

ZCTU-LABOUR Policy Dialogue Conference

“Setting the Workers Agenda Sustainable Democracy & Transformation”

Presentation on the Topic: Setting the People’s Agenda and Achieving SDGs (09 August 2017- Jameson Hotel- Harare)

Background

In September 2015 the government of Zimbabwe was one of the 193 United Nations member states that signed off the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and they came into effect on 1st January 2016, following the end of the 15 year-long Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). There are fifteen years to implement the goals, but with the previous set of global targets (Millennium Development Goals) criticized for making a slow start. In May 2015, Government, development Partners and civil society met in Harare for a Multi-Stakeholder National Dialogue on the SDGs as part of consultations prior to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) meeting that was held in New York. The SDGs are a new, universal set of 17 goals, 169 targets and several indicators setting out new development priorities for all countries for the next fifteen years up to 2030. The ambition of the SDGs is to integrate action to eliminate poverty, with efforts to better manage the natural environment while Leave No One Behind. Zimbabwe is one of the 44 countries that have volunteered to be part of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) Voluntary Review Process for 2017. The Ministry responsible for SDGs; Ministry of Macro-Economic Planning and Investment Promotion has set a technical committee composed of UN Agencies, line ministries, CSOs, Business among other to come up with a Voluntary National Report. Government Ministry has also come up with proposed goals, targets and indicators specific to their ministries.

The SDGs are clustered into five main Ps: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership. The Heads of State had committed in 2015 on issues below:

People

We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfill their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

Planet

We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.

Prosperity

We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

Peace

We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

Partnership

We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

Zimbabwe Prioritization of SDG -10 Goals

Government has committed to implement all the SDGs but went further on prioritization of 10 SDGs realizing the country's capacities and limitations. These are 2, 3,4,5,6,7,8,9, 13, and 17

In order of priority below:

SDG Goal 8 – Promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

“Sustained and inclusive economic growth is necessary if we are to create wealth which can be channeled to the social sectors, create economic opportunities for citizens to go into business or to become gainfully employed” VNR

SDG 7 – Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

SDG 2 – Ending hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 9 – Building resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

SDG 6 – Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

“Availability and sustainable management of Water and Sanitation are key in supporting all sectors of the economy. No sector can function without water.” VNR

SDG 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impact

SDG 17 – building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels and strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

SDG 3 – Ensuring healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

SDG 4 – Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 5 – Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls

The citizens are however concerned by the omission of Goal 16 on Peace – given the situation prevailing in the economy, before, during and after elections; Zimbabwe has more to work on **Goal 16**. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

Institutional Framework

The government has put in place an institutional Framework to allow the implementation of SDGs

- A **Steering Committee** chaired by the Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet and represented by all line ministry Permanent Secretaries and the heads of the UN agencies, to provide overall guidance and strategic leadership to the process.
- A **Technical Committee**, chaired by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Macroeconomic Planning and Investment Promotion, and represented by SDG focal persons from line ministries and representatives from UN agencies, development partners, the private sector, civil society and the Office of the President and Cabinet, to spearhead the coordination, technical processes as well as providing technical back-stopping.
- **Thematic clusters** for mainstreaming and localizing the SDGs.

- A monitoring and evaluation policy including prioritized SDGs targets and indicators.
- **Coordination mechanism** led by the Ministry of Macroeconomic Planning and Investment Promotion under the guidance and supervision of OPC, for SDG implementation.

Voluntary National Review Process- High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

The government of Zimbabwe is one of the 44 countries which volunteered to be part of High Level Political Forum, Voluntary National Review Process (VNR) - the Meeting in New York saw the government presenting its Goals, Targets, Strategies, Progress, and link of SDGs with National Frameworks, Thematic Analysis and Means of implementation of the SDGs in Zimbabwe. Recommendations were made by other various countries to the National Report presented by the responsible Ministry.

The people's agenda can only be achieved with regard to SDGs when the following issues are resolved at National Level:

- Re- alignment of all the laws to the National Constitution
- Observance of the Rule of law
- Conducive Environment for Business Investment and Coherent Policies
- Honest and accountable consultations by Ministry responsible for SDGs
- Inclusion of Marginalized groups: Rural, Youth, Women, People Living with Disabilities etc
- A peaceful environment

Recommandations (Zimbabwe Csos Référence Group on SDGs)

A lot of gaps need to be looked into – the Government as usual is not embracing the concept of Leave No One Behind- Csos contributions are not factored- It is the Government representatives and the UN which are making Key decisions without a transparent way of consultations of all sectors

Leadership, inclusivity and Diversity

- The government has to open up an inclusive and transparency CSOs – government dialogue process so that the SDGs agenda does not remain a government process like what happened during the MDG era
- Promote inclusivity and representativeness of government - CSOs platforms on SDGs such as the National Technical Working committees on SDGs (NTCs should be inclusive and multi- sectorial in composition)
- The government should speed up the localisation and implementation of the SDGs

Communication and awareness raising

- The government should have one coordinated information centre on SDGs and important dates and it should be accessible to everyone to make sure that CSOs are well informed on the SDGs processes
- There is need for more inclusive awareness raising of SDGs through development of disability, old age friendly communication channels and ICT infrastructure such as Braille, SDGs in vernacular languages including indigenous languages, use of theatre and music as a way of communicating SDGs to the diversity of youth and children sectors
- Promote more awareness raising on SDGs in geographical locations outside main towns such as Harare and Bulawayo

Monitoring and Evaluation

- There is need for feedback mechanisms for évents such as VNR processes for accountability purposes
- Comprehensive poverty data and Ageing should be developed
- There is need to raise awareness and build capacity of the media sector so that it effectively report and monitor on the performance of the Government
- Relevant information on government progress reports on SDGs should be easily accessible by the media and public
- The government has to come up with a comprehensive, transparent and inclusive Monitoring and Evaluation driven by broad based participation
- There is need to share M and E framework to a wider audience for transparency and accountability

Policy environment and enabling environment

- Expedite realignment of laws with the new constitution across all sectors including media
- Improve public resource management to reduce corruption
- Robust data management should be developed to facilitate essential research and advocacy on SDGs

- Investment in data disaggregation to mainstream poverty issues of persons with disabilities, older persons and multi – dimensional causes of child poverty, access to reproductive health and non monetary approach to child poverty for better targeting of children and disability community
- Prioritisation of Goal number 16 and creation of actions plans to implement this goal
- There is need for the protection and promotion of social and economic rights guided by the new constitution
- Increase participation of children, persons with disabilities, women, youth, older persons in the implementation and monitoring of SDGs
- There is need for government to speed up ratification (e.g old Age definition) and implementation Regional and continental and global protocols

SDGs Financing

- There is need to increase funding to SDGs work at national level and there must be analysis of the budget performance towards SDGs.
- Improved capacity building and provision of provide financial resources to CSOs especially those representing women, youth, disabled community, elder persons
- Promotion and capacity building of CSOs led data gathering and social accountability initiatives on SDGs
- There is need to strengthen capacity of youth organisations, young women and men to be able to demand accountability from public officials and government institutions
- Prioritisation and mainstreaming of sexual and reproductive health of young women as a cross cutting issues in all sectors
- Promote mainstreaming of disability and ageing as cross cutting issues in educational, health, education and training to promote gender equality and equity

General Recommendations on SDGs

- SDGs Awareness Raising
- Research and Advocacy for SDGs localisation
- Participatory Citizen Monitoring of SDGs implémentation
- Supporting Government efforts through resource mobilisation for SDGs implémentation
- There should bé harmonisation of SDGs to the National Policies for Cohérence
- To achieve SDGs there should an enabling environment – political will and a working economy –
- Opposition Political parties should bé part of SDGs Agenda
- Parliament should exercise their role in monitoring the implentation of SDGs
- Translation of SDGs to local langages and envolement of rural people

- There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

References:

Transforming our World Post 2015 Document on SDGs (2015)

Zimbabwe Voluntary National Review of SDGs (VNR) (2017)

Zimbabwe Csos Reference Group on SDGs (2017)

<http://www.prftzim.org/zimbabwes-priority-10-goals/>

Prepared and presented by : Misheck Gondo- National Director – National Association of Youth Organisations (NAYO Africa), NANGO Youth Sector Chair, SADC-AAYC Regional Coordinator, Co-Chair CPDE Africa, National Focal Representative –NAYD SDGs (Network of African Youth for Development)