



**Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism - SRCM-North Africa**  
**Consultative Regional Meeting to Support the Achievement of SDGs and**  
**Strengthen Partnerships in North Africa**  
**Rabat (Morocco), 18-19 June 2019**

**Implementation of the regional SDG roadmap:  
progress, challenges and recommendations**

**Context and introduction**

The Sub-Regional Coordination Mechanism for North Africa (SRMC-North Africa) aims to promote information sharing, discuss sub-regional priorities and initiatives and strengthen collaboration between United Nations organizations, development partners and the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) so as to provide coordinated and relevant support to sub-regional priorities. It should also contribute to consolidating links between the regional, sub-regional and national levels.

More specifically, the SRCM should facilitate the planning and implementation of joint initiatives to support Member States' efforts to implement and monitor the objectives of the African Union's Agenda 2063 and Sustainable Development Goals (Agenda 2030).

The SRCM-North Africa is co-chaired by the ECA Office for North Africa and the General Secretariat of the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA). The annual consultative meeting of the SRCM-North Africa held in Rabat, Morocco, on 1-2 March 2018 resulted in the adoption of a regional roadmap (2018-2019) to support the achievement of SDGs in North Africa.

The meeting was attended by:

The Arab Maghreb Union (UMA); UN Resident Coordinators in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Mauritania; UN agencies operating at sub-regional level (FAO, UNESCO, ESCWA), UN Agencies based in Morocco (UNDP, UNIDO, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, IOM; ILO), development partners (ADB, IDB, BADEA) and regional organizations such as ISESCO, ADIMO, ICDDT and AOAD.

Based on contributions from selected partners<sup>1</sup>, this report analyses the progress achieved in implementing the roadmap and constraints encountered. It covers the joint activities carried out and outcomes delivered between April 2018 and April 2019. This consolidated report also presents recommendations for improved implementation and monitoring of the roadmap.

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<sup>1</sup> The partners contributing to the report are: UMA, ISESCO, FAO, UNDP-Morocco, UNCT-Tunisia.

## I- Progress achieved in the implementation of the regional roadmap (2018-2019)

The roadmap sets out 4 priority action areas:

1. Increase awareness and ownership of SDGs and Agenda 2063;
2. Support for the development of integrated and coherent public policies;
3. Capacity building in statistics, monitoring and reporting of SDGs;
4. South-South cooperation: enhancing learning and experience sharing among countries in the sub-region.

Two themes were selected in light of the sub-regional priorities discussed<sup>2</sup>:

- Employment (Led by ECA)
- Food security (Led by FAO).

It was agreed that the gender and youth dimensions should be mainstreamed across all the above areas.

Table 1 below summarizes the main achievements and outcomes.

**Table 1: Main achievements and outcomes**

Selected action areas	Activities carried out and outcomes achieved as of April 31, 2019
Awareness-raising and ownership of SDGs and Agenda 2063	<p><b>UNCT-Tunisia</b></p> <p>SDG Camps: 800 young women and men from various regions of Tunisia were informed about the SDGs and asked to identify challenges and solutions in their regions.</p> <p>Report published on the challenges and solutions identified by youth at the SDG Camps</p> <p><b>ECA- RCO</b></p> <p>Agenda 2063 and its links with SDGs were presented in Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania and Sudan</p>
Support for the development of integrated and coherent public policies	<p><b>UNDP-UNICEF- UNFPA- WHO (Morocco)</b></p> <p>Support provided to the MAGG for the development of tools to enhance public policy coherence and use in selected priority sectors (social protection system). The information system used to identify priority indicators was finalized in 2018.</p> <p><b>UNCT-Tunisia (Joint Program on SDGs)</b></p> <p>Alignment of the National Employment Strategy with the National Entrepreneurship Strategy and SDGs, and in particular SDG 8.</p> <p><b>UNCT-ECA (Joint Program on SDGs)</b></p> <p>MAPS mission organized in Tunisia (2018) to present the MAPS<sup>3</sup> approach which led to an analysis of the alignment of the Five-Year Development Plan with the SDGs (RIA<sup>4</sup>), an analysis of the extent of alignment of the constitution and legislative frameworks from a human rights perspective (RIA+) and an analysis of the availability and</p>

<sup>2</sup> Sub-regional priorities identified following discussions are: food security, employment, climate change, energy, peace and security, women's empowerment, urbanization and migration and innovative technologies.

<sup>3</sup> MAPS: Mainstreaming, Acceleration, policy support.

<sup>4</sup> RIA: Rapid Integrated Assessment.

	breakdown of national data relating to SDG monitoring indicators (Data Gap Analysis).
Capacity building in statistics, monitoring and reporting of SDGs	<p><b>ECA-UMA</b></p> <p>Launch of the 1<sup>st</sup> report on SDG implementation in the Maghreb (SDGs 2, 7, 9, 9, 13, 8 and 15) on the sidelines of the ICE (Tunisia, October 2018). <a href="#">Member States recommended that ECA develop a regional profile on SDGs in North Africa.</a></p> <p><b>ECA-UNDP-Mauritania</b></p> <p>Support to the preparation process of the National Voluntary Report (NVR) in Mauritania (2018-2019) led by the Ministry of Economy and Finance. This support included the development of a roadmap and methodology to guide the process; the recruitment of a team of consultants; briefing meetings with consultants, civil society, the private sector and Members of Parliament; organization of a launch workshop; review of reports; organization of a validation workshop and support for the development of key messages to be submitted to the High-Level Political Forum (HLFP).</p> <p><b>UNCT-Tunisia</b></p> <p>Support for the development of the NVR and conduct of regional workshops;</p> <p>Trainings and workshops on Big Data for development; National Statistics Strategy (to 2030): development of a roadmap for an implementation action plan</p> <p><b>ECA- UNCT-Morocco</b></p> <p>Joint UNCT project in support of the HCP for the monitoring and reporting of SDGs in Morocco (2019-2021). The main objective of the project is to support the establishment of a monitoring and reporting system on SDGs, and to provide policy makers with a framework of reference on SDGs and disaggregated data to inform policies and measures to expedite the achievement of SDGs, and to promote cooperation at the regional and international levels. The project will contribute directly to UNDAF outcome 5 2017-2021: "National and regional public policies and strategies reduce territorial and gender socio-economic inequalities".</p>
South-South cooperation: enhancing learning and experience sharing among countries in the sub-region	<p><b>ECA-UMA</b></p> <p>Organization of a sub-regional meeting on SDGs in North Africa (June 2018). The meeting recommended, inter alia, that countries: <a href="#">(i) accelerate public policy review and prioritization of SDGs, targets and indicators and (ii) initiate an approach to integrate SDGs into strategic planning at the local level</a></p> <p><b>ECA- UNDP- AfDB</b></p> <p>Annual meeting of the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (Dakar, May 2018) and (Rabat, April 2019) - follow-up on Agenda 2063 and SDGs at continental level and key messages to the HLPF</p> <p><b>UNDP- AfDB</b></p> <p>Cooperation between Senegal and Morocco, in the field of SDG localization and development of the territorial information system (2019-2020)</p>

	<p><b>UNCT-Tunisia (Joint SDG program)</b> Regional Youth Leadership Program Conference</p>
<p>Food security theme</p>	<p><b>FAO-UMA</b> Evaluation of the FAO-AU Programming Framework (2014-2017) Regional workshop on the topic: "Institutional change and governance of the agricultural sector: role of professional organizations in Maghreb countries" (Tunis, 4-5 December 2018) Regional workshop on "Support for Sustainable Land and Soil Management in North African Countries" (Tunis, 13-15 November 2018) with the aim of initiating a roadmap to speed up the implementation of sustainable land resource management in Maghreb countries in line with Agenda 2030.</p> <p><b>UMA - World Bank</b> Regional workshop on Blue Economy and Ecotourism for Sustainable Development (Tunis, 21-25 January 2019)</p> <p><b>FAO-ECA</b> National training workshop on food security monitoring under Agenda 2030 (Rabat, Dec 2018). This event enabled relevant government institutions (HCP, ONDH, MAGG, MAECI, Ministry of Health, SEDD) to learn about the concepts, methodology, survey modules and data needed to compile and analyze two indicators related to (i) the prevalence of malnutrition and (ii) the prevalence of moderate and severe experience-based food insecurity (FIES). <a href="#">This type of workshop could be conducted in the other countries of the sub-region (Rabat, Dec 2018).</a></p> <p><b>FAO-UNCT-Tunisia</b> Support to the MDCl in the formulation of a national adaptation plan for food security. This plan aims to enhance the agricultural sector's resilience and adaptation to climate change.</p> <p><b>FAO-UNCT</b> Support for the mainstreaming of SDGs in policies through 3 rapid diagnostic studies on the integration and alignment of policies and programs with SDG targets related to agriculture and food security (Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia).</p> <p><b>ISESCO-UNESCO</b> Regional symposium (Mali, Morocco, Mauritania, Tunisia, Niger, Senegal) to discuss the role of civil society in raising awareness on the impacts of climate change on food security (Rabat, October 2018); Expert meeting on disaster risk reduction and management and their impact on food security (Rabat, Nov 2018). Capacity building workshop on the impacts of tsunamis on agriculture (Rabat, Nov 2018);</p> <p><b>ISESCO-AOAD-AAID</b> The workshop highlighted the importance of an Arab strategy for agricultural sciences that promotes the use of scientific research results to support innovation, particularly in agri-food industries (Sudan, May 2018).</p>

Employment theme	<p><b>ECA- WB-IDA- AU</b></p> <p>Organization of a workshop on the strategic guidelines of the International Development Agency's Fund (IDA 2019) for employment and structural transformation</p> <p><b>ECA-ILO-UNIDO</b></p> <p>Organization of a side event on the future of employment in Africa: constructive dialogue between United Nations agencies and local partners to define an innovative strategic approach to address upcoming changes to the labor market.</p> <p><b>ECA-WB-AfDB-ILO</b></p> <p>Organization of a high-level regional dialogue on employment: "Development strategies and policies for job creation in North Africa". This event identified priority areas for intervention in the sub-region (Rabat, 24-25 April 2019).</p> <p><b>ISESCO - Arab Union for Youth and Environment</b></p> <p>Annual conference on youth unemployment and illegal migration. The conference aimed to promote programs to facilitate the contribution of young people in economic development (Egypt, September 2018).</p> <p><b>ISESCO-Arab Bureau for Education for Arab Countries</b></p> <p>Regional workshop to develop a vision for the development of vocational and technical training curricula and programs that meet the needs of the labor market (Rabat, Dec 2018).</p> <p><b>ISESCO- Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI)</b></p> <p>African Skills Forum: Developing the technological and digital skills of young people to enable them to develop innovative projects in the field of modern technologies (Tunisia, April 2018).</p>
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## II- Main constraints to the implementation of the roadmap

It should be noted that the roadmap has experienced a low level of implementation, mainly due to:

- A lack of ownership of the roadmap by partners, which has hampered the launch of joint actions;
- Failure by partners to designate focal points enabling the Secretariat to coordinate and facilitate the development of operational action plans;
- Lack of appropriate working arrangements to ensure the regular implementation and monitoring of the roadmap (limited information sharing, no work plans or timelines);
- Failure to identify human and financial resources to be dedicated to SRCM activities and integrated into partners' annual or multi-year budgets.

### **III- Recommendations**

At the next SRCM meeting to be held on June 18-19, 2019, it is proposed that partners be able to:

- Discuss the following points:
  - The recommendations of the 20th session of the RCM-Africa on improving the functioning of RCM and SRCM mechanisms within the context of United Nations and AU reform and the revised work plan of the RCM-Africa (2019-2020);
  - Integrate the UN-AU development framework for the harmonized implementation of both Agendas 2030 and 2063, adopted in January 2018 (see Recommendation of the 19th session of the RCM-Africa-2018).
- Make the necessary adjustments to the regional roadmap in light of the progress made in its implementation. These adjustments will address the above-mentioned relevant aspects as well as new possible sub-regional priorities, in particular in relation to the African Union's 7 strategic priorities;
- Define practical working arrangements for the effective implementation and monitoring of the roadmap and for enhancing collaboration. Within this framework, multi-agency working groups could be created (one working group per selected area, with a Lead institution). Each institution will have to designate a focal point and an alternate.
  - Each group will, on the basis of a pre-established template, prepare a joint action plan (2019-2020) including activities to be carried out, expected outcomes, deliverables, monitoring indicators, partners involved, resources, deadlines and links between activities and SDGs, Agenda 2063 and relevant sub-regional programs;
  - Each group will prepare a quarterly monitoring report and an annual report for submission to the SRCM Secretariat.

Discuss opportunities for pooling or linking existing resources at the level of partner projects/programs and initiatives to support thematic group activities.

### **IV- Considerations for the revision of the roadmap (2019-2020)**

#### ***A- The UN-AU Development Framework Action Plan adopted in July 2018 which includes 8 thematic areas:***

1. Advocacy and awareness raising on Agendas 2030 and 2063;
2. Consistent integration of both Agendas into planning frameworks;
3. Improved capacity for policy analysis and evaluation;
4. Enhancing data ecosystems;
5. Integrated monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems;
6. Regional integration & trade;
7. Stronger African voice and representation at the global level;
8. Integrated financing mechanisms.

**B- The African Union's strategic priorities adopted within the framework of the RCM-Africa:**

(i) regional integration and AfCFTA; (ii) silencing arms, (iii) climate change, (iv) gender and youth, (v) capacity building, (vi) burden-sharing between regional economic communities, Member States and international actors and (Vii) supporting the African Union's annual theme.

**C- Arab Maghreb Union (UMA) strategies and programs**

The UMA has two approved strategic frameworks:

- The Maghreb Agricultural Strategic Vision 2030 and its action plan 2011-2020;
- The Sub-Regional Action Program to Combat Desertification and Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change in the Maghreb (2011- 2020).

The institution is also involved in the implementation and monitoring of Agendas and continental initiatives launched by the African Union:

- Implementation and follow-up of Agenda 2063;
- Implementation of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation (June 2014).

**V- The monitoring and reporting framework**

The main elements of the monitoring and reporting framework to be discussed should include:

- Appointment of a Lead institution that will chair a multi-agency thematic working group and be in charge of preparing and following up on an action plan;
- Designation by each SRCM partner institution of a focal point and an alternate;
- Development of a joint action plan (2019-2020) in accordance with the principles of results-based management (based on the agreed format set out in the annex);
- Regular (quarterly) working group meetings to implement and monitor work plans;
- Preparation by each group of a quarterly monitoring report and an annual report to review progress. These reports will be submitted to the SRCM Secretariat.

## Annex: SRCM North Africa Consolidated Joint Action Plan (2019-2020)

Thematic Group 1: Awareness raising and ownership of SDGs and Agenda 2063							
Number of activities:							
Estimated total budget for activities:							
Objective:							
Activities	Expected outcomes	Key Deliverables	Indicators success	Means of verification	Resources	Responsibilities Lead/ participants	Links
Activity 1:	O1: O2:	P1.1: P1.2: P1.3:	I1: I2: I3:			Lead: Partner institutions:	-SDGs -Agenda 2063 - AU priorities - Sub-regional programs
Activity 2:	O1:	P1: P2: P3:	I1: I2: I3:			Lead: Partner institutions:	
Thematic group 2: Capacity building for statistics, monitoring and reporting of SDGs							
Number of activities:							
Estimated total budget for activities:							
Objective:							
Activities	Expected outcomes	Key Deliverables	Indicators success	Means of verification	Resources	Responsibilities Lead/ participants	Links
Activity 1:	O1: O2:	P1.1: P1.2: P1.3:	I1: I2: I3:			Lead: Partner institutions:	- SDGs -Agenda 2063 - AU priorities - Sub-regional programs
Activity 2:	O1:	P1: P2: P3:	I1: I2: I3:			Lead: Partner institutions:	