



THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS
CENTER FOR
AFRICA

PRESS RELEASE
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS CENTER
CONFERENCE

MEDIA BREAKFAST

1 December 2016
Kigali, Rwanda

KIGALI - The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A) hosted a media breakfast with editors and journalists from international and local publications such as The New Times, Igihe and The East African. During the media breakfast the SDGC/A Director General, Dr. Belay Begashaw introduced the journalists to the center which provides support to governments, civil society, businesses and academic institutions to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa.

The SDGC/A works towards building upon the existing success of the African continent focusing on education, policy and innovation by bringing together people, ideas, and innovation from across the world to collectively build a more sustainable future. With the center headquarters located in Kigali, SDGC/A is planning to introduce regional offices in other countries including South Africa, Nigeria, Senegal and Kenya. Dr. Begashaw indicated that there was need to rethink some strategies about how to improve on sectors like agriculture which employs 80 percent of the population in Africa. “Africa cheers average growth of 5% during the MDGs. It reduce poverty from 56% to 43%, enrollment in education increases to 77% and disease prevalence on major disease such as HIV, malaria, and TB decreasing by 50%. However, this boom is uneven between countries and different segments of the population that led to an increasing level of inclusiveness,” he said.

Dr. Begashaw stated that Africa has to do more in the following four areas to be able to continue the pace set: climate change, enhancing the effort in demographic transition, investing more in the economic sectors with enormous potential of employment and improving productivity, of the human resources. Although we need to work more comprehensively on all the SDG areas, there



are such sectors like agriculture that we cannot ignore at all. “Agriculture comes here as example. It is a sector with high rate employment (60% on average), however, the productivity of labor in agriculture is still low. The data shows that despite 65 percent of the world arable land is still in Africa, the continent still is a net importer of food. More importantly, the current food consumption will be increased by 60 percent in 2050, due to the population growth,” he said.

About SDGC/A

The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A) is an autonomous international organization, that provides technical support, and expertise as input to national governments, private sector, civil society, academic institutions to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda across Africa. 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.

For more information about SDGC/A and its work visit: www.sdgcfrica.org
