

OSAA – ADS 2022

Human Capital Development, Climate, Energy and Food systems

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Speaker : Mrs. Julie Tshilombo, Deputy Coordinator of the Coordination of External Resources and Monitoring of Projects (CRESP) at the Presidency of the Republic, (Democratic Republic of Congo) - National convenor UNFSS 2021.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Health and education are two fundamental indicators of human capital development; drivers of the resilience of populations, they condition productivity at work and therefore the inclusive and sustainable economic development of a community or a nation.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, with a high and widespread poverty rate – 70% of the population living below the poverty line, 27% of the population in a situation of acute food insecurity, including more than 5 million children– , and precarious access to basic social infrastructure (drinking water, electricity, housing, health care and education) the human capital development index is low.

With the precariousness of basic infrastructure and the large population, galloping and excessively concentrated in the capital, local food production is insufficient, little varied, little transformed, in terms of value chains, difficult to access and the DRC finds itself highly dependent on imports (approximately USD 1.5 billion per year) consisting mainly of cereals, frozen or canned products of low quality and not necessarily within the reach of the population's purchasing power nor physically accessible by everyone or everywhere, and all this also poses a nutritional problem. Food systems are mainly subsistence.

From the energy point of view, despite the high potential, the country has an underdeveloped energy infrastructure, the rate of electricity supply is less than 15%, even 10%, concentrated mainly in the big cities. Energy deficiency is a challenge for production, the development of value chains and the preservation and preparation of food.

From a climate perspective, agriculture suffers the effects of climate change at the same time as it contributes to it. Agricultural and food production suffers the negative effects of climatic disturbances, in particular due to floods, droughts,

seasonal disturbances, violent winds, etc. In addition, due to a lack of adequate technology and infrastructure, we are seeing overexploitation of land, fishing and livestock resources, deforestation for the production of charcoal or fuel, and other practices that disrupt the ecosystem.

To strengthen the resilience and promote the development of its human capital, the DRC is determined to reconcile its commitments in the fight against climate change with the imperative of sustainable development and the fight against poverty for the benefit of populations, particularly local communities and indigenous peoples:

- gradually get the country out of an archaic agricultural system and promote agroforestry in savannah areas;
- promote sustainable energy production and better agricultural practices;
- promote the renewable energy mix, including hydroelectricity and photovoltaic solar energy, as well as the sustainable use of our reserves of strategic green metals essential to the decarbonization of the transport sector and the development of low-carbon technologies;
- promote and supervise agricultural households

More concretely, in the short term, the government has just launched and is in full implementation of an emergency community development program across the 145 territories that cover the DRC, over 2 years, consisting in particular of the installation of water drilling, micro or mini power stations, construction and rehabilitation of agricultural service roads to create a market dynamic, with capacity building of agricultural households and small farmers, who in fact constitute the majority of the Congolese population. Through science and technology, the Congolese government is committed to producing improved seeds and providing rural households and smallholders with training and production tools to increase the production, productivity, and quality of locally produced food. The government has adopted a National Program for Food and Nutrition Security in agriculture which also aims to improve resilience to shocks and crises. It is also committed to reach the minimum 10% budget share for agriculture per CAADEP recommendations.

Finally, the DRC has determined to use resources such as the Green Climate Fund and other facilities under the agreements of the various COPs and to present Congo as a solution country because the DRC is now after all the first lung of the

planet and at the agricultural and energy level has enough potential to serve all of Africa and why not the whole world.

I thank you for your attention.