PRESS RELEASE

THE SECOND AFRICAN DIALOGUE ON THE WORLD IN 2050 (TWI2050)

How to Attain the SDGs within Planetary Boundaries with Focus on Agriculture and Food Systems

30 – 31 October 2018
Kigali, Rwanda

Kigali, 30 October 2018 - The Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa (SDGC/A) in partnership with the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) hosted the 2nd African Dialogue on the World in 2050 (TWI 2050) from 30 – 31 October 2018 at the Park Inn by Radisson in Kigali, Rwanda. During the workshop, participants from policy makers, business leaders, academicians, researchers and representatives from farmer organizations and civil society identified African regional pathways that enrich the global Sustainable Development Pathways and support of the implementation of Agenda 2030.

Following the 1st multi-actor African Dialogue on TWI2050 held in August 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda brought together a wide range and diverse group of African stakeholders to explore sustainable development pathways and add the continent’s perspectives. Based on the positive outcomes from the 1st African Dialogue, the SDGC/A and SRC, found it necessary to organize a 2nd African Dialogue with the theme How to Attain the SDGs within Planetary Boundaries with Focus on Agriculture and Food Systems.

The opening ceremony of the workshop was officiated by Dr. Belay Begashaw, Director General of the SDGC/A; Dr. David Phiri, Sub-regional Coordinator for Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Eastern Africa and FAO Representative to the African Union and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, and the keynote address delivered by Ms. Fatina Mukarubibi, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Rwanda.

Dr. Belay Begashaw, Director General, SDGC/A indicated that agriculture plays a dual role in African context: the first role is saving the environment and climate change on one hand by increasing agriculture productivity to increase income. The second role he noted in that agriculture productivity eliminates negative impacts to the environment. "If we do the right activities in agriculture they will cover the environment, but if the climate change is dominating agriculture productivity, agriculture will be in a bad condition because the productivity will be low. In this kind of session, we want to see how adaptation process will be encouraged and harnessed, we need to see how we can invest more in adapting to climate change around agricultural activities," Dr Begashaw stated.

Dr. David Phiri, Sub-regional Coordinator for Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Eastern Africa said that Africans need to think different ways to better implement SDGs on how to eradicate hunger. Dr. Phiri for political will that is at highest level so that African governments and states can manage to eradicate hunger and use climate smart technologies to mitigate climate change effects. “We are making progress in reducing hunger over the past ten years, now hunger is increasing,
it will be difficult for us to reach the SDGs. 20 percent of the population in Africa is food insecure, of these, Eastern Africa has got the largest number and some reasons for this include conflicts for some places, but also climate change is making the situation worse, because we have very frequent droughts and floods sometimes,” Dr David Phiri said.

Ms. Fatina Mukarubibi, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Environment in Rwanda stated that “The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be in the context of biodiversity protection, advanced Agriculture and food systems that lead to the desired future of Africans. The Government of Rwanda is very supportive to domestication of SDGs to ensure that the planned activities in implementing these goals are aligned accordingly.”

The two-day meeting is expected to have the following outcomes:

i. Creation of African regional SDPs (Sustainable Development Pathways) within the framework of The World In 2050), focusing on food and agricultural systems, using participatory approaches

ii. Integration of the African regional perspectives into the global TWI2050 results to be presented to the UN, AUC, and other high level organs

iii. Enlargement the stakeholder involvement in the discussions of sustainable development pathways to achieve the SDGs within the Planetary Boundaries -- by promoting action and change as a result of the trans-disciplinary process

iv. Improvement of information sharing and networking opportunity amongst the stakeholders, including the global modeling community.

The conclusions of the 2nd African Dialogue will bring together African perspectives on the global TWI2050 Sustainable Development Pathways to be presented to the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF).