



**UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS | CIVIL SOCIETY UNIT**

Talking Points

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Second International Conference

**Sustainable Development Goals Implementation in Lake Chad Basin Region  
Delivering Action and Impact with Social and Technological Innovation:**

*Harnessing the Potentials of Non-Governmental Organizations for SDGs Implementation in Africa*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Khpe5eBBVa0&feature=youtu.be>

Concept note: <http://www.glocha.info/index.php/latest-news/315-ndjamena2019>

- Good afternoon everyone, I am Hawa Diallo from the Department of Global Communications at the United Nations, where I am leading the Civil Society Unit, which partners and engages with civil society organizations and provides them tools and means to promote, implement and achieve the SDGs on an international, regional and local level.
- I regret that I am not able to be with you in person. As a daughter of the Continent and a passionate believer in the potential of Africa and its people to harness its resources to implement that Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union Agenda 2063, I am with you all in spirit!
- I appreciate the opportunity to share this session with so many excellencies and distinguished guests. I would like to thank all the organizers of the conference and especially, my great partners at the International Association for the Advancement of Innovative Approaches to Global Challenges for inviting me.
- At the first International Conference, Sustainable Development Goals Implementation in Lake Chad Basin Region: An Opportunity for Leadership in Social and Technological Innovation, held in New York at the Office of the African Union Observer Mission to the United Nations last September, I spoke about achieving the Sustainable



**UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS | CIVIL SOCIETY UNIT**

Development Goals in Africa. In particular, the alignment between the 2063 Agenda developed by the African Union and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and how the implementation needs to take into consideration needs and challenges specific to the African region and its people. I just want to revisit that for a second and highlight the progress that has been made so far.

- In June, the *Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa* together with *Sustainable Development Solutions Network* published the *2018 Africa SDG Index and Dashboards Report*. The report showcased results of several surveys conducted across the African continent on the progress of the implementation of the 2030 agenda. The report found strong commitment to integrating the SDGs into national development plans. Participating countries have endorsed the SDGs and identified key national indicators and priorities to monitor implementation. Now we need to further these commitments into tangible actions.
- In the report/According to the document, the second most reported challenge for effective SDG implementation was the lack of good quality data to inform policies. As such, Africa Union is partnering with the multi-stakeholder network Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data to fill critical data gaps and ensure assessable, reliable and usable data to pave the way for the 2030 agenda. At UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, has been putting specific emphasis on building the capacity of local statistical offices.
- This work is guided by three key goals: (1) Advancing coherent, evidence-based policy and planning frameworks for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; (2) building effective and accountable national institutions for inclusive and participatory decision-making processes to support sustainable development; and (3) strengthening national technical capacities to mobilize the means of implementation (MOI) for the 2030 Agenda.



UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS | CIVIL SOCIETY UNIT

- When talking, specifically, about the Lake Chad Basin Region last October, I stressed the urgent need to consider safety, insecurity and the protection of civilians. But today I am here to address the missing link. As recently noted by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, “security measures and military operations have proven their limits. There will be no sustaining peace without sustainable development”. The UNESCO Biosphere and Heritage of Lake Chad project, promoting sustainable development, is implemented in five countries in the Lake Chad Basin Region to address the crisis (Cameroon, Central African Republic, Niger, Nigeria and Chad). It is the perfect example of an African multi-sectoral and multidisciplinary cooperation linked to several SDGs: SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 15 (life on land).
- It is true, that delivering sustainable development without leaving no one behind is beyond the capacity of public authorities. It is also beyond the capacity of civil society alone. In fact, it is only achievable when we work together. Therefore, it is vital to empower African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to give a much-needed contribution to the solution.

I would like to note here some great examples of work by civil society that are taking place in Africa and elsewhere:

- An example of NGOs promoting the 2030 Agenda is the Tondeka Mabega (Leave No One Behind) campaign launched by the *Agenda 2030 CSO Core Reference Group* in **Uganda** which seeks to bring the SDG agenda to community level.
- An initiative from **Nigeria** is the #ClimateWednesday, this is a social media project by the *International Climate Change Development Initiative* that uses an interactive social media engagement format to



UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS | CIVIL SOCIETY UNIT

empower young Africans with information on climate change issues affecting development in the region. So far, they have reached over 1 million Africans since 2013.

- Another project from **Nigeria** by *Markengee Touchinglives International* is *Project Inspire Youths to Action* that aims to listen and include the voices of youth. Collectively, they are solving problems in their local communities through actions such as house to house campaigns about the importance of agriculture and covering up potholes in the roads in their neighborhoods.
- **SDG Lab** is empowering youths to embrace the SDGs through arranging workshops with academic speakers, government officers, activists and so on. The workshops are hosted on different SDG goals at universities around **Bangladesh**. So far, they have trained more than 500 local youths to take initiative, share innovative thoughts and pledge to transforming their communities.
- **Generation Why Community Based Organization** from Kenya runs educational youth led projects. Through hosting inter-school educational contests, they were able to equip communities in the urban slums & rural areas across Nairobi with the educational materials that they require, be it books, stationery, tutoring and mentor-ship amongst many other educational needs they may have.
- Another NGO promoting the SDG throughout its projects is *Let Little Children Come to Me (LLCCM)*, a registered non-governmental, non-political, community based voluntary organisation in **Rwanda**. It was founded in May 2003 by volunteers in the Southern province of Rwanda to help children affected by HIV/AIDS, HIV and the genocide and is currently supporting 107 children. It is dedicated to helping orphans through their adoptive families to pursue a primary, secondary and university education so that they can ultimately become leaders in



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fostering economic and social reconciliation as well as a safe place to play and interact.

- There are several organizations dedicated to the promotion of the SDGs, specifically through taking advantage of the existing local expertise by facilitating the work of other NGOs on the targets of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. For example, *The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A)*, supports civil society and academic institutions through technical support, advice and expertise to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.
- You also have Organizations such as the NGO Major Group working with other constituencies, under the guidance of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs here in New York that facilitate the direct or indirect participation NGOs at UN inter-governmental processes such as the High-Level Political Forum.
- It is important to note that there is a lot already happening on the Continent regarding awareness raising on the SDGs; As I noted earlier many NGOs, CBOs and learning institutions are hands-on when it comes to implementation. Often what is missing includes access to resources, participation at information sharing and decision-making platforms. We in the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC) rely on the network of CSOs and NGOs associated with the department to work together, set examples and inspire others, to empower other civil society peers locally and globally, share knowledge and assist others to develop the necessary skills for capacity building, which is fundamental for sustainable development.
- If I may borrow from my final words from my presentation last September in New York referencing the UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Africa needs the following:



**UNITED NATIONS DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS | CIVIL SOCIETY UNIT**

- Making the SDGs Known: Advocacy + Awareness
  - Creating enabling environments for participation
  - Generating the means to implement effective participation
  - Youth Participation
  - Gender: Leaving No one Behind
  - Promoting Data Revolution
  - Strengthening connections and linkages
- It would give me an enormous pleasure to advance the positive impact that the NGOs associated with our Department bring to address these points. I will not end by reinstating my signature pledge for NGOs to apply for association with the United Nations Department of Global Communications, even though African NGOs represent a very small number: 44 out of the total 1500+ organizations associated with our Department. Instead I want to encourage you all to register for the upcoming 68<sup>th</sup> UN Civil Society Conference that will be hosted in Salt Lake City, Utah, from 26-28 August in the USA. Not only am I encouraging you to attend the Conference but also to host exhibitions and workshops where you can showcase your work, share your knowledge and inspire others to take the same steps. Currently 40 percent of the applications to host a workshop at the Conference in Utah that we have gotten so far are from African countries so let's keep up those numbers!
  - The theme of the conference is, 'Creating Sustainable and Inclusive Cities and Communities" and the focus is on SDG 11. Come to the Conference to:
    - Network and Dialogue on SDG 11
    - Exchange best practices and innovation
    - Raise the voice and work of civil society on the conference theme
    - Bringing the local to global
  - I hope to see you there! Thank you.