



United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security



Programme Note

Localizing the 2030 Agenda: Building on What Works

27 – 29 October 2019

Location: The Gambia

The Forum “**Localizing the 2030 Agenda: Building on What Works**” will take place on 27-29 October 2019 in Banjul, The Gambia. This high-level Exchange Forum will commence with an evening reception on Sunday, 27 October 2019, with a keynote address by the Deputy Secretary-General (tbc). The Forum is organized in partnership with the Government of The Gambia, the Senegalo-Gambian Permanent Secretariat, the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team in The Gambia, the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), and the International Peace Institute (IPI).

Background

The achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) depends, more than ever, on the ability of local and regional actors to promote integrated, inclusive and sustainable development. In line with the human security approach and its principles, localizing the 2030 Agenda is a process to empower local stakeholders and leverage their comparative advantages by mobilizing their specific economic, cultural, social and political resources. It is aimed at making sustainable development more responsive and relevant to local needs and aspirations.

Strengthening the connection between local action and global goals

Grounded in a spirit of optimism for the future of West Africa, the Forum—the first of its kind in the sub-region—aims to stimulate an exchange of ideas among a diverse group of leaders from national governments and municipal authorities, the UN system, bilateral and regional entities, entrepreneurs, and community representatives coming from Côte d’Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.

Both timely and of utmost importance, the Forum offers a unique opportunity to break from traditional silos that often keep government officials, UN representatives, civil society, entrepreneurs, and the broader international community from working closely together. It provides a platform to craft inclusive strategies that leaves no one behind and puts people and communities as the main drivers of the SDG implementation process.

On Monday evening of the Forum, a cross-cultural Festival titled, “**Celebrating The Gambia through Culture**”, will celebrate local knowledge and shared responsibilities towards the SDGs. The Festival will also honor the deep historical and cultural ties among the eight countries and promote a spirit of peace, unity and development for the sub-region and across the globe.

Objectives of the Forum

- Gain awareness of existing transformative initiatives that local champions in the sub-region of West Africa have put in place to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Generate potential partnerships between regional, bilateral and multilateral partners and local champions.
- Enable policy makers and UN officials at the global level to gain a practical understanding on how best to operationalize the SDGs at the local level.

Scaling local initiatives to accelerate an inclusive SDG implementation process

A report highlighting the main outcomes of the Forum will be launched in New York in the spring of 2020, sharing lessons learned and best practices with the international community. In addition, as we enter the “decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,” the UNTFHS, with support from the international community, will pool resources to scale up identified initiatives emerging from the Forum into operational programmes led by Resident Coordinators and implemented in partnership with governments, non-governmental entities, the private sector, and local champions and communities. These programmes will advance tangible improvements in the daily lives of people towards the transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda.