

Outcome report

African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Second Continental Workshop on the Voluntary National Reviews for the 2023 HLPF and the Domestication of Agenda 2063

Durban, South Africa
15-17 March 2023

Introduction

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) continental workshop provided a regional platform for peer-learning on good practices for integration and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063. The main objective of the workshop was to build national capacities of African countries to prepare and report on progress towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 through the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process, including on effective national-to-local implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). It also aimed to support countries to build strong institutional and governance frameworks in line with the Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development, which were developed by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2018 (the CEPA Principles).

The key messages adopted at the workshop are contained below, followed by a summary of the discussions at the workshop. The agenda of the workshop is attached as appendix one, while the post-workshop survey findings are attached as appendix two.

1. Key Messages

Alignment and domestication of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and AU Agenda 2063

- i. Progress is ongoing in many African countries to imbed coherent national strategies for the effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ii. To enhance domestication and localisation of both agendas, alignment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national development plans (NDPs) and frameworks needs to be legislated and combined with an Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF), which is necessary to ensure availing resources for the SDGs and Agenda 2063 programmes at national and subnational levels.
- iii. Despite the negative impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the progress towards the SDGs in many African countries, implementation efforts, including re-prioritisation of some goals, shall

continue to be prioritized, including enhancing alignment of NDPs with both Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

- iv. The African Union, UN agencies and development partners are urged to continue strengthening institutions and human capabilities for better planning, monitoring and evaluations of both agendas.
- v. Developing more disciplined and systemic approaches to risk mitigation and management is key to ensuring that the journey towards achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063 is maintained with little to no negative impact.
- vi. Fragility, conflicts and political transition in some African countries impeded national abilities to conduct Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and align NDPs with the SDGs and Agenda 2063. These countries, as well as least developed countries, need further capacity building support to domesticate and plan for implementing both Agendas in tandem.

Significance of VNR and VLR processes

- i. The VNR exercise serves as an increasingly inclusive, whole-of-government, whole-of-society, evidence-based process led by the Government, aligning national data sets with the global SDG indicator framework.
- ii. To accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 through effective stocktaking and reporting through the VNR process, efforts need to be more adequately resourced, in both financial and human capital terms.
- iii. The VNRs conducted by African countries contain valuable information, data, lessons, and examples of policies for accelerating implementation and increasing resilience.
- iv. The process of conducting a VNR can increase collaboration, knowledge sharing, peer learning, and South-South cooperation to build and strengthen the national capacities of African countries; provide momentum for continued reporting that increases comparability and consistency of the VNR reports.
- v. Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) can support stronger institutional and governance frameworks and effective national-to-local implementation of the SDGs.
- vi. Countries are encouraged to set up national mechanisms to consolidate contributions from VLRs into their national reporting, and to support designing the VNRs and VLRs as an interconnected stakeholder engagement mechanism.

Implementation of CEPA Principles for Effective governance of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063

- i. Governments in many African countries are undertaking efforts to integrate institutional frameworks for monitoring and evaluation of progress towards both agendas that can support good governance and sound policy making principles.

- ii. As called for in SDG 16, countries are taking steps to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, to anchor development efforts and build resilience towards future shocks and vulnerabilities.
- iii. Countries called for further capacity building initiatives, including on the principles of effective governance for sustainable development (CEPA principles) and institution building at national levels.

Monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063

- i. Countries can improve policies and programmes through effective monitoring and evaluation; however, most countries are challenged with timeliness in data collection and publishing due to resource constraints, and there is a need for technical and financial assistance to align the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 within the NDP, supported by an INFF.
- ii. Data sharing needs to be prioritized, especially from national statistical offices, with meaningful efforts by Governments to build capacities for subnational implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
- iii. Experimental data, and data from non-traditional sources, are often used to show progress in areas where there are data gaps, or to complement data from the Agenda 2063 framework.
- iv. Governments are encouraged to establish a central data review body or process that can decide the best data sets to use in terms of relevance, timeliness, and quality.
- v. African countries are encouraged to benefit from the APRM governance assessment reviews and continental workshops on VNRs, and to minimize reporting fatigue through use of integrated tools and processes for monitoring and evaluation of both agendas.
- vi. The AU efforts to enhance monitoring and evaluation of the first-ten-year implementation plan (FTYIP) of Agenda 2063 are significant to assess relevance and effectiveness of the agenda over the past ten years. AU organs and regional economic commissions need to provide their inputs to the FTYIP evaluation and undertake special studies, amongst others, to assess emerging impacts of Agenda 2063 FTYIP implementation.
- vii. Successful monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 requires strong political will and commitment, and mobilization of all actors at all levels, synergy of monitoring and evaluation mechanism at all levels, quality and continuous dialogue with partners, alignment of national budgets with planning and programming, and support for national statistical systems.

Progress towards SDG 6 (Water) SDG 7 (Energy), SDG 9 (industry, infrastructure and innovation), SDG 11 (sustainable cities) and SDG 17 (partnerships)

- i. Vulnerability to climate change and environmental disasters is a concern of some African countries. International and continental actors and organs are encouraged to utilize VNRs to sustain financing for water, infrastructure and energy sectors and provide further technical assistance to African countries to enhance resilience to climate change and disasters.

- ii. The adoption of INFFs and strengthening of domestic resource mobilization capacities have proven to be efficient in some African countries, with a focus on revised tax structures, streamlining of tax exemptions, and prevention of revenue loss, supported by green financing, FinTech/digital finance, and diaspora bonds.
- iii. African countries' abilities to generate renewable energy resources and provide basic services, i.e., access to safe drinking water and affordable energy, require further support from continental and global partners. The second-ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 (STYIP) will prioritize the "water-energy-infrastructure" nexus to provide basic services for African citizenry.

The role of youth, women, and civil society organizations for promoting the principle of leaving no one behind (LNOB)

- i. Localization and domestication of both Agenda 2030 and 2063 requires political and administrative buy-in and ownership that supports government officials to undertake a stronger role at local levels, and engages citizens to raise awareness and advocate for both agendas' rationale and significance for community development.
- ii. Engaging and empowering youth and civil society organizations through multi-stakeholder forums and activities that support their positive role in the localization and implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 can also help to implement national programmes.
- iii. Countries are encouraged to develop inclusive policies to ensure that women, children, youth, persons with disabilities, and people living in vulnerable situations are not left behind in efforts to implement both agendas.
- iv. Improving the quality of education, supporting local communities, and fostering national health insurance systems in Africa are key to empowering civil society groups and supporting their inclusion in partnerships for sustainable development.
- v. Conducting an analysis of the Multidimensional Poverty Index can serve as a useful exercise to enhance gender inclusion in the implementation of NDPs and national and local programmes.
- vi. Instability and lack of security have negatively affected the LNOB principle in Africa, especially with regard to internally displaced persons.
- vii. Countries are encouraged to improve good governance practices, including accountability, full access to information and effective institutions; create educational programmes that raise awareness of the SDGs at the local level, especially in rural areas; and decentralize economic opportunities for youth to nurture LNOB practices.

2. Summary of proceedings

Opening session

The opening session featured remarks provided by Prof. Eddy Maloka, the CEO of the APRM continental Secretariat; Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General, UN DESA (pre-recorded video); Mr. Nelson Muffuh, UN Resident Coordinator, South Africa; and Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief,

National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA.

In his opening remarks, Professor Eddy Maloka noted the continental workshop has been institutionalized in the APRM with the support of the African Union and its strategic partners to assist member States in planning, implementation and monitoring the 2030 Agenda and African Union Agenda 2063. He highlighted that the workshop would take stock of lessons from African countries conducting their VNRs in 2022, build and strengthen national capacities of African countries to continue reporting through the VNR process through strong institutional and governance frameworks and effective national-to-local implementation of the SDGs. The workshop provided a platform to discuss the preparation and presentation of VNRs at the 2023 HLPF to be held at the United Nations Headquarters. The APRM, in partnership with UN DESA, has been supporting African countries to strengthen reporting on both agendas while entrenching the CEPA Principles at the regional and country levels.

Mr. Li Junhua noted the productive relationship built by UN DESA and the APRM under the umbrella of the AU-UN Cooperation Framework since 2018 in order to support capacity building for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. He stated that VNRs are the primary means of measuring national progress towards the SDGs and encouraged countries presenting VNRs at the HLPF to use the CEPA principles to guide and inform their review processes, and to incorporate local reviews of progress into their VNRs. He commended Governments' efforts to coordinate among ministries, strengthen institutions for good governance, domesticate the SDGs, and engage local authorities and stakeholders in data collection to assess community needs and challenges more effectively.

Mr. Amson Sibanda highlighted the importance of cooperation, partnerships and continued collaboration with African partners and civil society in the preparation of VNRs. Multi-level stakeholder committees and platforms are aiding implementation through national measures such as legislation and institution building, as well as through local actions that engage and empower women, youth, and other community groups, to implement innovative solutions. After seven years of reporting, it is evident that the VNR exercise creates channels for knowledge-sharing and serves to support the collaborative work of governments, development partners, stakeholder groups, and local communities to understand how to build back better, including by scaling-up local initiatives and adjusting national development policies and plans. He concluded that VNRs can also support the continuation of best practices so that no one is left behind.

Session one: Lessons learnt from 2022 VNRs and VLRs

Twenty-one African countries presented a VNR at the 2022 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). They reported on progress, gaps and challenges against the backdrop of a fragile and highly uncertain global socioeconomic outlook. This session deliberated on good practices, challenges and lessons learned in reporting on the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063 during the pandemic. It featured experts from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Liberia, Malawi and Somalia, who shared experiences from the 2022 VNR process to kick off a discussion among participants on lessons learnt to improve reporting on both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

Many countries noted that early preparations, including continuous data collection from multiple credible sources, is key to preparing a VNR. Readiness assessments in advance of reporting; knowledgeable stakeholder input to the draft report; and use of images, graphs and infographics make for easier consumption and communication of the final VNR. Adopting and maintaining a multi-

stakeholder approach is important, including civil society, the private sector, academia and local communities in the implementation of both agendas. Many countries support the establishment of sectoral, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder exchange platforms. Speakers noted that a more comprehensive approach should be developed to identify opportunities for alignment and coherence between both agendas and NDPs.

Strengthening institutions and human capabilities for better planning, monitoring and evaluations was also identified as crucial, including more disciplined and systemic approaches to risk mitigation and management. Countries observed that synergy of actions and coordination in the implementation of the 2030 and 2063 Agendas with the support of the United Nations system is important. Reaching remote communities, constituencies, and those particularly affected by climate change and natural disasters is part of ensuring that no one is left behind. There is also a need for more awareness-raising through transformative educational programmes in historically disadvantaged, marginalised areas, including rural and remote areas. Countries stressed that decentralisation of the SDGs through their effective integration into local development plans must be prioritised, and noted that localization of both agendas requires political and administrative buy-in and ownership at both the national and sub-national levels.

Session Two: CEPA principles of effective governance and institutional and coordination mechanisms for domesticating the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Effective governance and the capacities of public administration are not always sufficiently tailored to achieving the goals of both agendas. This session brought together Ghana, Senegal and South Africa to provide an overview of how inclusive, effective and accountable governance and more resilient public institutions can support sustainable development. The CEPA principles offer a range of recommendations on effective governance for all levels of government, including local authorities. More information on the development of strategy guidance notes to assist public servants is available [here](#).

Participants noted that it was important for countries to improve national statistical capacity and mainstream indicators into the national framework. Countries should continue to produce complete, detailed, disaggregated and regular data to leave no one behind, and should develop more advanced tools to gather data. Effective national coordinating mechanisms for implementation of both agendas could be considered, which ensures not only that national resources are optimally deployed, but also that international support and provision of public sector finance, technology and capacity building for successful integrated implementation of both agendas takes place. Countries observed the importance of integrating NDPs with financial and fiscal planning frameworks to ensure adequate resources for SDG implementation.

Session Three: Peer exchange with VNR countries on experiences and promising practices implementing Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda, including localizing the SDGs

This session aimed to help African countries exchange views on the issue of domestication, good practices and challenges on implementation of both agendas through a peer-learning exchange. Botswana, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, The Gambia and Rwanda shared their views and experiences during this discussion. They highlighted the need to invest in intellectual capital and human resources, including in the skills, competencies, resources, working conditions and values of public servants, which can support the building of strong institutions and the achievement of effective public service delivery. They agreed that Governments need to be better prepared and more resilient in order to manage current and future crises and ensure that service delivery to citizens

becomes more seamless and efficient.

Participants discussed the needs of vulnerable groups, and underlined that women and persons with disabilities can suffer from disproportionate forms of discrimination, and suggested the adoption of National Action Plans on inclusive policies to further advance the principle of leaving no one behind. Cooperation and collaboration between structures on the African continent and the global community should be strengthened, and relationships between Government, stakeholders and local and regional governments. Countries could put in place resource mobilization mechanisms to develop innovative and blended finance to support national development and ensure that climate issues are prioritized in the country's development agenda, and could consider strengthening partnerships to align public and private investments. The importance of monitoring and evaluation of national policies and progress toward the SDGs was also discussed.

Session Four: Monitoring and evaluation tools for SDGs and Agenda 2063

This session was designed to showcase tools developed by the African Union Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, and the UN Economic Commission for Africa to support reporting on SDGs and Agenda 2063. The AU Technical Working Group (TWG) shared insights on the Agenda 2063 reporting framework and key highlights of the continental report on the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP), and representatives of Egypt, Lesotho, Niger and Sudan presented their experiences in monitoring and evaluation using these tools.

The discussion examined progress toward implementation of Agenda 2063, highlighted the main monitoring and evaluation frameworks that have been adopted to report on Agenda 2063 alongside the SDGs, and addressed the problem of data challenges for African countries in SDG reporting. Speakers and participants addressed the benefits and challenges of utilizing specific monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, methods and tools being used to support country and regional reporting on progress towards the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Challenges included problems related to change of government, information classification, data insecurity, and advocacy through actions to ensure progress. Some countries noted they are struggling with trade-offs between methodologies and competing for stakeholders instead of establishing monitoring and evaluation tools at the national level, where a national planning commission is useful. The benefits of monitoring and evaluation were seen as presenting an opportunity for the two agendas to be implemented together. At the national level, countries have forged programmes and partnerships with Resident Coordinator Offices and UN entities to enhance monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda together with Agenda 2063. Efforts to provide a diagnostic evaluation of Agenda 2063 in 2023 have been led by the African Union Commission and AUDA-NEPAD in partnership with APRM, Regional Economic Communities and the African Development Bank.

Speakers noted that countries could improve their policies and programmes through effective monitoring and evaluation. However, most countries are challenged with timeliness in data collection and publishing due to resource constraints. Successful monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 requires strong political will and commitment, mobilization and commitment of all actors at all levels, synergy of monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at all levels, quality and continuous dialogue with partners, alignment of national budgets with planning and programming, and support for national statistical systems.

Session Five: Energy-water infrastructure nexus for sustainable, safe, and inclusive communities in Africa

Access to energy and water are essential to Africa's development and resilience. More specifically, access to affordable energy and the transition to clean energy are critical to Africa's development, including clean water and sanitation, infrastructure development, and innovation for agricultural productivity. This session showcased national efforts from Comoros, Congo DRC, Eswatini, Guinea-Bissau and Togo to implement the SDGs under review at the HLPF in 2023: Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation; Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy; Goal 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure; Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities; and Goal 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

Speakers referred to the potential of the African Continental Free Trade Area, including access to a large export market, opportunities for accelerating growth, poverty eradication and job creation, reshape markets and economies across the region and help African countries diversify their exports and attract much needed foreign direct investment. Participants also noted that rapid penetration of mobile access has resulted in considerable improvements in the lives of people, including the poor, but the challenge of leaving no one behind remains given the persistence of the digital divide, in particular inequitable access to affordable technological devices and services. Other challenges highlighted by countries included Africa's absolute and relative lack of industrial infrastructure, limited use of new infrastructure technologies, and poor access to trade routes that are critical to facilitating domestic and international trade, and enhancing regional integration as well as the continent's integration into the global economy.

Recommendations included the strengthening of partnerships and aid effectiveness, including promoting regional integration; clarifying communication on policy development and measures to protect groups in vulnerable situations; building social support around difficult and emerging reforms and trade-offs; and training and transfer of expertise through capacity building and partnerships to ensure the sustainability of interventions.

Session Six: Leaving no one behind: enhancing the role of women, youth, and civil society in implementation/localization of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Women, youth, and civil society organizations are crucial to the successful implementation, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. They contribute to the advocacy and visibility of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and to review processes at all levels, including local and national level mechanisms, and regional and international forums on sustainable development. A growing number of countries are engaging civil society actors and include them in the preparation of VNRs and VLRs.

Burkina Faso, Egypt, Rwanda, Tunisia and Zambia outlined measures they had taken to ensure leaving no one behind. They called for the increased representation of youth, women and people with disabilities in Government and parliament. Adoption of mechanisms to leave no one behind, such as gender responsive budgeting, the Multidimensional Poverty Index and Multiple Overlapping Deprivation Analysis of Child Poverty were considered good practices. The involvement of women and youth was considered key in the development and implementation of policies, including by building an intergenerational exchange and merging the ambition of young leaders with experts at the senior level. The AU's initiatives to amplify youth voices and support the participation of African youth in peace and security initiatives were also highlighted as good practices.

Session Seven: Updates on VNR and VLR guidelines for the 2023 HLPF

This session included presentations from UN DESA on the 2023 VNR Handbook and on the Global Guiding Elements for VLRs for SDG implementation. It also included updates on progress from the seven African countries preparing their VNRs for the 2023 HLPF.

VNRs

The follow-up and review architecture of the HLPF is enshrined in the 2030 Agenda through a three-tier system: the national level as the foundation for review, the regional forums as platforms to further the exchange of best practices and reinforce mutual learning, and the HLPF as the overarching platform at the global level, which meets every year under the auspices of ECOSOC and every four years under the General Assembly (the “SDG Summit”). In 2023, the SDG Summit will take place in September at UN Headquarters in New York, during the high-level week of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly. Participants were informed that at the Summit, Heads of State and Government will undertake a comprehensive review of the state of the SDGs, respond to the impact of multiple and interlocking crises facing the world, and provide high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to the target year of 2030 for achieving the SDGs. The Summit will also bring together leaders from governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, women and youth and other stakeholders in a series of high-level meetings with the Heads of State and Government.

Participants also benefited from the review of the VNR Handbook which included key principles of VNRs, and the UN Secretary-General’s voluntary common reporting guidelines used by Member States to guide preparation of the VNR reports and prepare for their presentation at the HLPF held under the auspices of ECOSOC each year. The online [VNR database](#) contains over 300 VNR reports from 189 countries reporting since 2016, which include many useful examples of policies, initiatives and good practices that provide a useful resource for all countries.

Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia will all be presenting their second VNR in 2023. Each country provided reflections on the process of conducting a second VNR, highlighting long-term processes to improve the quality of indicators and build capacity of national statistical offices; engagement of high-level leadership to strengthen VNR assessments; increased involvement of many types of stakeholders; broader engagement with the UN system; establishment and strengthening of technical committees and ministries involved in the implementation of SDGs; revision of NDPs; the promotion of SDG education; and institutionalization of the process at sub-national levels to leverage local reporting on the SDGs. A peer-learning exchange dialogue with all participants produced reflections on presenting the VNR at the HLPF, with advice on the importance of leveraging technology to enrich the VNR, engaging more stakeholders, utilizing the VNR for other national assessments and for furthering implementation of both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Key recommendations to maximize benefits of the VNR exercise included the following:

- Embed VNRs into institutions and link the VNRs to report to other mechanisms and conventions;
- Undertake costing analysis for SDGs and align them with national budgets;
- Strengthen policy coherence by identifying interlinkages among SDGs and assessing trade-offs;
- Engage parliaments and supreme audit institutions;
- Report at the national level before and after a VNR has been presented at the HLPF; and
- Take action in the executive and legislative branches of Governments.

VLRs

VLRs are not officially presented at the HLPF, but localization is a key aspect for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and this has been recognized by Ministerial Declarations issued at the HLPF. Localization of the SDGs is generally understood as the process of defining, implementing and monitoring strategies at the local level for achieving global, national, and sub-national sustainable development goals and targets. In that regard, VLRs are prepared by local and regional governments on their progress, gaps, challenges, strategies and measures for sustainable development using the SDG framework of targets and indicators. VLRs are also tools that enable the identification of interlinkages among the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainable development and foster the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of local measures that strengthen institutional capacities to achieve progress. The Global Guiding Elements for Voluntary Local Reviews¹ (VLRs) of SDG implementation that were prepared by DESA and are available in all six UN official languages provide information and support for local and regional governments conducting VLRs, and suggestions on how Governments can include VLRs in the preparation of a VNR.

Participants learnt how VLR processes have potential to contribute to building strong institutions for implementing the SDGs, especially with regard to sound policy making and data availability. However, the participation of local and regional governments in national coordination mechanisms is a challenge, and more should be done to break down silos and promote horizontal policy coherence across sectoral departments of all levels of government to manage trade-offs across policy domains in the implementation of SDGs and NDPs.

¹ [GlobalGuidingElementsforVLRs_FINAL.pdf \(un.org\)](#)



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ANNEX 1

**APRM- UN DESA Continental
Capacity Building Workshop**

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

15 - 17 March 2023

Tuesday 14 March 2023	Arrival in Durban international Airport
DAY ONE Wednesday 15 March 2023	
8h30 – 9h00	Registration
9h00 – 9h45	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Chair: Prof. Eddy Maloka, CEO, APRM Continental Secretariat</p> <p>Mr. Li Junhua, Under-Secretary-General, UN DESA (pre-recorded video)</p> <p>Mr. Nelson Muffuh, UN Resident Coordinator, South Africa</p> <p>Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, UN DESA</p>
9h 45 – 10h00	Group photo & Media coverage
10h00 - 12h00	<p>Session One: Lessons learnt from 2022 VNRs/VLRs <i>(5 min/ speaker)</i></p> <p><i>The 2022 HLPF reviewed in-depth Sustainable Development Goals 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals. It took into account the different impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic across all SDGs and the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Goals. Twenty-one African countries reported on progress, gaps and challenges against the backdrop of a fragile and highly uncertain global socioeconomic outlook, amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its consequences, the adverse impacts of climate change, rising geopolitical tensions and conflicts. COVID-19 revealed institutional and political fragilities in many countries across the globe. This session will deliberate on good practices, challenges and lessons learned in reporting on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063 during the pandemic.</i></p>





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Guiding questions:

1. What key lessons can be drawn from the 2022 VNR preparatory processes?
2. How have countries reflected the localization of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, including through voluntary local reviews (VLRs)?
3. What innovative approaches/tools have African governments adopted to prepare VNRs considering the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and its recovery plans ?
4. to what extent has the pandemic provided an opportunity to improve governments' accountability and ownership as regards the implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 and the SDGs?

Ethiopia: Mr. Tamiru Terefe, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Planning and Development

Liberia: Mr. Fohn T. Gborweah, Economist-Special Assistant, Ministry of Finance & Development Planning (MFDP)

Cameroon: Ms. Christelle Stella Ngangue, National Planning Commission

Malawi: Dr. Martin Limbikani Mwale, Principal Economist, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Somalia: Mr. Ahmed Abdullahi Ali, Sustainable Development Officer, National Bureau of Statistics

Moderator: Ms. Sara Hamouda, Continental Governance Programme -Officer in charge, African Peer Review Mechanism

12h00 – 13h00

Session Two: CEPA principles of effective governance and institutional and coordination mechanisms for domesticating the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

(5 minutes/speaker)

Although the ownership and efforts of African countries to domesticate the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs and Agenda 2063 have strongly improved over the years, the implementation of both Agendas is not lagging behind because the Goals are ill designed. Rather, this is because their governance and the capacities of public administration are not always sufficiently tailored and mobilizing domestic and global resources to support sustainable development remains a key challenge for many African countries, among a host of other factors. This session aims to address the following questions:



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Guiding questions:

1. How can countries achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063 through more inclusive governance and more resilient public administration?
2. How can African countries strengthen institutions for more integrated solutions through whole of-government and whole-of-society approaches that can bring about transformative changes in governance and public policy to achieve the vision and Goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?
3. How do institutional mechanisms at the government level ensure policy coherence for SDGs planning & implementation?
4. To what extent have governments considered inclusive and participatory approaches in the national SDGs institutional decision-making?
5. How can the [CEPA Principles](#) contribute to effective, inclusive, and accountable institutions?

South Africa: Mr. Lusanda Batala, Senior Expert, National Planning Commission

Senegal: Mr. Bocar Ka Diallo, Economist, Ministry of Planning, Economy and Cooperation

Ghana: Mr. Charles Konglo, Senior Policy Analyst, National Planning Commission

Saras Jagwanth, inter-regional adviser, DESA, United Nations

Moderator: Emmanuel S. Katumba, Head of Communication, Networks and Partnerships, APRM, Uganda

13h00 – 14h30

Lunch Break

2h30 -14h30

Session Three: Peer exchange with Voluntary National Review countries on experiences and promising practices implementing Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda, including localizing the SDGs

(5 minutes/speaker)

Peer learning is important to change mindsets and advance the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. In that regard, African countries should focus more on investing in intellectual capital and human resources, including in the skills, competencies, resources, working conditions and values of public servants, which can support the building of strong institutions and the achievement of effective public service delivery. Further, governments need to be better prepared and more resilient in order to manage current and future crises and ensure that service delivery to citizens becomes more seamless and efficient. This peer-learning session aims to help African countries exchange views on the issue of domestication, good practices and challenges.



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Guiding questions

1. How can you assess the domestication process of Agenda 2030 and 2063 in your country?
2. do you think your government adopt a whole of society and whole of government approach in managing the process?
3. what does your country can offer to other African countries on SDGs and Agenda 2063 best practices?

Rwanda: Mr. Thierry Watrin, Green Economy and Climate Change Advisor to the Minister of State in Charge of Economic Planning

Gambia: Mr. Ibrahima Kinteh, Deputy Director of Development Planning, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

Eritrea: Dr. Fikresus Amahazion, Researcher/Analyst, Eritrean Center for Strategic Studies

Botswana: Ms. Modiegi Ngakane, Interim Assistant Commissioner General, National Planning Commission

Cote Ivoire: Mr. Amoya Kobenan Kossonou, Advisor, National Planning Commission

Central African Republic: Ms. Dany Sandra Yadila, Acting Director General of Cooperation for Development, Ministry of Economy

Moderator: Mr. Rogers Dhlwayo, Economics Adviser, UNDP South Africa

6.00:8.00 PM Official Reception – hosted by the South African Government and strategic partners.

Speakers : Mayor of Durban : Mr Mxolisi Kaunda, Dr. Kefiloe Masiteng (NPC) and Amb. Amar Sinha, Chairman, Global Development Centre (India) 7 min/each

End of day 3



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DAY TWO

Thursday 16 March 2023

9h00 – 11h00

Session Four: Monitoring and evaluation tools for SDGs and Agenda 2063

(5 minutes/speaker)

The African Union led by the AU Commission and AUDA-NEPAD in partnership with different organs including APRM, and Regional Economic Communities and the African Development Bank has led efforts to provide a diagnostic evaluation of Agenda 2063 by 2023. At the national level, countries have also forged several programmes and partnerships with UN entities to enhance monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

This session will showcase tools developed by AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, and UNECA to support reporting on SDGs and Agenda 2063. The AU Technical Working Group (TWG) will also share insights on Agenda 2063 reporting framework and key highlights of the continental report on the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP). The session will examine the following questions:

Guiding questions:

1. How far has the implementation of Agenda 2063 been progressing?
2. What are the main M&E frameworks adopted to report on Agenda 2063 alongside SDGs?
3. Why has data been a persistent challenge for African countries in SDGs reporting?

Experience sharing from member states.

Sudan: Mr. Amin Salih Basher, Acting Under-Secretary of Economic Planning

Egypt: Ms. Nada Yacoub, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development

Lesotho: Ms. Malefu Delinah Khanyapa, Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

Niger: Mr. Youssef Ibrahim, Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Expert, Ministry of Planning

Reflections from AU organs and Strategic partners

Mr. Sampson Osei, M&E Directorate, APRM Continental Secretariat

AUDA-NEPAD: Mr Simon Kisira, M&E Senior Expert, member of Agenda 2063 Technical Group

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

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11h00- 11h30	Coffee break
<p>11h30am - 13h00</p>	<p>Session five: Energy-Water – Infrastructure nexus for sustainable, safe and inclusive communities in Africa (5 minutes/speaker)</p> <p><i>Access to energy is essential to developing Africa's development and building resilience. More specifically, energy access and transition should spur support to different sectors including clean water and infrastructure development. It also boosts alternative innovative for agricultural productivity. Further, the implementation of the African continental Free Trade Area is heavily dependent on progress towards the highlighted three sectors: water, energy and infrastructure connectivity across the continent.</i></p> <p><i>This session displays national efforts to implement the SDGs which shall be reviewed: SDG Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation, Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy; Goal 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure and Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities which are strongly connected and interlinked.</i></p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the key reforms implemented in your country to enhance water and energy resources management ? 2. The implementation of ACFTA requires efficient infrastructure system to strengthen industrial capacities in Africa. What are the main challenges -and equally the opportunities- in your country to develop this sector? 3. How do the continental financial institutions i.e AfDB or other development partners support your country? <p>Togo: Mr. Dao Alaza Wiyao, Chief of Environment and Rural Development, Ministry of Cooperation and Planning Development</p> <p>Comoros: Mr. Mouhidine KAAMBI, Director General of Strategic Planning and Population</p> <p>Congo DRC: Mr. Modeste Nyembo Kakanda, National Coordinator, Sustainable Development Centre</p> <p>Eswatini: Mr. Thandazani S. Sibiyi, Economist, Ministry of Planning and Development</p> <p>Guinea Bissau: Mr. Agostinho Moisés, Head of Department, M&E, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Integration</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Senya Robert Tuni, Senior Economist, Ministry of Finance and Planning, Tanzania</p>
13:00 – 14h30	Lunch Break

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14h30 – 16h:30

Session Six: Leaving no one behind: enhancing the role of women, youth, and civil society in implementation/localization of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

(5 minutes/speaker)

Leaving many behind has already become a reality for many African countries. Unless meaningful stakeholder engagement and partnerships are reinvigorated and scaled-up, post pandemic recovery for many African countries will be unattainable, much less reaching the SDGs. In that regard, women, youth, and civil society organizations are crucial to the successful implementation, follow-up, and review of the 2030 Agenda. They contribute to the advocacy and visibility of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and to review processes at all levels, including at local and national level mechanisms, regional forums on sustainable development and at the international level, in particular at the high-level political forum for sustainable development (HLPF). A growing number of countries are engaging civil society actors and include them in the preparation of voluntary national reviews and voluntary local reviews. National CSOs and youth experts will be reflecting on the following guiding questions.

Guiding questions:

- Are you involved or part of a community association dedicated to support SDGs /VNR process?
- What kind of activities are taken by youth to enhance SDGs and Agenda 2063 domestication?
- To what extent has your government supported leaving no one behind principle at community level?
- How regional economic communities and AU organs support youth programmes across the continent?

Rwanda: Mr. Jean Bosco Ndayisenga, Director-General, National Programmes and Project Monitoring

Burkina Faso: Mr. Emmanuel Savadogo, Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Foresight

Zambia: Ms. Rachel Ponde, Principal Planner, Ministry of Finance and Planning

Tunisia: Ms. Khoulood Baghourri, Youth envoy North Africa

South Africa: Ms. Philile Faith Shange, Researcher (APRM/SAIIA group)

Moderator: Mr. Sphamandla Mhlongo, Democracy Development Programme, South Africa

End of day 2

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DAY THREE

Friday 17 March 2023

9h00 – 12h00

Session seven: Updated guidelines on VNR/VLR guidelines for HLPF 2023

This session reviews the VNR Handbook and guidelines for reporting in 2023. The guidelines are inspired by a broad discussion led by UNDESA to ensure relevance to global challenges and enhance the quality and comparability of VNR reporting. The session will also discuss the Global Guiding Elements for Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) of SDG implementation. The session aims to further discuss with the 2023 prospective African countries progress towards their reports.

Guiding questions:

1. What are the main highlights of VNR/VLR 2023 guidelines and how can countries build on similar VNR/VLR experiences from their peers?
2. What are the main pieces of advice to share with African countries presenting a VNR in 2022?
3. How can the VLRs contribute to robust and inclusive national and regional review processes?
4. What are key lessons learned in relation to VLRs?

Ms. Tonya Vaturi, Sustainable Development Officer, OISC/DESA: Voluntary National Reviews: emerging themes, roadmap, and key highlights (10 minutes)

Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, DSDG/DESA: Benefits of conducting voluntary local reviews (VLRs) (10 minutes)

Reflections from presenting countries (5-7 minutes per speaker)

Burkina Faso
Central African Republic
Comoros
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Rwanda
Tanzania
Zambia

Moderator: Ms. Tonya Vaturi, Sustainable Development Officer, DESA



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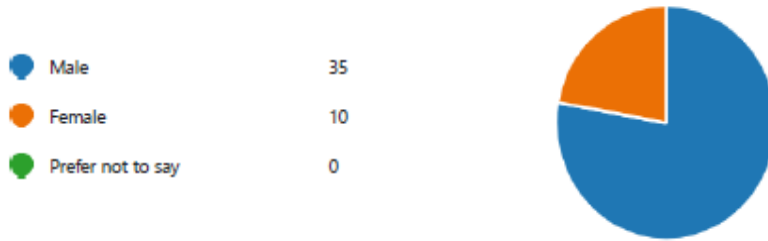
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<p>12h00 – 12h30</p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Prof. Eddy Maloka, CEO, APRM Continental Secretariat</p> <p>Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, UN DESA</p>
<p>End of day 3</p>	
<p>18 March 2023</p>	<p>Departure from Durban, South Africa</p>

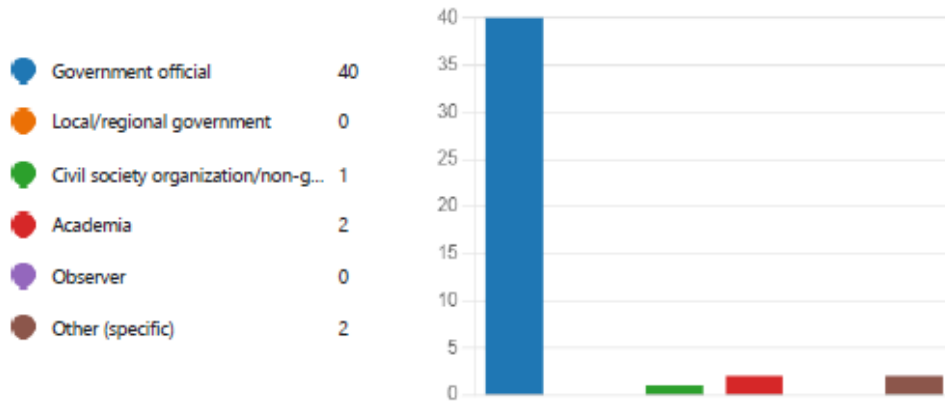
ANNEX 2

Feedback from member states on the workshop (survey findings)

1. Gender



2. Categorisation/ profession



3. Overall satisfaction about the workshop

How satisfactory was the workshop in achieving its objective to support national capacities of African countries to prepare and report through the VNR process, including on effective national-to-local implementation of the SDGs and building strong institutional and governance frameworks?

● Very satisfied	33
● Satisfied	12
● Neutral	0
● Unsatisfied	0
● Very unsatisfied	0



How satisfactory was the workshop as a regional platform for peer-learning on good practices for integration and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063?

● Very satisfied	32
● Satisfied	13
● Neutral	0
● Unsatisfied	0
● Very unsatisfied	0



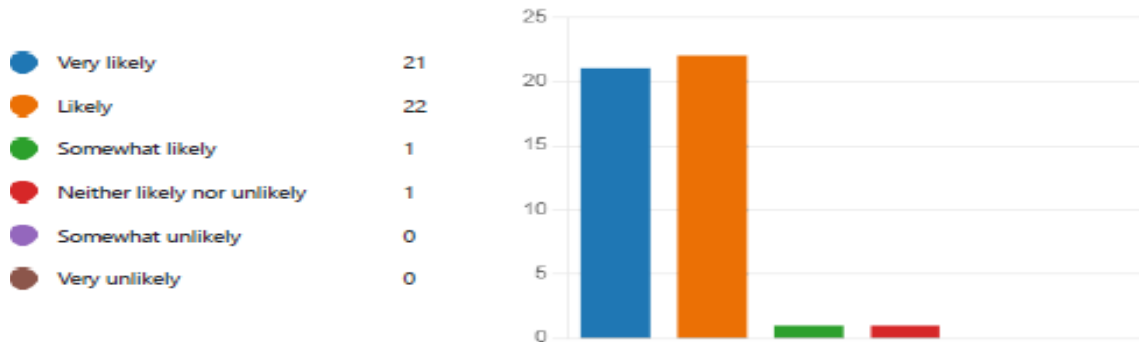
How would rate your understanding of the principles of effective governance and voluntary local reviews?

● Very satisfied	21
● Satisfied	23
● Neutral	1
● Unsatisfied	0
● Very unsatisfied	0

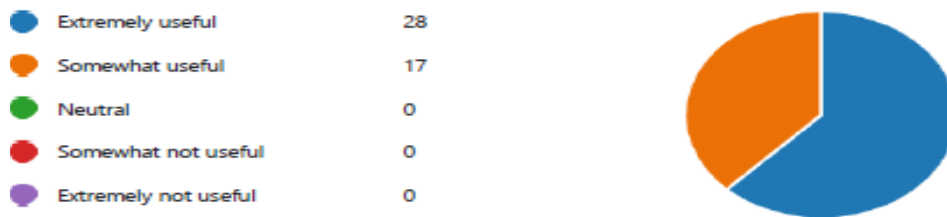


4. Presentations, logistics and policy impact

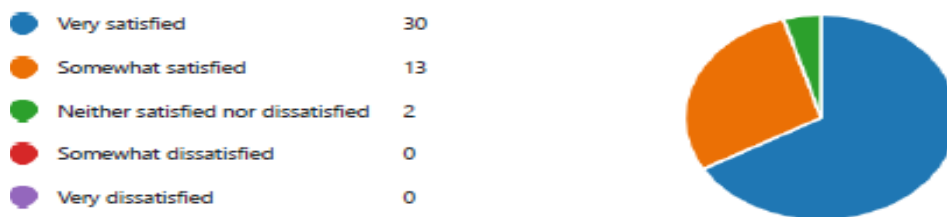
How likely are you to implement and report on the principles of effective governance, vertical coherence and localization of the SDGs in your voluntary national reviews?



How useful were the speakers' presentations and speeches to you?



How satisfied was your team with the logistics and preparatory instructions provided by APRM and UN DESA?

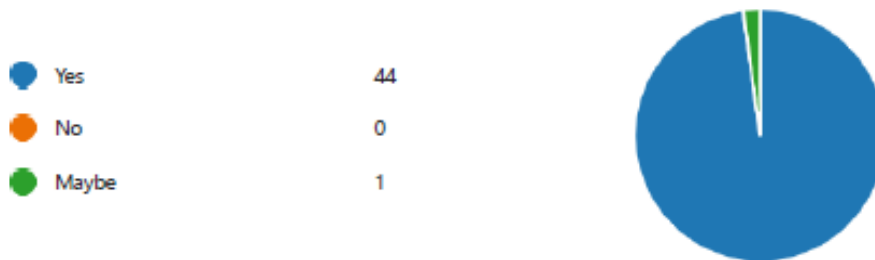


5. Duration of the workshop and participation

Do you think the duration of the workshop was good enough as per your expectation?



. Would you be interested in participating in another capacity building workshop organized by the APRM and UN DESA on implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including on VNRs/VLRs?

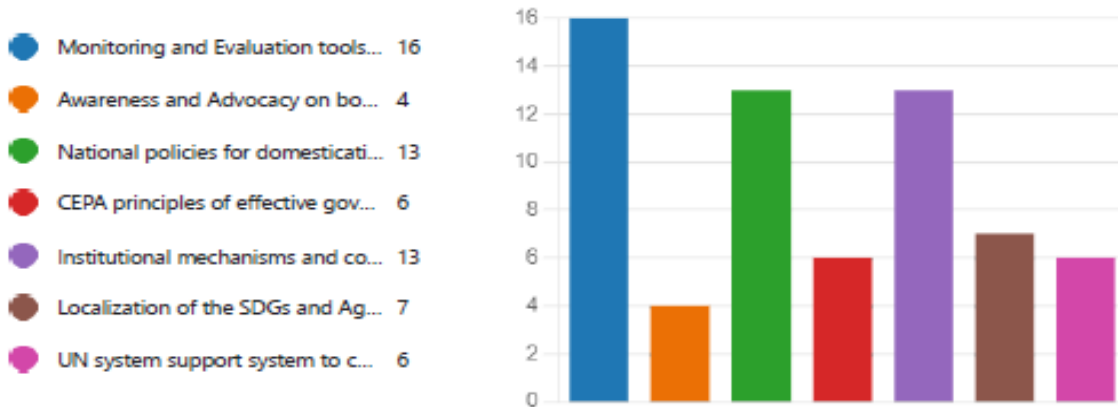


. Would you be interested in talking to UNDESA and APRM on the capacity building needs of your country?



6. Useful topics and CEPA principles

i. What are the most useful topics you at the workshop?



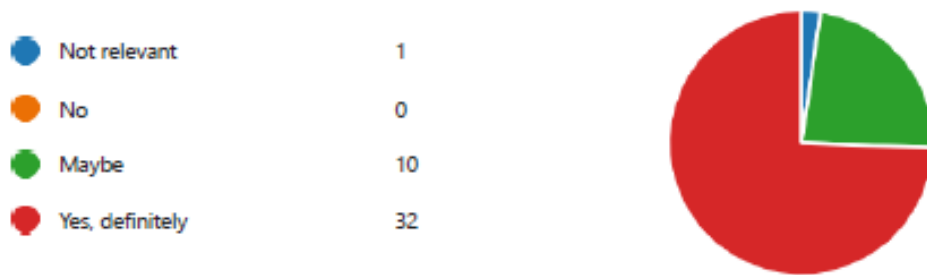
ii. Please indicate the extent to which the workshop increased your understanding of whether the principles of effective governance for sustainable development and voluntary local reviews (VLRs) are relevant for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the localization of SDGs.



5. Has your level of awareness on the principles of effective governance, vertical coherence and localization of the SDGs increased after the workshop?



6. Will you implement and report on the principles of effective governance, vertical coherence and localization of the SDGs in your VNRs?



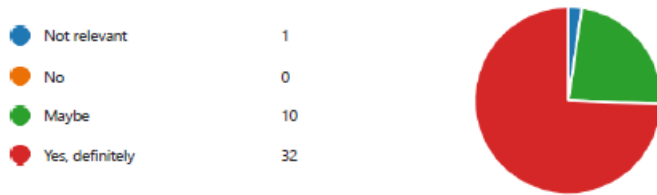
7. Would you be interested in getting APRM - UN DESA capacity building support for your country.



i. Has your level of awareness on the principles of effective governance, vertical coherence and localization of the SDGs increased after the workshop?



ii. Will you implement and report on the principles of effective governance, vertical coherence and localization of the SDGs in your VNRs?



iii. Would you be interested in getting APRM - UN DESA capacity building support for your country.

