

Ambassador Macharia Kamau Public Lecture at UVU

The public lecture by the Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, His Excellency, Mr. Macharia Kamau, at Utah Valley University on February 9, 2017 addressed the United Nations Post 2030 Development Agenda. The speech primarily illustrates the reasons and manner in which the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were developed. The ambassador talked about why a global framework was needed. He spoke of the consequences of the SDG to an individual and the collective future. The speech provided insights into the current state of the world and the need to make it better for everyone and future generations.



Ambassador Macharia Kamau at Utah Valley University

The SDG were developed after the expiry of the Millennium Development Goals which mainly focused on developing nations. Unlike the MDG, SDGs focused on the entire world with both developed and developing countries. In the end of the 20th century, the world was faced with almost similar problems. Some of them included lack of access to quality health care, primary education, insecurity, a rapidly increasing population, climate change, environmental degradation, natural disasters, and the growing number of refugees, among others. According to our distinguished guest, these challenges informed the humankind about the decision to develop

a global framework that would be universal in nature, collective and equally supplied to enhance social economic and political path of the world. On the other hand, global challenges undermined the world's economic prosperity. Thus, it was necessary to develop the SDGs and its indicators.

In 2013, the United Nations appointed a team led by Ambassador Macharia Kamau and the Permanent Representative of Hungary to the United Nations, Ambassador Csaba Körösi to develop the road map for the 2030 Agenda. The team had to concentrate on developing goals which were transformative and would result in economic prosperity, sustainability of human life and the environment. The Open Working Group designed the proposal of the SDGs and set their targets and indicators to monitor and evaluate the progress of the goals. The document was then adopted in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly.



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda included 17 goals and 169 targets to be attained by 2030. Primarily, it ensures that no nation or person is left behind of this development plan. It seeks to eliminate extreme poverty and hunger which are estimated to affect approximately over 1 billion people. The plan will also improve the health care and well-being of people and will ensure access to clean water and sanitization. Moreover, it seeks to empower girls and women and promotes social inclusion and protection of the environment to safeguard future generations. It aims to build and sustain peace across the globe through promoting good governance and the rule of law.

The SDGs shall be attained through domestic and collective mobilization of resources. Implementation of the program is extremely expensive hence the need for mutual commitment. Improved international cooperation and fair trade agreements are at the center of achieving the

SDGs. The public-private partnership will also help. Capacity building and transfer of technologies must be improved to make sure that the development agenda is realized.

From the lecture, I have learned that global problems require global solutions-- international relations play a primary role in the development of a better world. However, the United Nations is at the core of bringing together all these nations to collaborate and cooperate in the global course. The development agenda can be over-ambitious, but progress made in the world was attained through ambitious goals and significant challenges. A unified, determined and committed world will be in a position to solve the problems affecting it.

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