

Sudanese SDG's Platform

A Sudanese Independent CSOs Network

VNR for High Level Political Forum 2018

Civil Society Review

June 2018

Table of contents

Preface	1
Summary	1
Methodology and Process for Preparation of the Review	2
• <i>Initiation of the Platform</i>	2
• <i>Detailed Goals of the Platform</i>	2
• <i>Organizations which post report for activities in SDG's:</i>	3
Policy and Enabling Environment	3
Activities of the Platform members on SDG's	3
• <i>SECS</i>	3
• <i>GCRS</i>	4
• <i>NIDAA</i>	5
• <i>ASMAA</i>	5
• <i>MTCC</i>	6
• <i>SOPAT</i>	7
Review and analysis of the processes led by Sudanese SDG's Platform in Sudan	7
• <i>Attending workshops</i>	7
• <i>Participation on organization workshop</i>	7
• <i>The platform attended consultation on VNR</i>	7
• <i>Platform meeting with main partners</i>	7
Observations on the process till now	9
Recommendations of work done by members	9
Platform member's general recommendations	10
Sudanese SDG's Platform recommendations	11
Environment Recommendations	12

Preface

Sudanese SDG's Platform is a civil society network of 30 members of independent civil society organizations. The platform decided to prepare a shadow report or Voluntary National Review (VNR) to be submitted to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF), which will be held in July 2018 in New York under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. We decided to prepare this review in accordance with resolution 67/290, which state " Member States also decided that the HLPF will support participation in follow-up and review processes by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders, and paragraph 89 of the agenda 2030 which states " Member States also called upon major groups and other stakeholders to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda ".

This platform was established with initiative from Asmaa Society for Development, a member in the Major Group of NGO and Other Stakeholders (MGoS), and NGO Focal Point. The Platform established 2017, but members of the platform acquired experience with SDG's since 2013. This report will highlight the VNR processes in Sudan, the experience of the platform and its member organizations, and the vision of the platform on future processes for partnerships to implement agenda 2030, based on the human rights perspective.

This report will reflect The Platform and NGO Focal Point views.

Summary

This review reflects first steps of civil society in Sudan starting work on Agenda 2030, the early establishment of networks, learning from each other and linking with each other, contacting other partners and forming vision for future.

The Sudanese SDG's Platform convened 5 meeting with its members, participated in giving knowledge about SDG's mechanisms, goals, targets and indicators and the international experience, and the platform member's experience. The platform builds its body, drafted papers about objectives, specifying its role. It created links with other stakeholders from other groups as civil society, youth, private sector, academia, UN, government and other institutions.

The review reflects meetings and activities of the platform around SDG's, their understanding and analysis. The platform developed vision about future processes of effective implementation of agenda 2030.

This review reflect some of the members of the platform consultations on the environmental goals that will be discussed this year in HLPF, they are mainly: Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS) and Gender Centre for Research and Studies (GCRS). This report viewed these consultations around environmental issues, and past workshops and recommendations of civil society. Very important recommendations were presented at the end of this review.

Methodology and Process for Preparation of the Review

The process for the preparation of the report adopted the consultation with all major stakeholders as methodology for this report, included NGOs, academia, private sector and government institutions. Inputs from NGOs and activities greatly contributed to the report.

Great efforts from the major groups of NGOs and civil society, has been made in developing tools and models for the implementation of SDGs.

Initiation of the Platform:

Sudanese SDG's Platform is a network of independent civil society organizations working together for positive and effective role of civil society organizations to support the implementation of SDG's goals in Sudan

The SDG's Platform is established in 17 October 2017, the membership of the network composed of 30 independent pioneer civil society organizations plus experts. The network cover mainly the goals 16 and 17 plus other objectives. The network distributes a questionnaire to know organizations objective, now has been analyzed. Generally they cover most of the other SDG's goals covering environmental goals, population like poverty, education, equality and other prosperity goals

Detailed Goals of the Platform:

- Coordination of efforts of civil society and other partners for effective partnership to achieve SDG's goals
- Building knowledge capacity of civil society and other partners around SDG's
- Participating in translating SDG's into national plans and measureable projects for all the partners that could be implemented
- Strengthening the role of civil society organizations as monitors or auditors for development plans and activities.
- Increase the efficiency of the International financial support and link it to the SDG's goals and build strong partnership for better utilization.
- To perform scientific studies and research

- Sensitization and advocacy to bring national institutions on board for better coordination and synergies.

The network form executive office to manage the work of the network, it was composed of experts in civil society. They are working now in building the body of the network; widening the membership, creating linkages and partnership at all level and composing projects to be implemented by the network members.

Organizations which post report for activities in SDG's:

- 1- Sudanese Environment Conservation Society (SECS)
- 2- Gender Centre for Research and Studies (GCRS)
- 3- Sudanese Development Call (NIDAA)
- 4- Asmaa Society for Development
- 5- Mahmoud Taha Cultural Centre (MTCC)
- 6- Sudanese Association for Peace and Culture Trends (SOPAT)

Policy and Enabling Environment:

Despite the existence of national institutions that have competence mandate of the sustainable development and in addition to the conducive environment that could make real breakthrough in the implementation of the goals, but many challenges are facing the process to confirm the ownership and leadership of Sustainable Development goals in Sudan. Such as the absence of supportive policies for development, disparities and imbalances of development among the states, lack of monitoring mechanisms and poor coordination.

Activities of the members on SDG's:

Activities of SECS on environment

Goal 6:

- Supporting water and environment for local communities in Mayo south Khartoum 2015
- To raise capacity of communities of villages of Khor Altina, Kordofan to adjust with climate change

Goal 7

- To raise capacity of communities of villages of Khor Altina, Kordofan to adjust with climate change 2017 ongoing

Goal 11:

- Initiative of friendly living areas and streets in Khartoum 2018
- Initiative of friendly lining areas and streets in Alrahad, Kordofan 2016-2017
- Raise capacity and increase elasticity of communities in North Darfur to adjust with climate change 2017 ongoing now
- To raise capacity of communities of villages of Khor Altina, Kordofan to adjust with climate change 2017 ongoing

Goal 12

- Develop and promote the protected areas Sanganieb and Nagonab in Red Sea 2016-2017
- Food security and home production in Kamar village North Khartoum Bahari 2015-2016
- Raise capacity and increase elasticity of communities in North Darfur to adjust with climate change 2017 ongoing now

Goal 15

- Develop and promote the protected areas Sanganieb and Nagonab in Red Sea 2016-2017
- Raise capacity and increase elasticity of communities in North Darfur to adjust with climate change 2017 ongoing now

Goal 17

- Spreading participation in spreading awareness about environmental rights 2016-2017
- The organization is part of many national regional and international networks caring about natural resources, environmental rights, human rights and women rights.

Secs convened regular forums to discuss challenges to natural resources and environmental rights and social rights.

Secs is part of many National and regional High level committees and technical groups.

Secs is member in a number of Regional and international organization and societies

Activities of Gender Centre for Training and Studies (GCRS)

Towards VNR for July HLPF on environmental goal

Program Sudan SDGs/2030 Agenda & Gender Equality

GCRS organized 2 consultation meetings and 2 forums to address and to bring the views from different stakeholders together and coming up with a clear vision of writing the civil society paper to reflect the current situation of the environment in the Sudan and that could be presented at the high-level political forum in July when the Sudanese Government will present its voluntary report on the same subjects.

The Gender Center for Research and studies implanted a gender Forum on March 29,2018, and on the honor of the International day of Women “ 8th March”, the forum was directed to deal with the environmental elements of SDGs, where a number of organizations were invited particularly the women groups and civil society working in the field of the environment in addition to the "Gender Task force" of the Sustainable development goals, and this task force was formed from the civil society organizations mainly to address the SDGs from gender perspective and to follow , monitoring and reporting.

A second forum conducted in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), which dealt with the environment element of SDGs. The objective of this forum is to learn about the role of civil society organizations in agenda 2030 and to focus on the role of civil society working on sustainable Development goals. Also, numbers of the Gender focal points from government institutions participated and the objective of this meeting is to unify the vision of civil society with regard to the environmental focus of the sustainable development Goals 2030, gender concerns and to contribute in the optional report of the government which will be provided in HLPF in July 2018 as NVR.

Then the GCRS put recommendations to be presented on HLPF meeting in July New York.

Activities of Sudanese Development Call (NIDAA) in SDG's

- Participated in 2013 in the first consultative meeting in the Arab region around SDG's in Beirut
- Initial report and highlighting around SDG's together with Gender Centre to feed Social Monitor 2015
- Global partnership – government- convene a workshop to study objective 17
- A workshop around SDG's and effectiveness of development in collaboration with civil society coalition for development effectiveness
- Participated in the forum of civil society around SDG's in Beirut 2018 in collaboration with ASCOWA and Arab Nongovernmental Organizations Network
- Participated with other Sudanese NGO's in establishing Sudanese SDG's Platform in 2017- 2018

Activities of Asmaa Society for Development regarding SDG's

- Asmaa projects since its establishment in 2001 were linked to MDG's, but generally cover goals 4 education, 5 gender equality, 16 governance, 17 partnership in the SDG's

- Asmaa in 2017 concentrated on Goal 4 education and other goals as eradication of poverty and hunger, accessing good health, equality plus employment chances indirectly through offering knowledge and awareness to communities.
- Asmaa succeeded on erasing the illiteracy of 125 women during 2017. Usually beside the main projects Asmaa help the poor communities to fight hunger and poverty through awareness by supplying them with knowledge and alternatives for food products, improve health knowledge and offer knowledge about employment chances and alternatives as IGA and cooperatives plus awareness about mal social practices as FGM, child marriage, polygamy, GBV. .. etc caused by gender inequality, and usually we link them with localities to promote interaction between communities and government institutions.

Ustaz Mahmoud Taha Cultural Center (MTCC) contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

1: End poverty (including access to basic services and socio economic equalities)

MTCC organized tenths of gatherings in the form of forums and lectures to raise people awareness on a range of issues that concern the Sudanese people in general and specific vulnerable sectors in particular. Under human rights, access to basic services and socio-economic and political equalities has been always discussed with a special focus on the rights of the poor and rights of women. The outcome is being shared widely via social media and networking with others with similar concerns.

3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

In addition to raising awareness on rights of people on right to health, health campaigns are being organized in rural areas where MTCC has branches in Gezira and Nile states. The campaigns involved lectures by specialists (general medicine, dentistry and dental care, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, awareness on the appropriate use of medicine and its complications, use of ultra sound, curing, availing medicines and sometimes referring patients to the nearest hospitals for further checks and curing.

5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Gender and women issues are highly recognized by MTCC. They are given high priority in the work of MTCC. Issues discussed include: Campaigning against sexual or psychological violence against women, campaigning against young marriage, promote right of wives to share divorce power with husbands, campaigning against polygamy (specifically polygyny), campaigning against female genital mutilation (FGM), call for women right to work and right of working women for motherhood facilities. (Lactation time, menstruation off days, maternity and paternity leaves, etc.). MTCC is networking with civil societies who work on the same issues and on specific cases

of women who suffered violence and negative impacts of acts articles related to those specific issues, such as those detained for not meeting the requirements of the public order, e.g. inappropriate dress as defined and seen by the public order authorities. MTCC is campaigning and network with others (NGOs Confederation, No for Women Oppression), to influence government to amend family law so that it is more family friendly and specifically women friendly law.

6: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

MTCC coordinate with other civil societies and network at national, regional and global levels to provide necessary justice assistance for relevant cases. MTCC org anized a number of gatherings and campaigns to promote good governance guided by a humane constitution that treat all people equally regardless of their belief, gender, race, color and culture. To reach more people, MTCC call for free press and coordinate with others to achieve this objective.

Sudanese Association for Peace and Culture Trends (SOPAT)

Implemented two projects each one of them support one goal:

- 1- Consolidation of Community Participation Project June 2016- April 2018 it supports goal 16
- 2- Strengthening rights of GBV victims October 2016 – December 2017 It supports goal 5.

Review and analysis of the processes led by Civil Society in Sudan

Workshops Participation:

Sudanese Population Network, convened workshop on civil society role to achieve SDG's, 28 December 2017, the focal point Asmaa Society for Development participated and offered sharing knowledge acquired through membership in major group.

Sudanese Development Call Organization (Nidaa) workshop, implemented in collaboration with CSO Partnership for development Effectiveness, with title The Development Dialogue Platform, at Kanon Hotel on April 12 2018

The platform attended a meeting on UNEP about environmental goals coordinated by Gender Centre for Research and Studies (GCRS) and UNEP to discuss environmental goals and HLPF and role of different parts, in April 12 2018 at the premises of UNDEP

Participating in organizing a Workshop

On 15 May 2018 The Environment Initiative in collaboration with Africa Working Group , UN Global Compact, Sudanese SDG's Platform supported by Action for Sustainable Development arranged a workshop on (National Audit for Sudan Report on SDG's On 6-7-11-12-15-17 in collaboration with Business Association.

The platform and the NGO focal point attended consultation on VNR of government focal point on 4 June 2018, in the Grand Holiday Villa Hotel, without being invited officially

A presentation about SDG's presented plus small highlighting to the VNR. The chances for discussion are limited due to time constraint and number of audiences.

Platform meetings with main partners regarding SDG's:

The focal point NGO's, Asmaa, met the government focal point, the Population Council on April 2017 share contacts, agreed to work together.

The first meeting with the national focal point, the National Population Council (NPC) The meeting convened on Sunday June 3 2018 on the premises of the Population Council in Khartoum, Altaif

From the platform attended by Ms. Sawsan Elshowaya, Asmaa Society for Development, and Mr. Mohamed Magzoub, Ustaz Mahmoud-Taha Centre.

From Population council Mrs. Lamia Khalfallah, the Secretary General of the NPC and the focal point of the SDGs in Sudan, and Ms. Wisal Hussein the Director of program.

- **The Platform** gave update about the platform establishment members, goals and future plans for work, our observations on the work of SDG's in Sudan

The meeting talked about:

- **The NPC** started SDG's on 2015,
- They are dealing with civil society –The Voluntary Forum -and they make sensitization programs in different places.
- They developed National Strategic plan for SDG's, concentrating on three accelerators: peace, agriculture, and social work, but they didn't make consultations around it yet.
- They developed messages.
- They are trying to write VNR although they are not fully ready but it's a trial
- We told them we have many ideas on how to strengthen partnership and how to expedite work on the goals of SDG's, we need finance for our activities, they promised to inform UNDP about the Platform. And will include the platform in future work.

The second meeting is UNDP focal point of UN bodies for SDG's

The meeting is on Wednesday 20 June 2018 on UNDP premises the meeting was attended by Ms. Sawsan Elshowaya and Mr. Mohamed Magzoub.

And Ms. Intisar Ali Salih Sustainable Livelihood Unit.

- She said she is confident about the importance of the role of civil society in the process

- The focal point is the government we are supporting the focal point in its activities as main player. There is no problem in our support for civil society.
- UNDP supported the work of the VNR for the population council.
- The accelerators were not chosen by the council, a UNDP mission from the Head Quarters had a study and they came with importance to concentrate on the three accelerators peace- agriculture and social work.
- Last year the importance of partnership was acknowledged between UN bodies, a mission came last year and convened meeting with all UN bodies, around 10 UN institutions participated in this meeting
- The Population Council will have a validation workshop on the VNR on the coming two weeks, for the report and key messages
- People should give their comments
- We are now planning a new project with the council for next year, concentrating on Statistics and data, advocacy, and to bring UN together, plus any other issues raised by partners.

Observations on the process till now:

- The process is not inclusive till now, hope the process will open after New York meeting
- Consultations on the draft of the national plan & accelerators were not held till now
- Consultation on the VNR was late and limited, one meeting held in 4 June 2018, in which awareness about SDG's presented with minor data on the VNR report itself.
- The 4 June 2018 meeting showed wide interest from Sudanese people and constituencies around SDG's
- These environmental goals are very important for Sudan, a good partnership could be created for future work.

Recommendations of work done by members:

Nidaa

- A civil society forum around effectiveness of development is established supported by Nidaa organization

GCRS

Women groups and CSOs Gender Forum identified the following:

There is a need to identify environmental dimension and link it with women's issues and needs in order to achieve equality. The most important identified priorities, namely, **water, sanitation and climate change**, because they affect production, and pattern of consumption and life as it is one of the priorities of the community.

Also, presence assured that there are **obstacles between civil society and the government** related institutions and must be removed and there is also **a problem in obtaining information and statistics and their reliability**.

Government and Civil Society Gender Forum identified the following:

The Ministry of the Environment was very welcome to work with civil society organizations in the field of the environment and women, since the goal is improving the situation of woman under the current environment situation.

Platform members general recommendations linked to environment:

SECS

- Empowerment of local communities to participate in managing sea resources and work for its sustainability
- Empowerment of local communities to adjust towards climate change, which affect wide range of states in Sudan and fight desertification.
- Endorse policies to depend on renewable energy resources to save the environment
- Create connection between authorities responsible to save environment and communities, mainly women and youth and students by creating effective partnerships and continuous relations
- Work on food security programs and home plantation and establish production cooperatives to fight poverty, malnutrition, increase income and save environment and save rural areas
- Plan to achieve clean water and train communities to manage water resources
- Create partnership between localities and communities to participate in having clean residential areas and streets in urban settings

GCRS

1. Importance of the meetings of civil society, government entities and UN.

2. Importance of a network of civil society organizations to coordinate with each other
3. Media professionals must be engaged into the action plans of civil society.
3. The situation in the forest sector is so bad by unjust cutting of trees (by statutory organs) This is fundamental cause of environmental degradation in Sudan.
5. The agenda 2030 should be linked to climate change and social work.
6. The local community must be linked to the global and regional community in order to benefit from the law and agreements signed between States.
7. Civil society to develop a strategy and a clear vision in the agenda 2030.
8. Taking into account the conditions in which the Sudan is going through wars and bad economic situation.
10. The basic impediments to women's empowerment have to be addressed. Gender perspective must be addressed in the work of the organizations.
11. Representation in the delegations of the Sudan participating in the external conferences must be based on professional capabilities.
12. Policy focus, training and development of capacities of policy makers, should be part of the Sudan strategic plan on SDGs/2030.
13. Transparency and credibility between government and civil society is essential.

Sudanese SDG's Platform Recommendations:

1. Discussion around SDG's National Strategic Plan for Sudan should be opened again and all constituencies should discuss, agree and own it, work and detailed plans should be build on it
2. The focal point is focal point for all the constituencies, all the work of all the constituencies should be part of the national plan, and should be documented and monitored
3. Our group will support wide partnership forums between civil society, government, academia, private sector and UN bodies around many themes

4. We expect a big role from UNDP to coordinate and support this work for all stakeholders
5. Our group as civil society will concentrate on the monitoring role for all projects all over the country by local community, civil society. This will make communities own all projects and create direct links with local and federal governments in planning and implementation of projects.
6. Our group will take role in auditing the national work of SDG's together with other constituencies,
7. Our platform will help partners to fill the gap of knowledge, lack of data by building databases and performing studies and research
8. Our group will support efficient utilization of international support

Environment Recommendations

- 1- Efforts should be drawn nationally towards planting trees widely to retain forests in Sudan. Policies should be strengthened to fight cutting of trees all over Sudan
- 2- Clean water for all the citizens should be a priority in any plan
- 3- Sewage water in Khartoum and other cities should be one of most important problems to be solved.
- 4- Work on food security programs and home plantation and establishment of production cooperatives to fight poverty, malnutrition, and to increase income, save environment and save rural areas should have priority.
- 5- Institutions saving rights of producers and consumers should be strengthened
- 6- Communities' capacities should be strengthened all over the country to save the environment and manage the natural resources and to adjust towards climate change. Energy alternatives and renewable energy products should be promoted