



**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**



Programme Note and draft Agenda

Localizing the 2030 Agenda: Building on What Works

An Exchange Forum in West Africa

27 – 29 October 2019

The African Princess Hotel

Banjul, The Gambia

#Localizing2030 #WA2030

The Forum “**Localizing the 2030 Agenda: Building on What Works**” will take place on 27-29 October 2019 in Banjul, The Gambia. The Forum is organized in partnership with the Government of The Gambia, the Senegalo-Gambian Permanent Secretariat, 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 concerted and sustained efforts 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. To be sustainable, development and peace efforts need to be nationally owned and led, regionally anchored and internationally supported.

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, to 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 provides a platform for sharing experiences that go beyond traditional forms of cooperation by stimulating an exchange of ideas among national and municipal authorities, the UN system and civil society as well as the international community. It showcases novel solutions that address interrelated sustainable development and peace challenges at the local level. By putting the local at the center of multi-stakeholder engagement,

the Forum therefore focuses on the processes and mechanisms that are needed to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As such it lays a stronger foundation for bringing local and effective initiatives to scale for achieving the SDGs in an integrated manner that leaves no one behind.

OBJECTIVES

- **Generate awareness of existing capacities, knowledge and mechanisms that West African communities can leverage to deliver local solutions to sustainable development challenges.**
- **Design elements for localized development strategies that align capacities and partnerships at the community, municipal, national, regional and global levels with a view to accelerating the 2030 Agenda.**
- **Enable a conversation on the roles that internal and external actors can play to support local development and peace initiatives in the spirit and the letter of the 2030 Agenda.**

Follow-up process emerging from the Forum's outcomes

The next phase of this initiative will be guided by the localization strategies and recommendations that emerge from the Forum. A report highlighting the main outcomes will be launched in New York in the spring of 2020, sharing lessons learned and best practices with the international community. Moreover, 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 partnerships with governments, non-governmental entities, the private sector, and local champions and communities. The aim of these scaled up initiatives will be to advance tangible improvements in the daily lives of people towards the transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda.

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Sunday, 27 October 2019: Welcome to The Gambia!

10:00-10:30 am Registration for regional participants, *conference room*

10:30 am-12:00 pm **Preparatory session only for participants from the eight countries**

Goal: Meet each other and learn more about why we are here.

This session aims to create a space for participants to get to know each other and discuss the stated objectives of the Forum and their roles in shaping its outcomes.

12:00-1:00 pm Deepening the understanding of the objectives of the Forum across countries, *restaurant*

Participant will move into two large tables, one for French and the other for English speakers. They will compare notes on the Forum's objectives on the basis of which an edited version of the proposed objectives will be produced.

1:15-2:30 pm **Networking lunch open to all participants, *restaurant***

4:00-5:00 pm Registration for all participants, *conference room*

6:30-8:00 pm **Evening reception, *the lawn at the African Princess Hotel***

Keynote address by Gambia's Vice President, H.E. Dr. Isatou Touray

Monday, 28 October 2019 – Building on What Works and How to Know it Works?

7:00-8:15 am Breakfast at the hotel, *restaurant*

8:30-10:00 am **Setting the stage, *conference room***

Video message by UN Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina Mohammed

Tour de Table - introductions

Introductory remarks by Forum Partners (Government of the Gambia, Senegalo-Gambian Secretariat, UN Resident Coordinator in the Gambia, UNTFHS and IPI)

10:00-11:00 am **The River Journey begins: Connect the “why we are here” with “how we will work together”**, *conference room*

Participants from the Sunday preparatory session and those arriving later in the day will develop a deeper understanding of the Forum’s objectives and how they will be achieved through the forthcoming sessions.

11:00-11:15 am **Coffee break**

11:15 am-1:00 pm **What are the ingredients of a locally-led and -owned 2030 Agenda?**
restaurant

Goal: Identify the specific “ingredients” (e.g. community assets, capacities, resources, processes, partnerships, etc.) that you believe were instrumental in successfully responding to local development challenges.

[In this session, participants will work in their country configurations with a facilitator. Each table will nominate a rapporteur.]

Guiding questions for country configurations:

Share with your group an example that illustrates how you effectively responded to a considerable challenge to social cohesion, sustainable development and/or peaceful coexistence. Identify existing capacities and mechanisms (*community assets, capacities, resources, processes, partnerships, etc.*) that allowed you to be successful. Explain the outcomes and how you know your initiative was successful.

Guiding questions for international participants table:

Share an example in which international support/partnerships were used to strengthen local capacities, knowledge and resources. How was this approach different from traditional approaches? To what extent did it have an impact?

As each participant tells his/her example (5 mins per participant), the others at the table will write down what most resonates with them. At the end of the session, your group will have a list of key “ingredients” needed to ensure a locally-led 2030 Agenda strategy.

1:00-2:00 pm **Lunch & stretch**

2:00-3:45 pm **Share cross-country experiences**

Goal: Groups in cross-country configurations and international participants propose key elements of a locally-led strategy

[In this session, country tables will pair up to share key insights that emerged from the previous session. International and regional participants will join these cross-country configurations. Each pair of countries will nominate a rapporteur and will be joined by a facilitator.]

Guiding questions:

Share the main ingredients as well as the key indicators of success as identified in the previous session. What did you learn from the other group? How can you integrate or modify your group's assessment based on this shared experience? Discuss the main components that should be taken into account in a locally-led strategy.

- 3:45-4:00 pm **Coffee break & stretch**
- 4:00-4:45 pm **Key insights of the day and share views on what's next, *conference room***
- The four rapporteurs share key outcomes from the previous session. All participants will engage in a group reflection and discussion. The facilitators will share what's in store for the next day.
- 5:30 pm **Participants meet at assembly point and depart for Festival**
- 6:00-10:00 pm **Festival: Celebrating The Gambia through Culture**
- This event is open to the public. It will offer music, cultural performances and a time to relax. It will be an evening to celebrate and appreciate cross-cultural ties in the region. The organizers will provide information on transportation schedule to and from the hotel.

Tuesday, 29 October 2019 – Exploring strategies, weaving connections and partnerships

- 7:00-8:15 am Breakfast at the hotel
- 8:30-9:30 am **Welcome back! Discuss goals for the second day, *conference room***
- The second day's theme is *exploring strategies, weaving connections and promoting partnerships*. Based on the outcomes of the previous day, participants will develop a framework for a locally-led strategy bringing together all the components including multi-stakeholder partnerships that weave the local, municipal, national, regional and global levels.
- 9:30-11:00 am **Designing locally-led 2030 Agenda strategies, *conference room***

Goal: Design a locally-led strategy based on what works

[In this session, participants will work in their country configurations to develop a framework for a locally-led strategy that can grow in a sustainable way. This strategy needs to ensure the principles embedded in the 2030 Agenda. Each table will have a facilitator and nominate a rapporteur.]

Guiding questions:

Agree on the overall framework (key components, approaches, principles and actions to scale-up) that would facilitate the development of an effective locally-led strategy that is scalable and sustainable.

11:00-11:15 am **Coffee break & stretch, *conference room***

11:15 am-12:15 pm **Report back on locally-led strategies**

The rapporteurs from the first four tables will provide a brief synopsis of their locally-led strategy.

12:15-1:15 pm **Lunch, *restaurant***

1:15-2:00 pm **Report back on locally-led strategies (continued)**

The rapporteurs from next four tables will provide a brief synopsis of their locally-led strategy.

2:00-3:00 pm Participants offer feedback on the locally-led strategies presented and suggest common components among all frameworks.

3:00-3:30 pm **Coffee break & stretch**

3:30-4:30 pm **Where do we go from here?**

Goal: Outline steps and actions to build on the outcomes of the Forum

[In this session, participants return to their groups and discuss next steps.]

Guiding Questions: What are the priority, practical and time-bound follow-up actions that are needed to build on the outcomes of the Forum? How to ensure that the follow-up takes place?

4:30-5:30 pm **Tour de table and synthesis, *conference room***

Participants share key learning insights, follow-up actions, and initial feedback on the Forum.

5:30-5:45 pm **Closing thoughts**