

QUESTIONS

1. How do the Federal and State Governments plan to reach a mass of population bearing in mind the huge population and diverse social economic context of states with governments policies and agreed SDGs service.

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Nigeria began to implement the SDGs almost immediately. In order to give focus, strategic direction and impetus to the overall national commitment to the SDGs, the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs was established as the coordinating office for the SDGs in Nigeria. To ensure inclusiveness in the implementation processes, the Office set up institutional frameworks for enhanced coordination of the SDGs and mainstreaming processes at the national and sub-national levels. The institutional framework includes some of the followings:

A. Presidential Council on the SDGs

The Committee comprises of one Executive Governor per geopolitical zone, representatives of the International Development Partners, the Private Sector, the Civil Society, the Legislature, line MDAs, amongst others. The Council meets quarterly to consider progress on the SDGs in Nigeria and recommendations from these meetings usually form the basis for policy direction, with regular feedback from stakeholders at these meetings guiding the drive to attain the SDGs.

B. National Assembly Committees on SDGs

The members of the National Assembly represent a total number of 360 Federal Constituencies across Nigeria. Therefore, to ensure strategic sensitization and advocacy on SDGs and the deepening of stakeholder engagement, Standing Committees were established in both the upper and lower chambers of the NASS to provide oversight function and overall support in the implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria.

C. Engagements with the Sub-National Governments

The SDGs Office also interfaces with government officials at the sub-national level through the Conditional Grants Scheme (CGS) and regular meetings, seminars and other avenues to align priorities, coordinate activities, evaluate proposals, monitor progress and ensure that laid down guidelines are adhered to. SDGs Focal Persons, representing respective MDAs also exist at the State level. At the sub-national level, there are 37 SDG focal persons, one for each of the 36 states and the FCT. Steps are underway to extend this human resource capacity to all 774 LGAs. While some LGAs already have SDG officers, this structure is yet to be formalized, as the state level focal person coordinated all SDGs activities in the state.

D. Inter-Ministerial Committee on SDGs

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs streamline all interventions, reduce duplication, improve policy coherence and ensure the efficiency of scarce resources especially with the current economic downturn. An Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs consists of focal points of all government sectors who can represent departmental progress in implementation of the SDGs. There are currently 45 SDG focal officers across the relevant Federal MDAs.

2. Nigeria is endowed with many CSOs and a vibrant business community. How is the government planning to maximize constructive and substantive engagement with both sectors to accelerate the achievement of SDGs and the decade of action?

The capacity of both the Private sector and the congregation of Civil Society to add value to the implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria is paramount. In recognition of this, the Nigerian government facilitated the establishment of the Private Sector Advisory Group on the SDGs (PSAG-SDGs) to provide the guidance and strategic support to achieve more streamlined implementation of SDGs in Nigeria.

Recognizing that Private investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation, Nigeria will continue to take advantage of the existing partnership with the Private sector to help with domestic resource mobilization, which is a necessary prerequisite for the effective implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria.

Indeed, domestic resource mobilization is a key pillar of SDG-17 on 'Means of Implementation and Partnership'. Other pillars of this goal which are highly dependent on the private sector include, but are not limited to: domestic and international private business and finance; international development cooperation; international trade; debt and debt sustainability; science, technology, innovation; capacity-building; and data, monitoring and follow-up of progress. The private sector is therefore critical as a source of tax revenue and will thus play an important role in filling the funding gaps for SDGs implementation in Nigeria.

Civil Society Partnership

In order to strengthen the engagement with Civil Society Organizations, considering their strategic roles in the implementation and reporting of the SDGs at the national and local levels, Nigerian government, through OSSAP-SDGs facilitated the establishment and officially launched the Civil Society Strategy Group on SDGs. This was done to create a well-defined space for effectively engaging with representatives of the CSOs in Nigeria.

Recognizing the huge potentials possessed by the CSOs for implementation of the SDGs, the government will continue to take advantage of the existing partnership with the group, to help shape the 2030 Agenda by capturing the aspirations of various constituencies including women, youth, people living with disabilities and even industry through expert consultations, online dialogue and social media platforms. The government recognizes that the CSOs are important service providers and have the capacity to extend the territorial reach of the state, especially at the community level, thus contributing directly to the attainment of the SDGs.

3. What are the Federal and State Governments plans to improve the policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) both horizontally and vertically and to address the SDGs targets interlinkages?

In order to promote domestication, mainstreaming and policy coherence, the Federal Ministry for Finance, Budget and National Planning has aligned core areas of the SDGs such as agriculture and food security, energy, infrastructural development, industrialization, inclusive economic growth, provision of social goods, amongst others, with the National Economic

Recovery and Growth Plan (NERGP). Importantly, Nigeria has laid out a strategy to integrate the SDGs into her long-term National Development Plan with the terminal date being planned to coincide with 2030, the deadline of the SDGs Agenda.

Drawing from the experience of implementing the MDGs, Nigeria decided that the SDGs will have the desired impact when they are mainstreamed into the medium and long-term development plan of the sub-national governments. Nigeria is therefore incentivizing the states and the LGAs to integrate the relevant SDGs into their Plans. As a result of this strategic initiative, a number of State Development Plans (SDPs), such as those of Benue, Borno, Taraba, Yobe, Kaduna, Ebonyi, Kano, Jigawa, Anambra and Delta States, are aligned to the SDGs.