



# Bridging Gaps and Forging Partnerships to Enhance Reporting on SDGs in Africa

(SDGs 6: Water & SDG 7: Energy and SDG 17: Partnerships)



## CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAM

**Date:** Friday 14 July 2023

**Time:** 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm

**Organisers,** African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) , Office of Special Adviser on Africa, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

**Venue:** United Nations HQs, - **Conference room 11**

### Concept:

VNRs have been an effective and consistent mechanism to enhance reporting on sustainable development goals in Africa. Through 2023, 53 African countries have submitted VNRs at least once. In the same vein, the AU-UN framework for the implementation of Agenda 2030 for sustainable development and Agenda 2063 provides a strong commitment led by both organs to collaborate on pursuing both agendas in tandem.

The Office of the Special Advisor for Africa (OSAA) has a strategic role guided by a comprehensive and broad-based collaboration featuring a partnership and technical cooperation framework, which catalyses SDG 17, and Aspiration 7 of Agenda 2063, as they lie at the heart of both development frameworks. OSAA's advisory and coordinating role address strategic thematic areas including Financing for Development: Energy and Climate Change; Sustainable Development to Promote Sustainable Peace; Democracy Resilience and Human Capital; Science Technology and Innovation.

The African Peer Review Mechanism is one of the AU specialized organs dedicated to promoting good governance in Africa in 5 thematic areas including economic, political, socio-economic and corporate aspects alongside resilience and disaster management. The APRM has been also designated by the AU Assembly in 2017 to assist member states in monitoring

and evaluation of Agenda 2030 and 2063 (governance aspects). Further, member states are also expected to improve national reporting on governance issues including socio-economic development cross-cutting issues. Therefore, the APRM established a continental platform on VNRs and Domestication of Agenda 2063 – which has been selected as SDGs Accelerator by UN DESA- to enhance experience sharing and best practices on national planning, monitoring and evaluation tools designated to report on both agendas alongside institutional arrangements of VNRs. During the latest

This VNR Lab will focus on current gaps of SDGs evaluation in Africa and potential collaboration with APRM to foster Africa Agri-Food Systems Transition. The Lab shall equally address challenges pertinent to environmental sustainability, climate, energy, and water systems nexus. It will also contribute to analyse progress made by African countries towards some of these goals (SDG 6 Water and SDG 7 energy) and significance of continental and global partnerships to enhance progress towards the latter goals.

### **Registration**

[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_oNBcMGjDSCq3EOgC5Ojalw](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oNBcMGjDSCq3EOgC5Ojalw).

### **contact person :**

Sara hamouda , Agenda 2063 and SDGs officer, APRM Continental Secretariat ,  
[sara.hamouda@aprm-au.org](mailto:sara.hamouda@aprm-au.org)

Mr. John Solan, Economic Affairs officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa ,  
[sloan@un.org](mailto:sloan@un.org).

## Agenda

**Date:** Friday 14 July 2023

**Time:** 2.00pm :3.00 pm

**Venue:** United Nations HQs, - Conference Room 11

**Moderated by:** Ms. Sara Hamouda, APRM Continental Secretariat , South Africa

### Panellists |

**OSAA:** Mr. Jean Paul Adam, Director , Division for Policy, Monitoring and Global Advocacy

**Democratic Republic of Congo:** Mr. Modeste Nyembo Kakanda, National Coordinator of  
SDG observatory Council

**Ghana :** Dr. Felix Addo- Yobo, Advisor, SDGs advisory unit at the Presidency

**Tanzania:** Mrs. Naeema Jam, Assistant coordinator Policy and Planning & Ms. Anita Otto  
Ringia, Principal officer, National Planning Commission

**University of Wageningen, Netherlands:** Prof. Art Dewulf, Professor at the Public  
Administration and Policy Group at Wageningen University.

**UNECA:** Mr. John Solan, Economic Affairs Officer and focal point of VNR/VLRs

**Closing remarks: |** Mr. Jean Yve-Adou, Acting Director, Monitoring and Evaluation, APRM Continental  
Secretariat

## Speakers



**Jean-Paul Adam, UNOSAA**

Jean-Paul Adam is Director at the Office of Special Adviser for Africa. Previously, he worked as the director for Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management in the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Prior to taking on this role, he served in the Government of the Republic of Seychelles in several Cabinet positions. He was Minister of Health from 2016 to 2019. He served as Minister of Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy from 2015 to 2016 where he negotiated a debt for climate change adaptation swap and launched the process for Seychelles to become the first issuer of a Blue Bond. Between 2010 and 2014, he was Seychelles' Minister of Foreign Affairs, where he advocated for countries to embrace the concept of the Blue Economy, to improve sustainability for island and coastal countries.



**Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo, Office of the President, Ghana**

Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo is the Deputy Director and Advisor at the SDGs Advisory Unit in the Office of the President, **Ghana**, where he focuses on programme design and implementing strategic advocacy and initiatives on the SDGs and Agenda 2063. He is currently the focal person for the Global Disability Alliance and Ghana's Sustainable Ocean Plan. Prior to his current role, he was the Director, Development Policy and Planning Division at the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), having previously served as Deputy Director (Environmental Policy). While at NDPC, Felix also served as the coordinator for Ghana's SDGs Implementation Coordinating Committee (ICC) and played a lead role in setting-up Ghana's SDGs implementation architecture. He also led the preparation of Ghana's SDGs annual reports and coordinated the Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the SDGs.

Felix holds an Msc and PhD degrees in Water and Environmental Management from the Loughborough University, UK, having previously obtained a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, in Ghana.



**Mrs. Naeema Jam, Assistant coordinator Policy and Planning, Tanzania.**

Ms. Neema Jamu is an economist working with the Government of Tanzania as an Assistant Coordinator. She coordinates all matters related to policies and strategies within the Department of Policy and Planning – State House. Key assignment includes formulation and analyzing government policies and strategies. In addition, she has the role of scrutinizing and advising Cabinet Papers for Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee discussions.

Previously, she worked at the Ministry of Health in Tanzania performing different assignments including support District Councils in implementing Health Reform programs. Coordination of Pre-payment Health Schemes such as Community Health Funds programs and National Health Insurance Funds

Neema holds MA-HMPP from University of Leeds, UK; MSc (CED) from Southern New Hampshire University in corroboration with OUT Tanzania, and Postgraduate Diploma in Leadership from Uongozi Institute.



**Ms. Anita Otto Ringia, Secretary of the Secretariat of the National Clean Cooking Working Group, Tanzania**

Ms. Anita Otto Ringia is an Energy Engineer from the Ministry of Energy of Tanzania. In Tanzania, Ms. Ringia develops policies, plans and programs related to electricity, renewable energy and efficient use of energy in an environmentally friendly manner. She promotes efficiency and sustainable use of energy resources. She also works to create enabling environment to attract investment in the development, provision and utilization of energy resources. She is currently the Secretary of the Secretariat of the National Clean Cooking Working Group where she coordinates the development of the National Clean Cooking Vision and its implementation strategy. She holds a Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in Petroleum Engineering.



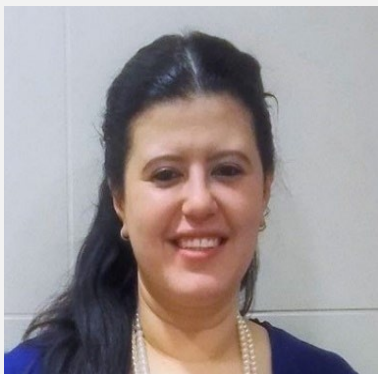
**Mr. John Solan, UNECA**

John Solan works as an Economic Affairs officer at UNECA. He's specialised in linkages between natural resources, industry and broader macroeconomic and social development with the United Nations. Mr. Solan has Twelve years of international economic policy advising and programme management in Africa, the Middle East, United States and Europe with the UN, World Bank and as a Fulbright Scholar. He holds Masters and Undergraduate degrees in Economics and Development Studies. He also has publications with Yale University, Economic Research Forum, Tudor Rose Publishing, and UN Working Papers.



**Prof. Dr. Art Dewulf, Wageningen University**

Prof. Dr. Art Dewulf is a Professor at the Public Administration and Policy Group at Wageningen University. He is the Project coordinator "Beyond cherry-picking: aligning development actors and efforts for inclusive and effective governance of trade-offs and synergies between SDGs in East Africa" funded by the Dutch Research Council. [www.wur.eu/sdgs](http://www.wur.eu/sdgs)



**Sara Hamouda, African Peer Review Mechanism**

Ms. Hamouda works at the African Union Secretariat for Peer Review Mechanism as an officer in charge of the agenda 2063/SDGs Unit and South-South Cooperation, based in Johannesburg, South Africa. She has twelve years of professional experience in the international cooperation and development field. Earlier, she worked as a Senior Economic Researcher at the Cabinet of Minister of International Cooperation in Egypt where she managed development portfolios with different partners including regional and Arab financing institutions, China, and USAID.

Ms. Hamouda holds two master's degrees: A Master of Arts in International Development from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies – South Korea, and Master of Management (Governance) from University of Wits in South Africa. She contributes to publications and articles on good governance in Africa, SDG 16 and development cooperation issues.