

Tenth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

*“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and
Agenda 2063 and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the
effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”*

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SDG16. The Fundamental Goal for the inclusive achievement of all SDGs



SDG16. "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels"

- **SDG16 is a cross-cutting goal, advocating an efficient institutional framework to address the challenges associated with all the other SDGs.**
- **In the absence of peace, justice and effective democratic governance based on the rule of law, sustainable development is threatened, and prosperity for people and the planet is limited.**
- **In Africa, Goal 16 is aligned with the long-term development aspirations of the African Union, as set out in the Agenda 2063, specifically in the following goals:**
 - **#11:** Democratic values, universal principles of human rights and rule of law
 - **#12:** Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place
 - **#13 and 14:** Preservation of peace, security and stability
 - **#15:** Functional and operational African peace and security architecture
 - **#17:** Full gender equality in all spheres of life
 - **#18:** Empowering youth and children

SDG16. The Status of Implementation in Africa

General Overview

- Since **2019**, governance in Africa has flatlined, deteriorating security and rule of law. The categories of participation, rights and inclusion have been eroded and continue to be affected by on-going triple-crises (*COVID-19, invasion of Ukraine and climate change*), with consequent increase in political unrest and *coups d'État*.
- Overall, average governance score was better in 2021 than 2012, but much of Africa felt less safe, secure and democratic in 2021. Only 15 African countries managed to speed up improvements from 2017 to 2021, while scores deteriorated over that period in 22 countries.
- Conflicts continue to afflict about 1 country in 3. About 72% of African countries are affected by conflict or neighbour at least one conflict-affected country. Over 1.43 billion people either reside in or share land borders with conflict-affected countries. Conflict-affected countries with high levels of poverty have recorded lower levels of progress across SDGs
- Data remain insufficient, limiting the availability of the information required for planning, tracking, reporting and policy making for the potential for an effective reverse action.

Challenges and opportunities to accelerate implementation



The multiplicity of crises adversely affected social protection, education, health, violence and exploitation, with the most damage inflicted on vulnerable population groups, such as girls, boys and women.



Megatrends such as increased life expectancy, declining fertility rates, shifting urbanization patterns and evolving socio-economic dynamics could influence the future landscape. The impact of technological transformation, social media exposure and climate shocks are hard to be predicted.



Africa is projected to be the most vulnerable region to these changes.

Recommendations for African countries *to strengthen and promote:*

- Systems for monitoring illicit markets and collecting data related to IFFs and arms flows
- Provide protective regulations, policies and accountability mechanisms
- Preparations for addressing pandemics and other crises, such as climate crisis
- Strategies for combating conflict
- Consolidation of the relationship between economic policy and human rights
- National capacities for producing disaggregated data
- High quality education, conflict resolution and democratic principles
- Rights-based policy and institutional frameworks for access to civil registration
- Voice and participation of the Global South

Main Messages

Progress towards SDG16 is weakened by significant gaps. In order to address these gaps for the future, there is a need to strengthen:



Government strategies and institutional structures for combating IFFs, corruption, arms flows and conflicts



Political leadership and stakeholder participation



Governance institutions and the rule of law



Data systems in relation to SDGs particularly SDG 16



Human rights approaches



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Ideas
to
Action