Panel: Effective Institutions, Capacities and Partnerships for Implementing SDGs: A Provincial Perspective

As provincial governments gear towards building capacities and resources for implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there is an increasing need to share experiences and learn from innovative strategies envisaged for their localisation; data systems for monitoring, evaluation and accountability; and alignment of provincial plans (to implement them) with budgetary priorities. The success of sustainable development initiatives at the sub-national level is critically dependent upon empowerment of local administrations through appropriate legislation and policies, strengthening of provincial finance award mechanisms and introduction of results-based management. Improving the data collection mechanism for effectively and regularly monitoring the progress on SDGs will be essential. Therefore, independence of statistical data agencies in generating a true picture of progress towards SDGs may require a legislative cover.

In view of this, the role of the civil society organisations (CSOs), academia and think tanks is critically important. The communities of practice will need to update knowledge and devise out-of-box strategies to build capacities for institutional management and accountability at all tiers of the government, leverage big data for official statistics and SDGs, mobilise local-level support from all stakeholders for a shared vision towards sustainable development. The CSOs will also have the responsibility to mobilise the media for highlighting challenges and opportunities provided by the SDGs. The media will also play a role in sensitising youth regarding individual responsibilities towards sustainable development. Finally, it is important to crowd source capacities from the private sector to augment service delivery in key sectors e.g. education, health, water and sanitation. The private sector can provide inclusive jobs, if appropriate policies and an enabling environment is in place.

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