# Annual General Meeting Report 2020

Held on 30 January 2020 At Azure Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya



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#### **ACRONYMS**

AGM Annual General Meeting

CIDP County Integrated Development Plans

CSO Civil Society Organization ECOSOC Economic and Social Council

GoK Government of Kenya HLPF High Level Political Forum

KNBS Kenya National Bureau of Statistics

MTP Medium Term Plans

NGO Non-Governmental Organization

NMG Nation Media Group
PWDs Persons with Disabilities

SDGs Sustainable Development Goals

UNDP United Nations Development Program

VNR Voluntary National Review

#### **OVERVIEW**

The SDGs Kenya Forum brings together over 60 diverse civil society organizations, with an affiliated membership of 300 constituencies working across the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The Forum is a voluntary membership entity of interested civil society organizations that subscribe to the value of Agenda 2030, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals that are open to government entities, academia, media, private sector, and other organizations.

A total of 97 individuals representing 84 member institutions comprising Non-State Actors (NSAs), the Government of Kenya (GoK), the Private Sector, Media and the United Nations congregated in the one-day meeting to:

- Reflect on the forums' activities, achievements, and lessons learned in 2019.
- 2. Plan activities for the year 2020
- 3. Launch the Decade of Action Campaign

Eight presentations and one panel discussion covering the above-mentioned were disseminated by selected members of the Forum as shown below:

- Progress and Overview of SDG's: Implementation in Kenya and Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2020
- Voluntary National Review 2020 United National High-level Political Forum/ 2020 Voluntary National Reports
- Civil Society Organizations (CSO)
   Voluntary National Review (VNR)
   Process 2020: Plan and timelines

- 4. Data as The Engine for SDGsImplementation, Follow Up and ReviewA Panel Discussion
- 5. Media Engagement on SDGs: Implementing and Reporting
- 6. SDGs Kenya Forum Secretariat Workplan 2020
- 7. Launch of The Decade of Action on SDGs
  Campaign
- 8. Finance Report 2019/ 2020
- 9. SDG Kenya Forum Structure and Election Code Election Council

This report provides a summary of the meetings proceedings, discussions and resolutions made.

This year's AGM commenced with welcoming remarks from the SDGs Kenya Forum National Country Coordinator, who emphasized the importance of reflecting on activities of the year 2019, particularly those that contributed to the implementation and review process of the SDGs. She reminded the members of the collective call and responsibility towards current and future generations in the realization of the SDGs. She reiterated to members that to achieve development for Africa, it was upon them to champion what they believed in. She hoped that the day would be a day of inspiration and wished that the takehome message would inspire action towards development that was sustainable for the country, Africa, and the globe.

Mr George Awalla, one of the Co-Chairs of the Forum, thanked the Coordinator for sustaining efficiency and effectiveness in managing the network despite strained financial and human resource capacity. He acknowledged the complex nature of managing networks and

congratulated her for her persistence. He further welcomed the members to the 2020 AGM and also noted his excitement to launch the Decade of Action Campaign. The Co-Chair reiterated to the members the importance of data as a barometer to track implementation and measure performance. He highlighted the role of Non-State Actors (NSAs) in holding the accountable government the implementation of the SDGs and encouraged dialogue on how the government and other actors would ensure the delivery of its core mandate, which was to ensure that no Kenyan languished in poverty.

PRESENTATION 1:
PROGRESS AND
OVERVIEW OF SDG'S:
IMPLEMENTATION IN
KENYA AND VOLUNTARY
NATIONAL REVIEW (VNR)
2020

**Stephen Nabakho – Chief Economist | State Department for Planning** 



In his opening address (see appendix 2), the Chief Economist recognized the comradery the Forum members had exercised in the implementation of the SDGs. He commended

the successful convening ability of the Secretariat to ensure a collaborative and unified efforts in advancing the SDG Agenda in Kenya and encouraged the Forum's Membership to continue to pool together, exchange inputs and ideas from a shared global vision in an inclusive and open debate regarding the SDGs.

It was the expectation of the government that through the 2020 AGM, the following would be addressed:

- The appraisal of individual and country level progress and performance within the last year of implementation.
- The review and re-affirmation of membership commitments on the need to strengthen active engagements and foster stronger partnerships that were necessary to mobilize resources, share knowledge & expertise and leverage on membership synergies to fast-track the SDGs progress.
- The preparation of the 2019 VNR and presentation of the Government, CSO and Private Sector reports at the HLPF in June, 2020.

#### **Overall state of Affairs**

A slow progress on SDGs implementation had been recorded despite great efforts made to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Nevertheless, significant advancement had also been realized in some key areas:

 Preparation of the SDGs Roadmap for Kenya in which seven key thematic areas of interest were identified.

- Within this roadmap, key implementing partners were identified and mapped.
- Awareness Creation of the SDG process.
- Localization of the SDGs i.e. mainstreaming SDGs into local policies, plans and programs of development.
- Creation of an institutional framework.
   The Forum had identified institutions that would drive the SDG agenda in Kenya.
- 5. Mobilization of resources to fund implementation of SDGs search from within and without the country.
- 6. Capacity building of stakeholders for the SDG process.
- 7. Review, monitoring and evaluation of the SDG agenda.

## A Review of SDGs Implementation Progress in Kenya

In 2018, a review of the country's progress was undertaken, and the following had been achieved:

- Kenya through funding from GIZ had initiated the process of preparing the SDG multi-stakeholder engagement strategy.
- 2. Efforts were underway for the development of Kenya's SDG Implementation Acceleration Strategy to guide various actions for the next ten years (2020-2030) termed as the Decade of Action on SDGs.
- 3. A policy gap analysis funded by the UNDP was conducted.
- 4. Awareness creation on SDGs in the counties was undertaken during the launch of the county level MTP III. This

- helped the State Department for Planning to mainstream SDGs in the National and County Planning and Policy Frameworks.
- 5. Efforts have been made to localize the SDGs beyond Nairobi county. This was jointly implemented in collaboration with the SDGs Unit, CoG and the UNDP. County level staff in Wajir, Kilifi and Turkana Counties were trained, and SDG units established within their counties. Currently, 47 County SDG champions have been identified and appointed by various governors to lead SDG processes.
- 6. Successful preparation of the 1<sup>st</sup> VNR report (2017) and participation in the subsequent HLPF in New York. The 2017 VNR focused on acknowledgement of Kenya's ownership and integration of the SDGs into National and Sub National policy and planning systems. Looking forward, the 2020 VNR will highlight the status of indicators and showcase a trend analysis on progress since 2016/2017.
  - At cluster and sectoral levels, more SDGs integration analysis needs to be done to help reflect on the country's progress.
  - Kenya needs to undertake an objective assessment focusing on key performance gaps and prepare a clear implementation strategy for the remaining decade of action.
- **7.** Initiation of the preparation process for Kenya's VNR, 2020. This is a requirement for the country, presenting

for the second time at the HLPF in New York in June.

#### Way forward in the implementation of SDGs in Kenya:

It was noted that much was still to be done to realize the SDGs by 2030, including:

- 1. The finalization of Kenya's SDGs acceleration strategy and or framework for the remaining decade of action;
- 2. Identification of key/important entry points to leverage on the SDGs linkages & accelerate progress across all the 17 SDGs during the decade of action. It was cautioned that the determination of the future of SDGs implementation progress in Kenya would depend on what members did at present since the window of opportunity was closing fast;
- 3. The need for collective action of members in collaboration with the SDG Forum. Kenva's Kenva stakeholders on SDGs were encouraged to play their significant roles in the implementation of SDGs as individuals, governments, the private sector, NGOs/CSOs, academia & the media and the UN agencies.
- 4. During the decade of action, it was recommended that Kenya needed a resource mobilization strategy to fund the means of SDGs implementation particularly an integrated financing mechanism.
- 5. It was agreed that there was an overall need to embrace the principle of inclusivity and sustainability in future programs.

## PRESENTATION 2: **VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW 2020 UNITED** NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM/ 2020 VOI UNTARY NATIONAL **REVIEW REPORTS**

Rogers Dhilwayo – United Nations **Development Program | UNDP** 



#### Overview:

Since the adoption of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, countries have been reporting on their progress at the HLPF. Every four years, an SDGs Summit whose objective is to monitor the progress of the achievement of the goals is hosted. The maiden summit was held in 2019. The presentation's objective was to demystify the process of reporting at the HLPF and provide an overview of the guidelines and lessons learned since 2016, and how to improve reporting on SDGs. Members were reminded of the structure of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. It was clear that the agenda had four pillars:

- Declaration: the declaration was pegged on human rights i.e. the 5Ps which summarized the 17 SDGs: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, Partnerships and Planet.
- 2. Results framework: these are the 17 goals comprising of 169 targets and 230 indicators.
- 3. Investments: these are the means of implementation i.e., the global partnership, finance, data, technology, systemic issues dealing with macroeconomic issues, and trade.
- Follow up and review: at the national level, it is done through country reporting through the VNRs which in turn feed into the regional and the global review.

Members were reminded that the review of the SDGs should not be undertaken in isolation. They were reinforced by other global commitments such as:

- 1. The Addis Ababa Plan of Action which focusses on financing.
- 2. The Climate Change Agreement.
- 3. World Habitat.
- 4. World Disaster and Risk Reduction.
- 5. World Humanitarian Summit of the Biodiversity Convention.

Members were informed that the review process has an unambiguous monitoring framework and process. There is a clear synergy between Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. The VNR review is people-centered and inclusive. This means that various stakeholders are involved in the reporting process i.e., the Government, Private Sector, and Civil Society.

Since 2016, countries have been presenting their VNR reports. The VNRs have, however, been thematic. This methodology was criticized as non-inclusive since the SDGs had been designed to be integrated. For instance, when analyzing progress on poverty, we should look at its implications on health, education, hunger, gender, etc. Thus, there was a recommendation for an integrated approach. It is for this reason that the 2020 VNR would not have a theme but focus on ways of accelerating the progress made thus far.

There has been an incremental representation of countries presenting their VNR reports since 2016, as shown below:

- 2016 22 countries (Uganda was the inaugural country within the East African region to present a VNR Report)
- 2017 43 countries (Kenya presented their 1<sup>st</sup> VNR Report)
- 2018 46 countries
- 2019 47 countries (the first time some countries presented their 2<sup>nd</sup> report)
- 2020 50 countries; of the 50, 23 countries will be presenting their 2<sup>nd</sup> report, and Kenya is amongst them.

The benefits of participating in the VNR process were outlined as:

- Creation of partnerships.
- Identification of gaps in the implementation of the SDGs.
- Sharing of lessons learned and knowledge transfer.

Members were informed that the UN had guidelines on how to prepare the VNR reports. The VNR handbook for 2020, which

summarized the methodology of reporting, was available to the members for review.

Following recommendations from the Global Report of 2019 commissioned by the Secretary-General, there was a collective commitment by countries to focus on accelerated actions for the SGDs to facilitate holistic reporting.

The UN has invested heavily in capacity building to make sure that the countries are adequately equipped with information and skills to prepare the reports including organizing learning events towards the improvement of the VNR reporting process. This will be conducted at the anticipated *Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD)* that is to be hosted in Zimbabwe *from the 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020*.

Highlights of presentation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> VNR:

- It should show an improvement from the 1<sup>st</sup> VNR. The report needs to indicate challenges and showcase how organizations have been able to address these challenges in the implementation of the SDGs.
- It should elaborate integration approaches to the SDGs.
- It should showcase sustainable engagement beyond the VNR process i.e. how have organizations been able to maintain the momentum on SDG implementation beyond the VNR?

Timelines for the 2<sup>nd</sup> VNR were shared as follows:

 21<sup>st</sup> April 2020: Submission of the final VNR to the ECOSOC

- 12<sup>th</sup> June 2020: Presentation of the Main Messaging to the VNR
- 14<sup>th</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2020: Presentation of the Country VNR in New York

It was noted that the Government of Kenya had set a tight deadline for submission of the final VNR to be 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

#### Achievements to date

Participation in the VNR process has led to the following output:

- It has galvanized partnerships for the SDGs.
- It has increased investment and sharing of data amongst stakeholders.
- It has enhanced sharing of best practices and lessons through implementation.

#### **Challenges:**

- Some countries encounter challenges on the integration approach of their national development framework and the SDGs. Fortunately, Kenya has the Vision 2030 which integrates the SDGs.
- Challenges linked to data include lack of dis-aggregation, infrequency of data collection and lack of investment in data collection which would assist in monitoring SDGs implementation progress.
- Interlinkage of SDGs with VNRs.
- Weak evaluation mechanisms; how can member capacity be strengthened to enhance evaluation of programs linked to the SDGs?
- The VNR process is very short.

- The VNR process only evaluates the SDGs and not the 2030 Agenda.
- The concept of "Leaving no one behind" is not clearly addressed. Governments encountering challenges on localization of the SDGs.

#### **Lessons Learnt**

- Reports need to build on strong data and evidence.
- The need to invest and incorporate technology in the data collection process especially at the grassroots level.
- Develop inclusive. and open participatory engagement.

#### Call to action:

 Members requested to review the VNR 2020 Handbook that is available on the UNDP website.

PRESENTATION 3: CIVIL SOCIETY **ORGANIZATIONS (CSO) VOLUNTARY NATIONAL** REVIEW (VNR) PROCESS 2020: PLAN AND **TIMELINES** 

Florence Syevuo - National Country Coordinator | SDG Kenya Forum

#### Overview

The SDG Kenya Forum is a CSO driven platform initiated in 2016 after the adoption of the SDGs in September 2015. Before its adoption, it was known as the SDG Reference Group. conversations at the time surrounded critical areas where the MDGs failed to put forward collective ideas on how to move forward in a progressive and inclusive manner.

Since its launch, it has registered more than 350 active members comprising county and Community Based Organizations and National and locally-based International NGOs. The Forum has been part of the Kenya SDG process that is led by the National Treasury State Department of Planning through the SDG Unit, which serves as the Chair of the Inter Agency Committee Technical (IATC), multiа stakeholder agency overseeing the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the SDGs in Kenya.



In 2018, the permanent secretary appointed 2 co-chairs: The SDG Kenya Forum and The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA). This was a good entry point for the Forum to drive the CSO sector as a collective. The Forum has experienced extensive collaboration where different partners are able to speak from a common platform on the SDGs.

The Forum is also engaged in various spaces within the national, county, regional, and global levels and has also been a model supporting

different countries across Africa to establish SDG forums that are Civil Society-led.

Highlights of the target requirements on the VNR 2020:

- Leaving no one behind: Members are encouraged to tell real stories with a keen lens on what is happening and what needs to be done at the grassroots level. This is their entry point in the implementation of the SDGs to ensure that no one is left behind.
- 2. Provide statistics and data in areas of interest.
- Data: capacity building on monitoring of SDG implementation progress through data (Kenya reports 139 indicators against 169 targets and 230 indicators.)
- 4. Complimentary and contrasting reporting. The Forum aims to present an accurate report on what is happening on the ground. For instance, the taking up of the recommendation to adopt the Washington set of questions for PWDs during the 2019 census was commendable.
- 5. Cluster reports on areas of common interest

## Timeline for the preparation of the Kenya VNR 2020

The following schedule was shared with members on the expected time-lines for the VNR 2020 process:

- 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020: The SDGs Kenya Forum to disseminate VNR guidelines to members.
- 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020: Introductory session to the VNR process.

- 31<sup>st</sup> Jan 17<sup>th</sup> Feb 2020: Submission of individual CSO updated report, Consolidation of individual reports, review, and dissemination of the first draft to the Forum members.
- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020: Official submission to the SDGs Unit.

#### Challenges:

- Citizen generated data is still considered as unofficial; therefore, recommendations provided are not used to guide the decisionmaking process.
- 2. There is inadequate and limited access to funding. External funders from the west dominate CSO funding. There is a need to advocate for government funding for critical advocacy within the country.

#### Call to action

- Members to visit the SDGs Kenya forum website for more information and resources about the SDG Platform and the VNR process.
  - Members to bring on board more partners and members within their networks to contribute to the VNR.
  - Grouping Exercise: Members requested to highlight their core areas of SDG implementation (see See Appendix 3)

#### Way forward

- The Forum in collaboration with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) has organized a capacity building workshop that would focus on what Kenya is monitoring within the SDGs.
- 2. Commission an independent analysis of the Kenya 5-year SDG progress report.

#### **Question and Answer Session**

- 1. What are the plans beyond July/ September after the VNR process?
  - Part of the resolutions from the Multi Stakeholder Engagement Workshop held in December 2019 was to find ways of re-disseminating messaging from the HLPF in New York. The Forum had plans underway to reconvene members and implement this objective.
  - In 2019 the Forum commenced on the development of a Multi-Stakeholder Engagement
     Framework whose focus was to ensure sustained engagement with stakeholders through strengthening institutional mechanisms for implementing the SDGs.

#### Way forward

- The Forum proposed a Survey to generate ideas on post-VNR 2020 dissemination at the HLPF.
- Learn from best practices, for instance, Colombia, who after the 2018 SDG conference, implemented a regional reporting process.
- During the presentations, it was noted that Goal 12 had multiplier effects yet had no representation despite its multiplier effect on several other goals.
  - It is clear to all members that SDG targets were interrelated; for instance, the issue of sustainable consumption and production could easily be reported in the education sector where the curriculum relates to

- hygiene. The mere act of a child washing their hands after using lavatory facilities highlights the consumption of water and sanitary facilities. It is the job of the CSOs to leverage on SDGs interventions and highlight these interlinkages in the different sectors.
- 3. Has there been any rigorous capacity building initiative at the county level on the VNR reporting? How do we make sure grassroots level implementers understand and report these indicators? How will they report, will it be qualitative and quantitative?
  - The UNDP acknowledged that although the process of capacity building has been slow, it works closely with The SDG Kenya Forum Secretariat to strengthen capacity on VNR reporting. In the year 2019, however, the Forum was able to achieve the following:
  - Build capacity of five counties, including Kisumu, Busia, Marsabit, Kwale, Taita Taveta on how to report the on the VNR. They were scheduled to report on the process.
  - Identified and trained 47 SDG champions who were expected to trickle down best practices at ward level.
  - Looking forward, the Forum hopes to build the capacity of the counties and champions further to share best practices and scale up the awareness creation agenda in the process.
- 4. The Forum in their presentation had proposed a grouping exercise. Thus, should organizations report on all the goals or select their target organizational goals?

- The forum encouraged members to report on as many SDGs as an organization. It is, however, imperative for them to include critical areas of intervention in their reporting. Those organizations with multiple interrelated/ cross-cutting goals were advised to report on their anchor SDGs i.e. where they have more content and expertise.
- In 2017 a categorization template was designed to capture this data succinctly, especially for organizations that dealt with multiple SDGs. Members were advised to refer to this document as a guideline.
- 5. One of the challenges in communicating SDGs to the local/ rural population is the use of language. Are the SDGs available in Vernacular or Swahili?
  - Tanzania has made much progress in translating the SDGs from English to Swahili. A lot of awareness creation and dialogues were conducted in Swahili. There was a need to adopt and implement the same exercise in Kenya.
  - However, members were cautioned on the fact that Kenya is not a homogeneous society, and this means that the consideration to translate the document into over 44 languages would be a very resource-consuming activity.
  - SDGs were available in English, Swahili, and Maasai Languages.
- 6. What are the tensions between the government and CSOs concerning data and information? This is because while CSOs will

- provide the information, this will not mean that the government will integrate it into the VNR. Thus, what information gets into the report, and what is omitted? What efforts are being pursued to ensure that no one is left behind, and the government truly reflects the picture presented by the CSOs?
  - In the 2017 report, a good percentage of the data was disqualified based on credibility.
  - It is also important to note that the thematic and contextual issues brought out in the CSO report was consolidated in the main report and that nothing was left out.
  - The government also allows the SDG reporting to use meta-data in the case that there is no data available.

## PANEL DISCUSSION: DATA AS THE ENGINE FOR SDGS IMPLEMENTATION. FOLLOW UP AND REVIEW

Chair: Karen Bett | Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data Panelists:

Al Kags - Open Institute Charlene Migwe - Development Gateway **Emily Maranga- GROOTS Kenya Henry Odhiambo - Development Initiatives** 



Introduction: Data was a noted pain point for CSOs in implementing SDGs. More often than not, valuable information generated at the grassroots level has been discredited and considered unofficial data by the government. There was a need to legitimize this data to influence policy and decision making at the grassroots level. The business of data is known to be a resource-intensive activity; many CSOs have faced the dilemma of choosing between data-driven implementation for decision making over service provision to their stakeholders. Discussions in this panel focused on three key areas:

- Best practice in data mining and utilization in the CSO sector: experience, challenges, and lessons learned.
- Key data priority considerations for the implementation of SDGs in the next decade, 2020-2030.
- Funding for data collection for SDG implementation.

#### Discussions:

1. It is the experience of CSOs that despite efforts to mine data from grassroots levels (areas of implementation), insights provided are still not considered good enough. Obtaining useful quality data is also not an easy fete for CSOs. What is the role of complementary data sources in

Kenya, and what is the experience of the panelists?

The Open Institute has collaborated with the county government and has engaged with them to collect data transparently from every single household. This data has been used to inform development planning and resourcing from the lowest level. This has facilitated micro-targeting of county government resources.

The Development Gateway has partnered with Makueni County on open contracting by digitizing tenders, projects, and procurement. This has helped counties collect data and review it efficiently and transparently as it is an open platform. It is the experience that complementary data provides a checking system for accountability and complementarity.

2. What are your experiences and challenges in data use?

The Open Institute has developed tools and products that assist the access of openly available data in the country. These include data visualization platforms focusing on indicators in health, education, county spending, among others. There are current efforts aimed at improving the portal to include other sectors.

Also, the organization offers a Data Support Service (DSS) that caters to stakeholders' specific data needs and challenges.

In their experience, awareness creation is key to the consumption of data.

#### **Key Challenges**

- Funding: There is a general aversion from stakeholders, including the government, to invest in data mining, analysis, and dissemination. It was important for organizations to prioritize data as a component item during concept development of their activity implementation to facilitate quality data collection.
- Standardization: To ensure data interoperability and operability, there was a need to have universal standards of data collection, but this was still lacking or not clear. There was a need for standardization of data collection tools and protocol for data sharing, especially for citizengenerated data.
- Complimentary Data Sources: The was a need to develop other sources of data apart from the KNBS generated data. Additionally, this data should be of high quality to ensure accurate SDGs implementation monitoring.

Groots Kenya, through its SDG Mashinani Project, had centered the woman as their focus for SDG implementation at the grassroots level. Specific tools that speak to women's lives, goals, and targets were developed. The women are trained on how to collect this data. Indicators have also jointly been set to monitor achievements. To date, six counties have been able to use the data collected to lobby for services. For instance, Kitui County was able to lobby for the allocation of resources for training in the use of clean energy for day to day use. In their experience, policymakers were receptive to this methodology as they partook in the process.

Groots has also collated data from different sources and developed a gender dashboard. Visuals are a preferred data consumption product to these women as they could easily interpret the data. The dashboards will go live in a couple of months.

- 3. What should remain a priority in regards to data in the implementation of SDGs in the Decade of Action, 2020-2030?
  - Use of tools and techniques for quality data. CSOs should work with the national statistics office to improve the standards of data for universal consumption. This would legitimize data collected by CSOs as verifiable and official.
  - 2. Advocate for data quality over data quantity. CSOs should be able to distinguish between purpose and innovation clearly: what data is collected, what is the best and most efficient way to collect it and for what use?
  - 3. Data consumption. There should be a focus on closing the loop in the data value chain i.e. the gap between concept and reality by ensuring that the data collected is used to make decisions. CSOs should view data as an enabler of action and not an action itself.
  - 4. The focus should remain on the enduser to ensure that no one is left behind.

#### **Questions and Answers Session**

1. It was evident during the discussions that the main issue at hand, legitimizing the quality and use of CSO generated data was the lack of standards, especially for Tier 3 indicators. How does the Forum consolidate this dilemma?

- There is a need for co-creation of data collection guidelines. This would only be possible if the CSOs and KNBS collaborated in establishing the type of data and methodology to be used. Kenya should also learn from best practices from other countries like the Philippines, who have successfully achieved this.
- 2. Data generation is a finance intensive activity; the majority of CSOs are faced with the challenge of service provision versus data collection. How can they incorporate this valuable resource and still provide much-needed services?
  - It was challenging to obtain financing since data is not considered a tangible good. It should, therefore, be mandatory for CSOs to adopt a concept of implementation through data-driven results as they submit a proposal to funding agencies.
  - As a unit, the forum could also start a funding kitty to support partners to collect data for the achievement of SDGs.

It is the experience of CSOs working with children that there is no sector-specific children's data. All information is consolidated, making it hard to isolate information about specific aspects key to children. How does the forum ensure that child-specific data is categorized into the different need points for decision making? For instance, it is hard to distinguish between children and youth, all are

grouped as one while their needs are very different.

- The Government collects children related data for administrative purpose, for instance, to track teacher attendance. This data, however, also records children's attendance but may not be utilized effectively to inform CSOs on their interventions at grassroots levels. There is a need to understand data needs and indicators.
- CSOs and the government need to have a dialogue that facilitates the harmonization of data related to children. It would lead to a collaborative mechanism of filling data gaps and also the consumption of this data.

#### Solution:

Development Initiative (DI) is currently developing a tool called "development data audit"; a platform that collates multiple children related data sources from different ministries for utilization.

#### Call to action:

 Members requested for the SDG Forum Secretariat to nominate a Data Specific technical Working group to follow up on suggested interventions.

## PRESENTATION 4: ENGAGING WITH MEDIA IN SDGS: IMPLEMENTING AND REPORTING

Doreen Wambui – Business Development Sector | Nation Media Group



Nation Media Groups' main objective in engaging citizens is to inform, entertain, and educate its audience political, social, and economic development in the country. Particular to the SDGs, their role has been to create national conversations around SDG issues through its various media channels including digital, broadcast and print media.

The media shared its interest and willingness to engage with CSOs to disseminate enriched content, in the right way to the public.

In the first quarter of this year, NMG has invited CSOs to submit content in the following areas:

- Articles or features on gender quality topics concerning women in democracy, trade, and sexual reproductive health. These were to feature in various publications in commemoration of the International Women's Day.
- 2. Environment and Health.
- 3. Water and Sanitation.

#### Plenary session:

 Inclusivity: It was noted that television panel discussions were male-dominated and did not include Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), especially those who were

- excelling in society. How was media ensuring a balanced representation? This had been noted, and NMG shared that the current management would work to ensure that diversity in their programming.
- 2. How was the media ensuring accountability post reporting a feature, especially regarding traumatic experiences? During investigations, NMG has ensured the successful involvement of various stakeholders to facilitate the closing of the loop in the stories that are featured. Also, follow up is conducted and on different NMG platforms.
- 3. How has media ensured ethics in reporting, for instance, protecting identities of featured persons/ victims/ vulnerable groups in the reporting?
  The NMG has an in-house quality editorial team set up to ensure ethical journalism.
- 4. How has NMG ensured sector-specific quality reporting? NMG is streamlining their employees to have Sector-specific journalists to ensure sensitivity and respect on disseminated content to the sector represented.
- 5. How can NMG meaningfully bring children to the platform?
  The media house provided child-specific platforms via various outlets. However, they are willing to work with CSOs to extend their scope to specific SDG aspects.
- 6. In the past, members of the forum had experienced distortion of information

submitted to media houses. How can they disseminate stories that translate into supporting the development agenda?

There are internal committees that monitor submitted and published reports submitted. Unfortunately, some through the cracks. A media engagement forum aimed at building capacity to journalists better understand SDG tone would better benefit the Kenya SDG Forum in pushing their agenda.

7. Topics related to land such as the National Land Policy, Community Land Registration, and Mining, have not received much visibility as other SDGs. How can the CSOs engage the Media to shed light on grassroots realities in this sector?

The NMG was willing to partner with CSOs to publish stories of this nature.

#### Call to action:

The SDGs Kenya Forum Secretariat to organize a CSO media workshop that would facilitate a better understanding of the following:

- Relationship building with Media Houses.
- How and when to provide content to media houses.

## PRESENTATION 5: SDGS KENYA 2020 WORKPI AN

Dr. Rose Oluoch- Program Manager | SDG **Kenya Forum** 



Members were informed that the activities of the current work plan that would be presented were a continuation of the implementation of the activities of the year 2019.

Key activities to be implemented summarized below:

- 1. Reporting: Two significant activities would be conducted:
  - The compilation of the VNR: the anticipated date of submission had been brought forward to March 31st Therefore, 2020. members were reminded to be cognizant of the deadline
  - Undertaking a Five-year analysis: the secretariat, in addition to the VNR, planned to conduct an independent analysis of the achievements of the implementation of the SDGs for the past 5 years. This report would shadow the findings of the VNR that would be presented at the HLPF. The Secretariat is in the process of fund raising for the study

#### Call to action:

Members were expected to express their interests in financing and providing technical assistance in conducting the analysis.

Side events: two major side events were identified for member participation in the year 2020 i.e.

- The 6th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Zimbabwe.
- The United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in New York.

#### Call to action:

Members attending the forum were expected to inform the secretariat of their interest and participation in the forum and in various side events for the forums knowledge and to facilitate practical mobilization efforts

- Community dialogues, awareness, and sensitization on SDGs: It was the desire of the forum to engage with members and the general public beyond sensitization efforts. To date, the secretariat has been able to identify and put in place community champions at the county level. The following activities were suggested:
  - Advance for additional pieces of training to the already identified SDG Champions at the county level to build their capacity to further engage citizens at the ward level and at the community level.
  - Discussion of budgets and budget monitoring.
  - Development of community scorecards.
     These would be implemented with the Gates Foundation funding stream. The ultimate objective would be to develop

- dashboards that would map CSOs and their engagement in SGDs in the 47 counties.
- Launch and implement the SDG decade of action campaigns: by the end of 2020, there should be a countrywide knowledge of SDGs and their implementation in Kenya.

#### Call to action:

Members to make an intentional effort to spread knowledge and information on SDGs in Kenya

- Interagency Committee: The activities of this committee have been implemented in collaboration with the SDGs Unit, the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), the Government of Kenya through the National Treasury and Planning – State Department for Planning and the UNDP. The primary activities planned for the year included:
  - Finalizing on the 10- year SDGs Acceleration Plan for Kenya.
  - Implementation of the 10-year SDGs Acceleration Plan for Kenya. This would be guided by the Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, which describes the mechanism of engagement of all the players in the SDGs platform. Members were informed that the document was under review and would be ready for dissemination in March 2020.
  - 2. Administration:
  - The Secretariat continues to support members in implementing their activities through various events and activities for members of the Forum.

- Membership drive: Members were reminded that core funding for administrative activities was mainly derived from subscription fees. In 2019, only 25% had paid up.
- The secretariat continues to pursue fundraising avenues for the implementation of the SDGs. Three proposals have thus far been submitted.

#### Call to action:

Members were reminded to pay up their membership fees.

- Program on Gender: this is a three-year program funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation aimed towards supporting the implementation of SDG 5: Gender Equality. Activities in this program had been implemented in collaboration with KEFEADO-Kisumu, GROOTS-Nakuru, WEL-Kitui, FIDA-Kilifi County, CREAW-Bomet, and WRA-Kajiado. The secretariat anticipated to accomplish the following activities in the year under review:
  - Continued work in Kisumu, Kajiado, Nakuru, Bomet and Kitui with a focus on creating inroads in engaging with the different departments in these counties, CECs, on policies, specifically the Gender Policy and the Economic Empowerment Policy.
  - Human Resource strengthening for the forum: The Secretariat was able to employ extra personnel to assist the country coordinator and the program manager in implementing activities of the Forum. They have also obtained extra help through engaging interns and volunteers. Notable changes were

reported on the social media and communication front.

#### Call to action:

Members were requested to submit content in the form of updates and summaries on their activities. This would ensure dynamic reporting on all the SDG goals, especially in the Newsletter.

## PRESENTATION 6: LAUNCH OF DECADE FOR ACTION CAMPAIGN

Mark Irura – Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Lead | SDG Kenya Forum

In this day and age, where donor fatigue is crippling, found in the development sector, there is a need for organizations to think outside the box as they implement their activities. The same applies to the implementation of the SDGs in Kenya.

There is a need to shift the thinking of the implementation of SDGs in Kenya from a traditional school of thought to a non-traditional and highly effective actionable process. The implementation of the SDGs has three components: awareness creation, collaboration and action.

The third component was the essence of the "Decade of Action." Campaign. There is a need to mobilize stakeholders and co-create these actions. Some guiding questions through the thinking towards accelerating progress in the next ten years include:

- How to co-create products and services?
- How to enhance innovation in the public participation space?
- How do to engage beyond sensitization and awareness creation at the community level?
- How to strengthen individual capacity to hold the government accountable in terms of public participation?

Initial thoughts in ensuring actionable ideas in the campaign include:

- 1. Localization of the SDGs.
  - The use of local language in communicating the SDGs to the grassroots level.
  - Integrating indicators at the county level: there is ongoing work in the county level. For instance, Kisumu, Vihiga and Elgeiyo Marakwet have already integrated these indicators to the priorities in their County Integrated Development Plan (CIDPs)
- 2. Awareness Creation: there is a need for objective and realistic reporting about the state of SDG implementation at all levels.
- 3. Advocating for simple communication on the state of SDGs.
- 4. Featuring success stories through
  - showcasing organizational work by telling short and straightforward stories.
  - sharing individual testimonies on the personal impact and benefits of SDGs in the form of videos

#### Way forward:

 Compilation of the actions that members have submitted. See appendix 3 of the document.

- 2. Design a joint work plan on the actionable points.
- 3. The official launch of the Decade of Action Campaign.

#### Call to action:

 The Campaign is open to all members and contributions from the youth, PWDs among others are paramount.

## PRESENTATION 7: FINANCE REPORT 2019/ 2020

## Emily Omego – Administration and Finances | Development Initiative – DI

The main objective of sharing the forums financial statements was to:

- 1. Promote accountability.
- 2. Show the impact of utilization of the funds trusted to the secretariat.
- 3. Chart a way forward for the implementation of activities for the upcoming financial year.

Members were informed that the reports shared were provisional, pending a planned audit that was scheduled for February 2020.

The primary sources of funding for the year under review (2018/2019) were:

- 1. Membership Subscription
- The Pan Africa Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA) – Data Eco System Mapping
- 3. Partnership for Agenda 2030
- 4. Gender and Development Project

It was noted that there was little commitment by members to pay up for the subscription fee. Unfortunately, only 19 of the 300 registered members had paid their membership fees to the Forum.

#### Call to Action:

 Members were reminded that these funds were core to the implementation of key activities such as administration, events, workshops, communication, and logistics. The following information was shared on the parameters for membership to enable them to submit their payments.

| Tier      | Description of Organization                    | Registrat<br>ion Fees | Annual<br>Subscriptio<br>n |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Tier<br>1 | International Non- Governmental Organizations  | 50,000                | 20,000                     |
| Tier<br>2 | National Non-<br>Governmental<br>Organizations | 20,000                | 10,000                     |
| Tier<br>3 | Local Non-<br>Governmental<br>Organizations    | 10,000                | 5,000                      |

## PRESENTATION 8: SDG **KENYA FORUM** STRUCTURE AND **ELECTION CODE -ELECTION COUNCIL**

#### Virginia Nduta - Women's Empowerment Link (WEL)

Following the Inaugural elections held in 2019, three co-chairs who had served diligently and passionately for the year under review were elected via majority vote. Following concerns

from members, a set of by-laws were drafted to guide the administration of the affairs of the Forums Secretariat. These By-Laws (see Appendix 5) were to be read to the members, endorsed, and used to guide the current election process.

Members resisted committing to the proposed practice and demanded more time to review the by-laws to provide real and substantive contributions.

Despite the stalemate, the following points were raised for consideration in the draft compendium:

- Board tenure: two proposals were put forward to the members:
  - Two-year tenures staggered in two terms
  - o three-year tenures staggered in two terms to ensure institutional memory and leadership impact.
- Voting Eligibility: Only paid members of the SDG Kenya Forum would be eligible for the election process.
- Board membership: Members of the Forum would elect 34 members who would, in turn, elect 7 – 11 representative members (the Board) who would be the liability holders of the forum. The board members would then appoint the Board Chairperson and deputies.
- Responsibilities and roles of Board Members: The roles of the elected liability holders would be guided by the 5Ps, which strategically cluster all the

goals, with consideration of the weighting representation of the goal.

 The 35<sup>th</sup> Board Member: The coordinator of the Forum would be considered the 35<sup>th</sup> member in the the voting system.

#### Way forward:

- Members' conceded that it was not possible to conduct the election during the current sitting. The current co-Chairs would remain in office until the elections had been conducted.
- The draft document was to be shared to the members via email to provide ample time for review.
- A special meeting would be convened to facilitate the election process. This would preferably be before March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
- Post elections, the Forum was advised to begin the official registration of the organization.

#### **Call to Action**

 Members to honor their obligation and pay their subscription fees before March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 to ensure a highly representative election process.

## WAY FORWARD AND CLOSING

The Forum's Co-Chair, Dr Elizabeth Wala, acknowledged and appreciated members' support and commitment towards the secretariat and the implementation of the SDGs. Their willingness to convene was commendable. She further summarized the overarching issues of the day, highlighting challenges in data, media, implementation

processes, monitoring and review, and how best to support each other in various areas of work.

Special mention was made to the following groups of people for their support to the Secretariat:

#### **Current co-chairs:**

George Awalla | Dr. Wala Elizabeth | Memory Kachambwa

#### The Government of Kenya:

Stephen Nabakho - Chief Economist

Facilitators: Davis Adieno | Virginia Nduta

#### **SDGs Kenya Forum Secretariat:**

Florence Syevuo – Country Coordinator | Dr. Rose Oluoch – Program Manager | David – Communication | Mark Irura – Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Lead | Olive Kabisa-Communication and Admin Intern | Winfred Muindi- Communication Volunteer

# ANNEX 1: CHIEF ECONOMIST TALKING POINTS DURING THE SDGS KENYA FORUM 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

#### Good morning colleagues

It gives me great pleasure & privilege to speak to you during this year's Annual General Assembly (AGA). You will remember that at this time last year we met at Sarova Pan-Afric hotel and discussed aspects of your work for 2019.

We have since collaborated & held many joint activities & achieved quite a bit in advancing the SDGs agenda in Kenya. The key climax of our success was the joint hosting of the SDGs Multi-Stakeholders Forum at Lukenya gateway in December 2019 that was meant to deepen the SDGs stakeholders dialogues on key aspects of our work; particularly on how best for the SDGs multi stakeholders to engage & solidify partnerships in the Kenyan SDGs spaces & on how best to tackle the SDGs agenda during the

At this AGA; we expect the SDGs Kenya forum to consider this important platform;

remaining decade of action.

- 1. To appraise yourselves on your achievement and the country's at large on what has been done since 2015 when the SDGs were adopted across all sectors: in government, private sector, CSOs, academia, the media, the UN system etc.; showcasing results in development.
- To self-evaluate on SDGs implementation, monitoring and review in order to jointly plan for national & sub national actions in the remaining 10 years of action.
- To listen to world leaders; specifically, on the key messages that came out of the 2019 UN SDGs summit; the UNGA political declarations on the need to accelerate SDGs

- implementation processes & achievement of SDGs progress.
- 4. This year's AGA also is meant to plan for 2020 VNR considering that Kenya will be among 50 other countries to submit her 2<sup>nd</sup> VNR at HLPF in July 2020; at some point, we may need to share Kenya's roadmap for 2020 VNR
- 5. Ladies & gentlemen, the 2020 AGA presents opportunities for the SDGs Kenya Forum to review & re-affirm its membership commitments on the need to strengthen active engagements & foster stronger partnerships that are necessary to mobilize resources, share knowledge & expertise and leverage on membership synergies to fast-track the SDGs progress.
- 6. There is greater need for the SDGs Kenya forum's membership to continue to pool together, exchange inputs & ideas from a shared global vision in an inclusive and open debate; there is even greater need for all the SDGs multi stakeholders to resolve to work together to ensure support for collective decision making based on mutually agreed & shared value prepositions & inputs.

I wish you fruitful discussions. Thank you

## ANNEX 2: GROUPING ACTIVITY FOR VNR REVIEW

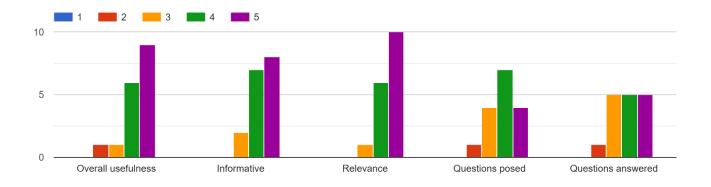
| SDG GOAL                    | NAME   | ORGANIZATION  | GROUPING |
|-----------------------------|--|---|----------|
| SDG 1 – No Poverty          | Daisy Yator, Irene Sebastian Waweru,Stella Nderitu, Derrick Odidi, Charlene Migwe,Sheila Oguda, Henry Odhiambo, Emily Omego, Noleen Sang,Judy Njino,Yusuf Ropole, Maureen Nderitu,Lucy Murage,Sally Karimi, Doreen Ombui,Al Kags, Mukanda Asha,Phionner Apondi,Eric Ngondi, Rogers Dhliwayo, | Act Alliance, Action AID, Art Affair for Development Goals, Development Gateway, Development Initiatives, Girls Not Brides, Global Compact Network Kenya, Islamic Relief, Light for the World, Nation Media Group, Open Institute, Slum Child Foundation, UDPK, United Nations Development Programme(UNDP). |          |
| SDG 2 – No Hunger           | Daisy Yator, Irene<br>Sebastian Waweru, Yusuf<br>Ropole, Maureen<br>Nderitu, Sally Karimi,<br>Doreen Ombui, Eric<br>Ngondi   | Act Alliance, Islamic<br>Relief, Nation Media<br>Group,UDPK   |          |
| SDG 3 – Good health         | Arnold Gekonge, Mawanahamisi Singano, Hellen Apila, Lorna Nyandat, Rahma Yassin, Denis Omondi,Lynette Etemesi, Celine Awuor, Humphery Mashedi, De Bethune Lysiane,Muteti Munyoki, Sally Karimi, Doreen Ombui, Eric Ngondi, Flora Mbii  | Champions for SDGs, FEMNET, Family Health Options Kenya (FHOK), Green String Network(GSN), HENNET, HERAF, International Institute of Legal Affairs(IILA), Kenya Paraplegic Organization(KPO), National Taxpayers Association, Nation Media Group, UDPK, Women Promotion Centre                              |          |
| SDG 4: Quality<br>Education | Arnold Gekonge,<br>Ephraim Indeche, Dorise<br>Okoth, Teresa Otieno,<br>Lorna Nyandat, Victor   | Champions for SDGs,<br>FAWE Kenya, Family<br>Health Options Kenya<br>(FHOK), Garden of Hope   |          |

|                                   | Odhiambo, Yusuf<br>Ropole, Maureen<br>Nderitu,, John<br>Wambugu, Muteti<br>Munyoki, Phionner<br>Apondi,Emmanuel<br>Manyasa, Eric Ngondi,<br>Syvia Ingati, George<br>Awalla   | Foundation, Islamic Relief, Mind Me International, National Taxpayers Association, Nation Media Group, Slum Child Foundation, Twaweza East Africa, UDPK, VSO  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|--|
| SDG 5: Gender Equality            | Daisy Yator, Irene Sebastian Waweru, Stella Nderitu, Christi Ndungu, Mercy Jelimo, Felister Gitonga, Ephraim Indeche, Dorise Okoth, Teresa Otieno, Mwanahamisi Singano, Hellen Apila, Lorna Nyandat, Victor Odiambo, Erick Omondi, Noleen Sang, Paul Mutuku, Pauline Muhonja, Emily Maranga, Rahma Yassin, Brian Asin, Humphery Mashedi, De Bethune Lysiane, John Wambugu, Sally Karimi, Doreen Ombui, Lihavi Dianah, Eric Ngondi, Sylvia Ingati, George Awalla, Virginia Nduta, Diana Sifuna. | Act Alliance, Action AID, Association of Media Women in Kenya (AMWIK), Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), Equality Now, FAWE Kenya, FEMNET, Family Health Options Kenya (FHOK), Garden of Hope Foundation, Generation Guiders, Girls Not Brides, Go Mashinani, GROOTS, Green String Network (GSN), Islamic Relief, KEFEADO, Kenya Paraplegic Organization (KPO), Mind Me International, Nation Media Group, Sisari Women Initiative Group (SWIG), UDPK, VSO, Women Empowerment Link (WEL), Youth Agenda |  |
| SDG 6: Clean water and Sanitation | Daisy Yator, Irene<br>Sebastian Waweru,<br>Derrick Odidi, Arnold<br>Gekonge, Victor<br>Odhiambo, Muteti<br>Munyoki, Sally Karimi,<br>Doreen Ombui  | Act Alliance, Art Affair for<br>Development<br>Goals, Champions for<br>SDGs, Garden of Hope<br>Foundation, National<br>Taxpayers Association,<br>Nation Media Group   |  |

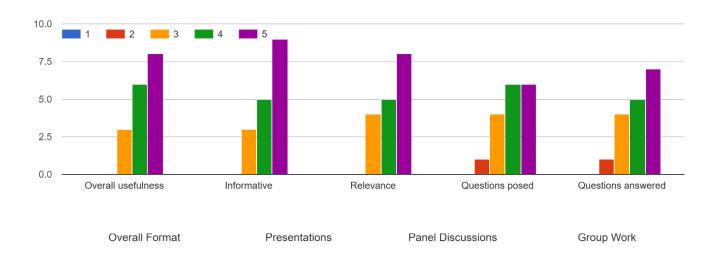
| SDG 14: Life on land     | Sally Karimi, Doreen   | Nation media Group        |  |
|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--|
|                          | Ombui                  |                           |  |
| SDG 15: Life in water    | Derrick Odidi, Sally   | Art Affair for            |  |
|                          | Karimi, Doreen Ombui   | Development Goals,        |  |
|                          |                        | National Media Group      |  |
| SDG 16: Peace, Justice   | Daisy Yator, Irene     | Act Alliance, Article 19, |  |
|                          | Sebastian Waweru,      | Champions for SDGs,       |  |
|                          | Sarah Wesonga, Arnold  | Green String Network      |  |
|                          | Gekonge, Rahma Yassin, | (GSN), National           |  |
|                          | Muteti Munyoki, Sally  | Taxpayers Association,    |  |
|                          | Karimi, Doreen Ombui,  | Nation Media Group,       |  |
|                          | Titus Gitonga, Caleb   | Transparency              |  |
|                          | Wanga, Diana Sifuna    | International, Usalama    |  |
|                          |                        | Reforms Kenya, Youth      |  |
|                          |                        | Agenda                    |  |
| SDG 17: Partnerships for | Arnold Gekonge, Davis  | Champions for SDGs,       |  |
| the goals                | Adieno, Karen Bett,    | Global Partnerships for   |  |
|                          | Stephen Okiya, Denis   | Sustainable               |  |
|                          | Omondi, John           | Development               |  |
|                          | Wambugu, Muteti        | Data(GPSDD), HENNET,      |  |
|                          | Munyoki, Sally Karimi, | Mind Me International,    |  |
|                          | Doreen Ombui, Eric     | National Taxpayers        |  |
|                          | Ngondi, Diana Sifuna   | Association, Nation       |  |
|                          |                        | Media Group, UDPK,        |  |
|                          |                        | Youth Agenda              |  |

### **ANNEX 3: AGM FEEDBACK SURVEY**

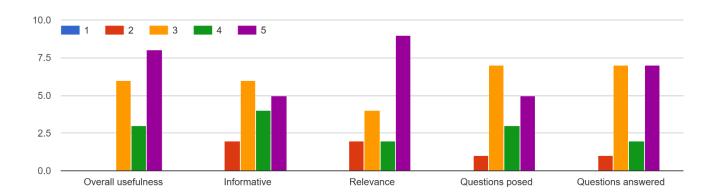
Progress and Overview of SDG'sImplementation in Kenya and VNR 2020



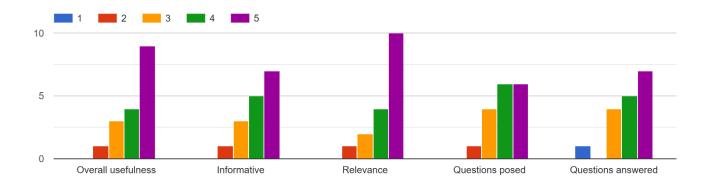
#### CSOs VNR 2020 Plan and Timelines



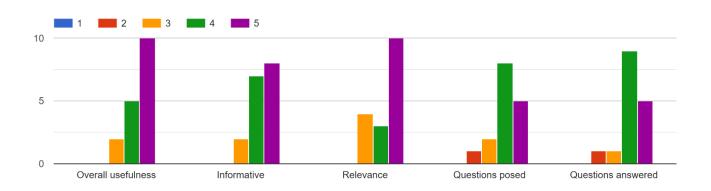
#### Data as the Engine for SDGsImplementation, follow up and Review



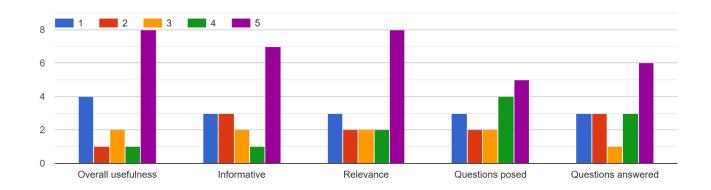
#### Engaging with Media in SDGsImplementation and reporting



SDGs Kenya 2020 Work plan - specifically Launch of the Decade for Action Campaign

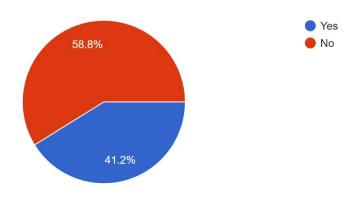


#### SDGs Kenya Forum Elections of (GROUP LEADS & Samp; THE CO-CHAIRS)



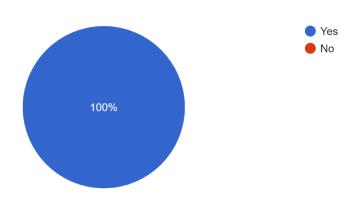
#### Did we keep time?

17 responses



#### Do you Plan to attend next years AGM in 2021?

17 responses



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