

VIRTUAL TECHNICAL MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR AFRICA DAY SIDE EVENT AT THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

4:00PM-6:00PM, EAT

Albert K Byamugisha, PhD

Senior Technical Adviser- SDG - Office of the Prime Minister

Question to be addressed:

"In your capacity as the representative of the Chair of the Eleventh Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, could you share with us an overview of the key outcomes and messages from the Forum?"

As we are approaching towards the High-level Political Forum in New York where the final VNR and VLR reports will be presented, what are some of the lessons learnt and best practices that could assist African Member States with their domestication and localization of the SDGs with a view to ensuring that Africa is back on track to achieve the SDGs as well as the goals and aspirations of Agenda 2063?"

Talking Points

1. Opening Appreciation

- ✓ Thank the Moderator and organizers for the opportunity to contribute to this timely and strategic conversation.
- ✓ Recognize Uganda's role as Chair of ARFSD-11 and the significance of Africa Day at the HLPF.

2. Key Outcomes of ARFSD-11 (Kampala, April 2025)

- ✓ The Forum concluded with the Kampala Declaration, reaffirming Africa's unified commitment to accelerate SDG and Agenda 2063 implementation.

- ✓ Strong political support for value addition, particularly in minerals and agriculture, and a regional shift away from raw exports.
- ✓ Endorsement of the AfCFTA as a strategic vehicle for economic integration, employment, and industrial transformation.
- ✓ Advancement of science, technology, and innovation (STI) as a foundation for inclusive, evidence-based development.
- ✓ Agreement to strengthen Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) as tools for accountability and local-to-global alignment.
- ✓ Elevation of youth and gender inclusion in all sustainable development efforts.
- ✓ Emphasis on domestic resource mobilization, fiscal reforms, and digitalization of tax systems.
- ✓ Commitment to climate-smart infrastructure and green transition strategies.
- ✓ Scaling of homegrown solutions and local innovations across the continent.
- ✓ Establishment of a monitorable follow-up framework to track implementation of the Kampala Declaration.

2. Key Messages from ARFSD-11

- ✓ Africa must act with urgency—the time for planning is over; the time for delivery is now.
- ✓ Transformative growth requires a shift toward value addition, industrialization, and STEM-based education.
- ✓ Development must be inclusive—youth, women, the private sector, and local communities must be fully engaged.
- ✓ Africa’s development must be self-financed through strengthened domestic systems and smart partnerships.
- ✓ Strong institutions and real-time data are essential for transparency, monitoring, and policy reform.
- ✓ Africa must speak with one voice at global platforms, including the 2025 HLPF and the Summit of the Future.
- ✓ The Kampala Declaration is a bold blueprint—implementation must be driven by collective responsibility and innovation.

3. Lessons and Best Practices for VNR and VLR Processes

- ✓ Institutionalize coordination mechanisms: Successful VNRs require high-level leadership and inter-ministerial coordination.
- ✓ Integrate VNRs with national development plans to ensure ownership and policy coherence.
- ✓ Localize through VLRs to improve community engagement and data collection at the local level.
- ✓ Use data to tell a story: Combine administrative and household survey data to show progress and gaps.
- ✓ Engage non-state actors: Involve civil society, youth, private sector, and academia for legitimacy and depth.
- ✓ Ensure continuity and follow-up: Establish national SDG platforms or observatories to maintain momentum.
- ✓ Communicate results widely: Use briefs, videos, and infographics for public engagement.
- ✓ Leverage peer learning: Adopt successful models from other African countries.
- ✓ Build capacity of local governments to strengthen SDG monitoring and planning.
- ✓ Embed financing strategies in national budgets and public investment frameworks.

4. Uganda's Leadership Priorities as ARFSD Chair

- ✓ Advance integrated planning across the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- ✓ Champion resource mobilization, especially for climate action and youth employment.
- ✓ Strengthen regional and international partnerships, including through AfCFTA.
- ✓ Support peer learning by promoting the adoption of best practices identified at ARFSD-11.

5. Conclusion and Call to Action

- Africa Day at the HLPF is an opportunity to showcase progress and reaffirm Africa's commitment to the twin agendas.
- Let us utilize the lessons from ARFSD-11 and the momentum from VNRs to accelerate transformation across the continent.

- We call for strategic investments, inclusive dialogue, and stronger follow-up mechanisms to achieve the 'Africa We Want'.
- The Kampala Declaration also highlighted the importance of regional statistical harmonization to improve data quality and comparability across countries.
- Participants agreed on the need to integrate climate resilience into national development plans and to strengthen disaster risk reduction frameworks.
- There was a strong recommendation to harness the demographic dividend through investment in youth skills development and education, particularly in science and technology.
- The Forum called for scaling up public-private partnerships to unlock financing for the SDGs, particularly in infrastructure, energy, and digital transformation.