



The State of Eritrea



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

**23rd Meeting of the Intergovernmental Committee of
Senior Officials and Experts (ICSOE)**

ECA Office for Eastern Africa

Concept Note for the Plenary Session:

**Sustainable Development in Eastern Africa: Aligning
National, Continental and Global agendas**

Asmara, Eritrea

05-07 November 2019

I. Background

In the plight for Sustainable Development across the world (and, most particularly, the African continent) International Organizations, Regional Communities and National Governments have crafted a number of global, continental and national ‘Agendas’. Within countries, there are often also district-level plans and strategies.

These agendas, and their respective goals and targets, seldom contradict one another in principle. However, in practice and application – owing to different approaches, timelines and geographic scope – they are not always perfectly compatible.

The agendas relevant to Eastern Africa include: the UN *Agenda 2030*, the AU *Agenda 2063* and the EAC *Vision 2050*. Other relevant agreements and frameworks then include: the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*; *Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development*; the *Paris Agreement on Climate Change*; and the *World Humanitarian Summit* framework. The implementation of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 must occur in conjunction with the implementation of the *Istanbul Programme of Action* and the *Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*. Meanwhile, small island African States have committed themselves to the implementation of the *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway*, an initiative to address their unique needs.

The United Nations Agenda 2030 is a **global** agenda, and translates into ‘17 Goals to Transform our World’. These Sustainable Development Goals or ‘SDGs’ further translate into 169 targets. With a 15-year timeline (starting in 2015), they cover a very broad range of sustainable development issues: ending poverty and hunger, improving health, wellbeing and education, reducing all inequalities, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests.

The Africa Union (AU) [Agenda 2063](#) is a blueprint and masterplan for ‘The Africa We Want’. It is a **continental** strategic framework with a 50-year-long trajectory, prioritizing: inclusive social and economic development, continental and regional integration, democratic governance and peace and security, as well as other issues aimed at repositioning Africa to becoming a dominant player in the global arena.

Meanwhile, the East African Community (EAC) Vision 2050 is a **regional** agenda. It envisages that the EAC will be transformed into an upper-middle income region (with per capita income growing ten-fold) within a secure and politically-united East Africa (with a stable macroeconomic policy framework), by the year 2050. This will include ensuring macro-economic stability, higher savings

and investment rates, and the creation of a conducive business environment that will make East Africa a haven for private sector investment.

Added to these, there are also **national** government agendas, priorities and strategies in each of the 14 Eastern African countries covered by ECA's Sub-Regional Office for Eastern Africa. In addition to this, each country also has a Development Assistance Plan for the country-specific UN Development System (though this is always fully-aligned to the national plan).

Clearly, governments face a big challenge in integrating all the relevant agendas in the optimal way for their particular country context. Over recent years, African Governments, supported by partners including ECA, began the process of designing and implementing national development planning frameworks that are aligned with both Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.

Yet it is important to understand and anticipate where and why full-alignment may not be feasible. There may also – for example – be mismatches between development agendas where the 'means' for economic development is at odds with the social *goals* of another (for example, the EAC's vision for private sector expansion, and SDG #10 'Reduced Inequalities'). The timeframes of the different targets may be difficult to align. Stakeholders also need to understand the best way to navigate and mitigate the negative impacts of such 'mismatches'. Experience-sharing one good way of doing so.

II. Objectives of the Session

With the above challenges in mind, this plenary session aims to:

1. Identify and understand if, where and why different development agendas relevant to Eastern Africa are not well-aligned;
2. Share experiences and knowledge related to the theme; and
3. Identify and discuss potential approaches for governments of Eastern African countries to take.

III. Format of the Meeting

This Plenary Session will take place on day two of the meeting (11:00-12:30). The convener and contact person for this session is Susan Ngongi, Resident Coordinator of the United Nations in Eritrea. Further clarification can be requested from the convener via email: susan.ngongi@un.org.

This session will have a presentation by the convener, as part of the main plenary parallel sessions of the 23rd ICSEO. This will be followed by a panel discussion.

Moderator:

Amb. Peter Gabriel Robleh, the Horn of Africa Economic and Policy Institute.

Panellists:

- A representative of the Ministry of National Development, Eritrea
- Enock Nyorekwa Twinoburyo, Senior Economist, SDGs Centre for Africa
- Godfrey Kabera, Director General for National Planning, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Rwanda.

IV. Participants

The panel session will be attended by representatives of Eastern Africa member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Intergovernmental Organisations (IGOs). In attendance will also be representatives of the private sector, international institutions, civil society organisations, media, and other relevant stakeholders.

V. Supporting Documents

ECA. (2017). **Integrating Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into national development plans**. Available at:

https://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/integrating-agenda-2063-and-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development-into-national-development-plans_en.pdf