

## **Symbiotic Relationship Between the Arts & the SDGs And the Existing Challenges In The Use of Arts In The Promotion of the SDGs In Nigeria**

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Operating the arts and culture beat for the past three and a half years; including taking an active interest in environmental sustainability reporting and action in the past year, the topic Arts As A Tool For Awareness Creation on The SDGs strikes a personal chord for many reasons. First, the subject can inject a much-needed life in the arts circle in the city of Abuja, for another, the innate creativity of the Arts will present the SDGs in varied and pleasing forms for wider discussion.

However, just as art can serve up the subject in colourful and aesthetic ways, by virtue of its exclusivity and the limitations of the different art media - visual, performing and literary arts, it can restrict its audience and access to the intended messages.

To thoroughly examine the use of art in generating awareness of the SDGs, the paper highlights the symbiotic relationship between arts and environmental sustainability é a gradual but growing trend amongst Nigerian artist(e)s; artist(e)s unconscious and conscious address of the SDGs albeit in minute details; and the greatest obstacle to the use of arts in the promotion of the SDGs - the government.

The question also arises on how effective is art in galvanizing people to action? Some artists believe that the SDGs as a roadmap to achieving sustained development demands action over awareness creation. Art of itself is yet to induce action and change, both necessary elements to achieving the 'state' the goals envisioned.

Drawing from interviews and experiences of five or more artist(e)s of different art media, we journey through the past, present; we observe what worked or did not work as they experiment with their arts, and deduce recommendations of how best the arts can aid the global drive for sustained development.