Book Review: Achieving Sustainable Development, Peace and Environmental Security

By: Jotham A.M. Webo[*]

Author: Dr. Kariuki Muigua, FCIArb (Chartered Arbitrator)

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Author: Kariuki Muigua

Generations come and go, that is life, and we need to embrace that fact. It is on this basis that we the present generation are the custodians of the future generation especially with regard to environment and development. The forms of development that we undertake currently should be thoroughly informed so as to meet both our needs as the present generation, without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs. This is what is commonly referred to as Sustainable Development.

The concept of Sustainable Development reaffirms the need for both development and environmental protection, and that neither can be neglected at the expense of the other.

It is in the wake of this that leaders across the globe met in 2015 and formed the Sustainable Development Goals that were to be achieved by the signatory nations by the year 2030. The goals were aimed to create a better and fairer world by 2030.

The Sustainable Development Agenda was informed by the global community's desire to combat the ever increasing environmental degradation which not only endangers the ability of the earth to replenish for the sake of future generations but also causes untold suffering to the present generation as

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[*] *LLB Hons (Moi); Dip. In Law (KSL); CPM(MTI); ACIArb; CS (Part I)*

evidenced by abject poverty in some parts of the world especially where there is reliance on the natural resources to support livelihoods, as well as the health concerns occasioned by massive pollution.

For the world nations to achieve the 17 Global goals, formulated in 2015, countries ae encouraged to have a plan towards achieving them despite there being challenges and hurdles the latest one being the Covid-19 pandemic.

Countries all over the world are encouraged to adopt progressive laws and policies that will foster the achievement of sustainable development. Written in an articulate and precise language, *Achieving Sustainable Development, Peace and Environmental Security* presents a much needed blueprint not only for the concerns affecting Kenya but also the African Continent and the world at large. The book presents a call for the management of the environment in an effective manner that enhances sustainable development. The book is largely informed by the emerging issues since the year 2015 when the United Nations agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was adopted by states around the world. The book highlights the challenges that countries have faced in implementing the 2030 Agenda on SDGs and also offers numerous recommendations on how the same can be addressed.

The book is divided into thirteen chapters which advocate for sustainable development, peace and environmental security for all and sundry. The main running themes in the book include Sustainable Development; The need to embrace new frontiers in the access to justice especially Environmental Justice; Public Participation, Diversity and Inclusivity; Environmental Democracy; Environmental Justice; Indigenous Ecological Knowledge; Social Justice; Environmental Rights; Role of Law in Environmental Management and Governance; Peacebuilding and Entrenching Environmental Rule of Law in Kenya; Evaluating Africa's Regional Development Plans against the Sustainable Development Goals Agenda among others. The book links these themes with environmental conservation and management and argues a case for sustainable development through an integrated approach and realistic progressive laws.

In the introductory chapter, the author analyses the link between Sustainable Development, Peace and Environmental Security. The chapter defines the concept of Sustainable Development, Peace and Environmental security. It delves into the role peace plays in the achievement of environmental security and Sustainable Development. The chapter calls for the promotion of Just, peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.

Chapter Two analyses the concept of giving Natural Resources a Legal Personality, the current approach envisaged in natural resources management in both the international and national laws. It examines the idea of giving natural resources a legal personality and relates the same to the Kenyan Context. The Chapter advocates for an approach that strikes a balance between ecocentrism/biocentrism and anthropocentrism approaches in environmental & natural resources management and conservation in Kenya. It further challenges the current approaches (both nationally and internationally) to environmental and natural resources management which are largely based on an anthropocentric approach.

Chapter Three interrogates the need of combating Climate change for the realization of Sustainable Development. It further provides for climate change mitigation whereby it encourages the exploring of alternative sources of energy in Kenya with the aim of realizing and achieving the Right to a Clean and sustainable Energy for all.

Chapter Four examines the concept of reconceptualising the Sustainable Development Agenda for Poverty Eradication. The Chapter discusses how the SDG goal 1 can be achieved in Kenya. The chapter offers recommendations that may be considered for the sake of ensuring poverty in all its form is eradicated, consequently allowing all sections of the society to feel that they belong. This chapter interrogates both the National and International Legal frameworks on poverty eradication. The chapter further discusses, the right to health, the state of health sector in Kenya and also provides a way forward towards addressing the socio-economic factors that affect the right to health in Kenya.

Chapter Five entails a discussion on the human rights approach to Environmental and Natural Resource Conflicts Management in Kenya for Sustainable Development. It critically analyses the concepts of conflict management mechanisms in relation to environmental and Natural Resources conflicts; and securing Human Rights in Environmental and Natural Resources Conflict Management.

Chapter Six provides a discussion on Environmental Democracy, Peace and Sustainable Development. It interrogates the challenges and prospects encountered by Kenya in a bid to foster peace; the promotion of sustainable peace and inclusive societies for Sustainable Development in Kenya; streamlining Environmental and Natural Resources Governance and Climate change mitigation; Building Accountable and inclusive Institutions for peaceful and inclusive society. The chapter goes ahead and interrogates the linkage between peacemaking and environmental management and the role women play in peacemaking and environmental management in Kenya. The chapter also provides for ways in which women involvement in the peacemaking and effective environmental management in Kenya can be fostered.

Chapter Seven delves into the lessons learnt from the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic and the need for Kenya as a country to redefine Development. It proposes the adoption of a customized global south perspective on development.

Chapter Eight interrogates the need to consider a new path for Environmental Management and sustainable development. It provides some practical recommendations on how Kenya can actualize the current progressive constitutional and statutory provisions that are meant to drive the country towards achieving the sustainable development agenda. The chapter draws from the best practices internationally and while it acknowledges the uniqueness of Kenya's socio-economic context, the recommendations are broad enough and can be tailored to take care of the needs of all stakeholders. Chapter Nine discusses how Kenya and the world in general can achieve Sustainable Development Goals, also known as Global Goals. It identifies the challenges that still make it difficult to achieve sustainable development and

offers some viable solutions ranging from social, economic, political and also ones that require the participation of all stakeholders. It interrogates the challenges that are being faced and the prospects thereof.

Chapter Ten evaluates the Africa's Regional Development plan against the sustainable development goals agenda. It assesses the resource curse phenomenon and Natural Resource-Based conflicts in the African continent. It provides proposals and ways that the African countries can overcome the resource curse in Africa for Economic and Human Development. This chapter goes further to interrogate the emerging jurisprudence emerging from the African Court of Justice and Human Rights (the African Court). It also interrogates the Investment-Related Dispute settlement under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and the African Union Commission's, Agenda 2063.

Chapter Eleven offers a discourse on the need to integrate community practices and cultural voices into the Sustainable Development discourse. The process of Sustainable Development binds a relationship of interdependence, protection and enhancement of natural resources to meet the needs of the present generation, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Chapter Twelve discusses the link between Sustainable Development and Access to justice. Access to justice is a very important aspect of sustainable development. Access to justice has been described as a situation where people in need of legal redress find effective solutions from justice systems that are accessible, affordable, comprehensible to ordinary people, and which dispense justice fairly, speedily and without discrimination, fear or favour and offer a greater role for alternative dispute resolution. Access to justice is also one of the pillars of the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The chapter also analyses the use of legal technology and the need to embrace technology in the legal practice to enhance efficiency and access to justice. This chapter also interrogates the role that the National Environment Tribunal (NET) plays in sustainable development and access to justice in Kenya.

Chapter Thirteen wraps up the discussion in the preceding chapters of the book. It calls for a participatory and collaborative approach in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The book offers useful insights towards the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It presents a call for the realisation of Sustainable Development Goals for the coming generations
 The book advocates for a just and peaceful society for the realization of Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable Development Goals can only be achieved in a peaceful and viable environment. The ideas in the book have been presented in a cogent manner and language making the book easy to comprehend.

The book is expertly written by a renowned author and scholar who has vast environmental knowledge and experience. The book is undoubtedly rich in content and will immensely contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. *Achieving Sustainable Development, Peace and Environmental Security* is definitely a must read for students, teaching fraternity, members of the bar and the bench, legislators, policy makers, environmentalists and the public in general.

Achieving Sustainable Development, Peace and Environmental Security is an imperative whose time is now.

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