

HLPF 2026 Side Event

Delivering Together for Impact: Africa-OECD Coordinated Action to Accelerate the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Co-organised by:

the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (UNOSAA)

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

Event Overview

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| Date and Time | 13 July 2026 13:00-14:45 (EDT) |
| Venue | African Union Mission to the United Nations, New York, USA |
| Format | High-level side event and moderated discussion |
| Core Focus | Coordinated Africa-OECD action to strengthen governance systems, reduce fragmentation and accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. |

Background

Across Africa, efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 continue to be affected by fragmentation across policy areas, institutions and financing systems. Many countries have already reflected both agendas in their national development plans. However, gaps remain between strategic priorities, budget decisions and the capacity to deliver on the ground.

Recent regional assessments show that progress has been made across several SDGs, but that it remains uneven and too slow in many areas.

This is particularly evident in sectors such as water, energy, infrastructure, industrialisation and urban development, where progress depends on stronger coordination across institutions and policy frameworks. The initial evaluation of the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063 also points to mixed performance across the Moonshots, with areas of progress alongside structural and systemic challenges that continue to affect citizen-centred development (AUC, 2026, forthcoming).

These challenges are not only linked to development constraints and limited fiscal space. They also reflect weaknesses in the way key governance reforms are implemented. Fragmented policy frameworks, limited coordination across government, and weak alignment between planning, financing and delivery continue to affect the ability of countries to translate commitments into results. At the same time, climate change, demographic pressures and global economic uncertainty are making policymaking more complex and exposing the limitations of siloed approaches. Addressing these issues requires stronger public governance systems that can manage trade-offs, align policies and investments, and bring together global, regional and national commitments in a more coherent way. The OECD Africa Governance Platform underlines the importance of capable, accountable and coordinated institutions, supported by evidence, peer learning and stronger implementation capacity, in delivering sustainable outcomes.

These issues were further discussed during the joint OECD–APRM side event held on the margins of the 12th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Addis Ababa in April 2026. The event served as a regional consultation contributing to the OECD’s substantive input to the 2026 High-Level Political Forum. Discussions highlighted the need for stronger policy coherence, better coordination across ministries and levels of government, and closer alignment between planning, financing and implementation in advancing both the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Recent collaboration between the OECD and the APRM on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development provides a practical foundation for this work. Through pilot activities in Ghana, Kenya, Namibia and South Africa, the initiative trained more than 200 experts and produced practical recommendations to strengthen government coordination and support the joint implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. This work provides a basis for expanding cooperation beyond the initial pilot countries and for informing wider governance reform efforts, particularly in adaptive governance, macroeconomic governance reforms, and Africa’s capacity to mobilise and attract investment in critical sectors such as infrastructure and environmental protection.

Building on this collaboration, more strategic Africa–OECD cooperation, supported by South-South and triangular partnerships, can help strengthen governance reforms, reinforce national systems, and better align external support with country priorities. This side event provides an opportunity to move beyond broad commitments and focus on practical pathways for joint delivery. It will place particular emphasis on strengthening governance systems, reducing fragmentation and scaling integrated approaches to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

The event is aligned with the objectives of the 2026 High-Level Political Forum, particularly its focus on global trends and emerging risks affecting SDG progress. It will also contribute to discussions leading towards the 2027 SDG Summit and to wider efforts by the African Union, the United Nations system, international financial institutions and other partners to strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation in support of sustainable development.

Objectives

| Objective | Key Focus |
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| Generate practice-based insights from country experiences to strengthen integrated government action. | Highlight country experiences from Africa and OECD countries in aligning policies across sectors and levels of government; translating national development strategies into implementable programmes; and improving the effectiveness and alignment of public investment, as reflected in the 2026 VNRs. |
| Enhance Africa-OECD knowledge exchange and peer learning on governance constraints affecting SDG implementation. | Examine key system-level bottlenecks, including fragmentation across sectors, weak coordination mechanisms, and gaps in aligning planning, financing and delivery, that constrain progress on the SDGs under review at the 2026 HLPF and the related Moonshots of Agenda 2063. |
| Showcase recent African findings and knowledge on the water-energy-governance nexus. | Disseminate the 2025 Africa Governance Report produced by the APRM and AGA Platform, highlighting continental constraints in natural resource governance. |
| Define practical directions for strengthening partnerships to support coordinated delivery on the governance component of Agenda 2063. | Identify how Africa-OECD co-operation, alongside South-South and triangular partnerships, can better support institutional and implementation capacity; data, monitoring and accountability systems; and the alignment and effectiveness of financing for sustainable development. |

Target Audience

The event will bring together ministers and senior officials from African and OECD countries; representatives of regional organisations, including the African Union and APRM; international organisations, including the OECD and the UN system; development partners; financial institutions; policy experts; and stakeholders engaged in sustainable development and governance reforms.

Draft Agenda

| Duration | Segment and Purpose | Speakers / Discussants |
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| 15 minutes | <p>Opening</p> <p>Sets the stage for the discussion by framing the implementation gap as a system-level governance challenge. The segment will consider how fragmentation across policies, institutions and financing arrangements constrains delivery, and how stronger coordination and institutional capacity can translate commitments into measurable results.</p> | <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Marie Rose-Quatre, Chief Executive Officer, APRM Continental Secretariat • Mr. František Ružička, OECD Deputy Secretary-General • H.E. Selma Haddadi, Deputy Chairperson, African Union Commission |
| 30 minutes | <p>Panel: Delivering Across Government Systems</p> <p>Focuses on reforms and institutional practices implemented by countries to improve delivery. The discussion will examine how governments are strengthening coordination across ministries and levels of administration, linking national development strategies with budgeting, investment processes and broader economic reforms, and improving delivery on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.</p> | <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD: Germany, Spain, Italy (TBC) • Egypt: Dr Ahmed Rostom, Minister of Economic Planning • Cameroon: Mr Alamine Ousmane Mey, Minister of Economy, Planning and Regional Development • Liberia: Mr Augustine Kpehe Ngafuan, Minister of Finance and Development Planning • UNOSAA: Ms Cristina Duarte, Special Adviser on Africa • Moderator: OECD |
| 30 minutes | <p>Multi-stakeholder Dialogue: Horizontal Partnerships for Accelerated Delivery on the Water-Energy-Infrastructure Governance Nexus</p> <p>Examines how different actors can better support country-led implementation systems. The discussion will consider how cooperation frameworks can align more closely with national planning and budgeting processes, how complementarities between partners can be strengthened, and how South-South and triangular co-operation can help address capacity and delivery gaps.</p> | <p>Discussants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Africa: Cabo Verde, Senegal (TBC) • Democratic Republic of Algeria: H.E. Amar Bendjama, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations, or a representative • Republic of Togo: Prof. Robert Dussey, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Togolese Abroad • OECD: Finland, Portugal (TBC) • Partners: Mexico/Brazil, Turkey, UAE and Saudi Arabia • Moderator: Ms Sara Hamouda, Senior Continental Governance Officer, APRM Continental Secretariat |
| 7 minutes | <p>Closing Segment: Key Messages and Way Forward</p> <p>Distils key operational takeaways, highlighting priority actions to strengthen coordination, align policies and investments, and improve delivery systems, with a view to informing HLPF outcomes and guiding follow-up collaboration.</p> | <p>Closing speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Idriss, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations • OECD |

Note: The agenda above is indicative and may be adjusted as confirmations are finalised.