

Seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

“Building forward better: towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”

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Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

Acceleration of Sustainable Development Goals of both Global Agenda 2030 & Africa Agenda 2063 ***A Road-Map for Africa***

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Context

Global level

September 2019 (UN General Assembly)

Adoption of the Decade of Action for SDG Acceleration

- Call for accelerating implementation of smart solutions
- Call to all the society to mobilise
- Global, local and individual action

Africa level

February 2020 (6th ARFSD)

Victoria Falls Declaration

- Renewed commitment to both agendas 2030 & 2063
- Call for acceleration measures
- Call the UN support for it



Rationale for a Road-Map

- Victoria Falls declaration: Call the UN for a Regional acceleration strategy
- Since the adoption of the SDG,
 - UN system developed several strategies and plans to support countries and partners for SDG achievements and Translation in major engagements (e.g. COP 21)
 - UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes developed specific strategies by domain; SDG related plans implemented from global to local level
 - Regional Economic and Development Communities, other development partners have their own strategies
 - States have medium to long-term Vision for their countries
 - New initiatives and partnerships raised (e.g. UN-EU Spotlight initiative on GBV)



- Acknowledging all the existing efforts and initiatives from global to national level
- In line with the UN reform aiming at more effectiveness and efficiency
- Considering the best allocation of resources

UNECA proposing instead of an additional strategy, a ***Road-Map***

- to **support their implementation**, and
- more particularly **monitoring** the advancement towards SD goals



Opportunities

- Renewed commitments on both Agendas 2030 & 2063
- Covid-19 response as a unique momentum for transformative change
- UN Reform
- Relevant expertise within and outside Africa

Challenges

- Diverse geographical breakdown
⇒ Overlap in programme and action / lack of efficiency
- Capacity of mobilising financial resources in shrinking donors engagement
⇒ Difficulties to implement strategies and programmes / the Road-map

Risks

- Political will on paper but not translated into action
 - Increase in conflicts and terrorism
 - Highly volatile political and economic environment
 - Region prone to epidemics and natural disasters
- ⇒ Halt of, even regression in, progress
⇒ Resources diverted to crisis solving

Key mitigation measures

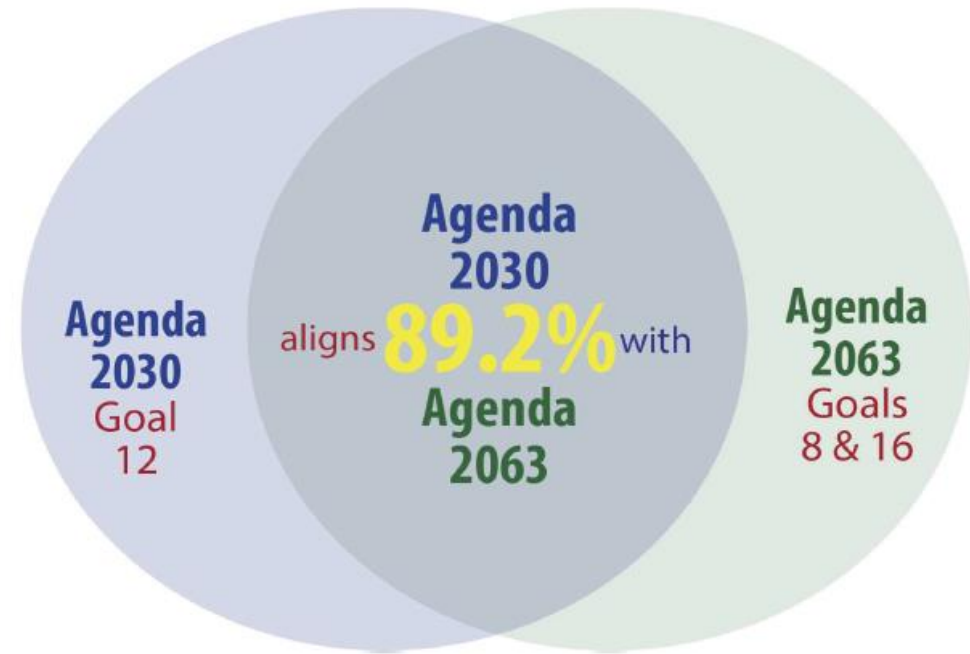
Advocacy, communication and partnerships
Strengthened coordination and dialogue
Pooling of resources (Expertise, Data, ITC...)
Building on keys for acceleration

Keys for Acceleration



Key 1: Two agendas, Same goals

- Social, economic and environmental dimensions within and between them
- Action taken towards goals in one of the agenda, will have definite effect on the goals of the other one
- Monitoring and research will inform one-the-other, hence maximizing efficiency and economies of scale
- Implies joint accountability

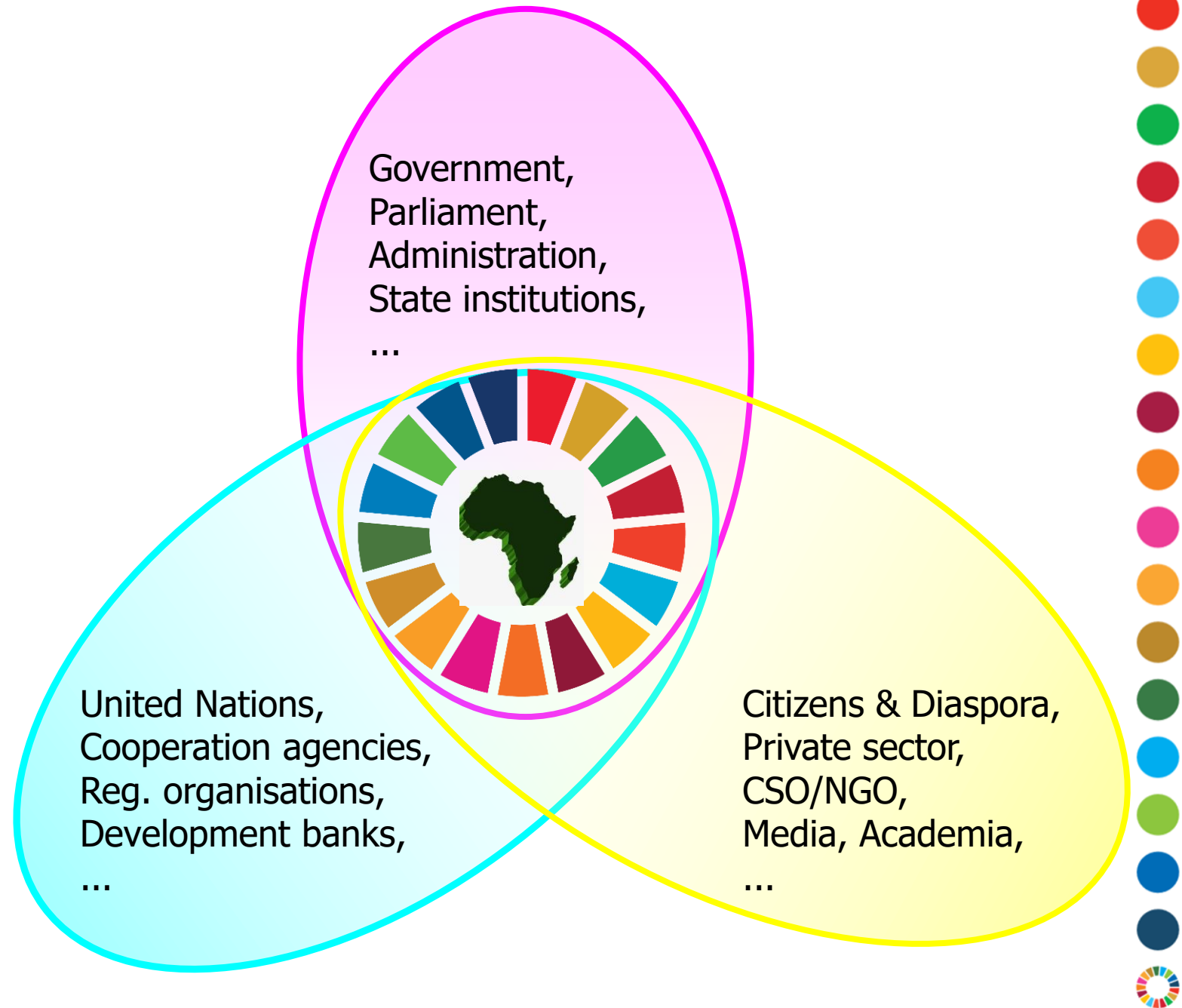


Source: *Strengthening Strategic Alignment for Africa's Development – UNDP Bureau for Africa (2017)*



Key 2: the Actors

- SDG the business of All
- Every one contributes at their level
- Everyone is accountable and severally liable
- The three groups interact for success
- Applies from the global to the local level



Key 3: Policy and Enabling Environment

- Leaving no one behind (LNOB)
- Inclusiveness
- Participation and societal ownership
- Human rights-based approach to development (HRBA)
- Gender equality and women empowerment
- Resilience
- Sustainability
- Accountability

Same *Grounding principles* in both agendas



- UN75 survey results "The future we want" reaffirms
 1. Access to basic services (health, education);
 2. Change in the economic patterns;
 3. Climate change and environment.
- + Peace and security in the top-5 priorities in African countries
 - confirms the goals and principles of both agendas,
 - obligation of
 - decision- and policy-makers to address them,
 - whole-of population to participate and contribute to,
 - development partners to support them in their efforts.



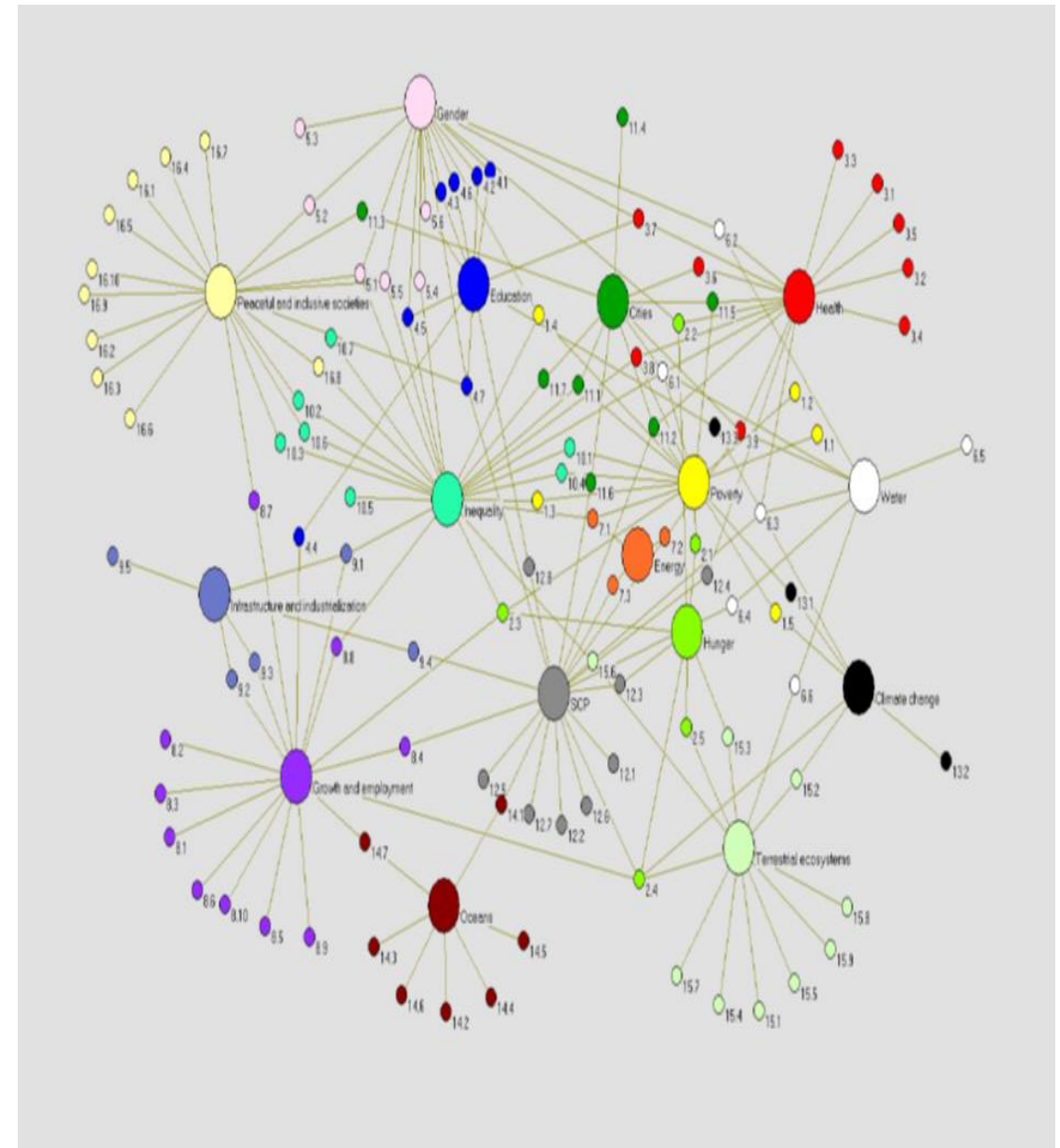
Intersectionality of goals is a paramount

intersectionality reinforces

- the commonality of goals
- the multiplier effect of any action,

➤ hence efficiency/resources-saving

Must be systematically considered



Source: DESA Working Paper No. 141, *Towards integration at last? The sustainable development goals as a network of targets*, D. Le Blanc, March 2015

Key 4: The UN Reform

Country level

- New Resident Coordinator system; new era of development coordination
- New UN+Government framework, which transformed from 'assistance' to 'cooperation'
- New approach to physical presence with appropriate criteria to ensure tailored responses to country needs and priorities

Regional level

- Repositioning of the UN work at the regional level, on a region-by-region basis
- Shifting from regional coordination mechanism to the Regional Collaboration Platform (RCP) and Opportunities and issue-based coalitions (O/IBC)
- RCP absorbing existing duplicative coordination mechanisms



KEY 5: A MOMENTUM FOR TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

A game-changer:

immediate action worldwide and within Africa in response to the Covid-19 crisis

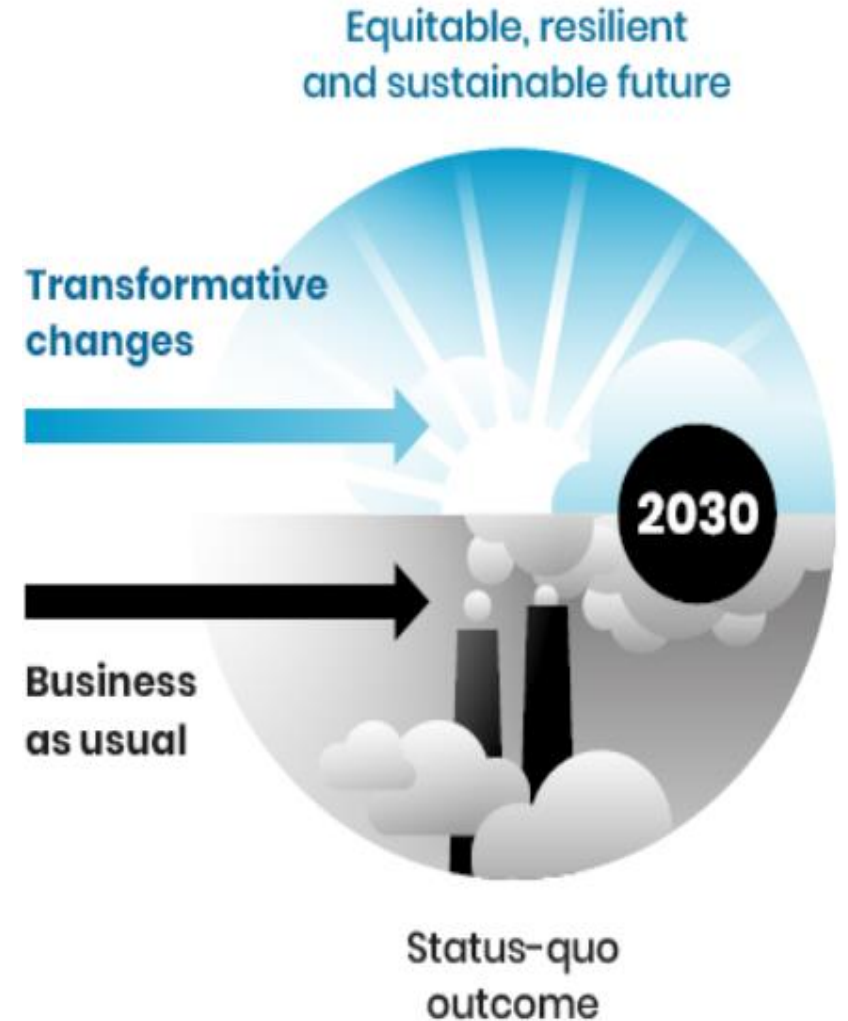
among which the magnitude of economic response and establishment of partnerships to address its consequences

An extraordinary chance to:

- imagine more equitable, inclusive and resilient societies
- initiate the transformative changes for a better future

A unique momentum to size for:

- adopting new patterns and new ways of thinking / doing business
- adopting and implementing, without delay, ambitious and innovative policies and plans
- (re-)build better and boost the achievement of the goals of both agendas 2030 & 2063
- think about consumption habits and adopt environment-friendly behaviours



Source: UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery, UN, Nov 2020



The UN Africa Road-map



The UN Africa Road-map

Strategic elements



Vision

"An ongoing collaborative relationship between or among organisations from different stakeholder types, aligning their interests around a common vision, combining their complementary resources and competencies and sharing risk, to maximise value creation towards the Sustainable Development Goals and deliver benefit to each of the partners."

- *Perfectly reflects the approach and vision of this Road-map*

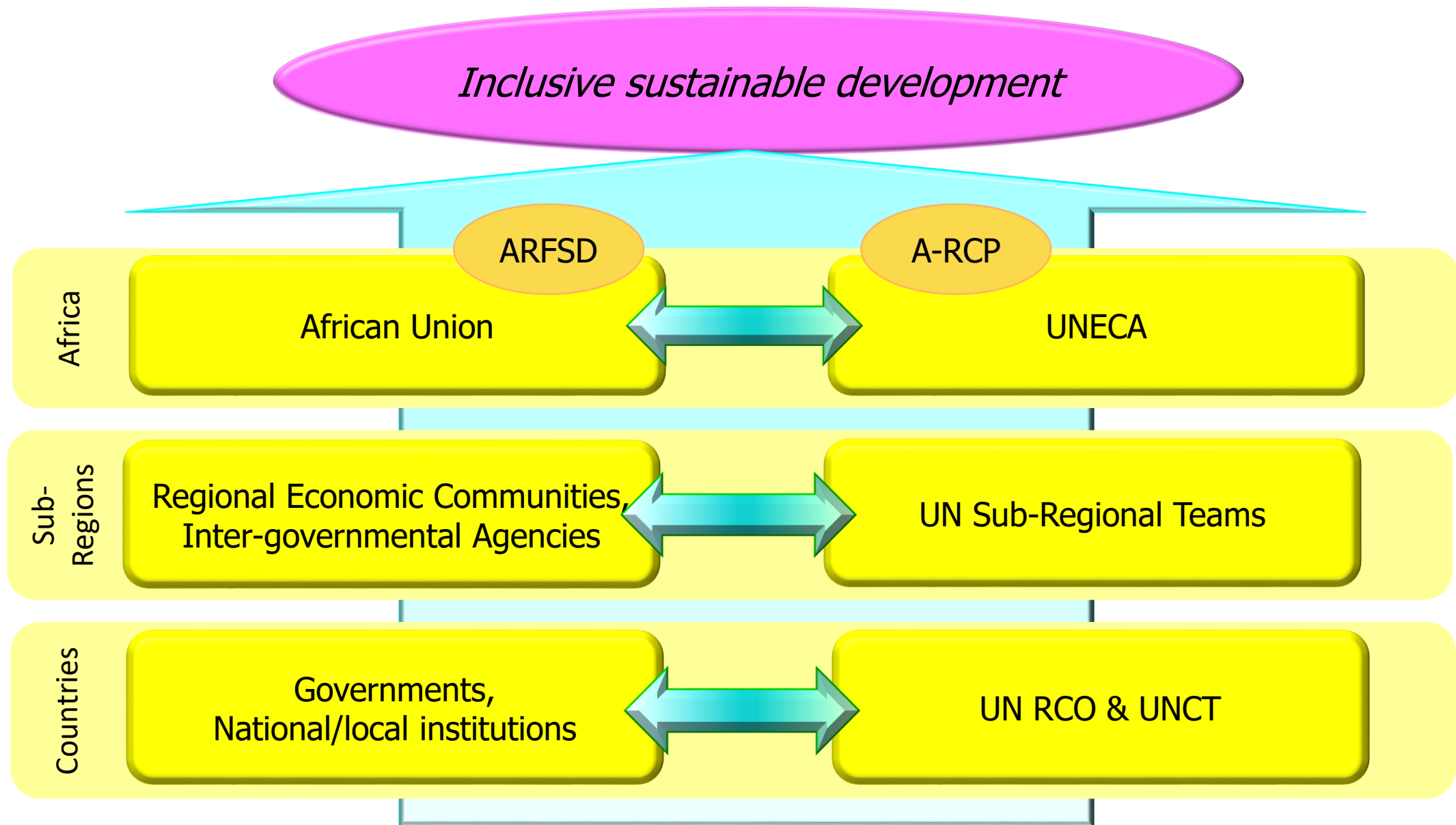


Building on existing strategies and mechanisms

- A general demand beyond the ARFSD ones, based on existence of the several strategies, action plans, frameworks, etc.
- In a policy integrated approach,
 - put all strategies and plans together,
 - Organised in a more systemic and systematic way, and
 - put in place means to ensure (true) acceleration/implementation, monitoring and accountability.
- Road-map intended to the UN at first. However, will consider other existing mechanisms, such as continental coordination platform (AUC, REC and AUDA-Nepad).
- Opportunity to establish/reinvigorate partnerships within Africa, but also from other part of the world, for learning of best practices and finding innovative solutions.



A bottom-up approach



Pooling the resources to save them

- *Competencies*

Each actor has its own strength and added-value

Need of pooling expertise and establishing/merging rosters

- *Data & Knowledge*

'One-stop' portal(s) and less reporting tools, websites and mechanism

Horizontal, vertical and internal coherence to organise and share

Integrating other commitments in the monitoring of advancement

Merging or building on the best/most advanced system

- Other resources: *Advocacy, Communication, Learning material, Partnerships*

Speaking in a single voice for more effectiveness / easing learning

Seeking new/combining partnerships within and outside Africa (e.g. Research centres, Think-tanks...)

Pooling resources

= Saving time ⇒ acceleration

= Preservation of the environment through reduce energy consumption



The UN Africa Road-map

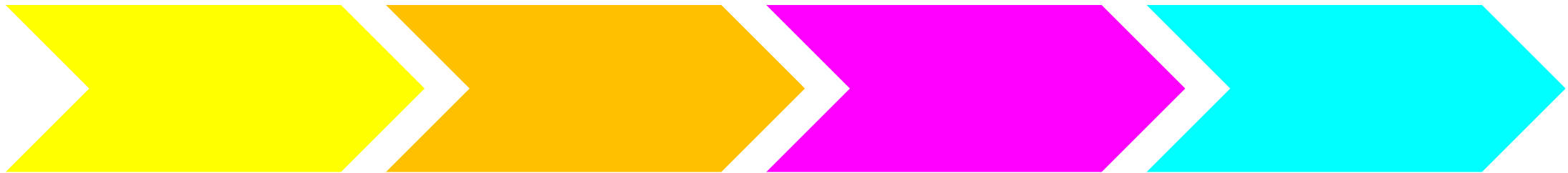
Key Steps



Road-map implementation

Foreseen to be

a living, agile and flexible process,
taking stock of progress and
able to address sudden changes or crisis



Done

Since the ARFSD-6

UN Reform continuing:

- Transition towards the regional collaborative platforms (RCP) (second half of 2020)
- Establishment of the Opportunities and Issue-based Coalitions
- Guidelines and tools have been developed and implemented in complement of
 - the UN SWSD to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (July 2019)
 - the new Cooperation Framework ones, UN Reform and SDG acceleration
- 5 African countries have signed new Cooperation Frameworks

In response to the Covid-19 crisis:

- Swift mobilisation of competences and capacities
 - April 2020: Post Covid-19 framework disseminated
 - May 2020: Policy-briefs on the impact of Covid-19 (African to country level) outlining response measure and making recommendation for protecting gains and maximising recovery
 - UN Multi-sector Response plans developed in all African countries
 - November 2020: Publication of the *UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery*





Done

By End 2021

*Moving forward –
Africa level*

- RCP and O/IBC started to engage with Member-States
- Work plan 2021 of the RCP Joint-secretariat finalised
- UNECA will liaise with the RCP Secretariat to
 - either integrate the Road-map in the RCP Work plan
 - or, develop a separate but complementing one
(considering respective mandate and expertise; building on synergies and engagements; addressing bottlenecks)

First activities: mapping of existing strategies; identification of progress towards

- UNECA to study how to implement Knowledge hubs and Roster or experts
(‘One-stop’ portal, not necessarily managed by UNECA)





Done



By End 2021

*Moving forward –
Sub-regional level*

As sub-regional and cross-borders levels have been reported to be more appropriate for decision/action,

- UNECA will study with partners how to have
 - Intermediate level of coordination
 - Mechanisms at the interface between continental (RCP) and country (RCO+UNCT)



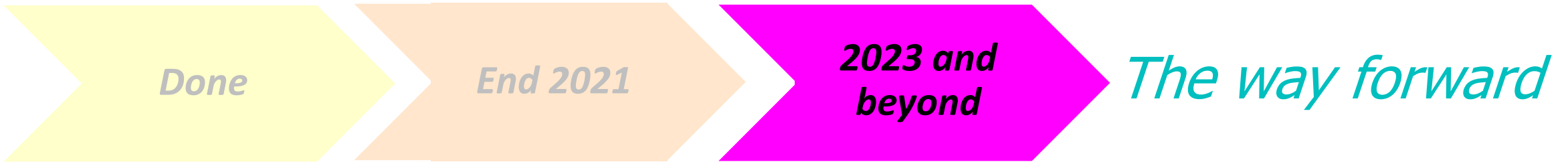
Done

By End 2021

*Moving forward –
Country level*

- UN Reform implementation (new generation of CCA and CF) continuing
- Countries to
 - Undertake/up-date/review Goals prioritisation and integration in their national plans
 - Conduct or re-conduct VNR, if not done or out-of-date
 - Conduct DHS or MICS (if not or not recently done) to inform the process
- All countries to have mechanism/platform for the engagement of the whole-of society,
 - At each step of the process (planning, implementing, monitoring, reviewing...)
 - At all level from national to local ones
 - Hence, Advocacy, Communication and Learning strategy for SDG acceleration



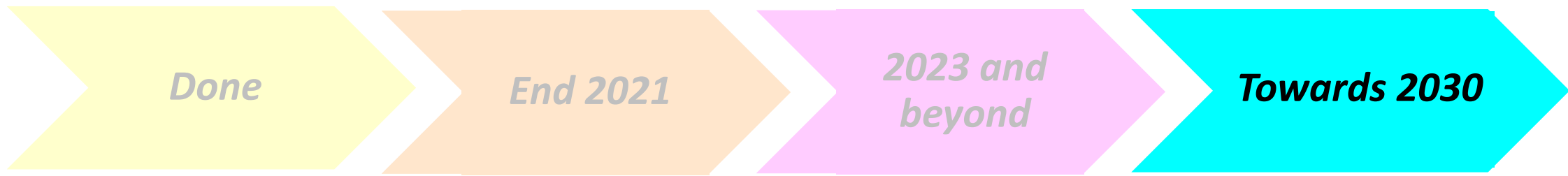


2023 as a first milestone, corresponding to at least five major events:

- the end of the first ten-year plan of the Agenda 2063,
- the mid-term of the SDG,
- the SGD summit,
- the Water decade conference,
- the High level meeting on Universal health coverage...
- Plus depending the findings of the activities conducted in 2021, the end of the Road-map 2022-2023 work plan

The occasion

- to ***mutually grab knowledge***,
- to ***draw lessons***, and
- potentially to ***renew or strengthen commitments***



- New milestones to be defined, every three-year on average, (2026-2027?)
 - taking into account majors events
 - building on the review of the previous work plan
- Final review/evaluation of the Road-map by end 2028/early 2029 to inform the next agenda
- 2030
 - The proposed time-line of the Road-map
 - Momentum to harness and evaluate the SDG achievements, and
 - To engage in a new way



In lieu of Conclusion...

Last Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (December 2020)

- highlights *importance of considering climate-change and preservation of biodiversity*
- reaffirms the *ambition of the SDG and their core and intangible principles*

Calls upon the United Nations system to

- strengthen the *quality of partnership and coordinated efforts* in Africa
- align its *support for the region to the specific needs and priorities* of Africa,

Which is what the proposed road-map strives contributing to







THANK YOU!

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www.uneca.org/arfsd2021

Ideas
to
Action