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#

Workshop on integrated national financing frameworks in Africa

#

24–26 August 2021

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2:00–5:00 p.m. (Addis Ababa time (UTC+3))

Background

Building forward better within the context of the socioeconomic and financial repercussions of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic requires, more than at any time in the past, the adoption of an integrated approach to financing.

African countries, which formulated some of the first comprehensive Sustainable Development Goal financing strategies, are leading efforts to develop and launch what are known as integrated national financing frameworks. Many African countries are in the initial stages of that process, but, in most cases, have already conducted development finance assessments, in line with guidelines developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).¹ Some countries are already drawing up national financing strategies. Realizing that national development and recovery plans cannot be implemented without a coherent approach to the mobilization of resources in support of national priorities, many African countries have called for efforts to share experiences and best practices, practical technical advice and relevant tools in that area. The COVID-19 pandemic has further underscored the relevance of integrated national financing frameworks, which can guide resource allocation and shape financing for sustainable recovery responses.

In response, the United Nations Department of Economic Affairs (DESA), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UNDP, and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) have joined forces to create a knowledge-sharing and learning space for African countries where they can share their experiences of integrated national financing frameworks and best practices in that area with a view to facilitating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the aspirations, goals and targets of Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

The workshop will build on a successful pilot training session that was held for North and Central Asian countries in January 2021 and a training session organized for Asian and Pacific countries in March 2021. The event will be tailored to the needs of African countries and, inter alia, will include a session on the integrated planning and reporting toolkit, created by ECA to enable member States to align the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and integrate

¹ For further information, see: sdgfinance.undp.org/sdg-tools/development-finance-assessment-dfa-guidebook.



them into national development plans. Efforts are also being made to incorporate integrated national financing frameworks into the toolkit in order to strengthen the capacity of African countries to allocate limited resources in support of national priorities.

The workshop will, however, adopt a different format from those used in previous events in order to reflect the needs of a much broader target audience. The workshop will be delivered online over three half days and on the second and third days, will include an in-depth analysis of integrated national financing frameworks, including country cases and practical experiences, as revealed in development finance assessments and other integrated national financing framework findings. The event will also aim to generate a discussion on the mobilization of resources in support of efforts to build back better and on how countries can build on their practical experiences to address pressing regional and country-level challenges, including debt sustainability, illicit financial flows, the formulation of budgets that support development, economic governance, and the leapfrogging opportunities of the so-called fourth industrial revolution. The United Nations and its partners plan to offer further training sessions on integrated national financing frameworks in the future.

Recommendations formulated at the workshop will, moreover, inform deliberations at the upcoming African Economic Conference, to be held in December 2021 under the theme “Financing Africa’s post-COVID-19 development”.

Overall goal and learning objectives of the workshop

The aim of the workshop will be to:

- (a) Strengthen the knowledge of government officials and other stakeholders of integrated national financing frameworks;
- (b) Foster a common understanding of the value of and methodology adopted within the context of those frameworks;
- (c) Promote knowledge-sharing among countries during the framework inception phase, raise awareness of the tools that countries can employ during that phase, including development finance assessments and risk and binding constraint analyses, and provide a forum for the sharing of lessons learned, good practices and hands-on approaches adopted by African countries;
- (d) Raise awareness of how the ECA integrated planning and reporting toolkit can be used to prioritize the allocation of resources and strengthen economic governance;
- (e) Identify key country-level examples and disseminate relevant lessons learned throughout Africa and beyond.

At the end of this workshop, participants will be better positioned to:

- (a) Analyse opportunities and challenges for their countries as they roll out their integrated national financing frameworks;



(b) Discuss which integrated national financing framework good practices and tools could be replicated in their countries;

(c) Understand how the use of integrated financing tools can strengthen national development strategies and recovery plans and enhance financing policy design;

(d) Articulate how integrated financing strategies can empower policymakers to manage their complex financing landscape more strategically;

(e) Describe approaches that can be adopted to strengthen economic governance mechanisms relevant to financing at the national and subnational levels.

Methodology and evaluation

The workshop will be held over three half days and comprise a series of online training sessions to be conducted using the Zoom video conferencing platform. The online sessions will include knowledge-sharing and learning sessions consisting of short theoretical introductions, presentations and group discussions.

Assessments will be conducted at the beginning and the end of the workshop to ascertain the specialized knowledge acquired by participants. In addition, participants will be invited to provide feedback on the sessions at the end of the workshop.

Participants will be provided with access to a virtual learning environment prior to the workshop and Zoom video conferencing details will be shared in due course. Simultaneous interpretation will be available in Arabic, English, French and Portuguese. All the recordings, modules and materials will be made available online to participants at the end of the workshop.

Target audience

The workshop has been designed, primarily for integrated national financing framework focal points and practitioners from African countries, including those working at ministries of finance, planning and economic development, in addition to other ministries that may be actively involved in the integrated national financing framework processes. Researchers from academic institutions and other regional stakeholders, including those at United Nations agencies, will also benefit from the workshop, which, it is hoped, will also illicit interest and raise awareness among regional partners. Invitations to nominate participants will be sent via resident coordinator offices while invitations to regional partners, will be sent via ECA, UNDP and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) focal points.

For further information, please contact Ms. Orria Goni (email: orria.goni@undp.org) or Ms. Farzana Shamin (email: sharmin@un.org).



Programme*

Tuesday, 24 August

15 minutes before the opening of the workshop	Connection check/logging on to platform
2:00–2:20 p.m.	Opening of the workshop by partner organizations
2:20–3:00 p.m.	An overview of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Development Account Tranche 13 Project in Africa • The integrated national financing framework landscape in Africa • Pre-workshop assessment
3:00–5:00 p.m.	An overview of the ECA integrated planning and reporting toolkit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose and design of the toolkit • Main functionalities of the toolkit • Country experiences and key lessons learned • Linking the toolkit with integrated national financing frameworks • Q&A session

Wednesday, 25 August

2:00–3:30 p.m.	Integrated national financing frameworks in Africa: an assessment and diagnostics methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the methodology (15 mins) • The experience of four countries that have conducted an assessment in the framework inception phase and key lessons learned (10 mins each) • Q&A session (5 mins) • Group activity (25 mins)
3:30–5:00 p.m.	Integrated national financing frameworks: the design and implementation of financing strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A methodology for designing financing strategies (15 minutes) • The experience of four countries that have formulated a financing strategy and key lessons learned (10 mins each) • Q&A session (5 mins) • Group activity (25 mins)



Thursday, 26 August	
2:00–3:30 p.m.	<p>Integrated national financing frameworks: the mechanism for monitoring, review and accountability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of the mechanism for monitoring, review and accountability (15 mins) • The experience of four countries that have employed the mechanism and key lessons learned (10 mins each) • Q&A session (5 mins) • Group activity (25 mins)
3:30–5:00 p.m.	<p>Integrated national financing frameworks: the design and implementation of governance and coordination arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of governance and coordination arrangements (15 min) • The experience of four countries that have put in place governance and coordination arrangements and key lessons learned (10 mins each) • Q&A session (5 mins) • Group activity (25 mins)
5:00–5:30 p.m.	<p>Closing session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-workshop assessment and feedback poll (10 mins) • The way forward for African countries (10 mins) • Closing remarks by partner organizations (10 mins)

*All times given are Addis Ababa time (UTC+3).

