Volunteering in addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable Development is a development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

I would like to start with the definition of the term 'volunteering'. Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity where an individual or group provides services for no financial or social gain "to benefit another person, group or organization". Volunteering is also renowned for skill development and is often intended to promote goodness or to improve human quality of life. Volunteering may have positive benefits for the volunteer as well as for the person or community served. It is also intended to make contacts for possible employment. Many volunteers are specifically trained in the areas they work, such as medicine, education, or emergency rescue. Others serve on an as-needed basis, such as in response to a natural disaster.

Moreover, volunteering is one of the most significant yet under-recognized means through which public services reach the poorest and most marginalized communities. In many countries there is an extensive infrastructure of schools, hospitals, security services and even social protection schemes, but poor people do not get access to them. Volunteers can play a significant role in helping to bridge this gap; adding in numbers and experience to the existing public service workforce and helping to ensure the relevance of these services to the communities they have been set up for.

Volunteers come from all walks of life, are of all ages and help society in many different ways. The reasons why people volunteer also vary massively from one person to the next. But volunteering makes for a better community all round - both because of what those volunteers achieve and the types of skills they learn while doing their unpaid jobs.

Volunteers are necessary for achieving the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals. Volunteers effectively facilitate them by raising knowledge, inspiring or engaging in grassroots efforts.

In addition, on order to achieve the SDGs, it is essential to engage a large number of different people. In this case, volunteers play the crucial role in achieving these goals.

Volunteerism is a powerful way of encouraging more people to engage in civic and development activities, engaging people at a local and national level for planning and action. It also enhances people's capacity, builds community participation and social cohesion. Volunteering creates a ripple effect that inspires others, and advances the transformation that is requires for the Sustainable Development Goals to take root in communities.

In conclusion I would like to say that volunteerism strengthens civic engagement, safeguards social inclusion deepens solidarity and solidifies ownership of development results.