NGYouthSDGs
Network of Youth For Sustainable Initiative

ABUJA PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY
Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Abuja People's Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) served as a collaborative platform championed by the Network of Youth for Sustainable Initiative (NGYouthSDGs) in partnership with Connected Development (CODE) and Youth Hub Africa that aims to raise awareness and foster dialogue about critical challenges facing people in relation to ending poverty, quality education, decent work, sustainable cities, and climate action. The assembly brings together diverse participants from the youth, private sector, civil society, academia and

government to collectively address these challenges, share innovative solutions, and inspire actionable change.

It is a known fact that recent developments on the Global SDGs report show that we are on track to achieve just 15 percent of the SDGs with 45 percent significantly off track and stagnation in 37 percent of the SDGs. September 2023 also marked the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda to end global poverty, achieve gender equality and end climate change. Unfortunately, Nigeria has seen a rise in the cost of living which has been exacerbated by the COVID19 pandemic, the war between Russia and Ukraine, insurgency in the northern part of Nigeria and conflicting government policies. With a population of over 200 million people and about 63 percent in multidimensional poverty, the likelihood of lifting 100 million people out of poverty by 2030 is in peril.

It is at this critical point that the Abuja People's Assembly engaged all stakeholders; the government, youth, academia, civil societies and the private sector for innovative strategies and gained insights into the challenges regarding policy implementation. The assembly witnessed an engaging panel session with representatives from stakeholders on attaining the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria. In addition was the launch of a communique based on the insights and feedback from the Lagos edition of the Nigeria People's Assembly which held on September 28th and inputs from the Abuja People's Assembly on a roadmap for accountability for the attainment of the SDGs, frameworks that will help raise awareness on the SDGs across Nigeria and actionable policy recommendations to SDGs implementation in Nigeria.

ABUJA PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY PRESS CONFERENCE

The Abuja People's Assembly kicked off with a press conference made up of Dr Augustine Ifeanyi Okere, Research Officer at Connected Development, Mr Shadrach Akpem, Programmes Manager at Network of Youth for Sustainable Initiative (NGYouthSDGs), Mr Shamaki Darlton, Head of Administration at YouthHubAfrica, Ms Boluwatife Ajayi, Programmes Associate at Network of Youth for Sustainable Initiative (NGYouthSDGs). The press conference centred on the purpose of the Abuja People's Assembly which aimed to demand the Nigerian government and private sector work with civil society organizations and young people to ensure we leave no one behind in education, employment, health care, security and environmental actions. The press conference also highlighted the works of each organization working to improve the lives of people, youth and women as part of efforts to demand a people's approach towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

Augustine Ifeanyi Okere spoke about the commitment of Connected Development in accelerating progress towards the SDGs and supporting grassroot community initiatives.

Shadrach Akpem emphasized the pivotal role of young people in the SDGs and the commitment of NGYouthSDGs to developing youth leadership for sustainable development.

Shamaki Darlton shared how YouthHubAfrica is working with young people around sexual and reproductive health, climate action and leadership for sustainable development.

ABUJA PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MAIN EVENT

The Abuja People's Assembly was a one-day event that brought together a wide array of stakeholders and actors dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs) in Nigeria. The event commenced with the registration of attendees, the press conference, brief media interviews and networking among participants.

The event host, Ms Boluwatife Ajayi welcomed the guests to the event after which Network of Youth for Sustainable Initiative (NGYouthSDGs) Programme Manager, Shadrach Akpem took the opening remarks. He mentioned the fact that the organization started as an unregistered youth group in 2017 and got registered in 2021 while advocating for the inclusion of youth in the 2030 Agenda. He shed light on the focus of the organization being education and capacity development, livelihoods and employment and civic participation. He highlighted projects of the organizations such as the creation of the SDG Playbook, International Youth Day Spotlight Awards and Compendium, co-designing of the Nigerian Youth Employment Action Plan and others. In his remarks, he emphasized the fact that Africa consists of 70 percent of the world population. Hence, the Abuja People's Assembly coming together to tackle problems related to SDG will go a long way. Having robust communication, creating opportunities to everyone to air their opinion cannot be underemphasized.

Connected Development research lead, Dr Augustine Okere discussed the role of his organization in championing the SDGs through education, healthcare and WASH (Water, sanitation and hygiene). He mentioned the impact of Connected Development's Follow the Money which has a goal of holding the government responsible for the income stream and monitor the inflow and outflow of allocated funds to government actions; projects and initiatives.

Mr Shamaki Dalton, Head of Administration, YouthHubAfrica emphasized the role of the organization in regards to sexual and reproductive health programs. He mentioned SDGs4, 5, and 8 as the primary focus of the organization, amplifying advocacy for the female gender, conducting skills empowerment for over 100 women and remains committed to promoting the female gender and inclusion.

The Panel session was a blend of represented stakeholders who served as panelists spanning from the government, private sector, youth. The panel session involved Kamaldeen Afolabi, Grant Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at Nigerian Youth Future Fund, Funmilayo Caulcrick, Senior Programmes Officer at AfriLabs, Semiye Michael, Founder of DEAN Initiative and Rose Keffas, Special Assistant, Office of

the Senior Special Advisor to the President on the SDGs. The panel session was moderated by Feranmi Iyanda and had all panelists discuss strategies to foster the sustainable development goals in Nigeria ahead of 2030.

Rose Keffas highlighted the three focal points of the Office of the Senior Special Adviser to the President on sustainable development goals to Resources, Partnership and Leadership. She went further to shed light on their role with working with the subnational government in budget planning, road safety and other areas. Prior to Covid-19, Nigeria needed 100 billion dollars to achieve the SDGs but with the status quo and inflation, much more will be needed to realize the goals. Speaking on the issue of funds, she pointed out that her office works with partners like UNDP to finance SDGs programs to breach the financial gap, balancing local and global solutions.
She emphasized on the need for monitoring and reporting to track the progress and impact of initiatives and projects made on the global goals in Nigeria.

Semiye Michael emphasized the need for diverse organizations to understand their role and work in relation to the SDGs, coupled with the drive to take solutions across all subnational levels and build capacity to realize the goals within the timeframe. He noted that collaboration must be intensified across stakeholders through community mobilization and campaign, capacity building and forming structures to ensure meaningful youth engagement in all areas like electoral processes, law making and policy formulation.

Funmilayo Caulcrick spoke on the role of AfriLabs as a network of innovation hubs across Africa in driving capacity building economic empowerment of women through their skills acquisition initiative. She noted that the skills program spans across five African countries with the goal of training five thousand women on climate actions, quality education among others. She went further to recommend capacity building, partnerships and healthy competition to enable young people achieve the SDGs.

Kamaldeen Afolabi highlighted the fact that there are gaps in youth development. In response to this, he mentioned solutions such as the National Visionary project, Donor Partnership Forum, setting up of a private sector advisory committee group which has been launched by the Nigerian Youth Future Funds to cause change and

bring a lasting solution. Speaking on the recent migration in Nigeria termed 'japa', he emphasized that this is a national building gap and has been caused by several demotivating factors, however inclusion of young people in decision making process and implementation, collaboration among all stakeholders and an enabling environment which could foster the drive to a better nation.

Shadrach Akpem, Project Manager of NGYouthSDGs presented the Nigerian People's Assembly Communique which highlighted the strategies and roadmap raised to attain the global goals in Nigeria. During the presentation, he mentioned the need for the private sector to be transparent and align their CSR goals with sustainable development, noted the importance of harnessing entrepreneurship to drive the SDGs and the creation of a standard monitoring and reporting system to aid stakeholders in assessing impact.

Following the presentation, the closing remarks were taken by Zaliha Lawal, SDGs Coordinator and Deputy Director Program of Connected Development. She called for young people to take advantage of opportunities and learning platforms and for stakeholders to work together to achieve the agenda 2030.

ABUJA PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY IN THE NEWS

The Guardian News
https://guardian.ng/news/amplify-youth-voices-towards-sustainable-community-development-says-sdgs-advocate/amp/

ADBN
https://youtu.be/DRI1Yd9ftzo

News Xra
https://youtu.be/XbybFdD9AMg?si=gzMHlQp8sCboYcL3

Galaxy TV

https://youtu.be/td6CHBMfqv4

MITV News
https://youtu.be/fZoeJVfcg9w

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK

Any additional comments regarding the panel session?

3 responses

The panel session was engaging and insightful

We can only learn with experience panel which they all are amazing

It was an amazing experience and would love for more of this events occasionally.

Any overall feedback for the event?

3 responses

Well done!

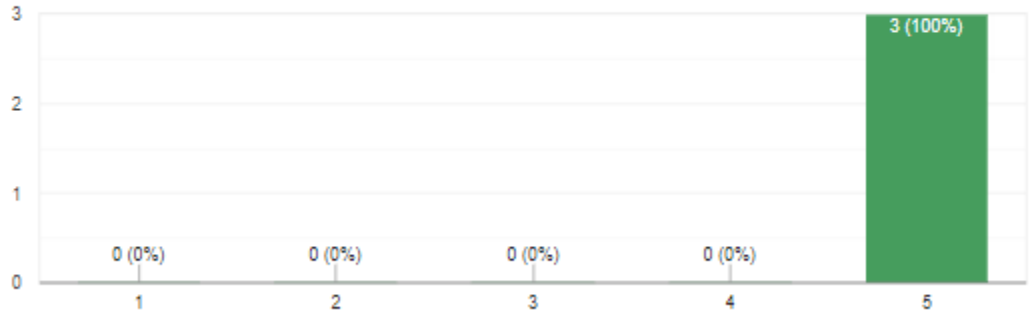
Very well educative session which I hope to attend more in the coming events

Thank you to the amazing team, partners that pulled this event together

How relevant and helpful do you think it was to your knowledge on SDGs?

Copy

3 responses



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View Insights

step_up_nigeria invited you to be a collaborator on their post.

Review

31 likes

step_up_nigeria With less than 7 years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, individuals, communities, and organizations need to find ways to overcome the obstacles hindering this realization.

In lending our voice and contributing to the ongoing actions, our Deputy Programmes Director, @feranmiadeola initiated a conversation on raising awareness and fostering dialogue about the imminent challenges people face in relation to the Sustainable Goals.

We appreciate the @ngyouthsdgs for putting together such a timely assembly and salute every single changemaker working tirelessly to better our world.

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#SDGs #ngyouthsdgs #stepupnigeria #Act4SDGs #UniteToAct #Changemakers

lettertoalady Well done 👏👏👏👏

step_up_nigeria @lettertoalady Thank you!

31 October

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lettertoalady Well done 👏👏👏👏

step_up_nigeria @lettertoalady Thank you!

31 October

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

YouthHubAfrica

- **Morenikeji Onilua**
- **Segun Medupin**
- **Shamaki Darlton**

Connected Development

- **Zaliha Lawal**
- **Augustine Ifeanyi Okere**

Nigerian Youth SDGs

- **Joshua Alade**
- **Shadrach Akpem**
- **Boluwatife Ajayi**
- **Amara**
- **Alfred**

4 QUALITY EDUCATION
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
15 LIFE ON LAND
5 GENDER EQUALITY
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
#ACT4SDGs
1 NO POVERTY
2 ZERO HUNGER
CODE
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