

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE SENIOR SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, PRINCESS ADEJOKE ORELOPE-ADEFULIRE AT THE POLICY CONSULTATION ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ORGANIZED BY THE CONSORT LUXURY SUITES, KAURA DISTRICT, ABUJA ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH JUNE, 2018.

Protocols,

1. I feel very honoured to be here today to deliver a Keynote Address on **“Funding SDGs’ Implementation In Nigeria”** at this very important Policy Consultation on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Please permit me to first and foremost commend the Women Environmental Programme (WEP) for their tenacity in driving the Women 2030 project in Nigeria and also for inviting us to this event.
2. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, as you are all aware, the Sustainable Development Goals is a call to action for UN Member Countries to address critical global challenges of the present time, which borders on environmental, economic and social issues, while ensuring that no one is left behind. The SDGs are aimed at eradicating poverty in all its forms and ramifications and shifting the world to a sustainable and resilient development pathway.
3. My Office is charged with the responsibility of Inter-governmental coordination of the SDGs implementation, planning, multi-stakeholders’ partnership, resource mobilization as well as ensuring seamless and robust strategic communications and advocacy around the SDGs Agenda.
4. Ladies and Gentlemen, as we are all aware, the Federal Government has put in place key policies, financial and institutional measures to create the enabling environment for mainstreaming and implementing the SDGs. The SDGs will only strive in the spirit of partnership and pragmatism to make the right choices now to improve lives in a sustainable way for future generations. The scale and ambition of the 2030 Agenda calls for smart partnerships, as well as integrated and innovative approaches to sustainable development.

5. It is in the spirit of this partnership that my Office has collaborated with relevant agencies to undertake a number of activities to set the stage for the implementation of the SDGs.

These include:

- Development of Action Plan to guide SDGs implementation;
- Rollout of SDGs Needs Assessment and Costing Exercise in partnership with the Ministry of Budget and National Planning, the MDAs as well as the UNDP;
- Data Mapping and Determination of 126 Baseline SDGs Indicators to benchmark progress through partnership with the National Bureau of Statistics; it produced the Indicators Baseline Report 2016.
- Partnership Agreement with UNDP to mainstream the SDGs at both the Federal and subnational levels;
- Establishment of institutional mechanisms such as the Presidential Council on SDGs, SDGs Committees in both chambers of the National Assembly, Inter-Ministerial Committee for MDAs coordination and a subnational partnership framework through the Conditional Grants Scheme; and
- Multi-Stakeholder engagement mechanisms such as the Private Sector Advisory Group (PSAG), Donors' Partnership Forum on SDGs, Civil Society Strategy Group on SDGs, amongst others;
- The Office articulated a report called A National Voluntary Reviews on SDGs 2017, a follow-up mechanism established by the UN to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by galvanizing partnerships and commitments from key players to collectively speed up progress on the SDGs;
- High level sensitization, advocacy and mobilization of stakeholders and strengthening of institutional framework for effective operation of the office have been deployed. E.g. SDGs Ambassadors and SDGs-NYSC Champions for SDGs advocacy and;
- Prioritization of SDGs in the recently launched Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP).

6. Ladies and Gentlemen, my focus today is on financing the SDGs' implementation in Nigeria. As you are aware, financing the 2030 Agenda has been a key issue since the adoption of the SDGs. The ability to mobilize, sequence and make effective use of a wide variety of both financing sources and financing instruments is crucial to achieving this ambitious Agenda. This is reflected in SDG 17, **“strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development,”** which tasks member Countries to strengthen domestic resource mobilization, meet aid commitments and mobilize financial resources for development from multiple sources.

7. A key aspect to the attainment of the SDGs is the deployment of a robust financing framework as laid out in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAA), the outcome of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development which underscored that Official Development Assistance (ODA) should complement other funding sources such as domestic resource mobilization, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and other innovative sources of financing.

8. The financing needs to implement the SDGs are no doubt massive. We must mobilize all sources of finance, i.e domestic and international, public and private, harness the potentials of innovative financing schemes and most importantly align financing flows and policies with sustainable development priorities.

9. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, let me share with us some of the funding sources for the implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria.

i. Funding from Annual Budgets:

Through partnership with Ministry of Budget and National Planning, SDGs are mainstreamed into long term and medium term development plans e.g. the SDGs core areas such as energy, food security, agriculture, infrastructural development, industry, macroeconomic stability and inclusive growth have been integrated into the National Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (NERGP). At the sub-national

levels, the SDGs are being mainstreamed into State development plans. The MDAs align these sectoral plans with the annual budget and work plan for resource allocation and implementation.

ii. Debt Relief Gains:

The Debt Relief Gains (DRG) is a robust financing strategy that emerged when Nigeria obtained debt relief from the Paris Club of Creditors. The DRG funds were administered by the then Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDGs and was utilized to scale up high impact pro-poor interventions geared towards achieving the MDGs. Unfortunately, the DRG funds are not available for now but the SDGs Office is strongly advocating at relevant quarters, for the reintroduction of the DRG funds for SDGs interventions and activities.

iii. The Conditional Grants Scheme:

The Conditional Grants Scheme (CGS) was introduced in 2007 as a vehicle for fostering inter-governmental collaboration towards scaling up efforts for achieving the MDGs. To prioritize the SDGs implementation at the sub-national levels, this innovative financing framework has been adopted. The CGS is being used to incentivize the domestication of the SDGs and will leverage investments from the sub-national governments through an equal; counterpart contributory arrangement that ensures high impact interventions in the social, economic and environmental aspects of development is delivered to poor rural communities.

iv. Establishing Partnerships and Collaboration platforms in order to accelerate SDGs implementation:

The SDGs Office has established multi-stakeholders' engagement mechanisms such as the Private Sector Advisory Group on SDGs, Donors Partnership Forum on SDGs and the Civil Strategy Group, to mobilize resources and support for the implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria.

- **Private Sector Advisory Group on SDGs:** The Private Sector has a crucial role to play and the SDGs Office has set the tone for a more private sector involvement for the actualization of the SDGs in Nigeria. The Private Sector

Advisory Group on SDGs was inaugurated by the then acting President in February, 2017. The role of the private sector in driving economic growth cannot be overemphasized. Businesses create jobs, generates tax revenue and provides the engine that drives development. A National Framework and Strategy for Private Sector Engagement on the SDGs have been developed. The Strategy underscores the imperative of leveraging the vast resources and efficiencies resident in the private sector for the implementation of the SDGs.

- **Donors Partnership Forum on SDGs:** The Forum was established to enhance the existing partnership with the Development Partners in support of the SDGs implementation in Nigeria. There is need to continuously engage Development Partners around government's strategies, plans and programmes aimed at achieving the SDGs so that donors can better align their support to the SDGs policies, strategies and plans. There are many avenues through which Development Partners can play vital roles in supporting the SDGs implementation. These include, but not limited to:
 - ❖ Filling the financial gap through traditional aid (grants and loans);
 - ❖ Facilitating access to new financial instruments such as the Green Bond/Green Climate Fund;
 - ❖ Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment;
 - ❖ Providing Technical Assistance;
 - ❖ Capacity Development and Expertise in Specific Areas;
 - ❖ Promotion of Economic Diversification and Inclusive Growth;
 - ❖ Promotion of Science, Technology and Innovation to support the implementation of the SDGs.
- **The United Nations Development Assistance Framework:** Nigeria is receiving support for SDGs implementation through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework. The UN Country Team in Nigeria supports Nigeria in achieving its national development priorities, the Sustainable Development Goals and other Internationally agreed treaty obligations, Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, fostering equitable Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction through capacity development,

strengthening national accountability systems and the delivery of quality social services focusing on the most deprived and vulnerable Nigerians.

- **Civil Society Strategy Group on SDGs:** The objective of establishing this group is to support the efforts of OSSAP-SDGs in increasing knowledge of the SDGs, programmes, results and opportunities among others across the country with a view to stimulating multi-stakeholders' buy in, effective response and sustained ownership of the SDGs goals, targets, output and outcomes. There are many Civil Society Organizations supporting the government to work on various SDGs goals and targets to ensure the SDGs are achieved in Nigeria. Such collaborations with the CSOs will ensure significant progress is made on national SDGs targets.

- **Financial Instruments:** SDGs can be financed with other financial instruments such as the Green Bond. The Ministry of Environment is driving the process of issuance of green bonds which has gained recognition as means of raising finance for climate friendly purposes.

- **Other Sources:**
 - Combating Illicit Financial Flows as part of domestic resources efforts for development purposes;
 - Recovery of ill-gotten wealth and other measures aimed at deterring corruption to complement other resource mobilization efforts that will enhance re-investment into SDGs initiatives and development interventions.

10. Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, currently, my Office is working with the Ministry of Budget and National Planning and UNDP on the SDGs Needs Assessment and Costing. This exercise will allow sectoral costing of all the interventions required to achieve the SDGs and when concluded, Nigeria will have a clear estimate of what it will cost to achieve the SDGs. This information will help us align the mid-term strategies of the MDAs to government's fiscal framework and the national budget.

11. Concluding, I wish to reiterate that the successful implementation of the SDGs requires the engagement of many stakeholders, encompassing government and non-government actors. Multi-level and Multi-stakeholder Partnerships are essential ingredients for the implementation of the SDGs at the national and sub-national levels.

12. My Office is resolutely committed to working with diverse stakeholders to build the consensus required to successfully implement the SDGs in Nigeria. Working together we can mobilize the vast resources needed to achieve the SDGs and ensure that no one is left behind.

13. Once again I thank the Organizers for extending an invitation to me and I wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you and God bless.