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Some of Our Other Publications

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Message From the Chief Executive Officer

I am pleased to welcome all our readers to the first edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Magazine produced by the African Institute of Corporate Citizenship (AICC). In order to succeed, government, organizations and institutions need to move with the development wave. Currently the world is moving forward at an ever-quickening pace. End of 2015 and beginning of 2016 proved to be the beginning of an exciting journey to development with the introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nations has advocated an ambitious agenda for development until 2030. AICC recognizes that everyone is a critical ally in making progress toward the goals and localizing them. The SDGs adopted by all UN member states in 2015 under the banner “Agenda 2030”, provide an important opportunity to realize organizational, institutional and national goals. They build and expand on the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by focusing on critical dimensions of sustainable development in developed and developing countries.

Since the very beginning, AICC has continued to demonstrate remarkable growth in terms of service delivery, research and development, geographic reach, number of stakeholders, and of course, number of employees. This growth has enabled us to be innovative, creative, and among the first and in some notable cases, one of the very few to provide support in corporate social responsibility and management of public-private partnerships. In this regard, as a pioneer of sustainable Development initiatives, AICC has championed private sector participation in SDGs through the United Nations Global Compact initiative that AICC is hosting in Malawi through encouraging private sector to align themselves to the ten principles of the UN Global Compact. AICC’s commitment to upholding SDGs goes beyond raising awareness about SDGs. As an organization, our platforms are aligned to the principles that ensure support for the SDGs.

Though the United Nations has setup a mechanism for follow up and review, we believe that for Malawi as a country, action is needed at all levels to effect real change. As an organization, we strive towards ensuring that these goals are realistically aligned to our goals, objectives, values and vision and create awareness to the larger community. Leaving no one behind” is an underlying principle of the SDGs. Its aim is to ensure that development throughout the world has positive impacts on everyone with no exceptions. It is therefore, in AICC’s interest to aid the localization of SDGs and to ensure that all people are aware and are reached and that all development players are taking part in this cause. The Magazine is, therefore, a mechanism to raising awareness, a platform to showcase various projects on SDGs carried out by AICC and other organizations and institutions and at the same time a tool to encouraging all sectors and individuals to participate in the implementation and localization of SDGs.

AICC is an incredible organization supported by a team of young, innovative, ambitious, and vibrant individuals and I am honored to be a part of it. I am confident that our unified focus in upholding the SDGs will grow further and we will continuously produce these magazines on SDGs as part our commitment to sustainable development of Malawi.

Thank you and have a good read.

Felix Lombe PhD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Greetings and welcome to the first edition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Magazine by African Institute of Corporate Citizenship (AICC). This magazine will be published every quarter to give you, our valued readers, updates on matters to do with SDGs.

The SDGs are a set of newly promoted global goals which have been agreed upon by member states of the United Nations to serve the ultimate purpose of eliminating poverty and promoting sustainable development across the world. In attempt to achieve the 2030 development agenda, countries are expected to tackle main challenges that are likely to obstruct the accomplishments of the 17 goals. It is observed that key challenges require everyone regardless of the sector that they are in to play a role in ensuring that the world achieves the SDGs.

This edition introduces you to the SDGs which aim at taking everyone on the path to ‘a world we want’. To achieve all SDGs, there is need to learn from the period that the world aimed at achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Part of this edition reflects on critical factors that must be addressed if Malawi is to achieve all 17 SDGs. One of such key factor is proper alignment of Malawi’s policies more especially the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy III (MGDS III) to the global agenda. The alignment of polices should be done in a manner that promotes ownership and commitment to various interventions that are stated in the policies by both government and all stakeholders. There is also need to ensure commitment to credible identified means of achieving the SDGs.

To attain sustainable progress in Malawi, selection of priority SDGs needs to based on relevant and suitable application of interventions. This will entail proper analysis of all necessitating factors to ensure that necessary resources are mobilized and advocated for. There is also need to strengthen institutions responsible for implementing interventions within the SDGs framework through reforms. This entails intensive assessments of each implementing agent and identifying effective and efficient remedial adaptive measures that lead to positive changes.

The Government of Malawi has so far aligned five priority areas within the MGDS III to SDGs. These priority areas agriculture, water development and climate change; education and skills development; transport and Information Communication Technology Infrastructure; and health and population. These priority need to be mainstreamed to ensure that all players effectively play their roles to ensure that all 17 SDGs are achieved.

The identification of key priority areas alone is not enough to achieve all 17 SDGs as interventions will require financing. It is estimated that an extra $2.5 trillion of funding is needed each year in order to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. This means various financing options must be adopted. These options must extend to the private sector through Public Private Partnerships and Managed Equipment Services (MES). On the other hand, government and development partners must harmonize funding of interventions that will result in the achievement of all SDGs. This will require mutual accountability of funds disbursed and responsibility for development results.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) should mobilize advocacy campaigns that would ensure that all SDGs are achieved. These campaigns must stimulate political will among decision makers to achieve desired results. Apart from stimulating political will, CSOs should also aim at mobilizing ordinary people to take part in the achievement of SDGs.

We wish you a wonderful time as your read through the first edition of the SDGs Magazine.

Kondwani Hilary Chitosi
COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTING OFFICER
Our Editorial Team

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In September 2000, the United Nations General Assembly for Heads of States and Governments adopted the Millennium development Goals (MDGs) and Targets. The Millennium Development Goals were the world’s first global agenda designed to drive human development forward on multiple heads. The MDGs were intended to stimulate national initiatives and strategies geared towards alleviating poverty and improving the standard of living of the poorest of the poor across the globe. MDGs was an embodiment of wider human concerns and issues, they were people centered and measure human progress. Although the global challenge to alleviate poverty is overwhelming, leaders decided to concentrate on eight crucial goals that touch upon available income and food, education, gender equality, child mortality, maternal health, HIV/AIDS and other major diseases, environmental sustainability, and global partnerships.

The Government of Malawi signed the UN declaration with the aim of eradicating poverty and achieving the sustainable development. Its implementation was localized through the National Development Strategy, known as the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). The strategy was developed to reduce poverty and create wealth for the citizens through sustainable economic growth and infrastructure development.

According to the Millennium Development Goals end line report for Malawi, the country managed to meet four MDGs out of the targeted eight. The country managed to achieve Goal 4 (Reduce child mortality), Goal 6 (Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases), Goal 7 (Ensure environmental sustainability), and Goal 8 (Develop a global partnership for development). Despite the progress that the country made in the fours MDGs, poverty still remained at 50.7 percent by the end of the MDG implementation period. The country would have done better in achieving the defunct Agenda 2015 goals despite the challenges faced during the implementation. MGD 4, which aimed at reducing child mortality, was achieved. Child mortality rate declined from 189 per 1,000 in 2000 to 78 per 1,000 in 2015. On the other hand, infant mortality rate has declined from 103 per 1,000 in 2006 to 45 in 2015. The progress is largely attributed to, among others, significant investments in child survival interventions such as vaccines for various preventable diseases, effective treatment of pneumonia at community level, effective prevention and treatment of malaria and diarrhea diseases, Vitamin A supplementation and exclusive breast feeding for the first six months. In addition, other interventions that Government has implemented are: Extended Programme of Immunization, deworming and distribution of insecticide treated mosquito nets.

Ownership and commitment by the Government of Malawi and the CSOs at a national level could have helped in achieving MDGs.
MDG 6 on combating HIV and AIDS, Malaria and other diseases was also achieved such that pregnant women living with HIV aged between 15 to 24 years dropped from 24 percent in 1998 to 8 percent in 2015. Prevalence of Tuberculosis also declined during the same period. The report indicated that significant progress was made in meeting Goal 6 due to increase in the awareness programmes on HIV prevention by several NGOs and behavioral change was amongst the factors that led to this decline.

MDG 7 was also achieved. This goal aimed at ensuring environmental sustainability. The number of household with sustainable access to improved water sources increased significantly from 47 percent in 1990 to 86.2 percent in 2014, exceeding the MDG target of 74 percent. Similarly, the proportion of population with access to basic sanitation increased from 72 percent in 2012 to 95.1 percent in 2014. However, the challenge still remains in the management of forest resources. The land covered by forest declined steadily over the years. In 1990, the land area covered by forest was 41.4 percent, it declined to 36.2 percent in 2005 and it continued to decline to less than 33 percent in 2015.

Malawi is rich in environmental resources. However, environmental degradation, which is caused by poverty, increasing population growth, inadequate alternative livelihoods and affordable energy technologies has increased over the past years. This deforestation has contributed to the Green House Gas (GHG) emissions into the atmosphere causing global warming that affects climate change. As a result of this, the country has recently experienced increased climate variation in the form of prolonged dry spells, droughts, intense rainfall, floods and temperature variability. Consequently, the performance of sectors such as agriculture, natural resources, forestry, water and irrigation, energy, infrastructure, manufacturing, transport, tourism, and trade, among others have negatively been affected.

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Malawi made significant progress towards achieving universal primary education though it failed to achieve the goal by 2015. The net enrolment in primary schools
increased from 73 percent in 2006 to 92 percent in 2015. People living in urban areas have a higher net primary school enrolment rate than those in rural areas. The differences in net enrolment between the rural and urban areas might be attributed to easy access to education facilities and lower poverty levels in urban areas as compared to rural areas. The proportion of pupils starting Grade 1 who reach Grade 5 without repeating a grade increased from 69 percent in 2000 to about 75 percent in 2015. The improvement is related to several factors. They include removal of tuition fees in all public schools by the Government of Malawi, which led to over 50 percent increase in enrolment and expansion of teacher training through Open Distance Learning as well as expansion of Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs). In addition, Malawi Government also increased funding to the education sector, with more emphasis on primary education. However, the youth literacy increased from 68.1 percent in 2000 to 94 percent in 2015. Literacy rate by sex indicates that there is a higher percentage of literate males compared to females. However, the percentage of literate females has increased significantly between 2006 and 2015 as compared to that of males. Secondary school enrolment ratio of girls to boys increased from 0.60 in 2000 to 1.1 in 2015. This due to the fact that many girls drop out of school or repeat as they progress through the grades in primary education, thereby resulting in low girl intake at secondary school level. Some of the reasons girls drop out of school are; child marriages and teen pregnancies, family and cultural responsibilities. Culturally, girls - unlike boys - are expected to shoulder the roles of providing care and support for relatives that are aged or sick.

Developing Global partnership for Development goal was also achieved. There are a number of policies and structure reforms which Malawi has put in place in cooperation with the private sector. Some of these are; Tax reforms, Legal reforms, Local governance reforms, Trade and Exchange Rate Liberalization, National Anti-corruption strategy and many more. The reforms have enhanced confidence on the economy. The percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased from 13 percent in 2005 to 25 percent in 2015.

Another indicator of developing global partnership for development goals, which is the unemployment of 15 to 25 year olds, is also improved. Unemployment rate for the nation as a whole decreased from 9 percent in 2006 to 4 percent in 2013. This was due to promotion of agriculture production through affordable farm inputs and rehabilitation of irrigation schemes.

The end line report recorded that Malawi failed to attain the other four goals not because of lack of effort to achieve them but rather due to the fact that the country had a much lower starting base compared to other countries. In addition, Malawi failed to attain the other four goals since all of them needed a gender related interventions.

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Lessons learnt in implementing the MDGs
Critical lessons can be drawn from the period after adoption of the MDGs that will support implementation of the SDGs. It is important to reflect on the unfinished business of the MDGs. There are some overarching lessons that cut across various sectors and even into the new areas:
Malawi took about three years to fully embrace and institutionalize the previous global development goals when they were launched, and this affected the pace at which the country “took off” in the implementation drive. Malawi failed to attain four goals out of the eight.

1. Proper alignment of the country’s policies
   Proper alignment of the country’s policies such as Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) at the implementation level would contribute to the achievement of the MDGs. However, Malawi did not properly align MGDS to the MDGs hence the country did not make consistent progress in all MDGs. In addition, priority areas allocated to national budgetary were not aligned to MDGs activity. This resulted in failure to implement other activities. There is need that government intervention at national development strategy be aligned to the SDGs at implementation level and should also capture focal areas in budget allocation.

2. Ownership and commitment
   Ownership and commitment by the Government of Malawi and the CSOs at a national level could have helped in achieving MDGs but due to lack of full ownership and commitment partially affected the achievement of other MDGs. In addition, government failed to engage key stakeholders and public individuals by taking advantage of evidence-based data from pilot projects. This resulted in lack of awareness of MDGs to various stakeholders and what the country was doing towards the MDGs. It was clear that understanding of MDGs among public individuals was limited. This general lack of information and awareness represents an essential challenge. There is an absolute need for more elaborate publicity and awareness about the SDGs among key players if attaining the SDGs is to be realistic.

3. Credible and committed means of implementation
   Global development agendas are likely to succeed if they are underpinned by a credible and committed means of implementation that takes into account both financial and non-financial resources. Resource constraint was the biggest challenge to attain all MDGs in Malawi. Achievement of the new global goals (SDGs) requires financial resources. Malawi needs to harness efforts of the Malawi Government, the private sector, Development partners and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) if all SDGs are to be attained.

Resources available in both urban and rural areas partly contributed to the attainment of the MDGs and lack of resources therefore is another challenge to the achievement of some SDGs. For Malawi Government to achieve the Agenda 2030 (SDGs), it requires financial resources and this should be the quest for the Government of Malawi, developing partners, CSOs and private sector. For example, despite achieving the goal of universal primary education, the infrastructure and quality remain a big problem. There is need to have good infrastructure in terms modern and standard school blocks and quality education. This can be improvement by financing the education sector.

In order to address these gaps and reverse the situation, the Government needs to recognize game changers which will speed up the pace of economic growth and development. This process may entail deviation and desertion of traditional approaches to more radical and result-orientated approaches to planning and implementation of the economic policies.
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CONCERN

By Rejoice Jenda

Accountability and transparency is also highlighted as being increasingly important at all levels of society, with revised regulatory mechanisms needed to ensure upholding of human, civil and environmental rights.

In their present form, SDGs are an embedment of the global concern as well as opportunities for human development. However, they also bring forward implementation approaches that should be tried this time around as compared to those used during the implementation of MDGs.

SGDs as a Global Concern
Ideally, the 17 SDGs aim at achieving beneficial global transformation by the year 2030. The concerns consists of development-focused interventions that seek to promote and enhance the social, political, and economic well-being of people within an ecologically sustainable context at all levels of social organization by influencing changes in developed and developing countries’ budgets and policies; wider social norms about rights and the duties of governments and other stakeholders as well as aid volumes and priorities. In so doing, the SDGs will be able to achieve their primary objective, to balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion, mainly through collaborative partnerships between countries. The SDG global concern intends to stimulate action on four key concerns: People, Planet, Prosperity and Peace

People: The SDGs commit to ending extreme poverty in all its forms, including hunger, and to increase people’s universal access to essential social services and basic infrastructure by 2030. According to the most recent World Bank estimates, in 2013, 10.7 percent of the world’s population (about 767 million people) lived on less than US$1.90 a day, which was a decline from 35 percent (1.85 billion people) in 1990 and also suggests that nearly 1.1 billion people have moved out of extreme poverty since 1990. Statistics also indicate that half of the extreme poor live in Sub-Saharan Africa where the number of poor people fell only by 4 million with 389 million people living on less than US$1.90 a day, which is more than all the other regions combined. It is also worth noting that a vast majority of the global poor live in rural areas and are poorly educated, mostly employed in the agricultural sector, and over half are under 18 years of age.

Planet: The SDGs commit to protect the planet from degradation, which is defined as "the reduction of the capacity of the environment to meet social and ecological objectives, and needs" by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and entails deterioration of the environment through depletion of resources such as air, water and soil; the destruction of ecosystems; habitat destruction; the extinction of wildlife; and pollution. The SDGs stipulate that these would be combated through sustainable production and consumption and the sustainable management of natural resources (including terrestrial and marine ecosystems). Implementation interventions within the SDGs framework will also assist in addressing impacts of climate change like rising sea levels due to melting ice caps; torrential downpours and more powerful storms (hurricane and typhoons); heat waves and droughts; changing ecosystems; reduced food security; increased pest and disease infestation as well as acidification of water sources and oceans.

Prosperity: The SDGs advocate for the world to shift to sustainable consumption and production patterns that do not deplete natural resources for future generations, and that promote prosperity for all. The sustainable development framework places a central emphasis on decoupling economic growth from unsustainable resource use and pollution, and offers unprecedented opportunities for low-income countries to join an
international production system. It also strives to provide equal opportunities to vulnerable groups such as the disabled, elderly, women and children and indigenous populations that are normally marginalized and excluded from meaningful socioeconomic participation.

Peace: SDGs stipulate that critical steps for sustainable development including but not limited to; promoting good governance, rule of law, human rights, fundamental freedoms, equal access to fair justice systems, as well as combating corruption and curbing illicit financial flows need to be upheld. Effective and inclusive institutions are also necessary to prevent all forms of abuse, exploitation, trafficking, torture, and violence. Most importantly, SDGs recognize that enhanced global cooperation through the UN Security Council and other UN institutions is necessary to prevent the spread of wars and extreme violence which can highly impede attainment of SDGs.

Global Strategy

Partnerships: The SDGs Agenda calls for a renewed global partnership at all levels with all countries and stakeholders working in solidarity to achieve the goals. The Agenda thus underlines the need for Governments to accommodate input from a broad spectrum of actors, such as multinational businesses, local government structures, regional and international bodies and agencies as well as civil society organizations. Accountability and transparency is also highlighted as being increasingly important at all levels of society, with revised regulatory mechanisms needed to ensure upholding of human, civil and environmental rights.

Opportunities

The SDGs agenda sets out five key opportunities for development; inclusive, universal, integrated, locally-focused and technology-driven.

Inclusive Development: The SDGs will engage multiple stakeholders (Government, International organizations & Agencies, the business sector, non-state actors and individuals) at all levels of society to actualize the agenda. Proposed participatory processes will allow stakeholders to incorporate the needs and interests of the people they represent, enabling better-planned and better-informed initiatives that produce an all-comprising improvement effect.

Universal Development: The SDGs are universal goals that apply to both developed and developing countries alike taking into account different national realities.
Since countries are expected to build on current policy instruments and frameworks to meet the goals and targets depending on national contexts and development levels, each country will be able to witness progress in specific areas leading to global well-being.

**Integrated Development:** The SDGs Agenda promotes the integration of the economy, environment, and society. The SDGs are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, of which the success of one leads to the success of all. Underlined is also the need for good governance and strong social networks, which translates into a framework focused on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. As an example, a country’s ability to combat hunger is directly connected to its agricultural system, its strategy for rural development, economic and income growth, management of natural resources, level of infrastructure, natural disaster mitigation plans and the health of its population, all of which require that many actors work together across and outside of government.

**Locally-Focused Development:** The agenda identifies local authorities and communities as being responsible for the realization of the goals at local scales, recognizing in particular interdependent relationships between urban, peri-urban, and rural area. It thus identifies that a bottom-up approach can be successful in achieving transformational sustainable pathways through direct contact with communities, which informs national-level policy decisions, as success on implementing the SDG Agenda will depend heavily on local planning and service delivery, community participation and leadership.

**Technology-driven Development:** The Agenda acknowledges that new technologies also offer tremendous opportunities to deliver public services, including healthcare, education, and basic infrastructure to more people at lower cost. Embracing technology under this context thus guarantees new approaches to manage the complex and dynamic relationships between institutions and stakeholders with diverse objectives and competencies, assess and integrate initiatives at different governance levels as well as support synergies to meet different goals.

**Workable Implementation Approaches**

To attain sustainable progress, selection of priority SDG needs to follow an assessment in the 3 criteria of application, implementation and transformational impact. Application focuses on relevance of the goal,
suitability and or appropriateness and implementation focuses on whether reasonable allocation of resources can result in the achievement of the goal or target while transformational impact entails whether or not the achievement of the goal or target requires significant new and additional policy action beyond what is currently in place or planned. Proper analysis of these criteria assists greatly in ensuring that necessary resources and interventions are mobilized and advocated for and is also a preamble in determining effective implementation strategies and methodologies, some of which are discussed below.

One prominent methodology is through Public Private Partnerships (PPP) where concerned parties complement each other in a specific thematic area. These allow governments to leverage existing resources with those of the private sector and allows for wider and in-depth coverage, hence attaining better and more sustainable outcomes.

A similar approach is to identify partner governments or agencies that have the resource muscle to assist in specific thematic areas of interest.

Another key step is to map out a new organizational structure for government and stakeholders to engage on the SDGs to plan, formulate strategies and develop monitoring frameworks that will lead to effective localization of SDGs in the country. For instance, formulation or appointment of special committees at different levels of operations (e.g. Steering committee, National planning committee, Work thematic committee (comprising of stakeholders and thematic working group) should be meeting monthly, quarterly, biannually and annually to evaluate progress on various interventions. These commissions or inter-ministerial groups should follow a hierarchy whereby a lower committee is accountable to the higher committee and these should be endorsed at the highest level (by the Head of State) and should engage ministries of planning, finance and economy, health, education and social development, agriculture, environment, the Chambers of Commerce, and the National Statistical Office. Furthermore, commissions should have local government participation as well as representation from civil society and academia.

Aligning SDG efforts with the President’s Office is another approach that can assure the highest level of political will and commitment which is evidently among the prerequisites of successful implementation of interventions that would lead to the attainment of SDGs.

Introduction of effective policies and strategies (accountability mechanisms) that regulate effective utilization of resources (especially financial) at different levels and categories of operations in both public and private sectors is also very vital alongside engaging trade agreements other policies that provide revenue for funding activities that contribute towards the attainment of SDGs.

Additionally, identifying, promoting and incorporating science, technology and innovation is also as beneficial as building human capacities and expertise since both will equip people with reliable skills and knowledge that make them better players in the implementation of interventions that will lead to attainment of sustainable and beneficial change resulting from implementing the SDGs.

Governments also need to abolish or heavily minimise illicit financial flows by introducing and enforcing policies, laws and stiff penalties, as these heavily derail development. In 2013 alone, US$1.1 trillion flowed illicitly out of developing economies. Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) are illegal movements of money or capital from one country to another. This movement is classified as an illicit flow when the funds are illegally earned, transferred, and/or utilized. Illegal outflows stem from corruption, crime and tax evasion among other illicit activities. Statistics suggest that from 2004 to 2013, developing countries lost US$7.8 trillion to these outflows which increased at an average inflation-adjusted rate of 6.5% per year over the past decade, which is significantly higher than the GDP growth for the same period. Illicit outflows from the Sub-Saharan region averaged 6.1% of GDP annually whereas the global average was 4.0% Africa suffered the biggest loss of illicit capital.

In 176 countries that were considered in the 2016 global Corruption Perception Index fall below the midpoint of the scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean) as the global average score was 43. In relation to the above, corruption is another great enemy of progress and development and needs to be uprooted if SDGs implementation is to bear fruits. Corruption is a form of dishonest or unethical conduct by a person entrusted
with a position of authority, often to acquire personal benefits. It includes bribery, extortion and embezzlement. Strengthening institutions responsible for implementing interventions within the SDGs framework through reforms is another highly beneficial approach. This entails amendment or improvement of processes that were wrongly, unsatisfactorily or corruptly done. This allows intensive assessments and brings about remedial adaptive measures that lead to positive changes. This calls for determination and high level political will. However, if embraced, reforms are a highly effective strategy in improving performance of any particular system.

Innovation taxation is another approach that may guarantee sustainable achievement of SDGs. It is now evident that innovation— the creation and adoption of new technologies and principles—provides a sustainable means to achieve local and global environmental goals at a significantly lower costs and that it is also a major driver of economic growth. Innovation taxation in this case can be two-fold, first, where taxes are lowered for any incomes from innovations or related techniques that are improving efficiency, sustainable production or consumption and eco-friendliness, second, in contrast from the foregoing, where heavy taxation measures are put in place for income from processes that promote unsustainable consumption patterns or that contribute to environmental degradation.

However, successful implementation of the SDGs is dependent on the governance and political will of the government especially in as far as provision of resources and engaging partners is concerned as well as on the extent to which the international community is willing to assist in mobilizing sufficient resources to finance the implementation of the Agenda.

**Implications**

Identifying, promoting and incorporating science, technology and innovation will make people better players in the implementation of interventions.
in terms of implementation, tracking and evaluation of their progress, including but not limited to dynamism of the goals, their complexity and inter-dependency.

**Dynamism of goals:** Since the SDGs are dynamic, they require constant learning and adaptation, which means evaluative thinking and constant upgrading must be embedded into proactive activity programming and actions, else risk a possibility of serious digression. For instance, much as there is a recognition of the effects of climate change embedded in target 2.4 under 2nd SDG (target on sustainable food production and resilient agricultural practices), caution need to be exercised and policies and program design need to include effective evaluative mechanisms to test response strategies and use real-time feedback to make necessary changes as strategies will change as a result of changes in context and conditions in the category.

**Complexity of some goals and targets:** Changes in one goal or target may affect the outcome of the other as most are inter-dependent. Complexity in this case recognizes that different parts of a system react differently to interventions and might cause each other to change behaviour. This creates a scenario whereby fairing badly in a specific result area may lower the attainment of a deliverable in another area.

**External resource requirements:** Implementation of the SDGs requires external funding support as the revenue generated within the country is often not sufficient. This, however, has an impact in terms of prioritization at country level as thematic areas with adequate donor funding may be given priority, even if the result area is not of the highest priority in a country.

**Re-alignment of existing policies:** Implementations of SDGs require a re-alignment of the existing policies and strategies. This may thus call for development of reforms that can overhaul various systems that can initiate germination of favourable changes that stimulate achievement of SDGs.

**Adapted service delivery:** Due to various targets stipulated in the agenda, changes will thus need to be effected in service delivery in various targeted areas of performance so as to ensure that appropriate channels are utilized to achieve best possible results that can be sustainably replicated.

**Increased competency of personnel:** Effectiveness and competence levels of the personnel responsible for championing the translation of the goals into action is also of great importance. This calls for effective feedback mechanisms in terms of identification of capacity gaps and needs that can enhance development of effective capacity bridging and building strategies on a need-basis.

Poor service delivery compromises SDGs attainment
Progress on SDGs Domestication in Malawi

By Chippo Masina

In order to ensure that the SDGs and the country’s national plan are aligned, the Department linked them with the five national key priority areas so that it should be clear which priority area is impacting which SDG.

The government of Malawi, by being a member of the United Nations, is committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals of the Agenda 2030. In order to ensure that all efforts made by different stakeholders are not duplicated, the Department of Economic Planning and Development in close collaboration with United Nation Development Program (UNDP), has taken the lead in the domestication of the SDGs. In the run-up to the domestication process the department developed a roadmap which has to be followed. Among the activities lined up in the roadmap are capacity building, awareness and mainstreaming efforts among various stakeholders to ensure that SDGs are institutionalized in all public and private programming activities. The Department has undertaken several training workshops and meetings with different stakeholders. Some stakeholders who already started considered SDGs implementation before national coordination structures were in place and have been given necessary technical support to effectively implement their activities.

The Department has since conducted the Training of Trainers with the Sector Working Group Secretariats, where the stakeholders were equipped with better understanding of the SDGs. The training emphasized on understanding the agenda 2030 and the SDGs; localization; selection of indicators and data needs for an integrated development framework; integration of SDGs/other commitments into national development plans; root cause analysis; means of implementation; and resource mobilization.

The Department further conducted sensitization workshops for the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) as well as Members of Parliament. The target were the planning sections of various MDAs. The workshop was aimed at providing further training for the officers that will be involved in the implementation and mainstreaming of the SDGs. The training for the members of parliament was to equip them with the necessary information on the SDGs so that they can make informed decisions. Apart from the MDAs and Members of Parliament, the media was also trained on how best to communicate to the general public the relevance of SDGs and how they will be implemented at national level.

With the funding from UNDP, the Department hired consultants from the University of Malawi and the Millennium Institute to develop a model, formally known as the Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (iSDG) Model. The model was designed to be used to help identify which of the sectors of the economy should be prioritized to assist realize both national and international
development objectives as articulated in the agenda 2030. Using the model we are able to ascertain which SDGs have larger development impacts and close relationship with other sectors and let them be implemented first for the betterment of the country. The model will be circulated to stakeholders for programming and reference.

The Department is also coordinating other stakeholders to work together in localizing at the local levels. For example the department is working with the Malawi Local Government Association (MALGA) and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MoLGRD) to localise SDGs at the District Councils and mainstreams SDGs in the development plans (DDPs). More institutions have been identified to join these stakeholders so that duplication of efforts are reduced.

So far the SDGs Baseline Report has been drafted awaiting endorsement by various sectors. When it is completed it will facilitate the first progress reporting at the international level. It is expected that the first annual reporting will be done in 2018 considering that MGDS III will have been in effect for a year also.

In order to ensure that the SDGs and the country’s national plan are aligned, the Department linked them with the five national key priority areas so that it should be clear which priority area is impacting which SDG. The linkages show that as the country strives to implement the KPAs, they will indirectly be implementing the SDGs.

The next steps will involve ensuring that all the development plans and policies are reflecting SDGs implementation in a way of mainstreaming. This will help all sectors to utilize systems thinking approach so that development interventions reinforce each other. Therefore mapping of stakeholder involved in SDGs mainstreaming and programme implementation will be carried out to ease the reporting. There will be debates on how well the SDGs activities need to be implemented among all stakeholders and how we can report progress together. Training institutions are going to be given a role to make SDGs as part of their modules to ensure that agenda 2030 has cut across all the threads of economic and social sectors of the economy.

Annual reporting will be emphasized at both national and international levels. The country will be reporting on all the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals since they are inseparable. This will ensure that we are able to highlight progress on what is happening across all the sectors among all the prayers including: central government, local government, civil society organization, private sector institutions and development partners. In order to make sure that there is coordinated reporting, all institutions and networks will be required to report to EPD as a lead institution for consolidated national and international reporting.

**Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS) Key Performance Areas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MGDS KPAs</th>
<th>Sustainable Development Goals</th>
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<td>Agriculture, Water development and climate change</td>
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<td>Education, Skill development</td>
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<td>Transport and ICT Infrastructure</td>
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<td>Energy, Industry and tourism Development</td>
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<td>Health and Population Management</td>
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Nine Facts on SDGs

By Chawezi Mukhuta Banda

The gist and spirit of SDGs and MDGs are similar in the sense that they epitomize the world consensus on the material and spiritual aspiration of the human beings in this planet.

In September 2015, Heads of State and Government agreed to set the world on a path towards sustainable development through the adoption of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development. This included the agreement towards the sustainable development goals which are a build up from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that came to an end in 2015. Our reporter Chawezi Banda had a chat with Dr. Felix Lombe, Chief Executive Officer of the African Institute of Corporate Citizenship (AICC), an organization that has been influential in fostering the Private Public Partnerships (PPP) approach in sustainable development.

1. What are the SDGs?
The United Nations in the year 2000, created eight Millennium Developments goals (MDGs), to eradicate poverty, hunger, illiteracy and diseases by 2015, these have since phased out. Upon the phasing out of the MDGs, World leaders gathered to agree to a new set of global development goals. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) form part of an agreed agenda that all United Nations member states, agreed to take up in 2015 towards eradicating extreme poverty, reduce inequality, reduce effects of climate change and social injustices. They are 17 goals that encompass a range of social economic challenges from health, education, climate change, poverty and gender equality.

2. How different are the SDGs from the MDGs?
The gist and spirit of SDGs and MDGs are similar in the sense that they epitomize the world consensus on the material and spiritual aspiration of the human beings in this planet. The difference between MDGs and SDGs thus lies on the substance and scope and to that extent the differences are conspicuous enough on a number of fronts.

Firstly, unlike the MDGs, SDGs are inclusive as they take into account the aspirations of both developed and developing worlds. The MDGs gave an indisputable impression that the core recipient and beneficiaries of the goals were the developing countries since they only set target and goals on challenges that usually bedevil the developing countries. The SDGs have equally factored in the aspirations of developed countries in the sense that matters of socio-economic inequality for instance, which arguably are not the top concern of third world countries, have been casted clearly.

Secondly, issues which were skirted around in the MDGs such as the explicit goals on global warming and climate change have been included. Thirdly, goals in the MDGs that appeared ambiguous and were source of contestation among academicians and practitioners on one hand and a source of excuses and manipulated reporting among governments and practitioners have been carefully phrased. For example, the initial MDG goal on poverty naively neglected the never-ending debate on what constitutes poverty and left room for each signatory to report the achievement based on one strand of poverty. The SDG goal on poverty obliges all states to end poverty "in all its forms" thus, taking cognizance of the fact that poverty is a multifaceted devil while at the same time nullifying any possible debate on the what constitutes poverty.

Finally, the SDGs, unlike MDGs, have come out clearly on the role of business and other non-state actors.

3. Malawi did well on some MDGs and poorly on the others? Any lessons learnt?
It is not necessarily that Malawi did well but rather say "partly well". However, the reasons should be obvious and they emanate from external and internal factors. Internally, Malawi is in many other international commitments but is always slow in popularizing international commitments. By the time the state and non-state actors start engaging each other, a considerable amount of time is always lost. Full popularization
of the MDGs took centre stage only after late Bingu came into office four years after their adoption. On the same internal front, the commitment of state actors and apparatuses such as government was clearly elusive making material resource commitment towards the goals just a veneer.

In addition, intra-sectorial allocation of resources was often skewed towards politically convenient budget lines that had little to do with the commitments while inter-sector wise, resource allocation was insufficient. Finally, and this must have been one of the key reasons, the capacity of public service to drive the agenda was evidently weak at human resource, implementation, monitoring and multi-sector engagement level. In fact, this one will continue bedeviling us even in the SDGs.

Externally, the development partners' orientation towards direct implementation disguised as "technical assistance" didn't do Malawi good either. The complexities of Malawi's challenges are such that any so-called expert must be cautious enough when offering advice. In addition, the financial crisis that many development partners faced in their mother countries between 2008 until now had an effect on their commitment towards the goals in terms of monetary support.

4. What should we do as a country to ensure that we perform better on the SDGs?
The current public-sector reforms should stay on course while multi-stakeholder engagement should start now through popularization of the agenda. Resource-wise, Malawi needs to prioritize those goals whose achievement will not compromise the future attainment of other goals but rather enhance or accelerate others goals. This is surely a question of careful prioritization which requires devoted analysis and political-proof exercise. Bringing on board private players will require serious strategies while maintaining the trust of development partners require heavy sacrifices.

Finally, since SDGs will require significant resource envelope, we need to ensure that our sovereign debt levels are not rising beyond sustainable levels. This will enable us to have the fiscal space needed to amortize or service our loan obligations while remaining with reasonable resources for SDGs. These are all important matters but not that simple unfortunately. Nevertheless, they are possible.

5. 17 SDGs all agreed to. Doesn't the 17 SDGs look over ambitious?
The argument that perhaps the 17 Goals are too
Resource-wise, Malawi needs to prioritize those goals whose achievement will not compromise the future attainment of other goals but rather enhance or accelerate others goals.

8. What should we expect from the SDGs?
The SDGs commit all countries to “leaving no one behind”, enabling all people to participate in and benefit from globalization and development. The time to deliver is already short. Therefore, stepped up early action is needed to get SDGs on track to eradicate extreme poverty, hunger, preventable diseases and deliver essential services by 2030. The goals are being implemented with the view that every country is unique and requires an approach that will suit its environment.

9. Implementation of the SDGs will definitely require resources. What are the financial requirements for the SDGs?
Achieving the SDGs is neither going to be cheap nor easy. The required growth, investment and additional financial resources will vary across the different scenarios in individual countries. For example, Africa needs to grow by 16.6% per annum between 2015 and 2030 to achieve a poverty headcount ratio of less than 3% in 2030. This translates into a large financing gap of 65.5% of GDP per year between 2015 and 2030. Therefore, there is need to facilitate future progress in battling extreme poverty, initiatives especially in low income countries in the form of social protection, investment in education, and wealth redistribution, need to be pursued with sustained political commitment and at an accelerated speed.

In addition, intra-sectorial allocation of resources was often skewed towards politically convenient budget lines that had little to do with the commitments while inter-sector wise, resource allocation was insufficient.

ambitious isn’t new. However, the current global climate that we are living in necessitates these goals and we are left with no choice but to come up with sustainable solutions. Furthermore, the world is being affected by different social economic challenges that need to be addressed. For instance, the prevailing wars in Middle Eastern countries have increased poverty levels and the need for humanitarian assistance.

6. Are the SDGs a Panacea to global development?
Not a cure but a remedy, something to manage the situation and move the world to a better and desirable state. They are attainable but, there is need for commitment from everyone, governments, private sector players and civil societies. A few other important aspects that may determine the attainment of the SDG’s are research, stakeholder engagement and good governance.

7. How can the shortfalls of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) be addressed so they are not repeated in the sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
The MDGs that run from 2001-2015 had specific indicators on how to track progress. However, these indicators were developed by the UN with very little consultation to the UN member states that were to implement the MDGs. The SDGs have provided that all countries should establish their own SDGs targets reflecting their particular context and priorities, while stretching ambitions to achieve their globally agreed commitments. However, the National SDGs should reflect the global consensus on minimum standards of human dignity, rights and development; ensure progress is comparable; and demonstrate contributions to global solutions.
Financing the Sustainable Development Goals

By Rashid Mpinganjira

It is estimated that an extra $2.5 trillion of funding is needed each year in order to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

Countries have adopted a set of 17 goals referred to as Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs) which build on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were implemented from 2000 to 2015. The goals have 169 specific targets that cover a wide range of issues from poverty, hunger, gender, equality, human rights to climate change and energy. SGDs represent an ambitious agenda to achieve an extensive economic transformation by 2030.

It is estimated that an extra $2.5 trillion of funding is needed each year in order to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. So just where is the money going to come from? What are the funding mechanisms? This article discusses the financial requirements for the SDGs and the funding mechanisms.

Governments partnering with private sector through innovative mechanisms such Private Public Partnerships (PPP) have helped to raise capital to finance the SGDs. Another innovative mechanism is the Managed Equipment Services (MES) which represents a more flexible partnership with a private sector. Combining government incomes and private income flows would facilitate meeting the finance gap. Matching grants is another way in which organizations have pooled their finances and increase impact. Blending of public-private and public private is also hailed as one way of achieving finance and leveraging from billions to trillions.

Another financing mechanism for the SDGs is blended financing. Blended finance is defined as the strategic use of development finance and philanthropic funds to mobilize private capital flows to emerging and frontier markets. Blended finance strategies are aimed at mitigating risks and enhancing returns to ensure that the risk return profile of investors is in line with their scale of development impact. Blending of public, philanthropic and private resources can in turn significantly scale investments into areas critical for sustainable development including infrastructure, agriculture and health care, among others. World Economic Forum and OECD contend that blended finance offers practical insights on how public and philanthropic actors can scale development impact. Blended finance is becoming
a recognized best practice to mobilizing commercial capital for development. However, there is still much to do for blended finance to become a mainstream financing approach.

Focusing on domestic resources is another mechanism in financing the SDGs. It is estimated that 77 percent of funding for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was from the domestic public finance and also that this domestic finance was more stable and more aligned with government priorities and much in line with the Paris Declaration on Aid effectiveness, considering that the SDGs have been given space for countries to develop their own development aspiration targets, domestic resources provide a reliable source of financing SDGs. The domestic resources were also considered easier to manage than donor funded spending. Therefore, it is only imperative that governments learn from this and raise resources domestically. Global rules and systems would, nevertheless, need to be set in the area of trade and taxation, for instance, to make this possible.

The ability to mobilize domestic resources would reduce aid dependency and can raise a country’s creditworthiness. It is worth noting, however, that low-income countries experience problems in raising domestic revenues and that this is compounded by high capital flight and limited capacity to collect revenues from multinationals engaged in the extractive industry. Countries as such need to expand their tax coverage and strengthen the accountability to increase expenditure efficiency. Improving capacity to negotiate for fair contracts in extractive industries would also help in retaining natural resources rents. Governments can do this for instance by promoting initiatives like Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) that promote transparency in revenue flows and contract disclosure. Governments will in this regard require support to: (i) build capacity for qualified negotiation of the licensing of extraction rights (ii) establish well-equipped larger taxpayer offices or separate tax units for the extractive industries (iii) deepen cooperation and information sharing with tax administrations of resource-rich developing countries in order to confront aggressive tax planning by multinationals in the extractive sector and (iv) ensure that relevant ministries have specialists capacity and laboratory equipment to undertake physical verification of ore grades, quantity and price.

Countries also need to manage their natural resource wealth in way these assets can generate revenues in the long run. Countries can also ensure that renewable resources are not harvested beyond the regrowth rate. Reinvesting the revenues from the non-renewable resources should also be considered in building long-term wealth to contribute to SDGs. Natural Capital Accounting (NCA) is one of the tools that can be employed for countries to inform decisions on natural resources use so as to generate sustainable revenue streams. Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) partnership also helps countries to adopt NCA. Botswana, Colombia and Madagascar are some of the countries implementing NCA.

Resources for Infrastructure (RfI) deals in fragile state is yet another financing model worth consideration. The RfI has been adopted by some countries to overcome obstacles related to limited capital market access and domestic capacity to implement large infrastructures projects. The infrastructure project financing in this mechanism is backed by future oil and mineral revenues with financing frequently taking the form of export credit. This mechanism is ideal to finance huge projects such as roads, regional railway lines, hydropower dams and water supply projects just to mention few. Angola’s post war infrastructure reconstruction serves as a good example of RfI financing.

A look into carbon markets gives yet another instrument in financing referred to as climate finance. A novel instrument to generate climate finance can be found in cap and read schemes which limit the emissions and thereby creating emission allowances (carbon credits). Any surplus carbon credits are traded at carbon markets generating revenue in the process. Investing in low emissions projects such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, waste management and reforestation are similar avenues to do this. Especially owing to the fact that same size of the carbon market and that carbon prices have remained too low thus generating low return...
when compared to mitigation and adaptation needs. In 2011, the total value for carbon market was US$125 billion against US$159 billion registered in 2010.

Diaspora bonds resources is another way worth exploiting in financing SDGs. Diaspora resources through diaspora bonds and remittance backed bonds have potential to finance projects such as railways, roads and educational institution among others. African continent is estimated to hold US$52 billion in potential development finance. If these savings can be channeled into development efforts in poor countries it could leverage the finance gap. Another way could be to persuade the Diaspora members to invest in their own countries. Issuing of Diaspora bond is another way to Diaspora investments, a retail saving instrument marketed to the Diaspora members. This can be taken by a developing country or reputable private denominations (from US$ 100 to US$ 1000). The bonds can also be sold in larger denominations to wealthier migrants.

UNCTAD estimates that an additional $2.5trillion per year is needed to finance the infrastructure (physical and social) needs associated with the SDGs. This is a lot of money when extrapolated to 2030. This financing need is too vast to go through a central pot whether domestic or global or a mixture. Getting everyone on board SDGs implementation seems plausible. As such, with this given fact everybody need to do their part: governments, companies, foundations, and individuals.

The SDGs funding gap can be significantly met if private sector participation is increased. While philanthropic/donor community and government have an important role to play in helping address this gap, they do not have anywhere near the required resources to succeed alone. This, therefore, calls for recognition of the importance of private sector in financing the SDGs.

The SDGs finance gap need concerted efforts as such donor support to leverage private investment and private finance is needed. This generally needs to be compliant with development effectiveness principles and there must be robust environmental and social safeguards to make sure everyone is accountable. Private finance needs to be transparent to allow accountability and citizen’s participation. Political leaders need of show some real courage and integrity in standing up to those powerful interests and ensure that finance is used to help the poorest and most vulnerable.

The crucial point at financing the SDGs is that we need mostly grants and SDGs implementations cannot deal with loans or any form of private risk capital because the monetary return is mostly limited. We therefore need much more public spending which is also limited in relation to global SDGs needs. This makes a case to consider large scale public financing in the form of grants.

Development partners are helping to develop new tools to help generate financing for development. One such innovative mechanism is termed pull mechanisms for development, which involve ex-post economic incentives for innovation to solve a well-defined problem. Payments are linked to the actual impact of an innovation, thereby laying the foundations for a self-sustaining and competitive market for the relevant product. Under pull mechanisms, a number of African countries have adopted the Resources-for-Infrastructure (RfI) financing model to overcome limited capital market access and domestic capacity constraints. Under RfI, oil or mineral extraction rights are exchanged for turnkey infrastructure, complementing standard tax and royalty regimes. Diaspora resources (via Diaspora bonds and remittance-backed bonds) could help finance infrastructure projects thereby financing SDGs.

It is estimated that the annual savings of developing country Diasporas is US$400 billion. This represents an untapped source of financing for development. Another innovative financing mechanism is linking climate finance and development finance. This can enhance development impact by allowing the fight against poverty to take climate effects into account and vice versa. Comprehensive carbon pricing policies, the removal of inefficient fuel subsidies, and cap-and-trade schemes are promising options to mobilize larger and higher-return investments.

Aid in form of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and the reforms that support it needs to be stable source of development financing especially in poorest economies and fragile states with limited or no access to capital markets. ODA represents the biggest financial inflow to fragile after remittances and Foreign Direct Investments.
Food and agriculture lies at the core of the 2030 agenda. Not only is it responsible for meeting humanity’s needs for food, feed, fiber and other products but agriculture provides employment and livelihood for rural communities especially in developing countries. Agriculture impacts the way land, water, biodiversity and genetic resources are managed, thus its cross-cutting nature is central to achieving many of the SDGs. Agriculture directly affects the success of SDG 1 (end extreme poverty); SDG 2 (zero hunger, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture); SDG 3 (health); SDG 6 (water); SDG 13 (climate action); SDG 14 (marine ecosystems) and SDG 15 (terrestrial ecosystems, forests and land). Additionally, agriculture influences the outcome of several other goals and target related to employment, gender equality, and access to resources, responsible consumption and production. It also detects the achievement of SDG 16 and SDG 17 on peace and inclusive societies and partnering for sustainable development respectively.

Improving agricultural production is not the only driving force behind achieving agenda 2030. Alongside it, the country needs to promote conservation, protection and enhancement of natural ecosystems. Environmental degradation and climate change have also been responsible for general yield decline in the Malawian context. Excessive destruction of forests and general ecosystems has depleted water resources and has led to pollution and contamination of water, soil and air. All these have had a spillover effect to agriculture which heavily relies on a functioning ecosystem. For example, rainfall patterns have changed leading to climatic extremes such as droughts and floods. However, with sustainable agricultural practices, the world can abate these effects. Achieving SDGs through agricultural development requires new modalities for developing coherent and effective policies, programs and investments. Achieving the SDGs will require looking at sustainable development within and across agriculture in an integrated manner, taking into account synergies and trade-offs across sectors and across sustainability dimensions.
Future improvements in agriculture remains in enhanced productivity. Smallholder farmers need to efficiently use their marginalized land to produce more.

The SDGs present a unique opportunity for a stronger role in agriculture in shaping sustainable development. For this to happen, leaders at national level are expected to look at the role of agriculture in a new way.

This means adoption of sustainable and productive agriculture. For farmers to increase yield, there is need of intensified research and innovation which can provide technical ingredients for change. Research and technology development in areas of seed systems, pest management, irrigation, ICT, efficient use of water and energy, efficient food supply chain and conservation of biodiversity has the potential to unleash the agriculture potentials in Malawi. Innovations in production and marketing need to be intensified and such novelties need to be particularly be sensitive to the roles of women, youth, smallholders and family farmers, and indigenous peoples in building sustainable agriculture. Against this background, innovations that can contribute to a more sustainable economy have considerable potential for employment creation in rural areas, in particular for young women and men. This directly contributes to Goal 8 of the SDGs on productive employment and decent work for all.

Improving agricultural production is not the only driving force behind achieving agenda 2030. Alongside it, the country needs to promote conservation, protection and enhancement of natural ecosystems. This entails restoration and conservation of soils, protection against water pollution and reduced carbon emission intensity. This can be ensured through the promotion of conservation agriculture which involves minimum or no tillage and restoration of nutrients back into the soil. Of critical importance is the extent to which rural people, in particular small-scale family farmers, youth and women, have secure and equitable accesses to knowledge, services, markets and resources, including land and water, control over their livelihood through decent work opportunities, and access to diverse and nutritious food. Local communities’ resilience to changes in ecosystems and climate needs to be enhanced. This includes contingency planning for droughts, floods or pest outbreaks and the adoption of more diversified and resilient production systems, associated with effective safety nets.

The SDGs present a unique opportunity for a stronger role in agriculture in shaping sustainable development. For this to happen, leaders at national level are expected to look at the role of agriculture in a new way. A key challenge is to strengthen the effective engagement of these sectors at the highest-level of decision-making on national development strategies to demonstrate that agriculture, forestry and fisheries are major contributors to achieving national and global goals and targets. The need for investment in these sectors should also be recognized as a priority for national development and partnerships will be the key means for mobilizing the needed “means of implementation”.

Having realized the significance of partnerships, AICC uses the Public Private Partnership Approach, to reduce poverty of 105,000 smallholder farmers in Malawi, through the Malawi Agricultural Partnership program. Among its interventions, AICC promotes the use of sustainable agricultural practices, adoption of sustainable technologies and practices, income generation and roll out of relevant innovations for agricultural value chains. The program has managed to utilize partnership to enhance these services thus, managed to reduce poverty levels among small holder farmers in different value chain. This gives a road map for stakeholders and development partners within the agriculture sector to utilize partnerships as a development tool.
Malawi has contributed significantly to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Various activities to ensure Malawi’s progress included; enrolling more girl children in primary school, increasing the representation of women in national parliaments, reducing child and maternal deaths and the proportion of people infected with HIV.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) urges the private sectors to create jobs in order to achieve economic development more efficiently. Job creation is an important advancement that can determine the growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and thus, people will be able to generate income, and reduce poverty. In most of the developing countries such as China, private sectors are the main source of jobs. The private sector is also important because it generates a significant portion of government tax revenue, which is used to fund public institutions in health, education and security.

Effective transition towards sustainable development requires a common understanding and better dialogue within and across sectors. In other words, partnership is essential to achieve the scale and impact that Malawi needs to see in the 2030 agenda. The private sector has to partner with the government, civil society, academia and research institutions and other developing partners at different levels in order to build upon principles and values, a shared vision and goals that place people and the planet at the centre. The partnering of the three will help raise capital to finance the SDGs through innovative mechanism. Combining government income, civil society income and private income flows would facilitate meeting the finance gap. Achieving progress on the SDGs makes it necessary to align and enhance investments and to prioritize those actions that can achieve measurable results on the ground.

The private sector can contribute to the wellbeing of health and education sectors by aiding with school blocks construction, and the provision of health facilities. In this way, education could be promoted, and health could be improved. The private sectors should also support the provision of social services such as water services, building boreholes, public works, school meals and Village Savings and Loan schemes (VSLs).

The obligation to accomplish the SDGs could be achieved if the private sector utilizes its capabilities. The government should create a conducive environment to allow the private sectors achieve their full potential.
Getting Involved in SDGs: Development Partnership

By Isaac Tembo

Donor aid has played a substantial role in eradicating poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. The millennium Development Goals for example, have been partially achieved due to the disbursement of aid from developed countries and development partners. Aid through the MDGs managed to save millions of lives by reducing the burden of preventable diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS, allowed millions of children to go to school, and helped millions of farmers adapt their practices to a rapidly changing climate. The MDGs showed that even the poorest countries can make dramatic and unprecedented progress with targeted and time-bound interventions, sound strategies, adequate resources and political will. This clearly demonstrates the key role of aid in the development paradigm.

The Sustainable Development Goals, an ambitious new agenda to eliminate poverty by 2030 tackling key challenges around inequality, hunger, and climate change was adopted in September, 2015. The coming in of the SDGs has raised optimism among developing countries as it has opened up possibilities of funding for development. Private investment potentials are on the rise, just like domestic resource mobilisation is likely to increase. On the other hand, there has been an increased aid prospect to least developed countries. The Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2015, adopted a call for all donors to provide between 0.15 percent and 0.2 percent of their Gross National Income (GNI) to least developed countries (LDCs). In 2014, donors provided only 0.06 percent of their GNI to LDCs. Preliminary estimates from OECD indicate that donors have begun to increase the proportion of aid and will continue over the next three years. In addition, at the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Summit, developed countries pledged to provide $100 billion per year in climate finance. At the Paris Climate Summit in December 2015, developed countries promised to continue holding themselves accountable to that amount through 2025.

Many countries around the world will probably achieve the SDGs without a strong dependence on aid. However, poorest governments such as Malawi shall fail to neither raise sufficient revenues domestically nor attract private investment hence requiring aid to support even basic service provision. Therefore, the donor community has a substantial role in ensuring that the developing countries achieve the SDGs. For aid to reach its intended purpose, changes in the disbursement of such funds need to be made. This includes commitment to increase quantity of aid to developing countries and also improve the quality of aid (increase the effectiveness of aid). To ensure this, donors and developing countries must establish genuine partnerships, in which they are jointly and mutually responsible for development results.

Under the Paris declaration on aid effectiveness, a practical action orientated roadmap to improve the quality of aid and its impact on development was laid out. This set a stepping stone on which aid ought to be disbursed. By focusing on five major pillars of ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing of financial partnerships, and the IMF taking the lead in financial partnerships.
results and mutual accountability, if these principles are implemented, countries and organisations that endorsed the Paris Declaration can make major breakthroughs in improving aid effectiveness, tackling issues that have hampered development for decades. The latest declaration on Aid, the Addis Ababa declaration places strengthening domestic resource mobilization as pivotal in financing agenda 2030. Countries made commitments to widen the revenue base, improve tax collection, and combat tax evasion and illicit financial flows. Countries also reaffirmed their commitment to official development assistance, particularly for the least developed countries, and pledged to increase South-South cooperation. All in all, the Addis Ababa declaration outlined the importance of nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, stressing the need of each country having the responsibility of shaping their own development agenda.

For aid to reach meaningful impacts in Malawi, the donor-led approach to development needs to diverge from small uncoordinated, stand-alone projects to holistic projects that look at the bigger picture at national level to register greater impact. When donors build their aid programmes around a series of stand-alone projects that are designed, implemented and managed by the donor, they don’t result in sustainable development. One way that donors can ensure that their funding is well used is if governments and donors work together to monitor implementation of a country’s development strategy and national budget. Donors must design their aid to fit the national development strategies of recipient partner countries just as agreed during the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. This ensures that they are responding to genuine local needs and priorities, and that recipient countries are exercising genuine leadership over development policies and aid. Donors must stop thinking about “their” projects, and instead start to focus on supporting developing countries’ own development processes.

One of the key premises of the SDGs is that each country is responsible for its own progress. One way to get the most value from aid is to ensure that it strengthens local institutions by building their capacity, and making them more effective and responsive. This, in turn, would strengthen accountability for the achievement of the SDGs. Additionally, aid for supporting SDGs should be targeted towards helping countries raise more of their own revenue through domestic resource mobilization, supporting countries to generate more of their own revenue not only provides them with additional development resources but also ensures sustainability of projects.

Another crucial step is by making aid more predictable to planners. Most aid-recipient countries have only limited information about the external resources they can expect to receive in a given year, let alone for the following two to three years. If they are to produce sound medium-term budgets, they need to know how much they will be receiving, and for how long, so that they can plan around it.

There is need for donors to harmonise aid processes and work together with common procedures to reduce duplication of efforts. For a country to meet the SDG targets, all efforts need to be channeled with one understanding. When there are scores of donors, each with many projects and each with their own administrative and reporting requirements, the resulting workload can be devastating for countries, making them not to achieve their targets. To harmonise efforts, donors working on the same issue need to undertake joint missions and joint analyses as a basis for decisions on aid. Again, at all levels, from the decision to provide aid to a country down to the details of a specific Programme, donors need to exchange information and co-ordinate their efforts. Examples can be drawn from the Sector Wide Approach (SWAP) in Malawi where all significant funding agencies support a shared, sector-wide policy and strategy, which has clear sector targets and is focused on results. The approach has proved effective in ensuring value for money and efficacy in development.

Finally, donors and the government should enhance accountability on funds disbursed in the name of promoting SDGs. Lack of accountability is one reason why donors and developing country governments have fallen short on development. Donors and developing countries must not only be mutually responsible for development results, they must be accountable to the
The Role of CSOs in SDGs

By Kondwani Hilary Chitosi

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) have since the 1990s played a very instrumental role in the fight against poverty and other social injustices with success. Their role in addressing issues of global importance was once recognized by former Secretary General for United Nations, Kofi Annan.

Annan while commenting on the advocacy role that CSOs played in the resumption of international criminal justice project in the 1990s said: The constructive evolution of coordination among governments, and between governments, civil society and international organizations, and the influence of their cumulative contributions to the [ICC] signal a significant success for this new approach to international diplomacy.

Southern African CSOs either ignored or were slow to adopt the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in their work three years after they were launched. This was due to the perception that MDGs concerned only global multilateral government.

The situation, however, changed following intensive awareness campaign by the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (Nepad) and the African Union (AU) on the role of CSOs in achieving the MDGs. Nepad and AU had highlighted that powerful possibilities exist to integrate the Millennium Development Goals into existing civil society campaigns and processes in the region towards more effective strategies and alliances. Following the campaign by Nepad and AU, Civil Society Organisations started to play three critical roles in the achievement of the MDGs, which were agreed on in 2000. These roles were awareness creation, community empowerment and advocacy.

CSOs in Malawi joined their colleagues in the Southern African Region to advocate for the achievement of MDGs. The MDGs End-line Report for Malawi shows that the country has achieved four out of the eight goals. The four MDGs that were met are: Reducing Child Mortality; Combating HIV and AIDS, Malaria and other diseases; Ensuring Environmental Sustainability; and Developing Global Partnership for Development. The four that were not met are: Eradicating Extreme Poverty and Hunger; Achieving Universal Primary Education; Promoting Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Improving Maternal Health.

Despite the poor performance, Malawi is optimistic that it will achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which replaced the MDGs by 2030. The SDGs, which were agreed upon in 2015 during a United Nations General Assembly, have 17 goals. The 17 SDGs will be tackled under four annual themes between 2016 and 2019. According to the Secretary-General’s report, the themes for the SDGs are: ensuring that no one is left behind for 2016; Ensuring food security on a safe planet by 2030 for 2017; Making cities sustainable and building productive capacities for 2018 and Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness: peaceful and inclusive societies, human capital development, and gender equality for 2019.

CSOs ought to continue playing the three roles that they undertook during the implementation on the MDGs. This time around, they should start earlier to ensure that all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are achieved by 2030.

The first role that CSOs should continue to play is that of creating awareness among people about SDGs. The awareness campaign should focus on each annual theme till 2019 to ensure that every ordinary Malawian understands the themes which will tackle the SDGs in bits. CSOs, through various networks created awareness about various components of MDGs. This awareness increased the knowledge level of HIV and AIDs resulting in Malawi’s achievement of MDG 6, which sought to Combating HIV and AIDS, Malaria and other diseases. Similar successes were registered in MDG 6, MDG 7 and MDG 8.
CSOs have the capacity to also create awareness about all SDGs and how they are interlinked to enable ordinary people to articulate what they really need from government and other players. This will ensure that all players in the quest to create a Malawi we want by 2030 find a common ground from which they can work to establish mechanisms to achieve all 17 SDGs.

CSOs during the implementation of MDGs had effectively provided a voice to people who would otherwise not have spoken about issues that affect them. CSOs were able to organize the youth, women and men into structures that would enable them to speak with one voice and also to act with one voice regarding issues to do with HIV. Similarly, other CSO networks also mobilized various communities in the country to speak and act on various aspects of MDGs which led to the achievement of the four MDGs and substantial improvements in MDGs that Malawi failed to achieve.

It is, therefore, very important for CSOs to continue empowering people to speak out about issues that stand in the way of achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. CSOs should also provide mechanisms through which ordinary Malawians can take action to change the situations that may stifle efforts towards achieving the SDGs. This would also in a way encourage community participation in the achievement of the SDGs. Community participation would provide synergetic efforts which will ensure that all SGDs are achieved before the 2030 deadline.

CSOs during the implementation of MDGs. The same can be replicated during the implementation of SDGs.

CSOs should continue advocating for policies and legal frameworks that would ensure that all 17 SDGs are achieved. CSOs should also mobilize advocacy campaigns to generate political will among decision-makers and implement strategies to achieve the desired results. They should target politicians and decision makers with awareness campaigns based on thematic areas with the aim of motivating them to take action to address the challenges.

It is, however, noted that CSOs during the implementation of MDGs focused on goals that were more relevant to their mission statements. This resulted in more awareness and advocacy campaigns focusing on some MDGs than others. There is need for CSOs to holistically focus on all 17 SDGs to ensure that uniform progress is made in achieving them.

The three roles of CSOs would help Malawi to achieve the SDGs which place much greater emphasis on bringing together the growth, poverty and environmental agendas. CSOs are important to the identification of links between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development so that all players can act in a coordinated manner.
SDGs and Malawi’s Sovereign Debt

By Chinsinsi Chilimtsidya & Mwayi Magombo

Unsustainable debt burdens compromise the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic and social rights of the many countries. Malawi stands out in the SADC region.

Despite the SDGs being regarded as a promising remedy towards the development of the country, sovereign debt is problem to achieving the SDGs. This is so because sovereign debt is impactful towards the national budget, government’s expenditure and the development of country’s economy. Unsustainable debt burdens compromise the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic and social rights of the many countries that are likely going to be affected by the impact of high sovereign debt on SDGs. Malawi stands out in the SADC region.

The graph below shows how much debt the country has accumulated over the past ten years.

CAUSES OF HIGH SOVEREIGN DEBT

The accumulation of debt by governments originated from various reasons. Government over-expenditure, the issuance of promissory notes, rise in government net domestic financing and reliance on rain-fed agriculture among other factors are the major causes of high sovereign debt.

• Government over-spending: in 2015/16 financial year, total expenditure and Net Lending was approved at K917 billion. In this fiscal year, total revenue and grants were K784.8 billion of which K653.9 billion was Domestic revenue and K130 billion Grants. Over-expenditure causes the government to lend more in order to fund national needs.

• Issuance of promissory notes: the issuance of promissory notes by the government to its clients to pay for the social services caused high debt for the country. This made the government to issue a lot of promissory notes with interest through reserve bank of Malawi. As a result, the money that the government needed to pay back increased. Government borrowing was the obvious option to cover it.

TREND

Malawi has accumulated debt at a fast rate over the recent years, and the country’s debt level is high compared to its SSA peers (IMF2017). The country’s debt has more than doubled, and now stands at 54.3 percent of GDP compared to 26.7 percent of GDP in 2007, just after the debt relief. This is one of the fastest pace of accumulation of debt amongst countries which received debt relief. Malawi’s debt now stands significantly above the median debt levels of SSA PRGT eligible countries. The composition of debt has shifted progressively from external to domestic borrowing but it is still increasing. The interest expense as a share of revenue has risen significantly in recent years and stands at around 20 percent of government revenues in financial year (FY) 2016/17. This change reflects the much higher servicing cost of Malawi’s domestic debt, compared to external debt. In particular, interest expense on domestic debt increased in 2014 as the Reserve Bank of Malawi (RBM) tightened its policy to anchor inflation expectations. Debt service to revenue ratio is also expected to remain high at around 30 percent in 2017.
• Rise in government net domestic financing (NDF): the rise in government net domestic financing (NDF) during FY13/14 and FY14/15 contributed to high national debt. Following the drop in external financing in the wake of the “cashgate” scandal; NDF averaged 3.7 percent of GDP during these two fiscal years and was covered by a mix of issuance of treasury bills and accumulation of advances from the RBM.

• Malawi's reliance on rain-fed agriculture: this has made the country vulnerable due to climate change which has made the country to harvest little crops for the country. This forces the government to borrow money to deal with this impact, thereby increasing sovereign debt.

**IMPACT OF SOVEREIGN DEBT ON SDGs**

Sovereign debt impacts the SDGs in three main aspects: budget, expenditure and economy. Affecting these national features negatively would imply that the rate of development is decreased. Because of this, the likelihood of achieving the SDGs is limited.

**Impact on National Budget**
The aftermath of accumulating sovereign debt has a possibility to affect the SDGs negatively. The government of Malawi has reduced the budget for development expenditure because of the cost of servicing sovereign debt. Moreover, sovereign debt stimulates damage further by causing budget deficits to accumulate over time.

• Reduced Budget for Development Expenditure: in the 2015/16 Financial Year, Development Expenditure was projected at K224 billion. However, at mid-year, the projection was revised downward to K217 billion. In the 2017/18 fiscal plan, a total of K179.9 billion only is projected to be transferred to councils to finance social sectors. This is not enough to facilitate the development goals. Reduction in development expenditure is a result of servicing sovereign debt, and thus, the government is less effective to support the SDGs priorities especially those that require existence of physical infrastructure such as schools, hospitals and roads. Abundant funding is a key to making the SDGs a reality.

• Accumulation of Budget Deficits: The 2015-16 Financial Year was expected to end with a fiscal deficit of K138.1 billion. However, this deficit was revised upwards to K166.5 billion at mid-year. The 2016-17 Financial Year is expected to end with a fiscal deficit position of K171.2 billion. The budget deficit is increasing, and this underperformance is on account of expenditures in sovereign debt interest. High budget deficits will incapacitate the Government of Malawi from funding the SDGs sufficiently.

**Impact on Expenditure**
The impact that sovereign debt has on government expenditure are immediate and visible. Most directly, the sovereign debt can affect the timing of budget proposals, increase budget deficit, promote crowding out effect, and reduce the overall expenditure by the government.

• In Malawi, constraining debt servicing shifts public expenditure away from the social sectors and other development remedies like the SDGs agenda, and possibly takes away funds from public investment.

• Increased government borrowing has an impact on the crowding out of private investment. When government borrowing creates a greater demand for money and funds than is supplied, it leads to higher interest rates. This creates higher prices for private firms to borrow money. A phenomenon known as “crowding out effect” occurs when interest rates are high. As interest rates increase, firms face a lower rate of return and thus reduce investment.

• In the 2014-15 Financial Year, total Expenditure and Net Lending was estimated at K737 billion. The following Financial Year saw the government expenditure and Net Lending rise to K924 billion. The increase in government expenditure is caused by government’s eagerness to stipulate economic growth. However, the Government of Malawi increased its spending while collectable revenues were dramatically declining. This increased budget deficits.

**Impact of Sovereign Debt on Economy**

An active debt is a debt which is spent on projects that directly help in yielding money income and increasing the productive power of the community. Sovereign debt however, provide room for financial crises such as high inflation rates, high interest rates and the cost of servicing high debt. These crises interfere with the development goals that Malawi would like achieve.

• **High Inflation Rates:** the International Monitory Fund (IMF) has reiterated that Malawi’s rate of inflation remains high. Inflation rate in Malawi averaged 15.25% from 2007 to 2017, reaching its highest inflation rate ever of 28.28% in 2013. Since 2012, Malawi’s inflation rate has been above 15%. The accumulation of sovereign
debt by the Government of Malawi is the core influence of high inflation rates. As a result, the wellbeing of Malawians will not be improved as much as the “end poverty for all” SDG would intend to.

- High Interest Rates: Malawi has recently registered at 18% interest rate. High interest rates are problematic to Malawi because they increase the cost of borrowing and promote a crowding out effect on the private sector.

- The Cost of Servicing High Debt: the government has run large fiscal deficits in recent years, and the cost of debt servicing are rising. As of 2017, the Government of Malawi is expected to service sovereign debt whose interest alone costs K177.3 billion. Sustaining economic development will not be easy considering the fact that roughly 50% of development expenditure is spent on interest rates. In attempt to cover up for debt, the government raises tax burdens on citizens. The SDG to “sustain consumption and production” may not be achieved because citizens are burdened with relatively high tax rates.
About AICC

The African Institute of Corporate Citizenship (AICC) is a non-governmental organization whose main mandate is to promote the role of business in building sustainable and resilient communities. AICC is committed to Promoting and Building Resilient Communities and Sustainable Businesses through Partnership. Its vision is to be a corporate citizenship center of excellence in building resilient communities and sustainable businesses.

Since its establishment in 2001, AICC has among others engaged in capacity building, research and facilitation of market linkages and multi-stakeholder processes that bring together businesses, government and the civil society for collective actions to address sustainability challenges in health, agriculture, education and finance. Sustainable development is at the heart of AICCs programs and activities. AICC believes that responding to the needs for sustainable economic growth through specially-tailored initiatives is very important in the achievement of sustainable development in Africa.