



**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE ADVOCACY AND CAPACITY-BUILDING WORKSHOP ON DATA COLLECTION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION, AND SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS DESK OFFICERS IN KANO STATE**

***Bristol Palace Hotel, Abuja,  
November 29th – December 3rd, 2021***

**1. PREAMBLE**

The Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals (OSSAP-SDGs), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) organised an Advocacy and Capacity Building Workshop on Data Collection, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Systems Strengthening for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Desk Officers in Kano State. Participants were comprised of SDG Desk Officers drawn from the various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the state, as well as personnel from the Kano State SDG Office. The Workshop took place from 29 November – 3 December, 2021 at Bristol Palace Hotel, Kano.

The workshop was aimed at strengthening the capacities of desk officers to set up a data collection system with a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) component to track the State's status on priority SDGs identified through the Kano SDG Coordinating office. This includes enhancing capacities of the officers to effectively conduct Monitoring & Evaluation and Results-Based Management activities in line with international best

practices, as well as improving the SDG reporting system in the state. Through a sound monitoring and evaluation system, State SDG actors will better be able to contribute to enhancing development program and policy design, implementation, decision-making, evidence-based and equitable allocation of limited resources across competing priorities to address multiple deprivations.

As a result of the successful institutionalization of frameworks and mechanisms at the national and sub-national levels, there is a pertinent need to strengthen data systems to support the monitoring and tracking of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in order to fast-track the achievement of the SDGs by the year 2030. Currently, Kano State is in the process of finalising its SDG-based Development Plan – the Kano State Development Plan (KSDP III). As such, the Office of the Special Adviser to the Governor on SDGs, has formally sought the technical and financial support of OSSAP-SDGs, UNDP and NBS to strengthen their statistical capacity.

This initiative is a direct outcome of the Sensitisation, Advocacy and Capacity Building Workshop on Sustainable Development Goals for State Actors organised by OSSAP-SDGs and UNDP earlier this year. OSSAP-SDGs and UNDP remain committed to supporting more states in their desire to strengthen statistical capacity and institutionalise development planning at all levels of governance. This will go a long way in helping to ensure that states and local governments are equipped with the know-how to effectively track and report on key performance indicators of the SDGs, conduct Voluntary Local Reviews and guide policy direction in the state hinged on accelerating the achievement of the SDGs in this Decade of Action.

The Workshop comprised of Opening, Technical and Plenary sessions. Present at the opening ceremony were dignitaries including His Excellency, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, Executive Governor of Kano State, as represented by the Honourable Commissioner for Budget and Planning; and Her Excellency, Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs. The Opening Remarks were delivered by Dr. Amarakoon Bandara, UNDP Senior Economic Advisor, providing a general overview of the initiative; while Barr. Habib

Hotoro, the Special Adviser to the Governor of Kano State on Sustainable Development Goals, tendered the Welcome Address. The Special Remarks were delivered by H.E. Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, and the Keynote Address was delivered by His Excellency, Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, Executive Governor of Kano State, as represented by the Honourable Commissioner for Budget and Planning. Goodwill messages were received from key partners including Mr. Mohamed Yahya, the UNDP Resident Representative in Nigeria, as represented by the UNDP Senior Economic Advisor; and Dr. Simon Harry, the Statistician General and Federation and Chief Executive Officer, National Bureau of Statistics.

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

Following a robust Advocacy and Capacity Building programme with robust technical presentations, peer learning and demonstrations on Data Collection and Monitoring, Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) and Global SDG Best Practices, 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) To ‘leave no one behind’, we need the commitment and skills of the state bureaucrats in the implementation of state policies that can help deliver the SDGs by the year 2030;
- (iv) The Kano State Government has initiated the Kano State Development Plan – KSDP III with the identified/aligned SDG

priority areas, targets and indicators incorporated. It is expected that the updated plan will be finalised and launched before the end of the year;

- (v) The Kano State Government is desirous of conducting a Voluntary Local Review in 2023 or 2024. This process will give Kano State the opportunity to participate as peers at the High-Level Political Forum while demonstrating their contribution to global SDG targets;
- (vi) Robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting of the SDGs implementation must be conducted frequently to ensure alignment to the SDG-based development plans;
- (vii) State Actors with responsibilities towards the tracking and reporting of progress on the SDGs must ensure close collaboration and synergy. The Kano State SDG Coordination Office has committed to convening quarterly meetings in this regard;
- (viii) Progress reports will be produced on a bi-annual basis. Thus, SDG Focal Persons must ensure regular tracking and monitoring through the relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies;
- (ix) To develop innovative ways of achieving developmental priorities, SDG Focal Persons are to guide their bureaus on prioritizing SDGs with huge multiplier effects;
- (x) 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;

- (xi) To ensure sustainability of this intervention, participants are to document and step-down the training, as well as carry along other relevant actors within their Ministries, Departments and Agencies to ensure spread of knowledge/skill for institutional memory; and
- (xii) OSSAP-SDGs, UNDP Nigeria and NBS are to methodically strengthen and sustain support to Sub-national governments 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  
December 10th, 2021.**