

Sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development Evaluation

Evaluation Section
Strategic Planning, Oversight and Results Division





6TH SESSION OF THE AFRICA REGIONAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

24-27 FEBRUARY 2020 | VICTORIA FALLS, ZIMBABWE



Agenda
2063 The Africa
we Want

United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa



BACKGROUND



The Forum took place from 24 to 27 February 2020 in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.



The Sixth session theme was "2020-2030: A Decade to Deliver Transformed and Prosperous Africa through the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063".



The main objective of the Forum was to conduct a regional follow-up and review progress made and facilitate peer learning and transformative solutions to accelerate implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 Goals.



To assess if the session met its objectives and to draw lessons to inform planning and organization of future forums for improved efficiency, effectiveness and outcomes of the forum, participants were asked to provide feedback. A total of 324 participants provided feedback.

RESPONDENTS BACKGROUND



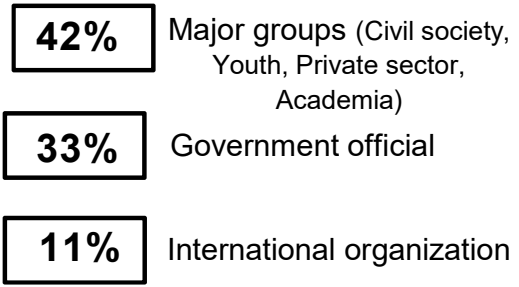
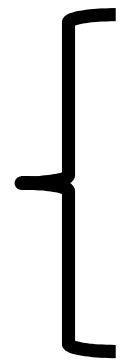
Gender



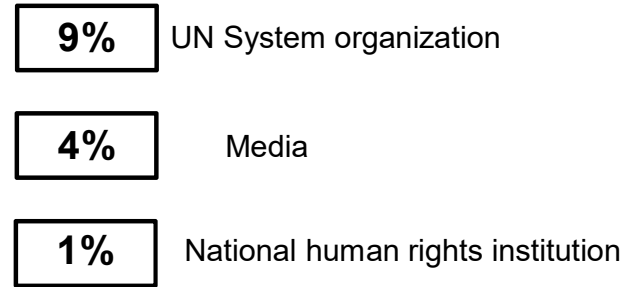
Male



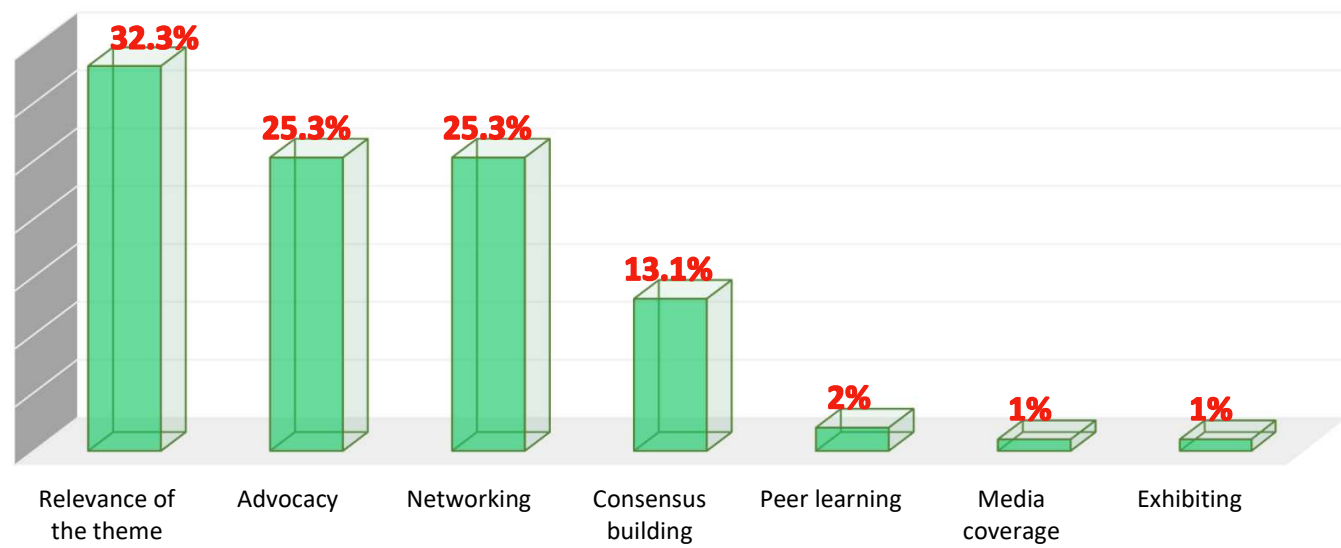
Female



Affiliation

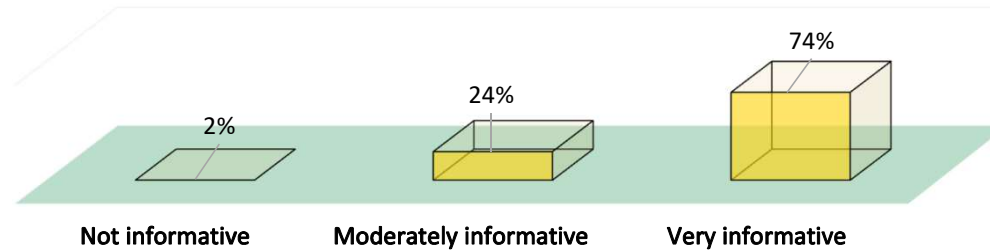


Reasons for attending the forum



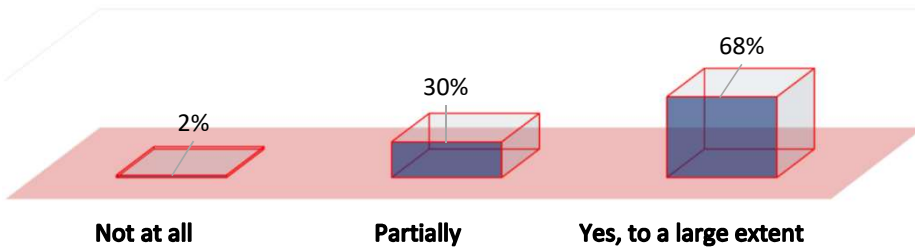
EVENTS ON VNRs, SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, MAJOR GROUPS

How informative were the events on regional workshop regional workshop on VNRs, Africa Regional Science Technology and Innovation Forum, preparatory and capacity development workshop for major groups?



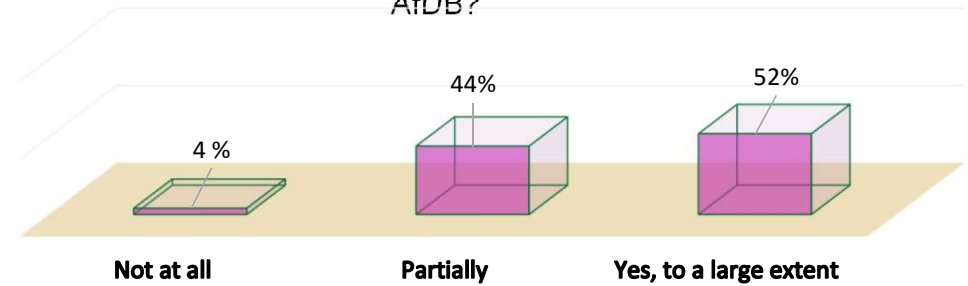
HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE

Did the high-level panel dialogue help you understand better measures to scale up and accelerate implementation of 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 within the 2020-2030 decade?



PROGRESS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TWO AGENDAS

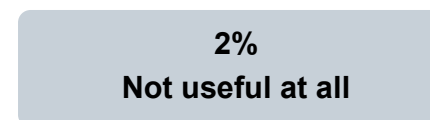
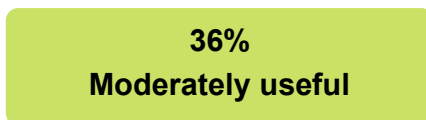
Did you get greater insight into the progress made on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and the support provided by UN entities, AUC and AfDB?



ROUND TABLES

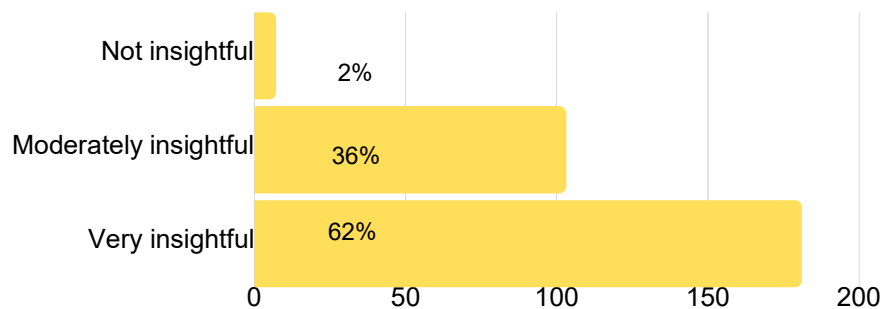
ROUND TABLES ON VNRs AND VLRS

In your opinion, were plenary round-tables 1 and 2 on VNRs and VLRS useful for sharing lessons and experiences?



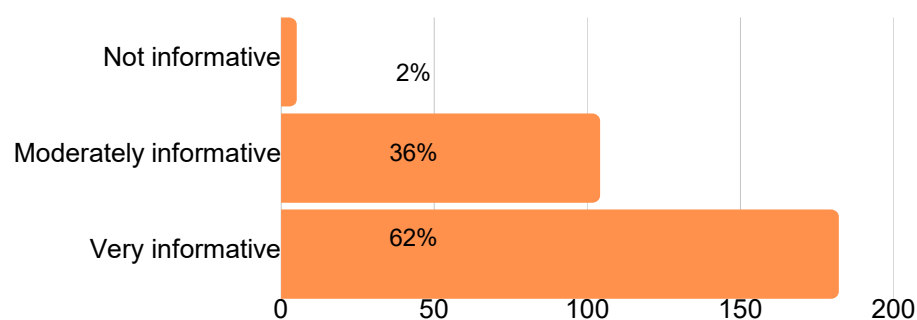
ROUND TABLE ON THE SUBTHEME ON PEOPLE

How insightful was the plenary roundtable on the subtheme on people?



ROUND TABLE ON THE SUBTHEME ON PARTNESHIPS

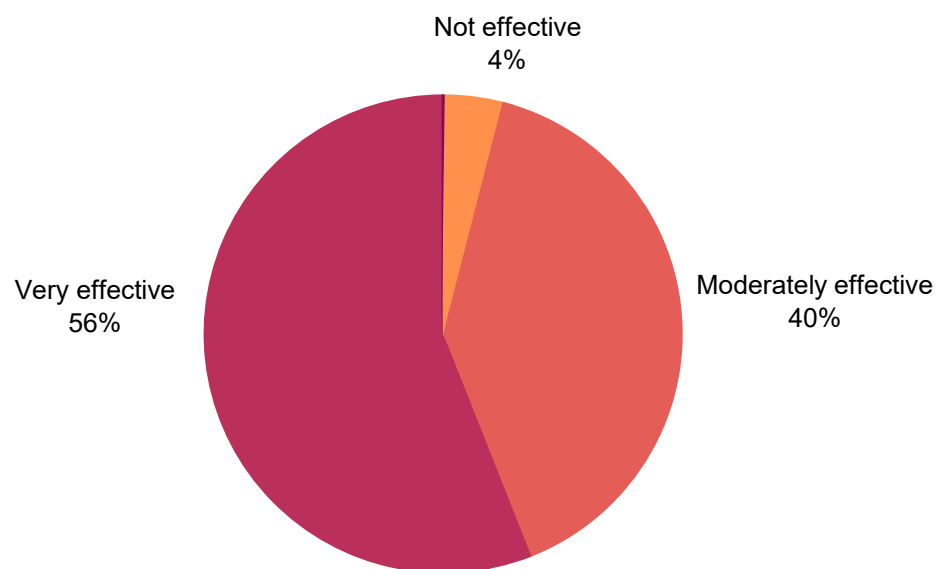
How informative was the plenary roundtable on the subtheme on partnerships and realizing the means of implementation



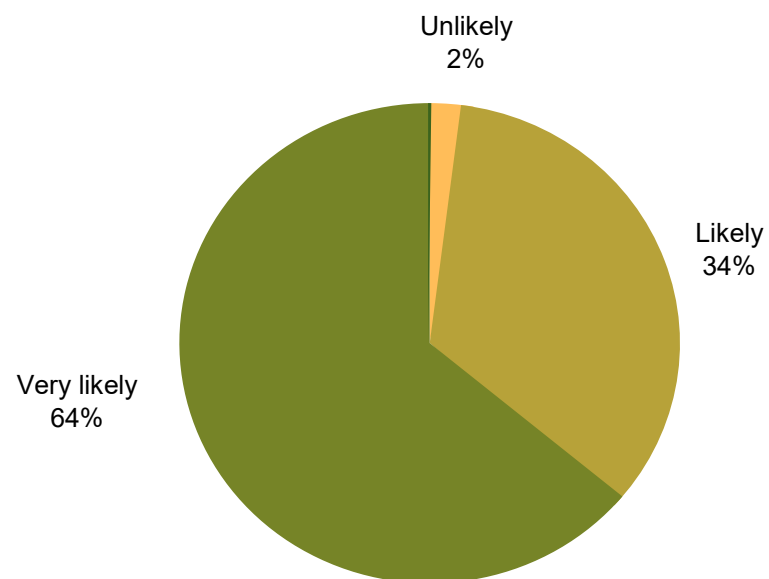
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND THEIR USE



Overall, were the discussions of the forum effective in generating practical policy recommendations to deliver a transformed and prosperous Africa within the decade 2020-2030?

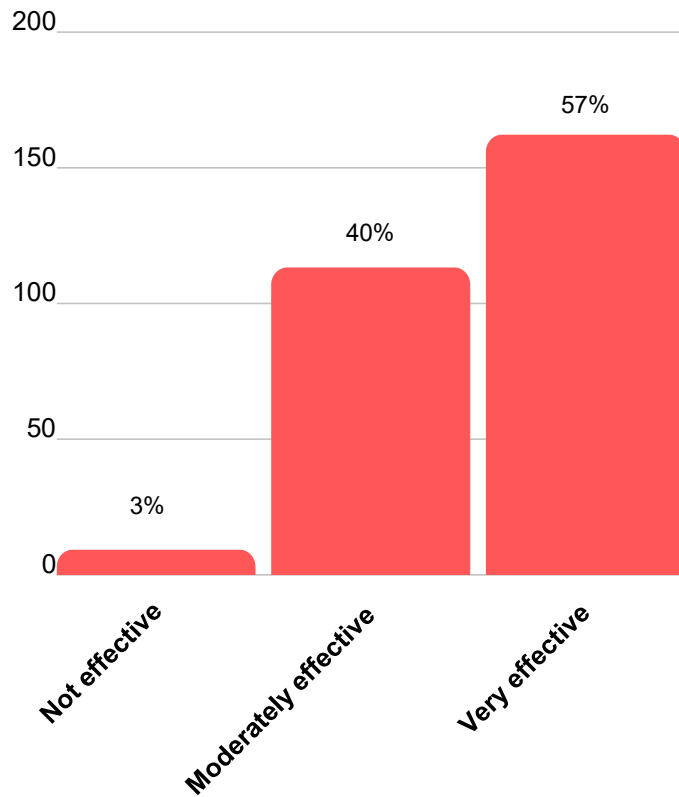


How likely are you to use policy recommendations or knowledge shared including good examples of implementation in your country, to deliver within the decade 2020-2030?



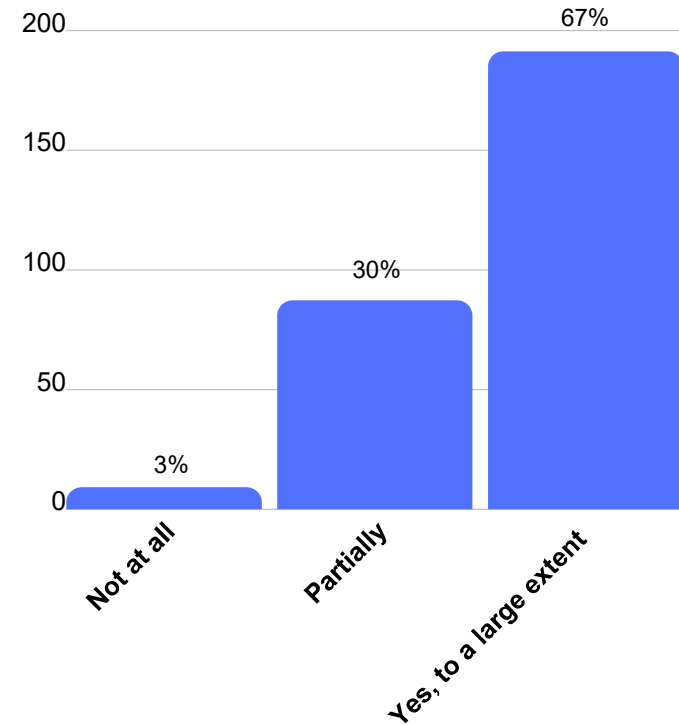
PROSPERITY, PLANET AND PEACE

Were the discussions and presentations on sub-themes: Prosperity, Planet and Peace, effective in helping you understand progress made and what needs to be done to accelerate implementation?



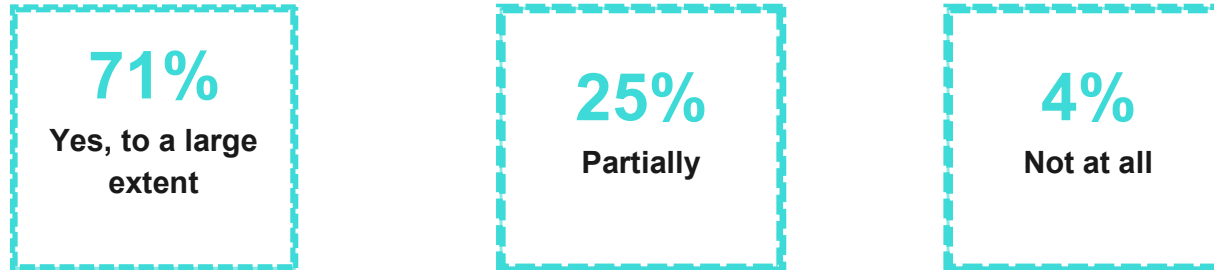
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

In your opinion, has the Forum provided an effective platform for relevant stakeholders to identify and examine technology needs and gaps for improved science, technology and innovation policy and practice?



ENGAGEMENT OF MAJOR GROUPS

In your opinion, was the engagement of major groups in the forum meaningful?



UN DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM SUPPORT

Rate the extent to which the presentation and discussion on the support provided by UN Development System to implement the two agendas was informative.



SIDE EVENTS

Did side events give you fresh viewpoints and insights?

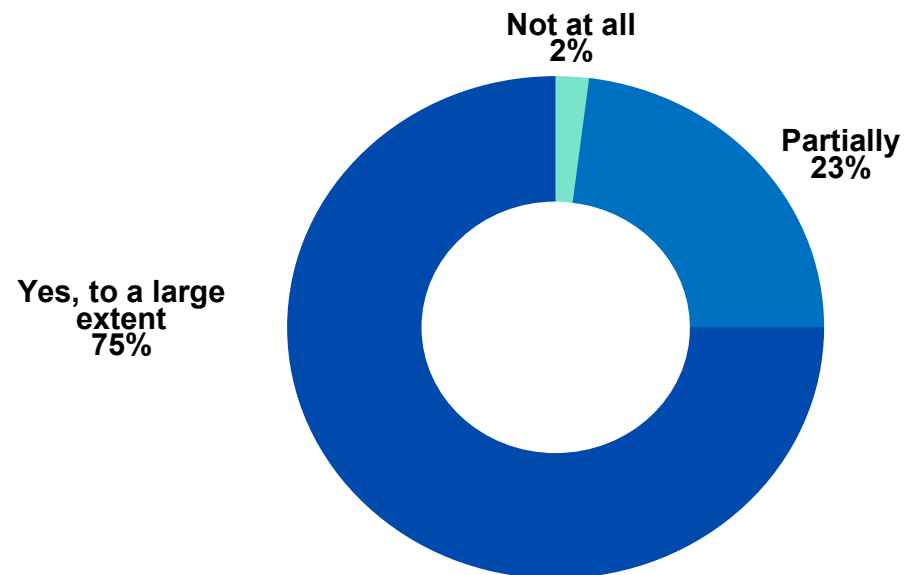
71% Yes to a large extent

24% Partially

5% Not at all

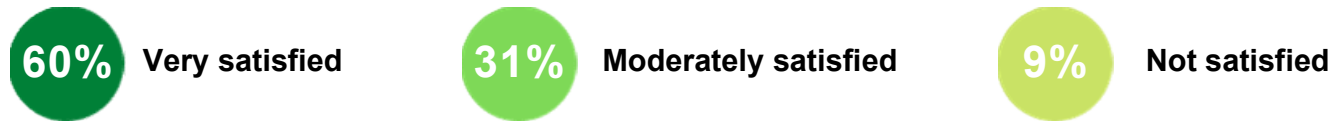
A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PLATFORM?

Overall, has the Forum been successful in providing a multi-stakeholder platform for follow-up and review of progress and challenges in the implementation of the goals of the two Agendas?



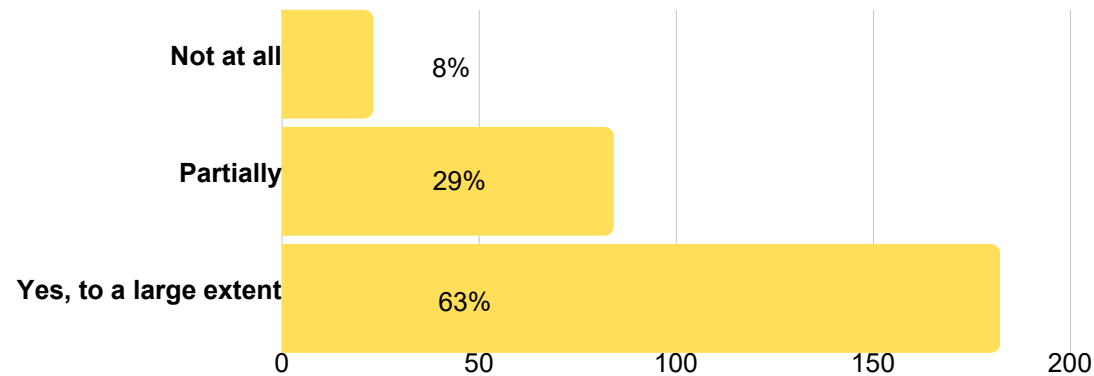
TECHNICAL REPORTS AND DOCUMENTATION

What is your level of satisfaction with the quality and usefulness of technical reports and documentation provided?



LOGISTICS

Overall, are you satisfied with the logistical aspects of the Forum?



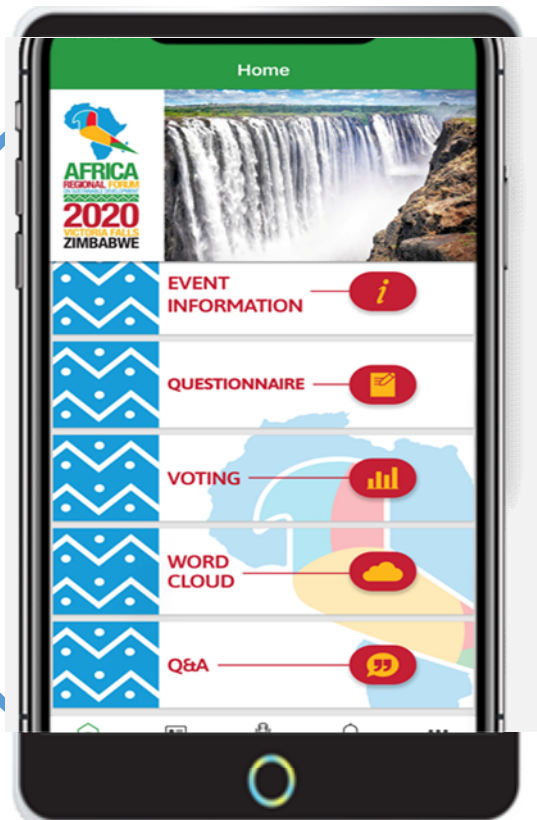
WHAT WORKED WELL

Overall feedback was positive- “Well organized” “Excellent Forum” “Very informative” “Great success”

The Forum was said to be very informative and insightful.

Boot camp was appreciated by participants.

Participation of youth and MGoS in general was commended.

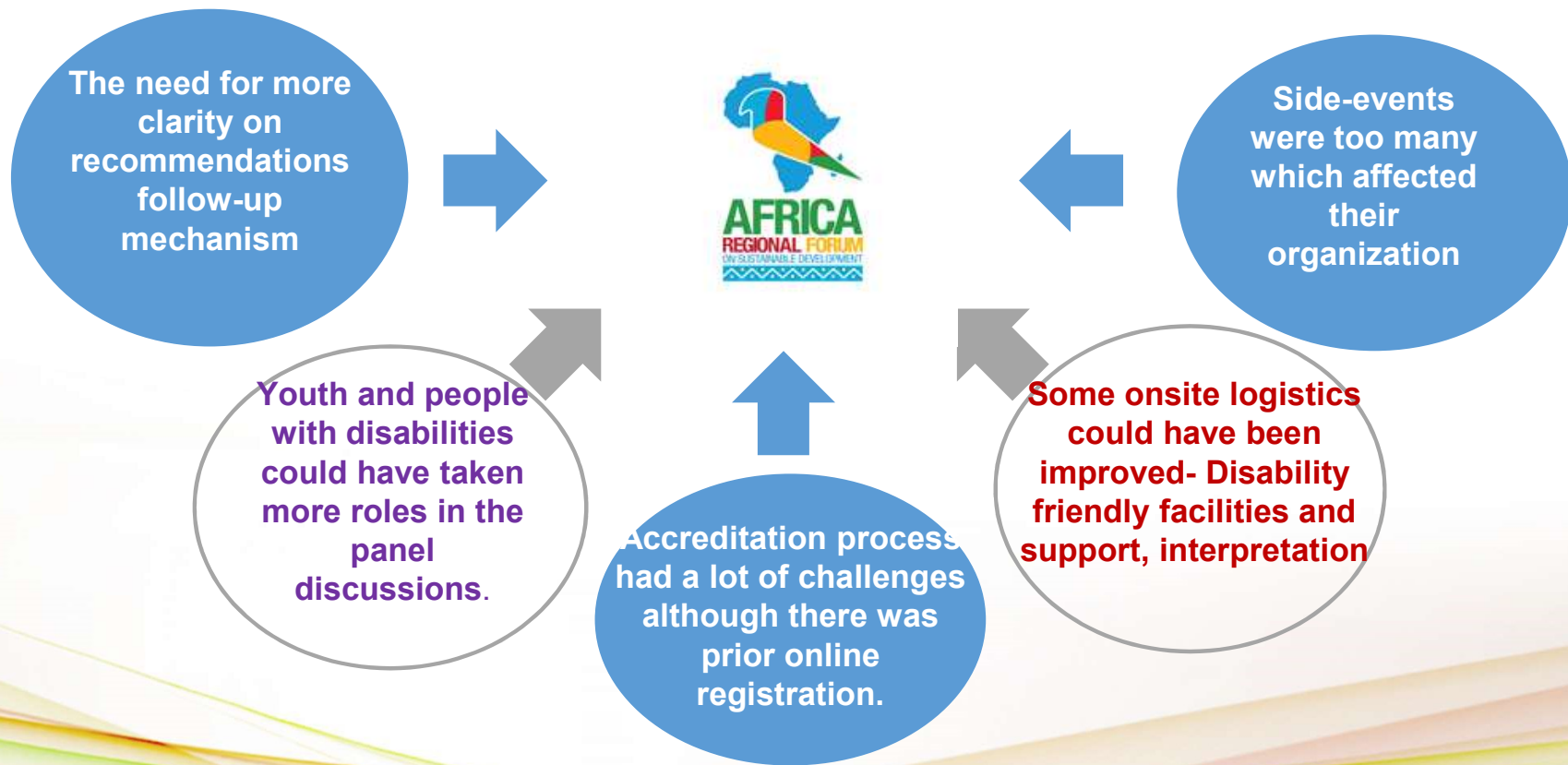


The Forum was said to be excellent for sharing knowledge, lessons and experiences.

The Forum was said to be an engaging platform and provided great opportunities for networking.

On organization and logistics- participants appreciated the lunch arrangements given the huge number of participants.

MAIN SUGGESTED AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT



KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

01 Follow-up mechanism

- While it is recognized that the ARFSD outcomes (key messages and declaration) will be taken to the HLPF, what is also clear is that there is need to put in place an implementation follow-up mechanism at the continental level.

02 Involvement and ownership by UNDS and AUC

- Involvement of the UN Development System has improved significantly and this is commendable. There is need to sustain it and strengthened it even more. In addition there is need to strengthen AUC involvement and ownership.

03 The Forum as a flagship cooperate event

- While ARFSD is recognized as a corporate event more now than before, there would be more value addition if it is embraced as one of the flagship events so that it is supported with the necessary resources; both financial and human. Report drafting process and timeliness for example is affected by not having a dedicated team of drafters to service the Forum.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

04 ARFSD Coordination and Oversight

- The need to strengthen internal institutional coordination and oversight of the SDGs work in ECA is an area that is regularly pointed out by evaluations and audits (OIOS & UNBOA in 2018 and 2019). There is need to put in place a mechanism for coordination and oversight of SDGs work. This mechanism if put in place would be useful for the overall oversight and coordination of the ARFSD and its related activities such as VNRs and VLRs.

05 Resource Mobilization

- ARFSD has lately attracted a lot of traction and participation in terms of numbers has increased significantly (2020 ARFSD had +/-3000 participants). This is commendable but in order to sustain the Forum there is need to strategize on how resources will be mobilized to finance the Forum. Among others, ECA could strengthen reaching out to the UNDS, donors and mobilize internal resources.

Key recommendations on organization and format

- Scale down side events to enable effective organization hence attendance and meaningful interactions.
- Improve registration and accreditation process by ensuring that ECA is at the center of the process.
- Enhance access to the Forum for persons with disabilities in the areas of registration, facilities accessibility, documentation and interpretation.
- Strengthen the role of PCMS in the logistical arrangements of the Forum including in the host country agreement negotiations with host country.
- The paper smart approach to Forum documentation was commended and should be encouraged. However there is need to enhance sharing of information on accessibility of the paper smart portal.
- Improve time management of the sessions.
- Consider strengthening the role of youth and people with disabilities in panel discussions.
- Soon after the Forum, share media channels and documents links to allow participants revisit some of the events/sessions and have access to important documents such as the key messages and the declaration.

More: www.unecca.org

