

## **People and Planet: Towards Sustainable Human Development**

*Consultation on the 2020 Human Development Report co-organized with ECA*

Elephant Hills Resort, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (Room: **Gwayi**)

**25 February 2020, 13.00 – 14.30**

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In 1990, the Human Development Report introduced a new way to consider progress: one that was centered on people. The human development approach considers whether people around the world have the capabilities to be and do what they aspired in life. The Human Development Index (HDI) introduced in the first report, provides a basic measure of this progress. The HDI was meant to capture the “human development journey” of countries: how much of the road to human development has been covered by a given country.

Today, 30 years later, the aspiration for many have changed, as have the capabilities needed to thrive. Consider for example access to technology. At the same time, there is a fast-growing realization that social choices must be contained to recognize the planet’s limits that are already stretched to breaking point. Therefore, what sustainable human development is today, and how it should be measured, needs to be considered in light of these new realities. Even if its original ideals— such as a long and healthy life, knowledge, adequate living standards - remain as valid as they ever were, the path to achieving them might need to change.

This reassessment is an urgent task, to avoid reaching a stage of inevitable tradeoffs and tragic choices. On top of direct consequences of environmental backlash, an ill-managed climate crisis could jeopardize many of the hard-fought human achievements up to this point. In its 30th Anniversary, the 2020 Human Development Report will assess the pathways for sustainable human development, upgrading both its analytical framework and measurement tools, including the HDI.

### **Agenda**

- Moderator: Mr. James Murombedzi, Chief of the African Climate Policy Center (ACPC), ECA
- (13:00 – 13:20) Introducing the 2019 Human Development Report: Inequalities in Human Development**
- Jacob Assa, Policy Specialist, Human Development Report Office at UNDP
- (13:20 – 13:40) Reflections on Integrating Human Development and Sustainability**
- *Towards the 2020 Human Development Report*. Jacob Assa, UNDP
  - *Unlocking Systemic Barriers to Innovation in Climate Change Adaptation in Sub-Saharan Africa*. John Ouma Mugabe, Professor at the University of Pretoria
- (13:40 – 14:30) Open and interactive dialogue with participants**