



## Ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

*“Accelerating the inclusive and green recovery from multiple crises and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063”*

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### Youth Perspective on Strengthening the VNR Process

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- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs review of the VNR report from 2016-2019 revealed that youth are **most likely not to be engaged** in multi-stakeholder engagement by Member States in the review process and implementation coordination of the SDGs.
- Some space are open, but young people remain shut out if we do not provide **capacity and resources** for their meaningful participation and engagement.
- The VNR process is a mechanism to ensure national governments account for their commitment to the implementation of Agendas 2030 and Agenda 2063, and partnership is key to ensuring robust review process.
- To this, CSOs and youth groups are leading charge on SDGs implementation at the local level, but poor coordination from national agencies and governments can run the risk inaccurate reporting, miss best practices and opportunities to report on SDGs

Recognizing that COVID-19 Pandemic, climate change, conflicts have disrupted progress to achieve SDGs and requires sustained interest and urgent actions to build back better.

*We call on* Member States and Development Partners to:

1. **Strengthen** multi-stakeholder approach, which all time high inclusion of young people to deeply reflect the aspirations and needs of youth, ensuring accurate and transparent reporting on the progress, success, and challenges during the Voluntary National Reviews.
2. **Mobilize** sufficient financing for SDG aspirations by exploring untapped opportunities through domestic resource mobilization, innovative financing and strategic partnerships for which the Private sector is a key stakeholder.

3. **Meaningfully** include 30% of youth representation on review committees at local, national, regional and global review processes to ensure meaningful and inclusive youth participation in the review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063.
4. **Allocate** appropriate resources for youth networks and organizations to conduct youth-led voluntary local reviews and shadow reports by leveraging existing networks and platforms such as the African Youth SDGs Summit and to strengthen peer learning amongst young people and build capacity.
5. **Strengthen** mechanisms that ensure review is a continuous process, well planned before implementation and used as a reference and learning tool after VNR process.

- Young people are already **partnering and supporting innovation** for the acceleration actions for the SDGs, however more talents and benefits can be harnessed.
- Young people should **not only be engaged for data gathering** but should be engaged on how and what to report during the VNR process.
- In 2023, young people continue to **be left out of the process at each level of engagement**. It is impossible to accurately review progress of the SDGs without the input of the largest population
- With this VNR, as most countries will be reporting for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Time, I look forward to new progress that addresses the old challenges. I am particularly interested to see the recommendations of young people that were put to our leaders being implemented, and young people being fully engaged. I am also interested in countries identifying and highlighting adoption of best practices.



# THANK YOU!

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to  
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