Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit: A dynamic software for aligning the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2030 and national development plans

Information Note and Frequently Asked Questions

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1.   ***Background.*** The Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT) is a software sponsored by the ECA and developed is response to the needs to the of African countries to simultaneously adopt and integrate both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 into their national development and be able to report progress in a harmonized way. With the goals, targets and indicators of the two Agendas already in-built into the software, users can visually assess the level and strength of alignment between the two Agendas at the click of a button. The in-built dashboards allow for visualization of summary information on the alignment of the two Agendas as well as country performance regarding alignment with the two agendas and progress in implementation of the national goals and targets as aligned.

2.   ***About the software.*** The software has four modules: *Alignment module* (covering the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the national plan); *Monitoring and evaluation module* (indicators, baselines, targets and current values); *Reporting* (progress on the two Agendas and national plan – both in standard published report format as well as through the use of intelligent data visualization dashboards) and the *Admin module* that allows to configure country information. Additional modules are possible and will be incorporated as the software advances and demand increases.

3.   ***Dynamism and adaptability.*** The software is dynamic and adaptable to country-specific planning frameworks, which can be at the national, sub-national and sectoral levels. Once the results framework of a country's national development has been coded in excel and uploaded into the software, the user can easily assess the alignment of the plan with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The monitoring and evaluation module allows for country data entry on the key indicators (as well as baselines, targets and current values) of the national development plans, which is a key feature for reporting progress towards the realization of national priorities as they align to the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

4.   ***Accessibility.*** The web-based Toolkit is accessible from anywhere on standalone computers as well as on networked computers and can be used offline for users with limited internet connection. It is hosted at ECA and will made available to all members States and the Regional Economic Communities through their servers.

5.   ***Ten Frequently Asked Questions.*** Based on the demonstration workshops held in Cameroon, Congo Republic, Ghana, Seychelles and Uganda, the following questions are frequently asked. And here we provide some answers.

1. ***Who is responsible for data entry?*** Member States are responsible for data entry. The results framework (excel format) is coded for ease of machine reading. ECA will provide templates for use to prepare the data for ease of coding.
2. ***How is data security managed?*** Data security is managed by having different protocols for access. The member States nominate staff at different categories who will be responsible for data entry, validation and transmission to the servers. Specific protocols for data management and security will be discussed and agreed with member States.
3. ***Who has access to which parts of the Toolkit and data?*** Publicly available data e.g. the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, the results framework of the national development plan, etc. will be available to all users. Aggregated data at regional and sub-regional levels will also be available to all users. Country level data will be available only to national officials with user passwords, and member States will decide which part of their data can be made public.
4. ***How is the alignment between the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 done?*** The alignment between the frameworks was done based on an excel mapping of the commonalities with the Goals, Targets and Indicators of the two frameworks. The alignment is already inbuilt into the Toolkit and users do not have to do anything.
5. ***How is the assessment of alignment between the Goals, Targets and Indicators of the national development plans and Agenda 2030/ Agenda 2063 done?*** This is based on value judgement by the responsible national Planning Officials. A three-level scale is applied in the current release of the toolkit as follows:
   a. ***Fully Aligned***: substance and wording of the Goal/Target/Indicator are fully aligned; almost one-to-one with the National Development Goal/Target/Indicator
   b. ***Partially Aligned***: the substance of the Goal/Target/Indicator are similar to the National Development Plans Goal/Target/Indicator, but wording is different or there is lack of data to support a full alignment rating or the goal is not a country priority, or any other reason leading where a full alignment can not be established but some level of alignment is present
   c. ***Not Aligned***: the substance and wording of the Goal/Target/Indicator are not aligned

   In the next release of the tool, a five-level scale will be applied as per the following:

   > **5 = Fully Matching:** substance and wording of the Goal/Target/ Indicator are fully aligned; almost one-to-one;
   > **4 – Partially Matching**, the substance of the Goal/Target/ Indicator are similar but wording is different;
   > **3 – Somewhat Matching**, the substance and wording of the Goal/Target/ Indicator are somewhat similar;
   > **2 – Weakly Matching**, the substance and wording of the Goal/Target/ Indicator have only slight similarity;
   > **1 – Not Matching**: the substance and wording of the Goal/Target/ Indicator are not related.

6. ***Does the Toolkit lend itself to integration of other sub-regional or sub-national development frameworks?*** Yes, the Toolkit is dynamic and lends itself to integration of sub-regional and

sub-national development frameworks, such as the development plans of the Regional Economic Communities or the National Plan of Action for the Africa Peer Review Mechanism, etc.

7. ***How different is the Toolkit from other tools?*** The Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit is different from the others in that it is automated and available online, integrates both Agenda 2063 and the Agenda 2030 Agenda and allows for progress reporting.

8. ***Who will host the Toolkit?*** The Toolkit will be hosted at ECA, with links to national servers/sites as required. ECA is currently hosting the tool in its private data center located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and will be moving the tool to the cloud at a later stage.

9. ***What kind of support will be available member States?*** ECA will provide technical support and capacity building for application of the Toolkit. Training of Trainers sessions will be conducted. Technical Support for trouble-shooting technical issues will also be provided as needed via email, remote assistance sessions and other means as may be required.

10. ***What happens after installation of the Toolkit and capacity building?*** The Toolkit is used to support reporting of progress on implementation of the Goals and Targets of the national development plan that are aligned with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. The Toolkit supports national progress reporting on the two agendas; comes handy for countries undertaking Voluntary National Reviews.

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