

Synthesis Report from the Proceedings of the First Emerging Leaders Forum

October 08, 2015

Serena Hotel, Kampala

“Engaging Youth in Building a Post-2015 Agenda that works for Africa”

1. Introduction

This report presents a synthesis of proceeding of the Emerging Leaders Forum (ELF) conference hosted by Leo Africa Forum (LAF) in cooperation with Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) and the UN network organisations in Uganda. While hosting of the ELF is a long-term idea within LAF’s annual event calendar, the focus of the 8th October conference was particularly motivated by the recent adoption of a new global development agenda—the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This summarises the rationale to conference, synthesizes the conversations that ensured, and outlines the main recommendations as suggested from the dialogue. It concludes with an analytical of youth engagement with the forum theme which was: “building a post-2015 agenda that works for Africa.”

1.1 Rationale

This section summarises the rationale of the conference. It includes an overall background to the ELF and a summary of LAF’s engagement with the international development discourse. It also includes an outline of the conference objectives and structure.

1.1.2 Background

On September 25, 2015 the 70th UN general assembly ratified the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).¹ These goals provide an international development framework for the next fifteen years that will guide national policy planning and implementation with the view to address extreme poverty, hunger and climate change, and promote just, equitable, inclusive

¹<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-34363556>

and sustainable development. The SDGs come to replace the Millennium Development Goals that expire at the end of this year.

Earlier on 30th May, 2015 the UN High Level Panel report on the Post-2015 Development Agenda released calls on the world to **'leave no one behind'**, a critical landmark in a youth-led campaign to see the world's new development framework inclusive of young people's perspectives and aspirations. The Report outlines the importance of **'leaving no one behind'**, and in particular calls for creation of decent jobs and improving the livelihood of young people.

Around 1.8 billion of the global population is young people aged 10 – 24 years,² making this the largest youth generation the world has ever known.³ Complemented by the power of youth innovation and activism, these numbers speak strongly about the urgency of effectively engaging with young women and men in pursuit of the world's development agenda articulated in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In Africa about 65 % of the total population of Africa is below the age of 35 years and in less than three generations 41% of the world's youth will be African. These young people are particularly challenged and vulnerable as a result of poverty, unemployment, adolescent health issues, including HIV infection, conflicts and lack of participation in decision-making processes.

Indeed the UN Secretary General has remarkably asserted that young people will be the torchbearers in the sustainable development agenda.⁴ Youth participation is fundamental in shaping the discussions on the development agenda beyond 2015. No wonder, over the past number of years, young people have been actively engaged in identifying priorities and coming up with a set of recommendations that reflect the values and aspirations of young people post 2015.

Some of the notable consultation events to which this conference sought to build include: The Global Youth Forum, the African Youth Conference on the Post 2015 Agenda, a UN World Youth Conference. These have informed the "The Global Youth Call" which has been widely endorsed by major global youth-focused alliances and networks and over 1,300 youth organizations from over 140 Member States and fed into the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development process and outcome and the Post-2015 Development Agenda processes⁵. Very recently, the

² UNFPA, 2014

³ UNDP, 2014

⁴ Synthesis report of the Secretary General on the Post 2015 agenda

⁵http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/youth2015/pdf/session_1.pdf

UN conducted an e-consultation with youth on the zero-draft of the outcome document for the UN summit to adopt the Post 2015 development agenda⁶.

In Uganda, United Nations Country Team (UNCT), working with the Government and in particular the National Planning Authority (NPA), has ensured that Uganda is one of the first countries to be fully aligned with the Post 2015 agenda. Combined with the new UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the National Development Plan II (NDPII), these address 89% of the SDGs, thereby setting a strong foundation for the implementation of a truly transformative agenda⁷. However, there is need to ensure that this agenda is reflective of the aspirations of young people in Uganda considering 75 percent of the country's population is aged below 35.

Thus, as a starting point to engaging young people with the post-2015 agenda, LAF in cooperation with of KAS, the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator, and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) hosted the emerging leaders' forum on 8th October 2015 in Kampala. The forum focused on setting a basis for strengthening the will to pursue inclusive and sustainable growth that devotes more attention to outcomes that improve the quality of young people's lives. Thus, with the ensuing conversation, young people were the core of discussing targets and indicators aimed at poverty reduction, enhanced access to clean water and modern energy, quality education, urban development, decent jobs, sexual and reproductive health, healthcare and improved agricultural technologies.

1.1.3 LAF's engagement with the Post-2015 Global Development Agenda

LAF has been at the forefront of championing a structured youth engagement with the global development agenda. Under the tagline "*conversations worth having,*" the forum has focussed on facilitating platforms for young women and men to engage critically with international development aspirations and processes. A key focus of the conversations in questioning the implications of international development goals on domestic policies and the extent to which a global agenda like the SDGs portends to address the challenges of poverty, unemployment and access to health services that continue to affect African youth in disproportionate ways.

1.1.4 Objectives of the ELF

⁶<http://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2015/06/e-consultation-young-people-post-2015-development-agenda/>

⁷<http://www.un-ug.org/content/post-2015-development-agenda>

The forum was primarily aimed at submitting additional evidence and analysis for continuing the discussion on how to better design key building blocks of the post-2015 framework implementation in Africa. It was thus intended to serve as a stock-taking and analytic exercise and an opportunity to discuss the means of implementation based on the lessons learned from predecessor frameworks including the MDGs and other international development processes.

The specific objectives of this event included:

- i. To collectively explore and provoke reflections on the successes and what could have been shortcomings from implementing the Millennium Development goals in Africa and to document examples of innovative approaches, as well as examples of lessons learned.
- ii. To provide space for a diverse range of leading stakeholders (governmental and non-governmental) to voice their expert opinions, proposals, analysis and aspirations for the implementation of the post- 2015 development agenda in Africa
- iii. To expose stakeholders to the on-going global debates on the post-2015 agenda. If considered useful, other global experts will be invited to make presentations at the round table.
- iv. To help define specific sectoral concerns and how they contribute to the overall framework for the discussions on how to implement the post-2015 development agenda in Africa
- v. To feed the information collected and examples documented into and inform the key Post-2015 processes at global level; and
- vi. To sensitise stakeholders about their role in the Post-2015 Agenda implementation.

1.1.5 Structure of the Conference

The meeting was held as a full day event that included plenary discourses, expert panel-led discussions, and break away sessions. Participants were primarily youth, however, the conversations involved a broad range of stakeholders – from policy-makers, to practitioners, academics, NGOs, business sector, and relevant UN agencies. This enabled the incorporation of diverse perspectives and the possibility to facilitate an interactive debate. Moderators guided the discussions over the course of the agenda. Carefully selected speakers presented on different thematic topics followed by expert panel discussions open to the wider audience.

2. Synthesis of Proceedings

This section synthesises the proceedings of the forum following the flow of the conference programme. Rather than reproduce that narratives as shared, the section attempts to draw out the main points raised whilst analysing them in the context of youth engagement with the SDGs.

2.1 Opening Statement by Mr. Awel Uwihanganye, Founder and Senior Director, LAF

Mr. Uwihanganye’s remarks highlighted the remarkable contribution of KAS, UNFPA and the UN Resident Coordinator’s Office in supporting the ELF as a space for young people to engage with the global development agenda. Drawing on Uganda’s privileged role in steering the development and adoption of the SDGs he challenged the country to ensure domestication of the post 2015 development agenda in such a way that it effectively addresses the development challenges faced, particularly by the country’s youth population. This he stressed requires active youth engagement in identifying indicators and monitoring SDG implementation. He reiterated LAF’s commitment to fostering youth engagement in ensuring that the post-2015 agenda is one that works for African youth.

Awel pointed out that Uganda has already shown outstanding leadership in the implementation of the SDGs and adoption of some of them in the second national development plan (NDP II), he said, and that we need to be committed to the idea of “**leaving no one behind**”. Awel noted that the conversation around SDGs will continue through the policy working group (PWG) at the Léo Africa institute.

2.2 Statement and conversation with Ms. Ahuna Eziakonwa—Onochie, UN Resident Coordinator

Ms Ahunna congratulated the Léo Africa Forum on their first emerging leaders’ forum. She observed that the tone in the new goals recognizes a major shift from charity orientation to dignity when dealing with Africa. She said handouts will not end hunger and poverty and that we have to invest in economic growth and development.

The goals go beyond addressing the symptoms, stressing that every one of us deserves dignity. The new set of goals is not silent on addressing the root causes of development challenges. The new goals are also important for the youth because of emphasis on protecting the planet, seeing that that young people’s future will be compromised by climate change, she said.

Mrs. Onochie stressed that the emphasis on economic development, creation of decent jobs, and promotion of innovative technologies promises to answer some of the main challenges faced by African youth, notably unemployment. She however challenged young people to engage more actively in development processes. Establishing relevant information on the opportunities the SDGs will provide and organising to take advantage of such opportunities were some of the recommendations she made for fostering youth engagement with not only the SDGs but overall development processes.

During the conversation with Ms. Ahuna concerns from the moderator and the audience were raised along the following areas:

- The existence of international policy restrictions such as International Property Rights that will potential inhibit the possibility of technological transfers and well as circumvent industrialisation policies in developing countries.
- The emphasis of current international development agendas on green technologies which are considerably expensive to be afforded by mostly poor developing country economies.
- Whether adequate reflections were made of specific failures in the implementation of the successor plan, the MDGs, e.g. on the case of maternal health, and whether relevant lessons have been integrated in the SDGs framework.
- The failure of the SDGs to emphasise democracy and good governance which are seen as key to achieving sustainable development
- Binding constraints to agricultural transformation, such as failure to access agriculture finance which limits the potential to generate gainful employment in agriculture.

In her feedback, Ms. Ahuna challenge youth to develop more interest and engagement in research on development questions. This will for example equip young people with a better understanding on the functioning of the international system, the basis upon which they can engage in appropriate advocacy on necessary reforms. She reiterated the need for youth to engage with governments alongside active participation in development affairs.

2.3 Outputs from thematic break-away sessions

2.3.1 Accelerating youth engagement and participation in the post-2015 era in Uganda

The session was moderated by Micheal Nyetegeka and the panel discussion composed of the following:

1. Mr. Ahmed Hadji, Team Leader at African Youth Development Link
2. Ms. Isabella Akiteng, Program Manager at UYONET
3. Mr. Cyrus Kawalya, Team Leader at YALI Uganda.

In his introductory remarks Ahmed Hadji pointed out that the SDGs are a reality to us and it's a generational goal for young people to make them work. Isabella added that it was important that young people develop the necessary information to engage in participation and decision making and that it was important for the participants to develop an honest understanding and context of the SDGs in Uganda. Still on introduction, Cyrus Kawalya pointed out that young people are stakeholders in the future of the world and that it was time they started to take this role seriously.

To create context, the moderator pointed out that "accelerating" implied that young people were already doing something, after which implored the panelists to provide some insight on what acceleration meant to them.

Cyrus mentioned that there was an opportunity to make the accomplishments of the SDGs move faster and that it was important that young people fit into that. In explaining what "acceleration" meant, Isabella added that it was important to define growth and movement as it varies from person to person. While it seems that everybody is ready for growth, she challenged participants to reflect on whether people were ready for our (Africa's) kind of growth. To further provide context, she mentioned that on average a health center serves 16,000 people and gets only UGX 400,000 in funding per month, "so what growth are we describing?".

In addressing what acceleration was and whether young people were ready for it. Ahmed Hadji described a scenario of a 16 to 17 year old girl with aspirations to make a life for herself. Even with access to the right education, access to social goods, sex education, if she gets pregnant and drops out of school, she won't get the life she want for herself. 20 KM out of Kampala in every trading center there is girl like this. He added that this is our reality and the other reality is that other young people are doing something about it.

Young people drive production in the country; talent and music contribute 19% of the country's GDP. Ahmed also challenged the participants to de-construct the mindset of young people as the problem and that it was important for this generation to drive the generation to come.

The moderator pointed out that youth participation would require young people to invite themselves to the table asking the panelist to comment on this.

Ahmed put it that youth people needed to deconstruct “wait hood”. A culture that tells them to wait patiently for their turn. While there are several structural challenges that stand in their (the youth) way, young people have to be prepared to go against these structural challenges.

To break the “wait-hood” syndrome, Isabella put it that nobody is telling young people that if they want to demand their place at the table, they must be able to create and take leverage to the table. Alluding to the structure of private enterprise, she added that even when an individual wants to be a shareholder of a company, he must buy into it.

Cyrus added that “acceleration” is limited because young people aren't participating in politics. Increasingly the political space in Uganda has been occupied by hooligans and other individuals not qualified to participate in meaningful political engagement. To this; the moderator questioned whether the environment makes it easy for bright young people to move from the private sector into meaningful political participation. In response Cyrus challenged the participants to reflect strongly on the reasons most people move into politics for.

Ahmed put it that young people should not demand for a favour, they should demand for dignity, adding that the future depended on what young people do and it was the responsibility of every young person to contribute to the SDGs in whatever way possible.

The moderator later put it to the panelist, “How do we change the value system of emerging leaders to effective and positive participation and engagement?” To respond to this, Isabella added it was still important to consider Uganda's context in answering this, because 83% of young people in Uganda are unemployed, accelerating needs a deliberate effort to make policy consumable by ordinary Ugandans – and when that happens it will be younger leaders who understand policy that will be able to contribute in a meaningful way.

The moderator later encouraged the participants to join the conversation in the Question and Answer session.

Eshban Kwesiga added his voice to the idea that young people must create leverage for themselves first before demanding their place at the table, he also put it that, “even the young people that we consider privileged have MBAs from ivy league universities – and that is their leverage.”

Raymond Kataha a journalist with NTV put it that young people don’t speak policy, given that – it’s important to break down the complexities of policies such as the SDGs into easy to understand information.

Andrew Kiroya, a member of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) added that young people need to be informed on policy, and it’s from this perspective that they can create leverage to use.

In their closing remarks, Ahmed pointed out the SDGs are the reality we live, for example building a house and having good health but young people need to question the structural challenges that impede them and that young people can’t address poverty without addressing dignity.

Isabella added that the reality on the ground is that young people are swimming against the tide thus the need for more young people to question structural issues that stand in their way.

Cyrus mentioned that to work on advancing the SDGs, young leaders need to work on their core values.

To conclude; the moderator challenged all the participants to start inside out and to look at the SDGs, figure out which one they are passionate about and to starting contributing towards achieving it.

2.3.2 The role of young innovator in strengthening data collection, analysis and dissemination to monitor SDG implementation in Uganda

Session moderator, Joshua Twinomugisha welcomed everyone to the session and introduced the panelists before inviting Ms Fundira Esperance to make a presentation on the the importance of Data in monitoring the SDGs.

Ms Fundira thanked LéO Africa forum for the initiative and thanked the founder Awel and members of the forum faculty for the outstanding leadership. She noted the important role

played by Uganda in the SDGs – especially Honorable Sam Kuteesa who was the president of UNGA when the SDGs were adopted.

She remarked that the post-2015 agenda is about the “three P’s” – planet, people and prosperity and that we want growth that works for every citizen. She noted that SDGs are largely dependent on domestic resources and emphasized that it is important resources are utilized for the purposes they were meant for. This makes data as a monitoring tool very important. She also noted that indicators for SDGs will be complemented with local indicators.

We have traditional data—census, surveys—and we also have “big data” for new information sources. All these need to be harnessed for use in a complementary manner. The data revolution combines big data and traditional data to enhance the dissemination of information about SDGs, she said.

Ms Fundira noted that the NDP II had localized 70% of the SDGs and that young people need to monitor these proactively. In conclusion, she asked young people to claim their space in the data ecosystem for monitoring SDGs.

The session moderator thanked Ms Fundira for the informative delivery and asked the other panelists to make brief remarks on the presentation.

Joseph Owino of Owino Solutions in his opening remarks said that focus should be on whether the public takes on these goals (the SDGs) and that there is need to generate data, so as to shape the youth agenda. He further noted that there is need for concerted efforts by young people so that no one left behind.

The moderator said that in the African context, Uganda stands to performing well as regards implementation of the SDGs and asked what support the UNPF provides to young people.

In her reply, Ms Fundira noted that in the next five-year program the UNPF Uganda office will prioritize working with young people.

The moderator asked Richard from Outbox if there is a danger of leaving some people behind due to online interventions like Outbox.

In his reply, Richard noted that there is demand for information offline that can be leveraged by online interventions like Outbox. He also said there is need to change the mindset in terms of the way people perceive offline intervention.

The discussion was then opened up to the audience who were invited to ask questions.

Ampaire asked if SDGs are truly for young people since their contribution to the goals' formulation has been minimal.

Ms Fundira replied that the SDG process has been widely consultative and that the UN in Uganda has prioritized communication as a way of disseminating SDG information.

Josh asked what the process is for dealing with the UN in measuring progress and making recommendations, while Dorcus asked how best non-profit organizations can integrate in the SDG framework.

In replying, Ms Fundira observed that the biggest task of measuring SDG support should lie with government. The UN can help negotiate for young people to be involved in the SDG Policy Working Groups.

The moderator in his closing remarks noted that the session had been very informative and that partnership is very important in information dissemination. He invited the audience to lunch.

2.3.3 Opportunities for partnerships that will strengthen youth development and enable them to be instrumental in SDG implementation in Uganda

Mildred Apenyo

What got me to quit my job in the advertising industry to start from zero was rage. I couldn't keep in my office when women are being undressed on the streets in the face of the anti-pornography bill, which was being interpreted as the anti-miniskirt bill, which had left women at the mercy of, lumpens.

How do you connect your previous work in media with what you do now?

Passion grabbed me and didn't leave me until a year later when I decided at a specific mission. In the end, we zeroed down on women in border towns and sex workers.

What's the cause of sex work business?

First and foremost, its poverty, but also because there's a lot of demand for sex services in boarder transit towns.

How do you get partnerships and funding?

We seek out partnerships, draft and send out proposals and you don't need a lot of money

Joachim Ewecu – Unreasonable East Africa

What motivated you to start Unreasonable East Africa?

I grew up in a middle class family with largely enough of what I needed. Yet I couldn't play and interact with kids who were always in need, living in filthy neighborhoods; yet I thought they deserved better. I later developed passion for politics for I believed its politics that could solve these challenges.

My entrepreneurship background with my dad also showed me the challenges that business people go through to setup and sustain their businesses. The two experiences merged and I started asking myself how I could start businesses that can address these social challenges.

Did the status of the current leadership inspire you to get passionate about these things?

Yes, the leaders that surrounded the power to change things, yet were unable or simply not doing anything about these things.

Jean-Bosco Nzanze-Mana – Habona Ltd

I was always motivated by social pressure from my community who saw me as a privileged person with the promise of transforming my village. I tried to define entrepreneurship as the means of transforming or being meaningful to the community. Issues like child dropouts, lack of clean water was all troubling me.

So we started to do a lot of research on how to generate ideas of using the local resources to get renewable energy and improve the community. The other challenge was how to get all

these ideas into a sustainable business. I had to struggle to get credit from commercial banks because they didn't see the big picture in me.

Partnerships are complex because they have to ensure that each partner does what they have to do to enable you do what you have to do.

Mildred Apenyo on Partnerships

Our biggest resource is other young organizations or businesses. We are all complementary. Beginning and establishing partnerships with other like-minded businesses is always the most important because it elevates your idea and makes you easily availed with credit or financial support. For example, I had no prior experience with book-keeping and other competencies that were important for my business but partnerships helped me to easily acquire.

For me I was thinking of the whole incentive structure required to make any business work. Any of you see the persistent trend of expecting other people to solve our problems.

Jean-Bosco on Partnerships

I think it is not expecting someone to do it for you, it is about reading out to other partners whose strengths we can leverage for the success of all of us.

Mildred

Solutions need to come from experiences not from outside. Because then, you have more commitment to implement them.

Joachim

I think we can have a 50-50 partnership with outside partners in pursuing our goals. We have the benefit of the local context and experience, but we also need experiences of advances in technology which can be leveraged from outside.

Questions and comments from the audience

Muganda Douglas from Kampala: Other sectors are important but can only do so much if our politics are not revised

Patrick Kaloma from Lira District: We need to offer practical solutions looking at partnerships. We should have for example quarterly sessions to review the adoption and implementation of SDGs. We should also look at tapping into organized youth groups on how to implement the SDG agenda. There is need to create vibrant youth CSOs to create synergies with the National Youth Council and merge the youth agenda with the SDG agenda.

Ronald Katamba: He asked the panelists how they have been able to first build their companies so they can be seen as trustworthy.

Rajab Kigenyi: Young people should first assess the entire value chain before starting businesses. First, do they have capital, is there market for the goods or services.

Farmer from Buikwe: Before entering into partnerships, you must be resilient and emotionally stable and intelligent. One should have the mental capacity to take in all the shocks just like they are ready to reap the benefits.

Ruth Atieno from Budaka District: Young people lack mentors to believe in their ideas and encourage them to go forward.

Mauda Atuzarirwe, Lawyer: There is a lot of potential and there are many innovations but we need to see how to safeguard these innovations through intellectual property

Dan Mwesiga, Lawyer, Kampala: Most businesses that have succeeded were motivated by the need to provide a service and not to make money. Youth should thus start businesses that are service driven. Its also important to have principles that drive your day to day passions, even as you go about the business.

Ritah, a honey processor: How do you guard against partners interfering with your vision for your business?

Responses from the Panelists;

Jean-Bosco: On identifying need, he says he first started by identifying need in his community and devising workable solutions with a local context. At first, I was everything in my company,

but later I realized that if I can identify related businesses in Rwanda, I could go far and that's what I did.

Partnerships are really about trust; it knows what you want to do and how the others can help you achieve it. You can be open minded and pragmatic to accommodate the other party's suggestions, but shouldn't be too much to compromise your vision.

Mildred: In the beginning, you don't need money as you need the pain, the rage, the passion, the motivation, along the way, the money will always come.

2.4 Special keynote address by Mr. Andrew Rugasira, Director, Good African Coffee

Patricia Nzeyi, the moderator, welcomed the audience back from lunch and introduced Andrew Rugasira.

In his opening statement, Rugasira noted that two thirds of Africa's population is between the ages of 15-30 and observed that we have a lot of GDP growth that is not translated into job opportunities.

He then noted that whereas the coffee market in the world is \$140bn, producer countries share only \$25bn of the market. If Africa's potential is to be realized it is going to be the young people to do it. Part of the Good African story is rooted in this mindset change, he said. He also observed that if young people are not encouraged, we shall not have a future and that the handout mentality has shackled our minds.

Rugasira was later joined in conversation by Patricia Nzeyi who took questions from the audience.

Agaba Rugaba inquired about how land can be freed up to allow investment in Agriculture, while Steve wondered why Ugandans are not buying Ugandan products.

In his reply, Rugasira noted that mechanisms that can lead to equitable land distribution are still a problem. He suggested that the government digitizes land registry to ease the processing of land titles.

Ramathan Ggoobi asked why entrepreneurs in Uganda are more interested in non-tradables.

In closing, Rugasira answered that government intervention in investment is key. He further noted that not every government investment will yield success; that for every Samsung, Daewoo, etc., there were many failures.

2.5 Panel discussion on what needs to ensure that SDGs deliver on the development aspirations of young people

The session moderator invited Henry Rugamba to introduce the discussion panel. Rugamba invited the panel to take their seats and make brief remarks on the SDGs and the youth.

Ruth Aine, one of the panelists thanked the LÉO Africa Forum and the Konrad Adeneur Stiftung for organizing the conference. She gave a brief background of the SDGs and asked young people to think critically about what cause they want to identify with within the SDG framework and choose the direction in which to go.

Jean Bosco who runs a waste management company in Rwanda which employs 3 people noted that 65% of the population in Rwanda is made of youths and challenged everyone to do something without waiting for politicians. To achieve great things we need to partner, he noted.

Yusuf Kiranda in his opening brief noted that although there are structures in place, there is ineffectiveness of youth organisations representing interests of young people. He asked that duty bearers like the youth councils should be held to account.

Henry Rugamba opened the discussion to the audience.

Ivan, a member of the audience, noted that illicit financial flows have denied Africa a chance to fully integrate into the global financial system and be able to fully finance the development agenda.

Agaba asked if we can have a policy working group on SDGs. While Okiring addressed the issue of decent work, asking how to address issues of decent work for the working population.

The session moderator, Henry Rugamba, asked the panelists why most people are apprehensive to the SDGs.

Aine answered that communication of the SDGs has been a challenge because the process is only weeks old while

Yusuf Kiranda observed that there is need to build effective partnerships among young people so that they increase their bargaining power. He also noted that failure to reform the land sector is because there is no incentive.

2.6 Closing remarks by Mr. Mathias Kamp, Country Representative, KAS

The KAS Country Representative thanked the panelists and everyone for the wonderful conversation and said that the next phase would be to translate the conversation into action. He noted that we need to be very focused in our conversations and to acknowledge that not everyone, everywhere is going to be involved in the discussion. There is need to identify intervention areas where we are better suited to intervene.

In closing, Mr Kamp noted that democratic governance and institutions are key to sustainable development. He acknowledged LÉO Africa for being a good partner and also thanked the UN institutions in Uganda.

3. Recommendations, Outlook and Follow-up

This section summarises the major recommendations from the conference. It also includes a brief analysis of the outlook of youth engagement with the SDGs from the lens of Leo Africa as well as the steps LAF has taken to follow-up on the outcomes of the meeting.

3.1 Main recommendations from the meeting

Through engagement between the panelists and the various members of the audience, the main recommendations revolved around the youth playing a more active role in the development and implementation of policy. The youth were advised to gain more interest and information on development policies, especially SDGs in the post-2015 era. This knowledge will equip them with the understanding of the functionality of the system as well as how they can engage it and identify the necessary reforms. The youth were also encouraged to be more assertive and proactive in their participation in political and development spaces as opposed to waiting on the opportunity to be presented to them.

Outlook and Follow-up

The forum aimed to tackle means through which the youth today could tackle some of the most troubling issues in the Ugandan context such as poverty, unemployment, climate change and inclusive sustainable development through the recommendations of the Sustainable Development Goals. First and foremost, the forum highlighted the essentiality of information. In order for people to take an active role and hold their leaders accountable, policy needs to be made more accessible and comprehensible to the average Ugandan. Furthermore, there was an emphasis on the role of data in monitoring the implementation of SDGs. Identification of need in society, developing partnerships and effective management of domestic resources can all be derived and monitored through accumulation and analysis of data.