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What interested me most during the UNCTAD conference are the way the seats were arranged and the very nice carpet and for the first time I used the translator's ear phones. The security was very strict but we were allowed to pass when we showed the UNCTAD cards that we were given. The way people came from all over for the meeting. The meeting started well with the welcoming speech from Mr. Tespaju who really explained to us about the Mandate of UNCTAD being to promote the development-friendly integration of developing countries into the world economy. And the role of the Civil Society mediating between the individual and the state. Analysts have demonstrated empirically how both states and citizens can benefit when a dense web of civil society organizations mediates the relationship between them. The performance of government programs is improved and the impact of state policy is enhanced and made more widespread when, instead of interacting with citizens as atomized individuals, state agencies deal with relatively organized citizens' groups. Citizens are also able to derive greater benefits from government programs and from market opportunities when their individual efforts are organized and made more cohesive by CSOs.

The whole meeting had such an impact on me positively in the sense that I was able to understand why things have been going wrong in our country and some of the factors which have contributed to poverty in our countries including:

Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) where people invest their money in other countries and instead of them giving interest to our country they give it to other countries. This makes our country continue in poverty if nothing is done to stop them from what they are doing.

Policy Space where poor countries will remain poor if they are unable to export their products.

Global Warming that people are happy increasing the green-house effect because they don't know the negative impacts that it is causing us and our country

Gender inequality where women work very hard but are paid very little, and all the other issues concerning women who are doing business. It also includes the trafficking of women.

I was also encouraged when they started talking about **The Addis Ababa Action Agenda which will help us to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.

To achieve these goals, countries also agreed to new initiatives, including:

Technology—Countries agreed to establish a Technology Facilitation Mechanism at the Sustainable Development Summit in September 2015 to boost collaboration among governments, civil society, private sector, the scientific community, United Nations entities and other stakeholders to support the sustainable development goals.

Infrastructure—Countries agreed to establish a Global Infrastructure Forum to identify and address infrastructure gaps, highlight opportunities for investment and cooperation, and work to ensure that projects are environmentally, socially and economically sustainable.



Social protection—Countries adopted a new social compact in favour of the poor and vulnerable groups, through the provision of social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors.

Health—Countries agreed to consider taxing harmful substances to deter consumption and to increase domestic resources. They agreed that taxes on tobacco reduce consumption and could represent an untapped revenue stream for many countries.

Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises—Countries committed to promoting affordable and stable access to credit for smaller enterprises. They also pledged to develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment and implement the International Labour Organization Global Jobs Pact by 2020.

Foreign aid—Countries recommitted to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance, and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent for least developed countries.

A package of measures for the poorest countries—Developed countries commit to reverse the decline in aid to the poorest countries, with the European Union committing to increase its aid to least developed countries to 0.2 per cent of gross national income by 2030. They also agree to adopt or strengthen least developed countries investment promotion regimes, including with financial and technical support. Governments also aim to operationalize the technology bank for this group of countries by 2017.

Taxation—The Agenda calls for strengthening support for the work of the UN Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters to improve its effectiveness and operational capacity, and the engagement with the Economic and Social Council. It emphasizes the importance of inclusive cooperation and dialogue among national tax authorities.

Climate Change—The Action Agenda calls on developed countries to implement their commitment to a goal of jointly mobilizing USD100 billion per year by 2020 from a wide variety of sources to address the needs of developing countries. Countries also committed to phase out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies that lead to wasteful consumption.

As Roselyne who attended the meeting, and the UNCTAD motto being moving from **Decision to Action**, I felt that it will start with me in my small ways. I will be able to start from where I come from, my village. They are mostly farmers and they produce very little whereby they are not able to save anything for tomorrow. I will encourage them to start small businesses where by they will be able to start saving even if it is Ksh.100 a day it will make a difference in their lives.

That they start investing in giving their children good knowledge. In that way they will be able to help them in future. I have been talking to them when I go home for holiday, but this time round it will be more than what I have been telling them.

I was really encouraged after the meeting. I saw that it is possible that by 2030 we will be able to achieve the SDGS if I feel that it is my responsibility in my small ways to see how I will be able to implement them. I am very grateful for the opportunity I was given to attend the conference and I'm optimistic that things will change. I will keep in touch with the people I was with at the conference and I will seek for more ways to implement the SDGS as an individual for it has to start with me.

