NGYouthSDGs
Network of Youth For Sustainable Initiative

NIGERIA PEOPLES ASSEMBLY 2023
Report (Lagos Edition)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the importance of all stakeholders from government, private sector, civil society, academia, media and youth groups in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and calls for actions against the challenges that limit the economic, social and political participation of everyone. The recent Global SDGs report shows 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 is the mid-point of the 2030 Agenda to end global poverty, achieve gender equality and end climate change.

The Nigeria People's Assembly on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the theme 'United for a Sustainable Nigeria' in partnership with S.M.I.L.E AND Sprout Talent Network is a collaborative platform that raised awareness and fostered dialogue about critical challenges facing people in relation to SDGs 1, 4, 8, 12 and 13. The Lagos People's Assembly stimulated conversations around education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, climate action, peace, justice and strong institutions and partnership for the SDGs.

Through the assembly, a platform for people's voices, especially young people to be heard, inspired action from attendees to use their voice, innovation and energy to engage policymakers, private sector leaders and civil society leaders and the general population on the 2030 Agenda. In line with this, the panel and breakout sessions played an instrumental role in reviewing the implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria and provide recommendations for actions during the remaining years of the SDGs.

LAGOS PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY MAIN EVENT

The Lagos People's Assembly was a spectacular, insightful and inclusive gathering which was held for a single day. The event brought together various stakeholders, including and not limited to academia, civil society organizations, youth leaders, private sector and representatives from the government with the collective aim to chart a course towards attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria

The event commenced with the registration of participants, informal interaction and networking opportunities among attendees. The event host Ms Francisca Onarinde kicked off the event by welcoming the attendees after which was followed by a welcome address by the NGYouthSDGs Program Associate, Boluwatife Ajayi who spoke about the role of NGYouthSDGs centering on youth issues and working with local and international partners for youth rights and accountability for the 2030 Agenda in Nigeria. She also outlined the assembly's objectives which is to empower young people for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to facilitate a discussion on critical challenges relating to the SDGs in Nigeria. She emphasized that the assembly aims to yield specific solutions and inspire practical actions to tackle existing shortcomings in SDG attainment.

Ms Ajibola Babalola, Head of Communications at S.M.I. L.E took the floor and gave a presentation on the role of S.M.I.L.E in achieving the SDGs in Nigeria. Ms Ajbola mentioned the process of their youth development programs which has been to groom young people into leaders through skills, creative projects and capacity building training.

This presentation was followed up by a NGYouthSDGs video on young people speaking on the importance of the global goals and calling for action on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria.

Following the video showcase, anyone from the audience had the opportunity to speak and share their story in achieving the SDGs. Ms Rabia, one of the attendees, took the floor and spoke about her role in advancing SDG 3-Good Health and Well-being. She highlighted the importance of mental health, family planning, and maternal and child health as well as the need to have adequate medical facilities in all hospitals and quality primary health care. Mr Philips Olatunde also spoke about his contribution on SDG 14-Life below Water and planning the Beach Cleanup Program to aid the survival of sea life.

Ms Nofisat Nojeem presented a remarkable spoken word on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which focused on the need to demand for accountability and take action as we pursue the goals.

Ms Funmilayo Akannishelle, NGYouthSDGs Communications Associate introduced the panel session speakers Ms Tolulope Makinwa, a social entrepreneur and founder Muazu Africa, Mr

Joshua Okoduwa, social development consultant and founder of Restructure Africa and Ms Ajibola Babalola, head of communications S.M.I.L.E. The panel session was a dialogue which focused on fostering the SDGs in Nigeria and was moderated by Ms Funmilayo Akannishelle. The session witnessed the panelists discuss the status of Nigeria in the SDG index and proposing strategies that aid the advancement of Nigeria in attaining the global goals by 2030.

Ajibola Babalola highlighted pragmatics strategies for involving youth in realizing the SDGs in Nigeria. She emphasized the value of mentorship, advocating for a start-small approach rather than waiting for large-scale projects. Additionally, she stressed the importance of young people sharing their authentic and genuine stories on achieving the SDGs to inspire others.

Joshua Okoduwa pointed out the need for Africans to not run away from their continent but build instead and foster growth. He emphasized the importance of being able to identify the stakeholders in your community and engaging with them while also demanding for accountability. He hammered on personal development, networking with peers in the same field and fostering personal accountability as crucial steps toward realizing impactful contributions as a young person to the SDGs.

Tolulope Makinwa explained that harnessing entrepreneurship as a catalyst for sustainable development in Nigeria will take a multi-faceted approach. We will first need to create an enabling environment that supports and incentivises entrepreneurial ventures through policies that give businesses access to finance and protection of IP rights. It is important to encourage technology and innovation adoption particularly in sectors in high potential for economic and sustainable impact. Promoting sustainable practices will ensure economic growth does not come at the expense of social and environmental well-being. We must foster a partnership between all stakeholders, and enhance domestic resource mobilization in Nigeria.

The panel moderator, Funmilayo Akannishelle gave her concluding remarks by stating the need for young people to take action, volunteer and be on the watch out for programs and organizations playing a role in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The NGYouthSDGs Program Associate Boluwatife Ajayi took the floor to shed light on the breakout session. The breakout session witnessed engagement and collaboration between the participants as they were grouped to answer questions based on fostering the global goals in Nigeria.

The first question-How can stakeholders at all levels-government, businesses, civil society and communities-strengthen their collaboration and communication to create a coordinated and effective approach for sustainable development in Nigeria?

The participants in providing an answer for question one, emphasized the importance of the private sector effectively communicating their core values and corporate social responsibility (CSR) interests as a foundation for building partnership with other stakeholders in support of the SDGs in

Nigeria. Participants also stressed the significance of early education and capacity building for all citizens and transparency in government actions and policies as they advocated for open and honest governance. Furthermore, the participants mentioned the necessity for proper data recording and accessibility to facilitate ongoing reviews of the progress toward the SDGs. Awareness on the global goals and creating an environment that fosters dialogue on the global goals will help to bring in all stakeholders.

The second question-What frameworks can be employed to raise awareness of the SDGs across Nigeria especially with support from the private sector and academia?

The breakout session participants highlighted the need for stakeholders to meet and share their visions on attaining the global goals, rub minds together and co-design projects on the SDGs. They also suggested that the government should incorporate courses on the SDGs into academic curricula, spanning from primary schools to tertiary institutions to instill a deeper understanding of the global goals from an early age. In the context of the private sector, it was stressed that companies should prioritize corporate social responsibility efforts and recognize their integral role in societal development. Furthermore, participants recommended that private sector entities should align their core values and CSR initiatives with the global goals to maximize their positive impact on sustainable development in Nigeria

The third question- How can we demand accountability for the attainment of the SDGs in Nigeria?

During the session, the participants also emphasized the importance of utilizing appropriate channels to voice concerns and insights effectively, conduct independent audits and reviews to assess progress towards the goals and contributions of various stakeholders. The participants also pointed out the need to develop clear guidelines (progress template) for establishing accountability among all stakeholders involved in SDGs initiatives. This way, stakeholders are able to track their progress on their various projects and be held accountable. Furthermore, they highlighted the significance of the media being independent to report on projects, track progress impartially, ensuring transparency and public awareness. All of these would form a method to demand accountability for the global goals in Nigeria.

In her closing remarks, Boluwatife Ajayi underscored the significance of involving young people in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria. She called upon all the stakeholders to come together and foster collaboration, emphasizing the active role each of them can play in advancing the SDGs in Nigeria. She stressed the importance of having a well-defined roadmap for raising awareness on the SDGs and for demanding accountability to ensure the global goals are realized either before or by 2030.

LAGOS PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY IN THE NEWS

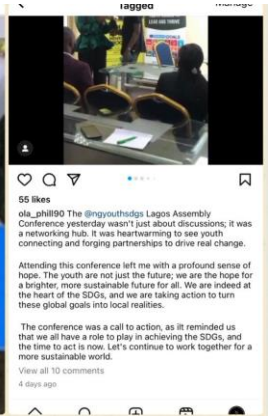
THE CABLE
https://www.thecable.ng/young-nigerians-need-peaceful-society-to-thrive-says-sdg-advocate/

The Development News
https://thednmagazine.com/ngyouthsdgs-emphasizes-call-for-youth-leadership-toward-attaining-sdg-goals/

NEWS CENTRAL TV

https://youtu.be/ANKnmDww0HE

COMMENTS AND FEEDBACK



55 likes

ola_phill90 The @ngyouthsdgs Lagos Assembly Conference yesterday wasn't just about discussions; it was a networking hub. It was heartwarming to see youth connecting and forging partnerships to drive real change.

Attending this conference left me with a profound sense of hope. The youth are not just the future; we are the hope for a brighter, more sustainable future for all. We are indeed at the heart of the SDGs, and we are taking action to turn these global goals into local realities.

The conference was a call to action, as it reminded us that we all have a role to play in achieving the SDGs, and the time to act is now. Let's continue to work together for a more sustainable world.

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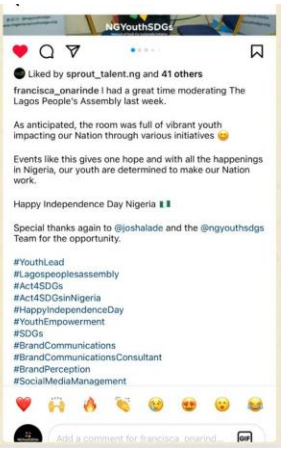

Liked by sprout_talent.ng and 41 others

francisca_onarinde I had a great time moderating The Lagos People's Assembly last week.

As anticipated, the room was full of vibrant youth impacting our Nation through various initiatives 😊

Events like this gives one hope and with all the happenings in Nigeria, our youth are determined to make our Nation work.

Happy Independence Day Nigeria 🇳🇬

Special thanks again to @joshalade and the @ngyouthsdgs Team for the opportunity.

#YouthLead
#Lagospeoplesassembly
#Act4SDGs
#Act4SDGsinNigeria
#HappyIndependenceDay
#YouthEmpowerment
#SDGs
#BrandCommunications
#BrandCommunicationsConsultant
#BrandPerception
#SocialMediaManagement

Add a comment for francisca_onarind...

Liked by tnci_africa and others

thesdgnurse Today at Lagos state Assembly with @ngyouthsdgs, it was an impactful session and I learned a lot about how Youth can contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by raising awareness, advocating for government and corporate action, pursuing relevant education and training, and participating in SDG-focused workshops and seminars.

I was able to network and meet with changemakers who are ready to build their world and advance the SDG

#fyppppppp

What is your favourite moment or experience from the event?

6 responses

The break session was so necessary. I had the feelings that yes I could create a strategy and yes, it can be implemented.

The breakout and panel session

The breakout session

All the sessions was Great but the teamwork and panel session was exceptional.

My favorite moment was when I was asked to speak on Sdg3

The team bonding/Deliberations on SDG related questions

Any overall feedback from the event?

6 responses

The event was so inspiring and now I understand that I really need to know my environment, mentorship is key and my voice can be heard.
Please I would love a group where we all can communicate and please how do we get our pictures?

It was a great one, I got to network with like minds and share ideas as regards the SDGs

It was worthwhile

It was a memorable event the volunteers and organisers of the event did an excellent Job, they were time conscious and well organised

The event was impressive, educative and insightful

IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

S.M.I.L.E

- Ajibola Babalola

Sprout Talent Network

- Francisca Onarinde

NGYouthSDGs

- Joshua Alade
- Adenike Bamigbade
- Shadrach Akpem
- Boluwatife Ajayi
- Funmilayo Akannishelle

PHOTO GALLERY

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NGYouthSDGs
Network of Youth For Sustainable Initiative
ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Sprout Talent Network
SMILE
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
THEME
NGYouthSDGs
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YOUNG
LEADERS
MENTORING
PROGRAM
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9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
5 GENDER EQUALITY
PEACE
#ACT4SDGs
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ACTION
INCLUSION
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
NYSC
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NGYouthSDGs
13 CLIMATE ACTION
ACTION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
5 GENDER EQUALITY
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
INCLUSION
#ACT4SDGs
2 ZERO HUNGER
4 QUALITY EDUCATION
14 LIFE BELOW WATER
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