



water & sanitation

Department:
Water and Sanitation
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INTERNET ARTICLE

UN Environment workshop calls for more awareness of SDG goals

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Chief Researcher and Exxaro Chair in Business and Climate Change, Professor Godwell Nhamo, said there was a need for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to permeate all sectors of society, calling on civil society organisations to play their part in tackling issues that stifle development.

Speaking at the United Nations Environment Stakeholders Workshop, which was held in Pretoria on Tuesday, 07 February 2017, Professor Mhamo told the delegates that no one should be left behind, urging them to create space to ensure that the Sustainable Development calls were achieved.

The SDGs are a universal call to action through which the United Nation hopes to end poverty and chart a sustainable development path.

Mhamo said organisations should put emphasis on an area that they could champion with the aim of achieving specific goals, adding that this would ensure that the SDG goals do not only existed in theory, but that they were concretely realised.

He said: “It is time that as various key stakeholders we did more about the domestication of the SDGs because they are not coming out clearly. We don’t hear enough about them as news items. You don’t hear enough debates about them in Parliament.”

Mhamo said there was a need to elevate the SDGs into an indaba where stakeholders could get together to map a way on how to implement these goals, citing goal six on water and sanitation as one of the issues on which entities should work.

“As the Department of Water and Sanitation you need to have an indaba to talk about SDG as to how this SDG links to your programmes,” said Mhamo.

He said although the SDG find expression in the government’s National Development Plan (NDP), there was a lot of work that should be done to make sure that communities knew what the SDGs were and played a role in implementing them.

Plastics SA’s Director of Sustainability, Douw Steyn, said his organisation would look at its future strategies and how they aligned these SDG’s seventeen goals into their work.

Steyn said they needed to work out how to make these goals part of their sustainability strategies going forward and that there was a need for other organisations to play a part in making sure that the SDGs were achieved as part of their programmes.

Naledi Masilo from the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), an organisation which focuses on issues of development in communities, said they were excited to take part in the workshop as it gave them an opportunity to get to grips with different perspectives around the SDGs and how the youth could contribute in achieving them.

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