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10 years

TO
ACT

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11 VOICES FOR A SUSTAINABLE WORLD

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TEN YEARS TO INVEST IN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



RÉMY RIOUX

AFD Group
CEO

By their scope and universal nature, the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in December 2015 offer an unprecedented promise for change and cause for hope. Imbued with humanism, this objective of transforming societies responds

to two needs. First, the need to protect citizens across the world through decent jobs, gender equality and access to good-quality education. Second, the need to protect the planet by promoting sustainable cities, fighting climate change and, as we are reminded by the tragedy of the Amazon rainforest, combating deforestation.

Despite the great urgency of these two major issues and increasing calls to action as the risks of inaction materialize with the approach of 2030, the measures being taken to achieve the SDGs are still insufficient. This contrast is explained by what could be called a Janusian dilemma. We want to build a fairer and more sustainable world, but we are using tools of the past that have not been revised in light of this ambition. Despite an abundance of multilateral efforts by the international community in 2015, the Addis Ababa-New York-Paris trilogy did not succeed in producing a concept or a reference framework or methodology allowing initiatives that are commensurate with the SDGs.

In particular, the funding equation for the international agenda—directing investments towards the SDGs by mobilizing more significant international, national and private sector funding—has not been resolved. In the area of development funding, the only international reference is Official Development Assistance (ODA), which is now being called upon to fund the SDGs, despite being designed with entirely different intentions and

only amounting to a very small portion of the required international financial flows. ODA must not be called into question. It demonstrates solidarity between wealthier and poorer nations and, as promised by the French President Emmanuel Macron, it is set to increase. But the \$150 billion of ODA generated each year will never succeed in meeting the needs of the SDGs.

We must therefore invent a new comprehensible and motivating funding framework as a complement to ODA that would be commensurate with the Sustainable Development Goals and could be called “Sustainable Development Investment” (SDI). This is the position I defend in an essay on development entitled *Réconciliations*. This concept of SDI would be complementary to ODA and would be part of a commitment approach aimed not at short-term financial return but at preserving common goods and creating label systems to promote maximum financial flows being converted into SDI. The goal would be to redirect the \$20 trillion in annual global investment towards the climate and SDGs.

Many initiatives already exist, and labels are beginning to emerge: socially responsible investment, sustainable or green finance, etc. However, what is missing is a unifying, overarching standard. SDI would serve both as a label and a means of measurement. Far from a mere abstraction, this approach is already reflected at AFD in impact funds combining public and market resources, and an ongoing dialogue with philanthropists, banks and asset managers, aimed at persuading them to invest in developing and emerging countries.

We can now see the symptoms of the difficulties ahead “if nothing is done”—the unvarying *incipit* of repeated warnings. But soon we will wake up to find that a decade has slipped away. Will we then be ready to bear the consequences of our lack of initiative? •

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coordinated by the Agence française de développement:

ideas4development.org



Toward a science for sustainable development

Four years after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an independent group of scientists was tasked with conducting a critical assessment of them. Their report will be presented to the United Nations General Assembly on September 24, 2019. It contains three main messages that apply to development aid, which will now be explained by Jean-Paul Moatti, who helped produce this assessment.

OPINION BY



JEAN-PAUL MOATTI

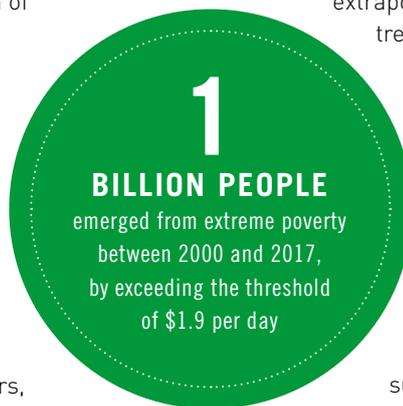
President and CEO of the French National Research Institute for Development (IRD). Member of the United Nations Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) tasked with producing the first Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) on the Sustainable Development Goals for 2015-2019.

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) was mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to monitor Agenda 2030 after the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015. It appointed an independent group of scientists (IGS) to produce a critical assessment of the SDGs in the form of the quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR). The first edition of this report covers the 2015-2019 period and will be discussed at the United Nations General Assembly in September 2019. It is the fruit of extensive consultation with the international scientific community, but also with government stakeholders, representatives of the public and private sectors and NGOs, particularly during regional forums and regular discussions within the framework of the HLPF. However, its content has not been negotiated, i.e. it has been produced entirely by the scientists who carried out this work, operating in total autonomy. Three of the powerful messages that emerge from the report and its calls for

action in the short, medium (horizon 2030) and long (beyond 2030) terms are particularly relevant for targeting the provision of development aid and are worthy of emphasis here.

A message of alarm and urgency

A limited number of the 169 targets associated with the 17 SDGs are on track to be achieved by 2030: reducing child mortality, access to primary education – including for girls, and reducing extreme poverty. Between 2000 and 2017, one billion people emerged from extreme poverty by exceeding the threshold of \$1.9 per day, but despite these potential successes, there is little cause for optimism. Firstly, because these forecasts are obtained by linear extrapolation of the current trend to 2030, which is a questionable projection. Secondly, because these indicators reflect global averages and mask large disparities. For example, more than half of all extreme poverty is concentrated in five countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia. The billion people who have emerged from extreme poverty now live on between \$2 and \$3 a day and remain vulnerable to economic and environmental crises or conflict situations. Finally, because the scientific literature and empirical data, such as those from the international comparisons recently conducted under the aegis of ATD-Quart Monde, highlight the limitations of the reference





Researchers from the Cerfig team in Guinea collect samples from bats to pursue research on the Ebola virus.

indicators. Defining extreme poverty by a simple monetary threshold completely ignores its multidimensional nature, and the perceptions of poor people themselves.

Not only is the achievement of the overwhelming majority of the targets not progressing quickly enough to ensure the success of Agenda 2030, the trend for several goals is clearly downwards. In some cases, the SDGs have failed to reverse the current negative dynamics, and in others, the economic recovery after the 2008 global crisis has been accompanied by a resurgence of damage to the global environment. The decline is corroborated by goals relating to greenhouse gas emissions, the ecological footprint of our production methods, the loss of biodiversity – which actually accelerated between 2015 and 2019 – and inequalities, which are growing at an unprecedented rate.

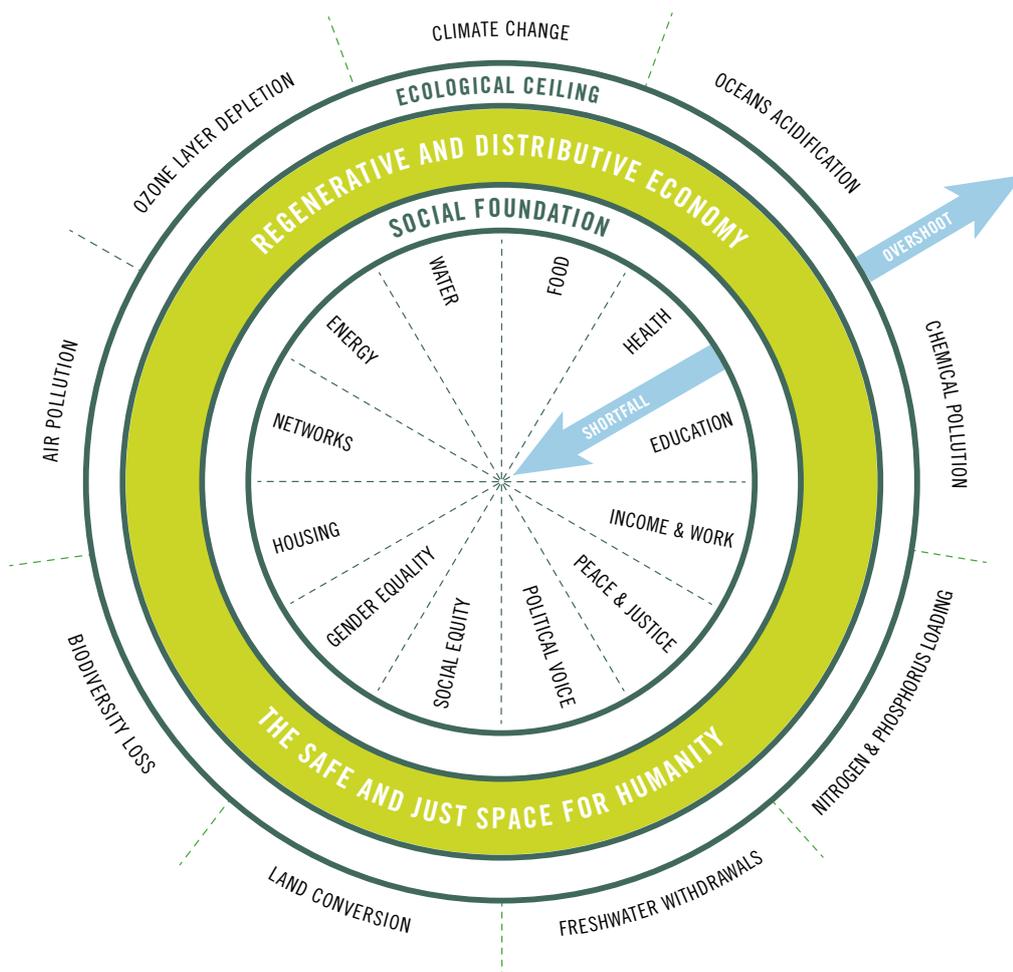
SDGs: arrows rather than boxes

All the SDGs are potentially contradictory and share synergies with each other. Working on a goal-by-goal basis, without considering their interactions, means taking a considerable risk that the improvement of one goal will be to the detriment of the others. For example, a recent study shows how poorly designed CO₂ emission mitigation policies could lead to an increase in the number of hungry people due to their effects on land use. Conversely, a large body of

“Working on a goal-by-goal basis, without considering their interactions, means taking a considerable risk that the improvement of one goal will be to the detriment of the others.”

research based on experience in the field shows how the synergies between SDGs are being positively exploited. Studies in which the IRD has participated have demonstrated how marine protected areas can put a stop to overfishing and the overexploitation of marine ecosystems while safeguarding the living conditions of communities that depend on marine resources, provided that they are managed with the appropriate levels of regulation. Similarly, research conducted on the “developmental origins of health and disease” shows that massive investment in the well-being of children (from the fetus stage to adolescence), and in single-parent families in particular, is likely to have beneficial effects on the health of individuals, and even on education or productivity, throughout their lives. Committing to sustainable development trajectories implies identifying the priority interactions between SDGs, which must be specifically taken into account for each national, regional and local context. The report proposes six major areas in which this transformational approach can be put into practice: improvement of human well-being and capabilities, transition toward sustainable and equitable economies, transformation targeting sustainable food systems and nutrition, decarbonization of energy production and use, promotion of sustainable cities and peri-urban systems, and protection of global environmental commons. To facilitate this strategy, it proposes to make SDGs the explicit and mandatory framework for inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral budgetary decision-making procedures. Lastly, it takes up the International Development Finance Club (IDFC) proposal to establish a UN-level mechanism for the quality-labeling of sustainable financial investments. Such a mechanism would clarify and speed up the movement of financial resources, both public and private, towards sustainable development.

THE FAIR AND HEALTHY PLACE OF HUMANITY: BETWEEN SOCIAL FOUNDATIONS AND ECOLOGICAL CEILINGS

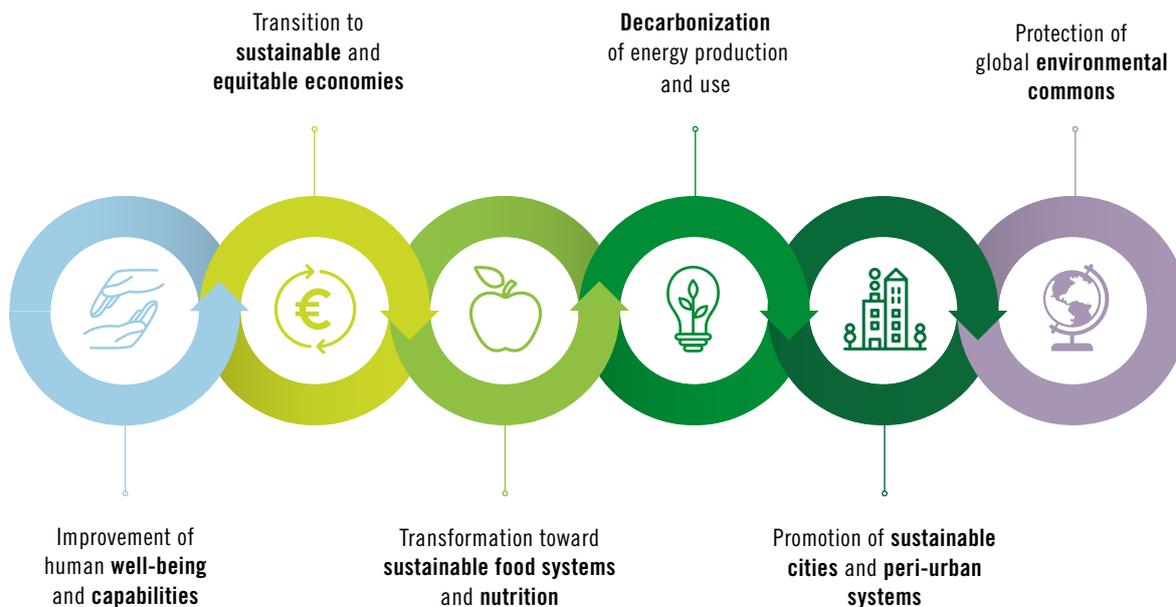


A paradigm shift required to improve the contribution of science and technology to sustainable development

"Sustainability science" has been a priority for the US National Academy of Sciences since 1999, for its Chinese counterpart since 2009 and, more recently, for UNESCO. This specific discipline took on greater importance at the start of the 21st century, when

globalization was confronted with the problem of limited global resources. This science, which studies the interactions between the environment and societies, seeks ways to create a sustainable balance between global health and human well-being. It aims to understand the causal chain of the ecological and social phenomena being studied, at all levels. Due to

SDGS: SIX FIELDS OF TRANSFORMATIVE INTERACTION



its interdisciplinary nature, it also encourages scientists to work with communities and develop solutions for and with all stakeholders in the field. The scientific production specializing in this field is constantly increasing. Nevertheless, the efforts to promote sustainability science remain insufficient and fall far short of what is required to meet the challenges ahead. The obstacles include the fact that around 60% of all research and development worldwide is now carried out by the private sector, whose interests often favor a short-term perspective. Then comes the North-South imbalance in science and technology, as well as the reluctance of part of the scientific community to engage in major societal debates. In July 2019, a conference was held in Washington D.C. at the initiative

of the International Science Council, which brings together international Academies of Sciences. It was attended by representatives of scientific institutions, research funding agencies and development agencies. AFD, the French National Research Agency (ANR) and IRD made up the French delegation. There was a complete consensus among all stakeholders on the need to maximize the impact of investments in SDG-targeted research by strengthening strategic partnerships. We have strong grounds to hope that the ongoing reinforcement of collaborations between AFD and IRD, and more generally between development banks and research, will make an exemplary contribution to the progress of a science that effectively contributes to the profound changes required to safeguard the planet and human societies. •

GOVERNANCE

“The majority of conflicts arise from problems of governance”

Drawing on his extensive experience at the service of international institutions and governments, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga analyzes the conditions for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the most unstable regions, such as the Horn of Africa. He considers that the challenges of governance and the establishment of States governed by the rule of law, as promoted by Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, are a prerequisite for attaining all the other goals.

INTERVIEW WITH



PARFAIT ONANGA-ANYANGA

UN Special Envoy
for the Horn
of Africa

Why is SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions – central to Agenda 2030?

The answer is relatively simple, even if the solutions are complicated. There can be no development, let alone sustainable development, in a context of instability, violence and conflict, with the suffering this causes for populations and the extremely negative impacts on the economy.

Without achieving the targets set out in SDG 16, it will be very difficult to make any progress in any area.

How can we speed up the transition toward peaceful and inclusive societies?

Whenever there is a clear and stated desire to govern for the greatest number of people, to submit both the political project and political action to civic control by striving for transparency, whenever efforts have been made to

provide communities with the services to which they legitimately aspire, there are better social relationships, less tension and more opportunities to engage in the construction of a peaceful and inclusive nation.

The improvement in many situations over the past 30 years, including the reduction of inter-State conflicts, is heartening. However, there is still so much to be done. We must continue with even greater determination to do everything possible to achieve this 16th Goal.

Fundamental freedoms are not explicitly mentioned in the final text of the SDGs. What do you think of this?

When the emphasis is placed on the need for participatory and transparent institutions in which the people in charge are accountable, at all levels, the aim is clearly to establish the rule of law. The fact that fundamental freedoms are not mentioned is not an oversight, but rather the result of arduous negotiations between the member States. Constructive ambiguities may exist.

The compromise reached does not reflect a perfect consensus and you have to read between the lines. What is important here is to consider that all 17





In Port-Louis (Mauritius), population celebrates the commemoration of Independence Day.

“It is impossible to attain all these goals in a completely centralized system of governance: communities must be empowered, with access to adequate resources and recognized responsibilities.”



SDGs together form a coherent whole. I believe that if there were a willingness to implement them, and, above all, if communities were to take ownership of them, they would provide responses to all aspects of people's lives.

Is the urgency and complexity of Agenda 2030 compatible with the social inclusion requirement enshrined in the SDGs?

Communities are intelligent, resilient and capable. When they are given opportunities to flourish through education, good health,

decent housing, citizens' rights and educational opportunities, the entire national community benefits. This is a real investment, which applies to all societies worldwide. Today, even in the “old democracies”, populations aspire very strongly to be no longer treated as subjects but rather as stakeholders. Unfortunately, in certain countries, they are still chasing rainbows. Sometimes the constraints are overwhelming. When resources are extremely limited and the needs are enormous, the management of equally urgent priorities is negotiated on an almost daily basis. Each choice is painful and can impact other priorities. For many nations, meeting all these requirements is beyond their means. That is why Agenda 2030 must mark the triumph of multilateralism over parochialism. Seen in this light,

international solidarity is far from an act of charity. Unless they are addressed in a comprehensive and collective manner, cross-border challenges will continue to make the world an unstable place.

Are the depletion of resources and global warming factors of geopolitical destabilization?

Undoubtedly. In the Horn of Africa, cross-border tensions can be observed between Kenya and Somalia, between Ethiopia and Kenya, and even sometimes within nation States themselves. In the Central African Republic, which has a weak central State, armed groups are seizing easily exploitable natural resources and throwing people out of their homes and jobs.

The majority of conflicts arise from problems of governance, and in around 10% of cases, the causes are the depletion of natural resources and competition. If there is no urgent response designed to stem the degradation of natural resources, it is clear that we will continue to face these tensions.

Regional and international solidarity is absolutely essential if we are to have a chance of putting an end to these extremely negative trends.

How are the monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs carried out?

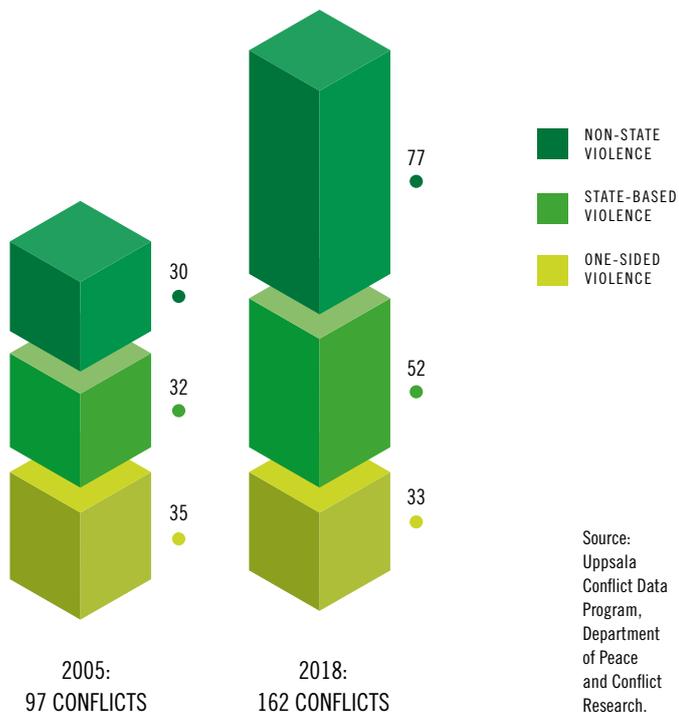
Today, the greatest need for all SDGs related to the fight against hunger, and to health, education, and climate change, is found mainly in Africa. Let us remember that these countries were thrust into the community of nations barely sixty years ago, and that many are still struggling to break free from a past that has not enabled them to make the most successful transitions.

There are some very good governance indicators—tools enabling a clear assessment of transformations: the number of people considered to be very poor, the number of children who have enough to eat, the malaria rate, access

to healthcare, etc. The measurements are based on reports submitted by the countries themselves. However, having a plan does not mean having the means to implement it, and unfortunately, human resources are lacking in many countries. This makes it difficult to write Agenda 2030 monitoring reports. The United Nations supports countries facing the greatest difficulties *via* its Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), but there is a pressing need for governance and expertise to ensure the successful implementation of the SDGs.

MORE AND MORE CONFLICTS IN THE WORLD

Number of conflicts in 2005 and 2018



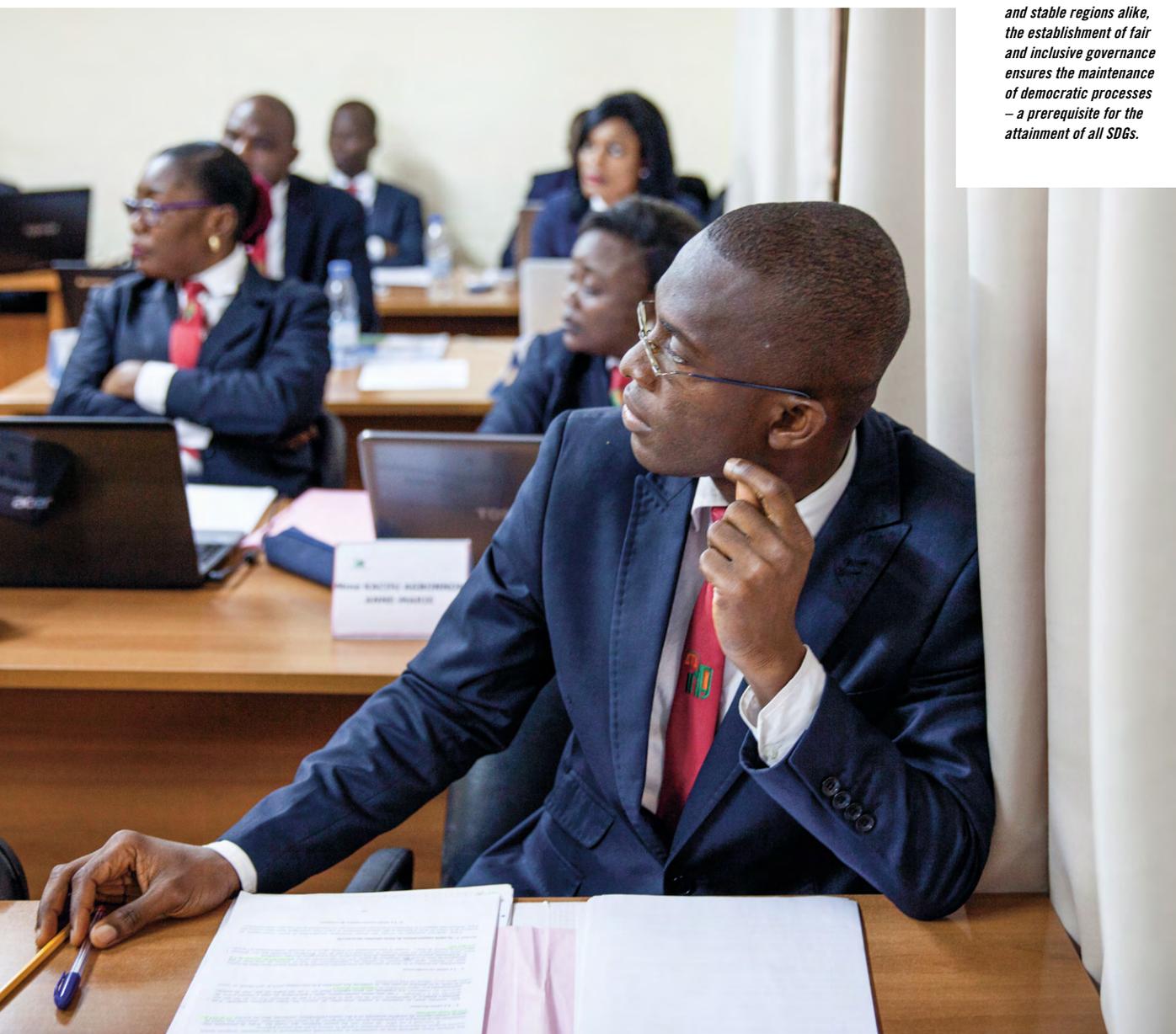
The SDGs are not accompanied by a user manual. What do you see as the key to their success?

The people in power have a huge responsibility to address these enormous challenges and to involve society as a whole in the most transparent manner possible. It is impossible to attain all these goals in a completely centralized system of governance: communities must be empowered, with access to adequate resources and recognized responsibilities. Then there needs to be a common response – a product of multilateralism

and pooled resources. No-one can live in complete isolation anymore. Today, more than ever before, the world has no choice but to pull together.

The forecasts frighten me. The awareness, or at least the current response, is not commensurate with the dangers we face. It falls short of the needs in all areas. Fifteen years is a very short time considering the immensity of the challenges. And doing nothing means sitting back and waiting for the situation to get even worse. A very long road lies ahead of us. ●

Training of judges in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. In war zones and stable regions alike, the establishment of fair and inclusive governance ensures the maintenance of democratic processes – a prerequisite for the attainment of all SDGs.



“Female entrepreneurship has a major economic impact”

All over the world, progress has been made in women’s rights and gender equality. Yet women and girls continue to suffer from significant discrimination, an aspect that is particularly visible when it comes to female entrepreneurship. Inequality in access to education, training and financial services prevents female entrepreneurs from fulfilling their potential. Friederike Röder, EU and France Director of ONE, an international campaigning and advocacy NGO, calls for an increase in this lever of development, that contributes to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

INTERVIEW WITH



FRIEDERIKE RÖDER

EU and France
Director of
the NGO ONE

Has gender equality throughout the world improved since the adoption of the SDGs?

Significant progress has been made in education for girls and in maternal health thanks to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), adopted in 2000, and the SDGs. Unfortunately, this is less the case when it comes to gender issues in both developed and developing countries. In certain wealthy regions, such as North America, we have even seen stagnation. No progress is being made. For example, the United States still does not provide universal maternity leave. It is the only OECD country that has not made progress in this area. The African continent is the region of the world where gender differences are most significant. It is home to the most countries with a

major portion of the population living in extreme poverty and is where these differences are the greatest.

How does ensuring gender equality help advance all the SDGs?

Gender equality is a prerequisite for achieving all the SDGs, in fact. Gender indicators are included in all the SDGs because the emancipation of women and girls has a positive impact on the economy, helps reduce poverty,

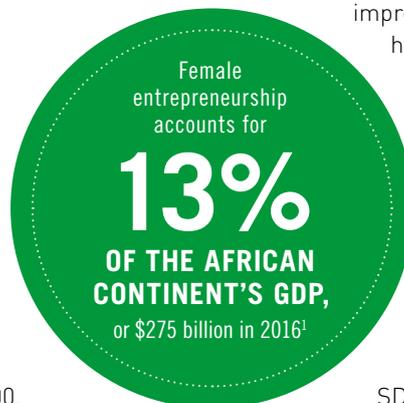
improves food security, health, etc. And yet the work required is huge.

According to the World Economic Forum, at the current rate, it will take 108 years to achieve complete gender equality everywhere in the world. This is too long; the time limit for the SDGs is set for 2030. We need to speed up considerably.

This is why we are fighting to have 85% of Official Development Assistance contribute to gender equality issues. This is the only way the situation can improve.

Can female entrepreneurship be used to achieve gender equality?

Female entrepreneurship has a major economic impact and is clearly an effective means of achieving gender equality and sustainable development. But we must not forget that many



1. Source: GEM Women Entrepreneurship Report 2017.

women become entrepreneurs because they have no other choice. Without access to good-quality education and often with dependent children, it is harder for them to access jobs in the traditional labor market. Female entrepreneurship is an interesting issue because it reveals huge disparities between men and women at every level. Keep in mind that women account for nearly two thirds of the world's illiterate population. In certain countries, the situations are truly catastrophic. For example, in Burkina Faso, only 1% of girls finish high school. On the African continent, even in the countries with the most significant growth, one out of every five girls is still married before her fifteenth birthday.

In order for female entrepreneurship to become an effective means of achieving gender equality, it must be part of a global approach. In other words, we must include a focus on education and training for girls and

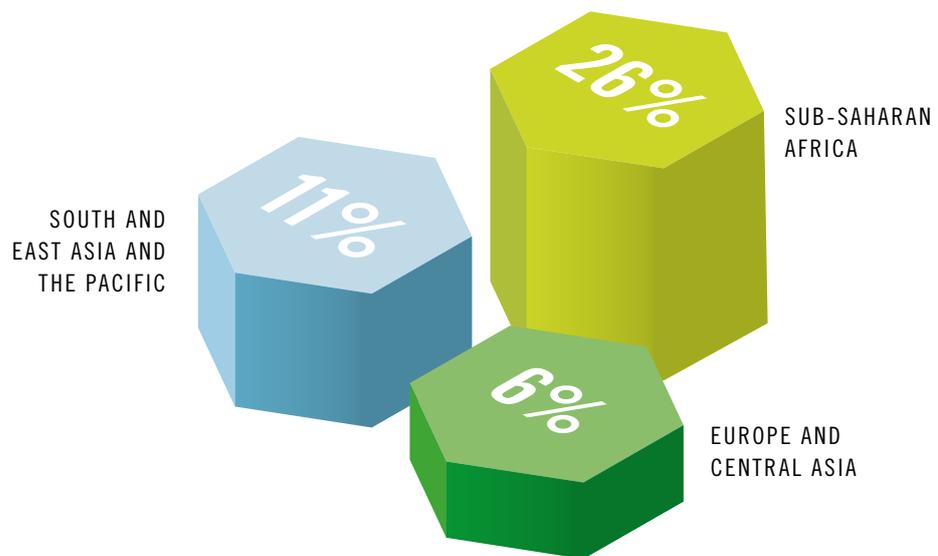
women, take their family situation into account and their access to healthcare and financial services, etc. Reducing gender inequality, especially through entrepreneurship, would increase world GDP by about \$28,000 billion by 2025. That's huge!

There is already significant female entrepreneurship in Africa. How can it be promoted?

Surprisingly enough, Africa has the highest percentage of female entrepreneurs in the world! In sub-Saharan Africa, one out of every four women has started or manages a business. The problem is that they are often self-employed entrepreneurs with limited means, since the resources are often monopolized by men. For example, they often have little or no access to banking systems and are rarely trained in how to manage a company. To promote female entrepreneurship in Africa successfully, it is therefore crucial

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: THE LARGEST CONCENTRATION OF WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN THE WORLD

Percentage of female entrepreneurs between the ages of 18 and 64, by region



Source:
GEM, 2015-2016.



Thanks to a loan granted by the microfinance institution Sonata, Saidapur Chandni, 22, has become micro-entrepreneur. According to OECD, women reinvest up to 90% of their income in their families, as opposed to 30 to 40% for men.

“Reducing gender inequality, especially through entrepreneurship, would increase world GDP by about \$28,000 billion by 2025.”

to establish specific programs that target women exclusively and take their needs into account.

What initiatives have already been undertaken to promote female entrepreneurship?

At the last G7 in France at the end of August, Melinda Gates presented an initiative of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation offering African women access to digital financial services.

According to her, improving women’s access to these services is fundamental in empowering these women, like the program by the African Development Bank, Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFAWA) aims to close the estimated \$42 billion funding gap that affects women entrepreneurs in Africa. At the same time, we must not forget the remarkable fieldwork that many NGOs in Africa are carrying out every day to promote female entrepreneurship. •

BIODIVERSITY

“Biodiversity is our life insurance”

Biodiversity continues to decline and conservation efforts are not yet equal to the challenges. According to Gilles Kleitz, Director of the AFD Ecological Transition and Natural Resources Department, biodiversity conservation has a part to play in the achievement of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is an urgent need for all development stakeholders to understand and explain that the diversity of living things is imperative to our existence and to scale up the solutions that have proved effective.

INTERVIEW WITH



GILLES KLEITZ

Director of
the AFD Ecological
Transition and
Natural Resources
Department

In what way is achieving the SDGs intrinsically linked to the conservation of biodiversity?

Every single SDG is linked to biodiversity. Health, food, the economy, regulating our environment, our oceans—everything relates to living things. If living things cease to exist, so does everything else. Biodiversity is our life insurance. It is the foundation for the life and development of all humanity—especially the poorest individuals who depend directly on the forest, prairie, agricultural soil, etc. Their existence is directly connected to nature.

For the past few years, defending this living foundation has become a key issue for development. Established goals have been partially achieved...

Biodiversity has long been a conservation goal without being viewed as the foundation of our existence and condition for our well-being. However, this is a true emergency, as confirmed in the latest report by the Foundation for Research on Biodiversity

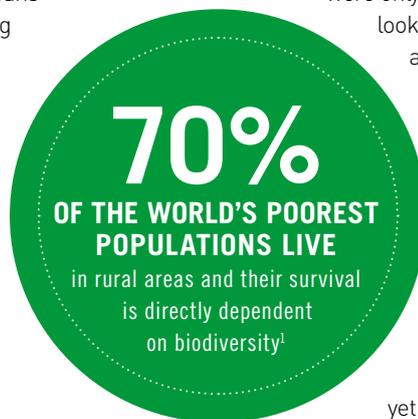
(IPBES). The research, conducted by over 150 scientific teams, mapped out and quantified the collapse of over 60% of biodiversity and over 70% of vertebrate populations. It confirms that with this level of degradation, protecting biodiversity is not a heritage issue, it is truly a development issue. We are dealing with central issues that affect all of humanity and its future, as for climate issues, which are directly related.

Does conserving ecosystems work towards achieving all the SDGs?

Absolutely, and this change in approach must happen quickly. 30 years ago, there were only a dozen of us in France looking into these connections as we measured the extent to which the ecosystem had been degraded. Now, numerous researchers are tackling the subject of biodiversity, “green finance”, industry, the economy and regional policies in order to better integrate biodiversity. And yet there is a long way to go, as witnessed in the increased erosion trends of the ecosystems and our natural capital. As for climate issues, we have not been able to reduce the patterns of degradation.

Could the new convergence of agendas reverse this trend? If so, what would this mean for those pursuing development?

The convergence of the biodiversity agenda with that of each SDG is crucial. This means that for each project, the solutions must have a triple impact: social, environmental



1. Source:
Secretariat of
the Convention
on Biological
Diversity (2009).



AICHI TARGETS, NINE YEARS AFTER THEY WERE ADOPTED

Adopted in October 2010, the 20 Aichi targets form the new “Strategic Plan for Diversity 2011-2020”.

Preventing the extinction of known threatened species and improving the state of their conservation by 2020, establishing and implementing an effective national strategy for the biological diversity

involving all stakeholders by 2015... Despite good intentions, nine years after the adoption of these targets, the outcome is disappointing: out of 20 targets, results have been moderate for 7 and poor for 6. Out of the 16 indicators used to assess the achievement of the targets, 12 reveal a strong trend towards decline in biodiversity.

2. Source:
B. W. Griscom
et al., “Natural
climate solutions”.
*Proceedings of the
National Academy
of Sciences* 144.44,
2017.2017.

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions is crucial in order to keep global warming below 2 degrees. Up to 37% of this reduction can be achieved using nature-based solutions according to Bronson W. Griscom.² Among the solutions, planting mangroves is especially effective.



According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, 40% of the 28,338 threatened animal species in 2019 were amphibians. They are essential in maintaining the balance of ecosystems.

“Each year, \$20,000 billion are invested in the world economy and only 5% of this amount is earmarked for responsible projects in terms of environmental protection.”

and economic. First social, in other words inclusive and fair, with projects that provide decent jobs for all and strengthen social ties. Then environmental, by selecting low-carbon measures that promote natural capital. Finally, the projects supported must be economically viable and must sufficiently compensate project leaders by offering them well-distributed material security in the region. This same logic must be used for all SDGs. In terms of food, for example, the convergence of the 2030 agendas will require each project to have solutions that meet these three basic goals. This is also true for innovation

and industry. Our current model, founded on globalized capitalism, does not sufficiently take social and environmental objectives into account. This is no longer possible. We must work towards more inclusive corporate governance in which companies integrate the idea of social benefits and environmental performance in their strategy. In addition to a company's economic performance, there must be an assessment of its results in terms of fairness, well-being, social cohesion, jobs, and its positive contribution to the planet. We still have a long way to go.

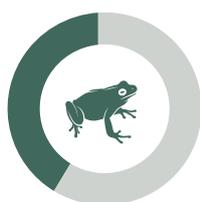
Why is that?

The economy has been primarily designed to reward financial rather than social and





THREATENED SPECIES IN 2019



40%
of amphibians



34%
of conifers



33%
of corals



25%
of mammals



14%
of birds

28,338 animal and vegetal species could go extinct.

environmental results. Public frameworks have enabled a certain degree of regulation. However, in many countries with low and poorly enforced social and environmental

INSUFFICIENT ANNUAL FUNDING FOR THE ECOSYSTEMS

\$350 BN
needed for
the preservation of
the ecosystems



\$52 BN
currently
funded*

* including \$6 billion in foreign aid and \$39 billion in public funds

standards, globalization often leads to disaster. We have seen this in Bangladesh, among workers in the textile sector, a true example of globalization slavery, and in Central Africa, in terms of access to natural resources. The framework and logic behind companies' economic models for generating profits and ensuring financial viability do not yet incorporate enough of other objectives for human activity, including social ties and caring for the planet and the region of the world where we live. SDGs provide a crucial framework for progress, but we must move much faster.

How can the international community be mobilized to a greater extent, beyond the circle of donors?

Greater mobilization will require us to explain the links between living things and our own existence. Humanity cannot survive today without an ocean that is relatively healthy, fertile agricultural soil, clean waterways and rich and productive forests. We must prioritize education and demonstration and also prepare to undertake far-reaching reforms to tackle well-protected vested interests. This is all directly linked to the fight against climate change. We will not be able to solve the climate crisis without solving the crisis of living things. Moreover, we must highlight economic, social and local solutions and show how changes can be made. In this respect, development agencies and public authorities bear a special responsibility for inventing solutions, in cooperation with local partners. They must work with all the wealth of the private sector, civil society and innovative public institutions involved in the rapid and inevitable transition. For now, the action that is working has not reached a large enough scale. It likely amounts to only a small percentage of what is needed. Each year, \$20,000 billion are invested in the world economy, primarily by the private sector. Yet only 5% of this amount is earmarked for "green" projects involving the climate or environment. Out of this small volume, only a small portion is considered truly effective. ●

“It is time to propose solutions for Africa, developed by Africans”

In its Special Report entitled *Global Warming of 1.5°C*, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts global warming of 1.5°C above preindustrial levels by 2030 unless significant mitigation and adaptation measures are implemented. The climatologist and lead author of the report, Arona Diedhiou, considers that the adaptation and mitigation solutions already in place must take greater account of the reality of African contexts.

INTERVIEW WITH



ARONA DIEDHIYOU

Climatologist, Director of Research at the French National Research Institute for Development (IRD) and atmospheric physicist at the Institute of Environmental Geoscience at Université Grenoble Alpes. Lead Author of the IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C, published in October 2018.

What impacts will warming of 1.5°C have on the African continent?

Over the past fifty years, we have already observed warming of approximately 0.5°C throughout the entire continent, accompanied by a change in the characteristics of extreme climatic events. Compared to the preindustrial period, anthropogenic global warming has reached 1.1°C, or between 0.8°C and 1.2°C locally, and is continuing at a rate of 0.2°C per decade. If nothing is done, this will reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052.

However, this climate change is not uniform, even across the African continent. In Western Sahel, and especially in Senegal, periods of drought are expected to be increasingly long. In Central Sahel, most models predict an increase in heavy rainfall with increased flood risks in urban areas. On the southern coast of West Africa, heavy rains could cause landslides that would affect populations living in makeshift dwellings. In Southern Africa, droughts will become increasingly frequent with longer and more intense heatwaves. In Northern Africa, most models agree

on a significant decrease in rainfall. However, these impacts will be reduced if the temperature increase is limited to 1.5°C rather than reaching 2°C.

What are the priority projects for global warming mitigation and adaptation?

Most of the proposed solutions, which are related to water, sustainable agriculture and renewable energy sources, do not incorporate biodiversity, ecosystems and their services. The widespread degradation of terrestrial ecosystems reduces their carbon capture potential and makes them a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.

On this point, Africa holds a strong hand. Locally, certain initiatives are moving in the right direction with actions to protect natural forests, restore wetlands and promote sustainable agricultural practices, but the challenges remain enormous. On the continental scale, the challenge is to increase access to energy while limiting the use of fossil fuels, and improve agricultural yields to ensure food security for a growing population without negatively impacting the soils and biodiversity.

What obstacles to the implementation of these adaptation and mitigation solutions are encountered in Africa?

There is a problem with the availability of financial resources and access to green funds. Projects are very complicated to set up: States need to

To keep global warming below 1.5°C, the IPCC report recommends increasing renewable energy from 20% to 70% of electricity production by mid-century. In Ethiopia, the Ashegoda wind farm was inaugurated in 2013 to meet domestic demand.



be supported so that they can mobilize more funding. Secondly, project monitoring, evaluation, reporting and verification systems are difficult to develop and operate. In the long term, this hinders the mobilization of additional resources.

To solve this problem, the regulatory legislative framework must be better adapted to the local context of each

country. The value of carbon dioxide must also be increased, especially when it is captured by a vulnerable community or country, and funding for projects to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must therefore be increased accordingly. Finally, there is a significant need for expertise that is relevant to local contexts. The sustainability of many of the projects being funded for the



“In Africa more than anywhere else, synergies between climate action and sustainable development must be created.”

considerable amount of water will be needed for washing the solar panels, yet water is, or will be, in short supply. In some villages, people end up returning to diesel because it guarantees constant access to power. Importing technologies is therefore not sufficient, but reflecting on the sustainability of the proposed solutions in an African context is essential—for the State that is getting into debt, for the populations that will use these solutions and for the donors that finance them!

Do you have any examples of virtuous initiatives in mitigation and adaptation?

Unlike adaptation actions, which have short- and medium-term effects, the impacts of mitigation actions are only visible in the long term. They attract little attention. One solution is to target actions that are both beneficial for mitigation and adaptation, and especially economically viable actions. For example, the second-hand cars and motorcycles that flood into the African market cause a significant amount of pollution. This has an impact on the regional climate but also on the health of the populations, and has an enormous cost. Financing an air quality management policy will help reduce

introduction of renewable energy is not guaranteed. For example, the African Development Bank’s major “Desert to Power” initiative, which aims to reinforce electrification throughout the Sahelian belt, will mobilize a huge amount of funding without necessarily taking into account all the parameters of its implementation. There is a lot of desert dust in this region and a

greenhouse gas emissions and improve people's well-being while reducing the State's public health spending. Similarly, to reduce charcoal use and deforestation, it is important to maintain butane gas subsidy policies and ensure that they benefit rural households. At the same time, income-generating activities other than logging need to be identified.

The IPCC report shows that there are many synergies, but also points out sources of tension between achieving the SDGs and keeping global warming below 1.5°C. What is your opinion on this issue?

The Agenda 2030 Declaration states that: "Climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and its impact may prevent some countries from achieving sustainable development." In Africa more than anywhere else, synergies between climate action and sustainable development must be created. Climate change could compromise the development of African countries with low adaptive capacities. SDG 13 on combating climate change expresses this intrinsic link, but lacks constraints. It does not set a temperature threshold, years for peak emission levels or a quantified mitigation target. On the operational level, there is a risk of numerous declarations being made without any real ambition to stay below the 2°C threshold.

Attaining SDG 6 on clean and accessible water for all may be jeopardized by increased investment in sectors that extract water for other uses, such as irrigation (by the growing

number of agribusinesses), mining and hydropower. These are development choices that sometimes run counter to Agenda 2030, creating pronounced inequalities.

Under what conditions can the African continent become a laboratory for change in response to global warming?

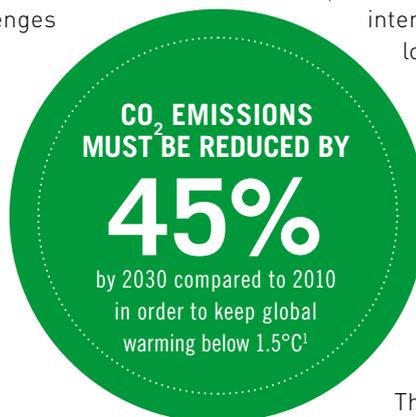
We must invest in environmental education from an early age. This is not expensive and will allow the younger generation in Africa to feel involved in preserving the environment for future generations.

For a long time, there has been a gulf between the sustainable development options suggested at the

international level and the local African realities. The consensus is moving toward solutions that are not specific to Africa. African expertise and knowledge, derived from contextualized research, are not fully integrated into these international reports.

This is a loss for universal scientific knowledge and handicaps the promotion of inclusive African solutions at the international level.

However, Africa possesses solid expertise. It is time for a paradigm shift in order to propose solutions for Africa, developed by Africans. First of all, this requires the development of closer links between the group of African negotiators and the African scientific community which contributes to international reports on climate, biodiversity, soil degradation and desertification. Everyone should work together in synergy to take better account of new research results, raise the profile of African concerns and evaluate contextualized solutions. ●



1. Source: IPCC Report, 2018.

Using climate services for food security and global adaptation planning

OPINION BY



**DR ULRICH
DIASSO**

Hydromet and climate expert, a member of the Coordinated Regional Climate Downscaling Experiment (CORDEX) group in Africa and the IPCC focal point for Burkina Faso

AND BY



DR ARAME TALL

Senior Adaptation & Resilience Specialist in the Climate Change Group of the World Bank

The recent IPCC special report *Climate Change and Land²* emphasizes the need for smarter policies and land management practices, given extreme climate shocks, climate variability, and longer-term climate change. According to the report, industrial agriculture and the food industry are almost as big a driver of climate change as fossil fuels, and about 23% of global greenhouse gases come from agriculture and other land use. With this stark reality, it's essential to revisit the way the world produces food, and effectively plans for impending food crises.

Agricultural development is a critical way to end extreme poverty, boost shared prosperity, and feed a projected 9.7 billion people by 2050. Climate-smart agricultural policy development plays a crucial role in creating a thriving and climate-resilient food economy.

Climate, an important driver of food production

The most critical climate shocks for agriculture and food security include droughts, floods, and sea level rise, which are projected to be more severe and frequent in the future. Continuous water deficits cause acute water shortages, low yields, food insecurity, and the decimation of both livestock and wildlife. Droughts affect economic growth, increase poverty, and intensify conflicts between farmers and breeders. In the most vulnerable zones

to rising climate variability, such as South Asia and Africa, the current lack of adaptation measures, combined with poor climate information and early warning systems, could exacerbate vulnerability to extreme events and food insecurity.

Dry spells, early/late onsets and cessation of rainy seasons continue to be critical drivers of famines, from the Sahel to Central America's dry corridor, leading to millions spent in emergency food assistance annually. Given that agriculture is strongly influenced by the spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall amount recorded per year, any lack of information on start/cessation of the rainy season can lead to crop failure and famine. Today, national meteorological and hydrological services routinely deliver seasonal rainfall/cessation forecasts to the wide public in their countries. But the question remains: why aren't we using these as a guiding light for seasonal agricultural planning? Good and timely climate information services, when used correctly, can lead to better agricultural planning, including when and where to sow, when to harvest, and what crop varieties to choose. If agro-climatic parameters are timely, accessible, and accurate, they could improve food security while implementing the land management changes suggested in the IPCC special report.

2. All data cited in this article come from the IPCC 2019 Special Report.



The Hydromet program was launched in 2015 by the World Bank with partners such as the African Development Bank and AFD. It aims at improving climate services in Africa to provide reliable, real-time climate data which can ultimately improve food security and climate resilience.

Climate information services for food security planning

To satisfy the growing demand in food, reduce emissions, and achieve the SDGs, we must improve agricultural practices along a low carbon pathway. More effective land management and mitigation efforts, such as afforestation and other near-term solutions proposed by the IPCC special report, should therefore prominently feature the use of climate information services. Combined with sustainable land management and climate-smart agriculture practices, climate services can help policymakers make better decisions that build the resilience of national agricultural systems and global value chains. It's also critical for decision-makers, including the local agribusiness entrepreneurs, agricultural ministry planners, private sector operators, and large global value chain companies, to use advances from climate science to routinely forecast anticipated climatic conditions. As forecasting skills have improved, the decision-making cycles have not followed to ensure climate-informed food security planning.

Current challenges and gaps for efficient climate services

Despite the promise of climate services, there remains numerous challenges to delivering them in a tailored, accurate and timely manner. These include the low capacity of climate service providers, poor and inaccurate primary meteorological data, and the lack of capacity of national meteorological and hydrometeorological services to operate and maintain climate observation equipment. There is also a huge gap in knowledge on how to use climate and meteorological forecasts to guide food security planning decisions, along with insufficient awareness of governments on the necessity of supporting climate institutions, which has led to low budget allocations. Taken together, these challenges widen the gap between



ADVANCED FORECASTING TECHNOLOGIES AND EARLY WARNING

New forecasting technologies have achieved an impressive level of sophistication.

For instance, the World Bank's Agriculture Intelligence Observatory delivers bundled agromet information services and satellite data that supplement critical gaps in areas faced with severe data paucity. It relies on insights from 1.5 million 'virtual

weather stations,' satellite platforms, machine learning, artificial intelligence, and the application of Big Data to proactively monitor agricultural production systems globally. The World Bank currently uses the tool to support project teams and country stakeholders for project design and implementation, including early warning of extreme events that can lead to disasters, displacements, and conflicts.

availability of climate services, and their usability for decision-making in the face of rising climate-related shocks. Addressing these challenges and gaps requires new funding mechanisms, individual and institutional capacity building, accelerated knowledge transfer, enhanced technology development, and the implementation of early warning systems.

Towards a sustainable food supply solution

This work won't be easy. The effective use of climate information and early warning services to guide food security planning has numerous obstacles to overcome. First, we need to design low-cost ways to produce and deliver new technologies for climate services. Improvements in service delivery and co-design with food security planners, from local to global scales, will also be essential to ensure services are fit-for-purpose to address decision-making requirements. Attaining these goals holds promise of meeting our double imperative of feeding 10 billion people, while safeguarding the delicate balance of our earth's climate system. •



\$1 billion is required to scale up climate services in Africa, but improved weather forecasting and early warning could increase productivity globally by \$30 billion a year.

“Access to healthcare can be an accelerator of sustainable development”

From the definition of care under the rule of law to the definition of vulnerabilities by donors, Cynthia Fleury and Stéphane Besançon are calling for an urgent reconsideration of the strategies employed in developing countries to ensure access to healthcare. In response to the dramatic rise in diabetes and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) worldwide and especially in Africa, the two specialists are calling on the international community to take account of the public health emergency that these diseases represent.

INTERVIEW WITH



**STÉPHANE
BESANÇON**

Biologist, nutritionist and Director of the Santé Diabète NGO, member of the WHO's Civil Society Commission



CYNTHIA FLEURY

Philosopher and psychoanalyst, Director of the Chair of Philosophy at Hôpital Sainte-Anne, member of the Santé Diabète Board of Directors

How can access to healthcare can be an accelerator of sustainable development?

Cynthia Fleury: Care is a matrix—an operating principle. In other words, it is because we have received physical or psychological care that we are ourselves able to produce, make commitments and care about the world. There are exceptions, of course, but that is how most of us work. By caring for people, we give them the ability to create viable communities and move beyond the idea of basic survival—in other words, we empower them to develop independently. Caring breeds capability.

Stéphane Besançon: Access to care must include both curative and preventive care, as well as social support for disabilities and addictions. Access to holistic and comprehensive care, in the broadest sense of the term, enables people to become healthy, as defined by the WHO: “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”. Only then can access to healthcare be an accelerator of sustainable development.

In your opinion, how are care and solidarity essential pillars of the rule of law?

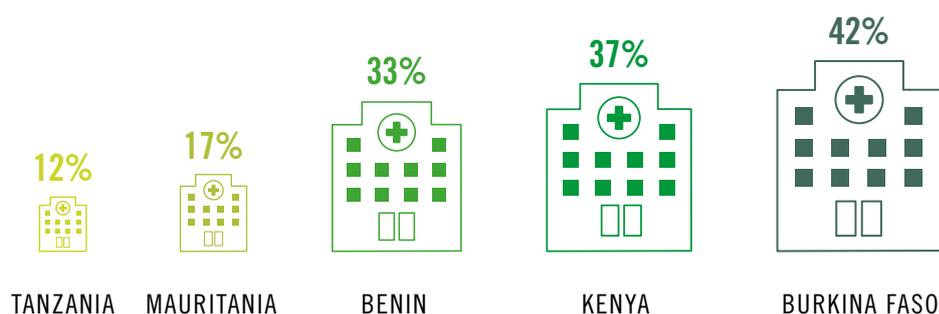
C.F.: There are two main ways for the State, and in particular the rule of law, to lend credibility to its sovereignty: through security, by protecting its citizens from external and internal attacks, and through public health, by protecting their well-being. The two are inseparable. They do not cover everything, but they are necessary for all the rest. If you are kept safe in your environment and in your person, you are more inclined to study, and you study better. Of course, under the rule of law, there is no competition between these “rights”, and they are indivisible. A bastion of institutional trust collapses if the rule of law is no longer able to maintain people’s physical integrity.

S.B.: Care, like humanism, becomes essential. Indeed, it is a pillar of citizens’ education. It represents the ability to take “care of” but also to “exist” in connection with others, while making everyone’s existence an issue in its own right. Individuation (not to be confused with individualism), which distinguishes between concern for oneself and concern for the community, protects democracy and the rule of law by allowing the individual to become a “subject”.

C.F.: Solidarity and social cohesion are the only viable conditions for an accepted form of globalization that produces justice and social progress.

CHRONIC LACK OF RESOURCES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

% of health facilities capable of managing diabetes



Source:
"Diabetes in sub-Saharan Africa: From Clinical Care to Health Policy", *The Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology Commission*, 2017.

Why do you think it is urgent to reconsider vulnerabilities?

C.F.: Care builds a community and collective solidarity. The challenge of care forces the community to organize itself, to provide a standard that shows concern for its vulnerable members. Vulnerability is not like any ordinary "wound", it is an inseparable part of our condition. The aim is not to overstate it, but denying it would have disastrous consequences. The challenge is to make vulnerabilities as reversible as possible and to create environments that do not reinforce them, or that can even greatly reduce them. The efforts we make to reduce vulnerabilities while respecting them are proof of our humanism.

S.B.: Today, vulnerable populations are defined in Paris, Washington and New York according to technocratic criteria that change on a regular basis and do not take sufficient account of the realities on the ground. The fight against non-communicable diseases, and in particular diabetes,

is a perfect example. In addition to the vulnerabilities associated with being in a state of poor health, one effect of these diseases, through their exorbitant cost, is to accelerate the impoverishment of patients and their families. However, the latter do not correspond to any of the donors' categories of "vulnerable populations". There is indeed a gap between the frameworks and the realities in developing countries. Until this is put into perspective, development policies will overlook much of the real vulnerability. Revising the frameworks is an absolute priority to ensure the success of the SDGs.

C.F.: The problem is not how the texts are worded, as they are often very eloquent; the problem lies in the appropriation of Agenda 2030 by the member States and the low level of assessment and feedback that this generates. Only civil society has taken up the program, but it is struggling to make significant headway.

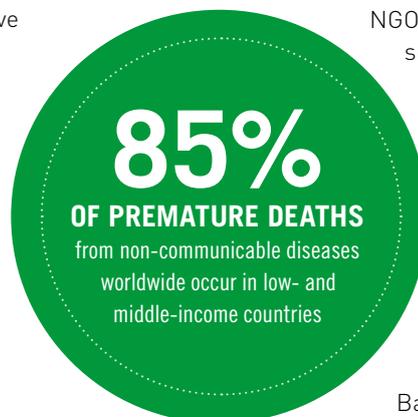
How can we curb malnutrition in all its forms?

C.F.: Malnutrition is invading all countries, due to rising insecurity, the race for profit, the loss of values, ignorance about proper nutrition, etc.

S.B.: Most donors and NGOs develop programs to combat undernutrition rather than malnutrition. Today, however, the majority of countries are affected by a form of malnutrition associated with overnutrition, which leads to a massive incidence of excess weight and obesity in their populations and, as a corollary, an exponential increase in diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Developing countries, particularly in Africa, are not spared from the dramatic rise in overnutrition, which is combined with the persistence of undernutrition: this is called the double burden of malnutrition. There is an urgent need to reconsider the strategic frameworks and programs rolled out in the field to curb it.

Why have you become involved in the fight against diabetes in developing countries and what form do Santé Diabète projects take?

S.B.: One day in Bamako, a patient with diabetes told me: "I would have preferred to have HIV. At least NGOs treat HIV-positive people". He was right and I am appalled by this thought. But there is no access to healthcare for people with diabetes in Mali and this is the case in almost all African countries. However, in 2002, more than 20% of the working population were overweight and obese, while between 3% and 5% of the continent's inhabitants were suffering from diabetes. I understood



that no-one would do anything for these patients and that's how the NGO Santé Diabète was born. Fifteen years later, we are still the only international NGO specializing in the subject.

C.F.: Hospital services use the Chair of Philosophy at the Hospital to design and build new solutions in an endogenous way. That is its mission. At the Hôpital du Mali in Bamako, the endocrinology department was perfectly willing to adopt a different approach to chronicity, therapeutic education and the humanistic philosophy of care.





“If nothing is done to curb the exponential increase in these diseases, much of the effort put into economic and social development effort will be jeopardized.”

As part of my commitment to Santé Diabète, I therefore participated in the development of a training program on the humanities in care at the University of Bamako’s Faculty of Medicine. We are also working on the role that the University of Patients could play in this work on developing the caring function and the alliance of humanities and health in Mali.

S.B.: Diabetes is one of the WHO’s four priority NCDs and affects 425 million people worldwide, or 1 in 11 adults. By 2030, it will affect 35 million people in Africa and will be one of the leading causes of disability and death on the continent. In addition to diabetes, there has been a dramatic increase in the other NCDs, and this has now become an absolute public health

priority. These diseases kill 41 million people each year, corresponding to 71% of all deaths worldwide. This is a major public health and economic challenge. At the State level, a 10% increase in NCDs reduces the annual rate of economic growth by 0.5%. The cost of treating diabetes alone amounts to between 21% and 75% of GDP in Africa. If nothing is done to curb the exponential rise of these diseases, much of the effort put into economic and social development effort will be jeopardized. •

WATER AND SANITATION

Safe and universal access to water and sanitation: a governance challenge

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have set ambitious targets for water and sanitation. Current investment will need to be tripled in order to achieve safe and universal access to water by 2030, while halving the amount of untreated sewage entering bodies of water. However, for Julián Suárez Migliozi, this is more than a simple funding and investment issue: it is a water governance issue.

OPINION BY



JULIÁN SUÁREZ MIGLIOZZI

Vice-President of Sustainable Development at Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)

Valuing water's role in development

Water is central to sustainable development. Our first priority must be to raise awareness of its value and importance and integrate the issue into social and economic priorities. This need is now increasingly urgent.

Water use increased sixfold over the past ten years and continues to grow at a rate of 1% per year. Aquifer overexploitation, water pollution and water-related risks are causes for concern which are exacerbated by climate change. It is estimated that water scarcity will affect 4.8 billion people by 2050 and floods will become more frequent and severe.

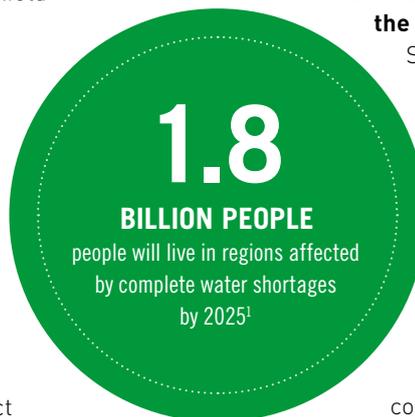
As the High Level Panel on Water reminds us, water is a fragile, finite and vulnerable resource. Valuing water could involve water pricing initiatives, the addition of opportunity costs for

bulk water, payment for environmental services, water funds, among others. In any case, it will require mobilizing the entire global community. Water promotes health, food security, energy production and the preservation of ecosystems. The five principles on valuing water have become more crucial than ever: recognize and understand the various values of water, reconcile these values and build trust, protect water sources (including catchment basins, rivers, aquifers, etc.), educate to raise awareness and empower the public and, finally, invest and innovate.

Water and sanitation at the heart of the SDGs

SDGs must be understood as a whole, integrating social, economic and environmental aspects, with targets that are necessarily connected. Water plays a unique role, systematically connecting all aspects.

Many SDGs are dependent on the achievement of water and sanitation objectives, while others have a more symbiotic relationship with water. Failure to achieve the goal of universal access to water and sanitation would mean the world would become incapable of eradicating extreme poverty



1. Source: JMP Unicef/OMS



Access to water and sanitation is essential in stemming the spread of diseases such as diarrhea, dysentery, cholera, typhoid and polio.

and inequality. Water and sanitation must be on governments' lists of priorities in order to reach SDG 6, and in order to reach many of the other sixteen goals.

On a global scale, universal access would require approximately \$144 billion per year simply to expand existing infrastructure. Taking into account replacement needs and needs for infrastructure such as dams, the required investment is much higher. We are beginning to realize that these goals might not be reached, especially in emerging economies, such as in Latin America.

Increased funding requires better governance

Increased funding for the water sector is therefore a decisive factor in reaching the SDGs. Governments, international financial institutions, NGOs and the private sector must work together to implement new funding mechanisms to create synergy. In this regard, public funding has and will be essential in supporting investment, whether from taxes or charges, grants from donors or sovereign loans. The private sector must be included in the equation in order to increase funding.

1. Source: JMP Unicef/OMS



Climate funds and commercial banks provide new opportunities that could play an increasing role in coming years. Yet increasing funding in the sector requires a favorable environment, solid institutions, coherent operational methods, accountability and actual participation, whether funding comes from taxes, pricing changes or transfers. In short, the water sector must ensure good governance to increase the investments.

Furthermore, even if it increases, Official Development Assistance (ODA) will unfortunately not be sufficient to fund the water sector. Increasing budgetary pressures on governments could limit sovereign loans from multilateral and bilateral development banks. In such circumstances,

water operators must not only provide effective services, they must also actively contribute to closing the funding gap: this requires better governance. Finally, the difference between basic access and safe access can partially be attributed to flaws in governance that affect the sector's effectiveness. According to the 2019 report from the WHO-UNICEF joint monitoring program, approximately 85 million people do not have basic access to water, but 2.2 billion do not have access to safe drinking water. Similarly, 2 billion people do not have access to basic sanitation, but over half of the world's population does not have safe access to sanitation.

The sector's two governance challenges

Water suppliers are now facing two major challenges threatening the sector's effectiveness and sustainability. The first, which affects small suppliers,

“Failure to achieve the goal of universal access to water and sanitation would mean the world would become incapable of eradicating extreme poverty and inequality.”



is the scale-up of water policy. In Latin America, 40% to 60% of water does not generate income. In urban areas, water pricing is insufficient to cover the operating and maintenance costs, there are limited opportunities for expanding the services or planning for new infrastructure, and the small suppliers have little access to the latest technology, innovations and information systems. As a result, water supply is intermittent, water pressure is low and is of poor quality.

The second aspect affects corporate governance. Political interference affects all suppliers, particularly the smallest. There have been several attempts to depoliticize water services, but approaches vary and measures advocating a case-by-case approach do not make things easier. To respond to these challenges, public asset management policies propose separating the roles of standard-setting, coordination and water supply. This would help prevent conflicts of interests, but this type of solution requires a strong political will in order to implement a water governance strategy on multiple levels.

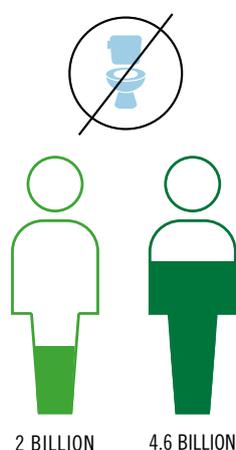
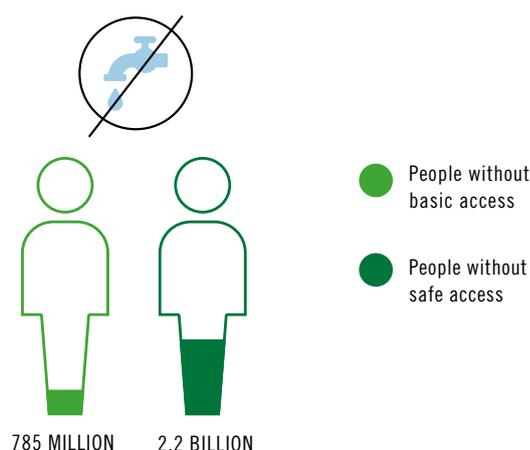
Towards better planning

In addition to these two challenges, another governance problem exists: most emerging countries do not have updated master plans for water and sanitation. Feasibility studies and finalized projects are not enough to expand services to include the population that is not yet covered and rehabilitate existing infrastructure. This slows investment, delays the project management cycle and sometimes results in inadequate projects. Governments must therefore increase planning to ensure faster and more effective investments.

Viable and profitable water projects are crucial in accelerating progress in access to water. NGOs and multilateral development banks must support

governments and operators in these efforts. The Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) created a grant facility for preparing projects in order to support countries in performing studies and implementing projects. These actions can no longer be delayed and must increase. The water sector must redouble its efforts to ensure no one is left behind. •

WATER AND SANITATION: BASIC ACCESS OR SAFE ACCESS?



CLIMATE EMERGENCY

“Inequality is undermining the Sahel region”

In its report “Sahel: Fighting Inequality to Respond to Development and Security Challenges”, Oxfam puts out a call for action to fight the multidimensional crisis affecting the region. Cécile Duflot, Executive Director of Oxfam France, specifically highlights the social and health consequences of climate change and proposes strong and coordinated responses involving the various stakeholders.

INTERVIEW WITH



**CÉCILE
DUFLOT**

Oxfam France
Executive Director

What are the impacts of climate change on health?

Climate change has direct impacts on food and nutrition, especially for children, and therefore affects health. Keep in mind that in Africa, 56% of the population does not have access to basic health services. Over 100 million individuals fall into poverty for lack of this minimum access to basic health services. These fragile environments, exacerbated by climate change, create ideal conditions for epidemics, especially in urban areas which are home to a large proportion of the population. Droughts can cause humanitarian crises and major population displacements, which are also conducive to the spread of diseases.

What specific issues exist in the Sahel in terms of climate-driven inequalities?

The Sahel region is already the most vulnerable area in terms of access to water and food. But drought has exacerbated the situation and has

had a devastating effect on inequality, particularly between men and women, and caused a number of individuals to fall into extreme poverty. Climate change therefore accelerates all forms of inequality.

In this region, women have historically and culturally been in charge of supplying their families with water. When the situation becomes more difficult, mothers have only one option. They must turn to their daughters for help, requiring them to leave school. All forms of inequality are related, and some types of inequality lead to others. In the Sahel and elsewhere, without strong public action supporting development based on resilience and adaptation, the situation will deteriorate significantly.

22%
OF SENEGAL'S GDP
is government revenue.
In Niger, this figure is
14.4%

How can we respond to the economic, humanitarian and climate change crises in the Sahel?

The issue is no longer one of climate alone, since the right to health is a basic public service. Life expectancy in good health in the Sahel is 53 years. First and foremost, climate change adaptation policies must be designed to help the most vulnerable individuals, because climate change does not affect the entire population equally. Communities that depend on the months of rain are severely affected. Next, if we want to respond to issues of inequality and climate change, we must provide two basic services—healthcare



According to the latest report by Oxfam on inequality in the Sahel, the increase in budget spending for defense and public security in the region takes away from the budgets for development and social spending, at the expense of health and education.

and education, especially education for girls. On a broader level, part of the needed transformation lies in the hands of women, especially for the agricultural model. They are also the first to go without during food shortages.

What can international, national and local institutions do in response to these new challenges?

Mobilize and earmark funds specifically for the poorest countries and those with the greatest needs. The challenge is to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. We must generalize what is already being done, which is nothing extravagant: basic public aid that we know how to establish. Gone are the days of experimental aid. But generalizing systems that work does not mean failing to adapt the responses to the specific contexts. I went to the Lake Chad region and the situation is not the same in northern Chad and southern Niger.

In the Sahel, challenges are accumulating—security issues, the effects of climate change, extreme poverty and the increasing inequalities. This results in a perilous situation, leaving us far from achieving the SDGs, and explains the urgent need for action.

Do you think the sustainable development goals are attainable?

Yes, on paper. The funding and technical and technological solutions exist. It is simply a matter of a political will and common desire to make this a priority. A portion of the security budgets of G7 countries will need to be reallocated to development assistance. Today, only 1% of aid from G7 countries goes to the Sahel. We need to take our share of responsibility, since we have played a substantial role in the deterioration of the situation. Oxfam participated in the Alter G7 and expected world leaders to express their commitment.

SAHEL: PUBLIC SPENDING BELOW OBJECTIVES

African States committed to dedicate 20% of budgetary resources to education and 15% to health.

Country	Health (%)	Education (%)
BURKINA FASO	11%	19%
CHAD	10%	12%
MALI	6%	18%
MAURITANIA	8%	13%
NIGER	9%	20%
SENEGAL	5%	21%

Source:
Oxfam report, *Sahel: Fighting Inequality to Respond to Development and Security Challenges*.

Emmanuel Macron did take advantage of G7 to encourage the countries to become more involved in the Sahel. What can we learn from this in practical terms?

The Sahel issue was indeed on the agenda at the G7 and France and Germany made new commitments to strengthen cooperation in security matters within the framework of the G5 Sahel. But I want to stress that the security response in this region is a dead end. However, a portion of the foreign aid budget was dedicated to this response. Inequality is what undermines the Sahel region most: growing inequalities in the Sahel are a lasting

poison and a major factor contributing to the destabilization of this area.

The G7 must above all turn speeches on the fight against inequalities into concrete action and tools to respond to the emergency and provide sustainable solutions by addressing the structural causes of the Sahel populations' vulnerabilities. In order to accomplish this, States, institutions, regional cooperation, donors, contributors to development and international cooperation must work together in a coordinated manner to fight inequality. They must do so by establishing progressive and fair tax policies that reduce income inequalities and generate sufficient funds for implementing inclusive, high-quality social and development policies. We could also mention the fact that a large portion of fossil resources, such as oil in Nigeria, never benefits local communities. Foreign aid in Niger equals three times the country's fiscal resources, which is not as it should be. •

“Part of the needed transformation lies in the hands of women, especially for the agricultural model.”

THE EXPERTS

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STÉPHANE BESANÇON

Biologist and nutritionist specialized in International Development, Stéphane Besançon has been Funding Director of the NGO Santé Diabète since 2001, whose purpose is to scale up prevention and treatment for diabetes in Africa. He is also a member of the WHO's Civil Society Commission.



ULRICH DIASSO

A Hydromet and climate expert, Ulrich Diasso (Ph.D.) has supported national hydrometeorological services, and regional climate institutions in Africa to build their capacities through the development and implementation of climate resilience strategies and early warning systems. He is also the IPCC focal point for Burkina Faso.



ARONA DIEDHIOU

Senior Research Director at the French National Research Institute for Development, scientist at the Institute of Environmental Geosciences and specialist of the African climate system, Arona Diedhiou was Lead Author of the IPCC Special Report *Global Warming of 1.5°C* in 2018. In 2023, he will be Review Editor of the next IPCC Report.



CÉCILE DUFLOT

Former minister of Housing and Equality of Territories, she has been Executive Director of Oxfam France since June 2018. Oxfam is a development organization, part of an international confederation that rallies citizen power in the fight against poverty.



CYNTHIA FLEURY

Philosopher and psychoanalyst, Cynthia Fleury is a former researcher at the Paris Museum of Natural History. She has been Associate Professor at École nationale supérieure des mines in Paris since 2017 and is Director of the Chair of Philosophy at Hôpital Sainte-Anne. She is a member of the Santé Diabète Board of Directors.



GILLES KLEITZ

Director for Natural Resources, Agriculture, Water, Forests and Oceans at the Agence Française de Développement, Gilles Kleitz (Ph.D.) has been working for thirty years on the links between biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. A former advisor to several ministers, he has also served as superintendent of the French Guyana National Park.



JEAN-PAUL MOATTI

A former expert for WHO and the Global Fund to fight Aids, TB and Malaria, Jean-Paul Moatti has been the Executive Director of the French National Research Institute for Development since 2015. He is one of the fifteen members of the Independent Group of Scientists in charge of the United Nations Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR 2015-2019).



PARFAIT ONANGA-ANYANGA

Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Horn of Africa, Parfait Onanga-Anyanga has been working for the UN since 1998. He has previously served as Director of the Office of the UN Deputy Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office in Burundi. He was also Coordinator of the UN Headquarters Response to the Boko Haram crisis.



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ONE's EU and France Director, Friederike Röder leads advocacy and campaigning work in Brussels and France. She is an expert in development finance, governance, political reform processes and state fragility. She has previously held roles at the OECD and the German International Cooperation agency (GIZ).



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Economist specialized in corporate finance and infrastructure financing, Julián Suárez MiglioZZi is the Vice-President of Sustainable Development at Development Bank of Latin America (CAF). In the past, he worked as a social and sustainable development consultant for various international agencies.



ARAME TALL

Senior Adaptation & Resilience Specialist in the Climate Change Group of the World Bank, Arame Tall (Ph.D.) worked for 15 years in climate adaptation and development, holding senior positions with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Red cross/Red crescent Climate Centre.

IDÉES POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT

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