



SDGs KENYA FORUM
For Sustainable Development

CSOS SDGS 2019 PROGRESS REPORT WORKSHOP



Date: 15th February, 2019
Venue: Ibis Styles Hotel

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Introduction

The SDGs Kenya Forum is a voluntary community of civil society organisation entity open to government entities, academia, media, private sector and other institutions, subscribing to the value of Agenda 2030, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In early 2016, an Inter Agency Technical Working Group (IATWG) on SDGs was formed under the leadership of the State Department of Planning, in the National Treasury and Planning within the Government of Kenya. This multi-stakeholder working group is mandated to spearhead the implementation of the SDGs in the country, ensure that the SDGs are mainstreamed in development planning and track & report on progress in achievement of the SDGs in Kenya. The platform brings together an affiliated membership of 300 constituencies working across the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals.

The Forum, in its capacity as a strengthening platform for CSOs, convened the goal group leads on Friday, 15th February, 2019, at ibis Hotel, for a VNR guideline workshop. The half-day conference was geared towards preparing civil society organization to compile the voluntary national review that Kenya will submit at the end of March, 2019. Although Kenya isn't presenting its paper at the UN this year, this is part of an agreement by the Inter agency committee on SDGs Implementation, monitoring and review to report on the country's report every two years.

Structure of the Meeting

The workshop was divided into four sessions, each with a presentation presided over by a different presenter. The sessions were:










- a) United Nations Voluntary National Review Guidelines: 2019 Regional & Global opportunities for CSO in the VNR Process
- b) Kenya's SDGs Indicators: Non State Actors Role and National Opportunities
- c) SDGs Group Leads Convening - Guidelines to the CSOs Report
- d) Group Convening - Timeline and Action









The meeting also had plenary interludes, which allowed the audience to engage through reactions to presentations, comments, suggestions, questions and answers

Participation

The meeting was intended for the goal group conveners. These organizations will then convene organizations that fall under the respective goals in order to compile a report on the progress made in each goal. There are 2 conveners to every goal

GOAL GROUPS LEADS 2019

Thematic Areas	Co-Conveners	Director/Rep	Contact	Cluster (5Ps)
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 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	AMREF	Elizabeth Wala	Elizabeth.wala@amref.org	
	HENNET	Rosemary Kombo	director@hennet.or.ke	
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	VSO Kenya	George Awalla Catherine Mwangi	George.Awalla@vsoint.org Catherine.Mwangi@vsoint.org	
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Welcome remarks- Program Manager, SDGs Kenya Forum

Dr. Oluoch welcomed the participants present. She took them through the list of goal leads, participants were reminded that their role is convening other goal members for implementation, monitoring and reviewing of Sustainable Development Goals. The purpose of the workshop was to provide guidance to civil society organizations on the guidelines for compiling the 2019 National SDGs Progress Report.

United Nations Voluntary National Review Guidelines: 2019 Regional & Global opportunities for CSO in the VNR Process-Rogers Dhilwayo, UNDP

Mr. Dhilwayo introduced the topic by giving a brief description of what the Voluntary National Review is. The VNR's mandate is to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned of the countries involved, with an aim of accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These reviews also seek to strengthen policies and government institutions, to mobilize multistakeholder support and partnerships towards the implementation of the SDGs. They will include developed and developing countries, relevant UN bodies and other stakeholders

In his outline of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development he characterised/categorised the goals under 5Ps. The 5Ps of/included: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership, which generates finances and technology. He illustrated the SDGs as being universal, indivisible, ambitious, integrated and high multipliers to other goals to achieve diverse results. He mentioned examples of **Goal 12**: sustainable consumption and production patterns and **goal 5**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, reviewed from VNRs of previous years

The High Level Political Forum on the Sustainable Development, adopted from 2030 Agenda paragraph 82, plays a crucial role in presiding over networks and review processes at the global level. It ensures the integration of sustainable development, provide political leadership and recommendations, and the addressing of new emerging and current challenges

He outlined the structure of HLPF, citing the VNR will begin at the country level with regional discussions, process and consultations. After every year, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) do a review which, after every four years at the summit or under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit), the VNR is presented.

He set out the guidelines for the report. The report should be able to:

- Track the implementation progress
- Identify the gaps and challenges experienced
- It should be people-oriented, targeting the poorest and the most vulnerable. He mentioned that most VNRs failed at this stage ,as many countries did VNRs that did not capture the principle of Leave no one behind (LNOB)
- Be built on existing platforms
- Rigorous and have evidence-based data
- Enhance capacity building
- Adopt UN system of reporting

He outlined the principles of VNRs to the organisations, stating that the process was voluntary and country-led at the national and sub-national levels, rigorous and based on evidence, a learning experience, reviews the national circumstances set and is an open, inclusive, participatory and transparent engagement

Benefits of the VNRs

- Acts as a catalyst to accelerate achievement of Agenda 2030 and SDGs; sustainable development
- A communication tool for advocacy
- Can be used in areas of support of funding and accelerators

Maximisation on the VNRs benefits

- High linkage processes
- Undertake costing
- Strengthen coherence
- Monitor the SDGs implementation through/done through audit
- Measure impacts of policies
- Report before and after (feedback)
- Strengthening and bringing on board actions and lessons

He further indicated the key national actors and main stakeholders to be engaged during the VNR process were:

- The National Government-bodies such as State Departments of Finance and Planning
- Other stakeholders, which could include bodies such as UN Country team, academia, trade unions, farmers, women, among others.
- The parliament which includes supreme audit institutions, standing oversight bodies

In the participation and engagement process, the civil society's responsibility is to ensure implementation and support advocacy. The civil society has the largest and most crucial role to play in engaging the Agenda across all levels. He emphasized on the point that Agenda 2030 was broader and held a larger spectrum than the SDGs (reason being 2030 principles were based on four major pillars; economic, social, environmental and sustainability). In aiming to achieve the agenda, it will accelerate the implementation and accomplishment of the SDGs in the longer run.

The theme for the VNR 2019 is 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality'. This VNR's theme will look into **goal 4**: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, **goal 8**: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, **goal 10**: Reduce inequality within and among countries, **goal 13**: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts, **goal 16**: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels and **goal 17**: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, in depth. The VNR's timeline will involve global presentations, capacity building, and the locals to have forums and groups.

He added that the VNR 2019 should be able to promote comparability when reporting, have long-term orientation, and coordinated structures. It should also be able to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development- he mentioned that this was the least captured content in most VNRs and the organisations should maximise on including it, have the principle of Leaving no one behind well documented, include institutional mechanisms to coordinate the SDGs, have a VNR that challenges the country its talking about, have goals, targets and means of implementation included in it.

He laid out the challenges associated/encountered during/with the VNR. These include:

- Lack alignment of national priorities with SDGs into national budget
- Data disaggregation
- Limited linkages
- Absence of monitoring and evaluation to assess impact
- VNR cycle is too short, it should be a continuous process
- Multiple stakeholders to be involved and need to be (spread-out)
- No focus on the Agenda 2030 but rather on the SDGs alone
- Lack of localisation
- Insufficient report on LNOB (Leave no one behind)

Kenya's SDGs Indicators: Non State Actors Role and National Opportunities- State Department for Planning- Benson

The background and rationale to voluntary reporting, derived from Paragraph 84 of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, is to have a number of countries report on the progress in the multistakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of the SDGs.

The mandate of the State Department of Planning is to coordinate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. Institutions such as African Union, Council of Governors, ECOSOC, SDGs Kenya Forum, among others are responsible for SDGs tracking and reporting in Kenya.

He outlined the structure of the report and giving the timelines for reporting with CSOs reporting fast approaching in the month of February.

For effective CSOs reporting it was important for the organisations to provide relevant and sufficient research data in area of interest, do possible complimentary and contrasting reporting, and follow-up reporting.

He mentioned challenges encountered in tracking and reporting the SDGs. These included the lack of current and updated data and statistics as they still used data from KDHS 2014, inadequate funding in monitoring activities, among others.

SDGs Group Leads Convening Guidelines to the CSOs Report- Martha Bekele, Development Initiatives

Martha outlined the report layout and the 2019 report guidelines. The organisations through the goal group convening were encouraged to consolidate contributions aligned to SDGs target and indicators. They were also advised to link on going project/ past programs with national budget tracking evidence.

She emphasized on bringing Agenda 2030 to the report as a cross-cutting issue and what each organisation is doing in implementing of SDGs and Agenda 2030. The principle of Leave no one behind as a standard alone section/separate segment in the report. Organisations to showcase and list out the efforts from government and CSOs. Able to relate goals to other goals, that is playing a multiplier effect.

An issue arose on the report submission date, as it was scheduled for February 28th. The organisations asked for extra time for report submission. However due to time constraints, the date did not change nor was it extended. The report submission date still stands at February 28th

The use of the template was an aim in populating through the contact sections provided for the report

Plenary Discussions

- **Differentiation of CSOs and KNBS data, in evidence-based data for results analysis**
 - Benson clarified by saying, what sector that provided data was not of question or importance, but rather how scientific the data provided is/was and the methodology used. He emphasised on the need for organisations to provide evidence-based data
 - Martha emphasized on the importance of having accurate and up to date data, as this would formulate a final outlook and representation when interpreting the data/results given once done/processed by DI

- **The Big Four Agenda, and its contribution to Kenya**
 - Rogers advised the organisations to take into account and also be involved in the Big Four Agenda, and contribute to/come up with projects that facilitate/accelerate this agenda.as it was/is aligned to the SDGs, implementation of the goals. He gave example of goal 2, 3, 8,9,12 and 11, to mention a few... (have a multiplier effect on theme goals of VNR as well)

- **Ability to distinguish between official and unofficial results, and why unofficial results are not considered as a means to produce and access results**
 - GIZ together with DI have officiated/came up with a program that gives/provides a platform on unofficial results. Upon the realisation that these statistics are critical to access and also produce results. Benson urged the organisations to take up the opportunity presented by this program.

- **The challenge of participation in LNOB, and how to identify this target group to be captured/mentioned in the report**
 - Benson did mention, that the real challenge in this was/is actualisation of participatory in LNOB. There was need/a call for initiating a multistakeholder framework engagement during the VNR process, to capture LNOB at wider dimension
 - Rogers explained that LNOB is a broader definition. Those left behind could be so because of geographic locations, gender, non-governance, their dependence on natural resources, and the list goes on. It was upon the organisations involved to put policies and enact laws to factors contributing to this target groups being left behind, in addition to breaking the structures surrounding the target groups/communities subjecting them to being left behind

- **What to avoid and what to include in 2019 report**
 - Since organisations are reviewing into goal 4,8,10,13,16 and 17, there will need to put effect on to have multiplier effect on other goals and go into the 5Ps of the SDGs
 - Go broader to Agenda 2030 and bring out the aspect of climate change and financing more extensively
 - Able to identify implementation blockages/challenges (reference/review lessons from report of 2017)
 - Do a rigorous assessment and linkages to other SDGs
 - Avoid 'pasting' of previous goals to the report
 - Able to look, identify and use projects that respond to SDGs
 - Look for opportunities to be on-board
 - Equalises on the rotation of accountability. All organisations to be on-board and play equal role/part in compilation of the report
 - Able to come up with an evidence-based report. This will include and be based on consultative qualitative narratives that reference the targets in thematic areas.
 - Able to consult the appropriate forum to acquire quantitative information and proper engagement through the whole process
 - Do a follow-up for reporting to goals
 - Use of detailed case studies. The organisations need to narrow down the scope and not have comprehensive case studies but rather, do specific and precise cases that link action to target and indicator.
 - They should also synchronize the contributions of the cases to filter the needs, have key conclusions and recommendations in place.
 - Able to submit case studies to meeting a specific goal that meets the threshold and criteria of (is it measurable, the time-frame)

NAME OF PARTICIPANT	PARTICIPANT'S POSITION	PARTICIPANT'S ORGANIZATION	GOAL GROUP
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10. Rogers Dhilwayo		UNDP	ALL
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