

**Mr. Chair ;
Distinguished Delegates ;
Ladies and Gentlemen ;**

First of all I would like to thank UNDESA for organizing this important workshop and giving us the opportunity to interact about this very important issue.

The topic to be addressed is :

What areas of implementation have proved most challenging? What are the main capacity gaps countries have identified ?

Ladies and Gentlemen ;

The challenging areas of SDGs implementation vary from country to country and are not the same between urban and rural areas. Some are also widely shared.

According to the latest United Nations report on the sustainable development goals (2018), Less than half of all children and adolescents do not have the minimum level of literacy (SDG 4). Not far from a billion people living mainly in rural areas still had no electricity (SDG 7). SDG 8 employment and inclusive growth is also one of the most challenging.

In Senegal priorities identified during the national consultations in 2015 and in the SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2017, focus on: poverty (SDG1), education (SDG4), employment and inclusive growth (SDG 8), energy (SDG7) infrastructure (SDG 9) and environment (SDGs 13 and 15).

SDGS are indivisible and transversal, so that the delays charged in some SDGS have implications for others. The delays on SDG 4 on education have a negative impact on youth employability (SDG 8) and accentuate inequalities (SDG 10).

The main capacity gaps identified by many countries in the VNR process are related to the following issues:

1. Planning, coordination, policy and legislation problems (problem of **articulation between different scales national, regional, international** and integration into development plans at sectorial and local level);
2. **Financing and budgeting** problems (Addis Ababa agenda);
3. **Statistical, monitoring and evaluation problems** (reliability, disaggregation, collection and circulation of **quantitative or qualitative** information);
4. Low **involvement of** some key actors such as **private sector, stakeholders, as well as insufficient expertise** and technology in some areas.

The second aspect of the topic is :

What steps have been taken to address the capacity gaps identified in the implementation of the Agenda ?

The VNR process, the elaboration of national strategy and capacity building are key steps that was undertaken by countries in order to identify and adrese the capacity gaps for the overall implementation of the Agenda 2030.

Based on the Senegalese experience, specific initiatives and programmes are also being implemented for equal opportunities, universal health coverage, opening up and access to remote areas etc. The latest national initiatives, are related to :

1. **Planning actions and cordination improvement :**
The priority action (PAP 2019-2023) of **emerging Senegal plan**, has increased **the level of the SDG target consideration from 77% to 97%**.
2. **The territorialisation of the SDGS:** Senegal initiated with the support of the United Nations system a **project named PAST SDG to ensure regular monitoring and better implementation at local level** and take into account vulnerable groups.
3. **The creation of the actors' platform for monitoring of the SDGS in the environmental sector (and institutionalization of the national annual conference on SDG) :** to address the gaps and challenge of feedback and data disaggregation.
4. **Strengthening education for sustainable development:** Senegal has launched the **"world's greatest lesson on the SDGS"** initiative to promote gender equality, human rights, sustainable lifestyles, a culture of peace and non-discrimination and violence, citizenship world to overcome sustainable development.
5. **Increasing investments :** for exemple the Senegalese Government has launched the national programme for the sustainable development of autonomous sanitation.

In conclusion we can mention that :

Strengthening policies and legislation as well as coordination of international, regional and national levels, guaranteeing financing, integration, partnership, monitoring and evaluation are powerful ways for countries and institutions of translating in action, the principle of leave no one behind, and achieve the SDG objectives.

THANK YOU