

'VOLUNTEER STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

Talking Points for 2020 Lead Discussant

Your Excellencies

From my own experience in Zimbabwe, I have been an active citizen in the agenda to transform the narrative of volunteerism to reflect it as catalyst and the backbone of all meaningful sustainable development in a decade to accelerate the delivery of a transformed and prosperous world through the agenda 2030,

COVID-19 has given us the opportunity to relook at our understanding of the roles of individuals, society, institutions and environment in development processes in view of addressing the wheel of fundamental human needs, taking into account the reality of our communities.

Through my volunteer work in Zimbabwe, I see daily the challenges faced by micro-entrepreneurs who are largely marginalized and excluded by the current financing models. We have worked together to develop community savings and credit, which has benefited the many members of the community especially women and young people.

Supporting the economic development and livelihoods of those who are worst affected across our continent will be critical to the process of “building back better” from the COVID crisis.

Volunteering for the 2030 Agenda can be a transformative catalyst to accelerate the delivery of the SDGs. It highlights our shared values, and can help to re-design and strengthen the relationships between power holders and their citizens. But it should be carried out responsibly. In 2013, a group of grassroots volunteers in our country gathered and came up with national volunteering standards guide. The launch of Global Volunteering Standards is a great step the right direction. More importantly the Global Technical Meeting on Volunteering next week comes at the opportune time during this year’s HLPF. Volunteerism has potential to unite all and ensure security, peace and development to be attained

We ask member states:

- To integrate evidence on volunteering at all stages in the 2030 Agenda processes,
- To work together to enable partnerships to ensure robust cross-sector volunteering practices.

Thank you
