



The pathway of green economy to sustainable development in Nigeria

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Abstract

Nigeria is faced with numerous challenges, and the supply of essential services is epileptic. The way such services are generated becomes a challenge, seeing the drastic changes in climate as a result of fossil fuel and greenhouse gas emission. Measures adopted by Nigeria to implement the principles of green economy still leave much to be desired. How can Nigeria meet her developmental needs and deliver a sustainable 21st century and still effectively protect the environment? Can Nigerian laws deliver the much expected green economy?

The paper highlights why Nigeria should be interested in the move towards a green economy. The aim of the paper is to stimulate the Nigerian State to develop domestic strategies at all levels of governance so as to deliver a sustainable 21st century in Nigeria. The paper found that laws that promote incentives for investors to invest in green economy are lacking. The paper also found that a comprehensive master plan on green economy or investment is lacking in Nigeria. The paper concluded that Nigeria's aspiration to achieve strong economic growth will be a mirage in the absence of efforts to enthrone a green economy. The paper therefore suggests the way forward to promoting a green economy in Nigeria.

Keywords: green economy, environment, environmental protection, economy, development, sustainable development

1. Introduction

Countries all over the world are actively promoting a transition to a green economy. Despite efforts in shift towards green economy at the international level, Nigeria ranks as one of the most unsustainable and un-green economies of the world^[1], and the largest emitter of GHG in Africa^[2]. The Nigerian government is of the view that the green economy concept may be misused or taken out of context and that its promotion may give rise to unhealthy or negative developments which must be avoided^[3]. Yet a green economy is imperative if sustainable development is to be achieved. This is because achieving sustainable development rests on getting the economy right. The Green economy, which was initiated by United Nations Environmental Programme, (UNEP), has become a topic of growing discussion in the light of the environmental crisis facing the whole world. It is a practical and more advanced approach for implementing the notion of the principle of sustainable development. It provides a practical template for taking advantage of environmental protection as a guide for stimulating a balanced economic and social growth^[4]. Greening the economy is aimed at creating environmentally sustainable economies which focus on investment in clean technology and improved domestic environmental qualities amongst others. Green economy is about the economy,

development as well as the environment. It lays emphasizes on environmental conservation as one of the tools for achieving economic growth and sustainable development. If the concept of a green economy is neglected, the realization of sustainable development in Nigeria will be a mirage. All hands must therefore be on deck to ensure greening the Nigerian economy.

2. Green Economy and Sustainable Development

All human activities not only take place in the environment, but also make use of environmental resources^[5]. Green Economy is a paradigm of international environmental law. Effective management of our environment for sustainability is at stake in the concept of green economy. It is not just about the environment, it is also about development and the economy^[6]. The term green economy underscores the economic dimension of sustainable development, emphasizing the crucial point that economic growth and environmental stewardship can be complementary strategies. The Green economy concept emphasizes making environmental conservation one of the tools for achieving economic growth and development. A green economy gives the impression of an economy that is environmentally friendly, one that is sensitive to the need to conserve natural resources, minimize pollution and emission that damage the environment in the production process, and one that produces products and services, the existence and

¹ Dual Citizen (2012) Global Green Economy Index available at <<http://www.dualcitizeninc.com/ggei2012.pdf>>

² UNFCCC "Emissions Summary for Nigeria" available at <http://unfccc.int/files/ghg_data/ghg_data/unfccc/ghg_profiles/application/pdf/nga_ghg_profile.pdf>

³ The Federal Government of Nigeria (June 2012) "Nigeria's Path to Sustainable Development Through the Green Economy: Country Report to the Rio+20 Summit available at <<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1023nigerianationalreport.pdf>>

⁴ Damilola S. Olawuyi (ed) *The Principles of Nigerian Environmental Law*, (Afe Babalola University Press, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria, Revised ed. 2015) 316

⁵ Filho Hamburg, Diana-Milhaela, Pociovalisteanu, Abul Quasem Al-Amus (2017) Sustainable Economic Development, Green Economy and Green Growth, World Sustainability Series

⁶ Aaron Cosby 'Trade, Sustainable Development and a Green Economy: Benefits, Challenges and Risks' (2012) A Lead Paper on the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) to be held in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro 40 -42

consumption of which do not harm the environment^[7]. Green economy connotes making environmental considerations part of the rule of the game before giving approval to developmental projects, budgeting, national planning and while making investment decisions. A green economy is one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities^[8]. In response to the negative effects of economic development on the environment, the concept of green economy was resorted to as a solution for sustaining a sustainable economy and society^[9].

The green economy concept is particularly important in the global quest towards attaining sustainable development. A vital feature of the concept of a green economy is that it is considered in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication^[10]. It responds to the growing recognition that achieving sustainable development rests on getting the economy right^[11]. The green economy approach seeks to re-unit the entire suites of economic policies and modes of economic analysis that are of relevance to sustainable development under a single banner^[12]. The Green Growth concept and the notion that economic growth and sustainable development are compatible^[13]. Was promoted at the Rio+20 Summit^[14].

The world is currently pursuing a set of goals termed Sustainable Development Goals. Achieving sustainable development rests on getting the economy right. The concept of a green economy embodies the promise of a new development paradigm, whose application has the potential to ensure the preservation of the earth's ecosystem along new economic growth pathways, while contribution at the same time to poverty reduction^[15]. The attainment of the SDGs therefore requires the pathway of green economy in order to attain sustainable development in Nigeria.

The attainment of a green economy is principally the duty and responsibility of government. Government plays a central role in putting in place, strategies, targeted public expenditures, policy reforms and regulatory changes to promote further investments and initiatives by the private sector and civil society. It is the responsibility of Government to ensure that the right policies that will enhance the shift towards a green economy are in place in every sector of the economy. However, government cannot single handedly bear this responsibility. Corporations, Civil society especially environmental NGOs and tertiary

institutions are in very good positions to provide the capacity to devise solutions to the implementation of sustainable development regime^[16], thereby ensuring the attainment of a green economy paradigm.

3. Components of Green Economy

3.1 Sustainable Waste Management

Ordinarily, waste constitutes an environmental crisis if not well managed. The promotion of sustainable waste management will enhance sustainable agricultural development in Nigeria. Waste gas can be used for generating electricity and heat. Maximizing local knowledge and local content through sustainable waste management can be made to contribute to the creation of jobs locally as well as having income multiplying effects in no small measure.

3.2 Sustainable Water Management

The availability of environmentally sustainable and proven water technologies that will foster dependable and sustainable water supply, distribution and treatment of municipal and industrial water are significant reflections of a green economy. Sustainable water management requires policies and laws that make integrated water cycle management, grand and water supply, treatment, storage and distribution imperative.

3.3 Sustainable Transportation System

A green economy involves transportation that will not pollute the environment (green transportation. Sustainable transportation system will help to reduce fuel consumption and lower environmental impacts of transportation. Sustainable transport system is defined^[17], as one that allows the basic access and development needs of individuals, companies and societies to be met safely and in ways that are consistent with human and ecosystem health as well as the promotion of equity within and between successive generations. Sustainable transportation system will lead to improved energy efficiency across all transport modes as well as increased employment^[18].

3.4 Renewable Energy

Energy is central to a green economy. Access to distributed renewable energy can be a key plank in addressing poverty. According to Achim *et al.*,^[19] bringing energy to the rural poor is one of the contributions a green economy can make to the least developing countries^[20], of which Nigeria is one. A green economy will help to reduce energy poverty through the provision of low-cost distributed renewable energy systems. In a bid to attain a life of dignity for all

⁷ Martin Khor "Challenges of the Green Economy Concept and Policies in the Context of Sustainable Development, Poverty and Equity"

⁸ Above *ibid*

⁹ Carmen Nadia Ciocoiu (2011) *op cite*

¹⁰ World Congress on Justice, Governance and Law for Environmental Sustainability. (2012) 2nd Preparatory Meeting 23 -24 Buenos Aires, Argentina

¹¹ UNEP Report the Green Economy

¹² United Nations Secretary General 2010 Progress to Date and Remaining Gaps in the Implementation of the Outcomes of the Major Summits in the Area of Sustainable Development as Well as an Analysis: Report for the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, New York

¹³ Aerial Salley 'Greening Economy or Green Utopia: The Salience of Reproductive Labor Post Rio+20' (2012) *Journal of World Systems Research* 18(2) 141-145

¹⁴ Report of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 20-22 June, 2012

¹⁵ United Nations Development of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) (2011) The Great Green Technological Transformation, World Economic and Social Survey, New York

¹⁶ The Universal Charter for Sustainable Development" Cooperation Programme in Europe for Research on Nature and Industry Through Coordinated University Studies (COPERNICUS), Geneva, May 1994 available at <http://www.mis.miljo.gu.se/copernicus/copernic.htm>

¹⁷ The European Council of Ministers Sustainable Transport and TDM: Planning That Balances Economic, Social and Ecological Objectives <http://www.vtppi.org/tdm/tm67.htm>

¹⁸ Above *ibid*

¹⁹ Aaron Cosby above n 7

²⁰ Achim Steiner, Supachi Panitchpakdi and Cheik Sidi Diana' Why a Green Economy Matters for the Least Developed Countries' (2011) A Joint Publication of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and Office of the High Representative for the least Developed Countries, landlocked and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLS) for the LDC-IV Conference Held in May, 2011

come 2030, the world has set a target of ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy and to enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technologies ^[21], as well as to promote investment infrastructure and clean energy technologies ^[22].

3.5 Sustainable Agricultural Practice

The right to food is an essential human right. Agriculture is a major contributor to climate change, contributing directly or indirectly up to about 17 to 32% of all global human induced greenhouse gas emissions ^[23]. A green economy is expected not only to maintain, but also to enhance the value which the poor in society derive from all activities which depend fundamentally on a sound environment such as agriculture, fisheries and forest harvest ^[24]. Agricultural practices will have to be carried out in ways that are environmentally sustainable in the quest for a green economy.

3.6 Environmental Sustainability

The best of any nation depends on good utilization of the environment ^[25]. Sustainable development requires environmental protection to be integrated into economic decision. Greening connotes mainstreaming environmental considerations into the decision making process. Considering the fact that the environment is the life-blood of mankind it becomes imperative to ensure good management of the environment through the greening pathway.

3.7 Law

Law plays a crucial role in towards attaining a green economy. It helps to ensure that social objectives ^[26], are adequately reflected and promoted in the transition towards a green economy. The green economy concept affords an opportunity for a rethink of environmental laws in Nigeria, through the adoption of a holistic and eco-system based approach. The country can take advantage of the template of green economy paradigm to improve on her environmental law in other to stimulate a balancing of economic and social growth.

4. Obstructions or Setbacks to Green Economy in Nigeria

Laws that promote incentives to investors to invest in green economy are lacking in Nigeria. Until such laws are put in place, the attainment of green economy will be a mirage. Some of Nigerian laws also contain legal and institutional barriers and disincentives to foreign investment. For instance, investors obtains approval and permit from different ministries both at the federal and state levels. This works hardship on investors who have to move from one Ministry/Agency to another, cutting across several government parastatals and government ministries ^[27].

²¹ Including renewable energy, energy efficiency, reliable, sustainable and modern energy

²² See goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals

²³ Greenpeace 2008

²⁴ Aaron Cosbey above n 7

²⁵ Paul Kagame (2009) Opening Speech at the Third Edition at the African Ministerial Conference on Financing for Development: Climate Change Financing Opportunities and Challenges to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in African which took place in Kijali, Rwanda in May 21, 2009

²⁶ Such as poverty eradication and social equity

²⁷ See <www.nigeria.gov.ng>

Technology transfer constitutes another obstacle in the quest for the attainment of green economy in Nigeria. Technology transfer in Nigeria is characterized by long and cumbersome processes and this acts a disincentive for technology transfer in Nigeria. Many investors have to deal with several agencies and ministries in order to obtain technology transfer clearance and permits. Nigerian law on technology transfer is narrow in scope, thereby serving to stifle the transfer of technology to Nigeria. Such barriers need to be removed in a bid to enhance green economy in Nigeria. These barriers stifle sustainable investments, limit the development of power infrastructure and render the country less ideal for investment in Nigeria.

Nigeria has a volatile investment climate. Absence of a well-developed master plan on green economy and investment. Lack of up-to-date environmentally sound technology ^[28]. That are critical to long term investments is another barrier. As a result, prospective investors are not availed the opportunity to know the country's priorities, potentials and processes.

Corruption undermines governance, development ^[29], accountability and transparency in the management of public affairs as well as socio-economic development ^[30]. It affects the sustainable social and economic development of many African countries of which Nigeria is one. It results in the emergence of bad governance and a setback to sustainable development and the green economy paradigm. As a result of corruption, corporate managers, private and legal practitioners and accountants collude with immigration officers to secure expatriate quotas for foreign nationals to enable such foreign nationals occupy which more qualified Nigerians should have occupied ordinarily, thereby creating and increasing the unpleasant unemployment levels of Nigerians. Corporate administrators conspire with foreign investors to sell out the interests and wellbeing of Nigeria and Nigerians for selfish financial gains ^[31]. Corruption also makes investment laws to suffer from lack of implementation. There is therefore the need to tackle the menace of corruption in both the private and public sector of the Nigerian economy to attain green economy.

5. Legal and Institutional Framework for Green Economy

5.1 The Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

The Nigerian constitution which is the grund norm of the country stated that the State shall protect and improve and safe-guard the air, land, water, forests and wild-life of Nigeria as the environmental objective of the country ^[32]. Regrettably, this constitutional responsibility of the Nigerian government cannot be judicially enforced as the Nigerian government cannot be compelled to carry out this responsibility because of the non-justiciability clause contained in the same constitution

5.2 The National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP) Act Cap N.2004

The NOTAP Act provides for the transfer of all

²⁸ Such as solar panel, wind turbines and remote sensing devices

²⁹ The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (A. U. Convention (2003) Pre-ambular paragraphs

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ A. A. Adeyemi 'Corruption, Governance and Development' (2011) 44th Annual Conference of the Nigerian Association of Law Teachers R/S.U.S.T. Port Harcourt 71-93

³² See the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999, Cap. C34LFN 2004 Section 20

technologies, without discriminating between environmentally sound/unsound technologies without making the issue of sustainability a consideration for the transfer of technology into Nigeria.

5.3 Environmental Impact Assessment Act

The Environmental Impact Assessment Act ^[33]. Is a pre-requisite for all development projects in Nigeria ^[34]. It is an important tool of sustainability that is aimed principally at ensuring that the likely environmental impact of projects on all dimensions of the environment is sufficiently taken into account during project conception and planning. The Policy makes provision for a national, practical, coherent and comprehensive approach to the pursuit of economic and social development in ways that minimizes contradictions and in such a way that secures the quality of the environment for the health and well-being of Nigerians. Environmental impact should be such that is able to address risks, ensure environmental integrity and avoid potential negative social, economic and environmental impacts.

5.4 National Policy on the Environment

The National Policy on the Environment was launched with the overall goal of attaining sustainable development through the adoption of a problem solving approach that is predicated on an integral, holistic and systemic view of environmental issues in order to attain the goals and targets of the policy ^[35].

5.5 National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (Establishment) Act (NESREA)

The above Act saddles the NESREA Agency with the responsibility for the protection and development of the environment, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of Nigeria's natural resources in general and environmental technology ^[36]. It also has the responsibility of protecting public health and promoting sound environmental sanitation ^[37].

5.6 National Policy on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

The above policy which was put in place in 2015, sets out to address climate change challenge and to promote and encourage energy security and conservation, is aimed at increasing renewable energy investments to generate electricity, creating a new job/business opportunities in Nigeria as well as to support global efforts towards green economies. This Policy proposes the adoption of a new national renewable energy law as well as the establishment of a national agency on renewable energy.

5.7 The National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP)

NOTAP is saddled with the responsibility of ensuring the acquisition of foreign technologies. This body has the legal identify to implement the acquisition, development and

promotion of technology by the absorption and adaptation of foreign technology.

5.8 The Nigerian Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency Act (NOSDRA)

The above Act established the NOSDRA Agency saddled with the responsibility of restoring and preserving the Nigerian environment by ensuring best oil, storage and transmission practices in exploration, production and use of oil in the quest to attain sustainable development in Nigeria ^[38].

6. Importance of Green Economy as a Template for Achieving Sustainable Development

Nigeria has huge potentials to make use of the prospects of renewable energy resources to turn events the right way up in so many ways. Greening the Nigerian economy is a very important policy strategy that must be pursued with all the necessary political will, if sustainable development is to be achieved. A shift to green economy is capable of providing opportunities and platforms of achieving sustained economic growth, create alternative means of employment, proffer solution to energy deficiency and inadequate power supply thereby transiting to cleaner and sustainable renewable energy resources, attract investments in power infrastructures etc.

A green economy stimulates growth, while reducing ecological scarcities and environmental risks ^[39]. The transition to a green economy will help to mitigate the effect of climate change. Green economy will help to promote alternative energy investments, green transportation system, achieve a boost in gross domestic product (GDP) ^[40]. Investments in renewable energy resources as an alternative energy supply is capable of reducing Nigeria's dependence on oil production as well as creating green jobs and employment opportunities for Nigerians. It will lead to increase in energy efficiency and energy security by providing solution to inadequate power supply and energy deficiency as well as making monumental progress in environmental issues ^[41]. Greening the Nigerian economy will help to create green jobs for both unemployed and under-employed citizens.

It will help Nigeria to accelerate progress towards the attainment of sustainable development goals. It will lead to reduction in expenditure and enhance compliance with international agreements. It will help to improve the image of the country internationally thereby attracting more foreign investors into the country

7. Legal and Framework for the Transition towards a Green Economy

7.1 The Expansion of Nigerian Environmental Law to Promote the Green Economy Paradigm

Law plays a fundamental role in shaping behavioural change and promoting green growth. It is within the paw-

³³ The Environmental Impact Assessment Act CAP E12 LFN 2004

³⁴ M. Okorodudu-Fubara (ed.) *Law of Environmental Protection, Materials and Texts*, (Caltop Publishers (Nig.) Ltd. 1998) 187

³⁵ I. L. Worika 'Environmental Law and Policy of Petroleum Development – Strategies and Mechanisms for Sustainable Management in Africa,' (2002) Anpex Centre for Environment and Development at p. 91

³⁶ See the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (Establishment) Act (NESREA) Section 2.

³⁷ Ibid Section 25(1)

³⁸ The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) (Mission Statement)

³⁹ UNEP above n 50

⁴⁰ United Nations UNEP/UNCTAD/UN-DESA (2011) "The Transition to a Green Economy: Benefits, Challenges and Risks from a Sustainable Development Perspective" available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org>

⁴¹ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2012) "Rio+20 Issues Briefs on Trade and the Green Economy" available at <https://www.slideshare.net/uncsd2012>

view of the law to provide a general framework as well as implementing tools for a green economy and in ensuring that social objectives^[42], are adequately reflected and promoted when transitioning to a green economy. Nigerian energy and environmental laws which contain provisions that can stifle investments in green growth needs to be re-enacted to ensure a reversal of this trend. The attainment of Green Economy requires a Legal/Policy and Institutional Frameworks that will spell out laws and standards as well as development strategies that will facilitate green economic activities and investments in renewable infrastructures. It is therefore imperative to establish laws and policies that will promote the shift towards Green Economy. The following are the legal/institutional reform processes that can promote green economy in Nigeria:

7.2 Research and Capacity Development in Institutions of learning

Research and development is imperative if Nigeria is to build the requisite capacity that will identify and equip new generations of technologists, scientists, engineers and environmental lawyers that will help monitor and sustain the country's move to a green and low carbon economy^[43]. Capacity building and entrepreneurship and business development that will bring about skills for green jobs is necessary if Nigeria is not to rely on imported knowledge and expertise. The promotion of research in modern technologies is therefore crucial for designing political strategies for renewable energies for carbon mitigation. Enhancing the dialogue between science and policy is essential to the achievement of a consistent global approach which takes into account the maturity of the different renewable energy technologies^[44]. It is therefore necessary to invest in home grown research activities in publicly funded institutions if scientific insights and responses to fundamental sciences, engineering and technical questions that may invariably arise in the sustained used of renewable technology is to be enhanced or promoted. The Nigerian government should invest in research in modern technology to ensure the design and adoption of cleaner and up-to-date technologies.

7.3 The Creation of a Green Economy Initiative Centre

The creation of a Green Economy Centre will help to ensure that government programmes and policies are in harmony with environmental objectives. The Centre should be saddled with the responsibility of coordinating the green economy programme as well as foster coordination between different governmental agencies and ministries as well as monitor progress on the progress on the green economy programme. The Officer in charge should be made to report to the National Assembly on a regular basis on the state of the environment, while also overseeing the implementation of the environmental impact assessment process of the federal government agencies. The Centre should be well-equipped and manned by a qualified person in the green economy initiative. Such a Centre will help to bring relevant

stakeholders^[45], together on matters relating to energy, the environment and natural resources.

7.4 The Enhancement of Intergovernmental Coordination

The weak link between government ministries and agencies poses institutional barriers to investors in power infrastructure in Nigeria as it makes such ministries/agencies to work at cross-purposes and this makes projects implementation less attractive to investors. This makes the existence of intergovernmental coordination that will remove irrelevant bureaucratic bottlenecks and making the granting and approval of projects less cumbersome essential if the transition to a green economy in Nigeria is to be a reality.

7.5 A Coherent National Policy on Green Economy

A national policy which spells out renewable investment potentials and approaches as well as sets out the country's economy priorities, timeframe and implementation options on green economy is necessary in the shift towards a green economy. Such a Policy should provide clear guidelines on the opportunities and projects which can be explored to promote green economy approaches in Nigeria.

7.6 The Greening of Extant Investment and Development Laws and Policies in Nigeria

Investment is fundamental for a green economy. The world is in quest of the promotion, development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of enabling and environmentally sound technologies through global technology mechanisms. The expansion of infrastructure and upgrading of technology for the supply of modern and sustainable energy services is one of the targets of goal of the SDGs^[46]. Laws on technology transfer, contractual relations, investment and taxation play crucial roles in encouraging renewable energy investments. Laws and policies can encourage private sector investment in environmentally sustainable ventures. The energy sector needs to be reformed in order to attract and encourage private sector participation. There is a need for Nigerian Environmental Law to undergo a reform if the dream of a green economy is to be attained in Nigeria. Efforts should therefore be made to ensure the greening of investment laws, environment laws as well as development laws and policies in Nigeria

7.7 Government Institutions and Ministries

The pathway of green economy towards the attainment of sustainable development and the alleviation of poverty requires supporting the necessary systemic and institutional transformations^[47]. Government Institutions and Ministries can promote renewable energy investment by removing unnecessary barrier and bureaucratic frustrations as well as administrative bottlenecks which are likely to frustrate investments in renewable energy.

⁴² Such as poverty eradication and social equity

⁴³ Damilola S. Olawuyi (ed.) above n 6

⁴⁴ International Science Panel on Renewable Energy "Research and Development on Renewable Energies: A Global Report on Photovoltaic and Wind Energy" available at >http://www.iscu.org/publications/reports-and-reviews/ispre/photovoltaic-wind/ISPRE_Photovoltaic_and_Wind.pdf<

⁴⁵ Such as federal agencies, state and local governments etc.

⁴⁶ See Goal 7 target 7.b of the Sustainable Development Goals

⁴⁷ Ministerial Statement of the African Ministers of Economy, Finance, Planning and Economic Development at the 4th Joint Annual Meeting of the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development which took place at Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia from 28 -29 March 2011

7.8 Laying Down a Comprehensive Law on Renewable Energy Investment in Nigeria

A comprehensive law on renewable energy investment is imperative if the hope of entrenching a green economy is to be realized. Such a Law should make provision for fiscal and tax incentives for investments in the renewable energy sector, harmonize conflicting laws on energy investment and establish a designated institution for renewable energy investments in Nigeria. Such institution will serve as a focal point to foster intergovernmental coordination and linkage amongst the various institutions which play important tools in the approval and execution of renewable energy projects in Nigeria.

7.9 Public/Private Sector Synergy

The creation and stimulation of markets for green goods and services is imperative. Investment that ensures green economy such as the power sector of the economy can be very expensive and capital intensive^[48]. There is therefore a need for both the private and public sectors to come together to synergize to attract private sector participation as well as foreign investors.

8. Conclusion

Even in the face of economic growth, poverty remains persistent and pervasive in Nigeria. Green economy is about sustainability. Unless we go green we cannot live a sustainable life. The only way out of the increased awareness of the climate crisis is to go green. When the environment is green, it affords you the opportunity to breathe in good oxygen. An economic growth model that will reduce poverty, unemployment, environmental risks and ecological scarcity becomes imperative. The paper concludes that greening every sector of the Nigerian economy is a very important policy strategy that must be pursued with all the necessary political will, if a green economy is to be achieved. This involves conducting ourselves and businesses in ways that will generate better conditions for forthcoming generations. Nigeria can become more energy efficient by investing in clean energy sources such as solar and wind thereby meeting goal 7 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Green economy is about cultural, social, traditional and political institutions. It involves the building of formal and new institutions. It is not just about doing a thing, but how best to do it. Let us therefore go back to the grass root to imbibe the culture of green economy.

9. Recommendations

1. Uninformed citizens can only shape a deformed nation. Nigeria needs to build the capacity of her citizens at all levels of governance, especially her work-force for green jobs as well as the capacity for policy reforms. Accredited capacity should be built at all levels of governance to text and certify goods as compliant. This can be done by engaging in the building of laboratories and working with foreign accreditation bodies while giving support for technical training.
2. Formal institutions are the drivers of green economy. Enabling institutional arrangement is necessary to the attainment of a green economy. Environmental

regulations should be management oriented rather than rule oriented while the enforcement of these regulations should be decentralized through the various State environmental agencies. Laws and institutions that encourage long term and efficient management and use of resources, laws and norms that encourage transfer of technologies, transparency and accounts as well as effective enforcement of laws a sine quo non to the attainment of a green economy. The Nigerian government should not just be interested in propounding, but also in enforcing domestic standards.

3. Nigeria should upgrade her domestic standard regime in consonance with international standards and firms should be compelled to adapt to any new standard put in place. The Nigerian government should be focused on enabling exporters to meet such standards, work with the private sector to communicate the content of the new regulations and to help firms identify, acquire and assimilate the needed technologies for compliance. An Act to compel transport agencies to actively consider sustainability issues in transport planning, policy and operations should be put in place.
4. The enforcement of the idea of recycling and composting in Nigeria requires innovative policy making. Nigeria needs policies and infrastructure that can encourage private sector to invest in environmentally sound ventures in Nigeria. Government should promote the formulation of policies and programmes for the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and provide funds for the transfer of technology that is environmentally sound.
5. Development strategies in Nigeria need to reflect the components of a green economy. Nigeria should promote the redesigning and construction of green buildings. This will go a long way in providing new employment for builders, horticulturist and environmentalists.
6. In order to bring energy to Nigerian citizens, there should be a decentralized form of energy supply. The transformation of the Nigerian energy sector requires the adoption of clean electricity. Energy matters should be brought into the concurrent legislative list to enable both federal and state governments to legislate on energy matters in order to enhance energy efficiency in Nigeria. Stakeholders in the Nigerian energy sector should work together to develop a comprehensive policy road map which spells out what opportunities there are for investors to invest in green projects in Nigeria.
7. Toxic agricultural practice should be replaced with agro-ecological methods of farming. Greater priority should be given to adaptation and mitigation measures in agriculture.
8. Greening the economy requires investment in innovative solutions that promote responsible energy development, environmentally sustainable technologies, sustainable resource management, renewable energy systems, clean systems of transportation etc. Efforts should be made to attract investments that ensure long term or sustainable development in Nigeria.

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