



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



**APRM**  
African Peer Review  
Mechanism

**Fifth Continental Workshop on  
Strengthening Institutional Capacities in Africa for  
Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for  
Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063:**

Follow up to the 2024 HLPF and Summit of the Future

**24 - 26 October 2024  
Cape Town, South Africa**



#UNDESA\_APRM

## **WORKSHOP REPORT**

24-26 October 2024 | Cape Town, South Africa

## Background

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the AU African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) organized the fifth joint regional workshop entitled “Strengthening Institutional Capacities in Africa for Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063: Follow-up to 2024 HLPF and Summit for the Future” from 24 to 26 October 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa.

This annual workshop targeted senior experts, SDG focal points and representatives of the Resident Coordinator system, providing a space for peer learning and exploring the development of concrete outcomes and plans of action for building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions that contribute to implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) and the Pact for the Future, as well as Agenda 2063 and its Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan. The principles of effective governance for sustainable development, developed by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and endorsed by ECOSOC, provided the foundation for the development of transformative actions and pragmatic ongoing improvements in governance systems, as they have throughout this five-year series of capacity development workshops. Previous workshops were held in South Africa (Pretoria [2019](#)) and Cape Town ([2021](#), [2022](#) and [2023](#)).

The workshop was attended by 64 participants from 22 African countries (Benin, Botswana, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Zambia) alongside representatives of civil society and think tanks in South Africa. 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.

## Key messages

### On implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in Africa

- Despite progress, Africa faces significant challenges in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, with only six per cent of targets on track. This highlights the urgent need for countries to take bold, ambitious, and accelerated transformative actions to improve outcomes.
- The Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) adopted this year by the African Union includes a commitment to promoting economic prosperity, addressing conflicts across the continent and boosting Africa’s position in the reformed financial architecture for the global South. The STYIP will be implemented in close coordination with UN Agencies and AU organs, including the APRM to ensure impactful results and a well-governed Africa.

- The Pact for the Future adopted by global leaders at the Summit of the Future, including the Global Digital Compact and Declaration on Future Generations, makes clear commitments and achieves concrete deliverables on a range of issues, with strong attention to human rights, gender and sustainable development. The Pact pledges to place poverty eradication at the centre of development efforts, close the SDG financing gap, accelerate the reform of the international financial architecture and strengthen the voice and representation of developing countries. It also highlights the need for stronger global partnerships to tackle the complex challenges Africa faces, including the adverse impacts of climate change that are disproportionately felt by developing countries.
- African countries can use the Pact for the Future and its two Annexes as a strategic framework to drive key transformative actions. This involves integrating the SDGs into national development plans (NDPs), strengthening the connections between NDPs and decentralization efforts, addressing commitments to improved governance, and incorporating national plans of action arising from APRM review and monitoring processes.
- Whole-of-government approaches have been shown to enhance complementarity, enabling the effective use of resources and capacities at all levels, including locally. By adapting initiatives to local contexts, countries can foster greater ownership and improve engagement with civil society organizations (CSOs). This approach also ensures the development of human capital through key areas such as education, healthcare, social protection, decent work, and investment in industry, infrastructure and innovation.
- Technological innovation plays a vital role in accelerating progress toward the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The rise and increasing sophistication of digital learning platforms for knowledge sharing, health monitoring technologies and many other applications demonstrates the potential for improved access to public services and strengthening of institutional capacities, especially when combined with concerted efforts to address digital divides to leave no one behind.

**On accelerating implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063: Leveraging the six transitions to scale-up action at national and local levels**

- The six transitions defined by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to deliver the SDGs—food systems; energy access and affordability; digital connectivity; education; jobs and social protection; and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution—can guide investments to address interconnected challenges and accelerate sustainable development across Africa.
- Countries such as Benin, Lesotho and Zimbabwe highlighted progress made integrating the six transitions in national and local development plans and strategies. To realize the desired impact, there is need for scaling up and speed. Challenges encountered in implementing the six transitions include lack of timely and disaggregated data, limited financial resources from national budgets and due to debt burden, infrastructure deficiencies, lack of policy coherence and integration particularly at local levels, impact of climate change and global shocks, technological barriers, and lack of awareness and engagement from stakeholders—in

particular the private sector, NGOs, CSOs, faith-based organizations and communities implementing the SDGs.

- Localization of the agendas, alignment with strategies, empowerment of local authorities, multistakeholder partnerships, data collection and monitoring, disaggregation and community data collection all support actions and interventions across the six transition areas.
- Additional pathways, such as health care, water and sanitation, should also be prioritized according to national priorities.
- Strategic foresight and systems thinking should drive shifts across policies and regulatory frameworks. Action on each transition calls for a thorough assessment of its social impacts. For example, the “Just Energy Transition” in South Africa exemplifies the need for inclusive strategies that consider the imperative to address climate change and job impacts, particularly on communities reliant on fossil fuels for jobs and livelihoods.
- Bridging the digital divide is essential for driving effective transformations in consumption and production, as well as for achieving key socio-economic goals. Countries must harness digital technologies to promote social empowerment and inclusion. Strengthening educational frameworks prepares societies for green and digital economies while promoting inclusion and social justice.

#### **On monitoring and evaluation frameworks of both Agendas and interlinkages with CEPA principles**

- Enhancing the inclusivity and effectiveness of monitoring and accountability mechanisms for both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 remains a high priority in Africa.
- African countries can enhance reporting practices, including by integrating an assessment of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness into their monitoring and evaluation systems.
- Designated toolkits are developed to track competences of civil servants, anti-corruption practices, social equity and strategic planning and foresight to enhance reporting on principles for effective governance for sustainable development for implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- Sufficient resources should be allocated to monitoring and evaluation of progress at the national and local levels, including active engagement of stakeholders in innovative problem-solving platforms and consistent communication of status, information and updates to the public and development partners.
- Reporting on SDGs as well as monitoring and evaluation should not be limited to the national level. Voluntary local reviews (VLRs) shine a light on the critical role of subnational authorities in implementing the two agendas in Africa, and their steadily increasing number illustrates deepening engagement in sustainable development by stakeholders at the subnational level.
- Ongoing discussions around VLRs specifically, and monitoring in general, are useful to promote understanding of how they can strengthen local capacities and reinforce action on the two agendas.

- Translation of the agendas into local languages with a view to leaving no one behind has proven to be helpful to awareness raising and engagement in a growing number of countries.

#### **On making SDG 16 by 2030 and Moonshot 3 by 2033 a reality**

- As articulated in SDG 16, strengthening governance involves building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. The integrated and indivisible nature of the two agendas calls for fostering multisectoral collaboration within and between levels of government and with non-State actors to ensure coordinated action towards shared objectives.
- Key strategies to enhance institutional effectiveness include professionalization of the public sector workforce, a focus on strategic human resources management connected to the national human resources development strategy where available, and leadership training to develop a skilled, agile cadre of officers capable of responding to and addressing complex challenges in a dynamic environment.
- Enhancing local government and bolstering the budgetary viability of local authorities, alongside both transformative and traditional leadership, can contribute to accountability and improved service delivery. A multi-faceted framework for stakeholder participation in planning and budgeting is key for integrating voices from different stakeholders, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability.
- Integrating young people into public service and ensuring that young public servants are equipped with innovative thinking and digital skills as part of their education and training, along with the opportunity to apply these skills in the public sector, is crucial for progress.
- Corruption and improper financial management are significant obstacles to effective and accountable government, which can also be improved through strategies that promote transparency such as proactive disclosure of information, independent oversight, integrated public financial management, expansion of digital government and other technical measures.
- The further development and use of key indicators for monitoring SDG 16 in areas such as access to justice and participation in policy processes is vital for tracking progress.

#### **On exploring plans of action and collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator system and APRM national structures on strengthening institutional capabilities in Africa**

- UN Resident Coordinators assist African governments in implementing global agreements and fostering robust institutions for the SDGs and Agenda 2063, tailoring their support to align with national contexts and priorities. Since its reform, the UN Resident Coordinator system has become more efficient and can more easily mobilize the expertise of UN country teams to deliver as one on complex challenges and cross-cutting issues such as finance, climate, digitalization, governance and leaving no one behind.
- Strong institutions facilitate the peaceful transition of political power, support macroeconomic stability and ensure predictability. This facilitates the continuity of national development plans, which in turn promotes investment, partnership and the implementation of economic transformation policies.

- Collaboration between the UN funds, programmes and agencies and AU entities, is essential for integrating regional and continental frameworks to enhance capacity at the national level. These efforts can be bolstered by collaborating with non-State actors such as the private sector and CSOs.
- National priorities and contexts result in different approaches across the region, with a range of coordination frameworks and partnerships, and varying levels of collaboration with UN Country Teams on the part of APRM.

### **On building resilience to global shocks and safeguarding the future: a way forward**

- As underscored by the Summit of the Future, the SDG Summit and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, achieving sustainable development and strengthening resilience of societies at a time of multiple crises require both a short-term and a long-term perspective in public policymaking.
- Successful action on the SDGs and Agenda 2063 will depend on the will of political leaders to commit to the SDGs as a policy framework for the future, coupled with support for strong institutions capable of implementing effective policies focused on future generations.
- Reflections of a long-term vision of society should be integrated into national planning, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs, as well as in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes.
- Effective financial systems must be designed to withstand global economic fluctuations, emphasizing the need for institutional capacities and stakeholder collaboration to implement resilient governance strategies.
- There should be a continued shift from a funding mindset to one of investment and leverage, embracing the complexity of the African landscape, becoming more strategic and synergistic, and addressing parallel challenges such as illicit financial flows.
- Promoting sustainability through national budgets and public procurement processes, investment in sustainable agriculture, and addressing root causes of conflicts and unemployment are key strategies for enhancing resilience.
- Independent oversight bodies, involving a wide range of stakeholders, can strengthen accountability and adapt to shifting political climates, supported by legal frameworks and public advocacy.
- Public awareness and educational initiatives, including investment in changing mindsets in the public sector and closing gaps in awareness of the Goals and their importance at all levels, are vital for engaging communities to foster accountability and inclusivity towards SDG implementation
- Conducting regular voluntary national and local reviews can support and enhance monitoring mechanisms to provide continuous regular data and feedback, facilitating timely adjustments to policies aimed at achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

## Summary of proceedings

### Opening session

During the **opening session**, speakers emphasized the importance of building robust, inclusive, and resilient institutions amid the challenging impacts of climate change, poverty, and conflict. They highlighted that strong public institutions are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The CEPA principles of effective governance for sustainable development were reaffirmed as essential point of reference for institutional strengthening.

Mr. Li Junhua, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, highlighted findings from the 2024 Africa SDG Report, noting that only 6 per cent of SDG targets in Africa are on track, compared to 17 per cent globally. He underscored that strong and inclusive institutions are key to supporting macroeconomic policy frameworks and advancing structural transformation and sustained growth in the region, adding that such institutions are indispensable for building resilience and tackling poverty, hunger, inequalities, and climate change. He underscored the urgency of reversing negative trends through better institutional coordination and inclusive governance and stated that advancing sustainable development in Africa would require a well-coordinated, cross-cutting approach anchored in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. He noted that political will for effective implementation of the Pact for the Future could also strengthen existing foundations for tackling inequalities, job insecurity and climate change, while reducing the risk of escalating social and geopolitical tensions.

Ambassador Marie-Antoinette Rose Quarte, CEO, African Peer Review Mechanism, emphasized that the long-standing collaboration between APRM and UN DESA has enhanced the adoption of monitoring and evaluation frameworks, aligned global and regional development agendas with national priorities, and promoted the principles of good governance and inclusive institutions. She underscored the importance of bridging governance gaps and enhancing institutional capacities across Africa, pointing to the role of APRM in translating workshop insights into actionable policies and reforms. She noted that the AU's adoption of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan for Agenda 2063 this year includes a commitment to promoting economic prosperity, addressing conflicts across the continent and boosting Africa's position in the reformed financial architecture and the global South.

Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Chair, UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration and Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University, discussed the impact of global crises on Africa, emphasized the significance of embedding the SDGs into national and local development plans, budgeting for the Goals, fostering a competent and capable public sector workforce, building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and ensuring broad participation of and partnerships with all stakeholders. These five key transformative actions constituted a "pentagram of action" that, together with effective communication by Governments, can serve to build mutual confidence and renew shared ambitions. She stressed the urgency of integrating the CEPA principles across all Government departments to promote evidence-based policies, good governance and poverty eradication, among other objectives. She also commended the

APRM's efforts to strengthen the institutional capacities of African countries and national structures to address public service capacity gaps in Africa.

Ms. Yoliswa Makhasi, Director General, Department of Public Service and Administration, South Africa, acknowledged the importance of reinforcing SDGs 16 and 17 to address Africa's challenges. She reflected on the current period of volatility and emphasized the need for integrity and resilience in governance. She called for bold and swift action to transform global governance and expressed appreciation for the participants' dedication to sustainable development.

### **Session 1**

The **first session** focused on taking stock of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in Africa. At the halfway point of the 2030 Agenda, Africa remains off track in meeting most SDG targets, with regression in some areas such as an increase in chronic hunger. Speakers addressed ways to improve cross-sectoral collaboration for interconnected challenges, methods to enhance inclusivity and effectiveness in monitoring and accountability mechanisms and examined the role of technology and innovation in accelerating progress. They stressed the need for resilient and accountable institutions to address these challenges effectively, underscoring the role of governance reform and the localization of global frameworks at the community level.

Representatives of African countries from Liberia, Malawi, Botswana and South Africa emphasized the importance of data-driven approaches to policymaking, integrating SDGs into national budgets, and promoting inter-ministerial collaboration for policy coherence. Speakers also shared their countries' experiences and strategies, including leveraging technology for improved service delivery, fostering local engagement through community-based organizations, and supporting cross-sectoral partnerships. The significance of decentralization, clear legislation, and policy frameworks to close gaps in service delivery was also highlighted.

Participants raised questions on topics such as youth engagement in governance through technology and the challenges of prioritizing SDG goals amid debt repayment issues. Speakers noted the importance of identifying critical stakeholders and working with international institutions to ease fiscal constraints and enhance investment effectiveness. Speakers highlighted the importance of strong partnerships, innovative financing, and inclusive banking practices to support Africa's development. They further discussed leveraging financial inclusion to empower marginalized groups and promoting transparency in financial systems to address inequality.

The need to better report on gains from private sector contributions and consider the qualitative aspects of monitoring people's perspectives and cultural engagement was also emphasized. Panelists reiterated the risks of siloed approaches to implementation and called for integrated policies and resources to optimize results. The session concluded with a focus on aligning international agendas with national frameworks, fostering cross-sectoral innovation, and ensuring transparency and accountability in monitoring progress toward the two agendas.



## Session 2

The **second session** addressed how to accelerate implementation and scale-up action at national and local levels by leveraging the six transitions identified by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group that can have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs: food systems; energy access and affordability; digital connectivity; education; jobs and social protection; and climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. Speakers from UN DESA, Benin, Zimbabwe, Comoros and Lesotho discussed how the various transition pathways represented a way of systems thinking that could be factored into foresight models.

Examples from country-level efforts to integrate the transitions into national and local strategies, align development plans, and collaborate among stakeholders to maximize positive impacts focused on the interconnected nature of sustainable development. Presenters shared insights on interlinked and cross-cutting areas such as using digital tools for education, adopting clean energy solutions and promoting inclusive social protection systems. Discussions also focused on the integration of gender-sensitive approaches and inclusivity in transition planning, particularly for vulnerable populations such as women, children, and marginalized communities. Speakers underscored the importance of ensuring that transitions uphold the principle of leaving no one behind.

The discussion highlighted challenges such as funding gaps, data availability and inclusive stakeholder collaboration, and emphasized the need for robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track progress effectively. Participants acknowledged the critical need for innovative financing mechanisms and the alignment of national budgets with planning. Challenges such as siloed approaches among implementing agencies and the absence of disaggregated data were noted as barriers to effective implementation. Some reiterated the importance of structured coordination among stakeholders and the use of innovative financing mechanisms to manage transition costs, raised questions on the annual costs of implementing the six transitions and shared strategies for aligning financing with these priorities.

Foresight and scenario planning were discussed as essential tools for policymakers to anticipate future challenges and opportunities, particularly in areas like green energy and digital connectivity. The need for speed and scaling was underscored to ensure impact of ongoing projects related to the six transitions, and it was underscored that these do not represent new goals but demonstrate a more systematic approach to existing objectives.

## Session 3

The **third session** examined the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, with an emphasis on how these frameworks align with the CEPA principles. Presenters from Chad, Ethiopia, Ghana, Zambia and Tanzania discussed how African countries could enhance reporting and governance practices by integrating assessments of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness into their monitoring and evaluation systems. They also identified how institutional enablers from Agenda 2063's First Ten-Year Implementation Plan could be leveraged to support these efforts at both national and continental levels. Speakers

presented examples of specific measures and mechanisms for data collection and reporting to ensure transparency at both the technical and political levels. Partnerships with other actors and collaboration with United Nations agencies for data collection and publication were cited as solutions to competition for scarce resources allocated to monitoring and evaluation.

Participants highlighted persistent challenges with data fragmentation, which hinders the subsequent monitoring and evaluation processes, and noted the importance of considering unexpected crisis situations in relation to the scope of priorities and how this can directly impact national budgets. Several emphasized the need for strong leadership in driving the SDG agenda, with some questioning whether gaps in implementation were due to leadership deficiencies or other factors such as financial resources and capacity constraints. Monitoring and evaluation systems put in place early in the implementation of national plans could help to ensure success, with bottom-up approaches supported by parliaments, technical assistance and decentralized governance systems. Quarterly SDG progress reports, consolidated and presented to senior government officials, could ensure that SDG initiatives are effectively communicated to partners and donors, securing the financing needed for monitoring and evaluation systems and other initiatives.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of aligning and coordinating national and regional agendas for the effective monitoring and implementation of the SDGs through institutionalized planning processes and strong collaboration among stakeholders as key to overcoming the challenges faced by African countries. Harmonization of monitoring and evaluation frameworks with continental and regional approaches is possible, if this did not sacrifice the local context. Participants highlighted priority efforts to promote a unified, whole-of-society approach to SDG monitoring, incorporating civil society organizations and the private sector. Integrating monitoring and evaluation processes and ensuring they are not done in isolation but in harmony with one another underscores the need for decentralized monitoring and evaluation systems, including a framework allowing for local level implementation and reporting. Speakers supported measures to strengthen the capacities of government officials in data collection, especially at the local levels.

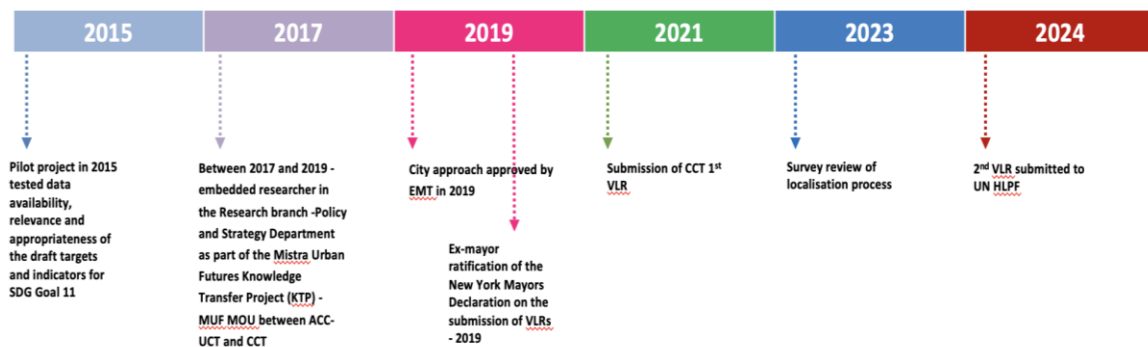
#### **Session 4**

The **fourth session** focused on strategies to achieve SDG 16, which promotes peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, by 2030, and the African Union's Moonshot 3, which seeks to entrench democratic and inclusive institutions by 2033. The session explored how principles such as competence, sound policymaking, leaving no one behind, and subsidiarity can be integrated into governance frameworks to ensure inclusive and effective public administration. Speakers discussed efforts to enhance institutional effectiveness and improve public administration. The session also unpacked results of the APRM-AAPAM Toolkit on Competencies for Civil Servants in Africa, which emphasized the need for professionalizing the public sector, aligning regional and continental frameworks with national policies, strengthening local governance and public participation. Speakers also highlighted the importance of creating an environment that fosters inclusivity, promotes justice, and strengthens institutional capacities.

Participants identified challenges such as financial constraints, ICT infrastructure gaps, and limited access to reliable data. They emphasized the importance of structured coordination, innovative financing, and strengthening local capacities to track progress effectively. A strong focus was placed on addressing the needs of marginalized groups, with specific attention to targeted surveys, and localized inclusive policies and strategies. Other strategies discussed included professionalizing public administration, leveraging partnerships and increasing citizen engagement in decision-making processes. Participants reiterated the need for inclusive policymaking, localized communication strategies and targeted interventions to address specific needs, focusing on changing youth perceptions of public service.

The session also addressed multi-dimensional poverty, strengthening local governance and the need for combating corruption to enhance transparency and accountability. Discussions focused on aligning governance strategies across different levels, improving institutional effectiveness, and using innovative approaches like economic modeling and strategic foresight with the SDG localization approach of the City of Cape Town presented as a good practice example. Participants highlighted the need for inclusive policies to tackle structural poverty and improving service delivery. They recommended targeted interventions to build public trust and integrity and reiterated the importance of collaborative efforts to achieve sustainable governance outcomes.

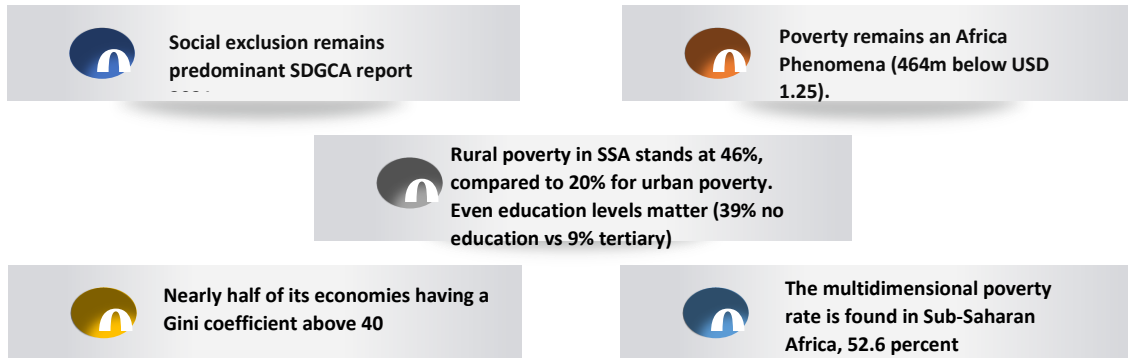
### Cape Town City SDG localization approach



Source: Executive Director Planning, City of Cape Town, South Africa

Speakers emphasized the role of anti-corruption measures, with a focus on strengthening institutions, enhancing public procurement transparency, and protecting whistleblowers. They recommended targeted interventions to build public trust and integrity, including anti-corruption reforms and lifestyle audits, and reiterated the importance of collaborative efforts across the board for sustainable development outcomes with reference to social inclusion in Africa.

## Social inclusion in Africa



Source: 2024 Africa Sustainable Development Report

## Session 5

The **fifth session** focused on strengthening institutional capabilities in Africa through collaboration with the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) System and APRM national structures. Speakers from Uganda, South Africa and Namibia focused on how countries could leverage the coordination and expertise of the RCs, alongside the APRM's focus on governance and policy assessment, to enhance institutional effectiveness for accelerated implementation of the SDGs as defined by—or aligned with—national development plans. The role of the RC has evolved to strengthen the collective efforts of the UN, moving away from a siloed approach to a more unified and efficient system. This shift has allowed the UN to work more cohesively with national governments and other stakeholders, ensuring that efforts to achieve the SDGs are better coordinated. The goal is to create synergies that improve institutional resilience and address governance challenges across Africa.

National priorities and contexts result in different approaches across the region, with a range of coordination frameworks and partnerships, and varying levels of collaboration with UN Country Teams. Strategic areas of intervention should be defined by the Government rather than the UN, although they may be part of the national monitoring and evaluation connected with global processes. The importance of political leadership at the national level was underscored, with key government institutions such as ministries of finance and foreign affairs playing pivotal roles in SDG ownership.

Participants also discussed cross-cutting issues, such as sustainable finance, governance and macroeconomic stability, which are critical for achieving the SDGs. Illicit financial flows and the need to create strong incentives for both national and regional actors was also discussed. The evolution of partnerships, particularly with the private sector, has shifted from a traditional investment mindset to one focused on financial innovative financial solutions, which are now seen as essential for sustainable development.

A key discussion point was the role of the RC in coordinating UN support to countries and encouraging alignment of national strategies with the SDGs. Youth involvement and investment in youth development was seen as an emerging priority for the UN development system to contend, enabled for example through technology hubs and employment development initiatives. The need to align educational programmes with the needs of labour markets and address job creation for youth was also cited as vital for strengthening collaboration for sustainable development.

## **Session 6**

The **sixth session** addressed the topic of building resilience to global shocks and safeguarding the future, informed by frameworks such as the Pact for the Future and associated Global Digital Compact, and outcomes from the 2024 HLPF. The session also explored pathways to a balanced financial architecture in Africa and the governance-natural resources nexus in preparation for the 2025 African Governance Report. Speakers from UN DESA, Namibia, Benin and Mauritius discussed the need for reforms to strengthen financial systems, highlighted the importance of aligning local actions with international commitments, discussed lessons learned from the 2024 VNRs and presented updates to the Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines. They also emphasized building partnerships, investing in sustainable agriculture and strengthening local institutions.

Participants revisited challenges such as accountability, data gaps, financial constraints and climate vulnerabilities, emphasizing collaborative strategies and targeted interventions to build resilience. The need for feedback loops in national and subnational levels was highlighted. Questions were raised on the role of political governance, institutional capacity and the effectiveness of international frameworks in addressing ongoing crises. Speakers also reiterated the importance of inclusive governance, transparent leadership and strong institutions to navigate political complexities and sustain progress.

### **Key updates in the SG's voluntary common reporting guidelines for VNRs**

- Shift from assessment of current situations to understanding and analyzing the root causes of challenges
- Foster a culture of evaluation and learning that informs broader policy actions
- Initiate processes to identify obstacles and derive lessons from past VNRs
- Promote the collection and analysis of disaggregated data to inform VNR processes and track progress, especially for marginalized populations
- Enhance engagement from academic institutions and a broader range of stakeholders in the VNR process

Speakers also reiterated the importance of inclusive governance, transparent leadership, and strong institutions to sustain progress, with an emphasis on institutional frameworks capable of delivering on long-term objectives while also being responsive to short-term political priorities. This included a need for capable and transparent leadership, independent oversight bodies, and inclusive stakeholder engagement. The session emphasized that resilient institutions are critical for ensuring continuity and effectiveness of governance even in the face of political changes.

The session also called for enhanced collaboration between African Regional Economic Communities and global partners to tackle shared challenges such as peace and disaster risk reduction. Strategic investments in sectors, such as education, health, agriculture, and renewable energy, were seen as key for supporting sustainable development and building resilience.

### **Way forward and closing remarks**

The **final session** of the workshop was dedicated to the way forward, with closing remarks from the workshop organizers, who presented key takeaways and commitments made during the workshop to advance the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. They reflected on the ongoing challenges in Africa, emphasizing the importance of resilience, governance reforms and cross-country cooperation to build stronger institutions and promote sustainable development. They also highlighted the significance of institutional resilience in maintaining stability amid political fluctuations. The South African experience was underscored, where civil servants ensured continuity in government functions during periods of political uncertainty. It was emphasized that achieving SDG 16 requires strong institutions and anti-corruption measures, with a call for coordinated efforts to build institutional resilience at all levels of government.

The session reaffirmed the importance of the CEPA principles of in building effective governance systems for sustainable development. The APRM was commended for its role in promoting the governance principles and facilitating cross-country cooperation to strengthen national and local capabilities. Speakers underscored the alignment of workshop outcomes with progress on international and regional agendas, focusing on governance reforms, as well as enhancing Africa's representation in global governance frameworks.

Speakers stressed the importance of involving youth and women in advancing the SDGs and Agenda 2063, highlighting the role of meaningful dialogue and partnerships with key stakeholders, prioritizing evidence-based policymaking and promoting inclusivity in governance frameworks to achieve long-term resilience. Participants were encouraged to continue collaborative efforts in their national contexts and across the region to implement the workshop's recommendations and build resilient and inclusive institutions capable of strengthening delivery on sustainable development priorities and commitments for current and future generations.



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## Workshop on Strengthening Institutional Capacities in Africa for Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063: Follow-up to 2024 HLPF and Summit for the Future

Co-organized by UN DESA and APRM

Cape Town, South Africa, 24-26 October 2024

### PROGRAMME

#### Day 1 – Thursday, 24 October

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 – 09:45 **Welcome and opening remarks**

Moderator: **Mr. Amson Sibanda**, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, UN DESA Division for Sustainable Development Goals

- **Mr. Li Junhua**, Under-Secretary General for Economic and Social Affairs, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (video message)
- **Ms. Marie-Antoinette Rose Quarte**, CEO, African Peer Review Mechanism
- **Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi**, Chair, UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration and Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University
- **Ms. Yoliswa Makhasi**, Director General, Department of Public Service and Administration, South Africa

09:45 – 11:00 **Session 1: Taking stock of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and 2063 Agenda in Africa**

Although African countries have made progress in relation to some Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063, overall, the continent is in a moment of acute peril. Mirroring trends across the world, the continent has seen an increase in poverty and hunger, inequalities and vulnerabilities, armed conflicts, violence, displacement, terrorism, climate change and disease. At the halfway point in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Africa is off track for meeting most targets of the Sustainable Development Goals and has even regressed on some, such as increase of chronic hunger in the region from 15.1 per cent in 2010 to 19.7 per cent in 2022, and remaining home to 55 per cent of the world’s population living below the USD 2.15/day international poverty line. The prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in Africa

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at 58 per cent is nearly double the global average with 20.4 per cent of the population facing hunger.

*Guiding questions*

1. How can countries and stakeholders improve coordination and collaboration across sectors to address the interconnected challenges of poverty, hunger, and climate change, ensuring a holistic approach to achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063 goals?
2. How can we enhance the inclusivity and effectiveness of monitoring and accountability mechanisms for both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 to ensure that all stakeholders are included?
3. What role can technology, including Artificial Intelligence, and innovation play in accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?
4. What are some strategies for aligning the fiscal space with the priorities outlined in the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?
5. What lessons can be learned from successful national - practices in implementing the SDGs and Agenda 2063, including at the sub-national levels?

*Moderator:* **Mr. Julius Mathieu Russel Joubert**, Senior Economist, National Planning Department, Seychelles

*Speakers:*

- **Mr. Ibrahim Al-bakri Nyei**, Deputy Minister for International Cooperation & Economic Integration, Liberia
- **Ms. Game Molly Mooketsa**, Chief Economist, National Planning Commission, Botswana
- **Ms. Elizabeth Banda**, Principal Economist, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Department of Economic Planning and Development, Malawi
- **Ms. Punki Modise**, Chief Strategy and Sustainability Officer, Absa Group

Interactive discussion

11:00 – 11:15

**Break**

11:15 – 13:00

**Session 2: Accelerating implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063: leveraging the six transitions to scale up action at national and local levels**

This session will focus on leveraging the six UN transformative transitions to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. The transitions are in the areas of **food systems, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, and climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution**. By examining how these key transitions can act as catalytic drivers and have multiplier effects for progress across the SDGs, participants will explore strategies for integrating these transitions into national and local development plans. The session aims to identify areas for action, share successful examples, and address challenges to scale up efforts and achieve meaningful impact. This session will also introduce the GSDR 2023 and explain the key findings and recommendations from the report. Discussion will focus on how to apply GSDR's approach for policy-making and concrete actions.



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### *Guiding questions*

- How can the six key transitions be effectively integrated into national and local strategies to accelerate progress towards the SDGs and Agenda 2063? How do the six transitions relate to the APRM National Plans of Action?
- What are some examples of successful initiatives or projects that have leveraged some of the six transitions to drive progress in achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063 Goals?
- What challenges do countries face when trying to align their development plans with the six transitions?
- How can different stakeholders, including governments, international organizations, the private sector and civil society, collaborate to maximize the impact of use of the transitions and manage trade-offs?
- How can the governance and capacity-building insights of the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report inform progress towards the six transitions?

*Moderator and presenter:* **Mr. Amson Sibanda**, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, UN DESA Division for Sustainable Development Goals

### *Speakers:*

- **Mr. Toussaint Todegnon**, Director-General of Coordination and Monitoring of SDGs, Ministry of Development and Coordination, Benin
- **Ms. Sylocious Chaturuka**, Deputy Director, Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe
- **Ms. Mamolibetsane Evelyn Mafethe**, Economic Planner (M&E), Ministry of Economic Planning, Lesotho
- **Mr. Youssouf Ali Mmadi**, Chief, Economic Programmes, Directorate General of Strategic Planning and Population, Comoros

Interactive discussion

13:00 – 14:30

**Lunch**

14:30 – 16:30

**Session 3: Monitoring and evaluation frameworks of both Agendas and interlinkages with CEPA principles**

This session will focus on the monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the SDGs and Agenda 2063, with an emphasis on how these frameworks align with the UN principles of effective governance for sustainable development. It will explore how African nations can enhance reporting and governance practices by integrating assessment of transparency, accountability and inclusiveness into their M&E systems. The session will also discuss how enablers from Agenda 2063's First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) can be leveraged to support these efforts at both national and continental levels, as well as the core indicator framework for Moonshot 3.

### *Guiding questions*

- What are the main challenges faced by African countries according to the evaluation of the First-ten-year implementation plan, particularly Moonshot 3 for good governance on the continent?

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- How can national and regional bodies collaborate to standardize M&E frameworks that align with the UN CEPA principles and Agenda 2063 Goals?
  - What specific actions can national governments take to enhance data collection and reporting mechanisms, ensuring they are transparent and inclusive?
  - How can the STYIP of Agenda 2063 be utilized to strengthen innovation and capacity-building in national M&E systems and enhance integrating the CEPA principles into their M&E frameworks?
  - What successful examples of CEPA-integrated M&E frameworks exist in Africa, and what lessons can be learned from these cases?

*Moderator:* **Mr. Peterson Muriithi Njenga**, Principal Economist, Department for Culture, Arts and Heritage, Kenya

*Speakers:*

- **Ms. Zahra Abakar Souleymane**, Director General in charge of monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2030/2063, Ministry of Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Chad
- **Mr. Habtamu Takele**, Director for Development Planning, Ministry of Planning and Development, Ethiopia
- **Ms. Patience Ampomah**, Senior Planning Analyst, National Development Planning Commission, Ghana
- **Ms. Dany-Sandra Sobela**, Director, Technical Assistance Management and External Training, Ministry of Economy, Planning and International Cooperation, Central African Republic
- **Mr. Tresford Musonda**, Assistant Director, Development Planning Ministry of Finance and National Planning, Zambia
- **Mr. Lamau Mpolo**, Executive Secretary, APRM National Secretariat, Tanzania

Interactive discussion

## Day 2 – Friday, 25 October

09:00 – 11:00 **Session 4: Making SDG 16 by 2030 and Moonshot 3 by 2033 a reality**

This session will explore how the principles of competence, sound policymaking, leaving no one behind, and subsidiarity can be applied to achieve SDG 16, which promotes peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, by 2030. The second 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 of the African Union and its associated moonshot 3 seeks to entrench democratic and inclusive institutions in countries across the continent by 2033. Moonshot 3 seeks to nurture capable institutions and transformative leadership at all levels. The lessons drawn from the first decade underscore the need, among others, to promote accountability of public institutions to African citizens, entrench values of democracy, justice and human rights, and exemplify good governance. Discussions will focus on practical strategies and collaborative efforts to integrate these principles into governance frameworks, ensuring inclusive and effective public administration.

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*Guiding questions*

1. What key actions can governments take to enhance institutional effectiveness and ensure progress toward achieving SDG 16 and Moonshot 3?
2. How can policymakers create an environment that fosters inclusive participation and ensures all communities are represented in decision-making processes for good governance?
3. What role do local governments and communities play and how can their capacities be strengthened?
4. What are some of effective ways to implement policies that promote justice, peace, and inclusion while addressing the specific needs of diverse population groups?
5. How can collaboration between various levels of government and civil society be improved to achieve sustainable progress in governance and justice initiatives?

*Moderator: Ms. Sara Hamouda*, Senior Continental & Global Governance Officer, APRM Continental Secretariat, South Africa

A. Competence (focus on public sector workforce)

*Lead expert: Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi*, Chair, UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration and Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University

*Country case studies:*

**Mr. Dauda Solomon Conteh**, Assistant Director, Ministry of Administration and Political Affairs, Sierra Leone

**Ms. Gcino Mlabo**, Director, APRM National Secretariat, Department of Public and Service Administration, South Africa

Interactive discussion

B. Leaving no one behind (focus on social equity)

*Lead expert: Mr. Enock Nyorekwa Twinoburyo*, Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa

*Country case study: Mr. Nawa Kutoma*, Assistant Director, Ministry of Finance and National Planning, Zambia

Interactive discussion

11:00 – 11:15 **Break**

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11:15 – 13:00 **Session 4: Making SDG 16 by 2030 and Moonshot 3 by 2033 a reality** (continued)

*Moderator:* **Ms. Gebeh Doteh**, Executive Director, Governance Commission of Liberia

C. Sound policymaking (focus on strategic planning and foresight)

*Lead expert:* **Mr. Pali Lehohla**, Economic Modelling Academy, Pretoria, South Africa

*Subnational experience:* **Mr. Gareth Morgan**, Executive Director Planning, City of Cape Town, South Africa

Interactive discussion

D. Integrity (focus on corruption prevention)

*Lead expert:* **Prof. Solosh Pillay**, Director, Stellenbosch University

*Country case study:* **Mr. Patrick S. Seitiso**, Chief Economist (SDGs), National Planning Commission, Botswana

Interactive discussion

13:00 – 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 – 17:00 **Session 5: Exploring plans of action and collaboration with UN Resident Coordinator System and APRM national structures on strengthening institutional capabilities in Africa**

This session of the workshop will focus on exploring actionable plans to foster collaboration between the UN development system and APRM national structures and stakeholders to enhance implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 through the Cooperation Framework. This session will include discussion on how countries can leverage the UN RC's coordination and expertise, alongside the APRM's focus on governance and policy assessment, to enhance institutional effectiveness for accelerated implementation of the SDGs as defined in, or aligned with, National Development Plans. Discussions will centre around creating synergies to address governance challenges and build institutional resilience in Africa. The session aims to develop a roadmap for coordinated action that enhances integrated policy implementation, accountability, and effective governance for sustainable development in countries across the continent.

*Guiding questions*

1. What specific steps can African countries take to build more robust and resilient institutions capable of responding to emerging challenges and accelerating achievement of Sustainable Development Goals? What are examples of good practices?
  2. How has the UN RC system leveraged the United Nations Cooperation Framework to support the implementation of national development plans, national policies and priorities to ensure long-term institutional effectiveness?
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3. How can collaboration between the UN RC system and APRM focal points be enhanced to support national governments in addressing governance challenges and improving national capabilities for policy implementation?
  4. What further steps can be taken to ensure that action plans to strengthen institutions and national accountability are achievable and adequately resourced?

*Moderator:* **Ms. Pauline Magawi**, United Nations Development Cooperation Office, Regional Office for Africa

*Speakers:*

- **Mr. Lineekela Josephat Mboti**, Chief Executive Officer and Focal Point of APRM Namibia, APRM National Secretariat, Namibia
- **Mr. Charles Abani**, UN Resident Coordinator in Ghana
- **Ms. Winnifred Akoto-Sampong**, Acting Executive Secretary, National Peer Review Mechanism Governing Council, Ghana
- **Ms. Kefiloe Masiteng**, Head of UN Resident Coordinator's Office in South Africa
- **Mr. Samuel Kasule**, Senior Planner, National Planning Authority, Uganda
- **Mr. Simon Peter Nsereko**, Economist, Resident Coordinator's Office in Uganda

Interactive discussion

## Day 3 – Saturday, 26 October

9:00 – 11:30

### **Session 6: Building resilience to global shocks and safeguarding the future**

This session will explore strategies for building resilience to global shocks and safeguarding the future, drawing on recent international frameworks. It will provide insights from the Pact for the Future, a global commitment agreed to at the Summit of the Future, and the Global Digital Compact, which aims to ensure inclusive and equitable digital transformation, as well as the outcome of the 2024 High-Level Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The discussion will also focus on moving towards a balanced financial architecture in Africa, to illustrate how financial systems can be structured to withstand global economic shifts. The session will also examine the governance-natural resources nexus in Africa and outline strategies for the way forward, particularly in preparation for the 2025 African Governance Report.

*Guiding questions*

1. How can the commitments and actions outlined in the Pact for the Future be effectively implemented to build resilience against global shocks in African countries?
  2. What specific reforms are necessary to create a balanced financial architecture that can withstand global economic fluctuations?
  3. How can the HLPF and voluntary national reviews (VNRs) contribute to accelerating achievement of the SDGs at the continental level?
  4. What strategies can African countries adopt to improve governance systems, ensuring they contribute to sustainable development and resilience?
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*Moderator: Mr. Rogers Dhlwayo*, Senior Economist, UNDP, South Africa

*Speakers:*

- **Ms. Tonya Vaturi**, Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development
- **Ms. Habani Munyungano**, Director, National Planning Commission, Namibia
- **Mr. Aurélien Ahan**, Head, SDG Monitoring Unit, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Benin
- **Ms. Sumedha Ramprosand**, Lead Analyst, Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development, Mauritius

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11:30 – 12:30 **Way forward and closing remarks**

*Moderator: Mr. Patrick Spearing*, Secretary of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, UN DESA

- **Ms. Yoliswa Makhasi**, Director General, Department of Public Service and Administration, South Africa
  - **Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi**, Chair, UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration and Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University
  - **Mr. Jean Yves Adou, Acting Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, APRM, on behalf of Ms. Marie-Antoinette Rose Quarte**, CEO, African Peer Review Mechanism
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