

Achievements of Algeria within the framework of Millennium Development Goals (2000 – 2015).

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Abstract

Before 2015, substantial development was one of the 8 objectives of the Millennium Development Goals program (MDGs), adopted in 2000 in New York with the United Nations Millennium Declaration by 193 UN Member States, that was developed further to become an entire substantial development Goals program (SDGs), replacing the MDGs program for the period post – 2015 (Horizon: 2030). Focusing on 17 objectives and 169 targets instead of 8 objectives and 21 targets only.

In this regard, an analytical study was carried out focusing on the progress made in Algeria within this framework, in order to evaluate it. To see what were the obstacles and efforts that were deployed? And what are the results and achievements that were obtained?

Keywords: Sustainable development, SDGs, MDGs, Algeria, Achievements.

المستخلص

قبل عام 2015، كانت التنمية المستدامة واحدة من الأهداف الثمانية لبرنامج الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية، الذي اعتمد في عام 2000 في نيويورك بإعلان الأمم المتحدة للألفية من قبل 193 دولة عضو في الأمم المتحدة، و التي تم تطويرها بشكل أكبر لتصبح برنامجا مستقلا بحد ذاتها (أهداف التنمية المستدامة) و تحل محل الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية للفترة ما بعد سنة 2015 (أفق : 2030). وذلك بالتركيز على 17 هدفا و 169 مقصدا بدلا من 8 أهداف و 21 مقصدا فقط.

في هذا الصدد ، ارتأينا القيام بدراسة تحليله تركز على التقدم الذي أحرزته الجزائر في هذا الإطار ,من أجل تقييمه. لمعرفة ما هي العقبات والجهود التي بذلتها؟ وما هي النتائج والإنجازات التي تحققت والتي تم الحصول عليها؟

الكلمات المفتاحية: التنمية المستدامة، أهداف التنمية المستدامة، الأهداف الإنمائية للألفية، الجزائر، الإنجازات.

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Introduction:

In recent years, the concept of a green economy has been shown to be an indispensable component in the implementation and success of sustainable development objectives, which succeed the Millennium Development Goals program (MDGs) for the period 2015-2030, at the Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015, held in New York, where the Member States of the United Nations formally adopted the new sustainable development agenda entitled "*Transforming Our World: The Sustainable Development Agenda: Horizon 2030*", by focusing on 17 objectives and 169 targets, instead of 08 objectives and 21 targets like it was in the MDGs program.

The 193 states were and still are committed to follow the path of a green economy which can contribute to poverty eradication and sustainable economic growth (green growth), improving Social inclusion and the well-being of humanity, and create opportunities for decent work and employment for all while preserving the proper functioning of the world's ecosystems.

This prompted us to undertake research in this direction, by taking an interest in this program (MDGs) from 2000 to 2015, especially the results and the efforts made by Algeria within this framework, so we can evaluate it.

For this purpose, through this analytical study, we will be interested in the period prior 2015, where we will first start by giving a general overview on the MDGs program, before starting the analysis and the evaluation of the main results achieved by Algeria within this framework.

So, to fully understand the issue raised above, the following questions will be the core of this article:

- What is Millennium Development Goals program?
- What did Algeria adopt as a development strategy?
- What was the progress made in Algeria within this framework?
- What were the difficulties and the challenges encountered?
- What was there post 2015? Was there any other program or continuation after 2015?

1. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was a UN initiative which contains (08) eight international development goals², that had been established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, held from 6 to 8

September 2000 at United Nations Headquarters in New York with the adoption of the United Nations Millennium Declaration. Committed to help achieve the following Millennium Development Goals by 2015³:

- 1- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
- 2- Achieve universal primary education;
- 3- Promote gender equality and empower women;
- 4- Reduce child mortality;
- 5- Improve maternal health;
- 6- Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases;
- 7- Ensure environmental sustainability;
- 8- Develop a global partnership for development.

It's a total of 08 objectives with 21 targets and 60 indicators, which cover all dimensions of poverty, income, employment and food security, education, gender equality, health, environment, trade and development assistance. The deadline for achieving most of the MDGs was 2015 (With the exception of the target for reducing the number of people living in slums, set at 2020).

After giving a general overview of this program, we will now move on to the core of our subject, to our interest in this study which is to focus our analysis on Algeria:

To see what were the obstacles encountered and the efforts made by our country? And to see what are the results and achievements obtained within this framework?

1.1. Achievements of Algeria within the framework of MDGs:

Algeria is a North African country that is a part of the Maghreb and, since 1962, a country named in long form the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, who's rich both in biodiversity and natural resources and has more than 41 million people aspiring for prosperity and a more secure future.

Algeria is one of the 191 countries that have signed the Kyoto⁴ Protocol. Today, any company must be aware of the challenges of sustainable development and take into account the environmental rules imposed by the State, and thus the risks it incurs in the event of non-compliance with these laws.

In Algeria, the green economy is regarded as a means of achieving the objectives of sustainable development, which can help to address two major challenges facing the country, namely economic diversification and job creation⁵.

In this regard the country has initiated a number of reforms and initiatives intended in particular, to diversify the economy, improve the business climate, enhance energy security, protect the environment, green its industries and promote land use.

These initiatives, however, was consolidated and articulated as part of a national strategies to promote the green economy, namely the five-year growth plan (2015/2019) which considers the green economy as a fulcrum for development and technological progress by enhancing investment in key sectors of the green economy (agriculture, water, waste recycling and recovery, industry and tourism) and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises.

According to the national report⁶ on the MDGs, the Algerian development strategy responds significantly to the expectations of the population. Indeed, thanks to its human development policy, Algeria has recorded "significant advances" in catching up to social deficits and improving the standard of living of the population between 2000 and 2015 on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The GDP per capita increased by 2% per year. Household consumption, particularly in relation to job creation and wage increases, has increased substantially (4.9% per year in volume).

Inequalities have been reduced overall: the share of the 20% of the population who consume the least of the national income increased from 7.8% in 2000 to 8.4% in 2011, *and the guaranteed national minimum wages (SNMG)" increased by 200% between 2000 And 2014*. The UNDP Human Development Index (HDI: 0.761 in 2015) has steadily increased, enabling Algeria to improve its ranking inhuman development. Algeria's ranking improved by 24 places between 2000 and 2014, moving from rank 107 to rank 83⁷.

1.2. Algerian development strategy:

In a context characterized by an improvement in the security situation, thanks to the policy of national reconciliation put in place by the President of the Republic, Mr. ABDELAZIZ BOUTEFLIKA, the development strategy implemented over the last fifteen years has made it possible to meet, in a notable way, the accumulated and renewed expectations of the population on the MDGs.

The Algerian strategy, based on an unprecedented investment effort, representing almost 30% of GDP annually, resulted in the implementation of four large-scale development plans aimed at *supporting economic recovery, consolidation of growth, modernization of economic and social infrastructure, and development support the High plateau and the South.*

This strategic choice has found its relevance in the economic and financial performance of the years 2000-2015, achieved essentially due to the improvement in oil prices, has confirmed the commitment of the public authorities in the political decisions which have led to numerous dynamics, such as the early repayment of external debt, and the consolidation of financial capacities, both in terms of foreign exchange reserves and public financing capacities, thus contributing to the development of safeguards for the country's balanced budget and security for the implementation of socio-economic development programs throughout the period.

On the economic front, growth has grown at an annual average of 3.7%, and non-hydrocarbon GOT grew at a rate of more than 6%, with a peak of nearly 10% in 2009. This growth is broadly diversified, with all non-hydrocarbon sectors experiencing a significant change in their value added. Furthermore, inflation remained moderate (3.9% annual average), and employment intensive, with unemployment having fallen sharply from 29.8 per cent in 2000 to 11.2 per cent in 2015).

It is noted that the hydrocarbons sector, after growing by 3.8% between 1999 and 2005, supported by a significant increase in prices, has been constrained by the decline in world demand since 2006. Where it recorded Negative growth over the period 2005-2014. As a result, its share in GDP has declined from over 45% in 2006 to 27.1% in 2014, although this sector remains the main source of financing for the Algerian economy to the tune of 96%, which, because of its volatility, is a very important factor of vulnerability.

Regarding the industry in this sector, although its share in nominal GDP has declined for several years, it has grown by an annual average of 4.1% over the period 2000-2015. The cumulative delays, particularly in the public segment of the sector, despite numerous restructuring and recapitalization initiatives, its development represents the major challenge facing the Algerian economy in its search for less restrictive diversification.

In the construction sector, its performance is particularly linked to the implementation of major investment programs in housing and public works. In terms of housing, over the last 15 years, 3 million households have been able to

access new housing, financed entirely or partially by the State, increasing the housing stock from 5.4 million in 2000 to 8.5 million in 2015.

As for public infrastructures sector, a national policy of major public works and structuring public facilities has been implemented within the framework of three Master Plan for 2025 (road and motorway master plan, airport infrastructures master plan, infrastructures Maritimes master plan). Without forgetting the extension and maintenance of the existing road network, major motorway works and the construction of the East-West motorway on a 1142 km line. There has also been a marked improvement in the rail network, which has gone from 1739 km to nearly 4000 km between 2000 and 2013, as well as the progress made in modernizing the network (electrification, endowment of signaling systems, communications, security and maintenance, renewal of equipment).

As far as agriculture is concerned, the implementation of the policy of agricultural and rural renewal has reinvigorated agricultural growth and the development of rural areas through the extension of arable land, the reorganization of agricultural holdings and reforestation of large areas. This policy has enabled the intensification and modernization of production in all agricultural sectors, the stabilization of rural populations and the diversification of economic activities that generate employment.

Moreover, with regard to the private sector in Algeria, its contribution to the creation of wealth and employment is increasingly important. Contributing an overall of 59% to employment and accounting for 59.5% of national value added in 2014, compared with 41.7% in 2000. This proportion, excluding non-hydrocarbons, reached almost 86% in 2014, compared with 74.8% in 2000.

1.3. Progress made within the MDGs:

The launching of the MDGs in Algeria, in 2000, coincided with a period of economic and financial performance, but above all with the adoption of a development strategy based on two levers: ***Economic growth and Human development.***

This strategy, which benefited from enormous financial amounts and an unprecedented investment effort, enabled Algeria to reach, prematurely, the majority of the 8 MDGs. In particular those relating to poverty eradication, access to education, and strengthening of national solidarity.

Statistically speaking, according to the indicators provided by the Algerian National Office of Statistics (NOS), we can see clearly that as for:

- ✓ ***Fighting against extreme poverty***⁸ (MDG1), the achievement of a very significant increase, going from a rate of 1.9% in 1988 to 0.8% in 2001. Thanks to the realization, before 2015 of this first MDG, Algeria was distinguished in 2013 and 2015 by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);
- ✓ ***Primary education for all*** (MDG2), Algeria has reached and even surpassed the minimum target with a net enrollment rate of 98.5% Of children aged six (06) years, while illiteracy has declined significantly, in particular for the 15-24 age group, whose proportion of illiterates declined from 13.2% in 1998 to 6.2 % in 2008 ;
- ✓ ***Gender equality and the empowerment of women*** (MDG3), Algeria has modernized its legislation in this area, thanks to the vote of a law ensuring a greater representation of women in the Assemblies Elected officials and a new configuration of the Algerian parliament bringing the number of women deputies out of a total of 462 deputies to 146, a share that is well above 31%. This rate enabled Algeria to be ranked first in the Arab world, 9th in Africa and 26th in the world;
- ✓ ***Reduction in infant mortality and maternal mortality*** (MDGs 4 and 5). In relation to the general improvement of the standard of living in Algeria, the supply of care is constantly increasing, both from the point of view of infrastructure, human resources and the organization of the health system which led to a considerable progress, with associated rates approaching very close to the targets set, resulting in a life expectancy at birth of 72 years 2000 to over 82 in 2015;
- ✓ ***Fighting against the spread of HIV / AIDS, malaria and other diseases*** (MDG6), Algeria is one of the countries with a low epidemiological profile, with a contamination rate of 0.1% To HIV / AIDS. Morbidity due to malaria has increased from 100,000 cases per year during the 60s to an average of 300 to 600 cases per year in recent years, but in almost all cases they are imported from outside;
- ✓ ***Preserving the environment*** (MDG7), in this context, Algeria has adopted legislation establishing environmental standards in line with international conventions and a ten-year strategy in this area, while relying on the triptych of the revival of economic growth, the preservation of natural resources and the improvement of the quality of life;
- ✓ ***Global Partnership for Development*** (MDG8), in addition to the systemic reforms undertaken for a greater integration into the world

economy, Algeria, within the framework of NEPAD⁹, has pursued a South-South cooperation policy and has continued its assistance and help to the poor, particularly neighboring and African countries. Algeria's action has materialized, in particular through major operations to open up the border areas, for example, the completion of the Trans-Saharan road up to the Niger border, the connection of major Algerian roads with those of Tunisia, Libya, Western Sahara, Mauritania and soon Mali and even Nigeria. The commitment of Algeria has also materialized in other forms, such as financial aid, scholarships, food, medical and material assistance, and the sending of technical cooperators.

1.4. Difficulties and challenges encountered:

On the other hand, it should be pointed out that, despite the undeniable effort and progress, the challenges in this area are nevertheless numerous and many structural weaknesses are still prevalent. Among them, for example, we can list the following:

- ✓ **Reducing dependence on hydrocarbons:** by developing innovative, SME-driven, high value-added industrial sectors. Since the economic environment of Algeria is marked by a low economic diversification, mono-export of a non-renewable resource, import dependence and high sensitivity to exogenous shocks. Algeria must invest in sustainable productive sectors that generate wealth and jobs;
- ✓ **A more efficient public sector, including the modernization of the financial sector:** Algeria is an intermediate-income country undergoing a phase of economic transition to the market economy, with vast changes in social demand and its Administrative staff due to the rapid evolution of the age structure of its population;
- ✓ **Sustainable human development**, including adaptation to climate change and the prevention of natural disasters and effective energy management: Environmental protection and natural disaster reduction are two of the main development challenges facing the country;
- ✓ **Gender-specific measures in line with the new constitutional amendment on women's rights:** The new constitutional amendment introduced in November 2008 stipulates that the State will endeavor to promote the political rights of women by broadening their representation in the elected assemblies;

- ✓ **Promoting youth employment and participation:** Young people are the most affected by unemployment, especially the 15-24 age group, where one person in five (21.5%) is unemployed. Among young women, the unemployment rate is 37.5% among young men is 18.7%. It is therefore a priority for the Government, which has led to the launching of various employment programs such as the Employment Assistance scheme for Professional Integration (DAIP), an aid scheme to promote employability of youth set up in 2008 and which helped create 169,296 jobs in 2011.

2. Post 2015: Sustainable Development Goals program (SDGs)

2.1. What is Sustainable Development (SD)?

Sustainable development is the concept that defines the need for transition and change that our planet and its inhabitants need to live in a world that is more equitable, healthy and environmentally friendly. When we go back to literature, we will find that the term *sustainable development* was mentioned for the first time in a book related to the 1972 UN Stockholm conference on the human environment. Soon after that, in 1980, it appeared in the World Conservation Strategy report title -“*Living resource conservation for sustainable development*”, a publication of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

A few years later, it was followed by the publication in 1987 of the World Commission on Environment and Development report, **Our Common Future** (also known as the Brundtland¹⁰ Commission Report) where the definition of sustainable development, recognized today, was extracted: "*A development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*". Which means that Sustainable development is based on a long-term vision that takes into account indivisibility of the environmental, social and economic dimensions of development activities¹¹.

2.2. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) :¹²

As we said before, the Sustainable Development Goals were developed to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which ended in 2015. Who are based on the idea that everything cannot continue as before, that the deficiencies of a development model based solely on economic growth must be remedied by reconsidering our ways of doing things and prioritizing. To do so it's necessary to:

Maintain the integrity of the environment, ensure social equity, while aiming for economic efficiency.

Figure 1: Relationships in sustainable development¹³



2.3. Why is it so important?

In late 70s, a lot of experts and scientists sounded the alarm about the impact of human activity on the planet. Since the industrial revolution, our society has undergone an unprecedented development but has not always measured the consequences of the evolution on its way of life. In addition, there has been an acceleration of trade with the rest of the world (globalization), increasing inequalities between rich and poor countries and world population growth projections targeting 9 billion people by 2050. So:

How can we ensure access to food and drinking water, health and education for all in the future? How can we protect biodiversity and combat climate change?

It's urgent to find a new model so that the future generations can continue to live better on a healthy planet. Sustainable development, is therefore one of the solutions to address all these problems. It is a new approach to the general interest aimed at ensuring the sustainability of our society, our ecosystem, our economy. It is also a unique opportunity to rethink our models.

2.4. Fundamental principles of SD:

- **Solidarity** between countries, peoples, generations, and members of a society, to share the Earth's resources with our neighbors and leave it to our children;

- **Caution** in decisions not to cause disasters when we know that there are risks to health or the environment;
- **Participation** of everyone, regardless of profession or social status, to ensure the success of sustainable projects;
- **Responsibility** of everyone, citizen, industrialist or farmer. So that the one, who spoils, degrades and pollutes, repairs.

2.5. What is green growth/green economy and how can it help deliver SD?

More than twenty years after the first Rio Summit, and the world continues to face the same challenges: expanding economic opportunities for all in the context of a growing global population and addressing environmental pressures that, if left unaddressed, could undermine our ability to seize these opportunities. Green growth is where these two challenges meet and it is about exploiting the opportunities to realize the two together¹⁴.

By definition, *green growth* is a term used to describe a path of economic growth and development that uses natural resources in a sustainable manner, that will ensure that natural assets continue to provide resources and environmental services in which our well-being relies, and it is used globally to provide an alternative concept to typical industrial economic growth.

In the other hand, **green economy** is a term that defined an economy that's considered to be a component of the ecosystem that aims at reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities, and that aims for sustainable development without degrading the environment. The 2011 UNEP Green Economy Report argues "*that to be green, an economy must not only be efficient, but also fair*"¹⁵.

The green economy also responds to the same logic as corporate social responsibility, and even more on the link between the implementation of sustainable development objectives and the performance of companies. In this vision, the green economy, through green growth, has been defined as a new approach to revisiting traditional economic growth models. While its definition has sparked debate and controversy, the green economy is increasingly becoming a relevant solution for mobilizing the private sector to achieve sustainable development goals.

Therefore, the Green growth/economy is **not a replacement** for sustainable development. Rather, it provides a practical and flexible approach for achieving concrete, measurable progress across its economic and environmental pillars,

while taking full account of the social consequences of greening the growth dynamic of economies.

The focus of green growth strategies is ensuring that natural assets can deliver their full economic potential on a sustainable basis. That potential includes the provision of critical life support services – clean air and water, and the resilient biodiversity needed to support food production and human health. Natural assets are not infinitely substitutable and green growth policies take account of that¹⁶.

Conclusion:

Considerable progress has been made towards achieving the MDGs. This UN initiative, that has shown the world that even the poorest countries can achieve spectacular and unprecedented progress through targeted actions, appropriate strategies, adequate resources and strong political will.

In Algeria the various development plans carried out over a decade have led to a significant improvement in the general level of well-being and quality of life of Algerians. Heavy public investment has affected all sectors, particularly those in charge of sustainable development, in its components of economic development, human development and the environment.

The latest UNDP reports on human development ranked Algeria among the 10 nations that have made the greatest progress in the human development index since 1970, as well as the successive United Nations reports on the achievement of the MDGs, attest to this positive development. This has also been accompanied by the launch of reforms in various economic and social sectors and a marked return of security.

Regarding SDGs program, Algeria considers them as a frame of reference and it will spare no effort in achieving each of these objectives. Despite a difficult economic and financial situation, Algeria is determined to put in place the tools which allow her to take in charge, with efficiency and serenity, the basic needs of the population and also to continue its action of solidarity and cooperation, in particular, the South-South cooperation.

² Each goal had specific targets, and dates for achieving those targets.

³ <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>. (Accessed: December 10, 2016).

⁴ The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement aimed at protecting the environment and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, in addition to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, whose countries Participants have met once a year since 1995.

⁵ It should be noted that the implementation of the Complementary Support Program for Growth 2005-2009 consolidated the results of the Economic Recovery Support Program 2001-2004 in the area of job creation And

reduction of unemployment. The period 2005-2009 was characterized by the creation of nearly 1.3 million jobs and a constantly decreasing unemployment rate, rising from 15.3% of the active population in 2005 to 10.2% in 2009.

⁶ Elaborated with the help of the Algiers office of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

⁷ As a reminder Algeria is also one of the 10 countries with the largest increase in HDI between 1970 and 2010.

⁸ The pace of job creation between 2001 and 2015, which had an annual average of 3.6%, has led to a significant reduction in the unemployment rate from 27% in 2000 to 11% in 2015.

⁹ NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa's Development): A continental development project, initiated in July 2001 by the Heads of State of 04 African countries: South Africa, Algeria, Nigeria & Senegal.

¹⁰ Named after the Chairperson of the Committee, Mrs Gro Harlem Brundtland, the Norwegian prime minister.

¹¹ After that and since 1987 the UN had a number of initiatives, the latest one was on September 2015 where the SDGs were officially adopted.

¹² For more details on the SDGs see: <http://www.dz.undp.org/content/algeria/fr/home/post-2015.html>. (Accessed : February 27, 2017).

¹³ Source: <http://macaulay.cuny.edu/eportfolios/akurry/files/2011/12/SDspheres.jpg> (Accessed : February 21, 2017).

¹⁴ <http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/whatisgreengrowthandhowcanithelpdeliverustainabledevelopment.htm> (Accessed : January 08, 2017).

¹⁵ Fairness implies recognizing global and country level equity dimensions, particularly in assuring a just transition to an economy that is low-carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive.

¹⁶ <http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/Rio+20%20brochure%20FINAL%20ENGLISH%20web%202.pdf> (Accessed : March 15, 2017).

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