REPORT ON THE KENYA NATIONAL ANNUAL MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS FORUM ON SDGs THEMED “LEAVE NO KENYAN BEHIND” 5TH – 6TH DECEMBER 2019

HELD AT LUKENYA GETAWAY RESORT

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INTRODUCTION

The first Kenya Multi-stakeholder Forum on the SDGs was held in December 2018 in Naivasha. It was attended by close to 100 participants representing different organisations including the National government, County governments, different civil society organisations, I/NGOs, UN agencies, the private sector, media and academia among others. It followed a smaller consultative meeting that had been held a few months earlier in Machakos and whose objective was to find ways of rallying more different stakeholders behind SDGs process in Kenya in a more structured way.

The first forum was born out of the ideas that emanated from the aforementioned 2018 workshop held in Machakos. One of the key outcomes of the workshop in Naivasha was to find a structured mechanism of continuous engagement among the stakeholders beyond workshops. A small committee was tasked to undertake that assignment and report to the stakeholders. It was on this basis that the Inter-agency Technical Committee on the SDGs was mandated and is now chaired by the SDGs Unit from the State Department of Planning and co-chaired by SDGs Kenya Forum and KEPSA. It draws membership from the government, civil society, private sector and academia.

Prior to this, various stakeholders including the government, civil society, private sector and the academia had already embraced the ideal of close cooperation in the SDGs process. In 2017, the government worked closely with these partners to produce the country’s first Voluntary National Report (VNR) on the SDGs that the country officially presented during the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2017. Thanks to these partnerships, a lot more activities on the implementation of the SDGs have since been undertaken jointly including the County dialogues on the SDGs, participation at the national budgetary processes, joint participation at the UN General Assemblies, among others.

Previous successes in joint events among the SDGs stakeholders in Kenya continue to point direction to the impact of shared effort for strengthened implementation of the SDGs. In this spirit, the 2nd multi-stakeholder Workshop on the SDGs was organised and held on 5th – 6th December 2019 at Lukenya Getaway Resort in Machakos County – themed ‘Leave no Kenyan Behind’. Its objectives included:

1. Understanding and improving SDGs reporting in Kenya in regards to the VNR by highlighting lessons learnt from the 2017 VNR and 2019 SDGs Progress Report.
2. Understanding the role of stakeholders in the implementation and monitoring of SDGs.
3. Resource mobilization for the financing of SDGs.
4. Strengthening institutions for SDGs implementation and monitoring.
5. Addressing data gaps for SDGs monitoring
6. Identify key elements for a successful VNR process through global level reviews of progress and implementation of the SDGs.
8. Acceleration of the implementation of the SDGs in Kenya.

Consistent with these objectives, organizers of the workshop drew wider institutional participation. The workshop was jointly organised by the State Department for Planning, the SDGs Kenya Forum and UNDP Kenya and supported by GIZ and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

SUMMARY
This report is a record of discussions by participants at the 2nd Kenya National SDGs Multi-stakeholder Workshop whose theme was ‘Leave No One Behind’. The workshop was organized into different discussion topics that were led by individuals or panelists. The topics were carefully selected to update, inform, educate and inspire action regarding SDGs implementation in Kenya and to allow participants to provide feedback on the same from their own perspectives.

This report is organized along the main topics and sub-topics that were discussed at the workshop. The record captures the interactive views generated between the lead presenters and the workshop audience. The views have been compressed to retain information for wider sharing with others and for future reference.

The report takes a look back at what the country has done in the last four years since adoption of 2030 Agenda in September 2015. In this regard, it provides different perspectives and experiences by different stakeholders, including the government, civil society, private sector, the academia and the UN in the SDGs process in Kenya as well as globally.

Through group discussions, groups aired their views and shared ideas on improving the SDGs implementation process in different aspects in the country. The group contributions have been retained under topics that are easily notable.

It also provides the next steps discussed during the forum, pointing to anticipated activities and noteworthy processes for the country in SDGs implementation. It not only points to some of the stakeholders’ roles in the year 2020, but also captures proposals by participants from different institutions on what the country needs to do to firmly remain on the path to achievement of the SDGs by 2030.
PARTICIPATION

The meeting was attended by different stakeholders including civil society organizations ranging from Community-Based Organizations operating at the grassroot level, NGOs and INGOs operating at county and national level. Different institutions of higher learning including Kenyatta University, Technical University of Kenya, Strathmore University and United States International University also had representatives from different departments. The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) and Safaricom Public Limited Company represented the private sector. The media houses present were The People Daily Kenya, Nation Media Group, Royal Media Services and the Standard Media Group. Different ministries and agencies including The State Department for Planning, Ministry of Gender, Ministry of Water, Ministry of Housing, Ministry of Labor, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Industrialization, The Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and The National Youth Council represented the government. Led by the Council of Governors, there were also participants from different county governments including those of Narok, Kilifi, Busia, Marsabit and Makueni. The Office of the UN Country Coordinator and UNDP Kenya represented the United Nations.

Media and social media presence

The workshop received a mention in the media on Day 1 by Standard Media Group who featured an Op-ed¹ article by the SDGs Kenya Forum National Country Coordinator. Subsequent media mentions on Day 2 were featured on Radio on West FM² and Thome FM³ as well as Mauvoo⁴ – an online news platform. The event also encouraged participation of a wider audience through the digital platforms, particularly the SDGs Kenya Forum’s social media pages. The workshop’s twitter hashtag #TwenedeKaziNaSDGs trended on the first day of the workshop.

¹ https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/mobile/amp/article/2001352230/we-need-to-step-up-efforts-to-attain-sdgs
² https://drive.google.com/open?id=1UeIPpgDxRPE6GqQwx47oSQY1Z7CpiKM8jNT
³ https://drive.google.com/open?id=1Bh8M990iT77Ny6v-JFgd4xhxh3NNV1Io
SESSION 1

OPENING REMARKS

Keynote Address by Principal Secretary, State Department for Planning

(Mr. Torome Saitoti represented by Mr. Joseph Mukui, Economic Planning Advisor)

Mr Joseph Mukui, the Planning Advisor for the State Department of Planning opened the floor by conveying the importance of everyone’s role in the SDGs implementation process; regardless how little. By understanding each stakeholder’s role and involvement in the SDGs process and identifying champions to act as lead voices in the implementation of the goals across the country, would ensure success.

Additionally, he encouraged information sharing to keep the country and other relevant parties informed about the SDGs progress in the implementation of the goals including the publication of periodic progress reports packaged in simple, relatable, user-friendly language and formats. This will enable citizens and various stakeholders to easily understand and connect the SDGs to local development agendas that the government and other stakeholders have been pursuing across years. This eliminates the idea that the goals are an imposed foreign agenda. For instance, the current government development plans have been based on the Big 4 Agendas aligned to the SDGs. They focus on Food and Nutrition Security, Universal Health Coverage, Affordable Housing and Manufacturing. Consequently, the Big 4 Agendas will fast track the achievement of Goals 2 (Zero Hunger), 3 (Good Health and Wellbeing), 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

He equally emphasized the need to embody the citizen-centered approach central to the SDGs because if not, all stakeholders will have failed to address the SDGs principal “Leave No One Behind”.

While explaining the significance of partnerships in the implementation of the goals particularly in the spirit of SDG 17, he spoke briefly of The Interagency Technical Working Group. He stated
that it was established in 2017 from the realization that a diversity of strengths and approaches was necessary for effective implementation of the goals in Kenya. It draws membership from both government and non-state actors in the spirit of partnership for the goals.

He lauded Kenya in its impressive performance in the partnerships for the SDGs as demonstrated by the continuous consultations among multiple stakeholders, joint preparation for the 2017 Voluntary National Report (VNR) on the SDGs and similar approaches in preparation of the 2019 progress report. He rallied behind admirable partnership spirit urging for it to not only continue but to strengthen over time as well.

He concluded by urging all participants present at the workshop to strive to generate solutions on the implementation of the SDGs.

**SDGs Kenya Forum, National Country Coordinator - Ms. Florence Syevuo**

The SDGs Kenya Forum National Country Coordinator, Florence Syevuo began by mentioning that the workshop was the second of its kind, with the first being held in Naivasha in 2018. Like the previous one, the 2019 workshop attracted the interest of different stakeholders including the media and academia besides the government, the civil society and the private sector. She encouraged volitional stakeholders to join the Forum as members in order to amplify civil society voices on the SDGs implementation process in Kenya and to ensure conformity to the SDGs principle of “Leave No One Behind”.

In the last three years, The SDGs Kenya Forum had been conducting citizen dialogues in different counties at the grassroot level in which feedback showed a lack of awareness on the SDGs, more than four years since adoption of the UN 2030 Agenda. As a result, she pointed out raising awareness on the SDGs as a solution to ensure the active participation of communities in the actual implementation and monitoring of the SDGs at the ward and county level.
She also touched on the lack of synergized efforts by development stakeholders in Kenya who work in isolation and silos instead of forging collaborative partnerships to realise the SDGs. She pushed for formulation and support of collective methodologies by all stakeholders involved in the SDGs in order to jointly work in the accelerated realisation of the SDGs. This included the preparation of the Voluntary National Reports (VNRs) as happened during the first reporting cycle in 2017. It is for this reason that the Inter-Agency Technical Committee was formed—with the Kenya Government as the chair, Kenya Private Sector Alliance and The SDG Kenya Forum as Co-Chairs in order to provide stewardship in the cooperation. The current ongoing efforts to finalize a multi-stakeholder engagement framework and SDGs Kenya Acceleration Framework are critical processes to accelerate the achievement of SDGs Implementation, Follow Up and Review by 2030.

SESSION 2
HIGHLIGHTS ON THE SDGs IMPLEMENTATION

State Department for Planning/SDGs Unit
Mr. Stephen Odhiambo

The session was led by Mr Stephen Odhiambo from the State Department of planning who focused on lessons learnt from the 2017 VNR and the 2019 SDGs Progress Report with the objective to understand and improve SDGs reporting in Kenya.

Giving a history of the Voluntary National Reporting, he mentioned that the adoption of the 2030 Agenda also meant adoption of VNR. It is supposed to be fair, effective, participatory, voluntary, transparent, based on facts and integrated. The VNR is intended to help countries track and assess progress on the SDGs at national level to improve policy formulation on SDG mainstreaming in planning and budgetary processes.

Kenya prepared its first VNR in 2017 that was also used as the main attendant piece of information during the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) held in New York in the same year. The country also prepared another national progress report on the SDGs in 2019, which unlike the 2017 report has a trend analysis of indicators, targets and shows the level of inclusion of economic, social, environment and other dimensions of sustainable development.
The document highlights lessons learned and best practices to emulate going forward in SDGs implementation. It also notes various challenges encountered by counties, organizations and the country in the implementation of the SDGs and provides innovative ways to address these challenges. Kenya shall be reporting to HLPF again in the year 2020 using the VNR process.

For the last four years in the implementation of the SDGs in Kenya, critical lessons from the process have been the:

▪ Involvement of umbrella bodies such as KEPSA, Kenya Association of Manufacturers, The SDGs Kenya Forum, COG among others is effective and efficient.
▪ Involvement of decision makers at the highest level is crucial.
▪ Need for regular multi stakeholder workshops with consistency of participants to ensure coherence of the process and to foster partnerships for the realization of the SDGs.
▪ Importance of embracing the principle of “Leave no one behind“ there should be an attempt to involve a wide cross section of stakeholders, particularly those most vulnerable.
▪ A need to revamp the Interagency Technical Committee for inclusiveness.
▪ Audio-visual material and digital platforms to disseminate the VNR in the future to ensure a wider audience reach.
▪ There is a need to publish and share the VNR locally before submitting it to HLPF.
▪ There is a need to summarize the VNR and get a popular version each time the country prepares one.
▪ In subsequent VNRs, more key stakeholders need to be engaged to contribute content to the report instead of leaving to the government or to just a few stakeholders.

STRENGTHENING COUNTIES FOR SDGs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

On behalf of the Council of Governors – Mr. Robert Papa

The Council of Governors (CoG) brings together county governments to engage in the shared development agendas. Mr Robert mentioned that the Council creates opportunities for counties to learn from one another on best practices for the implementation of SDGs through exchange visits and sharing of areas of challenges and excellence.

The counties have been trying to align SDGs implementation along the devolved functions. As a result, respective departments at the county level are required to provide leadership in different SDGs as fall under their mandate.

Counties have developed a number of development plans including the County Integrated Development Plans (CIDP), Annual Development Plans drawn from the CIDP each year. They also borrow from the Medium-Term Development Plans (MTPs), and the County Integrated Development Plans.
Monitoring and Evaluation System (CIMES) for delivery of development programs at the local level. There are guidelines that have been developed for implementation of all the plans at the county level. The guidelines are clear on the roles all stakeholders should play in the development process, including members of the public.

He shared that CoG has a SDGs coordinating unit and every county is encouraged to have such a unit for accelerated implementation of the goals. Counties have come up with different initiatives on the implementation of the SDGs that are working well for them and from which they can learn from one another. Even then, they need to have localised indicators in their monitoring frameworks (CIMES) that can measure progress in the SDGs. The media should also help report on the goals for increased awareness and transparency in monitoring the goals.

Plenary reactions/Comments/Questions (Session 2)

- There was a general consensus by participants in embracing Multi Stakeholder partnerships as opposed to working in isolation for the realization of the goal in the country.
- The government has come up with Project Cycle Management guidelines to help in the implementation of all projects. It helps track every amount of money invested in any project and all development stakeholders are encouraged to make use of it.
- It was noted that most counties do not have gender planning compliant mechanisms yet one of the critical goals was that of Gender Equality. Government agencies present were urged to look into it.
- Is the government doing anything to fund specific initiatives on development started by communities?
- It was mentioned that there was a need to have a framework to address inclusivity. If not, there should be an effort to set up one. If there is, information about it should be shared.
- There was a concern that very few counties, if any, have established SDGs Unit. In this case, it was agreed that pressure should be exerted on all of them to establish such units for increased accountability in implementing and tracking of the goals.

SESSION 3

PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON EXPERIENCES ABOUT SDGs IMPLEMENTATION

Goal 17 is about strengthening partnerships. The resources to implement the SDGs should be mobilized locally for investment into various areas critical to the achievement of the SDGs. There are only 10 more years left until 2030. We need to accelerate implementation of the SDGs if they
shall be achieved within the remaining time. The only way to succeed in this is to strengthen partnerships at the country level.

Polycom Development Project (PDP)—Ms Jane Anyango
The Organisation has come up with a stakeholder assembly in communities who conduct a situational analysis themselves to address various challenges. As a result, they develop programs and activities aligned to the SDGs that address these challenges and bring about positive change at the community level. Ms Jane shared that PDP works with grassroots women and girls to meaningfully engage in transformative activities. In line with SDG 4: Quality Education, it supports the education of many girls enrolled in over 50 secondary schools through collaboration with communities in Kibra. It also engages in mapping out and engaging different stakeholders in the SDGs process at the community level. The organization tries to listen to what is happening at the community level and shares the information with other stakeholders implementing initiatives at the community.

Strathmore University/Business school—Mr. Ezra Yego
Mr Ezra shared that Strathmore University has a Center for sustainability leadership, which conducts research and generates useful data on sustainable development. This department engages and collaborates with the private sector on the generation and use of the data. It also conducts policy analyses to determine incoherencies in the implementation of sustainable
development programs. It also provides opportunities to young people to innovate and generate unique ideas on development including on the SDGs.

Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) represented by Ms Wambui Mbarire from Retail Trade Association of Kenya
Ms Mbarire opined that the SDGs provide a framework along which private sector players can pattern their businesses using SDGs as a basis for business planning. She gave the example of the 4PG project which promotes green growth. It engages plastic manufacturers and users for extended responsibility beyond selling and buying of such products. She urged the private sector to understand the connectivity between businesses and the SDGs in order to yield sustainable business practices in any enterprise. She stated that the private sector appreciates that partnerships because they are important for sustainable business engagements at the country level. In line with this are business sustainability programs funded by KEPSA to promote sustainable business practices.

Nation Media Group – Mr Dominic Maichuhie
Mr Maichuhie put focus on the role of media in the implementation of the SDGs through information sharing via print and electronic channels. Additionally, the media has been reporting on the implementation progress of the SDGs including the success and challenges faced by different stakeholders. However, he noted that the media faces the challenge of lack of reliable information/data on different reporting areas on SDGs. Few agencies, especially the government, are willing to share information. While he acknowledged that in some cases the cost of partnering with media can be high and beyond reach for some organisations, other dimensions such as live coverage for news reporting do not have cost an element to publish.

The Academia – USIU, Dr Joseph Nyanoti
Dr Nyanoti observed that the role of universities is to teach, research (institutional, collaborative) and financially gain from these ventures. Subsequently, he saw the need to extend the SDGs discourse to universities to sensitise them on the need of conducting research on the SDGs. This would help in informing policies in respective areas.

Safaricom PLC- Owen Ombima
Mr Owen affirmed that Safaricom’s approach to partnerships was within the supply chain. Safaricom PLC is keen on enhancing partnerships by focusing on women empowerment through SDG 5: Gender Equality. Currently, they are actively engaging women-led businesses by ensuring that there is an increase in the number of women in the supply chain.
Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM)  
A representative from KAM conveyed that it works closely with TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) Institutes to bridge the skills gaps in the market. It also encourages employers to provide improved working conditions for their employees. Lastly, it has been encouraging its members and product users on recycling of plastic products and adopting environmentally friendly businesses.

UN Global Compact Network -Kenya  
A representative from UN Global Compact Network Kenya stated that it has been mobilising the private sector to engage in climate sensitive businesses, gender equality responsive business practices, responsible production and consumption practices, among others to realise the achievement of SDGs in Kenya.

Youth Department  

A youth representative noted that the youth have the largest population quota in the country yet they are also vulnerable to exclusion in development processes. Although the government has an affirmative policy action on procurement services for vulnerable groups including youth, there are discrepancies when it comes to real practice. There is still propagation of tribalism and exclusion in sharing of resources. However, this can be solved by incorporating a youth targeted approach to development. The use of statistics in allocation of resources and sharing of opportunities will help achieve the same.

Plenary Responses/Comments

▪ It was noted that there is a need for media to broadcast success stories particularly from communities that implement SDGs activities.
▪ The government was urged to recognize and engage the academia in development processes, especially on research, as they have adequate professional capacity to undertake such tasks. This approach is twofold because it would engage the youth who have the largest numbers in universities.
It was noted that reports on Kenya paint a good picture in a number of development fronts. However, in many cases, the reality on the ground is different. As a result, it was deemed crucial to harmonise reporting such that there is consistency between reports and the lived citizen experiences.

- The government was encouraged to promote local production/manufacturing by reducing the cost of local production.
- Participants were encouraged to share reliable data and information for improved reporting on the SDGs process.
- Collaboration between the academia and other stakeholders such as the government, UN agencies, NGOs, private sector was encouraged particularly to research on specific goals to generate data that can inform implementation of the goals. For instance, researchers can collaborate with the government to address the root causes of cancer thereby tackling SDG 3: Good Health and Well Being and Universal Health Care (UHC).
- One participant brought attention to the low-quality goods produced by many local industry players including counterfeits that impede SDGs progress.
- A participant showed concern on the over-drilling of boreholes across the country which may lead to desertification in future. She advocated for provision of guidelines to mitigate this mispractice.
- It was noted that the relationship between the government and private sector is well defined. However, it was observed that there is a gap between CSOs and private sector and that there was no engagement framework in the tripartite connection between government, CSO and private sector.

SESSION 4

STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS FOR SDGs IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

UN Coordinator’s Office – Ms Zainabu Khalid (PhD)

Ms Zainabu noted that for the financial year 2019/2020, the Kenya budget projection was at 2.8 trillion. However, the development budget is much less than the current budget; with just 30% of the total hence leaving very little for development. Currently, Kenya is ranked as a lower middle-income country, which means the country may now miss on grants for development, with the assumption that it is able to generate more resources domestically.

As a measure to address this challenge by countries such as Kenya, Ms Zainabu explained that in 2015, the international community adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda⁵ to support countries in mobilization of development resources. The Agenda addresses domestic public

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⁵The Addis Agenda is a global framework that seeks to align financing flows and policies with economic, social, and environmental priorities.
resource mobilization and combating illicit financial flaws. It also addresses domestic and international private business and finance; international development cooperation (including official development assistance, South-South Cooperation, and development bank lending); trade; debt sustainability; systemic issues and science; Technology, innovation and capacity building.

Mr. Joseph Mukui – State Department for Planning

Mr Mukui explained the role of the government in mobilizing resources for financing SDGs implementation. He indicated that lack of good coordination between stakeholders including the government can affect mobilization of external resources for development, especially in situations where agencies pull in different directions.

The government has institutions that can support the mobilization of resources locally. For instance, the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA) has the potential to mobilize more resources for development/SDGs if its capacity is enhanced to tap into more sources of revenue. At the country level, the government has trained economists and posted them to every county to help stakeholders in planning for SDGs and generally on development. Such human resources, he stated, can be helpful in providing technical support to counties on sources of revenue and how to tap from them.

Other sources of financing options that Kenya may consider in raising revenue for local development are businesses, pensions, external sources (loans and grants), private sources and diaspora remittances.
GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS/PROPOSALS ON IMPROVING THE LOCAL SDGs PROCESS

Financing the SDGs
Financing for the implementation of the SDGs places emphasis on domestic resource mobilization in line with Accra Agenda for action\textsuperscript{6} (paragraph 40); it is the same spirit encouraged under SDG 17:1.

During group deliberations on domestic resource mobilization for implementation of the SDGs, they made the following proposal/suggestions:

- Kenya should encourage, embrace and strengthen Public Private Partnership ventures with the aim to raise sufficient funds to finance the SDGs.
- Within sustainable limits and world standard practices which promote growth of local financial institutions, Kenya should incline more towards domestic resource mobilization including domestic borrowing and lending.
- Whilst ensuring sensitivity to pro-poor taxation mechanisms, the country should seek means to widen its taxation base.
- The government should empower institutions that fight corruption to minimize and end corruption especially involving public resources.
- Policies that promote vibrant markets for goods and commodities and encourage participation of the larger population need to be explored and implemented.
- Besides monetary methods of raising capital, the country needs to identify non-monetary options that can contribute to implementation of the SDGs.

\textsuperscript{6}The Accra Agenda for Action is the product of an unprecedented alliance: more than 80 developing countries, all OECD donors and some 3 000 civil society organisations from around the world joined representatives of emerging economies, United Nations and multilateral institutions and global funds in the negotiations leading up to and taking place during the Accra meeting.

The AAA seeks to strengthen and deepen implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (the Paris Declaration). Prepared through a broad-based process of dialogue at both country and international levels, it takes stock of progress on the commitments of the Paris Declaration and sets the agenda for accelerating progress to reach the agreed targets by 2010 (see accompanying summary of the Paris Declaration).
● The country needs to identify specific development dimensions in which volunteerism may apply and also devise a volunteerism mechanism to tap on available skills that can be put to use under the mechanism.

Policy and institutional framework

Realizing effective resource mobilization requires that Kenya has a strong enabling institutional and policy framework. During group deliberations, several ideas were proposed in this regard:

● The country should explore and implement multi-stakeholder policy approaches that encourage pooling together of resources for sustainable development.

● To encourage stakeholders to participate effectively, policies should promote transparency and accountability.

● Local capacities, especially to undertake infrastructure contracts that attract huge investments by the government, need to be strengthened. It saves the country resources to contract local contractors compared to foreign.

● Different sectors involved in development need to have vibrant umbrella bodies so that it is easier to base partnerships on the umbrella bodies rather than single entities.

● The country should develop a mechanism for mapping out available resources and link them to specific areas of investment.

● To achieve development that discourages duplicity of projects by different stakeholders, an effective coordination framework needs to be developed.

● Support to research institutions, especially academic institutions of higher learning, should be provided so that they can generate evidence-based ideas and proposals on development.

● The media space for participating in development needs to be expanded.
Potential sources of development resources
With diminishing sources of funding for development, it is important to explore more resource mobilization options for development particularly those that remain untapped to date. Groups deliberated on this matter and proposed the following ideas:
● Even though Kenya currently benefits from foreign currency remittances from Kenyans living in the Diaspora as a reliable source for funding development, this huge potential is yet to be fully exploited. Therefore, strategies that encourage the Diaspora to invest more back home should be laid out and put in action.
● There is a need to have a mechanism that can be set up to encourage volunteerism from which the country can benefit from both skilled and unskilled services from its population in a range of development activities.
● Kenya needs to invest more to curb theft of public funds which diverts resources from development projects.
● The private sector should get more involved in development as opposed to limiting itself to small projects. It can also consider setting up SDGs funds to support relatively bigger projects that may have bigger impacts nationally.
● CSOs and private sector should undertake collaborative resource mobilization to increase funding resources and options as opposed to doing so separately.

International resource mobilisation
According to the World Bank, Kenya is ranked as a lower middle-income country. Although, this points to the country’s improved development status, the flow of development financing from international agencies has lessened as the country is now deemed to have some reasonable capacity to finance its development.
However, regardless of the country’s World Bank ratings, it still needs a lot of external financial support beyond domestic
mobilisation to meet its development objectives. The group discussions on this issue brought out some recommendations and suggestions as below:

- The country should demonstrate increased accountability on previous development grants to encourage both previous and new donors to extend support for local development. This is achievable through use of reliable data and information.
- High levels of corruption affect donor perceptions about extending support to the country for development. The country needs to do more to address the challenge through demonstrable methods that will change perceptions about the country both locally and internationally.
- The media should be encouraged to play a greater role in exposing cases of corruption as well as show-casing best practices as regards development projects funded by donors. This enhances transparency and accountability.
- More effective tracking mechanisms for donor funding need to be developed to accurately measure development.
- Unlike in the past, the country now needs to seek increased external funding for development from philanthropists, competitive grants, green bonds, sustainable loans, African Development Bank, Diaspora remittances, etc.
- Higher institutions of learning need to be supported to conduct more research into all aspects of local development strategies including viable and sustainable financing mechanisms.
- The government needs to continuously improve its development policy framework for more favorable environment space that encourages involvement of civil society, private sector, philanthropists, donors and other non-state actors.

SESSION 5

Panelist: Mr. Paul Okumu-African Platform, Ms. Florence Syevuo-SDGs Kenya Forum, Mr. Robert Papa- Rep CoG

EXPERIENCE SHARING ON STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONS FOR SDGs IMPLEMENTATION

The following deliberations were shared by the panel in addressing experience sharing on strengthening institutions for SDGs implementation.

Research

There is a lack of awareness of Africa’s wealth despite owning over 67% of the world’s valuable natural resources. This is largely due to minimal research by African countries on their development needs, priorities and the available natural resources to implement the same. Therefore, through established institutional frameworks, Africa needs to empower its universities and institutions of higher learning to conduct research that informs their local
development needs informed by their identified weaknesses, strengths and potential in natural resources and wealth.

Ownership of development initiatives
In the interest of sustainability and impact, development initiatives including global agendas should seek wider ownership by different stakeholders and also be presented strongly as national agendas. As much as is possible, they should not be run purely as political agendas. Doing so may negatively affect progress particularly in situations where political leaders connected to these initiatives leave office.

Aligning local development agendas with SDGs
The 2030 Agenda/SDGs should be aligned with local development agendas in Kenya to avoid confusion and encourage ownership. In Kenya, for example, the SDGs came into being after the country’s long-term development blueprint called Vision 2030. Recently, the government launched the Big 4 Agendas to fast-track its development. In such situations, the government should clarify how these development agendas align with one another including with the SDGs and also the implementation frameworks to enable stakeholders adjust their plans accordingly.

Civil Society
The SDGs Kenya Forum was created to respond to the need for an institutionalized way of involvement in the SDGs process by civil society in Kenya in a joint and structured manner. The Forum has a diversity of skills, experiences, and fields of work. While the challenge had been on how to come together and support activities of the Forum, with time the Forum has been able to set up structures that have helped the members participate from their respective areas of strength in championing the implementation of the SDGs. It has also created opportunity for government, UN agencies, private sector and other development partners to engage the Forum on partnerships in different areas of shared interest with each institution. There is a need to continue strengthening the capacity of the Forum to engage better in the SDGs process.

Innovative approaches on SDGs
There should be effort to demystify the SDGs for better understanding by all as they are not different from the country’s development agendas. The country needs an institutional
framework that goes beyond sustainability beyond political leaders. Innovative ways that engage modern technology should play a role in the implementation of SDGs. For example, some of the most successful companies in the world such as Alibaba (wares), Uber (taxi), Netflix (films), Facebook, Instagram (photos) etc. do not own any stake in the items they facilitate to trade but raise huge revenues in the process. These innovations should inspire the country to think deeper and come up with strategies that can accelerate development.

In the implementation of the SDGs, there should be sensitivity to varying development priorities in different parts of Kenya to avoid misplaced development projects that do not meet any felt need of target communities.

To deliver on the SDGs, political goodwill from leaders is necessary beyond setting up structures of implementation. For example, Makueni is good at public participation but has no structures in place for the same. Nigeria is also implementing SDGs without structure but with good political will from leaders.

Plenary reactions/Comments

- It was proposed that international proposals on development such as the SDGs need to be well defined and simplified for ease of understanding and domestication at the community level.
- The targets on development/SDGs as set at international level should be demonstrated to show how they apply at the community level.
- It was put forward that there is a need to go back and relook at the development plans that were developed at independence and implement them where applicable instead of developing new ones. This is because countries such as Malaysia who heavily borrowed from these plans have since prospered.
- It was mentioned that development plans should be attentive to future modification of the country to avoid strain especially on infrastructure.
- It was proposed that there should be effort by citizens to participate in the planning processes to ensure community needs are factored in during planning stages.
▪ There was a consideration to the use of modern technology in addressing development challenges.
▪ It was suggested that Kenyan universities create a curricula that responded to local development needs so that the skills they impart on learners can have relevance in addressing development challenges.
▪ There was a suggestion to institutionalise development processes to avoid derailment of political good will by political leaders who leave office.
▪ It was recommended to create synergy partnerships and alliances that anchor development initiatives.
▪ CSOs were encouraged to go beyond formal engagements with the government and include informal engagements based on integrity to discuss various developments. This can help minimise mistrust between the two parties.

SESSION 6
ADDRESSING DATA GAPS FOR SDGs MONITORING

Ms. Jane Oteba, UN Resident Coordinator’s Office
Mr. Mark Irura –SDGs Kenya Forum
Ms. Leah Wambugu – KNBS

The session focused on the importance of data in informing investment of resources by measuring impact on target groups and determining progress towards SDG implementation. While data not only focuses on evaluating results, it is also useful in gauging whether all dimensions, such as equity, human rights, capacities are all being addressed. A country cannot claim accurate reporting on SDGs without understanding and monitoring SDG indicators in its national monitoring framework – this applies to both state and non-state actors. So far Kenya, has managed to domesticate 131 of the SDGs indicators.

Different institutions use different data collection and communication systems to track their development objectives. For example, the UN uses an online global, real time data tracking system called UN INFO for all its agencies. It is capable of providing all information including
geographical location of a project anywhere in the world, status, level of investment and its funding source.

The government of Kenya relies on data generated by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS). It is the government’s legal data collection and custodial agency established by law for development purposes on a range of areas of interest. Data collection is made possible through the national population census as was conducted in 2019.

Ms Leah Wambugu expressed that admissibility of data depended on the methods applied in collection of data and the extent to which it complied to set standards at national, regional and international levels. She noted that many organisations face challenges with methodologies /standards regarding data collection rendering their study results questionable particularly by the government. Data is also political and the results generated from research can raise controversies or even be challenged or supported from different political parties. For this reason, she recommended that research designs be replicable so that in situations of extreme contest of results, the design can be re-applied to confirm the findings or otherwise.

The KNBS has a statistical office in every county for data management and also to support any other entity with advice that may wish to conduct surveys for different uses. The UN on its part has been providing Kenya with data collection and management support through KNBS and the National Department of Monitoring and Evaluation.

Plenary reactions/Comments/Questions

Below are some of the matters which arose from the discussion of the session:

- It was expressed that while the standardised traditional method of data collection was preferred by different data collecting agencies, this could greatly limit opportunity for data mining which could be used to inform various sustainable development projects. Therefore, it was deemed important to utilise modern communication technologies present generated through social media channels such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp among others. This has proved successful for countries like Rwanda who have integrated social media in their official data collection methodologies.

- It was deemed important to demystify the indicators on the SDGs so that they speak to the reality on the ground.
▪ One of the challenges of monitoring SDGs is the lack of data availability or collection. It was proposed to clarify specific indicators that each stakeholder is working on, for ease of tracking progress.
▪ Additionally, stakeholders implementing the SDGs were urged to collaborate with the KNBS in the process of tracking SDGs.
▪ When asked about UN’s strategy in detecting corruption or theft of public resources, Ms Jane stated that the UN only assists national data collection agencies to develop capacity for collection of credible data.
▪ Ms Leah asserted that data generated from other sources apart from the KNBS such as administrative data and community led generated data can only be recognized if it adheres to set standards of quality and can be compared to other sources of data to inform sustainable development processes.

SESSION 7

GLOBAL LEVEL REVIEWS OF PROGRESS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs: Rogers Dhliwayo

Mr Rogers began by stating the principles countries must adhere to in the VNR process. It must be government led, voluntary, national owned to ensure leaving no one behind by involving everyone in the decision-making and monitoring processes.
The three layers of monitoring include: national level, regional level (UNECA, AfDB) and global level in which the reporting theme is agreed on by the UN. The national review should feed into regional review and in turn feed into the global review process.

He noted that the theme-based reporting approach has been criticized as it goes against the spirit of the SDGs restricting reporting on one SDG yet all are paramount. However, this approach shall be reviewed to ensure that all SDGs are considered equally without giving prominence to any specific SDG against the others.

The Interagency Expert Group on the SDGs indicators has three tiers and an overall total of 232 indicators. Each tier has its own shortcomings. Where there are no indicators, there has been progress in developing some with consideration on standardization.

The number of countries participating in the VNR process is increasing every year. In coming years more countries are likely to join the self-evaluation process. UNDESA produces a handbook on VNR drawing lessons learned from every periodic submission by different countries. It is important for countries, regardless of their development status, to learn from one another in different areas of outstanding performance.

In production of the VNR, multiple stakeholders need to be involved in the preparation of the report so that it brings out a wide cross-section of views and has a national outlook. It is important to add onto the VNR experiences emanating from global review meetings. Delegates attending these meetings should always make an effort and share such experiences when they return to their countries.

There are challenges that need to be highlighted and addressed with time:
- Structural issues
- Institutional mechanisms
- Governance issues
- Intergenerational issues
- Environmental issues

It is important to follow established reporting guidelines in presentation of reports so that it may be easy to compare with those from other countries.

**Prioritising SDGs acceleration**

The Kenya School of government has developed a curriculum on SDGs that is supported by the UNDP in the interest of government officers attending courses at the institutions. Achievement
of the SDGs needs innovation to effectively address the experienced challenges. There needs to be an acceleration framework covering every four-year period.

Identifying SDGs that lag behind is important to inform policy intervention to fast-track their implementation so that they are brought to par with others. This should be at all levels, county or national levels. The UNDP is working closely with the government on the acceleration process of the SDGs and shall soon be introducing other stakeholders to the process.

At all levels, resource allocation for development should respond to specific SDGs or community needs. It has been noted that investment and progress in some SDGs also translates to progress on some others. In some other cases, investing in some SDGs does not impact others. However, all SDGs are indivisible and therefore approaches need to ensure that all goals receive equal investment.

SESSION 8

NATIONAL REPORTING ON SDGs PROGRESS

State Department for Planning/Sarah Muui-National SDGs Unit

Ms Sarah stated that the government of Kenya has already developed a road map on National SDGs Progress Report preparation to guide the VNR process. The finalisation of the VNR should be by June 2020 when a national report will be shared at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) later in the year. Kenya shall be preparing a progress report every two years and reporting to HLPF every four years. The first progress VNR for the country was prepared in 2017 and the next one is set for 2020.

The contact officer on SDGs in every ministry coordinates collection of ministerial reports to feed into the national progress report. The SDGs Kenya Forum shall coordinate collection of reports for the same purpose from CSOs. In the private sector, KEPSA coordinates collection of such reports from different players in the sector.

All the stakeholders were encouraged to contribute their views and ideas regarding the SDGs to ensure that the next reports benefit from a diversity of experiences in the country. However, whilst all were encouraged to contribute to the VNR, Ms Sarah cautioned that only original
reports from each organisation and specific to the VNR process are to be submitted. Stakeholders intending to submit reports should also do so within provided timelines to enable the teams involved in collecting and collating the views meet targets on their deliverables. The SDGs Kenya Forum will create an online mechanism to enable a user-friendly contribution into the VNR thereby facilitating wider participation.

She also recommended vibrant engagements on the SDGs process here in Kenya beyond the VNR to enable stakeholders interact through consultations, information sharing and exchange of ideas depending on different interests. This moderates divergence of views from different stakeholders and puts focus on implementation of the SDGs.

Reactions/responses

- There is a need to have representation of actual counties in SDG meetings and processes besides the CoG and the county executive. Additionally, mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that these representatives share feedback with their respective counties.
- A proposal was put out to have easily comprehensible communication regarding SDGs. In addition, messages and approaches need to be target-specific to audiences.

SESSION 9
PLENARY PROPOSALS ON ACCELERATED ACTION ON SDGs FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS

After the one and half days of deliberations, participants made forward-looking considerations on steps the country needed to take for accelerated pace towards achievement of the SDGs within the next 10 years remaining to 2030. Key among the proposals made by participants were:

a) Strengthening Institutional Frameworks
Strong institutions are important to support sustainable development activities including the implementation of the SDGs at national level. In line with this, Kenya should particularly seek to strengthen such institutions that guarantee wider stakeholder involvement including citizens and other non-state actors. In addition, effective tracking of development including the SDGs and
documenting best practices was deemed crucial to facilitate sharing across counties and communities. Other institutions that guarantee integrity in deployment of public resources need strengthening as well particularly in fighting corruption. The National SDGs Unit capacity should be strengthened to improve its performance. It should be complemented by setting up a similar unit in each of the 47 counties of Kenya for more targeted and informed development steps. Lastly, the country needs to consider increased investment in research and partnerships with local universities for such research.

b) Building Partnerships
Achievement of the SDGs requires close collaboration of all stakeholders involved in the process in Kenya, regionally and globally. At the local level, effort should be made to promote ownership by local stakeholders so that the goals are not viewed as a foreign agenda. It is important to conduct mapping of stakeholders involved in the process and their areas of interest so that the stakeholders can partner by way of complementing one another as opposed to duplication of projects and appearing to be in competition. In all development projects, the beneficiaries should play active roles and not be passive recipients of benevolent projects. In particular, all effort should be made to ensure wide inclusivity especially of the most vulnerable who are most likely to be left behind.

The private sector should play a greater role that goes beyond its business interests and philanthropy in local development processes. Goodwill from political leaders is necessary along the SDGs process and they should be engaged more actively.

To ensure vibrant partnerships along the process, partners should find methods of reviewing their engagement commitments for sustained and renewed vigour in their actions.

c) Resource Mobilization and Deployment
Success in achievement of the SDGs is anchored largely on availability of resources for investment into respective areas of interest in each goal. The country should therefore begin by adopting prudent use of available resources. It also needs to adopt more sustainable production and consumption methods that take care of the present as well as the future. As the
resources are limited for SDGs, application of the resources should target key areas that have multiplier effect across other goals.

The country also should identify new and innovative ways of mobilizing resources. Such include engagement of volunteer services and leveraging on the modern ICTs for raising capital for local development.

**SDGs KENYA CHAMPIONS AWARDS**

On the evening of 5th December 2019, the workshop was punctuated by recognition of different stakeholders impressively implementing various SDGs in Kenya, through awards. The awards are intended to recognize institutions that are making a positive change through implementation of the SDGs and to serve as catalyst to encourage more stakeholders to join the same. The hope is that in issuing these awards, there will be an increased SDG adoption and implementation including the use of innovations to foster outstanding results.

The SDGs Kenya Forum applied a transparent method and fair selection criteria to administer the awards. The Forum issued a wide online call to all stakeholders to nominate those they viewed as deserving of the awards, including self, across different categories. A rubric was developed to assess and identify winners in each category that broadly focused on 3 criteria:

1. Extent to which there has been positive impact - particularly in the theme ‘Leave No One Behind’
2. Demonstrated ability (or potential) to scale up rapidly.
3. Commitment and consistency in implementing the SDGs that has been nothing short of innovative and inspiring.

There were six categories of the awards, which were: Government agencies; County Governments; Private Sector; Civil Society; Youth-led Civil Society; Media, and Special category (SDGs champions).

The winners in each of the above categories who were awarded with recognition trophies for going out of their way in championing for the SDGs within their respective spaces were:

- Government agencies: The Kenya Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business
- County governments: Makueni County Government
- Private sector: UN Global Compact Kenya - Kenya
- Civil society: POLYCOM
- Youth-led civil society: Champions for SDGs
- Media: The Standard Media Group
- Special category (SDGs champions): Ridhiwani Sadiki
In their speeches, representatives of the winning institutions viewed the awards as a challenge to continued implementation of the SDGs and committed to do a lot more in their capacity to support implementation of the SDGs.
Images: Photos from the 1st SDG Champions Awards event – 5th December, 2019
CONCLUSION
The spirit of partnership by different stakeholders in Kenya should be sustained as it allows them to consult, share ideas and best practices in the implementation of the SDGs. More stakeholders should be identified and encouraged to join hands with others for stronger impact on implementation of the SDGs.

Encouraging transparency, accountability and mutual respect between and among partners will strengthen undertaking shared activities that accelerate the pace towards the achievement of the SDGs. Frequent activities as the multi-stakeholder forum, joint monitoring, joint reporting should be encouraged throughout the SDGs process.

The finalization and launch of the SDGs Acceleration Framework that has a new proposed Multi Stakeholder Engagement Framework in 2020 will set off Kenya towards the achievement of SDGs by 2030 in Kenya by Leaving No Kenyan Behind.

Link to Gallery
Click on the link below to access the compiled photos from the MSF 2019.
https://photos.google.com/u/2/album/AF1QipMP17OZUQ_Bd6XSObZuP0cl459ENxBT8KnTmbvY

ANNEX
Overall Participants’ Feedback
The feedback below is drawn from 24 responses. An online form was shared on email to all participants at the end of the 2-day stakeholder meeting. Below is a highlight of the feedback.

In summary, most participants gave a score of 4, highlighting positive feedback on presentations, discussions and the overall format of the workshop. The areas for improvement are highlighted at the end of this section.
Overall Organization of the 2019 Annual Multistakeholder Forum - Rate the overall quality and usefulness of the meeting format and activities from 1 to 5 (with 5 being best)?

Please rate the presentation (Highlights on SDGs Implementation - lessons from the 2017 VNR and 2019 Progress report) from 1 to 5 (with 5 being best)?
Please rate the presentation (Highlights on SDGs Implementation - Lessons from the 2017 VNR and 2019 Progress Report) from 1 to 5 (with 5 being best)?

Please rate the panel discussion (Understanding the role of stakeholder engagement on the implementation and monitoring of SDGs) from 1 to 5 (with 5 being best)?
Please rate the panel discussion (Financing the SDGs - mobilizing resources for SDGs implementation) from 1 to 5 (with 5 being best)?

![Chart for SDGs Financing discussion]

Please rate the panel discussion (Strengthening institutions for SDGs implementation and Monitoring) from 1 to 5 (with 5 being best)?

![Chart for SDGs Institutions discussion]
Please rate the panel discussion/presentations (Addressing data gaps for SDGs Monitoring) from 1 to 5 (with 5 being best)?

![Graph 1](image1)

Please rate the panel discussion/presentations (Addressing data gaps for SDGs Monitoring) from 1 to 5 (with 5 being best)?

![Graph 2](image2)
Please rate the presentation (Update on the Multistakeholder Strategy) from 1 to 5 (with 5 being best)?

![Bar chart showing ratings for different aspects of the presentation]

Do you Plan to attend next years Annual Forum in December, 2020?
24 responses

- Yes: 95.8%
- No: 4.2%
- Unsure: 0%

SDGs Kenya Forum
Specific issues/comments highlighted for redress in the next Annual Multi Stakeholder Forum are as follows:

1. Fast tracking of multiple efforts by CSOs, government and partners
2. Inclusion of marginalized communities including Persons with Disability (P WDs), Indigenous communities, pastoralist among others.
3. Addressing the role of youth on the implementation of SDGs.
4. Reports on the progress and challenges facing achievement of SDGs thus far.
5. Inclusion of all stakeholders from planning phase
6. Due to the inadequacy of the 2-day workshop, a 3-day timeline was recommended.
7. County government involvement as a coordinating agency for VNR was recommended.
8. Inclusion of different panelists from other organizations, such as, faith-based and agricultural based organisation who work on the implementation of SDGs.
9. Engagement of the political class, information sharing on documenting evidence and sharing of best practices.
10. Addressing the role of progress reports in informing decision making.
11. Addressing the role of citizens in the implementation of SDGs.
12. There was a proposal to involve relevant stakeholders to address data, its exclusivity and official formalization.
13. Addressing the level of inequalities or progress among marginalized groups in Kenya.
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**Strathmore University**

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**SDGs Kenya Forum**
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