

UN DESA- APRM

4TH Continental Capacity Building Workshop on CEPA Principles

Strengthening Institutional Capacities in Africa for Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: Follow-up to the 2023 SDG Summit

**26 - 28 October 2023
Cape Town, South Africa**

Concept note & Agenda



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Background

The 2023 African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and 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 and Agenda 2063: Follow-up to the 2023 Summit* is the fourth in a series jointly organized in support of building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions in Africa at all levels. The capacity building workshop expands on efforts to implement recommendations reached in previous joint events, in which there has been a clear call to build on the productive synergies forged between the APRM and UN DESA to assist countries with operationalization of the UN principles of effective governance for sustainable development, developed by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in 2018.

UN DESA and AU/APRM have been supporting countries in development of governance capacities since 2019, using the principles of effective governance for sustainable development as a foundation for action. As a result of the joint collaborative activity, including three previous workshops held in South Africa (in Pretoria in 2019 and Cape Town in 2021 and 2022), an African Baseline Study on the CEPA principles was produced, and work is underway on specific African toolkits to support the application of the principles in line with national priorities and contexts.

Many African countries have expressed a strong interest in applying the CEPA principles to make much-needed shifts in governance, urgently strengthen institutions and policy coherence, and move as quickly as possible from SDG planning to implementation, leaving no one behind. The African Baseline Study analysed African countries' experiences in this respect, finding that the principles were used extensively in Africa, but that more was required to systematically introduce and integrate the principles into national planning systems and raise advocacy on strategies to implement the principles coherently. Preparations for a follow-up continental study in 2024 are underway.

Further, peer-learning among African countries on progress, gaps and challenges in implementing both Agendas has been a key component of APRM governance reviews. This work is complemented by critical support to the African region in the preparation of voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of implementation of the 2030 Agenda presented at the UN high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), including seven reviews by African countries in 2023.¹ These efforts are being complemented by promoting SDG localization through voluntary local reviews (VLRs).

These capacity building and peer learning events 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 of January 2018.

¹ Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia

Global and regional context

The workshop takes place against the backdrop of a world in peril. At the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, heads of State and Government express alarm that progress on most of the SDGs is either moving much too slowly or has regressed below the 2015 baseline. The Political Declaration to be adopted at the HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly in September 2023 (2023 SDG Summit), warns that “[o]ur world is currently facing numerous crises. Years of sustainable development gains are being reversed. Millions of people have fallen into poverty, hunger and malnutrition are becoming more prevalent, humanitarian needs are rising, and the impacts of climate change more pronounced. This has led to increased inequality exacerbated by weakened international solidarity and a shortfall of trust to jointly overcome these crises.” Africa has been particularly hard-hit by the multiple interlinked crises that are pushing the world to the brink. Halfway towards 2030, it has been estimated that most African countries are struggling to meet most SDG targets.

The 2023 SDG Summit represents a vital opportunity to change course. Member States call for bold, ambitious, accelerated and transformative actions, and the promotion of a systemic shift towards a more inclusive, just, peaceful, resilient and sustainable world for people and planet, for present and future generations. This includes good governance at all levels and transparent, effective and accountable institutions to help address these challenges. Calls for effective governance also resonates in the current assessment of the first-ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 as overall progress towards good governance remains inadequate.

The SDG Progress Report, issued at the mid-way point towards 2030, notes that the delivery of change at the speed and scale required by the SDGs demands more from public institutions than ever before, and highlights governance and institutions as the first priority of countries, world leaders and the UN system.² To that end, twelve high impact initiatives are being undertaken at the global level, including in the development of public sector capabilities, to demonstrate that transformative SDG progress is possible.³

Workshop objectives

This latest workshop aims to support African countries in identifying transformative actions that contribute to building strong institutions and strengthening public service delivery for

² <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2023.pdf>

³ https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/UN%20SDG%20Summit%202023%20High%20Impact%20Initiatives_0.pdf

implementation of both Agendas, including through empowering subnational governments in their efforts to localise the SDGs and goals of Agenda 2063. The workshop aims to explore bold and innovative strategies that respond to the [Political Declaration of the 2023 SDG Summit](#), and urgently address some of the key gaps and challenges identified by the United Nations Secretary-General in the [rescue plan for people and planet](#) at the midpoint towards 2030 and by the African Union in its 2nd ten-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063. The workshop will also be informed by the [2023 Global Sustainable Development Report](#), which identifies governance and capacity building as two critical levers of transformation while highlighting specific interventions that can help countries overcome challenges and accelerate SDG action.

In the spirit of the 2023 SDG Summit, the workshop will be forward-looking while examining critical governance interventions that can make a substantial contribution to the achievement of national sustainable development priorities. Maximum interaction among peers in areas of mutual concern will be encouraged. Specifically, participants will:

- Take stock of progress towards the UN SDGs and goals of Agenda 2063 and identify transformative pathways to sustainable development;
- Explore ways of applying the principles of effective governance to national follow-up and review of sustainable development commitments, including through VNRs and VLRs;
- Learn how to leverage the high impact initiatives of the UN development system to accelerate SDG progress at a time of rapid technological change;
- Exchange lessons learned on governance and institution building for peaceful, just and inclusive societies in Africa with an emphasis on principles of inclusiveness and accountability;
- Identify entry points for strengthening subnational institutions and multilevel governance for SDG implementation;
- Engage with regional actors in sound policymaking for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063; and
- Consider plans of action to address important public sector capability gaps across the whole of government.

Participants

Government officials from 30 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.

Expected outcomes.

This workshop will, through an exchange of experiences and peer learning, support the development of institution building frameworks that can contribute to transformative changes in governance and development of plans of action for institutional reform. At the conclusion of workshop, participating officials should have a solid understanding of:

The links and gaps between institutional capacities and national sustainable development priorities.

- Recommendations, lessons learned and good practices from selected VNR and VLR presentations by African countries in 2023.
- The application of selected governance principles to implementation of the SDGs to be reviewed in depth at the 2024 HLPF (SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16, 17).
- Assessment and comparison of levels of awareness, knowledge and implementation of the principles of effective governance in Africa.
- Institutional priorities for participating countries in follow-up to the Political Declaration of the United Nations 2023 SDG Summit.
- Possible plans of action to take the workshop's key messages forward.
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Contacts

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Agenda

Day 1 – Thursday, 26 October

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|---------------|--|
| 08:30 – 09:00 | Arrival & Registration of Delegates |
| 09:00 – 09:30 | <p>Setting the scene</p> <p>Welcome by Prof. Eddy Maloka, Chief Executive Officer, African Peer Review Mechanism</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>Mr. Li Junhua, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs (<i>video message</i>)</p> <p>Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Chair, United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration and Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University</p> <p>Dr. Kefiloe Masiteng, UN Resident Coordinator Office, South Africa</p> <p>H.E. Ms. Noxolo Kiviet, Minister of Public Service and Administration and APRM Focal Point, South Africa</p> |
| 09:30 – 11:15 | <p>Session 1: Towards Transformative Pathways to Sustainable Development</p> <p><i>The Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly in October 2023 noted that the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is in peril, and committed to bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report highlights that transformations are possible and inevitable and provides a synthesis of key transformative shifts needed across different entry points (human wellbeing and capabilities, sustainable and just economies, food systems and healthy nutrition, energy decarbonization with universal access, urban and peri-urban development, and global environmental commons). Similar findings are equally alluded to in the evaluation of agenda 2063 first-ten-year implementation plan. This session will explore some of the</i></p> |

tipping points for action that African countries have taken/can take towards implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Guiding questions

- What are some emerging tipping points for accelerated action towards SDG and Agenda 2063 achievement?
- How have countries strengthened links between institutional capacity development and interventions to deliver on national sustainable development objectives?
- What priority actions need to be taken to equip governance systems for transformation at national and subnational levels?
- What can be done to enhance the focus on SDGs and goals of Agenda 2063 in national planning and oversight mechanisms?

Moderator

Mr. Amson Sibanda, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Speakers

Prof. Kodjo Mensah-Abrampa, Director General, National Development Planning Commission, Ghana

Mr. Habtamu Takele, Focal point on Agenda 2063 and member of VNR team, National Planning Commission, Ethiopia

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

Mr. Martin Mwale, Principal Economist, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Malawi

11:15 – 11:30

Coffee Break & Group Photo

11:30 – 13:15

Session 2: Sharing experiences and lessons learned from the Voluntary National Reviews of 2023.

Discussion at the 2023 HLPF focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and enabled countries to examine effective and inclusive recovery measures and to explore actionable policy guidance for the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Innovative policies and systemic changes were identified to support the SDGs, counter current global trends and promote inclusion and multi-stakeholder collaboration. This session

will examine some of these findings, including the key messages and concrete actions from the 2023 HLPF that African countries can take or have taken forward. Seven African countries presented their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2023. Good practices, challenges and opportunities will be shared through a peer learning dialogue. The relevance of the 2023 VNRs to governance that may be relevant to the second - ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 will also be discussed.

Guiding questions

- With the world grappling with multiple crises, escalating inequalities, debt and climate change, what key messages and concrete actions from the 2023 HLPF can African countries best take forward?
- What interdisciplinary approaches and priority pathways have been developed to accelerate actions for building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic and enhance preparedness for future shocks?
- What do the 2023 VNRs/VLRs tell us about governance that may be relevant to the 2nd 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063?

Moderator

Ms. Habani Munyungano, Director, National Planning Commission, Namibia

Speakers

Ms. Maame Agyeben, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Ms. Dany Sandra Yadile, Director General of Development Cooperation, Ministry of the Economy, Central African Republic

Mr. Modeste Nyembo Kakanda, National Coordinator, Congolese Sustainable Development Observatory, Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Boureima Sawadago, Head, Department of Economic and Social Policy Analysis, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Foresight, Burkina Faso

13.15 – 14.30

Lunch Break

14:30 – 16:30

Session 3: Enhancing Public Sector Capabilities for the Future – Skills, Mindsets, Technology, and Innovation.

Public sector transformation is critical to enable the achievement of the SDGs. Countries must adopt a renewed sense of purpose and urgency to public sector development and improve the way people-centered public services are designed, financed, delivered

and evaluated. This session will focus on building and transforming public sector capabilities, including how countries can benefit from FutureGov, the high impact initiative launched at the 2023 SDG Summit, to develop critical public sector capabilities for the future.

Guiding questions

- What innovative steps have been taken to bridge science, technology and innovation divides as drivers of sustainable development?
- How are advancements in artificial intelligence, big data analytics, advanced robotics, remote sensing, financial technology and biotechnology being applied to SDG progress in different development contexts in Africa?
- What efforts are being made to bridge digital divides through hybrid – digital together with analogue – models of public service delivery?
- How can countries benefit from FutureGov, the high impact initiative launched at the 2023 SDG Summit, to develop critical public sector capabilities for the future?

Moderator

Mr. Thatayamodimo Rammupudi, Director - Programmes- and Projects , National Planning Commission , Botswana

Speakers

Mr. Rogers Dhlwayo, Senior Economist, UNDP South Africa

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

Mr. Jean Bosco Ndayisenga, Director General, National Programmes and Projects Monitoring, Rwanda (remote)

Ms. Ashveen Bochowa, Senior Analyst, Ministry of Finance Economic Planning and Development, Mauritius

16:30 – 17:30

Official launch of APRM continental report on Governance Mechanisms for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063

Moderator

Ms. Sara Hamouda, Agenda 2063&SDGs Expert, African Peer Review Mechanism

Presenters

Prof. Eddy Maloka, Chief Executive Officer, African Peer Review Mechanism

H.E. Mr. Amara Kallon, Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs, Sierra Leone and Chair of APRM Focal Points

Dr. Sherifa Sherif, Executive Director, National Institute of Governance and Sustainable Development, Egypt (remote)

Ms. Pamela Mbabazi, Chairperson, National Planning Authority, Uganda (remote)

End of Day One

Day Two – Friday, 27 October

Session 4: Building Peaceful and Inclusive Societies in Africa: Leveraging the Principles of Leaving no one Behind and Accountability.

09:00 – 11:00

The eleven principles of effective government for sustainable development, developed by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, are designed to support the development of effective, accountable and inclusive public institutions. They have been widely developed in many countries on the African continent, as indicated in part through an APRM Baseline Study conducted in 2021 and other continental reports. This session will focus on two principles, leaving no one behind and accountability, and will focus on national policies and initiatives to strengthen them. The session will examine the main tools and guiding frameworks for inclusive societies, combatting corruption and other accountability measures at the national level. It will delve into opportunities for collaboration that can lead to more African success stories in these priority areas.

Guiding questions

- From your country's perspective, what are the main policies adopted to strengthen the leaving no one behind principle, guided by the CEPA guidance notes and other initiatives?

- What are the main tools and guiding frameworks for combatting corruption at the national level? How can APRM processes be useful in this respect? What is the reality?
- How can countries best ensure transparency, including through access to information policies and proactive disclosure of information? What are some African success stories?

Moderator

Ms. Kadra Hassan, Head, APRM National Secretariat, Djibouti

Speakers

H.E. Mr. Amara Kallon, Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs and Chair of APRM Focal Points, Sierra Leone

Mr. Deodato Inacio, Sub Attorney General, National Directorate for Preventing and Combatting Corruption, Office of the Attorney General, Angola

Mr. Moulay Abdeljebbar Salim, Head of Monitoring and Integrated Programmes Division, High Commission for Planning, Morocco

Mr. Youssouf Ali Mamadi, Economic Programme Chief and VNR National Focal Point, General Commissariat of Planning, Comoros.

11:00 – 11:15

Health Break

11:15 – 13:15

Session 5: Strengthening subnational institutions and multilevel governance for SDG implementation.

Local action is key to delivering on both Agendas. Initiatives led by local communities offer holistic, inclusive and effective approaches for achieving sustainability, tailored to the unique conditions of each context. This session will examine how African governments can transform from the ground up. It will assess how voluntary local reviews (VLRs) and the APRM national governance reviews can be used as an entry point for strengthening sub-national governments. It will also examine how the CEPA principle of subsidiarity, and the available UN DESA strategy guidance notes, can be used in the process of localisation.

Guiding questions

- How are African governments improving intergovernmental collaboration to better address the SDGs and break down siloes?
- How can the principle of subsidiarity, and the available UN DESA guidance notes, be used in the process of localisation?
- How can VLRs and APRM national governance reviews be used as an entry point for strengthening sub-national governments?

- How have key recommendations of APRM African Governance Report been applied to strengthen citizen-government trust for a resilient social contract been applied in practice?

Moderator

Ms. Christelle Ngangue, Member of Committee in-charge of preparations of the VNR, National Planning Commission, Cameroon

Speakers

Mr. Amson Sibanda, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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

Ms. Sylocious Chaturuka, Deputy Director, Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe

Ms. Adama Bojang, Director, Planning and Development of Brikama Area Council, Gambia

13:15 – 14:30

Lunch Break

Session 6: Regional support to sound policymaking for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

This session will examine regional/ continental support in sound policymaking for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. It will examine main challenges and good practices in the implementation and strengthening of policy coherence for sustainable development in Africa; the development of the M&E framework to report on Agenda 2030 and 2063, and ways in which the African Union , UN organs and Civil Society organisations can support statistics deficits in tracking progress on the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

14:30 – 16:30

Guiding questions

- How far have the AU organs collaborated to develop M&E framework to report on Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063?
- What are the main challenges to strengthening policy coherence for sustainable development in Africa ?
- How can the African Union and UN partners support statistics deficits in tracking SDGs and Agenda 2063 progress?
- How can CSOs contribute to the implementation and monitoring of SDGs/Agenda 2063 in Africa?

Moderator

Mr. Nawa Muyangana Kutoma, Principal Planner, Ministry of Finance and National Planning, Zambia

Speakers

Ms. Botho Bayendi, Director, Strategic Planning and Delivery, African Union Commission (remote)/ AU TWG of Agenda 2063

Ms. Carina Lindberg, Policy Advisor, Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Unit, OECD Public Governance Directorate

Ms. Leila Ben Ali, Acting Director, Executive Director, African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC) – Remote

Ms. Madurai Yaveneshaa, Founder African Prosperity Fund

Ms. Chrissy Dube, Head of Governance Insights and Analytics , Good Governance Africa

End of Day 2

Session 7: Towards integrated national institution-building strategies that address important capability gaps across the whole of government.

The SDG Progress Report, issued at the mid-way point towards 2030, notes that the delivery of change at the speed and scale required by the SDGs demands more from public institutions than ever before, and highlights governance and institutions as the first priority of countries, world leaders and the UN system. This session will examine how countries can strengthen institutional capabilities for integrated solutions to sustainable development across the whole of government, and where transformative actions show the most promise in building strong institutions and strengthening public service delivery for national implementation of both Agendas. The session will also examine initiatives taken by national governments to build interconnected and integrated institutional frameworks for achievement of development objectives; how the AU, APRM/NEPAD national structures and UN agencies could assist countries in identifying and addressing important capability gaps to help bring SDG progress to scale.

09:00 – 11:00

Guiding questions

- How can countries strengthen institutional capabilities for integrated solutions to sustainable development across the whole of government?
- How could the AU, APRM/NEPAD national structures and UN agencies assist countries in assessing important capability gaps?
- How can implementation of the CEPA principles be leveraged in high impact initiatives as endorsed in the proposed 2023 Political Declaration?
- What transformative actions show the most promise in building strong institutions and strengthening public service delivery for implementation of both Agendas in each country context?
- How can countries concretely apply some of the strategies discussed, for example with revised policies, laws, or national plans?
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Moderator

Mr. Patrick Sokhela, Head, International Cooperation/APRM National Secretariat, South Africa

Speakers

Mr. Augustus J. Flomo, Deputy Minister, Economic Affairs, Liberia

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| | <p>Ms. Pamela Mbabazi, Chairperson, National Planning Authority, Uganda (remote)</p> <p>Mr. Momade Saide, APRM National Secretariat, National Planning Commission, Mozambique</p> <p>Mr. Francis Shirima, Economist, National Planning Commission, Office of the President, Tanzania</p> |
| <p>11:00 – 11:30</p> | <p>Closing</p> <p>Moderator</p> <p>Mr. Patrick Spearing, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs</p> <p>Speakers</p> <p>H.E. Ms. Noxolo Kiviet, Minister, Department of Public Service and Administration and APRM Focal Point, South Africa</p> <p>Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Chair, United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration and Chancellor of Nelson Mandela University</p> <p>Prof. Eddy Maloka, Chief Executive Officer, African Peer Review Mechanism</p> |
| <p>End of the workshop. Thank you.</p> | |



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Good Governance in Africa**