The APRM High-Level Peer Review Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation
Building agile and resilient societies in Africa and the global South

24 - 25 November 2021

Egypt – Cairo
(Sonesta Hotel)

PROGRAMME BOOKLET
The APRM High-Level Peer Review Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation:

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Programme Booklet
**Background**

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) designated the COVID-19 virus as a pandemic. This disease, which originated in Wuhan, Central China, in December 2019, quickly spread to the rest of the world, sparing virtually no country. A health crisis quickly posed significant economic and social challenges, depriving millions of livelihoods and compelling governments across Africa to rearrange their budget and planning priorities and offer a further inclusive approach to their indigent citizens.

Africa has so far defied the apocalyptic predictions that were assigned to it in view of its weak health systems, excessive rate of comorbidities such as HIV-AIDS and tuberculosis, difficulty in practicing social distancing due to high population density, and inadequate nutrition among others. Almost a year after such prognostications were made, the WHO reported in late March 2021 that COVID-19 has infected upwards of 3 million people and claimed the lives of over 70,000 individuals in Africa.

In terms of economic growth, the impact of COVID-19 has been equally devastating. According to the African Development Bank (AfDB), Africa’s economic output contracted by 2.1% in 2020 and precipitated the continent into a recession for the first time in 50 years. The COVID-19 pandemic has wiped out decades of progress and human development and is seriously thwarting efforts to realize the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 and the African Union (AU) ‘s Agenda 2063. South-South and Triangular cooperation are thus imperative development tools to assist developing and least developed countries (LDCs) in Africa and beyond to mitigate the daunting economic and social consequences of such a global shock.

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as Africa’s home-grown organ dedicated to sharing experiences and best practices on good governance alongside monitoring and evaluating the SDGs and Agenda 2063, has engaged actively in the COVID-19 crisis in Africa. The mechanism is committed to supporting Africa joint continental strategy for covid-19 outbreak and ensures countries’ preparedness and institutional responsiveness for such shocks under governance assessment reviews. Amongst the APRM initiatives to mitigate effects of the COVID-19 crisis in Africa are as follows:

1. Establishing a continental Taskforce on COVID-19 - The task force has been meeting regularly, and the continental Secretariat launched a report on Africa’s Governance Response to COVID-19. The Report stock takes on member states’ preparedness and different policy interventions and the extent to which the pandemic affects various SDGs, including SDG 3: health and well-being, SDG (education), SDG 16 (strong institutions and peaceful societies) as well as SDG 17 (Partnerships).
2. Incorporating resilience as a thematic area into the APRM governance assessment and currently prepare for continental capacity building training for national executives.
3. Launching virtual dialogues on SDGs/Agenda 2063 (Voluntary National Reviews) reporting during the pandemic and best national practices against such a crisis.
4. Strengthening partnerships with SIDA, GIZ, UNDP, and emerging donors in the Middle East to support member states in addressing KPIs or indicators pertinent to SDG 3, economic transformation and credit rating issues, digitalization, and food security.

As far as South-South cooperation is concerned, the APRM took part in the commemorations of the fortieth anniversary of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action (BAPA+40) during which collaboration between it and institutions such as UNOSSC, development organizations, and thinktanks was called for to operationalize BAPA+40 in Africa. The APRM expanded mandate allowed the mechanism to make important contributions to the expansion of South-South Cooperation (SSC) and enter into partnerships with institutions outside the African continent to achieve Triangular Cooperation (TrC). Further, APRM hosted various dialogues on SSC and its role in achieving Agenda 2063 where an emphasis was put on the following issues:

1. the lack of a holistic approach for SSC mainstreaming into national development plan (NDPs)
2. the absence of data to track SSC’s initiatives and results.
3. The lack of institutional mechanisms among countries of the South to sustain SSC’s development outcomes.
4. The need for transparent monitoring and evaluation framework and methods to assess SSC’s impact, the necessity of developing an inclusive approach for stakeholders, and the alignment of SSC projects and plans with local communities needs.

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5. The mechanism is committed to supporting Africa joint continental strategy for covid-19 outbreak and ensures countries’ preparedness and institutional responsiveness for such shocks under governance assessment reviews. Amongst the APRM initiatives to mitigate effects of the COVID-19 crisis in Africa are as follows:
Based on the APRM Cairo Experts meeting on SSC where the APRM role to promote SSC was explored\(^8\), the unique institutional form of regional integration that the APRM represents was underlined. It was recommended that the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) and the APRM jointly organize an annual African Regional Forum to institutionalize SSC initiatives -bilateral or multilateral- in Africa and offer a platform for sharing and transferring knowledge on capacity building, SDGs finance and investment opportunities in the global South\(^9\).

Acknowledging the mentioned above, the APRM is willing, with the support of development partners, to organize the annual African Regional Forum on 24-25 November, 2021 (TBC) in Egypt – Hybrid format with the participation of African countries, development organs, and thinktanks. The Forum shall stock tuck on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on African economies alongside discussing the SSC support to various continental projects pertinent to Agenda 2063 and SDGs implementation. Furthermore, it will provide an inclusive platform for Civil society organs and academia to reflect on their challenges and suggestions for impactful SSC in Africa and beyond.

**Objectives of Africa's High-Level Forum on SSC and TrC.**

The High-Level Forum on SSC and TrC for Africa will address the following issues:

1. Level of implementation of the BAPA+40 document in Africa. It will analyze the extent to which SSC has been integrated into National Development Plans (NDPs) and progress made on building national and regional centres of excellence in Africa. some good cases i.e., Rwanda, South Africa, Egypt, and Morocco, can be highlighted.
2. Synergies between national, regional, and international SSC initiatives for implementing Agenda 2063 and SDGs (AUDA-NEPAD);
3. The role of SSC and TrC in building resilience and responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in Africa; political resilience and solidarity, economic governance resilience, and social inclusion;
4. The role of Academics and civil society in raising awareness and enhance tracking SSC and TrC in African communities; and
5. Digital and innovative tools for capacity building on SSC and TrC i.e. UNOSSC Galaxy, APRM and APC-Colombia

**Themes of focus**

COVID-19 has laid bare various forms of inequality across the world. To prevent conflict, create prosperity and deepen continental integration, policymakers need to be bold and embark on wide-ranging reforms. COVID-19 need not be a death sentence. It should rather be regarded as a call to accelerate Africa’s economic transformation. With the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), Africa can bolster healthcare delivery, surpass traditional infrastructure, and create public-private partnerships (PPE) in which all parties accrue gains\(^10\). The HLFSSC for Africa will focus on the following themes:

1. Progress towards the implementation of BAPA+40 outcome document in Africa ; where we stand by 2021?
2. AU resilience approach in the face of the pandemic: SSC initiatives pertinent to governance – resilience nexus; food security, digitalization and knowledge management, migratory flows, and national development planning.
3. Economic governance and diplomacy against the pandemic.

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\(^8\) "Outcome report of the APRM’s experts’ meeting post-BAPA+40: fostering South-South Cooperation in Africa."
\(^9\) Ibid
Agenda 2063 promising projects, i.e., AfCFTA, in augmenting the manufacturing capacity of African countries and financial sustainability of African economies; management of national and multilateral debts, credit rating agencies, economic diplomacy tackling Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs);

4. Role of Africa’s development partners in promoting national-regional synergies for implementing SDGs and Agenda 2063; and

5. National stakeholders’ engagement in SSTrC promotion (private sector, academia, civil society, women and youth.

**Participation**

The HLFSSC targets African policymakers, senior national executives, and experts from Africa and global South countries. The following categories are expected to take part in the Forum:

1. Ministers – policymakers engaged in SSC policies
2. National executives involved in the implementation and drafting of SSC programs
3. National/international development agencies and institutions dedicated to SSC promotion in Africa
4. APRM structures (eminent persons, focal points), if applicable
5. Development partners (UNDP, UNECA, UNOSSC, WFP, FAO, UNDESA, IsDB, AfDB, BRICs)
6. Countries and development partners from global south from Latin America, Asia and Middle East
7. AU organs (AU Commission, AUDA-NEPAD, AfCFTA Secretariat, COVID-19 regulations by the Egyptian government. Besides physical attendance, online participation can be envisaged to circumvent travel restrictions and COVID-19 regulations in the host country and elsewhere.

**Expected outcome**

The two-day High-Level Forum will endeavor to adopt several proposals for greater collaboration between the UNOSSC and the APRM. These proposals will further institutionalize the partnership between the UNOSSC and the APRM, which signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2020.

**Venue and time**

The High-Level Forum on SSC and TrC will be tentatively organized in Cairo- Egypt at Sonesta Hotel, from 24 to 25 November 2021.

**Contacts**

For any queries on the organization of the High-Level Forum, please contact:
Ms. Sara Hamouda, SDGs and Agenda 2063 Expert (sara.hamouda@aprm-au.org), APRM Continental Secretariat.
Ms. Rutendo Nazare, Agenda 2063 Unit, Agenda 2063 Researcher, APRM Continental Secretariat Rutendo.Nazare@aprm-au.org
Julia Mogale, logistics officer, APRM Continental Secretariat. Julia.Mogale@aprm-au.org
# AGENDA

## Day One: Wednesday 24 November 2021

**Stocktaking on implementing BAPA+40 document in Africa and resilient practices in the face COVID-19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.30 am</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<tr>
<td>09.00 - 09.30</td>
<td><strong>Opening remarks</strong></td>
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<td>Opening remarks (5-7 minutes)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• H.E. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ghana</td>
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<td>• Amb. Fatima Kyari Mohammed, Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations</td>
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<td>• Dr. Khaled Sherif, Vice President, African Development Bank</td>
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<td>• Ms. Leslie Reed, USAID Mission Director for Egypt</td>
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<td>• Dr. Inge Baumgarten, Director, GIZ Office to the African Union</td>
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<td>• Representative of H.E Sameh Shoukry, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Egypt</td>
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<td><strong>Chair</strong>: Prof. Eddy Maloka, CEO, African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)</td>
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<td>09.45 - 10.45</td>
<td><strong>Session one</strong>: BAPA+40 outcome document implementation in Africa: reflections from the pandemic experience</td>
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<td>(7-10 minutes for each speaker)</td>
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<td>BAPA+40 outcome document emphasized the importance of sharing knowledge, experiences and best practices on South-South and Triangular Cooperation, voluntarily, in the attainment of sustainable development goals (SDGs) and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in general. This session takes stock of actions taken towards the implementation of the recommendations of BAPA+40 outcome document in Africa and linkages with Agenda 2063 ‘the Africa we want’.</td>
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<td>• Amb. Adel Abdel-Latif, interim Director, UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)</td>
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<td>• Mrs. May Ali Babiker, Manager, Cairo Regional Hub, Islamic Development Bank</td>
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<td>• Amb. Adonia Abyari, former President of the UN High-Level Committee on South-South Cooperation, Permanent representative of Uganda at the United Nations</td>
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<td>• Amb. Salah Hammad, Head of AGA Secretariat, AU Commission</td>
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<td><strong>Voice of African countries</strong></td>
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<td>• <strong>Egypt</strong>: Dr. Hala El-Said, Minister of Economic Planning and Development</td>
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<td>• <strong>Rwanda</strong>: Mrs. Urujeni Rosine, Acting CEO, Rwanda Cooperation Initiative (RCI)</td>
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<td><strong>Chair</strong>: Ahmed El-Bakley, Diplomat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Egypt</td>
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<td>10:45 - 11:00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>11:00-12:15</td>
<td><strong>Session two</strong>: Economic Governance and Diplomacy in the COVID-19 context: Accelerating Africa’s Economic Integration</td>
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<td>The session deliberates on boosting Africa’s governance enablers and capacities for building resilient health systems against COVID-19 and future shocks. It’s a peer learning and experience sharing exercise between African countries on economic governance reforms adopted to mitigate the pandemic. It also highlights current progress towards implementing some of the Agenda 2063 flagship projects such as the AfCFTA.</td>
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Kick-off presentation

Prof. Aregbesola R Adewale (PhD), APRM SSC Experts group, paper presentation: AfCFTA and Health Resilience in Africa

- Mr. Tei-Kitcher, Senior Economist, AfCFTA Secretariat, Ghana

Voice of member states

- **Kenya**: Hon. Amb. Ukur Yatani, Cabinet Secretary, National Treasury & Planning and APRM Focal Point
- **Republic of Congo**: Lomouel Jean-Bedel Tity, Advisor, cabinet of the Minister of Economy, Planning, Statistics and Regional integration
- **Egypt**: Dr. Khaled Zakaria, Senior Economist, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development
- **Chair**: Ms. Abalo Kevin John, Ministry of East African Community Affairs, South Sudan

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<th>12:30 - 13:00</th>
<th>Signing ceremony: Memorandum of Understanding between APRM and APC- Colombia</th>
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<td>13:00 - 14:00</td>
<td>Lunch break</td>
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<td>14:00-15:00</td>
<td><strong>Session three: Peer-learning Experiences on Food Security Governance in the Context of COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities</strong></td>
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This session focuses on sweeping measures and responsive policies adopted by international institutions and AU Member States to address food security challenges in Africa. Although Africa is considered a global food basket, the impact of COVID-19 on many African countries has led to severe and widespread increase in food insecurity. It seeks to address these challenges and discuss concrete initiatives dedicated to tackling food insecurity through potential collaboration between these institutions and African countries.

- Mr. Khaled El-Taweel, Regional Coordinator, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Italy

Voice of countries

- **Uganda**: Hon. Justine Kasule Lumumba, Minister of General Duties
- **Chad**: Hon. Minister Khayar Oumar Defallah, APRM Focal Point
- **Chair**: Dr. Roselyn Akombe, UNDP Addis Ababa office

| 15:00 - 16:15 | **Session four: Peer-learning on Resilient Health and Social Recovery Policies against COVID-19 and Significance of South-South Cooperation** |

COVID-19 has revealed the institutional vulnerability of national health systems with countries trying to cope with the consequences of the pandemic. While no country is spared from the pandemic, countries adopted different restrictive, protective, and recovery measures to curb the pandemic. The session identifies the measures and adjusted health and social policies adopted by African countries to enhance disaster management frameworks and adopt medium to long recovery strategies.

- **Senegal**: Mr. Mamadou Saliou Sow, State Secretary in charge of the promotion of human rights and good governance
- **South Africa**: Mr. Thulani Tshefuta, Chairperson of the APRM National Governance Council
- **Sierra Leone**: Hon. Amara Kallon, Deputy Minister of Political and Public Affairs
- **Mr. Abdelhakim Yessouf**: Africa Regional Coordinator of Technical Cooperation, Islamic Development Bank
- **Chair**: Dr. McBride Nkhalamba, APRM Continental Secretariat

| 16:15 - 16:30 | Conclusions of day one by Dr. Chijioke Iwuamadi, Senior Advisor on good governance, GIZ-AU office |

The APRM High-Level Peer Review Forum on South-South and Triangular Cooperation
### Session five: Financial Stability and the Role of the Private Sector in combatting COVID-19

Partnership with the private sector and financial institutions has been rendered crucial to sustain financial stability amid the turbulence and confusion emanating from the COVID-19 pandemic. This session presents experiences from African countries concerning the impact of the pandemic on financial stability and the imperative role of public-private partnerships in creating innovative economic and financial solutions against the economic fallout caused by the pandemic.

- Dr. Ashraf El-Arabi, API and EGA Senior Advisor, Egypt’s Former Minister of Planning, Monitoring, and Administrative Reform
- Dr. Sherif El Gabali, Head of the African Parliamentary Committee and Board member of the Egyptian Businessmen’s Association

**Voice of countries**

- **Djibouti**: Mr. Adoulkarim Aden Cher, Minister of Budget
- **Ghana**: Mrs. Winniefred Akoto-Sampong, NGC-APRM
- **Nigeria**: Princess Gloria Kkobundu, CEO, AUDA-NEPAD/APRM Office, Nigeria

**Chair**: Ms. Keira Ndoumbe, Diplomat, Ministry of External Relations, Cameroon

### Session six: South-South Cooperation initiatives for Youth and Women Empowerment

Youth represent a significant segment of Africa’s development and integration. As the most youthful continent in the world, Africa has a great number of youth associations and groups engaged in pursuit of Agenda 2063. This session is dedicated to South-South and Triangular Cooperation programs from the youth perspective. It also assesses SSrTC approach on how to forge solidarity and share knowledge among nations of Global South.

- **Uganda**: Mr. Daniel Obal, Aide in charge of Youth Affairs at the Presidency
- **Egypt**: Mr. Hassan Gazali, Nasser Youth Movement Coordinator, Ministry of Youth
- **Cameroon**: Ms. Keira Ndoumbe, Diplomat, Ministry of External Relations

**Chair**: Ms. Rutendo Nazare, Agenda 2063 Unit, APRM Secretariat

### Session seven: Building Synergies among SSC Partners for Accelerating Agenda 2063 & SDGs Implementation

This session focuses on development financing approaches and programs adopted by development partners to speed up implementation of SDGs and Agenda 2063, especially in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The session highly focuses on funding initiatives for SDG 3 (health), SDG 4 (education), SDG 9 (employment), SDG 16 (institutions) and SDG17 (partnerships).

- Amb. Mohamed Khalil, Egyptian Agency for Partnerships for Development
- Mr. Yoshifumi Omura, Chief Representative, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) – Egypt Office
- Dr. Sabyasachi Saha (JNU), Associate Professor & Editor of South Asia Economic Journal (Sage), India
- Dr. Maged George Amin, Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Export Board, Egypt

**Chair**: Ms. Sara Hamouda, Agenda 2063 Unit, Officer in Charge, APRM
13:00 - 14:00  **Session eight: Role of Academia and the Civil Society in promoting SSC Initiatives in the Global South**

The role of academia and non-state actors including national civil societies is increasingly growing amongst nations of the global South. Academic institutions and think tanks have been empowered to partake in the debate on development cooperation, especially with the emerging of new powers in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

- Dr. Paulo Esteves, Director, BRICS Policy Centre, Brazil
- Dr. Karin Vazquez, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean at O.P. Jindal Global University
- Dr. Philani Mthembu, Executive Director, Institute for Global Dialogue, UNISA
- Dr. Noha Bakr, Board member, Egyptian Human Rights Council.

**Chair:** Mohamed Mohsen, APRM National Commission/MOFA, Egypt

14:00 - 15:00  **Lunch break**

15:00 - 16:15  **Session nine: Digitalization and SSC knowledge sharing platforms**

Technology offers innovative solutions for humanity to continue “business as usual” during the unusual times of lockdowns and curfews imposed by the pandemic. Most development partners and countries are currently managing capacity building programs and initiatives through digital platforms to enrich experience sharing and knowledge generation amongst countries of the Global South. This interactive session offers a chance to some partners to present the newly adopted platforms to handle business.

- Ms. Viviana Manrique, Director General, APC Colombia
- Dr. Sherifa Sherif, Executive Director, Centre for Good Governance and Sustainable Development, Egypt
- Ms. Nirvana Farrag, WFP-SSC platform, Rome
- Mr. Loot Janse van Rensburg, South-South Cooperation Knowledge Hub, APRM Secretariat

**Chair:** Mr. Festus Hangula, APRM National Secretariat, Namibia

16:15 - 17:00  **Closing and vote of thanks**

- Prof. Eddy Maloka, CEO, APRM Continental Secretariat
- Amb. Ashraf Rashed, Chairperson of the APRM National Commission, Egypt
- Amb. Soha Gendi, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs & APRM Focal Point, Egypt

**Departure from Egypt**