



## 7th Session of the UN HPLF on Sustainable Development

### UNU-INRA and UNU-EHS side event

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#### Science to power Sustainable Development Goals - 11 years to maximize on synergies and opportunities between the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030

The 17 SDGs and associated targets projected to be achieved by 2030 are now guiding and shaping development efforts at all scales, from global to local. Understanding the relevance of science on SDGs is therefore crucial for efforts undertaken to reach these goals. The recent IPCC report on global warming of 1.5 degrees Celsius has far reaching implications for Africa and African small island states. It is a widely and long-held view that Africa is the region most impacted and will be the hardest hit by the negative impacts of climate change due to its limited adaptive capacity and the fact that its economies are heavily reliant on climate sensitive sectors.

The continent has outlined some ambitious plans in its Nationally Determined Contributions to reduce the impacts of climate change. In a region where population growth is often seen through the prism of youth unemployment and rapid urbanization, the IPCC report on 1.5°C warming presents several sectoral as well as geopolitical, economic, environmental and social challenges. The challenge is made more acute in Africa, because it is the only continent that has to implement two sets of goals - Agenda 2030 (the SDGs) and the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063. Although some of the goals slated in the two agendas are synergistic, development planners are confused about which to mainstream in their national development plans and how to address them adequately.

The UNU Institute for Natural Resources in Africa (UNU-INRA) and Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS) will, in the above-mentioned side event, advocate for the need to bring the two agreements together given the interlinkages on goals that are relevant for the realization of the Paris Agreement. Also, the event will seek to identify ways in which climate change can be mainstreamed across the two sets of goals and consider several challenges relating to water, energy, land degradation, and management of marine ecosystems. It will explore the need for a science-based approach in the realization of the two agendas, the best ways to monitor progress and address learning deficits across goals, scales and governance regimes and identify best practices in policy that can be used as signposts to support the alignment of the two agenda.

#### The overall objectives of the side events are:

1. Encourage synergies between the different workstreams (Agenda 2030, Agenda 2063 and the Paris Agreement).
2. Identify potential opportunities for research and partnerships among stakeholders.
3. Identify and analyze the specific pending issues that need to be tackled in relation to the main implementation challenges related to Agenda 2030, Agenda 2063 and the Paris Agreement.
4. Review progress on the Agenda 2030 implementation process toward achieving key goals and targets in relation to the Paris Agreement.
5. Discuss the necessity and opportunities of mainstreaming the 1.5°C Report to advance the implementation of the SDGs.

#### The expected outcomes from the events are:

1. Actions needed to further advance the implementation of Agenda 2030 with specific focus on scientific inputs that will support the achievement of its goals and objectives.
2. Effects of climate change and effectiveness of science-based practices and tools for designing and implementing evidence-based policies and programs in Africa in the context of achieving SDG goals.
3. A set of recommendations, ways and means for cooperation towards accomplishing the SDGs and implementation of action plan which will guide African countries to meet the current and emerging challenges of climate change for inclusive and sustainable development.
4. Encourage a network of partners that will engage in joined-up thinking on how the two global agreements could be closely integrated and mainstreamed into development planning