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## 11th African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development Kampala, Uganda, April 7-11, 2025

### OUTCOME DOCUMENT

#### Side Event: Localizing the SDGs: A Youth–Parliamentarian Roundtable

**Date & time:** April 8, 2025, 1 pm - 2.30 pm

**Venue:** Majestic Room, Speke Resort, Kampala, Uganda

**Organized by:** 2030beyond & Coterie Development Initiative

**In partnership with:** The Embassies of Denmark, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Ireland

### Introduction

This intergenerational roundtable brought together youth leaders, parliamentarians, and civil society actors from across Africa to co-develop actionable recommendations for localizing the SDGs in alignment with the priorities of ARFSD-11 and the broader frameworks of the *Pact for the Future* and *Agenda 2063*. Through a participatory and co-creative workshop format, the event fostered dynamic exchanges grounded in five key SDGs.

The session was moderated by **Kirsten Brosbøl**, Founder & CEO of 2030beyond, and included contributions from **Hon. Signe Winding Albjerg**, Danish Ambassador to Uganda, **Hon. Jacqueline Amongin**, Member of Parliament of Uganda, **Dr. Daisy N. Owomugasho**, Executive Director of Coterie Development Initiative. Participants in the workshop included Royal Danish Embassy Youth Sounding Board members, EU Youth Sounding Board members, MPs from Kenya, The Gambia, Nigeria and Uganda, and representatives from youth organizations including Faraja, Restless Development, and SENSITISE.

### Format & Methodology

The session followed an interactive “roundtable meets co-creation” format:

- Welcome remarks from co-organizers and diplomatic partners set the stage for intergenerational dialogue.
- Participants broke into five thematic groups, each aligned with a key SDG focus of ARFSD-11:
  - SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being
  - SDG 5: Gender Equality
  - SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
  - SDG 14: Life Below Water
  - SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- Each group addressed two guiding questions, developed by the youth prior to the session, brought forward their recommendations, and presented their calls to action.

This structure enabled participants to co-create content feeding directly into this outcome document, intended for inclusion in the Forum's final **Kampala Declaration**.

## Recommendations from workshop

### SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being

#### Guiding Questions

1. How can we ensure equitable access to quality healthcare services, especially for marginalized communities, in the context of post-COVID-19 recovery?
2. What innovative approaches can be implemented to strengthen the resilience of healthcare systems and improve pandemic preparedness?

#### Key Recommendations

- Fulfill the **Abuja Declaration commitment** of 15% national budget allocation to healthcare, with equitable distribution to underserved areas.
- Invest in **digitized and verifiable health data systems** to improve planning, transparency, and responsiveness.
- Ensure **universal health coverage** for basic services in both public and private health facilities.
- Institutionalize **community accountability tools**, such as health scorecards, to improve trust and service delivery.

### SDG 5: Gender Equality

#### Guiding Questions

1. What policy and legislative reforms are needed to address persistent gender disparities and empower women's participation in decision-making?
2. How can we leverage technology and digital solutions to promote gender equality and women's economic empowerment?

#### Key Recommendations

- Implement **gender-responsive land reform** frameworks that address cultural barriers and promote equitable access.
- Establish **gender-responsive budgeting** with targeted funding for women's economic participation and tax relief on essential products like sanitary pads.
- Expand **digital literacy and STEM education** for girls and young women, including in rural areas.
- Strengthen **affirmative action policies** and introduce leadership term limits to make space for emerging women leaders.

## SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

### Guiding Questions

1. What strategies can be employed to create more sustainable and inclusive job opportunities for youth in the face of the changing nature of work?
2. How can we foster an enabling environment for SMEs to thrive and drive economic transformation?

### Key Recommendations

- Align **education systems** with future job markets, especially in tech and AI sectors.
- **Recognize and standardize innovation hubs** and provide certification to enhance employability.
- Ensure **equity in educational infrastructure** between urban and rural areas.
- Promote **entrepreneurial mindsets** through curriculum reform and role models.
- Support **youth-led SMEs** via timely financing, incubation programs, and tax holidays comparable to those given to foreign investors.
- Ensure a livable **minimum wage** and a safe and inclusive working environment for all.

## SDG 14: Life Below Water

### Guiding Questions

1. What can be done to address the challenges of marine pollution, overfishing, and coastal ecosystem degradation?
2. How can we promote sustainable and equitable blue economy initiatives?

### Key Recommendations

- Enforce the use of **non-degradable fishing nets** and sustainable sand-mining tools.
- Enhance **public awareness** through media partnerships on marine conservation.
- Promote **community-led waste management and recycling** to reduce pollution.
- Create **marine-specific budget allocations** and increase financial support for youth-led blue economy initiatives.
- Support **alternative livelihood strategies**, including artificial fish farming.

## SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

### Guiding Questions

1. What innovative financing mechanisms and partnerships can mobilize resources for the 2030 Agenda?
2. How can multi-stakeholder collaborations (public–private, North–South, South–South) be strengthened?

### Key Recommendations

- Provide **unrestricted, flexible funding** for youth- and community-led initiatives.
- Leverage **natural resources and sustainable tourism** as domestic revenue sources.

- Expand **South–South cooperation**, particularly for intra-African mobility and trade.
- Partner with **media organizations** to enhance transparency, accountability, and public engagement.
- Prioritize **locally led solutions** in public-private partnerships.

## Reflections & Next Steps

This roundtable confirmed the importance of **local ownership**, **youth leadership**, and **inclusive governance** for achieving sustainable development. The active engagement of both parliamentarians and young people demonstrated that meaningful dialogue is possible and essential.

We encourage ARFSD-11 organizers to integrate these outcomes into the **Kampala Declaration**, and call for the institutionalization of intergenerational roundtables at future Forums and regional processes.

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