



# THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CENTER FOR AFRICA









The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A) is an international organization that supports citizens, governments, civil society, businesses and academic institutions to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa.

### Our Vision

For all African countries to have achieved their national and subnational targets related to the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

### Our Mission

To serve as a development catalyzer and voice for Africa regarding SDGs integration, delivery and achievement

### Our Priority

- Partnerships and Networks for the SDGs
- Integration and Tracking of the SDGs and AU Aspirations
- SDG Financing
- Enhancing implementation for priority SDG sectors

### Our Values

In alignment with the United Nations' Post-2015 Development Agenda, the SDGC/A values:

- Multi-stakeholder partnerships between governments, civil society, business and academic institutions.
- Mutually beneficial networks of people, institutions and ideas that build on strengths.
- Transparency and accountability in decision making, investments, and promises.
- Social inclusion at all levels of society, ensuring that no one is left behind.
- Environmental stewardship and the responsible management of natural resources.
- Innovation, research and capacity building.

### Our Venture

To achieve our vision we focus on:

- Research and policy advice to support governments, civil society, businesses and academic institutions.
- Inter-country investments and projects related to infrastructure, information systems, and financial mechanisms.
- Building platforms to facilitate the meaningful engagement of academics, citizens and communities with the scientific and policy work of the SDGs.
- Education and capacity building to strengthen universities and research institutions.
- Increasing the distribution of technology, innovation and outreach.

The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A) was established in September 2015 by a resolution of the SDSN Leadership Council as one of the commitments to support Africa's accelerated progress in sustainable development and the full achievement of the SDGs. The Government of the Republic of Rwanda (GoR) graciously offered to host the Center in capital Kigali.

A host country agreement was signed in February 2016, recognizing the Center as an autonomous nonprofit international organization, the policies of which are formulated and carried out by a high level board of directors representing African and global leaders in government, business, academia and civil society. The Center started its operations in July 2016.

The Center will be Africa's pre-eminent institution on implementing the SDGs, showcasing a strong and deep commitment to the principles of the UN's post 2015 development agenda, focusing in three key areas, namely education, policy and innovation.

Opened in July of 2016, the SDG Center for Africa (SDGC/A) is an international organization that provides support to governments, civil society, businesses and academic institutions to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa. With headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda, the SDGC/A builds upon the existing successes of the African continent by bringing together people, ideas, and innovation from across the world to collectively build a more sustainable future.

The SDGCA Sub-Regional Center for Southern Africa based in Lusaka, Zambia was launched on 7 August 2019 following the "Host Country Agreement" signed in September 2018 between the Government of Zambia and The SDGC/A as a continuation of the Center's commitment to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development throughout the five regions of Africa. The launched Sub-regional center supports mainly the Southern Africa Region countries in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with more focus on regional priorities and challenges, and will serve Africa as a whole.

The SDGC/A aims to strengthen universities, research institutions, and infrastructure and information systems in the region through:

- Research and policy advice
- Education and capacity building
- Technology, innovation and outreach
- Inter-country investments and projects



# What are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

In September 2015 the United Nations made history when 193 member states unanimously adopted seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that serve as the centerpiece of its post-2015 development agenda. The seventeen SDGs outline global ambitions for economic development that eliminates poverty, respects planetary boundaries and leaves no one behind. The global community agreed that the SDGs are to be implemented universally by all countries and inclusively by governments, businesses, civil society, academia and more.

The SDGs are in direct alignment with the African Union's Agenda 2063, the continent's long-term transformational blueprint for the pan-African region. Agenda 2063 calls for all segments of African society to work together to build a prosperous and united Africa based on shared values and a common destiny. The SDGs serve to complement the first 15 years of Agenda 2063's ambitions; the SDGs are grounded in globally agreed upon values, which strengthens parallel initiatives.

With such a complex and unprecedented agenda, such as Agenda 2063 and the UN's SDGs, new tools are needed to shape the planning and implementation of activities across sectors. New forms of long-term planning and back-casting are needed, along with improved financial analysis and financial programming, new methods of monitoring and data processing, and countless technical innovations in education, health care, environmental conservation, low-carbon energy systems, urban waste management, and more.

The SDGC/A aims to facilitate the development of new tools by strengthening institutions' capacity in education, research, policy analysis, and outreach, as well as through inter-country investments and projects in finance, infrastructure and information systems.









# THE BOARD





## FOUNDING BOARD CHAIR



**His Excellency Paul Kagame,**  
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**His Excellency Filipe Jacinto  
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President of the Republic of  
Mozambique



**Mr. Aliko Dangote (Co-Chair)**  
**Owner, Dangote Group**

Aliko Dangote is the owner of The Dangote Group, a West African conglomerate that includes the Dangote Sugar Refinery, Dangote Cement, and Dangote Flour. It has operations in Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo. His success with The Dangote Group has warranted him the title of Africa's wealthiest businessman. He was named the Forbes Africa Person of the Year 2014. And in 2011 he was awarded Nigeria's second highest honor, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger by President Jonathan. In 2014 he assisted the Nigerian government in their fight against the spread of Ebola through a generous donation to support efforts.



**Professor Jeffrey D. Sachs**

**Director, Sustainable Development Solutions Network and the Earth Institute**

Jeffrey Sachs is a world-renowned professor of economics, leader in sustainable development, senior UN advisor, bestselling author, and syndicated columnist whose monthly newspaper columns appear in more than 80 countries. He has twice been named among Time Magazine's 100 most influential world leaders. He serves as Director of The Earth Institute at Columbia University, as well as Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development and Health Policy and Management. He is Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Sustainable Development Goals, having held a similar position under former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He is co-founder and Chief Strategist of Millennium Promise Alliance, and is director of the Millennium Villages Project.



**Dr. Akinwumi Adesina**

**President of the African Development Bank**

Dr. Akinwumi Adesina is a development economist and the current President of the African Development Bank. Before joining the Bank he served as the Nigerian Agriculture Minister from 2010 to 2015. From 2008 to 2010 he was the Vice President of Policy and Partnerships for the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). And prior to this he worked as Associate Director for the Rockefeller Foundation for 10 years. He has written over 70 scholarly publications on policy, agricultural development and African development issues, and identifies as a practitioner with an "on-the-ground people focus" that is geared towards inclusive growth for Africa.



**Dr. Betsee Parker**

**Philanthropist**

Dr. Betsee Parker is a philanthropist who has worked with Jeffrey Sachs on a number of initiatives to scale efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in East and West Africa. She has served on the advisory board of the One Million Community Health Workers Campaign and has contributed to programs in public health, agriculture, poverty reduction and economic development across Sub-Saharan Africa. She is a patron of the arts, a conservationist, a historic preservationist, and a major sponsor of youth engagement in the United States. Additionally, she is an Episcopalian priest and is a professional equestrian at the national level.







### **Prof. Benedict Okey Oramah**

#### **President and Chairman, African Export-Import Bank**

Prof. Oramah has been President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Afreximbank since September 2015.

Prior to this, he was Executive Vice President responsible for Business Development & Corporate Banking (October 2008 – September 2015), specifically supervising Trade Finance, Project & Export Development Finance, Syndications & Specialized Finance, and Corporate Finance & Advisory Services. He also supervised the Research and Strategy functions of the Bank. He holds an Advanced Management Certificate from Columbia University, M.Sc. and Ph.D. Degrees in Agricultural Economics from Obafemi Awolowo University, and a B.Sc. degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Ibadan. On 22 July 2018, he was decorated Professor of International Trade and Finance by Adeleke University, Nigeria. Prof. Oramah currently serves on the Practitioner Advisory Board of the Institute for Trade and Innovation (IfTI) of Offenburg University, Gengenbach, Germany. He is also a Member of the Emerging Markets Advisory Council of the Institute of International Finance; an Executive Committee Member of the Factors Chain International (FCI); a member of the Consultative Board on the World Cocoa Economy of the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO); and a Fellow of the Institute of Credit Administration. He serves on the Editorial Board of the Journal of African Trade (JAT). Professor Oramah has won several awards, including the Afreximbank Outstanding Staff Award (2010); the 2017 Banker of the Year Award of the *African Banker* and the Africa House Leadership Award of the New York University (2018). As a prolific writer, he recently published a book entitled: *'Foundations of Structured Trade Finance'*, contributed a chapter on *Export Credit Arrangements in Capital-Scarce Developing Economies in the Hand Book of Global Trade Policy*. He has also authored Chapters in several other books and written over 40 professional/scholarly articles on a wide range of African economic, trade and trade finance issues. He has spoken at several trade and trade finance conferences worldwide. He is married with three children.



### **Ms. Kerry Kennedy**

#### **President, The Robert F. Kennedy Center for Human Rights**

Kerry Kennedy is a human rights activist and writer. Since 1988, she has been the President of the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights center and was the Executive Director of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial until 1995. Since 1981 she has worked in over 60 countries serving as a champion for international human rights, with a focus on basic rights and justice for all, preservation of the rule of law, and women's rights. Through her work she regularly appears in the media and has been published in The Boston Globe, The Chicago Sun-Times, and The New York Times. She is the Honorary President of the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation of Europe, and is daughter of Robert F. Kennedy.



### **Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki**

#### **Chief Executive Office, NEPAD**

Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki of the Republic of Niger is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Planning and Coordinating Agency. Between 1996 and 1997 he was successively appointed Minister in charge of African Integration and Cooperation and Minister of Foreign Affairs. From November 1997-January 2000, he served as Prime Minister. In August 2000, he set up the Analysis Center for Public Policy. From 2000 to 2004, Dr Mayaki was a guest Professor at the University of Paris XI where he led research at the Research Center on Europe and the Contemporary World. He has also worked as a Professor of Public Administration in Niger and Venezuela. In 2004, he was appointed as the Executive Director of the Platform in support of Rural Development in West and Central Africa, the Rural Hub, based in Dakar, Senegal, from where he was recruited as CEO of the NEPAD Agency.



**Mrs. Graça Machel**  
**Chancellor, University of Cape Town**

Graça Machel is a Mozambican politician and humanitarian, most recognizable as the widow of former South African President Nelson Mandela and of Mozambican President Samor Machel. Since 1999 she has been the Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, currently serving her second term. She plays an active governance role in many organizations and has received numerous awards for her humanitarian work and international advocacy on behalf of women's and children's rights, such as being made a British dame in 1997. In 2007, she co-founded the formation of The Elders with Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu, an initiative that works globally on issues related to sustainable development, such as peace negotiations and human rights. And since 2013 she has been a Board Chair of The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health hosted by the World Health Organization.



**Her Excellency Amina J. Mohammed**  
**Deputy Secretary-General, United Nations**

Amina J. Mohammed is the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations. Ms. Mohammed is also the CEO and Founder of the Center for Development Policy Solutions. Before joining the United Nations, Ms. Mohammed was the Minister of the Environment in the cabinet of President Muhammadu Buhari in Nigeria from November 2015 to December 2016. Prior to that, Ms. Mohammed served as the Senior Special Assistant to the President of Nigeria on the Millennium Development Goals. In 2005 she coordinated the debt relief funds (\$1 billion per annum) towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria, in which she designed a Virtual Poverty Fund with innovative approaches to poverty reduction, budget coordination and monitoring. From 2002-2005, Ms. Mohammed served as coordinator of the Task Force on Gender and Education for the United Nations Millennium Project. From 1991 to 2001 she served as Founder and Executive Director of Afri-Projects Consortium, a multidisciplinary firm of Engineers and Quantity Surveyors, and from 1981 to 1991 she worked with the architectural engineering firm of Archcon Nigeria in association with Norman and Dawbarn UK.



**Jacqueline Corbelli**  
**Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, BrightLine**

Jacqueline Corbelli is the Chief Executive Officer, Founder and Chairperson of BrightLine, the leading advanced television ad solution providing dynamic and interactive ads across the connected Over-The-Top landscape, working with all of America's leading broadcasters. Before BrightLine, Jacqueline served as President of Aston Associates, the leading advisory firm for financial institutions and their investors. At Aston, Jacqueline restructured underperforming companies into beacons of the investment community. Jacqueline served as Chairperson of the Board of Millennium Promise, overseeing the integrated economic development work that is the signature of Jeffrey Sachs' efforts across Sub-Saharan Africa from 2005-2015. Millennium Promise is the leading international nonprofit organization committed to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the eradication of extreme poverty, hunger, and preventable disease and continues to serve on the Board of Directors. Jacqueline is a Leadership Council Member of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network. She is also a Governor of the New York Academy of Sciences, and plays a leading role for the Vatican and is a founding member of Pope Francis' Ethics in Action Forum created under the auspices of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences.





**Claudio Descalzi**  
**Chief Executive Officer, ENI**

Born in Milan, he has been Eni's CEO since May 2014. He is a member of the General Board and of the Advisory Board of Confindustria and Director of Fondazione Teatro alla Scala. He joined Eni in 1981 as Oil & Gas field petroleum engineer and then became project manager for the development of North Sea, Libya, Nigeria and Congo. In 1990 he was appointed Head of Reservoir and operating activities for Italy.

In 1994, he was appointed Managing Director of Eni's subsidiary in Congo and in 1998 he became Vice President & Managing Director of Naoc, a subsidiary of Eni in Nigeria. From 2000 to 2001 he held the position of Executive Vice President for Africa, Middle East and China. From 2002 to 2005 he was Executive Vice President for Italy, Africa, Middle East, covering also the role of member of the board of several Eni subsidiaries in the area. In 2005, he was appointed Deputy Chief Operating Officer of the Exploration & Production Division in Eni. From 2006 to 2014 he was President of Assomineraria and from 2008 to 2014 he was Chief Operating Officer in the Exploration & Production Division of Eni. From 2010 to 2014 he held the position of Chairman of Eni UK. In 2012, Claudio Descalzi was the first European in the field of Oil&Gas to receive the prestigious "Charles F. Rand Memorial Gold Medal 2012" award from the Society of Petroleum Engineers and the American Institute of Mining Engineers. He is a Visiting Fellow at The University of Oxford. In December 2015 he was made a member of the "Global Board of Advisors of the Council on Foreign Relations". He graduated in physics in 1979 from the University of Milan.





# ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## 1. Enhancing the means of implementation of SDGs

### 1.1. Research studies and dissemination of reports

- Hosted international conferences and published report on Africa 2030
- Produced research studies and dissemination of reports
- Published a report on Unprecedented Risk of COVID-19 to SDGs in Africa
- Produced a report on the impact of climate change and mitigation measures in the health sector in Africa
- Produced (1) policy brief on Small-Scale Water Resources Management Technologies for Smallholder Farmers
- Developed and published 30 communiqués with policy advice and shared on SDGCA official website
- Developed IT policy and disseminated 17 education videos on COVID-19 in collaboration with FEEM & ISFD

### 1.2. Partnership and networking

- Signed and actualized collaborative agreements with different partners including, Ministry of National Development Planning, Ministry of Commerce, Trade and industry), National Development Banks, Development Partners ( Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), JICA, UN Women, Sustainable Development Solution Network (SDSN), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) Absa bank Zambia, Aces to Finance Rwanda (AFR), Stokholm Resilience Center, United nations Development Program (UNDP), Texas University SADC\_DRFC, Africa Development Bank (AfDB), Afrexim Bank and Medici Land governance among others.
- Supported Civil Society through multi-stakeholder development projects addressing inequality issues in Africa.

### 1.3. Integration and tracking of SDGs

- Harmonized indicator data points for both Agenda 2030 and 2063 goals in SDGC/A data portal and monitoring and reporting (M&R) system.
- Roll-out of the SDG M&R System has commenced in Africa. The SDG M&R system

has been showcased in Zambia and Uganda

- Developed a training curriculum and conducted M&R System training of trainers (ToT) from SDG reporting institutions for Benin and Uganda.
- Conducted training on SDGs monitoring and tracking for Rwanda Civil Society Platform (CCOAIB)
- Presented to Parliament of Rwanda on SDG progress emphasizing parliamentarians' role of oversight and legislation for SDGs.
- Made submission to Parliament Committee on Cabinet Affairs on Performance Audit of Preparedness for Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals in Zambia.
- Developed a concept note, survey tool and action plan for the African parliamentarians SDG training.
- Developed (4) proposals on enhancing national capacity for SDGs Monitoring and Reporting in Guinea, Senegal, Rwanda, Ghana and Nigeria for funding by KOICA

### 1.4. SDGs Financing

- Facilitated technical support to Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD), Uganda Development Bank (UDB), Development Bank of Zambia (DBZ) and scaling up the initiative to other national development banks. The technical support focused on enhancing the role of national development banks for increased investment towards SDGs.
- Provided technical support to MCTI on revisiting Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) development policy and strategy (2020).
- Collaborating with partners such as Absa Bank and other key partners in Zambia to introduce innovative and sustainable sources (development of green bond) of SDG financing in Zambia.
- Operationalizing engagement activities on the strengthening the financial sector development in Rwanda in collaboration with Access to Finance Rwanda (AFR).
- Working with SADC-DFRC on providing technical support and strengthening the development finance sector in SADC region to align their strategies, policies and operations with SDGs;
- Developed a number of projects to raise resources to support investment in SDGs financing to KOICA, ISDB and UN (EOSG)





## 2. Strengthening implementation support for priority SDG sectors

### 2.1. WASH sector

- SDGC/A contributed an Africa chapter for a book entitled “Safe Water and Sanitation for a Healthier World.
- Developed a concept note on the application of nanotechnology for water purification in Africa and submitted to potential funders.
- Jointly developed the proposal “Optimal Energy Mix for Sustainable Development” with UNEP for implementation in six (6) countries in SADC. The pilot project has been endorsed by Ministry of Energy in Zambia.
- SDGC/A completed an online application for Zayed Sustainability Prize on water-energy-food security nexus project and positive response on the first screening obtained.

- The SDGCA in partnership with the Institute of Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources Management – Germany on business model of Water-Energy-Food security nexus in Zambia

### 2.2. Agriculture and climate change

- Undertook on a joint initiative for agriculture transformation in Zambia and signed an MoU with Ministry of Agriculture.
- Jointly developed a proposal for the optimal package pilot project with the Ministry of Agriculture in Zambia and submitted to FAO for financial support.
- Developed a multi-stakeholder innovation project to provide an enabling policy ecosystem for smallholders to engage in profitable and sustainable potato production in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda.
- Embarked on a joint initiative with Texas University on improving youth skills in the agriculture sector in Zambia



# OUR PARTNERS



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