Globalization: Future

Globalization and Africa's Future Sustainable Development

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ABSTRACT

Africa is a continent with vast human and material resources, but its progress towards sustainable development has been slow and sometimes discouraging. Some of its challenges have stemmed from its insertion into the global economy and accompanying power structures from at least the fifteenth century. As the continent's economic progression has not reflected the full value of its assets, Africa houses alarming numbers of impoverished people and nations today. Even as these groups battle political and economic instability, the COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted additional burdens. As a developing continent, Africa must leverage its strengths and match the trajectory of a globalized economy that promises genuine and sustainable development. However, several challenges have created bottlenecks that hinder this agenda, which this work seeks to explore further. This chapter considers the interactions between globalization and sustainable development in Africa, including its state before globalization, the promises of sustainable development, and the benefits globalization and sustainable development may bring to Africa.

KEYWORDS

Africa, economics, globalization, sustainable development

Africa's long-term development cannot be disentangled from the forces of globalization working to enhance economies around the world and make transactions more efficient for everyone—its disproportionate dispersion of benefits and consequences are evident. The African continent has been positioning itself to match the advancing pace of globalization, and its nations have been working to join the ranks of developed countries. The strain of this historical journey has been borne by Africans and their counterparts in Europe and the Diaspora. The

continuous interdependence of states and nations under globalization, playing out in economies, cultures, technologies, and the exchange of values and people, has already led to obvious changes (Kolbi, 2021). Several initiatives like the Agenda 2063 and the NEPAD, among other notable ones, have been put forward by Africa as a collective body to ensure the strong advancement of the continent towards sustainable development and globalization.

Africa is becoming globalized, but gradually, and only after overcoming various challenges. These nuanced difficulties require serious thinking, careful plans, and efficient implementation. Many developmental policies have realized this, but there is an urgent need for the continent to fully embrace the globalization movement. An example of this is the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which offers inclusive and coordinated development and has the potential to be the world's largest free-trade zone (Obeng-Odoom, 2020).

The crux of globalization is the exchange of persons and values. These interactions have made changes in Africa for centuries, and their narratives—along with the narratives of sustainable development—have been colored by European interpretations. Major European powers have explored the world since the sixteenth century, extracting resources and imposing their values on every part of the globe. Asia, America, and other regions, including Africa, were engaged and conquered through that process. The transatlantic slave trade was also a massive exchange of people and resources, with an unequal distribution of benefits. By the mid-nineteenth century, about 12 million people had been extracted from Africa. From around 1880 to the early parts of the twentieth century, about 30 million additional people moved through these channels (Held et al., 1999); with a population of about 130 million, the percentage falls to about 23.08 percent (Akyeampong et al., 2014). By the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the process extended into colonization and neocolonization, laying the foundation for different developments in Africa and facilitating the globalization process (Michalopoulos & Papaioannou, 2016).

Despite this dark history, Africans have worked to capture an advantage from the forces of globalization. The formation of the African Union and various programs and initiatives from collective fronts and individual countries have set globalization in motion on the continent. These efforts must be examined to determine whether they have been sustained and have effectively positioned Africa in the global space.

AFRICA IN THE PRESENT

Africa has been receptive to global forces throughout history, often leading to temporary growth and questionable sustainability. In the race to harness globalization forces, African nations must ensure that they do not sacrifice long-term growth to achieve short-term benefits. The framework of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was developed with these concerns in mind—a commission

chaired by former Norwegian prime minister Gro Harlem Brundtland explained it as the twin requirements of present and future development (United Nations, 1987). Over the past few centuries, Africa has been swept up in a whirlwind of development that has allowed it to match Western accomplishments, such as megacities. As the Pan-African dreams have recently had to make it conform to Africanization, the concept of globalization vis-à-vis development fits within the scope of African discussion.

Africa is a focal point for the seventeen SDGs, which speak directly to the sorry state of the continent. If Africa can advance and globalize in line with the SDGs by 2030, the goal of a sustainably developed Africa can be considered successful, as it would have expectedly fulfilled all the set-out structures and plans, such as the UNESCO's strategies for the role of education in preparing the continent for the future (Shettima, 2016). However, this will require all of the continent's resources and attention to be mobilized so that it can unleash its innate potential. Several challenges may prevent these ambitions from becoming a reality.

One major issue is Africa's endemic political instability. From independence to the present day, postcolonial African countries have retained the political values and structures of their respective colonizing states and have been plagued with political instability linked to inadequate structures and partitioning imposed on the continent by colonial powers (Kieh, 2009). Postcolonial politics have been marred by civil wars and coups that brought violence and destruction, frequently rooted in different ethnic rivalries (Anyanwu, 1982). Governmental rot and electoral instability in modern-day politics have been reduced, but they still affect the continent.

Political instability disrupts economic structures, creating obstacles to sustainable development. The ghosts of the past still haunt the present as political instability remains in Africa. In 2021, Sudan experienced two different coups d'état. One failed in September, and the other led to the dissolution of civilian rule by General Abdel Fattah Burhan (Kirby, 2021). In Guinea, the army ousted President Alpha Conde and has thrown the nation into postcoup uncertainties (Akinpelu, 2021). Mali had two disruptions in the same year, and political violence erupted in Niger within days of its presidential election. From 2000 to 2019, there have been sixteen coups d'état in Africa, demonstrating how serious political unrest has become in the continent. Africa witnessed more coups in 2021 than in the previous five years, with more successful coups since 1999.

Terrorism is another ugly challenge that mars the continent's progress. Africa has become a new springboard for extremists and jihadists looking to actualize their "religious" agendas (Davis, 2012). Extremist groups, such as Al Qaeda and ISIS, have been responsible for many attacks within Africa. For instance, Al Qaeda bombed the embassies of the United States in Tanzania and Kenya on August 7, 1998 (Hoffman, 2014). Other home-grown terrorist groups also encourage the ongoing violence in Africa. The resources that should be committed to facilities

and infrastructure to serve the public are instead being diverted to oppose terrorist attacks. Al Qaeda and affiliated terrorist groups—including Boko Haram in Nigeria, ISIS operations in Libya and Northern Sinai, and al-Shabaab in Egypt and Somalia—require different, coordinated counterterrorism efforts (Alvi, 2019). Other efforts, such as those in Cameroon, Sahel, Mali, Kenya, Niger, Burkina Faso, Uganda, and Côte d'Ivoire, have also consumed substantial resources (Perez, 2021).

It is difficult to prioritize globalization and sustainable development when citizens face extreme poverty, and this is another impediment to progress. As of 2021, about 36 percent of the 490 million people in Africa live in poverty (Human, 2021). These people cannot afford US$1.90 per day, which is the World Bank's international poverty line. The ongoing destruction wrought by extremists, violent attacks, and economic downturns has raised that figure by 9 million people since 2019. The United Nations has recorded a considerable decrease in the poverty rate, down from a whopping 54 percent in 1990 to 41 percent in 2015, yet Africa remains the poorest continent with the largest number of people living in poverty (Beegle & Christiaensen, 2019).

Also, infrastructure is an essential component of the seventeen SDGs to be achieved by 2030. When compared to other continents, Africa has the least amount of infrastructure (Bond, 2017), and such facilities are a major driver of the globalization process. Access to infrastructure affects the continent's economy and the cost of living for individuals. Governments that do not prioritize access to basic amenities for their citizens must be prepared for the economic consequences. Although some countries have made solid efforts to build improvements that will be available to most citizens, there is also the problem of ongoing maintenance. Currently, only about 38 percent of Africans have access to electricity, only 25 percent of roads are paved, and the Internet penetration rate stands at a mere 10 percent. Poor road networks and inadequate facilities, such as ports and railroad terminals, add about 40 percent to production costs. These excess expenses hinder corporate organization and the development of the private sector (Mayaki, 2013).

Education is a core assurance for sustainable development and the advancement of globalization. A lack of education is a major hindrance that wrecks any hope of future development. The continent has made efforts to improve its educational capacity in different areas, but there remains a huge disparity in the accessibility of education, especially in sub-Saharan Africa (Krzykawska & Żur, 2020). Africa's population explosion has been accompanied by increasing school enrollment numbers, but it is a major challenge to find the resources and qualified teachers necessary to support them. Africa has yet to embrace the principle of equality in education—girls remain marginalized, and there is a large disparity between educated male and female children (Kaul, 2015). Despite the focus on gender inclusion in the UNESCO Strategy 2022–29, there is a general lack of health literacy to support girl-child education and literacy (Stephens et al., 2021).

For a long time, tertiary institutions have been dealing with their own educational issues, including union activities.

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a test of Africa's progress with globalization, offering insights into the work that remains to meet the 2030 SDG targets. Even before the pandemic, Africa's healthcare was deteriorating. Many countries outside the continent have achieved substantial progress with government-subsidized healthcare expenses, but people in Africa must bear around 65 percent of all healthcare costs, despite the continent's poverty levels. The global pandemic has also exposed weaknesses in Africa's other sectors—they are vulnerable to many economic threats. One other thing that might be attributed to the pandemic is the multi-resilience effects of various responses from many sectors of African societies.

The response to COVID-19 has accelerated the development of many sectors, especially healthcare, and many countries have increased their healthcare spending to alleviate the effects of the pandemic. Nigeria announced that it had spent US$9.1 billion, Ghana declared spending US$100 million, Morocco's health sector spent about US$200 million, Gambia spent US$9.8 million, and other countries have also taken additional measures (Ozili, 2020). This is the current status of African countries regarding globalization and achieving the SDGs, which looks discouraging. The continent is unarguably on a path to accelerated globalization, but its progress might be too slow to catch up with the rest of the world; thus, there is a need for coordinated efforts by the continent as a whole to put it on a smoother path.

GLOBALIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

The global economy has evolved into a distributed series of supply chains that foster international transactions for specific purposes. This process began mainly in the fifteenth century during Africa's contact with the rest of the world, and this intensive contact with Africa included the exploration period, trans-Saharan trade, and the transatlantic trade, all of which arose from a need to plot new routes for accessing resources. The expanding mining and plantation industries in America led to increased demand around the world (Inikori, 2007).

The demand for resources turned West Africa into a major supplier and point of contact for items like redwood, Benin kingdom's red pepper, Senegambian hides and skins, copper from the Congo Kingdom, ivory, and captured slaves (Inikori, 2007). Despite this increase in trade, the benefits did not accrue equally to Africa and the rest of the world. The continent has repeatedly been at a disadvantage, which explains present-day misgivings about the concept of globalization. The basic development of Africa has been challenged in several quarters as a pretext for the continued exploitation of the continent's resources. For instance,

the helping hands stretched by China have often been questioned as to whether they are focused on development or more concentrated on exploiting its resources (Mlambo, 2018). These assertions have snowballed into criticism of the SDGs, which are attacked for not being Africanized and might not adopt the peculiarities of the continent.

Some writers have questioned whether the SDGs' goals are cognizant of Africa's peculiarities. For instance, it is believed that to achieve quality education, it has to be in line with African cultural values and peculiarities. These interpretations of globalization are birthed from historical experience and precedent in the Western world. Concerns about globalization may contain some elements of truth, but they do not reflect the full extent of its benefits. Globalization describes the development and spread of telecommunication, technology, economics, and humans across the world, including Africa. It highlights the process of positioning Africa within a globally linked network. To gain benefits from this connection, the SDGs must be achieved. The continent must match the development of other nations by developing measurements and programs that will increase its chances. Its efforts must address the disparity between developed and developing economies and countries.

AFRICA AS THE FOCUS OF THE SDGS

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) address poverty, environmental concerns, conflict resolution, gender balance, and justice for all nations. They are designed to see the world grow simultaneously along similar lines by 2030. Most of the basic crises that the goals address are found in Africa—economic activity on the continent declined from 5 percent growth in the previous fifteen years (Zamfir, 2016) to 4.2 percent by 2015, and the downward trend continues (Ighobor, 2015). As a result of COVID-19, the economic state in the continent has been unstable, and the South African GDP was affected by 51 percent at the beginning of 2020. The World Bank predicted that about twenty-six to forty million people in sub-Saharan Africa could experience poverty because of the pandemic (Lakemann, Lay, & Tafese, 2020).

Africa has the largest number of people living in poverty. Reliance on unsustainable businesses, including oil and related commodities, has led to pronounced economic crises in Nigeria and Gabon. Environmental pollution is still a major concern, and the continent's record of managing health hazards leaves a lot to be desired. Africa was a major consideration when the SDGs were set, especially after the protracted failure of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2015. Nigeria and Burkina Faso attempted to increase their levels of primary school enrollment from 20 percent to 60 percent by 2015 as part of the MDGs, but they were unsuccessful. These shortcomings led to the adoption of the SDGs (Kindra & Wasswa-Mugambwa, 2015). However, this open acknowledgment of

the continent's shortcomings is progressive. Given that the facts and the statistics above are true, leaders must focus on delivering improvements and devising ways the continent can move forward.

Development is evident in Africa's different sectors, and its people are gradually acclimatizing their cultures to this new paradigm. A new emphasis has been placed on sustainable products and processes, such as agri-business, technology, and other advanced economic concepts by many Africans working towards sustainable development. To spark future growth, significant and noteworthy efforts have been undertaken to provide basic education, developmental possibilities, and communication technology. African bodies and institutions like the African Union, ECOWAS, other confederations, institutions, and organizations have also invested in ecology infrastructure and environmental care (Cumming et al., 2017). Despite the continent's endemic problems, there are slow but progressive developments across various African countries. Nevertheless, Africa can accelerate its progress and attain sustainable development objectives as a result of these efforts, reaping the benefits of globalization while protecting its own interests.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMISES OF GLOBALIZATION FOR AFRICA

The link between globalization and sustainable development cannot be overlooked. A world where all functional areas and constituting states coordinate effectively is a world that can achieve sustainable development at a faster rate. The work to make SDGs a reality will make great strides towards globalization, creating a global village where everyone has something to offer. This is because achieving the SDGs will increase Africa's development almost to the level of other continents, allowing it to become a producing continent as a result of new striving and successful business and human resources.

Some perspectives regard sustainable development as the opposite of globalization, particularly when globalization is viewed as the goal of capitalists. However, it must be recognized that the "centralization of place" is connected with the development of the same (Barry, Baxter, & Dunphy, 2004). Africa can derive undeniable advantages from globalization and sustainable development. One such achievement is an improved economy, which is the first step toward realizing the SDGs. Globalization's promise for Africa and the developing world is an economic exchange that allows open access to foreign trade and companies. Under globalization, nations are expected to open their borders for improved trade and economic effects, and sustainable development begins with open trade routes, which have been the driving force behind globalization and changed the global economy. This is because many African countries seeking economic transformation develop friendly foreign policies to make globalization easy and facilitate commerce and trade.

Another promise of globalization is educational development to break down the barriers to knowledge. The globalization movement allows unlimited access to education from different sectors. Telecommunication and technology make accessing quality education easier and more achievable—many degrees are received over vast distances with no travel required. This spreads "intellectual capital" and knowledge resources across the world. Great advancements in the decentralization of knowledge and ideas have allowed nations to address the challenges specific to their circumstances. More so, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown how globalization can boost educational development. While many nations resorted to lockdowns, online education continued around the world and learning is no longer restricted to traditional classrooms.

Likewise, embracing sustainable development and globalization advances health care services through global access. Ideas and medical knowledge can be shared globally, enhancing coordinated efforts to battle diseases around the world and providing accessible health care services for everyone. Africa is battling many deadly diseases, such as malaria. Thankfully, global coordination has resulted in medical victory over polio—the combined efforts of global stakeholders and local mechanisms have confirmed that Africa eradicated polio in 2020 (Makoni, 2020). A similar approach was used to reduce the spread of Ebola and slow the progression of the coronavirus. Globalization, speaking the language of sustainable development, presents the health challenges of any location as a global problem to be solved by everyone. The access to various solutions offered by globalization could be a path towards achieving the SDGs that aim to promote healthy lives and well-being of people across all ages.

Globalization has been and will continue to be responsible for the diffusion of cultures and the promotion of cultural heritage. Julio Cortazar defines culture as the "profound exercise of identity" (Standish, 2001). It is a collective consciousness displaying the historical and situational values of a group. Globalization restructures nations and adds new values to each culture, allowing for identity cross-pollination in the world. Globalization's rewards for Africa include the wider distribution of the continent's rich cultures, the infusion of new values, and their decentralization to accommodate other parts of the world. It has introduced different ideas throughout history, and Africa has embraced many of them. Cultures that dehumanize others and promote inequality are usually regarded as wrong because the ideals of cultural imperialism are opposed to globalization. However, globalization can achieve many of the SDGs linked with cultural values, addressing inequality and injustice all over the world.

Africa has already benefited from the spread and mobility of technological advancement under globalization. It affects virtually every aspect of national economies and, as such, could easily put Africa on track to attain the SDGs at an incredible speed. The connections enabled by a globalized world and its inter-linked economies allow for the spread of technological knowledge and technology;

therefore, creating an unlimited pathway for science in such an environment and its implementation is easy and unrestricted.

Also, globalization and sustainable development can improve the standards of living in Africa. Out of the approximately eight billion people in the world, more than four hundred million in Africa live in extreme poverty (Human, 2021). With a global economy that decentralizes access to resources across different borders, poverty can be eradicated in developing countries that are the focus of sustainable development. This global concern is the first target for sustainable development. Projects that promote free enterprise can alleviate poverty not only in Africa but around the world. Profitable partnerships between the continent and the rest of the world can boost productivity and enhance standards of living for everyone.

Through globalization, Africa can benefit from accessing new markets across continents. Economic forces would not be constrained within the borders of a single nation, as each country would be able to fish from the ponds of others. Locally made products are already shipped outside national borders and beyond the continent, but the growing strength of technological marketing platforms is providing new access to consumers. Globalization has resulted in the growth of e-commerce as a marketing tool, and the emergence of interconnected economies and global relationships has allowed vast migratory patterns throughout the world. There has been a considerable flux of talented individuals migrating outside Africa and non-Africans moving into Africa. Companies have expanded their human resource pools to draw from the widest possible area, and new talents are being harnessed in every part of the globe.

CHALLENGES OF GLOBALIZATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

Globalization and sustainable development have brought the gospel of transformation to Africa and a promise to resolve age-old problems associated with it. Promoting the right to education, poverty alleviation, and other developmental strategies supported by the SDGs are practical solutions to those problems, but embracing globalization would make it faster. However, these forces are faced with different resistance and new challenges that dampen their energy. The past experiences with globalization have created a wariness within Africa that can be described as historical reluctance. Africa has endured unfair treatment, exploitation, slavery, colonization, and Eurocentric ideology (Garcia, 2014). This makes it difficult to prevent the stereotype of Eurocentric globalization from overshadowing the advantages that globalization and sustainable development can offer. Past experiences have also eroded cultural identities and erased valued customs and heritage from Africa's collective consciousness, cooling the enthusiasm for globalization and offering an explanation for the attitudes of many countries.

African countries have also been buried beneath mountains of debt; resources that could spur development are instead used to service existing obligations. International communities have made efforts to relieve some of this burden, which may be one of the reasons the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative was launched jointly in 1996 by the World Bank and IMF (Keller, 2007). Unfortunately, the problem has continued to hinder development in Africa. The prevalence of violence, terrorism, insecurity, and political and civil unrest continues to destabilize African countries, making it difficult to promote sustainable development. At times, social, environmental, and economic progress in Africa seems unachievable. Warfare and other social unrest incessantly threaten to undo what little progress has been made towards sustainable development and globalization in Africa.

Globalization and the SDGs link present and future growth, but terrorism, violence, and insecurity continue to endanger the continent. Despite the different campaigns, agitations, and cooperation to set Africa on the right path before 2030, poverty still pervades the continent, and Africa has been dubbed the poverty capital of the world (Beegle & Christiaensen, 2019). To meet the relevant goal for sustainable development, 1.6 people must escape poverty every second. However, due to the militating challenges in the continent, the current rate is 2.6 per day, making success seem unlikely (Human, 2021). These problems are not unsolvable, but they call for deliberate and collective efforts. Can globalization work in Africa? It can, but only if everyone is prepared to contribute.

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: MAKING GLOBALIZATION WORK FOR AFRICA

Although the current state of the continent suggests that globalization and sustainable development may not be attained any time soon for Africa, it is possible if every resource is mobilized. It must be widely recognized that Africa cannot meet the basic requirements alone; it needs outside assistance. Countries must establish strategic partnerships within the continent to put Africa on the path to development. Each African country can also forge healthy relationships with the international community, building links with countries as part of specific missions to foster economic development. This, for example, is one of Tunisia's greatest strengths (Saddem, 2001).

Africa must not only make advancements in sanitation and health, but it must also take action to stem environmental degradation. This is a core component of sustainable development because climate change is a serious threat to the human race. In 2010, the Institute for Security Studies declared that Africa receives insufficient rainfall, which is gradually affecting the quality of life and agricultural products on the continent. Changing rainfall patterns have also been responsible for flooding, which has resulted in the loss of life and property in Africa. For

example, traffic and industrial emissions reduce air quality in Egypt and some other parts of the continent. The smelting of copper and roasting of cobalt in the Kuwe area of Zambia has caused major problems with sulphur dioxide that the country must address (Adelzadeh, 2003). Africa needs to wake from its slumber because disregard for climate change and environmental degradation will hinder the continent's progress.

In addition, Africa must enable development by becoming more receptive to the idea of foreign aid, trade, and relationships. Foreign policies must favor simpler, more convenient commercial engagements. Products in Africa should be allowed to reach new markets, and the continent can open its markets to basic amenities that are not produced locally to meet African needs. These changes can improve the economy.

Africa should decentralize its economic responsibilities, treating both genders equally, before it can be a stakeholder in global discussions. Women in Africa currently constitute half of the population, but they contribute less than 39 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This is the direct result of girls' having been marginalized and prevented from receiving an education or other opportunities (Raheem, 2021). Many cultures and societies still send women back to the kitchen or use them as free labor on the farm, affecting girl-child education and the aim of the UNESCO Strategy 2022–2029. Around 37 percent of women on the continent are subjected to domestic violence, although some countries have recorded an alarming 50 percent prevalence of gender violence (African Development Bank Group, 2016). Mutual respect and the observance of gender equality are the foundation of a healthy community that can achieve sustainable development. It means more hands available to push African development further, making it easier to meet the different goals of sustainable development. It also provides more human resources for the continent to draw on.

The continent requires united and coordinated efforts to actualize sustainable development and globalization. Collective effort must be made, and the African Union is the most appropriate body for championing this goal if it starts taking proactive actions. Plans and organizations like the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) can contribute to the continent's development. Also, the African Union can establish multinational commissions and uphold continental imperatives, making first-hand suggestions and monitoring developmental projects.

There are many plans, aims, and intentions, like Agenda 2063, to achieve a better, more supportive society for Africans. But without support from focused leadership and purposeful governments, they will remain mere fantasies. African leaders in their respective countries must support and believe in globalization and the sustainable development agenda before they can build a consensus among African nations. Increased accountability will ensure developmental continuity and enduring solutions to the continent's problems. Though Africa has a long way to go before it fully embraces globalization and meets the 2030 SDGs,

progress is being made. The economies of African countries are growing gradually, with abundant natural resources to provide materials and financial capacity for sustainable development. These nations have the capacity to play more prominent roles in the global village.

In 2014, the African Union approved an investment of US$60 billion as part of the Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), although largely sponsored through foreign aid. The PIDA is expected to provide 70 percent of African countries with reliable access to electricity by 2040, up from 39 percent as of 2009. Improvements to the transportation sector are expected to deliver US$172 billion in efficiency gains. As of 2014, Africa had 60 percent of the world's arable land and a population projected to surpass that of China over a similar period. Africa's talented young population is a formidable reservoir of human resources, and their brilliant contributions to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and other technologies are hopes for a desirable future in Africa (Benedikter, 2019). The continent has enough in its arsenal to position itself as a forerunner in the global economy; if these resources are managed effectively, the 2030 targets should be achievable.

CONCLUSION: AFRICA IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

The Africa we imagine as part of a globalized world will have a functional healthcare service accessible even to society's poorest members. Ideas shared through globalization will enable technological and scientific advancement, and Africa's position in a globalized world would place it on equal footing with its peers during international negotiations. Anything short of this means that Africa is not ready.

Africa maintains the poorest attitudes towards environmental issues and climate change, but Africans must apply conscious effort to take these concerns seriously. It is a responsibility that is owed not only to Africans but also to other citizens of the world. Many Africans migrate from the continent in search of health care because African medical services are currently in a dismal state. Access to health care is not available to everyone in society, and individuals do not have confidence in the limited options provided. Besides, medical personnel who could improve the continent's capacity for health care are fast leaving for other countries (Turner, 2011). This is an example of globalization, but only a part of it. The globalized future envisioned for the continent would draw talented individuals who would contribute their skills. Medical services in Africa should become an attractive option for non-Africans. If Africa is to live up to the potential of a fully globalized world, several measures must be implemented to stem the brain drain and attract foreign doctors.

The strength and development of twenty-first-century countries are determined by technological advancement across every sector of the economy. Open arms extended to embrace globalization have made ground-breaking

achievements in several African countries, particularly in the AI sector, where young Africans are a leading force. The growth rate, quantity, and quality of agricultural products have been improved by advanced biotechnology and farm management techniques, just as mechanical improvements have replaced the need for inefficient human labor. The application of technology has made strides toward alleviating poverty, and Africa could be positioned as a major supplier of home-grown cash crops distributed around the world to meet increasing demand. These are the benefits of Africa's technological advancement in agriculture. Commercially oriented innovation in each country encourages growth in every sector of the economy.

Globalization in Africa has encouraged different international companies to access the continent's commercial space, providing sophisticated technological innovation for many countries. Africa has imported educational models to improve its learning processes, and globalization has offered quality education to African students, placing them above others, especially in the global market. The proper positioning of Africa in the world economy will allow it to own technological innovations and adequately develop them. The global vision for the continent provides platforms to nurture technological advancement and innovative ideas. More investment in science and technology should be encouraged to provide adequate facilities for citizens to overcome their present limitations. Africa must not be the rural segment of the so-called "global village"; instead, it must match the efforts of other segments within that enormous village, ensuring that all its members are accommodated.

The desire for development has always inspired the aim of every reasonable government. With the present state of the continent, it is obvious that development needs to occur in various aspects of societies. More so, it is not that societies and their governments have not taken previous steps towards development before now, but the challenge has been that those developments have largely not been made with the ideology of sustainability. Sustainable Development growth tends to provide a developmental strategy that would be sustainable enough for the future. African nations may not have enough developed resources to achieve this, necessitating the need to seek foreign assistance. This need for adequate and effective resources to actualize development can be met through globalization and its endless opportunities. As a result, the SDGs, as well as globalization, might be giant steps towards actualizing African developmental dreams.

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