

Voices from Africa

News from the Regional Service Centre for Africa
United Nations Development Programme



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*

All for SDGs acceleration in Africa



UNDP Africa convened for its [annual management meeting](#) during 1–4 November in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea, with the theme "Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the Framework of the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063".

The participants, who represent UNDP leadership in 46 sub-Saharan countries, committed to work with countries to implement both agendas, foster national ownership and focus on key accelerators of the SDGs.

"The pledge to 'leave no one behind' is the cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It calls on countries to reduce inequalities by tackling income disparities and discrimination in laws and social norms. In unleashing human potential, special attention must be paid to women," said UNDP Administrator Helen Clark at the meeting's [opening ceremony](#).

Paris Agreement enters into force



The historic [Paris Agreement on climate change](#) entered into force on 4 November, after the threshold was met of at least 55 countries accounting for at least 55 percent of the global greenhouse gas emissions having deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the international agreement.

The Paris Agreement aims to limit global warming well below 2 degree Celsius and as close to 1.5 degree Celsius as possible, and to

increase social and economic ability to mitigate and adapt to climate change effects. Read more about the Agreement and what it means for Africa in the [blog by UNDP Africa's Climate Change Policy Advisor Daisy Mukarakate](#).

Sweden and the Netherlands partner with UNDP Africa on development response to growth of violent extremism

The Governments of Sweden and the Netherlands have made financial contributions of USD 3.3 million and USD 800,000 respectively towards UNDP's regional initiative on preventing and responding to the growth of violent extremism in Africa through a development lens.

Launched in November 2015, the four-year USD 65.7 million project [Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach](#) aims to address and prevent the root causes of violent extremism.



At the regional level, UNDP Africa has started working with the African Union Commission to update their strategy on counter-terrorism. The project is also working with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Member States and the Government of Tanzania to develop a new prevention and counter violent extremism strategy. Work has also started on strengthening community resilience to violent extremism in Cameroon, Chad, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal. Read more [here](#).

African judges working to protect rights of people living with HIV



More than 30 judges from 14 African countries convened in Johannesburg, South Africa during 15–17 June for the third annual Regional Judges' Forum to discuss HIV and tuberculosis (TB)-related jurisprudence as part of an ongoing initiative to sensitise senior judges and uphold the rights of people living with HIV in Africa. Since the Forum's inception in 2013, the members have been advocating a human rights-focused approach in African jurisdictions and sharing the information received from the annual meetings.

Some of the Forum members were part of the High Court of Kenya that ruled as unconstitutional the criminalisation of HIV transmission in law. In Botswana, a member of the Forum was part of a ruling that entitled HIV and AIDS treatment to foreign prison inmates. Both of the rulings are being implemented. Read more about the initiative [here](#).

Training legal drafting to boost African Union treaty uptake

To ensure implementation of the various African Union (AU) Treaties, legislative drafters in governments and national policy and law-making organs must be empowered to produce clear, effective and implementable legislation and directives. However, there are very few legal and legislative drafters, posing a serious challenge as legislative drafters translate the AU legal instruments into national laws.



To address this issue, UNDP Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC) Office of the Legal Counsel organised a five-day training during 19–23 September in Arusha, Tanzania for 30 legal advisers and legislative drafters, with close to half of them women. Participants learned about new and cutting-edge models of legislative drafting, and how to apply principles of drafting legislation to the AU processes. Read more [here](#).

Empowering youth by employment – UNDP scaling up YouthConnekt programme in Africa



In 2013, Rwanda launched [YouthConnekt](#), a youth empowerment initiative. Since then, more than 13,000 young people in the country have participated in YouthConnekt debates where they have learned about work opportunities and entrepreneurship. Nearly 4,000 young Rwandans have found work through the programme.

How can that success be repeated elsewhere in Africa? That was the question that over 70 government officials and civil society youth

representatives met to discuss in Kigali, Rwanda between 27–29 September. The regional YouthConnekt planning event convened people from 14 African countries to learn how the programme could be incorporated into their national youth programmes. UNDP Africa has teamed up with the UNDP Global Innovation Facility and the Government of Denmark to scale up the programme to other African countries. Read more [here](#).

Supporting African countries to integrate the SDGs and Agenda 2063 into national plans

More than 40 participants drawn from government, academia, civil society, private sector, development partners, the African Union Commission and the United Nations convened at an expert consultation organised by UNDP Africa in Nairobi, Kenya during 9–10 November to discuss the challenges faced by countries in implementing both the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the African Union's Agenda 2063, and to identify opportunities for support.

Acknowledging the ambition and complexity of both agendas, discussions focused on how to accelerate more inclusive and sustained growth while pursuing a low-carbon and energy-efficient development pathway, how Africa's development planning systems can be strengthened to support both of the Agendas, how to address data challenges, the role of the private sector, and how to meaningfully involve



citizens in national development processes. The consultation will inform the development of a regional initiative to support countries to translate both agendas into *the future they want*.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015, UNDP Africa has been raising awareness about the SDGs and their relationship with Agenda 2063. The Nairobi consultation follows two sub-regional [workshops](#) organised by UNDP Africa

in June 2016 with representatives from ministries of Finance and Planning, President and Prime Minister Offices, other central and line ministries, and civil society organisations, in which they requested guidance on how to integrate both of the agendas in their respective countries.

UN Member States commit to address large movements of refugees and migrants

At the first [summit](#) of its kind to address the large movement of refugees and migrants, 193 Member States signed up on 19 September to the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#).

At the High-level Summit for Refugees and Migrants, Member States agreed to a set of commitments, among them protecting the human rights of all refugees and migrants regardless of status, ensuring that all refugee and migrant children receive education within few months of arrival in their territories, finding homes for all refugees identified by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees who need resettlement, and expanding the opportunities for refugees to relocate to other countries through, for example, labour mobility or education schemes.



Member States also agreed to achieve a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees by adopting a global compact on refugees in 2018.

Addressing regional conflict drivers in the Great Lakes region

70 UN officials, including Regional Directors, Resident Coordinators and representatives from UN Country Teams, met during 19–20 October in Kampala, Uganda to review and act on implementation of the [UN Great Lakes Regional Strategic Framework 2016–2017](#). It is a cross-border development plan for Africa's Great Lakes region to contribute to sustainable peace and to support stability.

Convened by the Chair of the Regional UN Development Group (R-UNDG) and UNDP



Africa Director Abdoulaye Mar Dieye, and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes region (SESG-GL) Said Djinnit, the participants discussed developing regional timber trade guidelines, supporting women and internally displaced persons (IDPs) to have access to land, harmonising policies on HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment, and determining scope to improve cross border food security.

[The Strategic Framework](#) aligns the work of the UN in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda in support of the [Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the DRC](#) and the region. The implementation of the Strategic Framework is managed by the UNDP and the World Food Programme, and coordinated by the Office of SESG-GL and R-UNDG.



The Global Goals in Africa

Building on the progress Africa made towards the Millennium Development Goals, several countries are now taking steps to integrate the SDGs into their national visions and plans. Besides the 2030 Agenda, African countries have committed to implement the African Union's Agenda 2063 which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda.

See how UNDP is supporting different countries with this process in our [new Africa SDGs webpage](#).

UNDP Africa's Regional Programme in a nutshell *en français*



What do we do in the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa? Learn about the Regional Programme from our new [French language video](#)!

Our blog series



Addressing radicalization and violent extremism through climate action

By Aliou M. Dia, Team Leader, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change, UNDP Africa

Climate change and violent extremism will be two of the major threats to the stability of states and societies in the next decades. For Africa to overcome climate and conflict threats, it is important for governments to make sure that violence and conflict prevention measures are fully integrated in climate change adaptation plans and programmes. Read the full blog [here](#).



Paris Agreement Ratification and Entry into Force: Practical Considerations for Africa

By Daisy Mukarakate, Climate Change Policy Advisor, UNDP Africa

The historic Paris Agreement on climate change entered into force on 4 November 2016. As of 25 October 2016, 16 African countries have ratified the Agreement, committing to take bold national actions to address climate change and its effects. What should the 38 African countries that have not yet ratified consider? Read the full blog [here](#).



Ready, set, innovate!

By Marc Lepage, Innovation and Knowledge Management Specialist, UNDP Africa

In Africa, innovative practices have been able to resolve several issues such as access to clean drinking water and reliable sources of energy. UNDP is setting up “innovation hubs” in several African countries that target young people. But how do we actually innovate and what does it require to create innovative practices? Read more [here](#).



Africa: To get the future we say we want, we've got to get rid of corruption

By Njoya Tikum, Regional Anti-Corruption Advisor, UNDP Africa

People in 40 out of 46 sub-Saharan Africa countries think theirs has a serious corruption problem. While there's no silver bullet to eradicate corruption, there is a combination of forces that can improve the situation. A two-pronged approach is needed - enforcement of targeted legal frameworks and policies, and restoring integrity in government institutions. Read the full blog [here](#).



Social protection renews optimism for sustainable development

By Romulo Paes de Sousa, Director of the UNDP World Centre for Sustainable Development (RIO+ Centre) and Lebogang Motlana, Director of the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa

Africa has witnessed impressive growth in social protection systems, among the most successful development experiences the world has seen lately. They are key to developing countries' efforts to fight poverty and hunger. This can be seen in the progress made in poverty reduction through the adoption and expansion of social protection schemes for example in Ethiopia and Senegal. Read the full blog [here](#).



A legacy of private sector engagement in Africa

By Tomas Sales, Special Advisor, Private Sector Unit, UNDP Africa and Pascale Bonzom, Programme Specialist, Private Sector Unit, UNDP Africa

In the last 12 years, UNDP Africa has invested into innovative programmes that produced encouraging results, incentives, and insights on how the private sector can contribute to inclusive growth through inclusive businesses and markets. The programmes have benefitted thousands of people across Africa. Read the full blog [here](#).

Upcoming events

25 November – 10 December, 2016: [16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence](#)

9 December, 2016: [International Anti-Corruption Day](#)

10 December, 2016: [Human Rights Day](#)

23–31 January, 2017: [The 28th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia](#)

4 February, 2017: [World Cancer Day](#)

6 February, 2017: [International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation](#)

11 February, 2017: [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#)

Feedback

We look forward to receiving your feedback on our newsletter. Please, send your views to comms-africa@undp.org.



Facebook



Twitter



Website