



# United Nations Economic Commission for Africa

## Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism - SRCM-North Africa

### Consultative Regional Meeting to Support the achievement of SDGs and Strengthen Partnerships in North Africa

Rabat (Morocco), March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

*Topic: Promoting regional initiatives in support of the implementation and monitoring of  
SDGs in North African countries in the context of Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063*

## Aide-memoire

### I- Background

The 2030 Development Agenda<sup>1</sup>, which formally entered into force on 1 January 2016, is the current global reference framework for guiding policies and actions at the national, regional and international levels. It offers the United Nations system as a whole, as well as international and regional development organizations, a unique opportunity to provide coherent and coordinated support to countries committed to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>2</sup>. In light of the magnitude of the challenges ahead, Agenda 2030 calls for stronger collaboration and partnerships (SDG 17).

It is in this spirit that a collaboration agreement was signed on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 between the United Nations Development Group and the United Nations Regional Commissions. It aims to strengthen cooperation and coordinate the efforts of the United Nations System, in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and monitoring of the SDGs, and the integration of regional and sub-regional priorities. The agreement fosters the development of common programming mechanisms, joint programs and inter-agency regional reporting.

In his June 2017 report, entitled "Repositioning the UN Development System to Deliver on the 2030 Agenda - Ensuring a Better Life for All", the UN Secretary General stressed the importance of strengthening collaboration, integration and the coherence of development policies and programs.

### II- Regional context

In January 2015, an integrated strategic development framework entitled Agenda 2063<sup>3</sup> was adopted. This framework, which includes 20 goals and 172 targets, aims to accelerate the economic and social transformation of the continent. Moreover, it should enable the achievement of SDGs (Agenda 2030). The Agenda 2063 will be implemented through successive action plans. The first ten-year action plan (2015-2025) was adopted in June 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 by Heads of State and Government in New York at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development, held on the occasion of the 70th Session of the General Assembly, on the topic "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

<sup>2</sup> The implementation of Agenda 2030 is underpinned by 17 interrelated goals and 169 targets to be achieved by 2030.

<sup>3</sup> Agenda 2063 was adopted at the 24th Ordinary Session of the African Union Conference, held in Addis Ababa, from 30 to 31 January 2015.

The Ministerial Declaration adopted at the conclusion of the Joint Meeting (Commission of the African Union and Economic Commission for Africa) of African Ministers of Finance, Planning, Economic Development (4-5 April 2016, Addis Ababa) agreed to develop a common approach for a harmonized implementation of both Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. A Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations System and the African Union is being prepared to strengthen coordination and cooperation between both organizations, for a more coherent implementation of both agendas.

In North Africa, the main intergovernmental body dedicated to cooperation for development is the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA). Articles 2 and 3 of the UMA Founding Treaty provide, among other objectives, for the search for a "... common policy in various fields" and the implementation of joint global and sectoral programs". The UMA is called upon to play a key role in helping countries to coherently integrate Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 into their national development strategies and plans, while also ensuring that regional perspectives are taken into account. It is also an important link in the multi-level system for monitoring and reviewing progress towards the implementation of both agendas.

To this end, the platform of the Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM)<sup>4</sup> is an appropriate framework for promoting dialogue and collaboration between all international and regional institutions supporting the UMA and its Member States.

The main objective of this platform is to foster the coherence of sub-regional programs and initiatives and optimal coordination between different players, through, whenever possible, the implementation of joint programs or projects, in support of UMA priorities and programs and existing intergovernmental organizations in North Africa.

### **III- Overall objective of the meeting**

The meeting aims to strengthen partnerships and synergies between the UMA, UN Agencies and other development partners and sub-regional stakeholders to support the achievement and monitoring of SDGs in North Africa in the context of Agenda 2030 and 2063.

At the end of the meeting, it is expected that participants will adopt the outline of a roadmap (action program) as a framework to guide efforts, strengthen coordination and coherence of interventions as well as partnerships, in support of the strategic priorities of the UMA and its Member States, in the spirit of "delivering as one".

### **IV- Specific objectives of the meeting**

- Learn about the strategic priorities and regional initiatives (current and future) of the UMA, UN Agencies and development partners in support of SDGs;
- Achieve a common understanding of regional priorities and challenges related to the implementation of SDGs with a view to better targeting and coordinating the actions of partners in the sub-region;
- Discuss the outlines of a regional roadmap (2018-2019) in support of the achievement of SDGs. This roadmap should, on the one hand, help facilitate the harmonization of partners' interventions and, on the other hand, foster joint regional initiatives.

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<sup>4</sup> The Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism (SRCM) was established in 2015, as recommended by the RCM-Africa. The latter was created in July 1998 by the United Nations General Assembly (Resolution 1998/46) to provide a coordinated response of the United Nations System to regional challenges and priorities.

## V- Expected results

- Participants are informed of current and future regional initiatives in support of SDGs;
- Regional priorities are identified;
- A proposal for a regional roadmap is discussed and avenues for collaboration are considered;
- A mechanism for implementing and monitoring the roadmap is discussed.

## VI- Participants

The meeting will bring together the following institutions:

- The General Secretariat of the UMA;
- United Nations agencies supporting the UMA and/or its member countries;
- United Nations agencies with sub-regional representation in North Africa
- The African Development Bank;
- The Islamic Development Bank;
- International/intergovernmental organizations operating in North Africa;
- Coordination mechanisms of United Nations country teams;
- The RCM-Africa Regional Coordination Mechanism Secretariat.

## VII- Meeting

The meeting's proceedings will be organized in plenary sessions divided in the following five sessions:

- **Session 1: Harmonizing the implementation of the 2030-2063 Agendas**
  - Presentation of tools developed by ECA to facilitate the integration of Agendas 2030-2063 in national planning frameworks (ECA Headquarters).
- **Session 2: Strategic Priorities and Partner Initiatives for the SDGs**
  - Presentation of regional priorities, achievements (2016-2017) and prospects (2018-2019), in support of the achievement of SDGs (UMA);
  - Presentation of priorities and regional initiatives led by the partners (2016-2017) and prospects (2018-2019), in support of the implementation of SDGs in North Africa (ECA, FAO, ILO, ADB, IDB, UNIDO,...).
- **Session 3: Regional Priorities and Key Challenges in Implementing SDGs in North Africa**

Based on lessons learned from UMA and development partner initiatives, regional priorities and challenges for implementing and monitoring SDGs in North Africa will be identified.

- **Session 4: Towards a regional roadmap in support of SDGs.**

On the basis of the information derived from previous sessions, the session will discuss entry points and actions to be carried out as part of a regional roadmap (2018-2019), in support of the achievement of SDGs in North Africa.

This roadmap should, on the one hand, help facilitate the harmonization of partners' interventions and, on the other hand, foster joint regional initiatives aligned with regional priorities and in accordance with national initiatives. Areas for action could include: strengthening and broadening ownership of SDGs, capacity building of players and exchange of experiences, training on SDG mainstreaming tools in planning processes, aligning Maghreb strategies with SDGs, monitoring the achievement of SDGs and reporting.

- **Session 5: Procedures for implementing and monitoring the roadmap**

The purpose of this session is to discuss how to ensure effective implementation and regular monitoring of the actions selected under the Regional Roadmap-SDGs

## **VIII- Expected outputs**

At the end of the meeting, the following outputs will be prepared and disseminated:

- The report of the meeting which will include main conclusions and recommendations;
- A regional roadmap for achieving SDGs in North Africa.

## **IX- Documentation**

The meeting's working documents include: this aide-memoire, the agenda as well as the notes and/or papers to be presented by partner institutions

## **X-Date and venue of the meeting**

The meeting will be held in Rabat (Kingdom of Morocco) on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

## **XI- Contacts**

Information related the meeting can be obtained from:

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