



Agenda 2063 and SDGs Implementation in Africa

Assessing Governance Mechanisms
For Implementation of The African Union
Agenda 2063 and The 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development In Africa

March 2020

Agenda
2063 The Africa
we Want

FOREWORD

During celebrations in May 2013 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the African Union, African Heads of State and Government adopted a landmark Solemn Declaration in which they set out a long term development vision for the continent for the next fifty years, from 2013 to 2063. This vision was shaped not only by the experiences and successes recorded, but also by the challenges the continent had faced in the fifty years since the setting up of the Organization of African Unity. The vision states that by 2063, there should be “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.” It provides a blueprint for the socio-economic and political development of Africa through a unified vision, as articulated in the African Union’s “Agenda 2063: The Africa we Want”. This Solemn Declaration is a passionate call for the transformation of the continent in a manner that would place it on an equal footing with the rest of the world.



When the African Union was launching its vision, the global community, through the United Nations, was already developing a successor to the Millennium Development Goals. These MDGs which had been the leading global framework for development were coming to an end after fifteen years of implementation. The MDGs had been premised on eight fundamental imperatives: Values and principles (freedom, equality, solidarity, tolerance, respect for nature and shared responsibility); peace, security, and disarmament; development and poverty eradication; protecting our common environment; human rights, democracy and good governance; protecting the vulnerable; Meeting the special needs of Africa, and strengthening the United Nations. The results of the MDGs era were mixed: though poverty had been significantly reduced, other goals had not been met. It was for this reason that the UN decided to develop a new global agenda, the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – The World We Want”, which would build on the successes of the MDGs and continue to implement the goals that had not been met, to take care of “the unfinished business” of the MDGs.

At the core of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the vision of a “just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met.” The SDGs call for action by all countries to end poverty and promote prosperity while protecting the planet. These core objectives must be pursued in tandem with strategies to foster economic growth and address a range of social needs, including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while mitigating the effects of climate change and protecting the environment. Except for the “Afro-centric” and Pan-African provisions contained in Agenda 2063, there are remarkable similarities between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, making the case for a holistic approach in their implementation and monitoring.

Though there are many reports tracking progress in the realisation of the two Agendas, very few studies have looked at the level of awareness and understanding by various stakeholders and the manner in which the two Agendas are supported and implemented at the country level. This report fills this gap in that it assesses the institutional and political mechanisms that Member States have put in place at country level to implement the two Agendas.

PREFACE

This report is a result of the Decision on the Revitalisation of the APRM (Assembly/AU/Dec. 631(XXVIII)) by the AU Heads of State and Government during the 28th Ordinary Session that held from 30 to 31 January 2017 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. 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, which called for the strengthening of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to enable it to track implementation and oversee monitoring and evaluation of key governance areas on the Continent. By this decision, the Heads of States and Government emphasized the prominence of the APRM as a continental governance tracking mechanism and requested that necessary steps be taken to expand the APRM mandate by repositioning it to play a monitoring and evaluation role for the African Union Agenda 2063 and the United Nations Agenda 2030 (Sustainable Development Goals-SDGs).



This is the first report from the African Peer Review Mechanism focussing on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. Though there are other very well-written reports on progress towards meeting the targets of both the SDGs and Agenda 2063 at continental level such as the Annual Africa Sustainable Development Reports (AFSDRs) and the Voluntary National Reviews for the High-Level Political Forum at country level, there is little information on institutional implementation mechanisms, levels of awareness, partnerships and coordination arrangements to enhance implementation of the SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063 at the national level. Also, the level of national engagement by stakeholders at national and regional levels in these development frameworks needs closer scrutiny. This report examines the extent to which national systems have been structured to respond to, and facilitate the integration of SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063 into national structures, and assesses the various mechanisms that support the domestication and localisation of the two Agendas at national and sub-national levels.

This report provides an important first step to understanding the critical governance structures and systems needed to realise the SDGs and the Aspirations in the AU Agenda 2063. The methodology for this report was based on two key approaches: firstly, a team of researchers led by a Technical Working Group comprising experts from the African Union, academic institutions and the Economic Commission for Africa collected country-level data from various reports such as Voluntary National Review reports, statistical bulletins, and other official data from websites and government departments; secondly, a focussed survey of national experts on the two Agendas was conducted to find out the levels of engagement with the SDGs and Agenda 2063 of stakeholders such as the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of Government, the private sector and civil society and the media. Since African challenges require African solutions, the APRM examined proposals from African experts on ways to address one of the serious challenges identified during the MDGs era, that of the lack of awareness and ownership of the global MDG framework at the local level. This Report is also intended to enable Member States to learn from each other and to share experiences and best practices on ways to address specific aspects of domestication and implementation of the Agendas.

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INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This is the first report by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to assess the governance mechanisms implementing the SDGs and Agenda 2063 at the continental level. Why is the APRM producing this report? The importance of good governance in the realisation of Sustainable Development is well known: good governance leads to good development outcomes as noted in the SDGs Index developed by the SDGs Centre for Africa and the latest Mo Ibrahim African Governance Index. The report also fills a gap in assessing national mechanisms responsible for the implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063. This area has not received the same level of attention as the actual monitoring of progress on the indicators.

The report is in response to the African Union Assembly Decision that mandated the APRM to report on the various aspects of governance, including the SDGs and the African Union Agenda 2063. It examines the alignment and interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 Aspirations, drawing from the experiences of the Member States that are domesticating and implementing the SDGs. The report looks at the governance structures put in place by Member States to coordinate and implement SDGs and Agenda 2063, taking examples from countries across the continent. Some data on this can also be found in the pioneer work by the Africa SDG Centre. In addition to desk reviews, the APRM designed a questionnaire on the issues of governance for the SDGs as well as on awareness and stakeholder participation. The survey was administered to respondents who belong to the SDGs and Agenda 2063 Expert Group, which is convened annually by the AUC.

Partnerships for SDGs and Agenda 2063 implementation, monitoring, and evaluation are a critical element of SDG implementation, and should be consistent with the approaches adopted by African countries to implement SDGs using Domestic Resource Mobilisation (DRM) or partner resources, while addressing ownership challenges. The report examines the relationships between sovereign states and their cooperating partners and looks at the implications of gender inequalities for the achievement of the SDGs as well as at efforts by Africa to narrow the gender gap. Finally, the Report examines regional efforts to foster implementation of Agenda 2063/SDGs and the role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in assisting AU Member States to develop initiatives to implement SDGs 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
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
AIB	African Investment Bank
AIDA	Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa
AMF	African Monetary Fund
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
ASCENT	Africa Sustainability Centre
ASDR	Africa Sustainable Development Report
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
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	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
VNR	Voluntary National Review
WB	World Bank
WEF	World Economic Forum

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union that held from 30 to 31 January 2017, a number of decisions were adopted, one of which was on the “Revitalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism.” This Decision empowered the APRM to take a leading role in monitoring and evaluating regional and international development frameworks. This report is in response to that Decision. It is the first assessment of the governance mechanisms supporting the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 and reviews the environment put in place by Member States to support implementation of programmes and strategies towards the realisation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The report therefore serves as a tool to monitor and assess governance mechanisms for SDGs and Agenda 2063 implementation at the national and regional levels.

The study analyses the institutional arrangements and structures that Member States have put in place to advance implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Agendas 2063/SDGs. Some data on this can be found, among others, in the work that was pioneered by the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa (SDGC-A 2019). It also examines the role of stakeholders and the coordinating mechanisms tasked with planning, implementing, monitoring progress and reporting on the SDGs and Agenda 2063. These stakeholders are: the executive, the legislature, the public service, the national structures established to oversee Agenda 2063/SDGs implementation, Non-governmental Organizations, knowledge hubs, academic institutions, the private sector, development partners, etc.

The report also assesses regional efforts to foster implementation of Agendas 2063/SDGs, and the role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in assisting AU Member States to develop and implement initiatives for SDGs and Agenda 2063 implementation. And lastly, it assesses the existence of REC strategies and programmes on SDGs and 2063 and the modalities for coordination and implementation.

There is a considerable body of research and literature and on the transition from the Millennium Declaration and its Millennium Development Goals to the 2030 Agenda and its attendant Sustainable Development Goals and on the progress made globally to meet the targets set.

At the global level, The United Nations Department of Social Affairs, under the Economic and Social Council publishes “The Sustainable Development Goals Report” annually to review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Report also serves as a major resource for the Report of the Secretary-General on “Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals” which is submitted to the United Nations General Assembly every year.

At the regional level, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Development Programme’s Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) produce the annual “Africa Sustainable Development Report: Tracking Progress on Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals” – which assesses continental progress in domesticating and implementing the SDGs and Agenda 2063 simultaneously. It is aligned to the HLPF theme for the particular year.

At the national level, the follow-up and review process encourage Member States to conduct voluntary country-led, country-driven regular and inclusive reviews of progress towards achieving the SDGs at national and sub-national levels under a process known as Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). The VNRs and other SDG related reports from Member States have all emphasised the need for a concerted effort to make the SDGs and Agenda 2063 a “whole of Government” and a “Whole of Society” effort. The generic

principles which form the core of domestication hinge upon some fundamental values which, in the main, are lessons learnt from the “unfinished business” of the Millennium Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa supports governments, citizens, civil society, businesses and academic institutions in their efforts to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. The centre has also published a report with an SDG Index for each Member State.

Most Member States have very strong institutional frameworks for the implementation and coordination of efforts towards realising the SDGs and Agenda 2063. However, dedicated leadership is also important for the effective implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Coordination of efforts at the national level, and coordination among providers of support at the global and regional levels are essential. Institutional arrangements such as the establishment of SDG steering committees are needed for the conduct of Voluntary National Reviews at country level.

Most reports cite the inadequacy and paucity of data as a major handicap to tracking progress on the global and continental agendas. Coordination and the strengthening of institutional mechanisms to address the data challenge should be prioritised. Almost all countries that submitted Voluntary National Reviews to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development complained of lack of adequate data on most of the indicators for both Agendas. The Africa Sustainable Development Report for 2017 reported that about \$1 billion annually is needed to enable 77 of the world’s lower-income countries to establish statistics systems capable of supporting and measuring the Goals. Deficiencies in statistics information hamper Africa’s development and transformation and impede the establishment of baselines for measuring progress on development frameworks such as the SDGs and Agenda 2063.



Source: APRM Workshop on CEPA principles for Effective Implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063- Pretoria, October 2019.

Adequate allocation of financial resources and political autonomy of national statistics systems are essential for the production of accurate, credible, timely, and neutral data. It will therefore be necessary to build the capacities of national statistics institutions to enable them to accurately monitor the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 programmes and their development outcomes.

The successful achievement of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 will require strong institutions and dedicated leadership at the highest level. It will require investment in human capital, especially health and education as well as innovations in social protection and other redistributive initiatives. It will also require investment in clean industry, infrastructure, urban and rural management, and considerable leapfrogging into the technological age.

Global goals and targets can only be realised at the country level if they are completely integrated into local contexts.

A number of continental and multilateral institutions have developed tools and guidelines to help countries to integrate SDGs and Agenda 2063 into their own national and sub-national frameworks. However, not all countries have access to these tools. In the APRM survey, 72% of Member States reported having access to at least one tool or mechanism for integrating SDGs into national plans, while 28% did not have access to any of them for various reasons. Member States are encouraged to assimilate these to facilitate the integration of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 into domestic policies and programmes. Institutions hosting these tools should also intensify efforts to introduce Member States to them by implementing capacity development programmes to transfer knowledge on the use of the tools to technical experts at national and sub-national levels.

The 2019 Africa Governance Report indicated that 88 percent of countries in Africa have a National Vision or long-term development strategy/plan, while 86 percent have NDPs. Almost all African Union Member States have produced national visions and national development plans at some point to realise not only their national visions but also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union agenda 2063. However, the existence of National Visions or National Development Plans does not necessarily lead to the attainment of the stated development targets and objectives at the national level. Ultimately, the success or failure of national development strategies and frameworks depends on several conditions that have been well researched over the years, especially during the implementation of the MDGs. These conditions include political will and transformative leadership, national ownership of programmes, adequate financing, appropriate human and institutional capacities to implement programmes at all levels, partnerships and a “whole of society approach”.

A prerequisite for the successful integration of any global or regional strategy into national strategic frameworks is ownership. No process can be assimilated into local contexts without the local population accepting these initiatives as their own. In addition, it is necessary to assess capacity building needs for the implementation of the programmes to meet the targets and goals. In this regard, the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders need to be clearly defined when programmes and interventions are being developed.

The degree of integration of the SDGs into National Development Frameworks is key to the domestication process. 29% of Member States claimed that the SDGs were fully integrated into their NDPs, while 23% claimed partial integration. 18% of Member States indicated moderate integration while 18% and 12% reported weak to no integration respectively. The integration of the SDGs into national frameworks will only be meaningful if the five underpinning imperatives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are pursued in full. These are: Leave no one behind; put sustainable development at the core; transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth; and build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all and forge a new global partnership. Over 70 percent of African countries reported that their development programmes and strategies are aligned with the five underpinning principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

More than 80 percent of countries reported that they have provisions in their plans to address inclusivity and put sustainability at the core of national development programmes. More than 75 percent of countries reported that they included economic transformation in their plans for job creation and inclusive growth, which are key components of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

The first three principles can only be achieved if there is traction on SDGs 16 and 17, – build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all, and forge a new global partnership respectively. Over 75 per cent of African countries reported that these two priorities are included in their respective national policy frameworks. Marginalised groups in society have always been victims of the first imperative – Leave No One Behind. Due to lack of information on the targeting of programmes, it is always a challenge to identify who, amongst society’s most vulnerable, is left behind. In the APRM study, two groups (not exhaustive) were identified: Youth and Women and specifically, the extent to which these two groups are integrated into the NDPs and, ultimately, into the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Almost all countries (94%) have provisions in their policy frameworks and National Development Plans for youth and women empowerment.



Local awareness and acceptance of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 are critical for a successful implementation

In general, there appears to be a good level of understanding and awareness of the SDG by the Executive and Legislative branches of government although countries reported that there are some differences in the degree of awareness in the two branches. In many countries, both the executive and the legislature are only moderately aware of the SDGs, at 43.8% and 72.7% respectively. Just over a third (37.5%) of the countries reported a high level of awareness of the SDGs by the executive while only 13.6% reported the same for the legislature. This inadequate level of awareness by the executive and legislative branches of government points to the need for more concerted efforts to educate members of the executive and the legislature on the implications of the global agenda on their mandates as leaders of government and lawmakers. The lack of awareness is also an indication of the lack of ownership of the SDGs by the national leadership.

Awareness of Agenda 2063 appears to be even lower for both the executive and the legislative branches of government. Only 9.1% countries report a high level of awareness of Agenda 2063 by the legislative compared to 24% for the executive. Almost the same number of countries report moderate levels of awareness of Agenda 2063 with 54% for the legislature and 52% for the executive. Advocacy for Agenda



2063 should therefore be a key priority for the African Union to promote ownership and address this shortcoming at all levels.

It will be necessary to raise the levels of awareness of the officials responsible for the implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063 by carrying out campaigns to promote awareness on the two agendas. From the study, 66% of countries reported that campaigns to promote awareness on the SDGs were in place while only 41.62% reported the existence of awareness campaigns for Agenda 2063 – again underscoring the fact that the SDGs have taken centre stage in Africa compared to its own Agenda 2063.

The SDGs and Agenda 2063 will not be realised without adequate financial backing. Most of the financial resources will have to be mobilised locally.

The difficulty in mobilising sufficient resources to finance SDGs has been well articulated in many reports. In July 2015, the third International Conference on Financing for Development took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on ways to identify sources of finance and mechanisms to support the SDGs. This process, now known as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Sustainable Development (Addis Agenda) stated that possible new financing sources and the mobilisation capacity of the proposed mechanisms fell far short of the resources needed to adequately support all the SDGs and their targets.

The burgeoning of cost estimates for attaining the SDGs has given rise to heated debates over the most appropriate methodology to obtain consistent and reliable figures. However, the question is not only technical; it also calls for a careful examination of the political motivations underlying the estimation exercise. Currently, the multitude of cost estimates creates confusion and uncertainty over the scale of additional resources required to achieve the SDGs. While “large” estimates are likely to be rejected by the traditional approaches to development financing, “low” figures will certainly increase the possibility of the goals not being met, thus generating even more discontent in developing countries. Developing more accurate methodologies to cost the SDGs is critical for the continent to identify the levels of resource mobilisation needed and the size of the financial gap between available resources and the total needed to meet the goals.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) gives a range of between US\$600 billion to US\$ 638 billion per year. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) gives a range of US\$600 billion to US\$1.2 trillion per year while the Africa Sustainability Centre (ASCENT) claims that the range is between US\$200 billion to US\$1.3 trillion per year. UNECA estimates that infrastructure spending needs stand at approximately US\$72 billion per year, with 65% of this amount expected to come from domestic sources. To achieve the SDGs, Africa must spend an additional US\$50 billion to US\$93 billion per year on infrastructure (infrastructure financing gap). Further, if Africa is to meet its objective of energy access for all needs by 2025, it will have to spend an additional US\$ 30 billion to US\$ 55 billion per year.

Illicit Financial Flows compromise resource mobilisation efforts across the continent. Currently, Africa loses more than US\$83 billion per year in trade mis-invoicing alone. Estimates of other forms of IFFs are difficult to arrive at due to the “illicit” nature of the transactions which are shrouded in secrecy and include items such as tax evasion and money laundering. If the efforts to stem the flow of IFFs are successful, this could provide much-needed financial relief.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is crucial for the investment and infrastructure spending that can help to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063. FDI has been declining in the continent because of the deleterious investment climate in many Member States and because of the egocentric political climate in many traditional development partners which are redirecting the resources that had traditionally been earmarked for Africa to domestic populist programmes. FDI dropped from approximately US\$57 billion to US\$ 42 billion between 2015 and 2017.

Remittances have become an important source of financing for development and are a significant contributor to the overall stocks of foreign exchange earnings. In 2017, it was estimated that remittances reached US\$ 77 billion, which is approximately 4.3% of the total Gross Domestic Product of the continent.

A worrisome trend is the rising debt stock on the continent. Africa’s total debt to GDP ratio rose up from 35.5% in 2017 to 37.6% in 2018. Foreign debt is especially high in commodity-based economies, standing at 62% of GDP in mineral-rich countries.

Capital markets can be a source of long-term development financing using debt and equity markets. The investment potential increases when capital markets are active, signalling economic and political stability. African countries are urged to invest more to develop capital markets and stock exchanges. These are found in only 29 countries, accounting for less than 1% of global stock market capitalisation. And in many cases, they are not even connected to global capital markets

To achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063, all stakeholders at the national level need to be fully engaged.

Legislatures: Parliaments are in a unique position because they bring together representatives from all the diverse geographical regions of the country. It is usually the most representative body within the State infrastructure. Effective parliamentary engagement can accelerate progress towards the achievement of the SDGs and improve the lives of citizens in every country.

For this, Parliaments need to establish effective mechanisms that will strengthen and direct their commitment to the SDGs and Agenda 2063. This means that they will need to set up effective Parliamentary committees and Caucuses on SDGs and get them to meet regularly to carry out their work. Only 37% of Member States have parliamentary Committees or Caucuses on SDGs, and out of these, only 53% hold regular meetings.

Strengthening the oversight role of Parliaments in implementing plans for SDGs across the region has the dual benefit of leading to improved efficiency of local SDG-related programmes and increased local ownership and buy-in across the political spectrum and society in general. Support by oversight institutions for the SDGs and discussion on national priorities within the SDGs should also be a priority of Parliaments. In addition, it will also be necessary to establish a relationship between legislators and their constituents. Only a third of the countries report some degree of interaction between the legislature and constituents. This also has a further bearing on the implementation of SDG-related programmes at the constituency level. The execution of SDG-related programmes is premised on the availability of resources – both human

and financial. It is the traditional role of Parliaments to debate and provide funds for priority programmes and projects. In the APRM study, out of the 38.1% of programmes that are being implemented in constituencies, 59% of countries reported that the legislature has ring-fenced budgetary resources earmarked for SDG-consistent programmes.

The Judiciary: The Judiciary is the main guardian of the rule of law, which is the pillar of any sustainable development. One of the imperative of sustainable development – Leave No One Behind – implies the existence of the rule of law underpinned by the interplay of adequate institutional capacities, the existence of legal frameworks, and the ability of citizens to access and utilise the legal apparatus in a country. Without increased justice, the world will not be able to end poverty, reduce inequality, reach the furthest behind, create conditions for shared values and shared sustainable prosperity, or promote peace and inclusion.

Private Sector: Private sector participation is critical to strengthening economies, providing jobs for the growing youth population, and reducing migration. Some governments have created incentives to attract private sector investment to finance some aspects of the two Agendas.

The role of the private sector is not limited to creating wealth and jobs and to paying taxes. It also involves ascertaining the nature and purpose of business activities in a world characterised by the co-existence of wealth alongside inequality, poverty, and environmental damage and climate change. For the private sector to participate fully in the implementation of the SDGs there is need to raise its awareness of the SDGs. Only 10 percent of countries in Africa reported a high level of knowledge of the SDGs by the private sector, while the vast majority (63 percent) reported a moderate level of awareness of the SDGs. When the level of awareness is juxtaposed with the level of private sector participation in SDGs, a similar picture emerges, which suggests that the degree of awareness of the SDGs by the private sector is directly related to its level of participation in SDGs.

There is urgent need for the private sector to improve the quality of disclosure and reporting on their impact on the SDGs and Agenda 2063 in annual and financial reporting, to enhance transparency and accountability. The call for the private sector to play its part in the war against poverty cannot be overemphasised. The private sector must, for example, treat the payment of taxes as an investment in the communities they operate in, and not as a cost to be minimised. Governments need these taxes since they carry the greater burden of financing the SDGs. The cost of paying taxes by the private sector should not be transferred to workers who, on the contrary, should be paid a decent wage to lift them out of poverty.

Public-Private Partnerships: Public-Private Partnerships can contribute to development, capacity building, wealth distribution, and sustainable economic growth. Public-Private Partnerships usually involve private investments in public infrastructure and include long-term service provision by the private sector in the public infrastructure sector. All risks are borne by the private sector while the user pays the costs such as tools, fares, fees, etc. In some countries, the public sector pays for the services rendered by the private sector for the general good of society.

Not many African countries have adopted the PPP model due to a number of challenges such as weak institutions, lack of accountability and transparency in contracts, conflicts of interest, corruption and lack of political will to promote PPPs and popular distrust of service providers, advisors/consultants, etc. The role of PPPs in implementing the SDGs and Agenda 2063 is, at best moderate for many countries in Africa. Less than a quarter of the countries surveyed recorded a significant role for PPPs in SDG implementation, while the majority, 43 percent, recorded a moderate role for PPPs in SDG implementation. Many countries (33 percent) reported an insignificant role for PPPs in SDG implementation.

Media, Public Debate and Platforms for Engagement: At the global level, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) provides a platform for deliberations and for countries to showcase national initiatives and progress towards achievement of the SDGs. Some countries have well developed platforms for dialogue on the SDGs and national development frameworks. Others however find it politically challenging to set up such platforms as they would expose political authorities to inquiry if goals and targets are not met as stipulated in the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Almost half of the responding countries (48%) have platforms where SDGs and Agenda 2063 progress can be discussed.

The media is traditionally the source of public information and plays an important role in disseminating information to the general public. Ten percent of countries surveyed reported a low level of media awareness of the SDGs, while 40 per cent reported a high degree of media awareness. The vast majority reported moderate knowledge of SDGs by the media. This calls for a concerted awareness campaign and training on the SDGs which would eventually result in a more informed African society on the SDGs. In addition, a strong advocacy for the SDGs requires that every stakeholder keep track of progress on the targets and goals. The media should monitor progress towards implementation. Unfortunately, less than 10 per cent of the countries surveyed reported a strong culture of record keeping by the media on SDGs, while the majority (57 percent) reported moderate ability of the media to keep records and just over a third reported weak record-keeping abilities by the media on SDGs.



Gender Equality: According the United Nations Development Programme’s Africa Human Development Report (UNDP 2018), Gender inequality is costing sub-Saharan Africa on average US\$95 billion a year. This loss peaked at US\$105 billion in 2014, equivalent to 6% of sub-Saharan GDP. This jeopardizes the continent’s efforts at inclusive human development and economic growth. Though significant progress has been made across numerous fronts in most countries, gender equality for African women and girls is still far from satisfactory. Gender inequality has long been recognized as a means to unlock and unleash the great development potential of the continent. Women perform 66% of the work, produce 50% of the food, but only earn 10% of the income and own a mere 1% of the property.

Addressing gender inequalities is key to accelerating progress towards all the other SDGs and Aspirations. Aspiration 6 Goal 17 of Agenda 2063 focuses on gender equality and calls for “full gender equality in all spheres of life.” Similarly, gender equality is recognized as a prerequisite for development and economic growth in Agenda 2030, specifically in SDG 5.

Gender inequality is a governance failure. National plans, policies, institutions, and budgets reflect how governments translate commitments to gender equality into results for women. Too often, however, there is a gap between policy and practice. Progress in gender equality has been slower than expected and is uneven in many African countries. Implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063 provisions on gender, as well as the UN resolutions and multiple legal frameworks to realize gender equality have not been successful in many countries due to lack of structural policies, political will, and cultural inclusiveness to promote women's rights and empowerment.

Overall, gender parity, comprising the average of economic empowerment measure, political empowerment, social empowerment as well as stand-alone indicators, is generally moderate, with a few countries standing out as exceptional performers. The availability of data and the lack of gender-sensitive and responsive data collection are challenges that make it difficult to mainstream gender equality into the national development plans. Therefore, the implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should continue to prioritize gender equality as a cross-cutting issue in all areas of socio-economic development.

Gender-Based Violence: Gender-based violence (GBV) is a global pandemic and represents a significant obstacle to achieving all SDGs and Aspirations of the African Continent. Failure to address GBV has direct implications on a country's ability to attain inclusive and sustainable development. It is both a cause and consequence of gender inequality. "One in five women and girls, including 19 percent of women and girls aged 15 to 49, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within the last 12 months". 26 countries in Africa do not have laws that specifically protect women and girls from GBV.

In most cases, cultural and religious beliefs as well as taboos are the reasons behind this lack of legislation on domestic violence. Violence against women is known to be reinforced by discriminatory laws and exclusionary social norms that marginalize women and girls and prevents them from getting an education, earning an income or achieving independence. Women's rights and independence are also further compromised by limited access to sexual and reproductive health. Exacerbating the problem of violence against women are ongoing conflicts, wars, epidemics, and natural disasters that have increased the number of forcibly displaced persons and refugees, particularly women and children both internally and externally.

Partnerships for the SDGs: The concept of creating a global partnership for development has been around for decades, since the realisation in the 1970s that the world needed a strengthened global approach to development. The International Development Strategy for the Second UN Development Decade of January 1971 stated that the success of international development activities would depend on improvements in the general international situation, particularly on concrete progress on all aspects of development for all citizens of the world, and especially on bringing people living in the poorer parts of the world to the levels enjoyed by those living in richer parts.

Partnerships continue to play a crucial role in Africa's development strategy and much still needs to be done to bridge the gap between resource availability and development results, on the one hand, and the effective utilisation of available resources on the other. When the MDGs were adopted, traditional donors made ambitious financial pledges for their implementation. However, due to factors like "donor fatigue," increased political indifference and the rise of populist policies in traditional development partner countries, many of these pledges were not kept. ODA too has been in decline of recent. Only five countries have so far met the 0.7% of GNP target that was set in 1970 and has been repeatedly re-endorsed at the highest level at international and development conferences.

Regional Economic Communities: The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is one of the seven pillars of Agenda 2063 and its vision of “an integrated and prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena”. Specifically, Aspiration 2 which deals with an integrated and politically united continent calls for “accelerating progress towards continental unity and integration for sustained growth, trade, exchanges of goods, services, free movement of people and capital”.

In the spirit of Pan-Africanism, the AU Agenda 2063 underscores the importance of the free movement of Africans in Africa for meaningful integration and increased trade. The AU Agenda 2063 goes further to encourage Member States to introduce an African passport, capitalizing on the global migration towards e-passports, and to abolish visa requirements for all African citizens in all African countries by 2018. Many countries are wary of this provision for a number of reasons. For example, the SADC Common Position on Free Movement cautions against wholesale acceptance of this protocol and proposes pre-conditions under which this protocol can be considered.

Moreover, owing to huge differences in the levels of economic development, infrastructure, and access to basic social services, countries which are relatively well off are reluctant to open up their borders to citizens of less fortunate Member States. Security concerns, crime, and at times, the increased prospects of xenophobia have tended to hamper acceptance of this protocol.

Conclusions

1. The finding of this Report on the VNRs show that most countries have well-designed governance mechanisms for the implementation of SDGs and to a lesser extent, of Agenda 2063. The majority have integrated the SDGs into their National Planning Frameworks as a result of relatively strong political leadership. However, these are not enough to achieve the SDGs. There is a need to continue to determine what drivers can be used to speed up the realisation of results.
2. As was the case with the MDGs, public awareness of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 is quite limited. Knowledge about the two Agendas is confined to practitioners in the public service – mostly those charged with reporting on progress on platforms such as the HLPF. This lack of knowledge may contribute to the low performance of many countries on the SDGs indicators from the SDGC-A and the SDSN.
3. Overall, performance on SDGs in Africa, excluding North Africa, suggests that even in the presence of well-designed coordination mechanisms and institutions to oversee implementation of programmes results have not always been positive. Good and robust SDGs governance mechanisms have not always translated into positive indicators, meaning that such mechanisms must be accompanied by other factors such as capacity building.
4. Governance mechanisms for the SDGs and Agenda 2063 need to be executed in tandem with other strategies that can enhance development results. These could include public procurement, especially for public goods, leapfrogging countries into the fourth industrial revolution, and revamping education curriculums to respond to the needs of the 21st century. Human resource management, ethics, and values are all elements that can have a significant and positive impact on results.

5. There is no consensus on what constitutes best governance practices for the SDGs. There is need to carry out national assessments on the relationship between specific governance mechanisms and progress on SDG targets. This is, however, only possible in the medium to long term since the effects of governance mechanisms are by their very nature, long-term. In undertaking these national assessments, the role of stakeholders (legislatures, CSOs, the private sector, PPPs, FDI, ODA, DRM and IFFs, etc.) needs to be carefully assessed to foster a sense of ownership of the Agendas.
6. Although almost all countries have signed the African Continental Free Trade Area, the benefits of the potentially huge market are yet to be felt. With free trade comes the free movement of people – which is a sticky point in the integration process. Agenda 2063 emphasizes the need for all AU Member States to adopt one African Passport, but this has met with stiff opposition. It has been proven in other regions outside Africa that larger regional markets enable domestic industries to benefit from economies of scale, improve production efficiencies and enhance competitiveness, which in Africa's case, would mean enabling countries to compete regionally and globally (Vickers, 2017).

Recommendations

1. The AUC should harmonise and rationalise research and reporting on Agenda 2063 and SDGs across institutions at all levels. The Commission should assume leadership and invite all stakeholders involved in reporting progress towards the SDGs and Agenda 2063 to harmonise and align efforts towards a unified reporting system following the rules and regulations developed at the AU without exerting undue burden on Member States.
2. All countries are urged to strengthen the oversight role of Parliaments in the implementation of strategies towards attaining SDGs across the region. This will have the dual benefit of enhancing the efficiency of local SDG-related programmes and improving a sense of local ownership and buy-in across political spectrums and groups in the society.
3. The reporting system should be rationalised. Currently, there are too many institutions reporting on the same parameters and variables. The AU should convene a regional dialogue or commission an inventory of the various stakeholders monitoring progress toward the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Reporting on the two development agendas (AU 2063 and UN 2030) should be done in tandem considering the levels of convergence, which stands at almost 90%. Similarly, integrating the two agendas into National Planning Processes should be done at the same time.
4. Support to Member States in the process of developing VNRs should continue. A toolkit should be developed jointly by all institutions involved in this process (UNECA, UNDESA, AUC, AfDB, and UNDP).
5. Member States are encouraged to strive for full awareness of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 by all stakeholders through concerted capacity building for the three branches of government. Training of legislators and members of the executive branch of government will significantly improve the sense of ownership of the agendas and increase chances of a successful implementation.

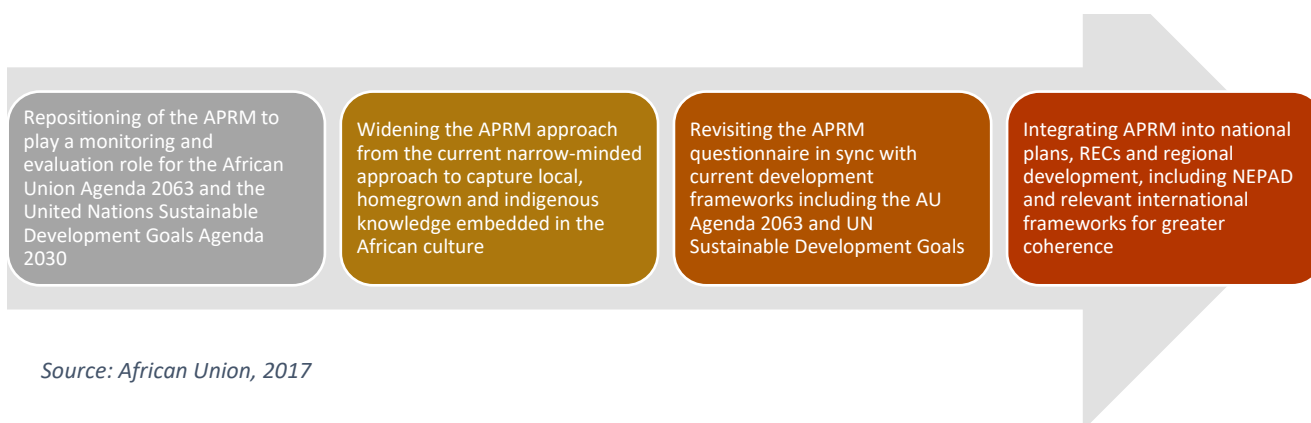
6. The African Union should prioritize advocacy for Agenda 2063 to foster ownership and address the lack of awareness at all levels. Awareness campaigns should be intensified at all levels.
7. Implementation and capacity development initiatives should be incorporated into SDG-based strategies, plans and budgets to ensure success.
8. An analysis of decentralisation and devolution systems and structures at the local level, including legal and regulatory frameworks should be undertaken to ensure that the challenges identified in the MDGs period are fully addressed.
9. Member States are encouraged to invest more to develop capital markets and stock exchanges. Capital markets are a source of long-term financing for development using debt and equity markets. Investment potential improves when capital markets are active, signalling economic and political stability.
10. The private sector should improve the quality of disclosure and reporting on its impact on the SDGs and Agenda 2063 in annual and financial reporting, to enhance transparency and accountability.
11. Concerted awareness campaigns and training should be conducted to sensitize the Media on the SDGs. This would lead to a more informed African society on the SDGs.
12. Gender equality as a cross-cutting issue in all areas of socio-economic development should continue to be prioritized in the implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
13. The capacities of national statistics systems should be augmented to ensure the provision of accurate data on development.

CHAPTER 1

Context: The African Peer Review Mechanism and Agenda 2063 and the SDGs

During the 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union that held from 30 to 31 January 2017, an important decision was taken by the Heads of State and Government of AU Member States for the “Revitalization of the African Peer Review Mechanism.” The provisions of this Decision mandating the APRM to take a leading role in the monitoring and evaluation of regional and international development frameworks¹ are summarized in the following figure.

Figure one: Revitalizing the APRM



Source: African Union, 2017

According to this decision, the APRM is expected to report not only on the review processes in the 38 AU Member States that have acceded to the APRM but also on the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. This report, which should cover all 55 AU States, is to be submitted to the AU Assembly and the APR Forum of Heads of State and Government.

¹ Assembly of the Union, Twenty-Eighth Ordinary Session 30 - 31 January 2017 Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Decision on the Revitalisation of the African Peer Review Mechanism. (Assembly /AU/Dec.631(XXVIII))

The decision of the African Union Ordinary Assembly granting the APRM an expanded role emanated from a recognition of the unique functional purpose of the APRM, namely to foster the adoption of policies, standards and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated sub-regional and continental economic integration through sharing of experiences and reinforcement of successful and best practice, including identifying deficiencies and assessing needs for capacity building². The underlying principle of the APRM is that every review exercise carried out under the authority of the Mechanism must be technically competent, credible and free of political manipulation. These stipulations together constitute the core guiding principles of the Mechanism, which situates the APRM at the pinnacle of institutions to lead monitoring and reporting on the SDGs and Agenda 2063, using already tested methodologies.

1.2 Purpose and Scope of the Report

1.2.1 Purpose

This report is not intended to provide information on progress made towards achieving the targets and the indicators articulated in both Agenda 2063 and the SDGs since this aspect is being comprehensively covered by progress reports from the United Nations, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, The Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa, The World Bank, the African Union and many others. These reports will be examined briefly in this study. This report assesses SDG Governance Mechanisms in Africa. It reviews the environment put in place by Member States to support implementation of programmes and strategies to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063. It is, therefore, a tool for monitoring the governance mechanisms for SDGs and Agenda 2063 implementation at the national and regional levels.

1.2.2 Scope

The report analyses the institutional arrangements and structures that Member States have put in place to advance implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of Agenda 2063/SDGs. Some pioneer work has already been done on this by the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa (SDGC-A). Our report highlights national policies and strategies, and maps all stakeholders tasked with planning, implementing, monitoring progress, and reporting on the SDGs and Agenda 2063. This mapping includes coordination mechanisms such as government bodies, the Executive, the Legislature, the public service, national structures established to oversee Agenda 2063/SDGs implementation, non-governmental organizations, knowledge hubs, academic institutions, the private sector, and development partners.

The report examines measures that have been put in place at the national level to implement Agendas 2030 and 2063, and the extent to which the provisions of these Agendas have been incorporated into national plans and implementation strategies. It also examines specific resource allocations for SDGs and Agenda 2063 programmes, focusing on the gaps and challenges in financial and human resource allocations for SDG implementation, and the overall readiness of countries to domesticate SDGs and Agenda 2063. The report also draws on experiences from the VNR process and assesses the tools at

² APRM Base Document - <http://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/aprm-basedoc.pdf>

the disposal of countries to undertake mapping, alignment, and integration of 2030 and 2063 Agendas into national programmes. The report identifies the analytical links between the state of governance mechanisms, participation, and performance in development outcomes as articulated in other SDG progress reports.

1.2.3 Methodology

This report is in response to the African Union Assembly Decision that mandated the APRM to report on the various aspects of governance, including the SDGs and the African Union Agenda 2063. It examines the alignment and interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 Aspirations and draws on case studies from the experiences of Member States that are domesticating and implementing the SDGs. The report looks at the governance structures put in place by Member States to coordinate and implement the SDGs and Agenda 2063, taking examples from countries across the continent.

1.2.3.1 Desk Review

The primary source of information for the report is desk review of existing literature, with particular focus on country-level Voluntary National Review Reports (VNRs), reports from the RECs, and national SDG reports. Voluntary National Reviews are compiled by Member States voluntarily and submitted to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development. The HLPF is the leading United Nations platform on Sustainable Development and plays a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The follow-up and review process encourage Member States to conduct voluntary country-led, country-driven regular and inclusive reviews of progress towards achieving the SDGs at national and sub-national levels.

Research teams collated information from the Member States on coordination structures for the SDGs, the political and technical guiding frameworks at the country level, and best practices. Member States were invited to provide national experiences which could be cast as best practice for sharing in the report.

1.2.3.2 Expert Group Survey

Drawing upon lessons from the Millennium Development Goals era (UNECA, 2016), which showed that institutional arrangements for implementation must be anchored by strong coordination mechanisms, the APRM research team embarked on soliciting more detailed information on coordination mechanisms at the country level. A questionnaire with specific questions on coordination and implementation modalities as well as on stakeholder engagement was developed and administered purposively to a group of SDGs expert from AU Member States. These experts are members of the African Union “Expert Group on Sustainable Development” representing Member States selected by their respective governments to review and validate the annual Africa Sustainable Development Report (AfSDR). The AfSDR is produced annually to monitor progress on the SDGs and Agenda 2063 on the continent in line with the annual theme proposed by the United Nations High-Level Political Forum. The Expert Group also includes representatives from the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, civil society organizations, academic institutions, RECs and United Nations Agencies (UNDP and UNECA). The questionnaire was also administered to youth representatives who had been convened in Chad to examine the level of engagement of African youth with the SDGs.

The survey examined the levels of awareness, inclusiveness and involvement of the Executive, the Legislature, the Judiciary, the private sector, CSOs, academic institutions, and private citizens in the implementation of the SDGs – tracing out how the two Agendas are perceived and accepted by various

stakeholders. The survey assessed whether citizens were engaged in the domestication of 2030 and 2063 as well as the platforms that exist at the national level to support the implementation of 2030 and 2063. It examined the extent to which the government involved non-state actors such as civil society and business groups in designing and implementing the national development plan/strategy for the SDGs.

The survey also focused on partnerships for SDGs and Agenda 2063 implementation and evaluation. The role of partnerships is a critical element of SDG implementation and should be addressed in line with African countries' abilities to implement SDGs using domestic funds or partner resources and to address ownership challenges. It focused on the relationship between sovereign states and their cooperating partners. The survey achieved a moderate response rate. A total of 54 technical experts from 17 countries responded. Further, the instrument was administered at a continental symposium on youth in Chad, where 100 experts met.

This report also assesses regional efforts to promote implementation of Agenda 2063/SDGs, and the role of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in assisting AU Member States to develop and implement initiatives for SDGs and Agenda 2063 implementation. It also examines REC strategies and programmes on SDGs and 2063 and the modalities for coordination and implementation.

1.3 The United Nations Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063.

After gaining independence in the late 1950s and early 1960s, most African countries took action to correct the injustices of years of colonialism and oppression and to improve the socioeconomic status of citizens by facilitating access to the basic needs necessary for at least a minimum decent standard of living. Before then, Africans had been marginalized in all aspects including social exclusion and reduced access to economic opportunities, resulting in poor performance in basic development indicators such as income, health, education, and access to basic social services. The challenges in providing these needs forced many African leaders to seek local solutions primarily through cooperation among themselves. These early efforts did not succeed because Africa was structurally weak. The economic policies of most African States were still being influenced by their ex-colonial masters, since the continent's fiscal, monetary and foreign exchange policies were being manipulated from abroad (Viswanathan, 2018). This was one of the main reasons why some African leaders decided to set up the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The aspirations of the newly independent countries for a more inclusive development have remained practically the same since then, though reference to them has evolved. All 'development programs' which have been initiated by countries have attempted to address the same challenges the new States had faced.

1.3.1 The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs

Figure 2: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Source: UN Development Group, 2015, "Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Interim Reference Guide to UN Country Teams," p.6.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development underpinned by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was adopted by world leaders on 25 September 2015. The United Nations points out that the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a global blueprint for dignity, peace, and prosperity for people and the planet, now and in the future" (UN, 2017³). The Agenda was framed under the chapeau of the "5Ps" – People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnership, and constitutes 17 Goals and 169 targets. The 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development is further underpinned by five guiding imperatives: Leave no one behind, Put sustainable development at the core – integrate social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability in all programmes,

Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth, Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all, and, Forge a new global partnership. The Agenda strives for a world that is just, rights-based, equitable, and inclusive. It commits stakeholders to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, and environmental protection to benefit all, including women, children, youth and future generations. An integrated approach to sustainable development and collective action is required at all levels to address the challenges of our time, with an overarching imperative to 'leave no one behind' in achieving this ambitious and universal agenda⁴. The agenda is a plan of action for people, the planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace and justice and to foster closer global partnerships. Unlike the MDGs, where central governments took centre stage in implementation, there is evidence that civil society, the private sector, and governments are jointly taking the lead in translating and domesticating this shared vision into national development plans and strategies.

³ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/why-the-sdgs-matter/>

⁴ <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/SDGs-are-Coming-to-Life-UNDG.pdf>

Figure 3: The United Nations Declaration on the “Five Ps”



Source: United Nations (2015): *Transforming Our World, The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Res A/RES/70/1

The new global agenda resulted from a realization that some areas had been inadequately addressed in the preceding Millennium Development Goals which needed immediate attention. Key among these was the weak implementation modalities at the national and regional levels, including the domestication of the goals and their respective targets, a weak sense of ownership at the national level (the MDGs were construed as having been imposed on poor countries by the global system which resulted in weak national commitment and a sense that the MDGs were a separate government programme implemented without the engagement of the private sector and other actors in the economy), inadequate implementation mechanisms in the form of financing for the MDGs and weak institutional mechanisms under which the global agenda was to be localised. The new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sought to address these shortcomings, and measures were instituted to address these as articulated in the “Means of Implementation and Follow-up and Review” sections of the Agenda.

1.3.1.1 Means of Implementation

This component of the Agenda is key to the success of the entire Agenda. It is supported by a financing framework outlined in the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa in July 2015, and the subsequent endorsement of the same by the General Assembly. This is now an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indeed, the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAA) is critical for the realisation of the SDGs and targets. The 2030 Agenda also takes cognisance of the implementation of various other strategies, including the Istanbul

Declaration and Programme of Action, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014 – 2024.

Of critical importance to Africa, is the specific reference and reaffirmation in the 2030 Agenda of the need to support the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), all of which are central to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. NEPAD has since been transformed into an integral Organ of the African Union charged with overseeing the implementation of all aspects of Africa’s development agenda and has now been integrated into agenda 2063, becoming Africa’s leading development agency, hence the new name ‘African Union Development Agency’ (AUDA).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also recognises the importance of the following “Means of Implementation” for the successful achievement of the Agenda:

- Strengthening national systems for implementing the Agenda, including the mobilization of financial resources as well as capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms;
- Catalysing public finance, both domestic as well as international for the provision of essential services and public goods as well as leveraging other sources of finance;
- Enhancing the role of the private sector, civil society and philanthropic organisations in the implementation of the new Agenda;
- Increasing participation of micro-enterprises, cooperatives and multinational organisations in the implementation of programmes for the Agenda;
- Supporting the consolidation of durable peace for sustainable development in countries in conflict and post-conflict situations;
- Reaffirming the old provisions of Official Development Assistance (ODA) for developed countries to allocate 0.7 percent of gross national income for ODA to developing countries and 0.15 percent of gross national income for ODA to least developed countries.
- Enhancing the role of international financial institutions to support the Agenda;
- Recognising the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of the new Agenda.

1.3.1.2 Follow-Up and Review

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises follow up and review as key to ensuring accountability to citizens at the national, regional, and global levels. The Agenda provides for a systematic follow-up and review at various levels, as set out in the 2030 agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF), under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, has been mandated with overseeing follow-up and review at the global level.

As mentioned earlier, The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development was established as the main United Nations platform on Sustainable Development. It plays a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. Since its formation in 2012, the HLPF has developed annual themes or areas of focus that define its activities for the year. Between 2013 and 2016, its focus was on the transition from the SDGs and Rio+20, towards a post-2015

development agenda and its attendant imperatives. From 2017 onwards, the themes changed to a focus on the achievement of specific goals in the SDG framework

Box 1 Political Forum Annual Themes

2013	Building the future we want: from Rio+20 to the post-2015 development agenda
2014	Achieving the MDGs and charting the way for an ambitious post-2015 development agenda.
2015	Strengthening integration, implementation, and review – the HLPF after 2015
2016	Ensuring that no one is left behind
2017	Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world (Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17)
2018	Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies (Goals 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17) and,
2019	Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality (Goals 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17)

There is a considerable body of research and literature on the transition from the Millennium Declaration and its Millennium Development Goals to the 2030 Agenda and its attendant Sustainable Development Goals as well as on tracking the progress that has been achieved towards meeting the targets articulated therein across the globe. At the global level, The United Nations Department of Social Affairs, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, publishes an annual “The Sustainable Development Goals Report,” which reviews progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This report highlights progress and remaining gaps for all 17 SDGs, based on the latest available data, and examines some of the interconnections across Goals and targets (UN, 2018). The report forms the primary input into the High-Level Political Forum annual meetings. It also serves as a major resource for the report of the Secretary-General on “Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,” which is submitted to the United Nations General Assembly every year.

At the regional level, efforts to report on progress towards achieving the Goals and targets have been in place since the adoption of the two development frameworks. In Africa for instance, the African Union Commission, in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA), produced the “MDGs to Agenda 2063/SDGs Transition Report” (UNECA, 2016). The report analysed the transition from the MDGs to the new continental and global sustainable development agendas, taking stock of Africa’s performance on the MDGs and providing reflections on the opportunities and challenges associated with the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. The same institutions have been jointly producing the annual “Africa Sustainable Development Report: Tracking Progress on Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals,” which assesses continental progress in domesticating and implementing the SDGs and Agenda 2063 simultaneously and is aligned to the HLPF theme for the particular year. The logic behind the simultaneous assessment of the progress of the two Agendas stems from the fact that there exists a very high level of congruence between Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. A recent study by UNDP’s Regional Bureau for Africa estimates that the alignment between Agenda 2063 and the SDGs is as high as 90% (UNDP, 2017).

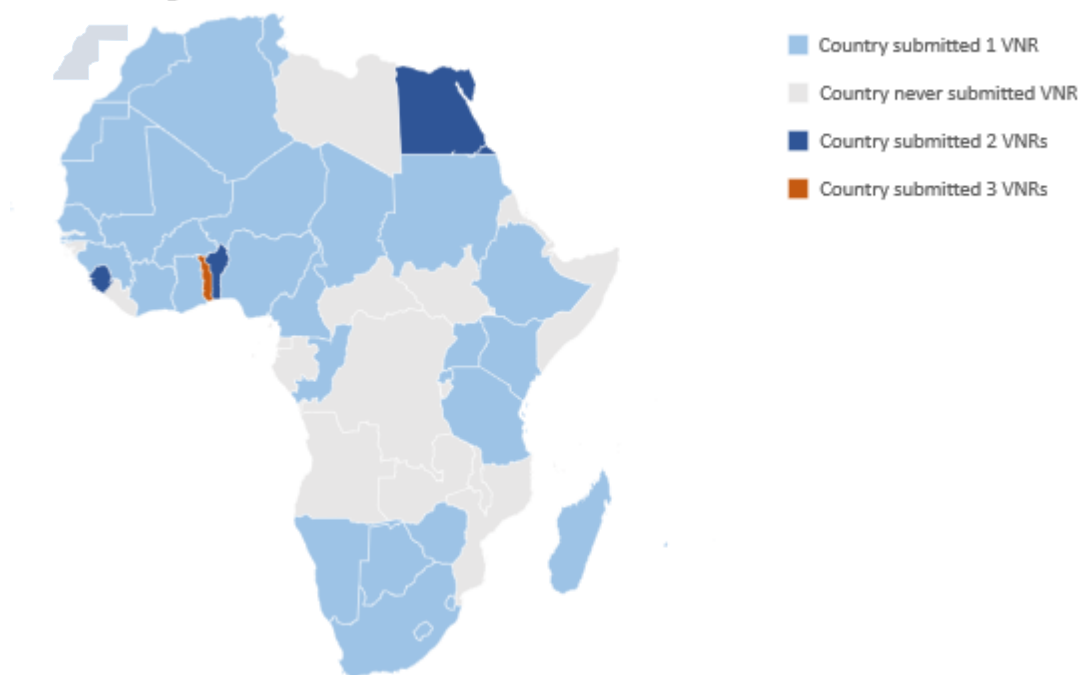
The Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa supports governments, citizens, civil society, businesses, and academic institutions in their efforts to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa. The Centre has also published a report developing an SDG Index for each Member State. The Index has yet to be validated by major institutions across the continent, but the

Centre published a report in June 2019 entitled “Africa 2030: Sustainable Development Goals Three-year Reality Check”, as well as an in-depth analysis of progress towards the SDGs called the 2019 Africa SDG Index and Dashboards Report. This report provides a holistic view of the progress, constraints, and challenges that Africa continues to face in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Already, one can see duplication of efforts in the area of reporting on progress towards SDGs achievement. This calls for an urgent rationalisation of efforts to better use scarce resources to monitor progress on the two Agendas.

At the national level, the follow-up and review process encourage Member States to conduct voluntary country-led, country-driven regular and inclusive reviews of progress towards achieving the SDGs at national and sub-national levels under a process known as Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

The VNRs aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges, and lessons learned, to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and at the same time, provide a platform for partnerships. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Participating countries draft country-level and sub-national reports for presentation to the High-Level Political Forum in line with reporting guidelines provided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG). The VNRs are also aligned with the prevailing theme of the HLPF for the year. In developing these VNRs, countries receive support from various continental institutions such as the African Union Commission, the United Nations Economic Commission, the African Development Bank, specialised organs and entities of the African Union such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and international institutions such as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to name but a few.

Figure 4: Countries that have submitted VNRs to the HLPF since 2016



Source: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Platform 2019.

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also underscores the important role and comparative advantage of an adequately resourced, relevant, coherent, efficient and effective United Nations system in supporting the achievement of the SDGs and sustainable development in general, while stressing the importance of strengthened national ownership and leadership at country level.

At the country level, the 2030 Agenda stresses the need to forge stronger partnerships between governments and the other stakeholders in the implementation process. Key to forging these partnerships is not only the acknowledgment that all SDGs are interlinked, but also that champions are needed at the national and sub-national level to push for the realisation of many of the targets in the Agenda. The United Nations System at the country level is aware of this, and that is why most United Nations specialized agencies have been mandated to track progress towards the SDGs in their respective areas of expertise.

All North African countries, except Libya, have produced a Voluntary National Review at least once, while Egypt has submitted the VNR twice (2016 and 2018). In this regard, it is worth noting the visible effort and improvement in the second Egypt's national review (2018) compared to the first VNR report in 2016. All North African countries face challenges concerning data availability and reporting on SDGs indicators, financing, resource mobilizations, as well as improving the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

In line with its commitment to support progress towards the implementation of 2063 and Agenda 2030, the APRM organized its first VNR workshop in Addis Ababa in October 2018. Sixteen AU member states took part, in addition to the APRM partners and AU organs such as the AU Commission, UNECA, GIZ and the European Union. The key conclusions from this meeting were as follows;

- Coordination of efforts remains a critical activity at the national level, but also, coordination among providers of support at the global and regional levels is essential;
- Institutional arrangements such as the establishment of steering committees is a critical component of the process leading up to the development of Voluntary National Reviews;
- Countries are urged to start their VNR processes early – the technical consultation workshop was a step in the right direction;
- Reporting on the two development agendas (AU 2063 and UN 2030) should be done in tandem, considering the levels of convergence, which stands at almost 90%. Similarly, integrating the two agendas into National Planning Processes should be done at the same time;
- The role of multi-stakeholder approaches to developing VNRs is critical, especially the involvement of civil society, the private sector, and other arms of government such as parliaments;
- Awareness campaigns on SDGs and Agenda 2063 should be enhanced, and investments into sensitization activities should equally be amplified;
- Data and information system improvements are critical to quality reporting on the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

UNECA also plays a significant role in introducing and fostering UN policies and guidelines for the alignment of National Development Plans with SDGs targets and goals to the AU member states and organs. UNECA is also an active member of the APRM's newly established taskforce on Agenda 2063. UNECA encourages the VNR process at the continental level in partnership with the AU Commission and the APRM to provide the necessary support to African States in preparing for the VNR on the progress towards SDGs.

Box 2: Strengthening the VNR process in Africa - the Africa Sustainable Development Forum -Marrakech, 2019

The UN Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with UN DESA, Office for Special Advisor for Africa, the UNDP, the APRM, and the Government of Morocco organized the regional VNR workshop on the margins of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Marrakech from 15 to 18 April, 2019. The workshop brought together the 16 African candidate Countries which had submitted their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) during the HLPF meeting in July 2019 in New York. The main conclusions from the workshop and the forum were:

- ✓ Progress towards SDGs and Agenda 2063 is yet to be satisfactory. Unemployment, gender Low statistics capacities at the national level, poor integration of SDGs into national development plans, lack of civil society engagement, and lack of political ownership have been defined as serious challenges to the implementation of both agendas.
- ✓ Inequality, social inequalities, and conflicts are the main threat to Africa's future regardless of the economic growth achieved by some of the AU member states.
- ✓ It is necessary to ensure the national adoption of the AU-UN integrated framework for reporting on the two agendas, 2030 for sustainable development and Agenda 2063 and ensure that VNRs are objective, evidence-based and impactful.
- ✓ VNRs provided clear guidance for African States to enhance progress towards realising agenda 2063
- ✓ The APRM is encouraged to sustain its monitoring and evaluation role for both agendas in collaboration with other AU organs. It should also play a regional role in the operationalization of 'silencing the guns,' especially with the foundation of a Taskforce at the UN for this initiative.
- ✓ AU member states are encouraged to utilize the Pan- African Statistical source 'SHASA' to report on the SDGs and Agenda 2063 indicators. In relevance to SDG 16, only six countries have responded to this goal by using the SHASA instrument developed by African statisticians.

Marrakech Declaration:

- ✓ Calls for further measures to mitigate the damage caused by global warming and for greater commitment by African Countries to continue the implementation of SDGs while recognizing the difficulty African countries face in reporting on the SDGs.
- ✓ Calls for the setting up of a new 'Solidarity Fund for Statistical Development' to support AU Member States in collecting the necessary statistical data for SDGs monitoring and evaluation.
- ✓ Encourages innovation and technology, strengthening South-South cooperation and the sharing of experience among African countries to ensure the desired development that leaves no one behind.

1.3.1.3 Joint Implementation, Reporting, and Monitoring

Each of the two development frameworks (Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda) has a set of indicators to provide a picture both at the country as well as regional levels of progress made towards achieving development objectives. These indicators have been used to provide both national and continental reporting and monitoring frameworks with the tools to monitor progress in the implementation of programs for sustainable development. It is thus imperative that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the country level be undertaken in tandem with programmes that have been identified as contributing to Agenda 2063, with standard reporting and monitoring frameworks.

TABLE 1: WHAT TO MONITOR IN AGENDA 2063 AND THE SDGS

AGENDA 2063 (AFRICA)	2030 Agenda and SDGs (World)
AU VISION – 50 YEARS	2030 Agenda for SD – 15 Years
7 ASPIRATIONS	5 P's (People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, Partnerships)
39 PRIORITY AREAS	5 Core Principles and 3 Pillars
20 GOALS	17 Goals
256 TARGETS	169 Targets
248 INDICATORS	231 Indicators

Given the large number of targets and associated indicators in the two frameworks, the collection and analysis of data is a serious challenge for many African countries. Almost all countries that submitted Voluntary National Reviews to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development cite inadequate data on most of the indicators for both Agendas. The Africa Sustainable Development Report for 2017 found that some \$1 billion annually is required to enable 77 of the world's lower-income countries to establish statistical systems capable of supporting and measuring the Goals (UNECA et al., 2017). The report also acknowledged that deficiencies in statistical information hamper Africa's development and transformation and impede the establishment of baselines for measuring progress on development frameworks such as the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The measurement of progress towards achieving the SDGs and Agenda 2063 necessitates investing massively in statistics to fill the gaps that limit the generation of quality, relevant, timely and comparable data, including capacity gaps and technology (UNECA et al., p10, 2017).

Statistics offices and systems are often left out when analysts discuss institutional strengthening for the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Adequate allocation of financial resources and political autonomy of national statistics systems are needed for the production of accurate, credible, timely, and neutral data. It is therefore important to build the capacities of national statistics systems to enable them to accurately monitor the implementation of programmes in support of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 and to monitor development outcomes.

1.3.2 The African Union Agenda 2063: "The Africa We Want"

The African Union Constitutive Act of 2002 was adopted by 53 Heads of State and Government following the Declaration espoused at the Fourth Extraordinary Session of the Assembly on 9 September 1999 in Libya to establish the African Union. The objectives outlined in the Act called on Member States to continue to uphold the ideals of the founding fathers of the Organization of African Unity to build a united and strong Africa through partnerships between governments and all segments of society to strengthen cohesion and solidarity among its people. The Act further urged Member States to accelerate the socio-economic development of Africa to enable it to face the challenges of globalization by expediting the implementation of the Treaty establishing the African Economic Community. The Constitutive Act further recognised that the scourge of conflicts on the continent constitutes a significant obstacle to socio-economic development and urged Member States to promote peace, security, and stability as a prerequisite for the implementation of Africa's development and integration agenda.

Almost ten years after the Constitutive Act was adopted, Heads of State and Government of the African Union set a new landmark by adopting a long-term development vision entitled 'The Africa We Want' – The Agenda 2063". This was done during the commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity in May 2013 through a Solemn Declaration. The Agenda contained seven

aspirations and 20 goals, 39 priority areas, and 256 targets to be advanced through Ten-Year Implementation Plans, with the first one running from 2013 to 2023. The aspirations represent the fundamental ideals that Africa as a continent will strive to achieve in the next 50 years.



Figure 5: The Africa We Want

Agenda 2063 is a locally developed plan for transforming the African continent for the next fifty years commencing in 2013. It builds on the continent's wealth, such as its people, its long and rich history, and strong cultural heritage to affect the equitable and people-centred social, economic, and technological transformation to achieve an ambitious set of goals and targets. It builds on and seeks to accelerate the

implementation of continental initiatives for growth and sustainable development. Some of the building blocks for Agenda 2063 include the Lagos Plan of Action, The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the Accelerated Industrial Development (AIDA), the Abuja Treaty, NEPAD, and The Minimum Integration Programme (MIP).

Figure 6: The seven Aspirations



1.3.2.1 Implementing Agenda 2063 and progress to date.

Agenda 2063 is being implemented through five Ten-Year Implementation Plans, which are aimed at identifying priority areas and setting specific targets for the priorities, as well as defining strategies and policy measures required to implement them. The First Ten-Year Implementation Plan runs from 2013 to 2023 and is underpinned by 15 Flagship Projects which have been given the highest priority based on the Fast Track programmes and initiatives outlined in the Malabo Decisions of the African Union (AU) to provide the big push and breakthroughs for Africa's economic and social transformation. The FTYIP provides information to all key stakeholders at national, regional and continental levels on

the expected results/outcomes for the first ten years of the plan and assigns responsibilities to all stakeholders in its implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. It also outlines the strategies required to ensure the availability of resources and capacities together with citizen's engagement in the implementation of the First Ten Year Plan.

To ensure that Agenda 2063 is not only implemented but that it also has measurable results, the FTYIP enumerates 20 Agenda 2063 Goals linked to the 7 Aspirations, and each of these goals identifies the priority areas to be implemented at a national level to ensure that collectively Africa will attain its developmental objectives. Some progress has been made in a number of these projects, but challenges are hindering progress in others. Amongst the main challenges are: (i) lack of requisite human and financial resources; (ii) differences in Member States' interests and priorities; (iii) low pace of ratification of necessary legal instruments; (iv) interests of investors and (v) the large number of Flagship Projects (Khamis, 2019).

Flagship projects include:

1. Africa Integrated High-Speed Train Network which is intended to connect African Capitals and commercial centres to facilitate the movement of people, goods and services, industrialisation and skills development.
2. The Grand Inga Dam Project. This is a mega construction project based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and is intended to boost Africa's energy production.
3. Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) is aimed at doubling intra-Africa trade by 2022 and strengthening Africa's common voice in its transactions with the rest of the world.
4. The Pan-African Virtual and e-University (PAVU). This Flagship project is intended to accelerate development of human capital, science, technology and innovation in Africa.
5. The African Commodity Strategy to enable African countries to add value, extract higher rents from commodities, integrate themselves into global value chains and promote vertical and horizontal diversification anchored in value addition and local content development.
6. The African Economic Platform. This is intended to provide leaders with a platform where they can meet with the private sector, civil society, and academic institutions to discuss issues concerning Africa.
7. The Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) to facilitate air transportation across the continent.
8. The Free Movement of Persons and the African Passport to see the introduction of free movement of persons and accelerate socio-economic development and integration.
9. Continental Financial Institutions will accelerate socio-economic development and integration by mobilising resources, managing financial sector regulatory mechanisms, and encouraging the promotion and facilitation of trade.
10. The Pan-African E-Network (PAeN). This is intended to foster the development of policies and plans, leading to transformative e-applications and services, especially intra-African broadband terrestrial infrastructure and cyber security.
11. Silencing the Guns by 2020 to end all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence, violent conflicts and prevent genocide.
12. The African Space Policy and Strategy to strengthen Africa's capacity in space technology for adequate use of outer space to bolster its development in all fields.
13. The Great Museum of Africa. This Flagship project was proposed by Algeria ten years ago and is aimed at showcasing Africa's rich cultural heritage.

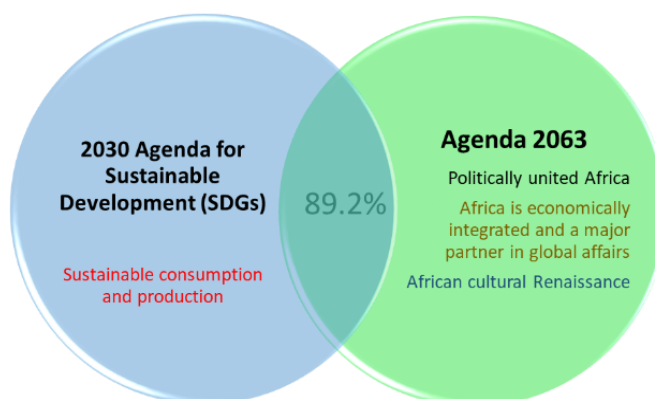
14. Cyber Security follows the adoption of the AU Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection.
15. The Encyclopaedia Africana was added to the list of Flagship Projects by the 2019 AU Summit to systematically document the authentic history of Africa, African culture and contributions of African people throughout the world.

The Ministerial Committee on Agenda 2063 has commissioned a study to prioritize these Flagship Projects so that the scheduling and sequencing of implementation activities is cognisant of the resource constraints mentioned earlier. Equally important is the AUC campaign calling on all Member States to ratify related instruments and to develop domestic resource mobilization strategies and monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the effective implementation of the Agenda.

1.3.3 Agenda 2063 Synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The African Union Agenda 2063 was launched when the Post-2015 Development Agenda was being developed at the global level. This provided an opportunity for Africa's voice to be heard at the global stage. The African Union commissioned the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Africa to develop a Common African Position (CAP) on the post-2015 Development Agenda. The outcome, published in March 2014, provided Africa with a unique opportunity to participate in the global debate on how to address the unfinished business of the MDGs and address emerging development challenges such as population growth and the youth bulge, urbanization, climate change and inequalities. The CAP also reiterated the importance of structural transformation for inclusive and people-centred development in Africa. The CAP was the only continental contribution towards the global post-2015 debate. It is normal therefore that most of the ideas outlined in the CAP are echoed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This is probably the reason why the level of congruence between the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is as high as 90 per cent according to a study by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA).

Figure 7: Agenda 2063 - 2030 Agenda Alignment



Source: UNDP Africa Policy Brief Volume 1, No. 1. 2017



CHAPTER 2

PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs AND AGENDA 2063

The successful achievement of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 will require strong institutions and dedicated leadership at the highest levels. It will require investment in human capital, especially in health and education as well as in innovations in social protection and other redistributive initiatives. It will also require investment in clean industry, infrastructure, urban and rural management and a global leapfrogging into the technological age.

Figure 8: Institutions, Policies and governance framework



Lessons from the Millennium Development Goals period and current national initiatives as reported in VNRs show that several steps need to be implemented at the national level to achieve global goals. Although there is no single standard formula for institutional setups to govern the implantation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, it is now agreed that the initial steps to be taken at the national level should be those shown in the figure below (with variations to accommodate national peculiarities). Underpinning these steps is the assumption that adequate effort and resources are available to sensitize all stakeholders about the SDGs and Agenda 2063. This is a critical precondition as it ensures that once the steps are initiated, there is broad understanding of the relevance of the two Agendas and of the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder.

Figure 9: Steps for Domesticating the SDGs and Agenda 2063



2.1 Tools for Domesticating Agenda 2063 and the SDGs

African and multilateral institutions have led efforts to assist countries to integrate SDGs and the AU Agenda 2063 into national development plans and strategies. Integrating global and continental agendas into national planning frameworks requires a shift from a business as usual approach to answering the questions “how close can the country get to the SDGs under the current conditions and constraints?” and “what will it take to achieve the SDGs?” The answers to these questions would indicate the level to which the country wants to make its national targets as ambitious as those of the SDGs and Agenda so as not to leave anyone behind. It must be a rigorous predominantly bottom-up and solutions-based process. Time frames and financing aspects must be well defined to ensure the successful implementation of national programmes. The table below provides a snapshot of some of the tools available to Member States in the process of domestication.

Figure 10: Tools for Integrating SDGs/Agenda 2063 into National Development Frameworks

<p>The Integrated Approach to Development Tool – NEPAD (AUDA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports multi sectorial approach to data collection, analyses and reporting. Promotes horizontal and vertical integration in the implementation of development initiatives at continental, regional and national levels • Enables primary data collection and visualization with greater ownership and control at user level • Impact based indicator dashboard to synthesize performance towards targets of SDGs/A2063 • In depth analysis of thematic priorities based on Agenda 2063 Aspirations and goals • Strong at forecasting and serves as a basis for prospective analyses & scenario planning
<p>The Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT) – UNECA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective for supporting alignment of NDPs with Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 • Dynamic and adaptable to country-specific planning frameworks • Supporting country planning processes • Progress tracking • Secondary data for evidence-based policy analyses • Analysis and reporting
<p>The Governance tool of the Africa Peer Review Mechanism Tool – APRM</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring status and trends in governance • Can be used outside governance domain • The tool collects primary data for a wide range of variables which enables multi-variate analyses • Used to gather both quantitative and qualitative data which enables in-depth analyses particularly on poverty indicators • Capable of generating customized country specific and adaptive questions based on user's prior response • Accommodate a large number of different types of variables
<p>Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) – UNDG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN System common approach to supporting member States in implementing SDGs • Mainstreaming work to raise public awareness on the 2030 Agenda • Ensure that the principles and goals of sustainable development are fully integrated into national and sub-national policy formulation, planning and budgetary processes • Analytical work that informs policy makers of the drivers and bottlenecks to sustainable development at the country level • Policy Support, in terms of joined-up approaches that will enable the UN to deploy its technical expertise and advice to Member States
<p>Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) – UNDP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support countries in mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national and subnational planning • assess their readiness for SDG implementation • tool suggests clear steps and templates for policy makers to conduct a rapid integrated assessment (RIA) of the SDGs to determine their relevance to the country context, • Assesses interlinkages across targets. • Builds roadmap towards SDG implementation

2.1.1 Utilisation of the Tools

Global goals and targets can only be realised at the country level if they are fully integrated into local contexts. This means that the goals and targets first have to be adapted and made relevant to local contexts before programmes can be developed at the national level and budgets allocated for the programmes to be executed. At the sub-national level, national level interventions have to be further disaggregated into various

implementable components which would then be integrated into actionable processes at the grassroots level. In order to support countries in the process of integrating SDGs and Agenda 2063 into their own national and sub-national implementation frameworks, a number of institutions have developed tools and guidelines which are mostly freely available⁵. However, not all countries have access to these tools. In the APRM survey, 72% of Member States reported having access to at least one tool for integrating SDGs into national plans, while 28% did not have any access for various reasons.

Figure 11: Availability of Tools for integrating SDGs into NDPs



Given that tools to integrate SDGs and Agenda 2063 into national programmes are freely available, Member States should be encouraged to make use of them to facilitate the domestication of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 into domestic policies and programmes. Institutions hosting these tools should also intensify efforts to introduce Member States to the tools by engaging in capacity development programmes that would transfer knowledge on the use of these tools to technical experts at national and sub-national levels.

The study also examines the degree of integration of the two Agendas into national development frameworks for countries that have started the process of domestication.

A Technical Working Meeting of monitoring and evaluation experts was convened by the African Union Commission (AUC) in Nairobi, Kenya. In attendance were representatives from the NEPAD Agency, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR). The meeting reviewed the set of tools tabulated above that could be deployed to support the planning, monitoring, and tracking of the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs in Africa. The following are some of the tools that can be accessed by the Member States.

2.1.1.1 The Integrated Approach to Development Tool (IADT) – AUDA - NEPAD

The Integrated Approach to Development Tool enables cross-functional coherence, horizontally across line Ministries and Government departments, and vertically across global, continental, regional, national, and sub-national levels. It provides robust mechanisms that can be used to generate data, information and analysis and therefore a basis to foster multi-sectoral analysis of increasingly complex

⁵ See page 15.

and dynamic development processes. It can be used to manage frequent testing of theories of change and to facilitate timely evidence-based course corrections. It also provides real-time visualisation, spatial and temporal analytical capabilities - via the web to allow for timely decision making and statistical deductions. The Tool can collect both geospatial and attribution data for monitoring both Agendas. It is also a dashboard that can be used to track performance of each indicator by country, region, and for comparative analysis. The tool is available for RECs and AU Member States while AUDA – NEPAD provides technical backstopping, capacity and skills development.

AUDA-NEPAD has prioritized its interventions in countries with the lowest access to electricity (less than 20% of the population with access to electricity) to increase their productive capacity to improve their socio-economic goals in accordance with National Development Plans. The first phase of the approach called for stakeholders from Ministries of Planning and Energy from Sierra-Leone, Burkina Faso, Niger, DRC, Chad, Burundi, Uganda, Eritrea, Malawi, Mozambique, Eswatini.

The follow-up phases will involve the application of the integrated approach tool to accelerate the energy security agenda (universal energy access) and further drive water and food security within the context of climate change and demographic pressures.

2.1.1.2 The Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT) - UNECA

The IPRT was developed by UNECA in response to the needs of African countries to simultaneously adopt and integrate both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 into their national development frameworks and plans. It enables Member States to report progress in a harmonized way. With the goals, targets and indicators of the two Agendas already built into the software, users can visually assess the level and strength of alignment between the two Agendas at the click of a button.

The software is dynamic and adaptable to country-specific frameworks, which can be at the national, sub-national and sectoral levels. Once the results framework of a country's national development has been coded in excel and uploaded into the software, the user can assess the alignment of the plan with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The monitoring and evaluation module allows for country data entry on the key indicators (as well as baselines, targets and current values) of the national development plans, which is a crucial feature for reporting progress towards the realization of national priorities as they align to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The tool has been used in Uganda, the Gambia, Ghana, Congo, Cameroon, and Ethiopia.

Box 3: Ethiopia – Integrating SDGs into the National Economic Plan

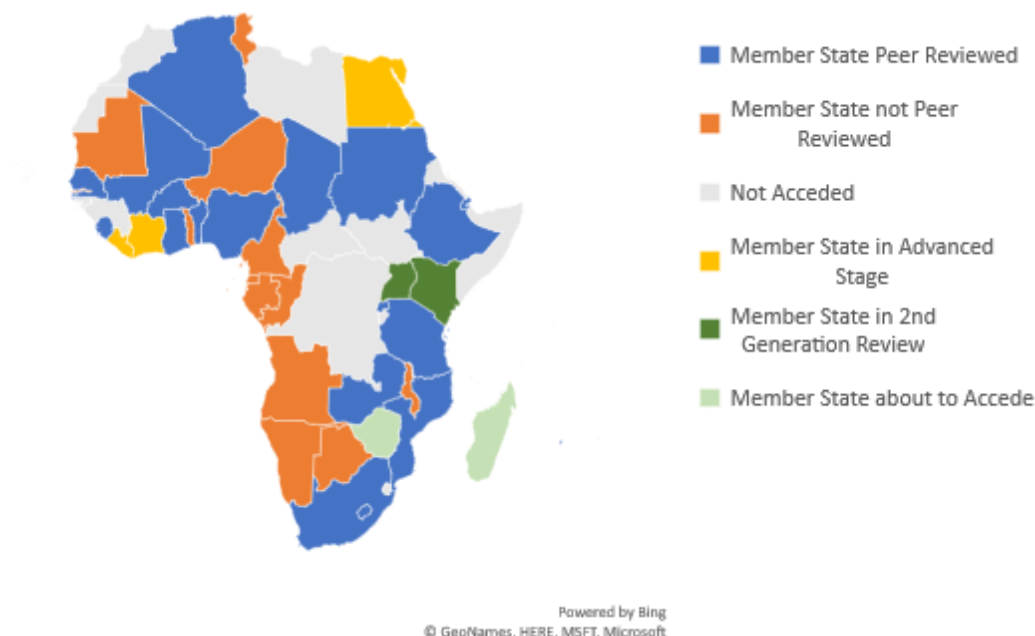
Ethiopia has integrated the SDGs into its Second Five Year Growth and Transformation Plan (GTP II) spanning the period 2015 to 2020 with a full sense of national ownership. The GTP II is an integrated medium-term national development plan financed by the national budget which facilitates better coordination for effective implementation nation-wide. All the SDGs have been integrated into ten of the priority areas of the GTP II, which include economic development, infrastructure development, social development, democratic systems development and cross-cutting-sectors development. Ethiopia has deployed existing institutional and organizational arrangements as well as human resources, and no new or parallel structures have been set up to implement SDGs. Political commitment at the government level is quite high. The SDGs have been integrated into the GTP II with the approval of the council of ministers and ratified by the House of Peoples Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FORE) so that it has become legally binding to implement the SDGs in Ethiopia. (Ethiopia VNR, 2017)

2.1.1.3 The Governance tool of the Africa Peer Review Mechanism – APRM Tool

The APRM Tool is intended primarily for Member States that have acceded to the Mechanism. It is a self-monitoring mechanism that fosters the adoption of policies, standards, and practices that lead to political stability, high economic growth, sustainable development and accelerated regional economic integration. Under the Mechanism, the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices including identifying deficiencies and assessing the needs for capacity building of the participating countries is enhanced. This mechanism reviews the performance of a country against four thematic areas of Governance namely: democracy and political governance, economic governance, corporate governance, and socio-economic development. The APRM has promoted policy dialogue between leaders and citizens through the peer review process and highlighted critical overarching challenges inhibiting the development of Member States. The tool can identify best practices in individual countries and serve as a Continental Early Warning System for detecting possible shortcomings in governance and causes of conflict. The APRM uses the tool to simplify data collection processes, support a wide range of surveys and opinion polls, provide real-time data, compare historical and current statistics and generate and manage results in a timely manner. The Tool is less prone to human error, is more secure and can be used by Member States of the African Union, Review Missions and data collection teams.

The APRM electronic questionnaire was designed to be scalable, reliable, robust, flexible, and secure based on a Multi-Platform (Personal Computers, Smartphone, tablet, etc.) to support data collection through surveys, household surveys and opinion polls. It is customizable for Country specific requirements. Many of the 39 Member States that have acceded to the Mechanism have adopted the tool.

Figure 12: Status of APRM Accession and Country Reviews using the APRM Tool



2.1.1.4 The Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) - UNDP

This toolkit supports countries that want to mainstream the SDGs into national and sub-national plans by assessing their readiness for SDG implementation. The toolkit suggests clear steps and templates for policymakers to conduct a Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) of the SDGs to determine their relevance to the country context, both at the national and sub-national levels, and provides interlinkages across targets. The assessment is a first step in defining a roadmap for a country to implement the SDGs. The RIA is applied in four steps as follows (UNDP, 2017).

Box 4: Concrete steps of UNDP Rapid Integrated Assessment

Step 1 - Offers guidance on ways to analyse the relevance of the SDGs for the country, including ways to determine national and sub-national development priorities. It also provides methods to map SDG targets into development and sectoral plans.

Step 2 - Provides options for applying an integrated approach to achieve sustainable development. This includes determining the focus of SDG targets vis-à-vis the sustainable development dimensions (social, economic, and environment) and across the 5Ps to ascertain a balance across aligned targets and to identify the interlinkages across targets.

Step 3 - Examines ways to assess existing monitoring capacity and provides a checklist for conducting a needs assessment. The need for cross-cutting indicators to reduce the monitoring burden at the country level is also discussed.

Step 4 - Consolidates the primary output of the RIA. This entails developing a national and/or sub-national SDG profile that identifies development challenges, gaps in alignment with the national/sub-national plans, corresponding indicators and a quick snapshot of potential interlinkages. The SDG profile indicates the readiness of a country to mainstream and implement the SDGs.

Box 5: Kenya - Mapping the SDGs with Vision 2030

Kenya has undertaken a mapping of the SDGs and its Vision 2030. Each of the 17 SDGs was mapped with the Vision 2030 into the Second Medium Term Plan (MTP) objectives to ensure that the global development framework and its implementation is geared towards achieving both Vision 2030 and SDGs. The government directed all Ministries, Department, and Agencies (MDAs) to mainstream the SDGs into policy, planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation systems and processes. As a result, all SDGs targets and indicators have been mapped onto the mandates of the MDAs and assigned SDGs to the relevant development actors. Besides, the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan guidelines have been reviewed to ensure that the SDGs are mainstreamed into the Strategic Plans of MDAs. The SDGs have also been mainstreamed into Performance Contracting, and MDAs submit quarterly progress reports (Kenya VNR, 2018).

Box 6: South Africa - Mapping the National Development Plan (NDP) – Vision 2030 to the SDGs

The South African NDP provides a thorough analysis of the underlying and structural factors that need to be addressed to realise the Vision 2030. The analysis highlights the following: (a) a dual economy characterized by a highly developed formal sector that co-exists with a large, under-developed informal sector; (b) sharp disparities in access to assets and services – such as land, quality education, skills, technology, and capital – that translate into low household incomes; (c) the relative decline of sectors like mining and manufacturing leading to job and income losses; and (d) difficulties in translating substantial investments in social protection and service delivery into increased participation of the poor in the economy.

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the attendant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, the government decided to align its policies and programmes as articulated in the NDP to the newly adopted SDGs and requested the UN to undertake a mapping exercise to establish the extent to which the NDP is aligned to the SDGs, analyse whether the ambitions spelt out in the NDP are bold enough to match those of the SDGs and identify gaps in the NDP as it relates to the SDGs. Since the NDP was a response to the diagnostic report of 2011, it did not cover all areas of endeavour under the SDGs, and did not cover all the contours of the SDGs, namely, “leave no one behind, put sustainable development at the core of all development programmes, integrate social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability in all areas of human endeavour, transform the economy for growth and inclusive growth, build peaceful and effective, open and accountable institutions for all and forge a new partnership for development.”

The mapping exercise closely followed the UNDP RIA methodology and involved taking all priorities and actions stated in the 13 programme chapters of the NDP and cross-matching them with each of the 169 SDG targets. The criteria for establishing how closely matched an NDP objective is to a particular SDG targets included: (i) how the NDP intervention impacts the SDG target (multiplier effects); (ii) the beneficiary population – whether the target group includes vulnerable groups and the least well-off; (iii) speed of impact of the NDP intervention; and (iv) whether there exists evidence of impact of the intervention elsewhere (South Africa VNR, 2019).

2.2 Operationalising Sustainable Development

The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) has been at the forefront of developing long-term pathways for implementing the SDGs and has developed some approaches which may be adopted by countries to accelerate domestication and implementation. The SDSN has proposed six broad SDG transformations to facilitate the implementation process (Sachs et al. 2019).

The six SDG Transformations are underpinned by the 2030 Agenda principle of leaving no one behind, circularity, and decoupling⁶. They are also premised on the observation that country performance on the SDGs is greatly varied and depends on the type of challenges faced by each individual country and the context that surround these challenges, which results in uneven performance in SDG implementation across SDGs and their targets. It is also observed that achieving the SDGs requires deep, directed system transformations that must be carefully designed involving all sectors in society (OECD, 2019). The six transformations suggested define how countries should organize SDG implementation. Countries might find it useful to organize the SDGs and their targets into “discrete transformations” that focus on policy challenges which must be considered in combination to manage synergies and trade-offs (OECD, 2019 p3).

figure 13: Organization of SDGs Transformations -Leave no one behind



Source: Adapted from J. Sachs et al, 2019

⁶ Circularity: An economic system that is based on business models which replace the ‘end-of-life’ concept with reducing, alternatively re-using, recycling and recovering materials in production/distribution and consumption processes with the aim to accomplish sustainable development to the benefit of current and future generations” through decoupling resource use from economic growth.

The last three triangles at the bottom right provide the enablers for the transformations to work effectively. There must be an effective governance architecture combined with strong institutions, dedicated political support across all spheres of government and strong partnerships to ensure that cross-pollination of ideas, technologies, financial mobilization, and implementation capacities are all harnessed for maximum benefit.

The key SDGs and Agenda 2063 interventions need to be completely tied into the prioritised and scheduled interventions at the national and sub-national levels. Sequencing is crucial as it determines which activities and interventions are requisite to others, and to a large extent, resource requirement also play a significant role in determining which transformation is given the highest priority in sequencing of implementation.

Table 2: SDGs Transformations

SDG Transformation	Principal Line Ministry involved in the transformation	Key SDG intervention
1. Education, Gender and Inequality	Education, Science and Technology, Social Affairs	Early childhood development. Primary and Secondary Education Vocational training and higher education, Social Protection system and labour standards, Research and development
2. Health, Wellbeing, and Demography	Health	Universal health coverage, healthy behaviours and social determinants of health and wellbeing
3. Energy decarbonisation and Sustainable Industry	Buildings/Construction, Energy, Environment, Transport	Access to clean energy; zero-carbon electricity generation, energy efficiency, electrification and zero-carbon fuels, curbing pollution
4. Sustainable Food, Land, Water, and Oceans	Agriculture, Environment, Fisheries and Marine, Resources, Forestry, Health, Water and Natural Resources	Efficient and resilient agricultural systems and fisheries that support healthy diets and farm livelihoods; protection of terrestrial and marine biodiversity including forests; Healthy food promotion and regulation; trade and supply chains consistent with sustainable development, integrated land-use and water management
5. Sustainable Cities and Communities	Transport, Urban Development, Water and Sanitation	Sustainable mobility and transport networks; urban access to water, sanitation, and waste management; more compact settlements, urban adaption and resilience
6. Digital Revolution for Sustainable Development	Science and Technology, Telecommunications	Universal broadband and IT infrastructure; digital inclusion; skills; privacy protection and universal identity; mobilizing digital technologies to achieve all SDGs

Source: Adapted from Long-term pathways for the implantation of the SDGs: The Governance Implications, OECD & SDSN, 2019

The United Nations SDSN emphasises that governments and other stakeholders need to determine how interventions such as improved policies, public and private investments and regulation can be organised and deployed to effectively yield the desired impact on the SDGs. To aid implementation, SDG transformations should align well with the way governments are organised, and together, they should cover all the 17 goals and associated targets (Sachs et al, 2019). Further, it is suggested that each transformation needs to be underpinned by two principles: firstly, each transformation must be designed to uphold fairness and social inclusion, particularly in public services and social goods and secondly, every transformation needs to reduce humanity's environmental footprint by promoting circularity in material flows and decoupling of environmental resource use and pollution from human well-being.

Box 7: Benin – Rapid Integrated Assessment

To establish a frame of reference for effective development planning based on the Sustainable Development Goals, Benin carried out a rapid integrated assessment of the incorporation of the Goals into its national policies and strategies. The assessment revealed that, on average, 60 to 70 per cent of the targets set out in the Goals had been incorporated into national policies and strategies. Following the assessment and the prioritization of the Goals, 49 priority targets were identified. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators has also made it possible to establish a baseline for the indicators that relate to the priority targets. For this to work, the Government has established an institutional framework structured around four thematic groups (social, economic, environmental and governance). The thematic groups are organized around focal points responsible for planning and programming in the line ministries and benefit from the participation of all a range of actors, such as local elected officials, parliamentarians, civil society, the private sector, institutions and opinion leaders (Benin VNR, 2017).

2.3 Domesticating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063

The Africa Governance Report 2019 indicated that 88 per cent of countries in Africa have a National Vision or long-term development strategy/plan, while 86 per cent have NDPs. Almost all African Union Member States have produced national visions and national development plans at some time as instruments not only to translate and realise their aspirations but also to realise the aspirations that go beyond their respective borders, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union agenda 2063. The plans and strategies are either interpreted as guidelines on what should be done at a practical level, intrinsically anticipating macro-economic conditions under which development programmes could be implemented or as practical projects covering a specific period (pathways by which macro goals could be realized). Development planning is an instrument of governance which provides “a systematic approach to identifying, articulating, prioritizing, and satisfying the economic and social needs and aspirations of a country within a given (often limited) resource envelope” (APRM, 2019).

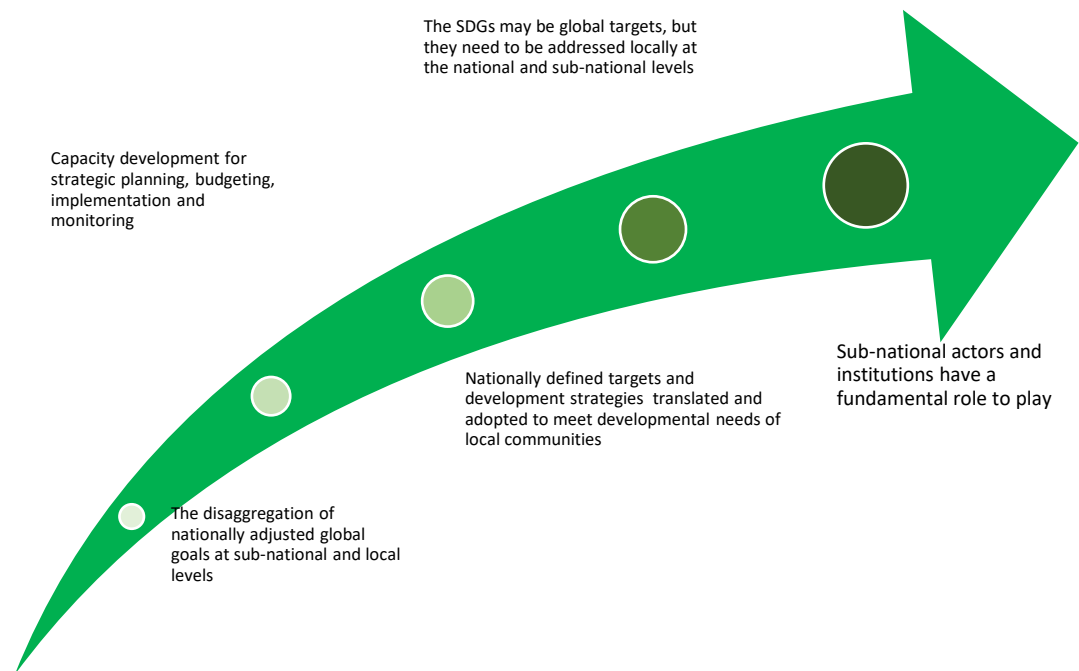
Recently, several countries have adopted a third approach known as long-term foresight or futures process, where activities are developed to encourage innovation, strategic evaluation and the

proactive shaping of the future. Foresight is aimed at enhancing the ability of decision-makers to engage and shape events at a more extended range (Fuerth, 2009). 'Foresight' refers to processes of anticipation that identify opportunities and threats which may arise in mid- to long-term versions of the future. Foresight also encourages innovation, strategic evaluation and the proactive shaping of the future (UNDP, 2014).

It is common to refer to "the implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063" as a process where the global and continental goals are translated and customized to the national and sub-national contexts. Strictly speaking, goals and targets cannot be implemented: for example, countries do not implement 'no poverty' – SDG1. Countries develop programmes and strategies which are intended to contribute towards realising the goal of achieving 'no poverty.' These programmes and strategies are typically articulated within the framework of National Development Plans which, together with the requisite financial, human and capital resources, are translated into activities that are implemented at the national or local level. However, the existence of National Visions or National Development Plans does not necessarily lead to the attainment of the stated development targets and objectives at the national level. Ultimately, the success or failure of national development strategies and frameworks depend on some conditions that have been well researched over the years, especially during the era of the MDGs. These conditions include political will and transformative leadership, national ownership of programmes, adequate financing, appropriate human and institutional capacities to implement programmes at all levels, partnerships and a "whole of society approach."

At the national level, further consideration has to be given to domestication – the integration of continental or global development paradigms into local contexts. The most important aspect of the integration of any global or regional strategy into national strategic frameworks is ownership. No process can be assimilated into local contexts without the local population accepting these initiatives as their own. In the current development narrative of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the AU Agenda 2063, the process of domestication involves aligning the SDGs/AU 2063 goals and targets with local development frameworks, that is, reshaping and restating the goals as they apply to local development contexts and relate to local development challenges. Also critical in many countries across the continent is the capacity challenge. In congruence with assessing the alignment of the global and continental Agendas to local contexts, there is a need to assess what kind of capacities are required to implement programmes that will contribute towards the attainment of the intended targets and goals.

Figure 14: The Domestication Process



Lessons from the MDGs point to some principles which have to be followed in the domestication process. These building blocks are a critical element in the success or failure of integrating a non-local agenda into existing or developing frameworks. Initially, global and continental goals have to be dissected to fit into the local context by region, locality, gender, ethnicity and so on. This process also entails a deep understanding of the implications at the local level. Where capacities are lacking, deliberate efforts have to be made to address the gaps, including both efficiencies in resource allocation as well as absorptive capacities in line departments where implementation takes place. In this regard, the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders need to be clearly spelt out from the outset, when programmes and interventions are being developed. The APRM process has been a leading example on the continent on how responsibilities and results can be attributed to specific stakeholders within a framework of interlinked interventions in various areas of human endeavour.

Figure 15: Building Blocks for the Domestication of SDGs



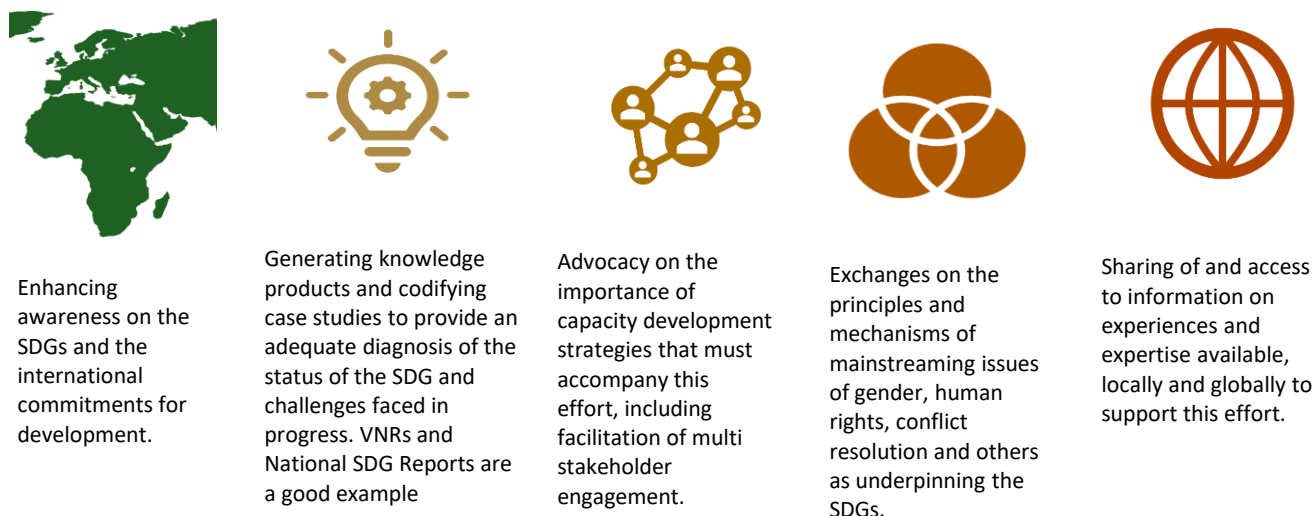
The Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and other SDG related reports from Member States have all emphasised the need for a concerted effort to make the SDGs and Agenda 2063 a “whole of Government” and a “Whole of Society” effort. The generic principles which form the core of domestication hinge upon fundamental principles which, in the main, are lessons learnt from the “unfinished business” of the Millennium Development Goals.”

The SDGs domestication process has four main components: advocacy and leaning for the SDGs through which the SDGs are dissected and interpreted in a manner that all segments of the population can understand and appreciate; SDG-based strategic planning at the central as well as at sub-national level; adequate resource allocations to programs which promote the SDGs; and the management and monitoring of implementation. This last component is key to the successful realization of the aspirations stated in the SDGs and Agenda 2063. The implementation of SDG-related interventions presupposes the availability of adequate financial human and material resources, while the monitoring aspects require effective statistics systems capable of providing accurate, timely and disaggregated data to facilitate proper targeting to ensure that no one is left behind.

2.3.1 Component 1: Advocacy and Learning for the SDGs

Component 1 is a key factor in the domestication process as it provides for a common understanding of the fundamental requirements that individual countries need to put in place for the successful implementation of programmes that are predicated at the global or continental levels. Evidence from research by the APRM points to relatively strong national systems for advocacy and coordination of SDGs. Many countries have mechanisms that are directed from the Presidency or the Prime Minister's Office, with relevant technical Ministries charged with overseeing the coordination of efforts towards implementing SDG-related programmes

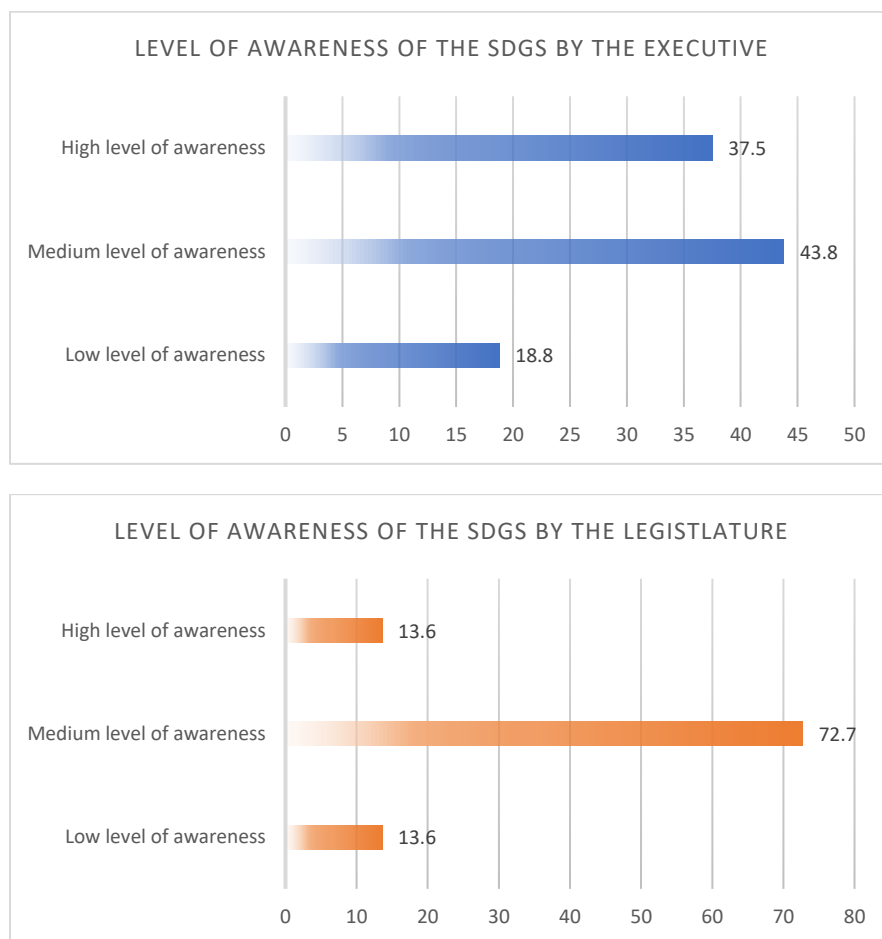
Figure 16: Stages of Advocacy and Learning



Source: Authors own analysis

2.3.1.1 Knowledge of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 at Executive and Legislative Levels

Figure 17: Levels of awareness by the Executive and Legislative branches



In general, there appears to be a good level of understanding and awareness of the SDG at the executive and the legislative levels, although countries reported that there are some differences in the degree of awareness between the two branches of government. All the responses that are analysed below represent the percentage of countries that observe a specific condition as reported by the group of SDG/Agenda 2063 focal points at the country level. Supplementary information has been obtained from country Voluntary National Reviews for those Member States that have opted to undertake the VNR exercise.

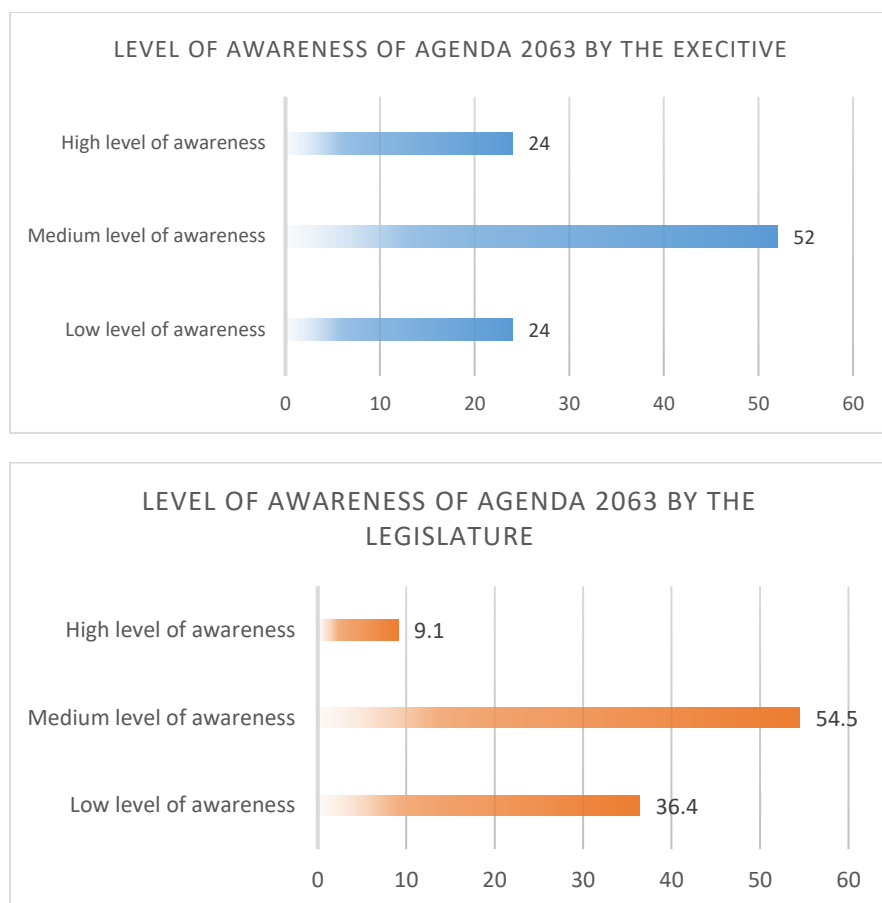
The study reveals that in many countries, both the executive and the legislature have relatively moderate levels of awareness for the SDGs at 43.8% and 72.7%, respectively. Just over a third (37.5%) of the countries reported a high level of awareness of the SDGs by the executive, while only 13.6% said the same for the legislature. The low level of knowledge of the SDGs by both the executive and legislative branches of government points to the need for more concerted efforts to bring members of the executive and the legislature up to speed on the implications of the global agenda on their mandates as leaders of government and lawmakers. The predominantly moderate level of awareness among the executive and the legislature reflects the lack of ownership of the SDGs by the national

leadership, an old challenge that previously undermined the implementation and led to the eventual failure to achieve targets and goals during the MDG era.

Member States should be encouraged to strive for full awareness of the SDGs through concerted capacity development efforts for the two arms of government. Training of legislators and the executive branch of government can go a long way to develop a sense of ownership of the agendas, and consequently improve the chances of successful implementation. The training programme intended to enhance the knowledge and participation of Parliamentarians in Africa initiated by UNDP can be used as a best practice to address the poor awareness of the SDGs by the national leadership⁷.

Awareness of Agenda 2063 appears to be even lower for both the executive and the legislative branches of government. Only 9.1% of countries report a high level of awareness of Agenda 2063 by the legislative compared to 24% for the executive. Almost an equal number of countries report moderate levels of awareness of Agenda 2063, with 54% for the legislature and 52% for the executive.

Figure 18: Level of awareness of Agenda 2063 by the Executive and the Legislative Branches

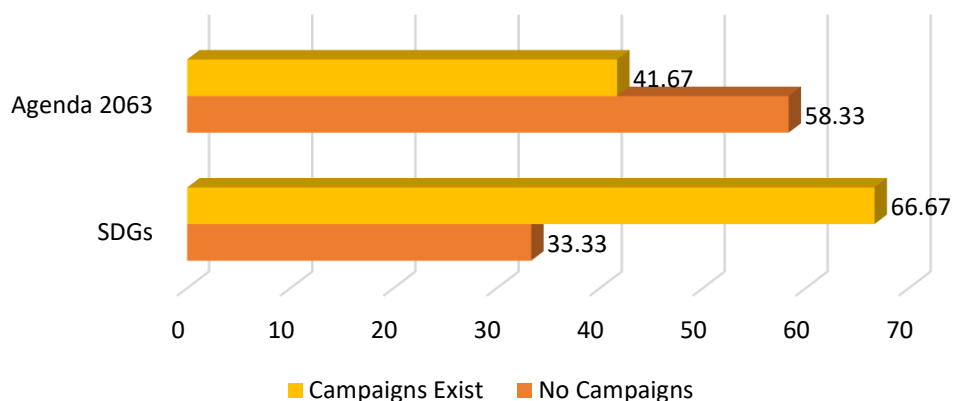


⁷ UNDP initiated a programme called “Parliamentary Engagement with the MDGs”. The programme was successfully implemented in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Namibia, Tanzania, SADC Parliamentary Forum and the ECOWAS Parliament.

Compared to SDGs, there appears to be more awareness by both the executive and the legislature than awareness of Agenda 2063. This can be explained by the fact that almost all countries in Africa boast a United Nations office which advocates for the SDGs while few African countries have resident offices for the African Union. Advocacy for Agenda 2063 should therefore be a priority for the African Union to foster ownership and address the lack of awareness.

A critical factor in raising the level of awareness in key stakeholders in the implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063 is the existence of campaigns to promote awareness of the two agendas. From the study, 66% of countries reported that campaigns to promote awareness on the SDGs were in place, while only 41.62% reported on the existence of awareness campaigns for Agenda 2063 – again highlighting the fact that the SDGs have taken centre stage in Africa compared to the continent’s own Agenda 2063.

Figure 19: Percentage of countries reporting the Existence of Campaigns Promoting awareness for SDGs and Agenda 2063



Although advocacy campaigns for the SDGs and Agenda 2063 are costly and many countries may not prioritize them over more pressing challenges such as health, education, food security, peace and economic development, it is necessary to invest in the campaigns as they will enhance understanding of the importance of implementing the SDGs and Agenda 2063 since all the pressing challenges are articulated therein.

BOX 8: Egypt - Pan-African Advocacy and Awareness for the SDGs and Agenda 2063

1. The Nasser Fellowship for Transformational Leadership: Under the auspices of AU Chairperson for 2019-2020, Abdel-Fattah Al-Sisi, the Nasser fellowship program is managed by the Ministry of Youth and Sports (Central Administration, the Parliament and Civic Education - African Youth Bureau). The fellowship targets around 100 young leaders from African Union Member States, decision-makers in the Government Sector, executive leaders in the private sector, youth in civil society, heads of national youth councils, faculty members, researchers in strategic research centres, trade union members, journalists and media professionals.
 - ✓ This Fellowship is one of the mechanisms to implement the "One Million by 2021" initiative which aims to train one million young Africans by 2021. It was launched recently by the AU Commission on Science, Technology and Human Resources in Addis Ababa, capital of Ethiopia. The first batch was trained from 8 to 22 June 2019 at the Al-Gezira Civic Education Centre in Cairo.
 - ✓ The aim of the Fellowship is to transfer the long-established Egyptian experience in national institution-building and to create a new generation of young African transformational leaders whose vision is in line with the orientations of Egypt's presidency of the African Union, and which is committed to serving the objectives of African unity through integration
 - ✓ Egypt's Foreign Affairs Ministry launched a media campaign to raise awareness of the country's chairing of the African Union in 2019, with a Facebook page and a section on the ministry's website, highlighting the priorities of the AU agenda, action plans and Agenda 2063.
2. The Pan African-Summer School Agenda 2063: The African Youth Bureau at the Ministry of Youth and Sports, in collaboration with the Pan African Youth Union and in partnership with the African Graduate School -Cairo University as an academic partner, organized Africa Summer School 2063
3. African Youth Voice: an initiative that brings together young African leaders from different African countries in Egypt. It organized multiple sessions to raise awareness about Agenda 2063.

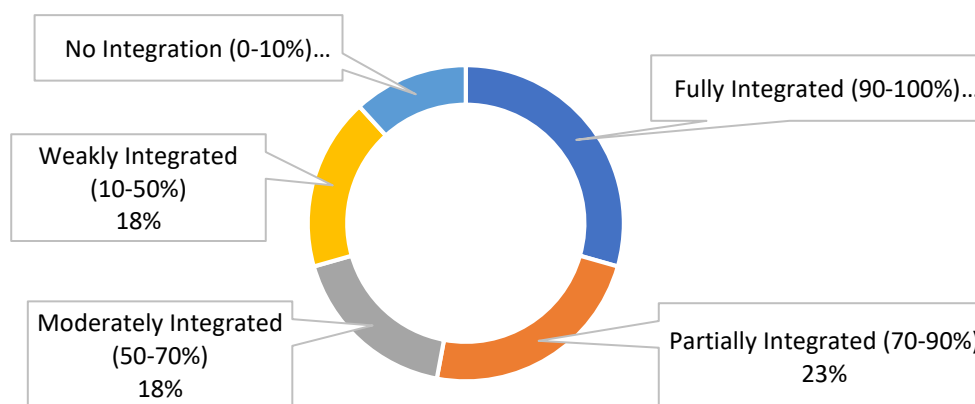
Source: APRM questionnaire

2.3.2 Component 2: Integrating SDGs into National Development Frameworks

Component 2 of the domestication process involves the development of SDG-based strategic planning – integrating SDGs and Agenda 2063 into National Development Plans and programmes. Earlier, a list of available tools for the integration of SDGs into NDPs was provided. Member States are encouraged to access these tools which are readily available from the institutions that developed them at no cost. These tools are essential for identifying the capacity needs and financial requirements necessary to advance the SDGs. This stage also involves a significant amount of data collection and analysis to establish baselines and pin-point areas where concerted efforts need to be made to ensure that no one is left behind. This includes the disaggregation of data by gender, locality, ethnicity, age, levels of education etc. Since this stage involves the transposition of global and continental goals to local contexts, the adaptation of SDG targets and indicators to the local context is critical. To ensure the success of implementation, capacity development interventions should be incorporated into the SDG-based strategies, plans and budgets. At the 'coalface', an analysis of decentralisation and devolution systems and structures, including legal and regulatory frameworks needs to be undertaken to ensure

that the challenges which were identified in the MDGs period are addressed fully. The figure below provides a snapshot of the proportion of countries reporting various levels of integration of SDGs into national programmes using the tools described above, or the country's own methodologies.

Figure 20: Degree of Integration of SDGs into NDPs



Integration of the SDGs into national frameworks will only be meaningful if the five underpinning imperatives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are pursued in full. Crafted before the adoption of the 2030 Agenda by the High Level Panel, these imperatives, launched by the co-chairs of the Panel consisting of H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, P.M. David Cameron of the United Kingdom and P.M. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia formed the contours or underpinnings of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

Box 9. The five imperatives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. Leave No One Behind. For example, move from reducing poverty to ending poverty.
2. Put Sustainable Development at the Core – Integrate social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability
3. Transform Economies for jobs and inclusive growth
4. Build Peace and Effective, Open and Accountable Institutions for all, and
5. Forge a New Global Partnership which accounts for solidarity, cooperation and mutual accountability.

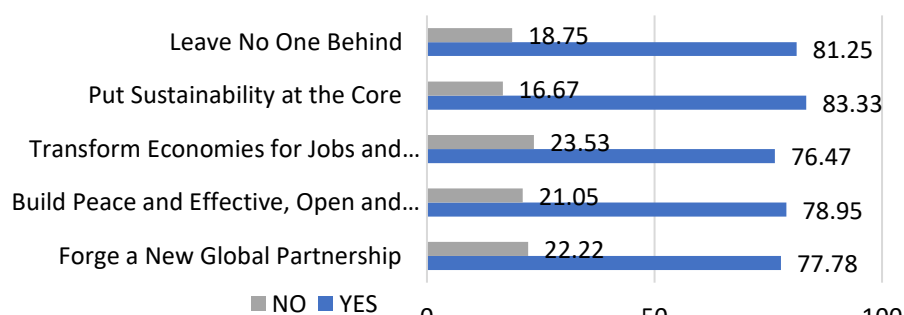
Over 70 per cent of African countries reported that their development programmes and strategies are consistent with the five principles of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. The five principles additionally invoke notions of a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) to programming at the national level. There are four fundamental questions that a HRBA poses for all stakeholders in the national development context. The first two questions relate to the identification of the particular group that is left behind and the reasons why, while the last two questions describe the response to the challenge posed by the first two questions.

Box 10: Human Rights-Based Approach

1. Who has been left behind? This refers to segments of a country's population that has inadvertently been left out of the development process. It could include marginalised ethnic groups, youth, women, the disabled, regional disparities, rural-urban dichotomies, etc.
2. Why have these groups been left behind? Which rights are being violated?
3. Who has to do something about it? Targeting marginalised groups becomes important.
4. What do they need to take action? What capacities and resources are available to enable action so that the marginalised group can be included in the development process?

More than 80 per cent of countries reported having provisions in their frameworks to address inclusivity and place sustainability at the core of national development programmes. Also, more than 75 per cent of countries reported that they had included economic transformation for job creation and inclusive growth which are key components of the 2030 Agenda as well as Agenda 2063 and should potentially result in improved development outcomes across all the SDGs and Agenda 2063 Aspirations. The first three principles can only be achieved if there is traction on the last two – building peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all, and forging a new global partnership. These refer to SDGs 16 and 17 respectively. Over 75 per cent of African countries reported that these two principles are included in their respective national policy frameworks. In a continent which has witnessed violent conflict, the principles enshrined in SDG 16.1 to significantly reduce all forms of violence everywhere, play a critical role in the delivery of all dimensions of the 2030 Agenda. It also corresponds to the provisions articulated in Aspirations 3 and 4 of Agenda 2063. There can be no progress in any of the goals without effective, accountable and transparent institutions. Although this may not be true for all countries, a positive approach to preventing violence should become a routine aspect of policy.

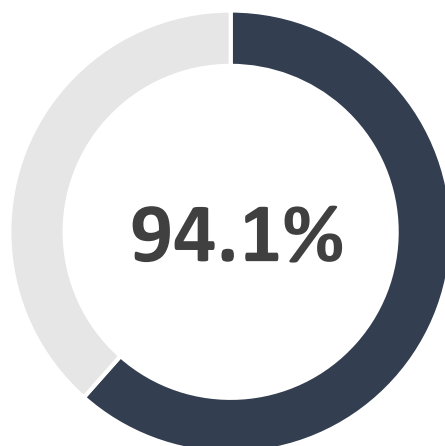
Figure 21 :Policy Framework Addressing the Provisions of Sustainable Development



Marginalised groups in society have always been victims of the first imperative – Leave No One Behind. Due to lack of information, it is always a challenge to identify who, amongst society's most vulnerable,

is left behind. In the APRM study, two groups (not exhaustive) were identified as the ones most likely to be left behind – Youth and Women.

Figure 22 :Inclusion of Youth and Women Empowerment Programmes in NDPs



Most countries have included youth and women empowerment in their policy frameworks and National Development Plans, meaning that there should be a marked improvement in the socioeconomic status and participation rates of women, girl children and youth and a resultant increase in development outcomes. Women empowerment is integral to sustainable development and economic progress. Improvements in access to health care for women and improvements in women’s reproductive rights and reproductive health has significantly reduced maternal mortality in most countries (UNECA et al, p66 2017). The 2017 Sustainable Development Report for Africa identifies social norms, traditions and structural constraints as major obstacles to women’s empowerment and progress.

2.3.3 Component 3: Financing for the SDGs

Without adequate and efficient use of resources, plans and programmes will fail to address the development challenges facing the world and Africa in particular. Adequate resources and capacities are needed to manage fiscal decentralisation and fiscal devolution at all levels and to ensure that dialogue and coordination mechanisms are in place, including the deliberate enhancement of domestic resource mobilisation, financial discipline, transparency and the rule of law. The coordination of ODA and the involvement of the private sector, the implementation of public-private partnerships and the direction of all stakeholder efforts towards the realisation of the SDGs is critical. In all these dimensions, the fiscal space available at all levels is critical to ensuring full implementation of programmes.

The challenge of mobilizing adequate financial resources to finance SDGs is well articulated in a number of reports. In July 2015, the third International Conference on Financing for Development took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to identify possible sources of finance and mechanisms to support the SDGs. This process, now known as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda for Sustainable Development (Addis

Agenda) stated that new funding sources and the mobilization capacity of the proposed mechanisms were far short of what is needed to adequately support all the SDGs and their targets. It is clear from this that the international community needs to do more to finance development in the coming years.

The Addis Agenda came after the 2002 Monterrey Consensus that was adopted at the first International Conference on Financing for Development. This Conference emphasized the dramatic shortfalls in resources required to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration. The Addis Agenda also emphasized the role that enhanced domestic public resource mobilization and international development cooperation would have in scaling up finance for development. On domestic resource mobilization, the Addis Agenda highlighted the need to address illicit financial flows and taxation capacity issues that substantially hamper resource mobilisation by States. On international development cooperation, a major initiative was the establishment of a global infrastructure forum to address the global financing gap in infrastructure development (UNCTAD 2018).

The burgeoning of cost estimates for the SDGs has given rise to heated debate about the best methodology to be used to obtain consistent and reliable figures. However, the question is not only technical, it also calls for a careful examination of the political motivations underlying the estimation exercise. Currently, the multitude of cost estimates creates confusion and uncertainty about the scale of additional resources required to achieve the SDGs. While “large” estimates are likely to be rejected by the traditional approaches to development financing, “low” figures would increase the possibility that the goals are not met, thus generating discontent in the developing countries. Hence developing more accurate methodologies to cost the SDGs will help the continent to identify the future levels of resource mobilization and the size of the financial gap between available resources and the total required to meet the goals.

The challenge with estimating costs of achieving a set of global goals is that the results obtained depend on the approach used. For example, estimates from three different institutions are vastly different: the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) gives a range of between US\$600 billion to US\$ 638 billion per year, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) gives a range of US\$600 billion to US\$1.2 trillion per year while the Africa Sustainability Centre (ASCENT) says the range is between US\$200 billion to US\$1.3 trillion per year.

UNECA estimates that infrastructure spending is approximately US\$72 billion per year with 65% of this emanating from domestic resources. To achieve the SDGs, Africa must spend an additional US\$50 billion to US\$93 billion per year on infrastructure (infrastructure financing gap). Further, if Africa is to meet its objective of energy access for all needs by 2025, the estimated cost would be in the range of US\$ 30 billion to US\$ 55 billion per year. The gap may be partially closed by increasing the volume and effectiveness of Official Development Assistance (ODA) which stabilized at about US\$29 billion in 2017, and within that, aid to sub-Saharan Africa rose by 3% to US\$25 billion. Humanitarian aid increased by 6.1% or USD 15.5 billion in real terms (OECD, 2018).

In addition, Illicit Financial Flows compromise resource mobilisation efforts across the continent. Currently, Africa loses in excess of US\$83 billion per year in trade mis-invoicing alone. Estimates of other forms of IFFs are difficult to arrive at due to the “illicit” nature of the transactions which are shrouded in secrecy and include items such as tax evasion and money laundering. If the efforts to stem

the flow of IFFs are successful, this could provide much-needed funds with which to close the financing gap.

Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is necessary to fund the investment and infrastructure requirements for the SDGs and Agenda 2063. FDI has been declining because of the deleterious investment climate in many Member States and also because of the egocentric political climate in many traditional development partners which have redirected resources that had traditionally been earmarked for Africa to domestic populist programmes. FDI declined from approximately US\$57 billion to US\$ 42 billion between 2015 and 2017.

Remittances have become an important source of financing for development and contribute significantly to the overall stock of foreign exchange earnings. In 2017, it is estimated that remittances reached US\$ 77 billion, which is approximately 4.3% of total Gross Domestic Product of the continent.

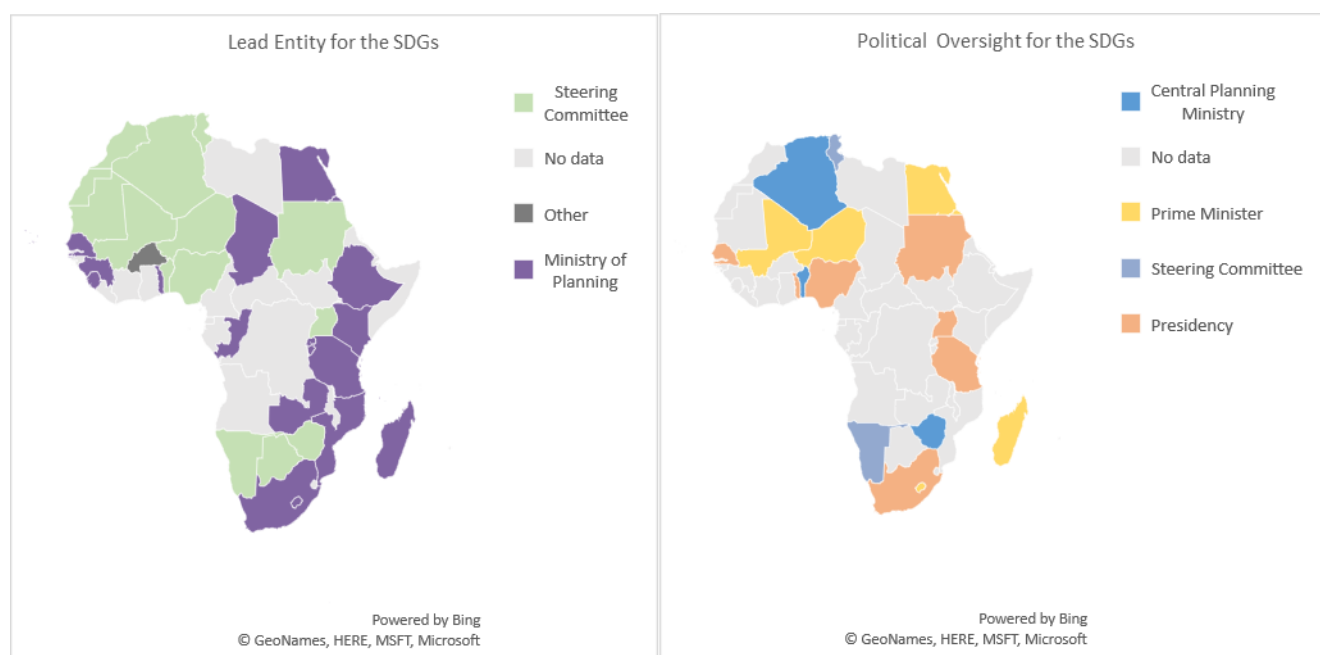
A worrisome trend is the rising debt stock on the continent. Africa's total debt to GDP ratio rose from 35.5% in 2017 to 37.6% of GDP in 2018. Foreign debt is especially high in commodity -based economies, standing at 62% of GDP in mineral rich countries. Capital markets can be a source of long-term financing for development using debt and equity markets. Investment potential increases when capital markets are active, signalling economic and political stability. Africa must invest more to develop capital markets and stock exchanges, which are found in only 29 countries, accounting for less than 1% of global stock market capitalization. In many cases, these are not even connected to global capital markets (UNECA, 2019).

2.3.4 Component 4: Institutional Arrangements and Coordination

Component 4 of the domestication process has received reasonable attention throughout the SDG implementation process. Most countries have established institutional structures to manage implementation of NDPs – which should ideally incorporate elements of the continental and global Agendas. Line ministries are charged with monitoring progress in their respective areas of focus while national statistical authorities are usually responsible for overall reporting on progress towards attaining the targets. Some aspects of managing the implementation process include legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks to enable multi-stakeholder engagement in monitoring the implementation of SDG-related activities starting with the grassroots level. Strengthening institutions through capacity development programmes, leapfrogging institutions into the fourth industrial revolution and information age, improving the management of the supply chain, deepening local capacities for project management for efficient utilisation of financial resources and improving the absorption capacities of local authorities to effectively utilize available resources all contribute towards better management of SDG-based interventions.

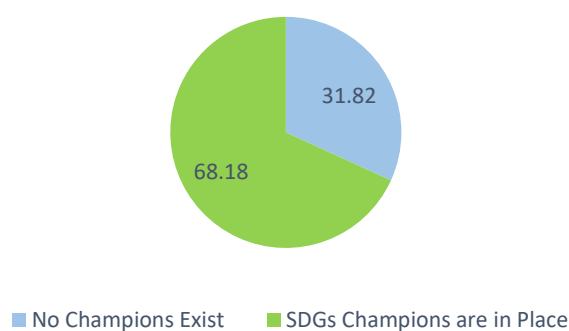
Additional considerations involve the facilitation of community dialogue and mutual accountability mechanisms that act as watchdogs to oversee the appropriate use of funds and the achievement of desired results. Civil society capacities play a great role in policy development, implementation, monitoring and review as well as in enhancing feedback.

Figure 23: Coordination and Political oversight of SDGs



One of the lessons from the MDG era was that coordination mechanisms for the overall implementation of the MDGs were weak in most countries, and that more efforts should be put in place to ensure better coordination of the successor programme. This is especially critical at the sub-national level where the majority of interventions actually take place. Currently, only 64% of countries report having established a coordination mechanism for the SDGs at the sub-national level.

Figure 24: Countries Reporting the Existence of Champions for SDGs in the Executive



Coordination mechanisms work in tandem with concerted efforts by the authorities to lead the entire process through dedicated institutions and individuals who are likely to be championing the coordination and implementation process. There are variations in this aspect between the different countries. In some cases, the lead for the SDGs is an officially appointed personality, while in others, it is based on individual initiative. In other instances, it takes the form of a local or international celebrity to assume the role of champion for the SDGs.

Box 11: Institutional arrangements for SDGs in North Africa

Algeria: In 2016, the government established an inter-ministerial committee under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to follow up the implementation of Agenda 2030. This Ministry led the process of preparing the voluntary national review.

Egypt: The National Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the SDGs was established by Prime Ministerial Decree in 2016. The committee is under the prime minister's office and is composed of representatives of 17 ministries and state entities. The National Inter-Ministerial Committee for the Follow-up of the Implementation of the SDGs works with parliament, the private sector, civil society and other stakeholders. The SDGs unit in the Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform is responsible for ensuring the integration of SDGs into NDPs.

Tunisia: The Government of Tunisia, in addition to the inter-ministerial committee, has adopted a hierarchy of sub-sectoral committees for all 17 SDGs. Tunisia pays great attention to SDG4 on Education at executive level. Because of this, the government has created inter-sectoral, inter-ministerial and superior national committees specifically for this goal

Mauritania: - Two committees have been established to follow up the SDGs. These are: the inter-ministerial steering committee for planning and monitoring of SDGs and its domestication and a technical committee for coordination of regional and international initiatives.

Morocco: In 2015, the Government established an inter-ministerial committee to follow up the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development. It also set up a steering mechanism for the effective follow up of NSSD (national commissions, inter-ministerial / thematic committees on each SDG) and appointed focal points for SDGs in every ministry (VNRs, United Nations)

Box 12: Institutional Arrangements for SDGs in West Africa – Selected Countries

Togo: Overall political leadership on the SDGs is provided by the Prime Minister's Office and the Presidency. The National Development Council provides strategic guidance and oversight for the implementation of the National Development Plan which is fully aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the ECOWAS 2020 Vision. Line Ministries are responsible for implementing SDGs within their respective areas of competence.

Niger: The Prime Minister has overall authority to oversee the implementation of the Development and Social Plan (PDES) which incorporates the SDGs. A Council of Ministers is responsible for implementing programmes articulated in the PDES. The Ministry of Planning is responsible for the technical coordination of the implementation of the SDGs.

Cote d'Ivoire: The Ivorian Government has put in place a monitoring and evaluation tool integrating the SDGs with the National Development Plan, Agenda 2063 and technical and financial partners. Senegal: Political guidance is provided by the Presidency and the lead coordinating entity is the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Planning, while implementation is done by ministries that deal with the various aspects of the SDGs.

Source: APRM questionnaire & VNRs

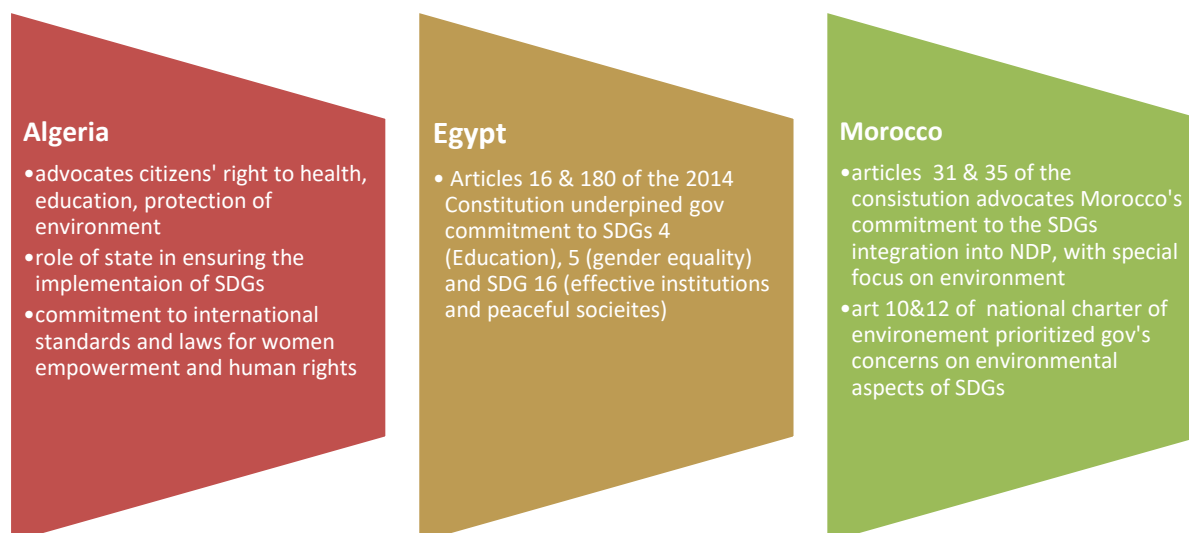
Case Study: Political Ownership towards the implementation of SDGs in the constitution: Egypt, Algeria, and Morocco

Because of the uprisings in many North African countries that started in 2011, most countries in this region have adopted new constitutions or constitutional amendments in the last seven years. These new constitutions lay emphasis on respect for human dignity and rights. All North African countries are actively working with the UN to align their constitutions with the SDGs. In addition to the integration of SDGs into constitutional provisions, parliamentary committees are authorized to monitor the government's budgeting and performance in the implementation of SDGs. Advocacy and awareness on SDGs and Agenda 2063 remain challenging for some members of parliament, as the APRM questionnaire highlighted.

Egypt and Tunisia are good examples in the region of countries that have properly managed their political reforms in the last seven years. The new Egyptian Constitution adopted in January 2014 is a significant improvement over the previous one. It guarantees its citizens full and free rights to education, health, protection, and development. It contains provisions to strengthen governance, equality, and social justice. In addition, the Planning and Budget Committee of the Parliament formed a sub-committee to monitor implementation of the 2030 Strategy and programs as well as performance budgeting. The committee holds monthly meetings.

Tunisia has also integrated SDGs significantly into its constitution. The General Assembly of the People (Parliament) established a committee of parliamentarians to follow up implementation of the SDGs. In 2016, Tunisia signed the 'Support for Integration, setting up a monitoring and evaluation and reporting system for the SDGs' agreement with the UN. Following the agreement, the government of Tunisia conducted a Rapid Integrated Analysis (RIA) which found that the targeted alignment rate of the conventions ratified by Tunisia in relevance to Human Rights with the Constitution in its first two chapters as well as the overall commitments madeⁱ by Tunisia is 65%.

Figure 25: Alignment of SDGs with the constitutions of Algeria, Egypt and Morocco



Case Study: South Africa

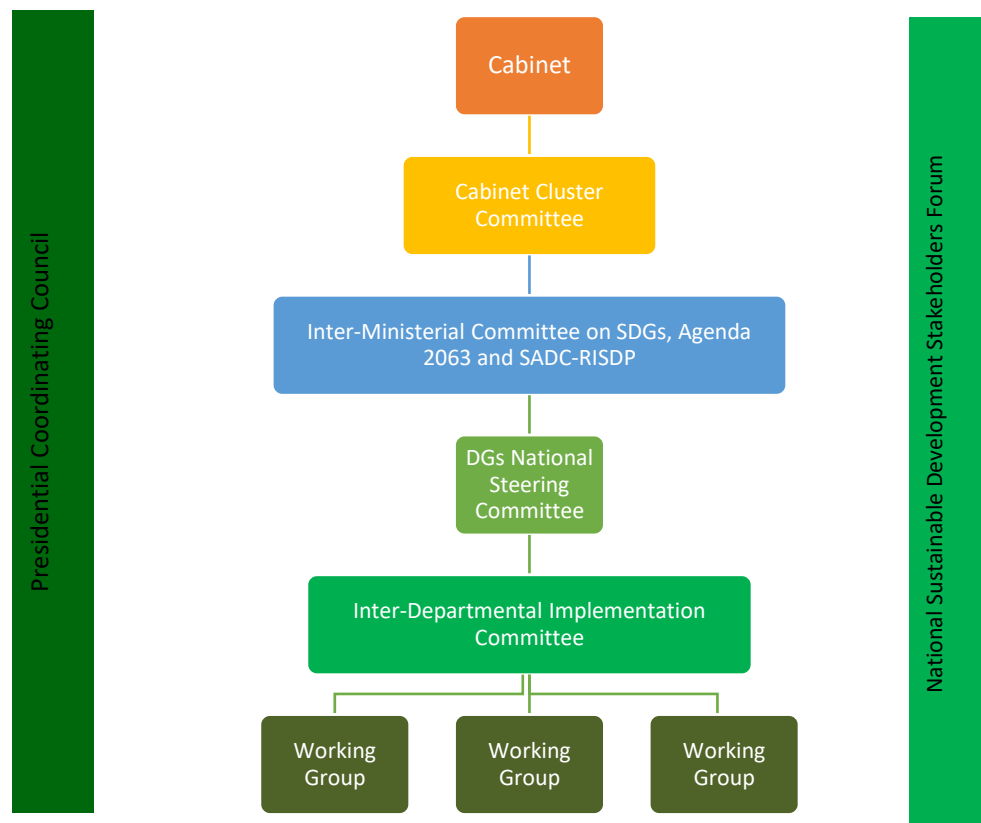
South Africa has established a national coordination mechanism which has been approved by the Cabinet to strengthen implementation of development policies and to review progress on the SDGs, the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the Southern African Development Community Regional Indicative Strategic Development Programme (SADC RISDP).

To a certain extent, the coordination mechanism relies on current government structures and processes to avoid duplication. However, the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Sustainable Development Agendas and the National Development Stakeholders Forum are new structures. The Directors General's National Steering Committee is composed of Directors-General from the Departments of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (meeting chair), International Relations and Cooperation, Environmental Affairs, Women, Basic Education, Higher Education, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Finance, Science and Technology, Public Service and Administration, and Government Communications.

This new structure is designed to provide high-level guidance from top political leaders, to strengthen administration through committees that bring together political authorities and civil service managers, and to integrate the views of government and social partners.

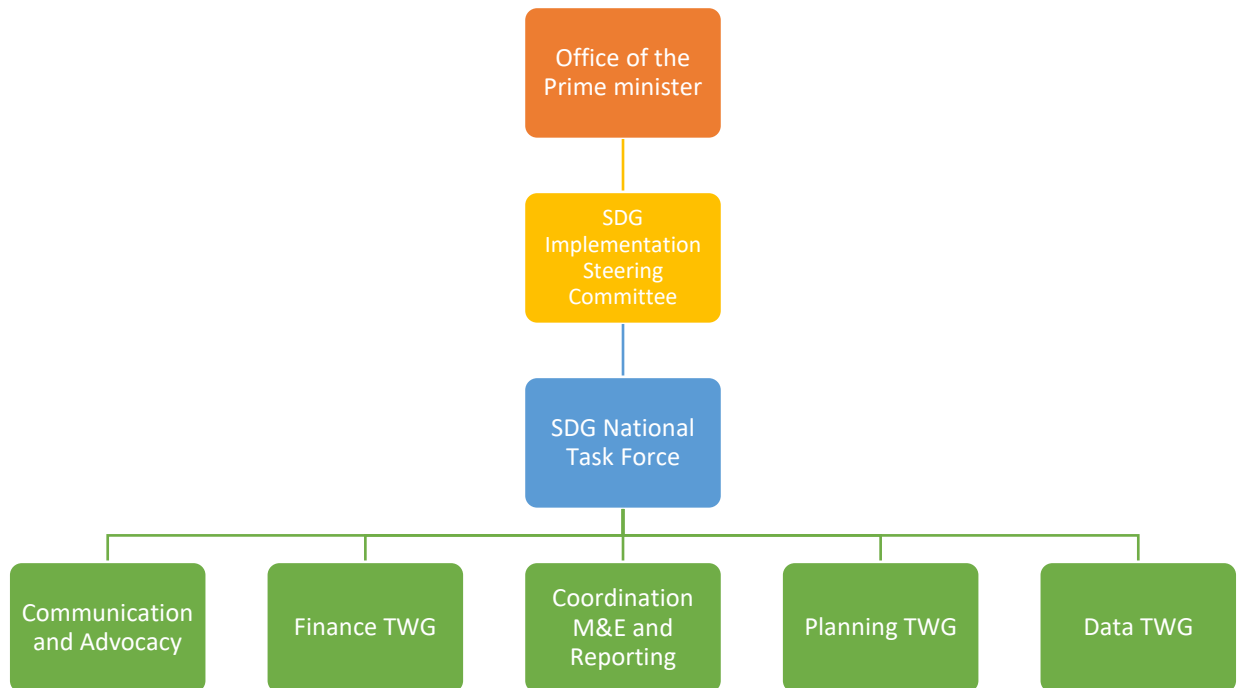
The national coordination mechanism is headed by the Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) in the Presidency.

Figure 26: National Coordination Mechanism



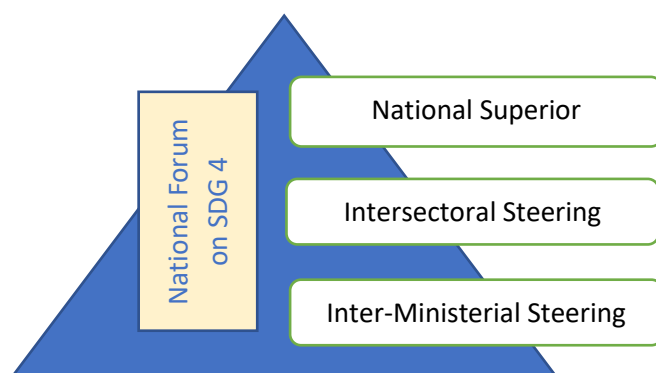
Case Study: Uganda Coordination Mechanisms

Figure 27: Coordination Mechanism for SDGs Implementation and Localization in Uganda



In Uganda, a National Coordination Framework for the implementation of the SDGs was established in 2016. A National roadmap was launched by the office of the Prime Minister in collaboration with the United Nations system to operationalize the framework. Under this framework, five Technical Working Groups were created to facilitate implementation of the SDGs. The Office of the Prime Minister is responsible for overall coordination, while the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is responsible for financing. The National Planning authority oversees the integration of the SDGs into all national, sector and local government plans while the Uganda Bureau of Statistics provides the data.

Figure 28: Institutional Mechanisms for SDG 4 in Tunisia



Box 13: Tunisia Coordination Arrangements for the SDGs

Tunisia is devoted to promoting institutional coherence for the attainment of SDGs. Prior to the adoption of SDGs, the government conducted broad national consultation with all parties and State players including the civil society to deliberate on a national strategy called “The Tunisia We Want” for the post-2015 period. Tunisia contributed to the global debate on the SDGs and affirmed its commitment to the 2030 Agenda by integrating the SDGs into its 2016-2020 Five-Year Development Plan (PQD). The Plan articulated 5 main pillars: i) reforms and governance, ii) economic hub, iii) human development, iv) concretisation of ambitions of the regions and v) green economy. Among the strategic SDGs which Tunisia puts as a national priority is education (SDG4). The government has set up sub-institutional structures to encourage national debate on the promotion of education at national level. (Tunisia VNR, 2019)





CHAPTER 3

THE ROLE OF STAKEHOLDERS IN AGENDA 2063 AND THE SDGs

3 Stakeholder Engagement with the SDGs

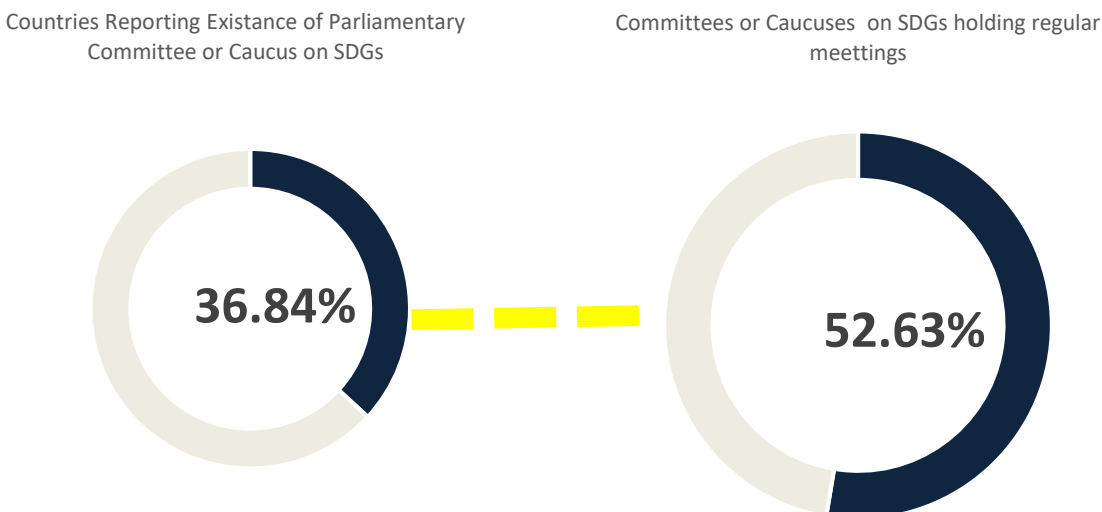
3.1 Legislatures

In many countries, Parliaments are in a unique position because they bring together representatives from all geographical areas of the country. Parliament is usually the most representative body within the State infrastructure. Since the SDGs are goals for the entire country, Parliaments have the responsibility to oversee policies and programmes to attain the SDGs and to ensure that the country reaches the targets set. They therefore have the responsibility to assess the effectiveness of government policy, scrutinise national budgets and ensure that enabling legislation is passed. In addition, Parliaments play an important representation role and provide an opportunity for elected citizen representatives to directly contribute to the realisation of the SDGs. It is for these reasons that Parliaments should increase and improve engagement with the SDGs. Parliaments can engage with the SDGs through four of their core functions:

- The Legislative process
- The Oversight functions
- Budget Scrutiny
- The Representative and Leadership Roles of Parliamentarians.

Parliaments and Parliamentarians have a clear and important role to play in ensuring that progress is made in achieving the targets outlined in the SDGs. Effective Parliamentary engagement can be a catalyst to accelerating progress towards the achievement of the SDGs and improving the lives of citizens in every country. To carry out these functions, Parliaments need to establish effective structures that can govern and direct their engagement with the SDGs and Agenda 2063. These structures, which could be in the form of Parliamentary committees and Caucuses on SDGs, need to meet regularly to be effective. Only 37% of Member States have parliamentary Committees or Caucuses on SDGs, and out of these, only 53% hold regular meetings.

Figure 29: Existence of Parliamentary Committees and Caucuses



Though various stakeholders have worked together to develop implementation and reporting mechanisms, local oversight and accountability of progress towards reaching the SDGs has, in general, remained limited. Strengthening the oversight role of Parliaments in implementing plans for attaining SDGs across the region has the dual benefit of leading to improved efficiency of local SDG-related programmes and increased local ownership and buy-in across political spectrums and society in general.

The VNRs which are prepared for the HLPF allow for discussion between Governments and its cooperating partners including multilateral organisations, bilateral donors, the media and civil society on progress towards achieving the SDGs. However, these are rarely publicly debated in a manner that Governments can be held accountable for the issues and challenges raised in the VNRs. In most democratic environments, whilst the media and civil society have an important role to play in this regard, the legislature remains the key forum for national debate and discussion.

There is a strong case therefore for putting parliaments in charge of oversight for progress towards SDGs and debate on related national sustainable development priorities. Such a strategy would lead to increased accountability for the Executive.

The benefits of legislative oversight of progress towards the SDGs include:

- **Increased national ownership:** To achieve progress towards the SDGs, there needs to be not only Executive support for the Goals, but also national support for and national ownership of the SDGs. An increased role for the legislature through discussion and debate on the SDGs and progress towards achieving the SDGs will strengthen national ownership of the SDGs.
- **Improved monitoring:** The broad nature of the SDGs makes monitoring progress on a regular basis a challenge. The prospect of regular reporting to the legislature on progress towards achieving the SDGs will focus the work of the Executive and provide increased public information on progress and the challenges faced.

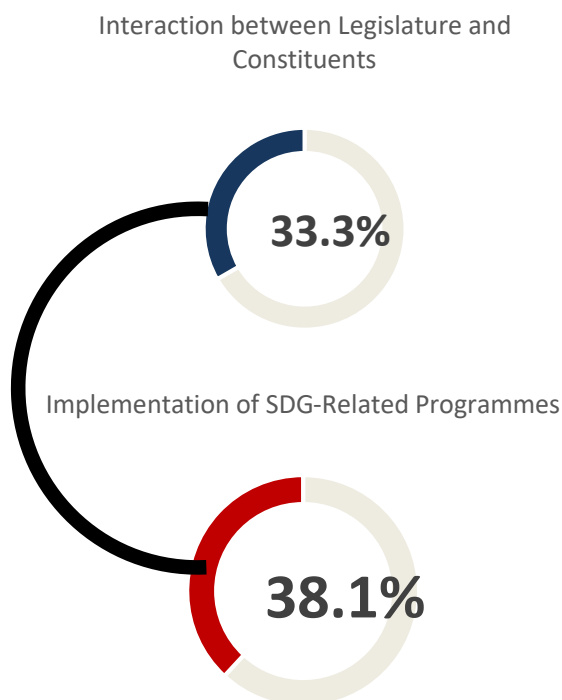
- **Increased accountability:** Improved monitoring through legislative oversight will not only highlight the progress made at country level, it will also provide an opportunity for Members of Parliament to question the Executive on the challenges faced in achieving certain Goals as well as for the Executive to outline and debate policy proposals for overcoming these challenges. Such increased and improved accountability will lead to improved Executive efficiency.
- **Increased visibility of the SDGs with political key stakeholders:** In many multi party parliamentary democracies, Parliament remains the only forum for political discussion and debate on issues of national importance. Such is the importance of the SDGs, that discussion and debate at this level is essential in order to increase the visibility of both the SDGs/Agenda 2063 themselves and progress made towards achieving the SDGs, and create national ownership of the SDGs which should transcend party politics and the political make-up of any given Government at any given time.
- **Increased visibility of the SDGs with the public, media and civil society:** In most Parliaments, debate and questions during plenary sessions (and on occasion in committees) remains open to the public. Discussion on the SDGs in a public forum makes it possible for CSOs and the media to receive increased information on the subject, leading to increased national debate and ownership of the SDGs. Garnering the views of CSOs on progress towards the SDGs through mechanisms like Committee hearings will provide a more participatory and inclusive approach to monitoring progress towards achieving the SDGs.
- **Increased domestic pressure for improved progress:** The prospect of increased oversight through regular parliamentary debates on progress made towards SDGs can focus the work of the Executive and lead to increased efficiency in policy implementation. Though international support and pressure can be an important catalyst towards progress, domestic political and public pressure for accelerated progress towards the SDGs is more likely to be effective in improving Government efficiency and implementation.

Though the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs are a challenge to effective national oversight and accountability, the nature of Parliamentary organisation presents a number of opportunities for possible programming and interventions in this field:

- **Capacitating legislatures and legislators:** For legislatures to play a more pro-active role in achieving progress towards the SDGs, the capacity of many Parliaments will need to be increased and improved. Capacity building could concentrate on raising the awareness of the Speaker/Clerks of Parliament and either all or some MPs and Parliamentary staff on the importance of the SDGs and providing training for the legislatures to improve their oversight capabilities with regard to the SDGs.
- **Capacitating committees:** The alternative to working with the whole Parliament is to target the specific committees within the legislature that are responsible for monitoring progress towards the SDGs such as the Finance Committee or the Economic Development committee. Training for committee Chairs or committee staff (in those legislatures where committees are operating) would be more focussed and less resource intensive than working with the legislatures but would lead to less visibility and likely less prioritisation within the Parliament. Effective technical assistance to committees would also improve their oversight functions.

- **International cooperation:** Working through international organisations such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) will provide an opportunity for the APRM and other interested organizations to reach numerous legislatures. The IPU already has a number of working groups or committees on issues such as HIV & AIDS and Human Rights, and a wide network of contacts within national legislatures. The IPU also has conferences for Speakers and General Secretaries, so cooperating with the IPU or the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association will provide greater access to key decision makers in legislatures.
- **Pan-National Institutions:** Working with numerous national legislatures is the most effective way to build their capacity to provide oversight and accountability with regard to the SDGs, but it can be logistically challenging and resource intensive. Working through pan-national legislatures such as the Pan African Parliament or the SADC Parliamentary Forum allows for targeted support and assistance for capacity enhancement for legislators.

Figure 30: Interaction between Legislature and Constituents

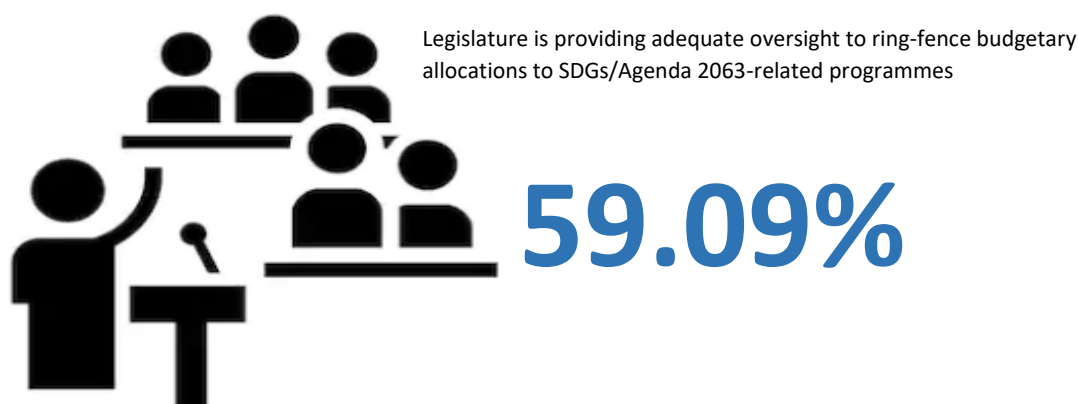


Over and above the establishment of Parliamentary Caucuses and Committees on SDGs, and establishment of the effectiveness of these through regular meetings, it is also important to establish good relationships between the legislators and their constituents. What is the level of interaction between legislators and their constituents? Only a third of the countries report some degree of interaction between the legislators and their constituents. This also has a bearing on the implementation of SDG-related programmes at the constituency level. The findings of the study show that there is a direct relation between the level of interaction between the legislators and their constituents and the level of implementation of SDG-related programmes. Since implementation of

development programmes occur at the constituency level, it is important for legislators and their constituents to have a common understanding of local development needs. This in turn ensures more cohesion in implementing programmes that directly affect the people and leads to improved development outcomes. Similarly, both the legislators and their constituents need to be fully conversant with the provisions of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

The implementation of SDG-related programmes is premised on the availability of resources – both human and financial. It is the traditional role of Parliaments to debate and provide funds for priority programmes and projects. In the APRM study, from the 38.1% of programmes that are being implemented in constituencies, 59% of countries reported that the legislature has ring-fenced budgetary resources earmarked for SDG-consistent programmes.

Figure 31: Legislature is providing adequate oversight to ring-fence budgetary allocations



3.2 The Judiciary

The Judiciary is the main guarantor of the rule of law, which is a precondition for sustainable development. The key imperative in sustainable development, leave no one behind, presumes the existence of the rule of law underpinned by the interplay of adequate institutional capacities, the existence of legal frameworks and the ability of citizens to access and utilize the legal apparatus in a country. The rule of law is a prerequisite for the achievement of all the other SDGs and all Aspirations in Agenda 2063. SDG 16 provides the gateway towards realising the Agenda’s vision of “a just, equitable, tolerant, open and socially inclusive world in which the needs of the most vulnerable are met” (UN, 2015). Without increased justice, the world will not be able to end poverty, reduce inequality, reach the furthest first, create conditions for shared values and shared sustainable prosperity, or promote peace and inclusion (Task Force on Justice, 2019). The direct role that the Judiciary plays in the SDGs is encapsulated in SDG 16 as follows:

- Reduce all forms of violence and related death rates;
- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children;
- Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice for all;
- Reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime;
- Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms;
- Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels;
- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels;
- Provide legal identity for all, including birth registration;
- Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms;
- Build capacity to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime;
- Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development.

Box 14: Egypt - Fighting corruption (SDG 16) in North Africa for the implementation of SDGs

In 2014, Egypt adopted the four-year National Anti-Corruption Strategy which was developed by the National Coordinating Committee for Combating Corruption (NCCCC). The process of developing the strategy involved more than 80 government authorities, ministries and Governorates. Since its entry into force, the Administrative Control Authority (ACA), Egypt's anti-corruption watchdog, and other law enforcement agencies, have been successful in uncovering an unprecedented number of major corruption cases.

The second phase of the said strategy that is currently being implemented, which runs from 2018 to 2022, is aimed at: developing an efficient and effective administrative apparatus, providing high quality public services, activating mechanisms of transparency and integrity in government units, developing the legislative structure fighting corruption, supporting law enforcement agencies to prevent and combat corruption and increasing community awareness of the importance of preventing and combating corruption.

During the last three years, Egypt's ACA – the regulatory body responsible for enforcing laws and regulations within state bodies – has ordered the arrest of many officials as part of the fight against corruption. With these reforms, Egypt's ranking improved from 117 in 2017 to 105 out of the 180 countries surveyed in 2018 on the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) that is published annually by the Berlin-based Transparency International.

The "transparency and efficient government institutions Pillar of Egypt's Sustainable Development Strategy SDS, which used to focus only on the economic pillar of Egypt Vision 2030, is being updated to cover all 3 aspects of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social).

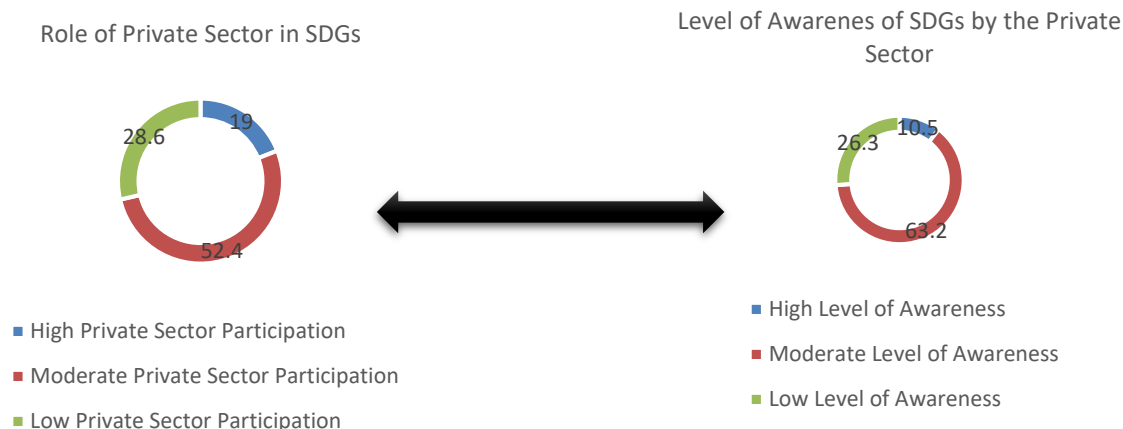
Source: Ministry of Planning and Economic Development - Egypt

3.3 Private Sector Engagement with the SDGs and Agenda 2063

Private sector participation is critical to strengthening economies, creating jobs for the fast-growing youth population and reducing emerging challenges like migration. In many countries, the engagement of the private sector in SDG implementation is part of official policies and strategies. Some governments have set up structures and provided incentives to attract the private sector to engage with the SDGs in financing and implementing some elements of the Agenda. Many governments expect that the incorporation by companies of SDGs into their business strategies will lead to greater social and environmental awareness.

The role of the private sector is more than just to create wealth and jobs and to pay taxes. They also must ascertain the nature and purpose of carrying out business activities in a world characterised by the co-existence of wealth alongside inequality, poverty and environmental damage and climate change. For the private sector to participate fully in the implementation of the SDGs, there is need to raise its awareness on the SDGs. Only 10 per cent of countries in Africa reported a high level of awareness of the SDGs by the private sector, while the vast majority (63 per cent) reported a moderate level of awareness. When the level of awareness is juxtaposed onto the level of private sector participation in SDGs, a similar picture emerges, which suggests that the degree of awareness of the SDGs by the private sector is directly related to its level of participation in SDGs.

Figure 32: Linkages between the level of awareness of the SDGs and Private Sector Participation



there is therefore an urgent need for the private sector to improve the quality of disclosure and reporting on its impact on the SDGs and Agenda 2063 in annual and financial reporting to enhance transparency and accountability. The call for the private sector to do its bit in the war against poverty cannot be overemphasized. The private sector must, for example, treat the paying of taxes as an investment in the communities they operate in, and not as a cost to be minimized. Since governments carry the greater burden in financing the SDGs, and taxes are the main source of revenue for the government, it is incumbent upon the private sector to pay its fair share of taxes. The cost of paying taxes by the private sector should not be transferred to workers who on the contrary, should be paid a decent wage to lift them out of poverty.

3.4 Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

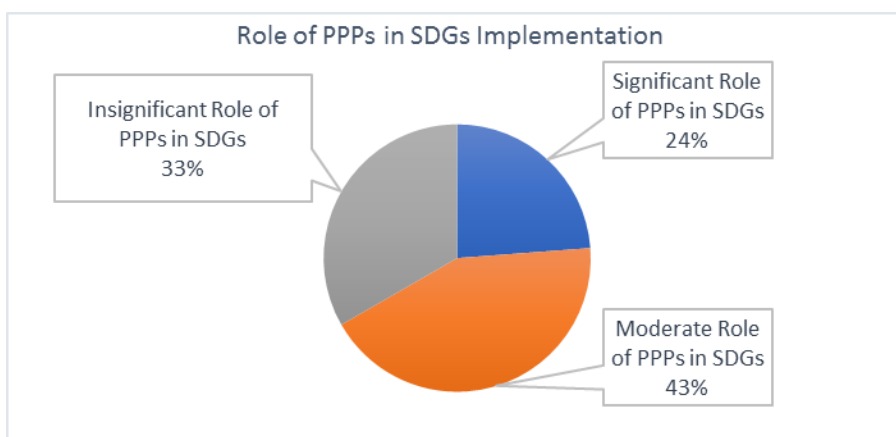
During the execution of the MDGs, one of the biggest challenges was the general belief that MDGs were government's business. Stakeholders had a very limited role in the implementation of MDG-related programmes. This has now changed significantly. There is now a concerted effort to harness the contribution of the private sector towards achieving development results. Initiatives, such as the United Nations Sustainable Development Fund (SDG-F) are working to converge public sector interventions with private sector initiatives towards the achievement of positive change in development results. The experience of the SDG-F suggests that public-private partnerships can contribute to achieving development goals, capacity building, wealth distribution, and sustainable economic growth (UN, 2019). In this regard, the private sector is understood to include micro, small, medium, and large companies, self-employed workers, business associations, unions, chambers of commerce, and foundations.

Public-Private Partnerships usually involve private investments in public infrastructure and includes long-term service provision by the private sector in the public infrastructure. All risks are borne by the private sector while the user pays the costs through tolls, fares and fees. In many countries, the public sector pays for the services rendered by the private sector for the general good of society. There is no transfer of public ownership and the public sector remains accountable in this partnership. Not many African countries have adopted the PPP model due to a number of key challenges such as weak institutions, lack of accountability and transparency in deals, conflicts of interest, corruption, lack of

political will to promote PPPs, popular distrust of service providers and advisors/consultants, etc. (Hamilton, 2013).

Results from the APRM survey indicate that the role of PPPs in implementing the SDGs and Agenda 2063 is at best moderate in many countries in Africa. Less than a quarter of the countries surveyed recorded a significant role for PPPs in SDG implementation, while the majority, 43 per cent, indicated a moderate role for PPPs in SDG implementation. A considerable number of countries (33 per cent) reported little or no role for PPPs in SDG implementation as shown in figure 33 below.

Figure 33: Role of PPPs in SDG Implementation



3.5 Role of the Media, Public Debate, and Platforms for Engagement

At the global level, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) provides a platform for deliberations and showcases country-level initiatives and progress towards achieving the SDGs. Countries volunteer to produce and report on their respective progress in the SDGs. This platform also serves as a place where best practices can be shared and replicated by countries in their respective contexts. Before the HLPF meets, a number of preparatory meetings and workshops are organised by regional and national institutions with assistance from the United Nations to prepare countries for the HLPF. This platform provides countries with a unique opportunity to debate on various aspects of the SDGs. However, at the national level, the picture is slightly different.

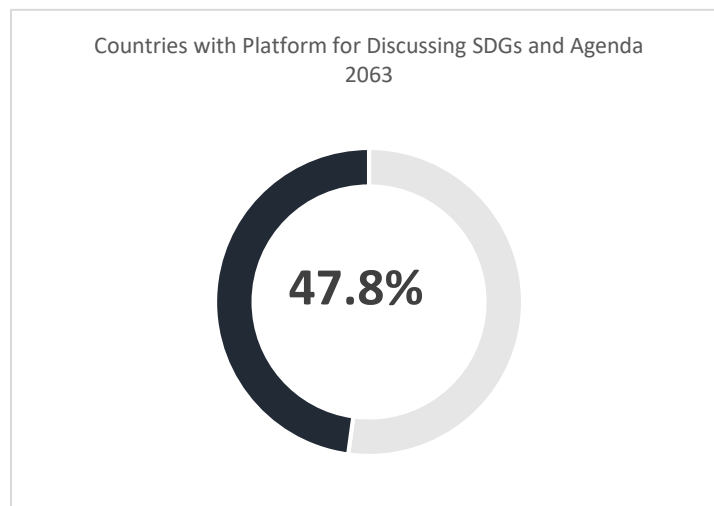


Source: APRM participation in the High-Level Political Forum 2019, New York

3.5.1 Platforms for Dialogue on SDGs

Some countries have elaborate platforms for dialogue on the SDGs and interface with national development frameworks. In others, however, the existence of platforms is a major political challenge as it exposes political authorities to inquiry when the SDG and Agenda 2063 goals and targets are not met. Almost half the responding countries have platforms where SDGs and Agenda 2063 progress can be discussed. Platforms for dialogue can help to raise the level of awareness and ownership of the SDGs in a country.

Figure 34: Countries with SDGs and Agenda 2063 Discussion platforms



Box 15: Case Study: Kenya - Advocacy and awareness creation: International Education

Centre (IEC) materials on SDGs have been produced and disseminated. Social media platforms which include Facebook, Twitter, email, WhatsApp are being used to disseminate SDGs messages to the public. Sensitization forums for different stakeholders have been organised. The coalition of civil society on SDGs in collaboration with the government has also been carrying out community outreach programmes on Agenda 2030.

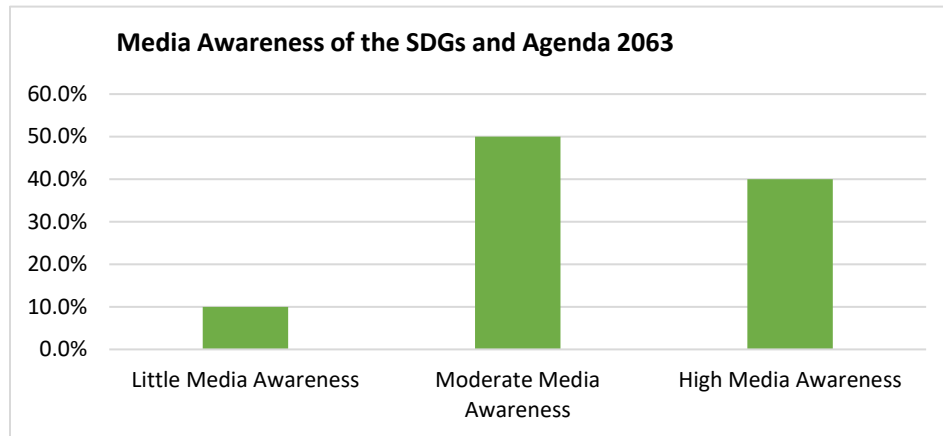
Box 16: Case Study: South Africa – The Oliver Tambo Debate Series on Implementing the National Development Plan – Vision 2030

The South African National Development Plan – Vision 2030 (NDP) was approved and adopted by government in 2012. It received strong endorsement from the broader society and since then, focus has shifted towards developing its implementation. The NDP is almost completely aligned with the SDGs according to a study by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), so much so that implementing the NDP is synonymous with implementing the SDGs. To assist the government to effectively implement the priorities articulated in the NDP, the Department of Planning Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), the Oliver and Adelaide Tambo Foundation, and the Wits School of Governance, in collaboration with UNDP, among others collaborated on an innovative programme to support this process. To do this, the partners designed a project which included three mutually reinforcing components. First, a series of public debates dubbed the OR Tambo Debate Series were organized to engage a cross-section of South Africans and institutions in a forward-looking discussion on the implementation of the NDP and to suggest innovative solutions which the government could adopt to effectively implement its priority programmes. Deliberate efforts would be made to use tried and tested South-South solutions and international best practices, through the inclusion of international panellists in the debates. Secondly, the partners would facilitate Roundtable discussions on each of the OR Tambo debate topics for more in-depth scrutiny. Thirdly, the project provided a platform for further research and analysis, a “Deep dive” into specific topics whenever such a need arises would be done to generate innovative solutions, ideas and to provide tangible and actionable guidance to the government and its partners on implementing the NDP.

3.5.2 Media Awareness and Involvement with the SDGs and Agenda 2063

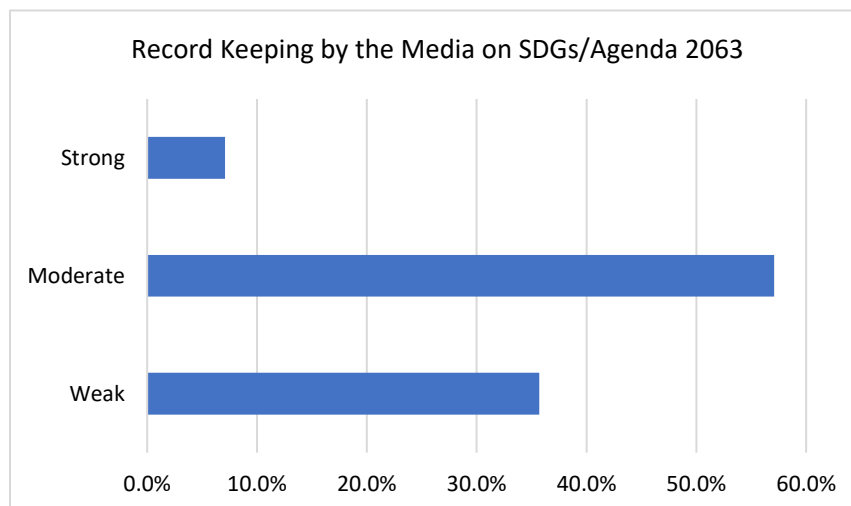
Information is power and the media is traditionally the purveyor of public domain information and plays an important role in disseminating information to the public. The question arises then, whether the media itself is adequately knowledgeable of the information it should be transmitting to the public, especially on areas of focus such as the SDGs. There are many reasons why the media is sometimes not able to provide the public with information. The APRM study however focussed on the level of involvement and awareness of the media on the SDGs, and whether they can ensure that the public is adequately equipped with the requisite information to provoke action on the SDGs and other global and continental goals.

Figure 35: Media Awareness of the SDGs and Agenda 2063



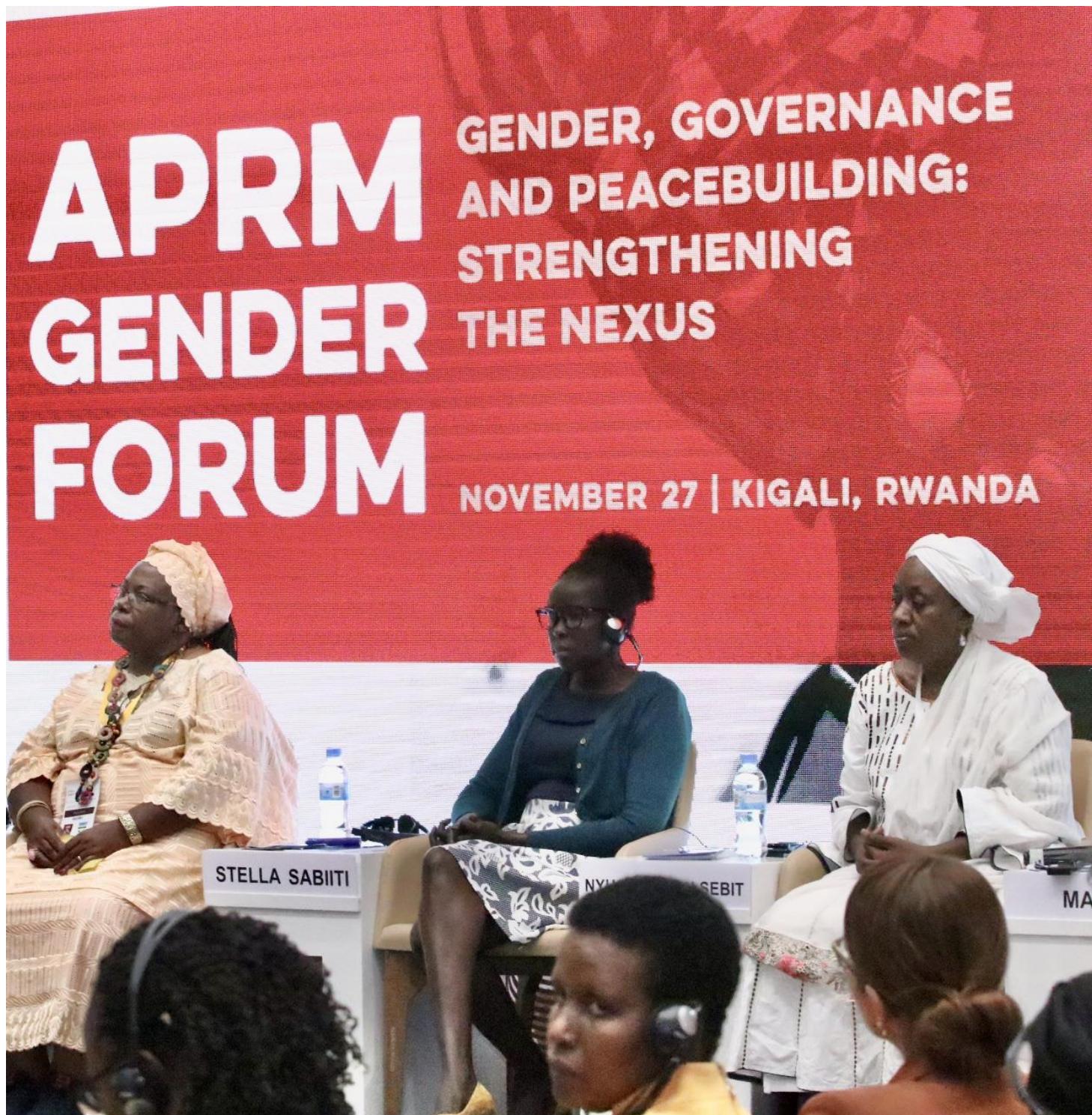
It is clear from the data that the African media is reasonably aware of the SDGs and their implications. Only 10 per cent of countries reported little media awareness of the SDGs, while 40 per cent reported a high degree of media awareness. The vast majority reported a moderate knowledge of SDGs by the media, meaning that there is need for a concerted awareness campaign and training on the SDGs which would eventually result in a more informed African society on the SDGs. In addition, a strong SDG advocacy strategy requires that every stakeholder keep track of progress on the targets and goals. The media should monitor progress towards implementation. Unfortunately, less than 10 per cent of the countries reported a strong culture of record keeping by the media on SDGs while the majority of countries (57 per cent) reported moderate ability for the media to keep records and just over a third reported weak record keeping abilities by the media on SDGs.

Figure: 36: Record keeping by Media



Box 17: Case Study: Madagascar's Awareness Programme

Well before the implementation of the SDG process, Madagascar had already programmed a series of institutional capacity building initiatives to ensure better integration and national ownership of the SDGs, including sending Malagasy technical managers to participate in major high-level political and strategic meetings and in expert meetings on indicators and the monitoring system of implementing the 2030 Agenda at national, regional and international levels. Madagascar's participation in the political summits and in the meetings of experts at various levels prepared the country for the launch of the SDG process, notably by raising the awareness of those responsible for the issues. It also made it possible for the country to share its point of view on the lessons of the MDGs and the SDGs (UN General Assembly, OAU, SADC, COMESA etc.), affirm its return to the international arena and strengthen its institutional capacity for the 2030 Agenda. In addition, awareness-raising days on the SDGs were jointly organized by the Government and the UN System for CSOs, the private sector and other TFPs and NGOs during this preparatory phase. These activities led to a strong political commitment in favour of the SDGs in 2014 and 2015. (Madagascar VNR, 2016)





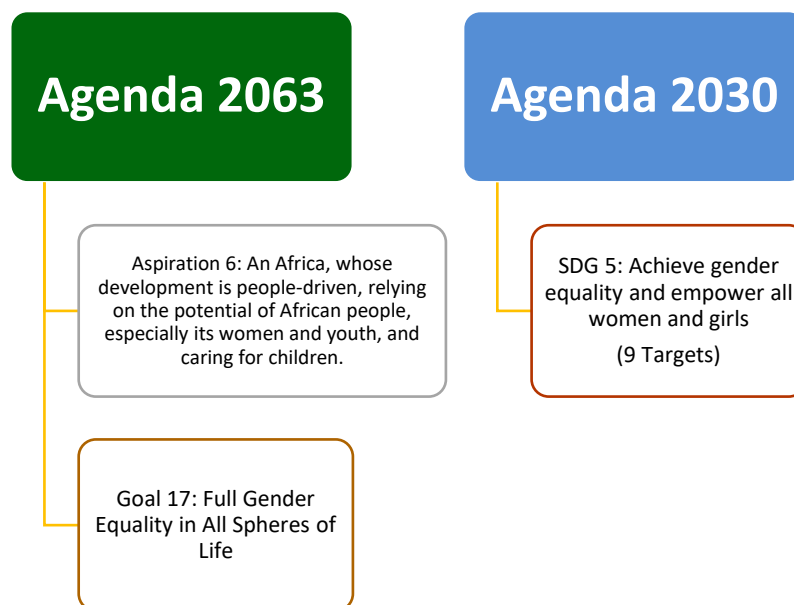
CHAPTER 4

CROSS-CUTTING MECHANISMS IN SUPPORT OF THE SDGs and AGENDA 2063

4.1 Gender Equality in Support of the SDGs and Agenda 2063

The 2016 African Human Development Report found that gender inequality is costing sub-Saharan Africa on average US\$95 billion a year, peaking at US\$105 billion in 2014. This amount is the equivalent of 6% of sub-Saharan GDP. This has hampered the continent's efforts towards inclusive human development and economic growth (UNDP 2016). Though significant progress has been made in various areas in many countries, gender equality for African women and girls is still far from satisfactory. Gender equality has long been recognized as key to unlocking and unleashing the development potential of the continent (UNDP, 2016). Women perform 66% of the work, produce 50% of the food, but only earn 10% of the income and own a mere 1% of property. Addressing gender inequalities will certainly accelerate progress towards achievement of all the other SDGs and Aspirations. Aspiration 6 Goal 17 of Agenda 2063 focuses on Gender Equality calling for “full gender equality in all spheres of life”. SDG 5 of Agenda 2030 also recognizes gender equality as essential for development and economic growth.

Figure 37: Gender equality in SDGs and Agenda 2063



The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) contends that gender inequality is a governance failure. National plans, policies, institutions and budgets reflect how governments translate commitments to gender equality into results for women. Too often, however, there is a gap between policy and practice (UN Women 2013). Viewing these dimensions of governance through a gender equality lens means putting aside the conventional assumption that they are gender neutral; it entails comprehensively assessing gender gaps and identifying actions to close them. Changes to promote gender equality need to be backed by adequate funds and should be systematically monitored for progress towards reducing gender discrimination. At the global level, gender inequality has assumed a central position in development discourse as demonstrated by the incorporation of gender-specific goals and targets into the MDGs (MDG 3) and the SDGs (SDG 5). Women’s empowerment and gender equality as well as ending violence against women have thus been highlighted as a cross-cutting component in national development plans. Furthermore, the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000 to reaffirm women’s influence in the peace and security (WPS) agenda reinforces discussion on gender equality and emphasizes the role of women as peace agents rather than as mere victims of armed conflicts.

The African Union has taken a leading role in promoting the rights of women and girls dating back several decades. The African Union designated 2016 as the year of Human Rights with a focus on women’s rights, while 2015 was the year of Women’s Empowerment and Development. The AU Agenda 2063 places gender equality at the core of all development efforts. Aspiration 5, which promotes “an Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics,” states that “African women and youth shall play an important role as drivers of change” (AU 2013). Further, Aspiration 6 calls for a development that is people driven, emphasizing that “the potential of African women and youth shall be unleashed, and that Africa shall be an inclusive continent where no child, woman or man will be left behind or excluded based on gender, political affiliation, religion, ethnic affiliation, locality, age or other factors.” Agenda 2063 additionally stresses that “The African woman

will be fully empowered in all spheres, with equal social, political and economic rights, including the rights to own and inherit property, sign a contract, register and manage a business. Rural women will have access to productive assets, including land, credit, inputs and financial services” (AU 2013). One of the targets under this Aspiration states that “the Africa of 2063 will have full gender parity, with women occupying at least 50% of elected public offices at all levels and half of managerial positions in the public and the private sector. The economic and political glass ceiling that restricted women’s progress would have been shattered” (AU 2013).

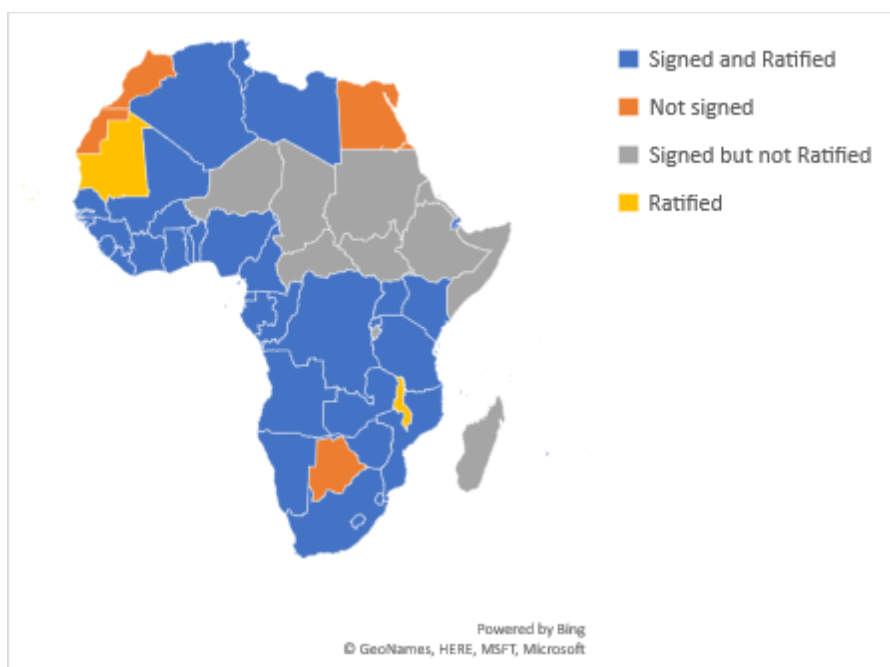
Unfortunately, progress in achieving gender equality has been slower than expected and is uneven in many African countries. The implementation of the African Union Agenda 2063 provisions on gender, as well as the UN resolutions and multiple legal frameworks to realize gender equality have not been successfully accomplished in many countries due to lack of structural policies, political will and cultural inclusiveness to promote women’s rights and empowerment.

A recent evaluation of the MDG’s implementation shows that some countries in the Middle East and North Africa are still struggling to enhance gender equality. It is said that some countries in Africa will need up to 100 years to close the gender gap (WEF 2017). However, not all countries are lagging in efforts to empower women. There have been considerable efforts at sub-regional and national levels to empower women, particularly at the sectoral level. Many African countries are progressing gradually towards gender equality and are mainstreaming gender into national development plans. Sub-Saharan Africa had the most impressive record on progress towards women’s access to paid employment in the non-Agriculture sector, moving from 24% to 34% between 1994 and 2015 (UNDP 2016).

At the regional level, the adoption of the African Women’s Decade (AWD) (2010-2020) in 2009 with the overall theme Grassroots Approach to Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE), the Maputo Protocol, the African Youth Charter and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA) reaffirm the need for governments to protect women’s rights and report progress on implementation of the various instruments on the rights of young women.

Even though only 36 African countries have ratified the African Youth Charter and the Maputo protocol, the adoption of the African Charter on Democracy and the AU Agenda 2063 reaffirms Africa’s commitment towards women rights as articulated in Aspiration 6.

Figure 38: Status of Ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

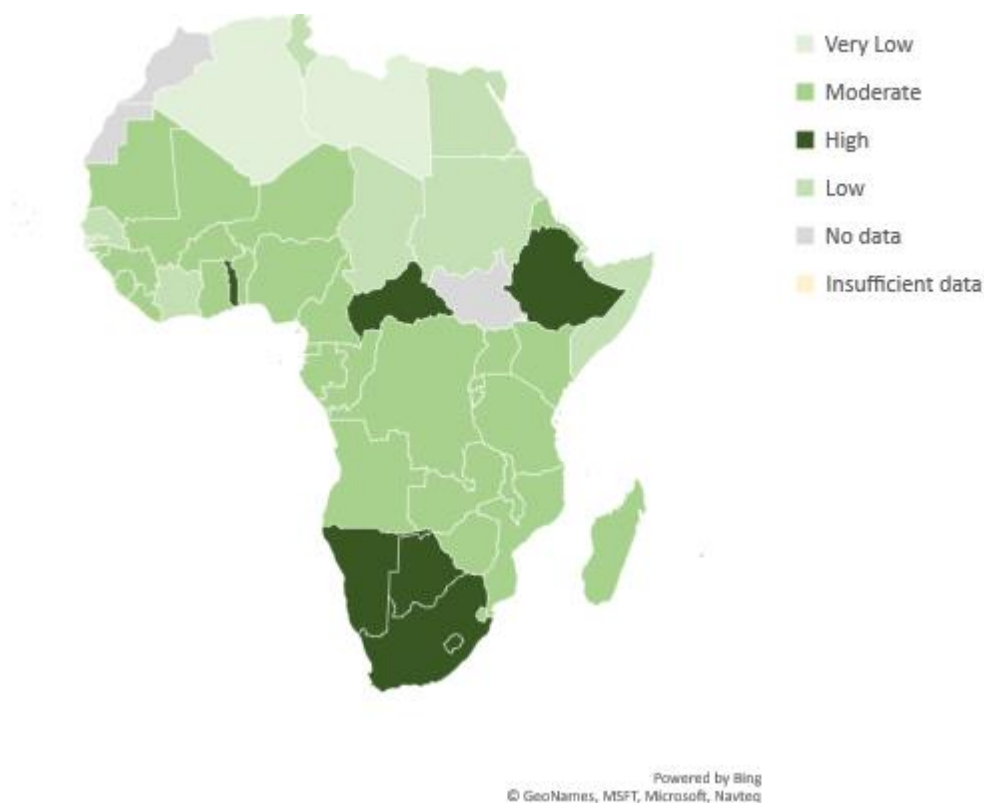


Source: African Union – (Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic has signed but not Ratified)

The African Union Commission issued a scorecard to measure national progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment in seven core sectors - health, employment, the business sector, access to credit, access to land, women in politics and decision-making, education at secondary and tertiary levels. The scorecard also seeks to amplify the call for the collection, analysis, storage and dissemination of sex and gender dis-aggregated data to support gender analysis of policies and programs.

Women represent 52% of the overall continent's population, and statistics show that women are the backbone of Africa's economy and key players in core economic sectors. Women account for more than 70% of the labour force in the agriculture sector. Unfortunately, most of these jobs are in the informal sector. Under the economic empowerment cluster which is an average score of the business sector (senior level position in firms, female participation in ownership), access to land, access to credit and employment, none of the African countries has achieved perfect gender equality in labour force participation, though a few have posted high labour force participation rates.

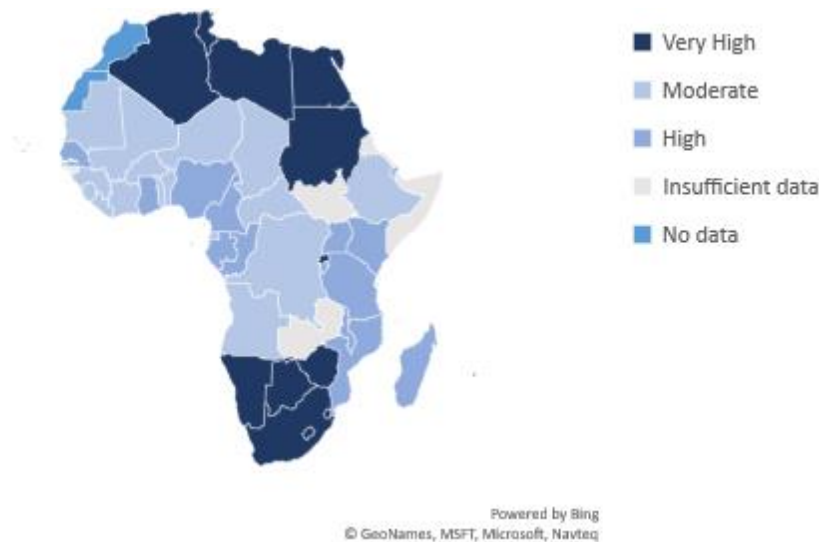
Figure 39: Economic Empowerment



Women in business are still struggling for equality especially in access to senior positions. However, other indicators which measure female ownership of businesses show some progress, with around 50% of firms owned by women, even though these are mostly in the informal sector. A clear gender inequality exists with access to land, based on the limited available data. Meanwhile, gender equality in access to credit is positive, according to the AU Commission's scorecard. Countries such as Ghana and South Africa achieved perfect parity and a further 10 African countries (Botswana, Burundi, Ethiopia, Gabon, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Namibia, Swaziland, and Zambia) are close to parity.

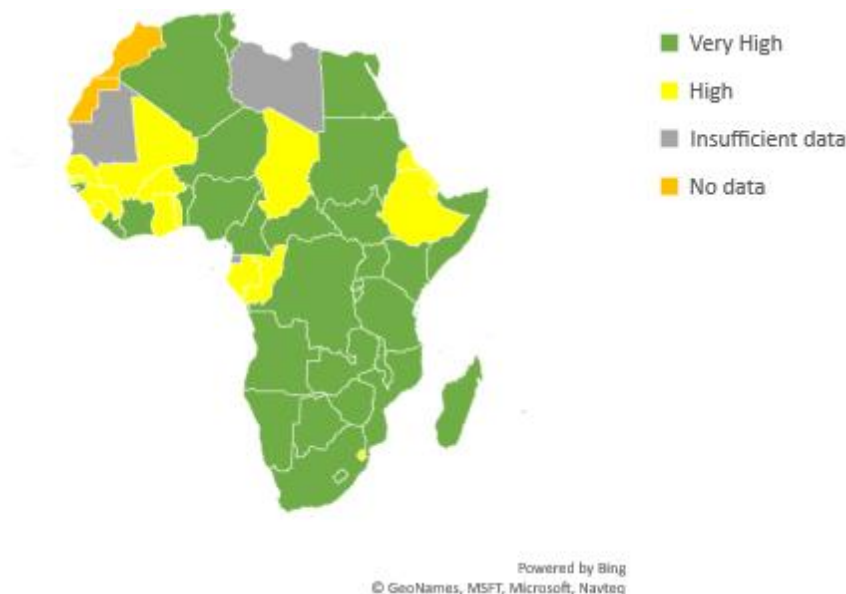
In the education sector the scorecard looks at progress made in youth literacy rates, enrolment in secondary education and enrolment in tertiary education. Girls now have almost equal access to education, and in some countries, girls have actually overtaken boys in net enrolment. However, the rate of retention of girls in schools owing to socio-cultural and "gender stereotype" factors, the availability of suitable sanitation facilities, inability to afford basic sanitation products remain a major challenge in many countries.

Figure 40: Gender parity in Education



The overall health score, which measures progress in under-five mortality, the prevalence of malnutrition, life expectancy at Age 60 and HIV is reasonably good for many countries. This does not imply that Africa is doing better at the provision of health services and health facilities, but rather, that access to the facilities is equally accessed by both males and females.

Figure 41: Gender Parity in Health



Women's access to ministerial positions and participation in national parliaments has steadily improved with the adoption of the AU 50:50 parity campaign and the AU gender policy. Many countries are making steady progress towards attaining perfect parity in politics and decision making. Rwanda has already met and exceeded this target while South Africa is on track, with 41.5% of parliamentary seats occupied by women. Yet, the share of parliamentary seats at regional average

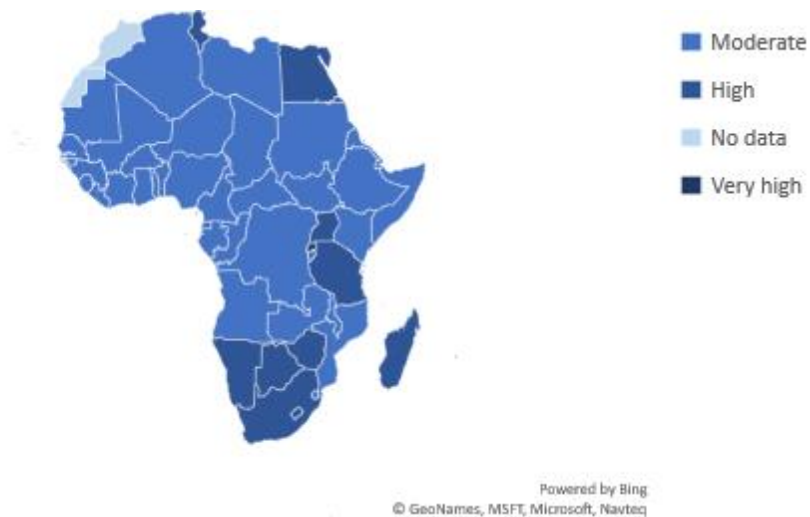
equals to 22.4% for women and 77.6% for men with a slightly lower average for ministerial positions occupied by women.

Figure 42: Politics and Decision making



Overall gender parity, comprising the average of economic empowerment measure, political empowerment, social empowerment as well as stand-alone indicators (source of drinking water, sanitation and maternal mortality ratio), is generally moderate with a few countries standing out as exceptional performers. There is growing recognition that gender equality has multiplier effects across the development spectrum, from health, education and labour to greater productivity, resilience and intergenerational mobility. Indeed, countries that have made the greatest strides in achieving gender parity also show significantly high levels of growth and human development.

Figure 43: Overall Gender Parity



African optimism should be renewed and sustained for more gender equality, while gender should continuously be mainstreamed into development processes. The availability of data and the lack of gender sensitive and responsive data collection are hampering efforts to track gender equality in national development plans. The implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should therefore continue to prioritize gender equality as a cross-cutting issue in all areas of socio-economic development. Capacities in national statistical systems should be augmented to provide accurate gender data for development. More importantly, efforts must be made to quickly close the gap between the existence of policies and plans and their implementation through raising awareness on gender equality, assessing the cost of gender inequality and reinforcing the implementation of the AU commitments and protocols articulated in Aspirations 5 and 6 of AU Agenda 2063.

Figure 44: Inequalities in laws protecting women from domestic violence



Gender based violence (GBV) is a global pandemic and represents a major obstacle to achieving all SDGs and Aspirations of the African Continent. Failure to address GBV will have a direct impact on a country's ability to attain inclusive and sustainable development. Gender based violence is both a cause and a consequence of gender inequality. GBV can be in the form of domestic violence, trafficking, sexual violence in conflict, child marriage, genital mutilation and femicide. To put this in perspective, UN Women (2018) has reported that "One in five women and girls, including 19 per cent of women and girls aged 15 to 49, have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner within the last 12 months. Yet, 49 countries have no laws that specifically protect women from such violence". Of the 49 countries without legislation protecting women and girls from domestic violence, 26 are African Countries. In most cases, cultural and religious beliefs, as well as taboos are some of the reasons behind this lack of legislation on domestic violence. Violence against women is known to be reinforced by discriminatory laws and exclusionary social norms that prevent women and girls from having an education, earning an income or gaining independence. In fact, women's rights and independence is also further compromised by the limited access to sexual and reproductive health.

Exacerbating the problem of violence against women are ongoing conflicts and war, epidemics and natural disasters leading to an increase in the number of forcibly displaced persons and refugees, particularly women and children both within borders and externally.

Although progress in SDG 5 and Aspiration 6 is lagging, some positive results have been achieved. There has been a steady increase in the number of women in decision making positions in the public and private sectors. In 2018, while countries were striving to have women occupy 30 per cent of seats in parliaments in Africa, Rwanda broke its own record by electing women to 68 per cent of the seats in its parliament.

Additionally, the use of enabling technology in Africa, particularly in information and communications technology to promote women empowerment is becoming increasingly efficient. However, the use of communication technologies such as social media, should be supported by the right infrastructure to allow for high-speed internet access and the implementation of policies that allows for freedom of expression.

There has been progress in the setting up of structures, instruments and institutional mechanisms to promote gender equality. These include dedicated government institutions such as ministries or departments for women's affairs. Amongst the most popular strategies adopted by many countries to advance gender equality are gender-responsive budgeting and legislative reforms⁸.

⁸ <https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/report-cwd.pdf>

Box 18: Mauritius: Mainstreaming Gender Equality in the implementation of SDGs

Promoting gender equality and greater opportunities for women and the youth are part and parcel of the Marshall Plan against Poverty. Gender cells have been set up in all Ministries and issues relating to women entrepreneurs and youth programmes have been a constant topic in budget discussions.

The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare developed the Slogan “Championing Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals” in all its interventions at policy and programming levels as well as IEC campaigns. The Ministry organised a National Dialogue on “**Championing Goal 5 of SDGs: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls**” on 8 March 2016 as part of celebration of the International Women’s Day. The objective was to raise the awareness of the public / private sector organisations and CSOs on the implementation of its goal and targets. This national dialogue brought together some 300 participants including representatives of ministries, members of Parliament, Ambassadors, public and private sector stakeholders, Unions, parastatals and the media.

The MGECDFW also launched the Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) campaign across the country using billboards and bus adverts with the slogan “**Egalite Zom/Fam: Nou Obzektif**”. The aim was to raise the awareness of the public at large on the implications of gender equality: that equality between men and women is a basic human right.

A Training of Trainers on Sustainable Development Goals was held on 22 April 2016 (with focus on SDG 5). Some 30 officials of ministries and the National Women’s Council were trained on the goals of the SDG to enable them to educate the public. Recently, awareness campaigns have been organised on SDG 5 for various target groups: students (both boys and girls), women and the youth. Some 3, 000 participants have been sensitized.

Similarly, several programs targeting the youth were undertaken by other Ministries:

- The Ministry of Agro-Industry: those for the young graduate scheme in agriculture and Women Entrepreneurship program in Agro-processing are being organised regularly;
- The Ministry of Ocean Economy: to train the youth in the marine sector;
- The Ministry of Environment carries out regular sensitisation on the environmental dimensions of the SDGs and Agenda 2063

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs- Mauritius

4.2 Partnerships for SDGs and Agenda 2063

The concept of a global partnership for development has been around for decades, since the realisation in the 1970s that the world needed a unified global approach to development. The International Development Strategy for the Second UN Development Decade of January 1971 stated that the success of international development activities depended on improvements in the general international situation, particularly on concrete progress on all aspects of development for all citizens of the world to bring people living in poorer parts of the world to the levels enjoyed by those living in richer parts. This provision further reiterated that “the international community should rise to the challenge of the present age of unprecedented opportunities offered by science and technology in order that the scientific and technological advances may be equitably shared by developed and developing countries, thus contributing to accelerated economic development throughout the world” (UN, 1971). The declaration further postulated that economic and social progress is the common and shared responsibility of the entire international community. It is a process in which the benefits derived by the developing countries from the developed countries are shared by the whole world. In this respect, the declaration stated that although the primary responsibility for the development of developing countries rests with developing countries, as indicated in the Charter of Algiers (UN, 1971), it is however clear that no matter how great their own efforts are, these will not be sufficient to enable them to achieve the desired development goals as expeditiously as they must unless they are assisted through increased financial resources and more favourable economic and trade policies by developed countries. This same spirit of partnership that was introduced back in the 1970s still holds true today.

The global partnership for development we know today was conceived at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000 when Member States decided to create a conducive environment for development at the national and global levels. Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 8 (Develop a global partnership for development) was then formulated in the “Road map towards implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration” to foster such an enabling environment for development. It included targets on aid, trade, debt relief and improved access to essential medicines and new technologies. In the current development paradigm, SDG 17 articulates strengthening partnerships at international, regional, and national level for the attainment of all the other SDGs. Therefore, as a cross-cutting goal and enabler for other relevant goals, SDG 17 lies at the heart of Agendas 2030 as well as of Aspiration 7 of Agenda 2063 - Africa as an active, united, resilient and influential global player and partner. In addition to making Africa a prominent partner in global affairs, Aspiration 7 seeks to make Africa take “full responsibility for financing her development”.

Although partnerships continue to play a crucial role in Africa’s development, much still needs to be done to bridge the gap between resource availability and development results on the one hand, and the effective utilisation of available resources on the other. When the MDGs were adopted, traditional donors made ambitious financial pledges for their implementation. However, the development cooperation environment has changed given the declining trends in ODA due to reasons such as “donor fatigue”, increased political indifference and the adoption of populist policies by traditional development partners. Only five countries have so far met the 0.7% of GNP target that was set in 1970 and has been repeatedly endorsed at the highest level at international and development conferences. With the revision of the System of National Accounts in 1993, Gross National Product was replaced with Gross National Income (GNI). ODA makes up over two thirds of external finance for least-

developed countries. So far, only five OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members – Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Sweden and the United Kingdom have met the United Nations threshold of ODA/GNI ratio of at least 0.7%. France had achieved this target in 2016 but slipped back in 2017 to join 24 other DAC donors under this threshold. It is encouraging to note that non-DAC members are coming into the picture with the United Arab Emirates posting the highest ODA/GNI ratio of 1.31% and Turkey with the second highest at 0.95% in 2017 (OECD, 2019)

4.3 The Role of Regional Integration and Regional Economic Communities in SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Over the past two decades Africa has witnessed a revival of the regional economic integration programmes that its leaders had envisioned during the signing of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (AEC) in 1991. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tripartite initiative was launched in October 2011, by the First Summit of the Tripartite Heads of State and Government. The signing of the 26 member Tri-Partite Free Trade Agreement (TFTA) between SADC, COMESA and the EAC at Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt on 10 June 2015 and the launching of the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) negotiations a week later in South Africa on 15 June 2015 kicked off the process for greater integration of Africa. The negotiations for the CFTA ultimately led to the establishment in 2017 of an African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

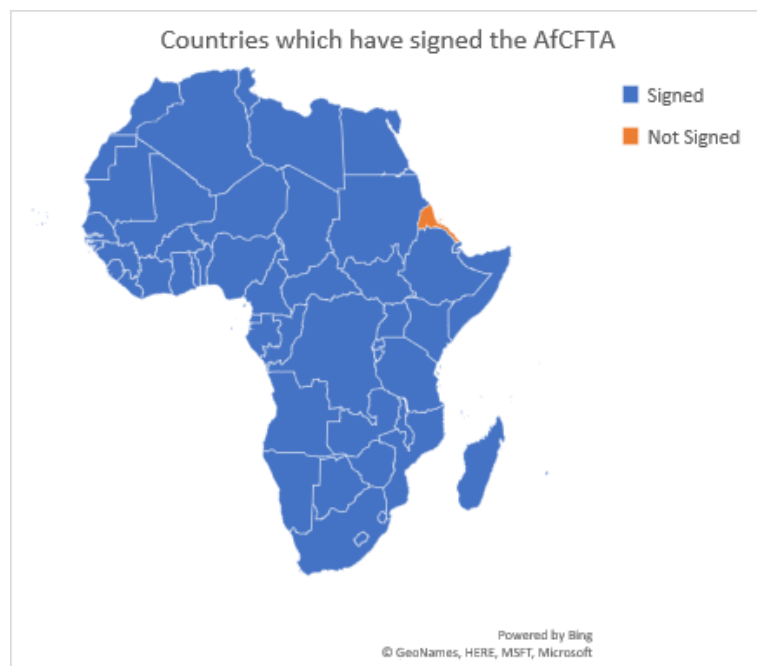
The CFTA is one of the seven pillars of Agenda 2063 and its vision of “an integrated and prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena”. Specifically, Aspiration 2 which talks of an integrated and politically united continent calls for “accelerating progress towards continental unity and integration for sustained growth, trade, exchanges of goods, services, free movement of people and capital”.

Meanwhile, other regional economic communities have also been speeding up their integration efforts. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has made great strides in facilitating the free movement of people, goods and services and establishing a peace-building mechanism in which member states occasionally send joint military forces to intervene in the bloc's member countries in times of political instability and unrest. Such interventions recently took place in Cote d'Ivoire in 2003, Liberia in 2003, Guinea-Bissau in 2012, Mali in 2013 and the Gambia in 2017.

4.3.1 The African Continental Free Trade Area

The African Continental Free Trade Agreement was endorsed and signed by 44 African Union Member states on 21 March 2018 to set up a single market. This was to be followed by the free movement of people and a single currency for the union. The AfCFTA is one of the seven pillars of Agenda 2063 and its vision of “an integrated and prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena”. Specifically, Aspiration 2 which deals with an integrated and politically united continent calls for “accelerating progress towards continental unity and integration for sustained growth, trade, exchanges of goods and services, free movement of people and capital”. South Africa, Sierra Leone, Namibia, Lesotho and Burundi joined the first 44 countries and signed the AfCFTA at the 31st African Union summit in Nouakchott, Mauritania on 1 July 2018, bringing to 49 the number of Member States that have ratified the Agreement out of the 55 Members of the African Union. Currently, all but Eritrea have signed the agreement.

Figure 45: Countries that have signed the AfCFTA as of June 2019



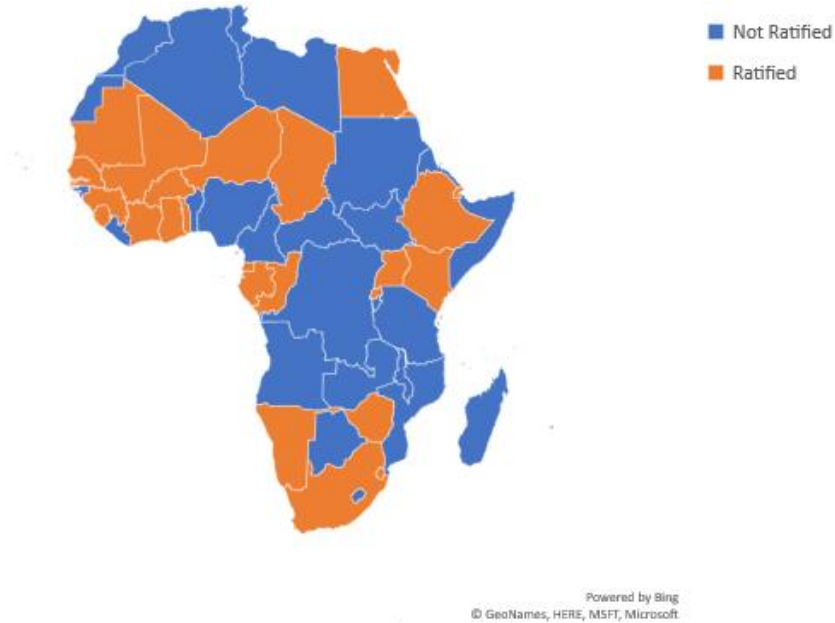
Source: African Union, 2019

In addition to the AfCFTA Consolidated Text, AU Member States were asked to consider signing the Kigali Declaration which was the instrument launching the AfCFTA. The contents of the Kigali Declaration included the following considerations by Member States:

1. Launch the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) with the adoption and signing of the AfCFTA legal instruments;
2. Direct Member States to expedite the process to operationalise the African Continental Free Trade Area;
3. Direct Member States to finalise outstanding Phase I issues in accordance with the adopted AfCFTA Transitional Implementation Work Programme, including legal scrubbing;
4. Direct the commencement of Phase II negotiations covering Competition Policy, Investment, and Intellectual Property;
5. Direct that all the negotiations, including outstanding work, be carried out in accordance with the principles, processes and institutional structures approved by previous Summits;
6. Direct the Ministers responsible for Trade to develop a Roadmap on Phase II negotiations, their conclusion and the implementation of the outcomes thereof;

A minimum of 22 ratifications are required to enable the AfCFTA to come into force, while 15 ratifications for the protocol on free movement of persons, right of residence and right of establishment are required. As of 16 July 2019, 54 Member States had signed the protocol, while 27 of these had ratified the protocol, which means that the African Continental Free Trade Area is now in force.

Figure 46: Countries which have Ratified the AfCFTA (30 May 2019)



Source: African Union, 2019

However, even as progress is being made towards AfCFTA, Africa's trading partners, including both developed and emerging countries, are considering separate parallel engagements. For example, several Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are to be finalized and/or implemented in the coming half decade. The vote by Britain to separate from the European Union (Brexit) further complicates this process as separate agreements have to be negotiated with Britain since the EPAs have to exclude any dealings with the United Kingdom. The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) was renewed in September 2015 for a period of 10 years with the United States envisaging converting this unilateral market access vehicle into a reciprocal trade agreement.

Trade and regional integration have been among the key priorities of African leaders and other stakeholders, including public and private sector operators, and development agencies. However, the traditional focus on market integration, aimed at reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers, has not yielded expected results. It has become clear that Africa needs to broaden its approach to regional integration. The continent also needs to focus policy attention on boosting supply capacities by addressing the challenges of poor infrastructure, low level of diversification and the limitations of small-scale production.

4.3.2 Protocol on Free Movement of People

In the spirit of Pan-Africanism, the AU Agenda 2063 underscores the importance of free movement of Africans in Africa for meaningful integration, and increased trade. As has been stated earlier, one of the seven overarching Aspirations outlined in Agenda 2063 is “an integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa’s Renaissance”. The AU Agenda 2063 goes further to encourage Member States to introduce an African passport, capitalizing on the global migration towards e-passports and abolish visa requirements for all African citizens in all African countries by 2018. In furtherance of the provisions of the Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community (1991), the AU Draft Protocol on Free Movement follows on the protocol

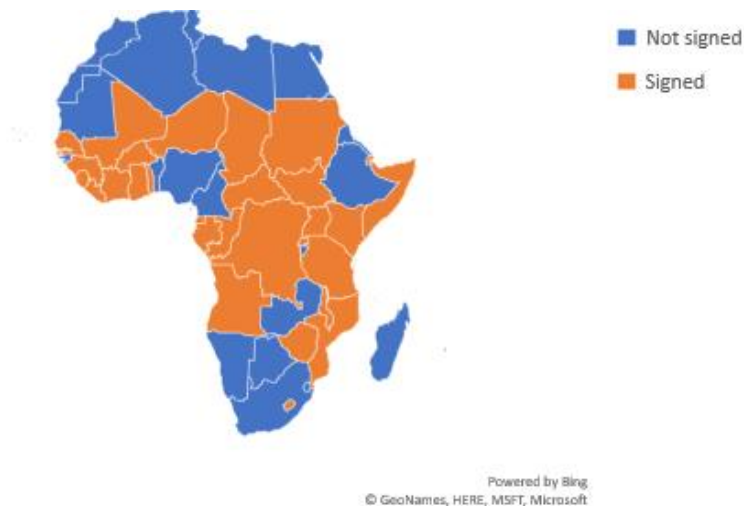
relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment (Abuja Treaty). The Protocol is aimed at facilitating the free movement of persons in Africa, as well as the right of African citizens to establish and set up residence anywhere on the Continent. The right of entry means that African citizens can travel without visas across the continent. The right of establishment includes the right of any African citizen to set up a business or be employed in any African country and the right of residence includes the right to become a resident in any African country.

Many countries are wary of the provisions in this treaty due to a number of factors that need to be considered. For example, the SADC Common Position on Free Movement cautions against wholesale acceptance of this protocol and proposes pre-conditions under which this protocol can be considered. These include:

- (a) existence of peace, security and stability in the continent;
- (b) convergence amongst countries to reduce economic imbalances between Member States;
- (c) phased approach to free movement of persons;
- (d) effective civil registration systems;
- (e) reliable movement control systems;
- (f) machine readable passports compliant with international standards;
- (g) bilateral return agreements;
- (h) African Union legal instruments on extradition;
- (i) African Union legal instrument on legal mutual assistance;
- (j) African Union framework on African Passport and its relationship with free movement of persons;
- (k) interface of movement control systems with INTERPOL (red notice system) and individual Member States prohibition/undesirable person's lists and the UN warning lists; and
- (l) compatibility of ICT systems at Ports of Entries to facilitate exchange of information.

Furthermore, owing to huge differences in the levels of economic development, infrastructure, and access to basic social services, countries which are relatively well off have been reluctant to open up their borders to citizens from poorer or less developed Member States. Security concerns, crime and at times the increased prospects of xenophobia have tended to occupy centre stage in countries agreeing to and signing this protocol. It may be postulated here that countries that are in worse-off socioeconomic situations or are in economic turmoil due to various reasons such as internal conflict may be more readily agreeable to the Free Movement Protocol than countries which enjoy relative calm and prosperity. The following figure gives the number of countries that have so far signed the Free Movement Protocol.

Figure 47: Protocol Relating to Free Movement of Persons 2019



Source: African Union, 2019

Of the 32 Member States which have signed the protocol, only 4 had actually ratified it as of July 2019 (Mali, Niger, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe).

Against this background, the concept of “developmental regionalism” was recently proposed as the most effective approach to African economic integration to boost the continents’ gains from trade (UNCTAD 2013).⁹ With this approach, African Countries would walk on three legs: 1) increase trade liberalization by reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers among themselves; 2) build regional value chains in productive sectors that increase their share of global value chains through increased specialisation and industrial development; and 3) cooperate with each other on a broad range of cross-border regional infrastructure projects including transport, energy, communications, and tourism.

⁹ UNCTAD 2013. Economic Development in Africa Report 2013. Geneva, UNCTAD http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/aldcafrica2013_en.pdf



CHAPTER 5

KEY FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Key Findings

Most countries in Africa have more or less well organised structures to coordinate national efforts to domesticate and implement the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Most of these efforts are coordinated either from the Presidency or from the Prime Minister's Office with technical guidance from Planning Ministries or relevant institutions in government. Parliamentary and legislative structures have established SDGs caucuses or committees, and, in some cases, allocated budgetary resources for SDGs-relevant interventions. The strong governance mechanisms in many countries on the continent, the levels of integration of the SDGs into National Development Plans, the level of domesticating the continental and global development frameworks into the local context should all combine to yield positive development results in the attainment of the Goals and Targets of the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

The Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa (SDGC-A, 2019) has estimated that most African countries face significant challenges in making progress on SDGs, especially SDGs 1 – 9. Apart from Algeria, (the only country in Africa to have achieved SDG 1), most countries are not making much progress in this area, meaning that even when member States have elaborate coordination and supporting structures for the SDGs, results in development outcomes such as the eradication of poverty may not be automatic, or that the effects may not be immediate. Another reason for this failure is the absence of other prerequisites that can drive change and bring about the desired development results.

The link between SDG governance mechanisms and the achievement of results points to the need for further analysis of the causal relationship between institutions and results in the SDGs/Agenda 2063 targets. Our findings show that the combination of strong institutions, financing and coordination mechanisms may not, on their own, be enough to achieve significant results. Other factors, such as levels of awareness, ownership, cultural orientation, geospatial location, human capacities to implement programmes among others, are equally important for positive results.

The findings also show that most African countries have limited knowledge and understanding of the African Union Agenda 2063 and how this agenda should be implemented. Most efforts are directed towards coordinating, implementing and monitoring progress towards the SDGs. However, since the level of congruence between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 is almost 90 per cent, then implicitly, knowledge and awareness of one of the Agendas means that knowledge of the other also exists by extension.

5.2 Conclusions

Evidence from the VNRs in Africa suggests that most countries have well designed mechanisms for the implementation of SDGs and to some extent, of Agenda 2063. Many have integrated the SDG framework into their National Planning Frameworks with evidence of relatively strong political leadership. However, these are not sufficient conditions for achieving the SDGs. There is need to further determine other drivers that can be used to speed up the process towards the attainment of the goals.

As was the case with the MDGs, public knowledge of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 is quite limited. Knowledge about the two Agendas is confined to practitioners in the public service – mostly those charged with reporting on progress to platforms such as the HLPF. This lack of knowledge may contribute to the low performance of many countries on the SDGs indicators from SDGC-A and the SDSN.

Overall performance on SDGs in Africa, excluding North Africa, suggests that even in the presence of well-designed coordination mechanisms and institutions to oversee implementation of programmes in support of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, progress in the actual indicators has not immediately yielded positive results. There are large disparities between the robustness of governance mechanisms for the SDGs and movements in the indicators which monitor progress, pointing to the fact that ‘good governance mechanisms’ for the SDGs must be accompanied by other factors such as appropriate capacity building.

Governance mechanisms for the SDGs and Agenda 2063 need to be executed in tandem with other processes that might exert external and internal pressures on achieving development results. These processes could include public procurement, especially for public goods, leapfrogging countries into the fourth industrial revolution and revamping education curriculums to respond to the needs of the 21st century. Human resource management, ethics and values are all elements that can have a significant impact on achieving results.

There is no consensus on what constitutes best governance practices for the SDGs. There is need therefore to carry out national assessments on the relationship between specific governance mechanisms and progress on SDG targets. This is however only possible in the medium to long term since results from governance mechanisms are by their very nature, long-term. In undertaking these national assessments, the role of stakeholders (legislatures, CSOs, the private sector, PPPs, FDI, ODA, DRM and stemming IFFs, etc.) needs to be strengthened to foster a sense of ownership of the Agendas.

Although almost all countries have signed the African Continental Free Trade Area, the benefits of the potentially huge market have not yet come to fruition. With free trade comes the free movement of people, which is a sticky point in the integration process. Agenda 2063 emphasises the prospects of all AU Member States adopting one African Passport, but this has met with stiff opposition. It has been proven in other regions outside Africa that larger regional markets allow for domestic industries to create economies of scale, improve production efficiencies and enhance competitiveness, which in Africa’s case, would enable countries to compete regionally and globally (Vickers, 2017).

5.3 Recommendations

1. The AUC should harmonise and rationalise research and reporting on Agenda 2063 and SDGs across institutions at all levels. The Commission should assume leadership and invite all stakeholders involved in reporting progress towards the SDGs and Agenda 2063 to harmonise and align efforts towards a unified reporting system following the rules and regulations developed at the AU without exerting undue burden on Member States.
2. All countries are urged to strengthen the oversight role of Parliaments in the implementation of strategies towards attaining SDGs across the region. This will have the dual benefit of enhancing the efficiency of local SDG-related programmes and improving a sense of local ownership and buy-in across political spectrums and groups in the society.
3. The reporting ecosystem system should be rationalised. Currently, there are too many institutions reporting on the same parameters and variables. The AU should convene a regional dialogue or commission an inventory of the various stakeholders monitoring progress toward the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Reporting on the two development agendas (AU 2063 and UN 2030) should be done in tandem considering the levels of convergence, which stands at almost 90%. Similarly, integrating the two agendas into National Planning Processes should be done at the same time.
4. Support to Member States in the process of developing VNRs should continue. A toolkit should be developed jointly by all institutions involved in this process (UNECA, UNDESA, AUC, AfDB, and UNDP).
5. Member States are encouraged to strive for full awareness of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 by all stakeholders through concerted capacity building for the three branches of government. Training of legislators and members of the executive branch of government will significantly improve the sense of ownership of the agendas and increase chances of a successful implementation.
6. The African Union should prioritize advocacy for Agenda 2063 to foster ownership and address the lack of awareness at all levels. Awareness campaigns should be intensified at all levels.
7. Implementation and capacity development initiatives should be incorporated into SDG-based strategies, plans and budgets to ensure success.
8. An analysis of decentralisation and devolution systems and structures at the local level, including legal and regulatory frameworks should be undertaken to ensure that the challenges identified in the MDGs period are fully addressed.
9. Member States are encouraged to invest more to develop capital markets and stock exchanges. Capital markets are a source of long-term financing for development using debt and equity markets. Investment potential improves when capital markets are active, signalling economic and political stability.

10. The private sector should improve the quality of disclosure and reporting on its impact on the SDGs and Agenda 2063 in annual and financial reporting, to enhance transparency and accountability.
11. Concerted awareness campaigns and training should be conducted to sensitize the Media on the SDGs. This would lead to a more informed African society on the SDGs.
12. Gender equality as a cross-cutting issue in all areas of socio-economic development should continue to be prioritized in the implementation and monitoring of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
13. The capacities of national statistics systems should be augmented to ensure the provision of accurate data on development.

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