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YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

# Priorities for African Australian international knowledge partnerships

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# Overview



- Sustainable Development Goals
- AU Agenda 2063 - science and research priorities for Africa
- Key to successful partnerships
- Potential to grow the AAUN



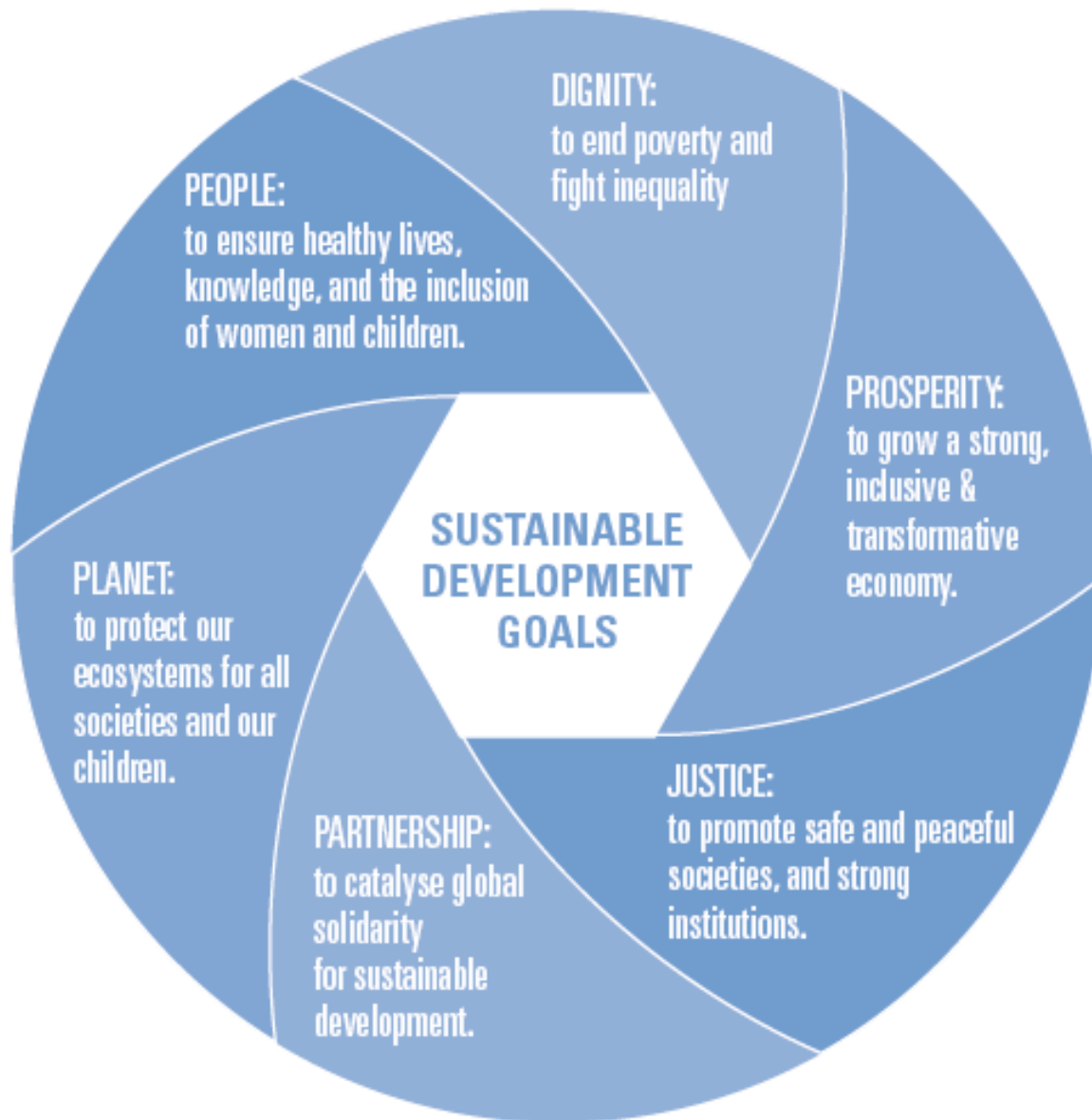


SDGs

# Sustainable Development Goals

- Developed through wide ranging consultation with civil society and approved by all members of UN
- Succeeds Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) applied to developing countries
- SDGs = universal set of global goals to guide international sustainable development and transform the world
- 17 goals, 169 targets





Six essential elements for delivering the sustainable development goals (UN 2014)



# Int'l Science Council (ICSU) review of SDGs

- Major improvement over MDGs
- Covers economic, environmental and governance dimensions of sustainable development
- Applies globally
- Scientific analysis by ICSU of SDGs and targets:
  - Are they backed up by scientific evidence?
  - Do they address all the dimensions of sustainable development in an integrated way?
  - Are they specific enough to be implemented and monitored?



# Issues

- Consistency with existing international agreements and processes
  - Success depends on alignment
- Lack of integration will affect implementability
  - Goals are interlinked - potential conflicts and trade-offs between targets – must be integrated
- Measurability
  - Many targets not quantified and no indicators to measure progress
  - Availability of data, capacity to collect and measure
- Not sufficiently developed



**29%** WELL DEVELOPED

**54%** SHOULD BE MORE SPECIFIC

**17%** REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT WORK





# Recommendations

- Overarching goal
- New metrics to measure progress
  - Successor(s) to GDP
- Systems approach
  - Develop interlinking targets common to several goals
  - Emphasize synergies, enable trade-offs
- Aggregate existing goals
  - Clustering essential
- Quantify targets and specify time frames





# Science priorities for Africa

# AU Agenda 2063: Priorities; 7 Goals

## 10-year development plan

- Sustainable Inclusive Economic Growth
- Human Capital Development
- Employment Generation
- Social Protection
- Gender / Women Development and Youth Empowerment
- Good Governance including Capable Institutions
- Infrastructural development
- Science, Technology and Innovation
- Peace and Security
- Culture, Arts and Sports



# Goal 1: priorities

Goal	Priority Areas
<p>(1) A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incomes, jobs and decent work</li><li>• Poverty, inequality and hunger</li><li>• Social security and protection including persons with disabilities</li><li>• Modern and livable habitats and basic quality services</li></ul>

# Goals 2, 3 and 4: priorities

<p>(2) Well Educated Citizens and Skills Revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literate and skills revolution</li></ul>
<p>(3) Healthy and Well-nourished Citizens</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Health and nutrition</li></ul>
<p>(4) Transformed Economies and Jobs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Inclusive sustainable economic growth</li><li>• Manufacturing / Industrialization and value addition</li><li>• Economic diversification and resilience</li></ul>



# Goals 5, 6 and 7: priorities

<p>(5) Modern Agriculture for increased Productivity and Production</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Agricultural productivity and production</li></ul>
<p>(6) Goal 6: Blue/Ocean Economy for Accelerated Economic Growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Marine resources /industry</li><li>• Ports and marine transport</li><li>• Marine energy and minerals</li></ul>
<p>(7) Environmentally sustainable Climate and Resilient Economies and Communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bio-diversity, conservation and sustainable natural resource management</li><li>• Water security</li><li>• Natural resources management</li><li>• Climate resilience and natural disasters</li></ul>





# The power of partnerships



# Rationale for collaboration

- SDGs cannot be solved in isolation in our interconnected world
- Nature, scale and complexity of socio-economic development problems require new approach
- Effective solutions require convergence
  - Integration of knowledge
  - Inter-, multi- and transdisciplinary research
  - Collaborative initiatives and partnerships across all social institutions
  - Regional, national and international cooperation



“Nowhere is the need to address these grand challenges in a sustainable and socially responsible manner more acute than in developing economies, such as on the African continent, where the problems faced more often than not threaten the very existence and survival of large sections of the population.

Working together has, however, proved complex and challenging. To better understand and successfully navigate these challenges and complexities, it is important to recognise that scientific collaboration takes many forms.”



# Role of Higher Education

- HE institutions have a crucial socio-economic developmental role in seeking solutions
- Increased emphasis on social responsibility of HEIs
- Cooperation, collaboration and partnerships essential to fulfil these roles



# Trends in Higher Education

- Unprecedented rise in academic co-authorships
- Discernible move to inter-, multi and transdisciplinary research
- Rise in regional, national and cross-border consortia - with other HE institutions, research bodies and communities served by institution, but also with government and industry (triple helix model)
- Internationalisation of HE
- Growing academic mobility (staff and students)
- Merger of ICSU and ISSC in Oct 2016



# Forms of collaboration

- Most common: individual researchers working together, usually evidenced by co-authorships
- Partnerships - typified by formal agreements, few partners and dense collaboration
- Networks - characterised by loose and shifting interactions, can include individual researchers, universities, NGOs and funders
- Koehn and Obamba conceptualised a collaboration continuum with partnerships at one end, networks at the other with a range of alliances in between





# Collaboration in Africa

# Trends in African HE

- Growing participation rates in HE, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, but still much lower than developed economies
- Student and staff mobility high in Africa, especially in SADC region which has highest outbound student mobility ratio worldwide (6%)
- Mixed HE landscape
- Growth in networks – RUFForum, AAUN and ARUA



# The problem of asymmetry

- Patterns of collaboration between Africa and rest of the world suggest scientific and resource dependence
- North-South collaboration is seemingly inevitably skewed and asymmetrical
  - Emphasis on capacity-building
  - African partners assist in fieldwork and data collection
  - Low fractional count (proportionate contribution) for African partners

# Mixed views

- Mixed views about mobility of African students and academic staff
- Double edged sword
- African students and scholars pursuing opportunities out of Africa viewed as positive trend – home countries and the continent benefit from foreign experiences and expertise.
- However, non-returning African students and staff deprive the continent of the critical human resource capacity needed for development
- This ‘brain drain’ viewed as biggest challenge to African development.



# AAUN: Case for continued collaboration

- AU's *Agenda 2063 – the Africa We Want* identifies the need for collaboration across social institutions as a non-negotiable prerequisite to address own national needs and problems in a sustainable way
- Partnerships strengthens ability of African HE to impact on Africa's socio-economic development
- AAUN – record of success with limited funding

The image features a dark blue background on the left and a white background on the right, separated by a vertical line. A red square is positioned in the top right corner. The text "Keys to successful partnerships" is written in white, sans-serif font on the blue background.

# Keys to successful partnerships

# AAUN: Successful collaboration for Development

## Five principles for success

- Shared mission
- Constructive dialogue
- Institutional support
- Bridge research, policy and practice
- Priority areas aligned with SDGs – food security and agriculture, education, mining and health (mother and child)

# Opportunities and challenges for strengthening AAUN Partnerships

## Achieve 'near symmetry'

- Pre-partnership synchronisation
- Match academic strengths and emerging strengths and capacity as well as institutional, regional and national needs of **all** partners
- Funding
- Translating research findings into policy outcomes
- Industry involvement

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<p>(2) Well Educated Citizens and Skills Revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Literate and skills revolution</li></ul> <p><b>Joint degrees</b></p>
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<p>(7) <b>Environmentally sustainable Climate</b> and Resilient Economies and Communities</p> <p><b>ADD: Governance, human rights and social justice</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bio-diversity, conservation and sustainable natural resource management</li><li>• Water security</li><li>• Natural resources management</li><li>• Climate resilience and natural disasters</li></ul>



# Priorities for AAUN Partners

- Building interdisciplinary knowledge to address SDGs – T-shaped researchers
- Expanding modalities and focus areas of partnerships
- Research; Joint academic programmes and Policy engagement



Thank you



# Chapter heading

Subheading





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