



‘ENSURING NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND’

PARTNERSHIP AND FINANCING FOR SDGs & DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

- The 2030 Agenda clearly recognizes that the Sustainable Development Goals are ambitious and their realization cannot be achieved through the work of one entity alone. As civil society organizations under the banner of the Zimbabwe CSOs Reference Group on SDGs, we strongly believe that building strong partnerships across sectors is an imperative if we are to achieve the SDGs.
- However, for the partnerships to be effective, there is need for meaningful engagement that is long-term, regular, continuous, structured and transparent among other tenets.
- In adherence to the “Leave No One Behind” Principle, inclusivity and access to information on the SDGs are of paramount importance.
- For effective engagement to happen and building strong partnerships, citizens need information as guaranteed by the country’s Constitution.
- This therefore requires the government to enact a progressive access to information law that replaces AIPPA, which hinders the enjoyment of the same.
- Beyond the law and proactive disclosure, political will is needed to provide resources and build capacity on both the supply and demand side to realize full benefits of citizens’ access to information.

- Ladies and gentlemen, whereas many barriers and challenges can exist towards the realization of the SDGs, the impact of the lack of access to information cannot be underestimated. As CSOs, we see ourselves playing a key complimentary role in this regard. In our various sectors, covering but not limited to the Elderly, People With Disabilities, the Church, Children, Youth, Women, Media, we have a wider reach that can significantly contribute towards sensitization, localization and bringing the voices of the most vulnerable and marginalized into the SDGs implementation. However, in order for us to effectively do this we need support –in the form of a conducive operating environment, financial as well as technical support. Both the government and development partners are key in this regard.
- The UN agencies have a critical role to play in promoting joint inclusive strategies that can “reach the farthest behind first”.
- We therefore call on the UN to establish or reinforce communication channels with CSOs and other stakeholders and allocate resources to facilitate processes, consultations and feedback with CSOs partners either on specific themes of the SDGs or on the overall implementation of the Agenda . This should happen on a continuous basis.
- We also believe that engagement of the Private Sector holds many keys to the successful implementation of the SDGs.
- However, in pursuing partnership with the Private sector and pushing for the Public- Private Partnerships (PPPs), the government has to take cognizance of findings from several research initiatives that have analyzed these PPPs , raising concrete evidence of their shortcomings.
- We need to be very clear on what is private and what should remain public and is best delivered by the public sector and what is public but is best delivered by the private sector.
- One of our most profound concerns about public-private partnerships is their significant contribution to commodification and financialization of goods and services and the consequent squeezing of the capacity of the State to regularize the economy in the public interest, for the common good.
- We therefore call for the development of proper guidelines and safeguards to protect the public interest within PPPs as called upon by the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
- We also want to emphasis the need for policy coherence across ministries and integration of agendas i.e. the SDGs, I-PRSP, ZIMASSET 1 now moving into ZIMASSET 2,for efficient utilization of the country’s limited resources.
- In conclusion ladies and gentlemen, the SDGs implementation calls for vigorous domestic resource mobilization, as such, government is left with no choice but to demonstrate political will to deal with the cancer of corruption, financial mismanaged and illicit financial flows that have drained our national resources.
- Effective partnership and financing for the SDGs needs to be built on trust, transparency and accountability.

I THANK YOU