

STATEMENT OF MAJOR GROUPS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS ON “ENSURING INCLUSIVE AND INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND AGENDA 2063”.

AT THE 2ND AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

CAIRO, MAY 18, 2016

We, representatives of Major Groups and other Stakeholders met in Cairo on 17th May 2016 for a preparatory meeting for the 2nd Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) themed “*Ensuring inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063*”.

We highly appreciate and are encouraged by the support of the United Nations and African Union to engage with major groups and other stakeholders; and their recognition of the role of major groups and other stakeholders in realizing Sustainable Development in Africa.

Regarding the role that High Level Political Forum (HLPF), Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), governments and Africa’s partners could play to support and achieve effective inclusive and integrated implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, we recommend the following:

- African Governments should provide leadership in ensuring inclusion of all actors especially the marginalized and vulnerable groups, and in connecting/linking Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation to the realities and aspirations of citizens, as well as creating an enabling environment (including policy coherence for sustainable development, resource allocation, and institutional frameworks) for major groups and other stakeholders to play a meaningful role.. They should intensify awareness on the principles and benefits of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 to African citizens as well as open more collaboration opportunities at national, regional and global levels thereby creating ownership.
- The AFRSD should be a platform for state and non-state actors to share experiences on implementation and follow-up and monitoring, coordinate regional efforts and jointly develop consolidated regional positions for the HLPF, as well as track progress on SDG implementation

at national and regional levels—thereby ensuring that no country and stakeholder is left behind. AFRSD should also embrace HLPF modalities as the minimal for Major Groups and other stakeholders' participation and engagement in the forum.

- Noting the General Assembly resolution (A/RES/66/288) establishing HLPF, resolution (A/RES/67/290) on role of HLPF, and resolution A/RES/66/288 on the importance of integrating the social, economic and environmental aspects of development, the major groups and other stakeholders believe that the HLPF should be an inclusive platform for tracking SDG implementation, sharing learning and experiences among member states and stakeholders; review and consolidate means of implementation based on shared opportunities and challenges in SDG implementation and also address the capacity needs of member states.
- Africa's partners should provide capacity, appropriate technologies, technical and financial support to member states, major groups and other stakeholders to complement progress made and bridge possible risks to the effective and efficient implementation of SDGs.

On the role of major groups and other stakeholders in supporting and achieving effective inclusive and integrated implementation and follow up of the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, most of our current work already confirms our strong catalytic role in realizing SDGs and Agenda 2063 through the following;

- Strong mobilization of capacity to increase awareness on both Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 among African citizens thereby enhancing traction and ownership
- Facilitating innovations, knowledge and good practices sharing among different stakeholders on Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 implementation (including CSOs, member states, private sector, and development partners, among others) on what works and what doesn't thereby reducing the tension between agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. This is to maximize on scarce resources for the implementation of both agendas.
- Availing and promoting the use of citizen driven data that are locally relevant and disaggregated in measuring SDG progress through effective participation in the National Statistics System as well as collection of administrative data.
- Generating local level solutions and opportunities for scaling up initiatives with government and developing partners thereby reducing the learning curve.

- Strengthening opportunities for vertical review and follow-up (across all key stakeholders involved in SDG implementation including governments, private sector and civil society) as opposed to horizontal review only (i.e. government to government)
- Giving meaning to the “leave no one behind” by reaching out to and creating platforms for marginalized and vulnerable groups (including indigenous groups, persons with disabilities, women, youths, children, among others) to actively participate and lend their voices to the processes.
- Coordinate non-state actors’ efforts on implementation, follow-up and monitoring at national and regional level through civil society engagement mechanisms and platforms, and report at national, regional and global level on major groups and other stakeholders role in implementation and follow up and review.

Major groups and other stakeholders require the following organizational arrangements and support in order to fulfil their role in realizing an effective and inclusive and integrated SDGs and Agenda 2063;

- At the national level, we call on;
- Member states to provide strong political will and participatory systems that encourage major groups and other stakeholders to be part of the priority setting and implementation in both SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- ECA to facilitate strong connection and continuous engagement between major groups and UNDP offices as well as policy makers.
- Member states to integrate major groups and other stakeholders in national multi-stakeholders coordination mechanisms, committees and commissions for agenda 2030 and agenda 2063 implementation, follow-up and monitoring.
- Member states to strengthen already existing national development coordination platforms and mainstream the sustainable agenda into those already existing platforms
- At the regional level, AFRSD platform should be reformed to allow major groups and other stakeholders to actively and continuously engage (and not just participate in a side event) throughout the duration of the meeting as opposed to preparing a statement and being mere observers of these processes. We also call for the institutionalization of Major Groups and other stakeholders in regional structures for sustainable and meaningful engagement.

- At the regional and UN levels, ECA and UNDESA should facilitate major groups and other stakeholders' access to technical, capacity building and financing opportunities to enhance their work on the ground. They should also strengthen coordinated platforms and opportunities to consolidate efforts, and exchange good practices among major groups across themes including community of practice.
- At all levels, governments, AUC, AfDB, AFRSD, ECA and UNDESA should establish an ongoing engagement mechanism open to all civil society active participation, involvement and contribution to the implementation of Agenda 2063, SDG 2030 and their outcomes at various levels.
- In conclusion, we call on the convenors of the AFRSD to ensure that the above issues are not only heard but are included in the final outcome documents and contribute to the road map for our continued engagement on SDGs and agenda 2063 beyond Cairo. Drawing on the abovementioned strengths, we look forward to play our part in strengthening the integration and implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 for the betterment of African citizens.

Thank you.