

Regional Capacity-Building Workshop on Implementation of the United Nations Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development in Africa

Strengthening National Institutional Capacities for the United Nations Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development and African Union Agenda 2063

**27 - 29 October 2022
Cape Town, South Africa**

WORKSHOP REPORT

Strengthening National Institutional Capacities for the UN Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063

Cape Town, 27-29 October 2022

Introduction

Since 2019, the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)'s Division for Public Institutions and Digital Governance (DPIDG), Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development (OISC) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Secretariat have been engaged in implementing the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of the AU-Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ including the organisation of two continental workshops that targeted senior policymakers and SDG focal points from across Africa.² These events were designed to enhance institutional capacities of national governments to promote effective governance for sustainable development and to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Africa Union Agenda 2063.

Building on these previous events, the third annual DESA/APRM workshop on “*Strengthening National Institutional Capacities for the UN Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063*” was held in Cape Town, South Africa on 27-29 October 2022. The workshop was organized by UN DESA and APRM in partnership with the Government of South Africa and UNDP and was attended by 54 participants from 18 African countries (Benin, Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe).

The workshop was held in response to ongoing demand from African countries for expert guidance and further opportunities for an exchange of experiences and peer learning on building national institutional frameworks. The mid-term review of the 2030 Agenda which will be held during the 2023 high-level political forum, as well as preparations for the 2023 SDG Summit and the second ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 provided the backdrop for the workshop.

A summary of the key messages and a synopsis of workshop proceedings follow. The agenda of the workshop is annexed at the end of this report.

I. Summary of key messages

The cascading impacts of global crises have put the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 under threat. Africa's economic growth has slowed considerably, as the world contends with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, rising inflation, increasing debt, conflicts and consequences of the war in Ukraine. African countries have been disproportionately affected, and the confluence of these interlinked crises has reversed of years of progress across the continent, especially in those countries where fiscal space required to mount effective government responses remains weak. The following key points were made during the interactive discussions of the workshop:

1. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs as well as the aspirations of AU Agenda 2063 are achievable, and continue to serve as a call to action at the national, local and regional levels. Practical steps must be taken at all levels to ensure that all African countries can make progress towards both Agendas, as these provide the blueprint for overcoming the ongoing multiple global crises and transforming societies, moving beyond palliative responses to short-term needs and setting the foundation for a sustainable future.

1. Available at: <https://repository.uneca.org/bitstream/handle/10855/24248/b1188311x.pdf?sequence=3&isAllowed=y>
2. 2019, Pretoria: https://publicadministration.un.org/africa_regional_workshop/; 2021, Cape Town: <https://sdgs.un.org/events/workshop-accelerating-implementation-2030-agenda-and-au-agenda-2063-africa-building>; 2022. Further joint work was done in Abuja: <https://www.aprm-au.org/au-capacity-building-workshop-on-africas-voluntary-national-reviews-for-the-hlpf-2022-and-domestication-of-agenda-2063/>; and in Kigali: <https://www.aprm-au.org/publications/aprm-engagement-in-africas-regional-forum-for-sustainable-development-for-building-forward-better-a-green-inclusive-and-resilient-Africa-rwanda/>.

2. The mid-term review of the 2030 Agenda and preparations for the 2023 SDG Summit will benefit from a strong set of messages to effectively communicate African priorities. The second ten-year implementation plan of AU Agenda 2063 is also fast approaching, and with these milestones there is a renewed sense of purpose and determination across the region to achieve progress through practical, country-driven actions that are proven to be effective.

3. Governments are seeking new ways to improve their ability to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. SDG 16 is both an outcome and enabler of sustainable development, and its importance underscores the need to ensure that institution building is integrated throughout the process of implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. African countries can accelerate progress by analysing the interlinkages between SDG 16 and all other SDGs, and define where these connections can be most effective when defining national priorities, policies and plans to eradicate poverty, strengthen inclusivity and reduce inequalities. Recognizing and celebrating culture, for example, is an important vehicle for creating peaceful societies.

4. Delivering on national aspirations to rebuild trust, both in political processes and administrative action, requires strong institutions to anchor development efforts and build resilience towards future shocks and vulnerabilities. The issue of building or rebuilding trust in government and public institutions, as well as in actions of the private sector, is important for the success of development initiatives and policies that tackle poverty and inequality.

5. Transformational leadership that engages with all of society is essential. Citizens must have confidence in their leadership, and leaders must be accountable to their citizens, with mechanisms that enable them to see and to check if leaders are living up to their responsibilities. Leadership means having the right people in the right places, with the right skills to be able to perform the right tasks. Ongoing public administration training should be required to ensure that public institutions are adequately capacitated at all times.

6. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for strong Governments that are responsive, in charge of inclusive social policies, actualize their constitutions as part of their inherent design, commit to a “citizens’ government”, and involve civil society through national-level councils with Ministers as focal points. The provision of universal social protection should be done in the context of empowering people, not making them more dependent on the State. More could be done to strengthen the science-policy interface as an element of sound public policymaking.

7. Some African countries have made progress in reducing gender-based disparities, but it is clear that progress requires political will to put efficient mechanisms in place for achieving women’s empowerment and gender equality targets that are rooted in national legislation, including access to quality education. Investing fully in education and health sectors has been proven to reduce inequalities.

8. African countries are seeking to mobilize domestic resources and sustainably reduce poverty in a way that is socially inclusive, with many in agreement that official development assistance (ODA) is insufficient and unsustainable. Governments may unlock available financing in the form of sovereign wealth funds, pension funds, and natural resource extraction, among others; however, they also need the institutional capacity to ensure that proper management of these public financial assets are put to productive use for Africa’s development, and are not lost in a long chain of transactions or become part of illicit financial flows.

9. Africa is leading the global conversation around the need to reform international financial frameworks, and will continue to advocate for action on recommendations related to financial accountability, transparency and integrity for sustainable development (FACTI report), including legislation on tax avoidance, codes of conduct, and transparent beneficiaries. Transfer pricing and financial crimes by multinational corporations should also be addressed.

10. Public institutions should be cyclically evaluated and strengthened to promote new governance norms and shift to transformative pathways. Comprehensive governance and institutional analysis that lead to the development of integrated national institution building frameworks, similar to successful Integrated National Financing Frameworks that have been developed in many African countries, could be helpful in accelerating progress towards the SDGs in accordance with national priorities.

11. Some African governments are improving the integration of national financial frameworks and statistical systems. Many are currently grappling with the benefits and challenges of digitalization, which is becoming increasingly important in capacity building.

12. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed that institutions are disjointed, and must be connected and more transparent in order to ensure timely access to disaggregated data and statistics. Robust, reliable and disaggregated data underpin Governments' ability to measure progress, and there is a growing need to address the potential use of transformative information technologies. Government leaders are seeking to better understand how integrated technologies can be applied to digitalization of public sector processes, and how policymakers can better understand data.

13. National and sub-national committees of development planners and statisticians are often underfunded, and innovation is needed to strengthen the analysis and use of collected data. Private sector production of big data and information technologies must be user-friendly to reach those who are at risk of being left behind, and data should not be proprietary.

14. UN DESA, APRM and other regional partners will continue to explore the possibility of supporting more systematic approaches for assessing institutional capabilities for SDG monitoring and implementation with whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, building on the technical work already being done through use of tools such as integrated national financing frameworks and integrated planning and reporting toolkits.

15. There is a renewed sense of commitment to strengthening implementation of the eleven principles of effective governance for sustainable development ('the CEPA principles'), which were developed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in 2018. The CEPA principles assure solid and positive linkages between the institution-building objectives of the 2030 Agenda and all 17 SDGs. Efforts are being made to ensure the application and integration of the CEPA principles into national development plans and to seek appropriate ways to utilize available tools to achieve institutional effectiveness, accountability and inclusiveness for sustainable development.

16. The Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) prepared and presented by 21 African countries at the 2022 high-level political forum (HLPF) provide details on interdisciplinary approaches and priority pathways to accelerate actions for building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic that recognize both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 as interlinked frameworks for a sustainable and resilient recovery.

17. The undertaking of VNRs has been beneficial for all countries, especially those reporting at the high-level political forum for the second and third time. Subsequent reports result in better domestication and alignment of the SDGs into national planning and budgeting processes, innovative financing mechanisms, strengthened partnerships, and new ways of leveraging technology for the collection of data and its alignment with key indicators. However, more work remains to be done in all these areas, along with increasing accountability for SDG implementation, scaling-up domestic resources, strengthening stakeholder engagement, and ensuring that meaningful collaboration strengthens institutions.

18. Engaging local and regional governments and communities is essential for an inclusive implementation of both Agendas with the aim of leaving no one behind. Localizing the 2030 Agenda

and SDGs and Agenda 2063 means fully integrating them in the design, implementation and monitoring of sub-national plans.

19. A growing number of African countries are now conducting Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and promoting VNR-VLR linkages. These efforts are contributing to an increase in sub-national ownership, representation, stakeholder engagement, and opportunities to orient local authorities on the importance of conducting VLRs, and strengthening collaboration and capacity building in reporting. Use of local languages in raising awareness and providing information on SDGs is important and effective.

20. Inclusive multi-level and multi-sectoral partnerships to reduce poverty and inequality using whole-of-society approaches and solutions that matter to people's lives are essential to achieve national sustainable development objectives. "Home-grown" solutions that amplify the voices of youth—as they are the ones who will be assessing progress in 2030 and 2063—can overcome challenges and create understanding and confidence.

21. The 2023 SDG Summit that will be convened on 19-20 September 2023, during the United Nations General Assembly high-level week will reaffirm the international community's collective will to achieve the transformative vision of the 2030 Agenda. It will be attuned to the enthusiasm of local communities and others on the ground who are demanding action, and will re-ignite a sense of hope and enthusiasm through the creation of new partnerships, increased institutional coordination, and engagement from all countries.

22. In the process leading up to the 2023 SDG Summit, calls were made for an African common position to be developed, with inputs from all stakeholders, including academia from the region pointing the way forward. Regional platforms such as the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development can further define key messages and decide how to present African priorities to the HLPF in July. Additional steps can be taken to engage stakeholders and raise local voices, so the focus is not only on the political outcome.

23. A common position would be centered on good political will. It would ask how Africa could learn from other regions and from its own experiences through leadership and partnerships. The role of universities should be at the forefront of engaging students and putting the SDGs into practice through education and resource mobilization, including more scholarships for public civil servants in Africa.

24. To move forward, African countries could start with low hanging fruit to build confidence and work toward bigger game changing solutions. Study tours targeting policymakers and teacher exchanges between countries have been helpful in examining existing advantages in the region and leveraging them for increased collaboration.

25. There should be a common position on African statistical systems, with CEPA principles guiding the way. Digitalization should be recognized as a tool that could help Africa accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, through public sector processes with existing resources, to digitalize trade integration using existing systems, and to develop better data systems using existing technologies and resources.

26. More could be done to strengthen the community of planning across Africa, through communication and media engagement for the SDGs. A common position could address how Africa could strengthen the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), tap the potential of the private sector, and examine the role of the diaspora in financing. Bilateral relations that exist between African countries could put resources and capital to use through unrestricted movement and diplomatic relations to enable smooth migration.

II. Summary of the proceedings

During the **opening session**, speakers reaffirmed the importance of building robust, inclusive and resilient public institutions, particularly with increasing adverse effects of climate change, the severe and disparate exposure to the health crisis that was wrought by the COVID-19 pandemic, and regional economic segmentations. Speakers reaffirmed that strong public institutions were at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063. They also reiterated the significance of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development, which were developed by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and endorsed by ECOSOC in 2018 for institutional strengthening. Speakers emphasized that due to the continent's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and other shocks, institutional capacities to mobilize adequate financial resources and adopt effective strategies for mitigation and adaptation were required. It was underscored that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. This can only be achieved through sound policies and inclusive institutions that have the capacity to reach the most vulnerable members of our societies.

H.E. Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission, stressed the importance of incorporating both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063 into national development plans; and the need for allocation of sufficient funding for these plans. She also noted that full engagement with a wide range of stakeholders such as civil society, academia, and private sector is imperative to accelerate the people-centred inclusive approach as a central pillar of sustainable development.

Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, UN DESA, highlighted the importance of a systematic approach to strengthening national institutions for the SDGs. He also stressed the imperative of strengthening inter-institutional communication and collaboration including the need for inclusive whole-of-society approaches and the benefits of horizontal and vertical integration for implementation of both Agendas.

H.E. Mr. Collen Kelapile, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the UN, and Ambassador Extraordinary and Global Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries, emphasised that challenges in financing for development, making it clear that efficient domestic resource mobilization through tax collection and stemming the tide of illicit financial flows require strong and competent institutional capacities. The attraction of investment, as well as external financing in the form of official development assistance and sustainable debt, will require trust in domestic institutions that drive political and economic governance. An interconnected and mutually reinforcing relationship between peace, sustainable development as well as human rights was highlighted.

Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University and Chair, UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), noted that building public institutions called for political will, a change of mindsets and the sound management of public resources. She noted that recovery measures should focus on reopening and rebuilding economies in a sustainable manner, including by providing assistance to countries in managing debt levels and inflation and investing in essential public services. Emphasizing the need for effective governance, evidence-based integrated and coherent policy and planning frameworks, she highlighted the importance of implementing both Agendas at local levels and stressed that linkages between the Voluntary local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) needed to be strengthened.

Mr. Thulas Nxesi, Acting Minister of Public Service and Administration, South Africa, officially opened the workshop and highlighted key challenges on the continent, including labour migration. He stated that the 2020-2025 plan of South Africa's Department of Public Service and Administration was guided by a list of priorities which have a strong resemblance to the CEPA principles. Political stability and strong leadership were needed to ensure the full implementation of both Agendas.

The **first session** of the workshop emphasized that Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 are both key strategic frameworks for socioeconomic development in Africa, and that while African countries are galvanizing national efforts to accelerate implementation of both Agendas, progress towards many of goals remains slow and in some cases, progress has been reversed. A key question highlighted in this section was **how the African continent could move from a funding model to a financing model of development, with competitive investment that simultaneously drives growth and development**. It was noted that Africa has wealth in the form of sovereign wealth and pension funds, and from natural resource extraction, among others. An important issue was how to turn the assets in Africa into active capital, financing the implementation of both Agendas; and how to harness development and transform the narrative and to unlock Africa's own resources for sustainable development on the continent. National governments need the institutional capacity to ensure proper management of public financial assets so that they are not lost in a long chain of transactions or become part of illicit financial flows.

The African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of the AU-Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was highlighted as a key tool and strategic initiative for the continent. Speakers from Kenya and South Africa provided their national perspectives and experience on accelerating both Agendas. The Kenyan and South African Constitutions have a range of provisions that provide an enabling framework for the building of strong, transparent, effective and independent institutions. The lack of alignment, integration and sustainability remained a challenge for the National Planning Commission of South Africa during its review of the implementation the National Development Plan for South Africa.

Also highlighted in this session was the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process, with 53 out of 54 African countries having prepared and presented at least one VNR at the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) to assess progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Since 2016, VNRs have demonstrated concrete and tangible progress by African countries, including identification of challenges and areas where more needs to be done. The VNR process documents the development of inclusive institutions through the creation of national sustainable development councils and other coordination mechanisms for development partners, including representation of stakeholder groups, local communities and the private sector.

Discussions focused on inclusion and the involvement of women and youth in the institutional framework as well as ethics, transparency and combating corruption. Africa needs to turn some of its challenges into opportunities, for example by optimising the potential of the use of the continent's one trillion dollar 'sleeping' capital and insurance funds to finance sustainable development. National governments in Africa need to improve the ease of doing business and support micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs). The APRM was applauded for its engagement with African member states which in the last years has significantly improved.

The **second session** of the workshop focused on strengthening institutions to recover and move beyond the COVID-19 pandemic, examining key actions being taken by African Governments to implement inclusive, effective and accountable institutions and raise ownership of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Participants analysed how to further strengthen public institutions, making them more inclusive and participatory, and examined how to empower institutions to handle shocks and disasters.

Speakers noted that capable institutions at all levels and in all sectors are key. Strong institutions result in equality and trust. The issue of building or rebuilding trust in government, as well as in actions of the private sector, is important for the success of initiatives and policies that tackle poverty and inequality. Effective public institutions need transformative actions that can promote and support new governance norms. Cross-cutting issues, such as public budgeting, financial management, ethics and accountability are all ways to transform institutions.

Speakers focused on efforts that were in place to ensure that institutions were able to cope with shocks. Planning and coordination remain challenges, and practical and measurable steps towards building state capacity must be provided in a capable, ethical and efficient context. A key issue that was discussed was the need for **countries to develop implementation plans for institutions with monitoring and reporting frameworks, including for horizontal and vertical coordination. More systematic approaches for assessing institutional capabilities for SDG implementation should be established and capacity building programmes and tools developed to meet country needs.** Horizontal public policy coordination remains an urgent matter, as ministries often operate according to different rules and bureaucracies.

Speakers also noted that digital capabilities, science and technology need to be enhanced for minimum service delivery, and discussed the importance of partnerships with involvement of all stakeholders, including the academic sector. Access to tools such as Afro-Barometer can provide timely data on the views of Africans to inform policy development and decision making, and serve to make institutions inclusive, effective, and accountable.

The third session examined the application of the CEPA principles of effective governance on sustainable development on the SDGs. Strong institutions for sustainable development at all levels go beyond SDG 16 and are needed for the achievement of all SDGs. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to institutional challenges are often recommended to address the integrated and indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda. In this session, participants shared their experiences in advancing coherent and evidence-based policy and planning frameworks for the implementation of the SDGs and considered the merits of more integrated approaches to institution building across governance domains.

Participants discussed how certain principles of effective governance influenced the implementation of SDGs. Countries noted that many of the principles were embedded in their national development plans, which were fully aligned with the sustainable development goals. One of the problems across the continent was the lack of implementation of good laws and policies. Speakers noted that some of the principles, and in particular competence, sound policymaking, integrity and transparency, need further capacity building support in Africa. The key message from this session was that **the CEPA principles of effective governance for sustainable development provide an appropriate analytical framework for assessing and monitoring progress on institutional development. Many countries in Africa have clearly found them to be a useful, and even essential, point of reference in identifying and acting on opportunities to improve governance for the SDGs.**

Nigeria developed the Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (iSDG) Model as a home-grown analytical tool for SDGs-based planning. To achieve this, Nigeria customized the integrated Sustainable Development Goals (iSDGs) policy simulation model, as an addition to the existing family planning tools. The iSDG model has been developed in order to enable policy makers and planning officials at all levels of governance to understand the interconnectedness of policies designed to achieve the SDGs and test their likely impacts before adopting them, ensuring sound policymaking, one of the principles of effective governance.

Countries showed how independent oversight—another principle of effective governance—is protected in Africa. Independent public institutions such as the Rwandan Governance Board and the South African Human Rights Commission are important bodies to monitor, evaluate and assess good governance principles and public service delivery. Similar bodies, such as the African Monitor, address continent-wide development commitments and delivery, and assess impacts on grassroots communities. These types of institutions and bodies can help to elevate African voices to the global development agenda.

The **fourth session** of the workshop highlighted key findings from the VNRs by selected African countries and examined how key aspects of the CEPA principles of effective governance for sustainable development, such as sound policymaking, competence, collaboration and inclusiveness,

can be taken into account. Presentation of a digital platform illustrated how the CEPA principles can be more effectively integrated into the VNR process.

Speakers highlighted their national experiences and noted deficits in many areas. Liberia, Somalia and Ghana experienced many of the same challenges with implementation of the SDGs. Liberia's weak governance structure, low human and financial capacity, pervasive poverty, susceptibility to external shocks and limited stakeholder engagement were among the impairments to sustaining peace. Some of the challenges included the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, inadequate technical ability for data collection and analysis in most government institutions, and poor coordination among government departments. Somalia highlighted significant fragmentation, duplication of efforts and inequality as some of its challenges. Ghana outlined the lack of data, issues of ageing, women's unemployment and child marriages as challenges. These three countries also noted efforts made to overcome these challenges, including planning and budget alignment, multi-stakeholder involvement, and effective support from the UNCT in Ghana; the domestication and proper alignment of both Agendas into Liberia's National Development Programme and the establishment of SDG coordination and implementation frameworks in Liberia; and in Somalia the development of a ground-breaking visualization digital platform called "The Goal Track of Somalia" to ensure implementation of the SDGs is data driven.

Speakers discussed the importance of transformational leadership that engages with all of society. One of the key messages in this session was to **support inclusive, multi-level and multi-sectoral partnerships, using a whole-of-society approach and raising up the voices of the youth, particularly young women**. In Africa, youth constitute more than 60 percent of the population, and will be the ones assessing progress in 2030 and 2063; how to enhance this demographic dividend and benefit from the composition of the population was also discussed.

The fifth session covered the regional dimension of the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of Agenda 2063. Regional organisations and Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa significantly contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. Most RECs revised their modus operandi to integrate Agenda 2063 into sub-regional plans and programmes.

One of the key messages of this session was that **implementation, monitoring and evaluation of both agendas remains in the hands of African countries, who have the responsibility to ensure proper planning**. African countries need to start becoming more self-reliant and less dependent on short-term external partners. While member States remain key players in ensuring the implementation of both Agendas, the APRM is the African Union voluntary mechanism designated to promote good governance on the continent that focuses on thematic areas of political, economic, socio-economic and corporate governance. In response to COVID-19, the state of resilience and disaster management was added. Innovative approaches were developed by the APRM to support countries, including targeted reviews that aim to provide analysis on specific areas such as health institutional capacities and fragility, youth empowerment and fiscal decentralization. Other areas of intervention include publication of *The Africa Good Governance Report* in coordination with the African Governance Architecture, and provision of a continental platform to support African countries in preparing their VNRs and ensuring that Agenda 2063 is captured in the reporting process. The APRM is also involved in conflict resolution and early warning on the continent, attempting to engage in a monitoring framework and specific indicators on early warning indicators that can trigger conflict in different African countries. Specific areas of intervention include issues of transparency and anti-corruption, access to information, reducing corruption and fighting illicit financial flows.

Speakers outlined their experiences in fostering implementation of both agendas at the regional level. Good practice examples from the continent were given, including implementation plans to match good policymaking in Zambia, where there has been a major effort to leverage the purpose and potential of institutions to meet national development objectives. The institutional framework was

broken down into cluster groups and technical groups, with each group having representation from the different areas. Breakdown of institutions at local and district level was also discussed.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is now operational, but the free movement of capital and people within Africa has yet to be fully achieved. Speakers raised the issue of visa requirements for Africans on the continent and the importance of bilateral relations with other African countries. Trade agreements such as the sale of cobalt within Zambia and Congo DRC, for example, was cited as important for the development of batteries for electric cars, and a way forward for development of resources in these countries.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) actively supports the implementation of the two agendas, including through the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), which aligns all the goals and aspirations of Agenda 2063. The preparation of Agenda 2063's first 10-year evaluation and the development of the second 10-year implementation plan was also touched upon, including the development of tools for collecting information. UNESCO's Operational Strategy for Priority Africa 2022 to 2029 aims to achieve both agendas in UNESCO's fields of competence.

The **sixth session** examined implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at subnational levels. Subnational authorities are crucial players in implementation of both agendas, and participants reaffirmed that they should be involved in ensuring that local perspectives are fed into the national process in a fully participatory and inclusive manner. The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) process was recognized as advancing implementation and localization of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 from the bottom-up.

A key message from this session was **the importance of localization of the SDGs in Africa, in line with the principle of subsidiarity and the sharing of responsibilities and resources among levels of government, where feasible, for more effective outcomes**. VLRs are one way to take stock of local action and to transform sub-national institutions so that they are more resilient and accelerate action to achieve the SDGs.

Speakers noted that localizing the SDGs enables governments to come up with locally backed strategies. Speakers highlighted that integrating the SDGs in the design, implementation and monitoring of local and regional development plans and putting local and regional governments at the centre of SDG implementation was a priority. Strengthening multilevel governance to achieve both Agendas and promoting coherence and co-ordination of priorities across local, regional and national governments is crucial. The benefits of integrating the VNR and VLRs was also raised, as this can promote shared understanding of complex national and local problems, foster ownership and commitment to integrated solutions, and help to ensure that no one is left behind.

The VLR process in Nigeria, Kenya and Benin were highlighted as examples. In Nigeria, local level implementation of the SDGs has a particular focus on women and youth, and includes provision of grants and loans to informal MSMEs, cash transfers to vulnerable households and victims of gender-based violence. Many initiatives have been taken at the local level to improve educational access, including a digital learning promotion programme aimed at closing the learning gaps and improving access to innovative technologies. As part of the Council of Governors initiative, Kenya has been able to reach those furthest behind, and has programmes in place to address educational, health and socio-economic needs of the local population. A county performance management framework put in place by the Council of Governors supports performance management and evaluation.

Questions covered lack of disaggregated data, a lack of political will and local capacity constraints for addressing the SDGs, including integrating SDGs in local development plans, and inadequate financial resources. Limited awareness of the SDGs and stakeholder consultations at the subnational levels is also a challenge.

The **seventh session** focused on the APRM toolkits being developed by a range of African experts to guide countries on implementation of the CEPA principles. The initial draft toolkits were introduced

by the expert authors, who have volunteered to participate in the APRM Continental Taskforce for the Advocacy of CEPA Principles in Africa. They are designed to strengthen awareness of African priorities and actions in line with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and include the principles of competence, accountability, leaving no-one behind, subsidiarity, and sound policymaking. Where available, UN DESA's [strategy guidance notes](#) will be used to guide and shape the content of the toolkits

The **eighth session** of the workshop, the closing session, covered Africa's Vision for the mid-point review of the 2030 Agenda that would take place during the HLPF convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023—also known as the SDG Summit. Speakers noted that the SDG Summit should not be seen in isolation but needs to be linked with other global events such as the Summit of the Future, the second World Social Summit, and the General Assembly High-Level Dialogue on Financing for Development. The HLPF to be held in July 2023 under the auspices of ECOSOC would effectively set the stage for the second Summit-level HLPF and serve as a preparatory meeting, completing the second four-year cycle of the Forum.

In this context, speakers reflected on the priorities and actions for strengthening national institutional capacities to address the continent's challenges, including budget alignments with the SDGs, financing for development, and a clear roadmap for progress in implementation of Agenda 2063. African countries should ensure that the SDG Summit accelerates financing for the SDGs, including investments in energy, water, education, health and digitalization innovations; and all stakeholders on the continent, including think-tanks and the African Development Bank, must be involved in that initiative.

Speakers called for African countries to “popularize and mobilize” an organized and common African position for the Summit. There were calls for regional platforms to further define key messages and suggestions were made regarding how to present African priorities to the HLPF for the Summit. Additional steps should be taken to engage stakeholders and raise local voices, so the focus would not be only on the political outcome.

Materials such as the 2022 UNDP Human Development Report, “Uncertain Times, Uncertain Lives: Shaping our Future in a Transforming World” and the report of the Secretary-General entitled “Our Common Agenda” outline challenges and commitments to turbo-charge progress to achieve the SDGs. Leadership, partnership and peer learning can contribute to an effective SDG Summit outcome. It was observed that the mid-term review of the 2030 Agenda, the 2023 SDG Summit, and the second ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 will all benefit from a strong set of messages from the workshop to effectively communicate African priorities.

Points of discussion revolved around issues such as strengthening African voices, leveraging existing infrastructure and financial resource mobilization, enhancing the role of the diaspora in financing initiatives, migration and free movement of people and goods through a stronger AfCFTA, adherence to common strategies such as the CEPA principles, systematic approaches for building capabilities for SDG implementation, political goodwill and education. Participants reiterated the urgent need for continued capacity building across Africa, and the importance of cooperation and partnerships to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The continued collaboration between the APRM and United Nations was also supported, with a further call to build the capacities of countries to fully implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 guided by the CEPA principles of effective governance for sustainable development. It was also decided at the workshop that further assessments and activities to operationalize the CEPA principles at the national level should be carried out, including in the form of more targeted reviews.



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



Provisional Agenda

Strengthening National Institutional Capacities for the UN Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063

Third regional capacity-building workshop on implementation of the UN Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development in Africa

Co-organized by APRM and UN DESA

Cape Town, South Africa

27-29 October 2022

27 October	
Day 1	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 10:00	<p>Welcome and opening remarks</p> <p>Moderator: Prof. Eddy Maloka, CEO, African Peer Review Mechanism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Monique Nsanzabaganwa, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission • Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, UN DESA • H.E. Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the UN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Global Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries • Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University and Chair, UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) • Mr. Thulas Nxesi, Acting Minister of Public Service and Administration, South Africa
10:00 – 11:00	<p>Session 1: Accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda and 2063 Agenda in Africa: how far have we come?</p> <p>Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 are both key strategic frameworks for socio-economic development in Africa. While African countries are galvanizing national efforts to accelerate implementation of both agendas, progress towards some goals remains slow. The continent has also experienced regression on several Sustainable</p>

	<p>Development Goals (SDGs) as a result of the triple “C” crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and conflicts. This session will assess the progress made in implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and identify priority areas for the review of both Agendas, with a particular focus on five priority areas for action, viz; ending the pandemic and building resilience to future shocks; scaling up climate resilience, with developed countries honouring their pledges; just transitions in energy and food systems; recovering education losses; and supporting gender equality actions. Key findings from the Voluntary National Reviews conducted in Africa through 2022 will inform the discussion.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Langton Ngorima, Director and National focal point for SDGs, Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ayodele Odusola, Resident Representative and Resident Coordinator a.i., United Nations in South Africa • Mr. Saitoti Torome, Principal Secretary, State Department for Planning, Kenya • Amb. Amr Al Aljowaily, Strategic Advisor to the Deputy Chairperson, AU Commission • Ms. Kefiloe Masiteng, Acting Secretary, National Planning Commission, South Africa • Ms. Tonya Vaturi, Sustainable Development Officer, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UN DESA (Presentation) <p>Interactive Discussion</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do countries assess progress towards Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 in Africa, especially with the conclusion of the first ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and the mid-term review of the 2030 Agenda? • To what extent have the AU programmes contributed to enhancing national capacities to plan, implement and monitor Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063? • What are the key trends, achievements and challenges in pursuing both agendas? • From your country’s perspective, what are the lessons learnt from the implementation of both agendas at the national level?
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 13:15	<p>Session 2: Institutions and the Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development in Africa: moving beyond the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 is contingent upon strengthening institutions and the capacity of policy makers to design and implement inclusive sustainable development policies and strategies. Governments with strong institutions and high levels of public trust were more resilient during the pandemic. This session will examine the key actions that are being taken by African Governments to implement inclusive, effective and accountable institutions and raise ownership of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. It will also analyse how to further strengthen public institutions, including making them more inclusive and</p>

	<p>participatory, and examine how to empower institutions to handle shocks and disasters.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Alfred Nhema, Director, School of Government, University of the Western Cape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Yoliswa Makhasi, Director-General, Department of Public Service and Administration, South Africa • Mr. George Scott, Secretary General, AAPAM • Mr. Nyasha Mpani, CSO, Data for Governance Alliance, South Africa • Mr. Ibrahim Issoufou Ibrahim, Chief of Monitoring and Evaluation -SDGs strategies, Niger • Ms. Evenilde Tamele, Planning Officer-Focal Point for SDGs, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Mozambique (English / Portuguese) <p>Interactive Discussion</p> <p><i>Guiding questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What recent actions have been taken in African countries to strengthen public institutions? How can public institutions be strengthened to respond to shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic? • What regional efforts have been made to create transparent, effective, accountable, resilient, and adequately resourced institutions? • Are there good practices that could be shared to transform the role of institutions, promote new governance norms and shift from past practices to transformative pathways?
13:15 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 16:30	<p>Session 3: Application of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) principles to the SDGs</p> <p>The Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) developed principles of effective governance for sustainable development which were endorsed by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2018 ('CEPA principles'). These principles highlight the need for national and local governance capabilities to reach the SDGs. Strong institutions for sustainable development at all levels go beyond SDG 16 and are needed for the achievement of all SDGs. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to institutional challenges are often recommended to address the integrated and indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda. Many Governments are turning to Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs) to help identify and implement reforms to increase and better align financing for the achievement of national sustainable development priorities. In this session, participants will be invited to share their experiences in advancing coherent and evidence-based policy and planning frameworks for the implementation of the SDGs and consider the merits of more integrated approaches to institution-building across governance domains.</p>

	<p>Moderator: Ms. Munira Hassan, APRM, Kenya</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Patrick Sokhela, Department of Public Service and Administration, South Africa • Mr. Anatole Mulindwa, Rwanda Governance Board, Rwanda (Presentation) • Dr. Dineo Seabe, Associate, African Monitor • Ms. Rose Keffas, Special Assistant Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, Nigeria (Presentation) <p>Interactive Discussion</p> <p><i>Guiding questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your experience with building capacity in areas covered by the CEPA principles? To what extent has implementation of related strategies had an impact on the achievement of specific Goals and targets, or on the SDGs as a whole? • Have targeted institution-building strategies – for example, to invest in digital government, promote foresight in strategic planning or tackle bureaucratic corruption – accelerated progress on the SDGs, recent shocks notwithstanding? To what extent do stakeholder interests and questions of political economy feature in these efforts? • Would countries be interested in an “integrated national institution-building framework” similar to the INFF tool to help strengthen planning processes, enhance functional coherence and overcome impediments to building strong institutions for the SDGs at the country level?
16:30 – 16:40	END OF DAY ONE and wrapping up: UN DESA
28 October Day 2	
9:00 – 11:00	<p>Session 4: Sharing experiences and lessons learned from the Voluntary National Reviews 2022</p> <p>At the HLPF in 2022, twenty-one African countries reported on their progress towards the implementation of the SDGs. This session will highlight key findings from the VNRs by some African countries and examine how key aspects of the UN principles of effective governance for sustainable development, such as sound policymaking, competence, collaboration and inclusiveness, can be taken into account. Experts are free to choose the principle and strategies of priorities at national level.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Samuel Kasule, National Planning Commission, Uganda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Pali Lehohla, former Statistician-General, South Africa • Ms. Tanneh G. Brunson, Deputy Minister for Budget and Development Planning, Liberia

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Richard Osei Bofah, Chief Analyst, National Development Planning Commission, Ghana (Presentation) • Mr. Shamarke Farah, Director of Somalia National Bureau of Statistics, Somalia <p>Interactive discussion</p> <p><i>Guiding questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did the 2022 VNR process relate the VNRs to the CEPA principles? How can this be done more effectively? • What are the best practices, from your national context, to implement the CEPA principles for the achievement of SDGs and Agenda 2063? • From your country’s experience, what are the principles and associated strategies that necessitate further attention/focus? • How should APRM/UNDESA support countries in including the CEPA principles in the 2023 VNRs?
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 13:15	<p>Session 5: The regional dimension of the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of Agenda 2063</p> <p>Regional organisations and Economic Communities in Africa significantly contribute to the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. Most RECs revised their modus operandi to integrate Agenda 2063 into sub-regional integrations plans and programmes. This session displays different experiences of African countries and organisations in fostering implementation of both agendas at the regional level.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Abubakar Metcho, Programme Specialist, Officer of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, Nigeria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Lineekela Mboti, CEO and Focal Point, APRM Namibia • Ms. Jennifer M. Njelesani, Director, Special Duties of Finance and Economic Development, Office of the President, Zambia • Mr. Israel G. Laizer, Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Officer, Directorate of Policy, Planning and Resource Mobilization, SADC • Mr. Jean-Yves Adou, Monitoring and Evaluation Acting Director, APRM • Dr. Rita Bissoonauth, Addis Ababa Liaison Office to the African Union and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, National Office for Ethiopia, UNESCO <p>Interactive discussion</p> <p><i>Guiding questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How does the regional dimension assist your country in the planning, implementation and monitoring phases of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda? • What are the key regional frameworks adhered to in your country and how does this contribute to tackling development challenges at national level?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which role does the AU/APRM have to support African countries in monitoring Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda? • Which types of capacity building are provided by ECA to African executives to enhance implementation of both Agendas?
13:15 – 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 – 16:30	<p>Session 6: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at subnational level</p> <p>Localizing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 means fully integrating them in the design, implementation and monitoring of sub-national plans. Subnational authorities are crucial players in implementation of both Agendas and should be involved in ensuring that local perspectives are fed into the national process in a fully participatory and inclusive manner. The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) process is recognized as advancing implementation and localization of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 from the bottom-up. The link between VLRs and Voluntary National Reviews should be further strengthened. Relevant examples of local involvement in national responses to COVID-19 are important for an analysis of what has worked for strengthening multi-level governance and vertical integration. The specific Africa VLR Guidelines will also be discussed.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Lusanda Batala, Senior Expert, NPC, South Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA (Presentation) • Dr. Mehdi Rais, Director, Initiatives for Development, Morocco • Dr. Jamila Bio Ibrahim, Senior Special Assistant on Sustainable Development Goals to the Governor of Kwara State Government, Nigeria • Mr. Robert Papa, Chief of Staff and Head of Service Delivery, Busia, Kenya • Mr. Toussaint Todegnon, Director, SDG Policy Coordination, Ministry of Planning, Benin <p>Interactive Discussion</p> <p><i>Guiding questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In subnational implementation, how can we ensure there is an effective and proper link to the national process, including in how local actions inform and support the preparation of a VNR? • What is needed to strengthen implementation of both Agendas at local level, such as increased financial and human resources and capacity building work? • What institutional mechanisms would be most appropriate to set up for subnational implementation of both Agendas?
16:30 – 16:40	END OF DAY TWO and wrapping up: UN DESA
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<p>9:00 – 11:00</p>	<p>Session 7: Presentation of the APRM Toolkit – reflections from Member States</p> <p>The APRM 2021 baseline study on the CEPA Principles and its application in Africa recognizes a lack of understanding and knowledge of the principles and strategies among national experts. Further, the implementation of the principles and strategies at national level vary from one country to another. One of the recommendations at a previous joint workshop was on developing simple toolkits to guide member states on the CEPA principles. This session highlights the initial draft toolkits introduced by African experts, which are appointed voluntarily for the APRM Continental Taskforce for the advocacy of CEPA Principles in Africa. The draft toolkits are also guided by strategy guidance notes developed by UN DESA.</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo, SDGs Unit, Presidency Ghana (Presentation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. George Scott, Secretary General of AAPAM (competence principle) (Remarks / Presentation) • Dr. Enock Nyorekwa Twinoburyo, Economist, SDGs Centre for Africa (inclusive social and fiscal policies) (Presentation) • Prof. Rafiu Aregbeshola, UNISA/ SDGs Centre for Africa (inclusive social and fiscal policies) • Dr. Hanan Rezk, Head, Training Network of Management Institutes in Africa, National Institute of Good Governance and Development, Egypt (social equity- inclusiveness principle) (virtual) (Presentation) • Dr. Mohamed El-Karamay, Associate Professor, AUC (strategic planning and foresight toolkit) (virtual) (Presentation) • Prof. Pregala Solosh Pillay and Prof. Evangelos Mantzaris, Stellenbosch University (anti-corruption toolkit) • Dr. Mehdi Rais, Director, Initiatives for Development, Morocco (multi-level governance strategy toolkit) <p>Interactive discussion</p> <p>Working groups for the presented toolkits’ reflections to be shared from member States</p> <p><i>Followed by:</i></p> <p>Way forward on APRM toolkits: Ms. Sara Hamouda, Agenda 2063 and SDGs Expert, APRM Continental Secretariat (Presentation)</p>
<p>11:00 – 11:15</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>

<p>11:15 – 12:45</p>	<p>Session 8: Africa’s Vision for the SDG Summit in 2023: priorities and actions for strengthening national institutional capacities to address the continent’s biggest challenges</p> <p>In July 2023 the HLPF will convene under the auspices of ECOSOC to complete its second two-year cycle, and again in September under the auspices of the General Assembly for the SDG Summit, which will conduct a mid-point review of the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University and Chair, Committee of Experts on Public Administration</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, UN DESA • Amb. Amr Al Aljowaily, Strategic Advisor to the Deputy Chairperson, AU Commission • H.E Mr. Collen V. Kelapile, Permanent Representative of Botswana to the UN, Ambassador Extraordinary and Global Chair of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries • Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo, SDGs Unit, Presidency Ghana • Prof Pali Lehohla former Statistician-General, South Africa <p>Interactive discussion</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does a successful SDG Summit look like for African countries? • How can the run-up to the Summit strengthen awareness of African priorities and actions? • What are the priorities and actions for strengthening national institutional capacities to address the continent’s biggest challenges?
<p>12:45 – 13:15</p>	<p>Closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University and Chair, Committee of Experts on Public Administration • Prof. Eddy Maloka, CEO, APRM • Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Affairs, UN DESA