

**AN EVALUATION OF THE OVERSIGHT FUNCTION OF NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN NIGERIA**

**BY**

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(MPD)**

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare this thesis entitled “**An Evaluation of the Oversight Function of National Assembly in the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria**” is a genuine research carried out by me under the supervision and guidance of Dr. Yusuf Abdulrasheed

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## CERTIFICATION

We the undersigned hereby certify that this project titled “An Evaluation of the Oversight Function of National Assembly in the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria” presented by ADEPOJU MOJISOLA ELIZABETH (PG/NIIS/1900061) be accepted as fulfilling part of the requirements for the award of Master’s Degree in Parliamentary Administration (MPD).

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis to God Almighty, my provider. And to Mr. /Mrs. Adepoju and to Mr. /Mrs. Alabi. I hope this achievement will contribute to the dream you have for me. Doing this Masters was really a sacrifice I had to endure but I thank God for seeing me through. To my Masters Candidates and faculty, it has been a pleasure meeting you all.

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## **Abstract**

This research work is aimed at evaluating the oversight functions of the National assembly in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, the objectives of this studies are to evaluate the extent in which National Assembly is using the 1999 Constitution to oversight Sustainable Development Goals also to find out how the committees of the National Assembly maintain oversight on Sustainable Development Goals in Abuja. Related literatures to this study was reviewed, and Structural functionalism theory was adopted as a theoretical guide. This research is quantitative in nature, in which survey research design was adopted. A sample of 250 respondents were randomly selected to provide the information required for this study and questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. The data collected was analyzed using simple frequency distribution table and percentage. Findings of the study indicated that the 1999 constitutional of Nigeria empowers the National Assembly to oversight the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. Study also revealed that inadequate budget allocation from the national assembly affects the implementation of sustainable development Goals. The study ends with conclusion and given out some recommendations that the National Assembly should serve as a watchdog over implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by taking in to cognizance various approaches to policy and programs implementation, and also members of the national assembly should distance implementers of Sustainable Development Goals to depart from the culture of corruption, mismanagement of resources to committing themselves on the spirit of good governance.

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This Chapter deals with the introduction, it comprises the background of this research work Statement of Research Problem, Research Questions, Research Objectives, Scope and Limitation of the Study, Significance of the study and Conceptual Clarification.

#### **1.0 Background to the Study**

The authority and power of the National assembly and state legislatures to conduct oversight is conferred by the 1999 Constitution (as amended), and the statutes and standing rules of the legislatures at the national and state levels. Furthermore, the authority given to the statutory bodies to conduct or respond to oversight functions requires that reports are submitted to the National Assembly or State legislature through the relevant committees. According to (Frolick, 2016), legislators have the legal backing, authority and responsibility to hold governments to account in their activities. (Ojo and Omotola, 2014) posited that, legislators hold ministries, departments and agencies of government accountable in their activities to the public. Not only do they hold the executive accountable in their functions, they also have the power to approve or confirm appointments made by the executive and judiciary. Such appointments include that of ministers, chairmen, Ambassadors, Chief Justice of the federation, federal commissions and councils, justices of the supreme courts and the chief judge of the Federal High Court. According to (Madue, 2012) legislatures conduct oversight in order to:

- Ensure transparency and openness of executive activities: Legislatures shed light on the operations of government by providing a public arena in which the policies and actions of government are debated, scrutinized, and subjected to public opinion.
- Hold the executive branch accountable: Legislative oversight scrutinizes whether the government's policies have been implemented and whether they are having the desired impact.
- Provide financial accountability: Legislatures approve and scrutinize government spending by highlighting wasteful expenditure within publicly-funded services. Their

aim is to improve the economy, efficiency and effectiveness of government expenditure.

- Legislatures also oversight policy and ensure that policies reflect the development needs of the people and government expenditure reflect approved policies of government.

An effective legislature contributes to effective governance for sustainable human and national development. (NDI 2000), states that the function of oversight is to wield enormous powers in governance by executive arms. (Saliu and Muhammad, 2010) indicate that legislative body takes active role in understanding and monitoring the performance of the executive arm and its agencies. It is described as surveillance on the activities of the executive arm. It is inevitable that a functional and efficient legislature is needed, in democratic governance, to engender sustainable development which guarantees some real decision-making power of the people over and above the formal consent of an electoral choice (Adekunle, 1996).

The constitutional power assigned to the Legislature under the 1999 constitution makes it veritable tools for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. The primary goal of the legislature in Nigeria is to make law for good governance of Nigeria, which the executive in then required to implement. This includes the power to make appropriation and allocate financial resources for the execution of Government programs. This power implies and intend to supervise the executive branch of Government in order to ensure the legislative prescription in the budget have been complied with adequately.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), also known as the Global Goals, were adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. (SDG, 2022) Before the Sustainable Development Goals was established there was a previous development plan called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) mark's a historic and effective method of global mobilization to achieve a set of important social priorities worldwide. MDG express widespread public concern about poverty, hunger, disease, unmet schooling, gender inequality, and environmental degradation. The MDGs lasted from 2000-2015. Then, it was globally agreed that goals to fight poverty should continue, which led to the birth of SDGs. This is also expected to run for another 15 years (2015-2030). The concept of sustainable development is based on the concept of development (socio-economic development in line with ecological constraints). Also the concept of needs (redistribution of resources to ensure the quality of life for all) and the concept of future generations (the possibility of long-term usage of resources to ensure the necessary quality of life for future generations).

The essence of the concept of sustainable development derives from the Triple bottom line concept, which implies the balance between three pillars of sustainability– environmental sustainability focused on maintaining the quality of the environment which is necessary for conducting the economic activities and quality of life of people, social sustainability which strives to ensure human rights and equality, preservation of cultural identity, respect for cultural diversity, race and religion and economic sustainability necessary to maintain the natural, social and human capital required for income and living standards. In addition, concerted efforts have been made to enhance the legislative and oversight roles of Parliamentarians on the SDGs implementation process. In more specific terms, two select committees on SDGs have been

established in the Senate and the House of Representatives. As part of the national SDGs advocacy and campaign program, the OSSAP-SDGs has entered a partnership with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to train graduating youths into becoming SDGs champions in their local communities and in various areas of deployment for national service. It is against this background that was carried out to evaluate of the oversight function of National Assembly in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Abuja.

### **1:2 Statement of the Problem**

The 1999 Constitution of Nigeria (as amended) reinforces the policy and legal basis of sustainable development in the country. Pillars of sustainable development are embedded in many parts of the Constitution. The Federal Republic of Nigeria is “a State based on the principles of democracy and social justice.” The Constitution promises all Nigerian citizens justice which encompasses social, economic and political statuses as well as the dignity of the individual.

It is evidence that all the objectives, directives and principles that has being provided by the 1999 constitution are not justifiable. This is because of the lingering challenges that we already face in Nigeria, according to (Agba, Chukwurah and Achimugu, 2014), have asserted that the overall performance of the Nigerian legislators in accordance with their constitutional mandated functions and roles in public policies and programmes have fallen short of both national and international expectations. The ways public policies are implemented in Nigeria have been defective and as such have not been able to address some social challenges of the nation like poverty, unemployment, insecurity, lack of obedience to the rule of law by the executive, injustice, decay in the nation’s infrastructures, and many other social ills plaguing the nation. The National Assembly has experienced many challenges in the last twenty years – 1999 – 2019 from

leadership problems to allegations of corruption, in-effectiveness accusations by the public and other challenges.

According to (Makinde 2005), it is not enough to formulate a policy, achieving the success and outcome lies in the implementation. Implementation problem is the widening gap between intentions and results. Many a time, policy actors pay little attention to the subject of policy implementation while it is taken for granted that once a policy is adopted by government, it must be implemented and the goals expected is achieved. These lapses and „carelessness“ often result in poor policy implementation.

In the case of Nigeria, there are so many abandoned projects and well written policies that were not either implemented at all or not well implemented. Among the reasons that have been adduced for these are; lack of professional skills by the legislators (Popoola, 2016); (Ewuim, Nnamani &Eberinwa, 2014), personal interest of the legislators (Popoola 2016); (Ojo and Omotola 2014), lack of involvement of all stake holders in public policy process and corruption. (Eneanya, 2014); (Yagboyaju, Ojukwu, Salawu and Oni 2016). There are some tools and procedures and if not effectively carried out, the contribution that the parliamentarians can make to sustainable development will not be fully achieved. This is why it is of great importance for the National Assembly to legislate on these objectives by focusing on sustainable development.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

Based on the theoretical and practical issues identified, this study is aimed at answering the following research questions:

- i. To what extent is National Assembly using the 1999 Constitution to oversight Sustainable Development Goals?

- ii. How does the Committee system in National Assembly maintain oversight on Sustainable Development Goals?
- iii. What strategies is the National Assembly using to ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goals?
- iv. What are the challenges in the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals?

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this studies are to:

- i. Evaluate the extent in which National Assembly is using the 1999 Constitution to oversight Sustainable Development Goals.
- ii. Find out how the committees of the National Assembly maintain oversight on Sustainable Development Goals in Abuja.
- iii. Assess the strategies that the National Assembly uses to ensure compliance with Sustainable Development Goals in Abuja, and
- iv. Examine the challenges National Assembly face in implementing Sustainable Development Goals in Abuja.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This research work can provide helpful insight into understanding of the involvement of the legislative oversight to the effectiveness of the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria under the 8<sup>th</sup> National Assembly. This study is relevant and considering the importance of partnership with the United Nation.

Using the 8<sup>th</sup> and the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Legislative Oversight in the National Assembly as a case study, this research hopes to bring to the fore the extent of the participation of the

National Assembly committees to superintends the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals of various MDAs. This includes: budgeting provision, policies, programs and activities.

This study is therefore significant as it will help the members of the National Assembly, State Assembly and everyone that will be opportune to read this research work to know the extent at which the oversight helps in the implementation of the Sustainability Development Goals.

It will also create avenue for further research on the topic.

## **1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This study focused on the oversight system of Nigeria National assembly on the Sustainable development Goals. Thus, only the current constitutional provisions and legislative instruments of Nigeria was put under consideration. Also, the oversight function of the legislature was limited to the provisions of the current constitution in operation. The key stakeholders in the formulation of Sustainable Development Goals framework and goals, global parliamentary bodies made commitments to support the realization of the goals from (2015-2022).

## **1.7 Conceptual Definition of Terms**

**Evaluation:** Evaluation is the systematic assessment of the relevance, adequacy, progress, efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of a procedure. It is relevant if it answers the need and the policies and priorities it has been designed to meet. It can also be defined as the making of a judgment about something, an assessment or review of performance of a thing.

**Oversight:** Oversight is the act or duty of overseeing refers to the review, monitoring, and supervision of federal agencies, programs, activities, and policy implementation.



**National Assembly:** A group of people assigned with the mandate of making laws in Nigeria. It is a bicameral legislature established under the section 4 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. It consist of 109 Senate members and 360 Members House of Representatives.

**S.D.Gs:** The SDGs (Sustainability Development Goals) was drafted from the MDGs of the UN after the assessment of the latter. The following goals are set as SDGs by the members of the UN in 2016 and the target they choose to achieve before the 2030

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

This Chapter review previous work that has been done on the subject matter of this research by other authors. It will also outline the theoretical framework on which this work is based.

#### **2.1 Historical Overview of Legislative Oversight**

The emergence of the legislature in Nigeria could be traced to the 1914 Lugardian Advisory Council consisting of 36 members that were handpicked by the colonial masters to serve colonial interests. While the Advisory Council lacked real legislative powers, the real attempt at instituting a legislature with legislative powers was under the 1922 Clifford Constitution, which also introduced elective principles that allowed Nigerians to be elected into the central legislative body. From this point on, legislative structures are provided for in subsequent Nigerian constitutions. However, it must be noted that despite constitutional provisions for legislatures under colonial constitutions, the legislatures could not exercise any oversight of the colonial government other than serving as rubberstamps for colonial policies in most cases. In fact, under colonialism, the executive assumed prominence and dominated governance at the expense of the legislature. A gradual constitutional reform introduced from 1946 climaxed with the transfer of power to the educated Nigerian political class in 1960. In Nigeria gained independence on 1st October 1960. Despite the independence, the executive arm of government continued to dominate governance at the expense of the legislature. According to (Basiru, 2014), “during the First Republic, despite the inclusion of parliamentary oversight in the 1960 Constitution, the parliament hardly checked the executive.” The legislature was weak and lacked the capacity to

scrutinize the executive. This has said to have being caused by the fusion of power under the parliamentary arrangement of the first republic. The collapse of the republic in a manner that raises suspicious of ethnic cleansing plunged the country into a three year civil war between 1967 and 1970, which rendered the National Assembly useless during this time. By the time the military was disengaging from politics in 1979, a presidential constitution was introduced. Thus, the 1979 Presidential Constitution, unlike the parliamentary constitution that predated it introduced separation of powers. The 1979 Constitution in Section 4(1) vested the Legislative Powers of the Federation in a National Assembly consisted of a Senate and a House of Representatives (Federal Republic Nigeria 1979). The oversight powers of the national legislature under the 1979 Constitution relates to its control powers over Public Funds (see Sections 55, 74, 76 and 77). Apart from this, the constitution empowered the National Assembly to conduct investigations into any matter or thing with respect to which it has powers to make laws and the conduct of affairs of any person, authority, ministry or government department charged, or intended to be charged, with the duty of responsibility for executing or administering laws and disbursing or administering moneys (Section 82(1)). The constitution further gave the legislature power of evidence in Section 83. However, despite the above constitutional provisions regarding legislative over-sight powers, the Second Republic legislature still had some weakness like the first republic legislature in its relations with the executive. That is, though the National Assembly retained its structure of representation, it had a relatively weak structure as the executive preferences shaped the political agenda and more importantly, the legislature did not exercise significant oversight of the executive or other government operations Basiru (2014). It must be noted that by December 1983 the Second Republic too fell to a military coup under the regime of Gen. Muhammadu Buhari. This was another tortuous and long journey to democracy began with

the military experimenting with different political models, which came to head with the transition programme of the Babangida led military administration.

The administration had elaborate transition programmes, which took off with the inauguration of the Political Bureau in January 1986. The transition became effective at the local, state and the National Assembly where civilians had taken over institutions of government. However, the planned transition to civil rule by 27 August, 1993 became a stillbirth with the annulment of the June 12, 1993 presidential election. The annulment of the presidential election and the cancellation of the transition programme by the Babangida administration threw the whole country into chaos which resulted in Babangida stepping aside and hurriedly transferred power to an Interim National Government (ING) headed by Chief Ernest Shonekan on 26 August, 1993. But by November of 1993 General Sani Abacha overthrows the interim government in a bloodless coup. Under General Abacha, the transition to civil rule programme changed to self-succession plan as Abacha did all he could to suppress all politicians who showed interest in the presidency with a view to transmuting himself to a civilian president. However, the ambition was cut short by his sudden death on 8th June 1998. General Abdulsalami Abubakar that succeeded him quickly began another transition programme and by May 29, 1999 he successfully transferred power to democratically elected civilians under the 1999 Constitution. The new constitution was fashioned in line with the 1979 Constitution with very little modification. It must be noted that between December 1983 (when the military took power) and May 1999 (that civilian regained political power in Nigeria), the legislature was abrogated and there was no institution to serve as the watchdog over the executive or call the executive to account. Thus, over the period under review, the legislature was infrequent, immature and inconsistent visa-visa the executive. It was under this state of legislative experience that the Fourth Republic legislature was inaugurated in 1999. But

before examining the oversight performance of the legislature under the current Fourth Republic, it is wise to first examine some constitutional provisions of legislative oversight under the 1999 Constitution.

The extent to which the legislature of any state can shape governance and public policy as well as initiate reforms and push them to successful end depends on the constitutional provisions. The constitution as the ground norm sets parameter of Legislative Oversight in the Nigerian Fourth Republic behavior in any polity and demarcates the sphere of powers and or influences of each arm of government. A presidential constitution like that of Nigeria compartmentalizes governmental powers and institutions into three distinct arms with the executive, the legislature and the judiciary draw their powers from the constitution (See Sections 4–6 of 1999 Constitution, as amended). Indeed, the Section 4(1) of 1999 Constitution vests the legislative powers of the Federation in a National Assembly, which comprises of a Senate and a House of Representatives. The constitution thus provides for a bicameral legislature with the composition of the Senate based on equal representation of three Senators from each State and one from the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja and the House of Representatives composed of three hundred and sixty members representing constituencies of nearly equal population (See Sections 48 and 49). Specifically, Subsection 2 of Section 4 of the 1999 Constitution invests National Assembly with “power to make laws for the peace, order and good governance of the federation ...’ (Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999).

The Constitution also gives National Assembly powers and control over public funds and other matters such as: the establishment of revenue fund, authorization of expenditure from consolidated revenue fund, authorization of expenditure in default appropriations, contingencies fund, remuneration etc. of the President and certain other officers, appointment of Auditor-

General among others. Furthermore the constitution empowers the legislature to prescribe how money could be withdrawn from the federation account. Thus, the legislature is constitutionally empowered to control government purse and this allows it to shape government policies and programs (Saffell,1989); (Verney,1969). This is achieved through legislative power to debate, deliberate, amends the annual budgetary appropriation proposal by the executive. Also, the power to impose tax or duty is vested in the National Assembly, according to Section 163 of the 1999 constitution. Due to many challenges in the country such as: long history of military rule, lack of institutional accountability, corruption, mismanagement of national resources and dysfunctional public policy, the role of legislature in budgetary appropriation proposal is of essence in the Nigerian democratic system. Moreover, the oversight of the executive by the legislature is provided for in Section 88 of the Constitution. The Constitution provides that:

each House of the National Assembly shall have power by resolution published in its journal or in the Official Gazette of the government of the Federation to direct or cause to be directed an investigation into (a) any matter or thing with respect to which it has power to make laws; and (b) the conduct of affairs of any person, authority, ministry or government department charged, or intended to be charged, with the duty of or responsibility for (i) executing or Administering laws enacted by the National Assembly, and (ii) disbursing or administering moneys appropriated or to be appropriated by the National Assembly” (Section 88, Sub-sections 1(a)-(b) and 2(a)-(b)). Sub-section 2(a)-(b) of the same Section 88 provides that “the powers conferred on the National Assembly under the provisions of the section are exercisable only for the purpose of enabling it to (a) make laws with respect to any matter within its legislative competence and correct any defects in existing laws; and (b) expose corruption, inefficiency or waste in the execution or

administration of laws within its legislative competence and in the disbursement or administration of funds appropriated by it(Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999).

From the foregoing constitutional provisions, it could be seen that the legislature is saddled with the responsibilities of ensuring good governance particularly prudence, fiscal discipline, efficient service delivery and rule of law in the country. Moreover, legislature is empowered to intervene in the judicial administration as shown in Section 233 and Sub-section 21 of the 1999 Constitution as amended. The legislature could override executive veto on any bill by using its two-thirds majority power to pass the bill into law. Therefore, such bills passed in this manner do no longer require presidential assent to become law (Fashagba, 2013).

## **2.2 Meaning and Principles of Legislative Oversight**

Legislatures are known by different nomenclature in different countries. In the U.S, the Federal legislature is called the Congress. In Nigeria, the federal legislature is known as the National Assembly, while the State legislature, as the House of Assembly and the Local Government Legislative Council at the third tier of administration. While the federal legislature is bicameral, it consists of the Senate and the House of Representatives, the states and local governments have unicameral type, which is one Chamber. Members of legislatures engage in law making, reviewing legislations in committees and perform other constituent functions such as representation and oversight. The provisions of the Constitution and the Standing Orders or rules of the Legislative House set the formal rules and practice that govern legislative House. It is also the watchdog of public funds in that it not only appropriates for the State but scrutinizes how the funds so appropriated are spent (Egobueze, 2016).“ everywhere they pass laws, determine the ways of raising and spending public revenue, and discuss matters of public importance and

accountability. (Benjamin 2010) states thus, „legislature, which is the main engine of democracy, forms one of the main organs of government in every nation

### **2.3 Power to Conduct Oversight**

The constitution in Nigeria gives a legal backing to the oversight function of the legislature in which it can monitor the activities of the executive branch and its agencies to determine if public projects or programs are being adequately executed. According to (Saiegh,2014), the oversight function or role of the legislatures means ensuring the implementation of laws, ensuring that legislation and government policies are implemented effectively. Monitoring, reviewing and investigating programs and activities of government to ensure that the actions taken are transparent, accountable and consistent according to the original intent as allowed by the constitution. According to (Frolick 2016), legislators have the legal backing, authority and responsibility to hold governments to account in their activities. (Ojo and Omotola, 2014) also posited that, legislators hold ministries, departments and agencies of government accountable in their activities to the public. Not only do they hold the executive accountable in their functions, they also have the power to approve or confirm appointments made by the executive and judiciary. Such appointments include that of ministers, chairmen, Ambassadors, Chief Justice of the federation, federal commissions and councils, justices of the supreme courts and the chief judge of the Federal High Court. The legislators through their oversight function, rise up to ensure that funds appropriated for government institutions are utilized for the purpose they were allocated for to ensure that citizens get value for their money. According to (Posner and Park 2007) the legislators’ authority to appropriate public funds has been the foundation for public budgeting and accountability. The fundamental power of appropriation gave the legislature formative influence in allocating funds among competing priorities. Similarly (Pelizzo and



Stapenhurst, 2004) in the presidential systems, the legislative oversight function is normally a routine of checks and balances which is part of separation of powers. Conversely, in parliamentary system, it may be politically difficult for legislative committee to question ministers since they are also members of parliament. In such cases a regularly scheduled question and answer period will serve the purpose by allowing opposition members to question the ministers, challenging the decisions of government on policies and programs.

(Ewuim, Nnamani and Eberinwa, 2014) stated that the oversight function of the legislators is a major component of modern day legislature irrespective of the system of government. This according to (Saliu and Muhammad, 2010) as cited by (Ewuim, Nnamani and Eberinwa 2014) means the legislative body takes active role in understanding and monitoring the performance of the executive arm and its agencies regularly. The principle behind this function of the legislature is to ensure that public policy is administered in accordance with the legislative intent. The oversight functions also involve watching and controlling the activities of government through general debates, questioning of ministers, agencies and other public officials. They can also conduct investigation of committees and where necessary impeach officers they find opposed to democratic performance in their activities. For example, section (1) (a-b) of the Nigerian constitution provides that each House of the National Assembly shall have power to direct or cause to be directed an investigation into any matter or thing with respect to which it has the power to make laws and the conduct of affairs of any person, authority, ministry or government department charged or intended to be charged, with the duty of or responsibility for executing or administering laws enacted by the National Assembly. This is so as to expose corruption, inefficiency or wastages in the execution of public programs (Agba, Chukwurah & Achimugu, 2014). Legislators in budgeting is reflected in the different political systems. The oversight role of

the legislators according to (Malapane, 2016) is to ensure that the policies of government represent the needs of the people and the parliament, Congress or National Assembly and should be seen to be performing the role to the benefit of all citizens of the nation and this should be emphasized. (Malapane, 2016) went further to list the purposes of the oversight functions by the legislature: it is to improve the efficiency, economy and effectiveness of government operations; to evaluate programmes and performance; to investigate and prevent poor administration, to avoid waste, abuse of power, arbitrary and illegal and unconstitutional conduct, to protect civil liberties and constitutional rights and lastly to inform the general public and ensure that executive policies reflect public interest. The legislators have the power over the policy, budget, security issues, procurement of defense equipment, investigating the activities of the armed forces and the deployment of the military in a state of emergency. However, political system, constitutional and legal framework marginalize the role of the legislature to the executive in formulating and implementing policies in this regard. Legislators serve as overseers of the executive on behalf of the general public, (Kotia, 2011). According to (Nwagwu, 2014), the oversight function has been compromised by many legislators (especially in a place like Nigeria) and it now appears to preoccupy modern day legislators. It also appears as if this function is more important to the legislative assembly than that of law making functions as legislators now take this function more seriously than the law making function. In fact in many countries, legislators now use the oversight function to witch hunt and blackmail political opponents rather than use it to checkmate the excesses of the executive arm of government in order to curb or guide against corruption, inefficiency and waste of public funds.

## **2.4 Tools and Procedures for Enforcement of Legislative Oversight**

Recognizing the valuable contribution that parliamentarians can make to sustainable development is critical as the world advances in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its supporting SDGs. As the elected representatives of their people, legislatures have a critical role to play in driving a people-centred development agenda that is reflective of and responsive to the diverse needs of their constituents. In recent decades, there has been increasing recognition of the importance of engaging legislatures in efforts to pursue sustainable development pathways that are at the same time environmentally-sensitive and based on inclusive growth. Through their mandates, for example, in making laws and overseeing government policies and programs – including enacting and scrutinizing the government budget and related legislation – as well as representing the views of their constituents, legislatures are valuable partners in ensuring the accountable, inclusive, participatory and transparent governance that is necessary to achieve sustainable development for all.

Some of the ways National assembly can effectively contribute to ensure the success of the sustainable development Goals are:

1. Representation: Engaging people around the 2030 Agenda and facilitating public participation, there are so many ways in which representation can be achieved which includes Local public forum, party consultation, local consultation, Civil society partnership, social media and new technology, survey, one-on-one and small group meeting The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals should be taken as an opportunity to create a local bottom up response that reflects the context of local communities, taking precaution to avoid a top-down prescriptive implementation.

Therefore, the primary objective should be to establish a dialogue about the Sustainable Development Goals with the local population and authorities, allowing them to express how they want to see work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals implemented in their community.

2. Participatory lawmaking is the process by which parliaments, parliamentary groups, committees or individual members of parliament actively engage the public in the development, consideration and review of draft laws that are presented before the parliament.
3. In some countries public hearings have proven to be a useful tool for parliamentary committees as they allow parliamentarians to listen to civil society experts and to exchange with them. However, all mechanisms listed previously could contribute to strengthen public engagement. In addition, parliaments can increase the effectiveness of these mechanisms by being proactive in providing information to the public regarding its work in reviewing draft laws. This can include the publication (e.g., via newspaper or online) of draft laws, scheduling meetings to review draft laws and calling for submissions from various individuals and groups. Work towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals implemented in their community.

## **2.5 Challenges of Oversight Function of Legislatures**

From the foregoing assessment of legislative oversight in Nigeria, it is obvious that a lot still needs to be done by the legislature to ensure and/or promote good governance in Nigeria. However, the oversight function of the legislature is faced with a lot of challenges that must be addressed if the legislature must be able to perform effectively its oversight of the executive and

thus contribute meaningfully to democratic good governance in Nigeria. Some of these challenges are thematically assess below.

**Dysfunctional Democratic Culture:** Nigerian democracy is still far from being consolidated as the evidence of military hangover still manifest from time to time. Basic democratic principles like rule of law, free and fair elections and institutional accountability are still rarity. This has resulted in the weakening of democratic culture, structures and institutions. Thus, the legislature as a major institution of democracy has been at the receiving end and has therefore often attracted negative comments and dim view from the public. As a result of some of its actions, the executive often treats institution with disdain, (Egwu, 2005).

**Political Culture of Corruption:** A corollary to the above is an entrenched culture of corruption in Nigeria, itself a consequence of the several years of military (mis)rule. As noted earlier in this chapter, it is often the case that legislators in the discharge of their oversight duties are more interested in financial gains accruable to them than ensuring good governance through such duties. The implication of this is that investigations into any issue bothering on governance cannot be subjected to thorough scrutiny in the best interest of Nigerians so long as the ministries/departments of government concern know how to ‘settle’.

**Interference with Legislative Oversight Functions by the Executive:** As observed earlier in this work, the legislature is adequately empowered by the constitution to perform oversight functions and act as the watchdog of the executive. Again, the legislature must screen and approve certain appointees of the executive. The legislature is further empowered to even remove the President, Vice President, Governor and the Deputy Governor through impeachment procedure provided for in the constitution. It is however disheartening to say that the exercise of

the above functions to ensure good governance for the benefit of all and sundry is often interfered with and hampered by the executive. This is done, first and foremost, by the executive ensuring that their cronies are elected as the leaders of the two chambers. Executive interference manifests in some covert excessive politicking, and occasionally it deployed the needed funds and logistics to install a pliant legislator in leadership position. Also, where the legislature musters enough courage and ventures to carry out any of the oversight functions, the executive often resorts to the use of money to pursue a 'divide and rule' agenda to create a crack among the legislators. The effect of the game is that good governance is denied to Nigerians who are entitled to have same (Aiyede, 2005).

**Personal Interests of the Legislators:** It is common knowledge that a good number of members of the legislative houses at both federal and state levels pursue pure selfish interests that are often at variance with the primary roles. Where personal interest override collective interest, as occasionally seen in the national assembly, the system will be undermined and legislative efficiency will be compromised. The foregoing challenges, amongst others, have largely robbed Nigerians the opportunity of enjoying good governance through effective and efficient legislative oversight of the executive. The actions or inactions of the national assembly has in turn resulted Legislative Oversight in the Nigerian Fourth Republic in a situation in which the state has failed state to move in the right direction and deliver necessary democratic goods.

Other challenges are: Inadequacy of oversight tools, Non-involvement in the whole budget cycle, High turnover of the legislature and weak institutional capacity, Inadequacy of executive response to alleged corrupt cases found, abuse of legislative investigation power, Inadequate access to research and information, Dearth of legislative facilities and poor documentation, Lack of high

quality technical/ professional of the legislature, Wide capacity gap compared to the executive arm of government, Poor committee operation an pressure from constitution

## **2.6 Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria**

Nigeria has demonstrated strong political commitment for national ownership and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. As part of this commitment, President Muhammadu Buhari appointed a Senior Special Assistant on the Sustainable Development Goals (SSAP-SDGs) with full mandate of coordinating the Sustainable Development Goals-related interventions; tracking of national progress; reporting on performance as well as managing the operational processes for results. The Office of the SSAP (OSSAP-SDGs) is located within the Office of the President for optimal political support and authority. The Government has also deployed seasoned public servants and professionals to the OSSAP-SDGs in order to ensure readily available multi-skills, talent-building as well as a reservoir of institutional memory for subsequent lessons and knowledge transfer. In order to fully harness available resources and effectively engage other stakeholders, a Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG) and a Donors' Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals have recently been inaugurated. Similarly, the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Advisory Group on Sustainable Development Goals are already working towards *Goal*

There are 17 goals under the Sustainable Development Goals set out to be achieved:

*1: End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere*

The targets of this goal is to reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty (less than \$1.25 a day); implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable. Ensure access of all, particularly the poor and the vulnerable, to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services including microfinance and build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations.

*Goal 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Adequate Nutrition for All, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture*

This is to ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round; achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons. Double the agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets, and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment; ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices. Member states are to increase investment, including through enhanced international cooperation, in rural infrastructure, agricultural research and extension services, technology development, and



plant and livestock gene banks. Also, to correct and prevent trade restrictions and distortions in world agricultural markets including by the parallel elimination of all forms of agricultural export subsidies and all export measures with equivalent effect

*Goal 3: Attain Healthy Life for All at All Ages*

The targets of this goal are to reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births and end preventable deaths of newborns and under-five children; end epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other communicable diseases; reduce by one-third pre-mature mortality NCDs. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes; halve global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents; achieve universal health coverage (UHC); substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination. States are to strengthen implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries as appropriate support research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration.

*Goal 4: Provide Equitable and Inclusive Quality Education and Life-Long Learning Opportunities for All*

To reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births and end preventable deaths of newborns and under-five children; end epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases, and other

communicable diseases; reduce by one-third pre-mature mortality non-communicable diseases. Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes; halve global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents; achieve universal health coverage (UHC); substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, and soil pollution and contamination. To achieve this set goal, states are to strengthen implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries as appropriate support research and development of vaccines and medicines for the communicable and non-communicable diseases that primarily affect developing countries, provide access to affordable essential medicines and vaccines, in accordance with the Doha Declaration.

*Goal 5; Attain Gender Equality, Empower Women and Girls Everywhere*

This goal is to end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere, eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and Female Genital Mutilation. It recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life Members of the UN are to carry out reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance, and natural resources in accordance with national laws. Enhance the use of enabling technologies, in particular ICT, to promote women's empowerment. Adopt and strengthen sound policies and

enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and empowerment. These require relevant legislations by the Nigerian National Assembly.

*Goal 6: Secure Water and Sanitation for All for a Sustainable World*

Members of the UN are to achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all; access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all; end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations; improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and increasing recycling and safe reuse by x% globally Increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity, and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity; implement integrated water resource management at all levels, including through trans-boundary cooperation as appropriate. By 2020 protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes; expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water and sanitation related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and re-use technologies.

*Goal 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Sustainable, and Reliable Modern Energy Services for All*

2030 ensure universal access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services; increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030; double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030; enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technologies, including renewable energy, energy efficiency, and advanced and cleaner fossil fuel technologies, and promote investment in energy

infrastructure and clean energy technologies expand infrastructure and upgrade technology for supplying modern and sustainable energy services for all in developing countries, particularly LDCs and SIDS.

*Goal 8: Promote Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Decent Work for All*

To sustain per capita economic growth in accordance with national circumstances, and in particular at least 7% per annum GDP growth in the least-developed countries; achieve higher levels of productivity of economies through diversification, technological upgrading and innovation, including through a focus on high value added and labor-intensive sectors; promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises including through access to financial services Improve global resource efficiency in consumption and production, and endeavor to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation in accordance with the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production with developed countries taking the lead Prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms including recruitment and use of child soldiers. Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments of all workers, including migrant workers, particularly women migrants, and those in precarious employment; devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism which creates jobs, promotes local culture and products strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and to expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all. Increase Aid for Trade support for developing countries, particularly LDCs, including through the Enhanced Integrated Framework for LDCs.

### *Goal 9: Promote Sustainable Industrialization*

Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and trans-border infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all; promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization,

By 2030 raise significantly industry's share of employment and GDP in line with national circumstances, and double its share in LDCs. Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, particularly in developing countries, to financial services including affordable credit and their integration into value chains and markets. Upgrade infrastructure and retrofit industries to make them sustainable, with increased resource use efficiency and greater adoption of clean and environmentally sound technologies and industrial processes, all countries taking action in accordance with their respective capabilities enhance scientific research.

### *Goal 10: Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries*

Members are to empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status; ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including through eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and actions in this regard; adopt policies especially fiscal, wage, and social protection policies and progressively achieve greater equality; improve regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen implementation of such regulations; Ensure enhanced representation and voice of developing countries in decision making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and

legitimate institutions; facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies

*Goal 11: Build Inclusive, Safe and Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements*

States are to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums, sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacities for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries. Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of affected people and decrease by y% the economic losses relative to GDP caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with the focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

*Goal 12: Promote Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns*

Implement the 10-Year Framework of Programs on sustainable consumption and production (10YFP), all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries. Achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources. Halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer level, and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post-harvest losses. By 2020 achieve environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout

their life cycle in accordance with agreed international frameworks and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment. By 2030, substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse.

*Goal 13: Promote Actions at All Levels to Address Climate Change*

Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries; Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning; improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning. Implement the commitment undertaken by developed country Parties to the UNFCCC to a goal of mobilizing jointly USD100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible. Promote mechanisms for raising capacities for effective climate change related planning and management, in LDCs, including focusing on women, youth, local and marginalized communities.

*Goal 14: Attain Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources, Oceans and Seas*

By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution. By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration, to achieve healthy and productive oceans; minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels. By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting, and end

overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics. By 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on best available scientific information

*Goal 15: Protect and Restore Terrestrial Ecosystems and Halt All Biodiversity Loss*

By 2020 ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements. Promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests, and increase afforestation and reforestation by x% globally; combat desertification, and restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land-degradation neutral world. By 2030 ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, to enhance their capacity to provide benefits which are essential for sustainable development; take urgent and significant action to reduce degradation of natural habitat, halt the loss of biodiversity, and by 2020 protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

*Goal 16: Achieve Peaceful and Inclusive Societies, Rule of Law, Effective and Capable Institutions*

Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere; end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children. Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all. Significantly



reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms; develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacities at all levels, in particular in developing countries, for preventing violence and combating terrorism and crime. Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development and provide legal identity for all including birth registrations

*Goal 17: Strengthen and Enhance the Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Sustainable*

*Development* Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection. Developed countries are to implement fully their ODA commitments, including providing 0.7% of GNI in ODA to developing countries of which 0.15-0.20% to least-developed countries. Also to mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources and assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries (HIPC) to reduce debt distress by adopting and implementing investment promotion regimes for Less Developed Countries.

## **2.7 Brief on Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals**

The need to make global development holistic has been in the forefront of the agenda of the United Nations (UN). No doubt that the international organization has been developing frameworks to help reduce the gaps in development between the first and third world countries. One of these frameworks in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which was later replaced in 2015 by Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One of the major challenges faced by the former MDGs was its inability to get local legislation by member states of the United Nations Development Programs (UNDP). The SDGs, which came into effect in January 2016, are a universal set of economic, social and environmental goals and targets that member states of the UN are expected to achieve by 2030. The SDGs build and expand on the eight MDGs by focusing on critical dimensions of sustainable development in both emerging and advanced countries, ranging from human rights obligations, good governance, social justice, equity within countries, environmental sustainability, vulnerability to the exclusion of marginal populations and the poorest of the poor, Meyer-Ohlendorf, Gorlach, and McFarland, (2013). Like the MDGs, the SDGs will not be legally binding; they represent a political commitment to development by all UN member states, Meyer-Ohlendorf *et al* (2013). Ultimately, these universal goals are meant to create a standard that ensures the balancing of economic development and global environmental goals with poverty reduction objectives Sachs (2012). Until now, the debates surrounding Sustainable Development Goals have mainly concerned the setting of goals and indicators. Less attention has been paid to discussing the roles and responsibilities that different stakeholders should take in achieving these goals in particular, how to best implement this universal framework at the local level. Given the scope and ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals, it is clear that governments alone cannot achieve the agenda. They must also ensure the

participation of all sectors of society, including legislative aides, the private sector and the general public at the local level. Localization has to do with the process of defining, implementing and monitoring strategies at the local level for achieving global, national and sub-national sustainable development targets. It involves various concrete mechanisms, tools, innovations, platforms and processes to effectively translate the development agenda into results at the local level” (GTF *et al.*, (2014).

## **2.8 Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal in Nigeria**

Policy implementing stage is the phase when the policy is publicized and made to work. At this stage, the parameters of those the policies are meant for, the circumstances under which the policy statements are made and the directives, conditions and restrictions are all spelt out in clear statements. According to (Mintrom, 2019), policy implementation entails the followings: that policy actors must assign duties and responsibilities to those who will be involved in the process; the hiring and assigning those personnel that will be involved in executing the policy; it also entails the issuing and enforcing directives, disbursing of funds and resources that will be needed for the execution of the policy, signing contracts, data collection and analysis and to ensure that the programs of the government is put into effect. The importance of this is that policy content is not limited to the means used to achieve the objectives of the policy but how the goals are determined and the means of achieving the goals.

**Context:** (Hallsworth, Parker and Rutter, 2011) explained that some policies are meant to address specific areas such as economic, politics, social and legal issues. Therefore, policies implementers must pay attention to the contextual framework of each policy which might influence and impact on effective implementation processes.

**Commitment:** When a government is committed to improving the well-being of its citizens according to (Cloete, Wissink and De Conning, 2010), implementing the policies formulated will be a priority in such a government agenda. The government will commit all it takes to implement whatever policy it has formulated for the benefits of its citizens that is, when such government can be termed efficient and effective.

**Capacity:** According to (Ugwuanyi and Chukwuemeka, 2013), successful implementation of a policy depends on the professional capability, skills, interest, abilities and attitude of the bureaucrats who are the main participants in the process. For example the knowledge of the public servants to deliver public policy goes a long way for effective policy implementation. Some of them do not have or possess the requisite manpower and financial resources to effectively implement the policies. This stage as posited by (Ugwuanyi and Chukwuemeka 2013) is the process of translating a policy into action which will invariably result in various projects and programs. This is most often accomplished by different institutions other than those that formulated the policy. Most public policies are often carried out by administrative agencies in the executive branch. It requires according to (Edet and Amadu 2014), determining the application, administration and effectuation of the policy. (Nweke, 2006) was quoted by (Ugwuanyi and Chukwuemeka, 2013) that policy implementation includes issuing and enforcing directives, disbursing of funds, signing contracts, data collection, collation and analysis. It also involves hiring and assigning those personnel that will be involved in executing the policy, setting up committees and commissions, assigning duties and responsibilities and making interim decisions.

The availability of resources and their mobilization is a critical factor that has to be considered for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. This is more so, given the fact that the implementation of the required programs and projects will be capital intensive. Moreover,

it is a fact that Nigeria's priority developmental needs go well beyond the Sustainable Development Goals and that these too are competing for funding. At the same time, Nigeria is struggling with an economic recession that has been exacerbated by her over-reliance on oil revenues that are presently dwindling. The non-oil revenue sources include taxes and excise duties while budget deficits are mostly financed by loans and grants from Development Partners and other international financial institutions.

In the meantime, the country has experienced difficulty in tracking the revenue flow from CSOs and private sector. Overall, the revenues due to the Federal Government are paid into a consolidated revenue account before being shared amongst the three tiers of government (Federal, State and Local). The federal allocation is derived after statutory transfers to key federal agencies and 13% derivations are paid to the oil producing communities.

## **2.8.0 Some of the ongoing fiscal reforms as part of sustainable development goals resource mobilization**

Given the sharp drop in the price of oil and humanitarian crisis that have challenged the national economy and her 2020 vision, the government has embarked on several reforms and policy interventions that are already beginning to yield positive results. Some of the reform measures undertaken and being pursued include the following:

### **2.8.1. Introduction of Treasury Single Account (TSA)**

This is one of the fiscal management measures intended to curb wastage and reduce the cost of running government. Through enforcement of the TSA policy, government has streamlined revenue collections and curbed abuses. Some idle funds within the government systems have been

mopped up to the tune of ₦2.5 Trillion as at September 2015, 31 leading to huge savings that have contributed to additional domestic resources for investment in sustainable development.

### **2.8.2. Implementation of Appropriate Debt Sustainability Strategies**

A comprehensive review of the national debt profile was carried out and an appropriate debt sustainability strategy produced. As part of the strategy implementation, the country focuses on servicing loans at an optimal cost while investing on sustainable development.

### **2.8.3. Reform of the Internal Revenue Generation System (IGR Reforms)**

At the national level, the Government embarked on comprehensive reform of the Federal Inland Revenue Service and revenue collection points at the port. The reform measures led to the introduction of online transmission of revenues from source to designated government accounts and hence blocking system leakages and boosting the collection from taxes and other internal revenue generation sources, for subsequent investment in sustainable development.

### **2.8.4. Technology-based Payroll and Human Resource Management**

The introduction of an Integrated Payroll and Personnel Information System (IPPIS) in some Federal MDAs has helped in the removal of unproductive workers and frivolous overhead expenditures. The implementation of the IPPIS in some MDAs was first done as a pilot project. With the record of success therefrom, the Federal Government plans to extend its implementation across all the Federal MDAs. Many sub-national governments like the Jigawa State have also

recorded great results following the application of IPPIS hence freeing up more resources to be re-invested in other initiatives that would accelerate sustainable development in the country.

**2.8.5. Budget Process Reform** Nigeria introduced the principles of International Public-Sector Accountability Standards (IPSAS) in her budgeting process from July 2010. The application of IPSAS principles led to a Multi-year Budgeting Framework that reduces the challenge of initiating new projects without completing an ongoing one. It also ensures that resources allocation is linked to related capital and recurrent programmes or activities for each project to enhance functionality and utility. In addition to this, application of IPSAS has enhanced realism in the country's fiscal forecasting on her Medium Term Fiscal Framework (MTFF), Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and Multi-Year Budget Framework (MYBF). The country has advanced on the application of the IPSAS principles to integrating the principles of Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB), starting with the 2016 national budget. ZBB aims to ensure that resources allocation to MTFF, MTEF and MYBF are realistic and decisions for resource allocation are justified by optimality of evidenced contribution (from review reports). This is aimed at expanding effectiveness, relevance, sustainability and impact of projects and programmes. In 2017 national budget, the use of Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA) model was introduced to the ZBB principles, to strengthen optimality in selection of projects on a balanced scale of “intended results, issues, timeliness, sustainability and cost”.

#### **2.8.6 Enhanced Targeted Support by Development Partners**

Many Development Partners are partnering with the Federal Government to provide technical support and capacity building in implementing government identified priority projects and program. For instance, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation worked with the Dangote Foundation

in supporting Nigeria with funds for her National Program on Immunization; specifically, the polio elimination program. The World Bank, DFID, UNDP, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), European Union (EU), German Government (GIZ) among many others, have provided support to the government on key areas such as governance and public financial management reforms across federal MDAs and sub-national governments. Loans were provided by the China EXIM bank for funding of critical infrastructure in roads, transportation, water and power supply that will facilitate sustainable development.

### **2.8.7. Implementation of Anti-corruption Programs**

As the country continues to expand her horizon on anti-corruption campaigns, implementation of some of the anti-corruption interventions, such as, asset disclosure and loot recovery program, whistle blowers' policy, freedom of information policy, among others, are already yielding results. The recovery of ill-gotten wealth and other measures aimed at deterring corruption are complementing other resource mobilization efforts that will enhance re-investment into select Sustainable Development Goals initiatives.

### **2.8.8. Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns on Combating Illicit Financial Flows**

Given the crucial importance of domestic resource mobilization to the implementation of the SDGs, Nigeria, in collaboration with like-minded Countries has been advocating for the return of illicit and stolen asset to Countries of origin. To advance this, Nigeria and Norway have hosted three seminars in New York on combating illicit financial flows. This was followed up with an international conference held in Abuja, Nigeria on the same topic. The summit of the campaign will be a Presidential side event that will hold during the upcoming UN General Assembly meeting in September 2017. This initiative is aimed at complementing the anti-corruption Efforts



of President Buhari towards resource mobilization for Sustainable Development Goals implementation.

## **2.9 Legislative engagement with Sustainable Development Goal**

There are no hard and fast rules regarding oversight mechanisms that countries can use in SDGs oversight, drawing on available oversight tools. The choice of oversight mechanisms therefore is determined by the specific political colouration of the country, the constitutional powers of the country, and the amount of political will that parliamentarians are willing to exhibit as individuals and as collectives. For example, parliaments in different countries used different mechanisms in engaging the MDGs. In countries like Nigeria, in the House of Representatives (HoR), Zimbabwe and the Philippines, the parliaments established standing committees on the MDGs, with the powers enjoyed by other standing committees. In countries like Kenya, India and Indonesia, parliaments established working groups on the MDGs, while Mongolia chose to establish a parliamentary sub-committee on the MDGs. The Nigerian parliament, in its preliminary stage of engaging the Sustainable Development Goals, has improved on the situation in the MDGs era. The two chambers of the National Assembly have already established standing committees on the Sustainable Development Goals in a departure from the MDGs era where only the HOR established a standing committee. It is expected however, that parliamentary engagements with the Sustainable Development Goals will be cascaded to the state level where each state House of Assembly is expected to create Sustainable Development Goals Committee.

Parliamentary engagements with the Sustainable Development Goals take place at different levels: committee, plenary and caucuses where a country chooses to create a

**Table 2.1: SDGs Parliamentary Activities at Different Levels**

Activity Level	Activities
Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Sustainable Development Goals Work plans</li> <li>• Field Visits complemented with oral/written questions.</li> <li>• Investigative hearings into activities of MDAs.</li> <li>• Enforcing reporting compliance from MDAs</li> <li>• Participation in national and international networks on the Sustainable Development Goals.</li> <li>• Ensure government spending has Sustainable Development Goals justifications.</li> <li>• Ensure that engagements with development partners and CSOs works complement Sustainable Development Goals.</li> <li>• Create greater awareness among parliamentarians.</li> </ul>

Plenary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual parliamentary debates of Sustainable Development Goals reports.</li> <li>• Oral and written questions to Ministers and heads of government agencies.</li> <li>• Promotion Sustainable Development Goals related legislation.</li> <li>• Ensure Sustainable Development Goals compliance during budget passage.</li> <li>• Reflecting views of citizens during debates on Sustainable Development Goals reports. Participation in national and international networks on the Sustainable Development Goal. Sponsoring Private Members' Bill to advance pro-poor legislation; even where such Bills do not result in new legislation, they can highlight issues and pressure government to take action.</li> </ul>
Parliamentary Political Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the establishment of a joint Sustainable Development Goals secretariat for the two chambers as the focal point.</li> <li>• Support establishment of Sustainable Development Goals Resource Centre within the parliament to make available real time information.</li> <li>• Organize breakfast meetings with key stakeholders.</li> <li>• Participation in global and regional parliamentary networks</li> </ul>
Individual Parliamentarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public meetings to gather views of the general public on the SDGs.</li> <li>• Participation in global and regional parliamentary networks.</li> </ul>

**Source: SDGs Oversight Manual for Nigerian Legislature (2022)**

**2.9.1 Public input into monitoring implementation of laws and policies** As with budgets and lawmaking, a parliament has a key role to play in monitoring implementation of the laws it passes to ensure the executive branch implements them in accordance with the intent of the parliament. This includes monitoring the effect not only of primary legislation, but of regulations, rules, decrees, and executive orders: it is essential that parliament has a mechanism to systematically monitor these, and that the mechanism includes a Sustainable Development Goal lens. And as with the other functions of a parliament, a number of tools can be utilized to gain insight on the impact or challenges found in a law that has been passed by parliament and is now being carried out engaging the public and civil society in this process. Some parliamentary committees have developed specific action plans that identify the key tools and methods of engagement and how they will be used to maintain ongoing consultation systems. Some parliaments may have annual work plans or legislative calendars that spell out how the parliament and its committees will use specific engagement tools for each draft law reviewed or inquiry conduct

## **2.10 Structural Functionalism Theory**

Structural functionalism as it is often called, intends to explain the basis for the maintenance of order and stability in society and the relevant arrangements within the society, which maintain the said order and stability. In our formulation of a structural functional framework, social processes and social mechanisms are intervening variables. A complete description of a social system would include, therefore, a treatment of the social structures, and various functions of these structures; and of the social processes and mechanisms that must be in operation if structures are to satisfy certain functions (Holt, 1967).

According to (Enemuo,1999) Gabriel Almond, one of the chief proponents of the approach (structural functionalism) in political science avers that every political system performs certain functions. Taking Easton's systems analysis as a starting point, Almond looks for the functions which could be included among the input and output functions of all political systems. On the input side are the functions of interest articulation and interest aggregation. Second, on the output side are the functions of rulemaking, rule application and rule adjudication. The function of political communication is undertaken to inform all within the political system and outside of the diverse activities. Additionally, every system performs systems maintenance and adaptation functions through political socialization and recruitment of people. According to (Almond and Powell, 1969) the functioning of any political system may also be viewed in terms of its capabilities, which is the way it performs as a unit in its environment. The concepts of regulative, extractive, distributive and responsive capability are employed as criteria to assess how a system is performing within its environment, how it is shaping its environment, and how it is being shaped by the environment as well. No doubt, structural functionalism revolves around two focal conceptions- functions and structures. (Nwagwu 2010) stresses that while functions deal with the consequence that is, involving objectives as well as processes of patterns of actions (like capacity to make and implement sound anti-corruption laws and appropriate punishment for violations irrespective of the culprits), and structure on the other hand refers to the arrangements within the system, which performs the functions. The legislature in National Assembly is a structure that performs the oversight functions on the MDAs to ensure that the 17 goals that have been set are achieved. This is done by the legislators working with the MDAs for efficiency and effectiveness. The MDAs have invaluable roles to play in the actualization of all the items in the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter discusses the research methodology adopted in undertaking this study to evaluate the oversight function of the National Assembly in the implementation Sustainable Development Goals. It comprises of research design, population of the study, sample and sampling technique, method of data collection, instrument of data collection, and method of data analysis.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The study used survey design. The purpose of research design is to plan for generating empirical evidences that could be used to answer research questions. (Ifidon and Ifidon, 2007) described survey as “that which gathers data from members of a population with respect to one or more variables. It is not concerned with individuals as entities but with generalized statistics that emanate when data are abstracted from a number of individual cases”.

#### **3.3 Population of the Study**

Population is defined as a means of identifying characteristics most members of the universe have in common, which will identify each unit as being a member of a particular group (Bello, 2009). Therefore, the population of this study was drawn from the various ministries that directly involved in the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in the SDG staffs. See table below:

**Table 3.1: SDGs Related Ministries and Population**

<b>Ministries</b>	<b>NASS</b>	<b>SDGS Staff</b>	<b>Desk Officers</b>
Health	47	5	2
Education	39	5	2
Women & Youth	16	5	2
Environment	17	5	2
Power	14	5	2
Humanitarian	16	5	2
Commerce	18	5	2
Industries	21	5	2
Works	32	5	2
Water Resource	34	5	2
Justice	28	5	2
Agriculture	34	5	2
<b>Total=</b>	316	60	24

Source: Field survey May (2022)

The above table reveals the categories of the people in which the population was drawn. Therefore, a total of 869 including 469 Legislatures that constituted the population of the study to evaluate oversight function of the national assembly on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria

### **3.4 Sampling Procedure**

Sampling is the selection of a subset of the population interested in a research study. Therefore, multistage sampling technique of probability sampling was adopted in which all element of unit of analysis stand a chance of been selected. A multistage sampling comprises of Purposive and simple random sampling was used to obtain the sample size for this study. Purposive sampling deal with the ministries that is responsible for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, (see table 1). Similarly, simple random sampling technique was used to select the categories of respondents.

### **3.5 Sample Size**

Therefore, a sample of 265 respondents were randomly selected to provide the information require for this study to evaluate the oversight function of national assembly on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. The sample selection is in line with (Krejcie and Morgan, 1970) classification of determination of sample size (see appendix ii).

### **3.6 Instrument for Data Collection**

The instrument for data collection for the study was questionnaire to solicit data from the respondents According to (Nworgu, 1991) questionnaire is by far the most frequently used instrument in social research. It also provides the researcher room for easy accumulation of data for analysis as well as guarantees the privacy of the respondents". (Kothari, 2004) stated that questionnaire enables the researcher to sample large population which makes the result to be more dependable and reliable. This was chosen because questionnaire is used when factual information is desired and provides respondent an opportunity to give frank answers (Best and Khan, 2003).



### **3.7 Method of Data Analysis**

The data collected in the course of this research was presented and analyzed using simple frequency distribution table and percentage.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### Data Presentation, analysis and Discussion of Findings

This chapter deals with the presentation of data collated in an attempt to evaluate the oversight function of the national assembly toward the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. The responses from the questionnaires distributed and returned are presented in frequency table and the analysis of data was based on simple percentages.

#### 4.1 The distribution and return of the questionnaire

In a quantitative research approach, questionnaires are administered on respondents with the view to elucite responses. The table below shows the number of questionnaires sent out and collected back after several efforts.

**Table 4.1 Questionnaires indicating Administered and Returned**

Responses	Questionnaire Distributed	Frequency of questionnaire Return	Percentages of questionnaire Returned %
Legislatures (Committees)	174	133	53.2
Directors	100	83	33.2
SDGs Staff	27	25	10
Desk Officers	9	9	3.6
TOTAL=	310	250	100%

Source: field survey May 2022

The above table reveals the number of questionnaires distributed for the legislatures is 174, Directors 100, SDGs Staff 27 and Desk Officers 9. and the questionnaire return to the researcher were represented as 53.2%, 33.2%, 10% and 3.6% respectively. This clearly shows that out of the 310 questionnaires distributed to the respondents the researcher were able to retrieve 250 and base his analysis on it.

**Table 4.2 Sex Distribution of the Respondents**

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	220	86
Female	30	14
Total=	250	100%

Source: Field Survey May 2022

The above shows the sex distribution of the respondents, out of the 250 respondents in this study, 215 respondents, representing 86% were male participants. While, 30 respondents representing 14% were female participants. All the respondents were drawn randomly from the implementers of the Sustainable Development Goals. From the above statistics, it clearly shows the low participation of female in the SDGs with (15.1%). This indicates clear segregation of women in our daily lives as a result of culture of exclusion.

**Table 4.3 Age Distribution of the Respondents**

Age group	Frequency	Percentage (%)
30-39	18	21.6
40-59	80	44
60-69	22	34.4
Total=	250	100

Source: Field Survey May 2022

The above table reveals the age distribution of the respondents which indicate that 21.6 % of the respondents were between 30-39 years, 44% of the respondents were within the age of 40-59 years and 34.4% of the respondents are between the ages of 60-69 years. While, 21.6% of the respondents were between 60-69 years. Therefore, this clearly shows that the highest percentage of the respondents is between the ages of (40-59).

**Table 4.4 Educational Qualification of Respondents**

Educational Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
ND/NCE	12	4.8
HND/B. Sc	174	69.6
M. Sc/ Ph.D	44	17.6
SSC/Grade 11	20	8
Total=	250	100%

Source: Field Survey May 2022

The above table indicates the educational qualification of respondents, which represent (4.8%) for the ND/NCE holders and (69.6%) were HND/B.Sc Holders, while, M.Sc/Ph.D with (17.6%) and SSC/Grade 11 with (8%). This clearly shows that majority of the respondents were HND/B.Sc holders.

**Table 4.5 Department of the Respondents**

Department	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Legislatures	147	58.8
Directors	54	21.6
SDGs Staff	25	10
Desk Officers	24	9.6
Total=	250	100%

Source: Field Survey May 2022

The above table shows the respective department of the respondents which indicate that Legislatures has 147 representing (58.8%) committees, Directors were 54 representing (21.6%). While, SDGs staff with 25 and Desk Officers has 24 representing 10% and 9.6% respectively. Therefore, it shows the department distribution of the various categories of respondents.

**Table 4.6 Working Experiences of the Respondents**

Experiences	Years	Frequency	Percentage %
Legislatures	5-10yrs	90	36
Directors	10 and above	120	48
SDGs Staff	1-5yrs	24	9.6
Desk Officers	1-5yrs	16	6.4
Total=		250	100%

Field Survey May 2022

The above table clearly indicates the working experiences of the respondent's in the study area, 90 respondents, representing (36%) have 5-10 years working experiences, 120 respondents representing (48%) of the directors has more than 10yrs working experiences. While, 24 and 16 respondents representing (9.6%) and (6.4%) is the working experiences of the SDGs Staff and Desk Officers of 1-5yrs respectively.

**Table 4.7 There is a constitutional provision that guide the National Assembly to oversight the Sustainable Development Goals**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	67	26.8
Agree	112	44.8
Neutral	8	3.2
Disagree	38	15.2
Strongly Disagree	25	10
Total=	250	100%

Field Survey May 2022

The above table reveals that 67 and 112 respondents, representing (26.8%) and (44.8%) Strongly agree and agree that there is a constitutional provision that guide the National Assembly to oversight the Sustainable Development Goals, and 3.2% of the respondents remain neutral while 38 and 25 respondents representing 15.2% and 10% disagree and strongly disagree with the statement above.

**Table 4.8 The National Assembly oversight the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	78	31.2
Agree	99	39.6
Neutral	15	6
Disagree	27	10.8
Strongly Disagree	31	12.4
Total=	250	100%

Field Survey May 2022

The table above reveals that 78 and 99 respondents, representing (31.2%) and (39.6%) agree and strongly agree with the above that the National Assembly oversight the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, 15 respondents and representing 6% are neutral, while 10.8% and 12.4% of the respondents disagree and strongly disagree with the above assertion.

**Table 4.9 the 1999 constitution of Nigeria empowers the national assembly to oversight the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	112	44.8
Agree	76	29.6

Neutral	23	9.2
Strongly Disagree	26	10.2
Disagree	13	5.2
Total=	250	100%

Field Survey May 2022

The table above shows that 76 and 112 respondents, representing (26.8%) and (44.8%) agree and strongly agree that the 1999 constitutional of Nigeria empowers the National Assembly to oversight the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, and 23 or about (9.2) of the respondents remain neutral. While 26 and 13 respondents representing 10.2% and 5.2% disagree and strongly disagree with the above statement.

**Table 4.10 there is a committee in the national assembly that oversight the activities Sustainable Development Goals.**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	66	26.4
Agree	109	43.6
Neutral	18	7.2
Strongly Disagree	27	10.8
Disagree	30	12
Total=	250	100

Field Survey May 2022

The above table indicates that out 250 questionnaires that was distributed 66 and 109 of the respondents, representing (26.4%) and (43.6%) agree and strongly agree that there is a committee in the national assembly that oversight the activities of sustainable development Goals in Nigeria. and 7.2% of the respondents stand neutral while 27nd 30 respondents, representing 10.8% and 12% disagree and strongly disagree with the above assertion.

**Table 4.11 the committees in the National Assembly are responsible for the supervision of the various Sustainable Development Goals**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	76	30.4
Agree	39	15.6
Neutral	25	10
Disagree	47	18.8
Strongly Disagree	63	25.2
Total=	250	100

Field Survey May 2022

The table above shows that 76 and 39 of the respondents, representing (30.4%) and (15.6%) strongly agree and agree with the statement that committees in the national assembly are responsible for the supervision of the various sustainable development Goals in Nigeria. and 25 of the respondents remain neutral while 47nd 63 respondents, representing (18.8%) and (25%) disagree and strongly disagree with the above submission.

**Table 4.12 Does the committee system in the ministries ensure the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals?**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	78	31.2
Agree	106	42.4
Neutral	10	4
Disagree	36	14.4
Strongly Disagree	20	8
Total=	250	100

Field Survey May 2022



The above table reveals that 78 and 108 of the respondents, representing (31.2%) and (42.4%) strongly agree and agree with the statement that committees system ensures the implementation sustainable development Goals. and 10 respondents stand neutral while 36 and 20 respondents, representing (14.4%) and (8%) disagree and strongly disagree with the above statement.

**Table 4.13 Corruption and Improper coordination of the activities affects the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	75	30
Agree	116	46.4
Neutral	9	3.6
Disagree	28	11.2
Strongly Disagree	22	8.8
Total=	250	100

Field Survey May 2022

The above table indicates that 75 and 116 of the respondents, representing (30%) and (46.4%) agree and strongly agree with the view that corruption and improper coordination of the ministries activities affects the implementation of sustainable development Goals. and 9 of the respondents remain neutral while 28 and 22 respondents, representing (11.2%) and (8.8%) disagree and strongly disagree with the above assertion.

**Table 4.14 Inadequate budget allocation from the National Assembly affects the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	46	18.4
Agree	74	29.6
Neutral	12	4.8

Disagree	84	33.6
Strongly Disagree	34	13.6
Total=	250	100

Field Survey May 2022

The table above shows that out of 250 respondents, 46 and 74 of the respondents, representing (18.4%) and (29.6%) agree and strongly agree with the statement that inadequate budget allocation from the national assembly affects the implementation of sustainable development Goals. and 4.8% of the respondents stand neutral, while 84 and 34 respondents, representing (33.6%) and (13.6%) disagree and strongly disagree with the above statement.

**Table 4.15 Lack of reliable statistical data in the affects the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	120	48
Agree	83	33.2
Neutral	5	2
Disagree	23	9.2
Strongly Disagree	19	7.6
Total=	250	100

Field Survey 2022

The above table indicates that 83 and 120 of the respondents, representing (48%) and (33.2%) agree and strongly agree with the opinion that lacks of reliable statistical data in the ministries the implementation sustainable development Goals. and 5 of the respondents stand neutral while 23 and 19 respondents, representing (9.2%) and (7.6%) disagree and strongly disagree with the above assertion.

**Table 4.16 The National Assembly has sanction for failure to comply with the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals?**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	96	38.4
Agree	79	31.6
Neutral	34	13.6
Disagree	27	10.8
Strongly Disagree	14	5.6
Total=	250	100

Field Survey May 2022

The table above shows that out of 250 respondents, 96 and 79 of the respondents, representing (38.4%) and (31.6%) strongly agree and agree with the view that national assembly has sanction for the ministries that fails to comply with the implementation of sustainable development Goals in Nigeria. and 34 of the respondents remain neutral, while 27 and 14 respondents, representing (10.8%) and (5.6%) disagree and strongly disagree with the above statement.

**Table 4.17 what sanctions affect the operations of the ministries over Sustainable Development Goals?**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	86	34.4
Agree	58	23.2
Neutral	32	12.8
Disagree	40	16
Strongly Disagree	34	13.6
Total=	250	100

Field Survey May 2022

The above table indicate that 86 and 58 of the respondents, representing (34.4%) and (23.2%) strongly agree and agree with the statement that the sanction affect ministries over the implementation of sustainable development Goals,, and 32 of the respondents remain neutral while 40 and 34 respondents, representing (16%) and (13.6%) disagree and strongly disagree with the above assertion..

**Table 4.17 How realistic Sustainable Development Goals will be achieved by 2030/ Sustainable Development Goals will be achieved by the 2030 in Nigeria?**

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Strongly Agree	73	29.2
Agree	56	22.4
Neutral	45	18
Disagree	29	11.6
Strongly Disagree	47	18.8
Total=	250	100

Field Survey May 2022

The table above indicate that out of the 250 respondents, 73 and 56 of the respondents, representing (29.2%) and (22.4%) strongly agree and agree with the statement that realistic sustainable development goals, was achieved by the year 2030. and 45 respondents remain neutral while 29 and 47 respondents, representing (11.6%) and (18.8%) disagree and strongly disagree with the above statement.

### 4.3 Discussion of findings

After conducting the statistical analysis using tables the following findings were made, this research indicated that the 1999 constitutional of Nigeria empowers the National Assembly to oversight the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, This is consistent to what (Verney, 1969) said that the legislature is constitutionally empowered to control government purse, and this allows legislature to shape government policies and programmes. And this can be achieved through legislative power of debate, deliberations, amendment of the annual budgetary appropriation proposal by the executive.

Findings also revealed that the National Assembly oversight the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, This is in line with the submission of (Saiegh, 2014), that the oversight functions or role of the legislatures toward the implementation of laws, ensuring that legislation and government policies are implemented effectively. And on the issue of Monitoring, reviewing and investigating programs and activities of government to ensure that the actions taken are transparent, accountable and consistent according to the original intent of the constitution. In similar direction, (Frolick, 2016), pointed out that legislators have the legal backing, authority and responsibility to hold governments account in all their activities.

Findings of the study indicated that improper coordination of the ministries activities affects the implementation of sustainable development Goals. This is in line to what (Ojo and Omotola, 2014) pointed out that legislators hold ministries, departments and agencies of government accountable in their activities to the public, not only to make the executive accountable in their functions, but also have the power to approve or confirm appointments made by the executive and judiciary.

The research findings also showed that the National Assembly has sanction for all the ministries that fails to comply with the implementation of sustainable development Goals in Nigeria. This finding collaborate with what (Frolick, 2016), said legislators have the legal backing, authority and responsibility to hold governments to account in their activities.

Inadequate budget allocation from the national assembly affects the implementation of sustainable development Goals. This is in connection to what (Posner and Park, 2007) observed that the legislators are authorized to appropriate public funds, public budgeting and accountability. The fundamental power of appropriation gave the legislature formative influence in allocating funds among competing priorities.

Despite, all the efforts made by the national assembly in exercising the oversight function over implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria remain a mirage, because of the fact that the country is still experiencing high incidence of poverty and hunger.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations**

#### **5.1 Summary**

The 1999 constitutional empowers Legislature makes laws in maintaining the affairs of a given country and also to serve as veritable tools for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. The primary goal of the legislature in Nigeria is to make law for good governance of Nigeria, which the executive in then required to implement. This includes the power to make appropriation and allocate financial resources for the execution of Government programs. This power implies and intend to supervise the executive branch of Government in order to ensure the legislative prescription in the budget have been complied with adequately.

Therefore, this study intends to evaluate the oversight function of national assembly on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. The research summarize the following chapters

Chapter deals with the introduction and will comprise the background of this research work Statement of Research Problem, Research Question, Research Objectives, Scope and Limitation of the Study, Significance of the study and Conceptual Clarification.

Chapter two discusses the relevant literatures on the area of study Historical Overview of Legislative Oversight, Meaning and Principles of Legislative Oversight, power to Conduct Oversight, Tools and Procedures for Enforcement of Legislative Oversight, Challenges of Oversight Function of Legislatures, Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria, Brief on

Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals, Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal in Nigeria,

This chapter concern the research methodology adopted in undertaking this study to evaluate the oversight function of the National Assembly in the implementation Sustainable Development Goals. It comprises of research design, population of the study, sample and sampling technique, method of data collection, instrument of data collection, and method of data analysis.

Chapter four is connected with the presentation of data collated from the respondents, to enable the researcher to easily analyzed it and interpretation of the data for vivid comprehension. While, chapter five discusses the summary of the entire research work, conclusion and proffer some recommendations that will enhance the oversight functions of the national assembly towards the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

From the aforementioned point stated, the legislature in Nigeria ensure good governance and realistic public policy as well as initiate reforms and push them to successful end depends on the constitutional provisions. The 1999 constitution of Nigeria serve as a parameter of Legislative Oversight in the Nigerian Fourth Republic behavior and demarcates sphere of powers and influences of each arm of government.

Recognizing the valuable contribution that national assembly can make to sustainable development is critical as the world advances in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its supporting SDGs. As the elected representatives of the people, legislatives have a critical role to play in driving a people-centered development agenda that is reflective and responsive to the diverse needs of their constituents. In recent years, there has been increasing recognition of the



importance of engaging legislatures in efforts to pursue sustainable development pathways that are at the same time environmentally sensitive and based on inclusive growth. Through their mandates, in making laws and overseeing government policies and programs including enacting and scrutinizing the government budget and related legislation as well as representing the views of their constituents, legislatures are valuable partners in ensuring the accountable, inclusive, participatory and transparent governance that is necessary to achieve sustainable development for all.

Additionally, the Constitution also gives National Assembly powers and control over public funds and other matters such as: the establishment of revenue fund, authorization of expenditure from consolidated revenue fund, authorization of expenditure in default appropriations, contingencies fund, remuneration etc, of the President and certain other officers, appointment of Auditor-General among others. Furthermore the constitution empowers the legislature to prescribe how money could be withdrawn from the federation account. Thus, the legislature is constitutionally empowered to control government purse and this allows it to shape government policies and program. This is achieved through legislative power of debate, deliberate, amends the annual budgetary appropriation proposal by the executive. Also, the power to impose tax or duty is vested in the National Assembly, according to Section 163 of the 1999 constitution. Due to many challenges in the country such as: long history of military rule, lack of institutional accountability, corruption, mismanagement of national resources and dysfunctional public policy, the role of legislature in budgetary appropriation proposal is of essence in the Nigerian democratic system. Moreover, the oversight of the executive by the legislature is provided for in Section 88 of the Constitution.

From the foregoing constitutional provisions, it could be seen that the legislature is saddled with the responsibilities of ensuring good governance particularly fiscal discipline, efficient service delivery and rule of law in the country. In addition, legislature is empowered to intervene in the judicial administration as shown in Section 233 and Sub-section 21 of the 1999 Constitution as amended. The legislature could override executive veto on any bill by using its two-thirds majority power to pass the bill into law. Therefore, in the above constitutional provision, it can be concluded by saying that the oversight function of the national assembly enhances the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

To enhance the oversight function of the national assembly over the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, the following recommendations were provided:

1. The National Assembly should serve as a watchdog over implementation of the SDGs by taking into cognizance various approaches to policy and programs implementation.
2. The legislatures (National Assembly) should create more avenue for public enlightenment campaign to allow and listen to individual, community, civil society organization and experts on effective implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria.
3. There is also need for strong mechanisms that will strengthen the national assembly to oversight function over the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals. This will enhance effectiveness and efficiency in the exercise of their responsibilities towards execution of a particular program and project of ministries, department and agencies.

4. To tackle the policy or program implementation in Nigeria, there is need to create a very conducive and favorable environment that will increase the level of government commitment, investment by Non-Governmental Organization and international donor's agencies that tends come with different packages of program for the enhancement of agricultural practices and sustainable development issues.

5. There is need for the national assembly and all ministries that is responsible for the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals to radically depart from the culture of corruption and mismanagement of resources by committing themselves on the spirit of good governance.

6. There is need for full Participation of the National Assembly regarding to law making from spheres of individual, group, and community level towards incorporating the interest of the public during policy development, consideration and review of draft laws that are presented before the legislature for enactment.

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## **Appendix i**

National Institute for Legislative and  
Democratic Studies  
Postgraduate School,  
Maitama- Abuja.  
24<sup>th</sup>-May, 2022.

Dear respondent,

### **Introduction Letter**

I am a post graduate student of the Department of Parliamentary Administration; National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Study, carrying out research on ‘An Evaluation of the Oversight Function of National Assembly in the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria’.

You may wish to assist me in providing the appropriate answers to the attached questions to enable me gather information required to contribute to knowledge on the subject matter.

I wish to state that all information provided would be treated with utmost confidentiality.

I will highly appreciate your cooperation, please.

Thank You.

**ADEPOJU MOJISOLA E.**

**PG/NILS/190061**



## Appendix ii

### Instructions

#### SECTION A: Bio Data

(Please tick or respond where appropriate)

- a) **Gender:** Male  Female
- b) **Age:** 20-29  30-39  40-49  50-59
- c) **Level of Education:** Diploma  Graduate  Masters
- d) **Department:** SDGs Staffs  Legislature  Directorate cadre   
Desk Officers

#### SECTION B:

Please read the following statement carefully and tick appropriately to show the degree of agreement or disagreement with each statement. “SA: Strongly Agree”, “A: Agree”, “N: Neutral”, “SD: Strongly Disagree and ‘D’ disagree”.

S/NO		1	2	3	4	5
		(SA)	(A)	(N)	(SD)	(D)

1	There is a constitutional provision that guide the national assembly to oversight the sustainable Development Goals					
2	The national assembly oversight the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.					
3	The 1999 constitution of Nigeria empowers the national assembly to oversight the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals.					
4	There is a committee in the national assembly that oversight the activities Sustainable Development Goals.					
5	The committees in the national assembly is responsible for the supervision the various Sustainable Development Goals.					
6	Does the committee system in the ministries ensure the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals?					
7	Improper coordination of the ministries activities affects the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals					
8	Lack of financial commitment from the national assembly affects the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals					
9	Lack of reliable statistical data in the ministries affects the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals					
10	The national assembly have sanction for the					

	ministries that fails to comply the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals?					
11	Does the sanctions affect the operations of the ministries over the implantation of Sustainable Development Goals?					
12	How realistic Sustainable Development Goals will be achieved within 2030.					

### Appendix iii

Table for Determining Sample Size from a Given Population

<u>N</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>S</u>
10	10	220	140	1200	291
15	14	230	144	1300	297
20	19	240	148	1400	302
25	24	250	152	1500	306
30	28	260	155	1600	310
35	32	270	159	1700	313
40	36	280	162	1800	317
45	40	290	165	1900	320
50	44	300	169	2000	322
55	48	320	175	2200	327
60	52	340	181	2400	331
65	56	360	186	2600	335
70	59	380	191	2800	338
75	63	400	196	3000	341
80	66	420	200	3500	346
85	70	440	205	4000	351
90	73	460	210	4500	354
95	76	480	214	5000	357
100	80	500	217	6000	361
110	86	550	226	7000	364
120	92	600	234	8000	367

130	97	650	242	9000	368
140	103	700	248	10000	370
150	108	750	254	15000	375
160	113	800	260	20000	377
170	118	850	265	30000	379
180	123	900	269	40000	380
190	127	950	274	50000	381
200	132	1000	278	75000	382
<u>210</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1100</u>	<u>285</u>	<u>1000000</u>	<u>384</u>

Note.—N is population size.

S is sample size.

Source: Krejcie and Morgan (1970)

#### Appendix iv

##### Questionnaires indicating Administered and Returned

Responses	Questionnaire Distributed	Frequency of questionnaire Return	Percentages of questionnaire Returned %
Legislatures (Committees)	174	133	53.2
Directors	100	83	33.2
SDGs Staff	27	25	10
Desk Officers	9	9	3.6
TOTAL=	310	250	100%

## Appendix v

### The 17 goals with picture indication

*1: End Poverty in All Its Forms Everywhere*



*Goal 2: End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Adequate Nutrition for All, and Promote Sustainable Agriculture*



*Goal 3: Attain Healthy Life for All at All Ages*



*Goal 4: Provide Equitable and Inclusive Quality Education and Life-Long Learning Opportunities for All*



*Goal 5; Attain Gender Equality, Empower Women and Girls Everywhere*



*Goal 6: Secure Water and Sanitation for All for a Sustainable World*





*Goal 7: Ensure Access to Affordable, Sustainable, and Reliable Modern Energy Services for All*



*Goal 8: Promote Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economic Growth and Decent Work for All*



*Goal 9: Promote Sustainable Industrialization*



*Goal 10: Reduce Inequality Within and Among Countries*



*Goal 11: Build Inclusive, Safe and Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements*



*Goal 12: Promote Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns*



*Goal 13: Promote Actions at All Levels to Address Climate Change*



*Goal 14: Attain Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Resources, Oceans and Seas*



*Goal 15: Protect and Restore Terrestrial Ecosystems and Halt All Biodiversity Loss*



*Goal 16: Achieve Peaceful and Inclusive Societies, Rule of Law, Effective and Capable Institutions*



*Goal 17: Strengthen and Enhance the Means of Implementation and Global Partnership for Sustainable*

