to achieve, with the leaders treating the SDGs as a sort of "à la carte menu". There is only one way to avoid this: civil society groups must keep a close eye on SDGs program and hold city movement to account.

c) Lack of finances

The SDGs have raised the international community's ambition. Estimate of the cost reach into the trillions of dollars. While city government's responsibilities vary by nations the ones are often feeling the pressure of having to deliver basic services – from water and sanitation, to

affordable housing – while urban populations rise. But the question of how local government can access new sources of finance, both from the domestic and external sources (particularly climate finance), has not yet received the attention it deserves.

d) Lack of capacity to deal with the challenges

Local government officials face complex challenges but they often lack the capacity to cope with these challenges they're facing. While reforms to devolve power to local government are under way in many countries, especially in Africa, funding and support to improve local government capacity have often trailed behind.

Many local governments, particularly in secondary cities and provinces and counties, lack the technical capacity to plan and manage services delivery on the scale needed to manage increasing populations – or to negotiate complex contracts with the private suppliers on an equal footing. Unless urban planning capacities are strengthened, cities will struggle to meet the challenges posed by rapid urbanization.

e) Lack of willingness from the cities/state or county leaders

Leaders from the cities could have a lasting impact beyond them. Changes happen when there is a political will. If a Mayor or Commissioner commits to the SDGs because they can see the benefits (including the political ones) – or because civil society groups put much pressure on them – then we might see results. There are plenty of examples of the ambitious innovative settings present for national policy. Bolsa Familia, the celebrated cash transfer programme in Brazil, actually had its origins in Bolsa Escola, an initiative from the government of the state of São Paulo. That cash transfer programme was aimed at reducing poverty and inequality, it was also a key element of the opposition's political strategy.

How countries will manage urbanization over the next 15 years will be critical to reduce poverty and environmental sustainability. Ultimately, it will help define government's ability to achieve the SDGs. One way to minimize the role of cities government would be to build the commitment made already by some policies to achieve the SDGs – in essence, a cities for SDGs network. Throughout their design, the SDGs have received praise and criticism in equal measure. With the goals now agreed, efforts must focus on implementation – and for that, city leaders must get on board.

f) Conflict and communal unrest

As strategies are being developed to enhance implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 goals, a number of objectives seem to have risen to the surface: including a global policy everywhere that makes it possible for the government to achieve their commitment; ensuring robust, data, appropriate to each country; reliable funding sources; clear and measurable indicators, a secure just and inclusive social fabric, and SDG 16, the so called “peace goal”. It recognizes that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development (*By Robert Zuber 2016*).

The target for SDG 16, on peaceful, just and inclusive societies, were strongly endorsed by many policy advocates, but remain controversial in part because of the geopolitical policy compromises that will be noted below but also because of the absence of the conversations with peace and security experts during the of developing the targets. ¹ However, the larger message of Goal 16 is widely affirmed: that the success of the 2030 Agenda will depend on our ability to sustain stable, secure and inclusive societies governed by states that are essentially trustworthy, responsive to constituencies, free of corruption and committed to eliminating violence, in part by reigning in coercive security institutions (*By Robert Zuber 2016*).

QTN: 6. What problems confront a Country's desire to live in harmony with nature?

There are many conceptions of nature. They range from the basic elements of the natural world, including trees, rivers and animal life, to how our world came into existence, to the world that exists without human beings or our civilizations, and to the universe beyond our home planet, in all its staggering complexity. Nature refers to life in general and its presence is found everywhere - in the metaphysical, subatomic and cosmic realms. As a concept, it has existed since the beginnings of human history.¹² To most observers, nature is difficult to conceive in any simple, objectifiable way (UN 26 July 2013).

Given all the interconnections between what is conceivable to our senses and what is only conceivable to the mind, regaining and maintaining harmony with nature requires knowledge not only from scientists, but also from philosophers, poets and others whose studies, imaginations, intuitions, as well as spiritual revelations and inspirations, offer insights into nature's intrinsic value. ¹³

In his most recent work, philosopher Ronald Dworkin holds that what we call nature, the universe as a whole and in all its parts, is something of 1 Barbara Baudot, "Nature: As the Lost Sheep in the International Discourse on the Environment," delivered at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics, Saint Anselm College (April 2013), and, at the Fletcher School of Diplomacy (September 2012).

Nature is the locus and nutrient of our physical lives, and providing a transcendental value in what may seem otherwise transient and dead.² 14. Defining nature concretely is challenging because its physical and metaphysical dimensions are inseparably intertwined. It is the scientist, the philosopher, the poet and the sage that have evoked a sense of nature and it continues to be shrouded in mystery and enchantment. It is the international community, with its growing knowledge and understanding, soul and reason, to seek different ways of healing the planet. 15. There is a residing hope that the damage done to the Earth can be reversed, and that hope has found a home in the science of ecology.

Ecology includes within its purview the non-living world, on the one hand, and the world of humans, on the other. Thus, any ontological difference between what was once called the mineral kingdom, the plant and animal kingdoms, and the kingdom of man has vanished: the scope of the idea of ecology is universal. 16. In the early 1970s, after three decades teaching philosophy at the University of Oslo, Arne Naess, one of the founding fathers of 2 Ronald Dworkin, "Religion without God" (2013). 9 A/68/. Environmental philosophy, and the man who coined the term "Deep Ecology", published a short paper called "The Shallow and the Deep: the Long Range Ecology Movement", in which he stated that there are two ecology movements.

First is chiefly concerned with pollution, the depletion of natural resources and the usefulness of the Earth for humans (anthropocentrism); and the second is concerned with the richness, diversity and intrinsic value of all the natural world – this is deep ecology. 17. Deep ecology is rooted in the basic concept that every living thing – animal and plant – has an equal right to live and flourish. Mr. Naess, in one of his last essays, published before his death in 2009 at the age of 96, stated: "We are living on an incredibly beautiful little planet; but our human existence is threatened. If we are to survive we have to learn to think differently.

The thinking for the future has to be loyal to nature. It must encompass all humans and all living creatures, because everything alive, in itself, has a value."

In 2009, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 22 April as International Mother Earth Day. In so doing, Member States acknowledged that the Earth and its ecosystems are our common home, and expressed their conviction that it is necessary to promote Harmony with Nature in order to achieve a just balance among the economic, social and environmental needs of present and future generations. The same year, the General Assembly adopted its first resolution on Harmony with Nature.

The General Assembly has widely acknowledged that the world's depletion of natural resources and rapid environmental degradation are the result of unsustainable consumption and production patterns which have led to adverse consequences for both the Earth and the health and overall well-being of humanity. The scientific community has well documented evidence that our present way of life, in particular our consumption and production patterns, has severely affected the Earth's carrying capacity.

Loss of biodiversity, desertification, climate change and the disruption of a number of natural cycles are among the costs of our disregard for Nature and the integrity of its ecosystems and life-supporting processes. As recent scientific work suggests, a number of planetary boundaries are being transgressed and others are at risk being so in a business-as-usual world. Since the industrial revolution, Nature has been treated as a commodity that exists largely for the benefit of people, and environmental problems have been considered as solvable through the use of technology. In order to meet the basic needs of a growing population within the limits of the Earth's finite resources, there is a need to devise a more sustainable model for production, consumption and the economy as a whole.

Devising a new world will require a new relationship with the Earth and with humankind's own existence. Since 2009, the aim of the General Assembly, in adopting its nine resolutions on Harmony with Nature, has been to define this newly found relationship based on a non-anthropocentric relationship with Nature. The resolutions contain different perspectives regarding the construction of a new, non-anthropocentric paradigm in which the fundamental basis for right and wrong action concerning the environment is grounded not solely in human concerns. A step in this direction was further reaffirmed in the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (2012), entitled "The future we want":

The below questions to be clarified with the Mentor/Lecturer

9. The writer and campaigner George Monbiot wrote the following (in The Guardian Weekly, 10 February 2000): 'Every time someone in the West switches on a kettle, he or she is helping to flood Bangladesh'. What is the link between switching on a kettle and sea level rise? Explain
10. In its second major report (published in 1996), the IPCC assessed the instrumental record up to (and including) 1994. At that stage, the Panel's best estimate of the increase in GMST since the late 19th century was 0.45°C - the same as its original estimate (in 1990). How does this compare with the more recent estimate in the TAR, and what is likely to be the main reason for the difference?

References

- i) Minute of High-Level Workshop in Preparation for UNCTAD (XII Izmir, Turkey, 4–5 March 2008).*
- ii) Intergenerational VS Intergenerational Equity (Paperap 2017 Nov 30).*
- iii) Economic Growth vs. sustainable development (Nolberto Munier 2015).*
- iv) Equality between women and men (Council of Europe 2015).*