

In the African context and with focus on Tanzania

1. In your own words, what are the SDGs

The SDGs are global aspiration goals that address that address economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. The SDGs build on the successes of the MDGs in mobilizing collective action around a time bound set of global goals that are underpinned by the ending poverty in all its forms, including hunger and a call for all people to enjoy universal access to essential social services and basic infrastructure by 2030

2. What is the philosophy or ideology behind the SDGs

THE SDGs links three dimensions of sustainable development: economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability. The SDGs aim to provide a global framework for cooperation that address the three dimensions of sustainable development within the ethical framework based on: (i) right to development for every country, (ii) human rights and social inclusion, (iii) convergence of living standards across countries and (iv) shared responsibilities and opportunities.

3. A brief background as to 'why have the SDGs in the first place'

The SDGs build upon the success of the 8 Millennium Development Goals agreed upon in 2000 to halve extreme poverty by 2015 as a midpoint towards eradicating poverty in all its forms. The MDGs focused on the many dimensions of extreme poverty, including low incomes, chronic hunger, gender inequality, lack of schooling, lack of access to health care, and deprivation of clean water and sanitation, among others. They achieved some great successes, for example halving the likelihood of a child dying before their fifth birthday. Yet, many countries did not make sufficient progress, particularly on environmental sustainability, and it is now widely recognized that additional work is needed to achieve the ultimate goal of ending extreme poverty in all its forms. Further, there is consensus that the scope of the MDGs needs to be broadened to reflect the challenges the world faces today. Around 700 million people still live below the World Bank's poverty line, and billions more suffer deprivations of one form or another. Many societies have experienced a rise of inequality even as they have achieved economic progress on average. Moreover, the entire world faces dire environmental threats of human-induced climate change and the loss of biodiversity. Poor governance, official corruption, and in dramatic cases overt conflict, afflict much of the world today.

The SDG Agenda responds to these compound challenges, and is therefore broader and more complex than the MDGs. Most importantly, it adopts sustainable development as the organizing principle for global cooperation, meaning the combination of economic development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability. Hence, the overarching name “Sustainable Development Goals,” as the key message to the world community. Furthermore, the SDGs and related agenda apply to all countries, developed and developing alike. The post-2015 agenda calls for actors to move away from business-as-usual (BAU) approaches towards the sustainable use of resources and peaceful and inclusive societies

The outcome document for the SDG Agenda synthesizes the breadth of these issues by declaring that the SDG framework will stimulate action on five key themes: people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnerships, which are described briefly below

People

“We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfill their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.”

Planet

“We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.”

Prosperity

“We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.”

Peace

“We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies, which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.”

Partnerships

“We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalised Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.”



4. Are there country policies and/or laws that will help or hinder Tanzania from achieving the SDGs?

The SDGs will most likely to be met where Local Government Authorities (LGAs) have the competence and capacity to fulfil their responsibilities, and where their residents are able to make demands for accountability and transparency, especially those residents whose needs are not yet realized. To contribute to this end, three primary issues can be highlighted toward implementation of the SDGs development agenda in Tanzania:

- The explicit recognition of LGAs as critical agents in the achievement of the SDGs;
- Attention to LGAs' capacity to deliver on their mandated responsibilities; and
- Tackling the information deficit.

- i. *Recognition of LGAs in the implementation of the post 2015 development agenda:* This means explicitly recognizing that decentralization processes implemented in recent years are incomplete. It means that responsibilities should be accompanied by resources and finance. It also means recognizing and harnessing tools like local economic development to implement the post 2015 development agenda at the local level.
- ii. *Attention to the capacity of LGAs:* LGAs are overburdened with a lot of responsibilities but are capacity and resource-constrained (unfunded mandates and obligations). Activities leading into the strengthening of roles by the LGAs must be promoted e.g. advocacy for increased funding for SDGs programmes, fiscal powers and revenue raising authorities plus capacity building in the delivery of services. There is no single blueprint for improving the effectiveness of LGAs but:
 - Attention needs to be directed towards the funding framework under which LGAs operate – both through fiscal decentralization and national devolution of resources to better match the decentralization of tasks, and improved mechanisms geared towards local level support by international agencies.
 - Strong efforts need to be made to improve human resources, technical capacity and management and strengthen the capacity to involve citizens in planning and decision making, with special attention to the most excluded. In this respect, specific capacity building of local government authorities can be done through multi-stakeholder partnerships of LGAs with universities, research institutions, CSOs, FBOs, and private sector by implementing projects, establishing funding modalities and implementing PPPs at the local level.
 - Specific support to associations of LGAs to support the more systematic development policies such as effective cooperation and exchange on technical and management capacities.
- iii. *Tackling the Information Deficit:* A pre-requisite for SDGs- responsive planning or integration of people - centered approaches in planning is the availability of adequate information. There is a need for a comprehensive national strategy for data and information gathering as well as targeting. While a Community Based Monitoring System

(CBMS) is the ideal method, reforms to official data collection services will be necessary so that these may serve sub-national governments (for instance with data identifying where needs are concentrated within each local jurisdiction) and are able to monitor progress within local and regional governments. With regard to the development goals themselves it will be important to determine a variety of indicators, which distinguish between the very different context of territories, reflecting both rural and urban communities. It may be necessary to set different base lines and benchmarks for progress to ensure a more accurate reflection of the wellbeing of populations and: provide a more detailed sub-national picture of progress. In this respect, it is necessary explore complementary means of collecting real time data such as mobile phones and GPS.

5. Does Tanzania (and the UN in Tanzania) have a monitoring system to track implementation of the SDGs

To help the country to prepare for the monitoring of the SDGs, the UN under the leadership of UNDP in collaboration with ESRF conducted a gap analysis of the data to monitor the SDGs. Building on this support, in 2016 the UN will focus on coordinating the mainstreaming of the SDGs into national, sub-national, and local plans for development to ensure that the SDGs are implemented in an integrated manner. The UN has developed a tool called MAPS – Mainstreaming SDGs in national and development plans, Acceleration and Tackling Bottlenecks and Policy Support to help countries in achieving the SDGs

6. What is the role of the private sector in achievement of the SDGs?

As noted in the Agenda 2030 document, “All stakeholders, acting in collaborative partnership, will implement this plan [SDG Agenda].” The SDGs will engage multiple stakeholders at all levels of society to actualize the agenda. No one is left behind or left out, as “governments, international organizations, the business sector and other non-state actors and individuals must contribute. “Participatory processes will allow stakeholders to give voice to the needs and interests of the people they represent, enabling better-planned and better-informed initiatives. The private sector has a role to play in (i) sustainable production processes, (ii) regenerative use of natural resources, (iii) improved social protection for labour, (iv) corporate social responsibility initiatives, (v) philanthropic donations, (vi) generating employment, technology, and (vii) financing the SDGs e.g., public private partnerships (PPPs), among others.

7. How will the SDGs impact the business community?

When working in partnership with business, governments should keep in mind the profit-driven nature of companies and figure out how to capitalize on that for the benefit of development priorities. For instance, governments should set up incentives to attract businesses to participate in the SDG process. Many companies already see the SDG Agenda as critical to their growth, and data shows that businesses that incorporate sustainable practices into their model outperform their competitors. Similarly, sustainability is valuable to the longevity of a company when the business model is in alignment with the interests of the community it is operating in. On the other side, governments must consider criteria for choosing companies to partner with. Performance indicators include records in human rights violations, corruption scandals, financial transparency, and compliance with the law and tax system

8. What incentive or motivation do businesses have to invest in achievement of the SDGs?

Many companies already see the SDG Agenda as critical to their growth, and data shows that businesses that incorporate sustainable practices into their model outperform their competitors (see [Business Call to Action \(BCtA\)](#)). Similarly, sustainability is valuable to the longevity of a company when the business model is in alignment with the interests of the community it is operating in. On the other side, governments must consider criteria for choosing companies to partner with. Performance indicators include records in human rights violations, corruption scandals, financial transparency, and compliance with the law and tax system

9. Over ambitious is a common critic against the SDGs, are there others and what is your response to them

The SDGs are ambitions because they are transformational goals. This because development means so much, both for the world and for the individual human being. Development is a life in peace. Development is a life without poverty and without inequalities. Development is respect of human rights, and the belief in governance and in good and strong institutions. So in this world today, there is no peace without development. There is no development without peace, and none of the above without respect of human rights. So what we need to understand is that we have to bring all factors together at the same time and realize that we have a common agenda across peace, development, and human rights. And if we attach ourselves to that philosophy then we can make a difference. That's what we have to do now, this period of 2015 to 2030.

Main Source

The United Nations. (2015). Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (available at

<http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2012/transformingourworld>