



In collaboration with the Institute of National Planning

HIGH LEVEL POLICY DIALOGUE ON DEVELOPMENT PLANNING IN AFRICA

Theme: *Financing the SDGs in Africa: Strategies for Planning and Resource Mobilization*

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

10-12 July 2018

Cairo, Egypt

I. Background

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), otherwise known as the Global Goals, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. The 2030 Agenda includes 17 goals, 169 target and indicators that constitute major challenges in terms of technical and institutional capacities. The means of implementation for the Agenda include financing, technological innovation and capacity building.

Achieving the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda requires a revitalized and enhanced global partnership that brings together Governments, civil society, the private sector, the United Nations system and other actors and mobilizes all available resources. Indeed, according to a World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) report, in order to meet the investment needs of the SDGs, the global community needs to move the discussion from “Billions” in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to “Trillions” in investments of all kinds: public and private, national and global, in both capital and capacity¹. And all funds should be put to the best possible use. UNCTAD estimates that the additional finance required to fund only the infrastructure (physical and social) needs associated with the SDGs for developing countries alone will be at least US\$2.5tn per year². Recent estimates of the amount of additional finance that Africa will need to mobilise to achieve the Goals range from \$600 billion to \$1.2 trillion per year³.

Thus, enhancing support to developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) is fundamental to ensuring equitable progress for all. And a stronger commitment to partnership and cooperation is needed to achieve the SDGs. That effort will require coherent policies, an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, including effective coordination between public sector organizations and private institutions. This calls for a reinvigorated Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, as well as significant reform to global financial regulations and financial institutions, especially in the areas of equitable taxation of raw material exports from Africa and controlling capital loss through illicit financial flows. A meaningful commitment from all corporations – large and small – to tackle the challenges outlined by the SDGs are also key.

¹ From Billions to Trillions: MDB Contributions to Financing for Development – July 2015

² <http://unctad.org/en/pages/newsdetails.aspx?OriginalVersionID=1442>

³ ECA, forthcoming

One of the major differences between the MDGs and the SDGs in terms of financing is that while the achievement of the MDGs mainly depended on external financing, in particular on Official Development Assistance (ODA), the SDGs are mainly expected to rely on domestic resource mobilization for their implementation. While recognizing ODA as an important complementary source of development finance, in particular in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), African governments have generally welcomed this shift in emphasis and committed themselves to enhancing domestic resource mobilization to finance their own sustainable development. Over-dependence on resources supplied by external development partners is being increasingly considered as compromising African countries' commitment to pursue the development priorities they have set for themselves. Therefore, it is vital for African member states to assess the level of funding required to realize the SDGs and identify strategies for resource mobilization.

II. Rationale

In the light of the foregoing, the 2018 High Level Policy Dialogue on Development Planning (2018-HLPD) will deliberate on the theme *Financing the SDGs: Strategies for Planning and Resource Mobilization*. The theme was proposed by the 2017-HLPD, which was held in Abuja, Nigeria, under the theme *Mainstreaming the SDGs into National Development Plans*. This was in recognition of the need for effective resource mobilization to meet the financing needs of the SDGs. The high level policy dialogue series was established by ECA in 2014 to serve as a platform for coordination and experience sharing among African planners and Chief Executives of planning bodies. Five events have been organized since its establishment.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD) of July 2015 identifies various measures of mobilizing domestic and external resources. Among other things, AAAA identifies strategies for developing countries to mobilize domestic resources through optimal taxation, regulation, good governance and institutional reforms; promotion of safer, faster and cheaper transfer of remittances; encourage the growth of private investment and public-private partnerships (PPPs); foster greater advancement in science, technology and innovation; as well as institutional, national and international assistance in capacity building.

III. Objectives of the High Level Policy Dialogue on Development Planning

The overall objective of the 2018 HLPD is to provide a platform for African development planners and finance experts to discuss and deliberate on strategies for financing the SDGs in Africa, with a specific focus on mobilizing adequate resources for their timely and effective implementation.

The specific objectives of the 2018 HLPD are to:

1. Assess funding requirements and gaps for realizing the SDGs in Africa;
2. Identify domestic and international funding sources, including innovative ones for SDG financing in Africa;
3. Exchange experiences on mobilizing resources, including good practices and lessons;
4. Discuss and agree on modalities for effectively linking development planning and finance;
5. Make recommendations and identify elements of a resource mobilization framework for financing the SDGs in Africa.

IV. Expected outcomes

The 2018-HLPD is expected to lead to:

- Improved understanding and appreciation of funding requirements and gaps for financing the SDGs in Africa;
- Enhanced knowledge and appreciation of the various domestic and international funding sources and modalities for mobilizing them;
- Increased awareness and appreciation of good practices and lessons on financing the SDGs;
- Well defined modalities for effectively linking development planning and resource mobilization;
- Agreed elements of a resource mobilization framework for financing the SDGs in Africa.

V. Expected outputs

Among the outputs expected to be delivered at the conclusion of the 2018 HLPD in Egypt are:

- An Outcome Document, including a set action-oriented recommendations, and elements of a framework for mobilizing resources for SDG financing in Africa;
- Press releases and web publications on the event.

VI. Format of the meeting

The HLPD will adopt a combination of focused presentations, panel and interactive plenary discussions on financing the SDGs in Africa, as well as strategies for planning and resource mobilization.

VII. Participants

The event will gather Directors General and National Directors in charge of national development planning from the 54 African member States, and Finance Experts from selected member States.

VIII. Resource persons and collaborating Divisions and Institutions

The Economic Commission for Africa is organizing the HLPD on development planning in collaboration with the Arab Republic of Egypt Institute of National Planning (INP). Based on their expertise in the area of development financing and SDGs, resource persons will be drawn from African regional institutions, and experts in their individual capacities.

ECA contact persons for the event are:

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IX. Working languages

The meeting will be conducted in English, French and Arabic, with simultaneous interpretation in all languages.

X. Venue and date

The meeting, will take place in Cairo, Egypt, from 10-12 July 2018.

XI. Administrative and logistics arrangements

Administrative and logistics arrangements are provided in a separate information note.

XII. Documentation

Various publications pertaining to the SDGs, Agenda 2063 and their financing, including those of ECA and partners.