



Economics Association of Zambia Concept Note 2ND National Economic Summit

2020 National Economic Summit theme:
“Sustainable Development Goals: 10 years to 2030.
Where Are We As Africa?”



1. INTRODUCTION

Africa made significant progress with its implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and it was this progress that saw the birth of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that seek to build a better world for our future generations.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which were at the heart of the historic adopted 2030 Agenda are of the utmost importance for every country as they embody the long term strategic vision and aspirations of all countries for the future of development. They speak to issues that affect us all and their implementation calls for action at the global, regional and national levels. The SDGs premise themselves around five major pillars: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships.

Even though the global response thus far towards the sustainable development goals has been overwhelming, it has not been transformative enough, and it is undeniable that deliberate major footsteps must be made in achieving the vision of the 2030 Agenda. There is still a gap between what the Agenda demands and what is workable on the ground. The aggregate performance of the African continent disguises wide cross-country disparities.

Zambia stands to gain much from the transformational opportunity provided by the 2030 Agenda by adopting inclusive and sustainable development pathways to leverage significant paradigm shifts in the structure of the sub-region in terms of demographics, geographic, sectorial, and human capital transitions. Recognising the importance of accelerating the implementation in sustainable development through partnership initiatives to address gaps in implementation, the Zambian government has committed to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals with the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa (SDGC/A) Sub-Regional Centre for Southern Africa in Zambia. The SDGs cover a wide range of targets, including poverty alleviation, promoting economic growth, and achieving environmental sustainability which is to be attained by 2030.

However, national governments alone cannot realise the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals on their own hence the call for collective and individual efforts in achieving the SDGs. Strong institutional coordination within countries and among development partners is also vital for the coherent implementation of the goals. Achieving the SDGs depends on partnerships among stakeholders, the government, the private sector, civil society, academic and research institutions, and international agencies. Development objectives cannot be

achieved in isolation and it is in this regard that the Economics Association of Zambia (EAZ) is holding its 2020 Summit to brainstorm on these issues and help map out strategies for accelerating their realisation.

“Sustainable Development Goals: 10 years to 2030. Where Are We As Africa” is the theme that the Economics Association of Zambia has settled on for its 2ND National Economic Summit following the successful 2019 Summit.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development targets are global in outlook yet certain portions speak specifically to Africa’s challenges as well as countries facing special developmental challenges as it intends to build on already existing national policies by having regular reviews of those policies and aligning them to the SDGs through coordinated efforts and knowledge-sharing. At the continental level, Africa must sustain unity and solidarity in its approach to the implementation of this new transformative Agenda. Africa needs to realise that a shared pragmatic response to its numerous challenges remains critical.

As part of domesticating the SDGs, Zambia’s blueprint for development, the 7th National Development Plan (SNDP) of 2014 was aligned with the Agenda 2030 and the alignment means that efforts to achieve the SDGs have the immense potential to impact on the achievement of the country’s national priorities. If Africa equips itself with the right tools in formulating solutions, it can solve its problems and build profitable industries. The Summit seeks to address and review longstanding developmental challenges and provide solutions as well as showcase the progress made by Africa towards achieving the SDGs. The Summit also helps in strengthening regional collaborations.

Achieving economic growth that is socially equitable and environmentally sustainable remains at the centre of Africa’s targets and it is for this reason that the SDGs and the African Union Agenda 2063 work in tandem, providing a clear roadmap for achieving national and continental developmental goals. The Summit sees this as an opportune time to ensure that Zambia and other African countries in particular, are aligned, especially that the SDGs were presented at a time when Africa was experiencing rapid socio-economic change and increasing environmental risk, particularly from climate change.

The 2ND Summit will seek to strengthen evidence-based policymaking which is an imperative for the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals through multiple policy objectives with catalytic investments in priority areas. The availability of evidence-based

research provides clarity to policy makers and help to drive robust decision-making for both foreign and local investors. Additionally, the Summit seeks to deliberate on the emergence of African economies and their role in the global economy.

2. OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE

The objective of the 2ND EAZ National Economic Summit will be to build capacities on best practices and successful implementation of the sustainable development goals in line with the 7th National Development Plan which aligns itself with the Agenda 2030. The Summit will strengthen the policy environment by supporting the integration of the five dimensions of sustainable development.

Additionally, the National Economic Summit also aims at reviewing the progress made towards the realisation of the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals. It will help to provide guidance to the political leadership, and make recommendations for accelerating progress towards the attainment of the 2030 Agenda through the transformation of our societies and economies especially as we mark the last decade for implementation.

The Summit discussions harnesses the expertise and know-how across a broad spectrum of various participants by sharing new ideas, highlighting ground-breaking innovations, build networks, discuss business models and develop tools that will evaluate inclusive social and economic development policies for sustainable development. The Summit shall provide an inclusive space for the expression of a diversity of views, ensuring that marginalised voices are given a platform to air out their views and concerns.

3. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The EAZ 2ND National Economic Summit aims:

- i. Through expert discussions, to strengthen implementation efforts, stakeholder engagement, follow-up and review, linking national, -sub-regional, regional and global processes.
- ii. To update participants on the country and Africa's progress towards the implementation of the SDGs, having marked 10 years to 2030.

- iii. To encourage and enhance research on economic and policy issues related to the development of African economies by promoting evidence-based policymaking
- iv. To get feedback from stakeholders regarding the SDGs priorities and also ascertain their relevance and role and how they can support and contribute to SDGs implementation in the country;
- v. To enhance awareness and understanding of key challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the SDGs and the regional roadmap to support and complement the sub-regional agenda through sharing of experiences and knowledge.
- vi. To promote knowledge management as an essential driver of policy dialogue, proper policy planning and implementation
- vii. To establish future working relations with stakeholders to ensure that SDGs are understood and implemented effectively
- viii. To identify opportunities for complementing government's efforts towards domestic resource mobilisation for the achievement of the SDGs

EXPECTED RESULTS

The expected results from the 2020 National Economic Summit include:

- i. Enhanced awareness of better economic practices at all levels.
- ii. Creating a permanent and multidisciplinary knowledge network in the implementation of SDGs, where stakeholders learn from one another.
- iii. Increased dialogue and communication space for research, policy and practice nexus
- iv. Enhanced support for rethinking Africa's development strategies towards the attainment of the SDGs
- v. To provide essential opportunities for key policymakers to develop new partnerships and deepen network
- vi. To develop strategies of engaging governments and international bodies on their monitoring role and contribution towards the SDGs

4. FORMAT OF THE CONFERENCE

There will be keynote speeches and presentations by renowned national figures and distinguished experts. The Summit shall include opening and closing plenary sessions, interactive roundtables, and breakout sessions; workshops organised for Summit participants,

exhibits and a host of public/side events to engage the public. These discussions aims to provide intellectual guidance, stimulus, and scientific evidence to help address the challenges of SDGs, with humanist and critical-thinking inputs, promoting research to build a fair global community with more sustainable cities.

In 2020, the thematic focus of the Summit are:

- i. Inclusive Social Development in Achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals
- ii. Civil Society Participation for Social Development
- iii. Partnerships: Key to Implementing SDGs
- iv. Advancing Youth and Women through Social and Economic Empowerment
- v. Sustainable Enterprise and Social Innovation
- vi. Localising and domesticating the Sustainable Development Goals
- vii. Energy for Sustainable Development
- viii. Addressing Poverty and Inequalities: Making Sustainable Development Goals work for all people
- ix. Financing the SDGs
- x. Health First: Critical Ingredient in the SDGs
- xi. Solutions for Sustainable Communities and Sustainable Living
- xii. Harnessing the Evidence Revolution of Research to Achieve the SDGs
- xiii. More Than Monitoring: Developing Impact Measures for Transformative Social Enterprise
- xiv. Education for Attaining the SDGs: Learning to Act and Achieve
Role of Cooperatives in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- xv. Economics of Climate Change in the African Context
- xvi. The Intersection between the 7NDP and the SDGs
- xvii. Investments and the SDGs
- xviii. Curtailing Conflicts: Peace and Justice at National, Regional and Global Levels

5. EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND INPUTS OF THE SUMMIT

The key output of the Summit is the National Summit Recommendations and Report, which will include a list of recommendations based on the best practices in implementing SDGs at the sub-national, national and continental levels. These recommendations will be synthesised to chart the roadmap with an Action Agenda.

The proceedings of the Summit, incorporating relevant comments and feedback from peer review and Summit participants, will be published after the Summit.

DATES AND VENUE

The 2ND National Economic Summit is being held from 30th to 31st July 2020 in Livingstone, Zambia at Avani Victoria Falls Resort.