

***Summary of Side Event [Strengthening International and Regional Partnerships and their Role in Advancing Sustainable Development in Africa]***

31 January 2023, [ 08.30 EST (NY) and 13.30 UTC]

**Background on the event:**

The E-Symposium shed light on the role of international and regional partnerships in accelerating sustainable development. It also discussed the importance of cooperation between the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council of the African Union and how can experiences be exchanged to achieve maximum benefit in the field of sustainable development, as well as the role of civil society institutions in strengthening development partnerships between these different sectors. It focused on the importance of international and regional partnerships in advancing the sustainable development goals of 2023, according to HLPF 2023.

**Key Issues discussed:**

- Civil society can have a major and effective role in helping to make progress in line with SDG 17 in the idea of strengthening partnerships between civil society, the private sector and the government itself;
- A roadmap for investment and the SDGs with agreed common metrics and measuring members' performance against shared lessons in good practice is something the AU ECOSOCC would like to work on with the UN ECOSOC;
- We await the adoption of many articles at the upcoming summit, but nevertheless, civil society organizations need to be able to carry out their activities in an environment free from hostilities and attacks on their legitimacy and reputation;
- As a member of civil society, we call for increased investment in key determinants of growth such as human and physical capital and agricultural technology;
- AU ECOSOCC is about to finalize its own framework in which we will be able to grant both observer status and consultative status to civil society organizations to make meaningful contributions at the African and global levels.

**Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

- Inviting civil society to consider ways to mobilize African civil society, which enjoys consultative status in the Economic and Social Council;
- Calling on African civil society to intensify participation in how to present Agenda 2063 at the High-level Political Forum and the SDGs Summit of the United Nations General Assembly 2023;
- Monitoring and collecting data, tools and information related to the needs and requirements of sustainable development and presenting them to the mechanisms concerned with development internationally and regionally, in a way that contributes to setting development plans and defining partnership priorities;

- Developing national strategies and policies, implementation processes, and the review and reporting process;
- Activating the role of CSOs in voluntary reporting to countries, especially in the context of the high-level political forum.
- The need for deeper horizontal and vertical integration, coordination and harmonization of the work of the United Nations / African Union
- Integrating the Aspires & Goals of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals 2023 at the national level
- CSOs should be given the opportunity at the country level to take the lead in implementing programs aimed at achieving Agenda 2063 and SDGs 2030 Agenda.