

Analysis of National and Local Development Instruments in Côte d'Ivoire

1. Introduction

Since 2012, Côte d'Ivoire has experienced strong economic growth alongside deliberate efforts to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063 into its planning frameworks. The National Development Plans (PND 2016–2020 and PND 2021–2025) have been central to this integration, emphasizing structural transformation, poverty reduction, and inclusive development. As of September 2025, the government is finalizing the PND 2026–2030, which is expected to consolidate these gains while placing stronger emphasis on industrialization, human capital development, digital transformation, decentralization, and resilience, with the overarching aim of achieving upper-middle-income status and reducing poverty to below 20 percent by 2030. Institutional leadership in planning and implementation continues to be spearheaded by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, with support from the National Council for Sustainable Development (CNDD) and multi-stakeholder thematic groups.

2. Legal and Policy Framework

The Constitution and national legislation establish a centralized governance model, with decentralization enshrined in law. The PND 2016–2020 focused on structural transformation, poverty reduction, and expanded social services. The PND 2021–2025 is structured around six pillars: sustainable economic growth, economic diversification, infrastructure development, human capital strengthening, inequality reduction, and energy and environmental transition. Côte d'Ivoire's PND 2026–2030, known as Côte d'Ivoire Solidaire, aims to achieve upper-middle-income status by 2030, with key priorities that include fostering inclusive economic growth by improving public investment efficiency and the business environment, strengthening human capital through education and skills development, and accelerating industrialization and value addition. The plan also emphasizes poverty reduction, with a goal to lower the poverty rate to under 20% by 2030.

Importantly, Pillar 4 of the PND 2026–2030 underscores the modernization of public administration and the deepening of decentralization as essential drivers of national development. It envisions a more efficient, transparent, and citizen-centered administration that acts as a catalyst for private sector growth, regional competitiveness, and improved service delivery. This includes accelerating e-governance, enhancing transparency and accountability, strengthening the fiscal and institutional viability of

local governments, and reinforcing the transfer of competencies and resources to territorial collectivities¹. Together, these reforms reflect Côte d'Ivoire's ambition to create a governance system that is both performance-driven and more responsive to the needs of citizens at all levels of government.

These ambitions also directly reinforce Côte d'Ivoire's commitment to SDG localization and the scaling up of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), ensuring that national objectives are effectively translated into regional and municipal priorities while promoting accountability, inclusiveness, and local ownership of development outcomes.

Complementary instruments include the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (SNDD), government social programmes (PSGouv I and II), and sectoral strategies such as compulsory schooling, national health coverage (CMU²), rural electrification, and water and sanitation programmes.

3. Institutional Arrangements

The Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development is the central coordinator of SDG and Agenda 2063 integration. The CNDD oversees sustainable development strategies, while thematic groups convene government, civil society, private sector, and development partners. Local authorities are increasingly engaged, including through pilot Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) such as in the Gbêkê region with UN support.

4. Local Governance and Decentralization

Decentralization assigns responsibilities to regions, districts, municipalities, and communes for planning and service delivery. Local development plans are aligned with the PND and SDGs, though gaps remain in financing and capacity. The Assembly of Regions and Districts of Côte d'Ivoire (ARDCI) coordinates subnational governments. Experience from the Gbêkê VLR highlights the need for statistical capacity, resource mobilization, and stronger citizen engagement for effective localization.

5. Integration of the SDGs and Agenda 2063

Côte d'Ivoire has prioritized 40 SDG targets and identified 11 accelerators, including human capital development, social protection, women's empowerment, and climate action. The PND 2026–2030, known as Côte d'Ivoire Solidaire, reinforces this alignment by emphasizing inclusive growth, industrialization, human capital strengthening, and

¹ Territorial collectivities (collectivités territoriales) refer to subnational levels of government in Côte d'Ivoire (regions, districts, municipalities, and communes) with legal personality and administrative autonomy, responsible for local development and service delivery under the decentralization framework.

² [Couverture Maladie Universelle](#), Cote d'Ivoire

governance reform, closely mirroring the priorities of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Its fourth pillar, dedicated to modernizing public administration and deepening decentralization, directly supports localization efforts by empowering subnational governments to translate national priorities into local action. Key accelerators remain universal education, national health coverage (CMU), and gender empowerment funds such as FAFCI and the Fonds d'Entrepreneuriat Féminin, while new emphasis is placed on resilience, accountability, and the effective transfer of competencies and resources to territorial collectivities.

6. SDG Localization and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

Côte d'Ivoire has submitted two Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to the United Nations; in 2019 and 2022, each highlighting the country's commitment to aligning the PND with both the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The 2022 VNR emphasized strengthening decentralization structures to reinforce local ownership of the SDGs, requiring regional and municipal councils to align their development plans with national priorities. This process is supported by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development and the CNDD, with the ARDCI playing a central coordinating role. Pilot VLRs, notably in the Gbêkê region with UN support, have demonstrated the potential of localized monitoring, while also underlining the need for stronger statistical systems, participatory approaches, and local resource mobilization. Together, these mechanisms illustrate Côte d'Ivoire's progressive commitment to deepening the localization of the SDGs.

7. Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)

Côte d'Ivoire has piloted VLRs as part of its commitment to SDG localization. The first pilot VLR, reported in the 2022 VNR, was conducted in the Gbêkê region with technical support from UN DESA. The review focused on integrating the SDGs into regional development planning, strengthening statistical systems, and engaging local stakeholders such as regional councils, civil society, and private sector actors in planning and monitoring. VNRs emphasize that VLRs are a critical mechanism for enhancing local ownership, raising awareness of the SDGs, and identifying financing and capacity gaps at the subnational level. They also underscore the importance of multi-stakeholder engagement and participatory planning in strengthening accountability and inclusiveness. Building on the Gbêkê experience, Côte d'Ivoire plans to expand VLRs to additional regions to scale up localization efforts and enhance coherence between local and national reporting on the 2030 Agenda.

8. Finances for Local Government

Under Côte d'Ivoire's decentralization framework, local governments derive revenue from both intergovernmental transfers and own-source revenues. Transfers from the central government include earmarked funds for priority sectors such as education,

health, water, and infrastructure, as well as development grants. Own revenues include local taxes, property-related levies, licenses, market fees, and service charges. The ARDCI plays a coordinating role in mobilizing resources and advocating for equitable distribution. Despite the existence of a legal framework for fiscal decentralization, challenges persist in ensuring adequate and predictable transfers, timely disbursement, and stronger local revenue mobilization. Local governments remain heavily dependent on transfers from the state, while their capacity to raise own-source revenues is underdeveloped. The government has committed reforms to strengthen fiscal decentralization, promote participatory budgeting, and improve accountability mechanisms in resource management. Partnerships with development partners also support initiatives on revenue digitization, financial literacy, and municipal finance system reforms.

9. Partnerships and Commitments

Côte d'Ivoire engages with a wide range of partners at both the regional and international levels to advance its sustainable development agenda. Collaboration with the United Nations system is framed through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) 2021–2025, which is aligned with the PND and the SDGs. The UNSDCF is structured around four pillars; human capital, economic transformation, governance, and environmental sustainability, and its governance pillar directly supports decentralization and local governance by emphasizing institutional effectiveness, transparency, and inclusivity.

In line with Côte d'Ivoire's 2019 and 2022 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), the UNSDCF underscores strengthening the capacity of decentralized entities to plan, execute, and monitor local development, alongside promoting gender-responsive and inclusive service delivery, resilience building, climate adaptation, and disaster-risk reduction, fully aligned with the PND and SDG/Agenda 2063 priorities. The 2019 and 2022 VNRs document the prioritization of 40 SDG targets and identification of 11 accelerators and describe nationwide SDG mainstreaming.

Beyond the UN system, the World Bank supports implementation through its Country Partnership Framework (CPF 2023–2027), while the IMF complements national efforts with structural reforms and climate financing support. The African Development Bank, the European Union, and a range of bilateral partners also provide financing, technical expertise, and policy dialogue. In addition, civil society and private sector actors contribute to awareness-raising, service delivery, and resource mobilization at both national and local levels. While these engagements reinforce Côte d'Ivoire's commitment to sustainable development, participation gaps among stakeholders remain a challenge that needs to be addressed for more inclusive and effective implementation.

Looking ahead, the next UNSDCF (2026–2030) is expected to align closely with the forthcoming PND 2026–2030 (Côte d’Ivoire Solidaire), providing a renewed framework for UN–government cooperation that emphasizes decentralization, resilience, and inclusive growth in line with the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

10. Present Projects in Côte d’Ivoire

Côte d’Ivoire is implementing several flagship projects that demonstrate its commitment to sustainable development and localization. In the area of climate finance and governance innovations, the country announced at COP29 in 2024 a series of initiatives to mobilize an estimated US \$22 billion needed to meet its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). These include the creation of a National Climate Commission, a Climate Change Law envisioning a National Climate Agency, a Carbon Market Bureau, and a Sustainable Finance Platform. In renewable energy, the Boundiali Photovoltaic Solar Power Plant, inaugurated in April 2024 with an initial capacity of 37.5 MW, is expected to power around 30,000 households and is being expanded under Phase 2. In agroforestation and carbon credits, the 2024 Karidja Project launched a 50-year concession in the Haut-Casandra Forest to reforest 100,000 hectares, aiming to sequester one million tonnes of CO₂ annually. In eco-tourism and youth leadership, the Ecoferme de Lokoli, established in 2019, has become a leading inland leisure destination and a hub for youth training through its Lokoli Leadership Academy. Finally, in rural land tenure security, the Agence Foncier Rurale (AFOR) implements land law reforms through programmes such as PRESFOR, which aims to issue 500,000 rural land certificates across sixteen regions, thereby strengthening land governance and rural development.

Building on these efforts, in July 2025 Côte d’Ivoire launched its innovative Sustainability-Linked Finance (SLF) Framework, developed in collaboration with the World Bank Group. This mechanism directly ties the country’s borrowing costs to the achievement of ambitious sustainability targets, particularly in renewable energy and forestry. By 2030, Côte d’Ivoire aims to raise the share of non-hydropower renewable energy capacity from 1% to at least 11% and to restore one million hectares of forest cover, while limiting forest loss to under 300,000 hectares. The SLF Framework is expected to unlock new investment, create significant employment opportunities in green sectors, and enhance accountability through transparent reporting and verification mechanisms. It represents a pioneering step in Africa’s sustainable finance landscape, positioning Côte d’Ivoire as a regional leader in linking financial innovation with environmental and climate commitments.

11. Challenges and Gaps

Despite significant progress, Côte d’Ivoire continues to face persistent development challenges. Poverty and inequality remain widespread, with regional disparities in access to services. Financing gaps constrain the effective implementation of national and local development plans, while data limitations, particularly the lack of disaggregated

statistics, hamper monitoring of SDG progress. Local governments struggle with limited planning and implementation capacity, while the country's reliance on external financing poses risks to long-term sustainability. Addressing these challenges will be critical for ensuring that development gains are inclusive and resilient.

12. Conclusion and Way Forward

Côte d'Ivoire has made substantial progress in embedding the SDGs and Agenda 2063 into its national development architecture through robust plans, institutional mechanisms, and progress in key priority sectors. However, accelerating implementation will require targeted measures. Strengthening decentralized capacity for planning and monitoring, scaling up VLRs to additional regions, and enhancing domestic resource mobilization are essential. Furthermore, policies must continue to address persistent inequalities to ensure that no one is left behind in the national development process.