

# Review of: "Nigeria's Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals"

Henry Ani Kifordu

**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

The paper presents a rather critical evaluation of the ongoing SDGs' implementation in Nigeria, based, mainly, if not solely, on government measurement procedures and evaluation outcomes. No doubt, the need exists and persists for a deeper understanding of the implementation status of the SDGs in individual countries, not only for cross-country comparisons but more importantly for identifying the processes, advances, and challenges in each case. So, it is a commendable and worthwhile effort by the authors vis-à-vis literature enrichment and policy improvement.

However, despite the ongoing nature of SDGs' implementation in Nigeria, the text lacks in-depth and bold critical analysis. The authors need to systematically and critically undertake a more meaningful analysis of the topic through a coherent scientific approach.

- The quality of the paper can be richly improved by incorporating a befitting theoretical and analytical framework. As institutions with good governance criteria are fundamental to achieving government objectives and goals, relevant institutional theories with good governance analytical approaches can be brought into the picture, for instance, to buttress not only the institutional cum governance foundations of development under democratic regimes but also the extent to which they make sense in the Nigerian case. It can also be useful for throwing more light on substantive institutional cum governance deviations and fragilities of SDGs' implementation in Nigeria.
- The paper's quality can also be improved by meaningfully deploying triangulation that entails blending data and methods, thereby enabling diverse standpoints for casting extensive and deeper light on the topic. This mixture of data types is believed to assist in the validation of claims arising from an initial pilot study. Evaluating the outcome of the implementation of SDGs as outlined is not an easy or straightforward task, requiring a rigorous systematic approach.
- It all leads to incorporating consistent literature sources for underpinning the analysis of facts and arriving at a more robust and clearer conclusion. Some landmark, seminal, or basic literature sources about institutional theories and governance approaches that can be of help are:

North, Douglas (1991). 'Institutions'. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 5 (1): 97– 112.

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Moe, T. (1990). 'Political Institutions: The Neglected Side of the Story', *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*, (Special issue): 213–253.

Mortel, E.V. (2000). *An Institutional Approach to Transition Processes*. Rotterdam: Erasmus University.

Searing, D.D. (1991) 'Roles, Rules and Rationality in the New Institutionalism'. *American Political Science Review*, 85 (4): 1239-1260

Steinmo, Stein (2008). 'Historical institutionalism'. In: Della Porta, Donatella & Keating, Michael (2008). *Approaches and Methodologies in the Social Sciences: A Pluralist Perspective*. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.

Obs: the article is available at:

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Fukuyama, Francis (2017) *State Building: Governance and World Order in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Cornell University Press.

Göran, Hydén, Court, Julius & Mease, Kenneth (2004) *Making Sense of Governance: Empirical Evidence from Sixteen Developing Countries*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner Publishers