



Webinar:

Presentation of the North African regional report on “Achieving the United Nations 2030 agenda (SDGs) and the African Union 2063 agenda”

October 26, 2020

Aide-memoire

1. Introduction

Five years after their launch, the implementation of the United Nations 2030 agenda (SDGs) and the African Union 2063 agenda in North Africa remains a major objective in North Africa, where countries have committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, along with Agenda 2063 by implementing their own national development plans and strategies. For these objectives to be achieved, a coherent and common framework integrating both Agenda 2063 and sustainable development objectives into national development planning frameworks were identified as a clear necessity. All North African countries have put in place strategies and institutional mechanisms geared to operationalizing these two Agendas on the ground and translating them into national development plans and strategies. They initiated a process to improve their national statistical systems with a view to monitoring and ensuring the achievement of their SDGs. The High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the UN's central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, meets annually and considers voluntary national reviews by different countries along with thematic reviews to assess progress towards the SDGs. As part of this process, six countries: Algeria (2019), Egypt (2016 and 2018), Mauritania (2019), Morocco (2016), Tunisia (2019) and Sudan (2018) presented their national reports. For 2020, Libya will present its first report and Morocco its second report. While significant progress has been made in a large number of areas, the countries of North Africa still face persistent socioeconomic challenges such as youth structural unemployment, inequalities, and low level of women's participation in job markets.

The current economic crisis induced by the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to worsen and adversely affect the implementation of SDGs as the impact on African economies could result in slowing growth to 1.8% in the best-case scenario or a contraction of 2.6 % in the worst case scenario. The worldwide emergency and lockdown measures and the fall in production and international trade flows may well push 27 million people into extreme poverty and cause the loss of 19 million jobs. The crisis will also impact governments efforts in mobilizing domestic resources, as tax revenue from personal and corporate incomes is expected to witness a sharp slowdown. Because of travel restrictions, countries like Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia are powerless in the face of the meltdown of their tourism and air transport industries.

2. Objectives

The objective of the webinar is to present and review the Office-led regional study of the in-depth assessment and analysis of progress made by North African countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Sudan and Tunisia) towards SDG implementation and monitoring. The assessment has covered efforts made in translating the United Nations 2030 agenda (SDGs) and the African Union 2063 agenda into the national development plans and strategies, in such areas as appropriation and contextualization, institutional governance and monitoring.

3. Expected results

The main expected result is to undertake a substantive analysis of the report and focus on the 3 most important SDGs for the Office. These 3 SDGs are linked to area of specialization of the Office: to stimulate sustainable employment for youth and women in North Africa (SDG 8).

- **SDG 4:** quality education with a focus on technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship;
- **SDG 8:** Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all
- **SDG 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries.

All SDGs selected are interrelated and directly linked to SDG 8 on employment. SDG 4: (quality education with a focus on technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship) is crucial to the reduction of unemployment. The improvement of employment would allow countries to have an impact on SDG 10 (Reduce inequality).

4. Organization

The webinar will be a venue for participants to present and discuss the regional report,

5. Participation

The webinar will be attended by high-level representatives of national ministries, and members of United Nations Country Team consulted in the preparation of this regional study.

6. Date

The meeting will take place on October 26, 2020.

7. Working languages

Arabic, English and French will be the working languages of the meeting. Simultaneous interpretation will be available.

8. Contacts

For further information regarding the organization of the meeting, please contact:

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