



Regional Meeting Africa

Gaborone, Botswana

Monday, 8 October 2018

Title of sessions:

High-level multi stakeholder panel: What are the fundamental tenets for sustainable development in Africa in the 21st century: the case of Botswana

Objective(s):

This session will showcase Botswana's recent development history. Key players will introduce what worked well, what challenges they have faced and how they have sought to overcome them.

Expected Results:

- Learning from the positive outcomes of Botswana during the last decades, in particular the key factors that allowed for successful aspects, and the potential for their replication in other parts of Africa
- A constructive exchange about the potential upcoming challenges in the context of the sustainable development agendas

Background:

Botswana is well-known for having one of the world's highest economic growth rates since it gained independence, in 1966. Between 1965 and 2005, real annual economic growth averaged 9% per year and, from being one of the poorest countries in the world, it reached upper-middle income status in the 1990s. The country more than halved the proportion of people living below the poverty line, from 47% in 1993 to 19.3% by 2010. Among many other positive effects, universal access to basic education has been consistently high, and progress in the elimination of gender disparity has taken place both within the entire education system and in the workplace. As well, Botswana rated highest in terms of perception of anti-corruption in Africa in the latest Transparency International report.

While challenges in terms of economic diversity, poverty, health (HIV/AIDS) and inequality remain, the government seems confident that the transition from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will continue to produce positive results, and has played an active role in supporting and integrating the 2030 Agenda. SDG implementation has been planned in four distinct phases as follows: first, a strong campaign to ensure ownership of SDGs at all levels; second, the



goals were integrated into national development frameworks; third, institutional mechanisms for their effective coordination; and fourth, the approval of a roadmap to rollout SDGs. The roadmap sets out three areas of focus; coordination, ownership and leadership; implementation, building on existing structures; and data and progress tracking and reporting. It also includes a plan of action for the next five years, broken down into annual workplans.

This session opens the debates of the Regional PFD Africa illustrating the example of Botswana, and provides a valuable scenery for many of the questions that may be discussed during the rest of the meeting, including how to create ownership to deliver development outcomes? How to involve different stakeholders, such as local governments and civil society organizations in the process of implementing development strategies? how are national plans aligned with other agendas, such as Africa 2063 and the SDGs?

Methodology:

- A panel of speakers where some of the key features of Botswana's successful development will be discussed;
- The floor will open to the participants for further interventions
- Wrap up of the session