



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.

Concept Note for the Side-event on
Leveraging Digital Planning to Advance the Implementation of the Two Agendas, One Plan Framework in Times of Multiple Crisis

National governments adopt development processes planning to conceptualize, streamline and ensure the implementation of economic, environmental, social, and spatial growth and development. National development plans serve as blueprints for the achievement by Governments of desired development outcomes ideally based on the needs and priorities of citizens. The planning process is, however, occurring in an increasingly complex development landscape characterized by rapid technological innovations, extreme weather events and shocks such as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, wars, and various forms of civil unrest. The rising debt vulnerabilities and fiscal imbalances brought on by these multiple crises have thrown more households into poverty, derailed progress on the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 and put into sharp focus the importance of greater prudence in fiscal spending and the need to scale up development financing and align it more closely with national development priorities.

With a growing number of African countries reeling from the prolonged effects of the crises, increased capacity of planning entities to design and implement integrated planning systems and strategies for the attainment of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 is imperative. Current planning approaches tend to be fragmented along sectoral and institutional lines, thereby undermining synergies, fueling duplication of efforts and the sub-optimal use of scarce resources.

Integrated development planning frameworks that reflect countries' national, regional, and global commitments, are aligned with financial frameworks, appropriately identify catalytic and transformational interventions, and are continually tracked and evaluated, are vital for responding to emerging crises and shocks and ensuring value for money in the use of national resources.

Supported by digital technology, integrated planning can enhance the responsiveness of planning frameworks to shocks by seamlessly linking the various components of the planning process in one platform. Digital technology strengthens the planning process in critical areas such as data analytics, diagnostics of results frameworks and automated tracking and alignment of development priorities to international commitments and financing frameworks. These capabilities are particularly important as the number of international commitments continues to grow, financing needs expand, the data requirements to track performance escalate, and flexibility is needed in the face of multiple crises.



Inspired by the need to enhance the responsiveness of planning frameworks to the demands of a rapidly evolving development landscape, ECA developed a web-based planning tool called the Integrated Planning and Reporting Tool (IPRT) in 2017. The IPRT leverages digital technology to: enhance precision in the alignment of international commitments with national plans; link budgets to development priorities; identify gaps in the results framework of national development plans and; generate performance tracking dashboards.

It is against this backdrop that the Development Planning Section (DPS) of the Macroeconomic and Governance Division (MGD) is proposing a side event on *“Leveraging Digital Planning to Advance the Implementation of the Two Agendas, One Plan Framework in Times of Multiple Crisis”* to share:

- Experiences and best practices in development planning in times of multiple crisis;
- The utility of digital planning in development planning; and
- The benefits of the integrated planning and reporting toolkit in supporting member states in advancing the implementation of the two agendas.

The event will draw experts in digital planning and government officials with responsibilities pertaining to National Development Planning.

Format

Participants will be convened in a virtual meeting, which would be a mix of presentations and discussions for 1.5 hours.

Panelists and discussants

- (1) Government officials to share country level experiences (Governments of Somalia and Ghana)
- (2) Chief of Section, Development Planning, MGD, ECA