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**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:
THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL BACKGROUND**

СТАЛИЙ РОЗВИТОК: ТЕОРЕТИЧНІ І ПРАКТИЧНІ ОСНОВИ

**УСТОЙЧИВОЕ РАЗВИТИЕ:
ТЕОРЕТИЧЕСКИЕ И ПРАКТИЧЕСКИЕ ОСНОВЫ**

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Abstract. *This is a comparative study of three countries, “Hungary, Nigeria and Iraq”. These countries belong to three different continents, Hungary-Central Europe, Nigeria-Africa, Iraq-the Middle East. Sustainable Development means different concerns to each of these countries. The paradigm of SD includes Economic, Social and Environmental responsibilities. Economic growth is the primary policy objective for most countries where environment and social paradox of the equation is relatively low. In this study, the researchers analyse the three coun-*

try's situation in relation to Global Sustainable Development Goals. The approach of each country in realising these goals will be highlighted and a comparative link designed to find out differences and similarities in their approaches.

Overall objectives of the Sustainable Development is to focus on the three dimensions equally, "economics, social and Environmental (Figure 1). Unfortunately many developing countries are incapable or lack the political will to tackle all three at the same time. The second part of this study will focus on the role of the three governments in meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and the challenges to growth and sustainability will be highlighted. The overall objective of this comparative study is to find out the role of governments and their efforts at reaching sustainable development goals.

Key words: Sustainable Development, Hungary, Nigeria, Iraq, Economic Growth.

Анотація. Ця стаття є порівняльним дослідженням трьох країн – Угорщини, Нігерії та Іраку. Ці країни належать до трьох різних регіонів світу: Угорщина до Центральної Європи, Нігерія – до Африки, Ірак – до Середнього Сходу. Сталий розвиток (СР) означає різні підходи до вирішення проблем в даних країнах. Парадигма СР охоплює економічні, соціальні та екологічні зобов'язання країн. Економічне зростання є першочерговою політичною ціллю для більшості країн, де такі фактори як навколишнє середовище та «парадокс соціальної рівності» майже не приймаються до уваги. У цьому дослідженні, автори оцінюють становище у цих трьох країнах по відношенню до глобальних цілей сталого розвитку. Описується та порівнюється підхід кожної країни до реалізації цих цілей з метою знайти схожості та відмінності у підходах.

Цілями сталого розвитку є однакове охоплення трьох вимірів – економічного, соціального та екологічного (рис.1). На жаль, багато країн, що розвиваються, є неспроможними або в них відсутня політична воля вирішити всі три цілі. Друга частина дослідження сконцентрована на ролі урядів трьох країн щодо реалізації Цілей розвитку у новому тисячолітті, при цьому зображуються виклики щодо зростання та сталого розвитку. Головним завданням цього дослідження є встановлення ролі уряду щодо досягнення цілей сталого розвитку.

Ключові слова: сталий розвиток, Угорщина, Нігерія, Ірак, економічне зростання.

Аннотация. Эта статья – это сравнительное исследование трех стран – Венгрии, Нигерии и Ирака. Эти страны принадлежат к трем разным регионам мира – Венгрия к Центральной Европе, Нигерия к Африке, Ирак – к Среднему Востоку. Устойчивое развитие (УР) означает разные подходы к решению проблем в данных странах. Парадигма УР охватывает экономические, социальные и экологические обязанности стран. Экономический рост является первоочередной целью для большинства стран, в которых экология (охрана окружающей среды) и «парадокс социального равенства» пренебрегаются. В этом исследовании авторы оценивают состояния в этих стран относительно глобальных целей устойчивого развития. Оценивается и сравнивается подход каждой страны к реализации этих целей, чтобы найти схожести и отличия в данных подходах.

Целями устойчивого развития является одинаковый охват трех измерений – экономического, социального и экологического (рис.1). К сожалению, большинство стран неспособны или у них отсутствует политическая воля решить эти три цели. Вторая часть исследования сконцентрирована на роли правительств трех стран в реализации Целей развития в новом тысячелетии, при этом подчеркиваются относительно роста и устойчивого развития. Главным заданием этого исследования – установить роль правительства в реализации целей устойчивого развития.

Ключевые слова: устойчивое развитие, Венгрия, Нигерия, Ирак, экономический рост.

Introduction. The concept of sustainability dates back to almost a century when Bio-geologist Vladimir Vernadsky wrote about it in his book “the Biosphere” where he highlighted the relationship between life and earth’s structure. In this regard the economic development and sustainability of the resources that are used for development is to be taken very seriously, so as to reduce the future scarcity of available natural resources, because resources have limitations. Relatively, Rachel Carson in her book, “Silent Spring” focuses on the importance of the planet and human actions, quoted from her words in chapter 8, “the early mornings are strangely silent where once they were filled with the beauty of bird song. This sudden silencing of the song of birds, this obliteration of the colour and beauty and interest they lend to our world have come about swiftly, insidiously, and unnoticed by those whose communities are as yet unaffected” [15, p. 60]. The countries that are not immediately affected by climate change are not thinking about working on sustainable development but are more concerned about meeting today’s needs. And foregoing working on appreciating the earth and environment. Paul Ehrlich’s The Population Bomb published in 1968, in which he grimly declared that “the battle to feed all of humanity is over [13]. In contrast the recent Report of the Club of Rome, 2052; a Global Forecast for the Next Forty Years, by Jorgen Randers, stressed the importance of sustainability; he hypothesized “we are on an unsustainable territory, will the world collapse, or will we land safely?” In this crucial book the role of governance and decision making is considered [47]. Notably, this is not the first report, the club of Rome's historical report on “Limits to growth”. Meadows et al, (1972), avers of the notion of the exhaustion of the minerals and energy resources that would make economic growth infeasible in the next century. Among the five basic elements taken into account in the “Limits to growth” report, are population, food production, industrialization, pollution and consumption of nonrenewable natural resources [34] (Figure 1).

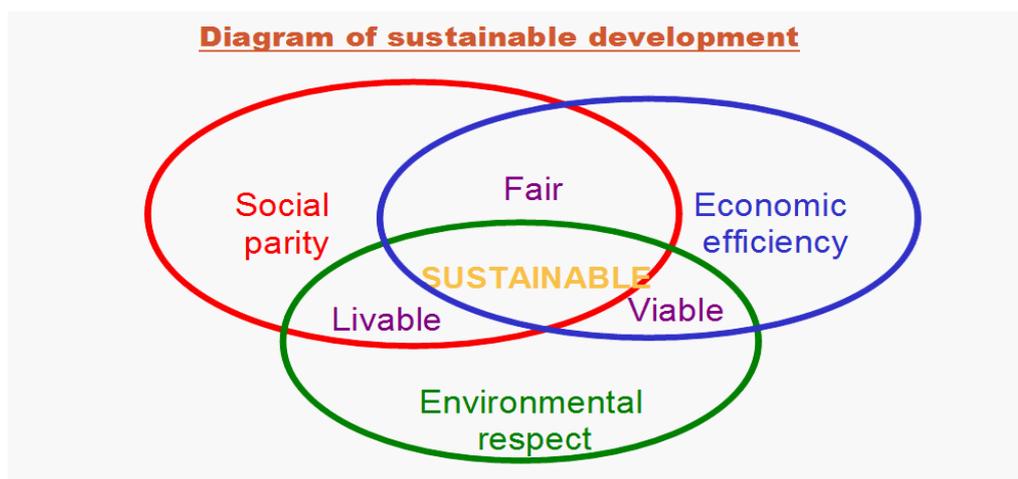


Figure 1. Diagram of Sustainable Development [54].

The United Nations Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030 (Figure 2).

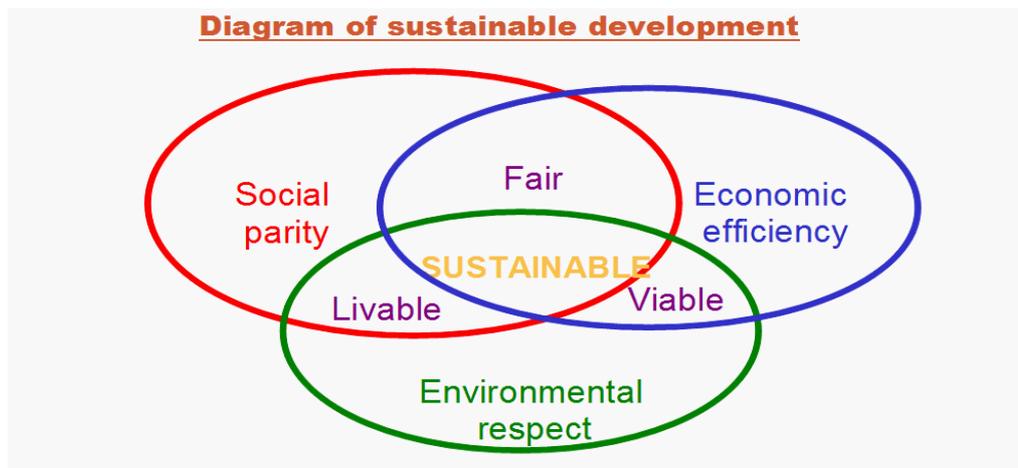


Figure 2. Sustainable Development Goals [56].

Derived from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the MDGs adopted in 2000, aimed at tackling poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality, access to water and sanitation [56]. The first goal was to “end poverty in all its forms everywhere.” Sustainable development has received international attention, but less focus at the national level. The first goal of “ending poverty” is what majority of countries are inclined to focus on, but challenges of population growth and inadequate resources to meet the needs of populations has made poverty eradication non feasible. The sustainable development goals’ implication for the three countries, in focus “Iraq, Nigeria and Hungary” is to meet with immediate pressing developmental needs before considerations are made on environment and ecology. According to Perdan (2004) “the current development course is unsustainable, and it became clear that the economic development that disregards environmental and social impacts can bring unintended and unwanted consequences” [46, p. 4].

Growth in developing countries like Nigeria and Iraq is featured to be temporal and short-term based, contradicting the proposal UNEP/WWF/IUCNNR, of 1980 which states that “for development to be sustainable, it must take into account social and ecological factors, as well as economic ones: of the living and non-living resource base; and of the long-term as well as the short-term advantages and disadvantages of alternative actions“ [46, p. 5]. As a follow up to this, the main thrust of Global Sustainable development is the Brundtland report of 1987 by the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED) on “*our common future*”, emphasised, the importance of sustainable development. WCED (1987) echoed “the earth is one, but the world is not. We all depend on one biosphere for sustaining our lives. Yet each community, each country, strives for survival and prosperity with little regards for its impacts on others. Some consumes the Earth’s resources at a rate that would leave little for future generations and this contradicts the policy thrust, which says that development should be able to meet with today’s need without jeopardizing or compromising the chance of future generations to meet their needs. Another irony of this policy thrust is that much of Africa Asia and parts of the Middle East are yet unable to meet with basic needs of today. The Brundtland sustainable development definition is on how developmental strides with regards to industrialization especially by the superpower developed nations and carbon emissions which is the result of industrialization is hampering the environment. And, how emissions would need to be reduced by adopting renewable sources of energy like solar and nuclear energy. Industrialized economies like China had argued they would take their chance at some pollution in order to meet present day develop-

ment goals, just as other countries like the US had polluted in order to be as developed as they are today. It is only in recent times that China along with the United States [60] joined in the fight against climate change after experiencing pollutions resulting from industrialization [16]. With municipalities like Shanghai receiving warnings that it will reach its emission peak by 2020. Coal is one of China's main energy sources and the coal sector is a major labour employer in many provinces. China has introduced Change Strategy and International Cooperation to cap coal consumption by 2020. As employment is a key for economic growth and stability, transition from coal in China is not going to be easy with the imminent fear the social consequences that could come with massive coal sector layoffs. Majority of the countries face challenges of meeting immediate and pressing needs for the eradication of hunger, squalor, disease, and low life expectancy." Indeed, the picture of sustainable development is only pictured globally, whereas the regional and sub-regional importance is forgotten by many governments, according to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development paragraph 21 highlights: "the importance of the regional and sub-regional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in sustainable development. Regional and sub-regional frameworks can facilitate the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action at national level" [38]. In line with this chapter 8 of Agenda 21 *stipulates that countries are to adopt national strategies for sustainable development that should build upon and harmonize the various sectorial economic, social and environmental, social and environmental policies and plans that are operating in the country*" [38].

Clearly, the human world of nearly 8 billion have to make room for a finite environment for the future generation, where this is impossible in some parts of our planet in which dramatic growth and changes have destabilized the regional ecology. In this regard, in some parts of Latin America, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa, environmental decline is becoming a source of political unrest and international tension." Similarly, in the same regions military spending is increasing and environmental protection is neglected, as referred to in "our Common Future: report of the World Commission on Environment, (1987) that "the crisis in Africa is a picture of disruption of interactions between economics and ecology, which trips into disaster, that is triggered by drought. The main challenge in part is in the national policies that gave too little attentions, too late. Besides, the roots of some of these challenges are the global economic system which takes more out of a poor continent than it puts in" [42]. What is needed now is a new era of economic growth – growth that is forceful and at the same time socially and environmentally sustainable" [14]. What are the central issues that restrict sustainable development goal implication in the developing world regardless of being resource abundant countries? The failure of the governments in building the measurements for the same indicators, and implementing and depending on the global indicators for sustainable development constrains tackling the objectives, since the environment and government readiness in Iraq and Nigeria is quite different from Hungary. According to Bent (2015), "a risk of using too many indicators is that this would reduce the ability to grasp how a country is ranked compared to other countries in relation to the welfare" [23, p. 23]. There are no proper indicators to look into for Iraq and Nigeria to compare them to Hungary, therefore in this study the global general indicators for sustainable development is taken into consideration precisely. Besides, the performance of each country is different due to the structure and content of the country, and the geographical location. Therefore, governments are not able to balance the needs, including social, economic and environmental, shedding a light on where we have started with the SDGs it worth referring first to the Millennium Development Goals, (MDGs) [35], which were agreed by the governments in 2001 (Figure 3).



Figure 3. Millennium Development Goals [35].

It is proposed that there was a step from MDGs during 1990-2002 in which [61]: “Average overall incomes increased by approximately 21 percent. The number of people in extreme poverty declined by an estimated 130 million 1. Child mortality rates fell from 103 deaths per 1,000 live births a year to 88. Life expectancy rose from 63 years to nearly 65 years. An additional 8 percent of the developing world’s people received access to water. And an additional 15 percent acquired access to improved sanitation services” (Figure 4).

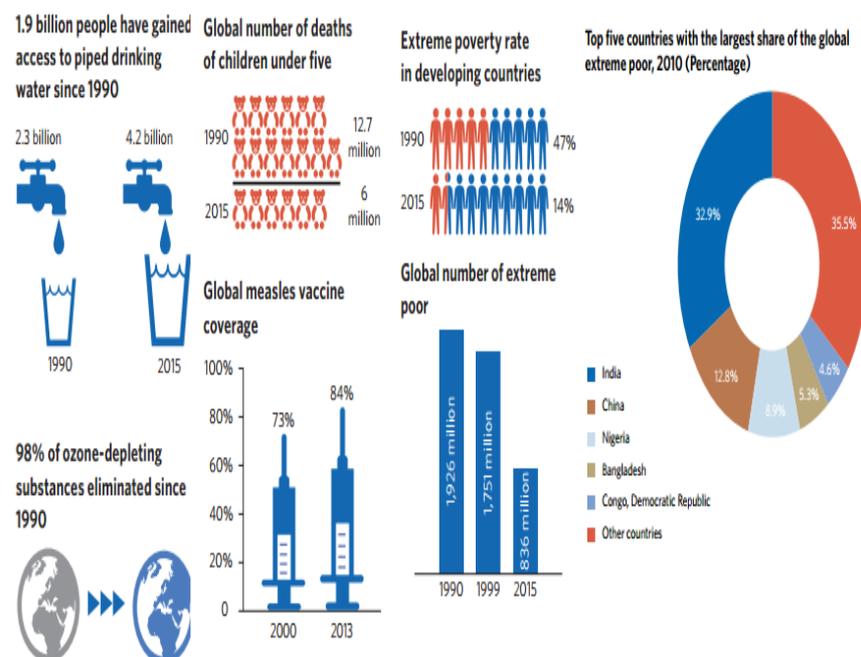


Figure 4. Millennium Development Goals 1990 vs. 2015 [61].

Apparently, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, in June 1992 during the meeting global environment was the core concern for the world leaders, they aimed at creating a shared goal for all countries, the main principles were 27, with specific focus on the ‘human beings and nature’, as “Human beings are at the centre of concerns for sustainable development. They are entitled to a healthy and productive life in harmony with nature” [49]. Moreover, in the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002 made reference to the Stockholm agreement made, thirty years ago to respond and tackle the environmental deterioration.

The aim of the article is to find out the role of governments and their efforts at reaching sustainable development goals.

Important research results. Here we focus on the role of welfare and its implementation in the countries in focus in this research “Hungary, Nigeria and Iraq” Hungary can be categorized as a welfare state, while Iraq and Nigeria are lagging behind? By focusing on some specific issues related to sustainable development and welfare states, we can reach a fruitful analysis of the concept of sustainable development in relation to welfare. What welfare state means? The concept is defined as the role of state since the Second World War in Education, Health, Housing, poverty relief, social insurance and other social services” [23, p. 30]. It is contended that the term welfare state is yet to be argued, since there is no clear cut agreement about it. Initially, “the welfare state implies a social contract with the citizenry, it has now been one of the chief organizing principles of the lives of several generations and, it represents a deeply institutionalized contract“ [2, p. 7]. In arguing a good state, considering the concept of ‘Utilitarianism’ is needed, and how does it work? It is proposed that utilitarianism requires that given a choice from among several alternatives, the selection is based on maximizing the sum total of utility among all human beings.” apparently, Sen’s driven view from Rawls’s critique that people behind a ‘veil of ignorance’ would not opt for a society that maximizes the sum total utility, opting instead for a more equitable distribution of utility [3, p. 160]. Hypothetically is there any link between what Rawls mounted in the principle of justice as “maximize the minimum, over all persons, of the bundle of primary goods” [3, p. 161]. A state is built to meet the needs of its citizens. The challenges facing much of Africa and the Middle East is quite different especially in the search for sustainability and growth. In the tragedy of Commons, the importance of Necessity is highlighted as “the human population has increased; the commons has had to be abandoned in one aspect after another” [24]. The components of sustainability builds a welfare system, on the one hand, “the long-term stability of the environment and the economy is the foundation of the field of sustainable development,” this is the point that ensures sustainability without risking the resource and capital of a country, enforcement of the right principles for followed up. “This concept of conserving resources for future generations is one of the major features that distinguish sustainable development policy from traditional environmental policy, which also seeks to internalize the externalities of environmental degradation” [20] Moreover, sustainable development requires the integration of economic, environmental, and social objectives across sectors, territories, and generations.” In the light of Rio Declaration “the notion of common but differentiated responsibilities recognizes that each nation must play their part on the issue of sustainable development” [49].

Similarly, President Obama in his speech at the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, confirmed the importance of “good governance, rule of law, gender equality, education, health, transparency, collaboration globally and regionally, to lift up the hope for sustainability, commitment of developed countries to support and invest in the developing world for the success of the next chapter of sustainable development”¹.

¹ President Obama’s speech at the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcIDkkEBydQ>>

In respond to sustainable development, Natural Step categorized the framework for Strategic Sustainable Development, in which working together is required for moving towards by understanding the importance of the tools of the system. To illustrate the concept of sustainable development the Natural Step has chosen a very appropriate core concept the “Back-casting” addressed as “*a way of planning in which a successful outcome is imagined in the future, followed by the question: “what do we need to do today to reach that successful outcome?” This is more effective than relying too much on forecasting, which tends to have the effect of presenting a more limited range of options, hence stifling creativity, and more important, it projects the problems of today into the future* [5].

Furthermore, the Backcasting is to analyse the context of sustainable development, in a way to achieve a sustainable society, by in cooperating the scientific principles based on the scenarios for sustainability (Figure 5).

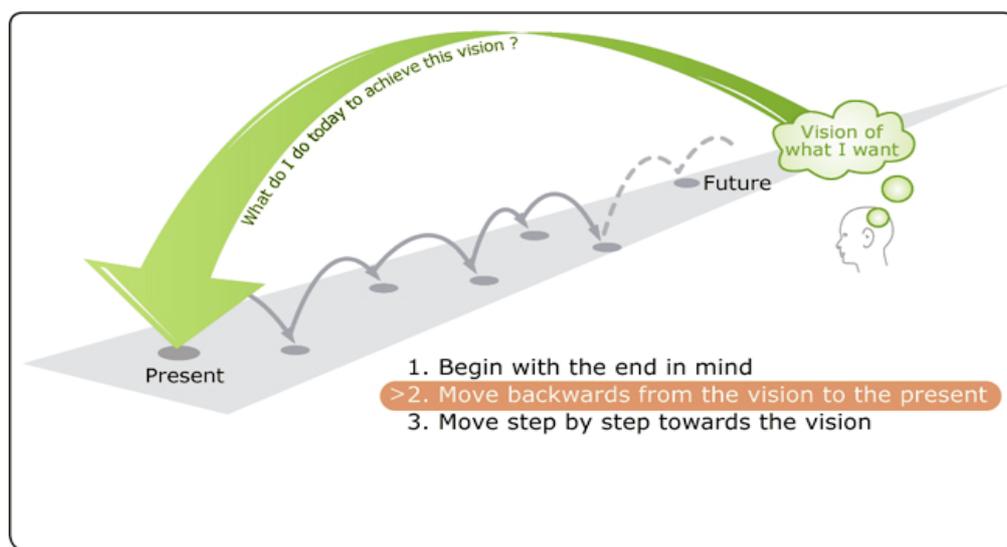


Figure 5. The Backcasting Concept [5].

A welfare system is parallel to sustainable development goals, “Sustainable Development aims to bring about a long-term improvement in the quality of life of the majority of the human race, who lives in poverty, and inhuman conditions.” In building a welfare society, and keeping the focus on sustainable development, the idea of “sustainable society” is to be placed as a top priority for the governments, championed in the words of Lester (1981), “Creating a sustainable society will require fundamental economic and social changes, a wholesale, alteration of economic priorities and population policies” [12, p. 42]. In addition to that “in acquiring a sustainable society, each threat to sustainable society is required with different policy response, in an approach that can balance the economic and political activities without leaving negative effects on the environment on the long-run, since “economic pressures and political instincts encourage a short-term focus, but pressures to wring too much out of the land in the short run can destroy it over the long-run. In this regard many developing countries due to the urgent present needs have neglected thinking of the future problems that might breakout as a result of pressuring the entire system.

Functions of Welfare State

Welfare state overall fulfils three analytically distinctive functions: The ‘Robin Hood’ function of redistributing in various ways from better-off members of society to those faced with material or other deprivation or subject to higher social risks. Welfare states comprise institutions

and mechanisms designed to protect against these risks by delivering poverty relief, providing social housing, redistributing income and reducing social exclusion. Labour market regulations protect against unfair dismissal and ensure rights for temporary workers. Social risks have evolved over time and now include aspects such as one-parent families and the isolation of old-age pensioners from their families. The ‘piggy bank’ function through which the welfare state enables citizens to insure themselves against social hardship and to spread their income more securely over their lifetime, with pensions being the main element. The social investment function that enables the state to invest in the nation’s human and (harder to define) social capital. This includes kindergarten care, state education from primary level through university, out-of-work training and various types of work-related tax benefits. In macroeconomic terms, state welfare budgets serve as ‘automatic stabilizers’ against the effects of economic disruption at the individual and national levels. More specifically, they address a number of policy priorities, including those listed below.

Three Ideal Worlds of Welfare Capitalism

- *Social Democratic World of Welfare Capitalism:*

The essential characteristics of social democratic welfare states are that, they are comprehensive and inclusive, universalistic, providing basic and income security, redistributive, service heavy, gender egalitarian, and labor mobilizing, examples can be Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden, and other Nordic countries, as the best examples of welfare states [21, p. 277].

- *Conservative World of Welfare Capitalism:*

The conservative welfare state is characterized by generous occupational benefits, unemployment and disability insurance schemes for employees. Such as; conservative welfare states are sometimes referred to as corporatist welfare states. In the field of labor relations, collective agreement often plays a central role. And social benefits are extended to Child benefit, long pregnancy and parental leave. While the labor participation of both women and men is much lower than Social-democratic state.

- *Liberal World of Welfare Capitalism:*

The social security system in the liberal world can be characterized as ‘residual’, the replacement rate of most benefits is relatively low and they have a limited duration. a social security benefit is in the later life which is a low flat-rate of pension, here the participation rate of women and men is higher when compared to the corporatist world in the labor market. Traditional welfare economics tends to identify a person’s well-being with the person’s command over goods and services. From an economic point of view income is the key factor which contributes to the amount of good and service that he /she can consume [3, p. 154]. Capabilities approach; what is crucial here is the ability of a person defined by his capacity in function, and the quality of life he has achieved. This approach used for empirically comparison to ascertain the quality of life achieved by different societies [3, p. 155]. This capabilities approach correlates with the concept of pursuing a good life, as it was argued by Aristotle, best political arrangement is aimed at political planning which provide conditions for producing capabilities, that is the possibilities of having a ‘flourishing life’” [3, p. 156].

- *Sustainable Development Conditions Iraq-Hungary-Nigeria*

The economic failure in Nigeria and Iraq has resulted in dire consequences for the day-to-day life of the citizens.

- *Iraqi Case:*

Iraq is labelled as a resource abundant country. Its proven reserves of more than 115 million barrels of oil are among the largest in the world,” [31] which has an important role for world energy markets, according to EIA (2015) “Iraq was the second-leading contributor to the growth

in global oil supply in 2015, behind only the United States (Figure 6). Crude oil production in Iraq, including fields in the Kurdistan Region of northern Iraq, averaged 4.0 million barrels per day (b/d) in 2015, almost 700,000 b/d above the 2014 level” [30]. Additionally, Iraqi government during 1970-1980 was successful in investing in developing the country properly, though that was a short period of growth, which followed sharp decline and collapse of the financial system in Iraq, the 8 years’ war with Iran, Occupation of Kuwait, has had dire economic consequences. These events severely damaged political and economic institutions and undid earlier economic and social gains” [28] Since, 2003 the International Monetary Fund has commitment to support Iraq into two ways:

- Macroeconomic stability is at the heart of the IMF programs and economic policy advice, the macroeconomic situation of Iraq has improved substantially since 2003, despite extremely difficult security circumstances and periods of political uncertainty.

- Policy advice focuses on the fiscal, monetary and financial policy areas. In the fiscal area, major emphasis has been put on the adoption of policies that support the reconstruction of Iraq and preserve social spending, while maintaining medium-term fiscal sustainability.

”The government is facing the challenge of maintaining macroeconomic stability, undertaking structural reforms to improve the delivery of public services, and reconstructing core physical infrastructure in the areas liberated from the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS).” Since, the economy is tied with the price of oil and gas, thus volatility and fluctuation of oil prices has direct effect on the Iraqi’s GDP per capita,” Iraq’s GDP per capita was estimated at US\$6,147 in 2014, putting Iraq in the category of upper-middle-income countries, while declined to nearly US\$5,000 in 2015.”

For close to four decades the Iraqi population has suffered from war, sanctions, embargos and invasion, the resent security and domestic violence has led to the rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, as a result of the war with ISIS since August-2014 many people are internally displaced, many lost homes, jobs, and family members. As Paiman [45] argued that “Iraq was Ironically Liberated, but as a post-conflict country the vacuum of rule of law facilitated instability and sectarian for long”.

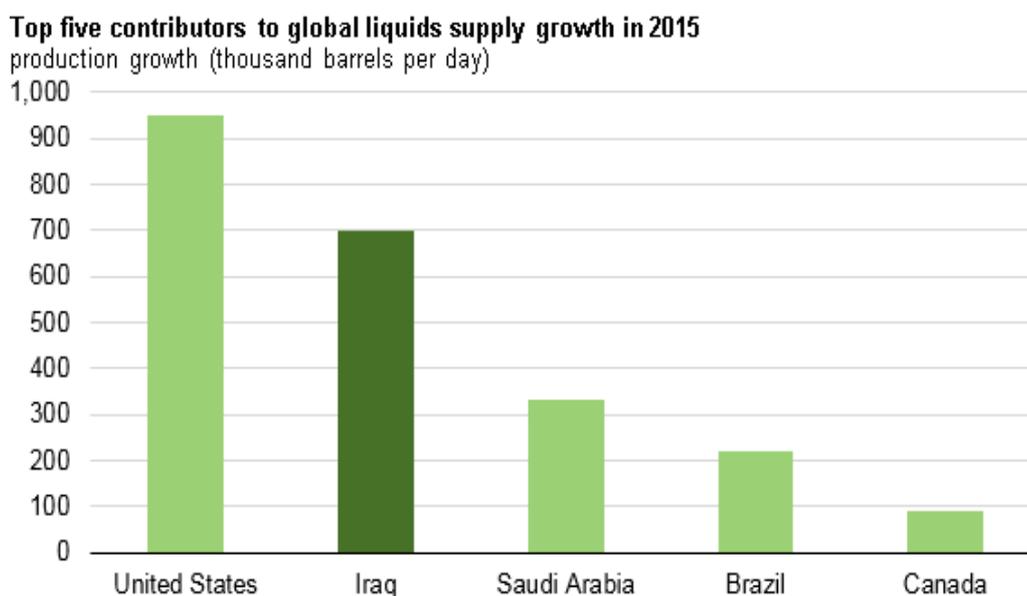


Figure 6. Leaders in the global liquids supply growth in 2015 [30].

The living standards in most regions have deteriorated to levels not seen before. Government attempts to deliver goods and service in Iraq is crippled by the ISIS terrorist group especially in the middle of Iraq. In regard to the Sustainable development goals, Iraqi situation is critical, for instance in the Global Competitive Report “the 12 Pillars of Competitiveness of Iraq” (Figure 7) as a rich country has no data at all.

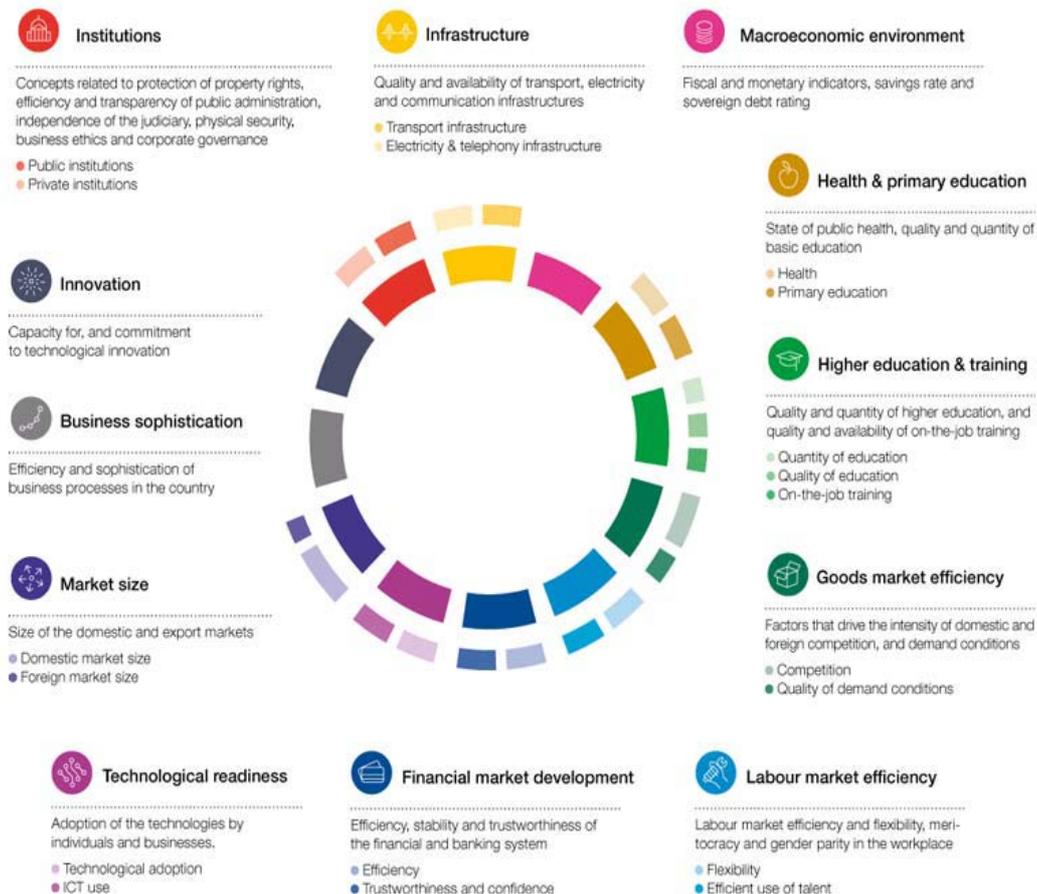


Figure 7. 12 Pillars of Competitiveness [64].

The Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction (SIGIR) Quarterly Report reflecting on the failed reconstruction calculated the spending as “estimated amount spent in reconstructing Iraq in total was “\$112.52 billion USD between April 2003 and March 31, 2008. This included the following: \$46 billion which was appropriated by the U.S. Congress as U.S. aid for Iraq, \$50.33 billion in Iraqi funds, and \$15.89 billion in international support” [4]. Overall, all programs supported by the United States, and international organizations in Iraq are unproductive and short-term programs, which are unsustainable.

The policies for economic growth and sustainability are not amended to match with the current needs, the government’s adoption of the sustainable development goals is to be practical not only paper based. Iraqi government until now has no effective measures in approaching sustainability; the strategies to implement the goals are not met with the urgent needs to tackle them properly. In the medium term, responding to the needs is an essential driver for accuracy of sustainable development objectives, according to UNECE document, it is identified that the concept of sustainable development should be extended to its other pillars “social and economics” which means underlining all measures for sustainable development, because economic and social well-being cannot be improved with measures that destroy the environment.

In this way, “the political acceptability of sustainable development depends on its capacity to respond to a country's persistent social problems” [55]. In fact, among the social problems level of education of a community is to be taken into consideration while translating the sustainable development goals, literacy reduction is a paper based plan by the government though being rich country yet this data is not compatible with the level of energy production in Iraqi case: according to the World Fact Book data, Hungary is leading in literacy reduction, and Iraq comes the second while Nigerian data needs more focus to improve the national education level of the public (Figure 8).

LITERACY(%) Rate	
<u>Hungary</u>	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 99.1% male: 99.1% female: 99% (2015 est.)
<u>Iraq</u>	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 79.7% male: 85.7% female: 73.7% (2015 est.)
<u>Nigeria</u>	definition: age 15 and over can read and write total population: 59.6% male: 69.2% female: 49.7% (2015 est.)

source: <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2103.html>

Figure 8. Literacy Rate.

The importance of “a Grand Compromise” is a key success for sustainable development, as a triangle that serves between those who are principally concerned with nature and environment, those who value economic development, and those who are dedicated to improving the human condition” [32].

At the national level, Iraq has no strategy for a grand compromise up to the data. Broadly speaking, the Iraqi government’s mechanisms failed to adopt new policies and strategies that support sustainable development, a clue of the government’s failure is “the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction (NSPRI) issued in 2009 at the same time as the National Development Plan covers crucial points of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) aimed at promoting the well-being of the Iraqi poor. By tackling these points: (1) achieving a higher income from work for the poor, (2) improving the health standard of the poor, (3) dissemination and improving education of the poor, (4) achieving a better housing environment for the poor, (5) effective social protection for the poor, and (6) less inequality between poor women and men” [53]. In essence, poverty trap is discussed from different perspectives by scholars around the world, there is implications for each countries, considering the words of Nelson (1957) stated that “the malady of underdeveloped economies can be diagnosed as a stable equilibrium level of per capita income at or close to subsistence requirements.

Only a small percentage, if any, of the economy's income is directed towards net investment. If the capital stock is accumulating at a rate equally fast; thus the amount of capital worker is not increasing. If economic growth is defined as rising per capita income, these economies are not growing. They are caught in a low level equilibrium trap” [39, p. 894]. Comparable, Tirole (1996) highlighted how corruption and other unethical behaviours can be contagious and persistent [58]. Indeed corruption is bane of Iraq and Nigeria. Corruption fuels the disappearance of millions of dollars in accumulated energy revenues annually. Thus traps more people in poverty in both countries. Iraq needs a “big push” forward to adopt sustainable development

goals, categorizing the root of trap in a country depends on the country's context, Malthusian Trap defined the root of trap as "population increases with income decrease as source of IR: preference for children decrease with income, Big push: rapid technical change" [11] engaging directly with sustainable development goals will contribute highly to development and growth in Iraq, in which it will transform economic welfare of citizens to the high standards of living, as well it will be a kick-start progress in post-invasion era for Iraqis, in which a healthy community and better-educated labour force is predicted by this end. Achieving sustainable development goals are to reconcile Iraqi with all endemic problems the country and people suffered from especially Lack of peace and permanent wars, to convert the goals it is to enforce better policy options and strategies that focus on development and sustainable growth. The most pressing needs which the Iraqi public need can be seen in the 2015 Human Development Report by UNDP, in which Iraqi government and international community involved in improving life of Iraqis failed (Figure 9).

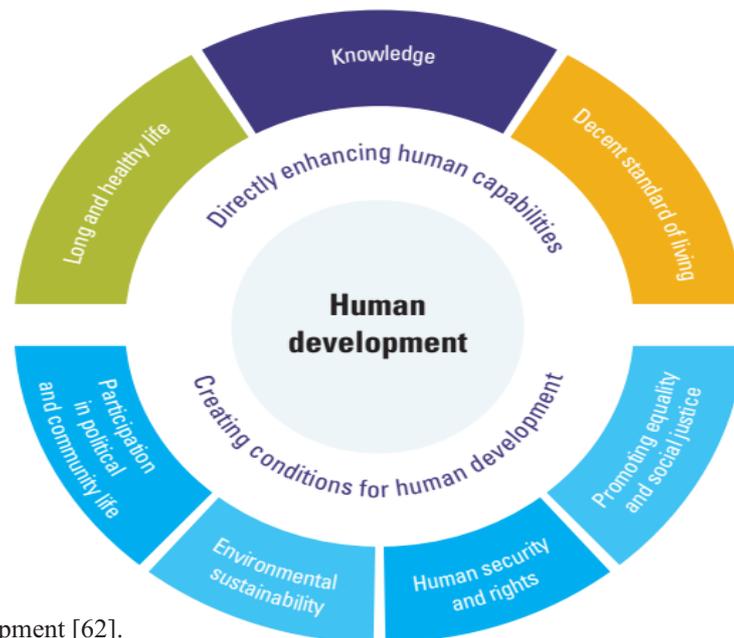


Figure 9. Dimensions of Human Development [62].

According to the cycle of Human Development, "the focus is on the richness of human lives rather than the richness of economics" on the other hand, Human Development confirms that people must influence the process that shapes their lives" [62]. In this scope the capacities of Iraqi people are not such where they are involved in the building process to ensure a better future. Additionally, the 2015 Human Development Report argues a very essential linkage point between "Sustainable Development Goals and Sustainable Work, since having a permanent work means a secure life well-being source, sustainable work directed in 8goals including "promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all." The question is, will Iraq like many other countries, be able to target those extra goals? While, "Iraq faces a large-scale humanitarian crisis. Alarming development gaps and security risks affect 5 million people, of which nearly 2.5 million have fled their homes in the central and northern regions, in addition to 245,000 Syrians seeking refuge in Kurdistan" [29].

- *Where is Hungary in SD implementation!*

Hungary outlook on sustainable development is different from both Iraq and Nigeria. Her Sustainable Development strategy has led to the creation of the National Development office (NDO). These activities were hitherto handled by the Ministry of Environment. The NDO created National Development Concept "NDC", three main pillars of sustainability are recognized

in NDC, “Economy People Environment” [36] moreover, the National Development Concept “NDC” has 9 strategic development objectives (Figure 10).



Figure 10. Strategic Development Objectives [57].

According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Hungary, Hungary’s approach is interlinked with OECD and EU principles and practice [26] which creates a better platform for sustainable development adaptation in Hungary compare it to Iraq and Nigeria. Since, Hungary is a member in the European Union therefore, Hungary is following the EU sustainable Development Strategy (EU SDS), in which a set of objectives are to be considered for tackling the following main challenges:

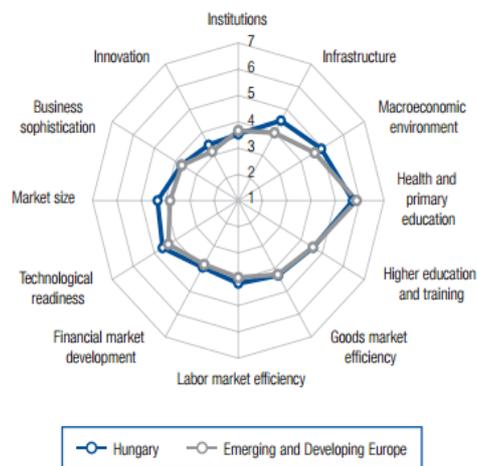
1. Climate change and clean energy: to limit climate change and its costs and negative effects to society and the environment.
2. Sustainable transport: to ensure that our transport systems meet society’s economic, social and environmental needs whilst minimising their undesirable impacts on the economy, society and the environment.
3. Sustainable consumption & production: to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns.
4. Conservation and management of natural resources: to improve management and avoid overexploitation of natural resources, recognising the value of ecosystem services.
5. Public Health: to promote good public health on equal conditions and improve protection against health threats.
6. Social inclusion, demography and migration: to create a socially inclusive society by taking into account solidarity between and within generations and to secure and increase the quality of life of citizens as a precondition for lasting individual well-being.
7. Global poverty and sustainable development challenges: to actively promote sustainable development worldwide and ensure that the European Union’s internal and external policies are consistent with global sustainable development and its international commitments [44]. In line with this, ESDN Quarterly Report (2015), focused on the importance of governance for sustainable development by embedding three key points are the ingredients for the process:

Firstly, to conceptualize the complexity of the situation and identify institutions and stakeholders that is significant for a successful implementation of the SDGs (i.e. responsible actors and their specific competencies and capacities). Second, to assess which actions could be most effectively implemented at different governance levels, supported by coordinated actions of different institutional levels and stakeholder groups, and how they affect synergies between different SDGs (i.e. vertical policy integration). Third, we need to investigate if the effectiveness of the modes of governance could be improved through the creation of coordinating institutional structures and policy instruments (i.e. horizontal policy integration and policy coherence) [44].

In essence, Hungary is relatively working on adopting and enforcing the sustainable development pillars, as it is defined in the Millennium Declaration of 2000, identified three interconnected and interdependent dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. Very crucially, in terms of sustainable development the role of natural resource in the case of Hungary is observed in regard to sustainability, and preserving the well-being of future generation. Additionally, protecting the natural resources by implementing right measures in managing the resources for the long term sustainability, and achieving a better future. Figure 11 shows the performance of Hungary in competitiveness which is the base for sustainable development. Defining sustainable development as a shared responsibility in Hungary is a different factor compares it to Iraq and Nigeria, in which balancing the governmental, individual and community responsibility is very significant.

Global Competitiveness Index

	Rank (out of 140)	Score (1-7)
GCI 2015–2016	63	4.2
GCI 2014–2015 (out of 144).....	60	4.3
GCI 2013–2014 (out of 148).....	63	4.2
GCI 2012–2013 (out of 144).....	60	4.3
Basic requirements (27.8%)	59	4.7
1st pillar: Institutions.....	97	3.5
2nd pillar: Infrastructure.....	48	4.5
3rd pillar: Macroeconomic environment.....	52	4.9
4th pillar: Health and primary education.....	72	5.7
Efficiency enhancers (50.0%)	49	4.3
5th pillar: Higher education and training.....	57	4.6
6th pillar: Goods market efficiency.....	72	4.3
7th pillar: Labor market efficiency.....	77	4.2
8th pillar: Financial market development.....	65	3.9
9th pillar: Technological readiness.....	48	4.6
10th pillar: Market size.....	51	4.3
Innovation and sophistication factors (22.2%)	69	3.6
11th pillar: Business sophistication.....	90	3.7
12th pillar: Innovation.....	51	3.4



Stage of development



Figure 11. Hungary in Global Competitiveness Index [63].

This confirms the fact that “Governmental programmes reach their goals, if they are supported by the value system of the society, shaped not only by the citizens and their initiatives, but also by political representatives and state officials” [37]. To this end, sustainable development is a shared responsibility for protecting the resources, and avoiding depletion of the resource for the present and future generations. More precisely, all the European member states are expected to follow the regulations and policies that are provided by the European Union main treaties, including the Treaty of Lisbon, and the Treaty of the European Union. They both

highlight sustainable development as the fundamental goal of the European Union: The Union shall work for the sustainable development of Europe based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy, aimed at full employment and social progress and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment". Derived from the treaty three main key points are crucial in regard to sustainable development including; social rights, environmental protection, and responsibility towards future generations.

The core targets and strategies for sustainable development in Hungary are sound, though in regard to the challenges Hungarian government encounters yet achieving the sustainable development goals is very complicated, in terms of the Human resource; Hungary has population decline challenge due to aging and migration. Hungary in the context of Europe and the neighbouring countries is not performing well. Hungary with 47% of its population living below poverty line. The country has lost almost 90% of natural ecosystem. The economic situation of Hungary is fragile with its dependence on foreign debt which means the country may suffer from indebtedness in the coming future, if the government is not able to manage the economic recovery. Government institutions and organizations support sustainability, including Hungarian Academy of Science, the Balaton Group, and National University of Public Service. The Balaton Group was founded by Donella and Dennis Meadows, the great authors of "the Limits of Growth" in 1982, with a specific focus on sustainability, among the important activities, the Balaton Group, Panel Discussion on sustainable development during 16 September 2014, the importance of the discussion is given to sustainability by considering the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals together to find the solutions [7].

- *Nigerian implementation of Sustainable Development Goals:*

Nigeria should not be called a poor country in the real terms, but poor governance, corruption and political instability has left the country on the throes of poverty. With a teeming population of over 166million and over half of this population living in poverty Nigeria like most developing nations of the world would not mind indulging in a little more of that pollution in exchange for some form of development much needed to meet basic needs of its citizens. One concept in social and management sciences among many others that do not lend themselves to universal definition is the concept of poverty Ighodalo (2012) [27]. He points to the controversial nature of the concept as being responsible for this. But we add that the differences in the definition are determined by regional perception with regards to level of development of each society. Which suffice for the reason why sustainable development means different things to the various states under comparison in this research? Also the multi-dimensional nature of poverty is espoused from this research on how poor people define themselves from various regions in the world [18]. Ighodalo (2012) and Sada (1988) [52] avers that the World Bank usage of the level of per capital income to determine a society's level of poverty can be regarded as an absolute view of poverty, which is not an wholesome way of conceptualizing poverty. He submits that this method by the World Bank cannot account for the non-quantitative aspect of the phenomenon of poverty such as: life expectancy, literacy, health care delivery infrastructural development among others. These are issues being confronted by majority of Nigerians. For developed societies they have been able to achieve high human development by expanding capabilities which individuals can have to lead a long and healthy life, to have access to quality education, to have access to resources needed for decent standard of living and participation in decision making and its implementation. These processes translates to development which can transform living conditions of majority of Nigerians. The Nigerian economy is primarily dependent on crude oil production. The emphasis on sustainable development is to preserve finite and infinite resources in the pursuit of development Ighodalo (2012) but with the case if Nige-

ria has witnessed a consistent environmental degradation especially with oil exploration. There has been continuous destruction of the mangrove forest in Nigeria since the exploration and exploitation of oil started in Nigeria Diop (1993). These have resulted in the destruction of traditional sources of livelihood like agriculture, fishing and wildlife in various regions in the Niger-Delta of Nigeria. The level of environmental degradation means that much of the fertile lands have been lost to environmental pollution, rivers as a source of portable drinking water has been so polluted, that inhabitants of these areas have to travel several miles in search of water. Aquatic habitat destroyed so that inhabitants have lost their professions as fishermen [10]. Components of development target productivity mismanagement has led to a degenerated environment, unfit for both man and the ecosystem at large. This situation is evident of the fact that development is un-sustainable in the phase of recklessness to environmental conservation and the concept of sustainable development becomes the operational frame-work.

The degradation is peculiar to all the oil producing areas in Nigeria and policy makers, management personals and oil exploration companies, has not made it an exigency to deal with this issue of pollution of the environment. A clean-up that will take 25-30years of the affected part of the Niger-Delta Ogoniland has been recommended by United Nations Environmental Programme UNEP at the cost of 1billion US dollars from emerging reports taken from samples in the Ogoniland region [6]. On the instance of the federal government of Nigeria. .Despite the rape on the regions housing the economic mainstay of its revenue, Nigeria as a member of the UN is among countries that keyed into the Millennium Development Goals by creating the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) which is a policy thrust targeted at eradicating poverty and creating sustainable development this gave birth to National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP). This has had little or no effect on the situation of poverty in Nigeria. Of the nine millennium development goals eradication of extreme poverty and hunger is prioritised to be met in the stipulated year yet Nigeria is nowhere near eradication, majority of citizens find it difficult to access basic needs like food, water and primary health care [9].

Corruption as Anti-Development

Public sector corruption described by Kauffman (1997) [33] as the major obstacle to economic development is in its alarming form in Nigeria and has been identified as the main cause of poverty. Resources are misappropriated when distinct public interest are subverted or compromised by private regarding (corrupt) conduct. Corruption takes place when individual interest is placed over and above public interest [50, p. 505]. Other theories of corruption antithetical to development is the public office centred corruption which Nye (1967) defines as behaviours which deviate from formal duties of public role because of private regarding exercise of certain types of private-regarding influence [41, p. 419]. Concept of development for theorist like Rodney (1976) is the ability of a state to harness is natural resources and endowments for the benefits of the citizenry [51]. Looking at this definition literarily means that what is at play in Nigeria today anti-development because the natural resources in Nigeria has not benefited the common man and corruption in low and high places has adverse imparted on the lives of the people. If sustainable development means the ability of a country to meet with today's needs and continuously meeting it for tomorrow's people then Nigeria is a long way away from sustainable development because of the following reasons enumerated by Edoh (2003) [19]:

- lack of sound agricultural policy and protracted neglect of the sector;
- corruption and embezzlement;
- poor leadership;
- lack of comprehensive National Poverty Alleviation;
- lack of basic infrastructures;

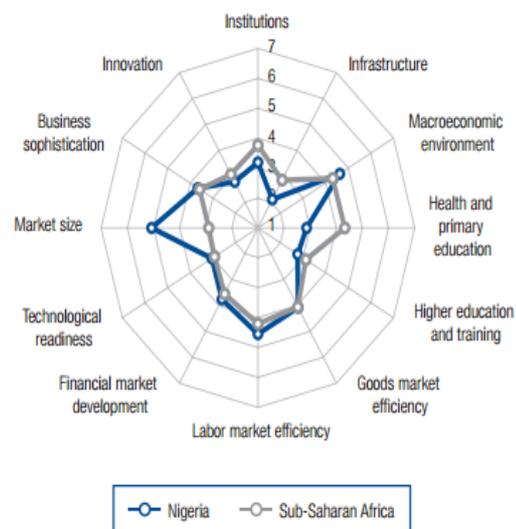
- rapid population growth;
- excessive internal and external debt burden.

Others especially with regards to infrastructure is the inability for these many of government to provide a stable source of energy generation and distribution. This has hampered small a medium scale enterprise SMEs which would have gone a long way in entrepreneurial development that would have generated employment. The above reason is why all efforts at sustainable development have not had any effect on the prevailing poverty level. NEEDS and NAPEP are yet to impact positively on the poverty figures. Government and private [22] sector initiative aimed at taking action for sustainable development is evident that the need for development on a sustainable level is understood, but the problem with some of this government action is that they are basically for the sake of public affairs [1]. This statement is a fact when viewed against the backdrop of the cases where there are seeming action and no results and when confirmed corrupt government load web pages of information with no data on results of achievements [40] or only on paper not in reality.

Figure 12 shows Nigeria in Global Competitiveness Index, which explains the status of Nigerian government in implementing the 12 pillars and its performance which is weak compare to the capacity of Nigeria in being abundant natural resource country.

Global Competitiveness Index

	Rank (out of 140)	Score (1-7)
GCI 2015–2016	124	3.5
GCI 2014–2015 (out of 144).....	127.....	3.4
GCI 2013–2014 (out of 148).....	120.....	3.6
GCI 2012–2013 (out of 144).....	115.....	3.7
Basic requirements (54.1%)	136	3.2
1st pillar: Institutions.....	124.....	3.2
2nd pillar: Infrastructure.....	133.....	2.1
3rd pillar: Macroeconomic environment.....	81.....	4.6
4th pillar: Health and primary education.....	140.....	2.9
Efficiency enhancers (39.5%)	81	3.9
5th pillar: Higher education and training.....	128.....	2.8
6th pillar: Goods market efficiency.....	100.....	4.1
7th pillar: Labor market efficiency.....	35.....	4.5
8th pillar: Financial market development.....	79.....	3.8
9th pillar: Technological readiness.....	106.....	3.0
10th pillar: Market size.....	25.....	5.1
Innovation and sophistication factors (6.5%)	114	3.2
11th pillar: Business sophistication.....	94.....	3.7
12th pillar: Innovation.....	117.....	2.8



Stage of development

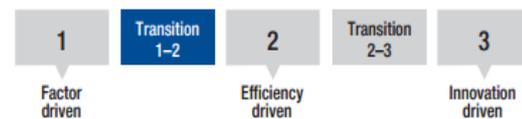


Figure 12. Nigeria in Global Competitiveness Index [63].

These three countries under focus Nigeria, Iraq and Hungary are classified as countries depending on foreign aid. The difference among these countries is in how it is utilized. Global Outlook 2014 on Aid concluding remarks says; the quantity of aid a country receives is not the only factor that determines the impact of that aid. Other factors, such as aid quality and national policies, will determine the impacts of aid on growth and development. Though, aid can be seen as a short term support economically for countries in need to alleviate their poverty rate and pursue economic growth. According to The World Atlas Data in the listing of countries that re-

ceive the most foreign Aid, Nigeria is placed in number 12, with (\$2,529,480), while Iraq is listed as number 18 with lower aid of (\$1,541,400)" [17].

Endemic Challenges for Sustainability:

Sachs (2013) highlights the importance of foreign aid in reducing poverty rate in the developing countries that if the rich would committed \$195 billion in foreign aid per year between 2005-2025, poverty could have been entirely eliminated by the end of the period [8, p. 3]. However the United Nations have acknowledged that the amount of remittances migrants living and working in host developed nations are sending back to their home countries has more than doubled the entire sum of aid from these developed nations to developing countries. As seen in the World Bank estimates in 2011 remittances by migrants in the United Kingdom to India is 4 billion USD compared to 450 million USD aid to the country in that same year [48]. Lack of investment in sectors such as agriculture and environmental development [59].

- Lack of corporation both regionally and globally in the developing countries, Failure in synchronizing initiatives between the local governments and communities.
- The discussion which is contradictory to the case of both Iraq and Nigeria debated between Sachs and Easterly, Easterly avers that poverty case is not permanent then a onetime infusion of aid could make a huge difference to a person's life, setting her on a new trajectory [8, p.10]. Unfortunately poverty trap exist among population of the developing countries, due to permanent corruption and poor governance.

Poverty and The growth of the world population

- The state of the demographic transition in the various regions of the world? A question is why developing countries like India and Bangladesh have increase in population? Does that means their economic, social and environment is convenient? Ideally, population growth is a risk factor for sustainability especially when the countries are not ready to handle the growth it becomes antithetic to Henry Kissinger postulation in the World Food Conference in 1974 that "within a decade no man, women or children will go to bed hungry".

- There is no "one-size-fits all" model which can be implemented or followed by all countries. In accordance to this case the three selected countries will need their own pathways and strategies for sustainable development and growth.

- Poverty and security are the Current challenges for developing countries including (Nigeria and Iraq with both having terrorists challenges), unemployment, lack of schooling, public service.

- Weakness in translating the global goals into domestic and regional goals during the implementation process in which unstable governance and improper transition machinery are main obstacles.

- Failure of governments in providing the basic needs in most developing countries, which stagnates the implementation of sustainable development in the first step.

- Corruption and poor governance are key challenges in "Iraq, Hungary and Nigeria".

- The three countries, especially Nigeria and Iraq, as well relatively Hungary are stacked in a conflict of prioritizing between the current interests and the future interests of sustainable development.

- The failure of Iraq and Nigeria typically in focusing the Human well-being and the protection of environment equally, the state of human capital and environment is neglected in the governmental policies.

- The conflict between poor and rich is not well defined. Both countries are considered as wealthy countries in terms of natural resources and data from energy revenues; while on the real ground the wealth is not accumulated for sustainable development.

- Synchronization of local and global needs is not taken into account in Nigeria and Iraq, while Hungary via the European Union sustainable development goals fairs much better than both Iraq and Nigeria, here sustainable development goals are categorized according to the country's context locally, regionally and globally.
 - *Recommendations taken from Jaffrey Sachs's talk on "Planet forward"*
 - Economic Growth that are environmentally irresponsible are to be stopped to decrease negative effect on ecology.
 - Identifying pathways for different regions, every region to follow a decent approach which will be an answer for the needs of the region.
 - Creating effective health system which is cost-effective and efficient by using high quality tech.
 - Following low carbon energy for all.
 - Agricultural development to contribute to productivity.
 - Urban development sustainability, preparing for natural disasters as a result of rise in the sea level.
 - Designing equitable standards, shared legality and responsibility.
 - Redefining cooperate governance, social responsibility, political accountability.
 - Following "how to do method" by focusing on (good governance, security, poverty, environment, natural resource scarcity, etc).
 - Governance for sustainable development "this point is in line with what "James Patterson defined on the website of World Economic Forum (2015) "3 challenges facing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, in which "Strengthening Governance, Competing Interests, Building Responsibility and Accountability" [43].

Conclusions. The overall goal of sustainable development (SD) is the long-term stability of the economy and environment; this is only achievable through the integration and acknowledgement of economic, environmental, and social concerns throughout the decision making process [20]. The three countries in this study are still not able to achieve 50% of SD goals, since none of these countries made it to the top list of leading countries in sustainable development. We therefore conclude that commitment to sustainable development goals are driven by the pressing needs of people as we have seen in these three states under our binoculars for this discourse. In Nigeria for instance poverty, corruption, insecurity, political instability creating lack of political will are impediments to implementing sustainable development goals. Challenges of protracted war and insecurity in Iraq and the undertones of corruption has made sure that developing the right political will to focus on SD goals are lacking. The picture in Hungary is less grim rather brighter being a member of the European Union which act as a watchdog to its member states implementation of the SD goals. Also the relatively stable political climate in Hungary gives it the right foundation to focus on SD goals. The country's steps are more environmentally responsible toward achieving Sustainable development goals. But overall top priority for all three countries is poverty eradication.

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