



Closing Remarks
SDGs Integration Workshop
Jabusile Shumba, PhD (UNRCO)
12 November 12:45

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Permanent Secretary, Mr Masanga
Chief Directors
Senior Government Officials
UN DESA, Dr Sibanda
Fellow UN colleagues

- It is a pleasure to give concluding remarks on behalf of the tripartite partners UN, AfDB and WB (and RCO). The objective of the workshop is to provide capacity building training for the integration of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into the implementation of the National Development Strategy 2021-2025 (NDS1).
- I think to a large extent the meeting reached its objectives. The engagements have been very rich and interactive. There are opportunities to take forward lessons, regional and international best practices and various tools to enhance the integration of SDGs as we forge ahead with NDS towards vision 2030.
- I understand that the consultants will consolidate the salient features of the discussions that took place over the last 5 days and the report will be availed in the next couple of weeks. But briefly, allow me to share some reflections and some key messages:
- First, the Government aspires to accelerate inclusive economic growth, poverty reduction and human development as part of its medium-term plan. However, many emerging challenges – cyclone IDAI, droughts, COVID-19 – in the last few years have impeded progress in sustainable development. The NDS 1 (2021-2025), the first of two 5-year Medium Term Plans outlines key national priorities to drive the country towards Vision 2030 for an Empowered and Prosperous Upper Middle-Income Society, while at the same time addressing the global aspirations of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Africa Agenda 2063.

- Second, the country is committed to delivering Vision 2030, Agendas 2030 and 2063 and is pursuing the 'whole of government' and the 'whole of society' approaches to facilitate an integrated approach and ensure that no one is left behind. There are opportunities to strengthen the whole of society approach through multistakeholder and multisectoral approaches. The country can draw some lessons from the examples of South Africa and Botswana in this regard, particularly high levels of participation by different stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society organisations, development partners, young people and the academia.
- Third, Zimbabwe has mainstreamed the SDGs into its National Vision, the National Development Strategy and the National Budget. However, opportunities exist to strengthen integration through embracing different models for SDG planning, analysis and reporting including amongst other the IPRT, INFF, *iSDG* integrated simulation model, and Mainstreaming Development Objective at Thematic Level.
- Forth, No one actor has all the resources to achieve the 2030 Agenda. A successful development agenda requires inclusive partnerships — at all levels — global, regional, national and local levels — amongst various actors — private sector, civil society, government, academia, development partners — built upon shared principles and values, and a shared vision and goals placing people and the planet at the centre.
- Fifth, an important task moving forward will be to exploit the opportunities and entry points to improve planning, monitoring and reporting, as well policies and programmes to accelerate the achievement of National Vision 2030 and the SDGs. Through our ongoing collaboration, that is, the UN, AfDB and WB, we are providing support towards strengthening Monitoring & Evaluation capacity, refining the NDS results framework and the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). To reach those furthest behind first, there is need for strengthened data collection and analysis to identify who and where they are and what they need. Jointly with the WB, we are supporting the ZIMSTAT on the National Statistical Data Strategy Development.
- I also wish to underscore the message delivered on the first day by the Resident Coordinator.
- The United Nations, World Bank (WB) and African Development Bank (AfDB) are committed to work together and ensuring coherence in

supporting the Government of Zimbabwe in the development and implementation of the NDS 1.

- And through the implementation of the recently signed Zimbabwe United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (2022 - 2026), the United Nations looks forward to continuing supporting the Government of Zimbabwe in the implementation of the National Development Strategy and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda
- Lastly, I warmly thank DESA for making this programme possible and recognize the joint planning team Government and UN for supporting the preparations, resource persons for the enriching presentations, the facilitators for the support and skilful facilitation and finally, all the participants for lively engagements through the intensive days.
- I thank you