



Virtual Side Event at the 7th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Theme: Building better together: Learning from experiences of local faith-based actors and communities in promoting integrated approaches in economic, social and environment dimensions to build sustainable, green and resilient societies in Africa.

Main Organisers: Caritas Africa and National Caritas agencies of Congo Brazzaville, Chad, Namibia, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe. Co-organisers: Government of Sierra Leone and a University in Namibia.

Date: Friday, 26th February, 11.00 am- 12.30 am (West Africa time)

1.0 Introduction

Caritas Africa is the network of 46 national Caritas organisations in 46 sub-Saharan African countries. The National Caritas members are part of the local communities they serve, and focus on human development, peace building and economic justice, while practically responding to some of the world's largest and most complex humanitarian emergencies. Faith groups are increasingly playing a role in pushing for systemic changes in reference to the transformational principles of the 2030 Agenda, while delivering the SDGs through nexus approaches in their own programmes. Accordingly, Caritas in Africa is keen to participate in the regional follow up of the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. The Caritas virtual side event will facilitate peer learning and, document transformative actions and solutions for a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. Key outcomes from the side event will be used for engagements at the 2021 UN High Level Political Forum.

2.0 Aims of the side event

- **To share experiences, best practices and innovative practices** on projects, processes and policies that contribute to Africa's Agenda 2063 and UN Agenda 2030 as we work towards a post-COVID-19 era.
- **To document concrete actions and transformative solutions** at the local, national and regional level, that seek to ensure a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, and propose solutions for existing challenges.
- **To Demonstrate the importance of partnering with local faith-based entities and communities through a *whole-of-society approach*** in the promotion of Integral Human Development (IHD) to achieve sustainable, green and resilient societies within their countries and communities, through collaboration with governments in the national and sub-national level.

3.0 Overview of the programme

- Introductions, overview of the side event and keynote address (15 mins)
- Four presentations (45 mins): **(1) Government representative from Sierra Leone- Lessons and good practices on governance in acceleration of SDG implementation during and Post-COVID-19** **(2) Civil Society representative from Zimbabwe - Progressive taxation and economic models that work for a sustainable and resilient recovery** **(3) Representative of Academia- Promoting sustainable food systems to attain Zero Hunger; Lessons Learnt from Agroecological approaches in Namibia** **(4) Health sector representative from Congo Brazzaville- proposals to build better together through partnerships with local faith actors and local communities**
- Experience sharing and innovative perspectives from participants and summary of conclusions drawn from the event (30 mins)

4.0 Target Audience: Representatives of local and national Government, UN ECA, the African Union, Media, Local Communities, Faith- based entities, Civil Society Coalitions, Academia, Private sector and UN Officials, National Caritas Agencies in the 2021 VNR countries **and** Caritas Internationalis Member organisations.