



CONCEPT NOTE

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP FOR CENTRAL, NORTHERN AND WESTERN AFRICA SUBREGIONS

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

10-11 June 2021

1. CONTEXT AND RATIONALE

With the adoption in 2015 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063, global leaders have committed to follow people-centered approach to development with the vision of leaving no one behind while ensuring prosperity for all. The two Agendas recognize that development, peace, security, humanitarian and human rights efforts are complementary and need to reinforce each other, to respond to volatile situations in Africa and around the world. This calls for adopting comprehensive and holistic approaches spanning the nexus on peace, security, development and humanitarian affairs. With less than a decade to the 2030 target date, significant progress is still necessary in all sectors to achieve the shared vision of a peaceful, integrated, prosperous Africa and leaving no one behind. As much as it is well established that peace and stability promote development, is also critical for preventing and sustaining peace.

The World Humanitarian Summit held in Istanbul, Turkey on 23-24 May 2016 also underscored the need for greater coherence among actors working on humanitarian, development, and peace and security domains. In this regard, Actors working across humanitarian, development and peace silos should be working together to address violent conflict, deliver humanitarian assistance, develop institutions and capacities in a complementary and synergistic way that addresses development and humanitarian needs.

With changing operating landscapes, an increased focus being given to the nexus across the UN system, OSAA through its advocacy and analytical work has been highlighting the emerging and persisting challenges on the nexus in Africa. It has provided platforms for UN entities, the AU and Experts as well as Researchers to deliberate on the role of advocacy and research in strengthening the nexus approach in Africa. The Office has also prepared and provided technical support in the preparation of reports and research papers, which highlight the conceptual and practical issues, opportunities and good practices underlying the nexus. One of the major gaps identified was the need for capacity building for Member States (MS) to consider the benefits of incorporating humanitarian and peacebuilding objectives and activities and linkages with development in their own planning processes.

To help strengthen the capacity of African countries in integrating the nexus in their policies and plans, OSAA is implementing an extra-budgetary project on [;trengthening the capacity of African Countries to design and implement policies that promote the nexus between peace, security and development for an accelerated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)▯ The project which is being implemented in close collaboration with key implementing partners including UNECA and OHRLLS, is funded from the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund through the generous support of the People [s Republic of China.

Through this project, OSAA aims to contribute towards raising awareness of and strengthen capacities of African countries to formulate and implement policies that reinforce the interlinkages between development, peace, security, humanitarian and human rights.

In implementing the project, OSAA administered a survey to African Governments and civil society organizations aimed at identifying African perspectives on the nexus. Based on the findings of the survey, OSAA has prepared a baseline assessment study, which assesses the degree of awareness and capacity of African countries to formulate and implement policies that reinforce the interlinkages on development, peace, security, humanitarian and human rights. The study also seeks to assess the understanding of the nexus at national level and therefore the capacity needed to implement policies and strategies that take into consideration the nexus approach. Based on the baseline study, a draft training manual has also been prepared.

Against this backdrop, OSAA is organising a virtual workshop for Central, Northern and Western Africa subregions with the objective of strengthening the capacity of Member States to design and implement policies that promote the nexus between humanitarian, peace and development for an accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

2. OBJECTIVES

The virtual workshop will engage participants on their understanding, experiences and perspectives on formulating and implementing integrated and coherent policies on development, peace, security, humanitarian and human rights for an accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

More specifically, the objectives of the workshop are to:

- a. Assess the understanding and awareness on the nexus approach at national level;
- b. Identify gaps and capacity needs to a nexus approach;
- c. Highlight good practices and best experience of African Member States in integrating the nexus in their policies and plans;
- d. Identify the political, institutional, operational and policy challenges facing African governments in implementing the nexus;
- e. Formulate policy recommendations on strengthening integration of aspects of the nexus in national development plans of African countries; and
- f. Validate the baseline assessment study.

3. EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The Expected outcomes are:

- a. Increased understanding of the importance of the nexus in sustaining peace and development in African countries;
- b. Identification of gaps and challenges related to the implementation of the nexus in Africa;
- c. Formulation of policy recommendations that could be used by member states to integrate the aspects of the nexus in their national development plans; and
- d. Strengthened capacity of African countries in the understanding of formulating and implementing policies that reinforce the interlinkages on peace, security, humanitarian and development.

4. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

The expected outputs are:

- A revised study and training guide taking into consideration Member States' inputs and observations; and
- A Summary of the meeting with key findings and policy recommendations.

5. FORMAT

The two half day virtual workshop will be organized around two segments:

- On the first half day, the workshop will feature an opening session to set the scene followed by a presentation of interactive panel discussions on substantive aspects based on the findings of the study on the nexus with the objective of reaching better understanding of the nexus concept and sharing best practices and experiences.
- During the second half day, discussion will take place in the format of plenary sessions, focus groups and interactive learning sessions, following a presentation of the training guide. This will give the opportunity to all participants to enrich and enhance the quality of the training guide.

6. PARTICIPANTS

The expected participants include officials from Ministries of Finance, Economy, Planning and development or any relevant officials from Ministries/Departments/Agencies of the following 31 countries:

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| ■ Algeria | ■ Guinea |
| ■ Benin | ■ Guinea-Bissau |
| ■ Burkina Faso | ■ Liberia |
| ■ Burundi | ■ Libya |
| ■ Cabo Verde | ■ Mali |
| ■ Cameroon | ■ Mauritania |
| ■ Central African Republic | ■ Morocco |
| ■ Chad | ■ Niger |
| ■ Congo, Democratic Republic of the | ■ Senegal |
| ■ Congo, Republic of the | ■ Sierra Leone |
| ■ Cote d'Ivoire | ■ Sudan |
| ■ Egypt | ■ Togo |
| ■ Equatorial Guinea | ■ Nigeria |
| ■ Gabon | ■ Sao Tome and Principe |
| ■ Gambia | ■ Tunisia |
| ■ Ghana | |

In addition, participants include representative of AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, APRM, AMU, ECOWAS, ECCAS, CEN-SAD, UNECA, IDEP, UNDP, DCO, DPPA, UN-OHRLS, OCHA, OHCHR, PBSO African and non-African thought leaders working on issues straddling peace, development, humanitarian and human rights divide.

7. DATE AND VENUE

The virtual workshop will take place from 10-11 June 2021 using virtual platform.

8. CONTACT PERSONS

Mr. Ben Idrissa Ouedraogo

Economic Affairs Officer
ouedraogob@un.org

Mr. Kavazeua Katjomuise

Senior Economic Affairs Officer
katjomuisek@un.org

Mr. Kei Tagawa

Programme Management Officer
tagawa@un.org