



## Press Release

### SDGs IMPLEMENTATION IN AFRICA – REFLECTIONS ON A THREE-YEAR JOURNEY

Kigali, Rwanda - From the 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2019, the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A) is hosting a Conference “**SDGs Implementations in Africa – Reflections on a Three-Years Journey**” conference in collaboration with its partners Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), UN Women, and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning Rwanda (MINECOFIN).

The Main conference takes place on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June and will be preceded by two days of targeted pre-conference sessions allowing for a discussion of three thematic areas:

- Revitalizing National Development Banks for Accelerating SDGs in Africa;
- Enhancing National Monitoring and Review Systems for Capacities for SDG Monitoring and Reporting; and
- Financing Health, Education and Green Water in Africa.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, were adopted in the UN General Assembly in 2015 and since represent the framework for development endeavours for people, planet, peace, prosperity and partnership globally. The 17 SDGs with 169 subordinated targets and 232 indicators to measure progress on a national level, span across social, economic, environmental, and governmental aspect related to sustainable development.

Africa’s starting point at the adoption of SDGs was way below that of other regions. Low Income countries, low human development indicators and a low tax base was prevalent across the continent. Africa contributed to global trade and global GDP by less than 3%. Over half of the global poor were living in Africa. This implied the need to progress much faster if convergence to other regions and the 2030 targets were to be reached.

The conference will see the launch of the SDGC/A’s **Africa 2030: Sustainable Development Goals Three-Year Reality Check** report, which reviews the attainment and achievement towards the SDGs across Africa. Findings from these first 3 years of SDGs implementation show that:

- Significant data gaps prevail, with only 40% of the indicators of the Global SDG data framework accompanied by data in Africa.
- 2/3 of African countries prevail in the “low human development” and continue to struggle with education and health care.
- A large financing gap, with an estimated USD 500 billion – 1.2 trillion, for African countries is impeding SDGs achievement and progress.
- There are significant differences across the continent with Northern African countries likely to achieve SDGs related to human wellbeing, whereas Central Africa is unlikely to meet all.
- Where assessment was feasible, it can be observed that Africa as continent is on track for three SDGs, namely SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 13 Climate Action and SDG 15 Life on Land.

During the conference SDGC/A and its partner the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), will further launch the **2019 Africa SDG Index and Dashboard** report. The report provides an assessment on where African countries stand in respect to the SDGs and reviews implementation strategies of African governments for achieving them. It ranks 52 African countries based on 97 indicators across all 17 goals.

The overall findings on government implementation of the SDGs are as follows:

- The SDGs have widely received official endorsements by African governments and have been incorporated into many government action plans and national strategies.
- There are still widespread gaps on behalf of countries in understanding the distances to SDG targets.
- There is a lack of understanding on what it will take to reach the SDGs, very little consideration for the financial resources that will need to be mobilized, and who will provide the necessary funds.
- Engagement with the public and other stakeholders can significantly be improved. Only four countries have an online portal where citizens can see their countries' progress toward the SDGs, and less than half of all countries have done awareness-raising activities.
- According to country experts, who validated results for 21 countries, a lack of funding and resources is reported to be the single most significant challenge both in terms of SDG implementation and monitoring.

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“SDGs Implementation in Africa- Reflection on a three-Year Journey” will attract about 2000 participants from global, regional and national stakeholders from Governments, multilateral and bilateral institutions, foundations and NGOs, the private sector, academia and civil society.

During the series of pre-conference sessions, experts will discuss some of the most challenging impediments for SDGs achievement, including unlocking finance for health, education and green water; discussing the role of National Development Banks; and focusing on statistical capacity and data for the SDGs in the Measurement and Reporting session.

On the main conference day, Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June, about six African head of states will reflect on the SDG Progress in Africa.

Based on the evidence presented in the reports, SDGC/A is making the case that urgent action and commitments are needed if African Countries are to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

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**The Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa (SDGC/A)** is an autonomous international non-for profit organization, which was established to support Governments, Civil Society, businesses and academic institutions to accelerate progress towards the achievement of SDGs in Africa. The Center provides technical support, neutral advice and expertise as input to national governments, private sector, civil society, academic institutions.

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