



SAHEL



Global Launch

“A Regeneration – Implementing the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS): UNDP’s Contribution”

9 December 2021
9.00 – 10.30 a.m (EST)

Concept Note for Session II:
Forging new development pathways – What will it take to regenerate the Sahel?

Background

Reports on the Sahel region, often depict a land prone to varied challenges, ranging from crisis, violent attacks, climate vulnerabilities to stark humanitarian needs. However, this represents one aspect of reality in the 10 countries of the Sahel.

In the eyes of those living in the sub-region, the Sahel also abounds in limitless resources that are yet to be fully tapped, and which could yield a more prosperous life for millions in the region and beyond. The varied and breathtaking landscapes littered in this region are filled with immense mineral treasures; the climate and environment potential are propitious to large-scale renewable energy centers and traditions are rich in participatory traditional governance structures. The greatest potential lies in its young and ingenious population, diverse societies, and rich identities.

In close consultation with wide-ranging stakeholders in the Sahel, UNDP has taken an unsparing look at our efforts to date, produced updated analyses of specific development challenges and opportunities, and developed a development pathway based on the contextual realities of this unique region. We believe that Sahelians wield the power to unleash transformative actions towards the thriving Sahel that we all know is

possible. Our renewed approach based on proven and tested programmes is encapsulated in "A Regeneration - Implementing the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel: UNDP's contribution.

"A Regeneration" prioritizes scaled up actions on three key development catalysts – Governance, Youth, and Renewable Energy. Governance is at the heart of rebuilding social contracts and therefore, is the critical engine to drive inclusive and resilient development and transformative leadership. Youth, because young people constitute over 65% of the population, are the engine of growth and future leaders, and therefore solutions for the region must be couched with, for and by young people. Finally, we offer to focus on Renewable Energy, because energy is a key development catalyst that can propel realization of literally all SDGs. To do this, we will support the governments to enable massive investments to close the energy gap. If we lift the energy access from 51% to 100%, that alone could transform the region. All interventions are delivered with an eye on prevention, stabilization, transformation and sustainability.

On this basis, we have an ambition to scale up and accelerate actions that will help realize greater opportunities to plant seeds that will grow into peace, prosperity and regeneration in the Sahel.

Outline



The global launch of "A Regeneration" will be held on 9 December 2021 at 9:00-10:00am EST (New York). The first session of 45 minutes will feature opening remarks from key Principals and Sahelians on the aspirations and vision of the Sahel promise. Session II will feature a panelist discussion to dissect innovative development pathways based on the foundational roots and unique potential of the Sahel to project into a future of peace and prosperity.

Panelists will therefore debate on what it will take to turn the tide and create a new sustainable trajectory for the people of the Sahel. The conversations are expected to challenge the status quo, project possibilities, and discuss proven solutions. Panelists will be expected to reimagine pathways that will

move the region from dependency on aid and humanitarian action to ending need and creating wealth and human capital in the Sahel. The idea is to present a pragmatic and solution oriented lens to the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus.

The discussions will also be the opportunity to provide visibility for UNDP's approach and impact on lives by facilitating Sahelian testimonials, as well as highlighting the crucial importance of partnerships for conceiving and delivering programs in the Sahel, with Sahelians in the driving seat. Representatives from the sub-region, as well as youth, women, local actors, and private sector entrepreneurs will be invited to speak along high-level officials from Sahelian countries, UN representatives and development partners.

Speakers



H. E. Dr. Issa Doubragne,
Minister of Economy,
Chad



Mr. Ousman Touray,
Ambassador of The Pan
African Heritage World



Ms. Ifeyinwa Ugochukwu,
CEO, Tony Elumelu
Foundation



Dr. Alioune Sall,
Executive Director,
African Futures Institutes

Expected outcomes



- » Enhanced visibility and appreciation of the Sahel potential beyond the security and humanitarian crisis to one of opportunity
- » Spotlight local, concrete, and innovative solutions led and owned by Sahelians at the forefront of peace and development efforts
- » Strength of UNDP's partnerships highlighted

