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Options from Sustainable Development Goals and African Agenda 2063

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Agenda 2063**

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Introduction

It is an honour and privilege to stand before you here today at the University of Ibadan, the premier citadel of learning in Nigeria. I'm here to speak to you on a topic which, I believe, is not only important but crucial in our drive as a nation towards the resolution of the endemic problems we face as a people. I am neither an academic nor a scholar. I am a simple engineer who, at this point in time because of providence, has found a little niche in politics and government as a leader in the legislative arm of government. I therefore do not lay claim to be infallible or claim to be a fountain-head. I, however, intend to approach this discussion from dual perspectives; from both the academic, which is a borrowed robe, and the practical, my sphere of operation.

I am indeed grateful for the opportunity to contribute to discourse that I consider topical; also, I appreciate the invitation to speak at a forum eminent personalities have graced in time past. A big thank you goes to Professor Olanrewaju Olaniyan, the Director of University of Ibadan's Centre for Sustainable Development (CESDEV) and the staff, management and students of the University of Ibadan, under the able leadership of the Vice Chancellor.

The legislature is, unarguably, a central organ of government which is very critical to the growth and

development of all democratic societies. This arm of government plays the crucial role of aggregating the collective interests of the people and translating them into laws for good governance and administration of justice and fair play.

The legislature is a potent force in the institutionalisation of democracy for sustainable human development. Since the return to democratic rule in 1999, activities of the legislature across all levels of government have been a subject of public debate. To some commentators, the legislature is a mere rubber-stamp, extension or appendage of the executive arm of government. This is, perhaps, because of the seemingly under-reported role and level of performance of this arm. Some major criticisms of the legislature in the current republic include, but are not limited to, the length of time taken to pass bills into laws, the perceived disconnection between representatives and constituents, and the inability of the institution to control and hold government officials accountable.

Sustainable Development: An Overview
Humanity has the ability to achieve sustainable development in order to ensure that development meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The sustainable development concept emerged from a gradual shift in development perspectives in the 1950s and 1960s when development started focusing mainly on economic growth and increases in output based on theories of production efficiencies.

In the 1970s, however, observations were made on the growing gap between the rich and the poor in and between the regions, which resulted in the focus shift to equity issues with emphasis on social development and income distribution as key elements. During the same period, observations on the impact of economic growth on the environment drew attention to the importance of integrating environmental concerns in the development agenda. Sustainable development therefore encompasses the inter-linkages of the three dimensions of economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability. The environment is considered the source of life and gives rise to economic activities, which in turn sustains social development. Without growth, there will be no social development. This, however, is not necessarily a linear relationship as the environment also directly influences social development.

The challenge of sustainable development is to achieve a balance in the inter-relationship among the three dimensions. Economic growth therefore has to be socially responsible and environmentally friendly. For economic growth to be sustainable, efforts need to be directed at efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, agricultural practices that are environment-friendly, renewable energy development, less carbon-intensive production of goods and services, efficient transportation and less-intensive production and consumption of resources, goods and services among others. These promote efficient and resilient production systems, and minimize resource depletion, degradation and greenhouse gas emissions; thus leading to stronger and more resilient economies.

The three dimensions of sustainable development are cast in the overarching role of governance and institutions. Governance and institutions, in particular, are fundamental to sustainable development, as they provide the foundation on which economic growth, socially-responsible and environment-friendly development rest. Enabling governing environment and functional institutions, of which the legislature is central, provide constitutional, accountable, regulatory and legal frameworks for productive activities to thrive, which in turn will enhance sustainable development.

Based on the preceding facts, the paper shall examine Legislature and Sustainable Development: Options from Sustainable Development Goals and African Agenda 2063

Conceptual Clarifications
Legislature
The legislature is referred to as Parliament in Britain, National and State Assembly in Nigeria, and Congress in the United States (Abonyi, 2006). Legislature occupies a key position in the democratic process of government; its purpose is the articulation of the collective will of the people through representative government (Okoosi-Simbine, 2010). Awotokun (1998) states that the legislature is an arm of government made up of elected representatives or constituted assembly of people whose duty is to make laws, control the activities of the executive and safeguard people's interests.
Anyaegbunam　　　(2000) defines legislature as the arm of government involved in making, revising, amending and repealing laws for the well-being of the citizenry they represent. Lafenwa (2009) defines legislators as people

chosen by election to represent constituent units and control government. Okoosi-Simbine (2010) asserts that the legislature is a law-making and policy-influencing body in the democratic political system. Law-makers can be described as a sovereignty as well as the expression of the will of the people.

The state of the legislature has been identified as the strongest predictors of the survival of every democratic development (Okoosi-Simbine, 2010). The centrality of the legislature is captured by Awotokun (1998) when he asserts that the legislature is the pivot of modern democratic systems. Edosa and Azelama (1995) state that legislatures vary in design, structure, organisation, operational procedures, and selection process as well as sizes, tenure of office and nature of meetings. Edosa and Azelama (1995) assert that bicameral legislature is common in federal states that stem from the imperative of one house to protect
the interests of minority groups in such states. Nigeria operates a federal bicameral arrangement on the dictates of the 1954 Lyttleton Constitution. Both the Senate and House of Representatives, jointly called the National Assembly of Nigeria was established by the Constitution (Section 47). The two chambers act as a check on the other arms of government.

In addition, from one democracy to the other, bicameral legislature provides an opportunity for wider representation of various interests and groups in a country. Nwabuzor and Muller (1985) note that factors such as presiding officer, order of business, legislative process, legislative committee, intra-party discipline,

manner of debate, and consideration account are operated differently in different countries Nwabuzor and Muller (1985) assert that countries that operate short-term tenure for the legislature do so because the representatives reflect the betterment of public preference in respect of government policies. Long-term tenure, on the other hand, ensures the stability of national interests which has no changing public opinion.

Development

In the words of economists, development cannot and should not be mistaken for growth. The problem in Nigeria, for instance, is that the word 'development' has been understood in terms of material things rather than people. What it should be is a conscious and careful exploitation of nature to satisfy human needs. It should not be seen as an item to be possessed like a new car; rather, it is a sustained effort towards a clearly defined national goal (Raji, 1999).

Seers (1969) sees development in terms of a reduction in the three variables of poverty, unemployment and inequality. Seers' definition was corroborated by Todaro (1977) when he says that "Development must therefore be conceived of a multi-dimensional process involving changes in structures, attitudes and institutions as well as acceleration of economic growth, reduction of inequality and eradication of absolute poverty." Hodder (2000) also sees development as "an economic, social or political process which results in a cumulative rise in the perceived standard of living for an increasing proportion of a population." This definition suggests that an increased standard of living involves social, political and economic

processes. This improvement in standard of living must be both cumulative and enduring, rather than just temporary.

Development, which must be seen as an overall qualitative improvement in the lives of people or political communities, is expected to address issues of social welfare, equity and justice. According to the UNDP, the central purpose of development should be the creation of an enabling and empowering environment in which every individual, including the poor and the vulnerable, can enjoy healthy and creative life (UNDP, 1997).

National Development
National development is the ability of a country to improve the social welfare of its people, such as providing social amenities like quality education, potable water, infrastructural facilities, medical care, and so on (Abimbola and Adesote, 2012). This means that national development must involve the aggregation of the national resources of a country for the general well-being of the citizenry in terms of social and economic advancement (Abimbola and Adesote, 2012). Raji (1999) conceptualises national development in terms of progress in three major dimensions in the life of a nation. These dimensions are economic, political and social or moral. Balogun (1972) makes the concept of national development more vivid when he wrote that national development entails producing more and better food to eat, healthier and happier individuals, better living accommodation, improved transportation and communications systems, sound education and enlightenment among the populace, and, generally, more money circulating in the society. above definitions of national development centre on

people and the quality of their lives in the society. In other words, whatever kind of changes being witnessed in the various sectors of the society should have positive influence on the people.

Nigeria: The Constitution and Sustainable Development

The 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended) reinforces the policy and legal basis of sustainable development in the country. Pillars of sustainable development are embedded in many parts of the Constitution. The Federal Republic of Nigeria is *"a State based on the principles of democracy and social justice."* The Constitution promises all Nigerian citizens justice which encompasses social, economic and political statuses as well as the dignity of the individual.

Section 1 (sub-section 2) has it that the State shall: (a) harness the resources of the nation and promote national prosperity and an efficient, dynamic and self-reliant economy; (b) control the national economy in such manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity; (c) without prejudice to its right to operate or participate in areas of the economy, other than the major sectors of the economy, manage and operate the major sectors of the economy; and (d) without prejudice to the right of any person to participate in areas of the economy within the major sector of the economy, protect the right of every citizen to engage in any economic activities outside the major sectors of the economy.

To do all these effectively, the State shall direct its policy towards ensuring: (a) the promotion of a planned and balanced economic development; (b) that the material resources of the nation are harnessed and distributed as best as possible to serve the common good (c) that the economic system is not operated in such a manner as to permit the concentration of wealth or the means of production and exchange in the hands of few individuals or of a group; and (d) that suitable and adequate shelter, suitable and adequate food, reasonable national minimum living wage, old age care and pensions, and unemployment, sick benefits and welfare of the disabled are provided for all citizens.

The 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended) highlights sustainable development as a cardinal responsibility of government through the copious provisions of Chapter II - Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy (Sections 13-24). Indeed, the principal thrust of this national mission statement is focused on sustainable development as testified to by Political Objectives - Section 15, Economic Objectives - Section 16, Social Objective Section - 17 and Environmental Objectives Section - 20.

It is beyond dispute that the Constitution entrenched these secondary rights as an obligation on the government through the provision of section 13 which says: It shall be the duty and responsibility of all organs of government and all authorities and persons, exercising legislative, executive or judicial powers to conform to, observe and apply the provisions of this Chapter of this Constitution.

But we must also appreciate the truth that these lofty objectives, directives and principles are not justiciable. Hence, nobody can institute an action in court for the enforcement of these secondary rights. All the same, the heart-warming decision of the Supreme Court in the case of AG Ondo Vs AG Federation which endorsed the enactment of the Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Act, vide section 15(5) of the Constitution, has liberalised the stance that any of these provisions can be actualized through an enactment of the National Assembly. Therefore, it is incumbent on the National Assembly to legislate on these objectives by focusing on sustainable development.

Sustainable Development Goals: Principles, Vision, Guiding Framework and Criteria

In the formulation of sustainable development goals, considerable effort was made to ensure that the proposed goals, targets and indicators were in alignment with the vision, principles, guiding framework and criteria set out at the global, regional and national levels.

These include the following: that the goals are universal in character; that they incorporate a range of key areas that were not fully covered in the Millennium Development Goals, such as energy, climate change; that they reflect equally the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the interconnections between them; also included are progress metrics and the scope to review the goals in view of evolving knowledge and evidence.

For the African region, the Africa-RIM propose that the development of sustainable development goals should be guided by, among others, the Rio principles; the need for the goals, targets and indicators to embody all three dimensions of sustainable development; the need for the goals to be action-oriented to allow for effective monitoring and evaluation; universality and flexibility; availability of adequate means of implementation; and the need to promote equitable and inclusive human-centred development.

The Rio+20 Outcome document also provides guidance on what the goals should seek to achieve. Foremost among these is poverty eradication, for which sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in developing countries is a necessary requirement. For Africa, in particular, elaboration of sustainable development goals is critical at this period of global development. The Millennium Development Goals came to an end in 2015. While progress is believed to have been made globally, Africa is off-track in achieving most of the targets. The Millennium Development Goals, therefore, may remain relevant beyond 2015. Hence, the development of sustainable development goals should recognize the need for complementarity with the Millennium Development Goals.

Legislature and Sustainable Development in a Democratic Setting
It is a popular position in literature that the legislature has an important role to play in enhancing sustainable national development under a democratic system of governance. Legislature is seen as the hallmark of

democratic governments. In the same vein, Agbaye 200) recognises legislature as the most representative of the branches of modern democratic institutions. To him, legislatures facilitate the smooth functioning of democratic systems or, by default, its decline and ultimate collapse. Similarly, it is adduced that a functional and efficient legislature is needed, in democratic governance, to engender sustainable development which guarantees some real decision-making power of the people over and above the formal consent of an electoral choice (Adekunle, 1996).

In their analysis, Johnson and Wakanntra 1999) point out that an effective legislature contributes to effective governance for sustainable human and national development. Through law-making, representation and oversight of other branches of government, the legislature promotes good governance and enhances the prospects for sustainable development. In terms of democratisation, it is explicit in literature that an effective legislature helps to sustain democracy where it exists and, elsewhere, it helps democratisation by fulfilling the promise inherent in the public rights to be presented. In essence, good representative institutions are expected to connect their constituencies to government by facilitating the articulation of their needs, which influences law-making and public policies (Johnson and Wakarnura, 1999).

In the parliamentary system of government, the legislature is considered the soul of government, since the executive derives its powers and legitimacy from the parliament (Osaghae, 2004). Essentially, legislature in democracy plays the three major roles of law-making,

oversight functions and constituency responsibility (Olayinka, 2009). To Wekwele and Sesay (2001), the legislature remains, ultimately, the primary mechanism through which modern states make laws, regulations and grand norms that form the basis upon which states are organised and governed. These laws are expected to reflect norms, values, needs, aspirations and the future of the generality of citizens in a particular nation. This position is necessary against the fundamental recognition that laws and legislations are not just technical inputs but important part of the socio-economic and political development of societies. Meaningful sustainable national development, therefore, largely depends on the extent/existence and commitment of the legislature to quality law-making and not just formal legislative existence. In other words, the legislature must make laws aimed at achieving sustainable development through defining the direction of the laws and creating mechanisms through which national goals can be ascertained for the overall development of a nation. It then follows that legislature is involved in the setting of national agenda/aspirations.

In exercising its oversight functions, the legislature ensures accountability and transparency, and serves as a watch-dog of public funds and resources by checking other organs of government from being overbearing or lethargic in the discharge of their respective duties. In essence, it is through oversight functions that the legislature regularly exercises its powers of control on other organs of government, especially in democracies where bureaucracies and institutions are relatively underdeveloped. Oversight functions are performed

through various committees (standing, ad-hoc, special or committee of the whole) (Olayinka, 2009). After every committee's assignment, the committees are expected to submit reports to the house committee of the whole for deliberations after which appropriate actions are taken.

The third function and very crucial in sustaining human and national development is the constituency responsibilities which all legislators are expected to perform in relation to the people they specifically represent. This is because every legislator is fundamentally the representative of a particular constituency, and it is only through recourse to his/her constituency that a legislator derives power. In fact, without constituencies, legislatures do not make sense in a democracy. Legislators are thus expected to advocate for the needs of their constituencies at the house and lobby their colleagues toward incorporating such needs into national plans of action.

It is to ensure the performance of this function that all legislators are empowered to have functional constituency offices through which they can constantly and regularly consult the people they represent in order to feel their pulse and aspirations for onward representation to the house for appropriate actions or interventions. For instance, ecological or environmental problems, insecurity, poverty, unemployment, sectional marginalisation, discrimination, harmful traditional and cultural practices as well as other challenges affecting a particular constituency are expected to be exposed and advocated to the assembly by legislators representing the affected constituencies.

Misrepresentation of the Legislature
At this juncture, it may be necessary to also point out that the legislature is being misrepresented in the discharge of its constitutional responsibilities. As the Deputy Speaker who is, first and foremost, the representative of Oshogbo / Irepodunni / Olorunda / Orolu constituency of the state of Osun, I am expected to pursue the cause of the people of this constituency at the House of Representatives, i.e., attract sustainable development.

For instance, the Ojutu Bridge standing on Erinle River, a 56-year old single lane bridge, remains of great interest to the constituents and to, a large extent, properly requires my legislative intervention as stipulated in the Constitution. Today, however, the budget is seen as a document that should not have inputs from the legislature. Am I supposed to fold my hands and watch the bridge remain the same while my constituents continue to suffer?

The Honourable Minister of Works does not know the history and socio-economic imperatives of the bridge to the people of this constituency, not to talk of how the reconstruction of the bridge will promote the development and well-being of my people. The only people who can connect real Nigerians with development are the legislators because of their emergence from remote locations far from the metropolis of Abuja. Yet the people are being mobilized to occupy the National Assembly? And the idea or concept of constituency projects is interpreted erroneously as a way the legislators fleece money from the budget.

The people in the hinterland connect with government and great impact was made through constituency projects which were mostly executed under the -then Millennium Development Goals, now Sustainable Development Goals, which is represented as a standing Committee of the House of Representatives. It will interest the audience to know that a borehole in that innocuous village may be all that people who voted us into the parliament may have to show for our four-year tenure. Yet, there is public outcry against constituency projects; this mitigates against development to the people.

In general, therefore, constituency responsibilities and the other legislative roles discussed above are major tools in determining or understanding and measuring the efficiency of existing legislatures toward achieving sustainable human and national development.

Sustainable Development Goals and African Agenda 2063
Agenda 2063 is a shared framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development for Africa to be realized in the next fifty years. It is a continuation of the pan-African drive, over the course of time, for unity, self determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity, pursued under Pan-Africanism and African Renaissance. It builds on and seeks to accelerate the implementation of past and existing continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development. It was agreed on by African leaders in 2013 through the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration during the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

In their 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration, the Heads of States and Governments, while acknowledging past successes and challenges, re-dedicated themselves to the continent's accelerated development and technological progress. They emphasized a guiding vision "*to build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven and managed by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.*" They identified eight ideals to serve as pillars for the continent in the foreseeable future. Agenda 2063, as a people-driven initiative, was to translate the ideals into concrete objectives, milestones, goals, targets and actions/measures.

Why Agenda 2063 and What Does It Seek To Achieve?
Agenda 2063 seeks to:
- Galvanize and unite in all Africans and the Diaspora around the common vision of a peaceful, integrated and prosperous Africa.
- Harness the continental endowments embodied in its people, history, cultures, natural resources and geo-political position to effect equitable and people-centered growth and development.
- Build on and accelerate implementation of continental frameworks and other similar initiatives.
- Provide internal coherence and coordination to continental, regional and national frameworks and plans adopted by the AU, RECs and member states' plans and strategies.
- Offer policy space for individual, sectoral and collective actions to realize the continental vision.

Why A 50-Year Agenda?

The choice of a 50-year period should be understood within the context of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the OAU; and the need for the continent to take stock of her past performance, both successes and failures, and map out long-term strategies as well as set goals and targets. After all, it has been successfully practiced in countries like China. In operational terms, Agenda 2063 is a rolling plan of long, medium and short-term strategies, that is, its overall span is fifty years with five ten-year plans that can also be broken down into shorter periods of five-year terms at the discretion of each member state. It will be fundamentally executed on three layers, from national to continental levels. In that connection:

- The national level will be responsible for the implementation of key activities under Agenda 2063.
- The regional level, the RECs, will serve as the fulcrum for the implementation at the level of member states. They will adapt the results of Agenda 2063 framework to regional peculiarities and facilitate/coordinate the implementation by member states and develop/implement monitoring and evaluation framework at the regional level.
- The continental level (AU organs, especially the AUC) will be responsible for setting the broad results framework and broad monitoring and evaluation based on inputs from the Regional Economic Commissions.

Agenda 2063 – Why Now?

This new effort to envision Africa's long-term development trajectory is timely for several reasons:

1. *Changing global context:* Globalization and the information technology revolution have provided unprecedented opportunities for countries and regions with the right policies to make significant advances and lift huge sections of their population out poverty, and catalyze economic and social transformations. In addition, most African economies now have in place sound macro-economic and market-oriented economies which have spurred growth, trade and investment expansion.

2. *Building on previous experience:* Good experience has been gained in running continental blueprint, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM); these have enabled the AU to demonstrate unprecedented commitment to implement agreed agendas and generate valuable lessons that present strong foundation for Agenda 2063.

3. *A more united and strong Africa:* Africa today is more united and a global power to be reckoned with, capable of rallying support around a common agenda and speaking with one voice with demonstrated strong capacity to negotiate and withstand the influence of forces that would like to see it divided.

4. *Strong and well-functioning regional institutions:* Africa's sub regional institutions have been rationalized and the eight officially AU-recognized

Regional Economic Communities (RECs - CENSAD, COMESA, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, SADC and UMA) are today strong development and political institutions that citizens can count on and which Agenda 2063 can stand on.

5. *New development and investment opportunities:* Africa today is faced with a confluence of factors that present a great opportunity for consolidation and rapid progress. These include:

- Unprecedented positive and sustained growth trajectory of many African countries resulting from sound macro-economic policies and strategies bolstered by high commodity prices.

- Great achievement in the fight against colonialism and apartheid, significant reduction of armed conflicts, improved peace and stability, coupled with advances in democratic governance.

- A fast-rising broad-based African entrepreneurial and middle class, coupled with youth bulge, which can act as catalysts for further growth and technological progress.

- Changes in the international finance architecture, the rise of BRICS (composed of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and improved flows of FDI to Africa beyond commodity-producing sectors.

The above factors constitute a unique opportunity for Africa to capitalize upon. Agenda 2063, while seizing these opportunities, underlines the fact that success depends on unity of purpose, transparency, placing citizens first, sound governance, willingness and the capability to assess performance and correct mistakes in a timely fashion.

What Makes Agenda 2063 Different from Past Continental Initiatives?

- *Bottom-up Approach:* There were extensive consultations with African citizenry. This enhances ownership of both the processes and outcomes of the initiative for having a continental agenda for socio-economic transformation. It is not the work of bureaucrats, but rather an agenda driven by the voices of the African people, indicating the Africa they want!

- *Result Orientation:* Goals, targets and strategies have been set in each aspirational area for the national, regional and continental stakeholders/levels. The targets will form the basis for holding stakeholders accountable for performance.

- *Monitoring and Evaluation/Accountability:* There is a monitoring and evaluation component to ensure that planned activities, outputs and outcomes are on track for attainment; with mid-term reviews providing the basis for programme re-alignment. Accountability roles will be assigned and the outcomes of the monitoring and evaluation process will be used to manage the accountability relationship.

- *Policy Coherence/Space:* For the first time, all continental and regional initiatives have been brought under one umbrella. The integration is expected to enhance consistency, remove policy overlaps and redundancies and create space for the management of diversity and uniqueness in the AU.

- *Financing/Partnership:* A developed resource

mobilization strategy has identified key areas of intervention and their associated funding options. Steps will be taken to operationalize the financing strategies. Instruments have also been identified. Strategies for expanding / maximizing partnerships for Agenda 2063's implementation have been developed and will be implemented.

- *Communications Strategy:* While past frameworks were known only to bureaucrats, Agenda 2063 is to be driven/owned by the people. A communications strategy has been developed for implementation.
- *Capacity:* A key success factor for the successful implementation of Agenda 2063 is the capacity of individuals and instructions to play their roles in the domestication of the Agenda. A Capacity Assessment Study is being undertaken to address the capacity needs of continental and regional institutions; this will later be extended to member states.

Process for Developing the Continental Agenda
The task to develop Agenda 2063 was entrusted to the African Union Commission (AUC), working with NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and in close collaboration with the African Development Bank (AFDB) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

As the work progressed, and following a ministerial retreat of the Executive Council on Agenda 2063, organized from 24 to 26 January 2013 in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, a Committee of Ministers to Follow Up on the Implementation of the Bahir Dar Ministerial Retreat and

Issues Arising from the E-mail from the Future (also known as the Ministerial Committee on Agenda 2063) was created to lead the project. Agenda 2063 has been undertaken and coordinated in the Office of the Chairperson of the AU Commission, under the Directorate of Strategic Policy Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation and Resource Mobilization (SPPMERM).

In the process, the technical work comprised consultations and analytical work. Consultations covered the collection of opinions from African people of almost all categories, including the Diaspora, member states' government officials, youth and women, media groups, RECs and AU organs. The analytical work reviewed member states' national plans as well as past and existing frameworks of RECs and the AU in all sectors. They covered, but were not limited to, the Abuja Treaty, the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, the African Charter on Values and Principles of Public Service and Administration, Programme for Infrastructure and Development in Africa (PIDA), Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Plan (CAADP), Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa (AIDA), and so on.

Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals Interface
It should be observed that Agenda 2063 has also taken into consideration the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Post-2015 Development Agenda. In that regard, Agenda 2063 has even defined some concepts and targets in relation to the corresponding nomenclature in the MDGs; and even compared the African Common Position on Post-2015 Development Agenda and Agenda

2063. For instance, the definition of goal is different from that of the MDGs.

Agenda 2063 goals are broader because of the 50- year lifespan of the agenda. The priority areas and their associated targets define the goals. While the goals are fixed, priority areas and their associated targets can change over the various ten-year plan cycles. In the case of the MDGs (with their fifteen-year horizon), the goals are very specific and are like a target under this ten-year plan results framework.

Conclusion

Following the adoption of Agenda 2063 documents, the next step is the domestication and popularization of Agenda 2063 and its 10-year implementation plan. Domestication seeks to facilitate the incorporation of commitments made at continental level into national policy frameworks and programmes anchored on existing national development planning machinery.

Meanwhile, popularization is to build citizens' awareness, and popularize Agenda 2063 in order to mobilize national stakeholders, including government and public administration, private sector, NGOs, CSOs, including women and youth groups. This is in addition to discussion with stakeholders measures to raise domestic and external resources to finance Agenda 2063. Yet, all the challenges can be overcome if all the stakeholders work diligently together.

The legislature has a critical role in the domestication of all these international conventions, agreements and action

plans in order to achieve the desired objectives of sustainable development in the country. The legislature will partner with the executive arm of government in ensuring that appropriate legislations that would tally and support the implementation and realization of the major policy thrusts of both the SDG and Agenda 2063 are made.

No doubt the world is increasingly shrinking and the possibilities of individualism reduced due to competition and development in information communication technology. The imperative of collective actions by nation-states in the resolution of individual problems and attainment of much-needed development cannot be over-emphasised.

Nigeria is certainly not on an island and the legislature is in the right position to provide the necessary legislative and political foundations and support to propel the nation to greater heights.

Let me conclude by expressing my profound appreciation to all and sundry. The House of Representatives will, of course, partner with all critical stakeholders in the Nigerian project; in furtherance of which the House has embarked on sectoral debates, the first of its kind in the history of the National Assembly, especially the ivory tower, in advancing the course of humanity, guarantee sustainable development through effective legislation.

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Centre for Sustainable Development

ABOUT CENTRE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (CESDEV)

The Centre for Sustainable Development (CESDEV) was established by the University of Ibadan through Senate paper 5386 in May 2010 as a demonstration of the University's commitment to Sustainable Development. It was based on the need to provide intellectual platform for identification of issues germane to sustainable development, critically analyse them, and provide leadership in finding enduring solutions that will enhance sustainable development.

The establishment of CESDEV was sequel to series of events, paramount among which was the winning of a USD 900,000 grant from the MacArthur Foundation to establish the Master's in Development Practice (MDP) Programme. The University of Ibadan was one of the ten original Universities that won the grant in a global competition involving over 70 Universities. Further brainstorming led to defining the composition of the emerging Centre beyond the MDP Programme. It was resolved that a number of development programmes that were "hanging in the balance" be moved to the Centre. The **Centre for Sustainable Development** (CESDEV) thus became a Teaching and Research Centre with a mandate in multi- and inter-disciplinary approach to Sustainability issues affecting not just our continent but the whole universe. The Centre is designed to be a Teaching, Research and Development unit in the University. Presently, CESDEV has the following academic and outreach programmes:

- Development Practice Programme (DPP)
- Tourism and Development Programme (TODEP)
- Indigenous Knowledge and Development Programme (IKAD)
- Sustainable Integrated Rural Development in Africa Programme (SIRDA)
- Climate and Society Programme (CSP)
- Environmental Protection and Natural Resources Programme (EPNARP)
- Leadership and Governance Programme (LGP)
- Annual Ibadan Sustainable Development Summit (ISDS)