

Towards an Effective Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

Nassim Oulmane

15 Feb. 2018
Geneva

Africa 21 winter seminar



OUTLINE

Background

Progress and achievements

Selected key messages of the 2017 HLPF

Some key lessons learned

2018 ARFSD

**Way forward – Enhancing multi-stakeholder engagement in
ARFSD for 2018 and beyond**

UNECA.ORG



ECA

Background

Agenda 2030



Agenda 2063



With the goal of achieving inclusive structural transformation and sustainable development, African countries have signed up and committed themselves to implementing both:

The 2030 Agenda and associated 17 SDGs adopted by UNGA in September 2015

Agenda 2063 and its 20 Goals to be implemented through the 10-year implementation plans: the first Ten-year Implementation Plan is from 2014 – 2023

Member States need support and should ensure effective integrated implementation and follow-up and review of the two agendas

Africa Regional Forum on sustainable development (ARFSD):

One of the follow-up and review mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda

Mandated by UN General Assembly Resolution to undertake review and follow-up and provide regional inputs annually to High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

The contribution of Regional Forums on Sustainable Development (RFSD) enables connection between the national and global levels.

ARFSD was Instituted by the Joint annual AU Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and ECA Conference of Ministers and in 2015 and reinforced in 2016:

Serves as the multi-stakeholder regional platform to follow-up, monitor and evaluate; share good practices and lessons learned; and identify and agree on policies and other measures to achieve effective implementation of the regional and global agenda

- Led and convened by ECA in collaboration with AUC, AfDB and other partners
- Comprised of high-level policy makers and experts from ministries/agencies responsible for economic development, social development and environment management; regional and sub regional organisations, UN bodies and major groups including civil society organisations and the private sector.
- Adopts as its major outcome, key messages comprising Africa's priorities and policy recommendations to spur and inform actions at national, regional and global level for integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Regional workshops to support African countries in Voluntary National Review at HLPF are held as part of and feed into the various sessions of the ARFSD – workshops organized by ECA and UNDESA.

UNECA.ORG



ECA

Progress and achievements

ECA and partners have organized three sessions of ARFSD with themes aligned with the corresponding HLPF sessions held in 2015, 2016 and 2017.

ARFSD 2015: ***“Strengthening integration, implementation and review : the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development after 2015”***

ARFSD 2016: ***“Ensuring inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063”***.

First session after adoption of 2030 agenda

ARFSD 2017: ***“Ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity for all”***.

First session to review a selected set of SDGs (1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14 as well as 17)

12 African countries have been supported to participate in VNRs at the HLPF to date.

2016: Egypt, Madagascar, Morocco, Sierra Leon, Togo and Uganda

2017: Benin, Botswana, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Togo and Zimbabwe.

16 knowledge products including analytical background reports that provide implementation progress, priorities and policy actions and measures to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063 goals .

ARFSD has provided a platform for member States to dialogue and has contributed to enhancing their understanding on the policy measures to ensure effective inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

Member States have articulated and adopted policy recommendation (in the form of key messages) that have contributed to enhanced inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the two agendas.

Through its outcomes, the forum has contributed to better articulation of Africa's priorities during and as part of the HLPF

UNECA.ORG



ECA

Selected key messages of the 2017 HLPF

The integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 calls for inclusive and integrated approaches to their implementation and for reporting

Weak data systems and data gaps in some member States pose serious challenges for effective monitoring and evaluation of progress.

In the context of Africa's rapidly growing urbanization, achieving SDG 2, as well as a number of related goals, necessitates the promotion of rural transformation and improvement of urban-rural linkages

Pursuit of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls should lie at the heart of efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Infrastructure, industrialization and innovation are among Africa's top priorities that are central to higher economic growth and poverty eradication.

UNECA.ORG



ECA

Some key lessons learned

- ARFSD is a vital platform in advancing implementation of the two Agendas: It provides a multi-stakeholder platform to assess progress; share experiences; identify obstacles and provide concrete policy actions, and mobilize national and regional efforts and global support to the SDGs and Agenda 2063
- Need to strengthen bottom-up preparations and inputs for the ARFSD
- Essential to institutionalize the work of the ARFSD as a priority within the structures, work and budgets of ECA and SROs, sub regional organizations and mechanisms
- Need for more African countries to volunteer for VNRs at HLPF
- Imperative to strengthen engagement with member States between the sessions of the Forum
- SDG 17 is not enough explored. Africa21 winter seminar theme is very relevant

UNECA.ORG



ECA

2018 ARFSD

In accordance the UNGA resolution A/RES/70/299, the Sessions of the High-level political forum for 2017 to 2019 are held around already determined themes and focusing on selected SDGs for in-depth review as follows.

Year	Theme	Focus SDGs
2017	“Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world”	Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14;
2018	“Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”;	Goals 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15;
2019	“Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”	Goals 4, 8, 10, 13 and 16;

The theme of the 4th (2018) session of ARFSD in May 2018, will be aligned with that of the 2018 HLPF namely “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies.”

The subthemes will be around the selected SDGs for in-depth review at the 2018 HLPF, namely Goals 6 (water), 7(energy), 11(cities), 12(consumption and production) and 15 (life and land)and the corresponding Agenda 2063 goals

UNECA.ORG



ECA

Way forward – Enhancing multi-stakeholder and sub-regional engagement in ARFSD for 2018 and beyond

In preparation for 4th Session of ARFSD (2018):

- Stakeholders are invited to identify and discuss key challenges, opportunities and recommendations for implementation of the selected SDGs
- create Communities of Practice (CoP) on SDGs to focus on and generate good practices on implementation, Challenges and opportunities, and key messages for accelerating implementation - to feed into ARFSD

For Next year: In preparation for 5th session of ARFSD (2019):

- ECA (SRO) will prepare a sub-regional report based on the CoP outputs, to be discussed during the ICE with a focus on the 2019 selected SDGs
- ICE adopt sub-regional key messages to feed into the ARFSD.
- Link activities for sub regional review of SDGs and Agenda 2063 with SRCM and integrate them into the 2018-2019 and beyond program of work of SROs and Recs
- Enhance participation of RECs in ARFSD and HLPF

Member States encouraged to participate in VNRs. VNRs for 2018 closed and 11 African countries will be participating:

Benin,
Cabo Verde
Egypt,
Guinea
Mali,
Namibia
Niger,
Republic of Congo
Senegal
Sudan,
Togo

The president of ECOSOC has invited countries to express interest to participate in the 2019 VNRs

THANK YOU!

More Information: oulmane@un.org

<https://www.uneca.org/arfsd2017>