



Statementⁱ By

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The United Nations Sustainable Development Summit:

Interactive Dialogue: Building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions to achieve sustainable Development.

September 27, 10:00 a.m.-1.00 pm (Trusteeship Chamber, The United Nations Headquarters, New York)

Co-Chairs,

Distinguished Participants

Leaving No One behind entails LOVE FOR HUMANITY- a harmonious co-existence of the planet and its inhabitants through principles of solidarity, interconnectedness, mutuality and reciprocity.

Leaving No One behind means providing humanity with EDUCATION-the most important tool to change the world.

Leaving No One Behind is a recognition that people's lives are not segmented-any change in the ecosystem affects the WHOLE.

Leaving No One Behind is the true marker of SUSTAINABILITY.

Institutions for development don't become inclusive, effective and accountable on their own. They require capable people. This is only possible through education to all and the subsequent empowerment and capability processes around people's environment and conditions.

Co-Chairs;

I speak on behalf of the Southern Africa Trust and our civil society, philanthropic and private sector partners across Southern Africa and beyond who every day work on sustainable development goals (SDGs) without calling them such.

Their primary concern is the improvement of their living conditions. Our communication of this agenda must therefore be very simple.

The goals are not new to our people. What is new is the inclusive process through which they were developed and their underpinning principles (Leave no one behind, Universality; Interdependence; Collaboration and partnerships and Accountability).

Excellences;

The agenda is indeed broad and seemingly-impossible. We however, take comfort in President Mandela's words, "It always seems impossible, until it is done".

The agenda will depend on many factors, including inclusive, effective and accountable institutions. These are a prerequisite for development.

Building these is a role for everyone, everywhere and every time.

I want to suggest three areas that will be critical in the implementation of Agenda 2030:

1) Building ownership and investing in people to take charge of their destiny

Great leaders show their greatness by the way they treat the most vulnerable.

And the only way to make sure that you don't leave no one behind is to be the last.

Mandela said; “real leaders must be ready to sacrifice all for the freedom of their people.’

People must therefore own the agenda and be the real agents of change. People must make decisions that will affect them. And governments ought to create an enabling environment for free association, freedom of expression, access to justice and information; and protection of fundamental rights.

Institutions must be accountable to people. In the words of Noam Chomsky;

“The most effective way to restrict democracy is to transfer decision making from the public arena to unaccountable institutions”.

The first challenge of this agenda therefore is for our leaders to empower, protect and provide an enabling environment for their citizens to thrive. It is the EFFECTIVENESS challenge.

2) Create Ecosystems and Platforms for Partnership (*A lot of different flowers make a bouquet*)

3)

Co-Chairs;

Leaving no one behind entails governments, the private sector and civil society working together.

My organisation works to build these ecosystems and platforms across Southern Africa between governments, the private sector and civil society. For example; we collaborated with the Southern Africa Development

Community (SADC) to establish a Regional Poverty Observatory (RPO)-where civil society formations, experts, labour and member states work together. We supported the Gender Protocol Alliance-an advocacy coalition for gender equality. We work with many other coalitions and alliances in the areas of resource governance, illicit financial flows (IFFs) social protection, trade, food security and smallholder farmers, among others. The second challenge therefore is how this agenda will be INCLUSIVE and harness this triangular relationship for success.

4) Domesticate: IMPLEMENT, IMPLEMENT, IMPLEMENT

Co-Chairs;

People will not judge us by the adoption of this Agenda, but by its implementation.

Young people in particular will be watching closely. The present and future of the SDGs belongs to them.

We therefore need to create strong and capable institutional, legal, fiscal and administrative frameworks and institutions for implementation, monitoring, reporting and constant learning at national, regional and global levels. It is important that the Agenda be localised and domesticated in national legal statutes of member states.

We need to strengthen data gathering agencies, governance institutions as well as people's movements that hold governments to account.

All this will require adequate resourcing. No one institution has enough resources to finance the implementation of SDGs.

For a long time, philanthropy was excluded in intergovernmental processes. It is heartening that the Addis Ababa Action Plan officially recognised the role of philanthropy beyond its financial contributors to include its comparative advantages such as flexibility, nimbleness, ability to leverage more resources and risk taking.

Philanthropic institutions are already engaged in the SDGs through several platforms, for example, the SDG Funders Group which has led to state, philanthropy and private platforms in countries such as Kenya, Colombia and Ghana. Also to note is that philanthropy spent more than US\$30 billion on MDGs.

At the Trust, we are leading efforts in promoting the role of philanthropy and developing resource mobilisation frameworks for financing development in the region, including supporting resource governance initiatives.

Co- Chairs;

The success of the 2030 Agenda depends on its ownership and resourcing by its people, governments and the private sector under enabling environments.

ENDS...

ⁱ This statement benefited from a mini-dialogue that the Trust held in preparation for the Summit as well as from an online survey on what the key issues are for the implementation of the SDGs.