



Sustainable development goals for the West Africa subregion

Summary report

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Acronyms and abbreviations

CPIA	Country Policy and Institutional Assessment
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDS	Gross Domestic Savings
GNI	Gross National Income
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PRS	Poverty Reduction Strategy
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
TB	Tuberculosis

1. Introduction

One of the key commitments of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was the compelling need for the elaboration of sustainable development goals (SDGs) because of their potential usefulness for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development at the global, regional, national and local levels. Rio+20 also recognized that the goals should be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015.

As a follow-up to Rio+20, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) organized the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa-RIM) to deliberate on the main outcomes of Rio+20 and their implications for Africa. The RIM called for an effective, broad-based bottom-up consultative process in Africa to flesh out goals, indicators and targets that should underpin the SDGs.

Furthermore, ECA, AUC, AfDB and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly organized subregional and regional consultations on the post-2015 development agenda in Africa. These consultations were held in: Accra (November 2011); Mombasa (October 2012); Dakar (December 2012); and Hammamet, Tunisia (March 2013). The regional consultation in Hammamet was held to identify Africa's priorities and the enablers and critical success factors for the post-2015 Development agenda; and also to align the post-2015 priorities with other development programmes and agendas, including Rio+20 and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The consultation meeting adopted an outcome document in which it agreed that the post-2015 development agenda should incorporate the Rio+20 outcomes and those of Africa-wide initiatives, national and regional consultations and United Nations forums.

The SDG report for the West Africa subregion was prepared against this backdrop. It is one of five reports prepared to inform the engagement of African countries in the global SDG process and ensure that the goals to be agreed upon are well aligned with Africa's sustainable development priorities. The report, together with those of the other four subregions of Africa, informed the Africa regional report on SDGs. They were presented at the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals organized jointly by ECA, AUC and AfDB and held from 31 October to 5 November 2013, in Addis Ababa. The meeting adopted its outcome document as a technical input for consideration by the Africa High-level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The report:

- 1) Identifies and analyses priority sustainable development issues and challenges in the subregion;
- 2) Identifies, analyses and articulates main priority areas/themes of sustainable development for West Africa;
- 3) Submits a concise set of SDGs and related targets and indicators for the subregion;
- 4) Provides action-oriented recommendations on the way forward.

A three-tiered approach was used in preparing the report. The first step involved reviewing all regional, subregional and global reports and publications that had a bearing on priority sustainable development issues within the subregion. The second involved undertaking a survey among member States and civil society organizations on priority SDGs in the subregion, using a structured questionnaire; and consulting with key officials. SDG targets and indicators were developed on the basis of the survey and consultation. The third phase entailed the presentation of the report at the African Regional Consultative Meeting on SDGs. The report was finalized taking into account the comments and recommendations of the meeting.

2. Overview of progress on sustainable development in the subregion

2.1 Economic sustainability

In the post-independence period, the State gained prominence in many African countries as the driver of economic activity and the engine of growth. After a decade of commendable success on many development indicators, the latter part of the 1970s and the early 1980s witnessed deterioration in economic performance. The poor economic performance of the mid-1970s and the early 1980s led to the implementation of structural adjustment programmes, which allowed many West African countries to recover from a period of economic stagnation to a period of modest growth and economic recovery from the mid-1990s.

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth trends from 1995 show that almost all West African countries experienced modest positive economic growth rates. Over the period 1995-2009, the average annual real GDP growth rate for the subregion was 4.5 per cent, with the best performers being Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Liberia and Mali; and the worst being Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Togo. Despite these moderate gains, most West African countries still faced the challenge of raising and sustaining economic growth over the long term.

In general, growth in West Africa over the past two decades can be attributed to: political stability; strong global demand for the main export commodities of West Africa, especially crude oil and cash crops such as cocoa; better macroeconomic management; rapid recovery of post-conflict countries; and new mining ventures. For West African countries that mainly export minerals, increased global demand and the subsequent increase in prices did not translate into robust growth that would benefit the countries, due mainly to the overdependence of foreign capital, with very little local participation and value addition.

Economic growth within the subregion has been driven more by donor inflows rather than domestic savings, as gross capital formation was consistently higher than gross domestic savings from 1995 to 2011. This observation can also be deduced from trends in the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as on average, FDI as a ratio of GDP for the subregion averaged 3 per cent over the period 1995-1999, increasing to a subregion average of 6.1 per cent and 11.7 per cent in 2010 and 2011 respectively. Remarkably, FDI failed to generate the employment needed to increase incomes and reduce poverty in the subregion. This was mainly because it focused more on capital-intensive extractive industries/sectors, especially the exploitation of mineral resources without value addition to these resources.

With regard to the external sector, reforms pursued in the various countries did not succeed in improving the balance of trade position, as it deteriorated for all the countries over the 2000s, except the oil producing countries - Guinea-Bissau and Nigeria - which benefited from high oil prices. Average external balance on goods and services as a percentage of GDP for the subregion was in a deficit of 12.7 per cent for the period 1995-2009 and worsened to about 20.5 per cent in 2011. The expectation that the implementation of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative would lead to a significant reduction in the debt of West African countries appears to be materializing as external debt to Gross National Income ratio improved significantly from an average of about 168.3 per cent from the period 2000-2004 to 34.5 per cent in 2011.

Structural transformation is required by the subregion to improve the quality of life of the people. It is estimated that economic growth of about 7-8 per cent per annum has to be reached to enable countries within West Africa to meet the goal of reducing extreme poverty by half by 2015. This will require increasing productivity in agriculture and transferring labour force to higher earning sectors of manufacturing and services. This strategy will create higher earnings, employment and demand for the value chain of outputs of other sectors. Thus, one expects a reduction in the share of agriculture and

increasing shares of manufacturing and services which has the potential to increase employment, incomes and significantly reduced poverty. Specifically, if value is added to the many minerals and raw materials that are being produced in the sub-region, it would create jobs, lead to an increase in incomes and ensured vertical and horizontal linkages of the sector with other sectors of the economy which will ultimately lead to poverty reduction. Inadequate innovation and obsolete technology use has also made it difficult for the industrial sector, more specifically, the manufacturing sector to increase productivity through efficiency improvements.

For West African countries that are endowed with mineral resources, increased global demand and subsequent increase in prices has not transformed into robust growth. Despite the fact that prices of mineral resources, especially gold, has been increasing for the past two decades, many countries have not benefited much from it because the gains obtained accrue mainly to foreign companies who control most mining activities due to their capital intensive nature with very little or no local participation. Low value addition which has made it difficult for the mining sector to have vertical and horizontal linkages with other sector has led to low employment generation in mineral rich countries. Concentration on primary production for exports in the midst of weak enforcement of environmental regulations, poor value addition, poverty and the poor bargaining power of countries have led to serious environmental pollution and to some extent confirming the Pollution Haven Hypothesis.

The meaningful involvement of the private sector in the development process where a lot more capital and human capacity reside also remains a major challenge for many countries. As a result, liberalization and privatization of infrastructure, among others, is still at its infant stage while efforts to harmonize policies and regulations pertaining to common regional provision of services have not achieved the desired results.

2.2 Social sustainability

Countries in the subregion lag behind in dimensions of human development, in particular education, health, access to drinking water and other basic infrastructure services. These persistent social challenges have seriously hampered the efforts of countries to accelerate growth and reduce poverty, as envisaged in national Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) and those related to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Poverty is the major challenge that countries in West Africa face, and is among the highest in the world. Trends of the last two decades show West Africa to be worse off than the other subregions in sub-Saharan Africa. Over a third of the countries in the subregion are ranked among the poorest in the world. However, with the exception of Nigeria, poverty seems to be declining in most countries.

Unemployment -Data available for a few countries in the subregion suggest that unemployment increased over the past two decades for many of the countries. Countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger have managed to maintain low unemployment rates while Cape Verde, Ghana and Mali have relatively high unemployment rates. In many of these countries, youth, and more specifically, graduate unemployment is higher than total unemployment. Furthermore, females are disproportionately worse off than men on the job market, and are mostly in the lower ranks at the workplace and in the informal sector, where conditions are below labour standards.

Population and urbanization -While population growth in the subregion has been declining on average, it is relatively higher than in other regions. Average total population growth in the subregion declined from 2.7 per cent annual growth over the period 1990-1995 to 2.6 per cent over 2000-2010. Population growth rates also vary among countries. High population growth is putting considerable strain on families and governments in relation to their investment in the social and economic development.

Urbanization is also increasing, as almost all the countries have a higher proportion of their population living in urban areas. The problem of rapid urbanization in West Africa can be attributed to rural-urban

migration since urban population growth rates are higher than total population growth, indicating migration from rural to urban areas. The increasing population in urban areas in all the countries poses an additional challenge to sustainable development due to the inability of governments and the private sector to create the needed infrastructure and employment in urban areas.

Fertility rates - One of the main causes of the rapid population growth within the subregion is the relatively high fertility rates. Although there has been some reduction in total fertility rates from the beginning of the 2000s in almost all West African countries, the number of births per woman has been high. With the exception of Cape Verde and Ghana, all the other West African countries had total fertility rates of more than five children per woman over the period 1995-1999. As a result of population control measures, all the countries had recorded decreases in fertility rates by 2011. However, compared to other subregions, the fertility rates are still high, indicating lower efforts at controlling population.

Life expectancy- West Africa experienced improvements in life expectancy, which generally increased from 1995 to 2011 for all countries. Cape Verde and Ghana had life expectancy above 60 years on average, while Sierra Leone trailed behind with an average of 45 years. The observed life expectancy could be attributed to poor social and economic conditions and the grave impacts of malaria, HIV/AIDS and related diseases. In all situations, regardless of the level of survival, females enjoyed higher life expectancy.

Infant Mortality Rates (IMRs)- While IMRs appeared to have generally improved for countries with better social and economic conditions that were free from conflict, drought and HIV, malaria and tuberculosis (TB), others continued to maintain high rates. Over the period 1995-1999, eight countries had relatively low IMRs of less than 100 per 1000 live births. This increased to 12 over the period 2005-2009. However, in 2010 and 2011 only Sierra Leone had high IMRs of over 100 per 1000 live births, largely as a result of poor social and economic conditions.

Literacy rates, primary and secondary school enrolment - Literacy rates recorded for countries in West Africa showed a relatively higher and improving situation. In 1990, West Africa had the highest proportion of countries with illiteracy rates of 60 per cent and above. From 1995 to 2011, the situation had improved, reflecting concerted effort by the region as a whole to eliminate illiteracy. The overall good performers were Cape Verde and Togo (for primary school enrolment) and Cape Verde and Ghana (for secondary school enrolment).

The net primary enrolment ratio improved over the period for all countries except Liberia. This implied that generally, children of primary school age were getting more access to primary education. Almost all countries, with the exception of Burkina Faso and Niger, consistently maintained net primary enrolment ratios above 40 per cent, with Cape Verde maintaining its net primary enrolment rate above 90 per cent over the entire period.

The gross secondary school enrolment ratio also increased. The average for the subregion more than doubled from 20.1 per cent over the period 1995-1999 to 46.1 per cent in 2011. There was, however, a wide variability across countries. For instance, while countries such as Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana and Togo recorded gross secondary school enrolment of over 50 per cent in 2011, Niger had less than 15 per cent.

Water and sanitation – Generally, the majority of countries in the subregion witnessed a marginal improvement in access to sanitation even though Cape Verde, the Gambia and Senegal were the only countries with more than 40 per cent of their population having access to improved sanitation facilities as at 2010. Also, access to improved water sources increased marginally over the decade until 2010. Cape Verde, the Gambia and Ghana provided more than 80 per cent of their population with water in 2010, representing the highest level of progress made in the subregion. On the other hand, access to improved water sources was quite precarious in Niger, with only 49 per cent of the populace having access to improved water, the lowest in the subregion.

In general, the approach of many West African countries towards social security is based on the assumption that economic growth will take care of the social security needs of the vulnerable and marginalized groups, such as the aged, women, children and the physically challenged. As such, not very much emphasis has been placed on specific needs and requirements of these categories of persons. There exists some level of partial protection by social security in almost all countries even though it does not fully cover the main branches of social security (health insurance, pensions, unemployment protection and tax-based social benefits) and only a minority of the population has access to such schemes. Almost every country has some form of social security in healthcare, including some public healthcare services accessible at reduced fee or financed through health insurance for certain population groups.

Most countries have schemes designed to provide contributory old-age pensions, although in many, coverage is limited only to a small formal economy and the benefits are very low. The meagre pension and gratuity received by pensioners, the inability to prepare sufficiently for retirement, the high cost of social services, such as health, as well as the erosion of the purchasing power of pension allowance resulting from inflation has rendered many pensioners vulnerable. There are patches of social schemes in the informal sector but comprehensive policies and programmes designed to consistently address the welfare of this poorer segments of society is yet to be developed by any of the countries. Social security provision for employees in the informal economy is essentially a private concern for families and communities.

2.3 Environmental sustainability

Many West African countries are experiencing climatic variability and extreme events such as floods and droughts and frequent high maximum temperatures. Even though the subregion is among the least contributors to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, it is among the most vulnerable globally in terms of the impact of climate change, largely as a result of its limited adaptive capacity. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the major GHG responsible for climate change. Most West African countries, except for Sierra Leone saw an upward trend, on average, in their per capita CO₂ emissions from the period 2000-2004 to the period 2005-2009, mainly as a result of human activities. Compared to other regions globally, the contribution of West Africa to global CO₂ emissions is quite minimal, given the low level of industrialization.

Since the 1960s, many West African countries have been experiencing serious soil degradation. There has been damage in the soil structure, depletion of nutrients and increase in the susceptibility to erosion, largely as a result of increasing application of chemicals and the use of inappropriate equipment and technologies, commercial mono-specific plantations and inefficient irrigation systems. Prolonged land degradation in the subregion's drylands has worsened desertification.

Desertification which has been the consequence of prolonged land degradation resulting partly from deforestation, high population growth, land tenure insecurity and lack of alternative income-generating opportunities in the subregion continues to be a major problem and has serious linkage with poverty, migration, availability of grassland for farm animals and overall food insecurity. A worrying fact is that climate change and desertification may increase water stress which may have adverse impacts on all economic activities. Most of the countries in the subregion have formulated Action Plans to address climate change adaptation and mitigation and almost all the countries are signatories to the UNCCD and are making progress in meeting their obligations in implementing the convention. However, the challenge of fully addressing these issues still persists.

Land tenure insecurity has made it difficult for many people to undertake sustainable investments in land while communal ownership has facilitated land degradation. For many countries in the sub region, therefore, land degradation is a major issue which has intensified desertification and drought. Drought in these countries has led to serious water stress which has had some impacts on agriculture, the main economic and livelihood sustenance activity in the sub region.

In some countries, scarcity of arable land had led to migration of inhabitants to other areas which has the potential to cause local conflict. Also, many countries such as Guinea, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone, Senegal, Mali and Benin are confronted with land grabbing arising from the use of land for growing cash crops by foreign companies which have the potential to reduce food production by locals. It is therefore imperative for member states to strengthen their land tenure legislation to better manage land grabbing.

In addition, coastal erosion linked to sea level rise has led to the submergence and disappearance of significant areas of Island States in the sub region leading to serious land degradation. In addition, overfishing is leading to the depletion of aquatic resources, especially fish stock while farming along the banks of rivers and deforestation is leading to the drying up of rivers, lagoons and lakes.

Another challenge facing the subregion is the dumping of toxic wastes in some countries. These wastes usually come from the developed countries that want to reduce the costs of disposal by using poor countries as dumping grounds. The dumping of toxic waste materials poses serious health and environmental threat to the populace such as the inhalation of fumes from burning heavy metals and plastics. Even though there are global and regional Conventions that regulate the trade in toxic chemicals, inadequate monitoring and poor economic conditions is pushing some member states to violate the ban. Many water bodies in the sub region are polluted due to poor waste management, agricultural and industrial discharges and mining activities, especially small-scale mining.

Relatively large portions of West Africa, especially along the equatorial zone, used to be under forest cover. Unsustainable exploitation of forest resources has persistently threatened the survival of the terrestrial habitat in the subregion. Forest area as a percentage of total land area has been decreasing consistently in most countries, except for countries like the Gambia where increases have been recorded. Continuous reduction in forest area makes it more challenging to achieve the MDG target of increasing the proportion of land area covered by forests.

Although the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) enjoined countries to achieve a significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biological diversity by 2010, most West African countries never met that target. Continuous devastation of the region's biodiversity has posed the threat of natural habitat loss, loss of species or subspecies, invasion by alien species and lack of recognition of indigenous knowledge and property rights. The coast of West Africa supports a diversity of habitats and resources such as rocky shores, sandy beaches, deltas, estuaries and coastal wetlands, coral reefs and lagoons. These aquatic environments, which contribute significantly to the livelihoods of coastal communities and have other intrinsic values, have been seriously degraded.

2.4 Governance

Ensuring good governance, adherence to the rule of law, peace and security have been a major challenge in the subregion, albeit some improvements over the years. The 2012 Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) reveals that the overall governance index for West Africa (ECOWAS) in 2011 was 51.9 (51.5) representing an improvement of 2.9 (3.0) points over the performance in 2006. In terms of corruption, the performance of countries in the subregion has been unimpressive as they still rank among countries with high corruption prevalence rates. The challenges in ensuring good governance, rule of law can be attributed to weak State institutions to properly enforce laws and statutes, corruption, loopholes in the constitution and outdated anti-graft laws, among others. With regard to peace and security, the political situation in the subregion over the past decade can be described as somewhat volatile with recurrent ethnic and religious conflicts in Northern Nigeria, civil unrest in Cote d'Ivoire, coup d'état in Mali and Guinea Bissau, as well as other internal conflicts in member countries which has the potential to pose some security challenges.

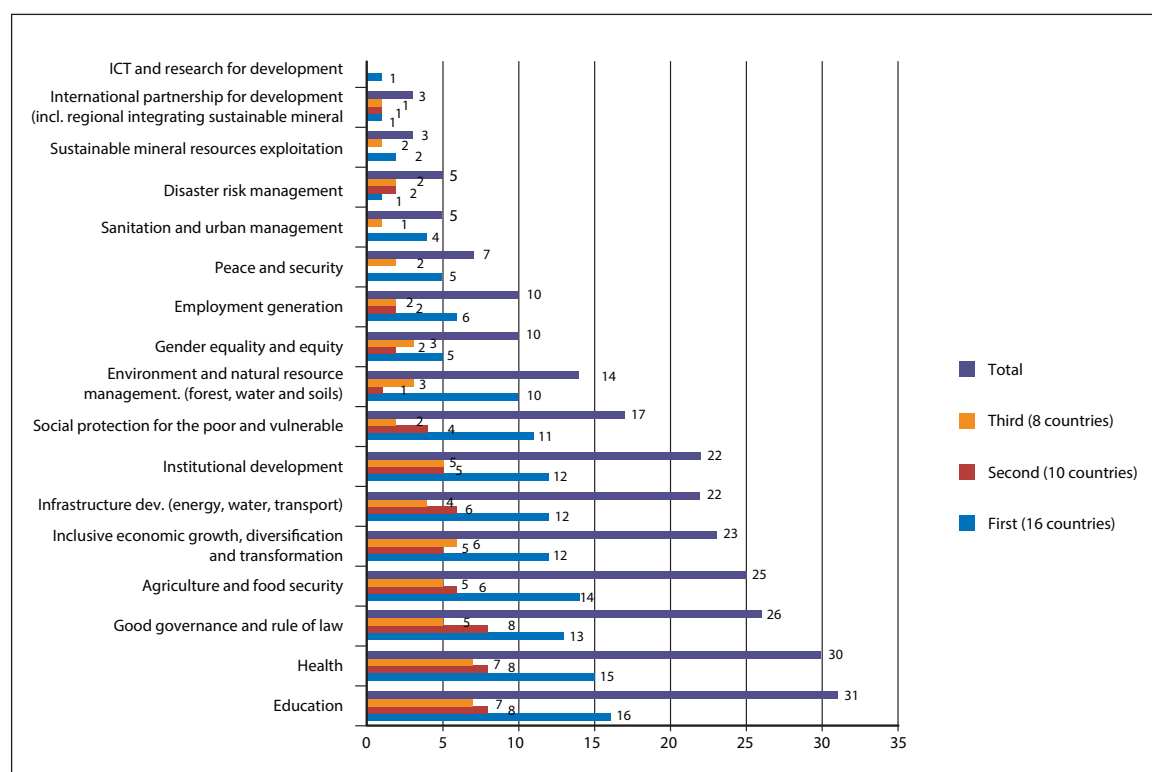
3. Prioritization of sustainable development issues

The JPOI recommended that countries could formulate National Strategies for Sustainable Development such as Poverty Reduction Strategies (PRSs) that integrate the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. To effectively identify the priority sustainable development issues of the countries in the subregion, it is important to review the priority issues that their policies, strategies and programmes have addressed over the past years. Since 1999, about two rounds of PRSs have been formulated and implemented, while many countries are currently implementing the third round.

Priority sustainable development issues confronting the countries were extracted from the core themes of the first-, second- and third-generation PRSs based on the frequency of their occurrence. Figure 1 provides the frequency of occurrence of sustainable development issues addressed in the PRSs. Figure 1 also shows 13 priority sustainable development issues mentioned in the PRSs in order of decreasing importance, namely: education; health; good governance and rule of law; agriculture and food security; inclusive economic growth, diversification and transformation; sustainable infrastructure development (energy, water, transport); institutional development; social protection for the poor and vulnerable; environment and natural resource management (forests, water and soils); gender equality and equity; employment generation; peace and security; and sanitation and urban management.

The PRSs were formulated as MDG-based. Since the MDGs were dominated by social issues, the PRSs were also more inclined to deal with the same issues and not pay enough attention to the economic and environmental pillars of sustainable development. Therefore, it becomes imperative to compare priorities emerging from the PRSs with those emerging from the subregional SDG survey.

Figure 1: Frequency of sustainable development issues addressed by first, second and third generation poverty reduction strategies

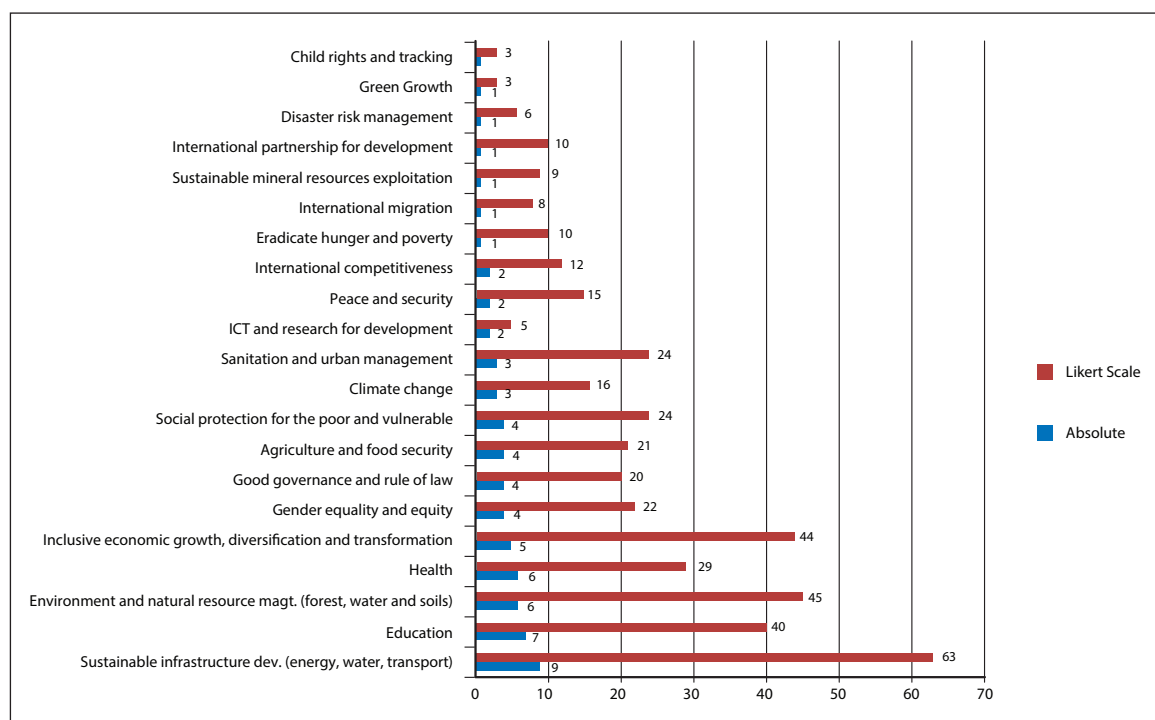


Source: Extracted from countries' PRSs and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), 2011.

The country-level survey on subregional sustainable development issues provided some information on those key issues. Countries were asked to provide and rank, in order of importance (1 - very important, 10 - less important), a limited number of priority sustainable development themes/areas that must be addressed through the SDGs. Two approaches were used to analyse the responses. The first (absolute) involved attaching equal weight to every sustainable development issue raised by a country and running the frequencies. The second involved using a Likert scale of 10 for very important sustainable development issues and 1 for the less important ones. Once that was done the frequency of specific issues in a specific rank was multiplied by the scale value and aggregated over all the themes.

Figure 2 provides the frequency distribution of the priority sustainable development issues based on the two methodologies. The 13 most important sustainable development issues in order of decreasing importance are: sustainable infrastructural development (energy, water, transport); environment and natural resource management (forest, water and soils); inclusive economic growth, diversification and transformation; education; health; sanitation and urban management; social protection for the poor and vulnerable; gender equality and equity; agriculture and food security; good governance and rule of law; climate change; peace and security; and international competitiveness.

Figure 2: Frequency distribution of priority sustainable development issues



Source: Survey, 2013.

There are many similarities between sustainable development issues proposed by the countries for the subregion under the SDG survey and those elaborated by member States in their PRSs. Issues such as infrastructure development; environment and natural resource management; agriculture and food security; gender equality and equity; education and good governance; and the rule of law, to some extent, were identified in both cases. This indicates the considerable importance of these issues to the subregion.

While the SDG survey mentioned other issues such as sanitation and urban management and unemployment, the PRSs did not; although they both mentioned gender equality and equity. Also, while the PRSs considered institutional development and globalization, the SDG survey did not. Evidently, these are all very important priority sustainable development issues for the subregion. A cursory look at Section 2, which provides an overview of progress in the implementation of the sustainable development agenda in the subregion, suggests that countries are generally making some progress in addressing these

economic, social and environmental issues, albeit marginal and to some extent inconsistent. For many of the countries, sustaining the gains made may require huge resources or may come at a huge cost to the citizenry, unless innovative ways are found to cushion the poor and vulnerable.

Also, the key issues addressed by the MDGs still pose a challenge to many member States and the subregion as a whole. Specifically, issues such as education, health, agriculture and food security that are addressed by the MDGs are still key challenges for the subregion. This suggests that in formulating the SDGs, it is important to broaden the MDGs framework to include other important issues.

Indeed, this was confirmed in the subregional SDG survey. Countries were given options¹ and asked to indicate how the SDGs should strive to balance the economic, social and environmental pillars of sustainable development. Six out of the eight countries that responded preferred to have MDGs that have been suitably modified and updated for post-2015 integrated into a larger SDG framework.

The frequencies of the key sustainable development issues suggested by the countries were used in the subregional SDG survey and those addressed by the countries in the PRSs. In prioritizing the issues, the sustainable development issues were ranked in order of decreasing importance, based on the frequencies, and the simple average of the ranks taken for each sustainable development issue.

Based on the simple averages, priority sustainable development issues in order of importance are: education; health; sustainable infrastructural development (energy, water, transport); inclusive economic growth, diversification and transformation; good governance and rule of law; agriculture and food security; environment and natural resource management (forest, water and soils); social protection for the poor and vulnerable; sanitation and urban management; and peace and security. Issues such as employment generation, climate change, international competitiveness, gender and institutional development were omitted in the prioritization because they are cross-cutting to some extent. Also, they were not raised in both national and subregional sustainable development issues.

Meetings such as the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting have discussed sustainable development issues on the continent. Priority sustainable development issues raised by the subregion were generally comparable to those elaborated by the regional body, except that issues raised by the region were more detailed. The issues raised by the regional body directly included poverty eradication, while this was implied in the subregional survey results. Also, the subregion emphasized that good governance and the rule of law were major sustainable development issues, but this was absent in the region's listing.

In addition, the subregion recognized the interlinkages/inter-relationships among the three dimensions of sustainable development. While poverty was recognized to be overarching, sustainable development issues such as education, health, sustainable infrastructural development, inclusive economic growth and transformation, good governance and the rule of law, agriculture and food security, and environment and natural resource management were considered interrelated.

Infrastructure development, for instance, in terms of providing access to safe and clean drinking water is linked to sustainable development issues, such as reversing the incidence of diseases, raised under health. Reducing hunger and ensuring long-term food security also depend on ensuring sustainable use and management of natural resources (land, water and forest) through sustainable agricultural practices and sound water management. Education is also a crucial vehicle for fostering the lifestyle changes needed to achieve the sustainable patterns of behaviour required to ensure inclusive economic growth and transformation, good governance and the rule of law.

1 (a) Reflect social, economic and environmental dimensions within each SDG, possibly through the associated targets;
(b) Integrate the MDGs, suitably modified/updated for post-2015, into a larger sustainable development framework; expand MDG 7 into a number of goals with a natural/environmental resource dimension. Other (please describe).

4. Sustainable development goals, targets and indicators

Using all the information available, SDGs, targets and indicators were proposed for the subregion. The key goal and challenge for all West African countries is reducing poverty, which is multidimensional and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. Achieving poverty reduction requires multidimensional policies involving all the prioritized issues and taking into consideration the linkages between the various dimensions of policy impacts.

In the SDG survey, six out of the eight countries in the subregion preferred to have the MDGs suitably modified, updated and integrated into a larger sustainable development framework for the post-2015 development agenda. This was taken into consideration in developing the goals.

Targets set were based on current achievements made by countries in the MDGs and may be subject to revision on the basis of new information between now and 2015. The period of implementation will be from 2016 to 2040 to factor in intergenerational issues. The sustainable development themes, goals, targets and indicators are shown in table 4.1, based on the prioritization made in Section 3.

Table 1: Proposed sustainable development themes, goals, targets and indicators

Goals and targets	Indicators for monitoring progress
Theme 1: Overall poverty reduction	
Goal 1: Reduce extreme poverty and Hunger	
Target 1: Reduce by three quarters, between 2016 and 2030, the proportion of people whose income is less than \$1.25 (PPP) per day	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.25 a day (PPP) (per cent of population) Poverty gap ratio Share of poorest quintile in national consumption GINI index
Target 2: Reduce by three quarters between 2016 and 2030, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prevalence of underweight children under-five years of age Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption Nutritional status (per capita caloric intake)
Target 3: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, especially the vulnerable (women and the youth)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Unemployment rate Share of women in wage employment in non-agriculture sector Share of industry in overall output and employment Youth employment Structure of employment (per cent)
Theme 2: Human Development	
Goal 2: Achieve gender equality, universal equitable primary and secondary education	
Target 4: Ensure by 2030 that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of quality primary schooling.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Net enrolment ratio in primary education Primary school completion rate for boys and girls Expenditure per pupil, primary (% of GDP per capita) Pupil-teacher ratio, primary Public spending on primary education, total (% of government expenditure)

Goals and targets	Indicators for monitoring progress
Target 5: Ensure by 2030 that 60 per cent of boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of quality secondary education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Net enrolment ratio in secondary education 2. Literacy rate of 15-24 year-olds 3. Literacy rate 4. Expenditure per student, secondary (% of GDP per capita) 5. Pupil-teacher ratio, secondary 6. Public spending on secondary education, total (% of government expenditure)
Target 6: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education by 2025, and at all levels of education by 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ratio of female to male primary enrolment (per cent) 2. Ratio of female to male secondary enrolment (per cent) 3. Ratio of female to male tertiary enrolment (per cent) 4. Ratio of literate women to men, 15-24 years old
Target 7: Ensure that practical Science Technology and Innovation (STI) training especially ICT training is an integral part of secondary and tertiary education by 2025 and at all levels by 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percentage of students (Secondary and tertiary) in STI related vocational and science training. 2. Fixed telephone lines per 100 population 3. Mobile cellular subscribers per 100 population 4. Internet users per 100 population 5. Research and development expenditure (per cent of GDP) 6. ICT expenditure (per cent of GDP) 7. Contribution of STI to GDP
Goal 3: Ensure Universal Access to Quality Health Care Delivery	
Target 8: Reduce by three quarters the under-five mortality rate by 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Under-five mortality rate 2. Infant mortality rate 3. Proportion of 1 year-old children immunized/vaccinated against the five major infantkiller diseases
Target 9: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio by 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maternal mortality rate 2. Share of maternal and infant health in public health expenditures
Target 10: Achieve, by 2025, universal access to reproductive Health and overall health care	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel 2. Percentage of the population with access to primary formal health care service
Target 11: Reduce annual new infections of HIV/AIDS by three quarters in 2025 and ensured universal treatment for HIV/AIDS patients by 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. HIV prevalence among pregnant women aged 15-49 years 2. Condom use rate of the contraceptive prevalence rate 3. Condom use at last high-risk sex 4. Percentage of population aged 15-24 years with comprehensive correct knowledge of HIV/AIDS 5. Contraceptive prevalence rate 6. Antiretroviral therapy coverage (per cent of people with advanced HIV infection) 7. Condom use, population ages 15-24, female (per cent of females ages 15-24) 8. Condom use, population ages 15-24, male (per cent of males ages 15-24)
Target 12: By 2025, stabilize the incidence of malaria and other major diseases at 2015 levels and ensure that deaths caused by these diseases are reduced by two thirds in 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prevalence and death rates associated with malaria 2. Prevalence and deaths associated with other major diseases. 3. Notified cases of malaria (per 100,000 people) 4. Proportion of population in malaria-risk areas using effective malaria prevention and treatment measures 5. Prevalence and death rates associated with tuberculosis 6. Proportion of tuberculosis cases detected and cured under directly observed treatment short course DOTS (Internationally recommended TB control strategy) 7. Life Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 people)

Goals and targets	Indicators for monitoring progress
Target 13: By 2030, to have achieved a universal access to health care delivery, especially in the rural areas.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Life expectancy at birth 2. Disability adjusted life expectancy at birth 3. Number of beds to population ratio 4. Doctor to population ratio 5. Nurse to population ratio 6. Health personnel to population ratio
Target 14: Reduce by three quarters the number of people living in slums by 2030.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of urban population living in slums
Theme 3: Infrastructure Development	
Goal 4: Increase and improve infrastructure and urban management	
Target 15: Increase by half access to sustainable energy 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Percentage of population with access to electricity (urban and rural) 2. Energy use (kg oil equivalent) per \$1 GDP (PPP) 3. Share of biomass energy in total energy consumption /production 4. Percentage of population dependent on biomass energy as their main source of energy
Target 16: Increase the share of renewable energy in total energy by 25 per cent by 2030 and improve energy efficiency in production and consumption.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share of modern renewable energy production in total energy production 2. Electricity production from renewable sources, excluding hydroelectric (per cent of total) 3. Percentage of household using improved stoves 4. Share of households using LPG for cooking 5. Per cent of households using CFLs
Target 17: Increase by 50 per cent, between 2016 and 2030, waste collection, disposal and management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Waste collected and well disposed as a per cent of total waste generated. 2. Per cent of total energy generated from waste. 3. Proportion of waste recycled.
Target 18: Increase by a fifth between 2016 and 2030 sustainable transport	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fuel consumption by the transport sector per capita 2. Roadsector energy consumption per capita (kg of oil equivalent) 3. Railways, passengers carried (million passenger-km) 4. Railways, goods transported (million ton-km) 5. Water, passengers carried (million passenger-km) 6. Water, goods transported (million ton-km) 7. Share of buses in roadpassenger transport
Target 19: Increase by a quarter the length of motorable roads and by a third rail and water transport between 2016 and 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Roads, total network (km) (part of highways) 2. Rural roads network (km) 3. Road density (km of road per 100 sq. km of land area) 4. Length of functional railways 5. Length of functional water routes
Target 20: Reduce by a third the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation by 2030;	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water use intensity by economic activity 2. Proportion of population with sustainable access to an improved water source, urban and rural 3. Proportion of population with access to improved sanitation, urban and rural
Theme 4: Inclusive economic growth and structural transformation	
Goal 5: Improve Inclusive economic Growth	
Target 2: Increase and maintain between 2016 and 2030, GDP and GDP per capita growth to 10 per cent and 4 per cent respectively	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gross Domestic Product growth 2. Gross Domestic Product per capita growth 3. Adjusted net savings 4. Labourforce productivity 5. CPIA macroeconomic management rating (1=low to 6=high)

Goals and targets	Indicators for monitoring progress
Target 22: increase by a third overall investments and the share of investments in public expenditure by 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share of public Investment in public expenditure 2. Percentage of investment coming from innovative financing 3. Foreign direct investment, net inflows (per cent of GDP) 4. GNI per capita (constant 2005 US\$) 5. Gross domestic savings (per cent of GDP) 6. Gross capital formation (per cent of GDP)
Target 23: Reduce foreign aid dependency by a third by 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government Revenue as a per cent of GDP 2. Exports of goods and services (per cent of GDP) 3. Net ODA received (per cent of central government expense) 4. External debt stocks (per cent of exports of goods, services and primary income) 5. CPIA efficiency of revenue mobilization rating (1=low to 6=high) 6. CPIA debt policy rating (1=low to 6=high)
Target 24: Ensure inclusive economic growth by 2025 and begin the transition to green economy by 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of projects that are considered green 2. Fund size of projects that are considered green 3. Adjusted net savings
Goal 6: Achieve structural economic Transformation	
Target 25: increase by a third the share of manufacturing in GDP by 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share of imports of plants and machinery in total imports 2. Manufacturing, value added (per cent of GDP) 3. Share of manufactured goods in total exports
Target 26: Increase by a third, between 2016 and 2030 the share of local content in FDI and the contribution of natural resource to GDP	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number and value of partnerships 2. Share of the number and values of stocks owned by nationals 3. Share of produced capital and natural capital in total wealth
Theme 5: Good governance, rule of law, peace and security	
Goal 7: Ensure good governance, peace and security	
Target 27: Reduce public perception of corruption by a third between 2016 to 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Budget allocation to anti-graft agencies 2. Degree of transparency (corruption perception survey) 3. Percentage of people perceived to have paid bribes (corruption perception survey) 4. Transparency International Corruption Perception Index
Target 28: Reduce by a third the average time needed to access justice from 2016 to 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of landrelated court cases 2. Access to justice (time people spend in courts)
Target 29: Ensure rule of law, peace and security	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Police personnel to population ratio 2. Number and fatalities from border tensions and conflicts 3. Number and fatalities from Armed rebellions 4. Number and fatalities from Civil conflicts 5. The number of arms seized or recovered. 6. CPIA property rights and rule-based governance rating (1=low to 6=high) 7. Ibrahim Safety and Rule of Law Index 8. Ibrahim index on National Security
Theme 6: Ensure sustainable use and management of natural resources (forest, water and soils)	
Goal 8: Reduce Environmental Degradation and Pollution	
Target 30: By 2030, keep CO2 emissions and other air pollutions at 2015 levels	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carbon dioxide emissions per capita 2. Consumption of ozone-depleting CFCs (ODP tons) 3. Indoor air pollution from burning traditional biomass fuel 4. PM10, country level (micrograms per cubic meter)

Goals and targets	Indicators for monitoring progress
Target 31: Ensure that sustainable development principles are integrated into countries' policies and programmes and well implemented to reverse the loss of environmental resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number and fund size of Inclusive Green Growth projects 2. Adjusted net savings 3. CPIA policy and institutions for environmental sustainability rating (1=low to 6=high) 4. Share of budget allocated to the management of natural disasters 5. Disaster risk reduction progress score (1-5 scale; 5=best) 6. Human and economic loss due to disasters
Target 32: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving, by 2030, a significant reduction in the rate of loss	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of land area protected, total and by ecological region 2. National parks and protected areas under effective management 3. Fragmentation of habitats 4. Land concessions granted in protected areas 5. Species (abundance, distribution, and threats)
Target 33: Increase recycling, recovery and re-use by 10 per cent between 2016 and 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of recycling, reuse and recovery projects 2. Value of recycling, reuse and recovery projects
Target 34: Reduce deforestation and forest degradation by a half between 2016 and 2030.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Forest area (per cent of land area) 2. Forest area under sustainable management 3. Visible areas of land recovered from desertification 4. Agricultural land (per cent of land area)
Target 35: Reduce by a third pollution of surface water resources and ensure sustainable land management by 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Level of use of pesticides and non-organic fertilizer 2. Percentage of the population with access to land and capital 3. Land use change 4. Number and area covered by bushfires 5. Quality of surface water. 6. Annual freshwater withdrawals, total (billion cubic meters) 7. Water availability per capita 8. Percentage of population living in coastal areas 9. Area of treated sites for coastal erosion
Target 36: Reduce post-harvest losses by a half by 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Agriculture value added per worker (constant prices) 2. Agriculture, value added (per cent of GDP) 3. Rural roads per capita 4. Density of rural roads 5. Volume of agriculture storage facilities
Theme 7: External Financing and Partnerships	
Goal 9: Enhance Regional and global public-private partnerships for development	
Target 37: Through foreign-local and public-private partnerships ensure science, technology and innovation transfer, adaptation and diffusion for development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. High-technology imports (per cent of total imports) 2. High-technology exports (per cent of total exports) 3. Number and value of public-private partnerships 4. Number and value of foreign-local partnerships
Target 38: Ensure an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory regional and global trading and financial system by supporting the increasing intra-regional trade, finance and the share of subregional trade in global trade by a third in 2030	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share of intra subregional trade and finance in total subregional trade and finance 2. Share of subregional trade and finance in global trade and finance
Target 39: In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of population with access to affordable essential drugs on a sustainable basis

Goals and targets	Indicators for monitoring progress
Target 40: Assist developing countries to meet the SDGs by providing additional, predictable and appropriate funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress made in fulfilling multilateral conventions and agreements 2. Bilateral grants provided for sustainable development activities 3. Multilateral grants provided for sustainable development activities 4. Concessionality of loans provided for sustainable development activities 5. Share of GDP committed to developing countries
Target 41: Ensure debt sustainability and trade facilitation for developing countries	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods and services 2. External Debt to GDP Ratio 3. Proportion of total developed country imports (by value and excluding arms) from developing countries and least developed countries, admitted free of duty 4. Average tariffs imposed by developed countries on agricultural products and textiles and clothing from developing countries 5. Agricultural support estimate for OECD countries as a percentage of their gross domestic product 6. Proportion of ODA provided to help build trade capacity
Target 42: Respond to particular needs of landlocked developing countries and island states.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Net amount of total Public Aid Development (PAD) in favour of landlocked countries as a percentage of GDP revenue from CDA/OCED countries 2. Net amount of total Public Aid Development (PAD) in favour of island states as a percentage of GDP revenue from CDA/OCED countries

5. Conclusion and recommendations

5.1 Conclusion

Developing and implementing SDGs are paramount to countries in the West Africa subregion. The subregion has, over the past decade, experienced political stability, which has contributed to the achievement of appreciable economic growth. However, countries in the subregion do not seem to have undergone real economic transformation, even though the service sector is expanding significantly. In line with improvements in economic performance, social conditions in the areas of education and health have also improved, albeit more in terms of access than quality. With regard to environmental sustainability, the general observation is that despite efforts made, degradation and environmental pollution are still major challenges.

The institutional, financial, technological and capacity constraints notwithstanding, countries have made strides in all three dimensions of sustainable development. However, more effort is needed if sustainable development is to be addressed in a holistic and integrated manner.

Analysis of documents and results of the subregional SDG survey conducted to ascertain priority sustainable development issues suggest that many issues need to be addressed by the SDGs, and in order of importance include: education, health, sustainable infrastructural development, inclusive economic growth diversification and transformation, good governance and rule of law, agriculture and food security, environment and natural resource management, social protection for the poor and the vulnerable, sanitation and urban management and peace and security. In this connection, nine sustainable development goals have been advanced, complemented by 42 targets and 178 indicators.

5.2 Recommendations

Member States, regional and subregional bodies and the international community will all have to commit and make significant efforts towards operationalizing the SDGs.

Member States must ensure good governance; ensure that education and awareness are created on the SDGs; develop long-term strategies to guide implementation; better involve the private sector and civil society organizations; ensure linkages/coordination of the goals; strengthen institutions by making them more proactive and independent; provide adequate and innovative finance; and develop capacity for implementing and effective systems for monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

For subregional and regional bodies, there is a need to improve sustainable development governance in the subregion. In line with improving sustainable development governance, there is a need to enhance the role of subregional and regional bodies such as ECOWAS, the West African Economic and Monetary Union and the African Union in the operationalizing and implementing of the SDGs.

As a way of properly and effectively monitoring the operationalization and implementation of sustainable development, the subregion could consider developing a subregional sustainability index to concisely monitor the process.

It is also imperative to learn from the implementation of the MDGs as well as undertake extensive subregional consultations on the SDGs and intensify the provision of platforms for countries to share experiences and knowledge and network in the operationalization phase of the SDGs.

It will be equally important to assist countries to obtain current and reliable data and institute an efficient evaluation and follow-up system.

Ensuring proper assessment of achievements made in the operationalization of the SDGs in order to learn lessons and further implementation improved would entail:

- (a) Developing a comprehensive framework for effectively monitoring and evaluating SDG implementation;
- (b) Undertaking baseline studies on the state of sustainable development;
- (c) Strengthening data collection, especially at the local level;
- (d) Improving mechanisms for verifying information provided by identifying focal persons in ministries, departments and agencies and other entities such as the private sector, other public sector institutions, research institutions and civil society, by capacitating them to monitor and provide regular feedback;
- (e) Having a separate and adequate budget for monitoring sustainable development implementation; and
- (f) Developing mechanisms that would measure efforts or the pace of progress and not only the shortfall from the target.

The international community should properly assess the implementation of the MDGs with the view to informing the SDGs process. The effective operationalization of the SDGs will require the availability of adequate resources, thus the need for meaningful support from the international community. This calls for a genuine commitment to aid and development effectiveness. The international community should promote, facilitate and finance appropriate environmentally sound technologies and their diffusion, as well as capacity building, institutional strengthening and global partnership for development.

