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Seventh session of the Africa Regional
Forum on Sustainable Development

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

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Transformative actions for peace, justice, and strong institutions towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

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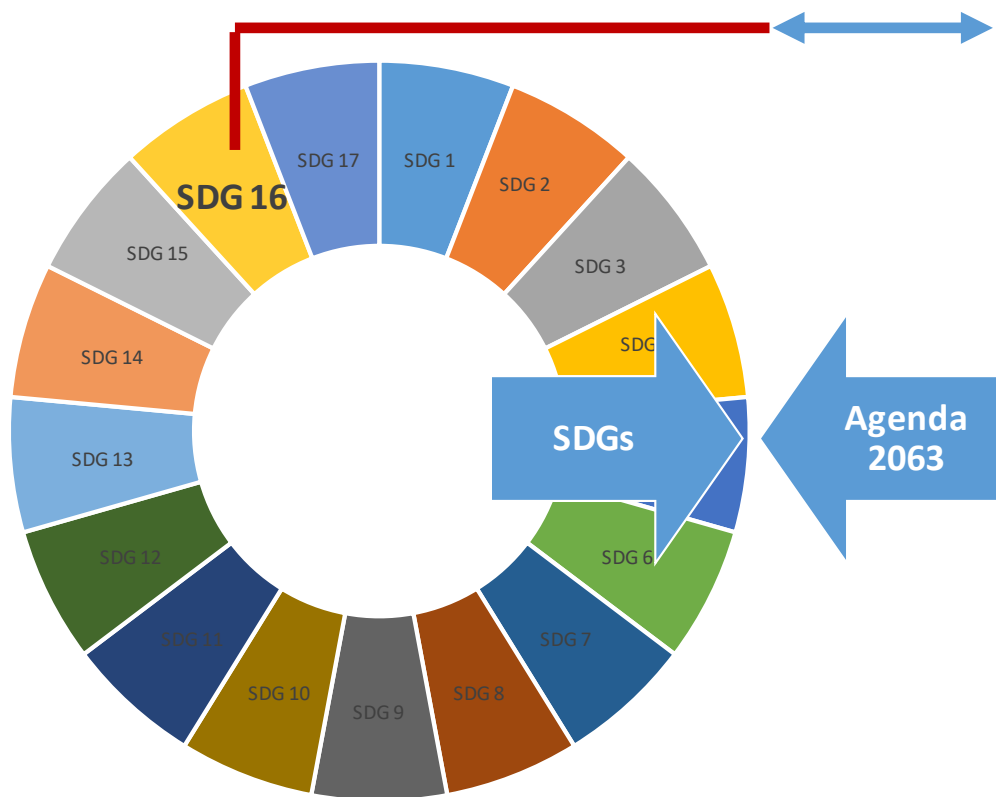
3 March 2021



Outline of today's presentation

- SDG 16 in the context of SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- Key trends and progress towards achievement of selected targets, including gaps, constraints and emerging issues in peace, justice as well as strong and inclusive institutions
- Opportunities for the transformative change- commitments and actions to accelerate the implementation
- Key take away messages for the accelerated implementation of SDG 16.

Inter-related agendas- SDGs and Agenda 2063



Related goals in Agenda 2063

Goal 11: Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and rule of law entrenched

Goal 12: Capable institutions and transformed leadership at all levels

Goal 13: Peace, security and stability preserved

Goal 14: A stable and peaceful Africa

Goal 15: A fully functional and operational African peace and security architecture

Goal 17: Full gender equality in all spheres of life

Goal 18: Engaged and empowered youth and children

Stocktaking of progress and gaps towards the achievement of SDG 16 in three areas

- Data availability of the related indicators of SDG 16
- An upward trajectory of governance-yet more to be done.
- Three components for the stock-taking exercise:

Progress in
Peace

Progress in
Justice

Progress in
strong
institutions

Some achievements yet many gaps in the process of peace

- Different determinants for the armed conflict since 2017 while the root causes remained the same-increased efforts from all is warranted
- Realization of the African Union Master Road Map of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020
- Exponential increase in the no of civil unrest and internally displaced persons or refugees
- Terrorism remains a significant and serious threat in the continent
- COVID-19 pandemic presents new and distinct counter-terrorism challenges

Mis-match of legal needs and legal aid leading to “Justice Gap” in Africa

- A significant number of people continue to live under oppressive laws
- Almost half the continent’s population of 1.2 billion lack official identification for a weak CRVS system-increased marginalization
- Shrinking space for freedom of expression and civil society engagement
- Silver lining - growing legitimacy of the judiciary with an increase in informal, traditional and customary justice systems
- Despite progress towards SDG goal 16 and Agenda 2063, high levels of corruption threatens the gain.
- Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) to hinder the implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Strong and inclusive institutions for ensuring human rights and good governance

- Strong institutions ensure human rights obligations and good governance- the importance was more recognized in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic
- Human rights principles as the foundation to address governance deficits
- Innovative approach to governance - partnership with relevant stakeholders is required
- Lack of transparency and accountability- increased favouritism in both government and private sectors
- Despite the progress achieved in adopting relevant legislative frameworks much needs to be done to ensure that that laws are implemented effectively.

Opportunities for the transformative change in Africa

- A “whole of government” and “whole of society” approach
- Political will and financial investment key to accelerating progress on SDG 16
- Fundamental freedoms and rights need to be protected for inclusion, peace and justice
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration accelerators and enablers for SDG 16
- Sustained investment in reliable data to address persistent data gaps to ensure policies and programs reach vulnerable groups

Five take away messages for the accelerated implementation of SDG 16 in the continent

- Effective disaggregated data collection, monitoring and evaluation systems to accelerate the achievement of Goal 16
- Country-level action on Goal 16 remains critical, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
- Policy, practice and process required for advancing peaceful and inclusive societies
- Access to meaningful justice is key to SDG 16
- Transparent, accountable and inclusive institutions are central to the effective achievement, monitoring and evaluation of SDG 16 at all levels.



THANK YOU!

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Ideas
to
Action