

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS and AGENDA 2063
Implication of grassroots communities in rural areas

A Concept Note for a
INCEPTION WORKSHOP

November 2016, Johannesburg

1. BACKGROUND

The adoption of Agenda 2063 by the Africa Union and member states was a firm commitment to address the most important issues affecting the continent and a determination to make Africa a better place to live. While the adoption of the Agenda 2030 in September 2015, by the United Nations (UN), represented a firm commitment by the world leaders and UN member states to address the most challenging issues facing the world. The SDGs are expected to influence the course of the history of humanity in the next fifteen years, while tackling issues such as poverty, inequality and unemployment, which are more crucial in Africa. The implementation of SDGs will require the participation of all and at all levels. CSOs have an important role to play in pushing for national governments to formulate good policies and to incorporate the agenda into national development strategies. The concept "leaves no one behind" means that in monitoring progress, no target will be considered met unless it is met for all social and economic groups, especially the poorest and most marginalized, youth, women and children.

The Network of African Youths for Development (NAYD) is seeking to empower African rural communities to implement Global Goals through youth-led and co-ordinated action- through data generation, monitoring, and advocacy campaigns. The network is building structured, gender balanced, committed, and country focused teams that will coordinate collective action by rural communities in support of the sustainable development goals and agenda 2063. The network seeks to:

- Identify community based SDG priorities and nuance them with community context
- Create awareness of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 in local communities and build constituency
- Enable youth to monitor relevant SDGs in their community by creating a local monitoring platform
- Create a central knowledge hub that provides technical support, monitoring instruments, toolkits and indicators.
- Develop a capacity building programme that provides mentorship for youth-led organisations and initiatives in relation to the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- Link the local action with national and global platforms

UNDERSTANDING SDGs

Civil Society Organizations have a well-earned reputation as effective and trusted partners in getting the job done on the ground. They are working, on a daily basis, with communities; therefore, they know better than anyone else the potential, the needs and challenges on the ground.

For civil society organizations in Africa, a lot still has to be done to fully participate in the implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063. The first step for an effective engagement of Civil Society Organizations is to understand the SDGs and Agenda 2063. There is a need to understand both the Agenda 2030 and its SDGs, together with the AU Agenda 2063, and how the two interrelate.

What can be done to assist Civil Society Organizations understand and engage in SDGs?

Taking into account the complexity of the two agendas and the need to involve African Civil Society Organizations in their implementation, there is an urgent need to launch an African process of mainstreaming SDGs into national and local programs that will be articulated in the following four points:

- **Transfer knowledge:** How the 17 Global Goals and 169 targets will be implemented at national and local levels and how they interrelate with the African Agenda 2063; what is expected from African CSOs and with which resources, how to monitor and follow-up implementation, etc. There is a need for brainstorming to come up with some key tools for the way forward.
- **Sharing experiences and lessons:** SDGs are essentially an expansion and amendment of the MDGs, adopted in 2000. Therefore, the new development paradigm should build on MDG experiences. What are the challenges facing CSOs at local, national, regional and international levels? What are the expected improvements?
- **Building and Strengthening Partnerships:** for capacity building, resource mobilization, knowledge transfer and improving the management of CSOs.
- **Supporting the implementation of SDGs Agenda 2063:** Identify institutional mechanisms, agree on targets and instruments, mobilize human and financial resources, identify partnerships, assess strengths and weaknesses, measuring progress, etc.

2. A WORKSHOP FOR AFRICAN CSOs AND OBJECTIVES

NAYD, in partnership with Partners for Peace and Prosperity would like to launch an exercise of sharing experiences and lessons and building capacity among African CSOs. The planned workshop will bring together country teams, especially those from the grassroots communities, in order to strengthen their capacity and equip them for a meaningful participation and involvement in the implementation, domestication and monitoring of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The workshop will be an opportunity to facilitate experiences and information sharing amongst delegates from different social, economic and geographical backgrounds.

This workshop is envisaged to be hosted jointly with African Union institutions, such as the Youth Division, CIDO, Pan African parliament / NEPAD secretariat, in order to establish links between citizens' initiatives and formal structures of the AU.

OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES

The inception workshop will aim to achieve the following three main objectives:

1. Review how African CSOs understand SDGs and Agenda 2063, and how those agendas will be implemented at local levels by CSOs and deepen the knowledge and understanding of the delegates around the domestication, mainstreaming and monitoring of the SDGs.
2. To discuss the success factors in the past programmes that have worked well at local levels; and identify priority actions and measures needed to adequately address the challenge of poverty eradication and sustainable development– clearly specifying those to be undertaken by CSOs, in cooperation with public institutions, regional organizations and development partners;
3. To collaboratively devise a continental road map that will enable collective action by rural communities in the implementation of SDGS and Agenda 2063; and capacity building on community monitoring, accountability and advocacy and engagement.

The expected outcomes of this workshop will be:

- Developed a clear and realistic road map and work plan to be implemented by the country teams
- Key strategies and tactics agreed to influence the domestication, mainstreaming and monitoring of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 at country level

- Enhanced capacity of delegates for better monitoring, advocacy and accountability around the SDGs and Agenda 2063
- Increased exchange and interactions between delegates from different geographical locations and backgrounds.

4. THEMES OF THE WORKSHOP

- (a) Agenda 2030 for SDGs and Agenda 2063
- (b) Development Challenges facing Africa
- (c) The Role of CSOs
- (d) The Role of Youth
- (e) Capacity Building and Sharing Experiences and Knowledge
- (f) Building Partnerships
- (g) Roles of African Governments and regional and international institutions
- (h) Roadmap and the Way forward

5. PARTICIPATION AND LOGISTICAL ISSUES

Participants will include representatives of organized teams of Network of African Youths for Development (NAYD), representatives of selected African Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), senior officials from African countries, regional economic communities, representatives of African Union and development partners, including from key UN departments, offices and agencies, intergovernmental, non-governmental and other international organizations, including representatives of the business community in Africa or elsewhere.

Organizers will seek financial support from all the above institutions and private sector organizations.

The workshop will comprise between 150 and 200 participants.

The workshop will be coordinated by experts from African Monitor and 3Ps, as well as from partner institutions that will be willing to provide support. Upon the completion of the workshop, a report will be prepared and follow-up mechanisms and tools will be drawn from the workshop.

Partnership with key organizations will help to mobilize participants to attend the workshop and possibly contribute with needed resources to cover their travel expenses and logistical expenses for the workshop

6. DATE AND VENUE

The workshop is scheduled to take place in November 2016. The exact date and venue will be decided in due course after consultations with partner institutions