



# Transformative Potential of Continental Voluntary Reviews (VR): Peer-learning and Experience Sharing between Europe and Africa



## CONCEPT NOTE

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**Date:** 18 July 2023 1:15-2.45 pm (HLPF side event)

**Location:** AU Mission to the United Nations

**Language:** English

**Host:** Permanent mission of Sierra Leone to the UN, in partnership with African Peer Review Mechanism and European Environment and Sustainable Development Advisory Councils Network (EEAC), the Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies and the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) .

**Format:** 60-minute keynotes, panel discussion and Q&A with the audience. (in person only)

## Background

The purpose of Voluntary National Review (VNR) is to present a snapshot of where a country stands in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and being a report, embedded in national policy-processes for sustainable development. VNRs are an enabler to accelerate progress through experience sharing, peer-learning, identifying gaps and good practices, and mobilizing partnerships.

The presentation of the European Union's (EU) first Voluntary Review (VR) at the 2023 HLPF will take place on July 19. This will be the first official V(N)R of a non-member state of the UN and a continental actor, which is as an official report to the HLPF only possible against the background of the specific status of the EU in the UN system. Important elements of the EU VR will be a consideration of the internal and external dimensions of EU policies, emphasis on the "whole-of-government" approach, including a presentation of the EU's governance approach to SDG implementation, as well as a focus on transformative goals of the European Green Deal (EGD).

Moreover, the EU VR fuels the idea for an EU-wide and overarching SDG strategy in the EU as a smart combination of addressing delivery of sustainable development pathways as well as socially just climate neutrality until 2050 in an entire region.

In the same logic, other actors could also set a new standard for sustainability by delivering continental VRs on a voluntary basis. However, voluntary reviews are not an end, but rather a means to achieve sustainable development and hence can foster awareness, create momentum for member states and focus on policy coherence in regions.

In the same vein, the African Union adopted in 2013 an "Agenda 2063" as a continental blueprint for Africa's socio-economic and political integration. The African continent has a strong contribution to the SDGs and Agenda 2030 in general thanks to the submitted post 2015 Common Africa position which emphasizes the governance-peace- development nexus to address global challenges. To support this process, the APRM established the [the APRM Platform on VNRs and Agenda 2063](#) to support African countries' capacities in preparations for VNRs and sharing best practices on SDGs and Agenda 2063 domestication processes. Till date, the APRM workshops capacity 200 national experts from more than forty African countries.

The HLPF 2023 will witness seven VNRs presented by AU member states. Till date, 53 African countries have submitted VNRs at least once while the African Union is equally leading continental efforts to report on the implementation of Agenda 2063 biannually. The African Union currently leads evaluation of the first -ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and prepare for the second ten-year implementation plan within a broad consultative process with

member states. Therefore, this interactive session will focus on peer exchange across supranational actors and its value-added for SDGs and continental agendas' delivery in Africa and Europe.

## Objectives of the side event

This event aims to discuss the potential for supranational and regional actors to deliver voluntary reporting on Agenda 2030 and other continental agendas with the aim of strengthening regional cooperation for sustainable development.

- How to foster more continental coherence through subnational sustainable development and in how far can VRs be helpful on this way?
- In what areas of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063 are supranational organizations important actors to deliver the SDGs?
- What are the connections and impulses of supranational VRs for the national delivery of the 2030 Agenda and, conversely, what are the effects of national strategy and reports on supranational organizations?
- What role do regional agendas, such as the European Green Deal and the 2063 Agenda of AU, play with regard to sustainable development and how can their interfaces with the 2030 Agenda lead to mutual acceleration?
- How can the HLPF serve as enabler for regional/supranational reporting and stimulating regional strategizing and delivery of sustainable development?

## Coordinators of the meeting

- **Dr. Hannah Janetschek** - German Council for Sustainable Development  
Head, Sustainable Development/ International Affairs  
[hannah.janetschek@nachhaltigkeitsrat.de](mailto:hannah.janetschek@nachhaltigkeitsrat.de).
- **Ms. Sara Hamouda**, Agenda 2063 and SDGs officer, APRM Continental Secretariat ,  
[sara.hamouda@aprm-au.org](mailto:sara.hamouda@aprm-au.org)

## Registration for the event (in person only)

[Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)

## Agenda

**Venue:** AU Permanent Mission to the UN

**Date:** 18th July 2023

**Time:** 1:15 – 2:45 pm

**Tuesday, 18th July 2023**

	<b>Moderation:</b> Dr. Marc-Oliver Pahl, Secretary General of RNE, and Ms. Sara Hamouda, SDGs and Agenda 2063 officer APRM Continental Secretariat
<b>1.15- 1.30 pm</b>	<p>Welcoming and introductory remarks on continental reviewing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Fatima Kyari Mohammed</b>, Permanent Observer of the AU to the UN</li><li>• <b>Dr. Bärbel Kofler</b>, Parliamentary State Secretary, to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development in Germany</li></ul>
<b>1.30-1.50 pm</b>	<p>Experience with peer reviewing for sustainable development in Africa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Dr. Francis M. Kai-Kai</b>, Minister of Planning and Economic Development and Chair of G7+, Sierra Leone</li><li>▪ <b>Amos Lugoloobi</b>, Minister of State Planning, Uganda</li><li>▪ <b>Dr. Hala El-Said</b>, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt</li><li>▪ <b>Dr. Kefiloe Masiteng</b>, National Planning Commission, South Africa</li></ul>
<b>1.50- 2.15 pm</b>	<p>Experience with peer reviewing for sustainable development in Germany and Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ms. Petra Petan</b>, Cabinet of European Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni</li><li>• <b>Prof. Dr. Kai Niebert</b>, German Council for Sustainable Development, RNE</li><li>• <b>Dr. Eeva Furmann</b>, Secretary General of the National Commission on Sustainable Development, Finland</li></ul>
<b>2.15- 2.30 pm</b>	Questions and answers from the audience
<b>2.30-2.40 pm</b>	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Prof. Dr. Eddy Maloka</b>, CEO, African Peer Review Mechanism</li><li>▪ <b>Ambassador Fanday Turay</b>, Permanent Representative of Sierra Leone to the UN</li></ul>

# TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF CONTINENTAL VOLUNTARY REVIEWS (VR):

Peer-learning and experience sharing between Europe and Africa

Date: Tuesday 18 July 2023 | Time: 1:15-2:45 PM NY Time  
Venue: AU Mission to the UN (150 E 42nd St 33rd Floor, New York, NY)



**Amb. Fatima Kyari Mohamed**  
Permanent observer of AU to the UN



**Dr. Bärbel Kofler**  
Parliamentary State Secretary, to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Germany



**Prof. Eddy Maloka,**  
CEO, APRM Continental Secretariat



**Dr. Kefiloe Masiteng**  
National Planning Commission, South Africa



**Dr. Mustafa Kai-Kai**  
Minister of Planning and Economic Development Sierra Leone and Chair of G7+



**Prof. Dr. Kai Niebert**  
German Council for Sustainable Development member



**Dr. Ahmed Kamaly**  
Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt



**Hon. Amos Lugoloobi**  
Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Uganda



**Ms. Petra Petan**  
Cabinet of European Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni



**Dr. Eeva Furmann**  
Secretary General of the National Commission on Sustainable Development, Finland



**Dr. Marc-Oliver Pahl,**  
Secretary General German Council on Sustainability (RNE)



**Ms. Sara Hamouda**  
SDGs and Agenda 2063 officer APRM Continental Secretariat

moderators



scan to register

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