Workshop on Accelerating the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063 in Africa: Building Resilient Institutions for the SDGs in the time of COVID-19

Co-organized by APRM and UN DESA

Cape Town, South Africa
28-30 October 2021

SUMMARY REPORT

A. Introduction

The workshop was co-organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the African Union/African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM). The workshop examined how effective institutions can accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063 in Africa in the time of COVID-19. It was a follow-up to the joint UN DESA-AU/APRM regional workshop held in Pretoria in 2019, entitled "Effective Governance for Sustainable Development: Putting Principles into Practice". Building on the 2019 meeting, this workshop aimed to:

(a) Strengthen institutional capabilities, and that of senior policy makers and public officials, to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including through assessing gaps and challenges in institutional capabilities to accelerate the implementation of both Agendas as well as to effectively respond to the COVID-19 crisis and other shocks;

(b) Strengthen SDG advisory and planning functions to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063 in Africa by enhancing the capacity of policy makers, SDG advisers and senior Government officials to develop integrated and coherent development plans and strategies, including at local and regional levels; and

(c) Drive policy coherence and an integrated approach that involves participation at all levels by all actors, including public institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector. This will promote an enabling environment for sustainable development by highlighting the regional organs' role in promoting institutional preparedness and resilience against disease epidemics such the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change and disasters.

The workshop was organized in a hybrid (in-person and virtual) format as it brought together senior public officials from APRM member countries and with experts and resource persons

from Government, the United Nations system, AU organs, other international organizations, civil society and academia. Over 50 invited participants (44 in-person, 8 experts joining virtually), representing more than 20 African countries, including Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, Nigeria Mauritius, Mali, Ghana, Senegal, Zimbabwe, Morocco, and South Africa, participated in the workshop, while a further 100 persons followed the proceedings online.

The workshop was opened with a [video statement](#) from Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, who underlined that against the backdrop of the pandemic the need for effective institutions has become even more evident given the scope and urgency of the crisis and widespread impact on all areas of economic activity, including in Africa.

Also speaking at the opening, Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Chair of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration, asked whether institutions in Africa had done enough in rising to the challenge of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Myriad efforts were needed to build an enabling environment for sustainable development and strengthen the capacities of institutions, senior policy makers and public officials. Looking to the future, it would be crucial to build resilient institutions capable of addressing pandemics while pursuing the SDGs, with the UN CEPA principles as a guide

H.E. Ms. Ayanda Dlodlo, Minister of Public Service and Administration, South Africa, also addressed the opening session, recalling that the mandate of the APRM had been expanded to encompass monitoring implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Agenda 2063, and in this regard, she welcomed the cooperation between the APRM and the United Nations for the benefit of African countries.

In his opening remarks as moderator, Prof. Eddy Maloka, CEO of APRM explained that in the realm of COVID-19 crisis APRM had been supporting the AU efforts in containing the pandemic while offering its regional platforms and governance assessments for member states to share best governance practices on the pandemic management. Under the APRM continental VNR platform, APRM continued supporting member states in enhancing reporting on various SDGs and Agenda 2063, particularly those goals pertinent to good governance issues to ensure inclusive and responsive policies against the pandemic. Further, APRM had developed targeted reviews on the governance response to COVID-19 at national level, i.e., the recent targeted review developed by Sierra Leone.

The programme was organized into nine working sessions designed to promote interaction with all participants. The sessions began with remarks by experts and concluded with reflections by the session moderator. The programme and list of participants are annexed to this report. What follows is a summary of key points from the discussions.

B. Summary of discussions

The **first session** set the stage for effective implementation of most important instruments of change in Africa: the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. Speakers emphasized that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic had exacerbated Africa's socio-economic and political challenges,

including poverty, unemployment, climate change and food insecurity. The pandemic has brought to the fore critical issues including the digital divide, innovation, inequality, and the importance of technology.

Key points raised during this session included:
- The close alignment of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, at both the goal and target levels, bodes well for their accelerated implementation. There is a need for SDG-focussed innovation and change, informed by a full appreciation of the integrated nature of the SDGs and the interlinkages between both Agendas.
- Within government there is a need to shift from working in silos to operating in a more coordinated and collaborative manner, with the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders. Examples were provided of institutional developments, such as SDG units, as well as initiatives to prioritize and mainstream SDGs in national development plans.
- Issues of financing were highlighted, including access to resources for a just transition towards a low-carbon, sustainable future. It was noted that climate financing does not include transition financing; moreover, Africa receives only a small share of climate finance, although among the most-affected countries are on the continent.
- It was noted that external and donor sources of resources were drying up, so that countries were turning towards domestic resource mobilization, with options being identified through exercises such as integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs).
- While there is a focus on global and national implementation and follow-up, there is a lack of resources for resources and mechanisms to facilitate the involvement of Member States to monitor implementation of both Agendas on the continent.
- Reliable and timely data is critical to monitoring the SDGs, and in this regard, there is a need to strengthen the institutional framework (independence) of many national statistical offices in Africa, as well as increasing financial and human resources.

The second session examined institutional frameworks to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and key actions that could be taken by African Governments to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Speakers and participants highlighted that shortcomings in the public sector that existed before the pandemic have become more prominent. Governments around Africa were unprepared for this crisis; remedying inadequacies in public infrastructure, financing and investment has become more urgent.

Key points raised during this session included:
- The COVID-19 pandemic has forced countries to seek synergies and integration at the country level; this could be expanded to the regional level. There is a need for maintaining and deepening coordination, especially in relation to health, water and sanitation, and ICTs.
- The pandemic – constituting a major growth shock to African economies - has resulted in the vulnerable becoming more vulnerable, and in the process highlighting that addressing inequality is becoming ever more critical. There are lessons and good practices from countries that have recovered from major shocks, such as Sierra Leone's response and recovery to the Ebola crisis.

- It was noted that there is a greater lack of awareness and understanding on Agenda 2063 as compared to SDGs amongst African citizens. There is need for more efforts to ensure full and complete reconciliation between the two agendas. Greater attention needs to be paid to opportunities for youth, with a focus on including them as active participants and agents of change. Overall, there remains considerable scope for wider and more inclusive citizen engagement.
- Responsible leadership is necessary to overcome inadequate management of finances, corruption, and illicit financial flows, which together hinder the achievement of the development goals, while other issues of concern included debt sustainability, the quality of debt management, and the relationship between budget priorities and revenue generation. Additionally, in many African countries, there is a need to strengthen the link between budgeting and planning.

The **third session** examined recovery from the impacts of COVID-19. It was noted that COVID-19 was not destined to disappear soon, with the consequence that global and regional cooperation have assumed greater salience. Participants noted the importance of building continental trade capacity and the need to link resources to entrepreneurial initiatives. Discussion took place on how institutions could identify and embed innovative practices that were adopted in many countries during the pandemic response, as well as foster the institutional capacity building necessary for accelerating recovery from COVID-19.

Additional points raised during this session included:
- COVID recovery plans should be evidence-based and designed to address inequality, which will promote in social and political support and buy-in. Policy monitoring and evaluation plays an essential role in allowing the effective design, implementation and delivery of coherent public policies, including recovery plans. Recovery plans need to be inclusive and people-centred, designed to revitalize key sectors, among them agriculture, and accompanied by clear communication strategies.
- The pandemic has highlighted the benefits of cross-sectoral responses. Going forward, it will be important to integrate transparency, accountability and anti-corruption in both response and recovery priorities, which could help safeguard public supply chains and procurement processes. Going forward, there is a need for independent and comprehensive evaluation of COVID response, to draw lessons learnt and improve preparations for future shocks.
- The persistence of a digital divide was discussed, including issues of connectivity, affordability and infrastructure and the gender and rural-urban gap.
- The pandemic has highlighted the relevance of science, technology, and innovation for Africa's recovery from the pandemic, including both generating (moving from being consumers to producers) and sharing knowledge and research.

The fourth session examined findings from the APRM Baseline Study on the principles of effective governance for sustainable development, which was carried out in geographically representative set of countries from the five AU sub-regions. The Baseline Study serves as a reference for African countries on the CEPA principles and identified gaps and challenges in their implementation in Africa. The baseline study, which was officially launched in Nairobi in September 2021 aimed to assess the level of awareness, knowledge and implementation of

CEPA principles amongst national bureaucracies in Africa. The study further developed a questionnaire that can be utilized to carry out such an assessment. It aims to support countries in the development of guidelines, indicators, and strategic partnerships for improved implementation of the principles. Discussion during the discussion included the need to invest and transform data into tools and techniques essential for implementation, and the importance of awareness-raising and capacity development on the principles of effective government. It was noted that the CEPA Principles are highly relevant to meeting Africa's governance challenges, with the Baseline Study outlining their uptake in a selection of countries. As a next step,

Additional points raised during this session included:
- The need for further activities to enhance awareness of the Principles, including more focused support to facilitate their adoption in practice, was recognized. In this context, the urgent need for capacity building across Africa was highlighted with sub-regional and national capacity building and experience-sharing having a role.
- There was scope to use the CEPA principles as a UN measurement standard, which would provide tools to influence governance systems.
- The importance of timely and accurate statistics was underlined; at the same, data-gathering needs to be coupled with assessment of the impact of policies.
- The issue of inclusivity – "nothing about us without us" – in policymaking was highlighted, as was the need for awareness of the quality of development, with an emphasis on being people-centred.

Session five focused on mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 into national planning instruments and strategies. Panellists and participants noted the characteristics of a new generation of national development plans being prepared in many African countries. Development plans and strategies enable countries to align their sustainable development activities with ambition and guidance of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. It was recognized that effective planning is a multi-facetted, iterative, and participatory process. Structured consideration of future challenges and priorities, such as through foresight exercises, creates a sound foundation for planning. Participants discussed how planning processes could be made robust and resilient in the face of changing circumstances and major shocks such as the pandemic.

Additional points raised during this session included:
- It was noted that COVID-19 relief actions have created deep cuts into existing programmes and budgets, thus undermining continuity, consistency and sustainable development.
- When the pandemic winds down, countries shifting to the "new normal" from the crisis mode 'task force approach' should consider how to institutionalize lessons learnt into fully integrated agile teams.

Session six covered lessons learned from Implementation at local levels, including Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). Localizing the SDGs entails integrating them in the design, implementation and monitoring of sub-national plans and putting sub-national governments

at the centre of the SDGs. In this regard, the voluntary local reviews (VLRs) where recognized as advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The link between voluntary national reviews (VNRs), international frameworks and local reports needed to be strengthened, ensuring that local perspectives and bottom-up processes can be enhanced. Local reviews must be fully participatory and inclusive, and they should ensure involvement and ownership by the community. Existing initiatives for experience-sharing could be scaled up. Political will and leadership are needed to ensure that institutional mechanisms remain functioning and relevant across political cycles at all levels.

Additional points raised during this session included:
- All the SDGs have targets directly related to the responsibilities of sub-national/local authorities particularly to their role in delivering basic services, thus underlining that subnational governments should be at the heart of the 2030 Agenda.
- The VLRs are a vehicle for sharing experiences, challenges and lessons learnt, as well as to open avenues for new partnerships to address problems (opportunity for improvement) local authorities might be confronting.
- VLRs can increase public awareness, knowledge and perceptions of SDGs and empower local communities and citizens to act in their own local communities.
- Among the lessons learned is that the linkage between planning and budgeting is weak – strengthening it requires cascading integrated financing frameworks to the sub-national level.

Session seven focused on partnerships and stakeholders. Participants noted that while there has been progress on civic participation around Africa, there remains a disconnect between ideas, networks, and inclusion in implementation of the two Agendas. Mobilization of partners is critical for the implementation of the agendas and recovery from pandemic. Awareness-raising, inclusion and participation were highlighted, especially with the youth. Skills development and skills utilization within and across and continent needed to be promoted.

Additional points raised during this session included:
- There are good practices for building trust with youth though citizen feedback mechanisms where people feel their voices and opinions are considered and included, including through strategies that are co-creative, inclusive, and participatory, for instance telling the stories of youth through visual story telling in local languages.
- Research in Africa is poorly resourced, and universities in Africa need to be revitalized, through the rotation of skills, faculties and knowledge, while being mindful to disrupt the narrative that academic excellence can only be achieved outside of Africa.
- The success of continental integration depends on both the free movement of persons and effective free trade arrangements, aided by a range of South-South and triangular capacity building programmes and initiatives.

Session eight of the workshop, a capacity development segment, focused on monitoring and reporting. Issues raised by speakers and participants included the ways in which new technologies and non-traditional data sources contributed to monitoring and reporting, and how to create synergies between the African Union and the United Nations to assist countries in reporting on both Agendas. Some of the challenges to effective reporting included the high number of indicators and lack of synergy between various regional and international reporting functions. Revising the indicators to allow better engagement from African member states was proposed, including to ensure effective monitoring of implementation. Access to credible data remained a challenge.

Additional points raised during this session included:
- African economies have been growing (GDP increased) without matching increases in employment. Many countries also have capacity to mobilize domestic resources, as is apparent from low tax/to GDP ratios.
- The question of how to use citizen-generated data for follow-up and monitoring of the two Agendas needs to be further explored.

Session nine of the workshop covered use of the CEPA principles to strengthen institutions, policy coherence and governance in the post-COVID-19 era. The discussion noted several challenges in the African context, including the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, attention to intergenerational equity and accounting for power relationships in policymaking and implementation. Participants also stressed the importance of ensuring that flexibility in times of emergency was accompanied by sufficient levels of fiscal transparency and transparency in decision-making processes. The centrality of promotion of access to information in effective governance was raised, enabled through freedom of information (FOI) legislation, regulatory requirements and proactive disclosure of information as standard operating procedure.

Additional points raised during this session included:
- The pandemic has created an opportunity to rethink the role of institutions so that they shift from their usual past practices to transformative pathways that strengthen resilience to future shocks and accelerate action to achieve SDGs.
- Strengthening resilience requires governance approaches, institutions and policies that are better geared to dealing with risk.
- For resilient institutions, it is important to ensure transparent, accountable and participatory management of public finances, while sustainable public procurement is utilized.

C. Cross-cutting issues

The impact of COVID-19 on national institutions

The workshop discussed the impact of the coronavirus on the institutional framework in African countries. Countries' innovations to mitigate institutional disruptions were discussed, including Namibia, Kenya and South Africa, as well as the benefits of a stronger, flexible and more responsive institutional framework to respond to the pandemic. Participants noted that

these case studies provided insight into the efforts African governments and institutions made to manage the pandemic in spite of the capacity and resource challenges they face, providing a solid framework for the development of more robust and sustainable structures, systems and institutional capacities. Many countries have taken the opportunity that the pandemic inadvertently presented to move faster on key reforms and investments which will be crucial for long-term development.

Participants expressed concern about the impact of COVID-19 on economies in Africa, and noted among others, that the importance of effective fiscal and debt management, financing for development and capacity to mobilize domestic resources were key. Sound institutions to ensure the resilience of financial frameworks to future shocks were crucial. It was also noted that financial resource mobilization for continental initiatives needed more attention.

The workshop re-iterated its call from the 2019 meeting that the principles of effective governance for sustainable development, developed by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in 2018, needed to be effectively utilized to strengthen institutions in times of COVID-19. The APRM baseline study which examined implementation of the principles in selected African countries showed that capacity-building initiatives in Africa were essential and more needed to be done in this regard. Key dimensions of national institutions were highlighted, such as accountability, transparency, collaboration and leaving no one behind to increase the resilience of national institutions to future shocks.

Developing partnerships

Inclusion was another important theme of the workshop. While civil society groups around Africa mobilized in response to the pandemic, it was noted that COVID-19 had shrunk civic space which needed re-vitalization. Participants also noted that countries with strong institutions prosper by creating an environment that facilitates private sector and civil society involvement, delivers valuable services and earns the confidence of their citizens. Public-private partnerships have proved important for COVID-19 recovery efforts around Africa.

Case studies from Mali, Egypt and Mauritius showed the importance of people-centered inclusiveness with a whole-of-society approach, addressing and reducing inequality. Countries should ensure that there is a balance between education and capacity building on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, highlighting synergies between them to build resilient, effective and inclusive institutions appropriate for Africa.

The importance of highlighting the relevance of science, technology and innovation was also raised. The pandemic resulted in Africa embracing digital transformation at an expedited pace, and the role of technology in working and learning has become paramount. But while COVID-19 has caused a rapid proliferation of digital tools and services, the pandemic also brought to the fore the digital divide where, in Africa, millions of people remain without access to computers and the internet. It was noted that women and girls in rural communities in Africa are being left behind by systemic and structural barriers to technology access and adoption.

National development planning

The workshop discussed the role of development planning in the implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063, against the backdrop of an upswing in development planning, with some 52 African countries have some form of a development plan. Overall, poverty reduction remains the main focus, although industrialisation is re-emerging as a policy priority. While a number of plans have an explicitly transformative orientation, the majority demonstrate a cautious and incremental approach; however, there is increased recognition of the contribution of broad-based, stakeholder engagement in the formulation of plans, which facilitates their "social embeddedness". At the same time, broad-based participation in the planning process needs to be balanced with political leadership on the SDGs.

The pandemic has highlighted the value of flexible, iterative planning process allowing for learning and adaptation. Related to this was an emphasis on the institutional structure, with clear and consistent mandates. It was recognized that there is a need to improve reporting of progress on national development and SDG priorities. For effective implementation, national development plans should go hand-in-hand with a properly constituted capacity development strategy. Partners could assist through creating opportunities for peer learning, as well as mentorship programmes. There is scope to better link national planning processes to the national and external financing for development strategies, including integrated national financing frameworks (INFFs).

Voluntary local reviews (VLRs)

One way to transform institutions towards resilience and accelerate action to achieve SDGs is to adopt the voluntary local reviews (VLR) approach. The benefits of VLRs are that they allow institutions to carry out self-assessment and reflection on progress, improve coordination transparency/accountability, cooperation (horizontal and vertical), and awareness of the SDGs. Local governments can listen to the needs of people and reflect them in local policy making. The key phases in VLR include planning, data collection, reporting and follow-up with monitoring and evaluation frameworks

VLRs enable bottom-up, locally backed strategies for SDG implementation. The VLRs are also being used to feed into voluntary national reviews (VNRs), creating horizontal linkages and deepening the coverage of the national reviews. The experience with VLRs suggests there is a need to invest in data at the sub-national level to track progress on the SDGs and Agenda 2063. Similarly, capacity building is still needed at sub-national level on SDG mainstreaming, implementation and reporting.

D. Conclusions and follow-up action

COVID-19 has significantly affected Africa. But crises also bring opportunities. Pandemic recovery presents African countries with an opportunity for a transformation towards more equitable and sustainable pathways. In this regard, participants recognized that effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions are critical to help countries achieve accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063, which are complementary and

mutually reinforcing. The following are among the key summary points and follow-up actions participants identified during the workshop:

- The pandemic underscored the role of public institutions in providing essential public services. The pandemic has also exposed pre-existing weaknesses in the public sector. At the same time, public institutions have also innovated around e-government and digital delivery of services, public private partnerships, and citizen engagement; in this regard, the lessons learned in the process need to be integrated and scaled up. Capable, adept and agile institutions involve the whole of government and the whole of society, including all levels of government and all relevant stakeholders - parliaments, oversight institutions, civil society - acting in a coherent and cohesive fashion. Strategic alliances, inclusion, participation, and public private partnerships are key, as are collaborative efforts including with the youth.

- Political will and leadership are imperative to boost institutional and administrative reforms in many African countries. Participants shared examples from Kenya, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Egypt, Botswana and Uganda of how governments are adopting many reforms and policies to tackle the sustainable development issues alongside the modernization of national civil service. Further attention is needed to link national achievements with regional progress. In this regard, the APRM stated its intention to strengthen its connection with regional economic communities (RECs) to ensure that key governance recommendations are considered at different levels to enhance governance progress in many African countries.

- Many African countries are preparing a new generation of national development plans. Development plans and strategies should enable countries to align their sustainable development activities with ambition and guidance of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063. Planning must also encompass the "nuts and bolts" of government, such as internal coordination, linkage with budgeting processes, and meaningful monitoring and evaluation. Participants discussed how planning processes could be made robust and resilient in the face of changing circumstances and major shocks such as the pandemic. Follow-up activities could encompass expanding opportunities for peer learning and exchange of experiences on the integration of the two Agendas into national development plans and strategies.

- The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) offer a significant opportunity for countries to encourage the whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda. Under its expanded mandate the APRM serves as a continental peer-learning mechanism on VNRs at the regional level. In this regard, consideration will be given to mainstreaming CEPA principles in this annual exercise, as well highlighting their significance for AU Member States and AU organs.

- On the voluntary local reviews (VLRs), participants highlighted the experiences with the localization of the SDGs at the sub-national level in Africa. The VLRs are one way to transform sub-national institutions towards resilience and accelerate action to

achieve the SDGs. The facilitate a bottom-up approach and localisation of SDGs, enabling institutions to come up with locally backed strategies. It was underlined that the VLRs can deepen the coverage of VNRs.

- The CEPA principles of effective governance for sustainable development were recognized as highly relevant to meeting Africa's governance challenges. Further activities to enhance awareness of the Principles and provide more focussed support to facilitate their adoption in practice are needed. The Baseline Study on implementation of the CEPA principles in Africa constitutes a starting point for tackling many governance issues at the national level. Going forward, the APRM is committed to carry out further assessments and activities to operationalize these principles at the national level, including in the form of targeted reviews on aspects of these principles, based on the requests from Member States. Responding to the capacity development needs identified, and informed by discussions at the workshop, APRM, UN DESA and regional partners identified follow-up activities, including the development of a toolkit to assist Member States in operationalizing the principles at the national level. Consideration could also be given to the development of indicators to be associated with the principles.

- The urgent need for capacity building across Africa was highlighted with sub-regional and national capacity building and experience-sharing having a role. It was noted that investing in African human capital, especially youth and women, requires further alignment between the partners' strategies and national priorities. Participants outlined activities and projects being carried out, such as the newly developed APRM Governance, which will be offering a variety of courses in partnership with African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM) and other members of APRM-CEPA Taskforce for Africa.

- Participants reinforced the importance of cooperation and new partnerships to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, building on the collaboration in evidence at the workshop. They underlined the key contribution of the APRM and its African Union sister organizations, especially the AU Commission. They recognized the importance of continued collaboration with the United Nations, including the UN Economic Commission for Africa and at the country level with UN country teams, under the overall coordination of the UN Resident Coordinator.

Annex 1

Workshop on Accelerating the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063 in Africa: Building Resilient Institutions for the SDGs in the time of COVID-19

Co-organized by APRM and UN DESA

Cape Town, Radisson Blu V&A Waterfront
28-30 October 2021

Day 1 28 October	
08:30 – 9:00	**Registration**
09:00 – 9:45	**Welcome and opening remarks** Moderator: **Prof. Eddy Maloka**, CEO, African Peer Review Mechanism ▪ **Ms. Maria-Francesca Spatolisano**, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA [pre-recorded video message] ▪ **Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi**, Chancellor, Nelson Mandela University and Chair of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration ▪ **Ms. Ayanda Dlodlo,** Minister of Public Service and Administration, South Africa
09:45 -10:45	**Session 1: Accelerating Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and 2063 Agenda in Africa** Moderator**: Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas**, United Nations Resident Coordinator, South Africa

	• **Mr. Obeth Kandjoze,** Director General, National Planning Commission, Namibia

■ **Ms. Caroline Makasa,** Acting Director, SDGs Centre for Africa

Interactive Discussion

Guiding questions:

1. Have African institutions risen to challenge of responding to the pandemic? What approaches are working, and which should be discarded?

2. What lessons learned and good practices can be scaled up to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?

3. Where are the innovations taking place that can help drive transformative change? Do we have the data and analysis to identify leverage points for change? |
| 10:45 − 11:00 | **Break/Coffee** |
| 11:00- 12.30 | **Session 2: Institutions and the Decade of Action and Delivery in Africa: Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic**

Moderator: **Mr. Ayodele Odusola,** Resident Representative, UNDP South Africa

■ **Ambassador Eric Wafukho**, Chief Administrative Secretary, State Department of Planning, Kenya

■ **Mr. Sibusiso Nkomo**, Head of Communications, Afrobarometer, Cape Town office

■ **Ambassador Salah Hammad**, Head of African Governance Architecture (AGA), *AU− Gaps, challenges and progress in developing institutional frameworks for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs* (virtual) |

	▪ **Mr. Augustin Fosu**, Professor, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, Member, UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration *(virtual)*
	Interactive Discussion
	Guiding questions:
	1. How has the institutional framework/mechanisms or setting promoted the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and that duplication of work is avoided? How can countries ensure vertical and horizontal coherence in their institutional arrangements for achieving the SDGs?
	2. What are some of the key actions that could be taken by governments to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions for responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and delivering on the SDGs?
	3. What good practice lessons are there from Africa and around the world to improve institutional structures to be able to be able to respond effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic and deliver the SDGs?
12.30- 14:00	**Lunch break and media coverage by South African and African media**
14:00- 15:00 -	**Session 3: Accelerating recovery from the impacts of COVID-19**
	Moderator: **Mr. Amson Sibanda**, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA
	▪
	▪ **Professor Zwelinzima Ndevu**, Director, School of Public Leadership, University of Stellenbosch
	▪ **Ms. Sherifa Fouad Sherif**, Executive Director of the National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development, member, UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration *(virtual)*

	Interactive discussion Guiding questions: 1. What kind of institutional capacity building is needed to accelerate the recovery from COVID-19? How can institutions identify and embed innovative practices that were adopted during the pandemic response? 2. How can institutions help share and better disseminate good practices within and between African countries? Are continental institutions playing their role?
15.00-16.00	**Session 4: Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development: Findings from the APRM Baseline Study** Moderator**: Ms. Sara Hamouda**, SDGs & Agenda 2063 Unit, Officer-in-Charge, APRM Secretariat **Kick-off presentation: Professor Pali Lehohla**, former Statistician-General, South Africa (10 min) **Reflections from member states:** ▪ **Ambassador Zenene Sinombe**, Representative of Botswana to the African Union ▪ **Ambassador Ashraf Rashed,** APRM National Governance Council, Egypt ▪ **Mr. Saitoti Torome,** Principal Secretary, State Department for Planning, Kenya Interactive Discussion Guiding questions: ▪ What are key enablers and barriers to implementing the Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development in the Africa? How can these obstacles and challenges be overcome?

	▪ How do you assess the APRM Baseline Study on the implementation of CEPA Principles in Africa? do you think it is imperative to develop certain capacity building programs to enhance effective implementation of these principles ▪ What is your country's experience in implementing some of the CEPA Principles?
16.00-16.15	**Wrap-up Session and briefing for day two, Mr. Amson Sibanda, UNDESA**
Day 2 29 October	
09:00 −11:00 **Session coordinator**: A	**Session 5: Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 into national planning instruments and strategies** Moderator: **Mr. Amson Sibanda**, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA ▪ **Dr. Kefiloe Masiteng,** Deputy Secretary, National Planning Commission, South Africa ▪ **Professor Admos Chimhowu**, University of Manchester, *Prospects for effective development planning in Africa in a world reshaped by the COVID-19 pandemic (virtual)* ▪ **Ms. Malefu Delinah Khanyapa**, Director for Monitoring and Evaluation, Ministry of Development Planning, Maseru, Lesotho Interactive discussion
11:00-11:15	**Break**
11:00 – 12.30	**Session 6: Lessons learned from Implementation at Local Levels and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)**

	Moderator**: Ms. Natasha Primo,** Head of Organisational Research, City of Cape Town SDG and VLR lead

Kick-off presentation: Mr. Simon Masanga, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe (10 min)

Reflections on localization of the SDGs:

- **Ms. Priscilla Margery**, District Planner, Ngora District Local Government, Uganda

- **Mr. Jan Magoro,** Acting Chief Director, Policy Research & Advisory Services Branch, Office of the Premier, Gauteng Province *(virtual)*

- **Mr. Ken Oluoch,** Sustainable Development Goals Technical Lead, Kenya Council of Governors

- **Mr. Rogers Dhliwayo,** Senior Economist, UNDP South Africa (*virtual*)

Interactive discussion

Guiding questions:

1. What is the role of local and regional governments in SDGs implementation and how can they be empowered to fulfill their potential in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063?

2. What are the main benefits of Voluntary Local Reviews and how can they contribute to better recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic?

3. How can peer learning and peer reviews contribute to effective sharing of lessons learned and more robust VLRs? |
| **12:30- 14:00** | **Lunch** |

14:00-16:00	**Session 7: Mobilizing Partnerships and Stakeholders for 2030 Agenda and 2063 Agenda implementation and COVID-19 recovery**
	Moderator: **Mr. Bartholomew Armah**, Officer-in-Charge, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, Economic Commission for Africa
	Kick-off presentations: ▪ **Ambassador Mohamed Khalil**, Secretary General, Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development (10 min)
	Mr. Moussa Kondo, Accountability Lab, Mali (CSO)
	Ms. Mandipa Ndlovu, University of Leiden
	Ms. Julia Muia, Programme Officer**,** African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM)
	Mr. Rishy Bukoree, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius
	Interactive Discussion
	Guiding questions:
	1. How can we strengthen mechanisms and platforms to bring all stakeholders together to contribute to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?
	2. How are all sectors and levels of Government, including Parliament and human rights institutions, engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?
	3. How can partnerships with non-State actors and the private sector contribute to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?

| 16:00 – 17:00 | **Session 8: Special capacity-building segment - monitoring and reporting on SDGs and Agenda 2063**

Moderator**: Professor Pali Lehohla,** former Statistician-General, South Africa

Kick-off presentations:

▪ **Mr. Bartholomew Armah**, Officer-in-Charge, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, Economic Commission for Africa (10 min)

    ▪ **Ms. Selamawit Mussie**, SDG Policy Officer, African Union Commission, *AU efforts to report on Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda*

    ▪ **Mr. Jean Adou**, Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, APRM, South Africa

Interactive discussion

Guiding questions:

1. How can new technologies and non-traditional data sources contribute to enhanced monitoring and reporting?

2. How have AU organs been collaborating to improve quality of reporting on Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 respectively?

3. Given the strategic UN-AU framework to implement both agendas, how synergies are created between AU and UN organs (UNECA) to assist countries in reporting on both agendas? |
| **Day 3**
30 October | |

9:00 – 10:30	**Session 9: Taking CEPA principles to strengthen institutions, policy coherence and governance in the post-COVID-19 era**
	
	Moderator: **Mr. Patrick Spearing,** Senior Governance Officer, UN DESA
	
	Panel:
	   ▪ **Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi,** Chancellor, Nelson Mandela University and Chair of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration
	
	   ▪ **Mr Louis Meuleman**, Visiting Professor at Public Governance Institute, KU Leuven (Belgium) and Vice-Chair of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration
	
	   ▪ **Mr. Ernesto Soria Morales**, Senior Policy Analyst on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, Public Governance Directorate, OECD *(virtual)*
	
	   ▪ **Mr. Jaco du Toit**, Chief of Universal Access to Information Section, communication and Information Sector, UNESCO *(virtual)*
	
	Good practices and lessons learned in applying principles of effective governance for strengthened implementation of the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063. The aim of the session is to support countries in transitioning from the immediate response to the crisis to longer-term recovery efforts: gaps, challenges and opportunities
	
	Interactive Discussion
	
	Guiding questions:
	
	1. What does it mean in practice to reimagine the role of institutions and shift towards transformative pathways that strengthen resilience and accelerate action to achieve the SDG?

	2. Where and how have public administrations been successful in resolving tensions between responding to urgent and important needs and attempting to deliver on longer-term policy objectives? 3. What are the early success stories from the APRM-OECD partnership on policy coherence of African institutions? 4. What do the APRM targeted reviews tell us about strengthening institutions, policy coherence and governance in the post-COVID-19 era?
10:30 – 11:00	**Closing remarks** ▪ **Professor Eddy Maloka**, CEO, African Peer Review Mechanism ▪ **Ms. Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi**, Chancellor, Nelson Mandela University and Chair of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration ▪ **Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas**, UN Resident Coordinator, South Africa

Participants – in person

	Last Name	First Name	Position/Organization
1	Fraser-Moleketi	Geraldine	Chair, Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA)
2	Meuleman	Louis	Vice-Chair, CEPA
3	Makasa	Caroline	Acting Director, SDGs Centre for Africa, Rwanda
4	Lehohla	Pali	former Statistician-General
5	Rashed	Ashraf	Chair of National Governance Council, Egypt
6	Wafukho	Eric	Chief Administrative Secretary, State Department of Planning, Kenya

7	Koné	Bakary	Head, Regional Office for West & Central Africa & Director, Resource Mobilization, Strategic Planning & Partnerships, Africa Capacity Building Foundation, Ghana Office
8	Torome	Saitoti	Principal Secretary, State Department of Planning, Kenya
9	Okwiya	Samori A.	CEO, APRM & NEPAD Secretariat, Kenya
10	Kandjoze	Obeth M.	Director General, National Planning Commission, Namibia
11	Masanga	Simon	Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Kenya
12	Sinombe (Amb)	Zenene	Ambassador of Botswana to African Union
13	Oluoch	Ken	Sustainable Development Goals Technical Lead, Kenya Council of Governors
14	Asio	Priscilla Margery	District Planner, Ngora District Local Government, Uganda
15	Kondo	Moussa	Accountability Lab, Mali
16	Morsi (Amb)	Mohamed Mohamed Khalil	Secretary-General, Egyptian Agency for Partnership Development
17	Mekonnen	Selamawit Mussie	SDG Policy Officer, African Union Commission
18	Khanyapa	Malefu Delinah	Director for Monitoring and Evaluation, Ministry of Development Planning, Maseru
19	Kuwa	Idrisa Hamza	Zanzibar Planning Commission,
20	Muia	Julie Kalunde	Programme Officer, African Association for Public Administration and Management (AAPAM)
21	Bukoree	Rishy	Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Mauritius

22	Kefiloe	Masiteng	Deputy Secretary, National Planning Commission, South Africa
23	Ndlovu	Mandipa Bongiwe	Research Analyst, Zimbabwe
24	Dlodlo	Ayanda	Minister of Public Service and Administration, South Africa
25	Muchineripi	Nemhara	Principal Research and Economics Officer, Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Zimbabwe
26	Ly	Moustapha	Directeur, Ministére de la justice, Senegal
27	Ndevu	Zwelinzima	Director, School of Public Leadership, University of Stellenbosch
28	Primo	Natasha	Head of Organisational Research, City of Cape Town
29	Wright	Caroline	Manager, Research Branch, Policy and Strategy Department Corporate Services Directorate, City of Cape Town
30	Osman	Kadra Hassan	Secretaire Permanent, Mecanisme d' evluation par les pairs, Djibouti
UN System			
31	Sibanda	Amson	Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, DESA, New York
32	Jagwanth	Saras	Inter-Regional Adviser, Division for Public Institutions and Public Governance, DESA, New York
33	Spearing	Patrick	Secretary, UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration, DESA, New York
34	Bekele-Thomas	Nardos	UN Resident Coordinator, South Africa
35	Odusola	Ayodele	Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme, South Africa

36	Armah	Bartholomew	Officer-in-Charge, Macroeconomics and Governance Division, UN Economic Commission for Africa
APRM			
37	Maloka	Eddy	CEO, APRM, Pretoria, South Africa
38	Adou	Jean	Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, APRM Secretariat, South Africa
39	Hamouda	Sara Elsayed Tawfik Ahmed	SDG & Agenda 2063 Unit, APRM Secretariat, South Africa
40	Mabwa	Janet	APRM Secretariat
41	Mogale Matodzi	Modjadji Julia	APRM Secretariat
42	Nazare	Rutendo Vimbainashe	APRM Secretariat
43	Siddig	Abubakr Omer M.A.	APRM Secretariat

Presenters - Virtual			
	Last Name	**First Name**	**Position/Organization**
1	Chimhowu	Admos	University of Manchester, United Kingdom
2	Hammad (Amb)	Salah	Head of African Governance Architecture (AGA), African Union Commission
3	Fosu	Augustin K	Professor, Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana, CEPA member
4	Magoro	Jan	Acting Chief Director, Research and Policy Development, Policy Research & Advisory Services Branch, Office of the Premier, Gauteng Province

5	Soria Morales	Ernesto	Senior Policy Analyst, Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, Public Governance Directorate, OECD, France
6	Sherif	Sherifa Fouad	Executive Director of the National Institute for Government and Sustainable Development, member of UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration
7	Dhliwayo	Rogers	Senior Economist, UNDP South Africa
8	Du Toit	Jaco	Chief of Universal Access to Information Section, Communication and Information Sector, UNESCO