



APRM
African Peer Review
Mechanism



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

AFRICA'S PATHWAY TO THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE: UN 2030 AGENDA AND AU AGENDA 2063

THE 2024 HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

15-18 JULY 2024
UNITED NATIONS

An Institution of the
African Union



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OBJECTIVES AND RATIONALE OF THE APRM PARTICIPATION IN THE 2024 HLPF

- The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) serves as the global institutional mechanism for tracking progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and sharing best practices. It allows countries across the globe to submit their Voluntary National Reports (VNR) on SDG progress. African countries have actively participated in the VNR process. 53 African countries have submitted, at least once, a voluntary national report on SDGs during the past five years.
- The APRM, guided by its expanded mandate to track and monitor Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, established the APRM Continental Platform on VNRs and Domestication of Agenda 2063, to assist African countries in preparing for VNRs and accelerating progress towards Agenda 2063, particularly Aspiration Three: “Africa with good governance, democracy, and the rule of law.” Up until 2023, the APRM organised five continental workshops to empower national civil servants, and those involved in SDGs/Agenda 2063 implementation.
- During these workshops, United Nations (UN) agencies, the African Union, and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs trained 300 civil servants and focal points of the SDGs/Agenda 2063 on the means of implementation, domestication practices, monitoring and evaluation tools, and institutional mechanisms for implementing both agendas. In 2024, the APRM co-facilitated the UNECA-AU

Regional VNR Preparations for the HLPF 2024. It’s worth mentioning that 13 African countries presented VNRs including Uganda, Kenya, Eritrea, Chad, Congo, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Mauritania, Mauritius, and Zimbabwe, while South Africa deferred its presentation to next year.

- In collaboration with different Member States and partners, the APRM organised peer-learning session with the following segments:

PROCEEDINGS OF THE APRM MEETINGS

APRM-FAO-UNECA VNR LAB 8: EXPERIENCE SHARING ON THE POVERTY-GOVERNANCE-PARTNERSHIPS NEXUS

- The Lab aims to display governance policies aimed at poverty eradication and partnership enhancement. Representatives from Chad, Namibia, and Zimbabwe showcased national policies and best practices to enhance overall reporting on poverty and support the APRM national review processes. Furthermore, they showcased partnerships and opportunities with development partners to address this challenge effectively.

Moderated by Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief Capacity Development, Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA

Zimbabwe: Ms. Sylocious Chaturuka, Deputy Director, SDGs and Agenda 2063 unit, Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare.

- Both VNRs on the SDGs and APRM reviews are significant because they complement each other and leverage national capacities to enhance monitoring of Agenda 2030 and 2063 alike. The voluntary nature of both processes helps enhance accountability, peer learning, and exchanges between African countries.
- In relation to SDGs 1 and 16, poverty rose from 30% in 2017 to 38.3% in 2019 due to climate-induced disasters and other socio-economic challenges. The government implemented various programmes, including the focalization of the data management system (FDMS), the Harmonised National Social Cash Transfer programme (HSCT), and the Integrated Social Protection Management Information System (ISPMIS), to enhance effectiveness and deploy more efforts to decrease poverty in the next poverty assessment.

Chad: the government has made significant progress on strengthening institutional mechanisms for poverty reduction which includes the establishment of a ministry dedicated to social protection and humanitarian affairs. At the policy level, the government has adopted certain measures for the food/agriculture banks to tackle specific financial and technical challenges. Chad is struggling with severe environmental issues linked to drought and climate change. To alleviate the situation, the government has eliminated levies on food imports, extended agricultural credits, and developed arable land.

Institutional reforms, through concrete actions to assist the business environment and attract

international investors, especially in food production, are underway. These reforms create favourable conditions for entrepreneurship. Also, Chad has undertaken public finance reforms through the digitalisation of domestic revenues, which have drastically increased public revenue; the creation of bodies in charge of state control to fight corruption; and strengthening the confidence of citizens and international partners.

Emphasis was placed on social protection, which resulted in the establishment of vast social safety net programmes that are dedicated to assisting vulnerable people and providing basic social services; the creation of the National Health Insurance Fund (CNAS) to provide access to health care for vulnerable groups; and the effective implementation of the 50,000 decent jobs' initiative dedicated to youth.

In an effort to capitalise on the benefits of digital governance, the government of Chad has launched several initiatives to advance digital technology, including:

- The creation of platforms for online electronic payment (e-tax) has led to the digitalisation of public finances.
- The modernisation and development of digital infrastructure involves the construction of fiber optic stations to extend internet coverage and improve connectivity throughout the territory.
- The establishment of technical schools with a special focus on digital technology, along with the exemption of tax on computer equipment, will allow for deeper

digital penetration among the population.

The National Development Plan (NDP) 2024-2028 of Chad is adopting a realistic approach to strengthen monitoring to combat poverty by using effective tools, including the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), to enable it to develop objective, targeted and efficient interventions.

The NDP will specifically concentrate on economic diversification and internationalisation of the economy, with particular emphasis on key sectors and drivers such as livestock, industry, services, and mines. The NDP will be a reference document for the next 4 years (2024–2028), which will ensure that Chad follows an inclusive development approach with a special focus on three priorities:

- The effective implementation of universal health
- Accelerating the electrification of large cities and secondary towns by providing access to renewable energy
- The implementation of social programmes to assist the most vulnerable individuals.

Finally, Chad recently established a partnership with the Oxford Human Development Initiative (OPHI) to offer technical assistance in improving multi-dimensional poverty assessments. The MPI continues to provide essential indicators for better targeted intervention planning and better monitoring of public programs.

Namibia has made strides in reducing poverty, significantly reducing the proportion of Namibians living below the poverty line

from 28.7% in 2009/10 to 17.4% by 2015/16. However, despite the investments and initiatives made in the social sector, Namibia continues to face poverty.

The OPHI partnered with Namibia to help apply the multi-dimensional poverty assessment. Namibia's national MPI was developed. In 2021, the overall incidence of multidimensional poverty stood at 39.35%, with urban and rural poverty rates at 22.2% and 56.5%, respectively. Multidimensional poverty is higher among female-headed households at 46.2% compared to 40.8% for male-headed households (MPI report 2021, pp. 33).

- The government has rolled out comprehensive social protection, which includes, among others, support for old age pensioners, orphans and vulnerable groups, people with disabilities, and those infected by HIV/AIDS. The government has transformed the previously established food banks into cash transfers.
- Inequality, both in terms of access to basic services and access, has been a challenge. Inequalities are more prevalent in rural areas and among some vulnerable members of society, such as people with disabilities, women and children, and youth (NPC, 2023).
- The fifth National Development Plan of Namibia aimed to reduce the proportion of impoverished individuals from 17.4% to 10% and severely impoverished individuals from 10.7% to 5%; however, this goal failed to materialise, as both poverty rates stayed unaltered (NDP 5 terminal review, page 112). Additionally, Namibia's

Gini Coefficient stayed consistent, with values of 0.576 in 2020/2021 and 0.58 in 2021/2022.

- Women are relatively more impacted than men, with urban areas being less affected compared to rural areas. With the onset of COVID-19, the government's capacity to generate revenues that would further reduce poverty significantly declined.
- The government allocated 50.7% of its FY2024/2025 budget, or N\$44.3 billion, to the social sector, including a total of N\$824.7 million to maintain the real value of social safety systems (Budget speech 2024). The country has achieved 97.0% coverage of the Old Age Grant, translating to 204,379 beneficiaries. At 97% coverage, the old age grant is virtually universal.
- **Best practice:** A multipronged and multisectoral approach to reducing poverty and hunger is the best way to address these interrelated phenomena. The Zero Hunger challenge, with its five pillars, forms the foundation of Namibia's strategy to eradicate hunger.

Pillar I: 100% equitable access to adequate food year-round.

Pillar II: No hungry children under the age of two.

Pillar III: All food systems are sustainable.

Pillar IV: A 100% increase in smallholder productivity and incomes.

Pillar V: Eliminating food waste.

- On the regional level, Namibia is collaborating with the AU to implement the Malabo Declaration, which calls for

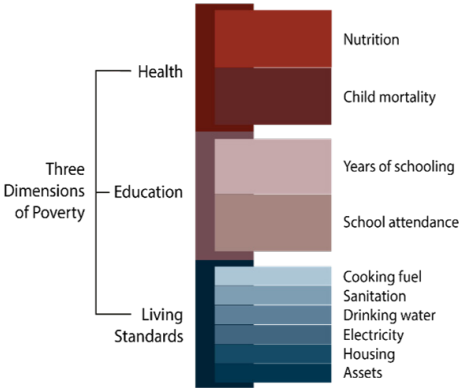
accelerated agricultural growth and seeks to transform Africa's agriculture for shared prosperity and improved livelihoods through harnessing opportunities for inclusive growth and sustainable development, as well as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).

- Namibia has already worked with the Oxford International Development Institute (OIDI) to produce an MPI based on the 2011 Population Census and Household and Income Expenditure 2015/2016.
- Namibia recently conducted the 2023 Population and Housing Census, and it is preparing to conduct the 2025/2026 Namibia Household Income and Expenditure. In addition to producing the MPI based on the latest data, Namibia would like to collaborate with international organisations to produce multidimensional poverty mapping in small areas to facilitate policy intervention.
- **Reflections from the OPHI**

Prof. Sabina Alkire, Professor of Poverty and Human Development and director of the OPHI at the University of Oxford, shared insights on the OPHI toolkit, which serves as a governance tool to enhance overall poverty assessment and lies in the socio-economic governance thematic area.

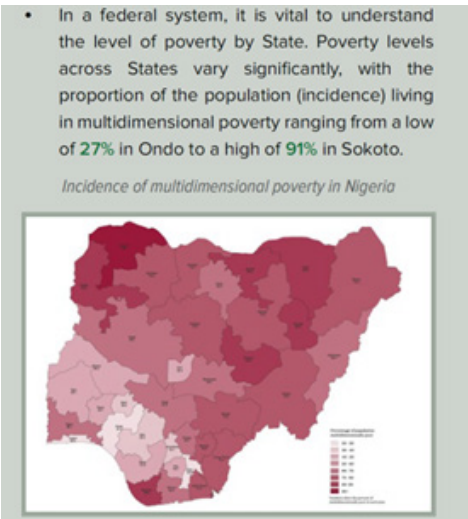
- Some African countries, including Malawi, Mali, the Seychelles, Mauritania, Mozambique, Guinea, and Guinea-Bissau, are already conducting national multi-poverty-dimensional assessments.

Figure 1 multi-dimensional poverty measurement, (OPHI)



- It is also worth noting that the MPI tool can support planning and budget forecasting for vulnerable groups. The MPI is expected to inform the budget allocation of the District Assemblies Common Fund (DACF), which is distributed among all Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies and forms a core part of their revenue.

Figure 2 Nigeria's multi-dimensional poverty assessment



Recommendations:

The APRM, The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the World Food Program (WFP) and OPHI are encouraged to institutionalise multi-dimensional poverty assessments in governance reviews as well as monitoring and evaluation processes.

The APRM and OPHI should leverage their networking and programs to ensure that multi-dimensional poverty assessments are incorporated into the APRM National Development planning Community of Practice to assist countries with monitoring and evaluating Aspirations 1 and 3 of Agenda 2063. This can be conducted in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) on an annual basis.



APRM-SIERRA LEONE HIGH-LEVEL SIDE EVENT: AFRICA'S PATH TO THE SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE

In collaboration with the Republic of Sierra Leone and the AU Permanent Mission to the UN, the APRM co-hosted a high-level peer learning session on "Africa's Pathway to the Summit of the Future," focusing on food security, governance, and internal cooperation. Notable speakers included government officials and representatives from across Africa, including Algeria, Egypt, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Uganda, Botswana, and South Africa, underscoring the importance of coordinated efforts towards sustainable development.

Speaking on behalf of Ambassador Marie-Antoinette Rose Quatre, the CEO of the APRM Continental Secretariat, Mr. Jean-Yves Adou, Ag. Director of Monitoring and Evaluation highlighted the APRM's role in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of Agenda 2063, particularly Aspirations 3 and 4, which align with SDG 16 (effective institutions and peaceful societies). He emphasized that the upcoming Summit of the Future presents a crucial opportunity for global communities to strengthen collective security systems and align international and regional actions for sustainable development.

Speakers at the event outlined key priorities for African nations, including advocating for an inclusive global financial architecture, promoting climate action agreements, enhancing national governance legitimacy, boosting export-oriented agricultural policies, and strengthening public institutions. They also stressed the need for multi-stakeholder

approaches and increased financial support for women and youth programmes in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, alongside a call for equitable global digital policies.

Sierra Leone: Minister Amara Kallon, Minister of Political Affairs and Public Administration briefed the audience on the country's development vision. The government of Sierra Leone is currently implementing its National Medium-Term Development Plan (MTNDP) (2024-2030).

The MTNDP outlines the vision of the Government of Sierra Leone (GOSL) to transform the country into a stable, prosperous, and resilient democracy with a public service that is professional, accountable and transparent

- The Public Sector Reform Master Plan (PSRMP, 2024–2030), currently under development, is harnessing a science-based approach to renewing and rejuvenating the public service architecture of Sierra Leone. The Master Plan was guided by the APRM recommendations of the UCG targeted review and Agenda 2063, particularly Aspiration 3: An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law.
- Despite considerable progress, challenges remain, including resource constraints, resistance to change, and the need for continuous capacity building. However, the country's commitment to reforms is unwavering.
- Regional and continental cooperation is crucial in Sierra Leone's journey; platforms

such as the APRM play a pivotal role in this regard for fostering peer learning and mutual accountability.

- The efforts deployed by the Ministry of Public Administration are not just to meet administrative targets, but also create a system that serves the people and drives sustainable development. With continued commitment and cooperation, Africa can achieve the SDGs and realise the ambitious vision of Agenda 2063.



Algeria: Mr. Nassim Gaouaoui, Deputy Ambassador of the Permanent Mission of Algeria to the UN, emphasised Algeria's commitment to support the APRM vision to promote good governance on the continent guided by Agenda 2063 and SDGs. Algeria, which voluntarily underwent this evaluation twice in June 2007 and July 2012, and shed light on the reforms it has undertaken to entrench the rule of law, democracy, socio-economic development, and resilience in the face of multidimensional challenges.

The African Union Summit in January 2017 positioned the APRM as a fundamental pillar for

monitoring the AU's Agenda 2063 and the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

During the AU Summit of Heads of State and Government in February 2024, the President of the Algeria, Abdelmadjid Tebboune, received praise from his peers and pledged to continue consolidating and strengthening the Mechanism. This aims to uphold Algeria's values of the rule of law, transparency, anti-corruption efforts, and human rights.

At the national level, the launch of major institutional, political, and socio-economic reforms by the country's High Authority led to the adoption of a new Constitution in 2020 through a national referendum. This Constitution introduced significant reforms and enshrined fundamental rights. It also balanced the separation of powers, strengthened judicial independence, promoted human rights, and enhanced transparency in governance.

The President emphasised the moral transformation of political life while focusing on establishing the rule of law, which guarantees judicial independence and political and social governance. This aims to promote genuine participatory democracy and prioritise citizen-centric development, including the inclusion of women, youth, and vulnerable populations.

Algeria's reforms to expand good governance and priorities during the Chairmanship of the APRM

The Algerian government has, for instance, undertaken substantial national reforms to enhance integrity in business and transparency alongside promoting a liberal and free-market

economy. This includes establishing the High Authority for Transparency, Prevention, and Anti-Corruption in July 2022 and adopting the National Strategy for Transparency, Prevention, and Anti-Corruption for the period 2023-2027, which prioritises the fight against corruption. This strategy, implemented in coordination with international and regional institutions such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the UNDP Centre for Public Policy, aims primarily to strengthen the legal and institutional system, create an anti-corruption political, social, and economic climate, and establish a rule of law based on principles of integrity, transparency, and accountability. The government also undertook economic diversification programmes and social housing projects. This momentum has already translated into an estimated GDP growth rate of 4.1% in 2023.

As chair of the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government, Algeria will continue to work diligently and with integrity on the following priorities:

- **Strengthening** the Mechanism's achievements and supporting Africa's progress towards transparent and democratic governance. This includes combating corruption, terrorism, and violent extremism.
- **Fostering** dialogue, cooperation, and coordination among all stakeholders to develop African solutions to African challenges. These solutions will be grounded in African reality and lead to a developed and prosperous Africa.
- **Prioritising** citizen participation,

strengthening democratic institutions, promoting responsible and sustainable investment, advancing women's rights and participation, and intensifying the fight against corruption—all in the pursuit of peace, stability, and socio-economic development on our continent.

- **Pursuing** the consolidation and strengthening of the APRM, with particular attention paid to expanding the Mechanism. Algeria also encourages other African countries that have not yet acceded to the APRM to do so.
- Algeria works together with Sierra Leone and Uganda, members of the APRM Troika, to enhance the capabilities of member nations. The goal is to maximise the APRM's benefits in promoting peace, stability, good governance, prosperity, and complete the decolonization process of the African continent.



UNOSAA: Ms. Cristina Duarte, Special Advisor on Africa to the Secretary-General

Africa's focus on governance has been quite substantive. However, implementation of

recommendations generated by governance reports is uneven. As a result, it is critical for the APRM to take stock of all its reports and encourage countries to rewrite their narratives. Understanding the myriad external and internal factors that influence Africa's potential is crucial to understanding its challenges and current deficits that hamper its participation in the global economy. Furthermore, political leadership plays a critical role in mobilizing resources. Leadership is necessary to ensure the organic legitimacy of the state and leaders.

Namibia: Ambassador Lineekela J. Mboti, CEO and APRM Focal Point for the Republic of Namibia

- One of Africa's critical priorities is climate change. The Constitution of Namibia, under Article 95(1), mandates the government to protect the environment. As a result, the government established the Environmental Investment Fund to mobilise funding for projects and programmes that promote sustainable development. It is one of the fastest-growing green climate funding institutions on the continent.
- Building institutions, as recommended by SDG 16, is the only guarantee of ensuring that all policies, including environmental policies, are in place. Conflicts across the globe must end now to use limited resources and the energy for development endeavours.
- Illicit financial flows, corruption, and a lack of good governance, have stalled the continent's development for years. The fight against corruption and mismanagement should be waged relentlessly.
- Namibia adheres to the principle of separation of powers which includes the independence of the judiciary and respect for the rule of law. Accordingly, Namibia is dedicated to the APRM mandate and Agenda 2063 Aspirations, which should catalyse African countries' efforts towards predictable processes, systems, and strong institutions to improve effective governance in participating Member States through peer learning and experience sharing.
- Another priority is youth empowerment, which is featured in Namibia's overall governance architecture. Namibia has one of the youngest full Cabinet Ministers, under the age of 30. Namibia has also achieved gender parity in Parliament.
- Namibia called upon development partners to continue supporting the APRM as well as to honour their financial commitments to realise the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063.
- The Summit of the Future provides an opportunity to accelerate, redefine, and reinforce multilateral cooperation and renew our collective commitments to the 2030 Agenda.
- The Summit is also a call to improve effective governance by strengthening multilateral cooperation. It is a call for commitment to establish strong democratic institutions on the continent to ensure inclusive development and reform the international financial system.



Egypt, represented by Consul Mohamed Soliman, shared insights into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as Egypt's priorities for sustaining peacebuilding and conflict resolution on the continent. He specifically focused on the migration and refugee crisis, emphasizing that the Summit of the Future will also address the issue of people displaced by war and conflicts throughout the continent.

Nigeria, represented by Princess Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, Senior Special Assistant to the President on Sustainable Development Goals, shared some thoughts into the Summit of the Future.

- African countries are adopting good governance policies on the continent but should not lose sight of sustainable financing. The creation of an environment conducive for economic growth can generate the resources needed to fund developmental goals.
- The upcoming Summit presents an opportunity to advocate for a more equitable global financial system that supports the growth aspirations of developing nations like Nigeria's. Moreover, the Summit of

the future's focus on digital transformation and technological innovation remains steadfast.

- These are crucial for not only advancing Nigeria's national agenda but also ensuring that the country is well-prepared to address global challenges collaboratively.

Reflections were made on the role of science and technology in shaping the future in Africa. Another call was launched by Civil society groups to keep them engaged in the APRM processes and the implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2030/2063.

World Food Program, represented by Mr. Hammed Nuru, Representative of WFP to the African Union and UNECA, emphasised that Africa has made strides in implementing both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. These efforts have been bolstered by the execution of the first ten-year plan of Agenda 2063, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), as well as other global, continental, regional, and national development frameworks, policies, and strategies. However, despite the ambitious targets and commitments outlined both in the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, progress has been limited due to the complex interplay of multiple global crises over the past decade, which have diverted attention and resources away from long-term development.

Factors such as climate change, financial inequalities, the widening digital divide, the COVID-19 pandemic and its lingering effects, geopolitical tensions, and internal conflicts have all hampered the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in Africa.

- The anticipated finance required to

implement the SDGs including investments in climate change mitigation and adaptation; food systems transformation to eradicate poverty, food insecurity and malnutrition; social transformation to improve education, health, and gender; and peace building and regional integration for sustainable development in Africa has not materialized. Accordingly, the negative impacts of 3 factors have particularly become evident in recent years: conflict and insecurity, climate crisis, and economic shocks.

Actions and Recommendations:

1. Enhancing Trade Competitiveness, Developing Regional Value Chains, and prioritizing Value Addition: Accelerate the full operationalization of the **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)**

Agreement to enhance intra-African trade, value addition, local innovations, and reduce supply chain inefficiencies. WFP strongly supports the AfCFTA and has huge expertise in Supply and Logistics chain management for Food globally and in Africa.

Further, This shall be supported by leveraging ongoing efforts such as the AU's Common Africa Agro-Parks (CAAPs) initiative, which has the potential to transform the continent's agriculture and boost integration through trade and industrialization. WFP Livelihoods improvement programmes with our footprint in Africa supports this, in collaboration with FAO and others. Production Access and Uptake.

2. Equitable Access to Finance and Leveraging Innovative Financing

Options: It is imperative to explore debt swaps, Special Drawing Rights (SDR) rechanneling, loss and damage funds, fintech solutions, and rerouting remittances to address financial constraints and promote sustainable development. The WFP supports Access to IFI funds through a MoU with AFDB and AFREXIM bank. The WFP Role in Debt swap deals for Social Security nets for Countries.

3. **Promote Self-Sufficiency:** fostering self-sufficiency by enhancing local production capacities and reducing dependency on external resources. Support initiatives that build local expertise, infrastructure, and sustainable practices to achieve greater economic and food security independence.

4. **Strengthening Global Solidarity and South-South and Triangular Cooperation:** South-South Cooperation (SSC) is an expression of solidarity that promotes two-ways learning and cooperation based on the principle of equality and mutual development. SSC has boosted the sense of self-development and interdependence amongst the countries of the Global South. For instance, the African Union is a framework for SSC where countries from the continent are aiming to promote and deepen the cooperation and partnerships among each other in different areas in order to achieve a shared an inclusive prosperity.

In addition to that, Agenda 2063 emphasizes the value of the strategic partnerships with partners of the South to further enhance the process of development of Africa.

SSC can be used as a tool to accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2063 as well as the SDGs. Each country, including the ones from the Global South, can be a source of innovation, solution, that could be further scaled up, once adapted, to other local context. Fostering SSC by sharing knowledge, resources, and technologies that support sustainable development can lead to the achievement of both agendas. WFP Center of Excellence Brazil, China India Ivory Coast etc – KPI for Food. Tools and knowledge platforms sharing Eg Hinger Maps Datavits, EWS. Free shared. Promoting spirit of SSTC Address Pan African Parliament and PSC. Etc.

5. Translate Commitments into Practice:

Ensure that commitments made at global and continental levels are effectively translated into practical actions on the ground. Develop clear implementation plans, allocate necessary resources, and establish monitoring mechanisms to track progress and address challenges in real-time.

6. Enhancing the Alignment of Global Goals and Domesticating Continental Development Frameworks with National Development Plans:

- Address deficiencies in aligning national development plans with global goals such as the SDGs and continental frameworks like Agenda 2063.
- Accelerate progress by adopting and domesticating frameworks such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP),

the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy, and the Continental Education Strategy for Africa.

7. Leveraging the Power of Technology, Private Sector, and Youth:

- Develop a clear strategy to harness the immense potential of technology and innovation, including artificial intelligence, the private sector, and the youth.
- Adopt a holistic approach to support the acceleration of implementation and the rescue of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 goals in Africa.



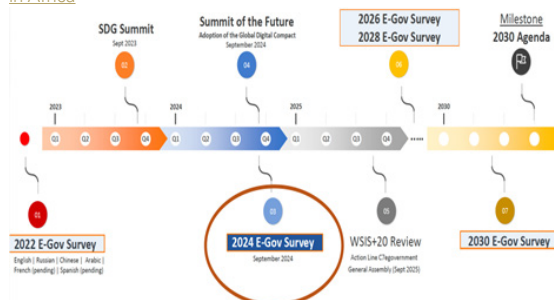
UNDESA-VNR LAB 14. STRENGTHENING DIGITAL GOVERNMENT AND DATA GOVERNANCE FOR A MORE AGILE AND EFFECTIVE PUBLIC SECTOR IN AFRICA

- ➔ The APRM, in collaboration with the UNDESA, examines the transformative impact of digitalisation on public service delivery. The Lab brought together experts and policymakers from Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, and Namibia to highlight best practices for digital transformation,

as well as some insights from their 2024 VNRs.

- Speakers emphasised the importance of digitalisation in promoting good governance, enhancing the citizenry's voice on public policy issues, and ensuring effective service delivery. Further, there are strong linkages between the e-government framework endorsed by the UNDESA and key institutional principles of SDG 16.
- In this regard, reference was made to the APRM-UN DESA collaboration to promote

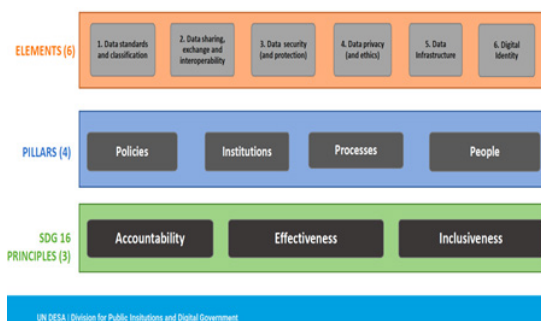
[principles for effective governance of SDGs and Agenda 2063](#) especially in light of the [APRM baseline study on implementation of Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development in Africa](#)



- The UNDESA, represented by Wai Kowk presented current collaboration with the Republics of Sierra Leone, Gambia and Tanzania to develop e-governance frameworks at national levels. He made the following points:
- Since 2001, the UN E-Government Survey has presented a systematic assessment of the use and potential of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to transform the public sector by enhancing effectiveness, inclusiveness, accountability, access to public services

and public participation, and at all levels of development.

UN DESA's National Data Governance Framework



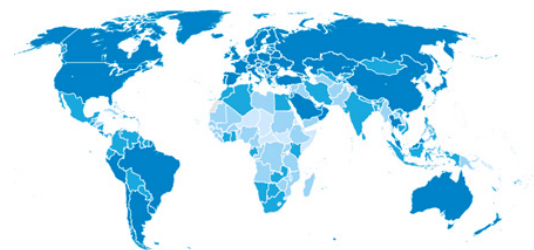
- The E-Government Survey is informed by over two decades of longitudinal research, with a ranking of countries based on the United Nations E-Government Development Index (EGDI), a combination of primary data (collected and owned by the UN DESA) and secondary data from other UN agencies -the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Economic Scientific Cultural Organization and the UNDP.
- Moving towards the Summit of the Future, the E-government index will be critical to shape future government perspectives.

Further highlights on the EGDI trends across the world and Africa were shared as follows:

- E-government development has improved between 2020 and 2022: Global average EGDI value rose from 0.5988 to 0.6102.
- 133 UN Member States (70%) have very high (60) and High (73) EGDI values: A 5% increase since 2020.

- ➔ Only 7 countries have Low-EGDI level: all 7 are Least Developed Countries/Landlocked Developing Countries/Small Island Developing States; 6 in Africa, 1 in the Americas.
 - ➔ The trend for the last 8 years suggests that there is an increasing number of countries improving e-government development.
 - ➔ Africa remains the lowest and below the global average according to the
 - ➔ Largest share of positive changes (15 countries)
- The majority of countries in the low-EGDI group are from Africa. South Africa, Mauritius and Seychelles are the top regional leaders
 - 3 countries moved from the middle to high-EDGI group (Rwanda, Côte d'Ivoire and Zambia)
 - 1 country moved from the low to middle-EDGI group (Guinea-Bissau)
 - 1 country moved down from the high to middle-EDGI group (Zimbabwe)
 - 6 countries are in the low EDGI Group (Niger, Chad, Eritrea, Central African Republic, Somalia, South Sudan)

Figure 3 Africa's progress towards E-Governance framework



Recommendations

- The APRM will continue working with the UNDESA to promote the e-government index assessment within APRM Reviews. This aligns with the significance of e-governance and digitalisation in facilitating the Second Ten-Year Implementation plan of Agenda 2063.
- The UNDESA is currently supporting the e-governance frameworks in Sierra Leone, Gambia, and Tanzania. Regional workshops in South Africa will support this by the end of 2024 or in early 2025.

KEY MESSAGES OF THE 2024 AFRICAN VNRS

ERITREA: H.E Sophia Tasfamariam, Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the UN, identified some notable areas of progress, including free education from primary to tertiary levels, with hundreds of new schools and libraries built; adoption of progressive and affirmative action measures to improve women's rights, and a reduction of harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation; and improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene, with 93% of villages nationwide ending open defecation. Responding to questions, H.E Sophia Tasfamariam underlined social capital as her country's most valuable and important driver of progress, despite the imposition of unilateral coercive measures. Sierra Leone: H.E Kenyeh Barlay, Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Sierra Leone, presented her country's fourth VNR report. She discussed the SDG acceleration roadmap that is aligned with the "Big Five Game Changers" national planning framework, with a focus on SDGs 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), and 10

(reduced inequalities). Among the positive indicators identified in the VNR, she noted more women in governance; fewer incidents of gender-based violence; investments in social protection; and local civil society engagement. On remaining gaps, she highlighted data challenges, limited economic diversification, and a weak private sector.

GUINEA: H.E Ismael Nabe, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation presented his country's second VNR. He outlined efforts to integrate the SDGs into national and sectoral policies, and the development of a financial plan to support their implementation. The Minister reported progress on reducing food insecurity and chronic child malnutrition; promoting the rule of law and equal access to justice; and eradicating gender-based violence.

Discussion: Responding to questions from Sierra Leone, Mali, and the NGOs Major Group, H.E Ismael Nabe expressed his deep solidarity with neighbouring countries. He pointed to critical water resources in his country that directly impact the region and called for support from the international community to preserve these resources. He further outlined the importance of civil society in the VNR process.

SOUTH SUDAN: Mr. Augustino Ting Mayai, Chair of the National Bureau of Statistics presented his country's first VNR, contextualizing South Sudan's emergence from conflict and transition towards development. Reporting limited progress overall, with regression on poverty and child food security, he noted some improvements in: maternal mortality rate; child vaccination; adult literacy; secondary education enrolment rates and gender parity. Mr. Mayai outlined the

revised national development strategy, Vision 2040, as an example of improvements in the policy environment that would set the stage for increased investments.

LIBYA: Presenting the country's second VNR report, H.E Mohamed Al-Zaidani, Minister of Planning, Libya, noted the participation of local administrations and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the review process. He reported initiatives providing basic incomes to vulnerable groups; reducing maternal and infant mortality rates; increasing access to safe drinking water; and combating illegal fishing. The Minister emphasized the importance of cooperation at all levels in delivering on the 2030 Agenda and stressed his country's determination to continue progressing towards peace, security, and stability.

KENYA: Mrs. Monica Asuna, Director of Planning, National Treasury, Kenya, noted mixed SDG performance during the reporting period, with progress on SDG 2 (zero hunger) of particular concern. She highlighted a range of social protection measures, such as affirmative funds for women, youth, the informal sector, and other marginalized groups. Responding to questions on the inclusivity of the VNR process and efforts to leave no one behind, Mrs. Asuna noted close collaboration with the Kenya SDG Forum, a CSO.

CHAD: H.E Fatima Haram Acyl, Minister in charge of the Economy and Planning, outlined efforts made to enhance peace and security, and poverty eradication, stating that the country's new constitution provides a framework for broad-based public sector reforms and multistakeholder efforts to support vulnerable groups, including refugees. Responding to

questions, she reported that broad-based consultations took place to develop the new SDG-aligned national development plan, which has also received support from diverse development partners.

MAURITANIA: H.E Abdessalam Ould Mohamed Saleh, Minister of Economy and Sustainable Development pointed to the country's success in, among other areas: doubling social expenditures; integrating climate action and poverty reduction strategies; increasing renewable energy investments; integrating internally displaced persons and refugees; and combating terrorism. Elaborating on the country's social cohesion policy, the Minister stressed that "there is no single political prisoner in Mauritania today."

ZIMBABWE: H.E July Moyo, Minister of Public Service, Labour, and Social Welfare, identified key successes, including increased food security, life expectancy, and primary school completion rates, and the establishment of a national adaptation plan with strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He highlighted some innovations to enhance multistakeholder engagement in the VNR process, including the integration of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and a children-led VNR. Responding to questions, he outlined strategies to increase crop self-sufficiency and integrate informal sectors into the economy.

UGANDA: H.E Robinah Nabbanja, Prime Minister of Uganda, highlighted the development of the current SDG-aligned five-year strategic plan, as well as initiatives to strengthen national statistical systems and localize the SDGs. In response to questions,

she highlighted progress on climate early-warning systems and restoration of wetlands; enhanced domestic resource mobilization; and prioritization of agro-industrialization programmes to bolster food systems.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA: H.E Gabriel Mbaga Obiang Lima, Minister of Planning and Economic Diversification, presented his country's second VNR report. He highlighted initiatives to diversify the economy, strengthen public policies and finances, and develop tools to monitor and report on the SDGs through a national committee for SDG coordination. The Minister noted challenges in making progress on education and social welfare. He further pointed to efforts underway for increasing food security and access to healthcare, including by opening a hospital in each provincial capital.

CONGO: H.E Ingrid Olga Ghislaine Ebouka-Babackas, Minister of Planning, Statistics and Regional Integration presented her country's second VNR report. She noted the development of national and local development plans, and a new economic resilience plan to support Congo in the context of international geopolitical tensions. The Minister highlighted her country's focus on three SDGs considered to have immediate and multiplying effects on others, namely SDGs 8, 9 and 11. She indicated high access to public transport networks; slow progress on increasing the value of manufacturing industries; and exponential growth in the value of mobile money transactions.

In response to questions from Switzerland, the Major Group for Children and Youth, and Chad, H.E Ingrid Ebouka-Babackas affirmed that

Congo had recently hosted the Three Basins Summit and the first International Conference on Afforestation and Reforestation. She emphasized that combating climate change and forest management requires greater resources and participation from the international community. She further noted efforts and initiatives to improve governance before elections take place in 2026; address challenges faced by youth within the national development plan; and strengthen capacity for data collection and statistics generation.

Namibia: Mr. Sylvester Mbangu, Chief National Development Advisor, National Planning Commission, presented his country's third VNR report. He outlined numerous successes including:

- securing foreign direct investments and creation of a sovereign wealth fund to accelerate renewable energy projects, especially on green hydrogen.
- channelling 50% of the national budget to social sectors.
- achieving HIV/AIDS targets; and
- effective management of all 20 national conservation areas.

He said Namibia has been recognized as the second-best governed country in Africa and was ranked among the top nine nations in the global gender gap report.

Answering questions from Uganda, the Trade Unions Major Group, and Brazil, Mr. Mbangu outlined the close alignment between the SDGs and national development planning processes; improvements in data collection;

and achieving co-benefits across SDGs due to targeted measures such as the focus on the most vulnerable people. Acknowledging that economic growth has not translated into jobs, he noted the need for economic diversification, reducing inequalities, and further transforming education to meet labour sector needs.





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