

# *International Scientific Conference* **ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)**

*Co-Organized by*

**University of Kara (Togo)  
Abiola Ajimobi Technical University (Nigeria)  
Goethe University in Frankfurt (Germany)**



## **Theme**

**Researchers' perspectives  
of the impacts of SDGs programs  
and projects in West Africa**

**Date: from 10 to 12 march 2025  
Venue: University of Kara, Togo**

## Argument of the conference

### 1-Context and justification

The great challenges currently facing humanity are characterized by unprecedented complexity. Climate change, the acceleration of land erosion and terrestrial and marine biodiversity, the amplification of natural disasters, hunger, conflicts, pandemics and the increase in economic and social inequalities are embedded in a web of more local issues and weaken social and ecological balances. It is within this framework that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations in 2015. It was a global call to respond to these global challenges, particularly those linked to poverty, inequalities, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, peace and justice by 2030. The adoption of this resolution by the UN General Assembly made it possible to put in place the program of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets under the umbrella of the 2030 agenda with the aim of transforming the world socially, economically and environmentally (United Nations, 2015).

Speaking of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, Africa is more than concerned to the extent that hunger, incurable diseases, discrimination and the harmful effects of climate change leave no country indifferent. During almost a decade of implementation of the SDGs, the question is whether African countries in general and those of West Africa in particular, engaged in this process, have managed to reverse the situation to put their country on the path to sustainable development. The answer to this question can be found in the various reports on sustainable development in West Africa. Indeed, in the 2021 report entitled “Progress towards achieving the 2030 sustainable development and 2063 agendas of the African Union: towards accelerating the reduction of progress gaps”, it appears that, overall, countries West African countries have, over the last two decades, made encouraging progress towards achieving the main targets of the SDGs in 2030. According to estimates and projections from the African Economic Commission, at least 40% of countries in the sub-region should achieve 35% of the SDGs based on the evolution of the main associated indicators <sup>1</sup>. This encouraging progress mainly concerns extreme poverty, famine and food and nutritional insecurity, health provision and inclusive education. However, according to the same source, from the point of view of women's empowerment, the fight against the effects of climate change, governance, peace and security, access to electricity as well as the supply of infrastructure and sustainable industrialization, the countries of west Africa are recording poor performance. Certainly, some undeniable substantial progress has been recorded in certain African countries. They concern access to drinking water, education, sanitation infrastructure, economic growth and job creation, the preservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems, local governance and the strengthening of partnership for development. sustainable etc. According to the 2022 Report on the Sustainable Development Index (SDI) made public in July 2024, Togo, for example, recorded remarkable progress with an SDI score which stood at 0.589 in 2022 compared to 0.587 in 2021 <sup>2</sup>. This result, according to the same source, places Togo in 1st<sup>place</sup> in the UEMOA zone ahead of Ivory Coast (0.575), Senegal (0.557), Benin (0.543), Burkina Faso (0.472), Mali (0.442) and Niger (0.424) . But is this enough to enable West African countries to achieve economic emergence and escape poverty? What concrete progress has been recorded on the

<sup>1</sup><https://repository.uneca.org/bitstream/handle/10855/49525/b12029312.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

<sup>2</sup> <https://presidence.gouv.tg/2024/08/01/sustainable-development-index-togo-shows-best-performance-in-luemoa/>

indicators associated with the 17 SDG objectives and what is currently being done to ensure that each country achieves sustainable development by 2030?

These are the questions that this international conference entitled: “ *Researchers' perspectives of the impacts of the SDGs programs and projects in West Africa*” will attempt to answer. It is part of the international network for the promotion of higher education and research on the SDGs in Togo and Nigeria (TONI), a partnership led by the University of Frankfurt with funding from the DAAD.

The conference aims to explore, from a multidisciplinary and transversal perspective, the different dimensions of the SDGs and their targets. This is why we invite the various specialists in human and social sciences, economic and legal sciences, NGOs and development actors involved in the analysis of the effects of the SDGs, to compare their views through empirical contributions linked to least one of the 17 SDGs around the following four main thematic axes.

## 2- Thematic axes

### **Axis 1: Climate change, environment, sustainable management of natural resources (SDG 12,13, 14 & 15)**

In this area, the aim is to show how climate change requires effective and sustainable management of natural resources. Communications will focus on how West African countries can use their abundant wealth of water, forests and minerals to promote growth, while preserving its biodiversity and ecosystems. It will also be necessary to show that innovation in green technologies offers new opportunities for growth and productive employment.

### **Axis 2: Resilient economies, food security and poverty reduction (SDG 1, 2, 7 & 9)**

It is recommended that authors who are interested in this area focus their research on how African populations and economies must be innovative and resilient in the face of different environmental or socioeconomic shocks. Proposals must analyze West Africa's efforts to promote sustainable agriculture and economic transformations with a view to eliminating famine in all its forms and reducing poverty and people in vulnerable situations. In short, it will be necessary to say concretely what the countries of West Africa are doing for the sustainable development of their economies.

### **Axis 3: Infrastructure, sustainable cities and social well-being (SDG 3, 4.5, 6, 8, 10 & 11)**

The articles proposed in this area must show the efforts that West African countries are making to ensure access for all to decent work, quality education and health on an equal footing. two sexes. Faced with increasing urbanization, the research carried out will highlight the capacity of West African countries to build sustainable infrastructure and cities to limit disaster risks.

### **Axis 4: Governance, peace, justice and equality (SDG 16 & 17)**

In this last area, the research carried out will highlight the promotion of effective governance and a peaceful and inclusive West African society. They must emphasize the efforts made by each country to establish effective institutions for equitable access to justice for all. Particular attention will be paid to local governance where the research carried out must reaffirm the need for West African countries to first mobilize internal resources (taxes and other revenues), before relying on aid. international if they want to achieve their sustainable development.

## 3- Objectives of the conference

The conference aims to bring together specialists, researchers and sustainable development stakeholders, national and international, to analyze, in a multidisciplinary approach, the real

impacts of the SDGs and the progress recorded by West Africa on the indicators associated with 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### 4- Planned events

- Conferences debates
- Poster presentations
- Exhibition of stands and demonstrations
- Scientific communications workshops

#### 5- Conditions of participation

The conference is open to all stakeholders in sustainable development (teachers-researchers, researchers, development stakeholders, doctoral students, etc.) national and international.

The deadline for abstract submission is **November 16, 2024**.

Communication proposals must clearly specify the focus of the chosen conference. The proposed topics and summaries must have a direct link to one or more SDGs and this must be clearly indicated. The summaries will be presented according to the following structure:

- the title ;
- the name(s) and first name(s) of the author(s), their affiliation, email address(es) with the mention (\*) preceding the name of the corresponding author;
- the type of support (oral communication or poster);
- the summary itself must include: (1. Objectives 2. Materials and methods used 3. Expected/obtained results 4. Key words).

The content of the summary must indicate the chosen SDGs and the text must be written in French or English in A4 format, portrait, Book Antiqua font, size 12 pts, line spacing 1.5 and contain a maximum of 250 words. Abstracts must be submitted exclusively by electronic files (Word format) to the address: [colloquetoni2025@gmail.com](mailto:colloquetoni2025@gmail.com)

Following the evaluation, fifty (50) proposals for communication abstracts will be selected and their authors will receive a notification of invitation to take part in the conference. At the end of the conference, the scientific committee will select the best final articles, sent within the deadline for publication in a collective work.

**NB:** Any submission not meeting the above requirements will be rejected.

#### 5- Participation fees

- Teacher-researchers and researchers: **20,000 F**
- Doctorates and similar : **10,000 F**
- Other participants : **35,000 F**

#### 6- Exhibition costs in the stands

- Research laboratories : **10,000 F**
- Private companies and other organizations : **50,000 F**

#### 7-Calendar of the conference

- ❖ Call launch date: **September 16, 2024**
- ❖ Call reminder date: **October 16, 2024**
- ❖ Deadline for receipt of abstracts: **November 16, 2024**
- ❖ Date of notification of acceptance of abstracts and invitation : **1<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

- ❖ Deadline for submitting a text: **January 30, 2025**
- ❖ Conference held: **March 10 to 12, 2025**
- ❖ Publication of conference proceedings : **December 31, 2025**

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