



VIRTUAL WORKSHOP FOR SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA SUBREGIONS

**Strengthening the nexus approach in Africa for an accelerated
implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda
2063**

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Welcoming remarks by

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Elections do not approximate democracy; its is more than that. It's about a culture of participation, accountability, rule of law, respect for institutions and processes, service delivery and eschewing corruption.

Conflicts continue to impose heavy toll on Africa with humanitarian challenges of internally displaced persons, refugees, disruption of livelihood for millions of people and the exacerbation of

health and other social outcomes, the pace of poverty reduction is slow, and inclusive growth remains elusive. Major gaps exist in the areas of employment and decent jobs, as well as gender equality. These indices adversely affect the continent's efforts to leverage the demographic dividend. Thus, overall, actions to meet the SDGs have not advanced at the speed or scale required.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The United Nations and the African Union realise the importance of strong collaboration and partnership, not only in ending conflicts but in promoting durable peace, stability, coordinated humanitarian action and accelerated development in Africa. It was within this context that in 2017, the UN and the AU signed the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security (the Peace and Security Framework), and in 2018, the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the Development Framework). Worthy of note is that the Development Framework includes a thematic area on the nexus between peace and security, human rights and development.

The joint African Union-United Nations Framework on Human Rights is expected to be signed soon. Additionally, there exists a memorandum of understanding on Humanitarian Action

informed by extensive desk reviews, questionnaire surveys and focussed interviews.

At the same time, ECA's four sub-regional reports will be published as standalone documents which will feed into the regional OSAA study. Our team, which includes very able consultants and experts will highlight the outcomes of the ECA studies during this workshop.

In the final analysis, it is your countries, along with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Secretariat of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) who will be the primary beneficiaries of the sub-regional studies, the OSAA baseline study and the training manual.

Therefore, we call on you to use this platform for robust deliberations, to identify gaps, provide comments and inputs and propose recommendations prior to finalization of the documents. This workshop also provides you with the opportunity to share experiences, including good practices and lessons in promoting an interlinked approach to conflict prevention and resolution. I am confident that your deliberations will produce useful inputs and recommendations.

Once again, please allow me to thank our partners and collaborators (The People's Republic of China, OSAA, OHRLLS, etc.) in the overall process. I would especially like to laud the partnership with OSAA and the Department of Global Communications (DGC), which together with ECA forms the tripod of Programme 9 of the UN under whose auspices the studies were conducted. I would also like to recognize the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Office on the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) as important collaborators in this

process. Through this project, we hope to contribute towards raising awareness of, and strengthen capacities of countries in the regions covered by the study. The studies could not have been conducted without the collaboration of the African Union, regional and subregional organizations, member States, non-governmental organizations, and other sister UN agencies. Thank you all for your support.

We wish you all a successful workshop.

Thank you for your kind attention.