



**APRM**  
African Peer Review  
Mechanism



## **“APRM Engagement in the High-level Political Forum (HLPF)**

**14-20 July 2023**

**United Nations, New York**

## Background

### ***"African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Supports SDG and Agenda 2063 Progress at HLPF 2023"***

The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) serves as the global institutional mechanism for tracking progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and sharing best practices through the Voluntary National Reporting process (VNR). African countries have actively engaged in the VNR process since 2017. The APRM, with its expanded mandate to support countries in tracking and monitoring Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, established the [APRM Continental Platform on VNRs and Domestication of Agenda 2063](#) in 2019 to assist African countries in preparing for VNRs and enhancing progress toward Agenda 2063, particularly Aspiration Three - "Africa with good governance, democracy, and the rule of law." Up until 2023, the APRM organized five continental workshops to empower national civil servants and those involved in SDGs/Agenda 2063 implementation. These workshops covered means of implementation, domestication practices, monitoring and evaluation tools, and institutional mechanisms for implementing both agendas. The workshops were organized in collaboration with the African Union (AU) Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, UNECA, UNDESA, and GIZ.

The 2023 HLPF addressed key goals, including partnerships, infrastructure, water, and energy, alongside the institutional aspects of SDG 16 - governance and strong institutions. Seven African countries, namely **Zambia, Comoros, Mozambique, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Rwanda, and Tanzania**, have submitted VNRs for the second time. The APRM actively participated in the HLPF Exhibition to showcase the AU's efforts in promoting both Agenda 2063 and 2030 for sustainable development from July 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, the APRM co-organized and participated in various activities to support African countries in presenting their VNRs and addressing key challenges and best practices relevant to the reviewed goals. [HLPF 2023 | African Peer Review Mechanism \(APRM\) \(au.int\)](#)

### **"Bridging Gaps and Forging Partnerships to Enhance Reporting on SDGs in Africa: Focus on SDG 6 (Water), SDG 7 (Energy), and SDG 17 (Partnerships) | July 14th, 2:30 PM"**

#### ***Fifty Experts and Participants Engage in the APRM-ECA-OSAA VNR Lab on the Energy-Water-Sustainability Nexus***

The Lab aimed to address the current gaps in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 progress in Africa, with a special emphasis on SDG 6 (Water) and SDG 7 (Energy, Aspiration one of Agenda 2063). The discussions revolved around how partnerships can assist African countries in tackling challenges related to these goals, recognizing the importance of the water-energy-sustainability nexus in both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063



The lab brought together experts from Tanzania, Ghana, the United Nations Office of the Special Advisor on Africa (UN OSAA), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA) to share their experiences on this topic and its relevance to the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2023. These experts reflected on their respective national experiences in addressing water and energy management approaches, emphasizing the significance of the VNR process in enhancing reporting on the energy and water sectors, along with the persistent challenges. The VNR process was viewed as a valuable tool for advancing both agendas. Furthermore, the discussions underscored the importance of polycentric governance in addressing cross-cutting challenges within the energy-water-sustainability nexus. At the end of the meeting, key messages were highlighted as follows:

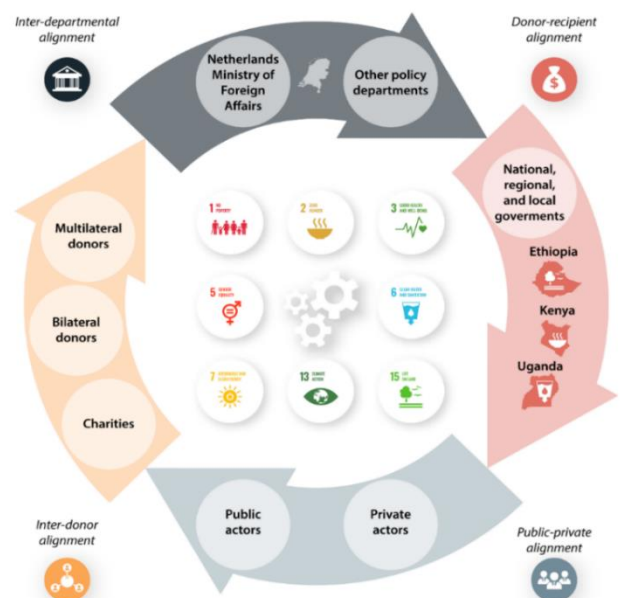
1. Countries urged to foster a favorable policy environment and partnerships for energy, water, and industrialization, especially with the private sector, to promote investments in renewable energy and technologies.
2. Countries encouraged to strengthen regional cooperation and integration in energy and water management. Sharing best practices, knowledge, and resources can improve efficiency, reduce costs, and optimize the utilization of water and energy resources across Borders.
3. Countries are encouraged to prioritize the inclusion of marginalized communities, especially women and youth, in decision-making processes and benefit-sharing



mechanisms related to energy and water resources.

4. Resource mobilization requires strong negotiation skills and preparedness by African countries to enhance sustainable industrialization. This should be associated with a continent-wide perception of risk that requires proper assessment.

For further info on the Lab's outcomes and discussion please visit <https://aprm.au.int/sites/default/files/files/2023-08/finaloutcome-summaryvnr/lab8aprmecaosaa.pdf>.  
<https://un-mam.cimediacloud.com/r/rmMwLimEpwhl>



## **“Experience Sharing Session on VNRs, VLRs, and Agenda 2063 Localization to Promote 'Leaving No One Behind' Practices for Accelerated Delivery of SDGs in Uganda - July 14 and 18, 2023”.**

The side events hosted by the Republic of Uganda brought together various experts and key policymakers to discuss best practices for "Leaving No One Behind" and ways to incorporate this principle within Uganda's 2040 vision. Representatives from UN Women in Uganda, UNECA, Ghana, Liberia, as well as Ministers of General Duties and Planning, the National Planning Authority, APRM National Secretariat, and the Governance Council, provided insights during these two events. The session concluded with the following key messages and recommendations:

- (i) Data and statistics play a crucial role in identifying vulnerable groups, monitoring progress, and designing targeted interventions. The National Statistical Agency should provide accurate and timely data to support evidence-based decision-making and ensure inclusivity in the implementation of SDGs. This should include gender data analysis to ensure the visibility of those left behind.
- (ii) There is a need to leverage and explore multiple sources of financing for the SDGs, such as investments in green transitions, recapitalization of multilateral banks, continued development assistance through direct aid to productive sectors, specialized financing like carbon trading, diaspora bonds, engagement in international tax conventions, and exploring possibilities for accessing a portion of the reserves held in international banks. The current funding is limited, making the implementation of the Public Investment Financing Strategy crucial to meeting the financial requirements of the SDGs and National Development Plans.
- (iii) Civil society remains a critical pillar for ensuring citizen involvement, popularizing the SDGs, and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships. A conducive environment that guarantees associational and expressive freedoms for civil society organizations is essential.
- (iv) Stakeholder involvement, including CSOs and the private sector, is essential. Given the complex situation and uncertainties, there is a need for accelerated efforts by all stakeholders. The public sector must enhance its effectiveness by leveraging digital technologies and establishing an effective development partnership architecture.
- (v) Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) play a pivotal role in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To enhance the innovation ecosystem, robust policies, funding, and infrastructure are essential, focusing on value chains and promoting climate-smart and water-efficient production. Collaboration among the government, private sector, and innovators is vital to provide the needed support and resources to advance innovation and attain SDGs.
- (vi) Policy interventions should prioritize fostering innovation, enhancing local industry competitiveness, and creating a conducive business environment. This requires engaging, informing, and empowering stakeholders through





targeted support programs, preventive planning, capacity building initiatives, and quality standard certifications.

- (vii) Strengthened Partnerships: To further the government's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it should continue developing evidence-based National Partnership Forums. This approach encourages all stakeholders to collaborate in improving government systems, thus contributing to both the global SDG agenda and the national development plan.

### **APRM-DESA VNR Lab on CEPA Principles – Policy coherence, 18 July 8:9 am**

Approximately 30 participants joined the VNR lab, a collaborative effort by DPIDG/UNDESA, AU/APRM, and OECD. The lab aimed to promote peer-to-peer learning for enhancing policy coherence, thus advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. During the session, Chile, Ghana, and Portugal presented concrete examples of measures taken to foster and monitor policy coherence. They discussed challenges, success stories, and progress since their previous VNR presentations. Additionally, insights and best practices were shared by a representative from the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, a representative from AU/African Peer Review Mechanism, and a representative from the OECD. They elaborated on effective strategies for promoting policy coherence at regional and continental levels.

Participants stressed the importance of policy coherence due to the interconnectedness of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their alignment with other international agreements, such as Agenda 2063: the Africa we want, endorsed by the African Union. Policy coherence has become increasingly vital given the current global crises. Identifying synergies, trade-offs, and recognizing interdependencies within the 2030 Agenda are crucial initial steps to ensure that public policies align with one

another and effectively achieve their intended outcomes.

Participants emphasized that policy coherence, as addressed in various sustainable development goal targets such as 17.14 and its indicator 17.14.1, is essential. They underscored that fostering coherent policymaking is a commonly employed approach to achieving effective governance for sustainable development, in line with principles outlined by the [Committee of Experts on Public Administration](#). This concept was central to the [2019 OECD Recommendation on policy coherence for sustainable development \(PCSD\)](#), which provided valuable guidance on its implementation. Additionally, reference was made to the ongoing APRM-OECD regional initiative aimed at promoting policy coherence in selected African countries, including Ghana.

Participants identified several key challenges, including:

1. **Lack of Enforceability Measures:** One challenge was the absence of effective enforcement mechanisms.
2. **Incentives:** Another issue was the absence of proper incentives to promote desired behaviours.
3. **Awareness of Consequences:** Many participants lacked awareness of the costs of inaction and the potential spillover effects, especially for future generations.
4. **Data and Visibility:** Data availability and visibility were also concerns, hindering informed decision-making.
5. **Short-Term Thinking:** Short-term thinking and compartmentalized approaches to crises were prevalent, which hindered long-term planning and problem-solving.
6. **Political Support:** High-level political support and commitment were lacking.
7. **Transboundary Impact:** Dealing with the cross-border impacts of policies, such as those related to water, climate change, and trade, presented significant challenges, requiring consideration of border country fragilities.

To address these challenges, participants emphasized the need for:

1. **Policy Coherence:** Recognizing policy coherence as a political choice and stressing the importance of strong institutions and strategic frameworks.
2. **Data Availability:** Ensuring the availability of timely, high-quality, disaggregated data through robust monitoring and evaluation processes.
3. **PCSD Indicator Activation:** Advocating for the activation of the PCSD indicator to measure progress and enhance political visibility.
4. **Long-Term Vision:** Developing a long-term vision and securing sufficient means of implementation.
5. **Engagement of Stakeholders:** Involving subnational governments, civil society (including grassroots organizations), and the private sector, particularly through the localization of the 2030 Agenda and the expanded use of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).
6. **Whole-of-Society and Whole-of-Government Approach:** Promoting inter-ministerial collaboration, including the Ministry of Finance, and involving all population groups, including youth.
7. **Alignment with National Development Plans:** Aligning national development plans and policies with the 2030 Agenda and other relevant agendas.
8. **Peer-to-Peer Learning:** Emphasizing the importance of peer-to-peer learning.

Support for these efforts could come from the United Nations and regional bodies, such as APRM and OECD. Notably, UNDESA-APRM continental workshops in Africa aimed to raise awareness, advocate for, and measure effective governance principles for sustainable development, particularly in relation to PCSD.

Emphasizing policy coherence as a political choice, participants stressed the need for strong institutions, strategic frameworks, timely high-quality data, and robust monitoring and evaluation processes. They called for the activation of the PCSD indicator to measure progress and enhance its political visibility.

Additionally, a long-term vision, adequate means of implementation, and active engagement of subnational governments, civil society (including grassroots organizations), and the private sector were deemed crucial. This involves localizing the 2030 Agenda and expanding the use of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).

To achieve this, a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach, including inter-ministerial collaboration and coordination (including the Ministry of Finance), is essential, promoting the involvement of all population groups, including youth.

Furthermore, aligning national development plans and policies with the 2030 Agenda and fostering peer-to-peer learning were highlighted as important. The United Nations and regional bodies like APRM and OECD could provide support in these efforts. Notably, [UNDESA-APRM continental workshops in Africa raised awareness and advocated for the principles of effective governance](#) for sustainable development, including PCSD.

#### **"APRM-German Council for Sustainable Development Sierra Leone Side Event: Regional Aspects of Voluntary National Reporting – Sharing Experiences from Europe and Africa"**

Peer learning and experience sharing in the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) have demonstrated a positive impact on the quality of reporting and have increased the number of countries presenting VNRs at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) over the past five years. This has been observed across various supranational actors, highlighting its value-added contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and continental agendas in both Africa and Europe.

The discussion revolved around the potential for regional actors to engage in voluntary reporting on the 2030 Agenda and other continental agendas, with the primary goal of strengthening regional cooperation and policy coherence at all levels, thereby promoting sustainable development. It's worth noting that the implementation of the SDGs remains primarily

within the purview of individual UN member states.

Throughout the discussion, the following questions were addressed:

This discusses the potential for regional actors to provide voluntary reporting on the 2030 Agenda and other continental agendas. The goal is to enhance regional cooperation and policy coherence across all levels for sustainable development, while the implementation of the SDGs remains the responsibility of individual UN member states. In this context, the following questions were addressed:

1. How to foster more continental coherence through subnational sustainable development and how VRs be helpful in this regard?
2. In which areas of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 can continental actors play a significant role in in achieving the SDGs?
3. What connections and influences do continental VRs have on the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda? Conversely, what impacts do national strategies and reports have on the continental level?
4. What roles do regional agendas, such as the European Green Deal and the 2063 Agenda, play in promoting sustainable development? How can their alignment with the 2030 Agenda lead to mutual acceleration in achieving the SDGs?
5. How can the HLPF serve as enabler for continental reporting and stimulate regional strategizing and delivery of sustainable development?
6. The event brought African and European Policy Makers and Senior Executives together to discuss the highlighted questions and reflect on recommendations for better engagement of the APRM in member states especially within the second-ten-year implementation plan (STYIP) of Agenda 2063.

- Mr Mustafa Kai-Kai, Minister of Planning and Economic Development of Sierra Leone

- Mr Amos Lugoloobi, Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development of Uganda
- Mr Ahmed Kamaly, Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development of Egypt
- Ms. Petra Petan, Cabinet of European Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni
- Ms. Eeva Furman, Secretary General of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development
- Mr Kai Niebert, Member of the German Council for Sustainable Development



The discussion focused on exploring how regional actors could copy the EU VR model as an addition to national VNRs in other regions of the world. Welcoming remarks were delivered by Ms. Fatima Kyari Mohamed, Permanent Observer of the AU to the UN and Ms. Bärbel Kofler, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany. Amb. Fatima Kyari Mohamed emphasized in her introductory remarks the importance of the network and cooperation among countries to achieve the SDGs. She highlighted the importance of an integrated review process and cooperation between the EU and the AU.

Dr. Bärbel Kofler made mention of the strong partnership between the EU and the AU. She mentioned that VNRs and VLRs serve as a strong tool to report and assess achievements, while also highlighting gaps, thus displaying where more action is needed. The fight against inequalities emerged as a key outcome from the EU VR report, both at the local and global

level. She also emphasized the parallels between the African Agenda 2063 and the European Green Deal, urging that the implementation of regional strategies can only succeed when gap between local and global goals are bridged. Holistic and integrated approaches are needed.

**Dr. Mustafa Kai-Kai** shared that Sierra Leone has already produced three VNRs. He stressed that regional actors are in an excellent position regarding the domestication of global goals, often acting as strong intermediaries. An organization such as the AU could, therefore, play a guiding role in regional capacity development for monitoring and reporting on both agendas. However, he also raised concerns about the time-consuming process of implementing rules from continental institutions at the national and local levels. As he stressed, the APRM can play a significant role at the national level to support countries in the follow-up on implemented reforms. Hence, better coordination between the APRM, AU organs, UN ECA, and other UN agencies is imperative to improve continental support to countries.



He recommends enhancing the regularity of meetings between the AU and EU to encourage other African countries to conduct VNRs. He also saw potential synergies between the continents through exploring the Green Deal and Agenda 2063.

**Hon. Amos Lugoloobi** informed the participants about Uganda's national plan to achieve the AU Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

Uganda has conducted four reviews within the APRM, covering areas such as governance, the economy, social transformation, and public service delivery. He stressed the importance of AU support in overcoming challenges that exceed the capacities of individual African countries. Cooperation with the EU was deemed crucial at all levels, along with addressing the question of how to finance the delivery of the SDGs. He also pointed out that countries can learn from each other's strengths and weaknesses and jointly harness benefits.



**Dr. Ahmed Kamaly** discussed the alignment of domestic strategies with regional strategies. Egypt is pursuing a national agenda (Egypt Vision 2030) and has already conducted several VNRs, focusing on identifying urgent challenges. The utilization of SDG indicators within governments has allowed comparison and facilitated the production of subsequent VLRs. He acknowledged the agenda 2063 as well-designed for creating a continental VR. However, Dr. Ahmed Kamaly also stressed that even more coherence is needed between national, regional, and global development visions, while following a strong localization agenda based on good and regularly updated data. In doing so, regional differences need to be considered.

**Ms. Petra Petan** presented the experience of drafting the [European Union Voluntary Review \(VR\) as the first continental review.](#) She highlighted that the continental VR explicitly showed the impact of EU policies on improving sustainable development in European countries and lives of citizens. A whole-of-government approach was taken, including extensive consultations with member states, examining



SDG implementation on the ground. The process included open calls and targeted consultations with civil society and citizens. Each chapter of the VR addressed both internal and external dimensions of SDG implementation. She emphasized that the EU Commission alone cannot make full SDG delivery a reality, but rather relies on initiatives of its member states.



**Prof. Dr. Kai Niebert** emphasized that Africa and Europe share common goals when it comes to implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which necessitate increased exchange between the two continents. These shared objectives could be reflected in continental reporting. He stressed the importance of retaining effective strategies while elevating necessary changes. Prof. Dr. Kai Niebert also shared his insights from the 2018 international peer review of the German Sustainable Development Strategy, a process facilitated by the German Council for Sustainable Development. He underlined the need for greater coherence and the incorporation of additional off-track indicators. He also emphasized the essential role of an independent advisory body for the SDGs. Prof. Dr. Kai Niebert pointed out that the SDGs were not widely recognized in German society, highlighting the increasing importance of social indicators. He emphasized that 80% of Germany's sustainability regulations originated from the European Union, underscoring the significance of regional efforts in achieving national SDG goals.

**Dr. Eeva Furman** introduced the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, which serves as a multi-

stakeholder, multi-dimensional peer-learning platform for sustainable development. Additionally, Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) were conducted in six Finnish cities, and these findings were integrated into a national network that also engaged in exchanges with global partners.

### Key messages and recommendations

1. Coordination and systematic communication between the APRM, national structures, the AU on one hand, and UN organs on the other, is imperative for more effective regional engagement to support the monitoring and evaluation efforts of both Agendas 2030 and 2063.
2. Sierra Leone proposes organizing periodic sessions and high-level dialogues before the HLPF to enhance the quality of VNRs. Most importantly, this aims to bolster Africa's position on the global stage.
3. APRM statistics should be utilized to assist countries in preparing and presenting their VNRs.
4. APRM-AUDA-NEPAD, AfDB, and the AU Commission need to engage more actively at the forefront of continental efforts to support resource mobilization for SDGs and Agenda 2063 programs, and to strengthen Official Development Assistance (ODA) alignment with the national development plans of African countries.
5. Periodic reporting on SDGs and Agenda 2063 is crucial for all countries. However, it is essential to consider geographical disparities and context during the implementation of both agendas.
6. The EU-AU cooperative ties and relationships at different levels offer an excellent opportunity to enhance peer learning between African and European countries on VNRs and other development issues.

### OECD ministerial event: Building policy coherence solutions for accelerating progress on the SDGs.

**Prof. Eddy Maloka** took part in a ministerial working roundtable on Policy coherence as an instrument to address transboundary impacts assessment. The event was co-organised by Belgium, Slovakia, Ghana and APRM. Prof. Maloka noted that Africa has multiple transboundary impact assessments' challenges , emanated from the governance reviews and APRM relevant surveys on Agenda 2063 and SDGs institutional coherence. Amongst these challenges are environment and climate change, water resource management and nexus with energy and sustainability as well as lack of proper utilization from mineral resources. An emphasis Less often though the highlights made on the social compact of these resources or the ability to ensure that mining generates development outcomes.



Prof. Maloka demonstrated APRM's holistic approach to address governance. He highlighted different platforms used by APRM to enhance collaboration, knowledge exchange and good practices between countries and to address transboundary impacts including the NDP Community of Practice. References were made to the focus on state resilience and disaster management in the APRM assessment methodology, the APRM continental governance index which has been developed with experts from the continent for evidence-based assessment of governance trends and Agenda 2030/2063 goals. Under this framework, there's a special section tackling transboundary aspects, especially fragility, environment societal demographics changes and preparedness for disasters and shocks. The OECD-APRM Partnership is likewise instrumental in promoting policy coherence

assessment for both agendas 2030 and 2063. This is a positive step towards regional dialogue in Africa on impact assessment and addressing transboundary issues using the OECD methodology and APRM input.



For further info, please see [Guidance - Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(oecd.org\)](https://www.oecd.org/)

**Africa day - session on Harnessing Energy and Water for sustainable industrialisation and inclusive economic transformation -APRM perspective:**

**Presented by Mr. Jean-Yves Adou, 19 July 2023**

Reference was made to the APRM significant contribution in promoting African countries' progress in the Energy and Water sectors.



**First and foremost,** the APRM governance assessment reviews enable countries to identify the challenges they face in implementing the SDGs and Agenda 2063 and propose actionable solutions to overcome these challenges. The

APRM Country review reports have highlighted best practices shared by different countries as they implemented a range of strategies and initiatives to address the challenges surrounding SDGs and Agenda 2063 implementation, including in the areas of energy and water. This exchange of knowledge and experiences is invaluable in accelerating progress.

**Secondly**, the APRM serves as a platform for sharing best practices, experiences, and knowledge across African nations. The APRM continental platform on VNRs and Agenda 2063 domestication and implementation is one of the SDG accelerators in Africa, significantly contributing to harnessing energy and water for sustainable industrialization and inclusive economic transformation. Through this platform, countries engage in peer learning and policy dialogue, enabling nations to learn from one another's experiences and accelerate their development agenda.

**Thirdly**, the APRM provides capacity building and training in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for countries in need. Over the past five years, the APRM has trained over three hundred national experts from across the continent in M&E tools, including the UNECA integrated tool to report on both Agenda 2030 and 2063. Approximately twenty countries have already benefited from these tools in conjunction with the APRM Reviews. Additionally, the APRM collaborates with partners such as the African Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and South-South cooperation partners to assist African countries in promoting the implementation and reporting on the SDGs and Agenda 2063, with a specific focus on water and energy.

### **APRM Engagement in the high-level segment of ECOSOC**

Prof. Eddy Maloka moderated the High-level segment of the ECOSOC session, which centered around the theme of "Strengthening UN System Institutions for Resilient Sustainable Development." The session aimed to enhance

coordination, bolster capacity, and increase resilience within UN system institutions. These efforts were directed toward fostering trust and readiness for the future. The discussion encompassed strategies for empowering the UN system to develop more dependable, efficient, accountable, and inclusive institutions capable of advancing sustainable development. Distinguished participants included representatives from UNCTAD, the Congressional Black Caucus Political Education and Leadership Institute (CBCI), the UN ASG, the Coordinator of the Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children.

Prof. Maloka underscored the African Union's unwavering commitment to maintaining consistent and continuous coordination with UN institutions across all levels. He further emphasized that the AU-UN framework for implementing Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 embodies the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations. This partnership is aimed at addressing Africa's challenges and creating equitable opportunities, particularly for its youth and future generations.



APRM's strong cooperation with UN DESA to strengthen national capacities on VNRs and equally advocacy on CEPA principles for effective governance of SDGs and Agenda 2063 also stand in support of the continental efforts to promote Accountability, inclusiveness and



leaving no one behind principles in African public institutions.

To watch the full session, please visit <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1k/k1k8scymf>.

### **APRM-SAIIA Side Event on the occasion of the Pre-20th Anniversary**

The APRM, in partnership with SAIIA, co-organized a pre-anniversary event on the margins of the HLPF to provide a platform for African countries and strategic partners to share reflections on the APRM's role and recommendations for improving its engagement in member states. The event witnessed the participation of high-level representatives and speakers from Egypt, Kenya, Ghana, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Cote d'Ivoire, and Ghana, along with strategic partners. They highlighted their national experiences with the APRM over the past twenty years and discussed the envisioned future role of the APRM at the continental level for a more well-governed and integrated Africa.



"The discussion is aimed at furthering the APRM's journey to promote good governance on the continent. This includes both the APRM Revitalization and the expansion of the APRM's mandate to support countries in national governance reporting. Additionally, it seeks to track progress towards Agendas 2030 and 2063."





## **Key Outcomes and Reflections from Countries:**

1. The APRM is encouraged to sustain its engagement at the national level systematically and institutionally.
2. More activities and programs can be implemented at the local level through a multi-stakeholder approach, involving Civil Society and youth organizations.
3. The APRM journey has been enriching and valuable for the entire continent, promoting "African solutions for African problems" paid off in many challenges including responsive actions against the COVID-19.
4. Emphasizing the development of a democratic culture and addressing critical issues, such as unconstitutional changes of government (UCG), SDG16, and Aspiration 3 challenges, including illicit financial flows, violence, corruption, and access to information (ATI), is imperative to enhance citizens' trust in African governments.
5. The African Union should leverage the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and other global platforms to raise awareness and highlight continental priorities as outlined in Agenda 2063 and ensure executing the [AU-UN Framework on implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030](#).

# THE APRM ENGAGEMENT IN THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

NEW YORK 14 - 20 JULY 2023

Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all Levels

## Friday 14 July 2023

10:00am - 1:00pm

Where: Uganda Permanent Mission of Uganda to the UN (physical)

**Side event: Uganda's experience in promoting leaving No one behind Principle**

## Friday 14 July 2023

2pm-3pm

Where: Conference Room 11 - UN HQs  
Co-organisers: APRM, UN ECA and OSAA  
Further info: [Concept Note](#)

**APRM-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)**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Monday 17 July

08:00-09:30 am

Where: Conference Room 5 - UN HQs  
Organisers: Permanent mission of Egypt

**Mainstreaming Voluntary Local Reviews for SDG Acceleration at the Local Level**

## Tuesday 18 July

08:00 -9:00am

Where: Conference room 11-UN HQs  
Further Info: [HLPF 2023 Policy coherence VNR lab](#)

**VNR Lab 12 Principles of effective governance in VNRs: Enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development.**

1:15 - 2:45pm

Where: AU mission to the UN, (physical)  
Organisers: APRM, German development council, Permanent mission of Sierra Leone to the UN

**APRM-HLPF High-Level side event: Regional aspect of voluntary national reporting on Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063: sharing experience from Europe & Africa**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## Wednesday 19 July

8:00-9:30

Where: Conference Room A, UN Headquarters, New York  
Further Info: [HLPF 2023\\_Policy coherence\\_VNR lab](#)

**OECD side event on policy coherence for sustainable development**

## Thursday 20 July

1:15pm- 3:00pm

Where: AU mission to the UN

**APRM 20th anniversary "APRM Anniversary: Moving ahead with achievements, challenges and lessons learnt for the Africa We want.**



**APRM**  
African Peer Review  
Mechanism



20  
Promoting Democracy and  
Good Governance in Africa

An Institution of the  
**African Union**

Agenda  
**2063** The Africa  
we Want



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa



[www.aprm.au.int](http://www.aprm.au.int)

