

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS, KEY IN IMPLEMENTING SDGS

Kenya has undergone significant reform transition ushered by the Constitution of Kenya 2010. The country has potentially accelerated development and reforms so as to address some historical, geographic and gender issues that had hindered Kenya's development.

The Constitution of Kenya 2010 devolved some political power and resources to 47 County units offering greater opportunities to the citizens of Kenya. Counties have brought political and financial resources closer to the people which have led to more inclusive sustainable development and has reduced historical marginalization.

Through the Council of Governors, most activities under SDGs have been implemented at the County level. The Council of Governors has supported the roll out and coordination of SDGs including reporting in coordination with the Ministry of Devolution and Planning (MODP) and other stakeholders.

The Council of governors has for the past 4 years of devolution Organized, in cooperation with relevant UN agencies and MODP advocacy campaigns such as SDG campaigning, Development Cooperation Seminars, and other efforts. In addition it has ensured the liaison with the National Government and effective advocacy of SDGs activities in close consultation with key stakeholders.

Furthermore, COG has consistently coordinated and implemented the common advocacy activities, such as the preparation of the SDGs scorecard report and publication of other relevant reports.

Through the gender committee, the council always organized meetings/visits and liaised with all concerned parties in compiled and consolidating reports and action points as appropriate.

With seventeen (17) goals and one-hundred and sixty-nine (169) indicators, it has been observed in both policy and academic circles, that implementing the Sustainable Development Goals' (SDGs) agenda is an ambitious and complex exercise which has been however successful with the first batch of Governors.

Over the 4 years, there has been equitable sharing of national and local resources throughout Kenya with accountability, transparency, participation being promoted in every county.

With the recommendation made by the council of governors, County governments have granted to communities to manage their own resources and further ensured Bridging of economic and social inequality gaps by decentralizing state organs and public resources to enable ease of access to public services to local citizens.

In the light of the above, counties have transformed Constitutional aspect that seeks to provide an appreciable pathway through which pro-poor economic growth and social inclusion have an institutionalized framework to thrive.

Counties through governors have ensured that there is existence of a multi-stakeholder and inclusive process that guarantees wider citizen participation (involving representatives Civil Society, private sectors, faith-based, youth & women and other special groups), in public matters.

Consolidating gains have also devolution to be operational since 2013; county bosses have established good infrastructural growth, better health facilities, and use of ICT in revenue collection, agriculture and early childhood education.

Through county communication Directors, locals of respective counties have been to access the information held by counties and further directors have been able to disseminate information through the print, electronic media and social media which has greatly promoted freedom of information.

Public debate

In addressing corruption, which is a big hindrance to the realization of the SDG agenda, there is need to County Governments to pursue opportunities that will enforce rule of law; facilitate whistle blower legislation; sensitize citizens and mainstream content into education curricula; support capacity building, training opportunities and media campaigns; benchmark international best practices; strengthen audit and reporting system; adequate remuneration of public servants; and judicial implementation of leadership and integrity.

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