

The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-8)

Proposal on **Side Event - Format Virtual – (Zoom)**

Proposed Title: 6th African Youths & Sustainable Development Roundtable

Building Forward Better – Localizing the SDGs

Date: March 2, 2022 / Time: 9 AM – 10:30 AM EST

Organizers: Bright Light Projects & the Lady B Bless Humanitarian Foundation, Inc.

Partners: People Empowering People (PEP) Africa, AFRIFAMU (African Fashion and Music Fest), Honeydrops Foundation

Keynote Speaker: His Excellency Gabriel Santana Maja (Ambassador of Lesotho to the United States)

Panelists: Nckevin Ayaba, Melvin Wajiri, Dr. Ifeunmi Bunmi, Dr. Oyinkasola

Hosts: Franco Bonghan, Lady B Bless

Thematic Focus: Recovery should be people-centered and in Africa it should be youth centered, it should focus on issues such as the wage gap between women and men, quality healthcare, creation of job hubs, disparities in digital literacy, revamping school curriculum to include vocational and technical education ensuring recovery efforts are equitable and sustainable.

Potential Contribution to the Forum: Engaging the youths on the importance of the SDGs and their implementation is important in building an inclusive framework localizing and measuring impact of the goals at the local level. Building forward entails a much radical and practical approach and the youths in Africa are Africa's most important assets if used correctly towards the transformative process in the continent.

Mission of African Youths & Sustainable Development Roundtable:

African Youths & Sustainable Development Roundtable is a platform for Young African Entrepreneurs, Social Entrepreneurs to network, share knowledge and opportunities collaborate on key economic and social issues driving local action towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda in sub-Saharan Africa.

Expected outcome of the 6th African Youths & Sustainable Development Roundtable:

Inspire, motivate and encourage African Youths to actively learn, implement and support the SDGs at the local levels as a catalyst for the agenda 2030 building up to agenda 2063.