



Leave No One Behind Dialogues: Towards the Agenda 2030 Goals

Venue: Parktonian Hotel, Johannesburg

16 November 2016

1. Introduction

Amnesty International (AI), African Monitor and the Centre for Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) hosted a Multi- Stakeholder Dialogue that included Civil Society Organisation (SCO) government, business under the theme “Leave No One Behind” in the domestication of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) towards the 2030 agenda. As the theme says –the focus is on partnering with CSO’s and to ensure that the SDGs domestication is inclusive. There were various Provincial / Regional dialogues on the same SDG’s 2030 agenda and those regional and organisational representatives presented their reports.

AI and Africa Monitor (AM) hosted this gathering of South African CSO Working Group with the aim of achieving the following:-

- Develop a clear and realistic roadmap on the SDG’s
- Agree on key strategies that will influence the domestication, mainstreaming and monitoring of the SDG’s at country level
- Capacitate the delegates so that they are better able to monitor, advocate and account on the implementation of the SDG’s
- Strengthen multi stakeholder engagement on SDG’s.

2. Ms Sicel’Mpilo Shange-Buthane, Executive Director of AI South Arica did the welcome remarks and directed the first session of the programme. In her address, she stated the following;

- She welcomed and acknowledged the dignitaries and speakers and welcomed all in attendance.
- She celebrated the attendance of CSO’s and stressed the importance of their involvement in the domestication and implementation of the SDG’s.
- She highlighted to agenda to be;
 1. Key Note Address – United Nations Development Programme SA (UNDP)
 2. The importance of “Leave No One Behind”- AM
 3. Regional/Provincial Dialogue feedback
 4. Prioritisation of vulnerable groups in the implementation of SDG’s – UNFP
 5. The role of Chapter 9 organisation in the implementation of SDG’s

6. Round Panel discussions – DPME, SAIIA
7. Multi stakeholder Engagement in SDG implementation – BWOSA, Civicus, UNDP
8. Breakaway sessions
9. Plenary
10. Closing remarks

3. Key Note Address by Mr W. Badawi, UNDP SA : One year appraisal of the SDGs implementation process in South Africa and lessons learned

He cited that in this one year South Africa (SA) alone was impacted by development issues such as, drought, inequality, discrimination, lack of access to services and opportunities remain a major challenge for the SA Civil Society. His speech highlights were that:-

- Women, girls and the youth remains a focal point
- SA still deliberating on who is best suited to lead the SDG & NDP implementation
- The policy framework is however in place
- Africa needs to be ready for urbanisation is the destination in the next 15 years, and cities should create a safe and friendly environment
- With the current and envisaged developments in Africa, development finance is another area that requires attention
- Access to information is important to the delivery of the SDG's, and so the involvement of the CSO's is critical
- SA exploring the establishment of a national steering committee
- SDG 16 needs attention, as these organisations are critical to the delivery of the SDG programmes
- UNDP planning a campaign to encourage involvement and monitoring of programmes in general, and so the SDG programmes becomes important. UNDP was pleased to organize a public debate, dubbed the OR Tambo debate on SDG domestication in South Africa which brought together government, represented by the Statistician General, the Director General in the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) and the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO)
- The role of the DPME has been somewhat damp lately, but they continue to engage them
- UNDP currently engaging all stakeholders, in particular government and business as they believe that all should have a role to play in the SDG implementation. The envisaged structure should be in place early in 2017
- In regards to the achievement of the agenda, he pointed out that strong national ownership and leadership is needed. He also pointed out that the pledge to 'leave no one behind' is the cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda and that a broad coalition is needed around the agenda.

4. Looking At Agenda 2030 Through The Leave No One Behind Perspective

4.1. What needs to be done differently – Ms Namhla Mangaliso – Director at Africa Monitor

She spoke passionately and gave valuable thought provoking insights that are challenging CSO to evaluate the approach to dealing with SDG's. In her speech she touched on the following:-

- During the formulation of the SDG's process the African voice was louder and had their input which is lamentable.
- The need to be a link of social, environmental and economic issues remains significant.
- Even though SDG's are a global charter, the impact should be felt at country level.
- Citizens to use the SDG's as a tool to leverage government resources such as funding.
- As South Africa looks to integrate the SDG's into the NDP, we should draw on the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063
- Inequality continues to plague the SA landscape, such as access to services, opportunities and voice all relevant groups in society should find their role in the implementation of the SDG's
- Three (3) questions should guide the dialogue in approaching the implementation of SDG's this time around
 1. How do we decide differently?
 2. How do we prioritise differently
 3. What's the role of civil society?
- Local municipalities should be lobbied and brought on board to assist with the implementation of the SDG's
- CSO's should challenge the National Planning Commission to align to Agenda 2030 and 2063

4.2. Presentation and feedback by Provincial Dialogues

The South African Working Groups has conducted the Leave No One Behind dialogues in three provinces: Free State, Gauteng and Western Cape. Feedback from those dialogues was included in the day's discussions during the National consultation on SDGs.

Simon Vilakazi – Western Cape

The plight of the farmworkers was raised sharply by the speaker and he highlighted the following issues in his presentation:-

- Women farmworkers are the most vulnerable
- They are underpaid
- The farmworkers are used in a lot of fronting in particular in the wine farms with no economic benefits to them,
- When husbands die, the women are mistreated by farmers
- They need to be assisted to overcome isolation and victimisation

- Women farmworkers should be involved and included when issues affecting them are discussed
- Consumers should have the power to stop supporting wineries and wine farms that practices injustices. A short of consumer awareness that links the product to how it was produces and whether responsible and fair labour practices were practiced.

Lebogang Mothibi – Free State

- Their focus is the vulnerable youth and that young girls give birth at a young age
- They leave their children with their grandmothers, and this depletes the little that the grandmother has to look after herself
- There is high unemployment and some of the youth take their grandparent's SASA cards
- Most of the youth don't finish school, they drop out which leads to drug (nyaope) and substance abuse
- Access to study assistance not reaching the outlying and rural areas
- Recreation facilities not available
- Municipal leaders and administration not delivering services
- RDP housing projects not taking off, in one instance foundation was done years ago but the houses were never built
- When it rains, accessibility to amenities is a challenge as the road infrastructure is very bad
- Medical facilities insufficient in that there are no medical doctors
- Traditional leader not assisting for the community to own land, the demand R250 but the land still belongs to them.
- The Civil Society must advocate for having the title deeds and own the land
- The Public Works and Social Development departments have been supportive; however the Health department is a challenge by not providing services.

Gauteng – Gaudence Uwiyize

Gauteng Province being the most populous in the country with diverse nationalities was faced with different issues that need the civil society's attention. As the country is looking at the domestication of the SDG's these CS issues are a challenge. Based on the dialogue held in the Orange Farm area the following feedback was given:-

- Discrimination and poverty are the burning issues
- The divide and rule strategy still prevalent in the area
- Not all cultural differences appreciated the same/afforded the same respect
- The following are still very much issues of concern;
 1. Racism, Xenophobia and Tribalism
 2. Sexism and Ageism
 3. Homophobia
 4. Disability and albinism
 5. Violation of women and girls
 6. Discrimination of refugees and immigrants

7. Ex-convicts whilst a lot funds are invested in training and educating then when they are in prisons, the very same Correctional Services and many departments can no employ them due to the criminal records.
 - The community wants to be involved in political decision making
 - They want enhanced participatory democracy

Meshack Mbangula - Mining Affected Communities United in Action (MACUA)

His organisation is engaged the mining communities and has a membership of mine workers, former mine workers and a women chapter which in constituted by the wives of those mine workers. The following issues were highlighted in his presentation.

- Mines have left strife in all communities they previously operated in
- They left contaminated water
- They left poor, sick and polluted communities
- Communities don't know environmental legislation, and so are not aware of their rights
- Mines employ cheap labour, mostly from outside SA, and they pay them deplorable below standard of living wages
- This makes it difficult for them to visit their families, and this ultimately contributes to families breaking up
- This situation leads to women being vulnerable as they are left at home looking and grooming the children when the husband is in the mines.
- When their husbands got sick from these occupational diseases, it is the same women who nurse them whilst task with the responsibility of raising the children.
- It is even more challenging when the husband dies, as they don't even know what processes to follow to understand what is due to the family

He stated that mining communities are not exposed to environmental laws; they are therefore unable to hold government to account. MACUA was therefore formed to capacitate mining communities and unleash their potential.

5. Creating Space For Active Stakeholders' Involvement In The Implementation Of Agenda 2013

The purpose of this session was to share the work and focus of relevant chapter 9 organisations. They also shared their thoughts and guidance on how they could collaborate in committing to work more vigorously on the SDG implementation.

Mr MS Ameermia – Human Rights Commission

- Public aware of their rights in general and raising these
- They are stretched for resources and emphasised the importance of partnership.
- Indicated that with limits resources especially Human) their flagship case in Western Cape was achieved through a partnership.
- They are party to the Meridian Declaration.
- As the organisation they take their responsibilities very serious

- They will steadfastly focus on human rights as their entry point to the implementation of the SDG's
- He guided that the CSO working group plan is organised into 3 terms
 1. The immediate term - 2017 – 2019
 2. The Medium term - 2020 – 2024
 3. The long Term -2025 – 2030

Therefore the CSO must take that into consideration in their engagement and ensure alignment.

- He offered the use of their facilities nationally for free to be used by the CSO's in the advancement of their work. This means access to their board room and halls for community meetings.

Ms X Ngcobo & Ms Z Ncwane – Commission for Gender Equality (CGE)

- A lot of their work focus is in monitoring and reporting on Gender related matters.
- CGE monitor implementation in the public and as well as private sector.
- CGE also monitor SA's compliance to continental and universal plans.
- CGE also have a Legal, Research and Public interaction sections within CGE.
- They constantly engaging business on how they are addressing gender mainstreaming
- Human rights advocacy work is also what the organisation engages on.
- They are currently developing an outreach programme to focus on NPO's, NGO's and unions
- They are working with SALGA to train Councillors.
- They also engaging municipalities to ensure that they incorporate SDG's in the development of their IDP's.
- The CGE also fund some women to ensure that they participate in international platform like Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).

Mr A Nikwigize – Partners of Peace

- The development of the SDG's was an all-inclusive process
- CSO's were consulted at every step of the way
- CSO's should also be included in policy formulation
- The CSO's should be resourced to carry out country level work

Mr Antonio Hercules – Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation

- He outlined the history of international social development interventions and stating how they have not delivered
- He mentioned need for the SDG's to deliver
- He pledged support to CSO's
- He however lamented that they don't have stable leadership and so their vision and role is not clear
- He also lamented shortage of resources
- He stated that STAS SA took the lead in monitoring the implementation of the SDG's
- Primarily because they housed the data related to this programme

Ms D Kosciulek – SAIIA

- Main focus is the youth and follows a Parliamentary system to empower the youth to engage in the CSO policy issues.
- Expose their interaction with United Nations work.
- They task the youth with international assignments and projects related to SDG's.
- Youth very involved with environmental sustainability initiatives.
- She invited the delegates to register with the UN to be observers of their sessions and work.

7. Multi-stakeholder engagement in the implementation of Agenda 2030

The purpose of these sessions was to pave the way towards the creation of the Multi stakeholder Engagement beyond this dialogue. It was noted that already there are stakeholders involved, however the need to have all relevant CSO's be involved is still important for the success of the SDG's domestication.

Ms Eugenia Kula-Ameyaw – Business Women Organisation of South Africa (BWOSA)

She emphasised the role business is supposed to play in the domestication of the SDG's especially as part of the envisaged partnership in SDG 17. Most presenters during the earlier sessions mentioned women as the most affect and link well with the organisation that she led – Black Women Organisations SA with the vision to empower, position and grow women businesses. She briefly touched on the following issues:-

- **Civil Society** – an observation of the reduced vigilance of CSO post liberation has lessened, this is used to keep businesses on their toes. The current issues like fees must fall, houses, education (SDG 4), women, health (SDG 5), Mining – supplier of labour, sicknesses cannot be addressed without involving business.
- **Business** – Transformation legislation and BBBEE are good policies to ensure redress but implementation, Fronting is still prevalent, the “ we can't find women-owned companies” excuse by big business, only woman top syndrome, responsible business operations that do not harm the environment and localization are issues that CSO's should engage business on.
- **Government** –with its dynamic policies should examine the implementation in procurement , the exports from China versus Local content, devise strategies to include women in the value chain, becoming the enemy of economic inclusion, Scorecards targets not meet even by government , SOEs and Private Companies

Proposed Way Forward

- **Make partnership a reality** – source skills professionals to support in certain skills. We encourage our members to add value to the communities.
- BWOSA is ready to partner with CSO in strategy development to empower women economically & technical skills especially policy.
- Urged Civil Society Organizations consider small organizations / businesses for services like research, training, suppliers.

- Whilst learning from global practices CSO's must also leverage the expertise and best practice at home and in the continent.

Mr D Kode – Civicus

- David Kode gave a brief definition of multi-stakeholder engagement. He drew attention to the weak relationship between government and non-state actors, stating that government has sieged mentality due to the inherent mistrust between governments and CSOs.
- The CSO's must empower themselves to be able to position themselves differently
- Everyone has a role to play and has something to offer
- Citizens need to find their voice and hold those responsible accountable
- Business should act responsible and not harm the environment/

Mr Bongani Matomela – UNDP

- Excited to see the momentum behind the SDG programme
- UNDP committed to being a relevant and important partner
- We should learn from other countries who have implemented the MDG programme successfully
- Collaborating and working together is the only way we can have sustainable impact
- There are advantages and disadvantages in either nationalising or regionalising the structures that drive the programme, the focus on delivery will determine which structure works best
- UNDP will endeavour to gather all relevant stakeholders around the SDG programme

8. Discussions from the Floor – Some Issues of Concern from the CSOs

There was a question and answer session after the presentations, various stakeholders asked questions, contributed and shared their challenges. In a nutshell, all delegates appreciated the process of engagement and commended the organisers for such an opportunity. There were frustrations raised regarding implementation – on the main, there was a request to move beyond the discussions. The few issues captures are:-

- Somalian refugees struggle with basic rights. They don't have freedom of movement. They are exposed to kidnappings every time they go out, with ransom demanded for their release. Their cellular telephones and all their belongings get stolen. They struggle to access health care facilities and other municipal services because of language barriers. They don't get a lot of assistance form the SAPS. They get given fraudulent documents by Home Affairs
- The Angolan community experiencing challenges with documentation e.g. permits. Almost all of them are illegal and they don't get help form Home Affairs. Their children can't access educational facilities as they don't have proper documentation. Their embassy shows no interest in their well-being.
- A brief time was spent on education. Input from the floor was that policies and framework on education should not be discussed and formulated without the

involvement of the educators and all involved on the ground with it. The experience has been that, if not involved, these otherwise good initiatives fail.

- Older men from Alexander hostel are abusing young girls. Rape is rampant in these areas. They take them to rural areas to for forced marriages to older men. There is also recruitment of young men as they get trained to become hit men in the taxi violence.
- The SA government assists the inmates in the Correctional facilities to study further. They undertake studies towards formal qualifications like degrees and matriculation certificates. This is to assist them in empowering their lives once they are released from the facility. However, once released, they struggle with moving on in life. They do not get employed as they are reminded of their criminal record and are called ex-convicts. They also can't establish businesses as they have this criminal record. The investment that the government put in assisting them to study does not yield the return expected. CSO's are not assisting in the rehabilitation of people who are released from the correctional facilities.
- AM lamented about the lack of visibility and impact of the DPME. The delegates were cautioned to not allow the monitoring role of the SDG implementation to be resident with STATS SA, as this process is important social drive beyond just data gathering and analysis. They were found to have made themselves insignificant in the drive of the NDP and the monitoring and evaluation of the SDG implementation. They were challenged to find and occupy their role, which is critical, in this process of domesticating, implementing and monitoring the delivery of the SDG's.
- There was also a generic concern from the floor about the purpose and impact of gatherings such as this one today. It was stated that there has been numerous such in the past. From those, nothing of significance seems to have been actioned. It's not good for us to meet only to enjoy the food and socialise with one another. We need to make a difference this time around. There was also still a generic concern for lack of resources to carry out the CSO work. Funding was highlighted as the most critical concern.
- The role of chapter 9 organisations was challenged, in particular the CGE. They were seen to have somewhat lost relevance in society. We not sure what issues they stand for and represent on behalf of society. They were encouraged to spend more time with advocacy and policy formulation work as opposed to reporting and analyse. They were asked to work with the CSO's closely. CGE offers the platforms, channels, landscape for decision making whilst the CSO's offer the real issues to be dealt with within the ambit of the SDG's. The CGE and CSO partnership should be able to advance the implementation of the SDG's

9. Plenary – Due to time constraints the plenary was cut off and there were discussion, considerations and or proposals on way forward.

The Programme Director ventured the questions below to assist delegates to think and structure a way forward;

How can CSO's be involved in SDG's?

- The focal point should at local level, link with municipalities

- Then we can look at coordinating at regional level through the provincial structures
- An umbrella body might be good to coordinate and monitor progress at national level
- People involved in SDG implementation should be trained accordingly
- SAIIA Gauteng offered the use of their offices for use in February

Where do we get involved?

- A possibility could be to look at CSO's aligned to each goal @ sectoral level
- Another option could be to have an all-inclusive approach with all their differences
- Amnesty International and Africa Monitor to link with STATS SA to leverage on all the tools and systems they have already, particularly learning from the Gauteng initiative
- Those who are present today should share information with those who could not make it

How do we reconstitute the National Coalition Agenda?

- Can the CSO's that are present today be regarded at the Working Committee
- They will then be tasked to formulate the working mechanisms
- They will then submit a document for further input and comments by all other stakeholders

National Multi-stakeholder Forum

- Develop a partnership document that includes chapter 9 institutions
- Put together a core team that will strategize and others with specific expertise will be drawn in when the need arises
- UNDP encouraged to lobby government more and possibly facilitate the partnership with the CSO community

THE CANVAS FOR PROCESS SUMMARY ISSUES AND FOR CONSIDERATION

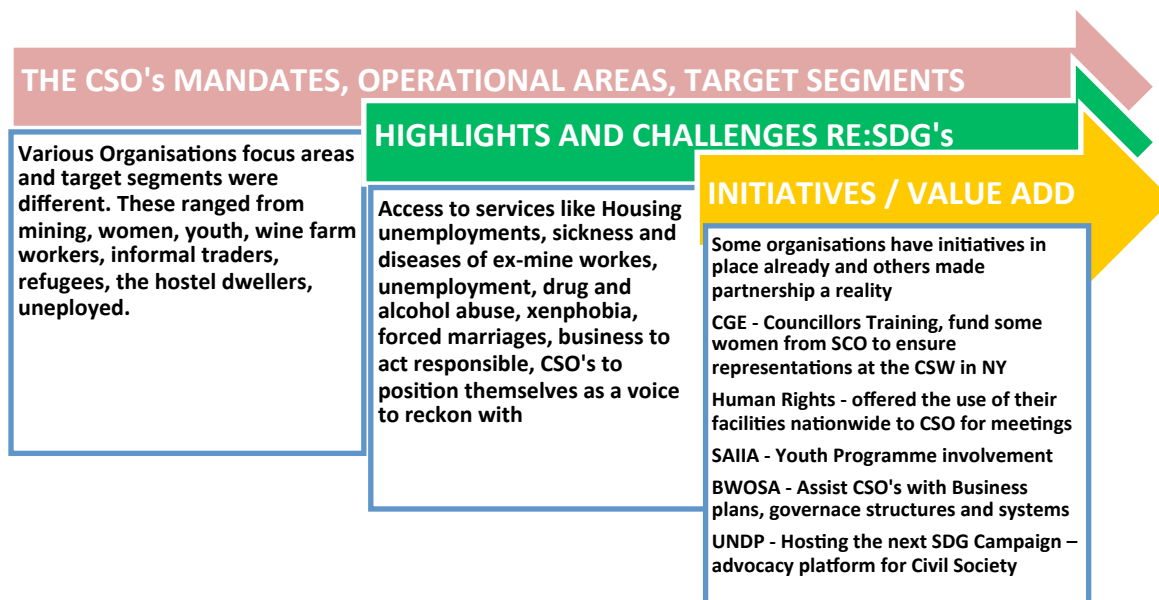


Diagram 1

Views and comments from people interviewed:

➤ **Takalani Mulaiwa from PASA**

“This workshop gave me a clearer picture about what Civil Society Organizations are thinking and where their frustrations lie. Attending this event as a council member of an academic association gave me more light on civil society is thinking and aiming. I think in our academic atmosphere we turn to forget civil society in our research. This event was a wakeup call for us.”

➤ **Lele Sithole from BWOSA of South Africa**

“This was an impactful session as one got to understand what chapter 9 organizations like CGE are doing. Found out how critical the SDGs are to women and their advancement, how critical the voice of the citizens is and therefore the importance of CSO. I have learned that we have to transform the way we think for the SDGs to be successfully implemented.”

➤ **Simon Vilakazi from Economic Justice Network**

“I am happy that we are able to discuss and address the issues of discrimination and equality before it is too late. I am happy for dialogues like this, where we are able to be pro-active in ensuring the successful implementation of the SDGs.”

10. CONCLUSION

The session was well attended, oversubscribed actually. CSO's from different sectors were represented. Critical chapter 9 organisations to the SDG localisation and implementation engaged the working group. The spirit of engagement was one of hopefulness, excitement and commitment to making this programme work for the country. There was also a healthy understanding of caution, lest this becomes a talk show rather than an implementation engine.

The discussions were vigorous and inclusive. There was a good balance between concerns raised and solutions suggested. There was undoubted commitment to strengthening the delivery of the SDG's in the country. The CSO's that were not present were also committed to this as those present committed to sharing the discussions and outcomes with them. Some chapter 9 organisations and the UNDP offered services that will enable the work of the COS's towards Agenda 2030 a lot easier.

The session concluded on a high note, with several suggestions on how the work on SDG's can be taken forward. Once the deliberations have been recorded, the content will be circulated for all to peruse. With the commitment from all, the International Amnesty Executive Director Ms Sicel'mpilo Shange-Buthane thanked all who attended, contributed and the speakers / panellists- the session adjourned just before 17h00.

Table of Terms and Abbreviations

SA – South Africa

AI – Amnesty International

AM – Africa Monitor

BWOSA – Black Women Organisation South Africa

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme

CSO – Civil Society Organisations

CSW - Commission on the Status of Women

NPO – No-profit Organisation

NGO – Non-governmental Organisation

CGC – Commission for Gender Equality

HRC – Human Rights Commission

DPME – Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

SAIIA – South African Institute of International Affairs

SALGA – South African Local Government Association

NDP – National Development Plan

SDG – Sustainable Development Goals

MDG – Millennium Development Goals