



Sustainable Development Goal - 17

By
Dr. Sanjay Banerji
Founder Director/Dean of Amrita School of Business



Dear Friends,

This month we shall discuss the 17th Sustainable Development Goal: 'Partnership for the Goals'. In this blog, we shall try to explain:

- What it is and why is this relevant
- What are its indicators and targets
- Where do we stand in India
- What can we do to support the goal

As stated earlier, I have little to contribute on my own. I have attempted to provide a few references, so that if anyone is interested in probing deeper, you could do so.



What is SDG 17? [1, 7]

The purpose of SDG 17 is to 'Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development'. Partnerships revolve around the means for sustainable development. First among the means are funds. Money is essential in this world, for doing anything. Sustainable development is no exception. The next in line is technology. Advanced technologies can achieve a lot e.g. clean fuel or LCD lighting. Capacity building – enabling communities to become self-reliant and take active part in sustainable development comes next. Last among the means for sustainable development are the terms of trade (imports and exports) and systemic issues like policy, institutional coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

The UN Secretary General gave an urgent call [7] to rich nations in 2019, urging them to maintain and enhance the committed Official Development Assistance (ODA). He said, "Financing is the test of our seriousness, without resources, we simply will not deliver for people or planet."

ODA is a measure of financial aid from rich nations to developing nations, solely for the purpose of development. It could be bilateral, meaning a transaction between a donor country and a recipient country or multi-lateral, when many donors contribute funds to an international body like the World Bank, and that body disburses the aid money to different nations. Loans from these funds carry lower interest rates, with a minimum grant component of 25%. There has been a declining trend in ODA after it peaked in 2013.

Why is this important? [2, 8]

We are all living in a highly interconnected world, and the trend is ever increasing. When Lehman Brothers failed in the US in 2007, poor villagers of Ettimadai, Coimbatore in India, situated on the other side of the globe, lost their jobs in the mills and factories in the city, for

no fault of theirs. Covid-19 is a stark reminder of the same phenomenon. Therefore, there is no other way for all nations to survive and grow, than to mutually co-operate with each other. The UN has given a call to '**Build Back Better**', and the SDGs offer a sound basis for this. However, 'strong international co-operation' is a sine-qua-non for this to happen. The whole of humanity need to come forward and join hands in the true spirit of a large family (*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*: broadly translated as the entire Earth is our honoured relative), share all types of resources, ideas and solutions with a view to making this successful. The Covid-19 pandemic is causing the worst recession since the great depression, and calls for still more urgent partnerships and co-operation.

Such partnerships could begin at local levels (like 'Charity begins at home') and slowly grow further into the states, national, regional and ultimately global levels.

The 2020 Financing for Sustainable Development Report [8] suggested that rich nations accept requests from LDCs and low-income countries for suspension of debt payments, consider fresh financing, restore financial stability in global markets, arrest fall in economic activity through higher spending on public health, social protections, loans to small businesses etc. and remove trade barriers.

What are its indicators and targets? [3]

The targets for SDG-17 are as under:

Finance

- 17.1** Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
- 17.2** Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of ODA/GNI to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
- 17.3** Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
- 17.4** Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
- 17.5** Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries

Technology

- 17.6** Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism
- 17.7** Promote the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed

- 17.8** Fully operationalize the technology bank and science, technology and innovation capacity-building mechanism for least developed countries by 2017 and enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology

Capacity building

- 17.9** Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation

Trade

- 17.10** Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda
- 17.11** Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020
- 17.12** Realize timely implementation of duty-free and quota-free market access on a lasting basis for all least developed countries, consistent with World Trade Organization decisions, including by ensuring that preferential rules of origin applicable to imports from least developed countries are transparent and simple, and contribute to facilitating market access

Systemic issues

Policy and institutional coherence

- 17.13** Enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence
- 17.14** Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development
- 17.15** Respect each country's policy space and leadership to establish and implement policies for poverty eradication and sustainable development

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

- 17.16** Enhance the global partnership for sustainable development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, in particular developing countries
- 17.17** Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships

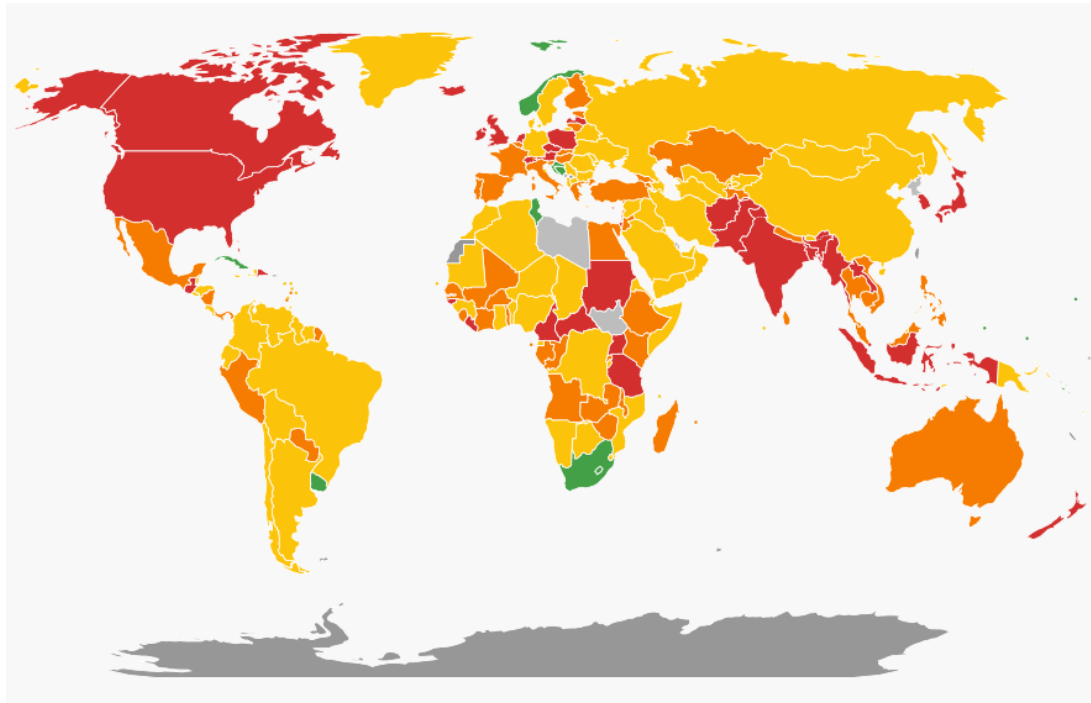
Data, monitoring and accountability

- 17.18** By 2020, enhance capacity-building support to developing countries, including for least developed countries and small island developing States, to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts

17.19 By 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries

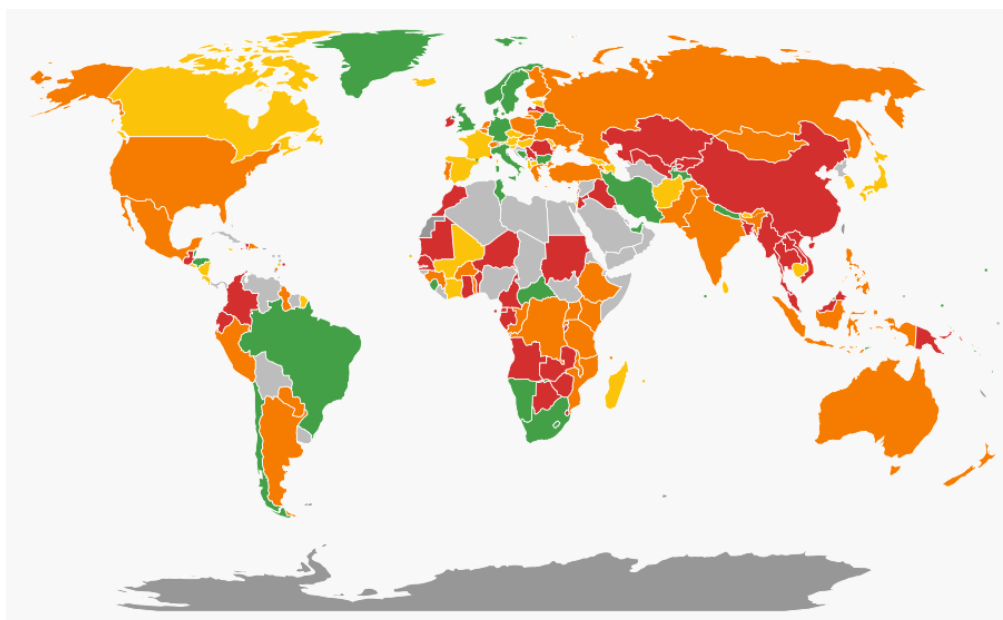
Where do we stand in India?

The following images offer some national as well as global status on SDG-17 and trends:



Status of SDG-17 in 2020

The above figure shows that the status in India comes under the category 'Major Challenges Remain' while the trend (below) shows that India is 'Stagnating'.



Specifically, India's standing in 2019 is shown below:

SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals

Government Health and Education spending (% GDP)	4.7	●	●●
High-income and all OECD DAC countries: International concessional public finance, including official development assistance (% GNI)	NA	●	●●
Other countries: Government Revenue excluding Grants (% GDP)	NA	●	●●
Tax Haven Score (best 0-5 worst)	* 0	●	●●

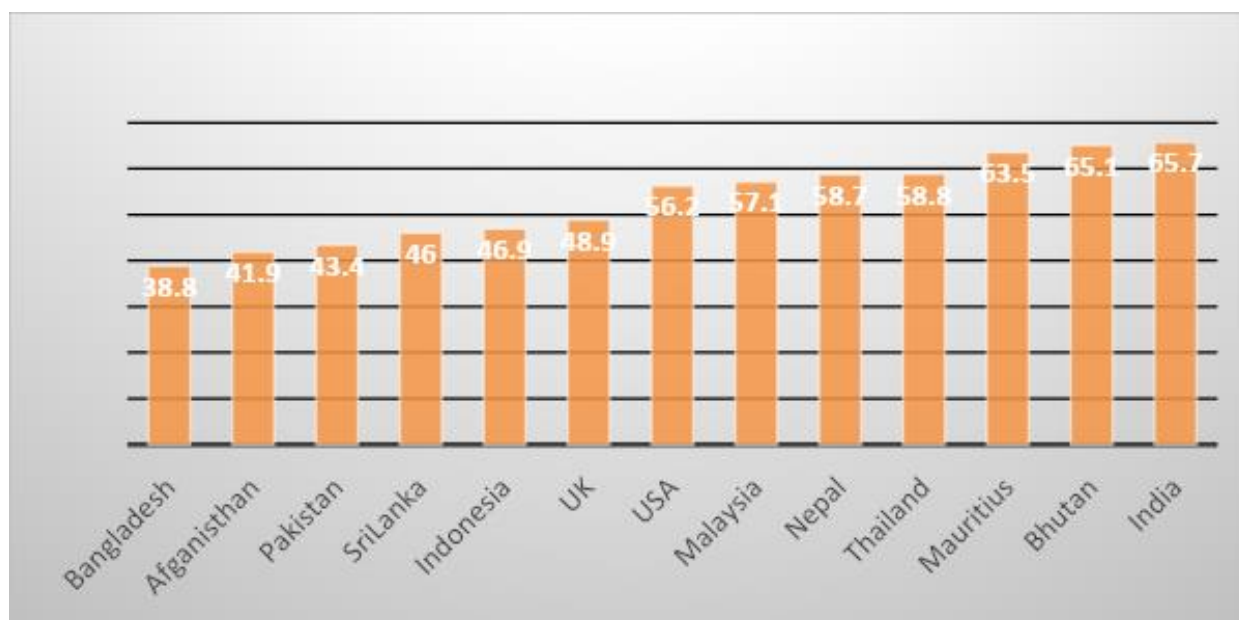
The standing in 2020 is as under:

SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals

Government spending on health and education (% of GDP)	4.7	2013	●	●
For high-income and all OECD DAC countries: International concessional public finance, including official development assistance (% of GNI)	NA	NA	●	●
Other countries: Government revenue excluding grants (% of GDP)	12.9	2017	●	→
Corporate Tax Haven Score (best 0–100 worst)	*	0.0	2019	●

■ Major challenges
 ■ Significant challenges
 ■ Challenges remain
 ■ SDG achieved
 ■ Information unavailable
↓ Decreasing
→ Stagnating
↗ Moderately improving
↑ On track or maintaining SDG achievement

In the following graph we offer a comparison of SAARC nations, 3 ASEAN countries and UK, and USA on the performance on SDG-17 in 2019. India tops the comparison group followed by Bhutan and Mauritius. The key indicators are: total government revenue as a proportion of GDP, by source, proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes, net official development assistance, foreign direct investment, official development assistance and South-South cooperation as a proportion of gross national income, volume of remittances (in United States dollars) as a proportion of total GDP and debt service as a proportion of exports of goods and services.



If we look at the indicators level, the comparison is shown below:

The data should be sighted as Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G. (2019): Sustainable Development Report 2019. New York: Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

Country	Normalized Score sdg17_govex	Dashboard Color sdg17_govex	Normalized Score sdg17_govrev	Dashboard Color sdg17_govrev	Normalized Score sdg17_taxhaven	Dashboard Color sdg17_taxhaven
Afghanistan	25.16	red	0.44	red	100.00	green
Bangladesh	15.79	red	0.70	red	100.00	green
Bhutan	66.02	yellow	29.32	orange	100.00	green
India	31.40	red			100.00	green
Mauritius	49.49	orange	40.92	orange	100.00	green
Nepal	32.12	red	43.91	yellow	100.00	green
Pakistan	22.59	red	7.45	red	100.00	green
Sri Lanka	25.48	red	12.51	red	100.00	green
Indonesia	32.41	red	8.23	red	100.00	green
Malaysia	47.06	orange	24.19	orange	100.00	green
Thailand	45.52	orange	30.73	orange	100.00	green
United Kingdom	80.28	green			0.00	red
United States	100.00	green			60.00	yellow
China			18.96	red	80.00	green

Gov. exp. Health & E Gov. rev. excl. grant: Tax haven

What can we do to support the goal?

This is a domain, where individuals do not have much role to play, except getting to keeping abreast of the national initiatives.

We provide below a summary of the actions taken by India towards SDG 17 in its VNR 2020.

What India has done internally?

- India has developed The National Indicator Framework (NIF), and prepares an annual SDG India Index Report, since 2018
- State and District Indicator Frameworks (S/DIF) and SDG dashboards are being developed
- India has improved its tax-to-GDP ratio in the last six years, to 17-17.5 per centThe Goods and Services Tax (GST) reform was implemented to ease the complex indirect tax regimeIndia has created an Output-Outcome Monitoring framework (OOMF) in 2017-18 with a view to improving Public Expenditure Efficiency.
- The technology-driven Public Finance Management System (PFMS) has empowered the system by improving accountability, responsiveness and transparency.
- Fiscal reporting protocol is improved as part of Government Integrated Financial Management System (GIFMIS) for effective fiscal management.
- The Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) scheme has eliminated leakages worth INR 1.7 trillion (USD 23 billion).

- A dynamic start-up ecosystem has been built up, attracting an investment of USD 12 billion in 2019

What India has done internationally?

- India has initiated several international ‘policy coalitions’ such as ISA (International Solar Alliance), CDRI (Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure), BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and its New Development Bank, IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa), India-Africa Forum Summit, India-PSIDS, India-CARICOM, the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) etc.
- Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme, reach 160 countries across the developing world, especially the small-island developing countries (SIDS) and the least developed countries (LDCs).
- The South Asian satellite launched by India in 2017 provides granular data for weather monitoring India has committed a total of USD 150 million over a decade to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA), founded by India and France, includes 86 countries
- India has allocated USD 70 million to CDRI and USD 26 million to the ISA
- India created ‘SAARC COVID-19 Information Exchange Platform (COINEX)’ for use by all SAARC countries.
- India called for expediting the Multilateral Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters (MCMAATM) for tackling the menace of illicit financial flows.
- India called for setting up of the technology facilitation mechanism (TFM) for addressing the potential sweeping disruptions of the lives and livelihoods of people due to frontier technologies.

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