COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE WORLD RESEARCH CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS UNITED ARAB EMIRATE- DUBAI. 27TH -29TH, NOVEMBER, 2017

**Preamble**

The Sustainable Development Goal was adopted by world leaders in September 2015 and implemented at the start of 2016. More than 150 countries have pledged to mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities, and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) build on the work of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that were emphasized from 2000 to 2015. The new SDGs are unique in that they’re broader in their scope of eradicating all forms of poverty by calling for action by all countries, rich and poor, to promote prosperity while protecting the planet.

To review and assess the implementation challenges of the Policy, the International Institute for Policy Review and Development Strategies with Universities in Africa, Asia, and the United Kingdom organised a World Research Conference on Sustainable Development Goals. The conference was successfully held at AlJawhara Group of Hotels and Apartment, Opposite City Centre, Port Seed Area, Dubai – United Arab Emirate from 27th – 29th November, 2017. The theme of the conference was “Sustainable Development Goals and the Future of World Economy: Identifying Effective Strategies for Global Implementation”.

**Publication**

Issues discussed at the conference were broad based. Issues raised at the conference will be published in International Research Journals indexed in Google Scholar, and a Strategic Implementation Framework on the SDGs for institutions, government and development partners. The conference also witnessed inauguration of the Research Working Group for UN Development Policy Review on Sustainable Development Goals. The group is set up to develop and publish the Strategic Implementation Framework on the SDGs.

**Presentations and Discussions**

The Director, International Institute for Policy Review and Development Strategies (IIPRDS), Dr. Bassey Anam, gave the welcome address where he welcomed all conferees to the World Research Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and explicated on the significance of the conference and the opportunity it offers to scholars to interrogate the goals of Sustainable Development agenda and wished them a fruitful deliberation.

Earlier, in a Skype presentation from United Kingdom, Media Consultants for United Nations Development programme (UNDP), Mr. Anjali Kwatra and Wynne Boelt reiterated the commitments of UNDP to help government of developing countries in achieving the gains of the SDGs. This was supported by Mr. Ramadan Mahmoud Mohammed Gomaa, the General Manger of AlJawhara Group and representative of the Department of Economic Development, United Arab Emirate who stressed on the need for the achievement of sustainable development in Africa and finally wished the participants fruitful deliberation.

This was immediately followed by the first Keynote Address by Prof. Ojonigu Ati, Member, Research Working Group for United Nations Development Policy Review on SDGs. In his keynote address, Prof Ati commended the efforts of IIPRDS and Partnering Institutions/Universities in Africa, Asia and America for organizing the conference. He stated that successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will ensure sustainable development and engender global peace and prosperity.

In the second keynote address by PT. Hussein Botchway, Secretary, United Nations Development Policy Review on SDGs, titled, “Achieving SDGs through Evidence Based Research” he stated that the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals will be driven by the execution of evidence based decisions that is supported by quality research.

 **Issues Raised/Comments**

Participants raised the following issues:

1. In what ways does the framework of the SDGs address development challenges in Africa?
2. What can be done to confront poverty in order for Africa to meet UN SDGs by 2030.
3. Culture of sit-tight leadership and the fraudulent review and amendments of national constitutions by desperate African leaders remains a challenge to the African continent and the African Union.
4. The attempts to grow the Nigerian economy through the various programmes initiated by Government, has not recorded much progress with the industrial sector contribution to economic growth.
5. The role of Foreign Direct Investment in Africa remains an empirical issue since the African economy is yet to demonstrate clearly the dividends of Foreign Direct Investment.

**Resolutions/Recommendations**

Based on the above observations, participants at the World Research Conference for Sustainable Development Goals resolved as follows:

1. The challenges as identified in the goals constitute threats to the survival of man and the environment; hence, the need to embrace education that is capable of addressing some of these problems
2. Public establishment should imbibe good motivation culture in order to enhance the efficiency of the employees.
3. Managers should put more effort in encouraging their employees to come up with suggestions and useful decisions and endeavor to incorporate them into the organization’s decisions and policy making
4. Firms should use social causes and social amenities as way of improving the society since there exist a positive significant relationship between corporate social responsibility and organizational performance
5. Agricultural scientists to find ways of reducing postharvest losses at all levels of marketing so as to make the price of the commodity relatively stable throughout the year to ensure sustainability in the business
6. External debts with tough conditions should be avoided as much as possible so as to avoid the heavy burden of debt servicing
7. Government and the world at large will need to assist or intervene positively to proffer a way forward for IDP camps
8. Adults in the society should be well informed using available medium of communication in the society to desist from engaging children in any kind of work that is hazardous to the physical, mental, and psycho-social health of children
9. It is strongly recommended that the efforts of EFCC, ICPI and NEITI to ensured that transparency and accountability to improve the management of oil gas and mining revenues of resources including the increased money from abroad instead of seeking for loans abroad
10. The introduction of domestic criminal law punishment of serious violation of the rules of international humanitarian law must be supported.
11. For the sustainable development goal in a global economy to be achieved, ideological and psychological postulations of economic policies born out of parochial thinking and cultural backgrounds which are not in line with international best practices should be disregarded
12. Adequate sanctions should be meted out to desperate and corrupt African leaders and citizens who violate the laws of their countries. Thus, the African Union (AU), International Criminal Court (ICC) and other international agencies and organizations should be alive to their responsibilities.
13. The adoption of a teaching approach that bridges the gap between the classroom and the real economy by providing the opportunities for creativity and the participation of students in the determination of their specific learning objectives.
14. Policymakers should not just focus on attracting but retaining more foreign direct investment in the many economic sectors of Africa.
15. Government should employ recession-proof policies to facilitating risk amelioration, stabilize the market for long-term capital and to boost sustainable economic development in Africa.

**Conclusion**

The conference submitted that sustainable Development Goals are an important opportunity to improve the quality of life for all human beings and our planet. With the Strategic Implementation Framework on the SDGs, there is optimism that the goals can be achieved.

**Signed:**



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**PT. Hussein Botchway, Secretary**

Director, Directorate of Policy and Research, IIPRDS

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