

APRM BIENNIAL REPORT

Governance mechanisms for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030

With a special focus on Aspiration Three and SDG 16

September 2023



African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) 2021

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APRM Biennial Report

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In partnership with SDG centre for Africa (Rwanda)
and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
September 2023

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Foreword



Mr. Amara Kallon

**Minister of Public Administration
and Political Affairs, and Chair
of APRM Focal Points Committee**

Republic of Sierra Leone



Hon. Noxolo Kiviet

**Minister of Public Service
and Administration**

Republic of South Africa

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) has initiated the preparation of a continental report on Governance Mechanisms for implementing Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, to support the African Union's efforts to promote understanding, awareness, and monitoring of both agendas. This report is in line with the expanded mandate of the APRM endorsed by the AU Assembly (Assembly/AU/Dec. 631[XXVIII]) by the AU Heads of State and Government at the 28th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 30 to 31 January 2017.

This calls for the steps to be taken to expand the mandate of the APRM by repositioning it to play a monitoring and evaluation role for the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this sense, the current continental efforts led by the AU Commission and the AU Development Agency – AUDA-NEPAD – to consolidate continental progress towards the first ten-year implementation plan (FTYIP) of Agenda 2063 and the preparations for the second ten-year implementation plan of the latter Agenda requires complementary efforts by mechanisms dedicated to promoting good governance on the continent to engage African citizens and officials in the assessment of the governance component of the said agenda. At a global level, the SDG Summit which is taking place on the 19 September 2023 represents another important milestone to accelerate progress towards implementing Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. This momentum urged the APRM to continue its role dedicated by the AU Assembly to provide African policy makers, public officials, and leaders with a factual documentation on how far the continent has progressed towards the governance ecosystem in Africa.

As a Chair of the APRM focal points and in collaboration with my South African counterpart, we would like to commend Prof. Eddy Maloka, the CEO of the continental secretariat of APRM, for producing such a high quality, evidence-based and informative report that tracks governance progress towards the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. Our office has collaborated with the APRM's Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate to ensure the accurate preparation and consolidation of this crucial study.

As Sierra Leone's journey towards achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063 has also been challenging, we share similar concerns with our African peer member states about the governance deficit across the continent, coupled with political instability and economic turmoil. The key message of the report highlights the need to create an agile, responsive and efficient public civil service in our countries. Creating more space for freedom of expression, access to information and accountability to build trust between citizens and political regimes is also suggested.

We hope you find this report enriching. This is a vital contribution to strengthening our governance structures to realise The Africa We Want.

Preface and Acknowledgment



Prof. Eddy Maloka

**Chief Executive Officer
APRM Continental Secretariat**



Dr. Abdoulie Janneh

**Chairperson
APRM Panel of Eminent Persons**

The report on Governance mechanisms for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 is an outcome of the decision on the revitalisation of the APRM (Assembly/AU/Dec. 631[XXVIII]) by AU Heads of State and Government during the 28th Ordinary Session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 30 to 31 January 2017. The decision resolved to welcome and support the recommendation in the report on the institutional reform of the African Union by HE Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda. This calls for the strengthening of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to track implementation and oversee the monitoring and evaluation of key governance areas on the continent. Through this decision, the Heads of State and Government emphasised the importance of the APRM as a continental governance monitoring mechanism and called for actions to be taken to expand the mandate of the APRM by repositioning it to take on a monitoring and evaluation role for the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Agenda 2030.

This is the second report issued by the APRM on governance of Agendas 2063 and 2030. This edition was co-authored with our strategic partner: SDGs Centre for Africa in Kigali with valuable inputs and statistics from the UN Economic Commission for Africa. The report focuses on governance mechanisms and implementation enablers of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063. Alongside the Annual Reports on Sustainable Development in Africa (AFSDRs) and the Voluntary National Reviews for the High-Level Political Forum, this report delves into institutional delivery mechanisms, awareness, partnerships, and coordination arrangements to bolster implementation of the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063 at the national level. It specially focuses on implementation efforts and mechanisms to implement SDG 16 (strong institutions and peaceful societies) and Aspiration Three of Agenda 2063 – Africa with good governance, democracy and rule of law. The level of national engagement of stakeholders at national and regional levels in these development frameworks also needs to be analysed in more detail. It also examines the extent to which national systems are structured to respond to and facilitate the integration of the SDGs and AU Agenda 2063 into national structures and assesses the various mechanisms and frameworks that support the domestication and localisation of the two Agendas at national and sub-national levels.

This report is an important step in understanding the critical governance structures and systems needed to achieve the SDGs and the aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063. The methodology of this report was based on two key approaches: first, a team of researchers led by a technical working group composed of experts from the African Union, academic institutions, and the Economic Commission for Africa collected country-level data from various reports such as the Voluntary National Review Reports (VNRs), statistical bulletins, and other official data from websites and government departments. Second, a targeted survey of national experts on the two Agendas was conducted to find out the extent to which stakeholders such as the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, the private sector, civil society and the media are engaged with the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

The COVID-19 crisis and the subsequent consequences derailed capacities of AU member states to accelerate implementing Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. Guided by our principle that African problems need African solutions, the report considered proposals from African experts on how to address serious challenges, building on the successes and implementation efforts executed by member states to accelerate implementation of both agendas.

The report was prepared under the overall guidance of the APRM Continental Secretariat in partnership with the SDG Centre for Africa in Rwanda and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). The APRM Task Force on the SDGs/Agenda 2063, which was established during the 2019 APRM Methodological Workshop in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt and subsequently broadened, offered technical guidance during the consolidation of this report. The Task Force includes the following experts from AU organs, UN ECA as well as representatives from African countries:

Dr. Allan Mukungu (UNECA), Dr. Albert Byamugisha (Senior SDG Adviser and Chair of the National Governing Council of Uganda), Mr. Peter Kimemia APRM-NEPAD (National Secretariat-Kenya), Dr. Sherifa Sherif, National Institute of Governance and Sustainable Development (Egypt), Mr. Simon Kisira (AUDA-NEPAD), Ms. Caroline Makasa, Acting Director of the SDG Center for Africa (SDGCA), Rwanda, Mr. Amara Kallon, Minister of Public Administration and Political Affairs, Sierra Leone, Mr. Bartholomew Armah, Chief – Development Planning – UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), and Mr. Israel Laizer Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Officer at the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The preparation of the report was coordinated by Mr. Jean-Yves Adou, Acting Director of Monitoring doctorate at APRM Continental Secretariat with the support of Ms. Sara Hamouda – officer in charge of the Agenda 2063 Governance continental program. The report's lead authors include Dr. Ambrose Rwaheru Aheisibwe and Dr. Enock Nyorekwa Twinoburyo – of the SDGCA and Ms. Sara Tawfik Hamouda, APRM continental secretariat who coordinated a team of APRM researchers to ensure the collection and analysis of data for African countries. The research team consisted of Emmanuel Merissa Anna (North Africa), Rutendo Nazare (Southern Africa) and Sara Tawfik Hamouda (East and West Africa). We profoundly thank them for the strenuous work they put into preparing the background research for this report.

Our sincere thanks also go to: Mr. Jibril Ibrahim, ICT Officer, who converted the special questionnaire into electronic format for delivery to respondents and collected all the data from Member States for analysis; Mr. Sampson Osei (Statistician at APRM) who conducted the analysis in SPSS and other statistical platforms; Ms. Julia Mogale who assisted with the logistics and other tasks to culminate the report by editing, translating and designing it efficiently. We would also like to thank all stakeholders and policy makers, including Member State representatives, who responded to the questionnaire and participated in the APRM data collection session in Nairobi from 28 to 30 November 2022 and the Review and validation meeting which took place in Johannesburg 22 to 24 June 2023 to enrich the findings of the report and share experiences on Agenda 2063 governance at the local levels.

The Panel of APRM Eminent Persons also encourages member states to use this report alongside the findings and recommendations of the APRM reviews and publications – Africa Governance Report to adopt, revise and improve national strategies to enforce the rule of law, participation and inclusion principles in their countries. We hope that this type of knowledge product will be sustainable to inform policy makers and officials on best practices for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

Acronyms

ACB	African Central Bank
AEC	African Economic Community
AFCAC	African Civil Aviation Commission
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AfDB	African Development Bank
AIB	African Investment Bank
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ASCENT	Africa Sustainability Centre
ASDR	Africa Sustainable Development Report
ATI	Access to Information
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
AWD	African Women's Decade
AXIS	African Internet Exchange System
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CAP	Common African Position
CFTA	Continental Free Trade Agreement
CME	Continuous Medical Education
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DRM	Domestic Resource Mobilisation
DSS	Detailed Scoping Study
EAC	East African Community
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EPA	Economic Partnership Agreement
EU	European Union
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FTYIP	First Ten-Year Implementation Plan
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
GNI	Gross National Income
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Viruses
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
IADT	Integrated Approach to Development Tool
IBAR	Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IFF	Illicit Financial Flows
IPRT	Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MIP	Minimum Integration Programme
MW	MegaWatts

NDP	National Development Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OAU	Organisation of African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance
ODeL	Open, Distance e-Learning
OECD	Organisation of Economic Cooperation for Development
PAeN	Pan-African e-Network
PAP	Pan-African Parliament
PASE	Pan-African Stock Exchange
PAU	Pan-African University
PAVU	Pan-African Virtual and e-University
PIDA	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PSC	Peace and Security Council
RBA	Regional Bureau for Africa
REC	Regional Economic Community
RIA	Rapid Integrated Assessment
RISDP	Regional Indicative Strategic Development Programme
SAATM	Single African Air Transport Market
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SAMOA	SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action
SD	Sustainable Development
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SDGC-A	Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa
SDGEA	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
SHaSA	Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
STYIP	Second Ten-year implementation plan
TFTA	Tri-partite Free Trade Agreement
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VLR	Voluntary Local Reviews
WB	World Bank
WEF	World Economic Forum

Executive Summary: Finding and key recommendations

The APRM and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Centre for Africa (The SDGCA) partnered in 2019 to enhance evidence-based research and quality assessment of governance aspects pertinent to the Africa Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, particularly in view of Aspiration Three of the AU 2063 agenda and SDG 16 – strong, efficient and effective institutions and peaceful societies. This report is one of the continued joint efforts of both bodies to support African countries in understanding governance trends for planning, implementing and monitoring the two agendas in Africa.

The report provides a summary of progress against SDG 16/Aspiration Three of the AU Agenda 2063 on the continent, drawing on mixed methods, including a holistic review of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) submitted to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) by 53 African countries from 2017-2022, and AU Member States' contributions to progress on Agenda 2063 through the AU's continental reporting on Agenda 2063.

In addition, the APRM survey on governance mechanisms for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 assessed the following key areas of governance of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030; (a) level of awareness of the executive and parliamentarians; (b) engagement of the legislature and parliamentarians in monitoring and implementation of both agendas (institutional mechanisms to support SDG 16/monitoring mechanisms); (c) integration of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 into National Development Plans (core principles and leaving no one behind); (d) role of the media, youth and non-state actors in implementing national sustainable development initiatives; (e) The role of the regional dimension in promoting the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

In this context, the report highlights that:

- Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, significant progress has been made towards achieving SDG16 – effective, accountable institutions and peaceful societies. Progress on the third goal – Africa with good governance, democracy and the rule of law – has also improved slightly between 2013 and 2021, since the adoption of Agenda 2063. Nevertheless, overall performance in both areas is rated weak to moderate in most countries that participated in this assessment.
- Governance is an important lever for sustainable development, but the continent still faces major challenges as no country has achieved the SDG 16 targets. While we applaud countries like Rwanda and Uganda for producing special reports on SDG 16, many African countries still need to improve their reporting on this goal.
- The implementation of SDG 16 and Aspiration Three of Agenda 2063 requires “transformative leadership” that involves the whole of society. Citizens need to have confidence in their leadership, and leaders need to be accountable to their citizens, with mechanisms to see and check whether leaders are living up to their responsibilities. Leadership means having the right people in the right places with the right skills to do the right jobs. Ongoing training for public administration should be required to ensure that public institutions have the right skills at all times.

- African countries have made great strides in signing and ratifying AU Charters, including the African Charter for Democracy (ACDEG). Nevertheless, the implementation of the Charter at national level needs to be further accelerated, especially since only a few countries such as Togo and Rwanda have reported on the implementation of the Charter at national level. Another declaration, namely the African Charter on Public Service, is also to be signed and ratified by all African countries within the Second-Ten Year implementation plan of Agenda 2063.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that institutions are disjointed and need to be interconnected and more transparent to ensure timely access to statistics. Robust, reliable and disaggregated data underpins governments' ability to measure progress and there is a growing need to address the potential use of transformative information technologies. Government leaders want to better understand how integrated technologies can be used to digitise public sector processes, and how policymakers can better understand data.
- Data constraints were almost universally cited by member states as the main barrier to effectively measuring progress on SDG 16 and Goal 3 of the AU 2063 Agenda. Approximately 12 of the 55 AU member states do not have clear data on the level of integration of SDG 16 into the National Development Plan (NDP). Only 6 out of 23 SDG 16 indicators had comparable data on the continent.
- AU countries are urged to take steps to rectify the shortage of data on SDG 16 indicators, especially pertaining to violence, illicit financial flows, transparent and inclusive institutions, inclusive decision making and non-discriminatory policies. AU institutions are encouraged to work with member states on these issues through transparent and open dialogue.
- NDP Alignment with Agenda 2063 is relatively weaker than for the SDGs in most African countries. The SDGs are still more assertive and popular than Agenda 2063, although awareness of Agenda 2063 has improved slightly between 2019 and 2022, according to the APRM survey.
- Human trafficking, weak institutions, and lack of access to justice are the main causes of Africa's poor performance on SDG 16.
- The AU and the strategic partners of the UN need to publicise the tools available to align them with the AU Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2063. Collaboration between the AU Commission, APRM, SDGCA and UNECA is critical to accelerate the ratification and implementation of the African Union Protocol and Charter on the Rights of Persons and Peoples, which include the rights of older persons in Africa and address disability issues.
- Various reports and indices note a general improvement in efforts to combat corruption and enforce the rule of law. Reducing opportunities for corruption requires digitisation of services, which provides the basis for transparent processes, frequent reviews and robust accountability mechanisms.

- African countries have great potential to improve reporting on SDG 16, especially given national efforts to include this goal into NDPs and similarly submit VNRs to the HLPF. Specific reporting also requires investment in the data ecosystem and infrastructure, while concurrently building the capacity of the collecting institutions.
- In most African countries, measures need to be taken to involve the population, especially to empower youth and women, who do not feel adequately represented in decision-making processes.
- Inclusiveness cannot be promoted without a participatory-decision-making approach and free access to information (ATI). Almost half of the continent has passed legislation to promote ATI. African countries are encouraged to enforce these laws and promote institutional mechanisms and civil society support in this process to build trust between citizens and government..
- African countries are striving to mobilise domestic resources and fight poverty in a sustainable and socially acceptable manner. Many agree that ODA is insufficient and unsustainable. Governments can unlock available financial resources in the form of sovereign wealth funds, pension funds and natural resource extraction, among others. However, they also need the institutional capacity to ensure that these public funds are properly managed and used productively for Africa's development and do not get lost in a long chain of transactions or become part of illicit financial flows.
- Africa is leading the global discussion on the need to reform international financial frameworks and will continue to advocate for the implementation of recommendations related to financial accountability, transparency and integrity for sustainable development (FACTI report), including anti-avoidance, codes of conduct and transparent beneficiaries. Transfer pricing and financial crime by multinational corporations should also be addressed.
- African countries are encouraged to develop action plans for implementing the UN endorsed [principles of effective governance for sustainable development](#) and to use the APRM tools to measure them. While the principles provide the basis for clarity on the link between governance and sustainable development, the principles need to be better understood and adapted to the national context.
- The implementation of short to medium term anti-corruption and accountability strategies remains urgent. Strengthening peer learning trainings and raising awareness of the anti-corruption initiatives, such as establishment of community monitoring groups through the national APRM structures, will help with general oversight and monitoring of activities at the lowest local level.
- Establishing SDG Coordination mechanisms that encompass both the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to implementing the SDGs. Although most African countries have established such national mechanisms, countries need to be equipped not only with the tools for their effective implementation but also capacitated institutionally to be active mechanisms.



CHAPTER ONE

Background on the report: objectives, rationale, and methodological framework



1 Chapter One: Background on the report: objectives, rationale, and methodological framework

1.1 Background

Good governance is explicitly enshrined in both the African Union (AU) 2063 Agenda: The Africa We Want and the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. AU 2063 Aspiration three aims at “An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for Human Rights, Justice and the Rule of Law” covering three goals (11-13)(AUC & AUDA-NEPAD, 2020). This aspiration meets SDG 16 under the SDGs framework. Goal 16 aims to promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies, which is linked to 5 of the AU 2063 goals (Goal 11 - Sustainable Cities, Goal 12 - Consumption and Production, Goal 13 - Climate Action, Goal 17 - Partnerships).

Governance is important for sustainable development, with a positive correlation between the SDGs and governance. A recent SDGCA analysis, whose results are corroborated by Mo Ibrahim’s findings, shows a positive correlation between governance and SDGs (SDGCA & UNSDSN, 2020). For SDG 16, there are 23 indicators – and only 6 have continental-level data. However, most of the data is outdated and not fully available for all countries. Even if the data were comprehensive enough to capture progress towards the SDGs, it would not be possible to get a complete picture of progress in governance – hence the need for a qualitative approach to support the existing SDG metrics.

The SDG Index and dashboard for Africa 2020 reveals that forty African countries still have major challenges with SDG 16 and only one country is on track to achieve the corresponding 2030 target. The first and second continental AU 2063 implementation reports show that good governance, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law – related to Aspiration Three – perform poorly, with an overall score of 16% and 42% respectively (AUC & AUDA-NEPAD, 2020, 2022). This is mainly due to high levels of corruption in public service delivery, weak mechanisms and institutions to hold those responsible to account, and low press freedom.

The principles of UN CEPA, which advocate for the role of institution and capacity building, are central to both governance and the development agenda. However, the baseline study on the implementation of these principles has shown that there is a lack of comprehensive awareness, knowledge and understanding and thus implementation of development planning. The 2022 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance shows that the average score for 54 African Nations is below 50%, indicating significant challenges remain (Mo Ibrahim Foundation Report, 2022).

Therefore, assessing the progress of governance in all areas of public sector institution building in Africa can provide a basis for policy making while strengthening capacity for evidence-based and action-oriented implementation, monitoring and reporting of development agendas.

Moreover, the measurability of SDG 16 and the third goal has been well debated among AU member states over the past decade, especially with the production of two continental reports on Agenda 2063 in 2019 and 2021.

The collection of data to monitor progress towards this goal remains delicate and limited¹. While the AU is meeting the first-ten-year Agenda Implementation Plan (FTYIP) by 2023, it is imperative for the APRM to make regional efforts to improve reporting on this goal, as it is directly linked to the AU Assembly's decision (2017) on the mandate to monitor Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. This will also support the AU Commission to develop innovative tools to improve the quality of reporting in order to understand the status of implementation of Goal three/SDG 16.

1.2 Objectives

The overall objective of the report was to provide a comprehensive stocktake of progress towards achieving SDG 16 of Agenda 2030 and the governance goals of Agenda 2063 in Africa. Specific objectives were:

- To assess the extent of progress in achieving the respective governance goals in African countries and to identify the gaps that still need to be addressed in the SDG 2030 and AU 2063 Agendas.
- Identify the factors, practices, policies and strategies that can impact on governance. This includes taking stock of progress on some non-SDG and AU 2063 related indicators still on institutional capacity and governance.
- Provide lessons and best practices from case studies.
- Build consensus while designing clear policies and implementation pathways for persistent challenges such as corruption, inclusive decision-making, multi-level governance and “leaving no one behind”.

This special report complements other continental reports and assessments currently being conducted on Agenda 2063, such as, the Peace and Security Challenges Special Report and the unconstitutional change of government led by the AUC and the APRM. It broadly addresses the implementation of SDG 16, which also resonates with goals three and four of Agenda 2063. However, not all of the goals listed in Agenda 2063 are necessarily addressed in good governance. Table 1 shows the links between SDG 16 and Agenda 2063 goals and related targets.

1. Countries expressed necessity of revising Aspiration three indicators especially for Goal two to enhance reporting on this goal on the continent.

Table 1: SDG 16 and AU 2063 Aspirations

<p>SDG 16: Efficient, effective, strong institutions and peaceful societies</p> 	<p>Aspiration Three</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 11: Democratic values, human rights, justice and the rule of law • Goal 12: Capable institutions and transformed leadership in place
	<p>Aspiration Four</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 13: Peace, security and stability are preserved. • Goal 14: A stable and Peaceful Africa
	<p>Aspiration Six (Cross cutting governance aspect)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal 17: Fully gender equality in all spheres • Goal 18: Engaged and empowered youth and children

For this report, the focus was mainly on AU 2063 Aspiration Three, which focuses on Goal 11: Democratic values, human rights, justice and the rule of law and Goal 12: Capable institutions and transformed leadership linked to Goal Three. The annotated linkage between Aspiration three and SDG 16 with the corresponding indicators can be found in Table 2.

Table 2 Congruence between SDG 16 indicators and Aspiration Three of Agenda 2063

<p><i>Aspiration 3: An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law</i></p> <p>Goal 1: Democratic values, practices, universal principles for human rights, justice and rule of law entrenched consolidating democratic gains and improving the quality of governance, respect for human rights and the rule of law</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <p>% of people who believe that effective mechanisms and oversight institutions exist to hold their leaders accountable</p>	<p><i>SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</i></p> <p>16.3: Promote the rule of law at national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the last 12 months who reported their victimisation to the relevant authorities or other officially recognised conflict resolution mechanisms. • 16.3.2 Proportion of unconvicted prisoners in the total prison population • 16.3.3 Proportion of the population that experienced a dispute in the last two years and accessed a formal or informal conflict resolution mechanism, disaggregated by type of mechanism.
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<p>% of people who believe that there is freedom of the press</p> <p>% of people who believe there is free access to information.</p> <p>% of people who believe that elections are free, fair and transparent.</p> <p>The African Charter for Democracy is signed, ratified and enacted by 2020</p>	<p>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.7.1 Proportion of positions in national and local institutions, including (a) the legislature; (b) the civil service and (c) the judiciary, compared to the national distribution, by gender, age, persons with disabilities and population groups • 16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe that decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by gender, age, disability and population groups
<p>Goal 2: Institutions and Leadership</p> <p>Indicator: Proportion of people who have had at least one contact with a public/private official in the last twelve months and have asked for or paid a bribe.</p>	<p>Target 16.10: Ensure public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms, under national legislation and international agreements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killings, abductions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights defenders in the previous 12 months • 16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, legal and/or policy guarantees on public access to information <p>16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.6.1 Share of primary government expenditure in the initial approved budget, disaggregated by sector (or by budget code or similar) • 16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with recent experience of public services

	<p>16.5: Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms</p> <p>Indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16.5.1 Proportion of people who had at least one contact with a public official in the last 12 months and paid a bribe to a public official or were asked to pay a bribe by a public official, • 16.5.2 Proportion of companies that have had at least one contact with a public official in the previous 12 months and have paid a bribe to a public official or have been asked to pay a bribe by such public officials. • 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, to build capacity at all levels, particularly in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime • 16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in line with the Paris Principles
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1.3 Methodological framework of the report

A multi-pronged approach was taken in conducting the diagnostic assessment. The assessment relied on multiple sources for data collection and used a mixture of analytical methods, validation and triangulation of evidence against objectives. The assessment included both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods and focused-group discussions with AU member states in a participatory and consultative manner. Survey instruments for both quantitative and qualitative data were developed and distributed through the national APRM Secretariat. The APRM also considered the SASHA tool developed by the AUC to address governance and peace issues, as few countries provided public data on some SDG 16 indicators.

The quantitative survey involved the completion of questionnaires in selected countries² that actively apply the principles and practices of good governance. Key informant interviews (KIIs) focused on (a) applying the global targets and indicators of SDG 16 and AU 2063 to the national context; (b) discussions with AU stakeholders, UN and government agencies on improving implementation of Aspiration three of AU 2063 and SDG 16; (c) taking stock of African countries' progress on governance and governance frameworks. In-depth interviews were conducted to ensure the study's credibility, replicability, and linkage to practical experiences.

² Countries responded to the survey of APRM and also provided input through the technical data collection meeting

Primary data was corroborated with secondary data from desk reviews of national and international sources for SDG 16 and Agenda 2063 Aspiration Three indicators and related policy reforms to achieve development agendas. The focus is on the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) submitted by member states over 2017 to 2022 – with Forty-five African countries submitted at least one VNR or two from 2016-2021. The VNRs provided the major basis for the review of implementation efforts at country level.

An exploratory review of the causal factors and constraints affecting the third AU 2063 target and SDG 16 efforts in Africa is also undertaken. A trend analysis of how far each country is from achieving AU 2063 Goal 3 and SDG 16 targets was conducted, the latter drawing majorly on the global SDG Index and Dashboard report for 2023. A purposive selection was made for thirty Africa country-specific case studies with a regional focus.

The APRM used its own internal capacity while also drawing on the expertise of its wide network of partners, including the SDG Centre for Africa (SDGCA), to successfully produce the report. Technical, collaborative and strategic partners were involved in the implementation of the study. The collaborative partners facilitated national and regional consultations. The final report was peer-reviewed internally and externally before dissemination. A Quality Controller (QC) was appointed to conduct comprehensive quality control, including language control, by reviewing the reports and providing comments to the experts, where necessary.

1.4 Outputs

The report provides an assessment of governance aspects of Agendas 2030 and 2063 over the past years of implementation of the AU 2063 aspiration three and 2030 SDG 16. The assessment providing clarity on the progress of the governance landscape, divergences, intricacies, and contradictions, while identifying causal factors, strategies and responsible actors. The findings of the report serve as a basis for extensive consultations involving multiple stakeholders and different levels of Government.

1.5 Suggest Recommendation - Action matrix

The strong analytical focus of this assessment provides a better understanding of the inclusive governance policy implementation system and causal factors or constraints. The findings and recommendations are critical to first addressing the knowledge gaps on country characteristics and how these may influence development agendas for implementation. The results of the analysis also feed into policy reforms so that the policy messages of the work can inform national planning processes and policy discourse. The detailed recommendation matrix is included in the last chapter of the report.

1.6 Outline of the report

Chapter One: Background, objectives, methodology rationale, geographical scope and impact of the report (introductory chapter)

Chapter one provides the background to the report, as well as the objectives, methodology and relevance to the ongoing preparations for the Second ten-year plan to implement Agenda 2063. The chapter highlights the methodology and methods used to generate evidence-based data, including the APRM survey that was distributed to all African countries. It also highlights the geographical balance and the challenge of data collection in some countries, especially those in protracted conflict situations.

Chapter Two: A synthesis on SDG 16 and Aspiration Three in Africa (based on submitted VNRs and individual reports) including Illicit financial flows.

Chapter two provides a summary of progress on SDG 16/Aspiration three on the continent. Based on the VNRs submitted by African countries since 2017 to 2022 and AU member states' contributions to Goal Three. This chapter highlights the link between SDG 16 and Goal Three and the current performance of the African continent.

Chapter Three: Governance and coordination mechanisms for SDGs framework and Agenda 2063. (Including commitment to SDG 16 tools i.e., human rights commissions/councils in Africa)

This chapter provides an overview of the results of the APRM questionnaire on governance mechanisms for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. The questionnaire addressed four main areas: 1) General governance coordination for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, including the role of legislative and oversight mechanisms in sustainable frameworks; 2) National Development Planning /policy framework for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs; 3) Means of implementation and financial resources for the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063; and 4) Regional dimension to support both agendas.

The questionnaire reflected the views of thirty (30) member states and included a targeted selection of leaders or experts in national agencies: Ministries of Planning, Finance and Public Services, as well as representatives of civil society and youth.

Chapter Four: It documents best practices from African countries regarding the implementation of SDG 16 and Goal Three on the continent, particularly in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Careful consideration is also given to geographical balance and potential peer learning on SDG 16 programmes across the continent. The chapter also highlights the ongoing challenges and risk assessment in advancing SDG 16 and the governance ambitions of Agenda 2063.

CHAPTER TWO

Synthesis of SDG 16 and governance goals of Agenda 2063 progress in Africa



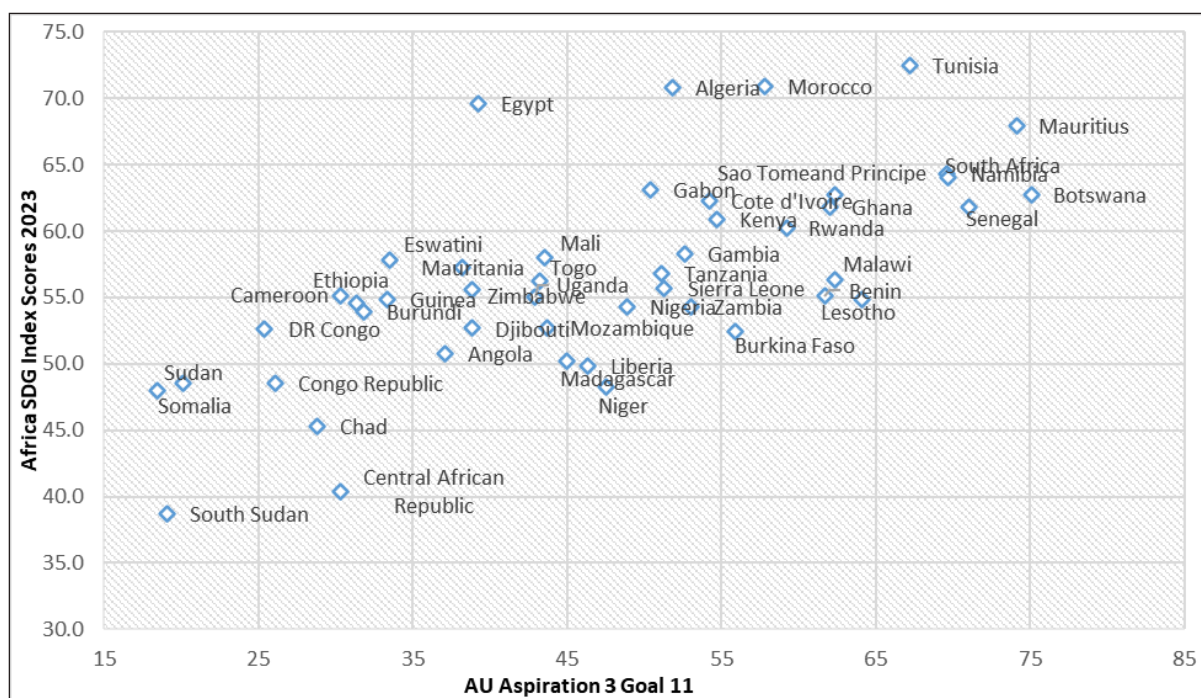
2 Chapter Two: Synthesis of SDG 16 and governance goals of Agenda 2063 progress in Africa

2.1 Nexus and interlinkages between SDG 16 and governance goals of Agenda 2063

This chapter analytically sets out the linkages between SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, which aims to ‘promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, and the African Union’s 2063 Goals 3 and 4 on governance, and Goal 6 of the relevant targets, including 17 and 18’. There is a direct link between SDG 16 and AU 2063 Goal 3 on governance, suggesting that strong institutions and good governance are essential for African countries to achieve their development goals, which are necessary for political and economic transformation (Mo Ibrahim Foundation Report, 2020).

Both Goal 11 of the AU’s Agenda 2063 and SDG 16 of the 2030 Agenda are closely linked, demonstrating that an inclusive and participatory approach to decision making at all levels are key drivers and outcomes of sustainable development. Analysis of 47 African countries confirms a positive and significant correlation between SDG 16 scores for Africa and AU Aspiration Three scores for Goal 11 ($r = .677$, $p < 0.01$). This indicates that a one-unit improvement in Aspiration Three Goal 11, proxied by rule of law and justice, leads to a one unit increase in SDG 16 performance when all other factors remain constant (Figure 1). Specifically, the results show that if the Africa region were to close the gaps on governance as reflected in SDG 16 performance scores, would require improvements in democracy and governance, human rights, justice and rule of law (See Figure 1)

Figure 1: Link between SDG 16 and Aspiration Three Goal 11.

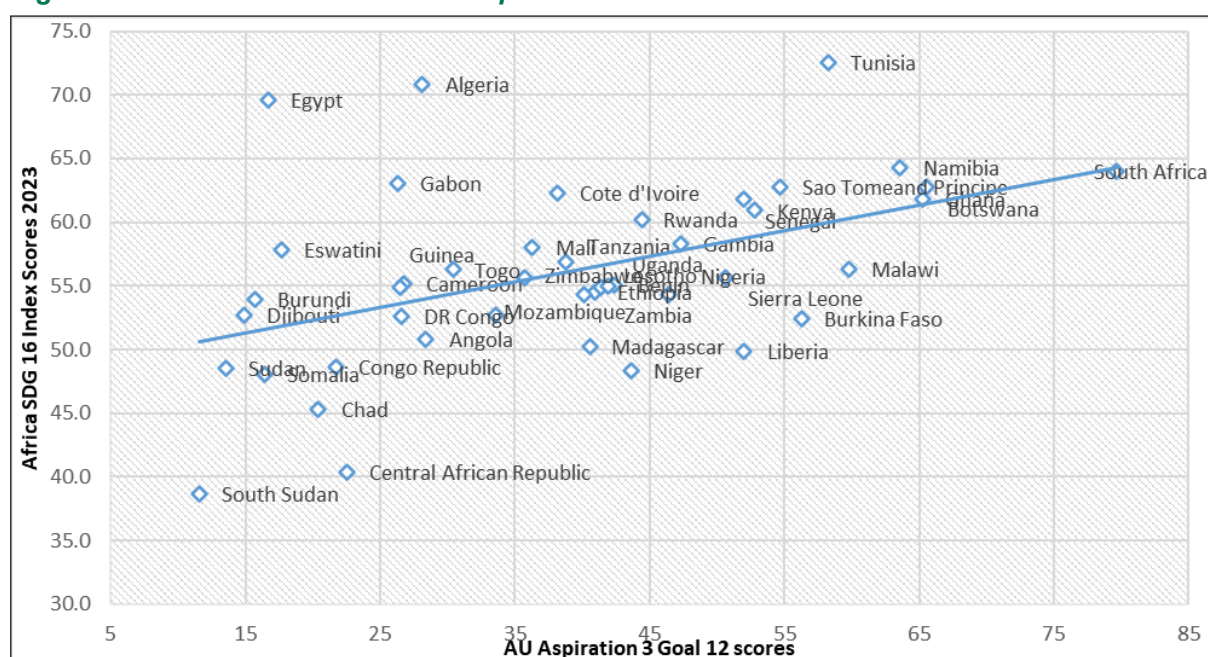


Source: Authors analysis based on Global SDG Report 2023 and 2022 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)

Note: $r = .677^{**}$, ** significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

It is worth noting, that building inclusive and strong institutions for a developmental state and facilitating the emergence of development-oriented and visionary leadership at all levels remains critical for Africa's political and economic transformation. The analysis of 44 African countries confirms a positive and significant correlation between SDG 16 for Africa and Goal 12 scores of AU Aspiration Three ($r = .466$, $p < 0.01$). The result indicates that a one-unit improvement in AU Aspiration Three Goal 12 targets, proxied by transparency and accountability, leads to a one unit increase in the overall governance scores, holding other factors constant (see Figure 2). Specifically, the results show that if the Africa region were to close the gaps on governance as reflected in SDG 16, performance scores would require improvements in transparency and accountability (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Link between SDG 16 and Aspiration Three Goal 12

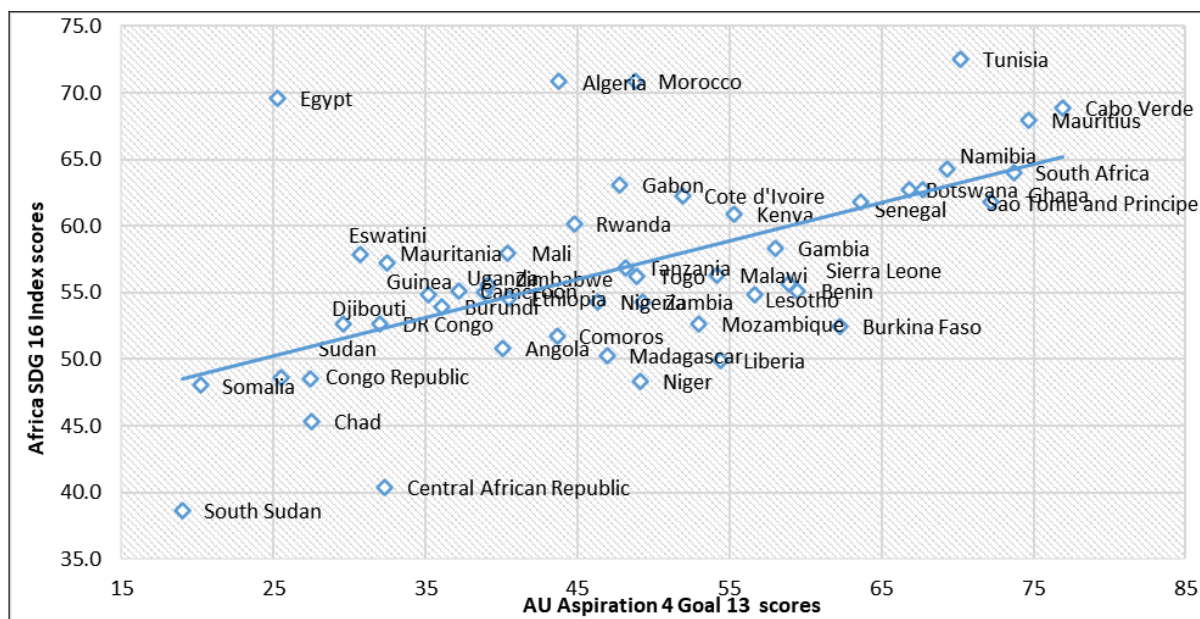


Source: Authors analysis based on Global SDG Report 2023 and 2022 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG).

Note: $r = .466^{**}$, ** significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

However, without good and inclusive governance structures, peace, security and stability, reflected in Goals 13 and 14 of Aspiration 4, African nations are unlikely to achieve their desired transformation agenda for sustainable development. Data from 46 African countries show a positive and significant relationship between outcomes for SDG 16 for Africa and outcomes for Goal 13 of Aspiration Three of the AU, represented by participation, rights and inclusion ($r = .586$, $p = 0.01$). This suggests that a one-unit improvement in AU Aspiration 4 Goal 13 targets leads to a one unit increase in the overall governance score, as reflected in SDG 16 Index performance scores by 0.38 units per annum, when other factors remain constant (Figure 3). A study by Hao et al. (2022) in Kenya confirms that governance is a good facilitator for public participation and sustainable development, suggesting that good governance and full public participation are essential for long-term sustainable development.

Figure 3: Link between SDG 16 and Aspiration 4 Goal 13



Source: Authors analysis based on Global SDG Report 2022 and 2020 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG).

Note: $r = .586^{**}$, ****significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).**

Over the next ten years, each African nation should strive to ensure that women, youth, and ethnic and religious minorities, who have historically been marginalised and excluded from the development process, are included in governance. These important issues are strongly reflected in Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063–Goals 17 and 18. There is growing consensus that good governance is important for inequality and poverty reduction. Pronounced and persistent inequalities have far-reaching social, political and economic negative consequences for sustainable development (Hollanders, 2015). African countries therefore need to reflect on their own governance challenges and engage all relevant stakeholders in various institutional reforms to facilitate an effective and inclusive governance system (Mbaku, 2020).

By linking governance reforms at national and regional levels to security and development, SGD 16 of the 2030 Agenda can be considered a success for the goals of the 2063 Agenda, including: 11, 12, 13, 14, 17 and 18. However, there is growing evidence that African countries are unlikely to successfully and effectively implement and achieve SDG 16 and Agenda 2063 Aspirations on governance and related issues unless institutions are reformed to enforce good and inclusive governance based on the rule of law (Mbaku, 2020).

Since good governance, peace, security and stability, and human rights are mutually reinforcing, human rights cannot be respected and protected in a sustainable manner without good governance.

Moreover, the implementation of human rights-based approaches relies on a supportive and enabling environment. This requires holistic measures to create and maintain a supportive and enabling environment for peaceful coexistence and economic development, as well as inclusive governance that supports economic transformation.

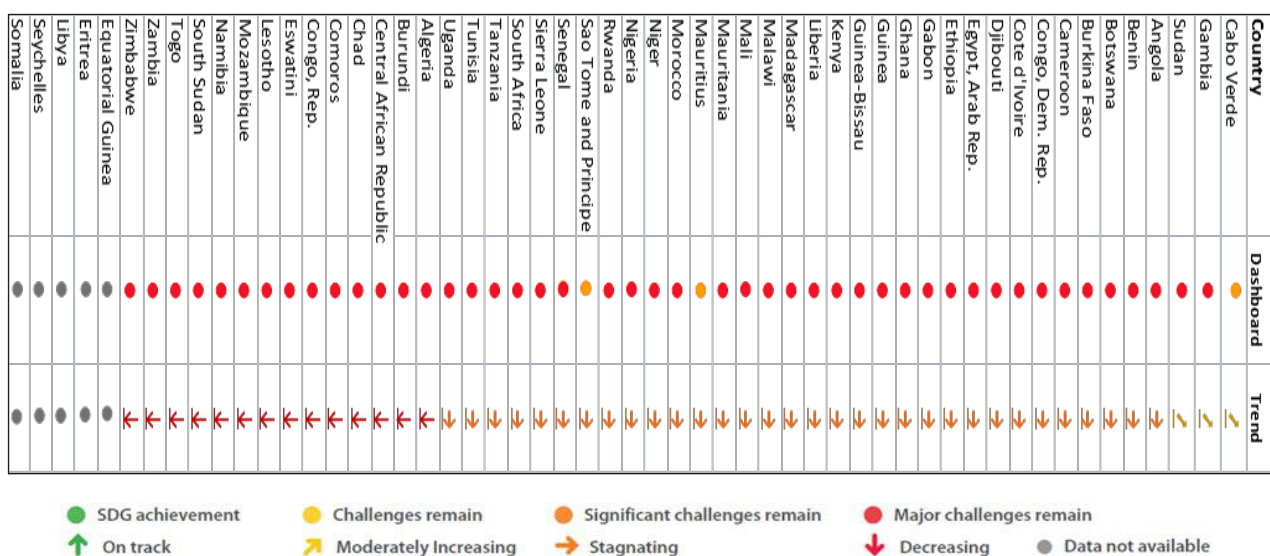
2.2 Dashboard and Trends analysis of SDG 16 and progress on governance aspects of Agenda 2063

2.2.1 SDG 16 progress at country level

The SDG Index is a score of each country's overall performance on SDG 16. The score indicates a country's position between the worst possible result (score of 0) and the target (score of 100). The dashboard and trend on the other hand enable to identify priorities for further action and indicate whether countries are on track to meet the 2030 target and goal based on the latest trend data. There are 23 indicators for SDG 16 goal - and only 11 of these have data at continental and national levels as per the Global SDG Index and Dashboards 2023. The SDG 16 Dashboard thus provides a visual representation of countries' progress on SDG 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions. The "traffic light" colour scheme (green, yellow, orange, and red) illustrates a country's status for a given target: a green score means the SDG 16 has been achieved and is assigned to a country if all indicators under the target are scored green. Yellow, orange, and red indicate increasing distance from achieving the SDG 16 (Sachs et al., 2023).

Accordingly, red and orange are the most common colours on the 2023 Africa SDG 16 Dashboard with 29% and 65% respectively, indicating that most countries are not on track with regard to SDG 16. Based on the colour coding system of the dashboard, more than three quarters of the African countries are facing the major challenges on SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) by scoring red. Moreover, compared to the 2022 SDG Dashboard report for Africa, no country scored green on SDG 16 (Sachs et al., 2022)(see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Africa SDG 16 Dashboard and Trends



Source: Authors analysis based on Global SDG Report 2023.

Note: If the country has data for less than 80% of the indicators under a goal, the dashboard colour for that goal is grey. Countries for which Time series data are not available include Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Libya, Seychelles and Somalia.

The Global SDG 16 Dashboard 2023 and Trends for Africa indicate whether a country is on track to achieve SDG 16 by 2030, based on the target’s recent performance on a given indicator. In assessing performance, indicator trends are aggregated at the target level to give an indication of how the country is progressing on SDG 16. The analysis of SDG 16 trends in Africa shows that three countries including Cabo Verde, Gambia and Sudan are on an increasing trend in achieving the SDG 16 targets. However, the current difficult status of SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) is likely to remain, as the predominating trends are stagnant for more than half of the countries (65%).

Like in other regions, most African countries are still facing the biggest challenges in implementing SDG 16. As shown in Figure 4, most of the countries (61%) are in a downward trend with major challenges, 29% of countries are stagnating while 6% are moderately improving, but with challenges. With the COVID-19 pandemic, it is likely that achievements on SDG 16 have been lost and other challenges have emerged on goals that catalyse SDG 16, such as gender and health. The SDG 16 trend analysis is incomplete at country level due to insufficient data availability and mismatch in aligning to the global indicators. For four (4) countries including Equatorial Eritrea, Libya, Seychelles and Somalia, no trend analysis for SDG 16 is possible (see Figure 4). However, limitations in terms of data gaps were highlighted for some countries.

2.2.2 SDG 16 performance at regional level

Overall, progress on SDG 16 at the regional level shows that major challenges prevail based on the dashboard. A closer look at the trend analysis further shows that most regions have a stagnant trend, indicating that the rate of increase is below 50% of the growth rate required to achieve SDG 16 by 2030 (see Figures 5-9). In the East Africa region, the dashboard results show that all the countries still have major challenges. Trend analysis shows that 60% of the countries in 2023 were observed to have stagnated or deviated from their path towards SDG 16 compared to 46% in 2022 suggesting that major challenges still prevail, while country demonstrated a moderate increasing trend but with challenges (see Figure 5). These results suggest the need to mobilise both technical and financial resources for effective implementation and achievement of the SDGs.

Figure 5: East African Region SDG 16 Dashboard and Trends

Kenya	●	→
Rwanda	●	→
Tanzania	●	→
Uganda	●	→
Ethiopia	●	→
Burundi	●	↓
Djibouti	●	→
Comoros	●	↓
Sudan	●	↗
South Sudan	●	↓
Eritrea	●	●
Seychelles	●	●
Somalia	●	●

Source: Authors analysis based on Global SDG Report 2023.

In the West African region, the dashboard results show that 10 out of 13 countries (77%) still face major challenges in implementing SDG 16. The Trend analysis further shows that one country has a moderately increasing trend in achieving SDG 16, while 6 out of 13 countries (46%) have a stagnant trend with major challenges. Three countries show a declining trend (see **Figure 6**)

Figure 6: West African SDG 16 Dashboard and Trends

Cabo Verde	●	↗
Cote d'Ivoire	●	→
Senegal	●	→
Ghana	●	→
Gambia	●	↗
Mali	●	→
Togo	●	↓
Sierra Leone	●	→
Benin	●	→
Guinea	●	→
Nigeria	●	→
Burkina Faso	●	→
Liberia	●	→
Niger	●	→
Guinea-Bissau	●	→

Source: Authors analysis based on Global SDG Report 2023.

In the Central Africa region, the dashboard results show that seven out of eight countries (88% of countries) still have major challenges. The trend analysis shows that four out of eight countries (50%) have stagnant growth, three countries have a declining trend or are not on track to achieve SDG 16, while no data is available for one country (see **Figure 7**).

Figure 7: Central African SDG 16 Dashboard and Trends

Gabon	●	→
Cameroon	●	→
Congo, Rep.	●	↓
Madagascar	●	→
Congo, Dem. Rep.	●	→
Chad	●	↓
Central African Republic	●	↓
Equatorial Guinea	●	●

Source: Authors analysis based on Global SDG Report 2023.

In the Southern Africa region, the dashboard results show that 83% of countries still have major challenges. The trend analysis shows that 50% of the countries have a stagnant trend and 50% have a declining trend for SDG 16 (see **Figure 8**).

Figure 8: Southern African SDG 16 Dashboard and Trends

Mauritius	●	→
Namibia	●	↓
South Africa	●	→
Botswana	●	→
Sao Tome and Principe	●	→
Eswatini	●	↓
Malawi	●	→
Zimbabwe	●	↓
Lesotho	●	↓
Zambia	●	↓
Mozambique	●	↓
Angola	●	→

Source: Authors analysis based on Global SDG Report 2023.

In the North Africa region, the dashboard results show that 83% of countries still face major challenges in relation to SDG 16. This could be attributed to events of political violence and armed conflict that undermine the confidence of citizens. These events have the potential to undermine development efforts to achieve SDG16 targets especially SDG 16.1. The trend analysis further shows that 67% of countries showed stagnant trends in 2023, compared to 2022 where moderate increasing trends were observed, albeit with challenges (Sachs et al., 2022). Only one country showed a declining trend and/or moved away from its target to achieve SDG 16 (see Figure 9).

Figure 9: North African SDG 16 Dashboard and Trends

Tunisia	●	→
Morocco	●	→
Algeria	●	↓
Egypt, Arab Rep.	●	→
Mauritania	●	→
Libya	●	●

Source: Authors analysis based on Global SDG Report 2023.

At Indicator level, SDG 16 remains a goal with a few indicators at Tier I. Recent assessment by the 2023 Global SDG Index and Dashboard indicates that only 11 out of 23 SDG 16 indicators are measurable at the national level. At country level, more SDG 16 indicators have been covered compared to previous assessments in which case 6 out 23 indicators were reported. Additional indicators include: SD16_Homicides measured by homicides per 100,000 population, SD16_Detainees as unsentenced detainees as a % of prison population, SD16_safe_walking (% population who feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live), SD16_U5BirthReg (% of children under age 5 registered with civil authority), SD16_Admin (captured as timeliness of administrative proceedings assessed from worst 0 - 1 best), SD16_Exprop as expropriations that are lawful and adequately compensated from worst 0 - 1 best).

While there is impressive progress on key conventional arms exports (Wsexp), where all countries are on track, notable progress was also observed for some countries on SD16_Detainees (27%), SD16_safe_walking (12%), SD16_PFI (10%), SD16_U5BirthReg (8%) and SD16_Justice (2%) (**see Figure 10**). Moderate improvements with country challenges were observed for some indicators, particularly SD16_U5BirthReg (18%), SD16_Detainees and SD16_safe_walking (16%), SD16_Homicides (12%) and SD16_Clbor and SD16_PFI as reported by 8 percent.

Other indicators such as SD16_Admin, SD16_Exprop, SD16_CPI, SD16_Clbor, SD16_Justice show that major challenges or at best stagnate (**see Figure 10**). This could be due to the ongoing erosion of democracy, protracted conflicts, armed violence and inequalities in some countries. This calls for a renewed focus on preventing the decline of democracy, protecting human rights and access to justice.

Figure 10: Country Performance of SDG 16 at Indicator level

Country	SDg16_Homicides	SDg16_Detainees	SDg16_Safe_walking	SDg16_U5BirthReg	SDg16_CPI	SDg16_Clabor	SDg16_WeaponsExp	SDg16_PFI	SDg16_Justice	SDg16_Admin	SDg16_Exprop
Algeria	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Angola	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Benin	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Botswana	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Burkina Faso	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Burundi	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cabo Verde	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cameroon	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Central African Republic	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Chad	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Comoros	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Congo, Dem. Rep.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Congo, Rep.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Cote d'Ivoire	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Djibouti	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Egypt, Arab Rep.	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Equatorial Guinea	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Eritrea	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Eswatini	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ethiopia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Gabon	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Gambia, The	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Ghana	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Guinea	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Guinea-Bissau	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Kenya	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Lesotho	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Liberia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Libya	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Madagascar	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Malawi	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mali	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mauritania	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mauritius	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Morocco	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mozambique	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Namibia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Niger	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Nigeria	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Rwanda	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sao Tome and Principe	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Senegal	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Seychelles	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sierra Leone	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Somalia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
South Africa	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
South Sudan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Sudan	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tanzania	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Togo	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Tunisia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Uganda	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Zambia	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Zimbabwe	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

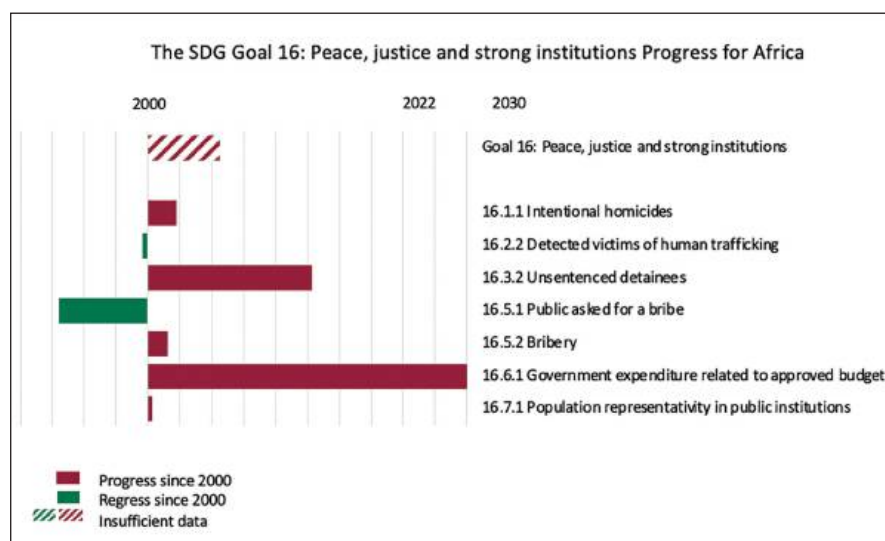
Source: Authors analysis based on Global SDG Report 2023.

● SDG Achievement ● Challenges remain ● Significant challenges remain ● Major challenges ● Missing Data

Note: SD16_U5BirthReg is Under age 5 birth registrations, SD16_CPI corruption perception Index, SD16_Clabor is children involved in child labor, SD16_WeaponsExp is export major conventional weapons, SD16_PFI is Press Freedom Index and SD16_Justice is access to and affordability of justice, SD16_Admin is timeliness of administrative proceedings, SD16_Exprop is Expropriations are lawful and adequately compensated.

Reliant on UNECA Current status Index 2023, Africa will short fall of achieving the targets by 2030 on (16.1.1, 16.3.2, 16.5.2, and 16.7.1) and needs to accelerate on indicators Reversal is projected for indicator 16.5.1 and 16.2.2 and Only 16.6.1 is on track.

Figure 11: Progress of Goal 16 by indicators for Africa

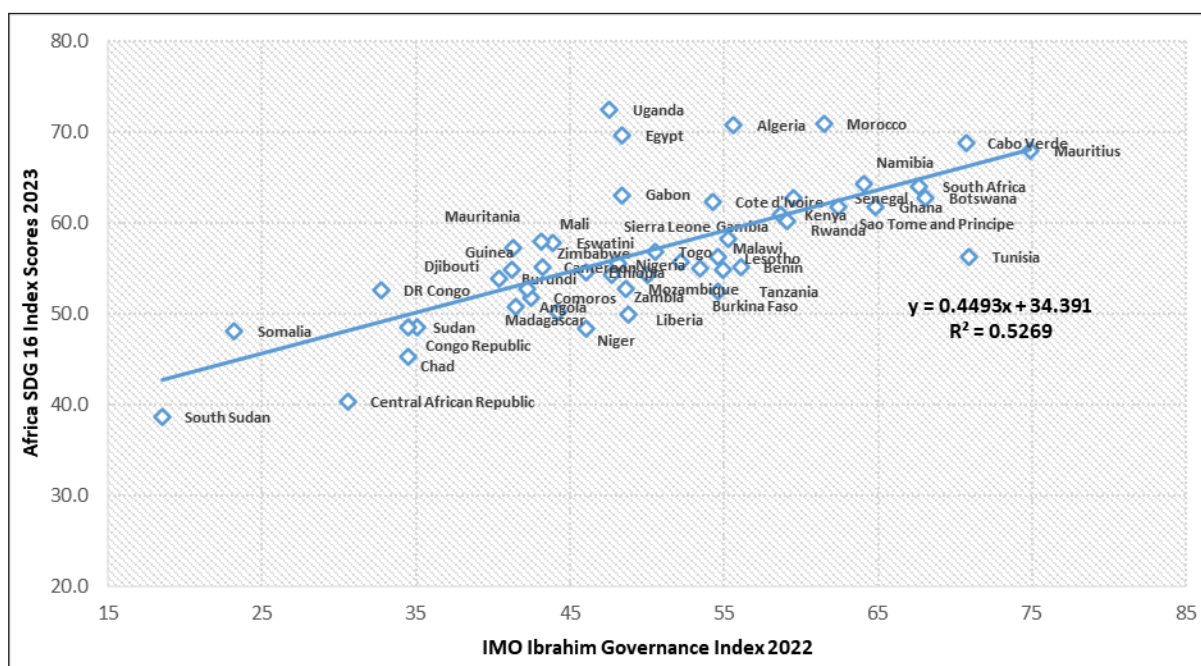


Source: UNECA 2023

2.2.3 Nexus between SDG Index and Governance scores

The overall governance score using the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) shows a positive and strong correlation with performance on the Africa SDG 16 Index score ($r=.803^{**}$, $p<0.01$). The index takes an integrated approach to measuring governance in four categories: Security and Rule of law, Participatory Rights and Inclusion, Foundations for Economic Opportunity and Human Development. This result implies that any improvements in good governance in the form of security and rule of law, participation rights and inclusion, transparency and accountability lead to improved economic performance and achievement of the SDG 16 Index scores. Good governance is thus important for sustainable development in Africa (see Figure 11).

Figure 12: Correlation between SDG 16 Index scores and overall Governance scores



Source: Authors analysis based on Global SDG Report 2023 and 2022 Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG).

Note: $r = .803^{**}$, ****significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)**

The results also show that, overall governance, as reflected in SDG 16 scores, would improve by 0.45 units per annum if the Africa region closed the gaps in Security and Rule of law, Participatory Rights and Inclusion, Foundations for Economic Opportunity and Human Development compared to specific benchmarks (see Figure 12). Evidence from the SDG16 Data Initiative Report 2022 indicates that SDG 16 is based on the premise that democracy, peace and sustainable development are inextricably linked—suggesting that a resilient democracy is essential for sustainable development (SDG16DI, 2022).

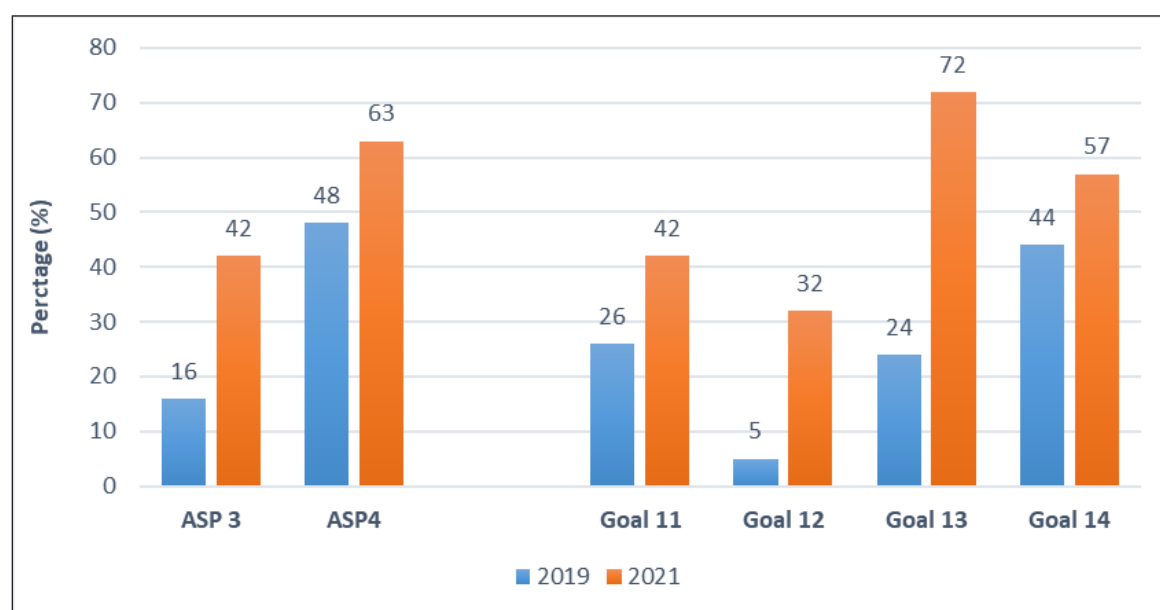
2.2.4 Limitations

Due to changes in the methodologies used and estimates produced by data providers, performance of SDG 16 at continent, sub-regional and at country level cannot be compared with the results of previous assessments. For instance, more SDG 16 indicators have been modified and refined including “expropriations are lawful and adequately compensated (worst 0 - 1 best)” replaces “Property Rights (worst 1-7 best)”. To ensure the results are comparable across countries, estimates received directly from national statistical offices are not directly incorporated. This suggests data providers may need to align their national proxy indicators on SDG 16 to ensure international comparability. This explains why some data points presented in this assessment report may differ from recent data available from national sources. To minimise biases arising from missing data on some indicators, the computed SDG Index scores only includes countries that have data for at least 80% of the indicators (Sachs et al., 2023).

2.3 Performance of AU Aspiration 3 and 4 Goals at regional level

At continental level, overall performance of AU Aspiration 3 improved from 16% in 2019 to 42% in 2021 while the same period Aspiration 4 improved from 48% in 2019 to 63% in 2021. The performance of Aspiration 3 and 4 Goals of governance targets were also compared for 2019 and 2020. A closer look at the Goal level shows that in the 2019-2021 reporting period, targets for Goal 13 and 14 performed well compared to targets for Goal 11 and 12 (see Figure 13). The good performance could be attributed to supportive joint engagement in the coordinating inter-ministerial efforts on conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction. Significant progress has been made in implementing the African Charter for Democracy and Good Governance (ACADEG). Of the 46 AU Member States that have signed, only 34 have ratified the Charter. However, six (6) African countries have yet to sign the Charter.

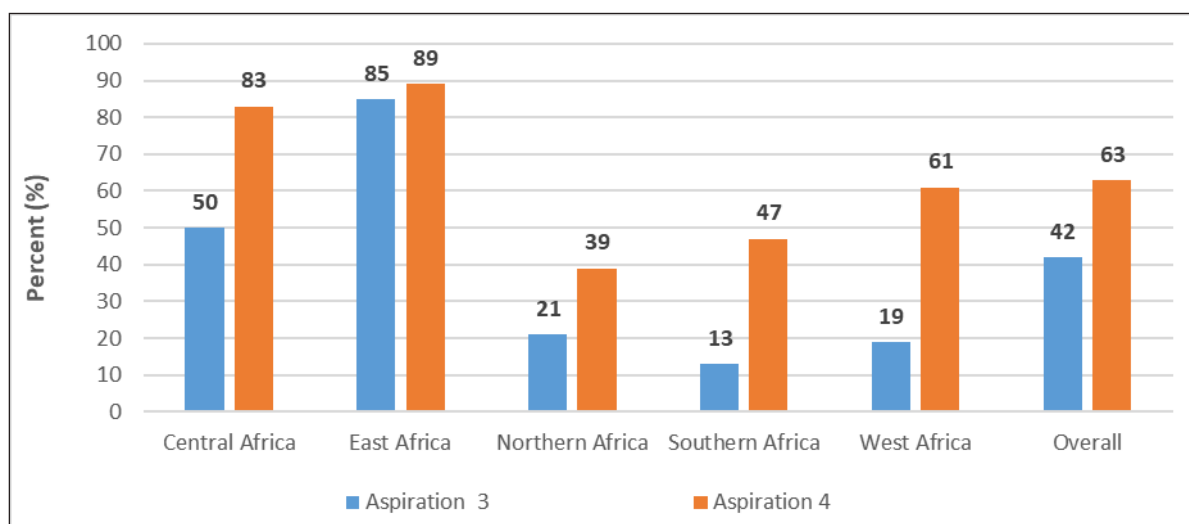
Figure 13: Performance of Aspiration 3 and 4 Goals Performance at continent level



Source: AUC & AUDA-NEPAD (2022)

In terms of progress towards Aspirations 3 and 4 of Agenda 2063 at the regional level, East Africa scored highest for Aspiration 4 and 3 in 2021 with 89% and 85% respectively, followed by Central Africa with 83% and 50% for Aspiration 4 and 3 and West Africa with 61% and 19% respectively. Southern Africa scored lowest with 47% and 13% for Aspiration 4 and 3 respectively, while North Africa recorded 39% and 21% over the same period (see Figure 14)

Figure 14: Performance of AU Aspiration 3 and 4 at regional level, 2021



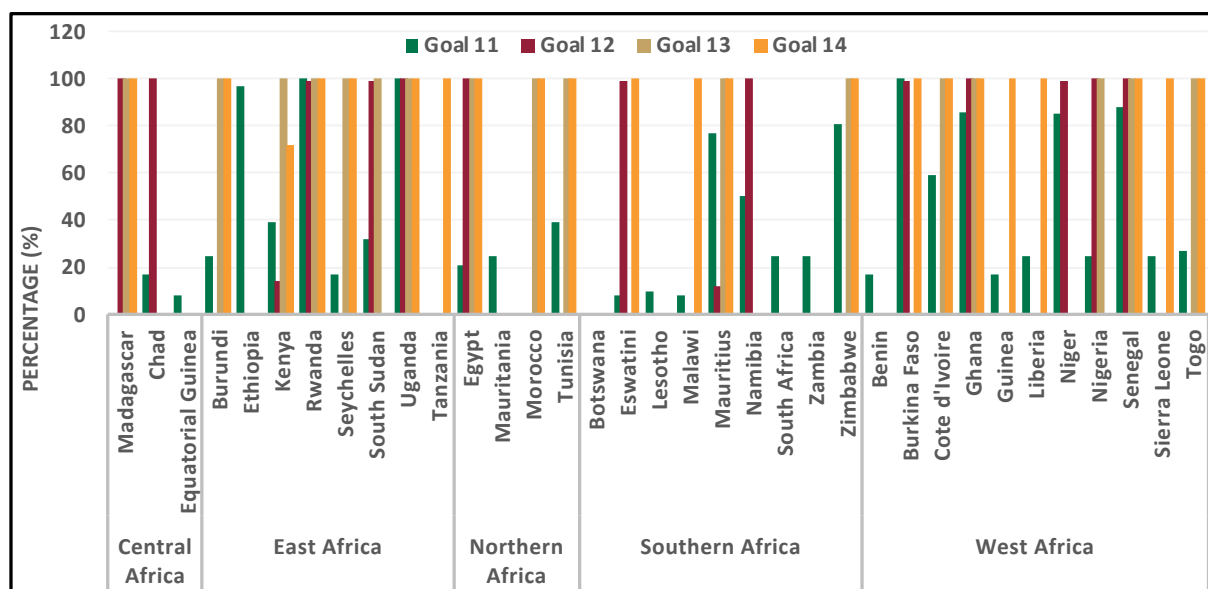
Source: AUC and AUDA-NEPAD (2022)

2.3.1 Performance of AU Aspiration 3 and 4 Goals at regional and country level

Below is a classification of dashboard performance, with red representing values 0% and 39%, indicating poor performance; orange representing values between 40% and 70%, indicating moderately good performance; and green representing values above 70%, indicating good performance (AUC & AUDA-NEPAD, 2022). At the regional level, East Africa with Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan and Uganda, each recorded the best performance on Goal 13.

North Africa followed with good performances in Goals 13 and 14 in Egypt, Morocco, and Tunisia. In the West Africa region, good performance was observed on Goal 14, with 6 out of 10 (72%) of the countries achieving 100%. Good performance was also observed on Goals 12 and 13, where about 46% of countries achieved 100%. In Southern Africa, good performance was observed mainly on Goal 14, where 4 out of 9 countries achieved 100%, while in the Central Africa region, 2 out of 3 countries performed well on Goal 12 (see Figure 15). Overall, remarkable progress was observed at country level on Goals 13 and 14, indicating good governance, democratic values, and practices, including the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.

Figure 15: Progress of AU Aspiration 3 and 4 Goals at regional level and country



Source: AUC and AUDA-NEPAD (2020)

In summary, governance trends, particularly reflected in progress on SDG 16, show that African countries have serious challenges to improve good governance on the continent. This mixed picture also relates to the specificities of each country as well as the means of implementation, financial resources and the engagement of non-state actors. An overview of the targets and the corresponding indicators for each of the Aspiration 3 and Aspiration 4 Goals, which allow the progress of the continent, region and country to be tracked and monitored at target level (**Table 3**).

The next chapter shows the practical experiences of member states in relation to their national development frameworks, coordination mechanisms, domestication strategies and the role of non-state actors in Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030.

Table 3: Aspiration 3 and Aspiration 4 Goals and Indicators

Goal 11: Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched/ Aspiration three of Agenda 2063		
Targets		Indicators
1. Democratic Values and Practices are the Norm	At least 70% of the people believe that they are empowered and are holding their leaders accountable	% of people who believe that there are effective mechanisms and oversight institutions to hold their leaders accountable
	At least 70% of the people perceive that the press / information is free and freedom of expression pertains	% of people who perceive that there is press freedom
		% of people who believe that there is free access to information.
	At least 70% of the public perceive elections are free, fair and transparent	% of people who believe that the elections are free, fair and transparent.
	African Charter on Democracy is signed, ratified and domesticated by 2020	- Signed
		- Ratified
- Integrated the African Charter on democracy		
Goal 12: Capable institutions and transformed leadership in place at all levels – Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063		
1. Institutions and Leadership	At least 70% of the public acknowledge the public service to be professional, efficient, responsive, accountable, impartial and corruption free	Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public / private official and asked or paid a bribe during the previous twelve months
ASPIRATION 4. A PEACEFUL AND SECURE AFRICA		
Goal 13: Peace, Security and Stability are preserved		
Maintenance and Restoration of Peace and Security	Level of conflict emanating from ethnicity, all forms of exclusion, religious and political differences is at most 50% of 2013 levels.	Conflict related deaths per 100,000 population
Goal 14: A Stable and Peaceful Africa		
1. Institutional Structure for AU Instruments on Peace and Security	Silence All Guns by 2020	a) Number of armed conflicts
		b) % decrease in armed conflicts
Goal 15: A Fully Functional and Operational African Peace and Security Architecture		
1. Operationalisation of APSA Pillars	National Peace Council is established by 2016	a) Existence of a national peace council.

Source: Agenda 2063 Continental reporting framework (AU Commission, 2019)

CHAPTER THREE

Governance Mechanisms of Agenda 2063 and SDGs in Africa : Voice of African Countries



Technical meeting with AU member states on data collection for the APRM Governance mechanisms Report on Agendas 2063 and 2030, Nairobi, Kenya (28 - 30 November 2022)

3. Chapter Three: Governance Mechanisms of Agenda 2063 and SDGs in Africa: Voice of African Countries

3.1 Introduction

The previous chapter highlighted progress in implementing SDG 16, which aims to strengthen public, efficient and effective institutions and maintain peaceful and just communities. While this report attempts to assess progress towards SDG 16 in Africa, it cannot cover all aspects of this goal, mainly because data situation is opaque. Against this backdrop, it is also worthwhile to understand the institutional frameworks, coordination mechanisms and reforms adopted by countries to address the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. An important point of the 2020 APRM report on “Governance mechanisms for the implementation of the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063” is the lack of awareness of Agenda 2063 compared to Agenda 2030 among national experts.

Coordination and institutional mechanisms are a core element of the domestication of both Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. They refer to a set of instruments, principles, and modalities of coordination for planning, implementing and monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063. In addition, they have a strong impact on the country's capacity to adopt a whole-of-society approach to achieving both agendas.

This chapter therefore presents findings of the APRM continental survey sent to African Union member states, including APRM members, from April 2022 – June 2023 to obtain authentic and practical feedback from national experts on the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 on the progress of both agendas.

The results of the survey show the need to create a national ecosystem for mainstreaming, implementing, and monitoring the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

3.2 Scope and demographic analysis of the survey

3.2.1 What does the survey cover precisely?

The survey looked at the level of awareness, involvement and participation of the executive, legislature, judiciary, private sector, civil society organisations, academic institutions and private individuals in the implementation of the SDGs – to find out how the two Agendas are perceived and accepted by different stakeholders. The survey also explored whether citizens are involved in the implementation of SDGs and AU Agenda 2063 and what platforms exist at the national level to support the implementation of both agendas. The extent to which the government has involved non-state actors such as civil society and business groups in the design and implementation of the National Development Plan/strategy for the SDGs was examined.

The survey also focused on partnerships for the SDGs and the implementation and evaluation of Agenda 2063. The role of partnerships is a critical element in the implementation of the SDGs and should be addressed in line with the capacity of African countries to implement the SDGs with domestic resources or partner resources driven by ownership. The focus was on the relationship between sovereign states and their cooperation partners.

The survey also assesses regional efforts to promote the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, as well as the role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in supporting AU Member States to develop and implement initiatives to accomplish both agendas. It also examines REC policies and programmes on the SDGs and Agenda 2063, as well as modalities for regional coordination and implementation. In brief, the survey addressed five thematic areas:

- a) Awareness of the executive and parliamentarians alike regarding Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063
- b) Commitment of the legislature and parliamentarians to monitoring and implementing both agendas (institutional and monitoring mechanisms to support overall agendas' implementation including SDG 16)
- c) Integration of SDGs and Agenda 2063 into National Development Plans (core principles and leave no one behind), VNR process. Etc
- d) The role of media, youth and non-state actors in implementing national sustainable development initiatives
- e) The role of the regional dimension in promoting the SDGs and Agenda 2063 (SADC, IGAD, COMESA)

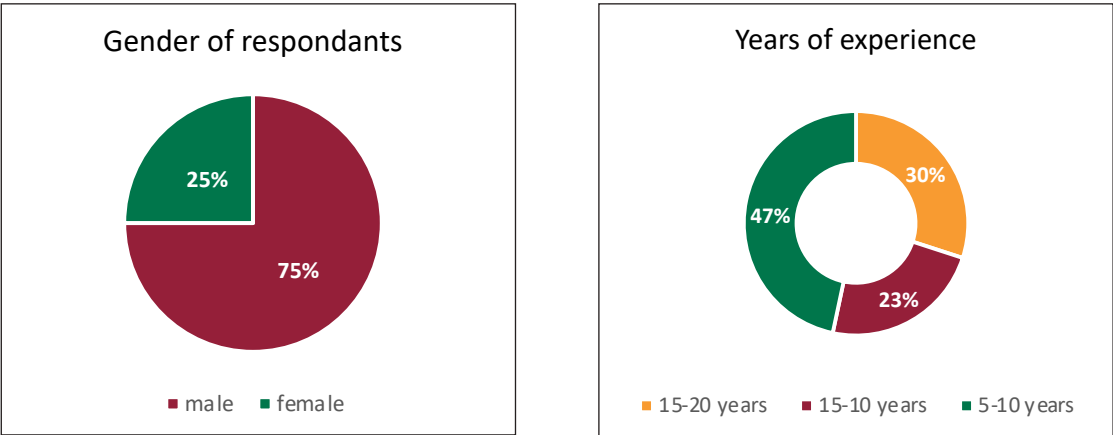
3.2.2 Who has responded to the APRM Continental Survey?

The survey achieved a moderate response rate. A total of 45 technical experts from thirty African countries responded. The instrument was also used on various APRM platforms to ensure comprehensive data collection. The purposive sample included national experts from the Ministries of Planning, Finance and Foreign Affairs as well as from national APRM structures, but also youth and civil society representatives.

African Countries that responded to the survey



In terms of gender, 25% of respondents were female, while 75% were male. Although the APRM supports women’s engagement in reporting on the SDGs, it was found that most responses were made by men in national agencies.



Most respondents also have solid experience in national planning, finance and public service delivery. About 47 % of the experts have five-ten years of professional experience followed by 30% with fifteen to twenty (15-20) years of professional experience or above and 23% of respondents with 10-15 years of professional experience. This is quite positive, as the sample included some young experts aged 28-35 years.

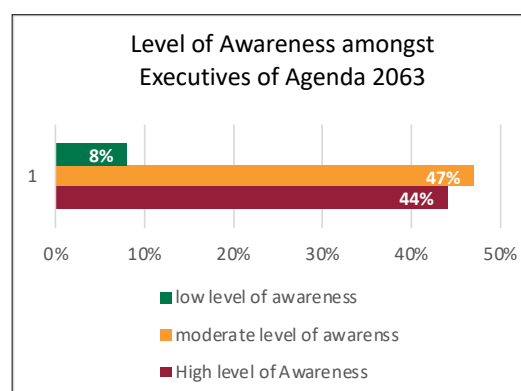
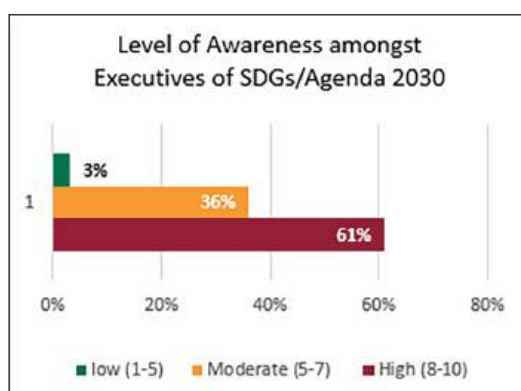
3.2.3 Validation of the APRM survey's findings and additional data

A special statistical system was used to analyse the results of the survey. The analysis took into account the regional affiliation, local context and demographic characteristics of the African countries. In addition, a technical meeting with national experts from 20 African countries was held in Nairobi from 28 to 30 November 2022 to update Member States on the progress of the report and share the results of the continental APRM survey. The meeting included focused group consultations and national inputs on progress towards SDG 16 and the relevant goals of Agenda 2063: Aspiration three and four. The following section highlights key trends from the national experts' reflections on the continental APRM questionnaire.

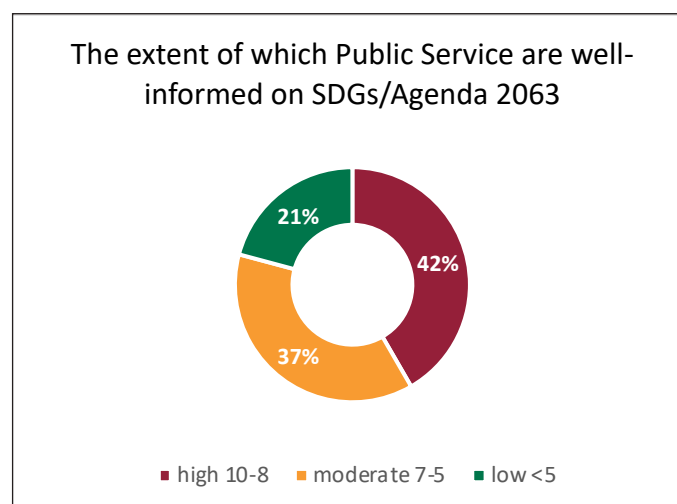
3.3 Findings of the survey

3.3.1 Ownership and awareness among executives and legislatures of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030

The 2022 survey shows an improvement and upward trend in awareness and knowledge of Agenda 2063 compared to the 2019 results. The targeted sample of experts expressed moderate to high awareness of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, with a marginal difference between the two. However, awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remains more pronounced. In some countries such as Egypt, Ethiopia, Uganda, Kenya, Benin and South Africa, efforts have been made to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda through various national dialogues and efforts by UN agencies at the national level.



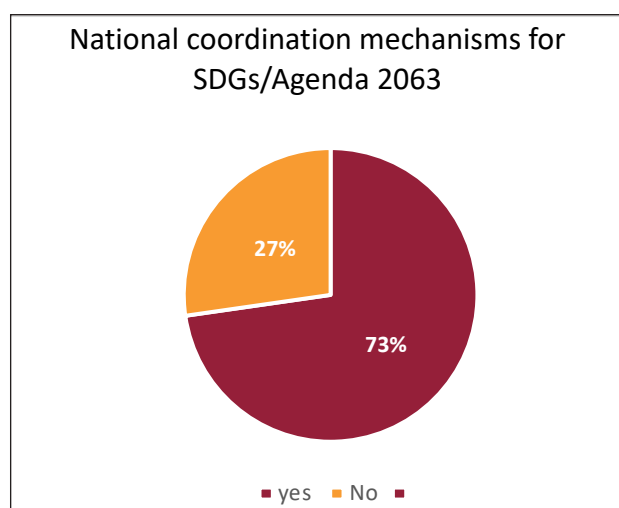
Regarding the general knowledge of the civil service about Agenda 2063 and the SDGs, only 42% of countries indicated that they know both agendas very well, while 37% indicated a medium level and 21% of countries indicated that the civil service knows little about both agendas.



The willingness of African countries to embrace the 2063 and 2030 Agenda has also improved among the countries surveyed. According to the survey, the majority of experts confirmed the establishment of an institutional structure at the sub-national level to align efforts. Some 73% of respondents indicated that their countries have established specific coordination and institutional mechanisms to coordinate national efforts to implement the SDGs and Agenda 2063. In contrast, 27% of respondents indicated that there are no institutional mechanisms in place to link SDGs/Agenda 2063 planning and monitoring tasks.

Countries such as Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa and Namibia have mandated the Ministries of Planning and/or Finance to lead the coordination of National Development planning in line with Agenda 2063 and the SDGs.

The Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in Sierra Leone, for example, coordinates the implementation of AU Agenda 2063, keeping Cabinet constantly informed of the status of implementation and reporting progress to the AU every two years. In Ghana, there is a three-tiered level of coordination, with three committees established to ensure coherent planning of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The Presidency has also established a Special Unit on the SDGs to seek appropriate alignment between Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 – see the figure below (Ghana VNR, 2022).

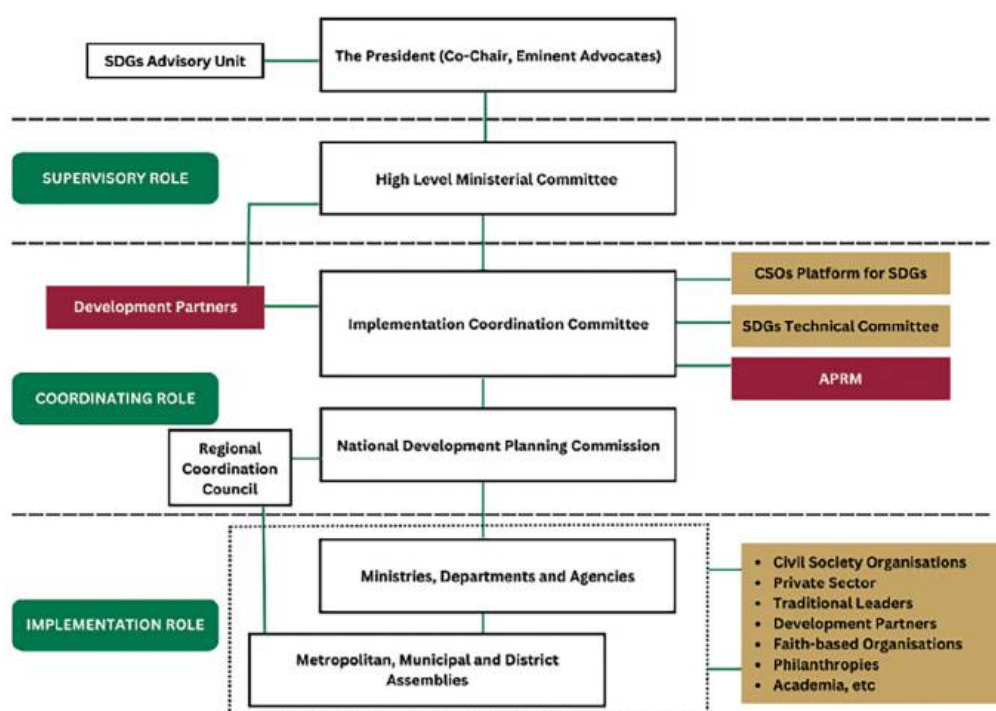


Box 1: Ghana's institutional Architecture for Agenda 2063 and SDGs

The institutional architecture for the implementation and coordination of the SDGs operates within the country's decentralised planning system, which originally consisted of the following three levels:

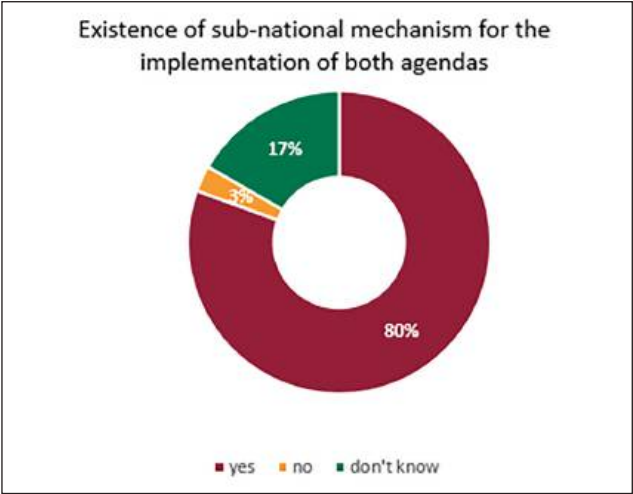
1. **The High Level Inter-Ministerial Committee (HLMC):** It is composed of 15 ministers and chaired by the Minister of Planning, with the Special Advisor to the President on the SDGs acting as Secretary. It provides strategic direction for the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 and ensures a "whole-of government" approach by actively engaging all parts of government in a coordinated manner across sectors.
2. **The SDGs Implementation Coordinating Committee (SDGs-ICC)** includes members from 10 key ministries, departments, and agencies, and is responsible for strengthening cross-sectoral coordination and multi-stakeholder partnerships.
 - a) The committee has led the integration of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 into planning and budgeting processes, managed stakeholder engagement, overseen progress reviews, and monitored and reported on implementation, under the oversight of the HLMC.
3. **The SDG National Technical Committee (TC)** with members from all MDAs, selected government agencies, and representatives from civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders, oversees the integration of the SDGs into the development plans of their respective sectors, as well as monitoring and data collection under the supervision of the ICC

Figure 16 Sub-national coordination system on Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063

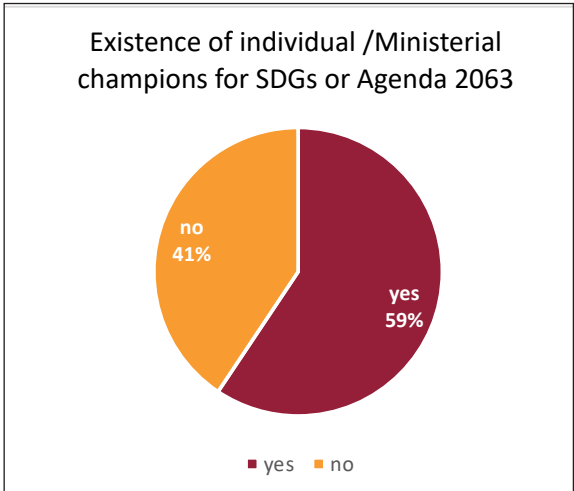
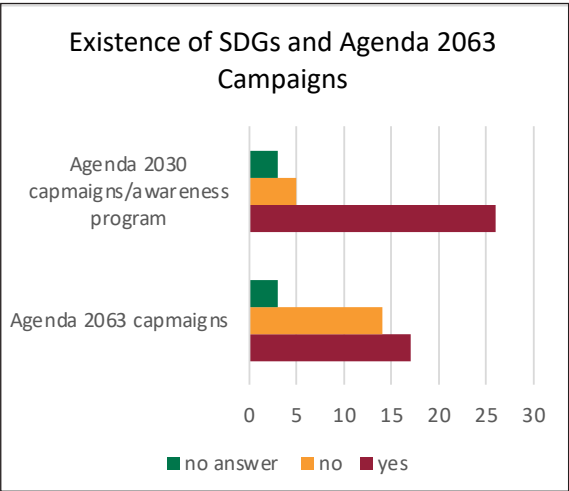


Source: SDGs Advisory Unit at the Presidency-Ghana, 2022)

At sub-national level, 80% of respondents confirmed that they have established sub-national mechanisms to monitor the implementation of both agendas. For instance, local authorities in Zimbabwe are strongly involved in tracking SDGs and Agenda 2063 implementation. Four local authorities voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) set up SDGs Committees.



In addition to awareness of both agendas among leaders and establishment of institutional mechanisms to coordinate national efforts, the existence of national campaigns on the SDGs and Agenda 2063 remains influential in improving grassroots advocacy and education on sustainability. According to the APRM survey, tangible progress has been made in campaigning on Agenda 2063, particularly through media institutions and national and continental programmes. Nevertheless, visibility and awareness of the SDGs are stronger than Agenda 2063 according to the voices of African national experts. Kenya, for example has developed campaigns on Agenda 2030 with the support of United Nations offices, with effective country participation. In contrast, the AU is encouraged to engage more at the national level to better represent Agenda 2063 and improve advocacy for the continental priorities and flagship projects.



In addition, certain national figures have made the SDGs and Agenda 2063 a high-level political concern, either through their leadership positions in government or through public figures who are particularly committed to sustainable development. 59% of respondents confirmed that they are committed to the SDGs and Agenda 2063 at ministerial level or as individuals. National representatives from Ethiopia, Egypt, Uganda, Kenya, Sierra Leone, Gabon and the Democratic Republic of Congo confirmed that there are national champions of the SDGs at national level.

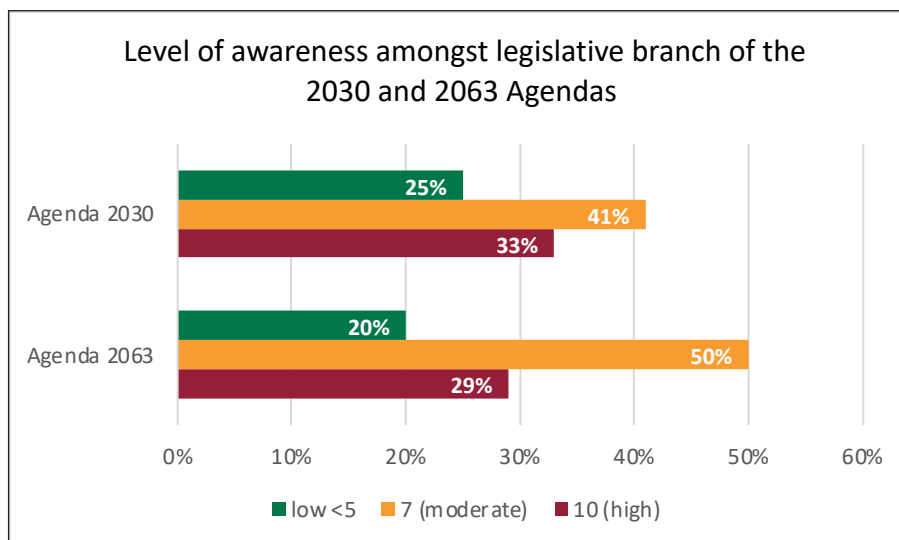
In Namibia, for example, appropriate channels and tools are used for the different stakeholder groups through mass media such as print media, radio, websites and social media. This is expressed in the SDGs Communication Strategy, which aims to support the implementation of the Namibian Sustainable Development Agenda and related frameworks at national and international levels (e.g. NDPs, HPP, V2030 & UN's Agenda 2030 and AU Agenda 2063).

3.3.2 The engagement of legislature in SDGs and Agenda 2063 process: awareness, engagement and actions

- *Awareness of Legislature of Agenda 2063*

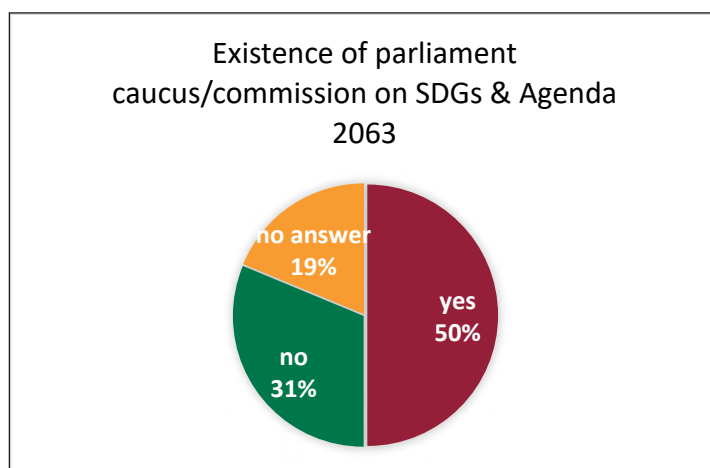
The legislature, and in particular parliament, has an important role to play from the strategic planning of the national development vision to the phase of monitoring progress towards the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The Agenda 2030 Declaration recognises the “essential role of national parliaments through the enactment of laws and the adoption of budgets, as well as their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments” (UN, 2015).

Effective legislative engagement on the SDGs and Agenda 2063 is essentially guided by robust checks and balances of power between the executive and the legislature. Parliament's role in advancing national policy is guided by the Constitution alongside legislative powers to debate the national budget, plans and means of implementation. Furthermore, parliamentarians' active engagement with the SDGs and Agenda 2063 begins with their level of knowledge of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. The APRM survey showed that national parliamentarians' level of awareness has improved compared to the 2019 results. However, the level of awareness of Agenda 2030 remains stronger than that of Agenda 2063 at the national level.



- Oversight of Parliament on Agenda 2063/SDGs implementation*

Since the adoption of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, the role of national parliaments in debating the SDGs and Agenda 2063 has increased, reflecting parliaments eagerness to prioritise debates on sustainable development, especially as their constitutional position obliges them to hold governments to account (UNDP, 2017). Public engagement with the work of parliament has also been positively influenced by SDG campaigns at global and national levels.

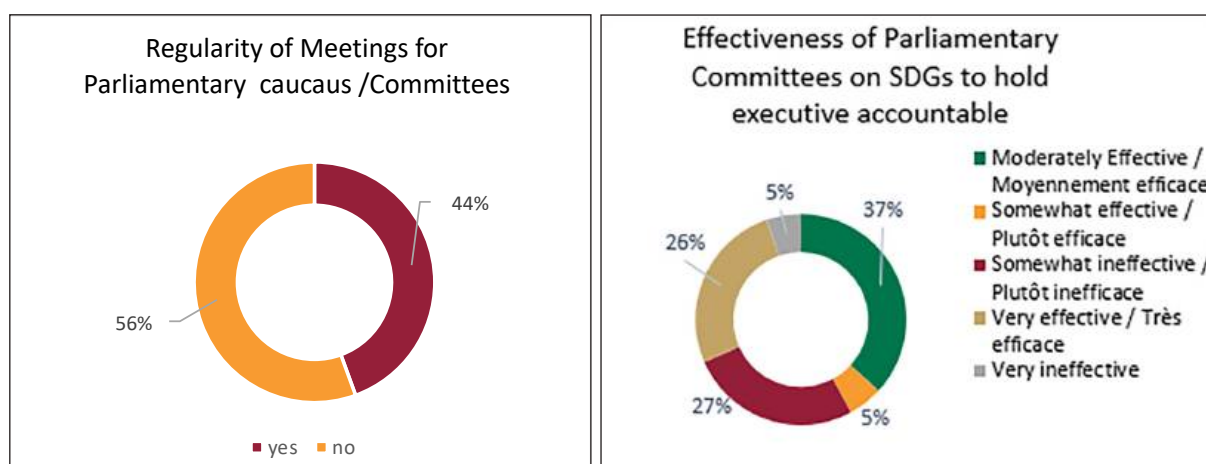


The APRM survey found that 50% of respondent countries have a special caucus or committee dedicated to follow-up on the government implementation of Agenda 2030 /or Agenda 2063. Some countries such as Sierra Leone, Uganda, Kenya, Tunisia and Burkina Faso have established committees or caucuses on the SDGs in parliament. However, there is also a lack of data on the extent to which parliament is heavily involved in

planning, monitoring and evaluating the SDGs. A number of respondents did not answer this question, as can be seen from the results of the questionnaire.

In terms of promoting good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights, several African countries including Senegal, Egypt, Kenya and Uganda, have established special parliamentary committees on human rights and access to justice to discuss persistent challenges such as human trafficking, illicit financial flows, internal violence and the status of citizens in prison.

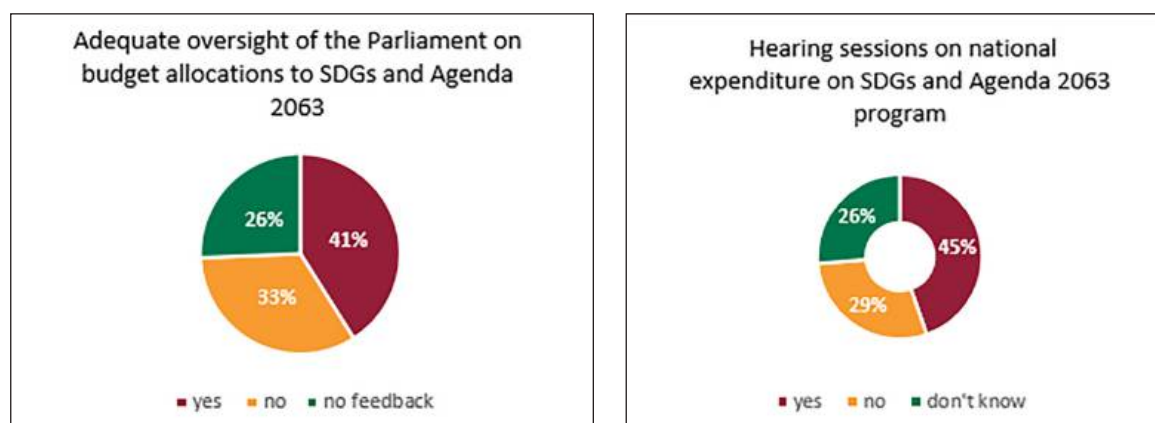
The establishment of designated committees within parliament is sufficient to ensure that the executive implements the SDGs/AU2063, if the committee is able to meet regularly and also keep enough records for the institutional memory of parliamentarians. According to the survey, few national experts commented on the effectiveness of the parliamentary technical committee dealing with national planning, implementation and spending on the development goals. Moreover, the regularity of the committee meetings shall improve, as 56% of the countries responded that these committees do not take place regularly, as indicated by the respondents.



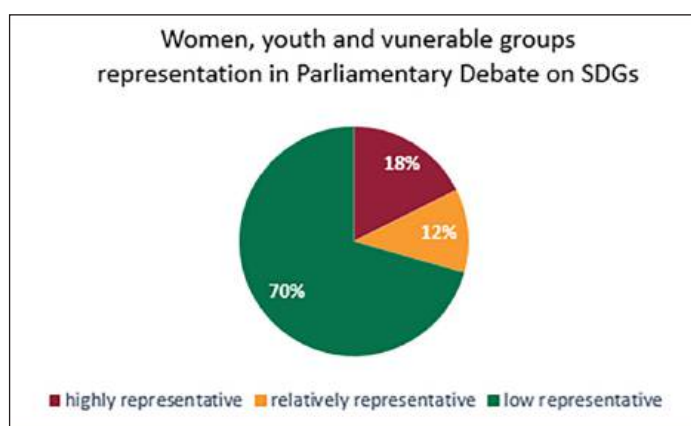
Parliament's involvement in monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 is essential to strengthen national ownership and increase the visibility of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs among key political actors as well as the public, the media and civil society. Furthermore, cooperation between the Pan-African Parliament, African national parliaments and regional economic communities remains essential in this regard. Cooperation with pan-African parliaments such as the Pan-African Parliament or the SADC Parliamentary Forum has also enabled targeted support and assistance in building the capacity of legislators. The survey also revealed neutral feedback from AU member states on parliament's engagement in planning and implementing programmes related to Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 at the constituency level. Moreover, the engagement of parliamentarians in the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 remains moderate, with only 53% of countries confirming their active involvement in development programmes at the local level.

Parliament's effective role in monitoring the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs is also relevant to its ability to monitor national spending on the SDGs and Agenda 2063. According to the survey, only 41% of respondents confirmed that their national legislature exercises strict oversight over budget allocation for the SDGs. These include Uganda, Lesotho, Côte d' Ivoire, Niger Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Zimbabwe.

The number of hearings on national spending on the SDGs and Agenda 2063 also remains moderate in African countries and can be enhanced. The survey results show that only of 45% of respondents confirmed that their countries have held hearings on spending on the 2030 Agenda and 2063. Executive awareness of parliamentary activities also remains low, with about 47% of respondents not answering this question.

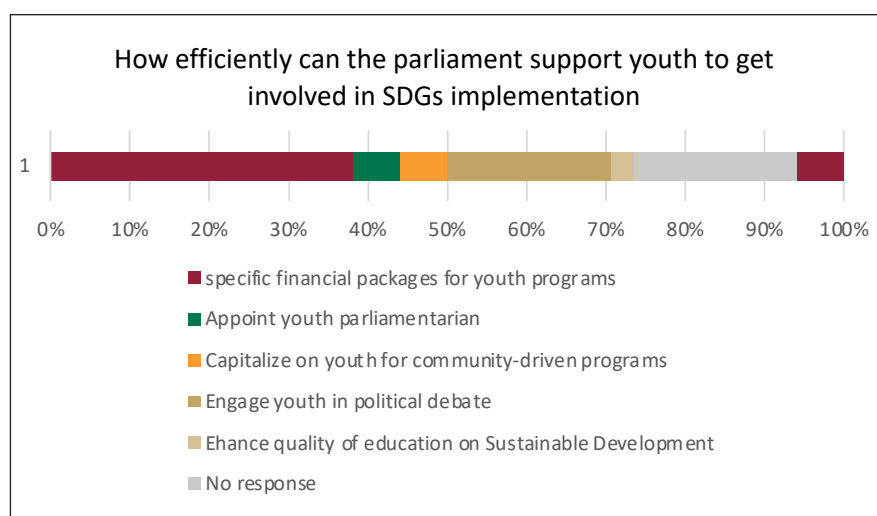


The representation of women, youth and disadvantaged groups in parliamentary debates also varies from country to country in Africa. Rwanda is so far the best example of women's representation in parliaments across Africa, with 61% of parliamentary seats held by women, according to the 2019 State of Gender equality in Rwanda 2019 report. On the other hand, in countries such as Kenya, Uganda and South Africa, youth and vulnerable groups are strongly represented in parliamentary groups on the SDGs. Togo also has an exceptionally inclusive parliamentary process, especially in terms of budget allocation for development programmes.



The APRM survey found that only 18% of countries confirmed that women, youth and vulnerable groups are highly engaged in parliamentary discussions on the 2030 and 2063 Agenda. In terms of the effectiveness of this engagement, the role of parliament in supporting these groups, especially youth, is compelling.

Nearly 40% of respondents pointed to the effectiveness of Parliament's role in supporting youth through targeted financial allocations to youth programmes, while 30% of respondents recommended empowering young parliamentarians, promoting youth and community-led programmes, engaging youth in political debates and lastly improving the quality of education for sustainable development



Box 2 Role of Parliament in overseeing implementation of Agendas 2063 and 2030

Gambia: Since 2017, the National Assembly has established a dedicated Sub-Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development to oversee the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The Committee is also authorised to provide comments on the national budget which is regularly reviewed and assessed annually by the Parliament. The Parliament strengthened national engagement with civil society and youth. In addition, VNR preparations include extensive consultations involving the National Youth Council and the Ministry of Gender.

Liberia: Liberia does not have its own committee on the 2030 and 2063 Agendas. Rather, Parliament has a special committee of the African Union that has a strong oversight role in the implementation of the 2030 and 2063 Agenda. Parliament also works on the revision of the budget by sector. The Ministries of Gender, Children and Youth are quite active in Parliament's interventions. Parliament also promotes the alignment of national development priorities with Agenda 2063.

Botswana: There is a special parliamentary committee for the SDGs (not for Agenda 2063). This committee is an oversight body for implementing of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 in Botswana and is composed of members from different political parties. The Secretariat for the SDGs - at the National Planning Commission - calls for training on SDG implementation to ensure alignment of both agendas - 2030 and 2063. However, the regularity of meetings needs to be improved. We also need to include youth and women in these discussions. Parliament needs to be empowered. At the local level, the Population Development Offices are working on the integration of the 2030 Agenda and the 2063 Agenda.

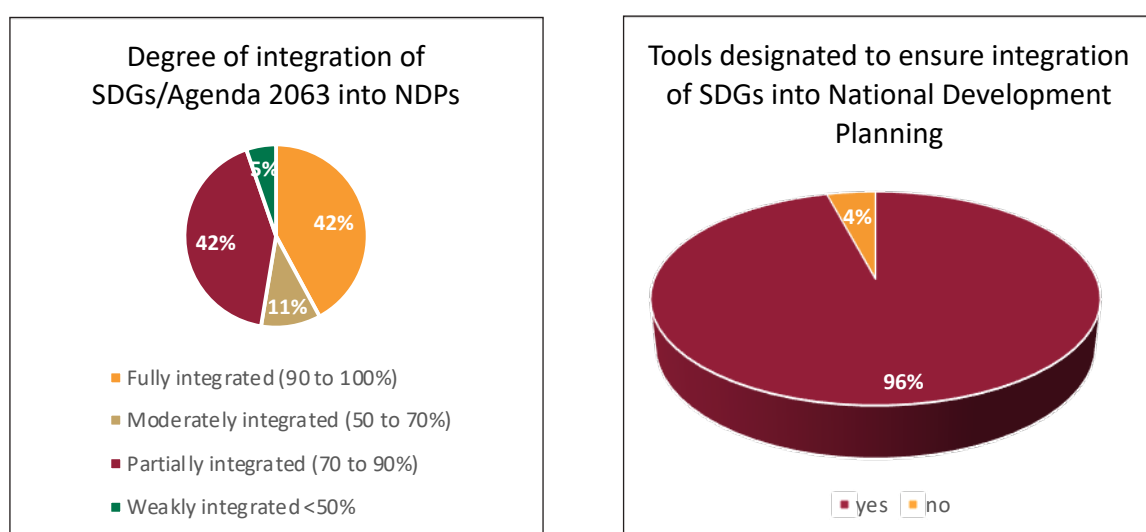
Source: APRM survey 2022 and interviews with key national officials.

3.3.3 Alignment, domestication and Reporting on Agenda 2030 and 2063 into National Development Planning

- Alignment efforts by African countries to integrate Agenda 2063 and SDGs into NDP

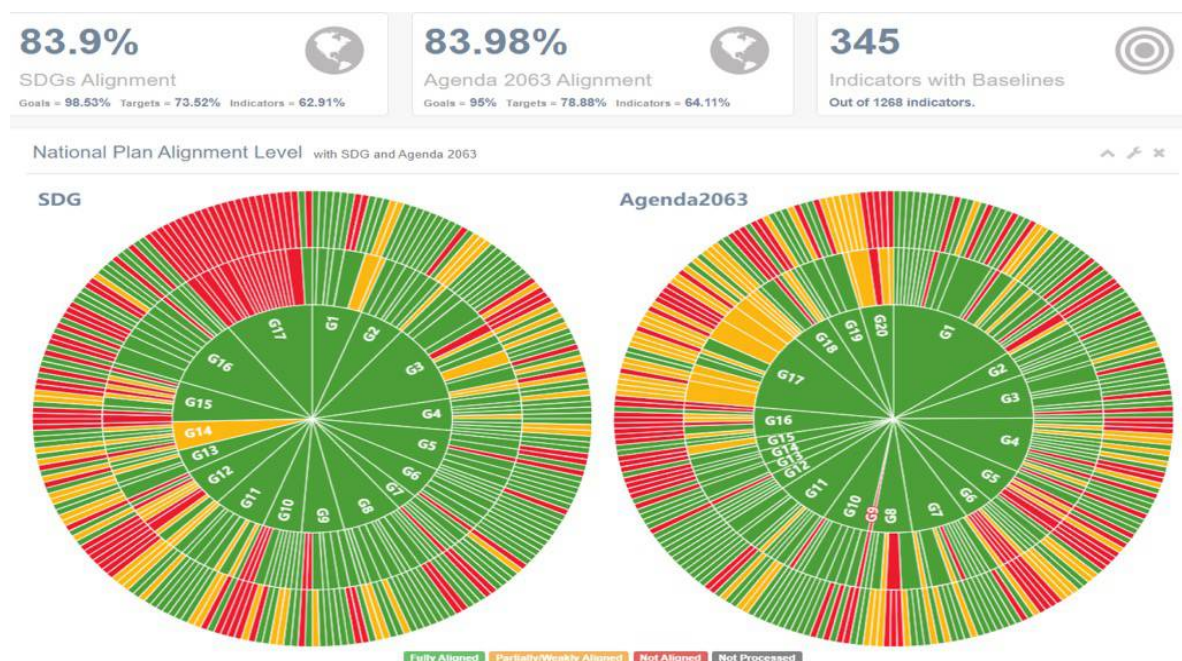
Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015 and Agenda 2063, several African countries have embarked on a “domestication” process to ensure sustainable development at the local level. African national planning authorities and ministries have adopted various national practises to align the National Development Plan (NDP) with the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The survey found that 96% of respondents confirmed the availability of tools to integrate the SDGs into National Development Plans.

Countries such as Ghana, Sierra Leone, Egypt and South Africa have demonstrated a high level of integration between their National Development Plans and the SDG



Only 42% of the countries surveyed assume that the SDGs are fully integrated into the National Development Plan, while another 42% assume that their countries have moderately integrated the SDGs into the National Development Plan. Countries mentioned different challenges, including statistical capacity, costs of extensive consultations with national stakeholders to ensure integration of all indicators and targets, and human and resource capacity. At the continental level, the African Union, under the guidance of the AU Commission and AUDA-NEPAD, has adopted a toolkit to ensure proper reporting on both agendas. Meanwhile, the revised APRM governance reviews questionnaire takes into account the Agenda 2063 and SDGs indicators, among other toolkits, to assess the governance gaps to pursue both agendas.

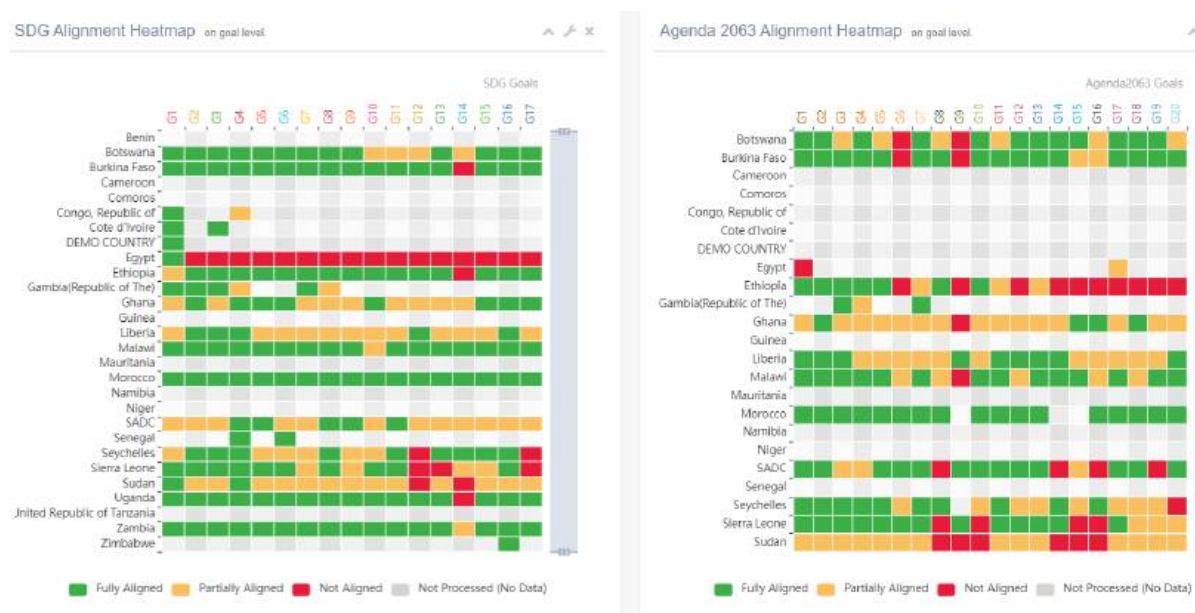
Figure 17 Level of integration of Agenda 2063 and 2030 into NDP of Zambia



Source: (ECA, 2022)

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa has developed an integrated tool to track the integration of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. The ECA analysis concluded that in most African countries, Agenda 2030 is more in line with National Development Plans than Agenda 2063. In terms of goals, both Agenda 2063 and the SDGs are significant. For both agendas, the agreement scores at the target level are higher than at the goal and indicator levels. In Burkina Faso, for example, 94 per cent of SDGs targets are aligned with the country's National Development Plan, compared to 18 per cent of indicators. Six countries have recently completed ECA-led alignment, including Ghana, Botswana, Malawi, Burkina Faso, Zambia and Seychelles. Zambia is the only one of the six countries where the country has worked to align both the 2030 Agenda and 2063 Agenda targets. On the other hand, the sub-regional picture suggests little progress and regression in most parts of the continent. UNECA statistics also show that 12 of the 55 AU Member States do not have clear data on the degree of integration of both agendas into the National Development Plan (NDP). Therefore, it is already difficult to track how far they have progressed. Moreover, most of the data has to be updated by national governments. Most of the continent is regressing, while North Africa and Southern Africa are improving slightly, especially in promoting good governance.

Figure 18 Alignment of African countries' NDP with Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063



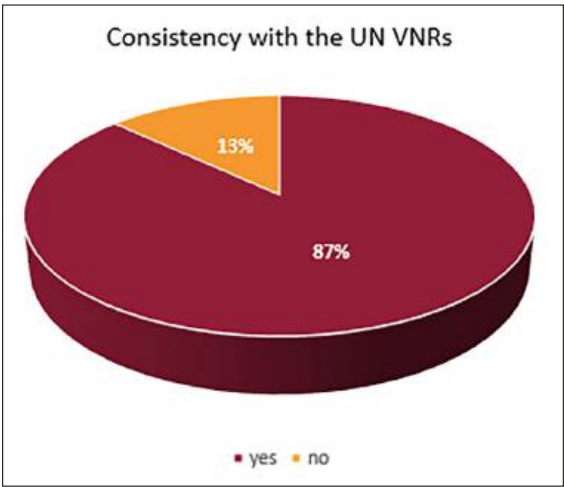
Source (UNECA, 2022)

At the sub-goal level, ECA data shows that Southern Africa is making relatively good progress in strengthening effective institutions but is being pushed to make further efforts in the areas of human trafficking and justice for all. On the other hand, East Africa and West Africa need to do more on effective institutions and trafficking. North Africa seems to be making some progress on effective institutions, but more efforts are needed on justice for all and human trafficking. Central Africa needs further support to enhance effective institutions.

- **Regular reporting mechanisms and added value of voluntary national reporting on the Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063**

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) is a successful mechanism for reporting on the 2030 Agenda, including Agenda 2063. In the last five years, fifty-three African countries have submitted a VNR to the United Nations at least once. The report is usually presented during the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York by national representatives and senior technical officials. In the last two years, more and more countries are focusing on both agendas in the VNR.

According to the results of the questionnaire, 87% of the respondents confirmed compliance with the UN VNRs. In addition, technical consultations with Member States revealed that more efforts are



being made to ensure reporting on Agenda 2063. Over the past five years, the HLPF has reviewed most of the SDG progress of countries that have mandated a dedicated taskforce to prepare the voluntary report. Nevertheless, the sustainability of these taskforces and the regularity of follow-up remain a major challenge, especially after the impact of COVID-19 which derailed interaction with municipalities and local communities during the preparation of the VNR 2020-2022.

Figure 19 African countries submitted VNRs from 2019-2023



Source: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

- Continental efforts to enhance reporting on Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030

The AUDA-NEPAD and the AU Commission are working together with various AU organs on the biennial reporting on Agenda 2063 to track progress in the implementation of the Agenda and flagship projects. Since 2017, the AU Commission has organised various activities across the continent to raise awareness on Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, especially given the obvious relevance and similarity of some of the goals, particularly in the areas of good governance, education, poverty reduction and gender equality.

The Technical Working Group on Agenda 2063 – of which the APRM is a member – has developed a continental framework to help countries track progress on both Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, while prioritising targets and indicators to avoid reporting fatigue. The framework includes 66 indicators that capture the most relevant indicators for assessing the implementation of both Agendas.

The Commission, in partnership with AUDA-NEPAD, the African Development Bank and other AU/UN bodies, launched on the FTYIP Special Reporting Project. The Special Project has two distinct but interlinked components: a) the evaluation of the FTYIP and b) the formulation of the STYIP of Agenda 2063. The two components will be carried out simultaneously, with a deliberate effort to use the gains and lessons from the FTYIP in the formulation of the second ten-year plan of Agenda 2063.

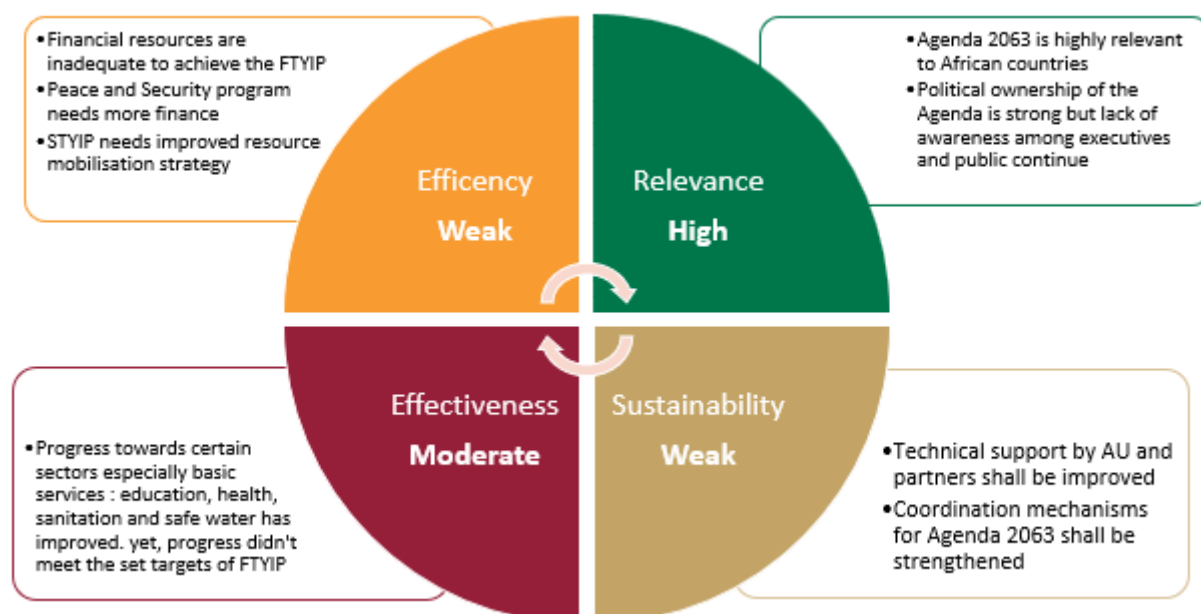
The evaluation of the FTYIP provides an opportunity for Africa to take stock of progress made, to examine the enabling factors and major obstacles to the implementation of the FTYIP, and to reflect collectively on lessons learned from the design and implementation of the first decade of Agenda 2063.

Figure 20 Steps of continental reporting on Agenda 2063



Source, AUDA-NEPAD, 2022

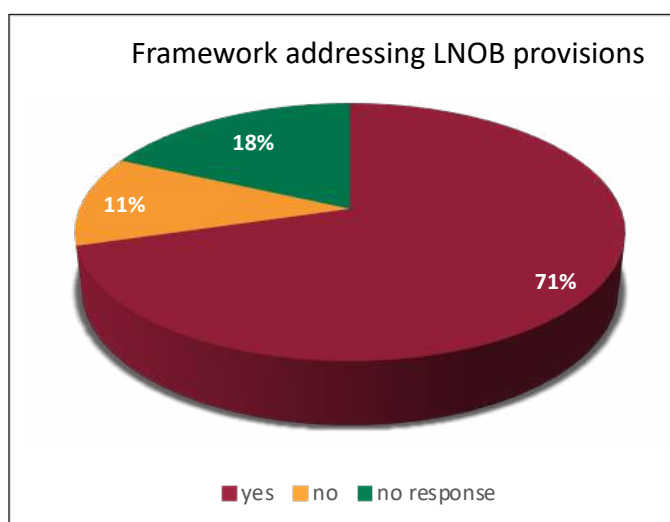
Figure 21 key findings of Agenda 2063' FTYIP assessment (AUC/AUDA-NEPAD, Forthcoming 2023)



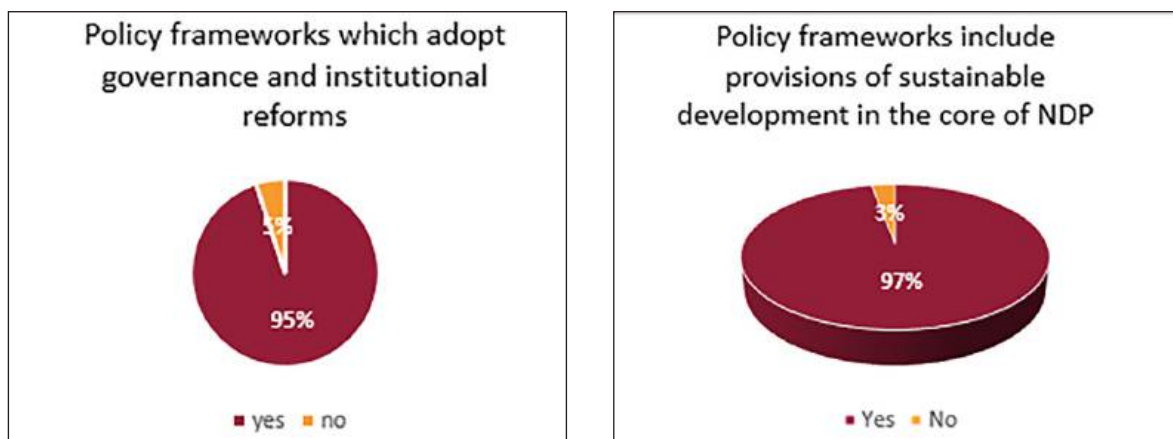
3.3.4 Inclusiveness, leaving no one behind and governance reforms for Agenda 2063 and SDGs implementation.

Leaving no one behind: essence and best practices.

Leaving no one behind is one of the core principles of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. In addition to the focus on strengthening the political rights of citizens and improving inclusive institutions advocated in both Agendas, Agenda 2063 also notes in Goal 6 that youth and women should play an active role in improving the continent's development trajectory. The APRM survey found that 71% of the countries surveyed have adopted a framework for the goal of "leaving no one behind", while the remaining countries did not provide feedback. Most national strategies have initiated programmes in specific sectors, e.g., education, health, agriculture and public services, to ensure that aspects of inclusion and support for the most vulnerable groups are improved.



On the other hand, many countries have confirmed that they have included various reforms related to governance and also provisions that include sustainable development in their national plans to improve the implementation of both agendas. Further information on these governance reforms is presented in chapter four.



It is worth noting that “leaving no one behind” is listed as one of the principles for effective governance of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, endorsed by the UN Expert Committee on Public Administration (CEPA). The principle simply means: “To ensure that all people can fulfil their potential with dignity and equality, public policies must take into account the needs and aspirations of all sections of society, including the poorest and most vulnerable and those who face discrimination” (UN CEPA, 2019).

In order not to leave anyone behind, certain strategies are needed, including i) the promotion of equitable fiscal and monetary policies, ii) the promotion of social justice, iii) the disaggregation of data to determine who has been left behind, and finally iv) systematic follow-up and review. It is true that some African countries have implemented various policies and programmes to promote social equity and welfare. However, more elaborate and evidence-based case studies from the African context are needed to fairly examine why people are left behind in a given country, how to empower those who are left behind, and what efforts are being made to adopt laws, policies, reforms or interventions to confront and hold accountable those responsible for leaving some sectors, regions or people behind.

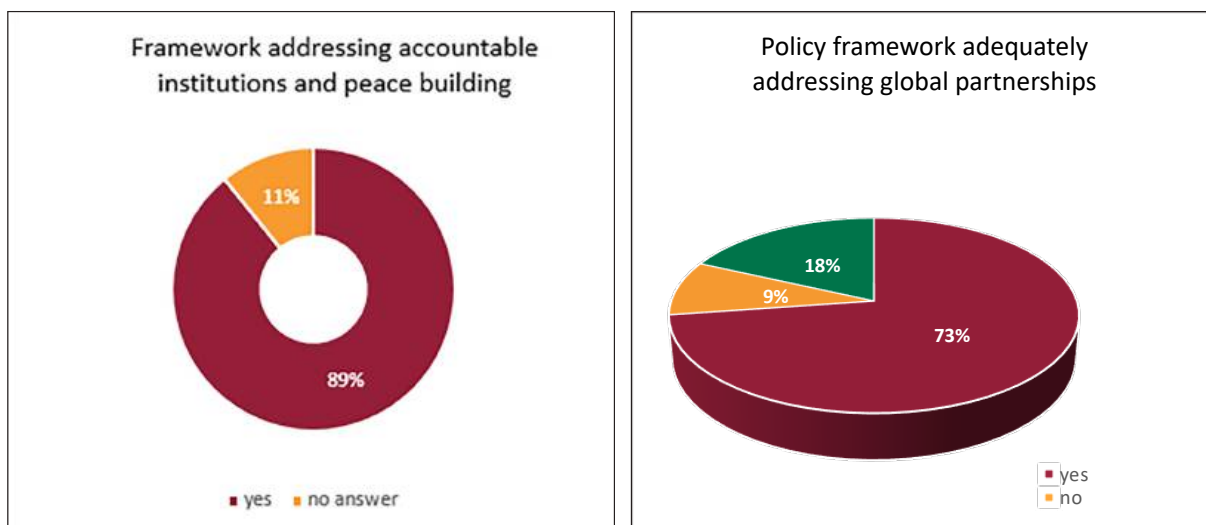
Box 3 Practices of African countries to improve leaving no one behind framework.

Ethiopia: Women's Land Ownership

- Inequalities related to land titles fall squarely under the LNOB principle and social justice. There are targeted projects on the continent that aim to address these exclusions. In Ethiopia, for example, the names of both spouses have had to be listed on land titles since 2003, giving both men and women land rights (Yeboah, 2012). Within the first two years of the programme, 20 million plots were registered, affecting 5.5 million households (Stuart et al., 2016).
- These changes have been supported by reforms to the Ethiopian Family Code aimed at gender equality (see Kumar & Quisumbing, 2012; 2015). As a result of these changes, women are given the same rights as men in terms of property and inheritance. Empirical research has shown that these provisions have indeed improved women's participation and inclusion, components of the LPP and many SDGs. There are significant differences between certified and non-certified women on different measures of empowerment: for example, more active participation in household decisions and greater participation in the community at large.
- In summary, the joint land certification programme in Ethiopia has increased women's participation and representation at both household and community levels, furthering important LNOB objectives. The joint land certification programme has minimal costs for its implementation, suggesting that the Ethiopian example is a model for scaling up in other African countries (see Melesse, Dabissa & Bulte, 2018).

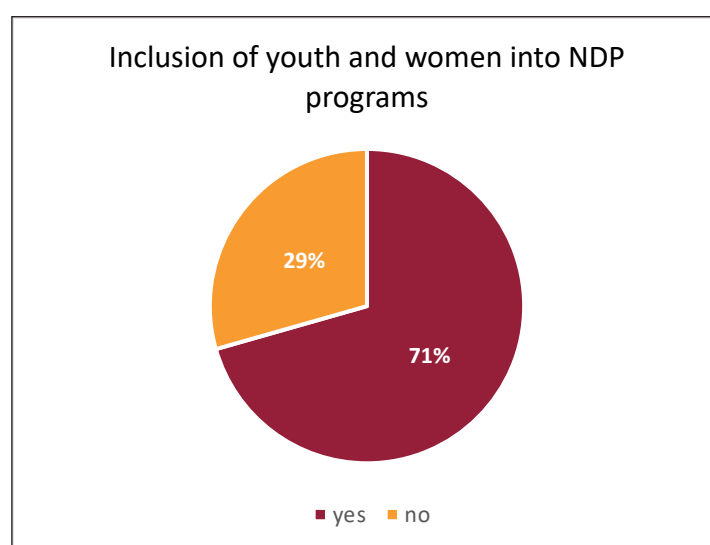
Source: (NIGSD, toolkit on leaving no one behind, forthcoming 2023)

Peace and security are a compelling component to ensure national stability for the implementation of development programmes. Adopting a framework for peace and reconciliation and building effective institutions through an inclusive social contract are necessary for countries to be on track in implementing both Agendas. According to the survey, 59% of the countries surveyed confirmed that they have adopted various policies that adequately address the provisions set out in the SDGs and 2063 to build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all.

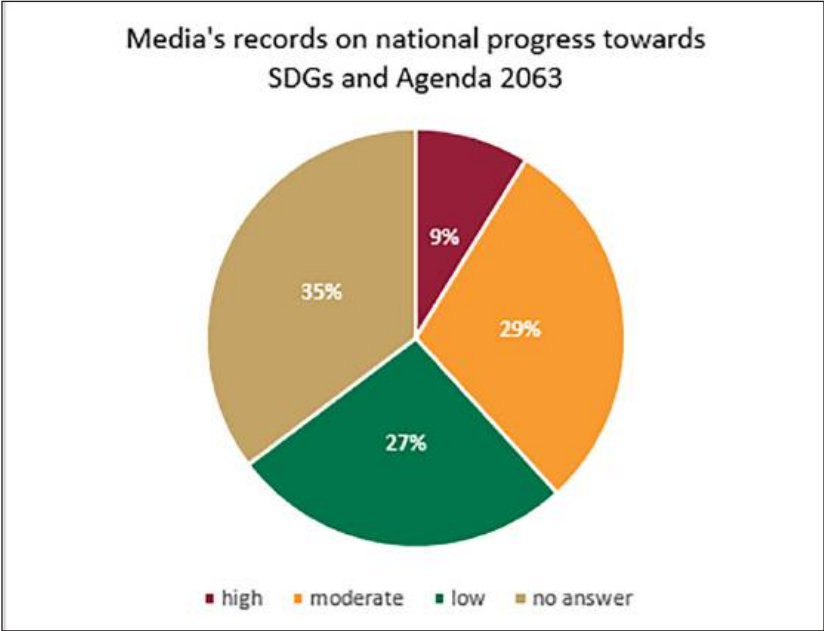
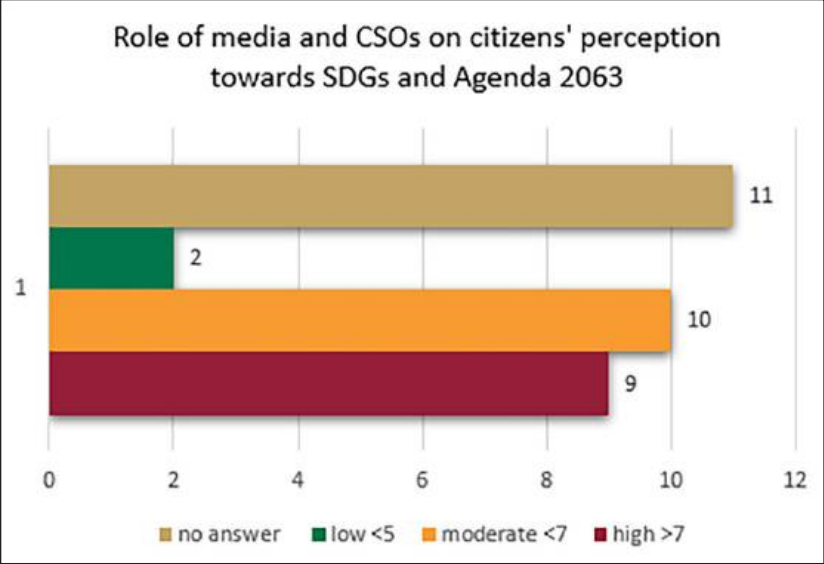


3.3.5 Youth, women and civil society role in implementing SDGs and Agenda 2063

The survey acknowledged the involvement of youth and women in various NDP programmes. According to the survey, 71% of the countries surveyed said that their National Development Plans include programmes specifically for women and youth. Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 emphasise the role of young citizens and women in strengthening sustainable development and cities. In addition, the survey finds that there is a lack of awareness of the role of the media in citizens' perceptions of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The importance of the media in advocating and monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 is increasing. The African Fellowship Programme supported by the AU Commission is also helping to train a new generation of journalists who can play an influential role across the continent in disseminating accurate and comprehensive information about the African Union and its institutions. Through various media tools, including TV channels, press, magazines and social media platforms, young African journalists seek to break down news about the African Union to bring it closer to African citizens.



The survey also displayed the media’s lack of awareness of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. In a way, this shows a certain gap between leaders and the media industry in promoting Agenda 2030 and 2063, so this is an area that could be improved, especially with the preparations for the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP).



Box 4 Empowering youth policy and engagement for the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063

SDGs Youth Summit (Ghana)

The African Youth SDGs Summit series was launched in Ghana in 2017 as an annual Pan-African country rotation initiative to mobilise and activate the power of young people to advance the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa. The first event was attended by 425 participants from 25 countries who addressed issues related to the SDGs, such as environment, gender, disability, economic and social development.

APRM Youth Symposium (continental initiative) The APRM Youth Symposium is one of the flagship projects designed to bring African youth together to discuss thematic areas relevant to the promotion of good governance. The symposium was launched in 2019 and has seen three versions so far. The last edition of the forum was held in Kampala and focused on specific themes, including innovative approaches to sustainable youth employment, youth and governance, the role of youth in the transfer of science, technology and innovation, and the role of youth in combating climate change and promoting green growth.

Tunisia Climate Group

A group of young Tunisian climate negotiators has been established to support the official Tunisian delegation in the various negotiations, including the conferences of the parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Subsidiary Bodies (SBs) Meetings. Climate negotiators receive capacity building training and intensive technical sessions before the official start of the high-level meetings and negotiations. Some of the topics are the history of climate diplomacy, the official framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the main negotiating topics of COP, such as climate finance, the transparency framework, and the carbon market.

Good Governance Africa

GGA is a research and advocacy non-profit organisation with centres in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Nigeria, and Ethiopia. It aims to inform and persuade the policy community that transparency and accountability are the basic building blocks of successful development. Further, it seeks to strengthen the rule of law; and to build an active citizenry that holds their government to account. Several workshops and activities were organised to address issues pertinent to tracking illicit financial flows for sustainable development in Africa as well as countering transnational organised crime in the region. The major focus of the organisation's efforts aims to enhance advocacy and reporting on the trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children (16.2), inclusive institutions at all levels (16.7), and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance (16.8)

Source: *Youth inputs to APRM technical consultations (APRM Continental platform on VNRs and Agenda 2063)*

3.3.6 Role of partnerships, regional economic communities and private sector in implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063

Partnerships between African countries and strategic partners have increased over the last decade to fund development programmes and sectors. Over the last decade, Official Development assistance from DAC has increased slightly to support some African countries in promoting sustainable development programmes. However, the Covid-19 crisis exacerbated many national and international efforts to close the funding gap of both agendas. In addition, foreign direct investment and private investment have been negatively affected by the pandemic in recent years (APRM, 2021).

Figure 22 Top 10 ODA recipient in Africa

USD million, net disbursements in 2019

1	Ethiopia	4 677	8%
2	Nigeria	3 277	6%
3	Kenya	3 173	6%
4	Democratic republic of the Congo	2 810	5%
5	Tanzania	2 126	4%
6	Uganda	2 030	4%
7	Mozambique	1 841	3%
8	Mali	1 816	3%
9	Somalia	1 720	3%
10	Egypt	1 709	3%
	Other recipients	32 494	56%
	Total	57 673	100%

Source: OECD, 2022

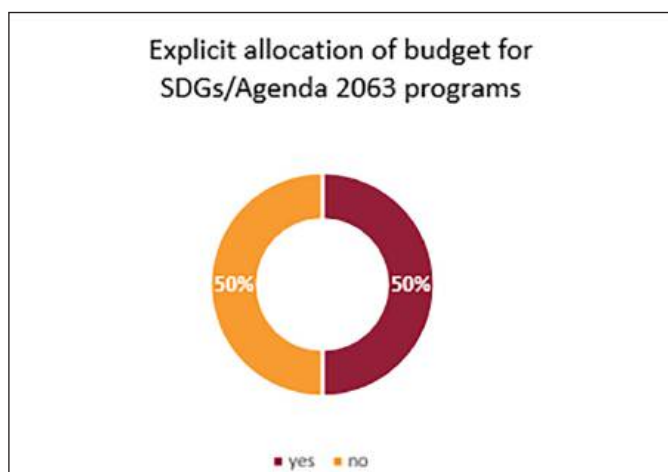
Figure 23 Top donors to Africa

USD million, net disbursements in 2019

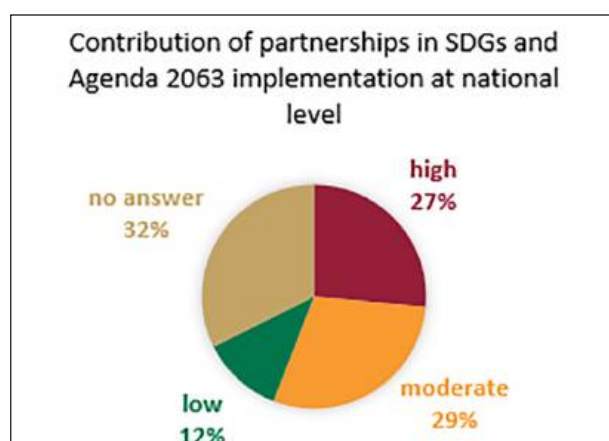
1	IDA	10 537	18%
2	United States	9 572	17%
3	EU Institutions	6 831	12%
4	Germany	4 549	8%
5	United Kingdom	3 814	7%
6	France	2 950	5%
7	Global Fund	2 591	4%
8	African Dev Bank	1 650	3%
9	Japan	1 572	3%
10	United Arab Emirates	1 157	2%
	Other donors	12 448	22%
	Total	57 673	100%

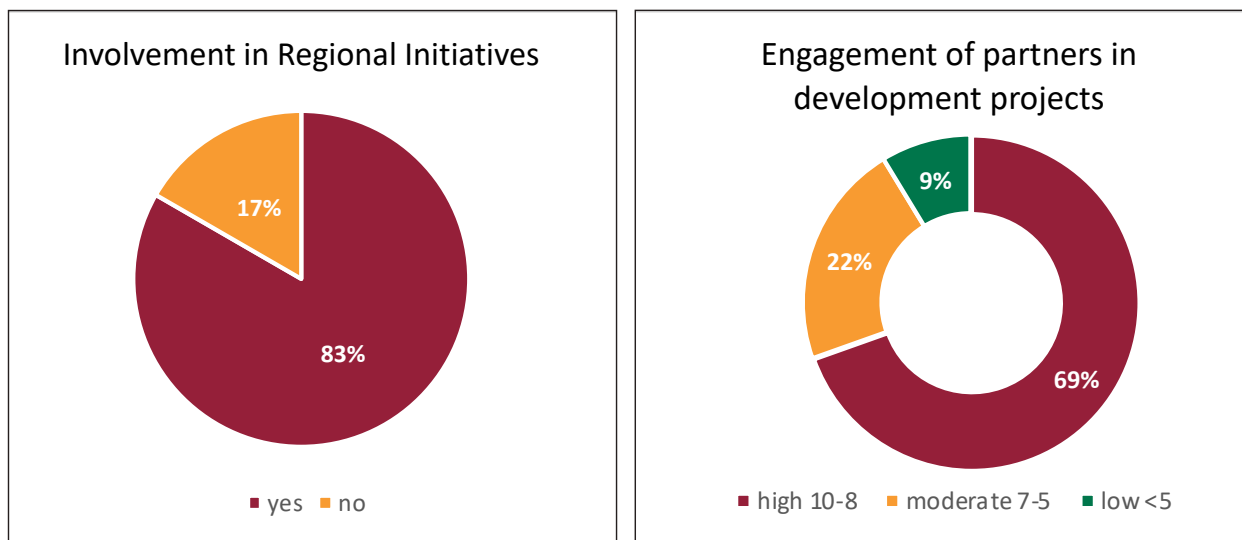
Source: OECD, 2022

The results of the survey show that there are problems with financing in some African countries, with only 50% of the countries surveyed confirming budgetary allocations for the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Furthermore, only 50% of the countries confirmed that the private sector plays an important role in financing sustainable development projects.

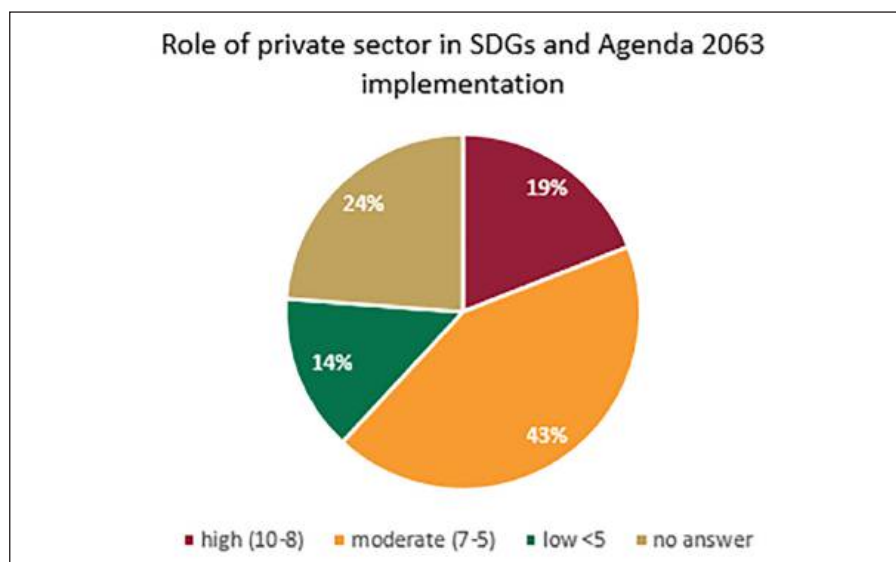


Partnerships with development agencies appear to be on an upward trend compared to the 2019 APRM statistics. According to the survey, 69% of the countries surveyed confirmed a high-level of engagement with donors and development partners to implement development projects. 83% of countries also reported engaging in regional initiatives. However, feedback on engagement at the regional level varies from region to region. For example, engagement by SADC countries, ECOWAS and IGAD is the most visible regional interaction among the eight RECs. Box 5 documented SADC's efforts to promote good governance across the Southern African region.





The survey also confirms the need for further coordination between donors and African countries on national priorities. Only 27% of national experts confirmed that partnerships have contributed greatly to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063, while 29% rated this as moderate. Further analysis and data collection may be necessary to ensure the accuracy of this information.



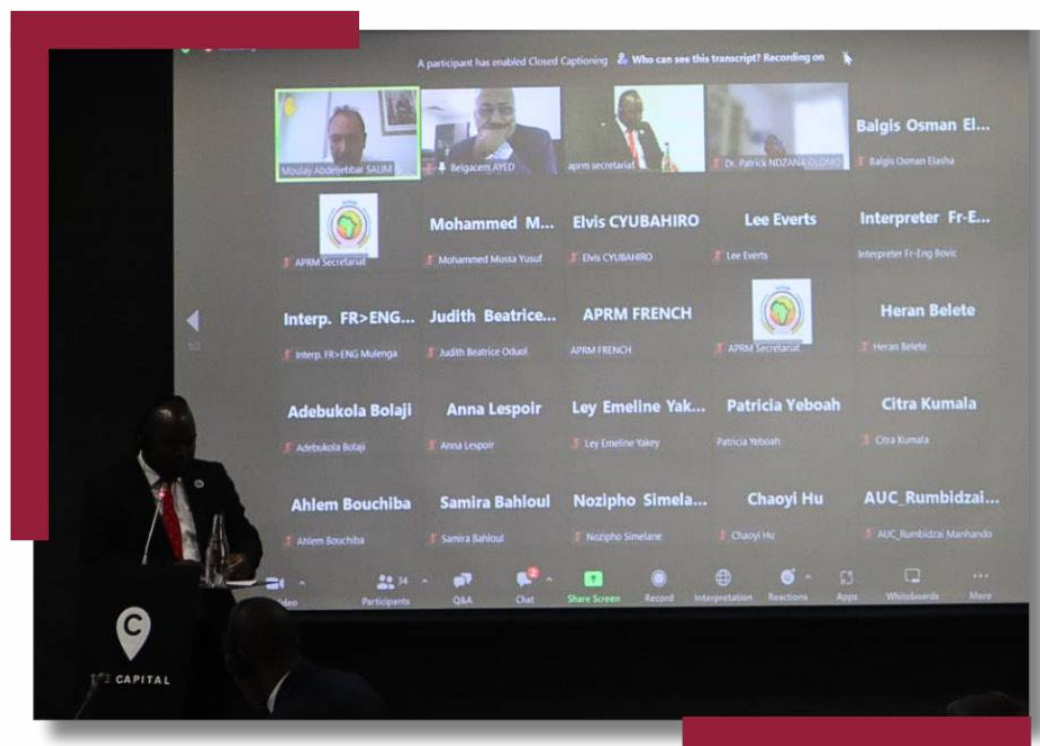
Box 5 SADC support for African member countries to promote good governance and the implementation of Agenda 2063

- Article (4) of the SADC Treaty requires SADC and its member states to act in accordance with the principles of "human rights, democracy and the rule of law". The Treaty states that "human rights, democracy and the rule of law" are principles that guide the actions of members. Article 5 obliges member states to "promote common political values, systems and other shared values transmitted through democratic, legitimate and effective institutions".
- SADC is also guided by a normative framework guided by Vision 2050. The vision complements the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063, as well as their flagship projects and continental frameworks. It is expressed in three 'pillars', focusing on the foundation directly relevant to human rights and good governance. **The SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2020-2030)** was adopted to ensure the implementation of the SADC Vision 2050. It covers the areas of peace, security, and governance. In addition, many SADC Member States have signed the 2007 **African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG)**. SADC has also developed several viable instruments to promote good governance including:
 - I. **The SADC Principles and Guidelines for Governing Democratic Elections** of 2004 (revised in 2015);
 - II. **The Protocol on Political, Defence and Security Cooperation** (2001) and other SADC documents underscore SADC's fundamental objective of promoting the development of democratic institutions and practices by State Parties.
 - III. Promote respect for universal human rights and the full participation of the people of the region in democratic processes of procedure and promote the relevant measures necessary to achieve these objectives.
 - IV. **SADC Electoral Observation Missions (SEOM)**: The SADC Principles and Guidelines also provide for Election Observation Missions composed of Troika election experts, representatives of EMBs, national governments and legislatures, civil society, and eminent persons from Member States, based on the principles of balanced national representation and gender equality. The mandate of the SEOM is to determine whether the Member State where the elections are held complies with the relevant provisions of the SADC Principles and Guidelines for Democratic Elections. Recently, SEOM were deployed to the Republic of Angola, Zambia, and Lesotho to assess the conduct of the elections.
 - V. **The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development** (revised 2016) recognises that gender equality is a fundamental human right and calls for equal representation of women and men in decision-making structures at all levels, as well as women's full access to and control over productive resources and formal employment. This Protocol has led SADC Member States to undertake a comprehensive review of their constitutions and all Member States have specific provisions in their constitutions and bylaws prohibiting discrimination based on gender. All SADC Member States have national gender policies or strategies/action plans, and some are in the process of revising their gender policies. Most Member States have made remarkable progress towards equal participation and representation of women in politics and decision-making.
 - VI. **SADC Parliament In 1997**, the SADC Parliamentary Forum was established as an autonomous institution comprising all national parliaments of Member States to promote dialogue and popular participation, especially at the grassroots level, in SADC affairs. It is based in Windhoek, Namibia. An important step forward was that the 2022 SADC Summit approved the transformation of this SADC PF into a parliament. Article 9(1) of the SADC Treaty is currently being amended to recognise the SADC Parliament as one of the SADC institutions.

Source: SADC executive secretariat (2022)



Validation of the Governance Mechanisms Report in collaboration with UNECA and SDGs Centre, Johannesburg , 24 June 2023



CHAPTER FOUR

Implementation efforts to promote SDG 16 and Aspiration Three at Continental, Sub-Regional and country levels



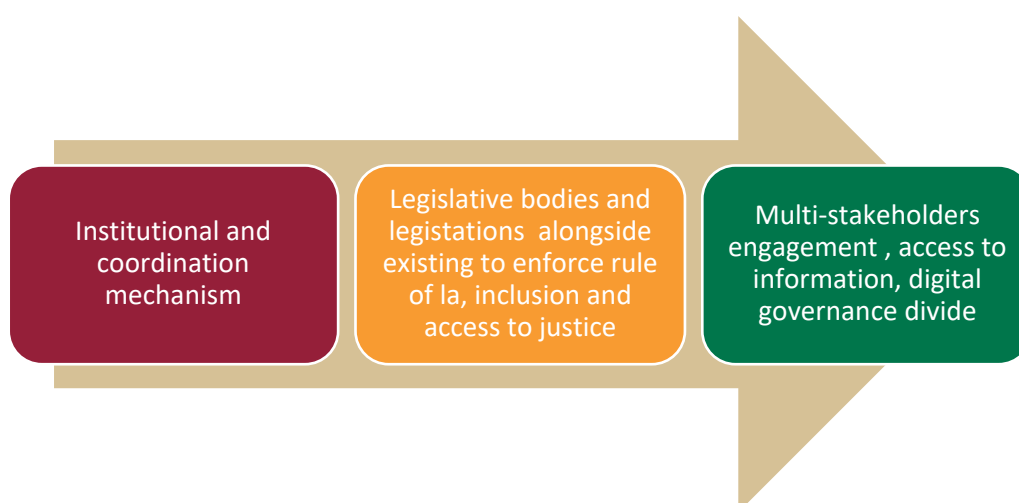
4. Chapter four: Implementation efforts to promote SDG 16 and Aspiration Three at Continental, Sub-Regional and country level.

This chapter examines in detail the efforts of some African countries to improve the implementation of SDG16 and also the governance aspects of Agenda 2063. After outlining progress on the governance performance and governance mechanisms set out in Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 for the implementation of both agendas, this chapter highlights implementation efforts to improve SDG 16 and governance areas in selected African countries based on the extensive literature offered in the VNRs from Africa, the continental APRM platform on Agenda 2063 and other technical expert meetings on the said goal. The criterion for selection is the country's overall progress on both Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, compliance with AU standards and codes to promote good governance, including the African Charter for Democracy and Good Governance (ACDG), regular submission of VNRs and participation in APRM reviews. A matrix of progress and persistent challenges to improve the achievement of SDG 16 and the governance areas of Agenda 2063.

4.1 Institutional enablers and means of implementation.

The implementation of good governance reforms as envisaged in SDG 16 and the governance aspects of Agenda 2063 requires a variety of institutional preconditions in addition to political will and strong leadership for the implementation of both agendas. Institutional preconditions refer to institutional and coordination mechanisms developed to ensure a whole-of-government approach to the implementation of the SDGs. These include coordination mechanisms that bring together government agencies in planning, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating both agendas. Another element of institutional enablers are the specific bodies responsible for enforcing laws and regulations that promote the implementation of both agendas.

Figure 24 means of implementation of SDG16/Agenda 2063 governance goals



Source: (Authors, inspired by inputs from different countries and UN literature)

- Institutional and coordination mechanisms:

In a survey conducted as part of the Africa 2020 SDG Index and Dashboards (see Figure 25), 9 out of 10 African countries had a coordinating body at central government level for SDG implementation across government (SDGCA & SDSN, 2020). The findings are also confirmed by the 2022 survey led by APRM. In most African countries these institutions are established or managed by the Ministry of Planning or Ministry of Finance.

Figure 25 : SDG/Agenda 2063 Coordination Units

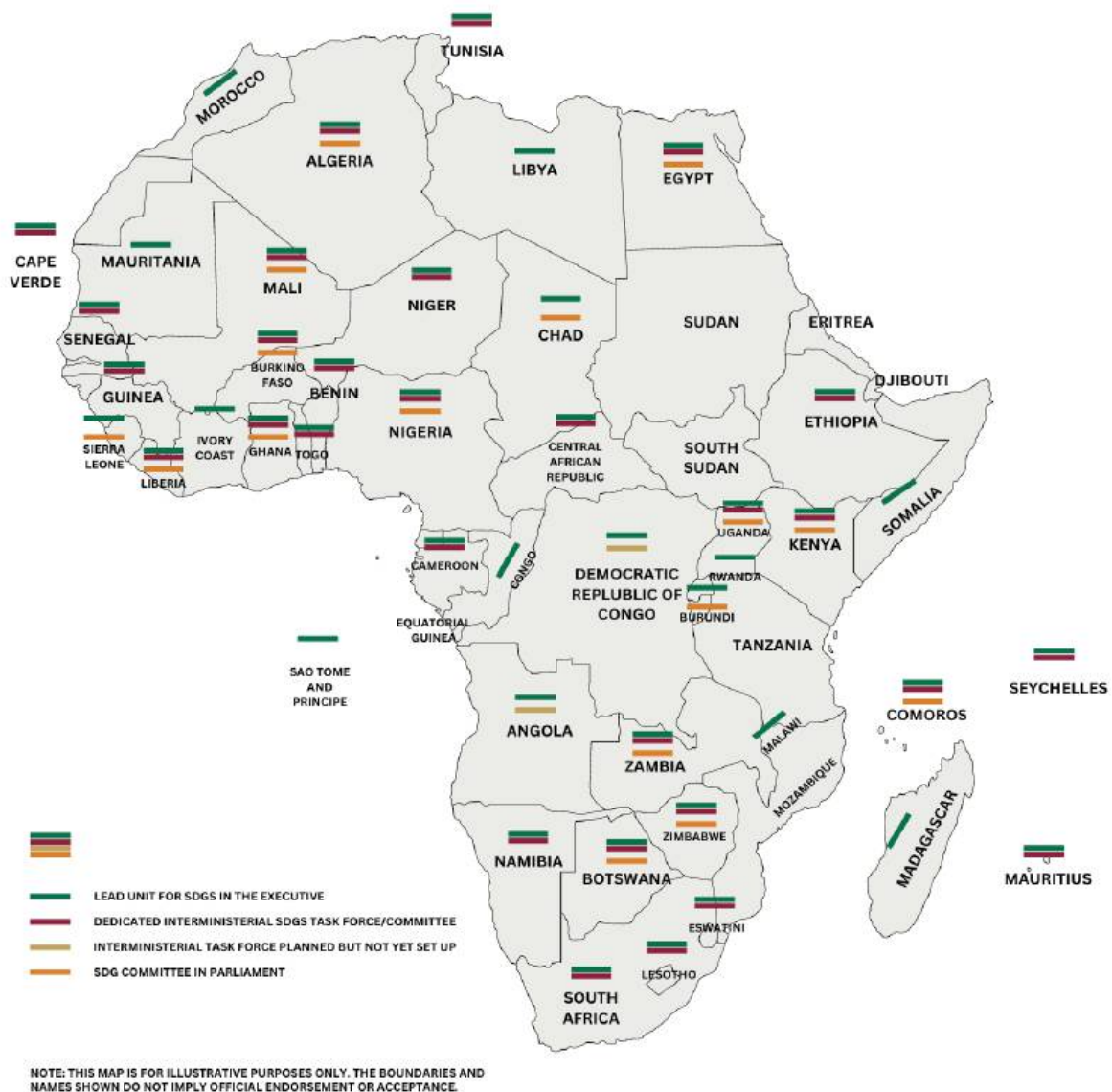
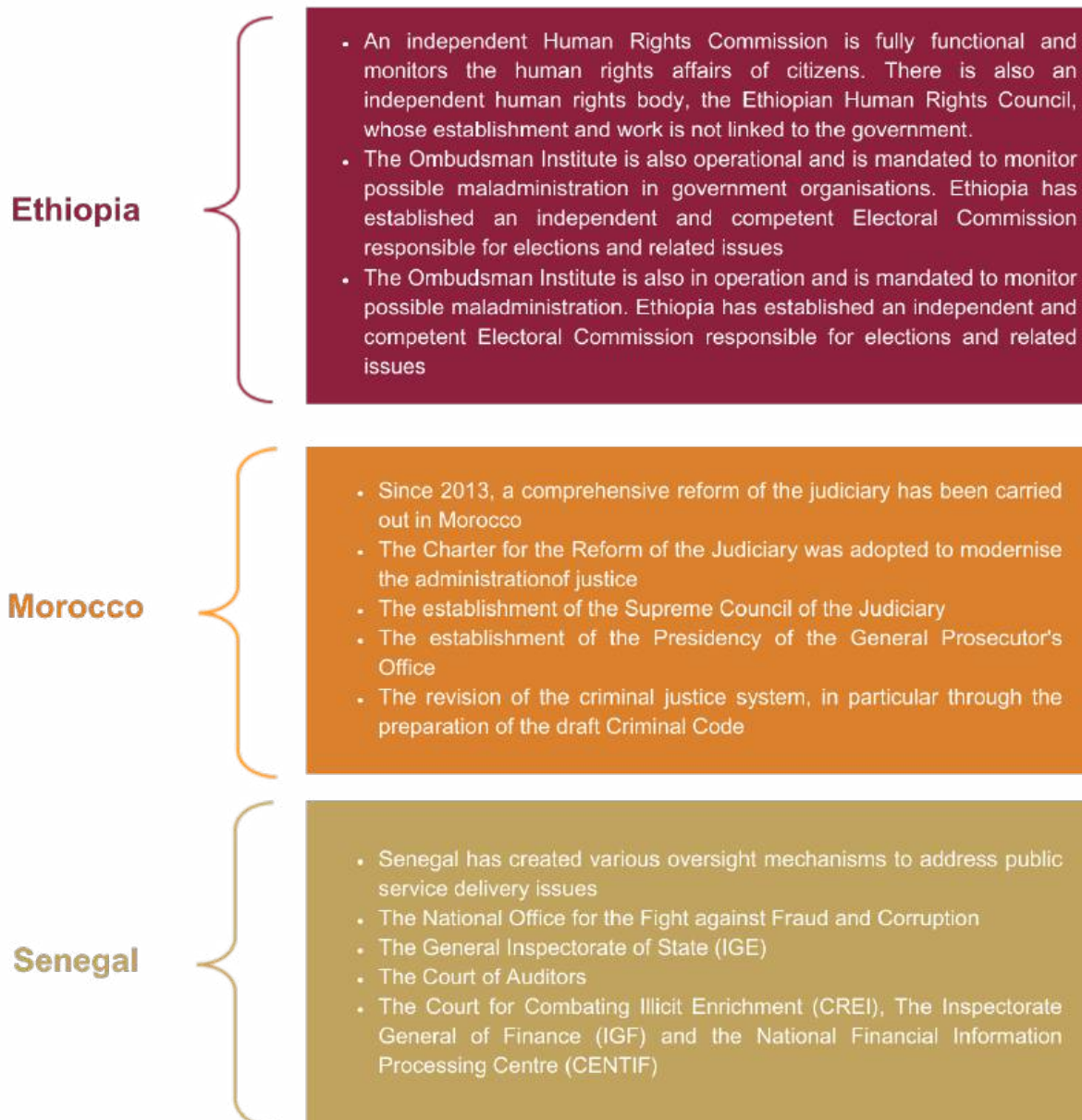


Figure 26 Examples of oversight mechanisms in some African countries



Source: Agenda 2063 National Reports

The following section also provides some details on good practices related to the institutional framework, legislation and policies in favour of the implementation of SDG 16 and the three Aspiration targets.

4.2 Implementation efforts for SDG 16 and Aspiration three of Agenda 2063

Over the past seven years (2015-2022), African countries have shown great commitment to the implementation of Agenda 2030 and, more recently, Agenda 2063. The APRM 2020 survey (presented in chapter three) revealed that certain aspects of SDG 16 have not been implemented, particularly those related to the goal of leaving no one behind and including youth and civil society organisations equally in decision-making. According to the findings of the SDG Report 2022, 53% of African countries are stagnating in the implementation of SDG 16. While there are notable achievements in the implementation of SDG 16 at the regional level, Central Africa remains the most fragile region, lacking stability and peace and continuing to be marked by violence. In terms of AU Aspirations implemented through national and regional development strategies, Aspiration 3 – An Africa of Good Governance, Democracy, Respect for human rights, Justice and the Rule of Law – saw an overall weak performance of 42%, due to low scores for capable institutions and changed leadership at all levels. At the regional level, East Africa recorded the best performance against the 2021 targets with an overall score of 53% , followed by Southern Africa with 50%. West Africa scored 45%, Central Africa 42% and North Africa 39%. The Mo Ibrahim Index on African Governance showed that slight progress has been made in terms of overall governance, with the average score on the continent increasing by 1.1 points between 2012 and 2021. However, an examination of the sub-sectors shows mixed results. The index shows an increasing improvement in public administration. However, this was also associated with a deterioration in participation, rights, and inclusion. Accountability and transparency have declined over the decade, but there has been a net positive improvement in the fight against corruption (AfDB, 2023).

4.2.1 North Africa

In terms of coordination and institutional mechanisms, all North African countries have a lead unit for the SDGs in the executive. Both Egypt and Algeria have a dedicated inter-ministerial SDG task force/ committee and a Parliamentary SDG committee. Similarly, Tunisia has established an interministerial SDG committee, but not one in parliament. A unit has also been created by the Sahrawi state to assess and implement both agendas jointly, despite differing security and political challenges. Under the leadership of the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MPOED), the VNR Task Force in Egypt interacts with state institutions and various agencies to ensure coordination between relevant actors in the implementation of Vision 2030 and SDG 2030. Accordingly, the overall coordination of the SDGs is in the hands of the MPED. As the Ministry's training institution, the Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development (NIGSD) has been established under the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MPED).

The NIGSD has recently introduced a National Governance Index to track the progress of governance in various areas. This index is special in that it is based on a scientific reference that is broadly consistent with the methods used by international indicators.

It also uses a variety of sources rather than a single data source to provide a more objective picture of the current situation, the government efforts to strengthen governance and the challenges it faces. The EGI is expected to be published every two years.

Box 6 Egypt National Governance Index (NGI)

The Government of Egypt (GOE) has initiated the development of the Egyptian Governance Index (EGI) to serve as a tool for achieving development goals. With the EGI, the GOE aims to measure Egypt's governance performance. The EGI is not a substitute for international governance indicators, but rather a self-diagnostic tool that captures the status of governance in Egypt as well as the efforts made and opportunities for improvement. The EGI provides a baseline against which the Egyptian government can measure governance in the implementation of development programmes.

The EGI represents the national perspective of governance measurements that objectively reflects the actual status of governance in Egypt. The EGI aims to:

- Monitor Egypt's performance in different areas of governance
- Improve government performance in governance by addressing areas that can be developed through the analysis of governance performance and the introduction of objective indicators
- Improve Egypt's ranking in international governance indicators
- Increasing citizen satisfaction with government services

The EGI comprises five key pillars: rule of law and stability, effectiveness and efficiency, anti-corruption, accountability and transparency, and citizen participation and involvement. The structure includes a set of proposed sub-indicators for each pillar.

Source: National Institute of Governance and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development

Among the most visible reforms in Egypt to promote SDG 16 are national efforts to curb corruption (see Box 6). The government has adopted short- and medium-term strategies to fight corruption. In addition, the Anti-Corruption Academy was established to train civil servants on anti-corruption. The recent establishment of the National Human Rights Council is another step towards improving the human rights record and engaging civil society in promoting the principles of inclusiveness and effectiveness of state institutions in promoting human rights.

Box 7 Anti-corruption as a national priority: Case of Egypt

The government has adopted the National Anti-Corruption Strategy 2014/2018- 2018/2022). In particular, the strategy aims to develop an efficient and effective administrative apparatus, deliver quality public services, activate mechanisms of transparency and integrity in government entities, develop the legal structure to support corruption, support law enforcement agencies in preventing and combating corruption, and raise community awareness on the importance of preventing and combating corruption.

The strategy was developed by a designated National Coordinating Committee for Combating Corruption (NCCCC) with the participation of more than 80 government agencies, ministries, and governorates. Since its adoption, the Administrative Control Authority (ACA), Egypt's anti-corruption watchdog, and other law enforcement agencies have successfully uncovered an unprecedented number of corruption cases. Thank you to these reforms, Egypt's ranking in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) improved from 117 in 2017 to 105 out of 180 countries surveyed in 2018.

In December 2022, Egypt launched the Medium-Term Anti-Corruption Strategy 2023-2030, which aligned with the implementation of the SDGs and the National Sustainable Development Vision for 2030.

Tunisia

Tunisia has an inter-ministerial group that reviews progress on the SDGs. The implementation of SDG 16 is the responsibility of 4 institutions and agencies, including the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation, the National Spatial Strategy for Tunisia, and the Office of National Statistics within a group that works to build a healthy and peaceful society. The Tunisian Constitution, adopted in 2014, provides for the protection of women and protection against racist attacks.

It also recognises inviolable values such as inclusion, equality, transparency, freedom of speech, freedom of conscience and the right to religion (AUC & AUDA-NEPAD, 2022). In 2017, Tunisia passed a law to protect whistleblowers on corruption and whistleblowers. Previously, in 2011, the country had created an institution to fight corruption (AUC & AUDA-NEPAD, 2022). The reforms, which cover a five-year period until 2020, include five (5) elements: independence of the judiciary, probity of the judicial and penitentiary systems, quality of justice and protection of the rights of all justice seekers, access to justice and communication, and partnerships between judicial and penitentiary authorities. Presidential, parliamentary and local elections are held under the supervision of the Independent Supreme Electoral Authority. However, international and independent observers concluded that citizens were dissatisfied with the parliamentary elections held on 26 October 2014 and 6 October 2019.

Tunisia has also implemented various reforms related to freedom of expression and access to information (ATI) (organic law 2016-22 of 24 March 2016). Following the adoption of the Right to Information Law in 2016, the establishment of the new Audiovisual Communications Regulatory Authority in line with international standards and the decrease in hostility and violence against journalists. Thanks to these reforms, Tunisia improved its position in the world ranking of press freedom, compiled by the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) organisation, from 97th in 2018 to 72nd out of 180 countries in 2019. Recently, however, Tunisia dropped to 121st place out of 180 countries as the space for independent opinion and criticism by the media shrank (RSF, 2023).

Morocco has a National Commission for Sustainable Development, established in 2019 and composed of two committees, namely the Committee for the Follow-up of the National Sustainable Development Strategy and the Committee for the Follow-up of the SDGs, chaired by the Prime Minister, which gives the Planning Commission the responsibility to prepare the national reports on the SDGs (AUC & AUDA-NEPAD, 2022). The pursuit of sustainable development through strengthening the rule of law was done by including the right to sustainable development in the constitution, strengthening rights and freedoms and creating institutions that promote good governance. Morocco adopted a law to combat human trafficking in 2016 and issued a decree in 2018 that led to the establishment of a commission to combat this scourge. The Kingdom of Morocco also established a commission to fight corruption in 2017.

In addition, the digitalisation of the judiciary has been accelerated through the implementation of the Master Plan for the Digital Transformation of the Judiciary, the establishment of the website “mahakim.ma³” and the mobile application “e-justice”, and the introduction of remote procedures.

4.2.2 East Africa

Rwanda

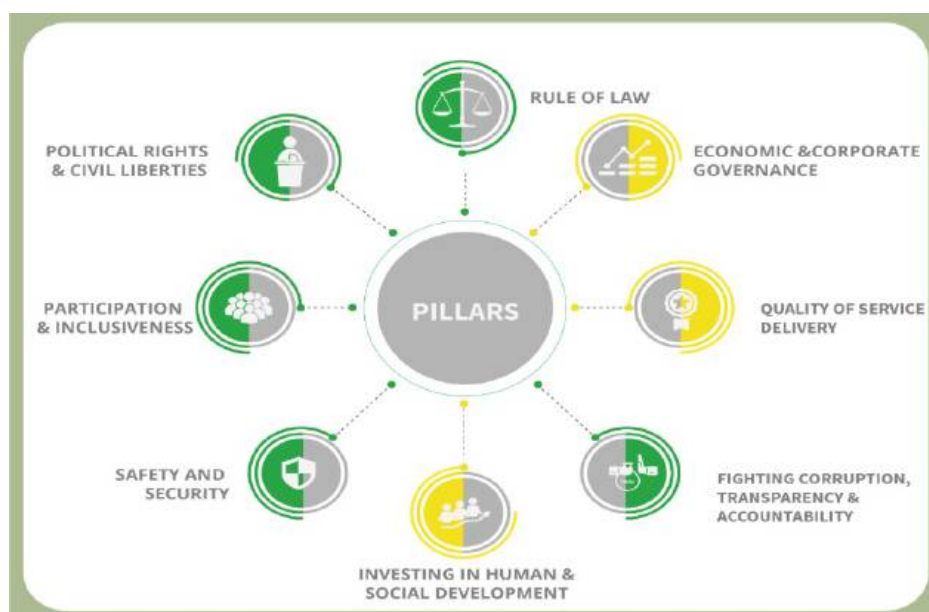
In **Rwanda**, a dedicated SDG Task Force has been established in Rwanda, bringing together ministries, development partners, civil society organisations and the private sector to serve as the nucleus and focal point for inter-agency collaboration and coordination. In addition, hosting the SDG Centre for Africa with a mandate to support the entire continent is a testament to Rwanda’s commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda (GoR, 2019, 2023).

The Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) is the government body responsible for designing and providing policy advice on good governance reforms. It has produced a national scorecard that regularly assesses the state of governance in Rwanda. The Rwanda Governance Scorecard is also used to assess the implementation of the SDGs, particularly Goal 16. The eight pillars of governance assessment in the Rwanda Governance Scorecard cover three areas of the eleven principles of effective governance for sustainable development (CEPA Principles). Rwanda’s governance reforms continue to be strengthened by the e-governance drive, as reflected, among other things, in the recent upgrade from the medium to the high group of the E-Government Development Index (EGDI)(UNDESA, 2022). The Irembo Platform brings together more than 104 governments on one portal for e-government services for effective service delivery (Nyorekwa et al., 2022).

3 م.ك.احم (mahakim.ma) which means court (in Arabic)

The use of the Integrated Electronic Case Management System (IECMS) remains a game changer in the justice sector and ensures operationalisation, even when the country was under lockdown.

Figure 27 Pillars of Rwanda governance scorecard (RGB, 2022)



Source: Rwanda Governance Board (2022)

Progress on birth registration, both in terms of the legal and policy framework and in terms of capacity building and awareness raising for increased birth registration in Rwanda, is commended. The development of the Civil Registration and Vital Statistics (CRVS) was one of the focal points of the previous National Strategy for Development Statistics, with significant achievements in piloting the web based CRVS registration system. Together with the transition from paper-based to web-based birth registration, birth registration increased significantly to 94% according to the 5th Rwanda Population and Housing Census 2022.

According to the latest statistics from the Rwanda Governance Scorecard 2022, there have been several improvements. For example, journalists' and media's satisfaction with access to information is 46%, editorial independence is 87% and journalists' right to confidentiality of their sources is 93.3%. The government is also tackling corruption, as the percentage of people who have had at least one contact with a public official and paid a bribe to a public official is 2.3% according to the Rwanda Governance Board 2022 report.

The above-mentioned reforms and progress towards SDG 16 also have a positive impact on women's empowerment in decision-making and peacebuilding activities. According to the State of Gender Equality Gender Report (2019) and the Beijing +25 Rwanda Country Report (2019), women play a visible role in conflict management and justice structures at the grassroots level. They account for 44.3% of community mediators (Abunzi) and 48% of access to justice (MAJ) offices. They also contribute to providing free legal services to citizens, including victims of violence against children and child abuse.

Women in security organs actively participate in peace making initiatives at regional and international levels. In 2015, Rwanda was the country with the second highest proportion of female peacekeepers in the police force. This is a positive signal for communities, especially for the skills and professionalism of women in peace and security affairs.

Uganda

Uganda has developed a second pathway for the SDGs, aligned with Uganda's third National Development Plan (2021-2025), which guides SDG coordination mechanisms. The institutional framework for SDG coordination in Uganda consists of the policy arm, which includes Cabinet and Parliament working through the National Policy Coordination Committee, and the national technical coordination team, which consists of technical working groups, programme working groups, ministries, departments and agencies, and senior local governments (GoU, 2020). The institutional mechanisms are supported by a dedicated SDG Secretariat.

SDG 16 is included in the Governance pillar of Uganda's NDP III (2020/21 – 2024/25). Uganda has submitted VNRs twice (2016 and 2020). The country has benefited from the VNR journey, UNDP and APRM support to improve areas of governance and address public service deficits. Uganda's drive to accelerate progress on the SDGs was anchored by a shared understanding between government and development partners 1) the country's policy and institutional strengths and weaknesses in aligning with the SDGs, 2) the importance of a strong evidence base to identify accelerators that would drive achievement of all SDGs, and 3) a strong partnership architecture to support implementation of the SDGs. According to the VNR 2020, Uganda was able to report on 15 SDG 16 indicators. In this context, actions on NDP III were identified as SDG accelerators in three broad categories – Environment, Governance, and Industry. These three categories are linked to NDP III interventions in private sector development, implementation of development plans, community mobilisation and mindset change, the governance and security programme, public sector transformation, human capital development, regional development, mineral development, sustainable petroleum resource development manufacturing, energy development, climate change, natural resources environment and water management.

Box 8 Advancing human rights and free access to information.

The Uganda Human Rights Council has received several recommendations to address discrimination issues, particularly in rural areas. More than three-quarters (77 percent) of urban residents cited poverty-related discrimination, compared to slightly fewer in rural areas (71 percent).

Political affiliation and ethnicity were also high, at 66.8 percent in urban areas and 58.8 percent in rural areas. No trend data was available, so Ugandan authorities cannot report progress on any of these indicators.

Uganda was one of the first five African countries to adopt the ATI law. However, further research revealed that such a law cannot be effectively implemented. The government has set up the website "your right to know" where citizens can ask questions and share data on critical issues. <https://askyourgov.ug/>.

Source: Uganda VNR 2020

Kenya

Kenya has a sound legal and institutional framework for good governance. The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) is in place and has sanctioned many corruption cases. The Asset Recovery Agency is responsible for identifying, tracing, freezing and recovering the proceeds of crime. Other institutions such as the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission. The Kenyan government has worked to build inclusive institutions at all levels. This includes promoting participatory governance, decentralisation, and devolution of power. Efforts have been made to ensure that marginalised groups, including women, youth and persons with disabilities, are equally represented and can participate in decision-making processes. The National Commission for Gender Equality and Equity has also been established. For more information on the institutional framework in East Africa, see Table 3.

Ethiopia

In Ethiopia, the National Planning Commission (NPC) has worked with various national authorities to ensure the integration of the SDGs into Ethiopia's vision and its long-term development plan 2021-2030. Institutionally, Ethiopia established the Immigration and Citizenship Service (ICS) in 2021 to ensure mandatory registration and certification of vital events such as birth, death, marriage, divorce, adoption, recognition and legitimacy in the country. Proclamation No. 1049/2017 on Registration of Vital Events and Issuance of Identity Cards also covers the registration of asylum seekers, refugees and foreigners residing in Ethiopia, to name a few.

An independent Ethiopian Human Rights Commission is fully operational and monitors the human rights affairs of citizens. Reforms have also been undertaken to improve the capacity of the Commission. The Ombudsman's Institute is also operational and is mandated to monitor possible maladministration. In addition, Ethiopia has established an independent and competent Electoral Commission to deal with elections and related issues. As a result, Ethiopia held free and democratic elections in June 2021. Federal and regional auditors also conduct official financial and performance audits to ensure accountability for public funds. On the other hand, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission promotes ethical practises and tackles corruption and economic crime. The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission has required all civil servants to declare and register their assets. The government is also implementing institutional reforms in the civil service, and laws and policies are also being amended and updated to achieve more. Nevertheless, Ethiopia's reporting on SDG 16 remains weak, with only 4 indicators reported in the last VNR 2022.

The legal, policy and institutional mechanisms for SDG 16 for selected East African countries are summarised in Table 4.

Table 4: Institutional, policy and legal mechanisms for SDGs

Country	Institutional mechanisms for SDG 16	Alignment, legal and policy frameworks
Rwanda	<p>The Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) oversees the formulation of good governance reforms and advises on policy in this area.</p> <p>The Rwanda National Commission charged with promoting and protecting</p>	<p>The SDGs are an integral part of the National Strategy for Transformation (NST), NST1 (2017-2024), which reflects the three dimensions of sustainable development: Economic, Social and Environmental. SDG 16 is embedded in</p>

Country	Institutional mechanisms for SDG 16	Alignment, legal and policy frameworks
	<p>of human rights in accordance with the Constitution.</p> <p>The Rwanda National Police, including the Rwanda Investigation Bureau, has facilitated the reporting of crimes and their successful processing.</p>	<p>the Transformational Governance Pillar (TGP).</p> <p>The Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning coordinates the dedicated SDGs Task Force.</p> <p>Rwanda signed and ratified the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) in 2010 and submitted its first report in May 2019. Since then, Rwanda has passed two important laws endorsing two African human rights instruments relevant to the implementation of the Charter</p>
Ethiopia	<p>In 2021, the Immigration and Citizenship Service (ICS) will provide mandatory registration and authentication of vital events such as birth, death, marriage, divorce, adoption, recognition and legitimation.</p> <p>An independent Ethiopian Human Rights Commission and the Ombudsman's Institute are fully operational.</p> <p>The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission promotes ethical practices and takes legal action against corruption and economic crime.</p>	<p>The SDGs are integrated into Ethiopia's vision and its long-term development plan 2021-2030.</p>
Kenya	<p>The Kenya Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business was established in 2017 to promote Sustainable Development and socially responsible business through legislation, resource mobilisation, oversight and partnerships.</p> <p>The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) has a mandate to prevent violence, as it focuses heavily on national peacebuilding, reconciliation and cohesion</p> <p>National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in Kenya ensure a right-based approach to the implementation of the SDGs. There is also the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR).</p>	<p>The Third Medium Term Plan (2018-2022) of Kenya Vision 2030, is the main vehicle to drive the implementation of the SDGs in the 5-year period.</p> <p>The SDGs have been anchored in sector plans, strategic plans and annual performance contracts.</p>

Country	Institutional mechanisms for SDG 16	Alignment, legal and policy frameworks
	National Anti-Corruption Campaign Steering Committees (NACCSC) in the counties have also been established.	
Uganda	The SDG Secretariat in the Prime Minister's Office is responsible for the overall coordination of national efforts to plan, monitor and evaluate the SDGs.	SDG 16 is incorporated under the governance Pillar of Uganda's NDPIII (2020/21 - 2024/25).

Source: Voluntary National Reviews (various countries)

In the selected East African countries listed in Table 16, the respective national supreme audit institutions conduct financial and performance audits to ensure accountability for resources. Parliamentary institutions also play an important role in oversight, including discussion of audit reports. However, the limited follow-up of oversight and the completion of the oversight process need to be enhanced through the preparation of a financial memorandum or equivalent document that enables the implementation of oversight measures.

The Human Rights Commissions in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda are accredited by the Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) as "A" status human rights institutions (UNHR & GANHRI, 2022). Uganda has access to the Information Act (UNESCO, 2021).

4.2.3 Southern Africa

In **Southern Africa**, Mauritius is ranked first in the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) [for the 12th consecutive year] and 27th globally in Transparency International's annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). Overall, there is an increasing number of legal, institutional and political reforms in the region aimed at promoting good governance to provide political, social and economic public goods and services to every citizen.

Mauritius adopted the Independent Police Complaints Commission Act 2018, which provides for the investigation of complaints against police officers to the exclusion of corruption or money laundering. In addition, the Equal Opportunities Act was amended in 2017 to enshrine the prohibition of discrimination in recruitment on the basis of a criminal record.

In addition, the Domestic Violence Protection Act was amended in 2016 to improve the protection of victims of domestic violence. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) was established in 2002 and is supported by Regional Anticorruption Committees in each of the country's 9 districts.

Mauritius has also adopted various administrative reforms to strengthen institutional capacity and involve citizens in public affairs. These initiatives include:

- Introduction of the Citizen Support Portal: this portal is an innovative platform that allows citizens to submit complaints or suggestions to the government.
- The implementation of the National Open Data Portal.
- The implementation of the Public Sector Transformation Strategy.
- The mandatory use of the Electronic Procurement System in the Public Sector.
- The live broadcasting of the sittings of the National Assembly ; and-
- A new Corporate Governance Code for Mauritius was introduced in February 2017, which provides clearer guidelines for the application of corporate governance principles.

Similarly, in **Seychelles**, an Anti-Corruption Commission was established in 2016 and recently the Anti-Money Laundering Act was re-enacted. The Access to Information Act (ATI) was passed in 2018, as was the creation of the Department of Information (DoI) and the establishment of an autonomous Information Commission. The Ombudsman and the Office of Auditor General also play an important role in promoting the principles of good governance, transparency and accountability.

The Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) was established in 2006 as a national centre for receiving and analysing suspicious transaction reports and other information relevant to money laundering (ML) and terrorist financing (TF) and for disseminating the results of this analysis.






In **Eswatini**, the Human Trafficking and Smuggling Act 9 of 2009 was enacted and the legal framework for sexual offences and domestic violence was strengthened through the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence (SODV) Act of 2018. The Human Rights and Integrity Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission were established. In addition, a one-stop shop for domestic violence cases was established by the government. Finally, child-friendly courts and digitised services (court processes, remote remand, digital evidence collection) were introduced in all administrative regions.

In **Namibia**, further efforts are being made to enact the Whistleblower Act of 2017 to curb corrupt tendencies in the future. This will support the efforts of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) in fulfilling its mandate. The Access to Information Act was passed in June 2022 and aims to provide citizens with better access to information. Namibia is in the process of finalising the Cybersecurity Act AIMS to protect society from cybercrime. Namibia's score on the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) is higher than the average score for Africa of 48.8 and for Southern Africa, which is 53.3.

Namibia makes progress in curbing corruption in public office. Passage of the Whistleblower Act of 2017 and launch of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy and Action Plan (2021-2025). Senior government officials arrest and detain two former ministers, including Fishrot Saga.

Regarding human rights compliance, the Ombudsman in Namibia is working on the introduction of a new law to streamline the office in line with the Paris Declaration of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). The government is also continuing its efforts to implement the recommendations of the 2021 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) report on the human rights situation in Namibia.

Although the country scored 62.7% on the SDG Country Index (2022), above the regional average of 53.2, Goal 16 was found to be stagnant as no significant improvements were recorded. The ruling party continued to make progress on women's representation in parliament, resulting in Namibia's bicameral parliament having 48% female members since the 2019 elections. In terms of peace and security, the country has the following to report.

Focus Area	Indicator	Baseline	2020/21 Target	2020/21 Progress	% Change
Peace, security and rule of law	Global Peace Index	1.873 (2015)	1.713	1.861	0.6% 
	Crime rate (%)	4.4% (2015)	-6%	8%	7.9% 
Accountability and Transparency	Transparency International Index (score)	53 (2015)	60	51	21.5% 
Public Service Performance and Service Delivery	Number of decentralised functions	11 (2015)	7	4	42% 
	Score of Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG)	83.9% (2015)	58%	54%	6.9% 

Source: APRM National Secretariat, Namibia

In **Lesotho**, the passing of the Children Protection and Welfare Act (CPWA) in 2011 was a crucial step in the fight against abuse, exploitation, trafficking, violence and torture of children in Lesotho. The Act represents cutting edge legislation that brings together all elements of child welfare and protection in a rights-based legal framework. The Government of Lesotho has also introduced the Prevention of Corruption and Economic Offences Act, 1999, the Police Service Act, 1998 and the Money Laundering and Proceeds of Crime Act, 2008. The Constitution of Lesotho, specifically Article 14(1), protects citizens' free access to and dissemination of information. In 2018, Lesotho enacted the National Reform Dialogue Act, which provides a legal basis for initiating dialogue and implementing the National Reform Agenda. The Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences (DCEO), in collaboration with the High Court of Lesotho, is in the process of establishing a specialised anti-corruption court to address the backlog of cases in the courts.

In **Zambia**, the restructuring of institutions such as the Human Rights Commission, the Police Public Complaints Commission, the Judicial Complaints Authority, the Office of the Public Protector, the Zambia Police Service and the Financial Intelligence Centre was undertaken. Zambia also revised the Anti-Terrorism Act No. 21 of 2007 (Act No. 2 of 2015) in 2015. This facilitated the establishment of the National Anti-Terrorism Centre, which is now operational. The Act was also amended as the Anti-Terrorism and Non-Proliferation Act No. 6 of 2018 to include non-proliferation and further strengthen efforts in the fight against terrorism. The government passed the Access to Information Act in March 2020. The Zambian government developed the National Legal Aid Policy in 2018 to serve as a framework for the provision of legal aid services by civil society organisations and community-based organisations.

Zimbabwe has established several independent commissions in accordance with Chapter 12 of the Constitution (Independent Commissions in Support of Democracy): Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC), Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) and Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). Zimbabwe has also established institutions to fight corruption and crime under Chapter 13 of the Constitution, namely: the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). The enactment of the Freedom of Information Act and the Media Commission of Zimbabwe Act was an important milestone towards achieving the goals of SDG 16.10, which provides for public access to information and the protection of fundamental freedoms.

The existing systems as well as the challenges related to SDG 16 in Southern African countries are presented in Table 5.

Table 5: Challenges of Implementation of SDG 16 and aspiration three in Southern Africa (Selected countries)

Country	Systems and enablers	Challenges
Mauritius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the system of E-Courts and E-Law. • Mobile application enabling citizens to view current decisions of the Courts of Appeal and the Supreme Court • A national recommendation tracking database to improve information recording and human rights tracking. • Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations from 1997 11 tax information exchange agreements (TIEAs) are currently in force. • Publish a citizen support portal that allows any citizen to either register a complaint or suggestion or make a request online and follow up at any time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One third of the population still does not believe that the elections were free, fair and transparent. • Ratification of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance is still pending
Seychelles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce a risk-based assessment of public institutions to identify these corruption vulnerabilities. 	

Country	Systems and enablers	Challenges
Eswatini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child-friendly courts and digitised key services (court processes, remote pre-trial detention, digital evidence collection) have been introduced in all administrative regions. • Some of the key measures are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. New divisions of the Supreme Court have been created to address the backlog of cases (including the Family Division, the Mediation Division and the Commercial Division); ii. Reforms are underway and the creation of a new Court of Appeal within the judicial system is being considered. iii. In line with the Bail Act, the Bail and Remand Court in Port Louis now operates seven days a week, including public holidays. There are also training sessions and lectures for members of the judiciary; and iv. The Supreme Court website where anyone can access current legislation and case law free of charge. • Annual Police Reports published. • African Charter on democracy has been signed, ratified and domesticated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are centralised human rights services and limited advocacy for services provided in the country. • There is a need to strengthen the capacity of all parties working for peace, justice and strong institutions. • Poor coordination of institutions working for peace and security and the backlog of cases • The number of victims of intentional homicide is increasing.
Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The positive results in the High Courts can be attributed to the introduction of the E-Justice Case Management System, the holding of pre-trial conferences prior to the hearing of cases and the introduction of mediation as an alternative dispute resolution for civil cases. • Increased crime rate according to the Namibian Statistical Agency. • The introduction of community policing in some major towns and the expansion of surveillance cameras in the capital. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges prevail in lower courts.

Country	Systems and enablers	Challenges
Lesotho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Dispute Prevention and Resolution Directorate is established. Conducted a comprehensive survey on violence against children Promoted a responsive and accountable justice system that includes: (i.) Safe custody, rehabilitation and reintegration of detainees, (ii.) Access to Legal Aid, (iii.) Increased use of non-custodial sanctions, restorative justice and diversion programmes Anti-corruption court rules are in place. Other efforts include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Accelerating the implementation of the National Reform Agenda ii. Strengthening law enforcement agencies to meet the needs of special groups including children and persons with disabilities. iii. Build National Peace architecture by building the capacity of technocrats, management and administration. Replicate the GBV Centre (Lapeng Centre) throughout the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The country remains politically unstable, with coalition governments largely fragile. The perception of corruption remains high. There is a lack of awareness of trafficking issues, harmonised laws, an insufficient institutional capacity, irregular migration, poverty and unemployment, lack of financial capacity and corruption leading to ineffective law enforcement. Institutions lack the capacity to enforce decisions and recommendations. Article 14(2) of the Constitution, which regulates access to all information, continues to have legal gaps.
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The enrolment of hundreds of paralegals for training in various categories at the Zambia Institute of Advanced Legal Education and Cavendish University. In addition, the government has established service units and paralegal desks in selected districts. This has strengthened the rights of affected persons and improved their access to legal assistance in civil and criminal cases. Special attention is given to the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities. The establishment of one stop shops in the villages and the expansion of the Victim. Support Unit of the Zambia Police Service based on their successes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corruption remains a challenge. Institutional coordination at national and local level still has some weaknesses

Country	Systems and enablers	Challenges
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key areas of reform include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Strengthened coordination in the criminal and justice cluster. ii. Improving coordination among the departments to improve implementation of decisions. iii. Improving the levels of trust between the government, civil society, and organised business. iv. Introduction of the Access to Information Act and a concerted effort to improve the turnaround times to respond to requests for information. v. Incremental improvement in the budget allocation for pro bono lawyers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continual improvement needs to be made to implement government policies and legislation. • The staggered implementation of some aspects of the Protection of Personal Information Act has made it difficult to assess its impact. • Insufficient budget allocation to civil society organizations that support vulnerable groups. • Inadequate access to public services by vulnerable groups in rural areas and informal settlements.

4.2.4 Central and West Africa

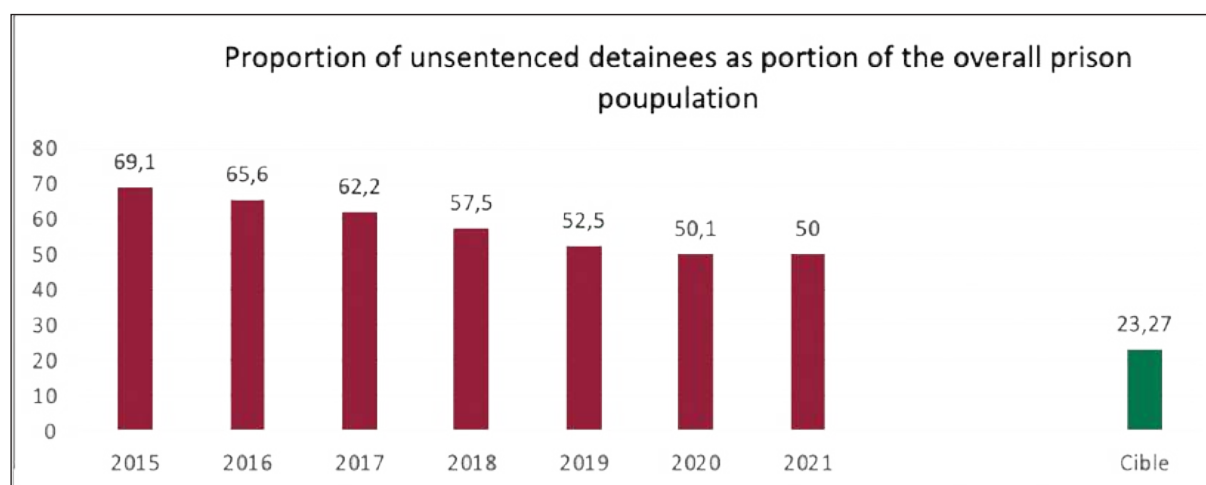
Benin:

In the last six years, Benin has represented the VNR three times along with national contributions to the implementation of Agenda 2063, demonstrating a strong leadership commitment to improving reporting on the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Benin has consistently engaged with various partners at continental and global levels to jointly implement both the 2030 and 2063 Agendas. The government has adopted good governance as one of the key pillars of the five-year National Development Plan 2020-2025. In addition, a number of reforms have been adopted to integrate SDG 16 and the targets of Goals three and four of Agenda 2063 into the National Development Plan 2020 - 2025.

These reforms include: 1) the reform of the party system, the adoption of a new party charter and a new electoral law; 2) the establishment of the National Agency for the Identification of Persons (ANIP) and the clarification of the functions of the state; 3) the modernisation of the administrative tools, procedures and mechanisms of public administration and the dematerialisation of administrative services. Other reforms in the area of public services include: 1) establishment of ten (10) service delivery platforms to modernise public administration and facilitate the issuance of administrative documents; 2) improvement of legal coverage of the territory in courts and correctional institutions; 3) increase the number of judges and support staff in the courts; 4) establishment of a support system for vulnerable populations with a view to achieving SDG 16.10; 5) Establish the Special Court for Combating Economic Crimes and Terrorism (CRIET); 6) Systematise accountability of state actors and local elected officials; 7) Strengthen citizen participation; 8) Strengthen interfaith dialogue among social groups.

Benin's political system is based on the separation of powers (executive, legislative, judicial) and the establishment of independent institutions such as the Constitutional Court and the Supreme Court, the High Authority of Telecommunication (HAAC), the Women's Institute, etc.). At the local level, the separation of political and administrative power is enforced through the adoption of a new Local Government Act and the hiring of experts with performance contracts. The introduction of the Local Governance Index (IGL) is another example of cascading governance at the sub-national level. The country is also commended for sharing information on political prisoners and victims of trafficking. For example, it has provided data on indicators of tracking indicators pertinent to human trafficking, violence against children and strong and inclusive institutions. As, shown in Figure 28, the proportion of unsentenced prisoners in the total prison population has decreased by about 20 percentage points in 6 years and will be 50% in 2021.

Figure 28: Proportion of unsentenced detainees as portion of the overall prison population



Box 9 Supporting Human Rights Framework in Benin

Benin has strengthened its legislative and legal framework with regard to human rights through the adoption and entry into force of certain laws, but also through the ratification of several international instruments. It is:

- Adoption of Law No 2018-16 of 28 December 2018 on the Penal Code of the Republic of Benin which defines torture;
- Conversion of the death penalty of the last fourteen (14) persons sentenced to death to life imprisonment by Decree No. 2018-043 of 15 February, 2018;
- Continue reforms to improve detention conditions in civil prisons and pre-trial detention centres;
- Identify detainees in an irregular situation and progressively implement a roadmap for the decongestion of civil prisons and pre-trial detention centres in order to enforce the maximum period of pre-trial detention;
- Conduct several awareness campaigns on forced child marriage and gender-based violence (GBV);
- Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance.
- Ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child to establish a communication mechanism. In addition, the Commission also noted the strengthening of the institutional and programmatic framework in the area of human rights, including: Continuation of the National Social Protection Programme.
- Adoption of the new electoral law increasing the number of seats for women MPs to 24 out of 105 elected representatives, representing approximately 25% of women's representation in parliament; the adoption of a new law on territorial administration separating the function of the Mayor, which is political, from the function of the executive secretary who is now the head of local administration with a performance contract.

Source: Ministry of Planning (Benin)

Democratic Republic of Congo:

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) submitted the first VNR in 2020, which provided an opportunity for the country to showcase its achievements and challenges. Given the political context, the country prioritises peacebuilding, fighting corruption and improving access to justice through SDG 16.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo organised two post-conflict peace and reconciliation forums in Tanganyika in February 2017 and in Kasai Central in September 2017. In 2018, in order to curb customary law and inter-communal conflicts, the government committed to the establishment of Consultative Commissions for the Resolution of Customary Law Conflicts (CCRCCs) in the 15 provinces at sector and chiefdom level, and CCRCCs at provincial level in seven provinces. To date, 424 of the targeted 765 commissions have been established. Another challenge facing DRC is the spread of corruption. According to national statistics, 69.70% of Congolese have recently experienced corruption. 56.5% of Congolese businesses use the practise of bribery. This percentage is far above the average for sub-Saharan Africa (23.7%) and for all countries in the world (17.8%)(UNDESA & AFRM, 2022).

To address this issue, in 2019, the government established a Coordinating Committee for the Change of Mindset (CCM) and a Business Climate Improvement Agency at the presidency level to reduce corruption at the corporate level. In addition to these structures, a legislative project to establish an anti-corruption agency is also being considered. In addition to institutional arrangements, the judiciary is also expanding its anti-corruption measures. One example is the indictment of the Chief of Staff of the President of the Republic for corruption and misappropriation of public funds.

Despite certain challenges, there have been improvements, albeit slow, in regulations to promote public access to information and strengthen institutions that ensure respect for human rights at the national level, including the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH), which was created in 2013. In addition to ratifying international legal instruments, the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo is also implementing several reforms that have enabled it to agree on more than a hundred points with the recommendations submitted to it. The six main axes of these reforms are (i) compliance with the principles of the Volunteers for Security and Respect for Medical and Legal Assistance Initiative.

Cameroon:

Cameroon has been quite active in reporting on the SDGs or Agenda 2063. As part of the promotion of good governance, the government has started to produce an annual report on the state of human rights to showcase the government's actions to promote and protect human rights. In addition, during the ongoing preparations for the STIP, an assessment report on the implementation of the first ten-year plan (2014-2023) of Agenda 2063 in Cameroon and the prospects for the second ten-year plan (2024-2034) was submitted.

The country consistently takes action against human rights violations committed by the defence and security forces. It mentions the legal proceedings initiated against officers and members of the armed forces involved in the violations. Legal action has also been taken against the soldiers involved in the killing of certain civilians.

Pursuant to Article 236 of Law No. 2005/007 of 27 July 2005 on the Code of Criminal Procedure, which established a Commission for the Compensation of Victims of Abusive Police Arrest and Detention in Cameroon, the First President of the Supreme Court re-established this Commission by Order No. 02 of 3 January 2018 amending Order No. 168 of 28 March 2016, which established its composition. Since 2019, the year in which it actually began its work, this Commission, which is composed of representatives of various authorities and civil society and housed in the Judicial Chamber of the Supreme Court, has received several applications and taken several decisions.

Promoting legal protection of women's rights has also been a priority in order to strengthen their representation in decision-making areas. This aspect is felt through the promotion of gender equality, the empowerment of women and their advancement in their careers. The relevant tables sufficiently illustrate this theme. They are included in paragraphs 938 - 940 of the report. As far as legal protection is concerned, the courts ensure the repression of perpetrators of violence against women. This judicial protection is also evident in the context of women's rights in the event of the termination of marriage and the assessment of widows' inheritance rights.

The promotion of the rights of the child is also promoted through a strong sensitisation of the various actors to the internal and international legal instruments ratified by Cameroon. This sensitisation takes place thanks to the support of external partners. Judicial protection of the rights of the child is the responsibility of the courts, which are responsible for prosecuting violations of the rights of the child.

Several cases have been passed on, according to the human rights report. According to the court statistics, Cameroon is still struggling with child victims of violent crimes and nearly 2336 perpetrators have been convicted. Nevertheless, further efforts are being made to strengthen the rule of law institutionally and structurally.

Cameroon emphasised in various reports compliance with SDG 16 through four (04) fundamental aspects, in particular: 1) promoting equal access to justice for all; 2) strengthening activities on restitution and retransfer of confiscated property by 2030; 3) promoting and enforcing non-discriminatory laws and policies; 4) intensifying the fight against corruption and curbing bribery (AUC & AUDA-NEPAD, 2022). The government is therefore prioritising the construction of judicial and penitentiary infrastructure. The aim is to bring the judicial and penitentiary map in line with the administrative map, thus bringing the seeker of justice closer to the public justice system. In this way, he can better exercise his rights and better realise the rule of law in Cameroon.

These reforms include: 1) The creation of 8 courts of first instance (TPI) (Decree No. 2012/120 of 15. March 2012) in certain regions of Cameroon, notably in the centre (Yaoundé-Mendong), the extreme north (Makari, Doukoula), the coast (Douala-Bonassama), the north (Touboro), the north-west (Bali) and the west (Baham, Bandjoun); 2) the establishment of the Special Criminal Court; 3) the opening of 02 Intermediate Tribunals (TGI) in the Western Region (High Plateaux and Koung-Khi); and the establishment of 10 Administrative Tribunals in the regional capitals.

Cote d'Ivoire:

Côte d'Ivoire has strongly supported Agenda 2063 at the highest political level. H.E. President Alassane Ouattara has been named as a champion of Agenda 2063. The National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2025 also highlights governance reforms as key priority to pursue both agendas. In addition, the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development plays a leading role in coordinating national efforts to implement both agendas. The legal system, including the National Institute for Legal Information, plays a critical role in providing accurate statistics on various aspects of SDG 16 and Goal 3.

As part of its efforts to leave no one behind, the government has adopted a socially oriented programme called "PS-GOUV" for the period 2019-2020. This programme, with a total cost of FCFA 1003.4 billion, addresses social issues on a larger scale and with realistic outcomes. The programme provides targeted local health services to vulnerable groups and improves social protection. It has also helped to improve conditions for access to and retention in school for children aged 6 to 16, especially young girls. By improving the learning and living conditions of pupils and students, promoting access to housing, drinking water, energy, transport and consumer goods, and enabling women and young people in our country to have access to an income and to decent and stable employment.

Despite this remarkable progress, major challenges remain in terms of slow structural transformation of the economy, social and spatial inequalities, weak production and education systems, human resources and governance. To address the challenges, the government has started the preparation of the second State Social Programme for the period 2021-2025, which is aligned with the PND 2021-2025 (VNR, 2022)

In Côte d'Ivoire's 2022 VNR, the government reported on various indicators related to SDG 16, in particular indicators on domestic violence, political prisoners, access to information, strengthening of strong institutions and inclusive decision-making and, most importantly, national efforts to combat corruption.

The government has taken a holistic approach to fighting corruption and promoting a transparent public service. This included strengthening institutional mechanisms and bodies on governance issues including the creation of a special ministry to promote good governance, the "Autorité pour la Bonne Gouvernance". In addition, an Anti-Corruption strategic plan for 2022-2025 has been developed, in line with the requirements of public finance reform. The overall objective of the strategic plan is to contribute to the moralisation of Ivorian society and improve the performance of the economy by strengthening integrity and reducing corruption in order to improve public service delivery and facilitate access to basic social services for all segments of the population.

The government is strengthening legal and institutional mechanisms to prevent and combat corruption and related crimes. The creation of the National Financial Information Processing Unit (CENTIF) in 2006, the Anti-Corruption Brigade and the Unit for Combating Organised Crime in 2012, the Commission for Access to Information on Interests and Public Documents in 2013 and the High Authority for Good Governance in 2013 have been crucial in improving the oversight of government performance. The capacities of the Court of Audit and the Inspectorate General were also strengthened. Asset disclosure obligations were institutionalised for a larger category of civil servants.

As a result of efforts manifested in progressive results, Côte d'Ivoire's rank in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) has improved from 130th out of 176 countries in 2012 to 107th out of 168 countries in 2015 and 105th out of 180 countries in 2018. This progress is the result of government reforms to fight corruption in the economy and the public sector.

Nigeria:

The Nigerian government has enacted several laws relating to SDG 16, including: 1) the Money Laundering (Prevention and Prohibition Act, 2022), an Act to improve Nigeria's anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing framework; 2) the Proceeds of Crimes (Recovery and Management) Act, 2022; 3) the Electoral Act 2022. In addition, the country has an EITI Act called NEITI - Nigerian Extractive Transparency Initiatives. The government has also established an Asset Recovery Database (www.armu.ng). All these initiatives are aimed at combating illicit financial flows in Nigeria (IFF).

Despite the reforms, corruption is still a major problem and requires behavioural change - reducing motivation through adequate salaries. There is also a need to reduce the possibility of engaging in corruption through transparent processes, frequent reviews and robust accountability mechanisms. Other national experts stressed the need to accelerate the ratification and implementation of the African Union Protocol and Charter on the Rights of Persons and Peoples, which includes the rights of older persons in Africa.

Box 10 Curbing Illicit financial flows

To curb money laundering, a Mutual Legal Assistance Act was enacted to facilitate the exchange of sensitive data between Nigerian law enforcement agencies and external partners. A special Fraud Unit has also been established to combat and control financial fraud, as has the Illicit Financial Flows and Task Fraud Group. Other existing laws and policies include the National Harmonised Anti-Corruption Strategy, the Economic Crimes Commission Act and the Independent Anti-Corruption Commission Act). The Federal Republic of Nigeria has also introduced the IFF (Integrated Financial Framework). However, implementation remains a challenge.

Ghana has made significant efforts to implement the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The institutional and coordination mechanisms serve as best practises for policy coherence towards sustainable development. As explained in chapter three, the country has a three-tier committee level that links policy makers with practitioners and ensures multi-stakeholder participation in planning, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. The country has a vibrant platform of civil society organisations (CSOs) that advocate for citizen participation in the SDGs and Agenda 2063 and equally support national reporting on both agendas. (see box 10)

Ghana has a legal and institutional framework to support governance efforts under SDG 16. For example, it has the National Small Arms and Light Weapons Commission, which works to combat illicit weapons as part of efforts to reduce their proliferation.

It has also established the Ghana Arms Database System, also known as “The GAD”, to fulfil obligations under the ECOWAS Convention and other commitments. Institutions committed to good governance include the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP), which investigates cases of suspected corruption and corruption-related offences.

The Births and Deaths Registration Act, 2020 was enacted to integrate the registration system into local governance. Ghana also has an elaborate legal framework to combat human trafficking, enshrined in the Human Trafficking Act, 2005 (Act 694), the Human Trafficking Prohibition Regulations, 2015 (L.I. 2219), the National Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (NPA), 2017 - 2021, the Labour Act, 2003 (Act 651), the Children’s Act, 1998 (Act 560), the Domestic Violence Act, 2007 (Act 732) and the Criminal Offences Act, 1960 (Act 29), among others.

There is also “the Justice for All Programme”, the Anti-Corruption Programme and the Crime Prevention Programme. Despite the reforms and the legal framework, corruption remains widespread and pronounced, with one third of public servants being bribed (NDPC, 2022).

Box 11 Citizens Perspectives on the SDGs Delivery Mechanisms: best practice from Ghana

The Civil Society Platform on the SDGs in Ghana produced the Ghana Civil Society Shadow Report on UNGs 2022 UNGs to inform the government and strategic partners on citizens' perspectives on the implementation of the SDGs. The CSO Platform has developed an innovative "Citizens SDG Scorecard to measure perceptions of SDG implementation at the community level. The Citizens Scorecard assesses thematic areas such as **strategies, action plans and budgets allocated to the SDGs; public policies and legal frameworks; institutional support; national-level implementation; sub-national-level implementation; monitoring, evaluation and reporting frameworks; transparency and accountability; public awareness and capacity building; multi-stakeholder partnerships; and civil society participation.**

The UNR shadow report on civil society organisations in Ghana highlighted efforts to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 through the establishment of the COVID-19 response fund, the promotion of literacy and health programmes, and gender equality activities to empower women in Ghana.

Sahel Peace Initiative: This is one of the sub-regional programmes in West Africa to support youth through vocational training and promotion of career readiness while promoting a culture of peace through the NGO Catholic Relief Services.

Source: Ghana, VNR shadow report, July 2022

In **Sierra Leone**, the root of good governance is enshrined in the legal framework of the Constitution of Sierra Leone Act No 6 of 1991, which provides for “the recognition and protection of the fundamental human rights and freedoms of individuals” and “the representation of the people”, which are in line with SDG 16 and Goals 3 and 4 of Agenda 2063. Some of the legislative and administrative frameworks to implement SDG16 are the Anti-Corruption Act and the National Strategy for Investigating Corruption Practises. The Anti-Corruption Act provides for the establishment of a special court within the Supreme Court of Sierra Leone for corruption cases.

There are also public access to information initiatives, including the enactment of the Right of Access to Information Act in 2013 and the establishment of the Right of Access to Information Commission in 2014.

Niger has made significant progress in building effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. From an institutional perspective, the government has taken a holistic approach to ensuring the rule of law and access to justice. The National Assembly, the Constitutional Court, the Supreme Court, the Council of State, the Court of Cassation, the Court of Auditors, the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (CESOC), the Supreme Council for Communication and the National Commission for Human Rights are examples of this institutional commitment to promoting both SDG 16 and Aspiration three. In addition, the government established the National Agency for Legal Assistance (ANAJ), the National Commission for the Coordination of the Fight against Human Trafficking (CNLCTP) and the National Agency for the Fight against Human Trafficking (ANLTP).

As regards the fight against corruption and the protection of human rights, the government's commitment to addressing these challenges is underlined by the creation of the High Authority for the Fight against Corruption and Assimilated Offenses (HALCIA), the High Authority for Protection of Personal Data (HAPDP) and the adoption of the law of 24 March, 2022 establishing the rights and obligations of human rights defenders in Niger. Finally, as regards the consolidation of peace, the establishment of the High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace (HACP) should be mentioned.

According to national statistics, Niger has responded to a number of SDG 16 indicators, as highlighted in Table 6.

Table 6: Niger progress towards SDG 16 (Niger VNR, 2022)

Indicator	Current Progress
16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the last 12 months who reported their victimisation to the relevant authorities or other officially recognised conflict resolution mechanisms:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Niger witnessed an improvement regarding rule of law since citizens' access to judiciary sector in general improved from 59.7% in 2016 to 97.95% in 2020. Expansion of the judicial map with 49 locations having judicial infrastructure and 9 new operational jurisdictions. These efforts have improved access to justice for all in Nigeria, especially in rural areas;
16.3.2 Proportion of unsentenced prisoners in the total prison population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proportion of prison inmates awaiting trial has developed unevenly. It decreased from 61.43% on 31 December 2018 to 42% in 2019 and 64.23% in 2020. This situation is due to the shortage of judges in the courts, especially the high courts. Therefore, the government needs to work on this aspect to mitigate the impact. This situation is justified by the shortage of judges in the courts, especially in the superior courts.

Indicator	Current Progress
16.6 indicator to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of actual expenditure in the budget compared to the original approved budget has experienced ups and downs from 2014 to 2016, to grow steadily from 2017 onwards, reaching 97.26% in 2020. (16.6.1)
16.6.2 Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The results of the national survey (ENISED-2015) show that 72.4% of Nigerians (80.15% of women are satisfied, compared to 76.2% of men) are satisfied with public services. Furthermore, 85.5% of the national population declare themselves satisfied with the security situation in 2018, which corresponds to a PDES target of 85.28% for 2021.
<p>16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration.</p> <p>16.9.1 (birth registration for children under 5 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The following efforts were recorded as part of the modernisation of civil status during the period 2017 to 2020: (i) 1848 civil status actors trained; (ii) 6,000,904 birth certificates issued within the framework of mobile hearings and (iii) 1,730 villages were mobilised to issue civil registration certificates for a target of 3,619.
<p>16.10 Ensure public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.</p> <p>16.A.1 is the existence of independent national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles.</p> <p>16.B.1 is the percentage of the population that reports having felt personally discriminated against or harassed in the past 12 months on the basis of a ground of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Niger has established some institutions to monitor human rights including (i) the National Commission for Human Rights (CNDH); (ii) the National Association for the Defence of Human Rights 'Association National (ANDDH). In addition, there are other national and local organisations that pursue the same goal. According to a 2017 survey, 17,4% of Nigerians have experienced discrimination in the last 12 months. Of these, 18,5% are men compared to 16.5 % women. The causes are mainly ethnicity, political position/alliance or regional origin or social barriers.

4.3 Challenges, Recommendations, and way forward

4.3.1 Domestic violence, human trafficking, and access to justice for all

Despite global and continental efforts to eradicate violence, human trafficking and access to justice, national efforts in these areas must continue to advance. African countries, particularly East Africa, are commended for providing information on SDG 16 indicators related to violence and political prisoners. Less than 15 African countries have provided statistics on violence indicators at the national level. Countries are therefore encouraged to work with the African Statistical Institute to improve the quality of data produced on specific aspects of peace and violence - Strategy for Harmonisation of Statistics in Africa (SHaSA). Collaboration with AU agencies and the UN Oslo Governance Centre may be beneficial to assess goals related to access to justice, including access to dispute resolution mechanisms (16.3.3).

4.3.2 Illicit financial flows and anti-corruption practices, access to information

Illicit financial flows (IFF) and the fight against corruption remain a challenge for most African countries, and the two phenomena are closely linked. Public sector institutions are also crucial for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. Ethical behaviour by public servants and improving service delivery are key to strengthening trust between government and citizens. In 2021, member states reported a wide range of legal acts and institutional mechanisms and measures to combat corruption and bribery. To date, 49 African countries have signed and ratified the African Union Anti-Corruption Convention. Countries have also updated civil service laws and codes of conduct for public servants to ensure an impartial and corruption-free public service.

Most African countries have established anti-corruption commissions (Eswatini, Namibia, Kenya) to tackle corruption practises. Nevertheless, the number of citizens asked to pay bribes remain high across the continent. Senegal reports that, according to 2021 public surveys, the proportion of people who have paid a bribe to an agent (public and private) is 63.53% and the proportion (public and private) who have asked a bribe from a user is 61.14%. Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire reported the same problem, but between 25% and 18%. Some African countries have adopted a code of conduct for public servants and set up platforms to record citizens' satisfaction with public service delivery.

However, a number of African countries are still on the FATF's grey list until June 2023 due to deficiencies in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing. These countries include Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

4.3.3 Effective and responsive institutions and inclusive decision making at all levels (CEPA principles)

In addition to the quantitative measurement of access to justice, it is important to emphasise that access to justice policies also take into account the principles of inclusion, participation and subsidiarity at the national level. Therefore, the application of the [principles of effective governance is crucial for sustainable development](#) for many African countries. The COVID-19 crisis has shown that meeting national aspirations to restore confidence in both political processes and governance requires strong institutions to anchor development efforts and build resilience to future shocks and vulnerabilities. The issue of building or restoring trust in government and public institutions, as well as in private sector action, is important for the success of development initiatives and policies to address poverty and inequality.

The report also notes, in the context of continental consultations, that some African countries have made progress in reducing gender inequalities. However, it is clear that progress is only possible if there is political will to put in place effective mechanisms to achieve the goals for women's empowerment and gender equality enshrined in national legislation, including access to quality education. Evidence shows that comprehensive investment in the education and health sectors can reduce inequalities.

Public institutions should also be cyclically evaluated and strengthened to promote new norms of governance and transition to transformative pathways. A comprehensive analysis of governance and institutions leading to the development of integrated national institution-building frameworks, similar to the successful Integrated National Financing Frameworks developed in many African countries, could be helpful in accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs in line with national priorities.

4.3.4 Civil society and youth engagement

Civil society and youth remain critical to advancing SDG 16, which serves as a target and enabler for Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063. The APRM survey results show that youth participation in policy dialogue and decision-making is low. As the most youthful continent on earth, African countries and policy makers are challenged to harness youth as one of the continent's key assets. The current active youth engagement led by the Secretariat of AGA, AU ECOSOC, Afro-Barometer, Alliances for Governance and other think tanks and research institutes is of great importance. However, the sustainability of funding for these programmes remains critical. At the national level, Parliament must play another influential role in empowering youth to localise and domesticate Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, especially after the completion of the first ten-year implementation plan.

4.3.5 Data on SDG 16 remains limited.

The SDG 16 target has 23 indicators - and only 6 of them have data at continental and country level according to the Global SDG Index and Dashboards 2022. The same 26% are found in the UNStat SDG Database Dissemination Platform (MolbrahimFoundation., 2020). The same data gaps are found at country level in the VNRs. However, there are some countries such as Uganda that have made progress in data collection. Data is available for 21 out of 23 of the SDG 16 indicators. However, some of these data are only partially available (UBoS & UNDP, 2020). About 12 of the 55 AU member states do not have clear data on the level of integration of SDG 16 into the National Development Plan (NDP).

4.3.6 Key recommendations

Develop an action plan to internalise the principles of effective governance for sustainable development.

While the principles provide clarity on the link between governance and sustainable development, the principles need to be better understood and adapted to the national context. This requires appropriate mainstreaming, accelerating implementation and promoting awareness at all levels of government and among other stakeholders, and working together to promote institutional coordination mechanisms. The report also highlights institutional weaknesses at the country level, which in some cases require legal and policy reforms while providing for increased budgetary resources to strengthen institutional capacity. One example is the adoption of access to information laws, which are not in place in a number of African economies.

Accentuate the implementation of short to medium term anti-corruption and accountability strategies.

Increased training and sensitisation of civilians on anti-corruption initiatives, such as the establishment of community watch groups, helps with general oversight and monitoring of activities at the lowest local level. In addition, social accountability tools such as whistleblower monitoring mechanisms and community scorecards are used to monitor corruption in key projects. Anti-corruption reforms need to be accompanied by public finance, procurement and civil service reforms, and linked to strong enforcement mechanisms. Rwanda offers lessons for anti-corruption enforcement through the establishment of dedicated institutions and the extensive digitisation of services.

Strengthen data tracking mechanisms for SDG 16.

The data tracking ecosystem encompasses a number of aspects, including policy attention, provision of resources for real-time data tracking, continuous training of institutions and individuals on data methods and approaches, and data infrastructure to support real-time data tracking.

As data reporting becomes automated and digitised, various institutional data collections and individual-level data need to be integrated to enable harmonisation between central statistical offices. Studies on data readiness are important, as are detailed studies on individual country readiness for indicators.

An example is Uganda, which has conducted a holistic mapping of SDG 16 data gaps. Anchor the development of statistics based on the Praia Group Handbook on Governance Statistics (2020)(PCG, 2020).

Illicit Financial Flows recommendations.

Containing IFFs offers the possibility of meeting one-third of the estimated financing needs for SSA(UNCTAD, 2020). This requires global partnerships in many ways, including accelerating dialogue on recovering stolen funds, strengthening fiscal, legal and policy regimes related to extractive industries, including promoting the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in resource-rich countries. Investing in data infrastructure, integrating trade data into trade information portals and revenue systems, and ensuring more comprehensive data collection while building a statistical valuation system for natural resources. There is a need to link anti-corruption reforms with anti-money laundering reforms that include action on relevant laws where they exist.

Strengthen and operationalise SDG coordination mechanisms.

Creating SDG coordination mechanisms that encompass both the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to implementing the SDGs where they do not yet exist. Where they exist, they need to be equipped not only with tools for effective implementation. This report provides a detailed description of experiences from several countries that could serve as a basis for mutual learning. An effective coordination mechanism will foster the partnership ecosystem that leverages local and international governance initiatives for sustainable development action.

Digitalisation and E-governance for promoting access to justice and enhance public service delivery.

Digitalisation and e-governance have decisively improved the reporting of access to justice and public service delivery in some African countries. Examples from Morocco and Rwanda concerning the digitisation of the judiciary, or the establishment of an Electronic Case Management System (ECMS) help to increase transparency and strengthen trust between citizens and governments. The establishment of a central platform for government services and the issuance of official documents and other services can drastically reduce citizens' experience of bribes and thus eliminate the extent of corruption.

Matrix of Action

Country	Recommendations
Mauritius	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance.
Seychelles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote risk-based assessment of public institutions to identify these corruption vulnerabilities.
Eswatini	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and invest in e-governance platforms for the planning, coordination and delivery of governance reforms including clearance of backlogs of cases. • Promote data tracking mechanisms for governance reforms and services
Namibia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with international organisations, development partners, and regional bodies to access technical assistance, expertise, and resources for governance strengthening initiatives especially in the lower courts and broader decentralisation of legal systems. • Strengthen local governance structures to promote citizen participation, local development, and accountability. Enhance the capacity of local governments to plan, manage resources, and deliver services effectively. Promote transparency and citizen engagement in local decision-making processes.
Lesotho	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster an enabling environment for civil society organizations (CSOs) to operate freely, contribute to public policy discussions, and hold the government accountable. Recognise the role of CSOs as watchdogs and partners in development and ensure their participation in decision-making processes. • Promote legal reforms to strengthen the Article 14(2) of the Constitution, which regulates access to information. • Improve data collection, management, and dissemination to facilitate evidence-based governance reforms. Foster a culture of transparency and accountability through the publication of government data and reports. • Electoral reforms: Strengthen the electoral framework to ensure free, fair, and transparent election
Zambia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Espouse the governance institutional co-ordinational mechanisms at both the national and local level. • Promote the use of e-governance platforms in the delivery of justice and broader government services effectively
South Africa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the legal and policy frameworks through the effective implementation of the Protection of Personal Information Act. • Strengthen the whole society approach especially with empowering CSOs in the delivery of access to justice for the vulnerable and marginalised groups in informal settlements or rural areas.

Country	Recommendations
Uganda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the FATF action plans within the agreed timeframes, to be able to move off the grey list of increased monitoring for anti-money laundering and terrorism financing. • Promote the expeditious submission of treasury memorandum as an indicator for the closure of the oversight cycles.
Kenya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use digital platforms and integration of public systems including procurement and service complaints tracker. Continue to promote the whistleblowing principle.
Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the FATF action plans within the agreed timeframes, to be able to move off the grey list of increased monitoring for anti-money laundering and terrorism financing.
Rwanda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the role of the media, Civil Society and academia in promoting good governance and participation. • Strengthen mobilisation of citizens and all institutions to reinforce the culture of transparency and accountability.
Egypt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote timely publication and fiscal transparency by state owned companies as well as government institutions which will improve in tracking of corruption and monitoring of fiscal risks
Ghana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an action plan for domesticating the principles of effective governance for sustainable development. • Promote fiscal transparency reforms, from planning, execution and oversight of public funds.
Ethiopia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster the active participation of civil society organizations (CSOs) in anti-corruption efforts and democratic reforms. Create an enabling environment for CSOs to operate independently, advocate for reform, and provide oversight. Promote partnerships and dialogue between the government, CSOs, and citizens to address corruption and strengthen democratic institutions.
Mozambique	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an action plan for domesticating the principles of effective governance for sustainable development. • Promote fiscal transparency reforms, from planning, execution and oversight of public funds.
Nigeria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the FATF action plans within the agreed timeframes, to be able to move off the grey list of increased monitoring for anti-money laundering and terrorism financing.
Niger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote digitalised tracker of delivery of services and encourage transparency in public procurement, financial management, and political financing.

Country	Recommendations
Tunisia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue monitoring and evaluation of the governance reform process, through real time data tracking mechanisms for corruption, procurement, and broader public finance management. • Strengthen anti-corruption institutions, such as the Instance Nationale de Lutte Contre la Corruption (INLUCC), and provide them with sufficient resources, independence, and investigative powers.
Sierra Leone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embrace digital reforms as Digitalisation and E-governance can play a game changer to enhance reporting on Access to justice and enhance trust between African citizens and their leaders.
Benin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the use digital platforms and integration of public systems including procurement and service complaints tracker. Continue to promote the whistleblowing principle.
Senegal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the FATF action plans within the agreed timeframes, to move off the grey list of increased monitoring for anti-money laundering and terrorism financing.
DRC-Congo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an action plan for domesticating the principles of effective governance for sustainable development. • Promote fiscal transparency reforms, from planning, execution and oversight of public funds

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