

Ambassador Macharia Kamau About Post 2030 Development Agenda



PR of Kenya to the UN, Ambassador Macharia Kamau during presentation at UVU

Utah Valley University hosted Permanent Representative of Kenya to the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Macharia Kamau on February 9, 2017. The distinguished guest presented a lecture to the UVU students including myself on the topic: “United Nations Post 2030 Development Agenda.”

It was interesting for me to know that in 2015, 193 members of the United Nations reached an agreement during a *Sustainable Development Summit* in New York on the result of the document that contained a new agenda of sustainable development. The document was adopted later that year and ended a negotiation process that had continued for almost three years. Civil society and member countries agreed on 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) and 169 targets that focused on the elimination of poverty, promotion of people’s wellbeing, and prosperity while preserving the environment. The negotiation process was co-facilitated by the United Nations Permanent Representative of Ireland, UN Ambassador, David Donohue, and

UVU guest, United Nations Permanent Representative of Kenya, H.E. Mr. Macharia Kamau. In his lecture, Ambassador Macharia Kamau, offered reasons why people in the world should care about sustainable development, the impact of sustainable development on the world, and its implementation for the future.



Ambassador Macharia Kamau with UVU students

As noted by VIP guest, SDGs arose from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) adopted in 2001. However, the 2030 sustainable development agenda offers an entirely new framework by expanding stakeholders engaged in this action plan from a focus on developing nations to a universal focus on humanity. It rests on 17 goals and 169 targets covering social, economic, and environmental issues. During the negotiation process, it was realized that social, economic, and environmental problems were global in nature, especially poverty that remains a main goal of the 2030 agenda. As a result, the 2030 agenda seeks to address the challenges faced during the achievement of MDGs; however, most importantly, it seeks for the ways to overcome the challenges the countries face owing to increasingly interconnected social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

According to Ambassador Macharia Kamau, the 2030 sustainable development agenda offers a broad framework that will increase the ability of the society to address social, economic, and environmental challenges. First, the sustainable development agenda will stop hunger and

poverty in all their forms to ensure every human being fulfills their ability to realize equality in a healthy atmosphere. Moreover, collaborative efforts will ensure people protect the planet from deterioration through sustainable production and consumption, managing natural resources, and acting on climate changes in order to support present and future generations.

By protecting the planet, the world would show its determination to ensure everyone enjoys a happy life by ensuring people's progress does not violate nature. When people in the world prosper, humanity would promote peace and a just society that is free from war and violence. Finally, the distinguished guest argued that the sustainable agenda will encourage partnerships beyond ones established through the MDGs in implementing the goals and targets set for 2030. According to him, the 2030 sustainable development agenda is the future MDG. They began the collaboration between nations, especially between developing nations in addressing the challenges of the world and extended the SDGs to include all countries of the world.

As a result, Ambassador Macharia Kamau believes the future of implementation of sustainable development will be determined by the ability of governments, the private sector, and people to form strong partnerships. People in the world are facing many challenges, but they have different abilities to overcome them. Therefore, sustainable development is possible if everybody cooperates in order to solve the challenges and problems in the society and ensure everybody lives a happy life.

It was very interesting presentation of such a high level UN official and individual. Ambassador Macharia Kamau raised an awareness among many students in the audience about the importance of the UN 2030 Agenda to build a better future for all of them and encouraged them to be active contributors to that process.

Abdulmajeed Alahmadi, UVU Student