

2020 Africa Sustainable Development Report

Thematic Background Papers

Terms of Reference

1. Introduction

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015 and the Agenda 2063: the Africa We Want in 2013, Africa has important foundations for promoting sustainable development, regional integration as well as peace and security. Since 2017, the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the United Nations Development Programme - Regional Bureau for Africa (UNDP-RBA) have been preparing annual reports on Africa's progress with respect to alignment of the agendas into national development strategies and implementation. These annual reports have followed the themes and select goals of the High-Level Political Forum, with the 2019 report completing the first cycle of reviewing all the 17 Goals in a phased approach. This sets the foundation for baselines on most indicators, identifies areas with data gaps and emerging challenges, setting the stage for a comprehensive reporting on the SDGs and Agenda 2063 in 2020. Noting that the initial reports focused on benchmarking on Africa's performance on most of the goals, the 2020 report seeks to provide a comprehensive analysis of Africa's progress by analyzing underlying issues, interlinkages between goals and policy options for accelerating progress going forward.

From available evidence, Africa's progress is mixed. The continent has recorded sustained economic growth rates ranging between 3-4 percent per annum over the last two decades, poverty rates are declining and access to primary education, health, and electricity are improving. Gender parity at lower levels of education continues to improve while women representation in national parliaments has shown significant positive change. Africa's contribution to material consumption is relatively low; all African countries have signed, and 48 countries ratified the Paris Agreement on climate change action. However, progress is insufficient on many goals, variations across and within countries are large, and so are the additional financing requirements. Although poverty rates are declining, the absolute number of people living in poverty is rising (from an estimated 413 million in 2015 to 422 million in 2019) due to high population growth rates, lack of opportunities for decent jobs, and the lack of access to quality education and health services. Unfortunately, many Africans, particularly youth and women, continue to be *left behind – despite the many opportunities*. A worrying sign of persistent inequalities on the continent. Data gaps on many of the indicators are a challenge to setting baselines and measuring progress.

The inclusiveness, indivisible and integrated nature of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 and the large gaps towards many of the targets call for heightened levels of ambition to motivate a step change in implementation and reporting of the two development agendas. The year 2020 is an important milestone for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 for many reasons: **first**, it marks five years since the adoption of the global goals; **second**, several targets were set to be achieved in 2020; **third**, only three years remain to the completion of the first Ten-Year Implementation Plan of Agenda

2063 and **finally**, the world as whole will only have ten years to 2030. In addition, 2020 coincides with the 75th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, which has already been titled the ‘decade of action’ poised to bring a lot of the global issues to the fore.

It is therefore an opportune time for a deep review of the two Agendas at country, sub-regional and regional levels paying particular attention to their domestication and implementation; and the achievements on the various targets so far. It is a critical time to reflect back in order to look forward at how success will look like and identify areas for emphasis at the regional and national levels given the trends and projections to 2030. The next ten years 2021-2030 must be a decade of action to realize the SDGs and set a firm foundation for realizing the longer-term goals of Agenda 2063.

It is in this context a seasoned consulting firm/team of consultants is being sought to support the partners involved in the preparation of the 2020 Africa Sustainable Development Report to develop a high-quality thematic report on Africa’s progress in the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 over the past five and seven years respectively, while looking ahead to policy options towards achieving the targets set for 2030. The report will be forward looking with succinct policy recommendations targeted at key national actors including governments, private sector, civil society organizations, academia, pan-African Institutions/regional bodies, development partners and other key stakeholders.

2. Scope of work

This exercise will help to draw out critical lessons to inform action going forward to promote the continent’s development and transformation aspirations over the next 10 years. For this, the service providers must demonstrate proof of intellectual leadership on sustainable development issues and specific themes to be able to provide sound analysis and technical backstopping on formulation of the 2020 report following established process for drafting of the report.

Under the overall guidance of the lead partner and the rest of the collaborating partners on this task, the identified consultant/team of consultants will:

- a. Review previous publications on progress in the alignment and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including transition reports; annual Africa Sustainable Development Reports, the annual United Nations Secretary General’s Report on Sustainable Development, Voluntary National Reviews and any other relevant publications on Africa that would support and strengthen analysis;
- b. Design an analytical framework and data gathering instruments that will provide the needed technical analysis of the key principles, dimensions and pillars of sustainable development.
- c. Using proposed analytical frameworks, assess Africa’s progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation and realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 along the key themes identified and their interlinkages;

- d. Explore thematic links between different dimensions and pillars of sustainable development and what Africa needs to do going forward to ensure their realization to ensure that no-one is left behind as progress occurs;
- e. Identify themes and the key messages, lessons and recommendations including specific accelerators that would inform the partners' and policy makers' work and actions going forward;
- f. Participate in and present key findings at various stakeholder workshops and technical peer review meetings organized by the partners involved in the preparation of the 2020 ASDR.

3. Methodology

While the selected consultant/team of consultants will be expected to propose robust methodologies for implementation of the assignment, the following will be taken into account.

- The fact that the 2020 report will not be a 'goal-by-goal' review but shall focus on an integrated narrative, analytical assessment of progress and outlook towards 2030 to encourage African governments and other stakeholders to accelerate actions aimed at achieving the SDGs/Agenda 2063 in the decade of action.
- For that reason, the 2020 report will be framed around five thematic areas of: *Social (people)*; *Economic (prosperity)*; *Environment (planet)*; *Governance*; *Peace and Security (peace)* and *Means of Implementation (partnerships)* and where necessary, integrating key elements from Agenda 2063 including harnessing African cultural values and fostering regional integration that are not covered in the SDGs.
- Each thematic area will have **1 technical writer** that will assess progress per thematic area, including progress on contributing goals (both SDGs and Agenda 2063) to the thematic area while drawing key messages from the analysis.
- Identify case studies, best practices and success stories either from the region or other relevant regions to benchmark with, in assessing the implementation progress of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 to draw out critical lessons in the manner that can be inspiration to inform action going forward to accelerate the implementation of agenda 2030 and 2063.
- Given the integrated nature of the SDGs and Agenda 2063, care will have to be taken to tease out interlinkages, synergies and trade-offs within and across the goals and by extension between and among thematic areas.
- As much as possible, integrate lessons learned across the continent on SDG/Agenda 2063 implementation as case studies to inspire action in others.
- Make use of the 66 'core indicators' drawn from both Agenda 2063 and the SDGs to form the basis of analysis on Africa's progress and distilling policy options and priority actions.

4. Payment schedule

The consultant/team of consultants will be paid a lumpsum consultancy fee to be agreed based on qualifications and experience. The agreed total fee will be paid in three instalments as follows:

The 1st instalment, equivalent to 20 percent of the total fee, to be paid upon delivery of an acceptable inception report detailing the consultant’s understanding of the assignment and scope of work

The 2nd instalment, equivalent to 40 percent of the total fee, to be paid upon receipt of an acceptable first draft report which will be subjected to a review and validation by the expert group meeting comprising of participants from member states, Regional Economic Communities, other stakeholders and the partners leading the preparation of the report.

The 3rd and final instalment, equivalent to 40 percent of the total fee, to be paid upon delivery of the revised final report and key messages incorporating comments received from member States and partners.

4. Expected Outputs and Deliverables

| Deliverables/ Outputs | Estimated Duration to Complete | Target Due Dates | Review and Approvals Required (<i>Indicate designation of person who will review output and confirm acceptance</i>) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| Inception Report | One week | 20 – 28 February 2020 | Eunice Kamwendo/Raymond Gilpin |
| 1 st Draft of the report | 15 days | 5 – 26 March 2020 | Eunice Kamwendo/Raymond Gilpin |
| 2 nd and final draft | 10 days | 6 – 22 April, 2020. | Eunice Kamwendo/Raymond Gilpin |
| Key messages document [1-2 pages] | 3 days | 27 April 2020 | Eunice Kamwendo/Raymond Gilpin |

5. Expected Duration

The contract will be for a period of at least 2.5 months from the time of signing the contract.

6. Evaluation Criteria

Academic Qualifications: advanced degrees in economics and/or any of the other four thematic areas (social sciences & development, Environment, Governance, peace and security, financing) development studies, business administration and statistics. A PhD in one of the subject areas will be an added advantage.

Work experience: Relevant work experience of at least 15 years on the issues in the field of economics, sustainable development, development policy analysis and research in the African context; academia or in the private, public or civil society organizations is highly desirable. Experience in the design or implementation of national, regional and global development frameworks with strong analytical skills is desirable. Experience in using graphics of any kind for analysis is highly desirable.

Language: English and French are the working languages of the United Nations Secretariat. For this assignment, fluency in English (both written and oral) is required.