

**African  
Union**



**Strengthening National Institutional  
Capacities for the UN Decade of Action 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**

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**Towards Universal  
Accession by 2023**

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# A Toolkit for Strategic Planning & Foresight

## The purpose of the toolkit:

1. Addressing the inadequate capacity of some African countries in applying the CEPA principles to accelerate implementation of the SDGs.
2. Helping African governments assess the degree to which strategic planning and foresight are incorporated into their national development policies and plans.
3. Outlining the essential and fundamental steps that must be followed to ensure the creation of a sound strategic planning and foresight system.

# Strategic Planning & Foresight

- The CEPA strategy guidance note on Strategic Planning and Foresight issued by UNDESA in February 2021 defined strategic foresight as “an organized, systematic way of looking beyond the expected to engage with uncertainty and complexity”.
- The COVID-19 pandemic followed by the Russian Ukrainian war showed that unexpected events can alter the progress of African countries towards achieving the SDGs.
- Policy problems are complex and intertwined, and their solutions required anticipating different scenarios.
- Policy environments are uncertain and ambiguous.

# Structure of the Toolkit

- The toolkit consists of a list of questions grouped under different types of elements (institutional, policy, communication and coordination, and constitutional and legislative elements).
- The question attempt to capture all the necessary actions to ensure that African countries have integrated strategic planning and foresight within their development planning systems.
- The questions are dichotomous, having only a yes or no response. In other words, they serve as indicators of whether the action or policy under consideration exists or not.
- The primary and key actors or agencies responsible for each of the actions listed under the broad elements are identified.
- The toolkit also includes a set of indicators (means of verification).
- The questions are broad and not sequential, meaning that there is no proper order of implementing the policies/actions under consideration.