



APRM
African Peer Review
Mechanism

Agenda
2063



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

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

Durban, South Africa, 15-17 March 2023

Abstract

The APRM-UNDESA continental workshop on the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and domestication of Agenda 2063 aims to support national capacities of AU member States in preparing their voluntary national reviews (VNRs) to be presented at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in July 2023. This annual continental workshop offers a regional platform for peer learning on best practices of the integration and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, guided by the principles for effective governance (CEPA Principles) endorsed by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). African ministers of finance, planning, economic development and integration also acknowledged that Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offer a unique opportunity for Africa to achieve inclusive and transformative development with equity. In this context, they underscored the importance for Africa of adopting a coherent strategy for the effective and coordinated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda and agreed on a single monitoring and evaluation framework, accommodating both agendas, and a common reporting architecture that will produce a single periodic performance report.¹ The workshop also includes a focus on voluntary local reviews (VLRs) and their integration into VNRs.

Background and Context

Since the adoption of the AU Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, countries in Africa have embarked upon a process of domesticating these agendas at the national and sub-national levels. In the implementation of both agendas, it is imperative to establish and utilize effective institutional frameworks for good governance and sound policy making, as well as governance systems and public institutions that are robust, agile, adaptive, resilient and adequately resourced in both financial and human capital terms.

¹ E/ECA/CM/49/3
AU/STC/FMEPI/MIN/Res/3(II)

Committed to deliver on the expanded mandate to play a role in monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of both agendas, the APRM has organized annual capacity-building continental workshops on VNRs and good governance from 2018-2022, supporting the work of more than 200 experts from 30 African countries in preparing their VNRs to be presented at the HLPF, and building national capacity in numerous areas that are critical for advancing and accelerating sustainable development in Africa.

The HLPF in 2023 will be organized under the theme '*Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels.*' The HLPF will also conduct in-depth reviews of progress towards **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, without derogating from the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs. Forty-one countries will present their VNRs at the HLPF in July, including seven countries from Africa. The HLPF will also support the mid-term review of the implementation of the SDGs and the preparations for the HLPF to be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023 (the SDG Summit).

Committed to deliver on the expanded mandate to play a role in monitoring and evaluation of both agendas, UN DESA and the African Peer Review Mechanism organized four capacity-building continental workshops on VNRs and good governance from 2018-2022 for more than 30 African countries and 200 experts across the continent. Member States emphasized the significance of the joint workshops as a continental mechanism to offer such as a regional platform to share countries' experiences and challenges for the VNR preparations and overall SDG implementation.

The Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) noted at its 21st session held in April 2022 that building back better from the coronavirus disease calls for building of stronger, more effective, resilient and credible public institutions at all levels, contributing to building and rebuilding trust in institutions. CEPA noted that effective cooperation among all countries is imperative and that exchanges among countries of lessons learned from the unprecedented global crisis will provide an invaluable source of resilience and capacity building of government machineries. Furthermore, the Ministerial declaration of the 2022 HLPF recognizes that sound policies, good governance at all levels and democratic and transparent institutions responsive to the needs of the people are necessary for achieving the SDGs.

Objectives and expected outcomes

The objective of the workshop is to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 through effective stocktaking and reporting through the VNR process.

It aims to enhance the capacities of African countries to get back on track and achieve the SDGs by accelerating the localization of the SDGs and building institutional capacities at national and subnational levels, as well as reassert the central role of an effective, accountable and

inclusive public sector in responding to society’s needs, building resilience to shocks and dealing with emerging challenges and crises when they arise.

It will provide a regional platform for peer learning on good practices across the continent for improving the policy environment for sustainable development and the integration and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Participants will have the opportunity to discuss the gaps, challenges and effectiveness of recovery measures to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis on the SDGs and explore actionable policy guidance for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at all levels.

Workshop participants will also take stock of lessons from the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) conducted by African countries, 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.

It will provide space to discuss the preparation of VNRs and other inputs to the HLPF to be convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 19 July 2023, support the mid-term review of the implementation of the SDGs, and provide input to preparations for the HLPF to be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023 (the SDG Summit). The workshop will also focus on Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) as a tool with the potential to accelerate the localization of the SDGs through reporting by local and regional governments on implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Target countries

Government officials and other partners from African countries that are presenting their VNRs at the HLPF in 2023 or have presented in 2022 will be invited to participate alongside UN Agencies, AU organs and APRM strategic partners.

Contacts

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