



Virtual Side Event at the 8th Session of Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Theme: The Role of Local Faith- Based institutions in building back better through transitions to; green, sustainable, inclusive and resilient societies in the Africa we want.

Main event organiser: Caritas Africa. Co-organisers: Government of Ghana (TBC), Caritas Ghana, Caritas Togo, Caritas Cameroon and NCJPC Liberia

Date & Time: 2nd March 2022- 11.00am -12.30 pm Kigali Time (GMT +2)

1.0 Introduction

Caritas Africa is formally linked to the Catholic Church and, groups together 46 National Caritas organisations in 46 sub-Saharan African Countries. The National Caritas members and Diocesan (sub-National) Caritas members are part of the local communities they serve. They promote through a human-security approach: peace-building and reconciliation, environmental, social and economic justice and; respond to humanitarian emergencies. The increasing recognition of the interplay between faith and development over the years is noteworthy. As trusted members of their local communities, religious leaders and faith-based institutions are key influencers of thought and practice among many communities in Africa. They additionally contribute to SDG implementation through nexus approaches in their humanitarian-development and peace programmes. Caritas Africa is thus desirous contribute to the regional follow up of the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063; through a virtual side event will facilitate peer learning and, document transformative actions and solutions for a green, sustainable, inclusive and inclusive recovery.

2.0 Forum Objectives

- To share experiences, best practices and innovative practices on projects, processes and policies that promote a green, sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery in Africa;
- To document concrete actions and transformative solutions from Africa at the local, national and regional levels, to feed into Key messages for the 2022 UN HLPF;
- To demonstrate the range of benefits that faith-based entities bring to public-private and civil society partnerships towards the attainment of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

3.0 Overview of the programme

- Introductions and overview of the side event (**8 mins**) followed by; **Keynote Address: Mr. George Kronnisanyon Werner:** Former Liberia Minister of Education from 2015 to 2018: *Unlocking financing for SDG4 to strengthen the education system for a post-pandemic recovery in Africa (12 mins)*
- Panel discussion: **(1) Government representative in Ghana (10mins) - Lessons from good practices to realise an environmentally sustainable and inclusive recovery through management of forests and combating desertification (SDG 15); (2) Mrs Ngah Adèle Zooriphie, Statistical Engineer- National Institute of Statistics in Cameroon: Benefits drawn from effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships (10 mins) (SDG 17); (3) Mrs. Claire Regina Ameyo QUENUM (CSO Representative-Togo): The role of Local Faith Based entities in ensuring women's equal participation in decision making for COVID19 response and recovery. Lessons from Togo (SDG5) (10 mins). (4) Experience sharing and innovative perspectives** from participants and; **summary of conclusions** drawn from the event (**40 mins**)

4.0 Target Audience: Representatives of local and national Governments, UN ECA, African Union, Media, Local Communities, Faith-based entities, Civil Society Coalitions, Academia, Private sector, UN Officials, National Caritas Agencies in the 2022 VNR countries and Caritas Internationalis Member organisations.

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