

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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BUSINESS , MAJOR INDUSTRY GROUP

MAKING IT HAPPEN , A PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE

The Proposed 12 SDGs as outlined in the Draft Africa Regional Report aim to deliver quite a number of Social Dividends to the people of the Continent. If the SDGs are meant to create the tomorrow that we want and promote equitable and inclusive human-centred development , then the ownership of these goals by Society at large is Crucial.

The ensuing targets and indicators should mirror the better future we want to create for ourselves and may be less emphasis should then be laid on benchmarks that are usually used by external funding agencies and the donor community. We need to create more space for our local entrepreneurs and domestic investors who are more in tune with the economic realities of our regions than favouring an all out financial mobilisation of external funds. We need to privilege DDI (Domestic Direct Investment) as well as FDI. Domestically induced FDI has led to many successful projects on the continent and take a much longer term view of the socio-economic benefits accruing to the individual countries than one off resource seeking ventures primarily geared to fuelling global value chains unconnected with us .

Yes we do have the the ability and calibre to engage in cross border investments and the Business community can mobilise the necessary finance without the creation of complex and costly additional instruments and the burdening of existing institutions which should be rather looking at monitoring and evaluation and not operationalising the plan . There are enough private equity funds around for us not to create even morewhat we need are clearly articulated Investible Projects which are truly open to our local business communities through transparent procurement processes. We need to broaden the circle of opportunities for our own people .

There is no debate about the worthy objectives being pursued in the 12 SDGs elaborated, as mentioned by the distinguished national delegates as well as their own country efforts and initiatives in contributing to the overall goals.

Since we cannot have all that we wantwe need to want what we can ! We need to focus more on those initiatives that are within our control and that we can influence.

We need to address Trade and Investment issues which can significantly improve our socio-economic landscape and lead us to a sustainable growth path capable of creating the JOBS that we NEED

Enhanced Regional Trade and Investment flows will deliver tangible results to our individual economies and for that we need to pledge our efforts in achieving greater and more rapid Economic Integration . We need to explicitly state our commitment **to Promote Regional Trade and Cross Border Investment amongst our countries.** We need to commit to eliminate Non tariff Barriers and other impediments to allow us to create regional value chains and ensure greater Beneficiation which in turn would lead to **sustainable employment.**

The administrative thickness of our borders add a significant amount of costs to regional trade and if we want to trade more with each other we also need a commitment to increase our **Trade Facilitation** efforts .

The resulting increase in the level of intra-africa Trade can be the biggest non-fiscal stimulus to our local economies thereby creating the much needed fiscal space to deliver on much needed welfare projects .

Our share of intra –Africa trade in manufactured goods is very low compared to other regions , greater market access is..... good provided that we have the goods to trade , whereby an explicit mention is required of the sectors that will be promoted to reduce the de-industrialisation pace that we have been witnessing in manufacturing.

On the infrastructure side , Greater involvement of the Business community in the provision of productive infrastructure calls for the whole concept of Public/Private Partnership to be revisited and its mechanisms enhanced to give it true meaning. This calls for a more comprehensive Public/ Private Sector dialogue and a new age of Corporate Social Responsibility.

We are all in it together , the women entrepreneurs , the sole traders , SMES , our own brand of multinationals , Together We Can make a it a better future one that that we all deserve

Bhanu P Jadoo

Secretary General Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry