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Concept Note

African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Side event

Governance mechanisms and Challenges for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 &SDGs.”

6th Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development

Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

26 February 13:00– 14:15 / Kalundu Room

Brief:

This event aims to bring together representatives of the African Union (AU) member states, APRM partners and Civil Society Organizations to deliberate on the APRM’s report titled “**Assessing Governance Mechanisms for the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063**”. One of the key messages of the 5th Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD) – which took place in Marrakech, Morocco in March 2019- emphasized the role of regional mechanisms including the APRM to collaborate with other regional organizations to improve the reporting and tracking the implementation of Agenda 2063 especially SDG 16 which is strongly aligned to Aspirations 3 & 4 of Agenda 2063: good governance in Africa and peaceful Africa.

Therefore, this report comes with necessity, to not traditionally report on the indicators of SDGs, but rather on the governance mechanisms developed at national levels by AU member states to enhance planning, implementing and monitoring the mentioned agendas.

Background on the APRM’s report and rationale of the side event

In 2017, The AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government granted the APRM an expanded mandate to support the African Union (AU) member states (MSs) in the implementation of SDGs, particularly SDG 16, and to play a role in the Monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development preparing the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)¹. Since then, the APRM has taken progressive steps in coordinating and aligning efforts at regional and national levels to assist the AU Member States in promoting good governance practices for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and SDGs. To date, APRM has contributed to at the 2019 High-Level Forum 2019, organised VNRs regional workshops,

¹ AU Assembly/AU/Draft/Dec.14 (XXVIII) on the Outcome of the Retreat of the Assembly of the African Union for the Institutional Reform of the African Union of January 2017



and collaborated with strategic partners such as the African Development Bank, Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Importantly, the APRM has offered excellent opportunities and regional platforms to share experiences between the AU member states concerning best practices and policy designs to galvanize SDGs planning, monitoring and evaluations.

In addition to its core contribution in **‘the 2019 Africa Sustainable Development/ Agenda 2063 Report’**, the APRM has sought to institutionalize and upscale its collaboration with other major organizations to ensure policy coherence and useful role in promoting SDGs and Agenda 2063 – particularly aspirations 3 and 4. As of May 2019, APRM led in the assembling of a Taskforce consisting of representatives from AU Chairperson office, AUC, AfDB, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and representatives of APRM Member States including Egypt, South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, and Malawi. The task force agreed on the necessity of developing a report to deliberate on the status of implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063 while focusing on the governance mechanisms, partnerships, public awareness, and policies designed at national levels for this purpose.

The APRM report **‘Assessing Governance Mechanisms for the Implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063’** provides an essential first step to understanding the critical governance structures and systems needed towards realizing the SDGs and the Aspirations in the AU Agenda 2063. The report utilizes two fundamental approaches to undertake the analysis. First, a team of researchers led by a Technical Working Group comprising experts from the African Union, Academia, 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, the report employs a dedicated survey of national experts on the two Agendas to provide the reader with a feel of the levels of engagement of the various stakeholders with the SDGs and Agenda 2063. This includes assessing the involvement of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of Government, as well as the Private Sector and Civil Society, and the media.

Objectives of the APRM side event:

The APRM side event aims to sensitize on governance issues for the implementation of both agendas; 2063 and 2030 by providing a platform for AU Member States, African experts and strategic partners including the OECD and ECA to address specific challenges including



national development planning issues, the lack of awareness and ownership of the global MDGs framework at the local level amongst others. The side event likewise displays experiences and best practices from Member State regarding approaches to addressing aspects of domestication and implementation of the development agendas. The engagement of MSs to deliberate on the report is essential to ensure the report's reliability and credibility compared to the African reality.

The significant role of youth and women cannot be omitted from this debate. Since Article 26(a) of the African Youth Charter (2006) calls on youth to be custodians of their own development; Agenda 2063 echoes the call for an inclusive Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth; SDGs 2030 have specific targets for youth empowerment as part of the SDGs clusters of people, property, and planet. African leaders have also tasked the APRM to track and monitor the implementation of the African Union Youth Charter with a specific focus on youth social, political, and economic development.² Therefore, the event will consider the youth aspect in the overall discussion and how to institutionalize youth-led accountable actions for pursuing the development agendas.

Contribution to the AFSDF 2020 – SDGs 16 &17

The Sixth (2020) session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD 6) will be held under the theme “**2020-2030 A decade to deliver a prosperous Africa**”. It will undertake a review of all the 17 SDGs and corresponding goals of Agenda 2063. The APRM report is strongly linked with two main themes of the forum, which focus on SDGs 16 ‘peaceful and inclusive societies’ and SDG 17 global partnerships for SDGs. The APRM side event shall bring together representatives from APRM, AU Commission, UN ECA as well as African countries which actively contributed to the successful accomplishment of the said report. Furthermore, it shall provide an opportunity to discuss the role of youth in promoting both agendas.

Themes of discussions

1. National governance mechanisms for the domestication of Agenda 2063 and SDGs

² 2011 Summit Decision - Calls on the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to incorporate the monitoring of the implementation of the African Youth Charter and the plan of Action of the Youth Decade with specific focus on youth social, political and economic development within Member States as also a basis for evaluation



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2. Awareness and ownership for the implementation of Agenda 2063
3. Civil Society partnerships and youth-led accountability for people and prosperity

Speakers: (7- 10 minutes for each)

Chair: Prof. Eddy Maloka, APRM CEO

- Uganda: Albert K Byamugisha, PhD, Senior Technical Adviser to the Prime Minister & Chairman of APRM National Governing Council, Uganda- APRM
- OECD: Tatyana Teplova, Head of the Policy Coherence for SDGs Division
- UNDESA: Tonya Vaturi, Sustainable Development officer, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Working Languages:

The session shall be moderated in English

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