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## A New Approach for Sustainable Development Goals in Islamic Perspective

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### Abstract

This paper discusses a new approach to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from Islamic perspective. It seeks to answer the main question of how to implement SDGs in Muslim countries. Seven of SDGs comprise of the end goals of development narrowed down to people's well being, and the rest of the goals are the means to reach the ends. Based on the secondary data obtained from library research, Islam provides guidance for SDGs in terms of the relationships between human and Allah SWT, human and human, and human and the environment. Islam does not solely promote the three relationships as the embodiment of spiritual power, but it also provides the mechanisms of the interrelationship. The new approach proposes a more comprehensive conceptual framework that encompasses the efforts of developing human beings and establishing a system as the medium for the implementation of the economic, social, educational, and governmental mechanisms.

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### 1. Introduction

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a new guidance for the world after 2015. At the United Nations

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Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015, world leaders adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030 (UNDP, 2015).

SDGs are a substitute of MDGs and simultaneously a response to the challenge of sustainable development at the global level, which according to various reports, has not been successfully implemented since its concept was first introduced publicly in 1987. The non-success is inextricable from the influencing factors, including understanding of the concept of sustainable development itself.

Sustainable development has definition, principles and dimension with focus how to integrate economic, social and environment. However, experiences of many countries showed that there are practical difficulties in integrating the three dimensions and in putting the concept into operation (Noorbakhsh and Ranjan, 2009). Meanwhile, some scholars such as Roberts (1997), Moles, et al. (2008), Taylor in William (2013), Hamnett in William (2013), Nolon and Salkin (2011) advocate the role of planning to achieve sustainable development goals. Furthermore, Williams (2013) proposes strategic planning as the most appropriate place to integrate Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD) into the planning system. More importantly, Roughley (1999) and (AlQahtany, et. al, 2013) proposed framework of sustainable development planning.

Unfortunately, experiences of some countries was unsatisfied. In Ohio, USA for instance, Jun and Conroy (2014) analysed 46 township plans in Central Ohio and found that the township plans do not provide balanced support for sustainability principles and so are not adequately prepared to withstand and adapt to exogenous shocks. Similarly, in Australia, Williams (2013) showed that there was inadequate strategic planning, largely due to the State Government not fulfilling its role in this area. This was cited to be a key barrier to an improved implementation of Ecological Sustainable Development (ESD) in New South Wales. In South Africa, Sowman and Brown (2006) and Ruhanen (2008) attributed the failure of sustainable development to the lack of a common understanding of the sustainable development concept itself, apart from the fear amongst professionals of ‘doing things differently’ and institutional barriers to mainstreaming. Furthermore, in the smaller local municipalities, the lack of mainstreaming environmental sustainability issues was largely due to the lack of capacity in areas such as human resources, technical expertise and financial resources.

Many scholars such as Hajer's in Robert (1997), Redclift in Briassoulis (2001), Counsell (1999), Holden (2008), and Astrom (2011), proposed that sustainability need fundamental changes in the ideology, transformation of cultural attitudes and behavior, paradigm shift, institutional reform supported by appropriate political and institutional structures.

The problem is, then, to which direction are the ongoing transformations and reformation heading, considering the disparate ideology, socio-culture, economic structure, politic and institution of each country? Muslim countries have Islamic ideology. The question is, how to implement SDGs in these countries?

This paper attempts to seek for the answer to this question. In so doing, this paper is divided into two main sections. The first section deals with an analysis on SDGs in Islamic perspective. The second section attempts to explain new approach for SDGs achievement especially in Muslim countries.

## 2. Analysis SDGs in Islamic Perspective

SDGs have 17 goals which are primarily intended for the well-being of human beings. According to human development approach, it means that the focus of SDGs is people and their well-being as the end of development. Meanwhile all efforts and processes that contribute to its enhancement become the means (Seldadyo, 2015). Seven of SDGs comprise of the end goals of development narrowed down to people's well-being, and the rest of the goals are the means to reach the ends as depicted in figure 1.

Many previous scholars studied Islam as religion and sustainable development such as Zuair (2006), Marsuki (2009), Astrom (2011), Abdurachman (2011), Al-Jayyousi (2012), Hossain, D. M (2014), Narayanan, Y (2013). Abdurachman (2011) and Narayanan (2013) enriching the concept in which an injection spiritual development as a pillar of sustainable development.

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