



Vodacom Group's position on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

Over the past 30 years, the world has seen huge social improvements and technological progress. There has been unprecedented economic growth and hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty. We are all benefiting from a life-changing digital revolution that could help solve our most pressing social and environmental challenges. Yet despite these successes, the current model of development is deeply flawed. Signs of its failure and imperfections in today's markets are everywhere. Natural disasters triggered by climate change have doubled in frequency since the 1980s. Violence and armed conflict cost the world the equivalent of nine percent of GDP, while lost biodiversity and ecosystem damage cost an estimated three percent. We continue to invest in high-carbon infrastructure at a rate that could commit us to irreversible, immensely damaging climate change. Social inequality and youth unemployment is worsening in countries across the world, while on average; women are still paid 25 percent less than men for comparable work.

With this in mind, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were created to transform the world, but in order for the goals to be achieved, national governments, the private sector and civil society all need to work together. With the launch of the SDGs, Africa in particular now has the unprecedented opportunity to accelerate inclusive growth through the delivery of the goals and bring countries, businesses and people together to embark on a new path towards a more sustainable and better planet for us all.

Vodacom's Response to the SDGs

As a leading African communications company, Vodacom has a strategic role to play in driving sustainable development through providing a wide range of services including mobile and fixed voice, messaging, data, financial, enterprise IT and converged services to over 110 million customers on the continent.

In April 2019, Vodacom made a decision to focus on the company's purpose of 'connecting for a better future', which can be achieved through improving the lives of our communities and halving our environmental impact. We see a clear connection between creating value for our company and improving the lives and wellbeing of people living in the countries in which we operate. We recognize that as we create a sustainable future for our business we have an ethical responsibility towards giving back to society, protecting the environment, safeguarding our customers' information, uplifting and creating opportunities for women and black owned small medium enterprises (SMMEs) through our value chain and investing in our people, who are the bedrock of our company.

Innovative technologies help to drive sustainable development in all sectors including education, health, finance, and agriculture and ICT is truly an enabler to achieve all 17 of the SDGs. From the outset, we realized that even though Vodacom's technology has the potential to have an impact on all 17 SDGs, the company preferred an approach, which focuses on the SDGs where its technology, products and services have the greatest impact i.e. in the following eight SDG's:

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Company Secretary: A Dhanasir
Reg. No. 1993/003367/07



Vodacom aims to continue to invest in its contribution towards achieving these eight goals whilst at the same time acknowledging the importance of the enabling potential of digital technologies in achieving the other nine goals. Even though these eight goals remain relevant to Vodacom currently, the company is mindful of the opportunities to have a wider impact and bigger role to play in the achievement of the other goals over time. The evolution of our involvement in the SDG's will be guided by the changing landscape in which we operate as well as the issues and concerns raised by our stakeholders. Furthermore, the inter-relatedness and inter-connectedness of the goals will ensure that our contribution to these eight Goals will also lead to benefit and value created in the other Goals.

For more information on Vodacom's contribution and impact on the UN SDGs refer to the latest report on the link below:

<https://www.vodacom.com/sdgs.php>

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