



Date: OCT 2018

Colloquium on:
**Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development in Cameroon: the case of the
'forgotten' SDGs**
(PART OF UN DAY 2018 ACTIVITIES IN CAMEROON)

CONCEPT NOTE





CONTEXT AND JUSTIFICATION

The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015, which spells out the global strategy to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity but also for peace and partnership -- involving 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets to be achieved across the globe.

The SDGs and their targets were elaborated to build on progress achieved with the implementation of the MDGs, but more importantly, to further global development strategies, based on lessons learnt from the previous 15-year framework. Most importantly, they are supposed to be more comprehensive, aiming at a wider set of development outcomes (notably industrialization), and inclusive than their predecessors.

In Cameroon, based on the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) that serviced the MDGs, the most notable results of the MDGs were seen in one of the targets of Goal 1 (reducing extreme poverty and hunger) on halving the number of people suffering from hunger and in Goal 6 on fighting HIV/AIDs, malaria and other diseases. Performance in the rest of the goals were less encouraging, although the country made remarkable progress towards attaining universal primary education.

Priorities for Cameroon: a focus on the pivotal but 'forgotten' SDGs in Cameroon

The lessons learnt from implementing the MDGs in Cameroon informed the UNDAF 2013-2017 and the current UNDAF 2018-2020, which is based on four pillars: employment and social inclusion, health and nutrition, education and vocational training, and resilience, early recovery and food security. Components from each of these pillars have been mapped to nearly all the SDGs but there is a strong focus on the SDGs with social and humanitarian outlooks.

While the social and humanitarian aspects of development indeed deserve all the attention they receive, it is equally important to pay keen attention to the 'forgotten' SDGs that rather focus on improving productivity and leading countries to self-sufficiency, which will have ripple effects on all other sectors and development outcomes. They include SDG 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all), SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and



foster innovation), and SDG 12 (Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns).

Looking beyond traditional means of financing the ‘forgotten SDGs’ in Cameroon

Experience with delivering on the MDGs suggests that many State and non-State actors mistakenly assume the global development agendas to be the preserve of UN bodies and other intergovernmental organizations and international institutions. In addressing means of implementation and global partnership, article 63 of the UN Resolution on Agenda 2030 therefore underscores the primary responsibility of each country towards its own development, affirming that “cohesive nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, will be at the heart of our efforts.” Further, article 67 of the Resolution states that “private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation” and calls “upon all businesses to apply their creativity and innovation to solving sustainable development challenges.” Development partners, the private sector, UN institutions and civil society, all have varying roles to play to support member States to achieve this.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the third International Conference on Financing for Development of 2015 (considered an integral part of the 2030 Agenda) gave broad guidelines for financing the SDGs. These include: through strengthening public policies, regulatory frameworks and finance at all levels, unlocking the transformative potential of people and the private sector; broadening tax bases; enhancing the use of Official Development Assistance (ODA); curtailing illicit financial flows through strengthened national regulation and increased international cooperation; beefing up international tax cooperation; stemming corruption; investing in value addition and processing of natural; leveraging international trade; and fostering debt sustainability through restructuring and sound management, with the support of borrowing countries/institutions.

Concrete proposals for financing industrialization and the other forgotten SDGs in Central Africa as a follow-up to the *Douala Consensus¹ on Economic Diversification in Central Africa* were made by representatives of the Central African member states at

¹ The Douala Consensus was signed at the 33rd ICE in Douala in 2017 by representatives of all governments and sectors of Central Africa to spur industrialization and economic diversification in the sub-region. More information on the Douala Consensus and its objectives can be found on <https://www.uneca.org/ice33-ca>.





the 34th Session of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE), which was organized by the Subregional Office for Central Africa of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in N'Djamena Chad in September 2018. They include, among others: (i) the leadership of the public sector through clear visions (such as Cameroon's Vision 2035, its Growth and Employment Strategy and its Industrialization Masterplan), (ii) strong institutions, (iii) predictable legal and regulatory frameworks, (iv) sound macro-economic environment, (v) good procurement rules, (vi) broadened tax bases, (vii) local content provisions, (viii) making use of rapid urbanization, (ix) leveraging innovative financing mechanisms (such as pension funds, Islamic funds, both local and foreign private investment funds, and guarantee funds), (x) and the use of natural-resource comparative advantages for value addition or transformation.

These reflections are particularly relevant at a time when the UN reviews its difficulties and contemplates its future action on the Agenda 2030. A symposium for actors to contemplate pathways of financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Cameroon, paying special attention to the 'forgotten' SDGs, organized by the UN in Cameroon is therefore in order.

OBJECTIVE OF THE ACTIVITY

The objective of the colloquium is to get a full range of actors from the public sector, the private sector, civil society, development partners, bilateral donors and UN institutions to articulate key ways of financing the forgotten but structurally important SDGs, notably SDGs 8, 9 and 12, in order to help Cameroon leverage its efforts of implementing all 15 SDGs. Concrete proposals made at the symposium should serve as a good framework of support for both Government, UN agencies, the private sector and other development partners in the implementation of the forgotten SDGs.

This symposium is part of the UN Day 2018 activities in Cameroon.

ORGANISATION AND FORMAT OF THE ACTIVITY

This activity will be in two parts and will last for two hours. First there will be a *panorama* followed by a roundtable discussion.





The Panorama

The panorama will feature a presentation on “Agenda 2030 and Cameroon’s development trajectory”, which will quickly explain the 17 SDGs and their targets and relate them to Cameroon’s own development visions and plans, while focusing on the forgotten but structurally important SDGs, notably SDGs 8, 9 and 12.

The Roundtable

Following the presentation, there will be a 90-minute conversation on: “Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Cameroon: the case of the ‘forgotten’ SDGs”. Four panellists will speak to the challenges, stakes and opportunities of financing the three strategic SDGs in Cameroon. A moderator will orientate the discussion and solicit contributions from an audience.

DATE AND PLACE OF THE SYMPOSIUM

The activity will be held at the Muna Foundation, Yaoundé, on Friday 9 Nov 2018

WORKING LANGUAGES

English and French shall be the working languages of the event.

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