

10. Côte d'Ivoire: SDG Issues in an Emerging Country

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Côte d'Ivoire, like every nation of the world, is a stakeholder in the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), whose achievement is a vast project that also requires prioritization in terms of vision. The desire to make Côte d'Ivoire into “an industrial power, united in its cultural diversity, democratic and open to the world” is not incompatible with the challenges of the SDGs.

FIVE STRATEGIC AXES OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE SDGs

The mixed nature of the outcomes of the Millennium Development Goals is undeniable. With the SDGs, the programme for the post-2015 period under a new global pact for development is already judged to be out of reach. Hardly had the SDGs been adopted when the issue of taking better account of agendas for 2020, 2030 and 2040 in national development policies emerged. This raises the question of how Côte d'Ivoire, which plans to become by 2040 “an industrial power, united in its cultural diversity, democratic and open to the world”, will meet the national and international challenges of sustainable development.

These challenges include strengthening the quality of institutions and governance, accelerating the development of human capital and social well-being, speeding up the structural transformation of the economy through industrialization, the development and harmonious distribution of infrastructure across the country, the preservation of the environment and the strengthening of regional integration and international cooperation. Since 2015, the Government has committed to the success of this mission.

The Government's commitment to and leadership of the SDGs were reaffirmed at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit at which the SDGs were adopted. Côte d'Ivoire was represented at that Summit by an official delegation of the Government, the country's Economic and Social Council, local authorities and civil society. At the end of the Summit, Côte d'Ivoire adopted the SDGs for 2030 and resolutely committed to their realization. This commitment was reflected in: (1) the establishment of a framework for a multi-party national consultation; (2) high-level participation in the Summit; and (3) account being taken of the SDGs in the 2016-2020 National Development Plan (NDP). The NDP serves as a

reference guide to public and private initiatives in the country working towards the emergence of Côte d'Ivoire by 2020 and is organized into five strategic areas that closely cross-reference with the SDGs.⁴⁵

Strategic Area 1: Strengthening the quality of the institutions and governance (SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities; SDG 16: Peace, justice and effective institutions; SDG 17: Partnerships for the achievement of objectives);

Strategic Area 2: Acceleration of the development of human capital and promotion of social well-being (SDG 1: No poverty; SDG 2: "Zero" hunger; SDG 3: Healthy lives and well-being);

Strategic Area 3: Acceleration of the structural transformation of the economy through industrialization (SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth; SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production);

Strategic Area 4: Development and harmonious distribution of infrastructure across the country and the preservation of the environment (SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation; SDG 7: Affordable, clean energy; SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure; SDG 13: Fight against climate change; SDG 15: Terrestrial ecosystems);

Strategic Area 5: Strengthening regional integration and international cooperation (SDG 10: Reduce inequality; SDG 17: Partnerships for the achievement of objectives).

HAVING STRONG INSTITUTIONS IS KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE SDGs

The SDGs set challenging targets, but it falls to governments or regional organizations to take matters in hand and deploy strategies to achieve them. Measuring the results obtained against the indicators chosen will be the only way of assessing the state of advancement and progress made in a country.

This is why the Ivorian Minister of Health, the Environment and Sustainable Development, Anne Désirée Ouloto, at a meeting organized by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations in Abidjan on 27 July 2017 on the theme of "Evaluation of indicators for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals", explained that with regard to the institutional mechanism established and the commitment of stakeholders, Côte d'Ivoire must be able to achieve these commitments for a better world on the basis of the 17 SDGs that cover a multitude of areas ranging from the protection of the planet to building a more peaceful world, and including a guarantee to all to be able to live with security and dignity. The Government is strongly committed to integrating the SDGs into sectoral and local policies, confirmed by strengthening the capacities of actors involved in the process, including public administration, civil society, local authorities, the private sector, Parliament and the media.

According to a well-defined road map, the *Government* is responsible for implementing public sectoral and local policies that are aligned with the NDP and integrate the SDGs. It will ensure the mobilization of specific internal and external resources for financing the

45 Source: 2016-2020 National Development Plan.

SDGs and will empower the national system for the collection and dissemination of statistical data. *Parliament, which now plays an important role in the evaluation of public policies, will pass the State budget, paying particular attention to monitoring the amounts allocated to funding the SDGs. It will also inventory existing laws, taking the SDG targets into account. The Economic and Social Council will organize referrals to thematic commissions for advice to the Executive on the process of following-up on the SDGs. Local authorities will revisit regional and municipal development plans in light of the NDP integrating the SDGs. They will improve the framework of local governance and the targeting of interventions in favour of the poorest. Civil society organizations will exercise citizen control over public policy to support effective implementation of the 2016-2020 NDP and particular monitoring of the SDGs. They will contribute to the establishment of a framework for inclusive dialogue, exchange and debate involving the State, civil society, the private sector, local authorities, the National Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The private sector will ensure implementation of a corporate social responsibility approach that supports the SDGs and the positioning of the private sector as a leader in innovation and feedback with regard to the SDGs.*

It should be noted that Côte d'Ivoire has a model for implementation of the SDGs developed by the Ministry of the Environment and Sustainable Development. This is the "*Road map for implementation of the SDGs*".

THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF EVALUATION IS KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE SDGs WITHIN NATIONS

The role of evaluation is crucial to the process of observing work that has been done, measuring results, reassessing, proposing new directions and improving practices for progress towards the SDGs in order to meet expectations for sustainable development by 2030.

Formerly, it was the pathway that preceded development; now, it is evaluation as a philosophy and practice that precedes it. This is why I consider that "*To evaluate is to develop*". That said, in the current context of implementation of the SDGs, the principles and practices of evaluation, which have already proved their worth in Côte d'Ivoire and elsewhere in the world in terms of good practice, should be used to their full benefit. Evaluative practice, especially self-evaluation as a method and value, should now be at the heart of public action. To achieve this, every citizen should be their own evaluator and inspector in their living space. Policymakers should place the evaluation of public, private and semi-public actions at the heart of development issues, accompanied by support measures.

To do so will require the strong involvement of the nation at every level. This should be done through: (1) the promotion of actions to support a change of public mindset for a better understanding and acceptance of the SDGs; (2) building the capacities of the public; (3) creating experimental pilot, political and citizen SDG frameworks; and (4) funding the production of high-quality statistical data for stronger tracking and evaluation of defined high-importance programmes and priority areas for achievement of the country's SDGs and those making an important contribution to the global SDGs.

IT IS POSSIBLE TO GET ON BOARD THE GLOBALIZATION TRAIN AND TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs

As a development socio-economist, planner and evaluator, aware of the very real issues of sustainable development based on strong industrialization in a space that is respectful of the environment and led by a healthy, well-nourished and competitive human capital, we consider it relevant for our country, Côte d'Ivoire, to orient its national capacity for support for the SDGs towards the implementation, monitoring and rigorous evaluation of research programmes with strong development potential. These include programmes to develop more resilient agriculture, the climate-change adaptation programme, the health system improvement programme making greater use of natural substances, the technological development programme, the renewable energy research programme and the programme for development of mathematics in the service of social and natural sciences.

Also, since Côte d'Ivoire as a country is engaged in the dynamic of globalization, it would be useful, opportune and relevant for it to:

1. Define a bank of indicators for monitoring and measuring progress made on SDG issues;
2. Anchor national, regional and municipal plans in the SDGs;
3. Translate the SDGs into local languages to make their message accessible to all;
4. Raise public awareness of more citizen-like and responsible practice with regard to SDG issues;
5. Support civil society initiatives and actions for the promotion of good practice with regard to the SDGs;
6. Create five pilot or experimental "SDG towns", one in each of the areas of Centre, North, South, East and West.