



**COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED AT THE END OF THE ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS MAINSTREAMING AT THE SUB-NATIONAL LEVEL IN NIGERIA**  
***Sandralia Hotel, Abuja, June 7th – 16th, 2021***

## **1. PREAMBLE**

The Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organised an Advocacy and Capacity Building Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Mainstreaming at the Sub-National Level in Nigeria. Participants were drawn from the Commissioners of Budget and Economic Planning, Statistician Generals and SDG Focal Persons from across the 36 states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The programme was split into two streams to ensure strict adherence to COVID-19 protocols. The Workshop took place from 7-9 June, 2021 and 15-16 June, 2021 at Sandralia Hotel, Solomon Lar Way, Jabi, Abuja.

The workshop was aimed at strengthening the capacities of state officials to conceptualise, integrate and implement the SDGs at the sub-national level. Following the successful institutionalization of frameworks and mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels, there is a need to strengthen SDGs-based development planning, especially at the sub-national level to fast-track the achievement of the SDGs by the year 2030. Currently, eight (8) states have formally sought the technical and financial support of OSSAP-SDGs and UNDP to enable them develop and implement SDGs-based Development Plans in line with their

development priorities. Indeed, Gombe state has completed this process and launched its 10-year SDG-Based Development Plan. Others are at different stages of this process. Recognizing the significance of this initiative, OSSAP-SDGs and UNDP are committed to supporting more states in their desire to institutionalise development planning at all levels of governance. This level of engagement underscored the importance of policy-plan-budget nexus to help ensure that states and local governments craft policies, plans, and budgets which are hinged on accelerating the achievement of the SDGs in this Decade of Action for the global goals.

The Workshop comprised of Opening, Plenary and Panel sessions – with a number of technical presentations. A number of dignitaries attended the opening sessions, including Her Excellency, Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs and H.E. Mr. Edward Kallon, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria. Dr. Amarakoon Bandara, UNDP Senior Economic Advisor enumerated the objectives of the workshop; while Engr. Ahmad Kawu, the Secretary of Programme, OSSAP-SDGs, gave the Welcome Address. The Opening Remarks were given by Mr. Mohamed Yahya, the UNDP Resident Representative, and the Keynote Address was delivered by H.E. Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs. Goodwill messages were received from key partners including Mr. Edward Kallon, the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria; Dr. Yemi Kale, the Statistician General and Federation and Chief Executive Officer, National Bureau of Statistics; and Mr. Bolaji Balogun, the Co-Chair of the Private Sector Advisory Group on Sustainable Development Goals.

## **2. ASSERTIONS/KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Following an intensive Advocacy and Capacity Building Workshop with robust technical presentations, peer learning and a panel discussion on Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) and SDG-

based development planning processes, the following assertions/observations/recommendations were made:

- (i) Nigeria has demonstrated strong commitment to the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. In this regard, institutional frameworks have been established at the national and sub-national levels for effective implementation;
- (ii) The SDGs cannot be achieved with stand-alone policies and projects, they must be carefully integrated into national and sub-national policies and development plans;
- (iii) The Nigeria SDGs Implementation Plan 2020-2030 provides an overarching framework and comprehensive roadmap for the achievement of the SDGs at the national and sub-national levels during the Decade of Action;
- (iv) State Commissioners of Budget and Planning, Statisticians-General and SDG Focal Persons must work closely together and have regular coordination and collaboration for effective SDGs planning, implementation and monitoring;
- (v) A multi-stakeholder approach must be employed to mobilise the expertise and resources of the public sector, private sector, the UN Development System, donor community, academia and civil society in support of the achievement of the SDGs in Nigeria;
- (vi) Support for SDG-based development planning is voluntary and demand driven. States seeking technical and/or financial support are to formally write OSSAP-SDGs and UNDP Nigeria as a demonstration of the state's commitment to the development process;
- (vii) Sub-national governments must gravitate away from a funding approach towards a financing approach for the implementation of the SDGs, especially in view of the dwindling financial resources and the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (viii) While State Development Plans require political will or commitment, they should not be driven based on political

affiliations to guarantee buy-in and sustainability beyond a political regime;

- (ix) State governments should localize the Nigeria SDGs Implementation Plan (2020-2030) based on their specific contexts and particular needs;
- (x) Sub-national governments are to streamline the SDGs communications strategy into their activities to ensure high-visibility of achievements and recorded milestones;
- (xi) Robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting of the SDGs implementation must be conducted frequently to ensure alignment to the SDG-based development plans;
- (xii) There is an urgent need for the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to share a harmonised reporting template across the 36 states and the FCT. Additionally, there is a need to strengthen statistical capacity at the sub-national level. This can be done as part of the OSSAP-SDGs and UNDP framework of support to the states; and
- (xiii) OSSAP-SDGs and UNDP Nigeria are to embark on and sustain high-level advocacy to the State Governors to ensure their commitment and buy-in to the overall implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in Nigeria.

**Chief Rapporteur,  
Advocacy & Capacity Building Workshop  
June 18th, 2021.**