

## **CSOs Contributes to Africa's Common Position on the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

By:

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The Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which held in Addis Ababa from October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 05<sup>th</sup>, brought together government representatives and other stakeholders including the civil society to brainstorm on Africa's Common Position on the SDGs. The most prominent amongst the civil society were the representatives of the Civil Society Partnership Development Effectiveness (CPDE) that included Ngalim Eugene Nyuydine, Executive Director of the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CANYOSFOP), UN Youth Spokesperson for Africa 2015, MDG Campaign and member of the CPDE MDG Working Group; Christine Andela, Chairperson of the National Civil Society Platform of Cameroon (PLANOSCAM) and CPDE Coordinator for Central Africa, and Marlene Francia, African Coordinator of People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty, a founding member of the CPDE. Apart from the participation of the CPDE in this regional consultation, other major groups invited were: Women, Children and the Youth, Business and Industry, Indigenous People, African Farmers, Science and Technology, and Workers and Trade Union groups.

The consultation organized by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Development Bank (AfDB) was preceded by sub regional studies conducted by UNECA in the five regions of Africa. These studies culminated to a regional report on the progress of the MDGs that present a well-informed analytical Africa regional perspective on the SDGs, targets and indicators. It is on this basis that a comprehensive common position for Africa was debated in the five days meeting that was divided into an Experts segment from October 31<sup>st</sup> to November 02<sup>nd</sup>, and the Ministerial segment from November, 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

At the opening ceremonies of both segments of the consultation, the following personalities made important statements: Ms Fatima Denton, Officer in Charge of Special Initiatives Division at UNECA; Mr Ayodele Odusola, MDGs Advisor for Africa, UNDP New York; Mr. Khalil Timamy, Head of Environment, Climate Change, Water and Land Management at the AUC; Mr. Ato Adamsu Nebebe, Director of UN Agencies and Regional Economic Cooperation Directorate, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia; Mr. Sarwar Hobohm, Director of Strategic Planning at UNIDO; Mr. Samba Arona Diane of UNEP; Mr. Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of ECA;

Mr. Maged Abdelaziz, Under – Secretary General, UN Office of Special Adviser on Africa; Mr. Honbo Wu, Under Secretary General, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and H.E. Antony Mothae Maruping, Commission, Department of Economic Affairs, AUC.

The Key issues to be retained from these statements include: Rio +20 was a critical turning point for the evaluation of the progress of the MDGs and the formulation of the SDGs. Therefore, the MDGs provide important lessons because there is need to focus on sustainable goals that are achievable.

- Though Africa contributes less than 5% of emissions, the impact of the depletion of the ozone layer is grave even for Africa.
- The green economy, clean and sustainable energy are prime for Africa's development and eco-system.
- The youth that constitute more than 70% of Africa's population must be at the centre of the SDGs if they must be achieved. By 2040, over 40% of the world youths will be Africans and by 2050 more than 40% of the work force will be African youths.
- Unemployment is high among the youth. Education and limited access to health is also affecting them.
- Africa's growth depends on economic transformation that includes agriculture, hence guaranteeing food security, scientific technology, innovation, and infrastructure and above all Domestic Resource Mobilization to finance this transformation.
- Empowering women and combatting gender based violence and armed conflicts are a necessary ingredient to the achievement of the SDGs.
- Governance, peace and security and an enabling environment are key to achieving any meaningful development and the SDGs.
- H.E. Commissioner Anthony Mothae Maruping in his remarks stated that ***“MDGs was a process of tackling symptoms with the support of ODA but the SDGs is the process of tackling the roots of the problem.”***

At the end of the consultation, the following priority issues were adopted as the SDGs for Africa's common position to be submitted to the African Heads of State during the January 2014 African Union Summit, for onward transmission to the UN High Level Committee on the Post 2015 Development Agenda: These priorities are:

Goal 1: Eradicate poverty in all its forms.

Goal 2: Promote sustainable agriculture and achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all.

Goal 3: Ensure quality, adequate, affordable, accessible and comprehensive health services for all.

Goal 4: Achieve universal access to affordable and quality education at all levels.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality, protect and empower women and persons in vulnerable situations.

Goal 6: Ensure social inclusion and protection, including guaranteed minimum income, social security and decent employment for all, particularly for youth.

Goal 7: Structurally transform economies and attain inclusive sustained economic growth. Accelerate infrastructure development, industrialization and access to affordable energy and empower resilient cities and sustainable human settlements.

Goal 8: Enhance environmental quality, resilience and protection of environment, and promote sustainable exploitation, use and management of natural resources.

Goal 9: Combat desertification and land degradation, mitigate drought and promote sustainable management of land and oceanic spaces.

Goal 10: Promote culture, research, science, innovation and technology development.

Goal 11: Scale up global partnerships for development.

Goal 12: Promote good governance at national and international levels.

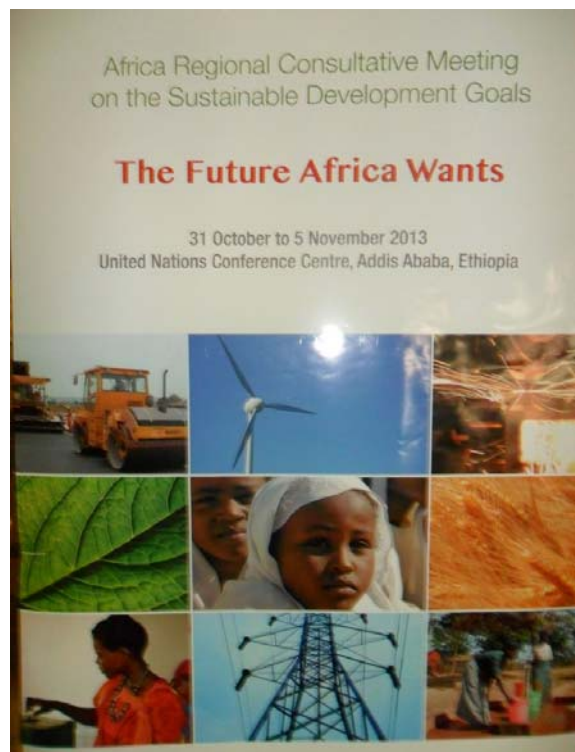
Goal 13: Promote culture research, science, innovation and technology development.

The CPDE representatives for the regional consultation perspective are to organize an African civil society regional consultation in 2014, led by the CPDE Post MDG Working group represented by Ngalim Eugene Nyuydine. The consultation will permit the civil society to brainstorm on the Addis Ababa outcome document and enrich the common position before it is submitted to the High Level Panel for the September 2014 negotiation process.

## PHOTO REPORTING ON THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION ON THE AFRICA COMMON POSITION ON THE SDGS, ADDIS ABABA, OCT 31 – NOV 05, 2013



*Cameroon delegation: L – R: Mr. Ngalim Engine (CAMYOSFOP), Ms. Christine Andela (PLANOSCAM), Hon Bokwe Smauel Ngoe (MP).*



*Poster for the Consultation*



*Cameroon delegation: L-R: Mr. Edouard Ma'aole, Councillor (Cameroon Embassy, Addis), H.E. Jacques – Alfred Ndoumbe – Eboule, Cameroon Ambassador to Ethiopia, AU and ECA, Ms. Christine Andela (Coordinator, CPDE Central Africa/PLANOSCAM), Mr. Ngalim Engine (Member, CPDE Post MDG Working Group/CAMYOSFOP)*



*Mr. Ngalim Engine (CAMYOSFOP) and Ms. Christine Andela, Coordinator of Central Africa CPDE and President of PLANOSCAM*





*Mr. Ngalim Engine, Mr Ayodele Odusola, MDGs Advisor, Regional Bureau for Africa Strategic and Advisor Unit and a colleague from ECA.*



*Mr. Ngalim Engine and Mr. Hongbo Wu, Under Secretary General, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs*



*Representatives of the Central African Region in consultation on the sub region's position on the SDGs*



*Mr. Ngalim Engine (CAMYOSFOP) and Ms. Marlene Francia, Africa Coordinator of the People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty (PCFS) and IBON*