

High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD-2018)

INP President Welcoming Note

- *Her Excellency Professor Hala El-Said Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform and the representative of His Excellency Professor Mostafa Madbouly, the Egyptian Prime Minister,*
- *His Excellency Professor Mohamed Moeet, Minister of Finance,*
- *His Excellency Mr. Obeth Mbui Kandjoze, Minister of Economic Planning and DG of National Planning Commission of Namibia,*
- *Dr. Adam Elhirika, Director, Macro Economic Policy Division,*
- *Professor Sylvian Boko, Principal Advisor and Head of Development Planning and Statistics, Capacity Development Division, ECA*
- *UN team,*
- *Distinguished African participants and colleagues*
- *Ladies and gentlemen,*

Good Morning!

It is my great pleasure, as the president of INP to welcome you to Egypt and to host 2018 High Level Policy Dialogue on Development Planning in Africa, entitled: Financing the SDGs in Africa; strategies for planning and resource mobilization, which is organized by INP representing Egypt in collaboration with UNECA.

In September 2015, the UN launched a global 2030 Agenda and disclosed a set of goals for achieving sustainable development by 2030. Known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 17 goals and 169 associated targets define development agenda to lead the world towards a path of economic development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability for the 15 years ahead. The indicators constitute major challenges in terms of technical and institutional capacities as well as the means of implementation through resource mobilization, financing, technological innovation and capacity building.

Egypt has launched its strategy in alignment with the 2030 Agenda entitled: “Egypt’s vision 2030”. The Egyptian strategy is unprecedented in terms of its scope and significance at the national level. It spans over the three dimensions of sustainable development namely economic, social and environmental aspects.

The over-arching aim of the strategy is for Egypt to possess a competitive, balanced and diversified economy, dependent on innovation and knowledge based on justice, social integrity and participation, in a balanced and diversified ecological collaboration system, investing the ingenuity of

place and human capital to achieve sustainable development and to improve Egyptians' quality of life, in a state-driven process, with the full participation of all relevant stakeholders.

To move forward with implementation, the strategy was reflected in the government program for the period 2016-2018, which represented the executive program of the SDS in the medium term.

Like most African countries, Egypt had encountered some challenges in achieving the MDGs. However, it had succeeded in achieving some of them like combating HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and other diseases and ensured environmental sustainability.

Achieving the SDGs cannot be afforded without adequate financing. Egypt estimates that needed investments over the period might surpass 7500 billion L.E. Although it has undergone remarkable steps in developing its vision and national strategy in alignment with the SDGs, still its financing and resource mobilization represent a major challenge to accelerating SDGs implementation. Several innovative tools are being crucial to overcome this challenge.

Apart from addressing the hot issues of SDGs Agenda, the Egyptian economy has started a rigorous and relevant reform Agenda coincident with the current thrust in Egypt's development efforts and in light of the country's priorities. To mention but a few examples, the agenda covered subsidy policy reform , exchange rate liberalization, the economics of nuclear energy generation, public-private partnerships in providing education services, industry (particularly of small and medium scale projects), and the environment,....etc. As reflection of the reform program, some of our economic indicators witnessed improvements like, the rate of growth of GDP, the inflation rate, unemployment rate, balance of payment deficit and credit ratings.

The interest in development planning is increasing in the African countries, particularly with the evolution of MDGs and later SDGs as well as African Agenda 2063 goals.

There are a lot of opportunities and challenges connected to the re-birth of long term development vision and planning in Africa. For an appropriate development planning and financing sustainable development particularly mobilizing adequate resources, African countries must have a look back to

their experiences of development planning and update their strategies in the light of the lessons learnt.

In the case of Africa, given its complex development challenges and the scale of its development finance needs, countries will need to leverage all possible sources of finance. International and regional integration as well as cooperation should be considered.

Domestic resources have been recognized as constituting the core of SDGs financing. Also, they are significant than other international or foreign sources such as ODA, FDI or remittances.

Efforts must go beyond technical issues to recognize country-specific implementation challenges and tackle political economy constraints.

INP is an Egyptian scientific think tank and a national centre of excellence specified in the field of planning and development that serves different Egyptian, as well as regional and international bodies and organizations.

In the six decades since its establishment, the INP has been immersed in its primary mandate of contribution to the nurturing and reinforcement of a culture of development planning in the Arab and African region.

INP has mainly done this through research, training and capacity building programs and provided open forums for the exchange of views through conferences, seminars, lectures and roundtable discussions. These activities have been carried out in the spirit of public interest and targeted the mid-career and senior officials of Arab and African governments in general and economic ministers and planning institutions in particular.

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the substantive staff of INP to collaborate with UNECA to hold HLPD – 2018. This event will provide a platform for debates on identifying and devising effective strategies to overcoming the challenges and leveraging the opportunity for realizing SDGs. The dialogue will bring together development thinkers, researchers, and academics from across the continent. In addition, the meeting promotes coordination and coherence among African planners as well as chief executives of planning bodies. Moreover, it brings the chance to exchange knowledge, expertise, data and experiences. I welcome your personal attendance. Your support to the discussions and deliberations are highly appreciated and hoping that the proceedings will be constructive and fruitful.

Finally, I consider myself fortunate as the president of INP to have the full support and auspices of his Excellency, the Egyptian Prime Minister. Meanwhile, high appreciation and gratitude goes to Her Excellency, Professor Hala El Said, the Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative reform. I would like to thank Professor Sylvian Boko, and the ECA team for their continuous cooperation and tremendous support during our preparation for and organizing of this event. I would also like to thank all the distinguished participants from the different African Countries. I believe that working collectively together will lift INP to even greater heights at a time where countries at our continent, especially Egypt are at the threshold of major transformations.

Last, but not least, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Prof. Fadia Abdelslam and INP team for their effort in organizing this event in collaboration with the ECA team.

I certainly believe that this dialogue will bear fruitful results and help us in better achievement of the SDGs and better future development for our continent Africa.

Wishing you a successful and fruitful Dialogue in Egypt.

Thank You!