



Concept Note

Side Event at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development *Leaving No-One Behind: African perspectives*

Monday, 18 July 2016, 6:15-7:30 PM, Conference Room E, United Nations, New York

Background:

As a global community we have committed to achieving an ambitious agenda for sustainable development by 2030 and we have promised that we will leave no one behind in doing so. Our greatest challenge is to achieve sustainable development for everyone, everywhere, for all countries and for all groups, particularly the most vulnerable in our societies.

The African Economic Outlook 2016 reports impressive economic growth over the past 15 years with the average gross real domestic product (GDP) in Africa rising from just above 2% during the 1980-90s to above 5% in 2001-14. More moderate growth of the past two years is expected to continue in 2016, strengthening in 2017.

Africa is the world's second fastest growing economy after East Asia. In 2015, sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa) grew faster than the continental average, at 4.2%, with East Africa leading the way at 6.3%. Growth in Central, North and West Africa was above 3%, while Southern Africa grew by an average of 2.2%. Average growth in Africa is expected to remain moderate at 3.7% in 2016 but could accelerate to 4.5% in 2017.

Turning Africa's steady resilience into better lives for Africans requires strong policy action to promote faster and more inclusive growth. Three out of every four Africans still live under poor human conditions, compared to one in five globally. To achieve the development objectives set by African institutions and the international community, the Outlook recommends that African countries deepen structural and regulatory reforms, foster macroeconomic stability, and tackle power supply bottlenecks in order to address the obstacles to the transformation of their economies. Coupled with investment in social sectors, this will open up more opportunities for youth and for women.

Objectives:

This high-level side-event will offer African perspectives on who is at most risk of being left behind in Sub-Saharan Africa, showcase action being taken to address the challenge of leaving no-one behind and agree ways in which all actors can work together to achieve sustainable development for everyone, everywhere.

Specific objectives include:

- To reflect on the multidimensionality of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa identifying challenges of inequality and marginalisation
- To share perspectives on how to ensure progress for youthful, rapidly expanding and increasingly mobile populations
- To highlight action being taken to reach the most vulnerable and the policy settings needed to support this
- To consider how development co-operation actors and agencies can better deliver on the challenge of leaving no one behind.

Format and Participation:

This side event will seek perspectives from a range of high-level participants from governments, multilateral and international organisations, research institutions, civil society organisations, businesses and foundations. Co-hosted by Malawi, as Co-Chair of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) as Steering Committee member of the Global Partnership, the event is expected to feature input from the African Union, UNDP, the OECD, Overseas Development Institute (ODI) and an exchange of views between African leaders and their development partners.

The event will commence with an introduction by Malawi as Co-Chair of the Global Partnership – and by Kenya who will host the Global Partnership's 2nd High-level meeting in Nairobi outlining the importance of leaving no one behind. UNDP and the OECD will highlight what the African Economic Outlook tells us about who is being left behind in Sub-Saharan Africa.

ODI will share analysis of how policies, financing methodologies and the action of development co-operation agencies can be effective in addressing the challenge of leaving no one behind using examples from research in African countries. The CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) will also outline the challenges that inequality and marginalisation pose for African communities.

The African Union and African leaders will then commence a moderated interactive discussion by outlining their priorities for sustainable development for everyone, everywhere in sub-Saharan Africa and their expectations of how development co-operation actors and agencies can best respond to these priorities through financing, technology facilitation, capacity building and greater policy coherence for sustainable development. High-level representatives of development co-operation actors and agencies active in Sub-Saharan Africa will share lessons from their experience.

The moderator will sum up the findings of the side event, identifying issues for inclusion in ongoing discussions at the HLPF and inviting participants to continue to consider the challenge of leaving no one behind as they prepare to participate in the 2nd High-level meeting of the Global Partnership in Nairobi, November 2016.

High-Level Speakers:

The event will feature perspectives from a diverse range of development stakeholders. A high-level of participation is expected to inform the discussion.

Contribution to the HLPF:

The event will contribute to the HLPF Ministerial segment's discussion on policies which need to be put in place in order to leave no one behind in sub-Saharan Africa.