

المملكة المغربية  
Kingdom of Morocco

Under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI

5<sup>th</sup>

## Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

EMPOWERING PEOPLE AND ENSURING INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUALITY

MARRAKECH | MOROCCO | 16-18 APRIL 2019



## ARFSD 2019 opens with call for Africa to form united front in fight for sustainable development

The fifth Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) opened in Marrakesh Wednesday, with a clarion call from Morocco's Head of Government, Saadeddine Othmani, for Africa "to unite and fight its developmental challenges head-on with one voice and determination."

Mr. Othmani said the continent urgently needs to formulate a common position on current global issues in particular, climate change, which he said, "is stalling Africa's efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals and Agenda 2063.

Speaking to about 600 participants comprising ministers, academia, civil society and representatives of UN and partner agencies, he said, "We must leave no stone unturned to ensure we succeed as a continent. We need to step-up our partnerships and rise

above our challenges. Empowering our people and populations and bringing greater quality is of utmost importance."

"We need to combine our efforts as Africans and move with a vengeance to implement the SDGs and attain them," he said.

For her part, Economic Commission for Africa's Deputy Executive Secretary, Giovanie Biha, stressed the need for bold and transformational leadership to capitalize on megatrends of population growth, a growing middle class, rapid urbanization and industrialization, climate change, and the Africa Continental Free Trade Area and called for strategies to create an enabling environment for greater participation of non-state actors, particularly the private sector and civil society.

"We also need greater investments in national statistics for

monitoring, evaluation and reporting of development indicators," she said.

She also informed the forum that ECA is leading the development of an integrated planning and reporting toolkit that will align Agendas 2030 and 2063

**"... the continent urgently needs to formulate a common position on current global issues in particular, climate change, which is stalling Africa's efforts to achieve the sustainable development goals and Agenda 2063."**

and facilitate their integration into national development plans. “We look forward to supporting member States with this tool, particularly in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) process,” she added.

VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learnt in the implementation of the SDGs.

Participants are carrying out an in-depth review of SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions); as well as the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063.

Also under the spotlight is SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals), which

seeks to address challenges and strengthen partnerships to develop capacity, harness science and technologies and mobilize and scale up finance to implement the goals.

Outcomes of ARFSD V will feed into the 2019 session of the High Level Political Forum under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which is the United Nations’ central platform for reflection, debate, and innovative thinking on sustainable development.

It is expected that the outcomes will also serve to support policy advocacy, formulation and implementation of the SDGs/Agenda 2063 at regional and national levels.

This edition of the ARFSD is being convened under the high patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI of Morocco



## Le changement climatique pose un sérieux défi pour la réalisation des ODD

Le changement climatique peut sérieusement entraver les efforts de l’Afrique dans la réalisation des 17 Objectifs de développement durable qui s’attaquent aux problèmes mondiaux, notamment la pauvreté, les inégalités, le climat, la dégradation de l’environnement, la prospérité, la paix et la justice.

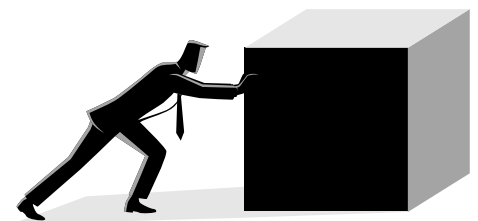
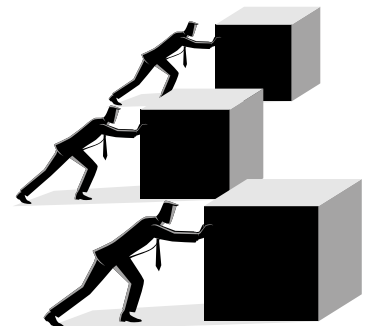
La question a été évoquée lors d’un événement parallèle au cinquième Forum régional africain pour le développement durable (FRADD), qui se tient actuellement à Marrakech, au Maroc.

À la lumière des morts et des destructions causées par le Cyclone tropical Idai dans les pays d’Afrique australe (Mozambique, Malawi et Zimbabwe), les pays africains sont instamment priés de prioriser la collecte et l’utilisation d’informations climatologiques en tant que mesures d’alerte rapide pour des infrastructures à l’épreuve du climat et d’autres investissements

ainsi que d’adopter des mesures d’urgence qui protégeront la vie humaine et les biens des catastrophes induites par le climat.

« Bien que les événements extrêmes soient naturels, le changement climatique aggrave leur occurrence et leurs impacts, comme en témoignent les graves pertes humaines et économiques survenues au Malawi, au Mozambique et au Zimbabwe en mars 2019, dévastés par le Cyclone tropical Idai, qui a touché plus de 2,6 millions de personnes et causé plus de 700 morts », déclare Oliver Chinganya, Directeur du Centre africain pour la statistique, à la Commission économique pour l’Afrique (CEA).

« Le changement climatique aggrave les vulnérabilités existantes et les inégalités structurelles. Sans action mondiale urgente et ambitieuse sur le changement climatique, bien au-delà des



engagements pris dans le cadre de l’Accord de Paris, le programme de développement de l’Afrique risque sérieusement d’échouer ».

Bien que l’Afrique ait le moins contribué au changement climatique, il est important de noter qu’en mars 2019, tous les États africains avaient signé l’Accord de Paris qui engage tous les pays

à limiter l'augmentation de la température moyenne de la planète de ce siècle à « bien en dessous de 2 degrés Celsius au-dessus des niveaux préindustriels et de poursuivre les efforts pour limiter l'augmentation de la température à 1,5 degrés au-dessus des niveaux préindustriels ».

« Le changement climatique et le développement sont indissociables », indique Chinganya. « Le changement climatique est la conséquence des modes de production et de consommation mondiaux actuels et de l'augmentation des émissions de gaz à effet de serre qui en résulte ».

En mars 2019, quelque 48 pays africains avaient ratifié le pacte mondial et présenté leurs contributions déterminées au niveau national. Selon les données de la CEA, le continent aura besoin d'environ 3 000 milliards de dollars de financement conditionnel et inconditionnel pour respecter ses engagements définis au niveau national.

Mithika Mwenda, qui dirige la coalition de la société civile continentale sur le changement

climatique, l'Alliance panafricaine pour la justice climatique (PACJA), appelle à la prise en compte et à l'intégration des mesures relatives au changement climatique dans les politiques, les plans et les stratégies nationaux.

Il prie également la communauté internationale à honorer les engagements pris lors de la 15ème Conférence des parties à la Convention-cadre des Nations Unies sur les changements climatiques, tenue à Copenhague, en promettant un financement annuel du climat de 100 milliards de dollars.

Le Forum de Marrakech fait remarquer ensuite que l'Accord de Paris offre à l'Afrique une opportunité d'adopter des voies de développement à faible émission de carbone et de tirer profit de ses abondantes ressources en énergies renouvelables pour alimenter la transformation socio-économique.

« Pour les pays développés, le défi consiste à maintenir les niveaux actuels de Produit intérieur brut par habitant tout en luttant contre les inégalités, en adoptant des mesures d'atténuation du changement

climatique et en réduisant les émissions », ajoute Chinganya.

Pour l'Afrique, le défi est de savoir comment augmenter la productivité économique pour atteindre un PIB par habitant plus élevé tout en ne laissant personne pour compte sans augmenter ces émissions.

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## Population dynamics central to Africa's quest for sustainable development

Addressing inequalities across all sectors in Africa necessitates that the continent eliminates disparities in access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the attendant consequences of lack of access - unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortion, maternal deaths - and gender-based violence, including female genital mutilation.

This was said by Robert T. Chakanda, Sierra Leone's Deputy Minister of Planning and Economy in a discussion on the Centrality of Population Dynamics to Sustainable Development held

in the margins of the 5th Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD) Wednesday.

“We also need to prevent child, early and forced marriage and provide young people, particularly adolescent girls, with quality education that includes comprehensive sexuality education,” he told participants.

Mr. Chakanda said the continent also needs to maximize the benefits of the demographic dividend by investing in the empowerment, health, education and employment of its young people as well as by creating







opportunities and a supportive environment for innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship for young people to access jobs and realize their full potential.

Addressing inequalities also means that Africa needs to empower young people with the information and skills to make informed choices about their lives, to enable them to stay healthy, free from STIs, HIV and Non-Communicable Diseases; and ensure the availability and use of accurate, disaggregated data for decision making to ensure no one is left behind.

For her part, Economic Commission for Africa's Director of Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division, Thokozile Ruzvidzo, in a speech read on her behalf, said

population dynamics remained central to Africa's sustainable development, as articulated in the African Union's Agenda 2063, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as various continental, regional and national development frameworks.

She said outcomes of the 5-year review of the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development (AADPD) in October 2018 equally underscored the pivotal role demographic intelligence and population dynamics play in ensuring achievement of inclusive socioeconomic development, aspired prosperity, peace and well-being on the continent.

"Continued population growth in many low-income African

countries, driven by high fertility, will make it harder to eradicate poverty and inequality, combat hunger and nutrition, invest in education and health, and improve access to basic services," she said.

Ms. Ruzvidzo added that development programmes on the continent need to be scaled up, not only to cover current shortfall in service provision but also to prepare for the increased demand posed by the growing population.

"There is clear evidence that the successes of the past years cannot be sustained unless governments tackle inequalities that hurt the poorest and most marginalized," she said.

"Laws must be passed and implemented; budgets must be allocated to protect those who are affected by poverty and discrimination, including women, people living with disabilities, the youth and people in rural areas."

As African countries report achievements, constraints, lessons learned and opportunities through the 2019 Voluntary National Reviews (VNR), the side event also provided participants a chance to consider opportunities and implications of demographic diversity on the continent to the sustainable development goals.

## Involve Volunteers



The 2030 and 2063 Agendas call upon all multi-sectoral and multi-partnership approach to achieving the targets enshrined in the goals. Volunteerism therefore, provides an opportunity for diverse stakeholders to come together to find solutions to local and indigenous challenges, ensuring that through a participatory, people-centric, socially inclusive approach, no single person is left behind in the solutions to development, peace and security and humanitarian challenges. Volunteerism and volunteers can be the bridge that connects

people together, especially those who are excluded and left behind. Member States are encouraged to engage with volunteers, create spaces and conditions that allow everyone – young people, people with disabilities, women - to bring their contribution in shaping their communities, ensure greater ownership of the 2030 and 2063 Agendas and at the same time access benefits from volunteering.

— Yves Tokambou Nteme  
Programme National  
de Volontariat, Cameroun

# Climate change poses serious challenge towards achieving SDGs



Climate change can seriously impede Africa's quest to achieve all the 17 sustainable development goals that address global challenges, including poverty, inequality, climate, environmental degradation, prosperity, and peace and justice.

The issue came up during a side event at the on-going fifth Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD) in Marrakech, Morocco.

In light of the fatalities and destruction caused by Tropical Cyclone Idai in the Southern African nations of Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe, African nations have been urged to prioritise the uptake and use of climate information as early warning measures to climate proof infrastructure and other investments as well as adopt contingency measures that will protect human life and shield property from climate induced disasters.

"While extreme events are natural, climate change is worsening their occurrence and impacts, as demonstrated by the severe human and economic losses that occurred in Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in March 2019 from the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Idai, which affected more than 2.6million people and caused more than 700 deaths," Oliver Chinganya the Director of the African Statistics Centre at the Economic Commission

for Africa (ECA) said.

"Climate change aggravates existing vulnerabilities and structural inequalities. Without urgent and ambitious global action on climate change, well beyond current pledges under the Paris Agreement, development agenda for Africa is at serious risk of failure."

Even though Africa has contributed the least to climate change, it is significant to note that as of March 2019, all African States had signed the Paris Agreement which commits all countries to limit the increase in the global average temperature this century to "well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperatures increase to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels."

"Climate change and development are inseparable," said Chinganya. "Climate change is the consequence of current global production and consumption patterns and the resulting increase in greenhouse gas emissions."

As of March 2019, some 48 African nations had ratified the global pact and submitted their nationally determined contributions. According to data by ECA the continent will require some \$3 trillion in conditional and unconditional financing to uphold their nationally determined commitments.

Mithika Mwenda, who leads the continental civil society coalition on climate change, the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), called for the mainstreaming and integration of climate change measures into national policies, plans and strategies.

He also urged the international community to fulfil their commitments which were pledged during the 15th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Copenhagen, promising annual climate financing to a tune of \$100bn.

The Marrakesh forum went on to note that the Paris Agreement offers Africa an opportunity to adopt low-carbon development pathways and capitalize on its abundant renewable energy resources to power socio-economic transformation.

"For developed countries, the challenge is how to maintain present levels of gross domestic product per capita while also addressing inequality, adopting climate mitigation measures and reducing emissions," added Chinganya.

For Africa, the challenge is how to increase economic productivity to achieve higher GDP per capita while leaving no one behind without increasing emissions.



# Ministerial panel bold on Africa achieving SDGs



The high level ministerial panel at the fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD2019) on Wednesday boldly fronted innovative solutions and approaches to answer Africa's quest to meet the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

The panel, which was the highlight of the opening day of ARFSD was addressed by ministers led by the forum's host, Morocco. Ministers from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso and Nigeria held an interactive session and shared experiences and strategies aligned to the forum's theme of empowering the continent's population and ensuring inclusivity and equality.

Six of the 17 sustainable development goals, notably quality education, decent work and economic growth, reduced inequalities, climate action, peace justice and strong institutions, as well as partnerships for the attainment of the goals and corresponding aims of Agenda 2063, are the key focus of the continental forum. An in-depth review of the continent's progress on SDGs is the main task of the forum.

Oliver Chinganya, the director of African Statistics Division at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), noted that there was need

for African countries to put in place sectoral, industrial and investment policies targeting key growth segments and value chains that have high potential to create decent employment opportunities.

"Importantly, improving productivity within key economic sectors can be achieved through investing in technology upgrading, skills development and institutional capabilities," Chinganya said, adding: "Governments must scale up investments especially in infrastructure, education and skills."

Ethiopia's Science and Higher Education Minister, Afework Gizaw, emphasized the importance of increasing investments in science and technology to boost the quest the attainment of sustainable development goals.

Robert Chakanda, the Planning and Economic Development Minister of Sierra Leone, noted that observance of good governance practices was vital in the attainment of the SDGs and transformation of the continent.

"This forum is critical as the outcomes of the fifth session will be included in the 2019 session of the High Level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council which takes place in July." Chakanda said. "The second aspect of the outcomes coming out of this

**"Governments must scale up investments especially in infrastructure, education and skills."**

forum is that they will be used for policy advocacy, formulation and implementation at the regional and national levels" he said.

Nigeria's Environment Minister noted that the regional forum also served as a barometer to identify obstacles hindering progress and catalyse best practices in actualizing the Agenda 2063 aspirations which mirror the SDGs.

Africa's poor employment generation record, which is accompanied by negative labour and productivity growth, is an issue that policy makers, governments and civil society organisations attending the forum are discussing, while seeking for tangible and broad-impact wealth generating solutions.

"Time is of the essence and the need for urgency to significantly increase the pace and scale of implementation is increasingly evident." Jenerali Ulimwengu, who moderated the panel's session said.

# INTERVIEWS



**Simal Amor**  
**Chief - Strategic Planning and Research**  
**COMESA Secretariat**

The dual agendas, Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, have been under implementation for some time, the year 2030 is not so far away. As such, it is imperative that Member States, Regional Economic Communities and UN Agencies come together to track implementation. It is necessary to track achievements, document challenges and take corrective action where need be. It is also necessary to reenergise each other by sharing experiences and hold each other to Account. This meeting was therefore a call to refocus ourselves and prepare for the remaining implementation period so that we collectively realise the goals of the two Agendas. COMESA is a key building block towards the realisation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, with 21 Member States participating in this forum, there is a renewed call to action

and commitment to implementation and timely reporting.

We have learnt that not everything that can be counted, counts. In this regard the Voluntary National Reviews have revealed those areas that have provided tangible results. This particular forum has strengthened the need for a collaborative spirit between national, regional and continental agencies and reaffirmed the alignments that were developed right from the planning stage. Policy coordination and production and use of statistics and continuous dialogue have been emphasised. This platform has been useful for information sharing between governments, academia, industry and civil society. This should boost implementation of the strategic plans and reinforce the leave no way behind viewpoint,



**Katrina Borromeo**

I work on the promotion of volunteering as a means to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a person who is based at headquarters in New York it is very important for me and my colleagues to see the different regional contexts on the sustainable development goals, especially when we are talking of localization and regional priorities and challenges being faced by

member States around implementation of the goals. It is my first time to come to this forum here and I must say that it has been very enriching. At HQ we are aligning initiatives and programmes advocating for the successful implementation. It is important to do so having the regional perspective in the back of your mind. I have learnt a lot.



**Roseline Kihumba**  
**International & Regional Policies Coordinator**  
**Helpage International**

This meeting is very critical for us because SDGs offer a platform we can use as a continent to change the situation of our people on the ground – for us being our older people. The situation on the continent is quite pathetic at the moment; our older people are very vulnerable, unable to access services and not included in national planning, monitoring and evaluation frameworks, budgeting and policy sector planning processes. This

has a huge impact in terms of delivery of services which are appropriate to them. There are also issues of lack of data around them to inform policy making processes; capacity; and lack of adequate will to deal with issues affecting older persons. So this meeting gives us that great opportunity to discuss such important issues with policy makers, activists and others to see how best we can resolve these issues.

# Peace, justice and strong institutions essential for sustainable development in Africa



Without peace, stability, human rights, and effective governance based on the rule of law, Africa cannot hope to attain the sustainable development goals, says Economic Commission for Africa's Eunice Ajambo.

Speaking in a parallel session at the on-going fifth Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD) in Marrakesh, Ms. Ajambo, an Economic Affairs Officer in the ECA's Macroeconomics and Governance Division, said Africa was making progress in trying to address issues connected to Goal 16 of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development but more still needs to be done.

SDG 16 is about promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

"Some countries are doing much better than others. Others enjoy sustained peace, security

and prosperity, while others are struggling," she told participants to the parallel meeting for in-depth review, peer learning and dialogue on the sub-theme of ensuring peace, justice, and strong institutions.

"As the basis of all activity, peaceful, just and inclusive societies are necessary to achieve the goals" she said.

## Highlights

- Sustainable Development Goal 16 is inextricably linked to the attainment of the other SDGs. Overall, governance in Africa remains on an upward trajectory. Improvements are being made regarding the rule of law, participation, rights, and transparency and accountability.

- Notwithstanding, challenges and gaps remain in ensuring peace, justice and strong institutions. Insecurity, social strife, political tension and riots continue to plague the continent. All types of crime, including organized crime, is a challenge, in particular in the large African economies. While participation has improved, driven by democratic elections, it is happening alongside a shrinking civil society space, worsening trends related to freedom of association and assembly, civil rights and liberties, and freedom of expression.

Corruption continues to weaken good governance and the compounding principles of inclusion, participation,

ownership, fairness, efficiency and effectiveness. Illicit financial flows continue to be a challenge; significant amounts of financial resources are being lost annually from the continent through such flows and other forms of corrupt activities.

- Political leadership and stakeholder participation remains paramount. Good political leadership and effective multi-stakeholder engagement are crucial for ownership, commitment, galvanizing support, mobilizing resources and ensuring accountability pertaining to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

- Mobilization of adequate and context-specific means of implementation is essential. Although external financial resources are required to implement the 2030 Agenda, Africa must also take active responsibility for its own development. Measures must be vigorously taken to enhance domestic resource mobilization and curb illicit financial flows, attract foreign direct investment and create effective financing structures, including through natural resources management and climate governance. Development partners should complement domestic efforts aimed at capacity and technology development through effective international cooperation programmes.



**Editor:**  
Mercy Wambui  
Sandra Nyaira

**Contributors:**  
Therese Isseki  
Wanjohi Kaburu  
Ouafae Bouchouata

**Photos:**  
Ismail El Bouyakoubi/ECA  
Shutterstock

**Translation:**  
Aristide Somda

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