

# *Key Messages linking Africa's Sustainable Development and Durable Peace Agendas to the Voluntary National Reviews*

*Juliet Wasswa-Mugambwa*

*Team Leader – Intergovernmental Support and Advocacy Team*

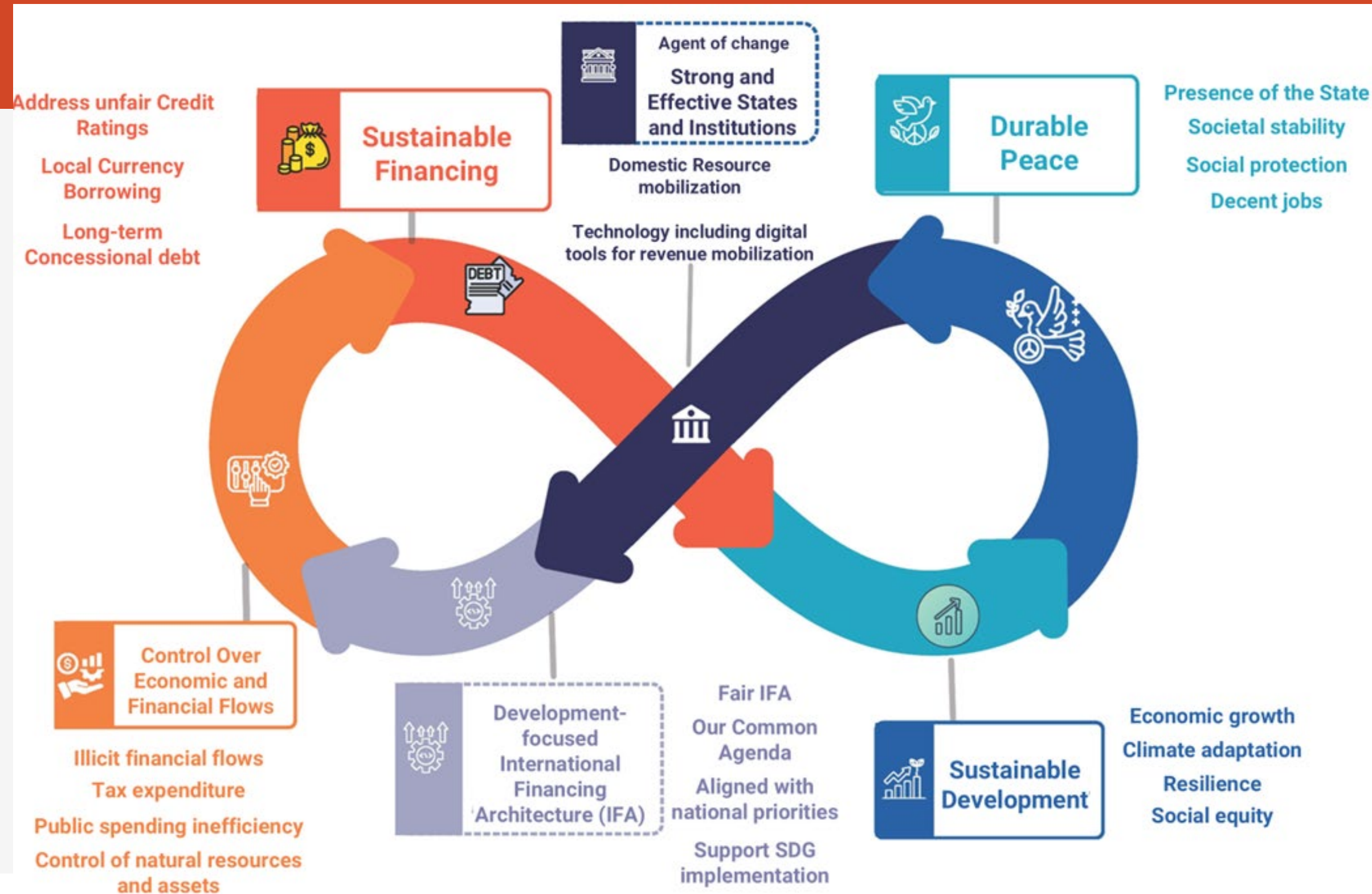


# Presentation outline

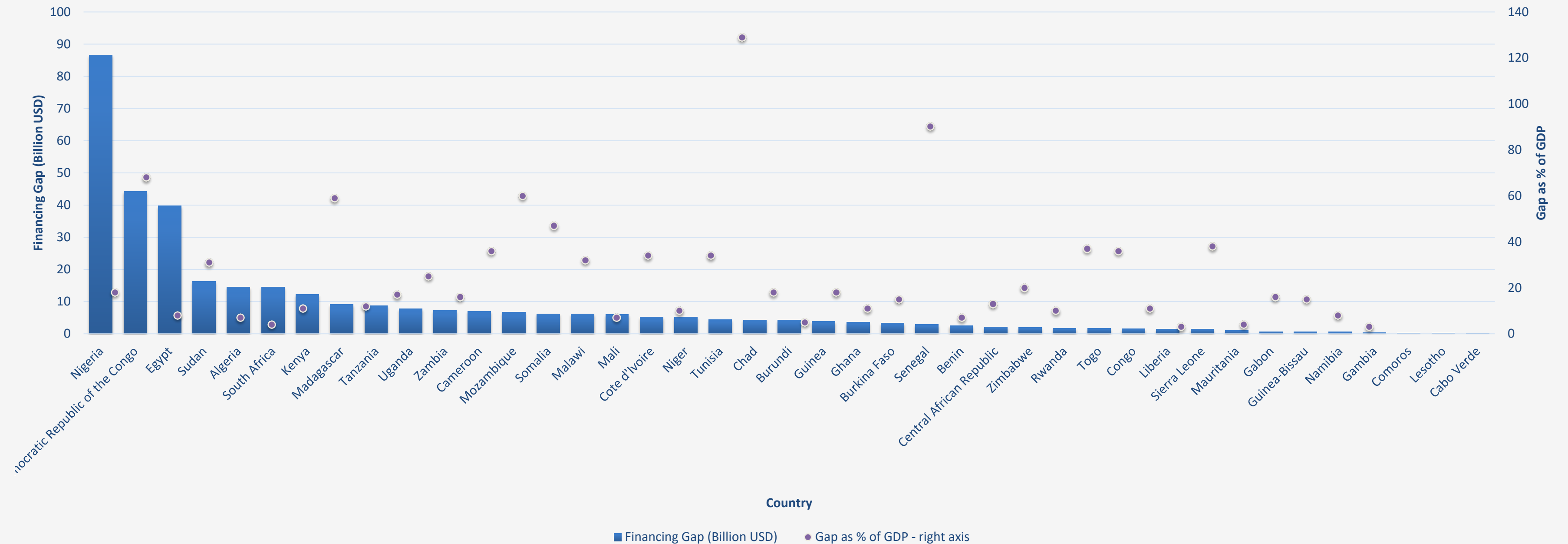
One: Key takeaways and main messages from OSAA's recent and forthcoming research on the nexus between Africa's sustainable development and peace and security

Two: Highlights of key messages, challenges and opportunities from the vantage point of 2025 African VNR countries, aggregated using generative AI models and visualizations

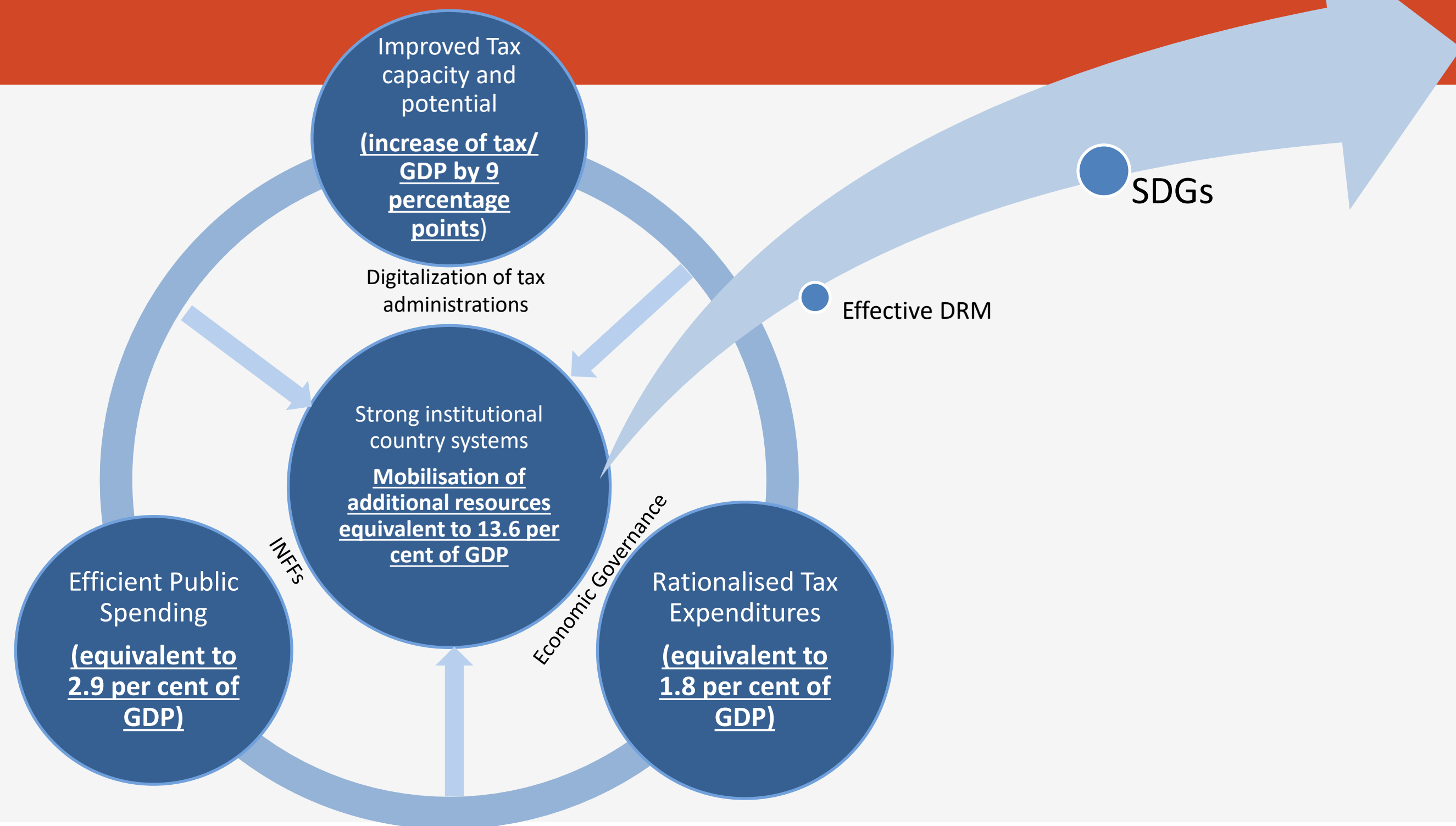
# Conceptual Framework



# The financing gap for achieving SDGs in many African countries remains significant...



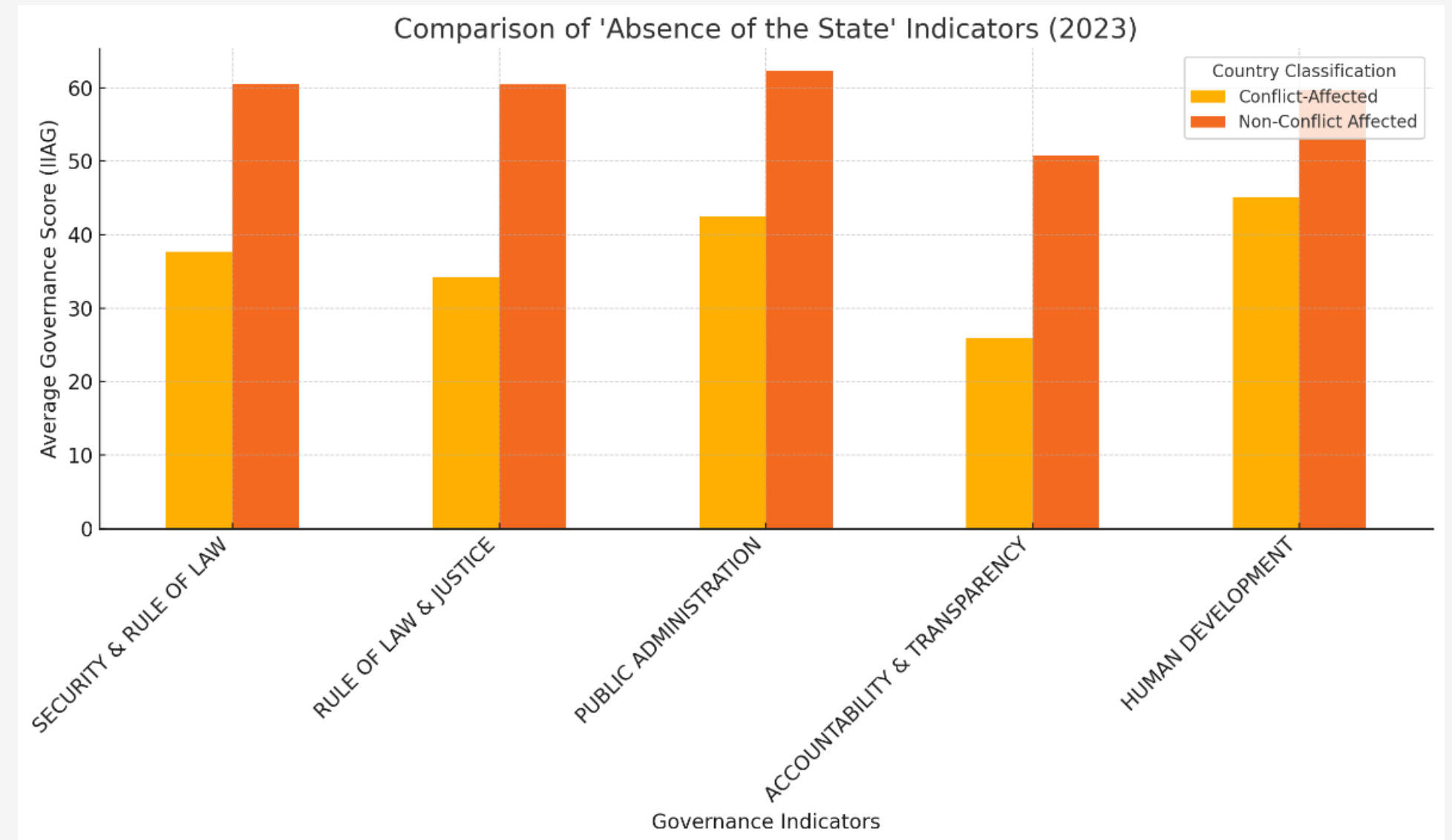
# Strong institutions and country systems at the core of Africa's Development





# SD is a Pre-Conditioning for Peace and Stability: The Fractured Social Contract and Absence of the State as Root Cause

- **Governance Backsliding:** Since 2014, nearly 40% of African countries—home to half the population—have seen governance decline; over 60% face setbacks in security and rule of law, and 50% in rights-based inclusion. (Mo Ibrahim Foundation, 2024)
- **Weakened Social Contract:** In many African countries, State failure to meet citizens' needs—especially amid deep group-based inequalities—has bred mistrust and resentment.
- **Gaps in State Presence:** The “absence of the State” reflects critical deficits in service delivery, state capacity, and legitimacy—not a total lack of government.
- **A Troubling Cyclical Pattern:** *Absence of the State fuels resentment of the State, which then provides fertile ground for the replacement of the State.*



# The Way Forward: Restoring the Social Contract – An Africa-Led Imperative

---

- **No External Fix:** Durable peace requires **revitalizing State capacity and legitimacy** through **country-owned, Africa-led development**.
- **Governance Reform:** States—especially in conflict-affected and fragile settings—must be empowered to:
  - Expand administrative reach
  - Strengthen institutions
  - Rebuild citizen trust through better service delivery
- **Fiscal Foundations:**
  - **Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM)** is key—not just for revenue, but for **fiscal sovereignty**
  - Includes improved natural resource governance, public finance management, and tackling trade mispricing
- **Transparency & Participation:**
  - Digital tools can enhance **accountability**, limit favoritism, and reduce regulatory capture
- **Traditional Institutions Matter:**
  - Traditional and informal systems (chiefs, elders, religious leaders, customary and informal justice systems) are **crucial for cohesion and service delivery**, especially where State reach is limited

# The Way Forward: Aid That Strengthens the State Instead of Replacing It

---

- Shift in Development Support:
  - Current aid models often **bypass State institutions**, creating **parallel systems** and eroding legitimacy
  - When development partners deliver services directly, they sometimes:
    - Undermine State authority
    - Weaken incentives for domestic resource mobilization
    - Break the feedback loop between **citizen demands** and **State responsiveness**
- The 'How' Matters:
  - **Development must empower**, not just assist
  - Rebuilding trust means enabling **States to lead** their own development agendas
  - **Transformative aid** strengthens institutions, reinforces legitimacy, and restores the social contract





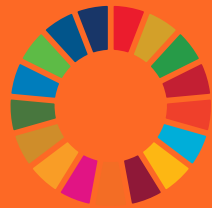
# PART II: THEMATIC INTENSITY OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN 2025 MAIN MESSAGES



THE DARKER THE COLOR THE MORE EMPHASIS WAS PUT ON THAT SDG



**United Nations**  
Office of the Special Adviser  
on Africa





# COMPARATIVE EMPHASIS ON SDG 3 AND 8 TARGETS IN 2025 MAIN MESSAGES

					Country 1					
					Country 2					
					Country 3					
					Country 4					
					Country 5					
					Country 6					
					Country 7					
					Country 8					
					Country 9					
					Country 10					
Maternal/Child Mortality	HIV/AIDS & TB	Universal Health Coverage	Non-Communicable Diseases	Health Systems & Workforce		Sustain per capita GDP growth	Boost productivity via diversification & innovation	Promote MSMEs & job-creating policies	Full & productive employment & decent work	Reduce youth not in education

	Not Mentioned		Minimal Emphasis		Moderate Emphasis		Strong Emphasis
--	---------------	--	------------------	--	-------------------	--	-----------------



# PREVALENCE OF COMMON SDG-RELATED CHALLENGES AND CORRESPONDING POLICY RESPONSES

Common challenges faced by countries



Corresponding Policy Responses

- Skills development programs, TVET expansion, entrepreneurship support, and private sector-led job creation.
- Climate adaptation strategies, renewable energy projects, reforestation and ecosystem protection initiatives.
- Improved healthcare access, maternal and child health investments, universal health coverage expansion.
- Legal reforms, women's empowerment initiatives, access to finance and representation support.
- Curriculum reform, teacher training, digital learning tools, and infrastructure investments.
- Integrated financing frameworks, enhanced statistical capacity, and donor coordination platforms.





