



**DEFEND • PROTECT • EMPOWER**

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## **WEEKLY DEVELOPMENT OUTLOOK**

### **“Unmasking the socio-economic trajectory of the country for Citizens”**

**By**

**Citizen in Action Southern Africa (CIASA)**

This week, the Government of Zimbabwe will be presenting its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) report at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) ON SDGs which is starting on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July to 15<sup>th</sup> of July 2021. The event seeks to review the country's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since the 2017 VNR presentation. Building on the SDGs implementation and co-ordination framework presented in 2017 VNR, the government had a mammoth task to strengthening the institutional and policy frameworks to aid in the co-ordination, implementation, monitoring and reporting of SDGs. The VNR therefore provides an opportunity for the country to track the implementation of the 17 SDGs through the national SDG Monitoring and Evaluation Framework which Zimbabwe has developed.

Post 2017 VNR, the government of Zimbabwe was urged to involve other stakeholders including the private sector, CSOs and other non-state actors. More importantly, it was also recommended that the government and its partners should facilitate the participation of communities in the SDGs in line with devolution thrust adopted by government. The National Development Strategy 1 was developed and premised on inclusive economic growth and sustainable development which dovetails well with the country's SDGs framework. However, this may remain a fallacy without sectoral plans, substantial domestic investment demonstrated through pro-people and gender sensitive national and local budgets. It is the primary responsibility of any country to mobilize resources for domestic financing of SDGs implementation.

The 2021 national SDG VNR report is expected to provide an outlook on the progress made in strengthening partnerships with development partners and non-state actors which complement the government in SDGs implementation through Leave No One Behind initiatives, Gender Mainstreaming and Integration, and Disability Inclusion. Post the 2021 VNR, there is a lot to be done in harnessing the demographic dividend by ensuring increased participation of youth and women in national and local development processes. CIASA noted the need for an enabling environment for CSOs and other likeminded stakeholders to effectively contribute towards the national development of an inclusive, equitable and sustained Zimbabwe we want.

CAISA will be following through the 2021 VNR HLPF in view to develop a post VNR Citizens Driven SDGs Acceleration Action Plan. The organization will provide highlights, insights and reflections to its membership for a collective action plan on how Zimbabwe can accelerate the progress in achieving SDGs in this decade of Action. The CIASA seeks to complement government through localized reviews with an aim to inform partners and government on community specific interventions. The Voluntary Local Reviews is a necessary ingredient to ensure full domestication and localization of the SDGs in Zimbabwe. In our view from researches on the efficacy of the Voluntary Local Reviews, it is strategic and more appropriate for CSOs to spearhead the process working closely with the government ministries and departments who are implementing agents at local levels.



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CIASA exist to provide a platform for citizens to engage and contribute in a coordinated manner, a mechanism that is critical dialogue in soliciting marginalized women's contribution towards the SDGs implementation. The organization seeks to influence national policy making with a view to creating an enabling and inclusive environment for SDGs implementation in Southern African countries through community led and driven mechanisms. In terms of SDGs implementation, monitoring and reporting, the CIASA is there to promote innovative approaches and initiatives for realizing the SDGs in all the three dimensions: social, economic and environmental. Citizen in Action Southern Africa (CIASA) is an apolitical, non-profit making and women focussed organisation established to promote a proactive community with marginalised women and girls who are empowered and committed to the sustainable development of their communities and the full realization of human rights, democracy, good governance and poverty alleviation.

#LeaveNoOneBehind #GenderEqualityandWomenEmpowerment #Inclusion

