

TALKING POINTS FOR USE BY AMB. MACHARIA KAMAU, C.B.S.,  
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
DURING THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT

---

“Working towards the 2023 SDG Summit”, Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> July,  
2022, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM, UN Headquarters, New York,  
Conference Room 4

---

## INTRODUCTION

As guided by the guidance note provided by ECOSOC on the **fireside chat**, Speakers’ interventions should be informal, focused and frank.

The guidance note informs that speakers should avoid long detailed description of issues or policies and actions implemented and, rather, identify the key challenges at hand and best ways for the 2030 SDG Summit to add value, putting forward **three or four recommendation**.

---

## TALKING NOTES GUIDED BY THE QUESTIONS

The discussion will be organized around the following key questions:

**A. What would be the main focus and expected outcomes of the September 2023 SDG Summit, for supporting the kind of recovery from COVID-19, climate and other crises in a way that advances the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?**

- 1. Much as COVID-19 manifests itself as a health challenge, it has had serious social, economic and even political ramifications that must be factored in our new thinking. COVID-19 has clearly unearthed the structural and systemic fault lines at national and global discourse. It is absolutely necessary that we endeavor to look for ways and means of reducing its negative impact on implementation and realization of SDGs.**

2. The 2023 SDG Summit should, therefore, focus on the implementation gaps surrounding the actualization of the Sustainable Development Goals. What still remains apparent, are issues pertaining to financing for development towards the actualization of SDGs. For example, SDG 14 is indicated as the least funded SDG. During the just concluded 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Ocean Conference cohosted by Kenya and Portugal, Member States widely articulated, and pointed out the subsequent linkages of SDG14 to SDG 6 - on clean water and sanitation for all, SDG13 - on climate action, and SDG 17 - on partnership for all.
3. These inter-linkages indicate the need for correlation in the implementation frameworks as one SDG cannot be fully realized without the other. Progress may have been made over the last years but the COVID-19 has threatened to take back the gains made, and with only 8 years left to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the **2023 SDG Summit needs to call for more cross-sectoral cooperation; stronger institutions and governance around issues of common concern such as the environment; and capacity building in a manner that inspires inclusivity, leaving no-one behind.** (for example, The commitments made towards climate financing such as the \$100 billion promise should no longer be a negotiated agenda given that the IPCC report already signals an alarming threat to our environmental ecosystem if countries fail to act now).
4. Though Member States do not look to the UN as a financing mechanism - invalidating the issue of financing from the UN perspective as a hindrance in the attainment of the Sustainable agenda - there is, however, a lack of strategic engagement on the part of the UN that evidently does not embrace country priorities. Member States are looking for strategic partnerships and meaningful engagements that legitimize their concerns.
5. The 2023 Summit needs to take stock of the progress being made across all the SDGs and develop a global trajectory on all the SDGs with recognition of the closely linked SDGs. There is need to underscore the **differentiated capacity and responsibility** of Member States in order to clearly outline the gaps hindering progress in order to develop a progressive

plan and call for global support towards, particularly, Developing States and the SIDs.

**B. How can we best prepare the Summit at the national, regional and global levels with ownership by all Member States and engagement of all stakeholders? How can we best use the findings from the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report?**

6. Cognizant that the policy and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is undertaken from the grassroots level; an inclusive multi-stakeholder approach should be employed in preparation for the Summit. **Intergenerational equity is paramount and the need for inclusion of women, youth, children, indigenous people, civil society organization and the private sector business community must be the key focus as they still and will remain the implementers of most of these SDGs.**
7. The ongoing pandemic has, in some ways, opened up new ways of doing business in a transformative manner and provided countries with a platform to reengineer their priorities in a manner that allows for acceleration of actions towards the realization of the SDGs. The role of the UN is critical in effecting meaningful partnerships towards the delivery of the SDGs. Therefore, UN country teams must be fit-for-purpose and be co-creators with Member States, in order to inspire ownership of solutions that nuance a country's priorities.
8. All the stakeholders could be engaged and involved through, **sub national dialogues which can be scaled upwards to national dialogues and further harmonize the dialogues at cross regional level in order to identify the common, key and urgent messages highlighting the gaps and areas that need further boosting for realization of SDG 14.** Issues of food security are becoming cross regional and their transnational nature exacerbated by climate change and conflict fragilities will definitely stand out through regional and global dialogues as they hinder sustainable food systems pathways which could lead to actualization of SDG 2.

C. What kind of achievements can countries, international institutions and other stakeholders deliver by the time of the Summit? Which countries, network or organization can advocate for the delivery of new policies or initiatives and for new ambitious action pledges and commitments to be made at the Summit?

9. It is tough to say what will have been achieved by 2023 ahead of the Summit. Nonetheless, I am optimistic, with enhanced multilateralism and support from development partners, both financially and also in terms of technical capacity building, a lot can be achieved within a quarter of the year. **Technology capacity, if equitably shared by the global north to the global south, can realises accelerated action through various sectors such as agriculture, marine shipping and technology advancement.**

10. My Government, Kenya, remains a key advocate for the global south, calling for development and enhanced partnership through reinvigorated global governance. **Kenya has been steady in showcasing leadership role on advocacy for these global issues strongly linked to the SDGs by taking initiatives such as hosting the recent global conferences such as UNEA5.2 which led to the landmark adopted resolution on ending Plastic Pollution, the Stockholm+50 which we cohosted with Sweden in June and the most recently Ocean Conference in Lisbon.** This not only signals the need for these discussions to be globally addressed but to remain a key reminder to the world that action is urgently needed for us to sustain our planet.

11. Kenya believes we need new policies and initiatives to not only support the implementation of the SDGs but to also ensure the progress made throughout the 2030 Agenda continues on an upward scale. **We believe that we can only do this if we ensure we have well equipped institutions and well established Specialized Agencies that are not polarized or politicized, but, support the work of member states including through their voluntary commitments.** I wish to recognize the bodies under the United Nations which have been at the forefront in supporting and working with national entities and

governments towards implementation of the SDGs. Kenya has received tremendous support from UNDP in our implementation of various national agendas such as water and sanitation, organizations such as FAO on drought management and locust infestation. We understand, a lot still remains to be done, hence, new policies and frameworks if well orchestrated for the benefit of all, around the globe, ambitious commitments will come naturally, as it is all about the vision and the drivers of these visions and for what purpose.

**D. How can we generate processes that further align the private sector with the SDGs and mobilizes engagement and action of all stakeholders, revealing the sense of ownership and enthusiasm that characterized the elaborations of the 2030 Agenda, despite the on-going crises?**

12. On the outset, we need to give the Private Sector Business Community a recognizable seat at the table. The private sector continue to play a key role in accelerating action and in providing alternative financing towards the realization of the 2030 Agenda.
13. It must be said, that traditionally, the Private Sector was always seen as the missing link and not welcoming of UN-led initiatives. However, the universal acceptance and early success of the SDGs has demonstrated the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach in addressing these global goals.
14. When we speak on carbon emissions and carbon credits the private sector and business community, (ie the aviation and transportation industry) plays a key role towards fully realizing our net zero journey and not excluding the just transition to renewable energy.
15. Therefore, we must ensure all conferences as well as the preparatory processes, not only have representation from the NGOs and CSOs, but also, the business community. The private sector business communities have global representations through their respective National Chamber of Commerce and their private business membership associations who should be given an opportunity to speak in these major conferences. The United Nations should ensure they have a

database of the business community entities as they are key partners and stakeholders in bridging the gap for realization of the SDGs.

**E. How to make the Summit unique and how to bring the voices of women, and people including the most vulnerable groups such as youth and children, and grass roots community representatives?**

16. The summit should prioritize interactive dialogues with a multi-stakeholder approach to amplify the voices of women and other vulnerable groups. In addition, the Summit should call for side event initiatives which play a tremendous role in ensuring key messages are captured with tangible commitments made towards addressing priorities within these vulnerable groups.

**F. How to better coordinate the SDG Summit with other relevant processes, including Our Common Agenda, the Transforming Education Summit, the Summit of the Future, the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework, and the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development also planned for September 2023?**

17. Recognizably, all these major conferences are closely linked to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, therefore, it would be strategic as I mentioned, that the High Level Political Forum have an outlined global trajectory of the SDGs which will highlight the SDGs that require heightened support and which SDGs can only be realized through the support of the other SDGs; leveraging on these coordinated conferences to articulate the gaps and further call for ambitious commitments and pledges from Member States in order to inspire progressive action towards their realization.