

**VNR Labs HLPF 2023**  
**APRM-UNECA-OSAA Lab PARTNERSHIPS TO ENHANCE REPORTING ON SDGS IN AFRICA**  
**(SDGS 6: WATER & SDG7: ENERGY AND SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS)**  
**14 July 2023**  
**UN HQ- Conference room 11**

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The APRM-ECA-OSAA VNR Lab addressed current gaps of SDGs and Agenda 2063 progress in Africa, with special focus on SDG 6 on water and SDG 7 on energy (Aspiration one of Agenda 2063), and how partnerships can assist African countries to address challenges pertinent to both goals. Needless to highlight that the water-energy-sustainability nexus has been recognized in the 2030 Agenda and equally Agenda 2063. The Lab brought together experts from Tanzania, Ghana, UN OSAA, and UN ECA to share experience on this subject and relevance to VNRs 2023. These experts reflected on national experiences in addressing water and energy management approaches and on the significance of VNR process to enhance reporting on energy and water sectors, alongside persistent challenges, and as a tool to reflect on pushing forward with both Agendas.

**Tanzania's experience** in addressing water and energy challenges has been quite progressive. Ms. **Anita Ringia** explained that the Energy Sector plays an important role in the socio-economic development of the country and hence the government adopted different efforts to improve both sectors. Over the past five years, the country witnessed improvements as far as level of electrical power generation (GWh) and length of the national grid electricity line are concerned. Therefore, proportion of population with access to electricity has increased from 67.5% (2018) to 78.4 % (2022). Having said that, less than 5% of the population in Tanzania has access to clean cooking fuels and technologies –r. However, Tanzania has continued promoting the use of clean and sustainable cooking energy in line with the National Energy Policy of 2015.

The Government of Tanzania has put in place policies and programmes aimed at increasing efficiency in service delivery and creating favourable conditions for private investment and the financial sustainability of the energy sector. The government is working on tackling the use of traditional cooking solutions such as open fires and inefficient Cookstoves which directly affect the health of the people and the environment and contributes to social and economic challenges. So, the realization of SDG 7 in Tanzania will help to improve quality of life using modern fuels. Connecting to this, addressing challenges of transitioning to clean energy requires a coordinated effort from governments, financial institutions, project developers, and other stakeholders. Policy reforms, financial innovations, capacity building, and targeted support mechanisms can help overcome these obstacles and enable increased *financing for clean energy projects*. Further, the implementation of clean and renewable energy projects requires *significant financial investment and technical expertise*. Tanzania hence welcomes cooperating with all stakeholders to support investments, technology transfer, innovation, and research and development in the energy sector in Tanzania.

**Naeema Jamu** explained that the government of Tanzania is equally concerned about improving Water resources management and water supply management systems. In water resources management system, the government and local authorities work collaboratively in enhancing urban and rural water supply systems. According to latest statistics, the current coverage of water supply in urban area is about 88% and rural areas is 77%. This achievement was attained after a strong political will under the leadership of the President. Though her commitment, Tanzania managed adding more budget of water annually. To achieve universal coverage of leaving no one behind by 2030, the government is working in corroboration with different development partners in various projects aiming at increasing the coverage of water supply services in both rural and urban area. Further, the

government through the Rural Energy Agency is implementing electrification strategy to ensure universal electrical coverage in rural areas. One of the identified challenges is the heavy use of Diesel generators as a source for water pumping in some areas.

**Ghana's experience**<sup>1</sup> in addressing water and energy resources is not only merely to meet water and energy demand, but to also address other critical issues like biodiversity, climate change, poverty and inequalities, tourism and food security, just to mention a few. It is to ultimately enhance the welfare and well-being of the population, as well as safeguard the environment and our planet. The critical analysis of Ghana's implementation of the SDGs through the VNRs has given a sense of the state of play of each of the goals and a better understanding of the challenges and critical factors for success. The VNRs have also foster ownership, support and new partnerships for the SDGs. The VNRs supported Ghana to identify disparities and ways to address development challenges were also identified thanks to the VNRs.

Access to basic water services and electricity is high, but there are disparities across the country which need to be addressed. There are also concerns about the pollution of water bodies and occasional disruptions in electricity supply. These bring into focus our ability to meet future demands for water and electricity services in view of the high population growth and Ghana's industrialisation agenda, and the need to sustainably manage these resources.

**The representative of UNECA, John Solan**, highlighted the support provided to member states on VNRs through peer-learning so countries can share their successes and challenges and help each other to make sure the reviews are truly impactful and reflect their aspirations for sustainable development. Technical assistance is also provided to member states to pursue the VNRs. This always comes out as the number one helpful initiative in the process, whether at global events such as the HLPF, our Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, and other venues. APRM and the AU play important roles in this, to harness the peer learning and strong relationships that exist between member States in many fields, to learn from one another regarding best practices in progress towards the two Agendas.

Africa has the fastest urbanization rate in the world - people will be looking for meaningful, high-income jobs. And it is seen consistently that industrialization has been the driver of this job creation. Among many strategies to pursue, resource-based industrialization is one area that has been prioritized – moving from the status-quo where 70% of the region's exports are of raw commodities, and towards value-addition to these commodities for greater jobs and revenues. This links directly to Agenda 2063, which to a much greater extent than the SDGs, really addresses the region's aspirations for transformation. UNECA is currently working on at the nexus of industry, energy and water and the role of the region in the global energy transition, and what this can mean for Africa. Africa is a major supplier of different minerals. Beyond this, the region has significant solar potential, natural gas reserves, and other resources that are of great interest.

Some challenges deserve reflections are firstly, how to harness these resources to ensure a change of course from raw material exports, and secondly how the region's resources can be inputs to its own green industrialization. For example, the figure of 600 million people without reliable access to electricity – this is where the region's resources can plug into its own renewable energy grid, as a win-win. The provision of quality and reliable water and energy resources should be done firstly to the people, and then in a virtuous-cycle, back to these new industries as well – manufacturing, for example, is a very energy- and water-intensive process. Best practices can be seen in 'greening'

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<sup>1</sup> Input b by Dr. Felix.addo-yobo

industrialization, whether regionally in Ethiopia's resource-efficient industrial parks, or when it comes to the mining sector, the advances made in Chile, Australia and elsewhere in low-water and low-energy mining.

**OSAA Representative, Jean Paul Adam**, emphasized that energy and water are two fundamental catalyzers to achieve SDGs. Further, Energy and water have strategic role to enhance trust between citizens and government, if the latter can provide such a basic service to the society. The role of OSAA in promoting interests and goals of African countries was explained. OSAA serves as knowledge broker and play advocacy role to express member states 'views. The role focuses on three aspects of support to African countries including 1) policy frameworks ; 2) mobilizing resources, investment, and financing ; 3) Partnerships including triangular and south- south cooperation in addition to traditional north-south partnerships.

The significance of VNRs in providing useful assessment and information for African counties on critical sectors including water and energy which are essential for sustainable industrialization were also echoed. Beyond access to both energy and water, African countries are encouraged to focus on the transition and transformation of African economic model which embraces value addition products. VNRs, in this regard, can be used to inform national contributors on different issues including climate adaption and equally partnerships opportunities.

**Prof. Art Dewulf** shared a brief on the current academic research project "Beyond cherry-picking: Aligning development actors and efforts for inclusive and effective governance of trade-offs and synergies between SDGs in East Africa which aims to assist understanding Governing SDG trade-offs and synergies in East-Africa (Ethiopia- Kenya- Uganda). The presenter discussed key factors Towards alignment in polycentric governance of SDGs, supported by a shared system of rules including Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, Country Ownership, Development Aid Alignment, Aid Harmonisation, Responsible Business Conduct, and Inclusive Public-Private Partnerships.

Last, the APRM representative concluded by noting best practices shared by APRM countries throughout the governance reviews. He observed practices from various countries, such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda, Kenya, and Botswana. They used different strategies and initiatives to address energy and water challenges in a responsible and fair manner. There are key messages emanating from this conversation:

1. Countries are urged to provide proper policy environment and partnerships for energy, water and industrialisation, especially with the private sector, to promote renewable energy investments and technologies.
2. countries are urged to bolster regional cooperation and integration in energy and water management. Sharing best practices, knowledge, and resources can enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and optimize the utilization of water and energy resources across borders.
3. countries are urged to prioritize the inclusion of marginalized communities, particularly women and youth, in the decision-making processes and benefit-sharing mechanisms related to energy and water resources.
4. Resource mobilization requires strong negotiations skills and preparedness by African countries to enhance sustainable industrialization. This shall be associated with a perception of risk across the continent that needs proper assessment.

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# APRM-OSAA-UNECA VNR Lab 8

BRIDGING GAPS AND FORGING PARTNERSHIPS TO ENHANCE  
REPORTING ON SDGS IN AFRICA (SDGS 6: WATER & SDG7:  
ENERGY AND SDG 17: PARTNERSHIPS)

## SPEAKERS



**Mr. Jean Paul Adam**  
Director, the office of the  
Special Adviser on Africa



**Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo**  
Deputy Director and Advisor at  
the SDGs Advisory Unit



**Mrs. Naeema Jam**  
Assistant coordinator Policy  
and Planning



**Prof. Dr. Art Dewulf**  
Professor at the Public  
Administration and Policy  
Group at Wageningen  
University



**Ms. Anita Otto Ringia**  
Energy Engineer Ministry of  
Energy of Tanzania



**Mr. John Solan**  
Economic Affairs officer,  
UNECA



**Mr. Jean Yves ADOU**  
Ag, Monitoring & Evaluation  
Directorate APRM



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

**Friday 14 July 2023**

**Where:** UN HQ- Conference Room 11

**Time:** 2-3PM

**Registration**

**Concept note**