

## **A CONCEPT NOTE TO ORGANIZE A GLOBAL DIALOGUE AND LEARNING EVENT ON DEMOCRACY AND SUSTAINABILITY**

### **1.0 Introduction**

Somero Uganda is a national Non-Government Organization founded in 2009 with a vision of ‘A Uganda where children and young women live a sustainable life free from exploitation’ with a mission to promote and protect the rights of vulnerable children and young women through education, livelihood development and health initiatives. One of our pillars is education and we are a member of National and international Education Networks among others.

Somero Uganda is a member of the Learn2change a Global Network of Education Activists [www.learn2change-network.org](http://www.learn2change-network.org). With support from a German Organization Association of Lower Saxony Education Initiative (VNB), The Learn2change Network is organizing a Hybrid Symposium on the “Role of Civil Society for Democracy and Sustainability” with the aim to explore and document in global dialogue and with global learning how democratic participation supports sustainable processes and vice versa. The Symposium will take place in 3 countries including Germany, Tunisia and Uganda but on different days i.e. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November respectively. The Symposium will be both physical (for invited people within the country) and online (for those outside the country and other interested Parties-please register on the website above).

### **2.0 Background to the Global and Learning Event**

Hardly anyone today will question the sense and necessity of democracy and sustainability for a good life for all people in the world. Nevertheless, in reality we are experiencing wars, poverty, and hunger, an increase in social inequalities, environmental destruction and massive effects of climate change. Fatal living conditions force countless people to flee and migrate. For democracy to respond to the global inequalities and issues of sustainability, it has to be supported through citizenship education and public awareness that enables individuals to become responsible and engaged citizens. This requires a comprehensive and far-reaching transformations and fundamental shifts in perspective. Such fundamental changes require multi-

stakeholders' engagements including Government, Civil society organizations, private sectors and Community members in an inclusive way.

The symposium/dialogue is part of an international e-series of three events on the topic in Germany, Tunisia and Uganda. All events are connected by hybrid elements, so that people from different countries can participate and global perspectives can be directly incorporated. The event series takes place within the framework of the project Our Voices Our Planet – Global Dialogue and Learning for Democracy and Sustainability see <https://learn2change-network.org/our-voices-our-planet/>.

Considering the critical role of academic institutions in training human resources, generating knowledge through research, and community engagement necessary for the country's sustainable development, Somero Uganda is working with Department of Development Studies in the Faculty of Social sciences Kyambogo University to facilitate a hybrid dialogue and learning event focusing on critical development questions such as;

- What kind of education to need to achieve a democratic, just and sustainable transformation?
- How can civil society organizations contribute to education for sustainable development?
- How can we increase the voices of People living with disability in a sustainable democratic process?
- What political and legal framework conditions are needed to secure and expand civil society scope for action - locally and globally?
- How can we increase children and youth's voice in environmental democracy?
- What kind of education do we need to enhance climate change mitigation?

### **3.0 Main Objective**

To explore and document in global dialogue and with global learning how democratic participation supports sustainable processes and vice versa.

### **4.0 Methodology**

A hybrid dialogue and learning event involving physical and online participation will be organized by a joint team of staff from Somero Uganda and Department of Development Studies

Kyambogo University. The activity will be facilitated and moderated by academicians and activists that will interact with different groups of stakeholders mobilized to attend the event. Selected speakers from academics, civil society and line ministries will make presentations, followed by plenary and group discussions. A critical companion from Tunisia will attend to bring in a global perspective. The proceedings of the dialogue will be recorded and shared for further access by a wider population on <http://www.learn2change-network.org/our-voices-our-planet> and other social media platforms. The conference shall be graced by the **Government representative** and the Dean of department of Development studies Kyambogo University. Online, the delegates from Learn2change networks including Germany and Tunisia among other learn2change member countries shall participate.