

## **National Level Implications of Implementation of SDGs**

### **1. Background**

Based on implementation experience of the MDGs, a number of value added changes have been made while designing the proposed SDGs. For example, Means of Implementation (MoI) are being added substantively in the new development framework which received scant attention while designing the MDGs. While issues related to data availability, accessibility and usability have received certain level of attention, thanks to the introduction of the concept of “Data Revolution”, how the issues related to implementation of the SDGs will play out in connection with the “national agenda” building is, however, yet to generate adequate attention. There are a number of readily identifiable challenges (beyond data issues) in this regard. For example, how the issues of “universality” would be applied in practice has not yet received the deserved level of attention in the discourse.

The term “national agenda” here means how the “universal” SDG will be rearticulated at the national level reflecting the contextual priorities. It is also not obvious how this universal framework with national provisions will be integrated (mainstreamed) in the ongoing national processes. What will this mean for the horizontal (between the government and other stakeholders) and vertical (within the government) interfaces also remain a concern.

- Will the government prioritise the 169 targets in their national context? How will the nationally prioritised goals and targets interfere with the globally monitored goals and targets?
- Will the accountability mechanism of the SDG put new pressure on the scarce government capacities regarding reporting requirements?
- Will there be a role for the regional bodies including the regional development banks?

Consequently, a careful blend of global and national level concerns should inform the discourse and ought to be taken care of. In this connection, it is imperative to critically examine the implementation challenges of SDGs at the national level. In this backdrop *Southern Voice* envisaged follow-up programmes based on the conclusions of Post-2015 Data Test initiative to help developing the Southern countries to take appropriate measures to address the identified deficits, gaps and challenges.

The aim is to raise awareness at national and global levels as regards data and beyond data issues, identifying implications of implementation challenges at national level, that developing countries of the South will face in view of this, getting the associated concerns reflected in the negotiating processes and articulating the framework that national stakeholders will need to undertake in order to be adequately prepared to implement SDGs in their own countries.

### **2. Objectives**

The objectives of the research programme are as follows

- To investigate the consequences the implementation of SDG at the national level;
- To examine how global targets of the SDGs will be embedded in the national context;
- To understand challenges in the areas of national planning process, sector based programmes, resource framework, monitoring, reporting, and accountability;
- To anticipate how intra-governmental coordination and multi-stakeholder participation will be ensured in this process;

### **3. Methodology**

The output will mainly be based on desk research. At various stages of this research programme, the researchers will engage with their respective government and other relevant stakeholders through debriefing of knowledgeable inputs and focus group discussions. The country teams should engage with different stakeholders, particularly the NSO, line ministries and expert groups to produce the country report. After producing the draft report the country team will organise a validation workshop with relevant experts and stakeholders to share the findings of the draft report.

### **4. Output**

Each country team will produce a report of ideally 10,000-12,000 words (without annexes). A template will be provided by *Southern Voice* to guide the structure of the report. Finally, consolidating the findings of all the country reports a Synthesis Report will be produced. • The findings of the outputs of this research programme will be disseminated at various international fora before and during the SDG negotiation process.

### **5. Dissemination and Outreach**

The Synthesis Report along with the country studies should be completed within September 2015, so that the findings of the reports could be presented and disseminated to the key players of the SDG process at different meetings in important international and regional fora.

### **6. Modalities**

*Southern Voice* will invite its members through an open call to submit proposals on this research programme. Countries (Bangladesh, Peru, Senegal and Tanzania) covered under the earlier programme on Data Test will not be addressed under this programme. After screening and scrutinising the research proposals, four country teams will be commissioned to produce reports. The country reports will examine SDG implementation issues at national level, in terms of local priorities, keeping intact the purview of the universality aspect of the implementation.

- **Research Proposal-** The following points should be included in the research proposal;
  - Background
  - Research team
  - Methodology
  - Structure of Output
  - Outreach Activities
  - Calendar Plan of Activities
  - Budget Breakdown
  
- **Timeline**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Deliverables</b>
March 2015	Call for research programme
May 30, 2015	First draft report
June 15, 2015	Drafts will be returned to country teams after comments from peer reviewers
July 7, 2015	Second draft submitted after incorporating the reviewers' comments

**Southern Voice Secretariat**  
**As of March 28, 2015**

July 15, 2015	Drafts sent back to country teams after validation
July 30, 2015	Final and complete draft submitted
August 2015	Preparation of Synthesis Report

- **Research grant**

- The total research grant for each country team will be 10,000 USD.
- The grant will be disbursed in two equal installments. The first installment (50% of the grant) will be disbursed after submission of the first draft and the last installment (remaining 50% of the grant) will be disbursed after submission of the complete final report.
- The researchers from the country teams will be sponsored separately to participate in different international and regional fora.