



## SDGs-Kenya Forum @ HLPF2019

### *“Participatory and Inclusive Implementation of SDGs in Kenya: A Case of Stakeholder Engagement*

#### 1. Introduction

The ambitious and promising [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) highlights the importance of national participatory processes to enhance ownership of the SDGs and ensure effective multi-stakeholder engagement and meaningful participation of stakeholders at all stages, from the development of national strategies to implementation to national monitoring and review.

Indeed, without the consultation, engagement and involvement of various stakeholders, we are not adhering to the principle of “leaving no one behind” enshrined in the 2030 Agenda, which requires engagement with the full diversity of stakeholders, with a particular focus on marginalized groups and individuals.

As part of the follow-up and review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda, UN member states committed to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels”. These national reviews are voluntary and expected to be consultative and inclusive, feeding into regional reviews (i.e. Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development also commonly referred to as ARFSD) and global reviews (i.e. High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development also known as HLPF) and resulting in the adoption of intergovernmentally negotiated political declarations, with key recommendations and policy guidelines.

This year’s [High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\)](#) was held in New York from the 9th to 18th July 2019 under the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. 17 African countries presented their voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of the implementation of the SDGs. Six of the 17 Goals that were under review were

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declared “off-the-track”. These include SDG 4 (equitable quality education), SDG 8 (decent work for all and inclusive economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (combating climate change), SDG 16 (promoting peaceful and inclusive societies) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals).

Although, majority of the countries have cited having made their national-level VNR processes participatory and inclusive by engaging and consulting different stakeholders, marginalized and vulnerable populations continue to be left behind. A huge gap exists in meaningful data capture and analysis that is inclusive of girls and women’s voices, experiences and realities to impact policymaking and legislation that reaches those furthest behind.

On 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019, [SDG-Kenya Forum](#) in close collaboration with the [Ministry of State Department for Planning in Kenya](#) hosted a high-level interactive side event during HLPF2019. This provided an opportunity for Kenya to showcase demonstrable practices and lessons learned on the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in driving the implementation, follow up and review of SDGs in Kenya. Kenya has taken steps in laying the ground for the implementation of the SDGs and ensuring the VNR process is inclusive and participatory. The [2017 Kenya SDG’s Roadmap](#) includes a detailed multi-stakeholder engagement and SDGs coordination framework which seeks to promote better decision making by ensuring that the views of all stakeholders are heard and integrated at all stages through dialogue and consensus building. ***Below is a highlight of the panel discussions and key messages from discussions during the side event.***

## 2. Brief Highlights of the Event

The event dubbed “*Participatory and Inclusive Implementation of SDGs in Kenya: A Case of Stakeholder Engagement*” was highly attended with over 40 participants in attendance. It generated an understanding of how to advance the implementation of SDG 17 on the means of implementation and multi-stakeholder partnerships leaning on lessons and learnings from Kenya, Finland and Ghana.

The side event was moderated by ***Janet Mbugua, a renowned media personality in Kenya***, who skillfully guided the panel presentations and conversations with the audience.

***Ambassador Koki Muli Grignon, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations*** kicked off the meeting by warmly welcoming and thanking all for attending the event.

In his keynote remarks, ***Dr. Julius Muia, the Principal Secretary in the State Department of Planning*** reiterated Kenya’s commitment to multi-stakeholder engagement in implementing the SDGs. He noted that the SDGs framework for multi-stakeholder engagement and SDGs coordination framework harmonizes all efforts by different stakeholders and mainstreams the



SDGs in planning and budgeting. Kenya has aligned and anchored the implementation of the SDGs in existing frameworks and plans such as (i) Kenya's Vision 2030 and its third Medium Term Plans (2018-2022) which aims to transform the country into an industrialized middle-income country by the year 2030; (ii) the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP), which is the guiding framework for planning and budgeting development activities at the county level and (iii) the Big Four Agenda as an approach that prioritizes achieving food security, affordable universal healthcare, affordable housing and upscaling manufacturing, which the current regime will focus in the next 4 years to improve the living standards of Kenyans and accelerate economic growth.

**Ms. Florence Syevuo, the Country Coordinator of the SDGs Kenya Forum** highlighted CSOs perspectives and complexities in partnering with different stakeholders to monitor and follow-up the implementation of the SDGs in Kenya from community to national levels. Ms. Syevuo opined that the actualization of the SDGs is a shared responsibilities that invites all state and non-state actors to meaningfully collaborate in a coordinated and structured manner for better results. She also highlighted the urgency for mapping and identifying all marginalized populations and deliberately targeting them in national planning and budget allocation so as to leave no one behind. Lastly she highlighted the need to invest in national SDGs data depositories for all multi stakeholders to advance evidence based SDGs Implementation, Monitoring and Review.

**Mr. Ken Oluoch, the SDGs Liaison Officer at the Council of Governors in Kenya** reported that all the 47 counties in Kenya have mainstreamed SDGs in their County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs) for coordinated tracking of implementation and reporting. The Council of Governors has also partnered with the SDGs-Kenya Forum to deepen community awareness on the SDGs through regular community dialogues. Five counties have contributed to the voluntary national reviews and reporting on SDGs implementation. He noted that counties have SDGs champions who not only provide technical support but also support in awareness raising of the SDGs at the county level and tracking implementation. In concluding, Oluoch noted the need for counties to develop long-term institutional frameworks that are not pegged on individual elected leaders but go beyond the electoral cycle which changes every five years with newly elected leaders.

**Mr. Peter Gachuba, a Commissioner with the Commission on Revenue Allocation (CRA)** reiterated the Government's commitment to equitable revenue allocation as constitutionally mandated. Every year, 0.5% of the national budget is allocated for the Equalization Fund which is used to improve access to basic services such as water, health, roads and electricity in marginalized areas. For example in 2018, CRA identified and recommended 1,125 villages that received the Equalization Funds from national government.



**Hon. Gideon Ochanda, Member of Parliament in Bondo and Chair of the Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs** underscored the role of parliament in promoting the SDGs through legislation, representation, resource allocation, oversight and partnerships.

**Mr. Rilli Lappalainen, Director Advocacy and Policy at the Finnish Development NGOs** shared the experiences of the SDGs Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in Finland. Notably, Finland had in place a stakeholder engagement mechanism way before the adoption of the SDGs in 2015. This is the National Commission on Sustainable Development that has been in operation in the last 25 years and is chaired by the Prime Minister. Its aim is to integrate sustainable development into Finnish policies and everyday practices as well as to follow up and review the national implementation of Agenda 2030 and enhance the implementation of the strategic framework and multi-stakeholder tool known as the *Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development*. Finland promotes a whole-of-society approach to SDG implementation, convinced that the SDGs is for all people in society not just the government. As such the multi-stakeholder partnerships includes collaborations with representative of the ruling party, opposition parties, private sector, academia, CSOs etc. To enhance accountability, all reports by government are accessible publicly.

**Mrs. Ugonna Ukaigwe, the National Coordinator of the Civil Society SDGs Ghana Platform** also shared the experience of SDGs Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in Ghana. She highlighted the importance of CSOs being responsive in sharing input and adding value to the Government national review processes of the SDGs. The Ghana Civil Society (CSO) Platform on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was established in October 2015 to ensure more coordinated civil society efforts in achieving the SDGs in Ghana. The Platform has been engaging with government on a continuous basis, not just in the voluntary national review process. Notably, citizen-generated data from CSOs was captured in the Ghana VNR report that was submitted at the HLPF2019, presenting a more holistic overview of progress in implementing the SDGs in Ghana.

### 3. Q&A Interactive Discussions

*What steps is the government taking to ensure data quality assurance and how do you ensure data privacy especially for the marginalized populations?*

- ❖ All 17 SDGs monitored and analyzed using gender disaggregated data. UN principles on data security and confidentiality are applied in data collection, analysis and dissemination.

*Why is Kenya not committed politically to implement the two-thirds gender principle in line with the Constitution?*

- ❖ Not responded



*Why does the government engage with CSOs and other stakeholders only during HLPF – and not at national level? How can government strengthen the multi-stakeholder engagement by allocating resources for a formal and sustainable framework of engagement?*

- ❖ Government has been working with CSOs under the SDG-Kenya Forum and still open to connect with more CSOs back at home. The stakeholder engagement framework by the Ministry is long-term strategy for mapping out different actors and engaging with all stakeholders in implementing the SDGs.

#### 4. Key messages/ Take away from the conversations

- ❖ **Inclusivity:** Adhering to the principle of “*leaving no one behind*” as enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for deliberate and structured mapping and engaging all stakeholders, particularly the marginalized and vulnerable populations.
- ❖ **Data:** Meaningful data capture and analysis that is inclusive of all voices, experiences and realities is critical to impact policymaking and legislation and transform lives.
- ❖ **Partnerships:** Governments must invest in genuine and fruitful multi-stakeholder partnerships that begin at community local level not only at the global advocacy spaces such as HLPF.
- ❖ **Peer to Peer Learning:** There is need to encourage peer to peer learning among different countries on SDGs Implementation, monitoring and review to further capitalize on best practice sharing.
- ❖ **Review of the current Voluntary National Review process at HLPF:** A recommendation raised by civil society organisations that felt the HLPF process was not adequately designed for effective dissemination of ongoing SDGs processes at national level due to the design that only allows reporting countries a few minutes to present officially.

The Moderator’s parting shot *“We can be the first generation to end extreme poverty and hunger. And we are the last generation that can avert catastrophic climate change. But there needs to be continuous collaboration between the media houses, public, private, and civil society organizations to ensure adequate coverage on SDGs, so that we the people can rise and play our part.”*

The event ended with words of gratitude by Ambassador Koki, thanking all panelists and all the attendants for engaging discussions.





## Photo Gallery



# **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



## **SDGs KENYA FORUM** For Sustainable Development



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