

*Mobilizing Data-Driven Partnerships:  
The Potential for Evidence-Informed Policymaking Across Africa*

Side Event Proposal for the Ninth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable  
Development

Concept Note

The past several years have brought forth a series of unprecedented crises from the COVID-19 pandemic to ongoing climate change challenges. These crises have been especially acute across Africa, resulting in the compound impacts of increased floods, droughts, economic slowdowns, and decreasing food security among populations across the continent. As such, fostering greater evidence and data-informed decision-making and citizen awareness to respond to these crises is more critical than ever before.

Against this backdrop, during this year's ninth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (SDSN TRéNDS), The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) propose to host a side event that showcases innovative multi-stakeholder data partnerships across countries in Africa, including Niger, Rwanda, and Ghana, that have used new data sources and approaches to advance evidence-informed policymaking for sustainable development within local communities as well as led to more responsive government institutions and citizen awareness. The country case studies will focus on the sub-themes to be highlighted during the forum, with an emphasis on SDGs 11 and 17. Panelists will discuss their successes and challenges in developing multi-stakeholder data partnerships, as well as best practices and pathways forward for accelerating data-driven decision-making in Africa and ultimately contributing to the achievement of Agendas 2030 and 2063. Insights from the session will also inform a "data for policy playbook" that is being developed by the UNDP and GIZ to highlight use cases and best practices for evidence-informed policymaking worldwide.

**Event Format:**

The event will be virtual and feature a series of four lightning talks (5 - 6 minutes each) from local country government officials, leaders, practitioners, and civil society and NGO actors, followed by a brief panel discussion and an interactive audience Q & A session. The event will be moderated by SDSN TRéNDS' Director, Grant Cameron.

**Proposed Speakers Include:**

- Gayan Peiris, Head of Data and Technology, UNDP
- Dilek Fraisl, Research Scholar, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis
- Angélique Kabeza, Executive Secretary, Rwanda Civil Society Platform
- Habou Chibkaou, Specialist, IT and Data Analyses, Public Policy Analysis and Government Action Evaluation Unit, Government of Niger