

Socially Just Transition Towards SD

Presented by:

Onyukwu E. Onyukwu

**Associate Professor of Economics,
Institute for Development Studies,
University of Nigeria Enugu Campus**

onyukwu.onyukwu@unn.edu.ng

Presentation Outline

- 1. Attempt at a definition**
- 2. Some explanation**
- 3. How to create synergies**
- 4. Data type for evidence-based policymaking**
- 5. Policies to ensure that no one is left behind**
- 6. How government can maintain or increase social spending in the context of COVID-19**

What is socially just transition towards SD?

- Pathway to sustainable development that **can adjust existing entitlement patterns** (if need be) for the purpose of achieving sustainable living for all, which is akin to having environmental integrity, social wellbeing, economic resilience and good governance.
- Socially just transition to sustainable development would necessarily **task existing inequities in societies** (disparities in freedoms and opportunity) and thus, **would require deliberate sacrifices of some sort.**

Some explanation

- Globally, regional and country-specific gulfs of inequities and inequality currently exist.
- Without deliberate policies and programmes that seek directly to reduce existing inequality gaps, achievement of socially just transition towards sustainable development may not be attained.
- Contemporary systems have so much empowered those with access to state power and private capital at the expense of people power such that citizens' welfare, social cohesion and environmental integrity continues to wane in importance.
- These patterns of development (for the want of a better word) must be halted if we truly seek socially just transition towards sustainable development.

How to create synergies...

- **Egalitarianism should be the watchword.**
- **Equality of freedoms and opportunities for all through deliberate action.**
- **Already empowered and privileged in society should be willing to make deliberate sacrifice at in the short to medium term.**
- **More inclusion and equity no doubt will guarantee the world greater peace and economic prosperity within the limits set for ecological integrity.**
- **More ecological stress may be coming from a few population attempting to have so much for themselves than from the large global population.**

Data type for evidence-based policymaking

- Should be data that reveal dynamics in power relations.
- Power relations between state power and private capital on the one hand and people power on the other hand.
- When people power is sufficiently balanced against state power and the power of capital, citizens can easily make demand and get better welfare and environmental protection.
- Thus, citizens must be given good education, allowed political participation and right to protest against their dislikes.

Policies to ensure that no one is left behind

1. Promote share prosperity through generalized improvements in citizens' capabilities, land reform and social protection programmes.
2. Empower civil society to hold governments and businesses accountable.
3. Improve government transparency to reduce corruption and wastages.
4. Strengthen institutions that ensure there is rule of law and not the rule of strong men and political parties. For example, this will help reduce experiences of state aided terror against sections of society like the one that is currently witnessed in Nigeria.

How governments can maintain or increase social spending

- 1. Expand the tax net to properly and adequately capture all eligible potential tax payers, particularly in developing countries with large informal sectors.**
- 2. Increase taxes on luxury goods.**
- 3. Raise taxes on inherited assets, particularly in corruption endemic countries.**
- 4. Increase efficiency in tax administration.**
- 5. Redue tax holidays to big corporations.**
- 6. Reduce corruption and wastages in government.**
- 7. Use PPP and BOT arrangements to deliver most heavy infrastructure projects.**

Thank You