

8th Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development - Live Side Event

Theme: **Equitable Education Designed for Change** ~ 4 March, 2022: Room MH4: Kigali Convention Center, Rwanda

Key Organizers: Africa Universities Fund; African Diaspora for Good Governance; AgroBiz.org and The City of Kigali

Other Partners:

Rwanda Convention Bureau (RCB), Rwanda Cooperative Agency (RCA), Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC), Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), and SDG Center for Africa (NGO)

Moderator: Lady Tee Thompson, Former UNA-USA Global Goals Ambassador & Executive Director of AgroBiz.org (International Private Sector Firm) - *Emphasized on how municipalities are the nexus for planning, implementation and execution of changing systems to all major stakeholder groups inclusive of marginalized communities.*

Speakers:

1. **Mr. Pudence Rubingisa;** Mayor of the City of Kigali; City of Kigali, Rwanda:- *From the perspective of a Municipality, focused on Empowering Women and Girls to participate actively in all areas of public and social life*
2. **Mr. Chijike K Ndukwu;** Secretary-General, Africa Universities Fund, Inc & President African Diaspora for Good Governance, USA: - *Emphasized on the need to engage local, regional and international stakeholders for constructive collaboration for SDGs implementation in Africa.*
3. **Mrs. Alice Ababo;** Business Development Specialist; Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA) *Insisted that eliminating all gender disparities in education can guarantee equal and affordable access to quality appropriate education at all levels.*
4. **Dr. Sylvie Mucyo;** Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research and Institutional Advancement, Rwanda Polytechnic: - *There is an urgent need to mobilize more financial investments in agriculture/agribusiness, conservation and biodiversity training and lifelong education*

Consensus:

- The five pillars of people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships are enshrined to pervade against the most egregious, absurd and discriminatory practices that hold marginalized communities, women & girls back.
- Africa is far behind in SDGs implementation and that the COVID-19 has exacerbated, stalled progress and in many cases erased the gains made in the last few years.
- Mainstreaming municipalities for both Agendas is critical and indispensable in creating the Africa we want with a responsive gender implementation.
- Time is of the essence and all stakeholders including the poor, persons with disabilities, women and children, etc must be mobilized through equitable education designed for change if agenda 2030 and 2063 must be achieved.

Lessons Learned:

Conferences like this are an important first step to raising the profile of mainstreaming municipalities, creating a deliberate dialogue, and inspiring local actions on SDGs in Africa. Such actions include: sharing information with other municipalities, stakeholders and organizing follow-up actions. Key organizers will meet soon on follow-up actions

Next Steps to Consider:

With the City of Kigali as the proposed **Focal Point City**, organizers would want to build the **Africa Municipalities Roundtable for the Agenda's** so as to build political will and attract resources to implement policies and projects at the local levels; meet with and educate policymakers as to why SDGs is a priority for every African; educate key audiences, including the media; make African municipalities the engine for pushing progress on the implementation of both the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063; Conduct cross-cultural exchanges; bridge the gap between urban and rural SDGs progress; and communicate this outcome to the High Level Political Forum in July, 2022.