



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

**Preparatory and capacity-development workshop for
major groups and other stakeholders in the Africa region**

Statement

by

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Marrakech, Morocco

16 April 2019

Hon. Jacqueline Amongin, Pan-African Parliament

Ms. Emily Hosek, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs;

Distinguished Representatives of Major Groups and other Stakeholders;

Distinguished guests, Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen

On behalf of Ms. Vera Songwe, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), it is an honour and pleasure for me to be here and to welcome you to this preparatory and capacity-building workshop for Major Groups and other Stakeholders in the beautiful city of Marrakech.

The workshop has been organized as an integral part of the Fifth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development that will officially open tomorrow. The theme of our Regional Forum this year is “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”.

Since 2015, ECA and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), have joined efforts to organize workshops that provide a place dedicated to the strengthening of the capacity of Major groups and other stakeholder to participate and articulate inputs to the follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals at regional and global levels. Allow me at this point to express ECA’s deep appreciation to UNDESA for the continuing productive partnership in organizing these workshops including this very one.

The overall objective of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development is to undertake regional follow-up and review, and to facilitate learning, including the sharing of experience to advance implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The Forum will therefore agree on collective input by Africa to the 2019 session of the high-level political forum.

Both the Regional Forum and the high-level political Forum this year focus on five Sustainable Development Goals, namely SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063, which also happen to be premier areas for development traction in our continent.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sustainable development demands inclusive economic growth which leaves no one behind particularly women, girls, youth, the elderly, indigenous people and other marginalized and vulnerable groups. These groups represent a big proportion of our societies and face

tremendous developmental challenges. We need to ensure that all programmes are targeting and benefitting these groups. Agenda 2030 of Sustainable Development Goals is a historic opportunity to bring this to reality.

Through the Regional Forum, the workshop that brings us together today intends to increase understanding and enhance capacity of member States, Major groups and other stakeholders to design and implement policies and strategies to accelerate the pace of implementation and to ensure effective follow-up to and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The peer learning through this workshop and the Regional Forum should enable us to recognize what is doable and amplify and speed up action.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In moving forward, we need to promote and ensure an integrated and holistic approach to implementation. Fragmented efforts may undermine the attainment of the goals given that they are designed as integrated and indivisible goals that should deliver fully on all dimensions of sustainable development. Collaboration and networking among major groups and other stakeholders is therefore crucial. Equally important is the need for effective partnerships between you as major groups and other stakeholders on one hand and governments on the other to facilitate partnership and collaboration and especially your full engagement in voluntary national review (VNR) processes.

This workshop should serve to provide the building blocks for the establishment and creation of regional coordination mechanism for major groups and other stakeholders for a more effective communication and cooperation, especially among the members of major groups and other stakeholders in the continent.

I am confident that you will seize the opportunity of this workshop to strengthen networking amongst you and to enhance engagement in the implementation and follow-up of the two agendas. This workshop is for, by, and from you, members of the major groups and other stakeholders in Africa. ECA looks forward to your agreed upon outcome which should bring out workable solutions and concrete steps to achieve the holistic and integrated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 goals.

May you have a productive and successful meeting. welcome again to Marrakech, and thank you for your attention