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Republic of The Gambia



An Institution of the
African Union



The Gambia Country Presentation

APRM – UN DESA Continental Capacity Building Workshop

On the Voluntary National Reviews for the
2023 HLPF and the Domestication of
Agenda 2063

Durban, South Africa
15 – 17 March 2023



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Outline



- Introduction
- Domestication Process of Agenda 2030 and 2063
- VNR Review Process
- Best Practices on SDG and 2063 Implementation



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Introduction



The Gambia's Participation in SDG Formulation:

- The Gambia actively participated in the consultation process for the Post 2015 development agenda launched in September 2012
- Among 19 African countries selected for national consultations that were conducted between March and May 2013
- National consultations was facilitated by a National Taskforce that included Government, United Nations (UN) agencies, private sector, and civil society
- The consultations were held at the grassroots and national level involving persons living with disabilities, youth, women, academia, and private sector through focus group discussions where the participants were tasked to identify and rank their development priorities for consideration in the Post 2015 Development Agenda
- Consultation findings were subjected to a national validation workshop that was compiled in a consolidated report and subsequently sent to the UNDG to serve as input into the development of the SDGs
- In September 2015, The Gambia was among 193 Member States that unanimously adopted the 17 SDGs
- On the 3rd November 2015 The Gambia launched the SDGs at the 5th Development Forum themed 'The Post-2015 Agenda and its Financing at the Local Level'.



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Domestication Process of Agenda 2030 and 2063



Domestication and Implementation: To help domesticate SDGs and identify priorities for implementation:

In 2016

- Cluster groups consisting of government, private sector, UN Agencies, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) were set up around the three (3) dimensions of sustainable development namely: economic, social, and environmental to critically look at the SDGs and recommend options for mainstreaming into the next national development plan using the UNDG MAPS approach
- The groups prioritized 8 goals and 76 targets for inclusion in the next medium-term national development plan
- The UN provided technical support to mainstream the SDGs into the NDP under formulation

In 2017

- The Gambia benefited from a UNDG MAPS Mission comprising policy experts from UNDP, UNECA, UN Women, ILO and the UNCT. The main objectives of the mission were to provide inputs and enhance alignment with the SDGs and the NDP 2018-2021 and produce a joint SDG implementation roadmap for the Government and UNCT
- Through support from the African-Kazakhstan Partnership for the SDGs, series of meetings were conducted with the Thematic Working Groups formulating the National Development Plan (NDP) 2018-2021 to raise awareness on the SDGs and how they can be effectively mainstreamed into the Plan.



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Domestication Process of Agenda 2030 and 2063 cont...



Domestication and Implementation: To help domesticate SDGs and identify priorities for implementation:

In 2018

- SDG localization plan was developed to follow up on activities identified in the SDG Implementation Roadmap with a view: to raise awareness, strengthen data collection, build partnerships, mobilize resources, and provide multi-stakeholder engagement in the achievement of the SDGs
- An SDG workshop was held with Government and UN Agencies that examined means to strengthen the NDP indicators and results framework to ensure greater alignment with SDG and Agenda 2063 indicators
- Following the workshop, a presidential dashboard was established, identifying key NDP, SDG and Agenda 2063 indicators of utmost importance to the President and his development agenda
- A capacity building workshop was conducted with National Assembly members on parliamentary action to implement and monitor the SDGs – in the spirit of having an inclusive approach and multi-stakeholder framework for SDG implementation in the country
- **18 – 21 October 2021**, ECA provided financial and technical support to conduct IPRT training to enhance national capacity in tracking progress towards the implementation of Agendas 2030 and 2063 in sync with medium and long-term development plans





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VNR Review Process



Government managed its VNR process participatorily seeking inputs from stakeholders at all levels and segments of society – national, regional and grassroots levels.

- National VNR steering committee comprising representatives of Government, National Assembly, Academia, CSOs/NGOs, Development Partners, youth, and women set up
- The steering committee coordinated the entire VNR process including supervision of the work of the drafting team charged with the responsibility of drafting the report
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs (MoFEA) and the Office of the President served as the secretariat and coordinated the VNR process and activities
- In addition, a dedicated team from Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) actively ensured availability of authentic and updated data on SDG indicators for the VNR report.
- The VNR was validated with various stakeholders at national level and there are plans for a post VNR consultation the outcome



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VNR Review Process cont...



- Outreach strategy involving consultations with stakeholders at regional level was developed and implemented
- Regional consultations involved discussions with specific population groups: women, persons with disabilities, young people including youth and children as well as regional community leaders
- Community radios were used to increase reach to local communities
- National level consultations target the same groups but in addition reached out to development partners, private sector and civil society.

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Best Practices on SDG and 2063 Implementation



The Gambia presented two (2) VNRs in 2020 and 2022 respectively. To ensure that sub-national governments are not left behind in SDG implementation, there was a VLR in 2022 that fed into the VNR. Best practice worthy of sharing includes:

- The Gambia was recognised in 2021 as the only country worldwide that is Paris Agreement Compatible and on track to meeting the targets of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement – manifesting Government’s strong commitment to address the climate crises
 - Along this trajectory, Government along with development partners has been embarking on annual tree planting including mangrove restoration with strong collaboration and engagement of communities to ensure sustainability
- Community members mainly women and young people living around protected forest areas and affected by the decline in tourism due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are being supported with community initiated social protection programmes and alternative livelihoods to build their resilience and recovery from the impact of the pandemic.



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Thank You!!!

