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-Essay-

Accelerating partnerships for the goals in the individual level

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed on September 2015 had pursued sustainable development in diverse areas including economy, society, environment, etc. Detailed targets they suggested are the end of poverty, sustainable agriculture, more opportunities of lifelong education and the achievement of sexual equality. Clause 17 of UN SDGs is partnerships for the goals. In this sense, clause 17 of UN SDGs is crucial, since it is the core prerequisite to progress other clauses. It contains goals in finance, technology, capacity building, trade and systemic issues. However, the cooperation from the superpowers can be a challenging factor for accomplishing SDGs. For example, President Donald Trump announced that the United States would withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change on June 1st, 2017. The Paris Agreement is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Paris Agreement central aim was to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change. According to President Donald Trump, the Agreement imposed draconian financial and economic burdens on the United States that it was hard to keep implementation. As this case shows, cooperation among international society is vulnerable to practice. Therefore, devices to keep the cooperation are needed today.

In 2012, the Urgenda Foundation has filed a law suit against the Government of the Netherlands “for not taking sufficient measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that cause dangerous climate change.” The District Court of The Hague announced verdict that the government of the Netherlands must do more to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to protect its citizens from climate change. This case was meaningful because it was the world’s first climate liability suit and the court acknowledged standing to sue for the public in environment lawsuit. Also, similar lawsuit is ongoing in the United States. Juliana, et al, v. United States of America, et al, is a lawsuit filed in 2015. Twenty-one youth plaintiffs sued the United States and several government branches. The main assertion was that the government violated the youth’s rights by encouraging and allowing activities that significantly harmed their right to life and liberty. Also, they sought the government to adopt methods for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. This lawsuit was also the first case that the federal court acknowledges standing to sue in environment lawsuit. There tends to be increase in the lawsuits requiring government responsibility to protect environment. Following by, based on the justice’s rulings, government must fulfill the role as a defender against environmental pollution. To conduct the successful partnership with UN SDGs, individuals need to move on to a feasible action in their level without anticipating an aid from government.

SDGS had pursued sustainable development in diverse areas of society and these can't be accomplished by government level. Individual should play a role as an 'overwatcher' for productive implementation. Method is simple. Civil society needs to be homogeneously gathered to take an action and must cooperate with other groups abroad.