



**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**



Concept Note and Programme

Localizing the 2030 Agenda: Building on What Works

27 – 29 October 2019

Location: The Gambia

The Forum “**Localizing the 2030 Agenda: Building on What Works**” will take place on 27-29 October 2019 in Banjul, The Gambia. This high-level Exchange Forum will commence with an evening reception on Sunday, 27 October 2019, with a keynote address by the Deputy Secretary-General (tbc). The Forum is organized in partnership with the Government of The Gambia, the Senegalo-Gambian Permanent Secretariat, the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team in The Gambia, the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), and the International Peace Institute (IPI).

Background

The achievement of the 2030 Agenda, including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) depends, more than ever, on the ability of local and regional actors to promote integrated, inclusive and sustainable development. In line with the human security approach and its principles, localizing the 2030 Agenda is a process to empower local stakeholders and leverage their comparative advantages by mobilizing their specific economic, cultural, social and political resources. It is aimed at making sustainable development more responsive and relevant to local needs and aspirations.

Strengthening the connection between local action and global goals

Grounded in a spirit of optimism for the future of West Africa, the Forum—the first of its kind in the sub-region—aims to stimulate an exchange of ideas among a diverse group of leaders from national governments and municipal authorities, the UN system, bilateral and regional entities, entrepreneurs, and community representatives coming from Côte d’Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Senegal, and Sierra Leone.

Both timely and of utmost importance, the Forum offers a unique opportunity to break from traditional silos that often keep government officials, UN representatives, civil society, entrepreneurs, and the broader international community from working closely together. It provides a platform to craft inclusive strategies that leaves no one behind and puts people and communities as the main drivers of the SDG implementation process.

On Monday evening of the Forum, a cross-cultural Festival titled, “**2030 Agenda: Towards Unity and Prosperity**”, will celebrate local knowledge and shared responsibilities towards the SDGs. The Festival will also honor the deep historical and cultural ties among the eight countries and promote a spirit of peace, unity and development for the sub-region and across the globe.

Objectives of the Forum

- Gain awareness of existing transformative initiatives that local champions in the sub-region of West Africa have put in place to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Generate potential partnerships between regional, bilateral and multilateral partners and local champions.
- Enable policy makers and UN officials at the global level to gain a practical understanding on how best to operationalize the SDGs at the local level.

Scaling local initiatives to accelerate an inclusive SDG implementation process

A report highlighting the main outcomes of the Forum will be launched in New York in the spring of 2020, sharing lessons learned and best practices with the international community. In addition, as we enter the “decade of action and delivery for sustainable development,” the UNTFHS, with support from the international community, will pool resources to scale up identified initiatives emerging from the Forum into operational programmes led by Resident Coordinators and implemented in partnership with governments, non-governmental entities, the private sector, and local champions and communities. These programmes will advance tangible improvements in the daily lives of people towards the transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda.

Draft Programme

Sunday, 27 October 2019

Arrival of participants – pick up at the airport

Check in at the African Princess Hotel

3:00-4:30 pm

Breaking the ice: Opening circle

4:30-5:30 pm

Registration of participants

7:00-8:30 pm

Evening Reception at the hotel for all participants

Keynote address, Deputy Secretary-General (tbc)

Monday, 28 October 2019 – Theme for the day: Mutual Learning and Discovery

7:00-8:30 am

Breakfast at the hotel

8:00-8:45 am

Registration of participants

8:45-9:15 am

Setting the Stage

9:15-10:00 am

Tour de table

10:00-10:40 am

Connecting the “why we are here” with “how we will work together”

10:40-11:00 am

Coffee break & stretch

11:00-1:00 pm

Building on what works

Share with us a story that illustrates the activities of a particular person, programme or initiative that effectively addresses a considerable challenge to sustainable development, social cohesion, and/or peace. In this story, what were the existing capacities and mechanisms that allowed you to address these challenges?

1:00-2:00 pm

Lunch & stretch

2:00-3:30 pm

Cross-country experiences: share what works in larger groups

3:30-3:45 pm

Coffee break & stretch

3:45-4:30 pm

Key insights of the day and share what’s next

5:30 pm

Participants meet at assembly point and departure for Festival grounds

6:00-10:00 pm

2030 Agenda Festival: Towards Unity and Prosperity

Tuesday, 29 October 2019 – Theme for the day: Weaving Connections and Partnerships

7:00-8:45 am	Breakfast at the hotel
9:00-9:45 am	Welcome back! Discuss goals for the day
9:45-11:00 am	What is needed to expand and sustain what works? <i>Building on the capacities, challenges and mechanisms discussed yesterday, what types of support would be useful to expanding and sustaining what already exists and works to advance on sustainable development and peace in each nation and across the region? What risks or unintended consequences might come from such expansion and how might they be mitigated?</i>
11:00-11:15 am	Coffee break & stretch
11:15-12:30 pm	Going Forward: From paper to reality <i>How do we take this forward and make it a reality on the ground locally, nationally and regionally?</i>
12:30-1:30 pm	Lunch & stretch
1:30-2:00 pm	Prepare materials for final presentations
2:00-3:00 pm	Group presentations
3:00-3:15 pm	Coffee break & stretch
3:15-4:15 pm	Group presentations continued
4:15-5:30 pm	Synthesis: So what? What happens next?
5:30-6:30 pm	Break
6:30-8:00 pm	Cocktail & dinner with final messages for follow-up