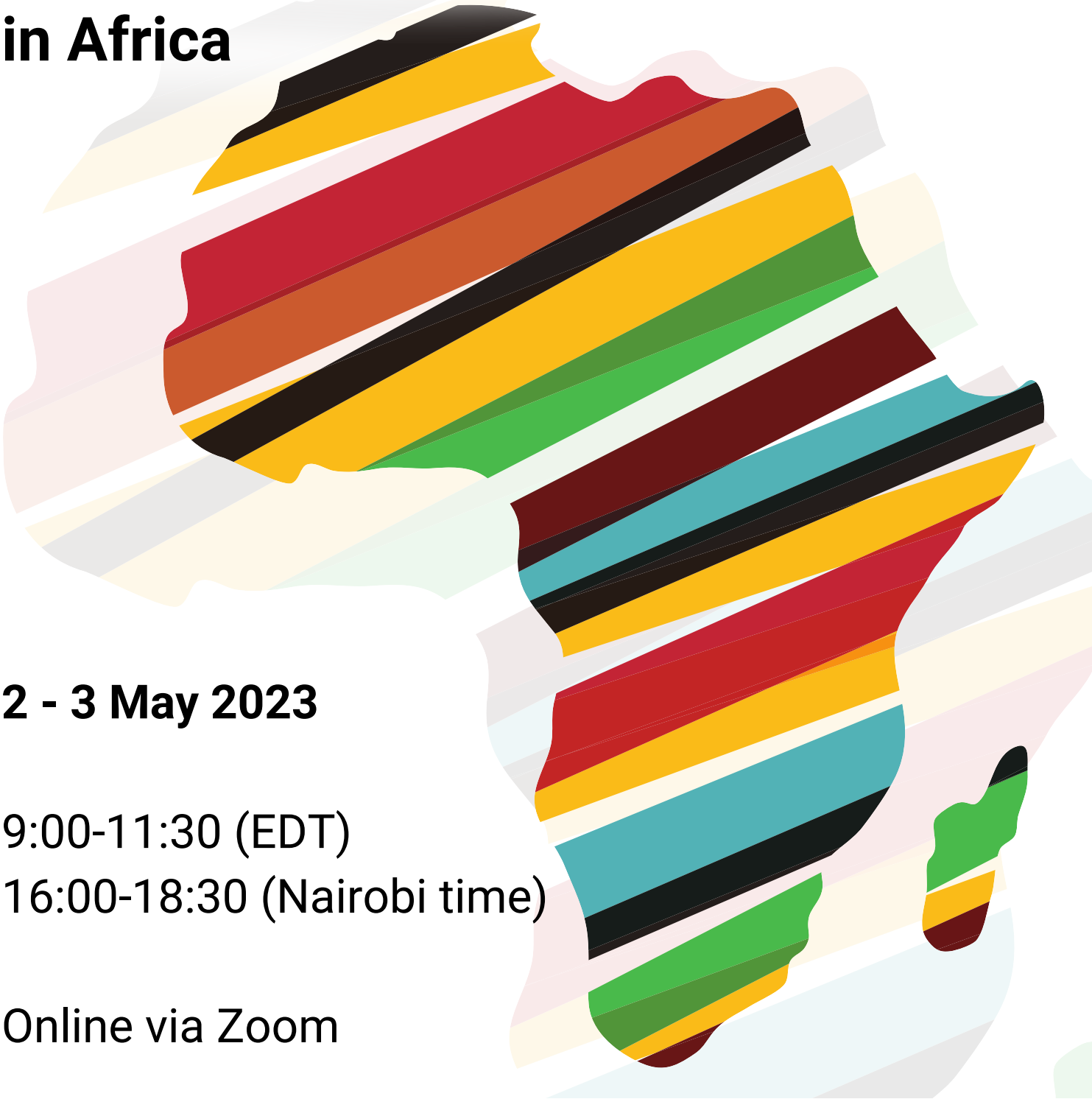
United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Regional Symposium on

Mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in the Curricula of Schools of Public Administration in Africa



2 - 3 May 2023

9:00-11:30 (EDT)
16:00-18:30 (Nairobi time)

Online via Zoom

Event Description

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), through its Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), the AfricanManagement Development Institutes' Network (AMDIN), the International Association of Schools and Institutes of Administration (IASIA), the Kenya School of Government (KSG), and the United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGAfrica)/ African Local Government Academy (ALGA) are co-organizing an online Regional Symposium on Mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals in the Curricula of Schools of Public Administration in Africa, which will be held virtually from 2 to 3 May 2023.

UN DESA/DPIDG provides secretariat support to the United Nations Programme in Public Administration (GA resolution 723 (VIII) of 23 October 1953 and ECOSOC resolution 1199 (XLII) of 24 May 1967). Through its normative and operational work, it assists countries on transformative governance and innovative public administration and services in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on the basis of an integrated approach. DPIDG has a mission to assist the Member States of the United Nations in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, including through fostering effective, efficient, transparent, accountable, inclusive, and innovative public governance, administration, and services for sustainable development.

The African Management Development Institutes' Network (AMDIN) is a network of Management Development Institutes (MDIs), Public Sector Training Institutes (PSTIs) and other Public Administration Institutions (PAIs). AMDIN is Africa's leading professional association of institutions dedicated to public sector capacity building. It has representation in five regions on the continent headed by the President, and coordinated by a Vice-President for each of the regions. AMDIN is intended as a vehicle to build the capacity of those institutions responsible for developing public sector capacity across the continent. AMDIN was established to ensure that organisations responsible for capacity development of the public sector across Africa function optimally and are able to benefit from sharing resources and collaborating with one another. The overall objective is to facilitate the optimal functioning of African MDIs, PSTIs and PAIs by advocating for a conducive policy environment, strengthening the collective capacity of MDIs through exchange of knowledge and developing relevant skills of management, faculty and other employees.

AMDIN's core membership currently comprises 20 institutions from Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone Africa.

The Kenya School of Government (KSG) is a state corporation established under an Act of Parliament (Act No.9 of 2012). KSG provides capacity development programs for the Public Service through training, research, consultancy and policy advisory services. Specifically, the School affords opportunity for development of leadership, managerial and other skills and competencies required in policy making and service delivery.

The United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-Africa) is since May 2005, the umbrella Pan-African Organization and the united voice representing Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) in Africa and a Network of 54 National and Regional Associations of LRGs and more than 16.000 cities. It's the Regional Section of UCLG in Africa. The Headquarters of UCLG-Africa is based in Rabat, Kingdom of Morocco, where it's recognized as an International Organization with Pan-African local authorities' diplomatic status. The Vision of UCLG-Africa is "Building African Unity from the Driving African Development through the Grassroots", through several pillars of action, such as advocacy, empowerment, capacity building, technical assistance, and resources and partnerships mobilization. The arm of UCLG Africa for empowerment and capacity building is the African Local Government Academy (ALGA). ALGA vision is to anchor professionalism and performance at Local and regional Levels in Africa. ALGA vision is to anchor professionalism and performance at Local and regional Levels in Africa. It's main missions are:

- An accreditation and Quality assurance of Training Institutes and Programs targeting African LRGs;
- The design and dissemination of a blended Training offer based on a diverse methodology targeting local elected officials and territorial managers;
- Upgrading and modernizing Human Resources Management at local and regional level;
- LRGs and their management through the establishment of an Observatory of Human Resources of Local Governments;
- A training mission of elected officials and executives of LRGs, to improve their

- managerial capacity and their professional practices, through several programs and colleges, including the establishment of an e-learning Platform (the e-Academy of UCLG Africa);

- A mission of animation and empowerment of UCLG-Africa Networks.

Objective

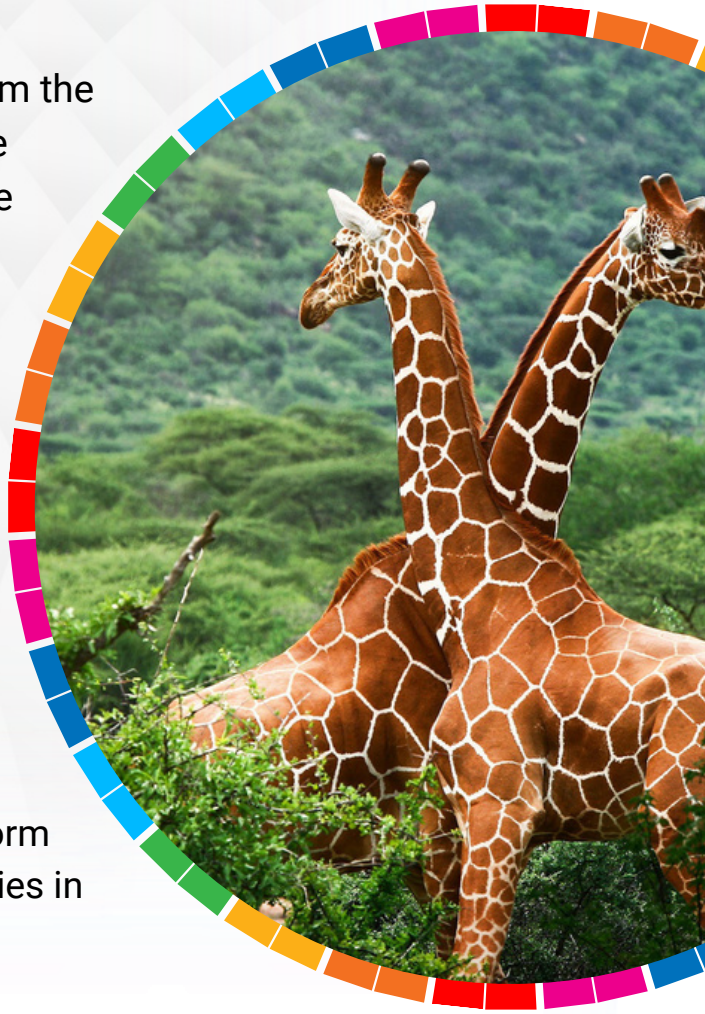
The Symposium will bring together experts from schools of public administration, and institutes of training in Africa to discuss the importance of mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into their curricula. The Symposium will also provide an opportunity to explore the challenges and successes in addressing the SDGs within the curricula of these institutions and help to identify innovative practices and lessons learned. It will create a platform for discussing ways to strengthen the capacity of African public administration schools and training institutes to effectively implement the SDGs.

Africa faces numerous sustainable development challenges that range from climate change, loss of biodiversity, food insecurity, and high levels of poverty among others. African countries have put in place strategies and implementation plans geared towards addressing some of these challenges to achieve long-term development goals as defined in the UN 2030 Agenda and Africa Union 2063. Embedding sustainable development goals in the curriculum in an interdisciplinary and holistic manner is a strategy that can enable individuals to feel that positive steps can be and are being taken to address sustainable development challenges and that everyone has a part to play in making progress. Therefore, the symposium will create an opportunity for mutual learning among schools of public administration, and institutes of training in Africa and adoption of best practices in mainstreaming the SDGs into their curricula.

Thematic Focus and Structure

The Symposium will focus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role that schools of public administration and institutes of public management can play in accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in Africa. During the first day, following an opening session, the Curriculum on Governance for Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which was developed by UN DESA/DPIDG in 2021, will be launched in the African region, following a successful online piloting of one of the Curriculum toolkits, namely the toolkit on Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions, organized by UN DESA/DPIDG and KSG in March 2021. The Curriculum is a comprehensive set of training of trainers capacity development toolkits, which contain ready-to-use training material on key governance dimensions needed to advance the implementation of the SDGs. The Curriculum can help equip public servants with the knowledge and capacities to effectively implement the SDGs. During the first day also progress made in mainstreaming the SDGs in national and sub-national courses of training institutes and schools of public administration in Africa are discussed in break-out groups following a presentation on the results from the 2023 survey on this topic will be presented.

During the second day, country experiences from the Africa region on mainstreaming the SDGs in the curricula of schools of public administration are presented. Also, the topic of how to enhance mainstreaming of the SDGs in the teachings of schools of public administration in Africa and modalities of collaboration are explored through interactive discussions.



The Symposium will feature presentations from experts and will provide an opportunity for participants to share their experiences and perspectives. It will include interactive elements, including small group discussions. Furthermore, the Symposium will provide a platform for sharing success stories from different countries in Africa.

Results

Expected results of the Symposium are the following:

- Increased awareness of progress made across Africa in mainstreaming the SDGs in the teachings of schools of public administration and institutes of public management.
- Enhanced understanding among schools of public administration in Africa of how to mainstream the principles of effective governance and the toolkits of the Curriculum of Governance for the SDGs into national institutes' courses.
- Strengthened capacity of public servants to mainstream the SDGs in their policies and strategies in the domain of the Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs.
- Enhanced capacity to mainstream the SDGs in the curricula of schools of public administration. One of the outcomes of the Symposium will be the preparation of a Guidance Note with recommendations on how to mainstream the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the national, regional, and global levels as well as Agenda 2063. This note could include reference to the content of curricula by highlighting key trainings that every curriculum should contain to address the SDGs; methodology of the trainings; and relevant reference material on the SDGs.
- Enhanced capacity to exchange knowledge among schools of public administration. One of the outcomes of the Symposium could be the establishment of a knowledge exchange network or working group among African public administration and training institutes that are committed to incorporating the SDGs into their curricula to promote knowledge sharing, capacity building, and mutual learning on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Format

The Symposium will be conducted online via Zoom. Workshop materials will be made available online at publicadministration.un.org and unpan.un.org

Target Audience and Language

Schools of public administration and national institutes of training, and regional associations from Africa. The workshop will be conducted in English.

Date and time

The Symposium will be held on 2-3 May 2023, from 9:00-11:30 New York time (EDT)/ 16:00-18.30 Nairobi time.

Contacts

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Kenya School of Government

Mr. Ludeki Chweya,
President of AMDIN, Director General & Chief Executive Officer of Kenya School of Government, Vice-President of IASIA for Africa

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Day 1 | Tuesday 2 May

Agenda

9:00 - 9:15 **Opening Session**

Moderator: Ms. Anni Haataja-Beeri, Governance and Public Administration Officer, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Opening Remarks

- Mr. Juwang Zhu, Director, DPIDG, UN DESA
- Dr. Najat Zarrouk, Director, Development Branch and African Local Government Academy, United Cities and Local Government of Africa
- Prof. Ludeki Chweya, Director General & Chief Executive Officer, Kenya School of Government (Kenya), Vice- President of IASIA for Africa

9:15 - 10:15 **Session I**

The Critical Importance of Mainstreaming the SDGs in the Curricula of Schools of Public Administration, New Mindsets and Competencies

Moderator: Anni Haataja-Beeri, Governance and Public Administration Officer, DPIDG, UN DESA

Why is mainstreaming the SDGs in the Curricula of Schools of Public Administration Critical for Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? The UN DESA Curriculum on Governance for the SDGS
Ms. Adriana Alberti, Chief, PMCDU, DPIDG, UN DESA (15 min)

Overview of the Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development
Ms. Saras Jagwanth, Inter-regional Adviser, DPIDG, UN DESA (10 min)

Progress made in implementing the SDGs, Regional perspective on why it is important to mainstream the SDGs
Dr. Bartholomew Armah, Chief of Planning and Renewal, UNECA (10 min)

Ms. Prisca Oluoch, Director Linkages and Collaboration, Kenya School of Government (10 min)

Murale (exercise) - How would you mainstream the SDGs into your courses, What topics are most needed to advance the SDGs? How would you engage your students? (10 min)

Moderator (5 min)

10:15 - 10:30 **Wellness break**

10:30 - 11:30 **Session II**

Progress made in mainstreaming the SDGs in national and sub-national courses or programmes of training institutes and schools of public administration in Africa

Moderator: Kenya School of Government

Results from the 2023 Survey on Mainstreaming the SDGs in the Curricula of Schools of Public Administration in Africa
Ms. Stefania Senese, Programme Management Officer, DPIDG, UN DESA (10 min)

Break-Out Groups (30 min)
Working Group 1 facilitated by Ms. Grace Gichuru, Kenya School of Government
Working Group 2 facilitated by Ms. Cristina Rodriguez Acosta, Interregional Advisor on Innovation and Digital Government, DPIDG, UN DESA
Working Group 3 facilitated by Ms. Stefania Senese, Programme Management Officer, DPIDG, UN DESA

Participants will break into three Working Groups to discuss the following questions:
(i) What courses, partnerships, or case studies related to the SDGs, including, the Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs or other areas, has your school of public administration developed?;
(ii) Have you developed courses or programmes on transformational leadership and changing mindsets for the SDGs?;
(iii) What new areas have you identified for your future trainings?

Each Working Group will be moderated by a facilitator and select a rapporteur who will present a summary of discussion findings in the plenary session.

Reporting back in Plenary by each Working Group (15 min)

Closing of Day 1- Moderator (5 min)

Day 2 | Wednesday 3 May

Agenda

9:00 - 10:00

Session I
Mainstreaming of the SDGS in Curricula of Schools of Public Administration in Africa: Country Experiences

Moderator: Ms. Anni Haataja-Beeri, Governance and Public Administration Officer, DPIDG, UN DESA

Experiences from African countries:
1. Namibia - Namibia institute of public administration and management (10mins)
2. Ghana - Ghana institute of management and public administration (10mins)
3. Rwanda - Rwanda management institute (10mins)
4. Kenya - Kenya School of Government (10mins)
5. Malawi (10mins)

Questions and Answers (15 min)
Poll on Mentimeter (5 min)

10:00 - 10:15 **Wellness break**

10:15 - 11:05

Session II
How to enhance mainstreaming of the SDGs in the teachings of schools of public administration in Africa and modalities of collaboration, including through Training of Trainers among the schools of public administration and institutes of training?

Moderator: Kenya School of Government

Break-Out Groups (30 min)
Working Group 1 facilitated by Ms. Grace Gichuru, Kenya School of Government

Working Group 2 facilitated by Ms. Cristina Rodriguez Acosta, Interregional Advisor on Innovation and Digital Government, DPIDG, UN DESA

Working Group 3 facilitated by Ms. Stefania Senese, Programme Management Officer, DPIDG, UN DESA

Participants will break into three Working Groups to discuss the following questions:
(i) How to enhance mainstreaming of the SDGs in the teachings and curricula of schools of public administration?:
(ii) How to nurture new mindsets for the SDGs and how to enhance modalities of collaboration? What kind of activity or support can you and/or your institution provide to advance the SDGs (expert presentations, co-teaching; sharing training material, best practices, databases etc)?;
(iii) How can peer to peer learning network among schools of PA in Africa help mainstream the SDGs? How can the network be set-up and sustained?
(iv) How to enhance modalities of collaboration, including with the UN and other regional associations and organizations?

Each Working Group will be moderated by a facilitator and select a rapporteur who will present a summary of discussion findings in the plenary session.

Reporting back in Plenary by each Working Group (15 min)

Closing of Session II - Moderator (5 min)

11:05 - 11:15 **Closing Session**

Moderator: UN DESA/DPIDG

Closing Remarks

UN DESA/DPIDG

Kenya School of Government