

## **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**

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### **Background**

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) regional 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* is the fifth in a series designed to support countries in their efforts to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.<sup>1</sup>

These capacity building and peer learning workshops have become a valuable continental gathering place to share experiences and consider joint actions in support of implementation of the two Agendas. They seek to improve the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, enhance monitoring and evaluation capacities, and promote alignment and integration of follow-up to the two Agendas into national development plans and strategies at the country level as called for by the [AU-UN Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). They are also an opportunity for African countries to share knowledge and enhance national capacities that are required to implement recommendations emanating from key global and regional meetings such as the high-level political forum, the SDG Summit, the Summit of the Future, AU Summits, and the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development.

UN DESA and AU/APRM have been partnering to support African countries in strengthening governance capabilities since 2019, using the [UN principles of effective governance for sustainable development](#) as a foundation for action. The UN governance principles were developed by the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in 2018. This model of collaboration has led to several innovations at regional and national levels and has led to many initiatives on the principles of effective governance in Africa, including the production of a [baseline study](#) on the implementation of the principles of effective governance in Africa by APRM, a [composite of practical toolkits](#) for the implementation of the principles in support of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, and several follow-up activities at national level.

### **Global and regional context**

African countries have had a mixed track record in their pursuit of the SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063. According to the 2024 Africa Sustainable Development Report<sup>2</sup>, which comprises a review of the status

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<sup>1</sup> The first workshop in the series was held in Pretoria in [2019](#), followed by Cape Town in [2021](#), [2022](#) and [2023](#).

<sup>2</sup> African Union, African Development Bank, UNDP and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. 2024 Africa Sustainable Development Report Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions.

of the implementation of the two Agendas in Africa, if current trends continue many SDG targets will not be achieved by 2030. By building robust institutions that are transparent, accountable, and inclusive, SDG 16, a foundational and cross-cutting goal, societies become more resilient to conflicts and capable of addressing the needs of all individuals, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development.

With a focus on the SDGs reviewed in depth at the 2024 high-level political forum of the United Nations, the report highlights the need for Africa to accelerate progress on SDGs 1 (end poverty), 2 (fighting hunger) and 17 (partnerships), reverse the negative trend on climate action (SDG 13) and strengthen statistical systems to track performance particularly on effective governance (SDG 16), where data limitations are a major constraint that inhibit tracking the performance of African countries.

Recent development gains have either slowed or reversed due to a confluence of multiple crises triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic, inflationary pressures, conflicts, climate change and high levels of external debt. Mirroring trends in other regions, the continent has seen an increase in poverty and hunger, inequalities and vulnerabilities, armed conflicts, violence, displacement, terrorism, climate-related disasters and disease. While there has been progress in some areas, research has shown that the inability to address these challenges fully and at the desired speed and scale can be traced to weaknesses in governance systems that inhibit transformative action and reinforce the status quo.

Despite setbacks, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want remain the overarching blueprints for sustainable development for Africa. The [Addis Ababa Declaration of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development](#) called upon countries to consider and adopt commitments, aligned with the priorities for Africa, to accelerate the implementation of SDG 16, and to strengthen governance institutions and the rule of law, including to curb corruption, protect human rights, promote inclusive societies and provide access to justice for all.

The [Summit of the Future](#) is a clarion call to “turbocharge” the SDGs, including by strengthening international cooperation so it delivers fully and fairly on existing agreements, while enabling an effective response to new threats and opportunities for present and future generations. Commitments are made across five broad areas: sustainable development and financing for development; international peace and security; science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation; youth and future generations; and transforming global governance. The Ministerial Declaration of the 2024 high-level political forum notes that good governance and democratic and transparent institutions responsive to the needs of the people are necessary to achieve the goals and emphasises the importance of good governance and strong institutions as key enablers of sustainable development.

Follow-up to the outcome of the Summit (the “Pact for the Future”) will depend on a combination of political will, human and financial resources and institutional capabilities underpinned by inclusivity and a willingness to work together and jointly with non-State actors towards a country’s development aspirations. Similarly, Moonshot 3 of the [second 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 of the African Union](#) seeks to entrench democratic and inclusive institutions in countries across the continent by 2033 as well as nurture capable institutions and transformative leadership at all levels.

Africa’s commitment to achieving Moonshot 3 is informed by an assessment of the continent’s performance on governance in the first decade of Agenda 2063 implementation that revealed an overall poor score. 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.” They also underscore the need to support capacity building in the public sector to foster resilient and responsive institutions at the national and local levels.

## Workshop objectives

This workshop aims at supporting African countries in exploring development of concrete, tangible outcomes and plans of action for building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions that contribute to implementation of the 2024 Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF, the Pact of the Future and the second 10-year implementation plan of AU Agenda 2063 with a view to accelerating the achievement of national aspirations and objectives while responding to the related national development priorities identified by countries. The topics will focus on institution building strategies that support efforts to safeguard the future; manage national, regional and global shocks; build local knowledge and capacities by leveraging the principle of subsidiarity; promote science, technology and innovation while addressing digital divides; and transform the global financial system.

Specifically, workshop participants will examine:

- Institutional coherence and implementation of Agenda 2063 and 2030 at the national level
- How to leverage the CEPA principles in strengthening national and local capacities to pursue the two Agendas at the subnational level
- Implementation efforts towards SDG 16 and Moonshot 3 of Agenda 2063 and the six transitions to accelerate progress towards the SDGs
- Monitoring and evaluation frameworks and interlinkages with the CEPA principles
- Using the Pact of the Future and other instruments to build resilience to global shocks.

## Participants

Government officials from 17 African countries will be invited to participate and will be joined by representatives from UN entities, experts from AU organs, civil society groups, youth representatives and other relevant stakeholders. UN Resident Coordinators from participating countries will be invited to join the workshop with a view to promoting further alignment of UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks with national governance and institution building priorities.

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