

## UTILISATION OF SDG FRAMEWORK TO STRENGTHEN INDIA'S DEVELOPMENTAL DIPLOMACY

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Dr. Sucharita Sharma\*

### ABSTRACT

*There is an increased concern for redefining India's role in the developmental diplomacy to effectively achieve the sustainable goals. This research aims to analyze the changing role of India as a nation and emerge as a leader among the developing nations to light the way forward. The seventeen sustainable development goals have laid down an extensive path for both the developed and developing nations of the world. The problems to be addressed are extensive and require a proactive approach from all the countries of the world. The availability of geographic data and information can play a key role and India can leverage upon its strength to provide the right solution to the problems ahead. Since developmental diplomacy focusses on pro-engagement rather than isolation hence India can suitable act proactively in this sphere and work together with the other developing nations to maximize its goal achievement while simultaneously assisting the other deprived nations to achieve their targets as well.*

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**Keywords:** *SDG, Developmental Diplomacy, Proactive approach, Sustainability Goals.*

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### Introduction

India has taken leap forward in the achievement of the sustainable development goals. Despite the growing population India has been able to sustain a model of growth where environmental concerns are met upfront along with the developmental aspects. The term development in Developmental diplomacy according to Rodney (1972) is the "capacity to regulate both internal and external relationships. It means increase in the ability to guard the independence of a social group". It is the development of a nation in a sustainable manner. Diplomacy refers to a tactical strategy which aids the nation to achieve its goals in an efficient and effective way (Lawal & Daiyabu, 2015). Both the Paris climate agreement (UNFCCC, 2015) and the Sendai framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNODRR, 2015) are important agreements to be accomplished during the 2021-30 decade. India needs to redefine its role and position on the international front to emerge as a leader among the developing nations to achieve these sustainability goals. This research thus focusses on the developmental diplomacy to be adopted by India to achieve the sustainability goals ahead.

### Review of Literature

**The report by Levin et al. (2015)** acts as a guide for countries to prepare and design the intended nationally determined goals for various countries. It also includes the technical guidance and practical implications for carrying out the process. It also lists out the general steps in the choices in preparing and designing the goals for the various countries in different stages of development.

**Studies by Levin et al. (2009)** have reflected the four basic characteristics of global problems which aid in the problems overpowering the solutions. The first issue stated is the complexity of the global problem which results from the natural and social systems of the global environment. The second aspect relates to solutions may result into differential unintended impacts of these on the various nations. The third impact is associated with the scientific uncertainty of the environmental problems and the last is primarily cumulative in nature. Analyzing the long term impact of the solutions provides may thus be a major consideration for nations in different stages of the developmental stage.

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\* Associate Professor in Political Science, Government College, Jamdoli, Jaipur, Rajasthan, India.

Similarly Levin et al. (2012) also reflect that most of the policy relevant work on climate change has ignored a holistic view of the problem and addressed only the narrow objectives stated in the policy documents. Similar studies by Asensio (1997) and Norman (2010) have stressed on the use of information systems to address the issue of various sustainable development goals. Betson and Waarlick (2006) also suggest the incorporation of technological solutions for the achievement of these goals.

The review thus suggests that India has a strong position to take leverage of its information technology strengths and emerge as a leader among the developing economies in the pursuit of sustainable development goals.

### **Sustainable Development Goals**

The seventeen sustainable developmental goals as listed in the Paris agreement (Kamepalli, & Pattanayak, 2015). have been reflected as:

- End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.
- Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.
- Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all.
- Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.
- Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all.
- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.
- Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.
- Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
- Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

These reflect a holistic overview of the vision of the United Nations and its outlook towards curbing climate change. The various goals are an indicator of the areas of concern for the nations worldwide. Each of the goals requires a definite set of measures to be adopted by the countries. The achievement is also time bound and requires diverse set of data associated with it. Hence an increased technological intervention will be required to achieve these goals.

### **Discussion**

Asensio (1997) and Norman (2010) have suggested the use of spatial technologies for mapping of poverty in various countries. India has a strong presence in the spatial sphere and can take advantage of the geographical information systems to capture data and provide appropriate solutions to address the first sustainable development goal. Since developmental diplomacy relies on proactive efforts and working towards the welfare of all hence India can visibly contribute to not only self-development but also assisting the smaller nations to achieve their sustainable development goals ESCAP (2015). However for the provision of achievement of goals most of the impetus will be on the decade starting from 2021. This decade will mark the fulfillment of the SDG's earmarked in 2015 by the United Nations. This action packed era will lead to meeting the unattended targets and laying emphasis on the quality of life of people.

### Conclusion

The study thus concludes that sustainable development goals as laid down by the Paris Agreement need a holistic approach to achieve these proactively. Various developed and developing nations have crafted down their strategies to achieve this. India can lead the category of developing nations by leveraging upon its developmental diplomacy. This approach can not only help achieve the sustainability goals for India but can also assist the smaller nations to achieve them through the use of information availability and assistance from India. The twenty-first century economic growth agenda is directed towards provision of a sustainable and dignified living for the inhabitants of the planet and India can play a major upfront contributor towards its achievement.

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