



## AFRICAN NGOs POSITION PAPER

### FOR THE 2017 HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM THROUGH AFRICAN REGIONAL FORUM

#### Summary

The 2017 High Level Political Forum addresses the theme “Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world,” an imperative that is also a prerequisite for sustainable peace. Achieving these aims will not be possible unless the structural and systemic barriers to achievement and root causes of exploitation and degradation of the environment are addressed.

Each country is responsible for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in consultation with its people, to address collective challenges from a place of shared endeavor. From individuals to local authorities to national ministries to UN agencies, each must take ownership of the Goals in their particular contexts acknowledging that all Goals are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. The practical contribution of Civil Society are a distinct and important element of the sustainable development in Africa, allowing ample space for meaningful, SDGs Implementation monitoring and review process at national and regional levels.

The NGO major group therefore calls for the AU, UN and all member states to increase CSOS engagement by soliciting more extensive inputs from all major groups and other stakeholders and provide translation into all AU & UN major languages. Each country is responsible for achieving sustainable development in partnership with development partners and through consultation with its people so as to address collective challenges from a place of shared endeavor. Alignment of Agenda 2030 on sustainable development and Agenda 2063 with national blue prints is a key entry point at national level SDGS implementation process. Concern of high population is real basing on current population of **Africa is 1,242,515,952** as of Thursday, May 18, 2017, based on the latest United Nations estimates and thus calls for effective management to achieve the SDGs Agenda.

The NGO Major Group recommends the following regarding the SDGs under review in 2017 to HLPF.

#### **Goal 1:**

Addressing the root causes and manifestations of structural poverty requires holistic, context-specific solutions interlinked with all other goals. Governments should support and report on their efforts to increase opportunities, wellbeing, and capacity building

including Entrepreneurship skills promotion, education and policy framework to end poverty among all sectors of society.

**Goal 2:**

To end hunger and all forms of malnutrition, governments should promote climate-smart Agriculture and make provision for disaster management including keeping of Buffer-stocks, agricultural production from high-input, industrial exploitation towards systems that support smallholders' livelihoods and preserve cultures and biodiversity.

**Goal 3:**

Efforts to achieve health-related targets should prioritize the full spectrum of services from promotion, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliation. In order to improve health services, Governments must endeavor to invest and maintain **up to date** health machinery. Governments must invest in Reproductive Health services to **manage** the rapid Population growth rates (**above 2.5% annually**), subsidize treatment services and provide quality health services for all and increase domestic financing for Health sector budgets for Non-Communicable diseases mainly Cancers and Fistula.

**Goal 5:**

Obstacles to the actualization of gender equality and the fundamental rights of women and girls should be overcome through implementing laws and policies that prohibit discrimination, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), early marriages, Domestic Violence and promote equality in access to resources, education, and decision-making, in alignment with internationally agreed conventions and standards.

**Goal 9:**

All governments, including regional and local authorities, should promote inclusive, ecologically-sound industrialization and the provision of modern and well maintained infrastructure that incorporates the protection of nature especially investing in Renewable energy and solar energy infrastructure and participatory decision-making.

**Goal 14:**

SDG14 must be a keystone in protecting the oceans as a substantial part of the biosphere, a unique ecosystem, an integral part of human civilization and major food provider, and a common good with equal and fair access rights. Improve national and regional protection of Sea and Oceans and Marine Biodiversity. Firm measures must be taken to prevent marine pollution from land-based sources and waste disposal.

**Conclusion**

African NGOs call for an **Integrated** development paradigm which furthers the Wellbeing of humans, nature and animals, and which sees as its ultimate aim the achievement of equity and justice, to **“leave no one behind.** “Consistent collaboration must be maintained among governments, the UN, and civil society, including in national strategies for sustainable development and through parallel reporting by civil society. Review processes at all levels should include inclusive accountability mechanisms to improve evaluation and actions reflecting the holistic nature of the agenda.

The full position paper with International Non- Governmental Organizations' Major Group details the ways in which the SDGs are interconnected, locally applicable yet requiring universal commitment, and essential for the eradication of poverty and promotion of prosperity for all.