

Validation EGM for the 2016 MDGs/SDGs transition report: Concept Note

1. Background

Further to the millennium declaration and the adoption of the MDGs in 2000, the African Union Assembly of Heads of State mandated the AUC, ECA and AfDB to monitor the progress in Africa towards the MDGs. UNDP-RBA joined these organizations later on. Since then, the four partners have produced the annual MDG report.

With the end of the MDG era in 2015, the MDG report 2015 marked the 10th and last edition of the series that began in 2005. In the past ten years, the MDG reports served greatly to provide a rigorous assessment of Africa's progress in achieving the MDGs, they served as a basis for policy discussion, peer learning and advocacy. They also provided the impetus for strong and coordinated action by Africa's top decision makers towards accelerating progress on the MDGs.

The expert group meeting organized for the validation of the MDGs report 2015 recognized the importance of a regional reporting mechanism to monitor progress on the MDGs and expressed support for a successor report in the context of the post 2015 Development Agenda (now The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development).

Objective of the EGM and timeline

The EGM is organized for the validation by members' States, of the 2016 MDGs/DGs transition report. The document Reports on progress achieved towards the goals at a continental level. As proposed by AUC and agreed by all partners, the EGM for the validation of the 2016 MDGs/SDGs transition report will be held on **28-29 June 2016 in Accra Ghana**.

Structure and Content of the Report 2016

Because the indicators and baselines for the SDGs and for the Agenda 2063 Goals are not ready yet (still being developed), a transitional report will be produced for 2016. The report 2016 will be to a large extent borrowing from the format of the former MDGs, proposing a combination of thematic sections and goals-specific chapters. More specifically the following structure is proposed for consideration:

- I. Introduction
- II. Overview

- III. Section One: Progress on MDGs 1 to 8

As before, this section will provide an update on progress made in the goals, targets and indicators of the eight MDGs; explain underlining factors of success or setbacks, underscore interesting macro or sectoral strategies undertaken by some countries; identify best performers and countries lagging behind. Opportunities and challenges for greater results will be underscored for each goal.

IV. Section Two (Thematic section): New Development frameworks for Africa's transformation: The Agenda 2063 and the 2030 SD agenda

This section will have two sub-sections:

The first sub-section provides information on the adoption of Agenda 2063 and 2030 in 2015, elaborates on the importance of the two agendas for the continent; and underscores the need to ensure coherence between the two (ii) highlighting the nexus between the two agendas and (iii) discusses the modalities that are being envisaged (or could be envisaged) at the regional and national levels, in order to jointly integrate, implement and monitor the two agendas. In this context, the results of the mapping exercise that has already been done at Goals and targets levels for A-2030 and A-2063 will be presented here. The section will provide also an update on the process towards the production/finalization of the SDGs indicators and the Indicators for the A-2063 Goals, and possibly the timeline for integrating the two sets of results measurement frameworks. This sub-section should end with some recommendations advising countries on how to go about the mainstreaming of the two agendas (their integrated version) in National Development Plans.

The second sub-section will provide a sort of baseline (or stock-taking) on the three Dimensions of Sustainable Development. It will draw on existing data to assess the current trends in social, economic and environmental sustainability in Africa. This stock-taking exercise could also be extended to the other dimensions of development covered in Agenda 2063 such as political and cultural dimensions. The sub-section will then elaborate on the opportunities and challenges to be considered for the effective implementation of the SDGs and the Agenda 2063 Goals.

Data source for the report 2016

The main data source for the report is the same as before, that is the UNSD's MDGs database. In terms of process, the report is being drafted and produced as before by the four partner organizations, namely ECA, AUC, ADB, UNDP.

Validation Process – Participants at the EGM

As before with the MDGs era, the 2016 MDGs/SDGs Transition report will be validated through an EGM bringing together the MDGs's national focal points. The EGM is meant to give the opportunity to countries to comment on the assessments made in the report about their progress

towards the achievement of the agreed goals, given that UNSD data used to draft the report maybe different from the most recent data available at country levels.

Finalization of the report

After the validation of the report, the comments received from countries will be incorporated into the document for its finalization. The launch of the Report will take place likely during the AUC summit of July 2016.

Task-sharing for the drafting of the report

Each partner organization is responsible for drafting progress on two MDGs (Preferably same Goals as in 2015. ECA (6 & 8¹); AUC (5 &7); UNDP (1 & 3); AfDB (2 & 4).;

- ECA volunteers to draft also the thematic section (Section Two); and the conclusion
- There is need for volunteers to draft: the summary of the report and the overview.

Cost-sharing for the production of the report

As before the following arrangements were agreed upon:

- Organization of the validation EGM: ADB, UNDP, AUC and ECA to put resources together (DSA, tickets, conference packages, etc.)
- Editing and translation: ECA and UNDP
- Layout and printing: ECA

¹ The part on MDG 8 could cover the transition from goal 8 to SDG 17 and the AAAAA.