Global Partnership for the SDGs and Their Implementation in India

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Abstract

Global collaboration is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with "Partnerships for the Goals" being a particular focus of Goal 17. To achieve the SDGs—to eradicate poverty, safeguard the earth, and guarantee prosperity—international cooperation is crucial. This is because tackling common problems like climate change and inequality necessitates a worldwide effort. By 2030, the 17 goals can only be accomplished via concerted effort from a wide range of stakeholders, including governments, corporations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The role of international cooperation
   a. **Framework:** In 2015, all member nations of the United Nations ratified the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which serves as a worldwide blueprint for accomplishing the SDGs.
   b. **Global partnerships:** Goal 17, which requests partnerships to support the 2030 Agenda, demonstrates the critical need of international collaboration for the SDGs' implementation.
   c. **Shared responsibility:** Achieving the goals will need collaborative efforts across national boundaries from governments, corporations, civic society, and people.
   d. **Targeted support:** To accomplish these aims, developing nations rely on international cooperation, which involves sharing technologies, providing financial flows, and creating a policy climate that is favorable to their needs.

A "Decade of Action"
   - Immediate necessity: With the 2030 target date looming, 2020 ushered in a "Decade of Action" to quicken development of the SDGs.
   - The drawbacks: It is more important than ever to work together as a global community and move quickly to overcome the obstacles that the COVID-19 epidemic has posed.

1. Introduction

The United Nations' seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are to be realized through the Global Partnership for the Sustainable Development Goals, which is a worldwide endeavor that aims to accomplish these goals through collaboration amongst several stakeholders, as is described in SDG 17. In the country of India, the national government has incorporated the execution of the Sustainable Development Goals into its policies. The NITI Aayog is responsible for leading the coordination of these goals, and the process entails the implementation of a number of significant domestic initiatives, including tax reform, resource mobilization, and the devolution of fiscal power to the states. India contributes to the global partnership by sharing its knowledge and skills with other nations, particularly those located in the Global South. India is executing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with a

blend of local resource mobilization, augmented international collaboration, and comprehensive monitoring frameworks, notably the NITI Aayog's SDG India Index. Significant domestic measures encompass tax changes, the promotion of renewable energy via collaborations such as the International Solar Alliance, and the augmentation of fiscal devolution to states. Despite these initiatives demonstrating dedication, obstacles persist in domains such as funding, infrastructure, and the alignment of all policies with the ideal of "leaving no one behind." The existing challenges that the contemporary international order is facing, as well as those that are expected to emerge in the future, will need the establishment of a new global consensus on remedies that can be implemented multilaterally. In order to do this, it is necessary to cultivate a higher degree of integration and consultation, particularly in relation to the geopolitical consensus about SDG-17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Consequently, this issue brief takes into consideration the geopolitical importance of Sustainable Development Goal number seventeen, the contributions that it has made to the attainment of the objective of sustainable development, and the position that India occupies in the field.

The advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been impeded by significant global disruptions, including the COVID-19 pandemic, geopolitical tensions like the Ukraine-Russia conflict, the Afghanistan crisis, restrictive trade measures, elevated energy costs, the food crisis, and the triple planetary crisis encompassing climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. In this context, collaboration to address difficulties, mobilize both current and supplementary resources, and enhance international cooperation, coordination, and solidarity, as emphasized in SDG 17, has become increasingly important.

SDG 17 delineates targets urging developed nations to fulfill their official development assistance (ODA) obligations to developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs), bolster North-South, South-South, and triangular regional and international collaboration, and facilitate effective, targeted capacity-building in developing nations to achieve their national strategies for implementing the SDGs. India has been establishing alliances and prioritizing international collaboration and joint efforts, ensuring inclusivity for all.

2. India Cultivating Alliances for Global Benefit:

The acts that India has taken, the national policies that it has implemented, and the collaborations that it has formed with other nations at both the bilateral and international levels have all contributed to the common goods of the world. This serves to further substantiate the fundamental principle that underpins India's foreign policy, which is the Indian philosophical concept of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family). Some examples of this include the creation of the International Solar Alliance (ISA), the Coalition of Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), digital transformation using India Stacks, and the most current "Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE) Movement." These coalitions of policy provide a space and a place for collaboration on a number of different fronts. In addition, these kinds of cooperation tackle the issues that are related to energy security (SDG 7), food security and poverty (SDG 1 and 2), technological transformation and innovation (SDG 9), and the provision of assistance for climate action (SDG 13). In addition to the fact that India is a developing nation, it has also made use of its experiences at the ground level in order to promote a development strategy that is centered on human beings and sustainable in nature through development partnerships all over the world.

a) **Global Clean Energy:** Through the ISA's action plan 'One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG), the alliance aims to establish a unified solar grid on a global scale. This entails the swift and extensive implementation of solar energy, ensuring energy supply stability, advancing research and development to address variations in sunshine availability, and consistently upholding dependable base load capabilities. Launched in 2018, the 'One Sun One World One Grid' (OSOWOG) initiative has opened its membership to all UN members, aiming to establish a transnational grid for the distribution of solar electricity generated worldwide to various load centers. The recent research by the International Energy Agency (IEA), titled 'World Energy Investment 2023,' indicates that investments in clean energy have risen in recent years, mostly driven by Electric Vehicles (EVs) and renewable energy sources. The research indicates that India has emerged as a notable example by implementing numerous initiatives to promote energy transition in alignment with its net-zero goals. The Report indicates that, in addition to the robust solar investment in India, notable developments include a consistent increase in clean energy deployment in Brazil and heightened investor engagement in some regions

of the Middle East, particularly in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman. The research highlights India's sovereign green bonds as a significant milestone in the developing sustainable finance ecosystem.

b) **Disaster Resilience:** Under the India-led CDRI initiative, the Infrastructure for Resilient Island States (IRIS) functions as a 'knowledge center' for member countries to exchange and acquire best practices related to the disaster resilience of extant and planned infrastructure. According to CDRI, every dollar allocated to enhancing infrastructure resilience in low- and middle-income countries has the potential to prevent losses exceeding $4 in the event of a disaster. Furthermore, it estimates that in recent years, numerous small island nations have experienced a loss of 9 percent of their GDP due to a single disaster. [ix] In response to the rising frequency of disasters, IRIS endeavors to enhance infrastructure in small island states to improve their resilience against climate-related catastrophes. The CDRI has garnered extensive support from both developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) as well as Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

c) **One Earth One Health:** The COVID-19 epidemic, which spread over the whole world, proved that it was necessary for collaborative efforts to transcend national borders. The slogan "One Earth, One Health" was promoted by Vaccine Maitri in this respect. By June 15, 2023, the Vaccine Maitri initiative has supplied more than 301.24 million doses of the vaccine to over 100 different nations. The landscape of healthcare around the world is also undergoing a transformation due to the emergence of telemedicine and digital health. In light of the ever-evolving nature of transnational situations, India has solidified its reputation as the "first responder." This means that it provides assistance to its own citizens in addition to offering a helping hand to those from other nations. During his opening talk at the sixth edition of One Earth One Health - Advantage Healthcare India 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized that "the objective of India is to make healthcare affordable and accessible, not just for its citizens but for the entire world."

d) **Sustainable Lifestyle Choices:** The Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative, presented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during COP26 in Glasgow, aims to mobilize individual and community efforts to safeguard and conserve the environment. Research by the International Energy Agency (IEA) indicates that the worldwide implementation of initiatives promoted by LiFE, encompassing behavioral modifications and sustainable consumer practices, might diminish yearly global carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions by about 2 billion tonnes (Gt) by 2030. Additionally, on India's initiative, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared the year 2023 as the 'Year of Millets.' This project raises awareness of the nutritional and health advantages of millets ('Shree Anna' as referred to by Prime Minister Narendra Modi) and its viability for growing in severe and fluctuating climatic circumstances. This presents India and the global community with the chance to enhance food security, safeguard farmers' lives and incomes, and eradicate poverty, especially in areas susceptible to drought or impacted by climate change. Multilateral forums, including the G20 under Indian leadership, have synchronized their objectives with the 2030 Agenda by adopting the aforementioned measures. India's G20 Presidency has fortified the LiFE effort by embedding it into the G20's structure. All G20 Ministers have pledged to prioritize sustainable development within the framework of international collaboration.

e) **Women-led Development:** By boosting women's access to education, skill training, and institutional credit, India is undergoing a transformation from women's development to women-led development. In addition, attaining gender equality and empowering women by means of women-led development is an essential component of each and every one of the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This transition from women's development to women-led development is not only empowering women in an economic sense, but it will also lead to an increase in their contribution to the nation's gross domestic product. It has been anticipated that by the year 2025, India would have the potential to increase its gross domestic product (GDP) by 770 billion United States dollars, merely by granting women equal opportunity. India has placed women's empowerment at the center of its Atmanirbhar Bharat development program at the national level. Through the implementation of several initiatives and programs, including the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign, the MUDRA scheme, Mission Poshan 2.0, Jan Dhan Yojana, and the bridging of the gender digital gap through the provision of technology in regional and Indian languages, it has made a commitment to supporting their comprehensive development at every stage of their lives. India is not only setting the stage and demonstrating its best practices on the international stage, but it is also encouraging a more robust agreement among all countries to promote women in positions of leadership. In this regard, the 'Solar Mamas' of Africa, who have

received training as engineers under India's development support for harnessing solar energy, are providing electricity to thousands of homes throughout the African continent. The model of women-led development in India has also been placed at the center of India's G20 Presidency. Additionally, as a founding member of the Executive Board of UN Women and a current member, India has contributed USD 50,000 to the core voluntary budget of UN Women to further strengthen the cause of women's empowerment.

3. India's approach to global partnerships for the SDGs:

India implements the SDGs through a "global partnership" framework by integrating them into national policy, coordinating efforts via institutions like NITI Aayog, and fostering collaboration with various stakeholders including civil society, academia, and the private sector. The country also promotes its own partnerships for development cooperation, and engages in global initiatives like the International Solar Alliance to achieve the SDGs and promote a revitalized global partnership.

a. **National integration:** India has incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development objectives and is coordinating policies to attain them. A robust institutional process has been built, with NITI Aayog overseeing national-level coordination and the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) formulating the indicator framework for progress monitoring.

b. **Multi-stakeholder engagement:** The Indian government is actively engaged in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by involving civil society, the academic community, the commercial sector, and the general public in the process. The Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are an example of one of the initiatives that have been implemented, and they have involved discussions on a broad scale.

c. **South-South cooperation:** In order to assist other developing nations in the fulfillment of their Sustainable Development Goals, India increases its collaboration in the area of development with these countries, sharing its knowledge and ideas.

d. **International initiatives:** India is a pioneer in global projects such as the International Solar Alliance, which advocates for sustainable energy solutions.

e. **Governmental and parliamentary action:** In order to map and implement activities at all levels, the government collaborates with state and municipal governments. In addition, the parliament makes decisions, adopts resolutions, and engages in discussions in order to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) agenda. One example of a resolution that the parliament has passed is the Jaipur Declaration.

4. Major Partnerships and Collaborations:

- **Government and NGOs:** Partnerships between the government and NGOs are crucial for improving healthcare infrastructure and access to services, such as through programs like the National Health Mission and Ayushman Bharat.

- **Parliamentary and legislative engagement:** The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are being promoted by parliamentarians, who are doing so through a variety of programs, such as the Speaker's Research Initiatives and specialized forums that are dedicated to the advancement of gender equality and regional cooperation.

- **Public-private partnerships:** The achievement of objectives in the areas of infrastructure, innovation, and **sustainable energy is made possible by these collaborations.**

5. Conclusion

It is necessary to take into consideration the requirements of the rising new world order while making an effort to expedite the process of accomplishing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. According to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 17, policies that are collaborative and supportive on all levels of

governance are essential to the attainment of the goals that have been set. In addition, it will be necessary to provide these supportive policies and strategies with enhanced access to energy and development contributions, as well as financial and technological assistance and capacity-building support. India took steps to implement the vision of working together for the advancement of all people, with the trust of all people, and with the efforts of all people by establishing coherence in both policies and institutions at both the local and international levels. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) are two examples of capacity-building and knowledge-sharing efforts that have been undertaken at the global level. These programs serve to satisfy the energy demands of the current and future generations in a manner that is both sustainable and environmentally benign. In order to improve international cooperation and partnerships, it is necessary for nations to exchange information, skills, and best practices, as well as to mobilize funding that is appropriate, reasonable, and easily available. The idea of global interconnectedness, collaboration, and solidarity is an integral part of Sustainable Development Goal 17, and India is interested in seeing these concepts reinforced and deepened in all possible ways to help accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda.

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