

**“SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CAN USHER IN A NEW ERA OF
COOPERATION AND PROSPERITY: MAJOR TRENDS FROM 2015-2023.”**

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ABSTRACT

‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’, an ancient Indian phrase meaning “the world is one family”, pithily captures the spirit of India’s approach to all aspects of life including economic development.

The Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter referred as ‘SDGs’) are, thus, part and parcel of the country’s longstanding tradition and heritage.” The objectives do, in reality, closely resemble India’s development vision, as Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized in his speech at the United Nation’s SD Summit in September 2015. He stated, to paraphrase, "The SDGs replicate much of India's development agenda. Our country's ambitions are bold and well-intentioned; the globe and our lovely planet will suffer greatly if one-sixth of humanity experiences SD.

India is currently the world's fastest-growing rising economy, and it places a strong emphasis on socioeconomic justice, good governance, and low carbon growth. The country is also swiftly emerging as a centre for some of the most advanced digital solutions. India understands that its efforts in this "Decade of Action" will propel the globe towards a positive cycle of development and well-being because it has 18% of the world's population and the biggest percentage of aspirant youth. It says that “cascading and interlinked crises are putting the 2030 Agenda for SD in grave danger, along with humanity’s very own survival”. At present, the world has entered a new phase of turbulence and transformation, with the intertwined impacts of the profound changes and the COVID- 19 pandemic both unseen in a century.

Keywords: *Environmental Protection, Climate Change, Gender Equality, Nutrition, Economic Growth, Economic Crisis, Clean Energy, Global Goals, ISO (Indian Standard Organization), Intergovernmental Science–Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), NITI AAYOG.*

1. Introduction:

Since the dawn of civilization, man has tried to excel it by conquering nature. He has done so either for his development or for the sake of enjoyment. In this process he has affected his surroundings very badly. However, the problem which we are facing today has not appeared overnight. It had been a longtime in the making. The obsession for growth and rapid economic development has destroyed our environment to such an extent that the ecosystem which supports our life is ruining. It is a matter of serious concern that several serious environmental problems have plagued the modern human society. The need of environmental protection has become a matter of political sloganing today. The reason is that environmental protection is big issue and ranks high among people’s priorities. The political parties and governments are falling over each other in their rhetoric. The issue of environmental protection is big in terms of the size of the problems to be faced and the measures required solving them. The entire system that is responsible to make life on earth possible is affected. We the people of the world are responsible for such deteriorating conditions. Undoubtedly technology is significant in development and increased productivity to satisfy human need, but uncontrolled technology impacts environment negatively. Let us all join out hands to save the planet for our future generations.

Any disturbance of the basic environment elements, namely air, water and soil, which are necessary for “life”, would be hazardous to “life” within the meaning of Article 21 of the Constitution. It was held that Article 21 of the Constitution casts an obligation on the state to take every measure to preserve life. Right to live with human dignity- this includes health, nutrition, shelter and other amenities necessary

for descent living. Right to livelihood implies earn livelihood through legal means and without loss of personal liberty. State is not a living entity but a legal entity. The SDGs are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. And job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection. Sustainability has become quite a vague term - it might be something like a checklist, a marketing tool or an attitude. The 2030 Agenda for SD, adopted by all UNs Member States in 2015, provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet. All nations must take action immediately to enjoy peace and prosperity.

2. The SDG's Main Objective:

Despite the fact that each objective is important on its own, they are all interconnected and incorporate social, economic, and environmental sustainability, or, as the UN puts it, a global blueprint for dignity, peace, and prosperity for people and the earth, now and in the future. The SDGs are being implemented for the first time in 2016. In 2015, 195 countries agreed with the United Nations that the world needed improvement. Bringing together their respective governments, businesses, media, higher education institutions, and local NGOs will help to enhance the lives of the citizens in their country by the year 2030. Seven years on, we have made progress, but there is still work to be done, and the Goals are more important than ever. The SDGs will shape plans for the next 15 years. Food and agriculture lies at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. The new Global Goals result from a process that has been more inclusive than ever, with Governments involving business, civil society and citizens from the outset, and business has to play a very important role in the process.

The SDGs, also known as Global Goals, build on the success of the Millennium Development Goals (herein after referred as 'MDGs') and aim to go further to end all forms of poverty. The new targets are distinct. The Agenda includes three essential components: economic growth, social inclusion, and gives a road map for advancement in all spheres of society. The UN's blueprint for a more sustainable future for all is the SDGs.

All 191 UN Member States have committed to attempting to accomplish the 17 goals and 169 targets of the SDGs by the year 2030. Health has a central place in SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages. The gender discrimination still holding too many women back holds our world back too.

3. Implementation and Role Of I S O :

ISO has identified the standards that make the most significant contribution. Despite progress in key environmental areas such as clean water, sanitation, clean energy, forest management and waste, communities are still living unsustainably and are far off the pace.

The SDGs cannot be achieved without the realization of child rights. Good nutrition is the bedrock of child survival, health & development.

The importance of decent work in achieving SD is highlighted by Goal 8 which aims to “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. “It is essential to understand the different ways in which people value nature, as well as the different ways in which these values can be measured,” said Ana Maria Hernández Salgar, IPBES chairperson.”.More important, while the all-encompassing nature of the concept gives it political strength, its current formulation by the mainstream of SD thinking contains significant weaknesses. The *Human Sustainable Development Index* (HSDI) has been proposed as a way to amend the United Nations' *Human Development Index* (HDI) by adding an environmental dimension. Despite some attention in the media, the HSDI remained largely ignored by the scientific community.

The past has placed an excessive emphasis on electrification, which is ineffective in addressing the issues of sustainable development or energy access. Facilitating access to sustainable energy to meet the

demand for cooking and heating energy and providing economically viable and affordable options remains the greatest challenge.

Like democracy and globalization, the concept of sustainable development has become one of the most ubiquitous, contested, and indispensable concepts of our time..According to UNESCO's recent documents, SD is the "ultimate goal of the Man-environment relationship"; A critical review shows that the definitions of SD are vague; there is a lack of operative definitions and disagreement over what should be sustained; the concept is unclear in terms of emotional commitment; and it "remains a confused topic", "fraught with contradictions".

We have concluded that climate change, income inequality, and social injustice are the biggest threats to building strong, sustainable communities and hence these challenges define our current priorities. In actuality, "Humanity is not doomed to destroy itself; war is not inevitable; poverty can be relieved, the environment can be conserved, and injustices can be made right."

4. Conclusion:

The question of what should be sustained in sustainable development has been and continues to be a point of contention for the idea of sustainable development. It has been argued that there is no such thing as sustainable use of a non-renewable resource, since any positive rate of exploitation will eventually lead to the exhaustion of earth's finite stock; this perspective renders the Industrial Revolution as a whole unsustainable. In the name of economic development, the price of environmental damage is paid in the form of land degradation, soil erosion, air and water pollution, deforestation, etc.. The harm could outweigh the benefits of producing more high-quality goods and services. All too frequently, development is fueled by a single need without adequately weighing the larger or long-term effects. The harm this type of strategy may do is already evident in the massive financial crises brought on by irresponsible banks, to changes in global climate resulting from our dependence on fossil fuel-based energy sources. We must act now because the longer we pursue unsustainable development; the more likely it is that its effects will be frequent and severe. "SD that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". This is a definition offered by the famous World Commission on Environment and Development in its report *Our Common Future*. The term SD has also been defined by economists as an economic process that preserves and passes on to future generations the quantity and quality of our natural resource stocks (like forests) and the integrity of biogeochemical cycles (like climate). In other words, to use a term from financial accounting, "natural capital" around the planet does not depreciate.

Climate change not only leads to extreme weather events and dangerous health effects the world over. However, as a threat multiplier, it directly threatens human survival for many of the most vulnerable communities around the world. SD is an approach to economic planning that makes an effort to promote economic progress while protecting the environment's quality for future generations. The idea of sustainability proved to be difficult to apply in many situations, despite becoming extremely popular in the latter two decades of the 20th century. This is mostly because the outcomes of assessments of long-term sustainability rely on the specific resources being examined. According to the most recent SDGs 5 data, gender equality will not be achieved globally by 2030. An understanding of the impact of SDGs on the national, international and transnational level is playing a significantly bigger role in how international law operates and how international attorneys practice it.

Overall the SDGs tend to make the world a better place to live by fulfilling its targets within the stipulated time of 15 years and remove poverty, improve health, provide employment, empower women, reduce inequalities and follow all the seventeen targets that have been set by the UN. The UNs SDGs embrace an ambitious and wide ranging set of environmental, social, and economic issues designed to effect a transition to a more sustainable future. Although the SDGs are global in nature, there is an increasing awareness that they also have an important local dimension.

This requires either that economic growth should only be promoted if sustainability can be assured, or that growth is redefined as ‘green growth’ so that promoting economic growth and achieving sustainability become consistent. A similar neglect of India’s overall performance on the SDGs can be observed in the SDG reports that have been brought out by the NITI Aayog. Peace, diplomacy, and international cooperation are fundamental conditions for the world to progress on the SDGs towards 2030 and beyond. Implementation of the SDGs has started worldwide. Despite Governments in each nation must translate the goals into national policy creating a plan of action within the framework of the country and the sub national level, allocating finances, partnering with organizations, and developing the capacity for effective implementation centered on.

We are now at a poignant moment in the journey to the climactic year 2030, by the time the world has made a commitment to achieving the lofty SDGs it put forth in 2015. For instance, the Government of India's main initiatives include Poshan Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission), For instance, the flagship programmes of the Government of India such as *Poshan Abhiyaan* (National Nutrition Mission), *Aayushman Bharat* (National Health Protection Scheme), *Beti Bachao Beti Padhao* (Care for the Girl Child) and Aspirational Districts programme, just to name a few, directly address the challenges highlighted by SDGs. The International Solar Alliance, co-founded by India, is an example of the country’s leadership in the global arena towards a sustainable future. The underlying principle ‘*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas*’, mirror the essence of the 2030 agenda for SD, to leave no one behind and encourage participation in country’s development. The Global Goals can only be met if we work together. Numerous further points may be made to show recent global discussion difficulties. Nevertheless, it is helpful to attempt to discover a peaceful resolution to the SDG’s possible roadblocks and the climate negotiations apparent deadlock.

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