

المملكة المغربية  
Kingdom of Morocco

Under the High Patronage of His Majesty King Mohammed VI

5<sup>th</sup>

## Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

EMPOWERING PEOPLE AND ENSURING INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUALITY

MARRAKECH | MOROCCO | 16-18 APRIL 2019



## EDITO

Sous le Haut Patronage de Sa Majesté le Roi Mohammed VI, que Dieu l'assiste, le Royaume du Maroc et la Commission Economique des Nations Unies pour l'Afrique-CEA, co-organisent la 5<sup>ème</sup> session du Forum Régional Africain sur le Développement Durable du 16 au 18 avril 2019 à Marrakech.

Cet événement continental africain connaîtra la participation de plusieurs Ministres et Hauts responsables africains en charge de l'environnement et du développement durable. Il réunira également des décideurs et des experts venant de gouvernements et d'organisations intergouvernementales, du secteur privé, et de la société civile.

La 5<sup>ème</sup> Session du Forum Régional, intervient dans un contexte particulier marqué par la nécessité d'agir rapidement pour maîtriser les conséquences du réchauffement climatique en le



Participants observe a minute of silence to honor two staff members from the ECA SRO-NA office who tragically lost their lives in an accident.

limitant à un seuil ne dépassant pas 1.5°C selon le dernier rapport du GIEC.

Cette session est une étape clé dans le processus de préparation du continent africain au Forum politique de haut niveau de 2019, qui se tiendra du 9 au 18 juillet prochain à New York, sous les auspices du Conseil Economique et Social de l'ONU et constituera une occasion pour les participants de discuter à l'échelle régionale des objectifs de développement durable et les objectifs correspondants de l'Agenda 2063 (La qualité de l'éducation, la réduction des inégalités, le travail décent et la croissance économique inclusive, l'action climatique, la paix, la justice et le renforcement des institutions et les moyens de mise en œuvre et partenariat pour le développement durable).

L'Afrique étant le continent le plus vulnérable face aux impacts du changement climatique, il en subit les conséquences directes sur le plan économique, social et

environnemental, amplifiant, ainsi, les phénomènes migratoires et l'instabilité politique au niveau régional.

La finalité de ce forum est de discuter des options de développement soutenable et sobre en carbone en Afrique et permettant la préservation de ses ressources de manière durable et responsable au regard des objectifs de l'Agenda 2030 sur le développement durable.

Par l'organisation de ce Forum, Le Maroc terre d'accueil et de fraternité, démontre encore une fois et conformément aux Orientations de Sa Majesté le Roi que Dieu l'Assiste, son engagement et sa détermination pour poursuivre la voie vers un développement durable et inclusif en Afrique.

C'est pourquoi, nous voulons faire de ce rendez-vous un événement majeur et décisif pour un continent résilient, fort de son capital humain, de sa diversité culturelle et de son savoir-faire ancestrale inédit, engagé dans la durabilité.

## A word from Oliver Chinganya

# ARFSD 2019, an opportunity to deepen discussions on Africa's development



It's that time of the year, when we gather to discuss our shared agenda for sustainable development on our beloved continent.

We have gathered here in Marrakech in record numbers, knowing that in our different responsibilities, we can help make a difference, especially as we remain accountable to our citizens in the pursuit of our shared goals.

This recognition of our shared and interconnected destiny must also inform how we move forward with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The forum is being held in the fourth year of implementation of the sustainable development goals and mid-term in the implementation of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the African Union's Agenda 2063.

It is therefore timely for us to review the pace and scale of implementation, including examining what works and what doesn't, in order to make adjustments in actions, policies, programmes

and arrangements as appropriate in the implementation and monitoring of the goals of both agendas.

Participants, who constitute a body of multi-stakeholders, including ministers, representatives from countries, NGOs, CSOs and UN agencies, will review the progress and challenges facing African countries in the implementation of six SDGs:

- Goal 4 - quality education
- Goal 8- decent work and economic growth
- Goal 10 - reduced inequalities
- Goal 13-climate action
- Goal 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions and
- Goal 17 - partnerships for the goals

The in-depth review will also tackle the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063, 'The Africa we want'.

Key recommendations of our regional forum will feed into the High-level Political Forum, a central platform for follow-up and

review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, to be held in July in New York.

It is therefore important that stakeholders articulate the progress and challenges countries may be facing in implementing the two agendas so that appropriate policies and actions can be put in place to address the gaps, if any, as well as consider levers of change to accelerate implementation in the spirit of leaving no one behind.

It is only by working together that we can achieve an Africa with equal opportunities for all, where our youth and women can realize their full potential.

The ARFSD provides us with a great platform to make this happen. I am therefore encouraging everyone to fully participate and engage in discussions knowing that back home enthusiasm and expectations are growing.

Africa must count and the count starts now by ensuring inclusiveness and equality.

**"It is only by working together that we can achieve an Africa with equal opportunities for all, where our youth and women can realize their full potential."**

# Le respect des délais des ODD, une exigence pour l'Afrique, selon la CEA



**“Les objectifs doivent être atteints dans les délais ! On doit respecter les délais, tout retard ne va que faire souffrir davantage les populations. Nous devons tout faire pour que les milliers de populations les plus vulnérables ne végètent pas dans la misère”**

Le respect des délais d'atteinte des Objectifs pour le développement durable est une exigence pour l'Afrique, selon M. Oliver Chinganya, Directeur par intérim de la Division de la Technologie, des changements climatiques et de la gestion des ressources naturelles de la Commission économique pour l'Afrique (CEA).

M.Chinganya, qui intervenait à l'ouverture de l'atelier régional préparatoire destiné aux pays de la région Afrique participant à l'examen national volontaire (ENV) démarré ce mardi à Marrakech, a invité les pays africains à respecter les délais d'atteintes des Objectifs pour le développement durable.

« Les objectifs doivent être atteints dans les délais ! On doit respecter les délais, tout retard ne va que faire souffrir davantage les populations. Nous devons tout faire pour que les milliers de populations les plus vulnérables ne végètent pas dans la misère », a martelé M Chinganya devant les représentants des dix huit pays africains concernés par les ENV.

« Nous devons affronter des défis énormes tels que les changements climatiques...

L'Afrique ne doit pas seulement valoriser ses compétences, mais aborder le secteur de l'emploi de façon à résorber le chômage. Nous devons faire avancer notre économie. Tous les pays doivent réussir leur revue, leur agenda, sans cela, ils vont passer à côté. Tous les pays doivent s'atteler à ces tâches, avancer dans l'évaluation volontaire et traduire les résultats en actions sur le terrain », a-t-il poursuivi.

La CEA est engagée pour accompagner l'accélération de cette mise en œuvre et apporter son appui pour faire le bilan sur cet agenda le moment venu, a rassuré M. Chinganya.

L'atelier préparatoire sur les ENV pour les pays de la région Afrique a pour objectif de renforcer les préparatifs en vue des ENV de l'année 2019.

Il regroupe une vingtaine de pays africains et permettra de donner aux pays participants la possibilité de faire le point sur l'état de préparation des ENV, créer un espace d'apprentissage entre pairs et d'échange d'expériences et d'enseignements, dans une perspective régionale.

La rencontre permettra également de renforcer la capacité des États membres à entreprendre les examens nationaux volontaires et les rapports sur la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030 et du Programme 2063 de manière intégrée.

L'atelier se tient en prélude au cinquième Forum régional africain sur le développement durable (FRADD) convoqué par la CEA sur le thème : « Autonomiser les populations et garantir l'inclusion et l'égalité » qu'accueille jusqu'au 18 avril, la capitale touristique marocaine.

Le FRADD5 vise à faire progresser la mise en œuvre des objectifs de développement durable du Programme 2030 et des objectifs fixés dans l'Agenda 2063 de l'Afrique.

La rencontre procédera à un examen approfondi de l'ODD 4 (éducation de qualité), l'ODD 8 (travail décent et croissance économique), l'ODD 10 (réduction des inégalités), l'ODD 13 (action pour le climat) et l'ODD 16 (paix, justice et institutions fortes) ainsi que des objectifs correspondants de l'Agenda 2063.

# Women can change the face of Africa with enough access to finance



**“We know that even in family-owned businesses women have a much lower share. We have very few women entrepreneurs on the continent because of the hurdle of access to finance.”**

Access to finance by women in Africa is critical if the continent is to attain the sustainable development goals, Economic Commission for Africa’s (ECA) Deputy Executive Secretary, Giovane Biha said, Tuesday.

Speaking at an event to discuss the African Women Leadership Fund (AWLF) in Marrakesh, Morocco, ahead of the fifth Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), Ms. Biha said adopting the right actions to integrate gender in Africa’s economies will result in financial inclusion, guarantee women’s economic empowerment and achievement of the SDGs, thereby helping change the face of the continent.

Citing a 2013 ECA Report, she said failure to integrate gender equality and women’s empowerment into national economies has cost African countries a combined \$95 billion in lost productivity annually.

“This is an indicator that financial exclusion of women is not an option for our continent,” said Ms. Biha, adding the African Women Leadership Fund was an impact fund that aims to strengthen economic empowerment of women and accelerate the emergence of

African women fund managers who in turn will invest in and develop African women-led businesses and micro-businesses.

Over the next decade the fund is envisaged to have made an investment of up to \$500 million in African owned and women-led companies.

The fund is anchored on six pillars;

- Providing African women entrepreneurs access to sustainable capital
- Providing African cooperatives access to sustainable capital
- Lowering barriers to entry for capable women asset managers focused on investing in women-owned and women-led companies
- Providing technical assistance to accelerate the fund management learning curve and supporting growth and expansion
- Providing seed capital to develop a track record and accelerate fundraising and scale
- Focus on sustainability and scalability of the platform

The ECA is supporting the operationalization of the innovative fund, a brainchild of the United Nations Deputy Secretary General, Amina J. Mohammed, African Union Commission Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat and the

African Women’s Leadership Network (AWLN).

Speaker after speaker lauded the fund, saying it will address the fundamental gap in the access of women to finance architecture.

Djibouti’s Women and Family Affairs Minister, Moumina Houmed, said the story of women and finance was similar to that of every other African country. She shared efforts being undertaken by her country, including capacity building of associations and cooperatives; partnerships with the private sector to train women entrepreneurs and getting banks to give women more access to finance.

“We know that even in family-owned businesses women have a much lower share. We have very few women entrepreneurs on the continent because of the hurdle of access to finance. As such, the fund seeks to lower these hurdles faced by women-owned businesses, promote investments in micro enterprises and take women’s cooperatives to the next level,” said Nabila Freidji, a Moroccan entrepreneur and member of the AWLF committee.

Thokozile Ruzvidzo, ECA’s Gender, Poverty and Social Policy Division Director, stressed the necessity for women’s financial inclusion in African economies.

She said funds will be earmarked for each of the five regions of North Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, West Africa, and Southern Africa with a strategy being established for each region to address unique elements of the markets and to reflect priorities for each region.

“Priority would be given to women-led businesses. At least 65 percent of capital will be invested in women-led companies,” she said.

For her part, Leila Rhiwi, a

representative of UN Women in Morocco, emphasized the importance of women accessing finance to bolster their businesses as “they have already proven themselves as entrepreneurs and drivers of the economies.”

The meeting was attended by representatives of the Moroccan business and financial ecosystem, government officials, senior women executives and young women entrepreneurs, among others.



## Major Groups and other Stakeholders: concerted approach to implement SDGs, Agenda 2063

Among the most anticipated side events of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development was the gathering of civil society organizations under the category of Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS). Discussions looked into optimising the role of MGoS in Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes, briefing on the 2019 Africa Sustainable Development Report and peer-learning and exchanges through roundtable discussions. Participants agreed to establish a regional coordination and engagement mechanism framework for MGoS communities, in particular around the key messages they intend to deliver to the forthcoming High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development, later in the year.

The session heard a variety of speakers, including the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and UN-DESA. Distinguished speakers from various backgrounds were present such as Commissioner Joseph Whittal, Chairperson of the Ghana Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice; and Yetnebersh Nigussie, the joint-recipient of 2017 Right Livelihood Award, also known as the ‘alternative Nobel Prize’. Hon.

Jacqueline Amongin, Member of Parliament, Pan-African Parliament delivered an opening statement that emphasized the necessity for MGoS and parliamentarians to work together in the efforts for achieving the 2030 Agenda and 2063 Agenda, while Lilia Hachem Naas, Director of the ECA’s North Africa Office officially opened the event.

Participants agreed on the importance of holding governments accountable to the implementation of the SDGs. They also agreed on the need to foster a better understanding of the SDGs among citizens and putting in place a multi-stakeholder platform for the implementation of the SDGs. This platform would take on

board the views and inputs of the MGoS communities. In addition, they agreed on the need to speed up the process of establishing the African Regional Engagement and Coordination Mechanism. An inclusive and participatory roadmap for the mechanism should be achieved following this year’s regional Forum so that by the next one, Africa’s MGoS communities would have an agreed structure for the mechanism. Challenges such as the lingering silos, fragmentation, lack of resources, and threats to shrinking space for civil society were acknowledged. Such challenges, agreed the participants, would make an even stronger case for the MGoS in Africa to work together and closer.



# Voluntary National Reviews:

## Africa extolled to speak with one voice at HLPF

Sandra Nyaira

The Regional Preparatory Workshop for Africa Voluntary National Review (VNR) Countries side event on Strengthening Integrated and Voluntary National Review and Reporting of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 on Tuesday highlighted the need for African countries to speak with one voice.

The session, which served as a space for peer-learning and experience sharing on VNR reporting and strengthening the capacity of countries undertaking VNRs in support of SDGs and Agenda 2063, highlighted the need for a roadmap and common position to the July 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF), the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The need for an accessible pool of resources and capacity for integrating the two development agendas and other global and regional development programmes into national development frameworks was also emphasized.

Participants also underscored the importance of raising Africa-specific issues at the HLPF, the need for continued and strengthened peer learning among countries in the region on what works and what doesn't work, fears and way to scale-up implementation.

They addressed the role of supreme audit institutions in implementation, follow-up and review of the SDGs, and discussed expectations and



formats of VNR reports.

In his remarks, Oliver Chinganya, the Economic Commission for Africa's Statistic Director and Acting Head of the Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division, said Africa cannot afford not to meet the sustainable development goals in a timely manner.

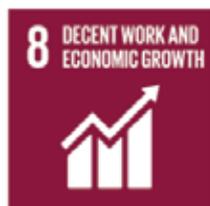
"A delay in achieving the goals will extend and intensify the suffering of millions of people in Africa," he said.

For instance, he said, falling short of achieving the goals would leave about 377 million people in the region haunted by poverty in 2030.

"Failure to achieve the goals would also mean that many will be exposed to the devastating effects of climate change such as tropical cyclone Idai that recently wreaked havoc in southern Africa. Delaying the achievement of the goals is not an option for Africa. We need to drastically step-up the pace and scale of implementation, with a renewed sense of urgency," said Chinganya.

He said the ECA is committed and ready to work with the African Union Commission and other regional organisations and sister UN entities to ensure and scale-up integrated implementation, follow-up and reporting on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Africa's Agenda 2063.

**"Falling short of achieving the goals would leave about 377 million people in the region haunted by poverty in 2030."**



# INTERVIEWS



For us, this meeting is very important because we see the role that STI can play in changing people’s lives. We are here to make sure that we get support for innovators to respond to social challenges. We hope that the outcomes of this meeting will be taken to the international platforms to solicit international support.

**MMAMPEI CHABA. Chief Director multilateral and Africa cooperation department of science and technology in SAF**



Our countries are rich beyond measure in resources, culture and potential. This forum on sustainable development is important because it moves us to discuss issues of mutual interest, in particular towards achieving the greatness we desire and deserve; making sure there’s inclusive growth on the continent

**CHIKA MERCEDES IBEH of Education as a Vaccine and African Young Women Alliance.**



The successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Africa’s Agenda 2063 is crucial for us as a country and the continent as a whole as we seek to eradicate poverty and ensure no-one is left behind by development. We are here to learn from other countries and experts to ensure we also have inclusive growth and sustainable development in Zimbabwe; and share experiences, opportunities and challenges we are encountering along the way as we implement the two development agendas. Outcomes of the meeting will no doubt come in handy for us.

**MUNESU MUNODAWAFA Permanent Secretary of Zimbabwe’s Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Industry Ministry**

## #Tweets...



**#Africa needs to tap into opportunities provided by #STI to create new opportunities for its populace, especially its youth, if it is to create new jobs that can foster growth & ensure #SustainableDevelopment, says IDEP's Karima Bounemra Soltane.**



**@ECA\_Official “Failure by #African countries to integrate #gender #equality & #women’s empowerment into national #economies continues to cost continent an excess of \$95 billion in lost productivity, says ECA’s deputy Exec. Secretary, Giovanie Biha at an #AWLF event. #Financial #Inclusion #SDGs**



# Forum discusses technology in achieving SDGs

Wanjohi Kabukuru

The 5th Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) which is being held in Marrakech, Morocco this week started yesterday with crucial thematic parallel pre-events.

The three pre events included the regional preparatory workshop for Africa voluntary national review; preparatory, capacity development event for major groups including other stakeholders and the African science, technology and innovation Forum.

To achieve their objectives of gleaning solutions from the participants the pre-events adopted the World Economic Forum's model of a moderator leading panelists to review issues in open discussions to stimulate coherent solutions focused participation.

Technology innovations to broaden inclusivity, strengthen governance and foster Africa's booming knowledge society were among the key discussion points at the African science, technology and innovation forum.

According to South Africa's tech-innovator Luyanda Vappie, newer learning technologies accompanied by online courses and materials have significantly made education accessible to many and improved learning. The forum also acknowledged the role of machine learning, artificial intelligence, open data, robotics and the internet of things in finding solutions to address wealth creation and bridging inequalities. Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Morocco and South Africa were cited as case studies of countries leveraging new technologies to increase financial inclusion and promote the sustainable use of natural resources. The question of income inequality as a result of technology was also a major discussion point in this



forum. Emerging research indicating that science technology and innovation are also to blame for exclusion and inequality was presented at the forum with various panel speakers calling for homegrown solutions to respond to these challenges that may stifle the continent's economic growth.

"Point of care technologies are improving diagnoses and treatment in rural Africa and helping to bridge health inequalities." Oliver Chinganya, director of the African Centre for Statistics at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said. "Various digital technologies are reducing the cost of education and thereby reducing educational inequalities. Similar examples can be quoted on the digital identification technologies which are now making it possible for governments to track the poor and offer necessary essential welfare support."

According to Chinganya, science, technology and innovation will play a crucial role in Africa's quest to achieve the benefits espoused in the 2030 sustainable development goals. "We have to find better and suitable ways to deploy technology in our continent if we are to empower people and ensure inclusiveness and equality, which is the main theme of this fifth session of Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development." Chinganya said.

**"The forum also acknowledged the role of machine learning, artificial intelligence, open data, robotics and the internet of things in finding solutions to address wealth creation and bridging inequalities."**



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