

Building Capacity for Sustainability in Africa

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Kariuki Muigua*

Abstract

Capacity building has been identified as a key tool for achieving sustainability. It has been pointed out that African countries can achieve Sustainable Development by strengthening their human, institutional and organizational capacities. This paper critically examines the role of capacity building in the Sustainable Development agenda in Africa. It argues that African countries can accelerate the achievement of sustainability by enhancing their human, institutional and organizational capacities. The paper discusses the progress made and challenges faced towards building capacity for sustainability in Africa. It also highlights interventions that are necessary towards building capacity for sustainability in Africa.

1.0 Introduction

Achieving sustainability has become a global agenda in recent decades in light of mounting problems including environmental challenges such as climate change, together with issues of poverty, increasing disparity between societies and the tensions brought by social inequalities¹. The need to strike a balance between the environmental, social and economic facets of development towards sustainability gave rise to the concept of Sustainable Development². The idea of Sustainable Development refers to development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs³. Sustainable Development seeks to foster

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¹ Giovannoni. E., & Fabietti. G., 'What Is Sustainability? A Review of the Concept and Its Applications.' In: Busco, C., Frigo, M., Riccaboni, A., Quattrone, P. (eds) Integrated Reporting. Springer, Cham. Available at https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-02168-3_2 (Accessed on 27/12/2023)

² Ibid

³ World Commission on Environment and Development., 'Our Common Future.' Oxford, (Oxford University Press, 1987)

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sustainability by promoting environmental protection, economic development and social progress⁴.

The United Nation's *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*⁵ seeks to nurture sustainability. The Agenda represents a shared blue print for peace and prosperity for people and the planet in the quest towards the ideal of Sustainable Development⁶. The Agenda envisions attainment of the ideal of Sustainable Development through 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which seek to strike a balance between social, economic and environmental facets of sustainability⁷.

Achieving sustainability is an important agenda in Africa. The continent continues to face several problems which hinder the realization of sustainability including poverty, hunger, unemployment, a growing debt crisis, environmental degradation and political instability in some countries⁸. As a result of the foregoing among other problems facing the continent, it has been pointed out that Sustainable Development remains elusive for many African countries⁹. Tackling the foregoing problems is essential in realizing sustainability in Africa.

Capacity building has been identified as a key tool for achieving sustainability¹⁰. It has been pointed out that African countries can achieve Sustainable Development by

⁴ Fitzmaurice. M., 'The Principle of Sustainable Development in International Development Law.' *International Sustainable Development Law.*, Vol 1

⁵ United Nations General Assembly., 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1., Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf> (Accessed on 27/12/2023)

⁶ Ibid

⁷ Ibid

⁸ African Development Bank Group., 'The Way Forward to Achieving Sustainable Development in Africa.' Available at

https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/ADR15_chapter_8.pdf (Accessed on 27/12/2023)

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ United Nations., 'Capacity-Building.' Available at

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/topics/capacity-building#:~:text=Sustainable%20Development%20Goal%20Target%2017.9,to%20implement%20all%20the%20sustainable> (Accessed on 27/12/2023)

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strengthening their human, institutional and organizational capacities¹¹. Building capacity is therefore necessary for sustainability in Africa.

This paper critically examines the role of capacity building in the Sustainable Development agenda in Africa. It argues that African countries can accelerate the achievement of sustainability by enhancing their human, institutional and organizational capacities. The paper discusses the progress made and challenges faced towards building capacity for sustainability in Africa. It also highlights interventions that are necessary towards building capacity for sustainability in Africa.

2.0 The Role of Capacity Building in the Sustainable Development Agenda

Capacity-building has long been recognized as one of the means of implementation for the achievement of Sustainable Development¹². This is reflected in the outcome documents and action plans adopted by major international conferences on Sustainable Development¹³. *Agenda 21*¹⁴ recognizes the role of capacity building in the Sustainable Development agenda. According to Agenda 21, the ability of a country to follow Sustainable Development paths is determined to a large extent by the capacity of its people and its institutions as well as by its ecological and geographical conditions¹⁵.

¹¹ African Development Bank Group., 'Capacity-Building.'

<https://www.afdb.org/en/knowledge/african-development-institute/capacity-building> (Accessed on 27/12/2023)

¹² United Nations., 'Capacity Development.' Available at <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/capacity-development> (Accessed on 28/12/2023)

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ United Nations., 'United Nations Conference on Environment & Development Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 3 to 14 June 1992: Agenda 21.' Available at <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/Agenda21.pdf> (Accessed on 28/12/2023)

¹⁵ Ibid, Chapter 37

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Capacity-building as envisaged under Agenda 21 encompasses a country's human, scientific, technological, organizational, institutional and resource capabilities¹⁶. In addition, Agenda 21 states that the fundamental goal of capacity-building is to enhance the ability to evaluate and address the crucial questions related to policy choices and modes of implementation among development options, based on an understanding of environmental potentials and limits and of needs as perceived by the people of the country concerned¹⁷. Agenda 21 requires all countries to develop and improve national and related subregional and regional capacities and capabilities for Sustainable Development, with the involvement of the non-governmental sectors¹⁸.

In addition, the *Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI)*¹⁹, adopted at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development also recognizes the importance of capacity-building for the achievement of Sustainable Development. The JPOI requires governments as well as relevant regional and international organizations and other relevant stakeholders to support capacity needs for training, technical know-how and strengthening national institutions in all countries for Sustainable Development²⁰. It also urges developed countries to support capacity building efforts for Sustainable Development in developing countries through the urgent mobilization of financial resources and technological assistance and the development of human and institutional capacity²¹.

The role of capacity building in Sustainable Development is also enshrined in the outcome document of the *Rio +20 Conference*²². The document emphasizes the need for

¹⁶ Ibid

¹⁷ Ibid

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ United Nations., 'Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development.' Available at https://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/WSSD_POI_PD/English/WSSD_PlanImpl.pdf (Accessed on 28/12/2023)

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Ibid

²² United Nations., 'United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development': Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 20-22 June 2012.' A/CONF.216/L.1., Available at <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/13662/N1238164.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=1> (Accessed on 28/12/2023)

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enhanced capacity-building for Sustainable Development and calls for the strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation²³. It also urges countries to build capacity for Sustainable Development through human resource development, including training, the exchange of experiences and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, and strengthening institutional capacity, including planning, management and monitoring capacities²⁴.

Further, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes capacity building as a key mechanism for achieving sustainability²⁵. Each SDG contains targets relating to means of implementation, including capacity- building²⁶. Further, SDG 17 seeks to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for Sustainable Development²⁷. Capacity building is one the targets under SDG 17 which seeks to *inter alia* 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 cooperation²⁸.

Building capacity is therefore necessary for the achievement of Sustainable Development. It has been observed that capacity building activities are aimed at strengthening and maintaining the capabilities of states and societies to design and implement strategies that minimize the negative impacts of current social, economic and environmental crises and emerging challenges²⁹. Further, it has been pointed out that capacity building activities can promote the integration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

²³ Ibid

²⁴ Ibid

²⁵ United Nations General Assembly., 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1.,' Op Cit

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Ibid

²⁸ Ibid

²⁹ United Nations., 'Capacity Development.' Op Cit

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and the SDGs into local, national, regional, continental and global Sustainable Development planning frameworks³⁰. Capacity building therefore represents a fundamental approach in the implementation and achievement of the SDGs. According to the United Nations, capacity building is a fundamental strategy that underpins the entire framework of the Sustainable Development agenda³¹. Its holistic approach ensures that efforts in one area support and reinforce progress in others, creating a more integrated and effective path towards Sustainable Development³². The United Nations points out that capacity building requires a concerted effort from various stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, and local communities, to share knowledge, expertise, and resources³³. It is therefore necessary for all countries to build capacity in order to achieve sustainability.

3.0 Building Capacity for Sustainability in Africa: Progress and Challenges

Building capacity is vital for achievement of sustainability in Africa. It has been argued that strengthening capacity in low-and-middle-income countries is recognized as a major contributor to a country's socioeconomic development and to achieving the SDGs³⁴. It has been argued that in the African context, building capacity can be seen as a way of helping individuals, businesses, civil society organisations and governments gain the skills and resources they need to effectively implement projects and programmes geared

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ United Nations., 'Capacity-Building.' Op Cit

³² Ibid

³³ Ibid

³⁴ The Royal Society., 'Africa Capacity Building Initiative case study - Challenges and benefits for PhD students.' Available at <https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/africa-capacity-building/challenges-benefits-phd-students/#:~:text=The%20ACBI%20programme%20at%20a,achieving%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals1> (Accessed on 28/12/2023)

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towards Sustainable Development³⁵. It has been asserted that some of the key elements of African capacity building include financial provision, personal development, project implementation, technology development, and monitoring and evaluation³⁶.

Africa Union's *Agenda 2063*³⁷ recognizes the importance of building capacity for sustainability in Africa. Agenda 2063 identifies capacity building as one of the intermediation instruments and intervention areas necessary for the realization of the Sustainable Development agenda in Africa³⁸. According to Agenda 2063, international cooperation and partnerships for development on both bilateral and global levels that are in line with national ownership, has a crucial role to play as enablers to support through providing finance, technology transfer, and *capacity building* in order to achieve the goals and aspirations of the Agenda³⁹. Agenda 2063 envisages a holistic African approach to capacity development based on certain key elements including: transformative leadership; citizen transformation; evidence - based knowledge and innovation; using African potential skills and resources; capacity of the capacity developer; and integrated planning and implementation for sustainability⁴⁰. According to Agenda 2063, it is imperative to build capacity across sectors and at various levels including the continental, regional, national, sectoral, sub-national and local levels in order to achieve sustainability in Africa⁴¹.

Agenda 2063 envisages building capacity in three fundamental areas. The first key area is *individual (human) capacity* which generally includes capabilities in terms of skills, training, performance, values, attitudes, motivation, professional integrity, relationships,

³⁵ Sustainable African Strategies., 'Strategies-for-Sustainable-Development-in-African-Capacity-Building.' Available at https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/strategies-for-sustainable-development/?trk=organization_guest_main-feed-card_feed-article-content (Accessed on 28/12/2023)

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ Africa Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.' Available at https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/33126-doc-framework_document_book.pdf (Accessed on 28/12/2023)

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰ Africa Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.' Op Cit

⁴¹ Ibid

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and communication skills⁴². According to Agenda 2063, building these skills can strengthen the ability to conceptualize, design, develop, implement, monitor and evaluate the required and result oriented programs/ projects, policies and strategies to make Agenda 2063 and sustainability happen in Africa⁴³. In addition, another key area involves *institutional/ organizational capacity* which demands that the institutions tasked with delivering rapid structural transformation and growth be able to act both effectively and in a coordinated manner⁴⁴. According to Agenda 2063, this requires approaches geared towards learning, relearning and flexibility, coupled with institutional capacities that are of relevance to the tasks defined⁴⁵. In addition, Agenda 2063 correctly points out that achieving sustainability in Africa requires building capacity through *enabling policy, legal and regulatory environments(Emphasis added)*⁴⁶. Agenda 2063 therefore envisions building capacity for sustainability in Africa through strengthening individual (human) capacity, organizational/institutional capacity, and the creation of enabling policy, legal and regulatory environments⁴⁷. Realizing the goals and aspirations of Agenda 2063 is integral in building capacity for sustainability in Africa.

There has been some progress towards building capacity for sustainability in Africa across the key sectors identified under Agenda 2063 being individual (human) capacity, organizational/institutional capacity and enabling policy, legal, and regulatory environments⁴⁸. In terms of human capacity, it has been noted that investing in human capital in Africa is crucial for achieving the SDGs⁴⁹. It has been noted that most African countries are making progress towards building individual (human) capacity through

⁴² Ibid

⁴³ Ibid

⁴⁴ Ibid

⁴⁵ Ibid

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Africa Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.' Op Cit

⁴⁸ Ibid

⁴⁹ Suri. S., 'African Human Capital Investment: Crucial to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.' Available at <https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/african-human-capital-investment#:~:text=Investing%20in%20human%20capital%20in,and%20a%20lack%20of%20infrastructur>e. (Accessed on 28/12/2023)

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investments in education and skills development which are vital factors in paving the way for prosperous economies and societies in the continent⁵⁰. According to the African Union, the continent has made some progress towards building human capital through investments in health systems; education including vocational training; science, research and innovation, as well as social security and protection of vulnerable groups⁵¹.

In addition, progress has been made towards building organizational/institutional capacity for sustainability in Africa. There has been growth of African-led institutions/organizations at the continental, regional, sub-regional, national and local levels geared towards fostering sustainability⁵². However, more needs to be done in this area since it has been pointed out that weak institutions and capacity to formulate and implement policies, strategies, programs and projects remain a persistent challenge in Africa which hinders the realization of Sustainable Development⁵³.

Further, it has been observed that many African states have put in place or are putting in place the legal and policy frameworks required to address sustainability across key thematic areas including environmental protection⁵⁴. The United Nations Environment Programme notes that there have been positive steps towards strengthening environmental rule of law in some African countries as demonstrated by stronger environmental protection regimes and enhanced efforts towards tackling environmental

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Africa Union., 'Africa's Human Capacity.' Available at <https://au.int/en/auc/priorities/africa%E2%80%99s-human-capacity> (Accessed on 28/12/2023)

⁵² Ezeh. A., & Lu. J., 'Transforming the Institutional Landscape in Sub-Saharan Africa: Considerations for Leveraging Africa's Research Capacity to Achieve Socioeconomic Development.' Available at <https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/transforming-institutional-landscape-sub-saharan-africa-considerations-leveraging-africa.pdf> (Accessed on 28/12/2023)

⁵³ African Development Bank Group., 'About African Development Institute.' Available at <https://www.afdb.org/en/knowledge/african-development-institute/about-adi> (Accessed on 28/12/2023)

⁵⁴ United Nations Development Programme., '2020 Africa Sustainable Development Report.' Available at <https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/migration/africa/RBA---ASDR-2020---updated--03032022.pdf> (Accessed on 28/12/2023)

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challenges including climate change⁵⁵. Building capacity is therefore necessary for sustainability in Africa.

Capacity building can accelerate the realization of Sustainable Development in Africa across all the SDGs including food security, health, education, energy and climate action⁵⁶. In terms of food security, it has been pointed out that building capacity can increase agricultural production, diversification and innovations in agribusiness to increase the availability of nutritious food for vulnerable populations in Africa, as well as improve the quality of life for the people of Africa⁵⁷. Further, in the health sector, it has been asserted that empowering African health practitioners and building the capacity of African research institutions facilitates the local capacity to battle diseases in the continent towards fostering good health and well-being for all⁵⁸. Building capacity in the education sector in Africa can foster the achievement of innovative solutions and scale-up efforts to improve educational outcomes in Africa through measures such as strengthening teachers' professional development, and building capacity in education institutions⁵⁹. In addition, capacity building for the energy sector in Africa can help respond to Africa's shortage of human and institutions skills, which has been identified as a major challenges facing the development of energy sector in Africa⁶⁰. Capacity building can strengthen Africa's energy sector by enhancing innovation on energy

⁵⁵ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Environmental Rule of Law: Tracking Progress and Charting Future Directions.' Available at https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/43943/Environmental_rule_of_law_progress.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y (Accessed on 28/12/2023)

⁵⁶ African Union., 'Three Decades of Capacity Building in Africa: ACBF Looks Back at 32 years of Service.' Available at <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20230403/three-decades-capacity-building-africa-acbf-looks-back-32-years-service> (Accessed on 29/12/2023)

⁵⁷ African Development Bank Group., 'African Development Bank supports Capacity Building in Nutrition and Food Security in the ECOWAS Region.' Available at <https://www.afdb.org/fr/news-and-events/african-development-bank-supports-capacity-building-in-nutrition-and-food-security-in-the-ecowas-region-17265> (Accessed on 29/12/2023)

⁵⁸ Capacity building for better health in Africa., Available at <https://funcet.es/capacity-building-for-better-health-in-africa/> (Accessed on 29/12/2023)

⁵⁹ International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa., Available at <https://www.iicba.unesco.org/en/about-us> (Accessed on 29/12/2023)

⁶⁰ African Union., 'Capacity Building for the Energy Sector.' Available at <https://au-afrec.org/capacity-building> (Accessed on 29/12/2023)

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technologies (renewable & conventional), energy regulatory framework, energy market and economies, energy projects development, operation and maintenance of energy facilities, renewable energies, the electricity sector among others⁶¹. Finally, capacity building can also strengthen climate action in the continent by enabling African countries to implement successful mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change and further improving the capacity of African countries to participate effectively in multilateral climate negotiations⁶².

Building capacity is therefore integral for sustainability in Africa. However, it has been pointed out that the ability of Africa to realize sustainability is hindered by several challenges. Africa's human capacity to unlock sustainability is hindered by inadequate skills, knowledge and competence⁶³. In addition, in terms of institutional capacity, it has been asserted that weak institutions and capacity to formulate and implement policies, strategies, programs and projects remain a persistent challenge in Africa that hinders the achievement of sustainability⁶⁴. Further, the legal capacity in some African countries faces several challenges including weak legal regimes and failure to uphold the rule of law⁶⁵. It is imperative to address these problems in order to build capacity for sustainability in Africa.

4.0 Way Forward

In order to achieve sustainability in Africa, there is need to build the Continent's *individual (human) capacity*(*Emphasis added*)⁶⁶. This calls for strengthening of individual/human capabilities in terms of skills, training, performance, values, attitudes,

⁶¹ Ibid

⁶² United Nations Climate Change., 'Capacity-Building Portal: Africa.' Available at <https://unfccc.int/topics/capacity-building/workstreams/capacity-building-portal/complementary-resources/capacity-building-portal-africa#Adaptation> (Accessed on 29/12/2023)

⁶³ African Development Bank Group., 'Human Capital Development.' Available at <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/sectors/human-capital-development> (Accessed on 29/12/2023)

⁶⁴ African Development Bank Group., 'About African Development Institute.' Op Cit

⁶⁵ United Nations Environment Programme., 'Environmental Rule of Law: Tracking Progress and Charting Future Directions.' Op Cit

⁶⁶ Africa Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.' Op Cit

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motivation, professional integrity, relationships, and communication skills⁶⁷. It has been pointed out that building individual/human capacity in Africa can strengthen the ability of Africans to conceptualize, design, develop, implement, monitor and evaluate the required and result oriented programs/ projects, policies and strategies geared towards sustainability in the continent⁶⁸. It has correctly been pointed out that through capacity building, an individual who has been empowered to facilitate change can impact their organization and their community⁶⁹. Individual (human) capacity in Africa can be enhanced through education, training and mentorship⁷⁰. In addition, it has been pointed out that building capacity through developing entrepreneurial skills in individuals can help create more successful businesses in Africa which can lead to greater economic stability throughout the Continent⁷¹. It is therefore imperative to build individual (human) capacity in Africa. It has been correctly pointed out that harnessing individual potentials of Africa's human capital is the most sustainable key to economic transformation and social progress⁷².

In addition, it is imperative to strengthen Africa's institutional/ organizational capacity. It has been pointed out that achieving sustainability in Africa demands that the institutions tasked with delivering rapid structural transformation and growth be able to act both effectively and in a coordinated manner⁷³. However, the institutional/organizational capacity in many African countries is characterized by weak institutions which hinders the capacity to formulate and implement policies, strategies,

⁶⁷ Ibid

⁶⁸ Ibid

⁶⁹ Capacity for Health., '8 Examples of Capacity Building Activities for Health Service Organizations.' Available at <https://capacity4health.org/examples-of-capacity-building-activities/> (Accessed on 29/12/2023)

⁷⁰ Ibid

⁷¹ Sustainable African Strategies., 'Strategies-for-Sustainable-Development-in-African-Capacity-Building.' Op Cit

⁷² African Development Bank Group., 'Human Capital Development.' Available at <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/sectors/human-capital-development> (Accessed on 29/11/2023)

⁷³ Africa Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.' Op Cit

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programs and projects⁷⁴. It has been pointed out that the institutional capacities of African countries will have to be strengthened if the many challenges facing the continent are to be overcome⁷⁵. Institutions/organizations are the major drivers of socio-economic development throughout the world and thus achieving sustainability in Africa calls for the establishment of strong, independent and efficient institutions/organizations⁷⁶.

Further, there is need to create enabling policy, legal and regulatory environments in Africa through measures such as strengthening the rule of law and enacting and implementing sound laws⁷⁷. The rule of law is widely recognized as an essential component of good governance and Sustainable Development⁷⁸. However, the rule of law in some Africa countries is threatened by challenges such as corruption, lack of strong independent democratic institutions, weak judiciaries, and a shrinking civic space⁷⁹. It is therefore important to address these challenges in order to create enabling policy, legal and regulatory environments for sustainability in Africa. This calls for enactment and implementation of sound legislations, strengthening the rule of law, tackling corruption and fostering judicial independence⁸⁰.

Finally, there is need to embrace regional, continental and global cooperation towards building capacity for sustainability in Africa⁸¹. It has been asserted that countries can achieve sustainability through strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation,

⁷⁴ African Development Bank Group., 'About African Development Institute.' Op Cit

⁷⁵ Kabbaj. O., 'Capacity Building, Governance, and Economic Reform in Africa.' Available at <https://www.elibrary.imf.org/downloadpdf/book/9781589060722/ch002.xml> (Accessed on 29/12/2023)

⁷⁶ Ibid

⁷⁷ Africa Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.' Op Cit

⁷⁸ Centre for Strategic and International Studies., 'The Rule of Law and Sustainable Development.' Available at <https://www.csis.org/analysis/rule-law-and-sustainable-development> (Accessed on 29/12/2023)

⁷⁹ Africa Legal., 'Advancing the Rule of Law in Africa.' Available at https://www.lexisnexis.co.za/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/901948/LN_Rule-of-Law_Report_Final.pdf (Accessed on 29/12/2023)

⁸⁰ Ibid

⁸¹ Kabbaj. O., 'Capacity Building, Governance, and Economic Reform in Africa.' Op Cit

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including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation⁸². SDG 17 urges all countries to enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the SDGs, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation⁸³. It is therefore important to build capacity for sustainability in Africa by embracing regional, continental and global cooperation in areas such as technical and scientific cooperation and research⁸⁴.

It is important to embrace the foregoing among other measures in order to build capacity for sustainability in Africa.

5.0 Conclusion

Capacity-building is recognized as one of the means of implementation for the achievement of Sustainable Development⁸⁵. Building capacity is vital for achievement of sustainability in Africa. There has been some progress towards building individual (human), institutional/organization and legal capacity for sustainability in Africa⁸⁶. However, challenges such as inadequate skills, knowledge and competence; weak institutions; and weak legal regimes and failure to uphold the rule of law hinder the potential of Africa to achieve sustainability⁸⁷. It is important to address these problems in order to build capacity for sustainability in Africa. Building capacity for sustainability in Africa calls for strengthening individual/human capabilities in terms of skills, training,

⁸² United Nations., 'United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development' Op Cit

⁸³ United Nations General Assembly., 'Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.' 21 October 2015, A/RES/70/1.,' Op Cit

⁸⁴ Ibid

⁸⁵ United Nations., 'Capacity Development.' Op Cit

⁸⁶ Africa Union., 'Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.' Op Cit

⁸⁷ Ibid

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performance, values, attitudes, motivation, professional integrity, relationships, and communication skills⁸⁸; the establishment of strong, independent and efficient institutions/organizations⁸⁹; strengthening the rule of law⁹⁰; and embracing regional, continental and global cooperation towards building capacity for sustainability in Africa⁹¹. Building capacity for sustainability in Africa is an important and achievable ideal.

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⁸⁸ Ibid

⁸⁹ Kabbaj. O., 'Capacity Building, Governance, and Economic Reform in Africa.' Op Cit

⁹⁰ Centre for Strategic and International Studies., 'The Rule of Law and Sustainable Development.'

⁹¹ Kabbaj. O., 'Capacity Building, Governance, and Economic Reform in Africa.' Op Cit

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<https://www.afdb.org/fr/news-and-events/african-development-bank-supports-capacity-building-in-nutrition-and-food-security-in-the-ecowas-region-17265>

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African Development Bank Group., 'Human Capital Development.' Available at <https://www.afdb.org/en/topics-and-sectors/sectors/human-capital-development>

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