



Global Forum for National SDGs Advisory Bodies Africa Region Hub

Dialogue 2:	Inclusive Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships
Language:	English
Date:	Thursday, 18 July 2024
Time:	12:00 GMT (08:00 New York/ 14:00 Cape Town)
Moderator:	Emmanuel Ametepey (Ghana)
Speakers:	Sixolile Ngcobo (South Africa)
	Linda Asaba (Uganda)
	Florence Syevuo (Kenya)
Location:	https://africanmonitor.zoom.us/j/95621286224?pwd=gbmdyaucMksQRsrWWUyTr6apdoINko.1
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Please note, advance registration is required for this meeting, and thereafter you will receive a confirmation email containing the link for joining the meeting.

Inclusive Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

Welcome to the Africa Region Hub, an initiative within the Global Forum for National SDGs Advisory Bodies!

In January 2024, the steering group of the Global Forum for National SDGs Advisory Bodies regrouped to review implemented programs and strategize future opportunities. Among discussions on network strategy, governance, and member engagement, the steering group approved the initiation of regional hubs for Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

African Monitor is proud to facilitate the Africa region and has begun the establishment of the Africa Region Hub by engaging with members and friends of the Global Forum operating in Africa. These engagements have taken a two-fold approach. First, we conducted a series of private and tailored calls with representatives from member and partner organizations. These individual calls culminated in a group engagement, convened online on 20 June 2024.

The discussions observed the following states have expressed interest to carry out voluntary national reviews (VNRs) of their implementation of the 2030 Agenda: Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe, as such, the Africa region hub will convene its follow-up dialogue with this theme in mind: **Inclusive Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) through Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships.**



Members and friends are invited to the 90 minutes online engagement, to come and share with peers about their involvement in their country's respective 2024 Voluntary National Review (VNR). Representatives of countries that are not presenting a VNR during 2024, are also welcome to participate as observers and discussants.

1. Background and Rationale

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels. The reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular monitoring of development within states, are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple development stakeholders.

The VNRs seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The VNRs also aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Sustainable development in Africa hinges on the continent's ability to strengthen robust regional capacity and foster collaboration across its diverse nations, multiple stakeholders and institutions. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations member States, underscores the importance of collaborative efforts to address challenges such as poverty, health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, affordable and clean energy, jobs, smart cities, climate change, peace, justice and reliable institutions.

Despite notable progress, Africa continues to face significant obstacles in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including limited financial resources, inadequate infrastructure, and fragmented efforts at the regional level.

As part of the ongoing engagement with members and friends of the Global Forum for National SDGs Advisory Bodies, the Africa Regional Hub, facilitated by African Monitor, invites you to explore strategies to enhance regional capacity and collaboration, leveraging existing frameworks, and fostering innovative partnerships to invest in the development of Africa.

2. Objectives

The engagement seeks to:

- **Foster networking and partnerships:** exchange about the respective country's 2024 VNR involvement and multi-stakeholder processes.
- **Strengthen regional collaboration:** discuss the critical role of partnerships in achieving the sustainable development goals in Africa.
- **Share practices:** present initiatives pursued in communities, in collaboration with multiple stakeholders.
- **Identify capacity building opportunities:** propose actionable regional capacity building solutions.

3. Agenda

Time (GMT)	Programme
12:00 - 12:15	Introduction and Welcome
	Opening remarks by the moderator
	Brief overview of the objectives and agenda
12:15 - 12:30	South Africa
12:30 - 12:45	Uganda
12:45 - 13:00	Kenya
13:00 - 13:20	Engagement
13:20 - 13:30	Next Steps, Conclusion & Thank You

The Africa Region Hub encourages members and friends to share initiatives they are pursuing in their countries. The hub is envisioned as a learning and exchange platform, allowing us to navigate the journey towards sustainable development together.

To maintain contact with the Africa hub, please connect with us on the following details:

Africa Region Hub

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Speakers Biographies



Emmanuel Ametepey is the Founder and Executive Director of Youth Advocates Ghana (YAG) and the Convener of the African Youth SDGs Summit. He is also the Founder and Director of Ambassadors for Christ School in Ghana. As a youth development consultant, Emmanuel has a particular interest in governance, participation, youth policies, and advocacy. Having founded YAG at the age of 25, he has led the organization for a decade, transforming it into a national youth-led entity with programs reaching across Africa.

In 2017, Emmanuel launched the African Youth SDGs Summit, the largest forum on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa. The summit aims to harness the power and voice of the youth to drive the development of the African continent and improve the lives and futures of the region's youth. It has become a rallying point and a catalyst for partnerships with local governments, civil society organizations (CSOs), local UN systems, and summit participants who have become champions for SDG accountability and monitoring in Africa.

As a public and youth expert, Emmanuel has spoken on various policy issues, including youth peace and security, governance, meaningful youth participation in decision-making processes, sexual and reproductive health and rights, children's rights, financing for development, and voluntary national and local reviews of the UN SDGs. He has contributed to international platforms such as the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, United Nations High-Level Political Forum, ECOSOC Youth Forum, SDG16 Conference in Italy, African Youth SDGs Summit, and the Global Town Hall.

Emmanuel holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Development Studies from the Presbyterian University, Ghana, and an Executive Certificate in Development Policy and Practice from the Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance, University of Cape Town, South Africa.

He is also recognized as one of the UNDP's 16x16 Global Youth Leaders advancing SDG 16 – promoting peaceful, just, and inclusive societies – and was a finalist for the UN SDGs Awards in Bonn, Germany.



Sixolile Ngcobo is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in various sectors including international, regional, and local governmental, non-profit, and private sector organizations. Her expertise lies in Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, and Sustainable Development. Sixolile has served as a Senior Manager and is a respected member of the South African CSOs Working Group on SDGs (SAWG-SDGs) and the Open SDG Club South Africa since its inception.

Since 2015, Sixolile has been the founder and Managing Director of The Well Health Company. She has also worked for Oxfam Great Britain and the South African Commission for Gender Equality from April 2016 to August 2023. Currently, she is a Programme Associate at African Monitor, where she is involved in the Voluntary Local Review with municipalities and the National Voluntary Review with the National Planning Commission (NPC) and the Department of Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (DPME) on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally, Sixolile is the Director for Localisation at EISH Impact Africa, focusing on the National Strategic Plan (NSP) theme: Gender-Based Violence and Femicide.

Participation at the HLPF 2024:

Sharing Perspectives from the South Africa Process

The upcoming High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) presents a valuable opportunity for South African civil organizations to share their experiences on the implementation and monitoring of SDGs. This includes discussing progress, challenges, and achievements. The drafting of the country's report, which began in 2023, has been a collaborative effort driven by Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME), the National Planning Commission (NPC), and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). Civil organizations have played a crucial role in amplifying citizen voices and coordinating stakeholder engagements at both national and local government levels. This includes contributions to the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) of the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality, the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, Mogale City Local Municipality, and Koukamma Local Municipality.



“South Africa is one of 44 countries that will present its development progress. The South African government worked with academics from all public universities, the private sector, coordinated by the Global Compact Network South Africa as well as civil society, coordinated by African Monitor, to compile the 2024 VNR”



Linda Asaba is a passionate advocate for youth empowerment, education, health, and addressing gender-based violence, with a special focus on supporting the boy child. Her work primarily promotes SDGs 3, 4, 5, 13, and 16, engaging with youth, media, rural women in Uganda, and indigenous communities in East Africa. Linda is a champion of public health among young people, particularly in combating non-communicable diseases. She is a trained peer educator, tobacco control advocate, and an SDGs advocate.

Linda has represented Africa on the Youth Advisory Council to the Secretary General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA) as the Female African Youth Representative. She was awarded the best project in the human rights youth program organized by the UN Geneva office under the WFUNA Human Rights Program. Linda has also been part of several youth delegations to the UN.

In addition to her volunteer positions, Linda serves as the Programs Manager with the United Nations Association of Uganda (UNAU), a youth organization that brings the UN closer to young people. At UNA-Uganda, she is the in-country coordinator for the African UN Youth Delegate Program and the Accelerate SDGs Implementation Project. Furthermore, she is the Vice Chairperson of the UNBS Standards 416 Technical Working Committee under the Uganda National Bureau of Standards.

Linda's dedication to her work is reflected in her commitment to her country and her drive to make a positive impact on the world.



“The main objective is to provide Uganda's progress on SDGs and Government's commitment to accelerating delivery on the 2030 Agenda”



Florence Syevuo is a sustainable development specialist with over 15 years of experience at the community-based, national, regional, and global levels. She has been instrumental in numerous policy advocacy, research, change processes, and the coordination of mass citizen mobilization and key stakeholders towards ending poverty and inequalities in our generation.

Florence is currently the Executive Director of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Kenya Forum and plays critical roles in several other institutions and organizations as a social, economic, and political advisor.



“The 2024 VNR report provides a transparent account of Kenya's journey towards the SDGs in a bid to build trust and accountability among the public and stakeholders. In response to global challenges, the report calls for accelerated action across all sectors”.