



SAIIA YOUTH POLICY COMMITTEE STATEMENT ON THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW GLOBAL GOALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

21 SEPTEMBER 2015

Since 2013, the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) youth participants have been creating awareness, educating and engaging their peers about the Post-2015 Development Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Introduction

We the members of the SAIIA Youth Policy Committee (YPC) welcome the adoption of the new Global Goals for Sustainable Development and call for further substantive youth inclusion going forward. In order for the successful implementation of the goals we believe that the following areas should be acknowledged and addressed:

The SDG process leading up to the 70th United Nations General Assembly

- As the YPC we acknowledge the efforts to make the creation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) more inclusive. We see this as a step forward from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) process.
- We recognise the inclusion of the youth in the lead-up to the new goals; however we believe that that more could and still should be done to include voice of youth in the world's most vulnerable communities.
- Going forward we believe that it would be beneficial to forge partnerships with local organisations, and not solely rely on the use of social media to reach young people.
- Greater provision and effort should be made to include youth from all walks of life.

Indicators

- We emphasise the need to measure the progress of the SDGs by all states.
- We discourage a "one size fits all" approach to the SDGs, and promote the use of the principal of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR). As the context and historical burden of each state should be taken into account.
- The YPC recommends that a consultative process takes place when forming the indicators of the SDGs, which should also involve young people at a local, national, regional and global level.



Means of Implementation

- As the YPC we recognise that the successful implementation of the SDGs is heavily influenced by national policy.
- We believe that this provides an opportunity for young people to engage in dialogue with government on how to effectively implement these goals, and encourage a bottom up approach in implementing the goals.
- The general public must be involved in implementing the goals in a way that is specific and effective for their local context.
- Finally we call upon government to provide young people a platform to be involved in the implementation of the goals.

Funding

- The YPC strongly advocates for transparency when dealing with the funding of the SDGs.
- We encourage participation and innovation by people at grass-roots level in order to attract funding for the goals.
- We encourage more donors, including to the private sector to invest in the achievement of the SDGs.
- The YPC strongly believes that funding should not only come from Overseas Development Aid (ODA), but should include everyone from business to the individual.

Conclusion

It is essential that the the voice of Africans is included in the discussion on global issues. The YPC calls for a united Africa and a united African youth voice when advocating for change and development on the continent.

As the YPC we demand accountability, and will hold our leaders responsible for the commitments they have made. In the context of South Africa we recognise that our main priorities are to eradicate poverty, inequality and unemployment. We believe that the SDGs present a unique opportunity for our generation to address these problems. We the Youth Policy Committee join youth around the world in the creation of new era of global sustainability.

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