



**DIVISION FOR GOVERNANCE AND
MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS (DGM)**

**ETHIOPIA LIAISON OFFICE
HIGHLIGHTS**

MAY 2017

In this Edition of May 2017

- 1. African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), Addis-Ababa Ethiopia, 17-19 May 2017.**
- 2. African Youth Forum, New-York – USA, 19 May 2017.**
- 3. The first Partners Meeting for the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA), Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, 18-19 May 2017.**
- 4. Commemoration of Africa Day, African Union Commission (AUC), Addis Ababa-Ethiopia, 25 May 2017.**
- 5. Farewell event for Mr. Constant-Serge Bounda organized by the Embassy of Congo in Ethiopia, Addis-Ababa-Ethiopia, 19th May 2017.**

1. African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), Addis-Ababa Ethiopia, 17-19 May 2017.

DGM-ELO coordinated UNFPA's participation in the 2017 Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development that was held in Addis Ababa from 17-19 May 2017 under the theme "Ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity for all". The Forum was attended by over 40 Member States represented at ministerial and expert levels, representatives of various UN agencies, Major Groups and other civil society organizations. The main focus of the forum was to conduct an in-depth thematic review of the SDGs that will be reviewed at the 2017 High Level Political Forum including Goals 1 (poverty eradication), 2 (hunger and food security), 3 (health and wellbeing), 5 (gender equality and women's empowerment), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 14 (oceans, seas and marine resources) and 17 (means of implementation and global partnership). It also sought to facilitate learning and sharing of experiences in the advancement of both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



An overview of the ARFSD 2017 in Session.

UNFPA took particular interest in the Forum given that many of the goals under review had important implications for its work. To this end DGM-ELO participated in preparatory meetings of the forum, the development of thematic papers, and ensured strong representation in various plenary and parallel sessions. These included the participation of Prof. Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue, from Cornell University and member of the UN Secretary-General Expert Group that will draft the 2019 Sustainable Development Report, who made a presentation on the linkages between core

population issues, including sexual and reproductive health and rights and the demographic dividend, and poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa. Members of the UNFPA delegation also made presentations during the thematic sessions on poverty, gender and health.



Prof. Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue (black right side) in discussion with UNFPA delegation and organizers.

The main outcome of the Forum was a set of key messages on each of the relevant SDGs. These comprise Africa's policy recommendations and way forward for this year's SDG review, and represent Africa's consolidated contribution to the upcoming 2017 High Level Political



Prof. Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue as Moderator.

Forum. Worthy of note were repeated links to Africa's efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend as well as ensuring the integration of the review of outcomes of major UN conferences such as the Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in review of Agendas 2063 and 2030.

2. African Youth Forum, New-York – USA, 19 May 2017.

On May 19, 2017, the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations held an African Youth Forum to commemorate the AU's 2017 theme of "Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth. The forum was held in the ECOSOC Chambre of the UN Headquarters in New York and formed part of activities to commemorate the 2017 edition of Africa Day. It was aimed at gathering young people and high officials from different parts of the world to form a cross-sectoral and inter-generational platform that would help garner support for Africa's efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend.



On the High level table, Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin (UNFPA), Dr Ikounga (AUC); Ms. Francine Muyumba (PYU)...

It was attended by the AUC Commissioner for Human Resources, Science and Technology, Dr. Martial De-Paul Ikounga, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin, UNFPA Executive Director, members of the diplomatic corps in New York, Ambassador Tete Antonio, Head of the AU Observer Mission to the UN, young people from across Africa representing different fields (civil society, the private sector, entrepreneurs, students, volunteers and interns,) and members from the United Nations family.

UNFPA's Executive Director was invited as a guest speaker and he underscored the importance of the efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend in realizing sustainable development in Africa. He called for concerted efforts of all stakeholders by saying "Only by

working together, consistently and relentlessly, with the inputs of all stakeholders, will we be able to make truly sustainable progress. The demographic dividend presents an important pathway for Africa to meet her development objectives and should not be seen as a one-year event."

3. The first Partners Meeting for the Initiative for Food and Nutrition Security in Africa (IFNA), Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, 18-19 May 2017.

This first Partners Meeting of the IFNA was hosted by Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Science and JICA. [SE1] Its purpose was to develop a shared understanding of good practices and progress in its 10 target countries -- Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal and Sudan. IFNA was launch at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in August 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya.



High Table during the Opening Session with H.E Sacko Josefa Leonel, Commissioner for Rural economy and agriculture (2nd from the left)

Several IFNA partners called for integrated approaches on health and nutrition, and focus on women and girls' Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in particular adolescent girls. DGM-ELO participated in the event with the objective of bringing attention to UNFPA's work in supporting countries in the collection and use of demographic data through the national Demographic Dividend profiles. It was also an opportunity to encourage a focus on the AU theme of the year on harnessing the demographic dividend through investments in youth, especially with regards to agriculture as a key component of the employment and entrepreneurship pillar of the AU Roadmap on Demographic Dividend.

4. Commemoration of Africa Day, African Union Commission (AUC), Addis Ababa-Ethiopia, 25 May 2017.

The African Union Commission held a series of events on 25th May to mark the 2017 edition of “Africa Day” under the theme “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investment in Youth”. In attendance were guests from the diplomatic community including African Ambassadors in Ethiopia, high-level representatives from international and national organizations, the private sector, academia and youth. The main highlight of the day was a commemorative event chaired by the Deputy Chairperson of AUC, H.E. Mr. Kwesi Quartey.



In attendance were guests from various sectors including young Africans, diplomatic community, AUC, etc.

He spoke passionately about the need for African renaissance and excellence in all fields. He also delivered remarks on behalf of the AUC Chairperson in which he said "Investing in youth in Africa requires a major effort of cross-sectoral mobilization based on sustained economic growth, job creation through all-out entrepreneurship, investment in education, and improved social services, including the universalization of social security and health"

H.E. Mme Fatoumata Kaba, Chair of the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) also delivered remarks on behalf of H.E. Prof. Alpha Conde, Chairperson of the African Union. He called for increased investments in youth and the need to

ensure that we revitalize efforts towards the implementation of the African Youth Charter and the AU Roadmap on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth”



H.E. Mme Fatoumata Kaba, Chair of the PRC



A Young representative inviting decision makers to take concrete actions...

It is important to note that, happening on the aftermath of the election of Ethiopia’s Dr. Tedros Adhanom as Director General of the World Health Organization; various speakers took turns to highlight the importance of speaking as one Africa in all multilateral engagements. Whilst Dr. Tedros received lots of support from outside the continent, it was clear to many speakers that the cohesion and unity exhibited by African Member States made the difference in ensuring that for the first time, an African would lead this body whose work has such significant implications for the continent.



Dr. Akinyele Dairo from UNFPA's East and Southern African Regional Office (ESARO) spoke as a panelist on health and wellbeing and its central importance to Africa's efforts towards harnessing the demographic dividend.



Dr. Akinyele Dairo from UNFPA (L) and Dr. Mahama Ouedraogo from AUC (R)



The day ended with a bazaar in which arts, crafts and foods from various African countries were displayed.

5. Farewell event for Mr. Constant-Serge Bounda organized by the Embassy of Congo in Ethiopia, Addis-Ababa-Ethiopia, 19th May 2017.

The Embassy of the Republic of Congo held a dinner in honour of Mr. Constant-Serge Bounda to bid him farewell as he leaves for Madagascar as UNFPA Country Representative. There were ministers and ambassadors from various AU Member States, friends from the United Nations family and the African Union Commission including H.E. Mrs Rosalie Matondo, Congolese Minister of Sustainable Development and Environment, Amb. Jean Emfasoni, AUC Chief of Staff.



Serge spoke fondly of the successes he was able to achieve with the team at DGM-ELO and thanked all present for their support and friendship during his tenure in Addis Ababa. Many of the dignitaries present took turns to say a few words about Serge and his work and thanked him for his commitment and dedication towards sustainable development in Africa.



Events in June 2017

2 June	Antananarivo, Madagascar	Launching of the AU Theme of the Year
5-7 June	UN HQ, New-York USA	Global: Annual session 2017 (UNFPA Segment): Executive Boards
13 June	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Open Session on Peace and Security Council on Child Marriage “Protecting ‘the forgotten children’ of conflict against child marriages”
16 June	Global	International Confederation of Midwives 31st Triennial Congress.
22 June	UN HQ, New-York USA	2017 UN Population Award Ceremony
27-28 June	Ndjamena, Chad	Panafrican Youth Forum on “Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investment in Youth”
27-28 June	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	34th ordinary session of the Permanent Representatives' Committee.
27-28 June	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	30th GIMAC Pre-summit Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the African Union
29-30 June	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	4th AU High Level Panel on Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment “Harnessing the Demographic Dividends through Investment in Youth: Empowering Young Women and Girls.

