Africa Regional Training
on Integrated National Financial Framework

An overview of the ECA's Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT)
Tuesday, 24 August 2021; 15:00-17:00 hrs (East African Time: UTC+3)
Virtual meeting

CONCEPT NOTE

1. INTRODUCTION

In 2015, the United Nations endorsed a global development agenda known as 2030 Agenda for sustainable development goals. As of now, many countries including African Members have embarked on the implementation of SDGs. Africa member states also adopted Agenda 2063 to spearhead the transformation of the continent. As there are existing national development plans ongoing, countries made efforts to mainstream both SDGs and Agenda 2063 (A2063) into their development plans. Concerns remain regarding the alignment of national development plans with continental and global development agendas. For this purpose, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has developed a web-based toolkit known as the Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT) to support member countries to align continental (e.g. A2063) and global (e.g. SDGs) agendas with national development plans (NDPs), assess the progress made by member States towards the achievement of SDGs and Agenda 2063, as wells as simultaneously report the alignment and progress of both agendas. Initially conceived of as a piece of stand-alone software that could be used without an internet connection, the IPRT is now a primarily web-based application. Note that the IPRT is not only a planning and reporting toolkit, it also serves as database.

The IPRT has already been deployed in some Member States (see Table 1 further below) and other countries are planned to be included among the beneficiaries by the end of 2021. This training has been organized to build capacities in member countries on the use and functionalities of the IPRT and its link with the integrated national financing framework (INFF). While the IPRT can help countries identify development priorities for sustainable development, the INFF shows how such priorities are financed. Inclusion of the INFF into the IPRT helps track and report the supply and utilization of development finance together with plan implementation outcomes. Linking IPRT and INFF helps policy makers to see the mix of finance sources and how national development interventions align with type of funding, the finance flows and whether allocation of finance is aligned with national development priorities.

Objective of the course

The main objective of the training is to enable member States know the functionalities of the IPRT and use it in planning and alignment of 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 with national development plans including the concomitant monitoring of the progress of the two agendas

towards their implementation. In addition, the training highlights the link between IPRT and INFF.

Skills to be imparted

After the completion of the course, participants should be able to grasp the linkages between the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. They should also be able to understand how IPRT can help member States align national development plans with continental and global development agendas and monitor the progress towards their implementation and achievements. Participants should also be able to understand how the IPRT and INFF are linked and how to better make the connection between the two frameworks.

2. CONTENT

For the sake of brevity, the training focuses on demonstration of the IPRT, its functionalities and dimensions. It also presents global, continental and national dashboards as well as data visualization. Finally, the training provides an overview of the link between IPRT and INFF.

- Main features and components of IPRT;
- Functionalities of IPRT;
- Review of SDG Progress Assessment using IPRT based on global database; and
- Linking IPRT with the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF).

3. COUNTRY STATUS IN IPRT UPTAKE

The Development Planning Section of the Macroeconomics and Governance Division (MGD) in collaboration with other ECA divisions, provides technical support to member countries in the design of national development plans (NDPs) and alignment of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2063 with their NDPs. It has developed an Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT) to improve the quality of NDPs. Initially conceived of as a piece of stand-alone software that could be used without an internet connection, the IPRT is now a primarily web-based application. A number of countries received training on the toolkit and they are at different stage in the use of the toolkit. Accordingly, countries can be categorized into three levels in terms of the uptake of the toolkit.

Introductory stage: The IPRT is said to be introduced in a country if experts and officials of a country have been invited to a workshop where training on the toolkit has been provided, or where a mission to the country has included a substantive session discussing the IPRT and its potential uses.

Deployment stage: The IPRT is said to be deployed in a country if experts and officials of a country have been trained in the use and applications of the toolkit, probably on more than one occasion and national data entry started, and uploading of NDPs initiated.

Adoption stage: The IPRT is said to be adopted in a country if: there has been commitment at a high level from officials in the country to use the IPRT in their national planning processes including for aligning NDPs with SDGs and Agenda 2063 and reporting their progress against either their national development plans and national results frameworks have been fully

uploaded into the IPRT system and alignment is completed. Table 1 summarizes the status of countries in the uptake of the IPRT system.

Table 1: List of countries by IPRT uptake status

Status*	Number of countries	List of countries
Introductory stage	10	Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Malawi, Mauritania, Namibia, Senegal, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.
Deployment stage	9	Republic of Congo, Comoros, Cameroon, Ghana, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia.
Adoption stage	6	Benin, Egypt, Ethiopia, Liberia, Morocco and Niger.

* Country status can change as countries graduate from one stage to another through intensive training and support.

In addition, the NDPs of some member countries have been uploaded into the IPRT system. This has been managed and supported by experts drawn from MGD and Information Communication Technology Services Section (ICTSS) in collaboration with national experts of individual countries. The NDPs of the following 21 countries have already been uploaded into the IPRT system. These include Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Note that some NDPs have already retired and replaced by new NDPs and others are being updated and validated (e.g. Benin, Cameroon, Egypt and Liberia). In consultation with countries, uploading of new NDPs is in progress.

IPRT and INFF

There are a number of countries targeted by both IPRT and INFF. Table 2 presents list of countries covered by both IPRT and INFF interventions. Since the two frameworks inherently interrelated, this requires integration of the two frameworks during training to provide a package support to countries.

Table *2*: List of common countries targeted by IPRT and INFF

Country name	
Benin	Liberia
Burkina Faso	Malawi
Cameroon	Mauritania
Comoros	Republic of the Congo
Côte d'Ivoire	The Gambia
Egypt	Namibia
Ghana	Zambia
Guinea	Zimbabwe
Kenya	

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