

Response and Questions by the Civil Society in Nigeria to the presentation of the VNR in Nigeria

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Nigeria, welcome our Government's participation in the 2020 voluntary reporting process and our involvement. We underscore the importance of a coordinated process amongst civil society organizations for improving consultation and engagement in the implementation of the SDGs including monitoring and reporting on the goals.

In the light of the Covid-19 pandemic and in order to build back better we call on the Federal Government of Nigeria to increase allocation of resources and investments in social public service delivery for ensuring inclusive access and addressing inequalities to achieve the 'leave no one behind' and human rights SDGs commitments. In particular, increased investments for: health, social protection, food security, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, prevention of gender based violence, financial inclusion, identity management, energy, including enacting and implementing laws and policies that safeguard meaningful livelihoods for marginalized groups such as girls and women, youths, older persons and persons with disabilities, people living with and affected by HIV.

We emphasize the need for internet affordability, accessibility and meaningful connectivity, transparency and accountability in the use of our resources across the three tiers of government. We welcome the report's recognition of the need to diversify the nation's economy and call on the Federal and sub-national governments to accelerate their response by developing and implementing a comprehensive range of policies and programmes to adequately set the country on the path of economic prosperity, job growth and sustainability.

Recognizing that expectations and trust for delivering the SDGs depends on government, private sector and civil society, we ask for a deepened engagement with civil society in ways that ensure co-creation of solutions to meet and exceed the global goals by the year 2030.

Questions

- How do the federal and state governments plan to reach a mass of population bearing in mind the huge population and diverse social economic context of states with government policies and agreed SDGs services?
- Nigeria is endowed with many CSOs and a vibrant business community. How is the government planning to maximize constructive and substantive engagement with both sectors to accelerate the achievement of SDGs and the Decade of Action?
- What are the federal and state Governments plans to improve the policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) both horizontally and vertically and to address the SDGs targets interlinkages

Issues CSOs will consider during and beyond 2021 implementation period

- **The** SDGs are yet to be localized and some SDGs are yet to be implemented. For instance, in the current report water and sanitation has been described in Goal 6 but not much has been made to advance health rights of the population.
- Shadow reporting by CSOs
- Lack of capacity to promote policy coherence
- Improve the terms of engagement that would encourage more CSOs participation in the VNR process.