

SDGs IMPLEMENTATION IN AFRICA – REFLECTIONS ON A THREE-YEAR JOURNEY
13th June 2019
Kigali Convention Center, Kigali, Rwanda

Background: Following the adopting of SDGs in September 2015, Africa has made many commitments towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda 2030 and the Africa Union Agenda 2063. At the adoption of the SDGs, Africa’s starting point was lower than all the other regions. Africa was at cross roads with low tax revenue to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on one end of the problem and enormous development needs on the other end. Infrastructure gaps alone were estimated at USD 130–170 billion a year, with a financing gap in the range USD 68–108 billion. The SDGs were conceptualized and adopted during a period of global economic and financial transition. Emerging evidence over the last three years (2015 – 2018) of tracking SDGs progress on an annual basis indicates complex challenges still prevail in Africa. Many intricacies, ambiguities and questions continue to predominate and stand in the pathway forwards towards Africa’s achievement of these Goals.

It is without doubt that there is much “unfinished business” that must be addressed for the SDGs to be achieved in Africa, foremost of which are the need (i) to bridge understanding between SDG conceptualization and implementation pathways, (ii) to address global financing for the SDGs in Low Income Countries, particularly those in Africa, (iii) to raise domestic financing efforts, which still are suboptimal with an estimated gap of 3-5% of GDP, and (iv) to engage the private sector. Against this backdrop, on the 13th June 2018, the Sustainable Development Goals Center (SDGC/A) will be convening a multitude of global, regional and national stakeholders from governments, multilateral and bilateral institutions, foundations and NGOs, the private sector, academia and civil society to discuss SDG progress and make recommendations on the path forward towards SDG achievement in Africa. The basis of the discussions will be anchored by the SDGC/A’s report, SDG Three Year Assessment Report (an electronic copy of which will be distributed to all participants prior to the Conference). The Mid-Term Review Report produces an evidence-based foundation and reiterates an urgent call for acceleration of efforts by all stakeholders in order to realize the SDGs in all African countries – this urgent call to action will be reiterated during the Conference.

Further at the Conference, the SDGC/A and its partner, the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), will launch the 2019 Africa SDG Index and Dashboards Report (an electronic copy of which will be distributed to all participants prior to the Conference). Along with the SDGC/A’s Mid-Term Review Report,

the results presented by 2019 Africa SDG Index will provide a foundation for discussion at the Conference, giving participants a current measure of country-level progress across all 17 SDGs, as well as elements of Agenda 2063. The Africa SDG Index provides national and regional level assessments of where countries stand with regards to achieving the SDGs, shining a light on where countries are or are not on track towards SDG achievement and providing a powerful informational tool to ensure accountability and commitment to the Goals.

Objectives of Conference: The Conference will provide a public forum for high-level discussion on SDG progress across Africa and of the priorities and challenges for SDG implementation, including the institutional and financial gaps in implementation. A complete trend analysis of Africa's progress to date and how far it must go towards achieving the SDGs will be provided to participants, including both qualitative and quantitative analysis of progress and constraints. Presentations, panels and plenary discussions will occur on the information arising out of the Mid-Term Report and Africa SDG Index including the following aspects:

- ➔ progress towards the achievement of the SDGs in Africa from 2016 – 2018;
- ➔ simulation and forecasting analysis on a select number of SDGs, with trend data series;
- ➔ critical review of the performance challenges towards the SDGs;
- ➔ mapping and performance of the governance framework for SDGs;
- ➔ progress on the aspirations of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) for financing development,
- ➔ SDG data gaps; and
- ➔ a review of important “unfinished business” towards SDG achievement.

Outcomes of Conference: Through these high-level discussions, it is intended that pragmatic, evidence-based recommendations for African countries to stay on track towards SDG achievement will be developed on areas including: (i) the governance and institutional framework for SDG achievement in Africa, (ii) filling the SDG data gaps, (iv) financing, including alternative sources of financing, and (iii) social inclusiveness. In addition, with over 2000 participants expected from across Africa and beyond, including many women, youth, farmers and other members of civil society, this Conference is meant to inform and to urge everyone to take the information and key messages back to their countries in order to continue to push for urgent action and necessary reforms in order for all African countries to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

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AGENDA

- 7:30 – 8:30 Guest arrival and registration
- 8:30 – 10:30 Official Opening Session and Presentation of Findings from
SDG Mid-Term Review Report
- THE SDGs IN REAL LIFE- A PERSONAL STORY**
- The SDGs and Women
- WELCOME REMARKS AND OPENING ADDRESS
- **Moderator**, Journalist to be confirmed
 - **Welcome Remarks**, Dr. Belay E. Begashaw, Director General, The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa
 - **Keynote Address**, from High-Level United Nations Representative, to be confirmed
- DISCUSSION ON FINDINGS FROM SDG THREE-YEAR a REPORT
- **Key Findings and Conclusions**, Dr. Belay E. Begashaw
- PANEL COMMENTS ON SDG MID-TERM REVIEW REPORT
- High-level panel, to be confirmed, with leaders from the United Nations and African Union, the private sector, and bilateral and research/academic institutions
- PLENARY DISCUSSION AND Q&A
- OFFICIAL OPENING REMARKS AND LAUNCH OF SDG REPORT
- Special Guest of Honor, to be confirmed
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee/Tea Break
- 11:00 – 1:00 Presidential Panel and Launch of 2019 Africa SDG Index
- THE SDGs IN REAL LIFE – A PERSONAL STORY**
- The SDGs and Smallholder farmers
- SNAPSHOT OF 2019 AFRICA SDG INDEX
- **Presenter**, to be confirmed
- PRESIDENTIAL REFLECTIONS ON SDG PROGRESS IN AFRICA
- Presidential Panel, to be confirmed
- PLENARY DISCUSSION AND Q&A
- OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF 2019 SDG INDEX
- Launch by High-Level Government Representative, to be confirmed

1:00 – 2:00	Lunch
2:00 – 3:30	<p>Key Frameworks for the Path to SDG Achievement in Africa</p> <p>THE SDGs IN REAL LIFE – A PERSONAL STORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SDGs and Refugees <p>FRAMEWORKS 1 & 2: GOVERNANCE (INCLUDING GOOD DATA) AND FINANCING FOR THE SDGS</p> <p><i>During this session, panelists will discuss ways two key frameworks viewed as essential to SDG achievement. The first is the improvement of the governance framework for the SDGs, including better coordination systems and clearly defined roles and responsibilities of all actors at national, regional and global levels; improved regulatory and policy regimes with strong accountability mechanisms; and the critical need for improved and more reliable data in order to effectively plan and implement the SDGs. For the second, panelists will explore pragmatic ways to finance the SDGs, from both domestic and global sources, such as through domestic taxation, official development assistance (ODA), remittances, foreign direct investment (FDI), philanthropy, development banks and other innovative financing methods. Panelists candidly will discuss the shortfalls occurring from all sources and recommend concrete paths to overcoming the SDG financial hurdle.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level panel, to be confirmed, with leaders from the United Nations and African Union, African Governments, the private sector, and bilateral and research/academic institutions <p>PLENARY DISCUSSION AND Q&A</p>
3:30 – 4:00	Coffee/Tea Break
4:00 – 5:00	<p>Key Frameworks for the Path to SDG Achievement in Africa</p> <p>THE SDGs IN REAL LIFE – A PERSONAL STORY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SDGs and Youth <p>FRAMEWORK 3 – SOCIAL INCLUSIVENESS</p> <p><i>As stated in the preamble to Agenda 2030, “...we pledge that no one will be left behind. Recognizing that the dignity of the human person is fundamental, we wish to see the Goals and targets met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society.” Yet the common belief is that countries are a long way from including all people in their economic growth and, in fact, many are being “left behind.” Panelists in this session will discuss the challenge of social inclusion across Africa and what should be done to address it.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High-level panel, to be confirmed, with leaders from the United Nations and World Bank, African Union, Non-governmental organizations and civil society <p>PLENARY DISCUSSION AND Q&A</p>

5:00 – 5:30

Closing

THE SDGs IN REAL LIFE – A PERSONAL STORY

- The SDGs and Persons with Disabilities

WHERE ARE WE AND WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

A Summary of Key Findings from the Three-Day Conference

- **Dr. Belay E. Begashaw**, Director General, The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa

CLOSING REMARKS ON BEHALF OF THE SDGC/A BOARD OF DIRECTORS [

- **SDGC/A Board Member**