

**Seventh Chandigarh Social Science Congress
(CHASSCONG VII)
March 21-22, 2017**

**Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Opportunities,
Challenges and Strategies**

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals with 169 targets came into effect on 1st January 2016 and are guiding the decisions to be taken over the next fifteen years. The goals demonstrate the scale and ambition of a new universal Agenda.

There is no disagreement to the fact that urgent steps are needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. This is not only an agenda given to policy makers and governing institutions but demands a collective effort where all have to ensure that 'no one will be left behind'. The common goal is to ensure the well being of People, stop the degradation of our Planet, ensure overall Prosperity, create an environment for Peace and build Partnerships amongst nations to ensure all round development with respect for national policies and priorities. The universal goals and targets involve the entire world, developed and developing countries alike. They are integrated and indivisible and balance the dimensions of sustainable development.

The Social Sciences form the academic backdrop for the 17 SDGs. Each of us working in our areas is a contributor towards fulfillment of the goals. With respect towards our national policy for sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, our academic thought process builds the understanding of regional and sub-regional dimensions, regional economic integration and interconnectivity in sustainable development. All of us, the students of Social Sciences have always had these issues as part of our discourse. Therefore, coming together in this focused endeavor, we will be able to direct our energies towards facilitating the effective translation of sustainable development policies into concrete action.

No endeavor bears fruit unless an adequate mechanism is evolved to make it a part of a collective consciousness. The CHASSCONG VII will attempt to explore the various opportunities, challenges and

strategies to meet the SDGs to transform India and transform the world. Being educationists, our duty is to contribute in our way. Our primary agenda is always towards inclusive and equitable quality education, access to life-long learning opportunities and to find out strategies and actions that address key barriers in the social, economic, political and environmental domain. Any strategy for change requires a strong and sustained government commitment, a favorable policy environment and well target resources. Further, community support and participation are essential to facilitate the planning and delivery of services to improve the health of nation (health of nation is health of its people. Health is physical, mental and social well being of all).

Being the seat of higher learning our attempt should be to help not just our students but also society at large to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to exploit opportunities and to participate fully in society. Education leads to empowerment. This is possible if the right kind of training is imparted to the right people. Education geared towards ensuring the right skills will lead to gainful employment as the first and the most apparent step towards empowerment. However, at a deeper level the creation of an empowered thought process is required. In order to empower the vulnerable and marginalized, providing justice to all, protecting human rights of all, food for all, energy for all, water for all, shelter for all, human development for all, natural resources for all, and in order to propose further effective measures and actions it is important to put our heads together. The central thesis of SDGs is to ensure that no one is left behind. Thus, all social sciences will deliberate on SDGs to integrate and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental in a comprehensive way.

The Recommendations from this Congress will be geared towards the removal of obstacles and constraints, strengthen support and meet the special needs of people. Development cannot be a top down approach. Without the requisite participation from the stakeholders themselves, it is not possible for any level of development to occur. Community Participation therefore becomes a necessity to make this dream a reality. The Congress will be able to suggest various ways and means of converting the policy agenda into public agenda.

Subthemes

The 17 independent goals provide a succinct outline for the sub themes.

Subtheme I

The Building Blocks of Sustainable Development: Food, Water and Air

This Subtheme would combine different goals into one focused area. The goals that propose to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, end hunger, achieve food security, Improve nutrition, promote sustainable agriculture, ensure healthy lives, promote well-being for all at all ages, and conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development form a part of this sub theme.

Subtheme II

Ensuring Sustained Development: Public Policies Towards Greener Planet

This Sub theme combines all the goals that are directed towards affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy, building of resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation, making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns and taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts are included in this subtheme. In addition, the goal to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss also forms a part of the above.

Sub theme III

Sustainable Development: Equitable and Inclusive

In this subtheme all the goals that are directed towards ensuring inclusion are considered. Inclusive and equitable quality education, promotion of lifelong learning opportunities for all, achieving gender equality, ensuring full and productive employment, decent work for all, reducing inequality within and among countries, promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, protecting human rights of all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels and strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development are all the aspects that can be discussed under this sub theme.

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Tentative Proposed Programme

Day I: March 21, 2017, University Auditorium

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| 10.00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. | Inaugural Session |
| 11.30 a.m. -12 noon | Tea |
| 12.00 noon-1:30 p.m. | Panel Discussion I
(Reflections on Contemporary Social Sciences) |
| 1.30 p.m.-2:30 p.m. | Lunch |
| 2:30 p.m. -4.00 p.m. | Panel Discussion II
(Peace, Justice and Governance) |

Day II: March 22, 2017

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| 10.00 a.m.- 11:30a.m. | Technical Session III (Respective Departments) |
| 11.30 a.m.-12 noon | Tea |
| 12 noon -1:30 p.m. | Valedictory Session, University Auditorium |
| 1:30 p.m. -2:30 p.m. | Lunch |