

Africa Regional Multi-Stakeholder Consultation for Stockholm+50

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Meeting Overview

The Stockholm+50 conference is a high-level meeting, convening from 2-3 June 2022 in Stockholm, Sweden, that aims to commemorate the 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment and celebrate 50 years of global environmental action. As part of the preparatory process for Stockholm+50, a series of five regional multi-stakeholder consultations are taking place to ensure inclusivity and participation of regional stakeholders. These consultations aim to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to, among other things, review and assess how the global environment can be supported to help countries and regions attain the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on capacity building and on innovative and enhanced means of implementation.

The Africa Regional Multi-stakeholder Consultation took place from 12-13 April 2022. During the consultation, participants underscored that the region must take charge of its destiny and map a path towards achieving the SDGs. Through online polls conducted during the meeting, participants identified the main actions to accelerate Africa's progress towards a healthy planet and prosperity for all, including environmental and sustainability education, progressing sustainable agrifood, and adopting a circular economy approach. Many participants reiterated the need for local solutions that include integration of indigenous and traditional knowledge, consumption of local produce, and encouraging trade among African countries.

Opening Remarks

Chris Kiptoo, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, speaking on behalf of Keriako Tobiko, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya, said Stockholm+50 will provide the world with an opportunity to reflect on progress since the

1972 Stockholm Conference and to envision what is needed to create a better and healthier world. Underlining that “none of us is safe until all of us are safe,” he stressed the need to strengthen international cooperation to protect the environment. He called for cohesion in the implementation of all multilateral environmental agreements, with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) playing a governing and coordinating role.

Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Ambassador at the Ministry of the Environment, Sweden, said the regional consultations are a way to ensure an inclusive and transparent process. She encouraged participants to focus on how Stockholm+50 can make a difference to Africa, based on the region's priorities. She said the conference will be a space for deep reflection and an opportunity for leaders to connect, mobilize and accelerate, stressing that “we need to do more, we need to do it faster and we need to do it better.”

Richard Munang, Acting Deputy Director, UNEP Regional Office for Africa, on behalf of Frank Turyatunga, Acting Director and Regional Representative, UNEP Regional Office for Africa, emphasized that Africa is not on track to achieve the SDGs and continues to lag behind



Johanna Lissinger Peitz, Ambassador at the Ministry of the Environment, Sweden



Richard Munang, Acting Deputy Director, UNEP Regional Office for Africa

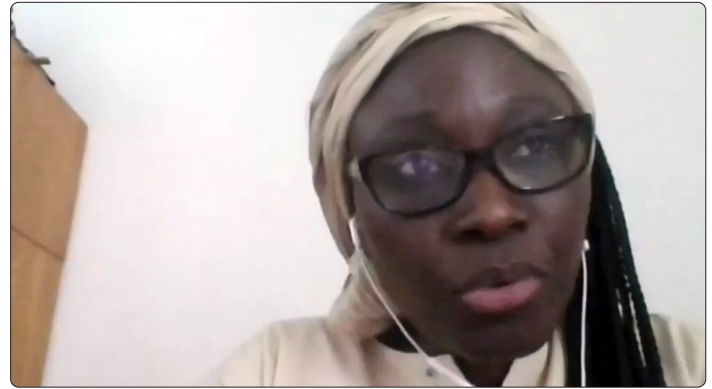
on impactful implementation. He said the only solution is “frantic acceleration,” with the region scaling up implementation of actions required to address the triple crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and land degradation. Munang underlined the need for closer cooperation and collaboration, scaling up of existing partnerships, and increased investments to expand workable solutions.

Jean-Paul Adam, Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), said “the myth that green growth means less prosperity is, unfortunately, persistent.” Noting the region is now at a crossroads, he stressed Stockholm+50 must help situate Africa’s prosperity as one built on green growth. Adam highlighted that recent UNECA studies show that investing in green sectors brings higher returns in terms of gross value added and job creation. He called for increased investment in transformative programmes such as the African Green Stimulus Programme (AGSP).

Multi-Stakeholder Panel Discussions

Panel one: “A summary of Africa’s key environmental and sustainable development priorities from stakeholders”

Moderator Nozipho Tshabalala, The Conversation Strategists, opened the discussion by inviting participants to complete a series of polls on Africa’s sustainable development priorities. Presenting the outcome of the polls, she said top actions to accelerate Africa’s progress towards a healthy planet and prosperity for all include environmental and sustainability education, progressing sustainable agrifood, and adopting a circular economy approach. Tshabalala noted that the key sectors critical for



Madeleine Diouf Sarr, Chair, Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group

change, as identified by the respondents, include agriculture, renewable energy and mobility, information and communication technology, and finance.

Madeleine Diouf Sarr, Chair, LDC Group, highlighted climate injustice, underscoring that LDCs are the most vulnerable to the impacts and devastation of climate change, while being responsible for the least amount of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Referencing the recent report by Working Group II of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability, Sarr identified the urgent need to increase resources for action on adaptation and to “reduce emissions by 45% by 2030.”

Houda Bouchtia, Director, Climate Business Initiative, General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises, shared her organization’s experience of supporting enterprises in Morocco by offering training in technical skills. She explained that successful models help build capacity to access funding available from the national government.

Frezer Yeheyis, Co-facilitator, Women Major Group, UNEP, highlighted climate and gender injustices experienced by rural and urban women in Africa. She described some of the challenges facing small-scale farmers, who are mainly



Moderator **Nozipho Tshabalala**, The Conversation Strategists



Frezer Yeheyis, Co-facilitator, Women Major Group, UNEP

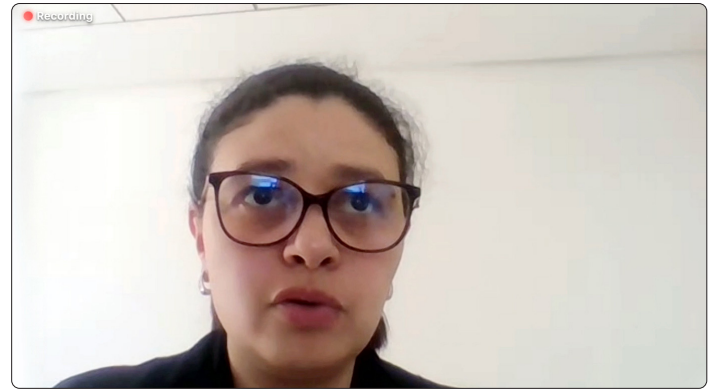
women and provide the most food. Yeheyis described the intersectionality of development challenges such as health, education, and nutrition, noting that the role of women in decision making is overlooked.

Musa Mussa Wawuyo, Director, Comparatively for Tanzania Elites Community Organizers, highlighted efforts to ensure that civil society understands the environmental challenges, referring to a policy in Tanzania requiring all households to plant and tend at least five trees. He also mentioned a Ugandan practice whereby a local official presents a tree to the bride and groom getting married in a church, which is designed to help “personalize the efforts.”

In subsequent discussion, Diouf Sarr identified the need for enabling conditions to enhance implementation of climate change protection measures in LDCs. While there is political engagement, as evidenced by national climate change committees and policy instruments such as nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), she said access to finance remains a great challenge, and recommended coordinated participation from all relevant stakeholders for better results in adaptation.

Yeheyis called for strong mechanisms that enable women’s participation in environmental policymaking. She referred to an implementation gap, which could be filled through better grassroots participation, and recommended working with a multisectoral integration approach.

Bouchtia shared examples of her organization assisting small businesses, such as: working with the government so that owners of solar panels can feed excess energy back to the grid; using technology to treat and reuse water in mining and agriculture; showing entrepreneurs how to calculate their GHG emissions and enabling



Houda Bouchtia, Director, Climate Business Initiative, General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises

access to finance; and protecting livestock from excess heat.

Wawuyo highlighted the importance of stakeholder participation and dialogue to better understand the environmental challenges in Africa. He recommended relevant stakeholders create collective reports “with one single voice” to achieve solutions for the many challenges of the region, as well as to hold governments accountable.

Key messages from the panel on stakeholder priorities

Panelists highlighted the need to:

- Address the challenges facing small-scale farmers, who are mainly women and provide the most food;
- Increase the role and participation of women in environmental policy and decision making;
- Promote climate justice, especially for LDCs, by, inter alia, increasing climate adaptation finance;
- Provide enabling conditions to enhance implementation of climate change protection measures in LDCs;
- Adopt a multi-sectoral integration approach to implementing environmental policies; and
- Work collectively “with one single voice” to achieve solutions for the many challenges of the region, as well as to hold governments accountable.



Clockwise from left: **Cécile Ndjebet**, Founder and President, African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests; **Rachel Mash**, Environmental Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa; **Kenneth Amaeshi**, European University Institute; and Moderator **Nozipho Tshabalala**, The Conversation Strategists

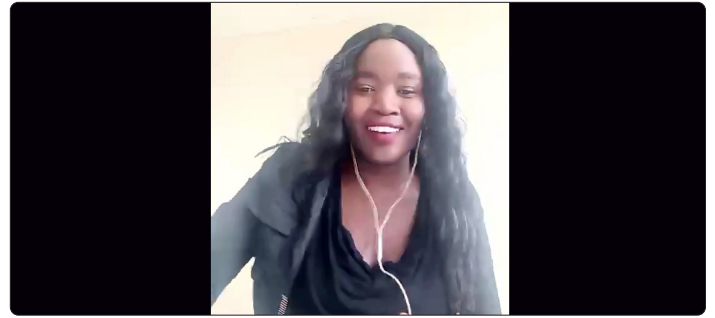
Panel two: "REIMAGINE: An intergenerational panel's visions of the future: Pathways for sustainable living under 1.5 degrees and a healthy planet"

Rebecca Laibich, AfriMab Youth Network, UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), representing youth, spoke about promoting sustainable lifestyles among young people. She urged government support for activities such as regenerative agriculture, reducing electricity use, and organic farming, and called for changing regulations that prevent a green lifestyle. She also called for solutions to prevent youth's exploitation by enacting laws that protect their labor rights.

Rachel Mash, Environmental Coordinator of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, representing faith-based organizations, spoke about the role of faith in promoting sustainable development. She said greed, selfishness, and apathy contribute to environmental problems, and noted that when natural resources are linked to spiritual life, people tend to be more responsible.

Kenneth Amaeshi, Professor of Sustainable Finance and Governance at the School of Transnational Governance, European University Institute, representing academia, emphasized the importance of the social dimension of sustainable development, especially in the African region. He said Western and Global North agendas promote issues such as climate change without paying adequate attention to social components such as health, education, poverty, and women and gender. Amaeshi stressed the need to include these elements in any discussion of sustainable development.

Cécile Ndjebet, Founder and President, African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests, representing Indigenous Peoples, spoke about "historical marginalization" of Indigenous



Rebecca Laibich, UNESCO AfriMab Youth Network

Peoples and local communities, and called for better implementation of policies that are already in place to protect them from issues related to natural resource exploitation, promote their land rights, and curb violence against environmental defenders.

In subsequent discussion, Mash underlined the importance of the "divestment movement," noting the growing recognition within the faith community that profiting from climate change is immoral. She said faith-based organizations are beginning to divest from fossil fuels, and acknowledged that shifting resources to sustainable investments, such as renewable energy, would "make a big difference."

Amaeshi warned about African societies' over-dependence on foreign aid, and highlighted the concept of "Africapitalism," with Africa deciding its own growth model based on traditional values, rather than relying on models developed by others.

Key messages from the panel on visions

Panelists called for:

- Government support for activities such as regenerative agriculture, reducing electricity use, and organic farming, and for changing regulations that prevent a green lifestyle;
- Solutions to prevent exploitation of youth through laws that protect their labor rights;
- Consideration of social components such as health, education, poverty, and women and gender in discussions of sustainable development; and
- Better implementation of policies that are already in place to protect Indigenous Peoples and local communities from natural resource exploitation, promote their land rights, and curb violence against environmental defenders.

Parallel Working Groups on the Leadership Dialogues

Working Group on Leadership Dialogue 1: “REGENERATION: A healthy planet for the prosperity of all”

On how to restore and regenerate a positive relationship with nature, participants identified good practices and pathways that should be scaled up, including:

- Supporting education and promoting awareness raising to convince local communities of the need for sustainable development;
- Simplifying and redefining the discourse to reflect the local ecosystem without making it too technical;
- Supporting sustainable productive systems, such as organic farming and mixed farming approaches;
- Identifying the causes behind the “disconnect” from nature, rather than simply trying to reconnect with nature;
- Providing support to bridge the gap between nature and people and restore coexistence, such as through conservation education and climate literacy for local communities and children;
- Integrating local and traditional knowledge into national value systems;
- Promoting nature-based solutions and recognizing communities as custodians of nature by rewarding them for implementing environmental management strategies;
- Increasing domestic climate finance;
- Supporting community-based adaptation, ecosystem-based adaptation, private sector involvement in nature restoration efforts, and incentive-driven landscape restoration;
- Facilitating youth engagement through workshops and training and creating a platform for youth to express their views on climate change;
- Protecting environmental defenders; and
- Promoting and emphasizing sustainable livelihoods and livelihood improvements, noting that poverty is both a cause and effect of degradation and that the poor are the first victims of the climate crisis and all associated effects.

On policies and structures needed to scale up the change towards a healthy planet, participants highlighted the need for:

- Promoting Indigenous Peoples’ rights, including indigenous land ownership rights;
- Adopting a human rights-based approach to environmental issues;



Working Group 1 co-facilitator **Makoma Lekalakala**, Earthlife Africa

- Separating politics from environmental issues;
- Increasing investment in disaster risk reduction, noting the cost of preventing and preparing for disasters is several times lower than that of responding to and recovering from them;
- Initiating a multi-stakeholder forum that involves the participation of all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, NGOs, and youth, to jointly take action and escalate good nature conservation practices that will help ensure planetary health and wellbeing;
- Promoting “ecopreneurship”;
- Implementing and tracking adaptation policies and guidelines; and
- Undertaking environmental restoration research to fill gaps in restoration efforts and promote evidence-based policies.

Regarding how marginalized and vulnerable groups can benefit from policies and initiatives designed to restore a more sustainable and resilient relationship with nature, participants recommended:

- Respectfully engaging with Indigenous Peoples and local communities to better understand the risks they face;
- Preparing actions at the local level that provide co-benefits such as community empowerment and sustainability programmes;
- Providing vulnerable groups with financial incentives when they engage in sustainable management practices;
- Establishing good governance and addressing the underlying causes of environmental degradation;
- Putting marginalized and vulnerable groups at the forefront of developing policies and designing initiatives to restore nature;
- Educating those at the grassroots about their role and possible contribution;
- Utilizing the Congo Basin Blue Fund;
- Adopting sustainable agricultural practices, which are key for climate resilience;
- Involving and supporting Indigenous Peoples’ engagement in the preservation of ecosystems by documenting their relationship with nature; and

- Ensuring good soil health through regenerative agriculture.

On how to safeguard the rights of people and nature, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities, environmental defenders, women, youth, and future generations, participants highlighted the need to entrench their rights in law. They recommended strong policies and monitoring and implementation measures.

Regarding a new or prioritized set of metrics and indicators needed for tracking progress towards a healthier and more prosperous planet, participants identified the need to focus on:

- Areas under conservation agriculture and areas left for natural regeneration;
- Required levels of socioeconomic support through for-profit and non-profit organizations;
- The number of policies formulated to support regenerative production systems;
- The number of bankable projects with youth's involvement;
- Adoption levels of climate-resilient agriculture and regenerative agriculture strategies;
- The percentage of forest cover and success levels of restored ecosystems;
- The reduction in climate change-related health problems; and
- SDG indicators and post-2020 global biodiversity framework indicators.

Key recommendations from the Working Group on Regeneration

- Support education for sustainable development and promote awareness raising to convince local communities of the need for sustainable development;
- Increase domestic climate finance, investment in disaster risk reduction, and private sector involvement in nature restoration efforts;
- Adopt sustainable agricultural practices, which are key for climate resilience;
- Undertake environmental restoration research to fill gaps in restoration efforts and promote evidence-based policies;
- Provide vulnerable groups with financial incentives when they engage in sustainable management practices; and
- Entrench the rights of people and nature in law, supported by strong policies and implementation measures.



Working Group 2 co-facilitator **Stuart Mangold**, South Africa
Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment

Working Group on Leadership Dialogue 2: “RECOVERY & REBALANCE: Achieving Sustainable and Inclusive Recovery through AGSP”

Participants focused on the need for green recovery from COVID-19 that would simultaneously address biodiversity loss, pollution, and climate change, and promote the wellbeing of all people. Underscoring the critical role of partnership and resource mobilization to stimulate such a recovery, speakers referenced pioneering work in the African region, including:

- A report titled, “[Building Forward Together: Financing a sustainable recovery for the future of all](#),” produced by UNECA;
- [The African Green Stimulus Programme](#), an African-led and owned programme to enhance actions for a recovery response that results in environmental sustainability and prosperity on the continent; and
- The [African Union Green Recovery Action Plan 2021-2027](#).

Participants considered aggregating concrete actions and partnerships that are ready for implementation to forward to Stockholm+50 along the following themes: revitalizing a biodiversity economy; supporting energy efficiency and the role of renewable energy to reduce the carbon footprint and improve adaptive capacities; and carry out a just transition that is equitable for all.

On the most promising sustainable and inclusive recovery practices currently applied by the public, private, and civil society groups at the individual, community, city, regional, and country levels that could be scaled up, participants called for:

- Supporting youth engagement to drive information sharing and awareness raising at the grassroots level as well as at the international level, with logistical support;

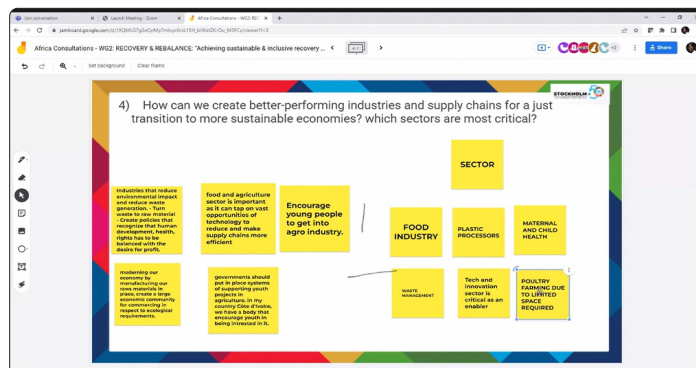
- Aligning effective programming to develop associations within the greater community and neighboring states;
- Focusing on planting trees and non-timber forest products to promote regeneration of native plants and natural forests as a way to address food security, alleviate malnutrition, and create new revenues for local communities;
- Supporting youth's participation in tree planting programmes to contribute to the regeneration and restoration of the environment;
- Promoting local knowledge on disaster management and adaptation practices of the local community;
- Scaling up promising initiatives in the region, taking into account risk and trust, and identifying potential problems and unexpected liabilities;
- Involving local populations and the most vulnerable in decision making and policy implementation, and building trust; and
- Engaging private sector support and stimulating youth innovation.

On the type of recovery and pre-existing practices needed to ensure an inclusive and sustainable recovery, participants discussed the need to:

- Improve environmental curricula in schools and universities to increase awareness of challenges and solutions;
- Review countries' forestry laws and recommend community participation in monitoring and protecting national resources and forests;
- Create and communicate clear plans of action to avoid duplication of efforts at the local and national levels;
- Engage and empower everyone to make changes in daily lifestyles;
- Invest in, and support the initiatives of, traditional NGOs and civil society organizations;
- Connect communities to national and regional plans, including by identifying community benefits in AGSP; and
- Increase the flexibility of criteria for the identification of initiatives to support to avoid "locking out" creativity.

On ensuring that countries and communities benefit from opportunities stemming from a sustainable and just transition, participants discussed:

- The importance of using simple language to attract and engage communities at the grassroots level;



Participants used the jamboard to answer questions posed to the working group.

- Establishing monitoring programmes and platforms that work with independent consultants to follow up with stakeholders; and
- The need to shift mindsets within communities to choose clean energy.

On creating better-performing industries and supply chains for a just transition to more sustainable economies, participants urged:

- Bringing industries together to determine how waste of one industry can become a raw material for another;
- Recognizing that business and profit cannot come at the expense of human development, health, and rights;
- Prioritizing agriculture and food, as well as any aspect of industry relevant to maternal and child health;
- Attracting young people to agriculture and agricultural processing by providing access and credit; and
- Applying modern technologies to update manufacturing and processing to meet ecological requirements and create a large economic community.

On the commitments and “responsible” principles needed by key industry sectors and by finance and investment institutions, participants urged:

- Understanding and articulating the key role of the finance sector in sustainable development;
- Improving access to finance among women and youth who may have difficulty obtaining loans to start or expand businesses; and
- Demanding that financial institutions become advocates for the SDGs.

Speakers called on industries to take on more environmental, social, and governance (ESG) commitments and for finance and investment institutions to commit to sustainable finance. Participants also discussed decent green jobs of the future, such as in: climate-smart agriculture; waste management, including upcycling and

circular economy; and solar energy, noting the importance of: training the existing workforce to participate in green jobs; and equipping young people with the tools and skills necessary for green jobs.

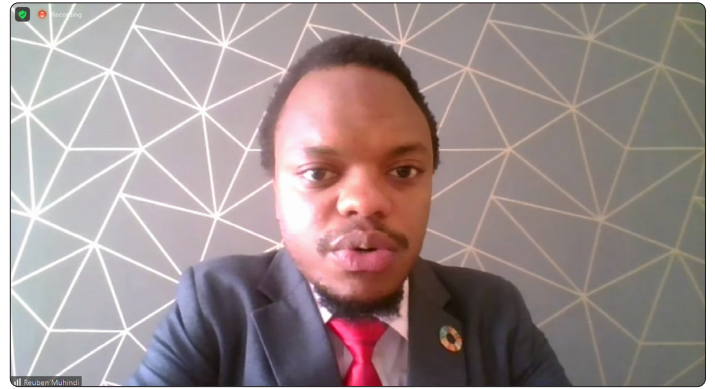
Key recommendations from the Working Group Recovery and Rebalance

- Prioritize youth engagement at the grassroots level;
- Scale up promising initiatives in the region, taking into account risk and trust, and identifying potential problems and unexpected liabilities;
- Recognize that business and profit cannot come at the expense of human development, health, and rights;
- Improve access to finance among women and youth who may have difficulty obtaining loans to start or expand businesses;
- Train the existing work force to participate in green jobs;
- Demand that financial institutions become advocates for the SDGs; and
- Attract young people to agriculture and agricultural processing by providing access and credit.

Working Group on Leadership Dialogue 3: “RENEWAL: Cooperation and finance to accelerate action”

On the biggest challenges in implementing the commitments to the 2030 Agenda and other environmental agreements, participants noted the lack of:

- Collective efforts, and “doing things in silos”;
- Bottom-up policy creation, resulting in actions that do not resonate with the “common man”;
- Political will and commitment;
- Climate education and information;
- National reports that show how the environmental needs of vulnerable groups and communities have been addressed or not addressed, as part of accountability;
- Skills, technology, and access to data; and
- Capacity, with many institutions unable to prepare proposals to access finance and other resources.

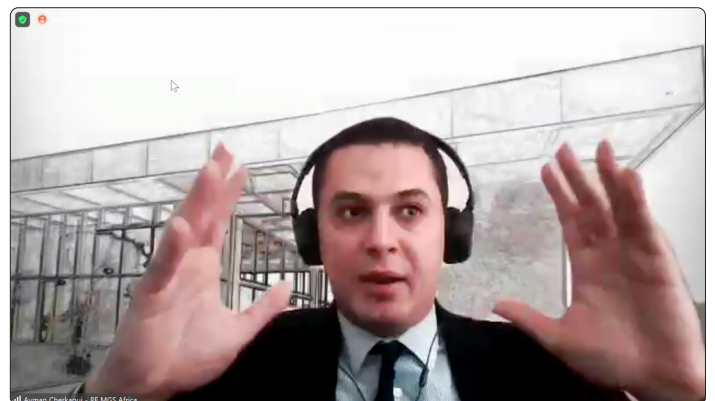


Working Group 3 co-facilitator **Reuben Wambui**, UNEP Finance Initiative

On scaled up good practices and pathways to accelerate the implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development in the context of the Decade of Action, participants shared experiences, which show that foreign funding can create unsustainable projects lacking in community engagement. They recommended:

- Engaging affected communities in the process of fundraising, so that they provide information on what benefits them;
- National sustainability roadmaps that define national priorities and financing gaps;
- Prioritizing SMEs doing fair and green business;
- ESG screening for privately funded projects;
- Networks that address the needs of the “voiceless”;
- Gender-responsive budgeting and climate actions; and
- Installation of solar systems, noting Africa has long periods of sunshine.

Regarding how to transform governance and legal systems so that they maintain long-term economic and ecological stability and ensure social wellbeing for all, participants mentioned challenges arising from democratic transitions, which affect the stability of governance and legal systems. Participants agreed that trust



Working Group 3 co-facilitator **Ayman Cherkaoui**, Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training

in the judicial system in Africa is low, and recommended:

- Strengthening the independence of institutions to fight corruption;
- Encouraging every country to have a climate change act as a guiding pillar at the national level, together with national environmental platforms;
- Ensuring representation of affected communities in climate initiative management teams;
- Having a strong civil society to hold governments and business accountable and ensure compliance with human rights and environmental laws; and
- Investing in the development of collaborative leadership skills among political appointees to ensure they can fulfil their roles.

On measures needed to align public, private, and development finance with existing commitments and priorities, participants noted the need for community involvement in business, as well as better understanding of the role of small business in protecting the environment. Some also highlighted a lack of capacity in accessing finance and in managing projects. They proposed:

- Setting up targeted green/environmental funds and facilities;
- Building technical expertise among financiers for issuance of climate-resilient infrastructure such as roads;
- Putting in place a transparent information sharing system;
- Having clear goals, targets and monitoring schemes to measure progress; and
- Helping banks to get Green Climate Fund accreditation.

On the types of partnerships from the UN and beyond that are needed to accelerate a green and sustainable economic transformation that leaves no one behind, participants recommended:

- Improving the way organizations communicate how projects relate and connect to people, especially how they affect their livelihoods;

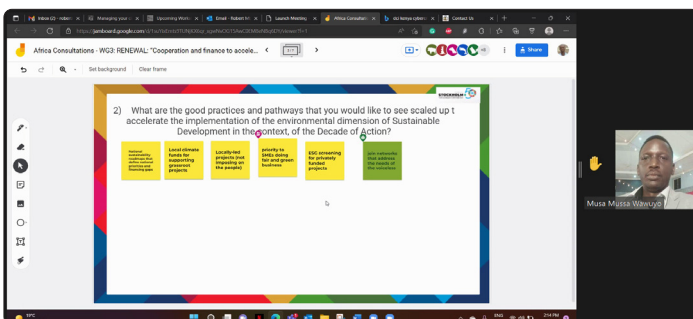
- Supporting youth-led and women-led organizations;
- Improving follow-up, including monitoring and evaluation; and
- Making linkages with local projects.

On capacities and technologies needed to improve human wellbeing in harmony with nature, participants highlighted the need for:

- Integrating traditional knowledge with modern technology and taking action to reduce and prevent a digital transformation gap;
- Helping people understand the basics of climate change science; and
- Influencing behavioral change such as by banning single-use plastics and putting in place technologies that enable going paperless and plastic free.

Key recommendations from the Working Group on Renewal

- Engage affected communities in the process of fundraising, so that they provide information on what benefits them;
- Integrate traditional knowledge with modern technology and take action to reduce or prevent a digital transformation gap;
- Set up targeted green/environmental funds and facilities;
- Build technical expertise among financiers on climate-resilient infrastructure such as roads; and
- Build the capacity of small businesses to access finance and manage projects.



Musa Mussa Wawuyo, Comparative for Tanzanian Elites Community Organizers, adds some of the working group's answers to the jamboard.



Adriana Zacarias Farah, UNEP

Parallel Working Groups on High-Impact Sectors

Working Group on “Sustainable Agrifood Systems: Safeguarding productivity and ensuring access for all”

On how to increase the productivity of smallholder farmers while using fewer resources, and to feed the region by 2050, participants called for:

- Addressing post-harvest losses, waste, and water harvest;
- Promoting sustainable agricultural management through agroforestry;
- Implementing mixed farming, which could include the use of biofertilizers, soil and water conservation, pastoralism, irrigation, and application of manure and fertilizers;
- Planting fruit trees and cash crops;
- Training smallholder farmers on utilizing manure for soil fertility;
- Securing the land rights of smallholders and allowing for the use of the “commons,” for instance, in pastoralism, where livestock can be moved across the landscape;
- Promoting systems of social security and the rights to seed sharing and preservation; and
- Rejecting short-term solutions that make smallholders reliant on patented seeds and dangerous pesticides and herbicides.

On measures needed to further accelerate inclusion of the most vulnerable, including women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples, to ensure fair and transparent food system transformation, including lessons learned from the pandemic, its impacts, and the UN Food Systems Summit proceedings, participants identified the need for:

- Recognizing the value of soil and providing financial support for soil conservation measures;



Working Group 4 co-facilitator **Baldwyn Torto**, International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology

- Securing land rights, land access, and land redistribution for vulnerable groups;
- Leveraging information technology to improve access to extension services and meteorological information;
- Providing access to financial capital and support for the marketing of produce;
- Explicitly addressing the root causes of inequalities that limit the participation of vulnerable groups;
- Adopting “gender perspective” approaches, for instance by reforming laws and practices that discriminate against women, by empowering women socially, economically, and politically, and by encouraging women and youth to access decision-making positions;
- Developing the full agriculture value chain to accommodate young people;
- Rejecting food system monopolies at all levels, from production to distribution and retail;
- Ensuring Africa becomes self-sufficient by “consuming what we produce” and encouraging local production through consumption of local products;
- Strengthening trade in local produce among African countries;
- Enhancing food distribution in Africa by, *inter alia*, investing in cold chains and good distribution systems;
- Creating platforms that promote and stimulate the sharing of knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned;
- Enabling the engagement of vulnerable groups in formal mechanisms so as to increase fairness of processes and contribute to better and more sustainable policies; and
- Promoting the use of solar cooling technology for perishable crops.

Regarding how to promote access to affordable, safe, and nutritious food and reduce consumption of unhealthy foods that are rich in salt, sugar, and fat, participants called for:

- Educating the public on the need to avoid sugary and fatty foods, and limiting the marketing of unhealthy foods, especially to children;
- Providing good-quality foods in schools and hotels;
- Promoting consumption of traditional and local foods, such as insects, which are nutrient-rich but seasonal;
- Growing indigenous vegetables and fruits;
- Creating awareness of healthy food preparation and storage, and promoting and investing in innovative technology and practices for healthy food processing;
- Strengthening laws and regulations that govern food safety and quality;

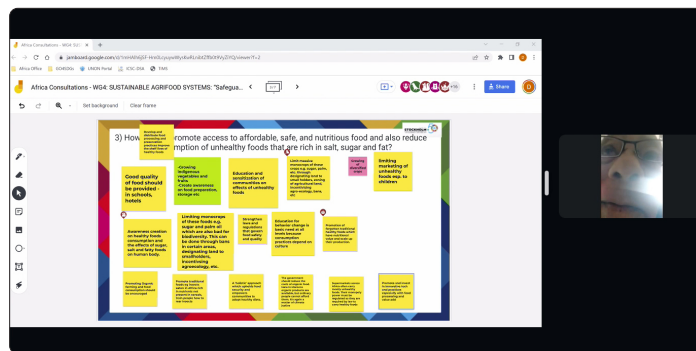
- Limiting massive monocrops of sugar cane and palm, among others, by designating land to smallholders, zoning agricultural land, incentivizing agroecology, and introducing bans, among other measures;
- Instituting compulsory education on sustainable farming and living practices such as permaculture;
- Regulating the monopoly of supermarkets across Africa, which often carry mostly unhealthy foods;
- Adopting a holistic approach, which upholds food security and empowers communities to adopt healthy diets; and
- Reducing the cost of organic food to make it affordable for ordinary people.

On how to generate employment or green jobs and promote the use of nature-friendly inputs, practices, and materials from production to consumption, participants highlighted:

- Implementing agroforestry, community forestry, land planning, and waste management;
- Creating and implementing standards for imported foods;
- Investing in developing the agricultural value chain and a pan-African trading bloc;
- Promoting and increasing the number of “farmer schools”;
- Creating opportunities in ecosystem restoration, which is important for biodiversity, climate change, and food systems because it supports soil rejuvenation, water quality, and pollination;
- Implementing targeted activities, which provide income to communities, especially women, such as establishing tree nurseries and agroforestry with high-value trees like avocados, mangoes, and macadamia; and
- Including courses on agroecology, improved water management, climate adaptation, and sustainable farming practices in agricultural training colleges.

On how African countries can work together to boost regional cooperation to strengthen food systems and develop sustainable agriculture, participants identified the need for:

- Participatory monitoring and evaluation;
- Easy border crossing between neighboring countries;
- Knowledge sharing, including indigenous knowledge, such as through African food systems networks;
- Seed sharing;
- Transdisciplinary, transboundary, and regional mapping exercises;



Working Group 4 Co-facilitator **Mohamed Tawfic Ahmed**, Faculty of Agriculture, Suez Canal University, intervenes on one of the questions posed to the working group.

- Regulations that promote food trade within the region;
- Encouraging citizens to undertake and contribute scientific research;
- Special free trade agreements for agricultural products;
- Youth engagement and training, including for rural populations;
- Increasing social protection to ensure everyone has enough money to buy food;
- Improved local infrastructure, such as farm and market roads;
- Stakeholder platforms where action coalitions are formed around specific themes that boost regional cooperation; and
- Updated regional policy frameworks.

Among the follow-up activities they would like to see from Stockholm+50, participants identified:

- More regional consultations and participation;
- Discussion and promotion of the rights-of-nature approach;
- Inclusion of indigenous knowledge in sustainable agricultural food systems; and
- New workable decisions for all, with accountability and transparency.



Clockwise from left: Working group 4 co-facilitators **Mohamed Tawfic Ahmed**, Faculty of Agriculture, Suez Canal University, and **Baldwyn Torto**, International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology; and **David Rubia**, UNEP

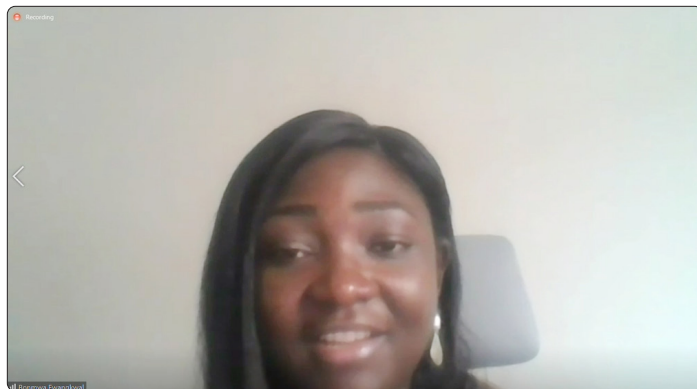
Key recommendations from the Working Group on Sustainable Agrifood Systems

- Educate the public on the need to avoid sugary and fatty foods, and limit marketing of unhealthy foods, especially to children;
- Implement special free-trade agreements for agricultural products;
- Create opportunities in ecosystem restoration, which is important for biodiversity, climate change, and food systems because it supports soil rejuvenation, water quality, and pollination;
- Secure the land rights of smallholders and allow for the use of the “commons,” for instance, in pastoralism, where livestock can be moved across the landscape;
- Implement transdisciplinary, transboundary, and regional mapping exercises;
- Institute compulsory education on sustainable farming and living practices such as permaculture;
- Promote and invest in innovative technology and practices for healthy food processing; and
- Include indigenous knowledge in sustainable agricultural food systems.

Working Group on “Circular economy: Scaling up action in high impact sectors”

Participants agreed that the circular economy promotes efficient use of technology, which can be important for the region, while highlighting challenges in institutional, governance, and capacity development.

On creating better performing industries and supply chains for circular business models at scale in critical sectors (textiles and fashion, plastics and packaging, electronic waste, built environment, and food systems), participants



Working group 5 co-facilitator **Bonmwa Fwangkwai**, African Circular Economy Alliance

shared experiences in trainings to produce affordable rocket stoves, water filters, and stoneware toilets. They called for:

- Ensuring a “fair-trade market” across the globe, ensuring any restrictions are fair;
- Ecological industrial parks for all sectors;
- Free trade among countries, with new approaches with respect to the environment for sustainable development;
- Prioritization of circular economy goals in the vision and mission statements of business establishments, to guide their operations, combined with government support for compliance and implementation;
- Incentives and enabling environments for companies that would like to participate in the circular economy; and
- Producers to be responsible for waste segregation at the source.

On how these processes can leverage traditional sciences and be inclusive of traditional and Indigenous Peoples, participants urged valorizing traditional sciences to support modern technology, and called for decriminalizing hemp, describing it as a “booster for the economy in Africa.” This, they said, can help address health and affordable



Working group 5 co-facilitator **Immanuel Nartey-Tokoli**, Jekora Ventures Limited

housing, among other issues. Participants also highlighted the need to:

- Align indigenous knowledge to science to further utilize local solutions;
- Provide traditional and indigenous technology stakeholders with adequate social, economic, and environmental safeguards when they collaborate with businesses; and
- Enact supportive laws and policies, build relevant infrastructure, and provide financial incentives.

On other key measures, besides financial support, that are needed to boost the circular economy across Africa, participants agreed that legislation is key, and markets must be encouraged to raise consumer interest and business standards. They also called for:

- Better knowledge about the science behind the circular economy, to capture the interests of business and people;
- Enabling policy frameworks and uniform standards; and
- Educational reforms with well-embedded circular economy concepts and themes.

On policies required in the next five years to make circular economy models the norm rather than the exception, to reduce the material footprint, participants mentioned challenges with scaling up business because many activities related to the circular economy are not profitable. They also identified the need for policies that:

- Promote regional PET recycling standards as an infrastructure;
- Ensure Africa benefits from the circular economy, rather than becoming a “dumping ground for second-hand goods”;
- Educate citizens on the consumption of recycled goods after standardization; and

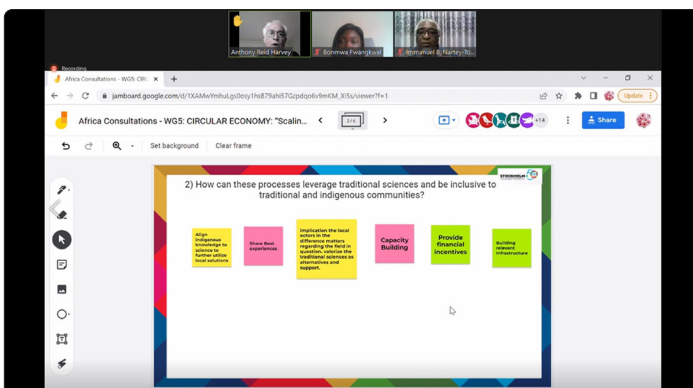
- Censure businesses that do not comply with adopted circular economy models.

On partnerships, public-private coalitions, and civil society mechanisms that are needed to scale finance, strengthen governance, and reverse unsustainable production and consumption patterns, participants agreed on strengthening awareness through education. They called for:

- Permanent and frank partnerships to share ideas and work hand-in-hand for sustainable development;
- South-South and North-South cooperation for sharing best practices;
- Partnerships between traditional banks and the public and private sectors to provide financial support to green businesses;
- Zero tolerance for corruption;
- Sector-based partnerships for best practices and scaling up;
- Support for local media, such as radio and television stations and social media, to promote public awareness on proper waste management and other interventions in the regenerative economy; and
- Support for civil society in the form of grants that promote the circular economy.

Key recommendations from the Working Group on the Circular Economy

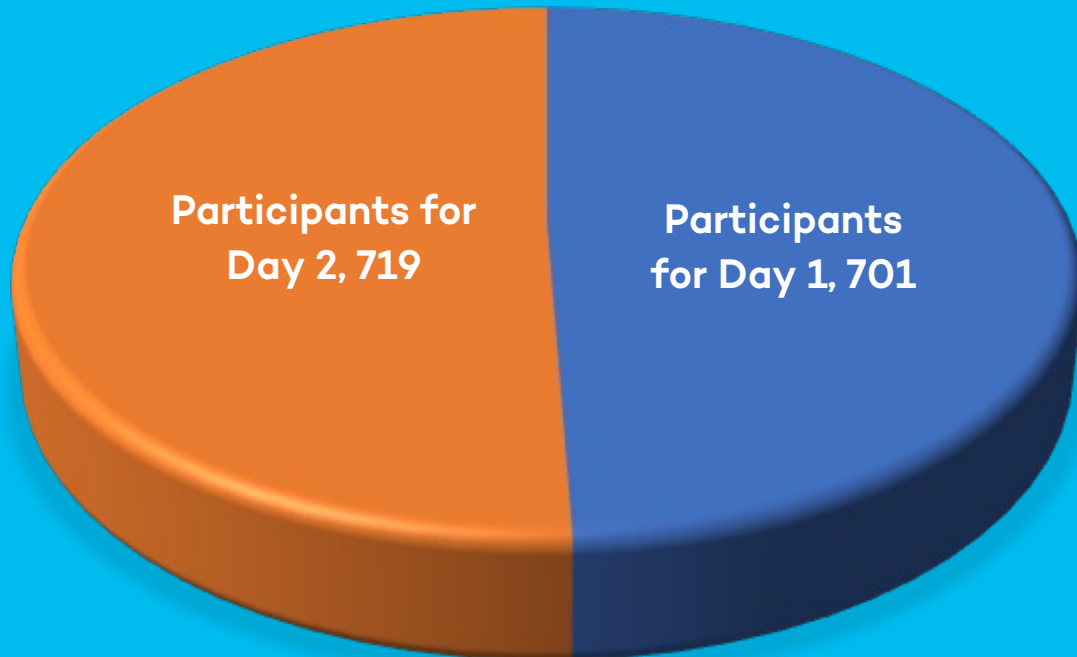
- Create a “fair-trade market” across the globe, ensuring any restrictions are fair;
- Create ecological industrial parks for all sectors;
- Valorize traditional sciences to support modern technology;
- Provide better knowledge about the science behind the circular economy, to capture the interests of business and people;
- Establish enabling policy frameworks and uniform standards; and
- Undertake educational reforms with well-embedded circular economy concepts and themes.



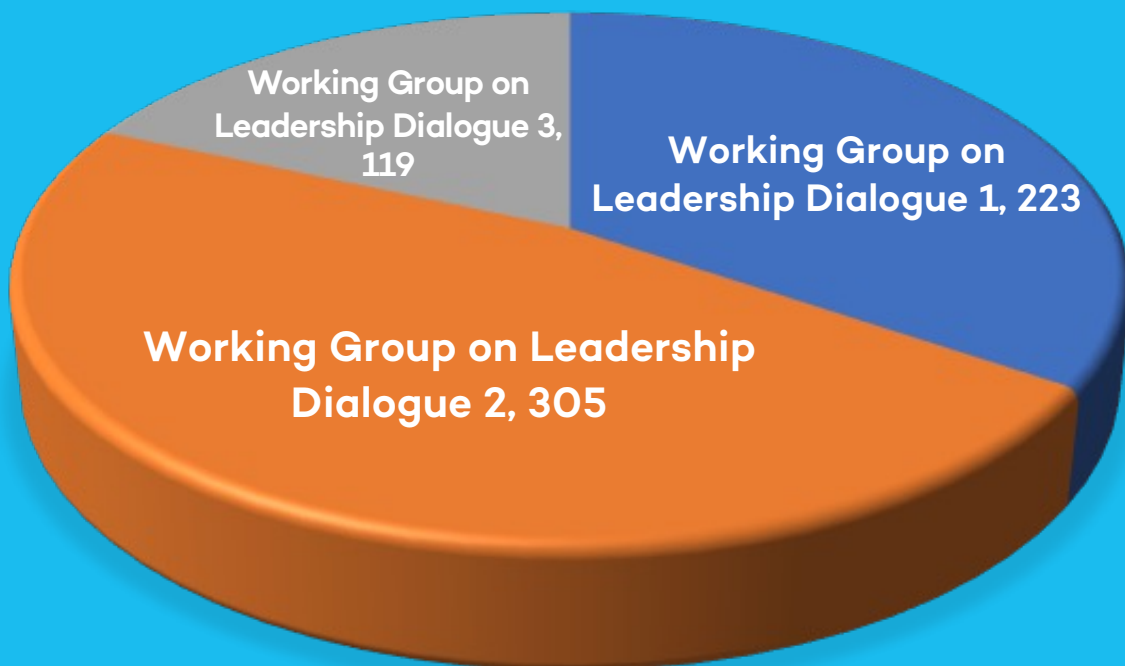
Working group participants contribute ideas on the inclusion of traditional and Indigenous communities.

Annex 1

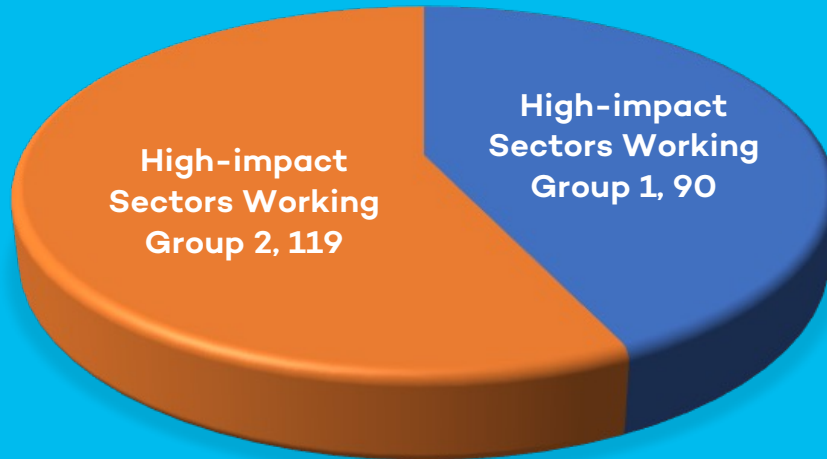
Number of Participants of the Africa Consultation



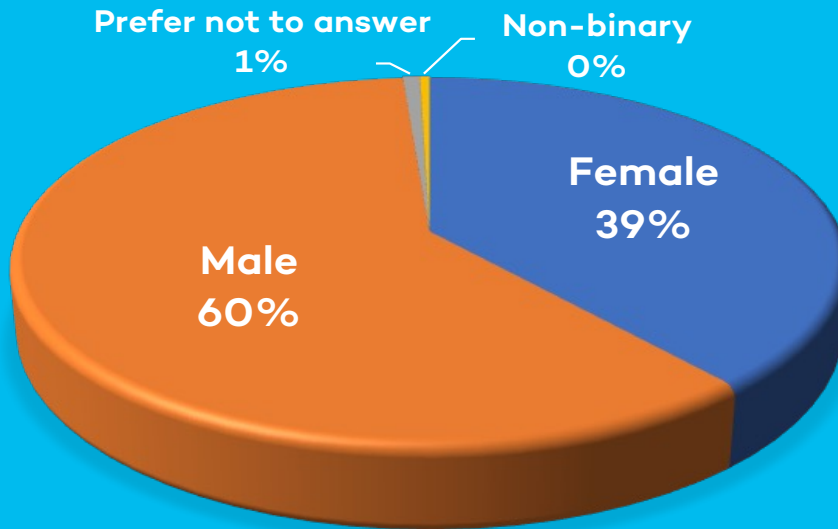
Number of Participants of the Working Groups on the Leadership Dialogues



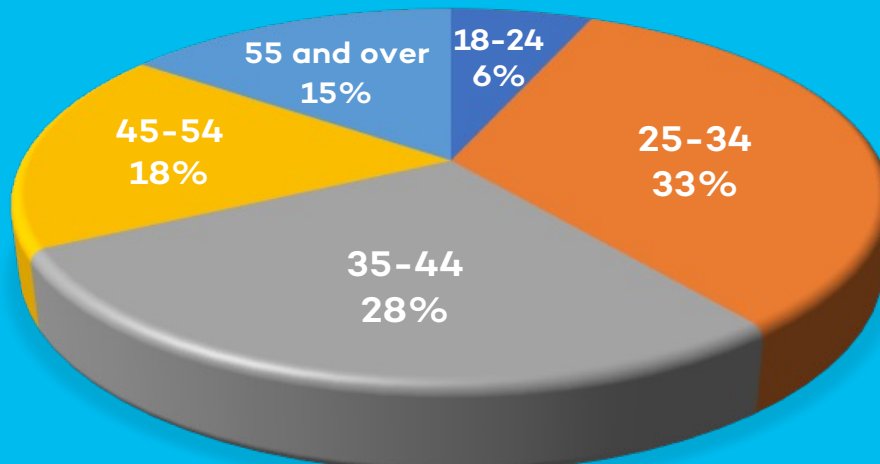
Number of Participants of the Working Groups on High-impact Sectors



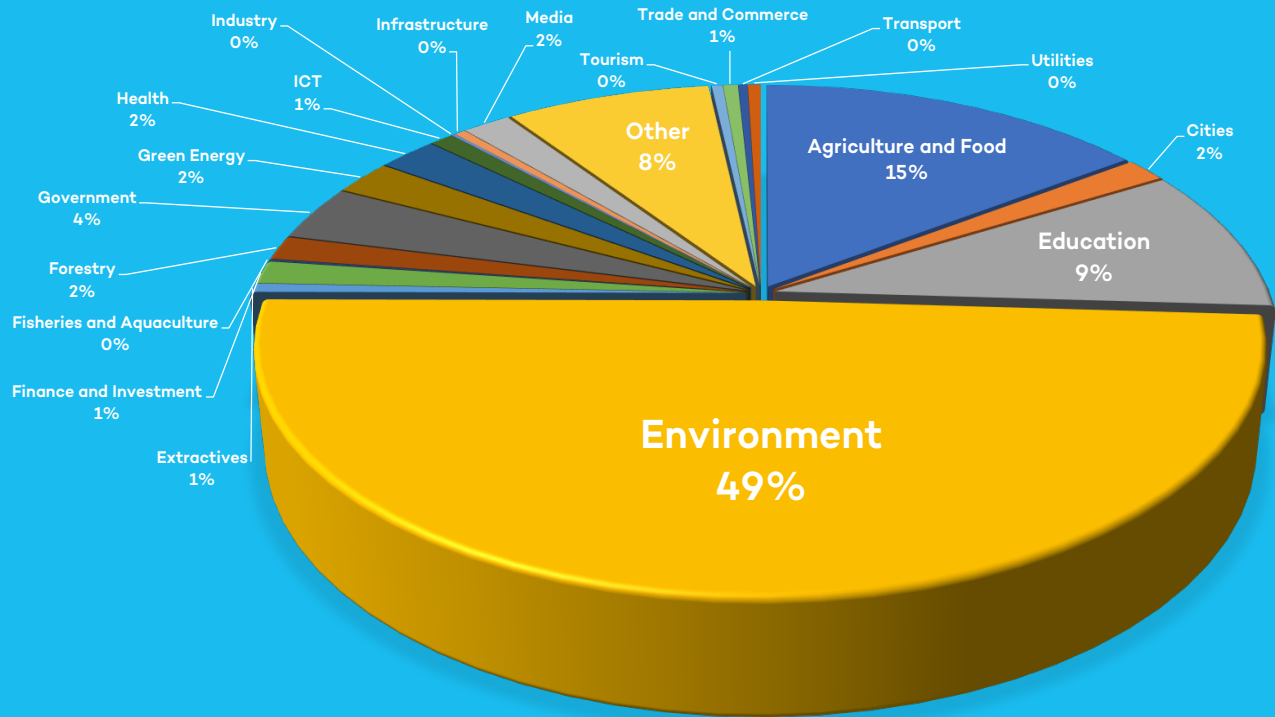
Gender of Participants of the Africa Consultation



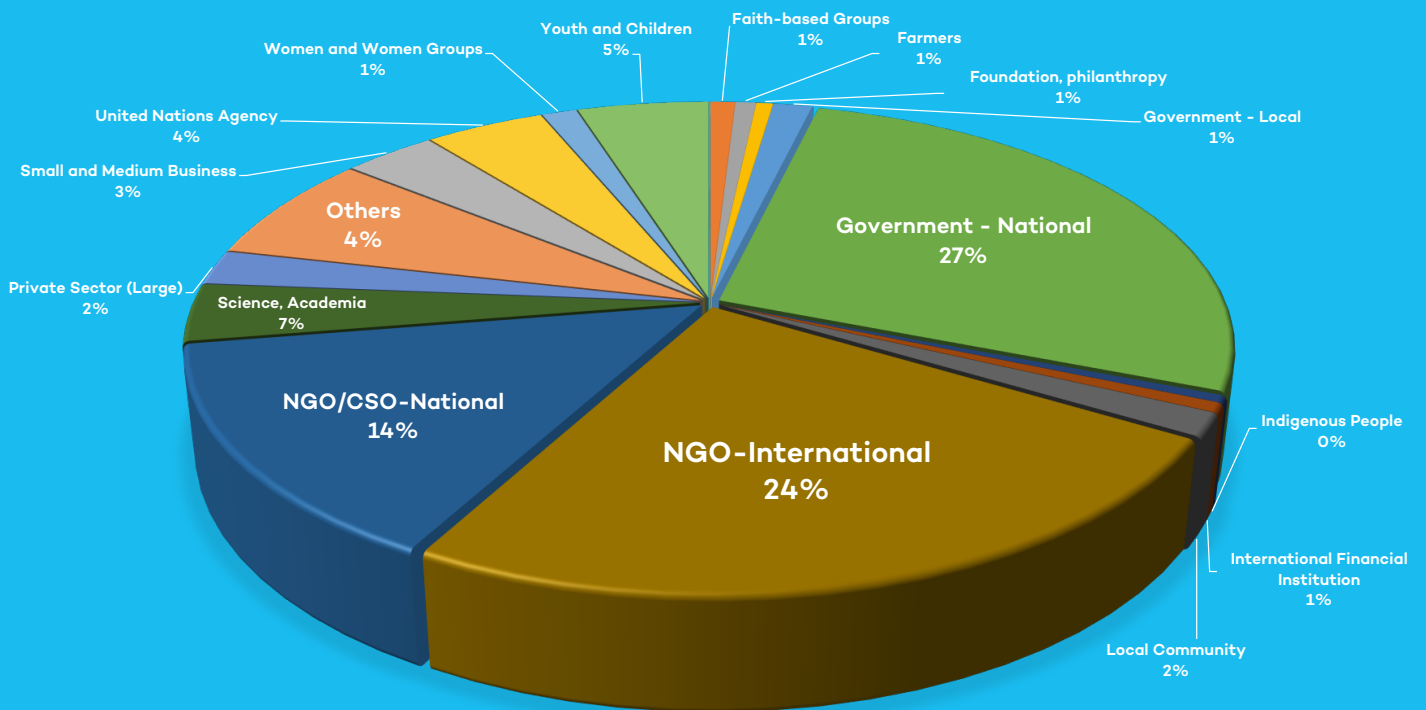
Age Range of Participants of the Africa Consultation



Number of Participants from Each Sector



Participants' Affiliations



Annex 2



Africa Regional Multi-stakeholder Regional Consultation

Towards Stockholm+50 a
healthy planet and prosperity
for all

12-13 April 2022



GO 4 SDGs



Programme

DAY 1: 12 April 2022, 13:00 – 16:00 (UTC+3, Nairobi)

13.00-13.20:

- 1. Welcome:** Ms. Nozipho Tshabalala
- 2. Opening Remarks:**
 - Hon. Keriako Tobiko, EGH, SC - Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Kenya
 - H.E. Ambassador Johanna Lissinger-Peitz - Ambassador at the Ministry of the Environment, Sweden
 - Mr. Frank Turyatunga - Ag. Regional Director and Representative, UNEP Regional Office for Africa
 - Mr. Jean-Paul Adam - Director; Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resource Management Division; UN Economic Commission for Africa

13.20-14.30:

- 3. Multistakeholder Panel Discussion 'A Summary of Africa's Key Environmental and Sustainable Development Priorities from Stakeholders'**

Panelists:

- Madam Madeleine Diouf Sarr – Chair, Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group on Climate Change
- Ms. Frezer Yeheyis – Co-facilitator for Women's Major Group
- Ms. Houda Bouchtia – Director, Moroccan Business Climate Initiative
- Mr. Musa Mussa Wawuyo – Comparatively for Tanzanian Elites Community Organizers

14.30-16.00:

4. Parallel Working Groups on topics of Leadership Dialogues

(Starting with Setting the Scene by the facilitators)

Working Group 1: 'REGENERATION: A healthy planet for the prosperity of all'

(related to Leadership Dialogue 1)

- Co-facilitators: Ms. Makoma Lekalakala, Earthlife Africa & Mr. Mithika Mwenda, Panafrican Climate Justice Alliance

Working Group 2: 'RECOVERY & REBALANCE: Achieving sustainable & inclusive recovery through AGSP' (related to Leadership Dialogue 2)

- Co-facilitators: Mr. Stuart Mangold, South Africa Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment & Mr. Kwame Ababio, African Union Development Agency

Working Group 3: 'RENEWAL: Cooperation and finance to accelerate action' (related to Leadership Dialogue 3)

- Co-facilitators: Mr. Ayman Cherkaoui, Hassan II International Center for Environmental Training & Ms. Rachel Antwi, Ecobank Transnational International **OR** Mr. Reuben Wambui, UNEP Finance Initiative (tbc)

DAY 2: 13 April 2022, 13:00 – 15:30 (UTC+3, Nairobi)

13.00-14:00:

- 1. Welcome and Summary of Day 1:** Ms. Nozipho Tshabalala
- 2. Multistakeholder Panel Discussion 'REIMAGINE - An Intergenerational panel's visions of the future: Pathways for Sustainable Living under 1.5 degrees and a Healthy Planet'**

Panelists:

- Mr. Donald W. Kaniaru - Kenyan Delegation to 1972 Stockholm Conference
- Ms. Cécile Ndjebet - African Women's Network for Community Management of Forests (tbc)
- Ms. Rebecca Laibich - UNESCO Mab Youth Network
- Rev Dr. Rachel Mash - Anglican Church of Southern Africa Environmental Coordinator
- Professor Kenneth Amaeshi - Sustainable Business Initiative, University of Edinburgh

14.00-15.30:

- 3. Parallel Working Groups on Africa's priorities**
(Starting with Setting the Scene by the facilitators)

Working Group 4: 'SUSTAINABLE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS: Safeguarding productivity and ensuring access for all'

Themes: Climate Smart Agriculture, Sustainability in Food Value Chains

- Co-facilitator: Prof. Baldwyn Torto, *icipe* & Professor Mohamed Tawfic Ahmed, Faculty of Agriculture, Suez Canal University

Working Group 5: 'CIRCULAR ECONOMY: Scaling up action in high impact sectors'

Themes: Circularity action within ACEA 5 big bets (Textiles & fashion, Plastics and Packaging, Electronic Waste, Built environment & Food systems), Green jobs, youth reskilling and employment

Themes: Climate Smart Agriculture, Sustainability in Food Value Chains

- Co-facilitators: Ms. Bonmwa Fwangkwai, African Circular Economy Alliance & Eng. I. B. Nartey-Tokoli, Jekora Ventures Limited

Visit the website and webstreaming of the Africa Consultation at:

<https://www.stockholm50.global/processes/regional-multi-stakeholder-consultations/africa>