The Danish United Nations Association North Jutland (UNA) and Aalborg University invites AAU-students and other interested parties to

**SDGs in an African Context Conference**

**Place:** Aalborg University Aud. Kroghstræde 3  
**Time:** Friday, September 24 from 09:00 – 16:00  
**Register at** [https://fnforbundetnordjylland.nemtilmeld.dk/1/](https://fnforbundetnordjylland.nemtilmeld.dk/1/) no later than Wed. 22. September 2021 at 12:00

**About the conference**  
The issues concerning transformation to sustainable and green production to reduce greenhouse emissions as well as the need for narrowing social and economic inequalities locally and internationally are more urgent than ever.

The UNA advocates that the Danish Development Assistance should give highest priority to implementation of the SDGs in our partner countries. We are, therefore, organizing a conference about the SDG’s from an African perspective to highlight the needs, barriers and opportunities now the Covid-19 pandemic has hit the world.

We hope that the conference can give answers to questions such as:  
- How are the SDGs prioritized from African perspectives?  
- What are the main obstacles to implementation?  
- How has the global climate crisis impacted the implementation of the SDGs?  
- What are the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the SDGs’ implementation?  
- What kind of cooperation and support do the African countries prioritize and request?

Speakers will include researchers and academics from African countries, Denmark and other countries, as well as representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Students from the studies of DIR; ES; LISE of Aalborg University are urged to participate and has for that reason been granted a schedule-free day.

**More information**  
- Follow us at @FNForbundetNordjylland for updates about this and upcoming events  
- The Conference is part of our project “2030 NOW - THINK / CREATE / ACT”

The conference is supported by CISU-Civil Society in Development
Programme

09:00 Welcome and presentation of programme with moderator, Mr. Holger Bernt Hansen, Professor emeritus
  • Opening Speech by the Danish Minister of Development Cooperation and Minister for Nordic Cooperation Mr. Flemming Møller Mortensen (via video link)
  • African youth change agent from Kenya Ms. Wevyn Muganda (via video link)
  • UNDPs Regional Director for Africa Dr. Jide Okeke (via video link)

09:50 Session 1: Climate, and demographic changes in Africa and implications of Covid-19
  • Mr. Stig Jensen, Associate Professor, Centre of African Studies, University of Copenhagen
  • Mr. Rasmus Stuhr Jacobsen, Executive Director, CARE Denmark

11:00 Session 2: The Economic, Social and Political challenges in implementing the SDGs
  • Mr. Jens Christian Wandel, Chairperson, Danish United Nations Association, and former Special advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General of the United Nations
  • Mr. Abdi Yuya Ahmad, Head of Department at Adama Science and Technology University (ASTU) Ethiopia & Postdoctoral fellow at Aalborg University (via video link)
  • Mr. Bjoern Foerde, Former Head of UN, Botswana and UNDP Centre for Democratic Government, Oslo

12:30 Lunch

13:15 Session 3: The Private sector and the SDGs
  Mr. Christian Friis Bach, former Danish Minister of International Cooperation and former Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (via video link)
  Professor Oyebanji Oyelaran-Oyeyinka, Professor and Senior Special Adviser on Industrialization to the President of AfDB (via video link)

14:30 Session 4: International actors and UN involvement in the implementation of the SDGs in Africa
  • Mr. Stephan Schönemann, Ambassador, Vice Director for Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
  • Mr. Thomas Mandrup, Associate Professor at the Royal Danish Defence College, Phd and MA in Africa Studies

15:30 Questions and conclusions

16:00 Closing of the conference