



The 8th ARFSD

[Eighth session of the
Africa Regional Forum on
Sustainable Development]





Contents



The Eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Review of progress made and peer learning on the sub-themes of the Regional Forum

SDSN Youth introduces the first-ever Global Innovation and Impact Awards

People Dialogue Festival 2022: SDG Village

Media Engagement on SDGs



SDG VILLAGE

"ACCELERATING IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGs IN THE DECADE OF ACTION"





01

“



Over the years, Africa has made significant progress to tackle socio-economic challenges. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has slowed development gains, and in some cases reversed the progress that had been made. But we have to look for that silver lining in this crisis. Through our response, we can build an Africa that is greener and more resilient, with the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 as our blueprint. The truth is that we were off-track in achieving these targets, even before the pandemic in some cases. Instead of being a setback, pandemic response and recovery can be used as a springboard to speed up progress, and innovate smarter ways to invest in human capital development.

President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda

”



The Eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development



The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), together with the Government of Rwanda and in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and entities of the United Nations system, convened the eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development at the Kigali Conference Centre, in Kigali, in a hybrid format featuring both in-person and online participation, from 3 to 5 March 2022. The Forum's deliberation agreed on Africa's collective input and prepares African countries to effectively participate in the annual sessions of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) that follows up and reviews the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the global level.

The session was moderated by the journalist, Lerato Mbele, of South Africa. It was officially opened by the President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame. Opening statements were delivered by the Minister of Environment, Sustainable Development and the Congo Basin of the Congo, and Chair of the seventh session of the Forum.

The Forum was attended by more than 1,800 participants, comprising ministers and high-level representatives of the Governments of 54 ECA Member States, intergovernmental bodies, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, other international organizations, major groups and other stakeholders.

ARFSD Insights

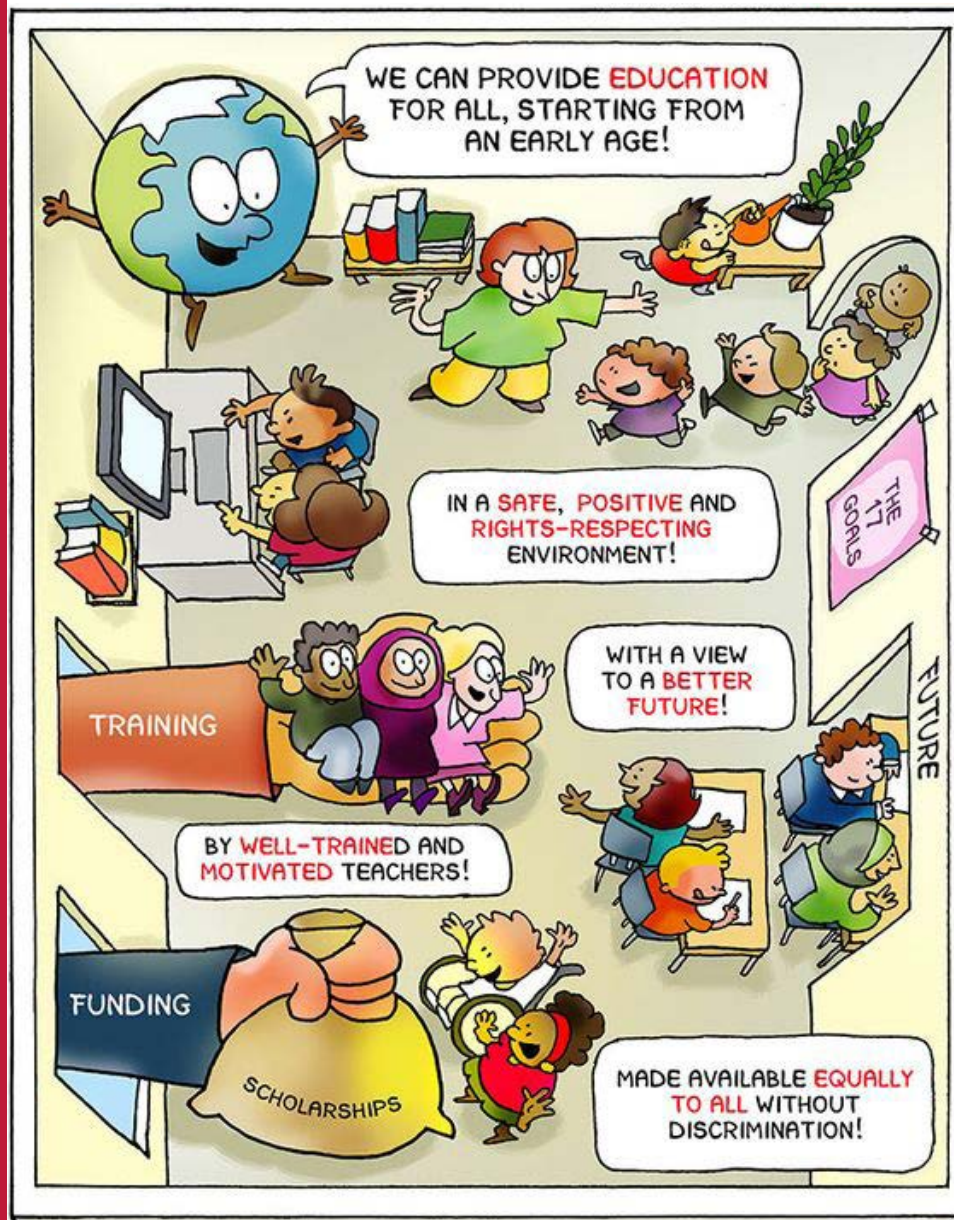
High-level panel: Unlocking financing to build forward better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa: Panelists noted that their pre-pandemic macroeconomic performance had determined countries' pace of recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Deliberations noted that, as Africa was losing \$88 billion annually in illicit financial flows, its liquidity crisis would not be resolved unless those flows were urgently staunched. Young entrepreneurs were being held back by reduced access to information due to insufficient use of the latest technologies by policymakers. Access to finance from the formal sector posed another challenge for young entrepreneurs, especially women, as interest rates for financing were exorbitant, hampering investment and business prospects. Part of the recommendations from this discussion was Governments should become enablers, not competitors, in creating a conducive environment for the private sector. To that end, empowering the private sector is vital, to enable Africa to take ownership of its development; Governments need to work in partnership with the private sector and international players such as the United Nations and multilateral banks to meet these urgent challenges; African countries were urged to switch to manufacturing to build forward better and reduce resource dependence and No promising idea should be allowed to die for lack of funding and no one should be left behind.

Highlights of progress at the regional and subregional levels in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in the context of the COVID-19 crisis: It was seen that even though poverty had declined in Africa in general, food insecurity persisted in some subregions; energy remained inaccessible for half of all Africans and one-third of the continent's people still had no access to the Internet. Participants stressed the need for each country to underpin its priorities with reliable information and to consider interconnections between the Sustainable Development Goals and their multiplier effects, ECA was urged to support the development of appropriate tools. In the light of the discussion, the Forum agreed on the following key messages: the Member States should make efforts to align national development plans with both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and use the integrated planning and reporting toolkit to facilitate, quantify and deepen the alignment of both frameworks and Member States are urged to capitalize on digitalization to unlock the potential of education, health, social protection and trade.

Use of data and statistics to build forward better and accelerate delivery of sustainable development in Africa: As a result of the general shortage of financing for statistical systems, Africa was not prepared for the adverse shocks caused by COVID-19. Young statisticians need to play a bigger role by driving modernization and innovation and applying technology to ensure that policies designed to achieve Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 were evidence-based. African countries need to improve data interoperability, consult and integrate data generated by non-governmental organizations and other development operators, and synchronize and harmonize databases produced by various agencies and players. Recommendations towards this efforts partly was to create an environment that is conducive to young statisticians supporting the modernization of national statistical systems for reporting on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.



SDG4 – Quality Education



Sustainable Development Goal 4 aims at “ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all by 2030.” Similarly, in the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), African Governments commit themselves to ensuring “improved completion rates at all levels”. However, about 100 million primary and secondary school age children remained out of school on the continent in 2019. Outcome discussions on ARFSD2022 were that there is need to improve inclusive quality education, with a focus on learning outcomes, including in early childhood education; need to strengthen the relevance of training programmes to reduce the mismatch between training and the labour market, including through public-private partnerships; necessity to improve the information system used to formulate education policies and to integrate a labor-management information system into education and lastly to leverage digital transformation to accelerate the achievement of Goal 4.





SDG5 - Gender Equality



WOMEN AND GIRLS WORLDWIDE OFTEN LIVE DISADVANTAGED LIVES! HERE'S WHAT WE CAN DO ABOUT IT!



1. END ALL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS INCLUDING TRAFFICKING, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, FORCED MARRIAGE AND FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



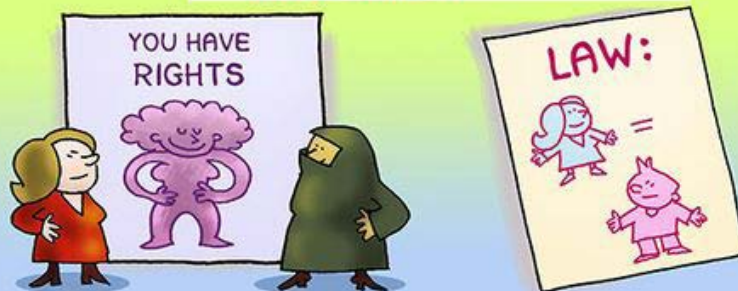
2. RECOGNIZE AND VALUE WOMEN'S WORK AT HOME



3. ENCOURAGE WOMEN AND GIRLS TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC SPHERES



4. EQUAL RIGHTS UNDER THE LAW



COMICS
UNITING
NATIONS

To achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls should always be viewed as cross cutting affair holds the key to the realisation of the SDGs and to ensuring "no one is left behind." However, more needs to be done to achieve gender equality on the African continent and achieve 'the Africa we want', as shown by the Africa's gender index that averages 48,6 percent. Priorities in this regard include ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls with a focus on women in rural areas and women and girls with disabilities, older women, women refugees, internally displaced women, and women migrants. Ending all forms of violence against women and girls, which still affect 45,6 percent of African women and girls is another priority. Ending all harmful practices such as child, early, and forced marriage and female genital mutilation is also a priority action. For instance, child marriage affects 30 to 50 percent of girls in 20 African countries.





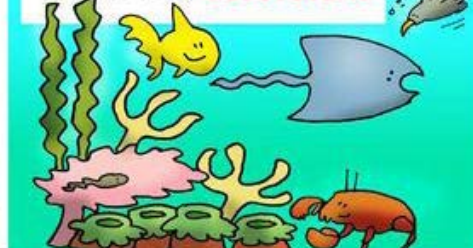
SDG14 - Life below water



1. REDUCE AND PREVENT POLLUTION



2. PROTECT ECOSYSTEMS



3. END OVERFISHING AND ILLEGAL FISHING

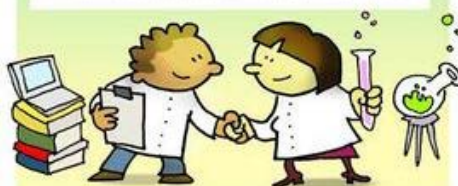


4. HELP FISHING COMMUNITIES TO DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE FISHING PRACTICES



5. SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION

- TO INCREASE KNOWLEDGE
- TO IMPROVE TECHNOLOGIES
- TO MINIMIZE OCEAN ACIDIFICATION



6. MAKE AND MAINTAIN INTERNATIONAL LAWS

AGREEMENTS



Marine ecosystems are overstressed, primarily due to global climate change, which is increasing ocean acidification and warming, disrupting ocean currents and their ability to regulate the earth's climate, increasing storms and floods, diminishing marine biodiversity, and reducing the services provided to societies and economies. Using major multilateral legal frameworks, most African countries have demonstrated strong commitments to increasing conservation, using their marine resources, and transitioning to sustainable blue economies. In the light of the discussion, member States and development partners were urged to: Build capacity to mobilize sustainable finance, including through debt-for-nature swaps and the Liquidity and Sustainability Facility; to strengthen partnerships to embrace and fund the implementation of the Great Blue Wall in support of coastal and marine restoration and protection; To push for developed countries to honour the promise of providing \$100 billion per year for climate action by the 27th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change





SDG 15: Life on land

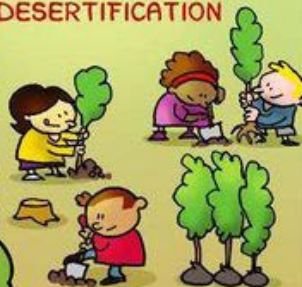
AS A PART OF THE **GLOBAL ECOSYSTEM** OURSELVES, WE NEED TO CONSERVE AND PROTECT PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE ON LAND!



REDUCE DEFORESTATION AND PLANT MORE TREES



COMBAT DESERTIFICATION



PROTECT AND PRESERVE ECOSYSTEMS



REVERSE LAND DEGRADATION



END THREATS TO ENDANGERED SPECIES

AND PROTECT BIODIVERSITY!



In order to protect its natural ecosystems, Africa faces significant challenges. There is a significant funding gap for nature, including biodiversity conservation, forest restoration, and land restoration. The COVID-19 crisis has had a negative impact on the delivery of sustainable forest management, including forest governance, forest financing availability, and forest-dependent people's livelihoods. Furthermore, debt constraints have limited natural resource spending in many poor African countries. In the light of the discussion, the Forum agreed on the following:- Governments and partners should strengthen and scale up the valuation of natural capital and the mainstreaming of biodiversity, nature-based solutions and climate-friendly agriculture and disaster risk reduction in voluntary national reviews and development plans and budgets; Governments and the private sector need to increase investments to combat land degradation and enhance the productivity and sustainability of the land, forests and biodiversity resources for inclusive green growth; ECA and the United Nations system as a whole should help to establish a truly developmental carbon market on the continent to contribute to increasing job creation and Governments, the private sector and partners need to implement fully the Nairobi Declaration adopted at the seventh High-level Meeting on Disaster Risk Reduction in November 2021, to reduce disaster risk and build resilience, including through biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions.





SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals

WE MUST MAKE SURE WE MEET THESE GOALS BY **2030**!

THEY MUST BE INCLUDED
IN **NATIONAL PLANS**.

ALL COUNTRIES MUST
WORK TOGETHER
TO IMPLEMENT
THE GOALS.



GETTING INVOLVED IN
COMMUNITY WORK AND
WITH **AID ORGANIZATIONS** IS
A GREAT WAY TO START!

GOVERNMENTS MUST WORK
TOGETHER WITH CONCERNED
PEOPLE OF ALL AGES IN
ORDER TO MAKE PROGRESS
ON THE GOALS.



**COMICS
UNITING
NATIONS**

As a result, global solidarity, shared responsibility, partnerships between developed and developing countries, and the participation of all stakeholders, including the private sector, volunteer and philanthropic organizations, and civil society, it will be critical in ensuring a sustainable recovery from this pandemic and the implementation of future development activities. The ongoing coronavirus disease pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of international and regional cooperation and solidarity in confronting global challenges. Despite the fact that the pandemic has affected all countries, developing countries have lagged behind. In the light of the discussion, the Forum agreed on the following: Member States are urged to: Foster enhanced partnerships premised on peace and development and also on a shared understanding of the vision and aspirations of Africa enshrined in Agenda 2063, anchored on institutional trust, ethics and ownership; Accelerate efforts on debt management, the removal of intellectual property rights to essential assets such as vaccines, and the lifting of barriers obstructing the free movement of people; Reassess partnerships established thus far to ensure that all partners are well aligned and moving towards the same goal; Invest in data-based evidence on the effectiveness of partnerships and evaluation of Governments' levels of accountability and Analyse data and trends on migration and Promote appropriate and innovative tools and frameworks, including integrated national financing frameworks, for greater efficiency and efficacy in resources management and the allocation of financing for the Sustainable Development Goals.





Side Event
8th Session
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

ARFSD

25 FEB, 5:30-7:00 PM

YOU ARE INVITED



TWITTER SPACE
@SDGsKenyaForum
Moderator: Festus Odingo


FOCUS

SDG 4: Quality Education
SDG 5: Gender Equality
SDG 14: Life Below Water
SDG 15: Life on Land
SDG 7: Partnership for the Goals

Hosted by



SDGs KENYA FORUM
For Sustainable Development





SDGs KENYA FORUM
For Sustainable Development



Key messages

“The youth are capable of driving both agenda (2030 and 2063). They have the power, the numbers, innovation, creativity, passion, talent and willingness that it will take Africa to achieve its dream.”

Hon. Rosemary Mbabazi,
Minister of Youth and Culture | Rwanda

”









Key messages

8th Session of the
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

ARFSD 2022

KIGALI, 1–5 MARCH 2022



African governments have made significant efforts to endorse SDGs and incorporate them into national strategies and development plans. Most countries have identified government units to coordinate the implementation and have prioritized specific targets and indicators



Key messages

8th Session of the
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

ARFSD 2022

KIGALI, 1–5 MARCH 2022



Our request is for governments and the private sector to develop and implement policies and investments for long-term growth that are guided by environmental and climate justice pathways.

Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)



ARFSD 2022: Key Links

- [Eighth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development: summary, key messages and the Kigali Declaration.](#)
- [Official opening of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](#)
- [Video: Eighth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](#)
- [ECA's director for East Africa, Mama Keita, on why #AfCFTA is described as Africa's Marshall Plan](#)
- [Closing remarks by ECA's Hanan Morsy, Deputy Executive Secretary](#)
- [ARFSD2022: Playlist](#)





02



"Promote locally led initiatives to combat female genital mutilation," say anti-FGM activists in rural Kenya.



A 2020 report by UNICEF states that Kenya's progress towards the eradication of FGM is stronger than that of other nations in eastern or southern Africa.



 **YOUTH DIALOGUE ON SDGS**

YOUTH DIALOGUE ON SDGs



Wednesday, March 2, 2022, 9 AM - 2 PM

VENUE: University of Nairobi Main Campus

Hosted by



Youth Dialogue on SDGs took place on Wednesday, March 2, 2022, in Nairobi in Lecture Theatre 401. The engaging Dialogue attracted approximately 170 students studying from the different schools within the University of Nairobi, representatives from Champions for SDGs who are also students in other universities. The Dialogues consisted of two presentations, one on the background of the Sustainable Development Goals which was made by Mr. Festus Odingo, the Monitoring and Evaluation Lead of the SDGs Kenya Forum. The second section of the Dialogue on the progress made was made by Mr. Domnick Loriake from the SDGs Unit at the State Department for Planning. Thereafter followed by an open panel discussion on opportunities for young people to contribute to the SDGs.



 SDSN Youth introduces the first-ever Global Innovation and Impact Awards.

SDSN YOUTH GLOBAL INNOVATION & IMPACT AWARDS

APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN!
sdsnyouth.org/awards






On March 31, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network Youth (SDSN Youth) unveils its first-ever Global Youth Innovation and Global SDG Impact Awards, which aim to recognize, showcase, support and mobilize outstanding solutions that are advancing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). [Click here to read more.](#)







THEME

COMPETITION AND COLLABORATION IN DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT

9th-11th March 2022
**National Museums
of Kenya**

#FormNiDialogue

<https://peopledialoguefestival.org>



The People Dialogue Festival

#PDF2022





KENYA PARLIAMENTARY
CAUCUS ON SDGS
AND BUSINESS



SDGs KENYA FORUM
For Sustainable Development



THE PEOPLE
DIALOGUE
FESTIVAL



Launch of The SDG VILLAGE

THEME: SDGs for Kenya - Challenges and opportunities

Panelists:

Hon. Eric Simiyu Wafukho - CAS Ministry of National Treasury and Planning

Mr. Rasmus Prehn - Minister for Food and Agriculture, Republic of Denmark

H.E. Prof. Kivutha Kibwana - Governor Makueni County

Hon. Dr. Gideon Ochanda - Mp-Bondo Constituency, Chairperson, Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business

Hon. Esther Passaris - OGW MP Nairobi County

Moderator:

Ms. Memory Kachambwa - Executive Director FEMNET

Date: **9th March, 2022**

Venue: **National Museums Of Kenya (SDG Village)**

Time: **10:45am - 11:45pm**

#FormNiDialogue

#PDF2022



**LEAVE NO ONE
BEHIND**





The People Dialogue Forum 2022 provided an opportunity for citizens and leaders to meet eye-to-eye and on level terms to have conversations about issues facing our country, Kenya. The main objectives of the PDF2022 was to provide an opportunity for reasoned arguments that link national dialogue with other political processes, particularly the 2022 general elections, and to highlight the Decade of Action Campaign and secure duty bearers' and citizens' commitments at a national level, to accelerate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) processes. Among the topical issues discussed during the SDG village include:

Strengthening Partnerships for Sustainable Development Goals Achievement in Kenya: This focused on to accelerate the implementation, monitoring, and review of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in line with the aspiration of the Decade of Action. During this discussions there was comittement by SDGs implementators in Kenya, Policy makers and Private Sector, Academia, Civil Society, Experts and Diplomats to enhance the local ownership and commitment to accelerate SDGs implementation in Kenya. This session provided an opportunity to nurture partnerships towards realization of the SDGs at sub-national and local levels.

Harnessing the Youth Voice for Effective & Inclusive Implementation of SDGs in Kenya

Globally, young people have a big stake on the Sustainable Development Goals and in case they are behind, it may take much longer than anticipated to realize the Global Goals. Currently in Kenya, young people below the age of 35 years comprise 75% of the total population. Similary the youth are largely unemployment despite having been educated, young people often lack appropriate tools and enabling environment to effectively contribute to the development.

The SDG village aimed to harness the voice of young people to develop concrete youth-adult partnerships with policy makers, Private Sector, Academia and CSOs. Further, the SDG village also aimed to increase their levels of understanding and getting invloved on the global goals agenda as a solution to mitagatte the multifacet challenges of unemployment and addressing global problems such as climate change.

Key summary of outcomes from SDG village during the People Dialogue Festival 2022 were as follows:

Young people are ready and eager to actively engage in SDGs processes using their creative skills and leveraging on their strength in numbers.

All the stakeholders that participated in conversations at the SDG Village are ready to work together to address critical issues related to Sustainable Development through an all-inclusive multi-stakeholder approach.

It emerged that knowledge sharing and exchange of information on best practices is necessary and should take place on a regular basis given that we are all working towards a common agenda; the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Everyone's mental health should be prioritized and that conversations around this topic should be normalized to counter the stigma associated with it. We all have a role to play in making this happen as individuals, organizations, institutions and or governments.

Climate change is happening fast, and its negative impacts affect us all. We should therefore act now, and act fast by embracing environmentally conscious mechanisms such as by reducing, reusing, recycling, use of bio-degradable alternatives and increasing forest cover. We should also embrace environmentally friendly lifestyles to reduce our carbon footprints such as use of solar energy, non-motorized means of transport, public transport.

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT ON SDGS



Friday, 25 February 2022



Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right that underpins other rights and allows the development agenda to thrive with proper accountability frameworks.

Organised by



SDGs KENYA FORUM
For Sustainable Development



As the year 2030 fast approaches, there is a need for the Government, Civil Society, Private Sector, Academia and Media to join forces in a global shift toward more sustainable ways of living. In this process, the Media must play a critical role in enabling the world to develop this common future by providing timely and relevant information given that Freedom of expression is a fundamental human right that underpins other rights and allows the development agenda thrive with proper accountability frameworks.

In this spirit, the SDGs Kenya Forum with the support from the Media Council of Kenya (MCK) organized a one-day media engagement workshop engaging twenty-five journalists emanating from diverse backgrounds and media houses in Nairobi. The aim of this was to share knowledge and engage in partnership towards achieving implementation of the Agenda 2030 during this Decade of Action. In Kenya, journalistic work has inspired institutions to leverage their resources, talent, and mandate, to amplify and accelerate progress towards achieving the government's agenda. As much of Kenya is making progress in embracing the practice, most journalists in Kenya have limited knowledge on how the ruling party's Big Four and the government's Vision 2030 Agenda have a direct connection with the SDGs. Therefore, it will be critical for the journalists to have a constructive engagement on the frameworks of SDGs which will facilitate and necessitate proper reporting. Their awareness and intentional commitment in engaging on the SDGs process seeks to leverage on their creative talent and resources in developing content focused on bringing awareness on SDG-related issues to the citizens thus scaling up their sustainability practices.



“A strengthened partnership among the civil society and media is of paramount value for creating high-quality reporting on SDGs, making SDGs a priority in the national agenda and raising awareness to the general public.” Dinnah Ondari from the Media Council of Kenya.

She also emphasized that media freedom entails the freedom to express objective and opposing viewpoints. In this case, the formulation of public policy and the ability to point out, without fear, a variety of anti-development barriers to the SDGs, such as corruption, nepotism in governance, and human rights violations. This allows the media to exercise its watchdog function.

Whereas the media is guided by a set of ethics specific to its industry, Dinnah cited the media in Kenya subscribes to the SDGs principle of “Leaving No One Behind” and “Inclusion” which is irrespective of wealth, age, language, or rural location the media gives an equal opportunity for everyone to amplify their voice and equally protect the weak. Nonetheless, the media as an industry





similarly contributes to the economic welfare of the country by providing employment and bridging sellers and buyers through advertising platforms on their TV and Radio stations as well as newspapers.

Domnick Loriakwe from State Department on Planning provided empirical evidence on the role of media in sustainable development and demonstrated how the media relates to the attainment of SDGs targets on Agenda 2030 and Kenya's Vision 2030 Agenda blueprint. That's from innovation and technology, environment, child welfare, gender equality, education, health services, infrastructure, food security etc. Towards the same efforts, he elaborated the process and cycle of Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the SDGs during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). This is evident when it comes to gathering, analyzing, and refining measurable data on development indicators for use in media reports. The amount and quality of data in circulation and available to Kenyans is influenced in part by the effectiveness of a vibrant media landscape. He emphasized on the importance of the media's involvement in the process.

Journalist concerns and recommendations

Insufficient relevant information on the SDGs process in Kenya. Safety and hostility concerns while developing stories on mega-development projects.

There are insufficient resources that are key in developing comprehensive development stories.

Untimely release of reports who's data and information is not up to date with the fast changes taking place in real time.

Recommended Solutions:




Fostering Citizens Journalism: Audiences have become citizen journalists as a result of today's interactive social media sites. In fact, these active users have websites, blogs, and social media accounts that are followed by millions of people, and they are many people's primary sources of information. Citizen journalists' success is due in part to their ability to bring information to the public's attention that is relevant to social discussions. To supplement journalistic work, the SDG Kenya Forum should find a way to introduce recognition and categorize citizen journalism as part of their award system; There should be prompt and timely release of reports as well as deliberately involving the media houses during the release and launch of these reports; As a result of shifting careers, the SDG Kenya Forum should continuously train journalists on SDGs; The Kenya Interagency Technical Working Group (ITWG) on SDGs should allow journalists to contact them for comments with bureaucratic procedures that accommodate them; Have partnerships with media houses on specific identified SDGs rather than targeting all the 17 goals; Introduce grants to facilitate documentation of stories by media/independent journalists on identified SDGs

Conclusion: Achieving the SDGs while citing the role of the media needs inclusive governance that looks after and values of the media, development partners, and the common members of the society. This can be achieved through target participation and consultation of concerned stakeholders in every process. "Good governance needs relevant, factual and good information"

Domnick Loriakwe from State Department on Planning.





    @SDGs Kenya Forum
www.sdgkenyaforum.org

