



Introduction

Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are vast, ambitious, potentially game-changing visions. Agenda 2063 is the African Union (AU)'s development plan for the continent. Its aspirations are wide reaching in scope and ambition. Most notably on democratic and inclusive politics, given the complexities of nationalist, xenophobic and ethnic elements in public discourse, speech and crises leaders often peddle during elections or times of unrest. Economic prosperity remains a dream given the high levels of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. The SDGs are just as ambitious as the United Nation (UN)s plan. Aimed at the entire global population, economic and environmental wellbeing by 2030 (NEPAD, 2016). Accountability in the latter seems far more possible than the first (Kleven, et al., 2018), just in comparing when aspirations are to be achieved by. African countries have committed to both initiatives. Needing significant resources, sound policies and inclusive approaches for all Africans (African Union , 2015).

APRM's applicability to Agenda 2063 and SDGs

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) provides an opportunity for African country governance mechanisms to be comparably assessed and strengthened. The thematic overlap allows for bridging variant demographic needs and operationalising different organs of government to achieve progress. For example, women's rights under the APRM can be reinforced or further strengthened with indicators of both Agenda 2063 and the SDGs (African Union Development Agency, 2020). Where the first might absolve African leaders of meaningful progress in 43 years, the SDGs can safeguard accountability in 10. The APRM has a strong focus on social inclusion and fostering accountable institutions, aligning with SDG 16 and Agenda 2063's recognition of the need to build 'accountable leadership and responsive institutions' (Gruzd & Corrigan, 2017).

Agenda 2063 provides a broad framework on aspirations, how they will be achieved and implemented (African Union, 2016). This provides a clear policy framework for member states to integrate with their national agendas and development plans. Almost 90% of Agenda 2063 aligned with the SDGs. Ideally this should make APRM's complimentary role (Mo Ibrahim Foundation, 2014), in partnership with other regional bodies, in aligning the two policy frameworks in domestication within member states (The African Union Commission, 2014). One example of this is in APRM facilitating SDG Voluntary National Review preparations (African Union, 2019).

Conclusion

There are significant shortcomings in Agenda 2063's resourcing. This is will be one of the critical aspects to ensuring its achievement. Although the APRM was established for strengthening governance, recognition of development aspirations is critical to achieving its mandate. This interdependence reflects the same for achieving the SDGs. Other aspects of the APRM's mandate in human rights and the rule of law are a work in progress.

References

- 1) Kleven, T. E., Onuora-Oguno,, A. C. & Egbewole, W. O., 2018. Education Law, Strategic Policy and Sustainable Development in Africa, s.l.: s.n.;
- 2) African Union , 2015. A shared strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable Development & a global strategy to optimize the use of Africa's Resources for the benefit of all Africans, s.l.: s.n.;
- 3) African Union Development Agency, 2020. First Continental Report On The Implementation Of Agenda 2063, s.l.: s.n.;
- 4) African Union, 2016. AGENDA 2063 The Africa we want, s.l.: s.n.;
- 5) African Union, 2019. APRM as best Practice for South-South Cooperation on Governance in Africa', s.l.: s.n.;
- 6) Gruzd, S. & Corrigan, T., 2017. Can APRM be an effective tool, s.l.: s.n.;
- 7) Mo Ibrahim Foundation , 2014. AGENDAS 2063: is Africa on track, s.l.: s.n.;
- 8) NEPAD, 2016. Progress Report Of The Commission On The Africa 2063 AGENDA, s.l.: s.n.;
- 9) The African Union Commission, 2014. Shared Strategic Framework for Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development & A Global Strategy to Optimize the Use of Africa's Resources for the Benefit of all Africans, s.l.: s.n.