



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND PLANNING  
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR PLANNING  
SDGs COORDINATION DIRECTORATE

A BRIEF ON THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME & UN RESIDENT COORDINATOR'S OFFICE  
MEETING

HELD AT EKA HOTEL, MOMBASA ROAD, NAIROBI

THURSDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021

## Introduction

The meeting was organized by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (UNRCO) to bring together key SDGs stakeholders to discuss SDGs agenda for the period 2021 including the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the Kenyan economy and progress on SDGs. The meeting was attended by representatives from the State Department for Planning (SDGs Coordination Directorate), UNDP, UNRC and University of Nairobi.

## Opening Remarks

### UNRCO

Mr. Julius Chokerah from UNRCO welcomed the participants and stated that the main objective of the meeting was to discuss on how the joint technical team will come up with a joint 2021 Annual Work plan for SDGs activities in the country. He further stated that the COVID-19 pandemic restricted the team's regular meetings and the team now has to come up with ways on how the SDGs agenda can be moved forward considering the underlying COVID-19 situation in the country.

### UNDP

Mr. Rogers Dhliwayo from UNDP said that VNR data was pre-COVID and the data is no longer a representation of the current state of affairs due to impacts of COVID-19 pandemic to the economy. This has raised a question as to how the Government and other stakeholders can move forward in addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic. He mentioned that IMF stated that Kenya is in debt distressed situation. In this regard, the Government should enhance domestic resource mobilization, maximize on stimulus packages and actualize sustainable measures to enhance building back better from COVID-19. The reports on household surveys done by KNBS on impacts of COVID-19 which assessed the pandemic impacts to people living standards including salary reductions and other socio-economic dynamics has to be used as a guide in development of recovery policies. The education sector was affected through closing of schools since not all students managed the online learning due to family economic standards and other reasons.

He stated that the meeting is to look at the challenges and try to enhance the use of SDGs as a roadmap to prosperity in recovering from COVID-19 and build momentum to achieve the SDGs by 2030. SDGs can be a solution to the impacts of COVID-19 nationally and internationally. In addition, a lot can be done in the county level as they respond to COVID-19 and enhance mainstreaming of SDGs in CIDPs can be a key recovery strategy.

He further stressed that the UN and other stakeholders have to give more attention to counties and support them in preparation of local SDGs reports that will enhance the coverage of the national country SDGs reports. Localization of SDGs has to maximize local reports. This can accelerate implementation of SDGs like the success achieved by the 77

municipalities in Brazil. Each municipality produces an SDGs report which forms part of the country's national report.

### **SDGs Coordination Directorate**

Mr. William Komu - Chief Economist, SDGs Coordination Directorate appreciated UNDP for organizing the meeting and all participants for their commitment in attending the meeting despite the current worrying COVID-19 situation in the country. He gave the apologies of the Director SDGs Coordination Directorate who was engaged with other official duties and she sent the team from the Directorate to represent her. In his opening remarks, he pointed out that the country is far behind in implementation of SDGs and COVID-19 had impacts to the SDGs implementation process.

He said that the number of COVID-19 new infections is rising at an alarming rate in the country and this might worsen the SDGs implementation process if recovery strategies are not strongly laid on time. One of the SDGs Coordination Directorate key priority in 2021 is the development of acceleration strategy to pave way on how to build back better in this COVID-19 times. The main challenge in implementing SDGs activities is inadequate funds. He further stated that it is his believe that the technical team present is key in SDGs implementation process and is in a position to come up with powerful innovative ways of accelerating the SDGs process.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Directorate conducted various activities which include Capacity building of the SDGs contact officers from MDAs, presentation of the 2020 VNR in HLPF, holding of 2020 Annual SDGs Multi-Stakeholders' Conference, development of SDGs website among other activities in the 2020/21 annual work plan. He informed the participants that in solving the challenges of SDGs implementation, the team has to strengthen partnerships, capacity building on SDGs and come up with quick wins in the SDGs implementation nationally.

### **Prof. Gituro Wainana – University of Nairobi**

In his remarks Prof. Gituro Wainaina pointed out the importance of moving from development of strategies to implementation level. He stated that there are a lot of existing policies which have not been implemented and their implementation can build powerful foundations in recovering from COVID-19 pandemic. He emphasized on the importance of counties in the implementation of SDGs since they are close to the citizens. There is limited interlinkage between consecutive policy documents and linking related policy documents enhances adequate implementation and eliminate re-invention of the wheel in the SDGs process. He stressed the importance of supporting promising sectors in the economy like agriculture in recovering from the pandemic.

## Meeting Presentations

### Impact of COVID-19 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Mr. Rogers made a presentation on impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs to provide an overview of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sustainable development progress and perspectives on best practices anchored on SDGs to build back better. He stated that the COVID-19 affected the progress of all the 17 SDGs. In assessing COVID-19 impact on SDGs, UNDP's new study conducted with the Pardee Center for International Futures at the University of Denver shows that COVID-19 could push the number of people living in extreme poverty to over 1 billion by 2030. In monitoring COVID-19 Impact on Households in Kenya, he said that the COVID-19 pandemic has created an urgent need for timely data and evidence to help monitor and mitigate the social and economic effects of the crisis. Responding to this need, a high-frequency phone survey with households was designed and implemented to measure the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 in Kenya.

In reference to World Bank (2020), COVID-19 may increase the projected poverty headcount of a given area by up to 16%, depending on severity. The channels of effects from COVID-19 include loss of income due to illness, changes in wage earnings, reduction in remittances, and increase in food prices of highly import-dependent food items. In response to the pandemic, the whole of Government approach in the recovery process is recommended through an SDGs framework to enable mapping out of possible short-term and long-term government responses to COVID-19. The framework recommends:

- i. Increase role of government in key sectors (economy, health, food, social security);
- ii. Re-think global supply chains and dependence for strategic equipment and materials;
- iii. Strengthen development cooperation to support recovery plans in countries most hit and in least developed countries;
- iv. Strengthen statistical capacity and the availability of timely data;
- v. Strengthen government capacities to anticipate and manage unforeseen disruptive events; and
- vi. Strengthen international platforms, exchange and transparency among scientists/researchers (open science).

Using the 6 Transformations of the SDGs to Guide the COVID-19 Recovery and SDGs Acceleration is effective since each transformation contributes to the 17 SDGs. The 6 transformations are as follows:

- i. Education, Gender and Inequality;
- ii. Health, Wellbeing and Demography;

- iii. Energy Decarbonization and Sustainable Industry;
- iv. Sustainable food, land, water and oceans;
- v. Sustainable cities and communities; and
- vi. Harnessing the Digital Revolution for Sustainable Development.

### **The Draft Guidelines for SDGs good practices by Mr. Domnick Loriakwe – SDGs Coordination Directorate**

Mr. Domnick made a presentation on the draft SDGs good practices identification, documentation, sharing and replication guidelines. In his presentation Mr. Domnick informed the participants that the guidelines development process started in February 2021 in Naivasha and involved various stakeholders who gave their inputs which enabled development of the draft guidelines. A draft of the guidelines is in place and the Directorate plan is to finalize the guidelines by end of March 2021.

He took the participants through the background to SDGs good practices, outcome summary of first SDGs good practices open call and SDGs good practices second open call. He stated that, it is through actualization of the open calls in Kenya that the State Department for Planning saw it necessary to develop the guidelines to guide the process of identifying, documenting, sharing and replicating these practices.

The objectives of the guidelines are as follows:

- i. Provide a core set of criteria to select good practices in the implementation of the SDGs;
- ii. Make selected practices systematically available to other stakeholders in the SDGs process to avoid re-inventing the wheel;
- iii. Support transfer of good practices among stakeholders; and
- iv. Accelerate the achievement of the SDGs through scaling up and replication of good practices.

He explained to the participants that the content of key sections of the draft guidelines as below.

**1.Criteria for Identifying Good Practices-** what we need to look at when identifying these practices;

**2.Documentation** - how best can the SDGs good practices be documented in both printable and electronic formats

**3. Scaling up and Replication** – features to guide selection of good practices for scale up and replication

**4. Operationalization of the Guidelines** – the focus is on effective implementation of the guideline (Stakeholder involvement, baseline assessment, Monitoring, storage and dissemination)

At the end of his presentation he requested the participants to review the draft and share their comments and inputs. The participants’ contributions to the draft guidelines include:

- i. Strengthening the operationalization of the guidelines to enable participation of counties and other stakeholders at the county level through SDGs county champions reporting;
- ii. The guidelines should define clearly on how they can be paired with the usual SDGs reporting;
- iii. Comparing the guidelines with South-South cooperation best practices identification process in enriching the guidelines. How they usually identify and document their best practices since there is synergy when compared with the SDGs good practices guidelines;
- iv. Working with CoG in comparing the draft with their criteria of identifying best practices for the CoG Maarifa Centre;
- v. The SDGs Awards process to target SDGs implementers and not MDAs and leaders since it is their work to implement the SDGs;
- vi. SDGs good practices to address all the 3 dimensions of sustainable development;
- vii. The identification process should take into consideration private sector standards;
- viii. The good practices should have a multiplier effects in SDGs process; and
- ix. Alignment of the guidelines with the national priorities.

#### **The SDGs Coordination Directorate 2020/21 Annual Work Plan and proposed activities for 2021/22 FY by Mr. William Komu – SDGs Coordination Directorate**

Mr. William Komu – Chief Economist in the SDGs Coordination Directorate took the participants through the SDGs Coordination Directorate 2020/21 annual work plan and proposed activities for the 2021/22 FY. Despite the pandemic, the Directorate has been able to undertake the following activities:

S/No.	Activity	Remarks
1	Hold 2020 Annual SDGs Multi-Stakeholders Forum	Convened in December 2020 and it brought together SDGs stakeholders to showcase their experiences and

		ideas in the implementation of the SDGs
2	Capacity building of new nominated SDGs contact officers from MDAs	Convened in March 2021 and 1 other meeting is scheduled for March 2021 on development of SDGs Acceleration Strategy
3	Launch of the 2020 VNR Report	The report was launched by CS National Treasury and Planning Hon. (Amb) Ukur Yatani, EGH in July 2020
4	Present the 2020 VNR Report at the HLPF	The report was presented virtually by CS National Treasury and Planning Hon. (Amb) Ukur Yatani, EGH during the 2020 HLPF
5	Develop SDGs Website	A draft website is in place and will be finalized by the end of March 2021
6	Develop a popular version of the 2020 VNR	A draft is in place and will be finalized in April 2021. The popular version provides key highlights of the 2020 VNR report
7	Develop Guidelines for identification of SDGs good practices at county level	A draft of the guidelines is in place and will be finalized by end of March 2021

The Directorate's 2020/21 work plan the pending activities include:

S/No.	Activity	Timeline
1	Develop SDGs Acceleration Strategy	Scheduled for March 2021
2	Hold a forum for SDGs data users and producers	Scheduled for April 2021
3	Hold Stakeholders forum for the Private Sector	Scheduled for April 2021
4	Capacity Building and Technical Support to Counties	Scheduled for April 2021
5	Impact Assessment Study of COVID-19 on Selected SDGs	Scheduled for May 2021
6	Printing of; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDGs Awareness Survey Report 2019</li> <li>• 2020 Voluntary National Report for Kenya (VNR 2020)</li> </ul>	Scheduled for May and June 2021

S/No.	Activity	Timeline
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders Engagement Framework</li> <li>• SDGs Curriculum</li> <li>• 2020 VNR Popular Version</li> <li>• SDGs Status report 2019</li> <li>• Policy Gaps Analysis Report</li> <li>• SDGs good practices guidelines</li> </ul>	
7	Disseminate; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SDGs Awareness Survey Report 2019</li> <li>• 2020 Voluntary National Report for Kenya (VNR 2020)</li> <li>• Stakeholders Engagement Framework</li> <li>• SDGs Status report for 2019</li> <li>• Policy Gaps Analysis Report SDGs good practices guidelines</li> </ul>	Scheduled for June 2021

The Directorate's Planned Activities for 2021/22 FY include:

- i. Participate in High Level Political Forums on Agenda 2030 and other International and Regional forums;
- ii. Capacity building on SDGs in MDAs and Counties;
- iii. SDGs Policy Gap Analysis Report dissemination, action plan prepared and implemented;
- iv. Prepare, print and disseminate appropriate IEC materials on SDGs;
- v. Prepare, print and disseminate 2021 SDGs status report;
- vi. Hold 2021 SDGs Multi stakeholder forum;
- vii. Impact Assessment Study of COVID-19 on Selected SDGs;
- viii. Convene forum for SDGs data users and producers;
- ix. Identify, document, print and disseminate SDGs good Practices; and
- x. Finalize, print and disseminate SDGs implementation acceleration framework.

### **Proposed Inputs to the SDGs Coordination Directorate's activities for 2020/21 FY and 2021/22 FY**

The following were additional proposed inputs and comments to the SDGs Coordination Directorate 2020/21 and 2021/22 Work Plans:

1. Facilitate development of SDGs good practices dashboards for the 47 counties to enhance monitoring and ownership of SDGs by the counties;



2. Collaborate with Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business to strengthen engagement of Parliament and County Assemblies since they are critical in the SDGs process. The target are chairpersons of finance and planning committees in parliament and county assemblies;
3. Use SDGs road map and other reports recommendations in development of the SDGs Acceleration Strategy;
4. Come up with activities on involvement of the media in SDGs implementation;
5. Collaborate with CoG to enhance development of SDGs reports from county governments and other stakeholders in the counties;
6. Preparation of an integrated Financing Framework to link planning and budgeting. It has to accommodate multi-stakeholder financing, role of parliament and audit institutions;
7. Interrogate the synergy between Paris Agreement and SDGs;
8. Undertake robust analysis on the Principle of leaving no one behind;
9. Enhance integration of SDGs in CIDPs development guidelines and drafting of CIDP III;
10. Collaborate with CoG to strengthen involvement of counties in the SDGs process since implementation is at the county level;
11. Enhance capacity development on SDGs to the IATWC members;
12. Need for dissemination of the SDGs policy gap analysis report among other reports on SDGs;
13. Need to Operationalize the multi-stakeholder Engagement Framework both at national and county level;
14. Criteria for SDGs Awards need to be strengthened; and
15. Need to strengthen the operations of the SDGs Sub Committee including convening of regular meetings.

## Way Forward

S/No.	Action	Responsibility	Timeline
1	Members to submit proposals on initiatives for the remaining period of the	All	24 <sup>th</sup> March 2021

	FY and for the next FY by Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2021.  SDP to communicate with members who were not in the meeting		
2	The SDGs Coordination Directorate to prepare the draft joint work plan as agreed and share with the other stakeholders for comments and inputs	SDGs Directorate	End of March 2021
3	The SDGs Coordination Directorate to incorporate comments from the meeting on the draft SDGs good practices guidelines and share with the members for comments	SDGs Directorate	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2021
4	The SDGs Coordination Directorate to liaise with the department coordinating South - South Cooperation and Agenda 2063 to enrich the good practices guidelines	SDGs Directorate	Continuous engagement

## List of Participants

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