



SDGs KENYA FORUM

Coalition for Sustainable Development

SPOTLIGHT

NEWSLETTER

Convergence 365; Annual Multi-Stakeholders Conference



SDGs at Midpoint - Boosting SDG Progress through Innovation and Strengthened Collaborations and Partnerships



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

As the SDGs Kenya Forum, we are thrilled to reflect on the success of the Annual Multi-Stakeholders Conference which was convened in December 2023, marking a pivotal moment in advancing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the region. This conference served as a dynamic platform as we gathered diverse stakeholders, including government representatives, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, the media among others, to collaborate, share insights and forge partnerships. A notable highlight of our conference was our recognition of impactful projects and initiatives driving SDGs achievements across various sectors. Additionally, the conference provided us with invaluable opportunities for networking and collaboration. We seized the opportunity to form partnerships, mobilize resources and explore innovative approaches to SDGs implementation. Looking ahead, we reaffirm our commitment to driving momentum for Sustainable Development in our region. We would also like to extend our congratulations to the winners of the SDGs Awards as their outstanding projects



and initiatives exemplified dedication, innovation and impactful contribution towards advancing Sustainable Development Goals. As we continue our journey towards a more sustainable future, the insights and partnerships forged at this conference will serve as catalysts for transformative change.

Thank you!

Florence Syevuo



● **Dr. Gideon Ochanda**

"The real implementers of the SDGs are the County governments, making their active involvement crucial to the whole process. However, the traditional budgeting process lacks inclusivity of vulnerable groups, giving poor representation to their needs."



● **Hon. Charles Onchoko**

"In Kisii County, where poverty affects over 45% of the population, it's imperative that our focus remain steadfast on addressing fundamental issues such as education, healthcare, poverty, and unemployment, particularly in rural areas where the need is most acute, demanding a strategic reevaluation of engagement tactics to foster sustainable development nationwide."



● **Chair of the SDGs Kenya Forum - George Awalla**

"Our pursuit of sustainable development must ensure that the voices of the minority are included, for the measure of success will not only be centered on the number of goals achieved but on the number of lives saved."



● **Mr. Julius Chokerah**

“With six years left until the 2030 Agenda deadline, the urgent need for accelerated action is clear. Effective multiple stakeholder partnerships are imperative in implementing robust recovery and acceleration strategies, ensuring no one is left behind in our pursuit of sustainable development.”



● **Mohammed Maalim**

“Our dedication to aligning local priorities with the global sustainable development agenda is reflected in the integration of SDGs into County Integrated Development Plans. Moving forward, increased collaboration among counties will drive meaningful change, ensuring no one is left behind.”

“To ensure no one is left behind, there is a need to enhance sensitisation efforts, as evidence shows that a greater percentage of the population still does not know the 2030 Agenda and its interconnected 17 goals”

Dr Gideon Ochanda



“There is a pressing need to address these fundamental issues at the rural level.”

Kisii MP Hon. Charles Onchoko

“There was a need to enhance inclusivity, address inequalities, and uphold human rights,”

George Awalla



Catalysing Progress: Insights from the 2023 Annual National Multi-Stakeholders Conference on SDGs

Kenya's Commitment to Sustainable Development: Insights from the 2023 Annual National SDGs Multi-Stakeholders Conference

INTRODUCTION:

Sustainable development offers hope for a better future in a world facing a myriad of challenges. Kenya, echoing the sentiments of the international community, reaffirmed its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the 2023 Annual National SDGs Multi-Stakeholders Conference. The conference served as a pivotal moment for reflection, assessment, and renewed determination against the backdrop of the midway point towards the 2030 Agenda.

BACKGROUND:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a landmark agreement adopted by 193 UN member states in 2015, delineates 17 interconnected SDGs aimed at addressing pressing global issues. However, a sobering revelation emerged from the Secretary-General's report, indicating that only 12% of SDG targets are on track, underscoring the need for urgent and innovative strategies.



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER APPROACH:

Kenya has been at the forefront of sustainable development efforts, leveraging a multistakeholder approach that encompasses government entities, civil society organizations, the private sector, the media, academia, and UN entities. Central to this approach is the Inter-Agency Technical Working Committee (IATWC), which spearheads Kenya's engagement strategy, facilitating collaboration and coordination across diverse sectors.

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS:

The conference resonated with a resounding call for partnerships as the cornerstone of addressing global challenges in the wake of COVID-19, conflicts, and entrenched inequalities. A notable highlight was the SDGs Awards, which celebrated stakeholders for their outstanding contributions to SDGs implementation, underscoring the power of recognition in galvanizing collective action.



Multistakeholder Conference



Key Messages:

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) underscored the urgency of commitments from governments and stakeholders to accelerate SDG implementation. Moreover, the indispensability of data, financial resources, and partnerships was emphasized as pivotal drivers of progress towards the SDGs.

SDGs Awards Guidelines:

Ensuring transparency, accountability, and equity in acknowledging stakeholders' efforts, the structured SDGs Awards Guidelines served as a blueprint for recognising excellence in sustainable development endeavors. Recommendations put forth included a one-time consideration for organizations and the incorporation of social and economic benefits in

nomination criteria, thereby fostering a holistic approach to sustainability.

Way Forward:

The conference charts a course towards inclusive recovery measures, augmented resources for data-related priorities, and enhanced engagement with the private sector to catalyze SDG implementation. Emphasizing accountability, transparency, and inclusivity, the imperative of leaving no one behind looms large on the agenda.

Closing Remarks:

In wrapping up the conference, Mr. James Muhati captured the essence of the discussions. He stressed the importance of doubling our efforts and staying committed to the SDGs. He also highlighted how crucial it is to involve all stakeholders in tracking our progress

and ensuring that everyone, especially vulnerable groups, is included. It truly shows Kenya's unwavering dedication to the SDGs.

Conclusion:

The 2023 Annual National SDGs Multi-Stakeholders Conference is a testament to Kenya's unwavering commitment to sustainable development. Through the lens of partnership, innovation, and inclusivity, stakeholders convened to confront the challenges, celebrate the achievements, and chart a collective course towards a more sustainable and equitable future, not just for Kenya but also for the global community at large. As the journey towards 2030 unfolds, Kenya emerges as a beacon of hope, navigating the path towards a brighter tomorrow with unwavering resolve and collective action.

As we reflect on the success of the 2023 SDGs Awards ceremony, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all participants and main speakers who made this event a truly inspiring and impactful gathering. Your dedication, passion, and commitment to sustainable development have not gone unnoticed, and your contributions have played a significant role in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. To the organizations, individuals, and stakeholders who participated, thank you for your innovative initiatives,

unwavering support, and collaborative spirit in driving positive change. Special thanks to our esteemed main speakers, whose insights and expertise have enriched our discussions and inspired us to continue working towards a more sustainable and inclusive future. Your valuable contributions have set a high standard for excellence and have motivated us all to strive for progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Together, we are making a difference, and we look forward to continuing this journey of collaboration, innovation, and collective action towards a better world for all. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the SDGs, and we are excited to see the positive impact of your work in the days ahead.



*Dr. Gideon Ochanda -
Chairman Parliamentary
Caucus on SDGs*



Mr. Julius Chokerah - United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO)

To All Participants:

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to each and every one of you for your active participation, thought-provoking discussions, and unwavering commitment to the SDGs. Your collective efforts are driving positive change and shaping a better future for all.

As we reflect on the conference's success, let us carry forward the spirit of collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity in our ongoing journey towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. Thank you for being part of this transformative experience!

The 2023 Annual National SDGs Multi-Stakeholders Conference commenced with a series of insightful introductions from key speakers, setting the stage for a collaborative and innovative dialogue on accelerating SDGs implementation.

Dr. Gideon Ochanda, Chairman of the Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs, emphasised the urgency of transformative strategies to ensure no one is left behind, stressing the need for enhanced sensitisation efforts and active engagement of county governments. MP. Kisii, Hon. Charles Onchoke, shed light on the challenges faced in Kisii County, highlighting the pressing issues of poverty, food insecurity, and unemployment at the rural level. George Awalla, Chair of the SDGs Kenya Forum, underscored the collaborative nature of the forum and the significance of partnerships in addressing global challenges.

Mr. Julius Chokerah from the UNRCO stressed the critical need for effective partnerships at national and county levels to address financial gaps and accelerate recovery. Mohammed Maalim, representing CoG, highlighted the commitment of 23 counties in the Voluntary Local Reviews process, advocating for increased collaboration among counties to advance the SDG agenda. The speakers collectively emphasized the importance of collaboration, inclusivity, and innovative solutions in driving progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, setting a tone of unity and determination for the conference proceedings.

THE 2023

Annual National SDGs MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE

SHOWCASING ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE MULTI - STAKEHOLDERS' CONFERENCE

The 2023 Annual National SDGs Multi-Stakeholders Conference was driven by clear objectives centered around fostering collaboration, knowledge exchange, and solidarity in SDGs implementation. The primary goal was to provide a platform for stakeholders to share experiences, best practices, and lessons learned in the realm of sustainable development. Additionally, the conference aimed to launch and disseminate guidelines for the SDG awards, recognising and honoring outstanding contributors to SDGs implementation.

Throughout the conference, key messages from the High-Level Political Forum on SDGs resonated, emphasizing the critical need for partnerships, inclusivity, and advocacy for human rights in addressing global challenges. Stakeholders actively engaged with various entities, including governments, communities, and partners, to ensure a cohesive and integrated approach to sustainable development. Advocacy for the

mobilization of financial resources and the empowerment of local communities were key themes that emerged from the discussions.

As the conference unfolded, it successfully achieved its objectives by facilitating meaningful dialogue, promoting collaboration among stakeholders, and shining a spotlight on exceptional contributions to SDGs implementation through the prestigious SDGs awards ceremony. The event served as a catalyst for transformative actions and strategies to accelerate progress towards sustainable development goals. Emphasis was placed on inclusivity and amplifying the voices of vulnerable groups, underscoring the commitment to leaving no one behind in the pursuit of sustainable development.

Overall, the conference was a resounding success in bringing together diverse stakeholders, fostering collaboration, and recognizing the impactful efforts made towards advancing the SDGs agenda. It served as a platform for inspiration, innovation, and collective action towards a more sustainable and inclusive future.

The 2023 Annual National Multi-Stakeholders Conference on SDGs could not have been a success without your support. From stakeholders to participants, volunteers, etc. You made it happen and we sincerely say



THANK YOU.



Thank you for your engaging discussions on building back better and accelerating SDGs implementation.

This year's conference centered on accelerating SDG implementation through collaboration and enhanced partnerships. We also highlighted the significance of the SDGs approach in reducing inequalities and improving livelihoods, emphasizing the need for doubling efforts in the remaining implementation period.

Challenges

Key challenges such as inadequate financing, data gaps, and low awareness were identified, underscoring the importance of utilizing existing stakeholder partnerships to overcome these barriers. We ascertained the need for strengthening the science-policy interface, engaging with the private sector, and intensifying transformative initiatives. Adequate and sustained resourcing was deemed critical for progress towards the SDGs, with a call for innovative funding approaches and inclusive development strategies.



Recommendations

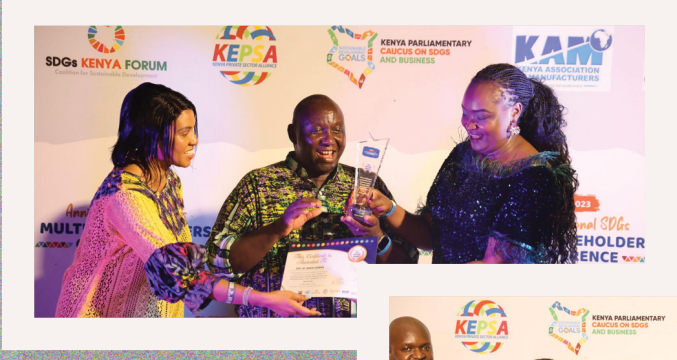
To accelerate SDGs, we recommended intentional involvement of the media as a stakeholder, avoiding working in silos, fostering dialogue and debate, promoting partnerships, amplifying grassroots movements, and fostering innovation at county and ward levels.

SDGs AWARDS

The 2023 SDGs Awards ceremony was a resounding success, recognizing and honoring the exceptional contributions of organizations and individuals towards sustainable development. The winners across various categories showcased exemplary dedication, innovation, and commitment to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. In the category of Gender Equality, organizations like Inuka Community Developers Network and Akili Dada stood out for their remarkable efforts in promoting women's rights and empowerment. The Clean Water and Sanitation category saw organizations like Rural Women Network and Hami Imani Africa being celebrated for their innovative approaches to ensuring access to clean water and sanitation facilities. Additionally, the Goal 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure category highlighted the achievements of Association of Media Women in Kenya for their impactful initiatives in promoting sustainable development through media engagement. Kudos to all the winners for their outstanding

work and for setting a high standard in driving positive change and sustainability. Their dedication and passion serve as an inspiration to others in the global community, reinforcing the importance of collaboration and innovation in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. As we celebrate their achievements, let us continue to strive for progress and work together towards a more sustainable and inclusive future for all.





HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SDGs

Dominick, a distinguished speaker renowned for his expertise and passion for sustainable development, shared invaluable insights during the 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). His contributions inspired attendees to recommit to action and unity in pursuit of a more sustainable and equitable future.

The 2023 HLPF, held from July 10th to 20th under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), marked a critical milestone in the global pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. It convened to accelerate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Amidst sobering realities that halfway to the 2030 deadline, more than half of the world remains marginalized, the forum highlighted the urgent need for mobilizing support across various sectors. Delegates emphasized ambitious national commitments and long-term policies to drive progress across major SDG transitions.

As a pivotal moment in the SDG journey, the 2023 HLPF catalyzed a call for unified action and renewed commitment. Integrated policies to tackle poverty, inequality, and environmental degradation were advocated for, alongside strengthening national and sub-national institutions and recommitting to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Anticipation mounts for the 2024 HLPF, scheduled for July 8th to 17th under ECOSOC, with the theme "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises." The forum will conduct an in-depth review of key SDGs, including poverty eradication, hunger alleviation, climate action, and peace and justice, with preparations underway for impactful participation, including from Kenya.

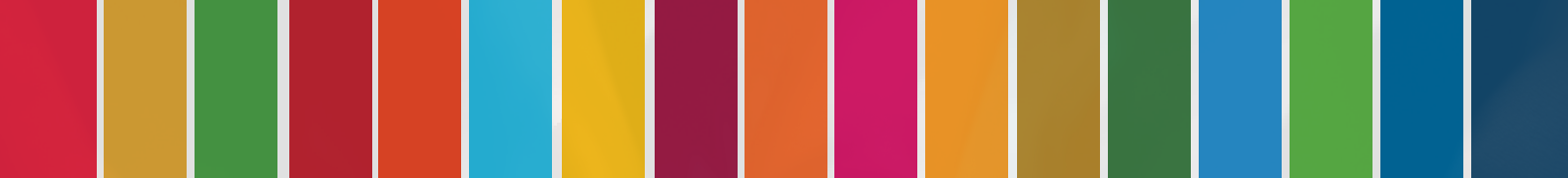
The 2023 HLPF provided a pivotal platform for reflection, recommitment, and action towards achieving the SDGs. As the world grapples with complex challenges, the forum served as a clarion call for solidarity and innovation in pursuit of sustainable development. With eyes set on the 2024 HLPF, the global community stands poised to reinforce its commitment to the 2030 Agenda, driving progress towards a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable future for all.

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