

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG's) PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM AND THE ROLE OF ICT & DATA

On Thursday 6th April a panel of experts engaged the audience on the role of ICT and data on the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Arif Neky - UN philanthropy discussed on the role of SDG philanthropy/partnership platform. Mr. Arif reminded the people that agenda 2030 is a universal agenda and 'we need to think transformally. We also require more aspiration and we need to innovate all our systems so that we can tap into all the opportunities'.

The agenda 2030 and SDG's has three key pointers. Integration, universality and no one is left behind. Universality implies that set goals and targets are relevant to the governments and the actors/stakeholders involved. Universality does not mean uniformity. It means differentiation. I.e. what can each industry contribute towards the attainment of these goals.

Integration means a policy integration that balances all the sustainable development dimensions; social, economic growth and environmental protection. An integrated approach implies managing tradeoffs and maximizing synergies across targets.

No one is left behind; this simply implies even the most vulnerable Kenyans are not left behind. About 45% of Kenyans are living below the poverty line. These are the pocket of Kenyans left behind and they need to be brought on board. The principle of 'no one is left behind' advocates countries to go beyond average. The SDG's should benefit all thus reducing inequalities.

Mr. Neky urged everyone to take part in the attainment of SDG's. SDG's are not owned by the government; they are owned by everyone. The success of SDG's depends on the implementation which will then have an impact on the quality of life. He also urged the Kenyan government to work towards moving from funding to financing SDG's; this is called budgeting for the future which will ensure sustainability. It will also enable Kenya to be more grants worth and less debt worthy.

Mr. Arif Neky was among the panelists at the Triple Helix Summit held at the University of Nairobi from 4th-6th April 2017.