

**Economic Commission for Africa
Statistical Commission for Africa**

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

**Statistical programme of the Economic Commission for Africa:
statutory issues****Report on the progress made in achieving the
Sustainable Development Goals in Africa****I. Introduction**

1. In the present report, an examination is presented of the principal challenges encountered pertaining to the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa since the eighth session of the Statistical Commission for Africa, in October 2022, and of ongoing initiatives, opportunities, lessons learned and efforts made to track progress in that connection. As part of the assessment of such progress, the current status of the Sustainable Development Goals is reviewed, along with the likelihood that they will be achieved in Africa by 2030. The results outlined in the present report will serve as crucial inputs to policy interventions geared towards accelerating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal targets in Africa, notwithstanding the challenges encountered in the measurement process, in particular the availability of data. African Governments and their partners urgently need to close the resulting gaps in data on the Goals and to improve their capacity for data production and dissemination.

2. As shown by the results of the 2024 assessment of progress with the Sustainable Development Goals, for which advancements since 2015 towards achieving all 17 Goals were measured, Africa has made some progress on 12 of the Goals. Significant challenges remain, however. In particular, the continent has regressed with regard to Goals 7, 8, 12, 13 and 15: affordable and clean energy, decent work and economic growth, responsible consumption and production, climate action, and life on land, respectively.¹ To fulfil the promise of the Goals, it is crucial that African States and institutions reverse these negative trends and redouble their efforts. At the current pace, there is a real risk that the continent will not achieve any of the Goals by 2030.

3. With more than half the time allocated to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development having elapsed, it is evident that Africa is falling far short of expectations. Measurements were taken of 115 of the 169 targets under the

* E/ECA/STATCOM/9/2024/1/Rev.1

¹ Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), "SDGs", Africa United Nations Data for Development Platform. Available at <https://ecastats.uneca.org/africaundata/SDGs/SDG-progress> (accessed on 1 July 2024).



Goals; Africa is on track to achieve just 4.² In order for 80 of the targets to be achieved by 2030, meanwhile, progress will need to be accelerated. In respect of the remaining 31, the situation has actually worsened and regressions will need to be reversed if the targets are to be achieved.

4. Inequality remains one of the most significant challenges faced within African countries, which have high levels of income inequality, as measured using the Gini coefficient. Africa has, overall, stagnated in respect of Goal 10 and, at the current pace, inequality within and among countries will not be reduced by 2030. Moreover, the analysis revealed that progress towards the Goals is very uneven between the subregions, with Southern, North and West Africa performing better than the other two.

II. Main challenges in implementing indicators for monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals

5. In the *2021 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report*³ submitted to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, it is emphasized, in keeping with previous such reports, that the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires the support of national statistical systems and that the collection, processing, analysis and release of reliable, timely, available, high-quality and disaggregated data on the indicators are fundamental for evidence-based policymaking. In the synthesis report, it is recognized that States had launched a series of measures to increase data availability for policymakers and other users to facilitate the implementation, follow-up and review of the Goals.

A. Data availability

6. Many countries in Africa face difficulties in collecting reliable, timely and high-quality data. This is often due to inadequate statistical infrastructure, limited resources and a lack of comprehensive data-collection systems. Addressing these challenges is a prerequisite for improving the implementation of indicators for monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals. Strengthening national statistical systems, increasing investment in data infrastructure and fostering international cooperation will be crucial, if the challenges are to be overcome and accurate tracking and reporting of progress towards the Goals are to be ensured. Recent efforts and the commitment to the modernization of data systems are helping States to produce timely and accurate data on socioeconomic issues and to respond to the national, regional and global development agendas. The African Charter on Statistics and the Strategy for the Harmonization of Statistics in Africa are important frameworks that underpin efforts to strengthen the

² Target 2.c: “adopt measures to ensure the proper functioning of food commodity markets and their derivatives and facilitate timely access to market information, including on food reserves, in order to help limit extreme food price volatility”; target 9.c: “significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020”; target 14.5: “by 2020, conserve at least 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information”; and target 17.9: “by 2030, build on existing initiatives to develop measurements of progress on sustainable development that complement gross domestic product, and support statistical capacity-building in developing countries”.

³ United Nations publication, 2021.

capacity of national statistical systems on the continent, including in respect of statistics on such areas as agriculture, the environment, climate, digitalization, the institutional statistical environment, production processes, coordination and collaboration.

7. In 2020, only 29 African countries had national statistical laws that were aligned with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics. By January 2024, just 29 African States had conducted population and housing censuses as part of the 2020 round,⁴ in accordance with the Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, issued by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat.

8. As of March 2024, African official data in relation to at least one data point were available for between 129 and 206 of the Goal indicators, depending on the country, while they were available for at least two data points in respect of between 110 and 175 indicators. Since two data points are required in order for progress to be measured, such measurements are possible for only 115 of the 169 Goal targets. The size of the data gap varies from one country to another: for Egypt, Ghana, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, at least two data points are available for nearly 75 per cent of the indicators; for Eritrea, Libya and South Sudan, by contrast, adequate data are available for less than 50 per cent of the indicators.

9. The 2021 voluntary national reviews demonstrate how States have continued to tackle problems relating to data availability and collection. For instance, the Governments of Angola, Cabo Verde, Chad, Madagascar, the Niger and Zimbabwe each included a statistical annex in its review, while the Government of Egypt launched an online Sustainable Development Goal data-reporting platform to make the latest data available and show its progress.

B. Data disaggregation

10. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in such a way that no one is left behind requires data that are disaggregated on the basis of several categories, such as gender, age, income and geographical location. Collecting and reporting disaggregated data is challenging for many States, however, owing to technical, financial and logistical constraints.

11. In Africa, more than two thirds of the data relating to the Sustainable Development Goal indicators lack any form of disaggregation. Thus, it is clear that the continent urgently needs to bridge the gap in generating and disseminating disaggregated statistics. The availability of disaggregated data varies across the 17 Goals, with especially stark gaps for Goals 9, 11, 13 and 15, for all of which over 90 per cent of indicator-related data are not disaggregated.⁵ The case of gender-related Goal indicators in Africa is noteworthy, with gender-disaggregated data available for only 42 per cent of such indicators.

⁴ United Nations, SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database> (accessed on 3 June 2024).

⁵ United Nations, "Data availability", SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/analytics/DataAvailability> (accessed on 5 August 2024).

C. Awareness-raising and stakeholder engagement

12. If the Sustainable Development Goals are to be achieved, awareness-raising and stakeholder engagement will have to play a crucial role. Through awareness-raising, it can be ensured that every segment of society – Governments, the private sector, civil society and the general public – understands the significance of the Goals and its role in achieving them. Such collective understanding fosters a sense of shared responsibility and encourages active participation in initiatives aimed at the achievement of the Goals. Engaging stakeholders is equally important, as it brings diverse perspectives and expertise to the table, promoting collaboration and innovation. The active involvement of stakeholders in the planning, execution and monitoring of activities relating to the Goals leads to more effective and inclusive strategies that are better aligned with the needs and priorities of different communities. Moreover, stakeholder engagement helps to build trust, mobilize resources and ensure transparency and accountability, all of which are essential for sustaining long-term progress towards the Goals.

13. As set out in the *2021 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report*, many African Governments have made efforts to engage with stakeholders in relation to the Sustainable Development Goals. For instance, the Government of Egypt has developed a stakeholder engagement plan to identify crucial contributors to the process of preparing for voluntary national reviews. In Tunisia, stakeholders participated in the 17 technical commissions established to support the process of preparing for voluntary national reviews. In Chad, an interministerial technical committee has been established, which includes representatives of several sectors. In the Niger, civil society organizations, women, young people, persons with disabilities and other stakeholders have been included in a technical coordination team for the voluntary national review process. In order to ensure inclusiveness and multi-stakeholder participation in the voluntary national review process, in 2020, the Governments of Ghana, Lesotho and Sierra Leone, among other countries, invited representatives of vulnerable groups, young people, minorities, migrants and Indigenous Peoples to join the process. The Governments of Ghana and Sierra Leone consulted stakeholders when formulating the countries' medium-term development plans. In 2021, the Governments of Egypt, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe consulted representatives of all stakeholders, including all levels of the public sector, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, young people, women and the media.

14. With regard to awareness-raising, the Governments of Chad, Madagascar and Zimbabwe have all launched initiatives to provide information about the Goals. In addition, according to the report, the Government of Zimbabwe has had the Goals and related documentation translated into the country's most widely spoken national languages, but recognizes the need to increase its efforts to raise awareness about the Goals among people living in rural areas, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. In a similar vein, in an effort to disseminate information on how the 2030 Agenda is being implemented, the Government of Egypt has launched a mobile application (Sharek 2030) on which to publish project plans and involve citizens in designing and monitoring the annual sustainable development plan.

D. Limited financial and technical support

15. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic significantly hindered State mobilization of resources for pandemic response and recovery and for the

achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Governments of Angola, Cabo Verde, Chad, Namibia and Zimbabwe, among other countries, have all highlighted challenges in this area. In the *2021 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report*, the Government of Egypt noted that the pandemic had exacerbated pre-existing financing challenges, requiring the mobilization of funds to provide adequate stimulus packages and protect vulnerable segments of the population, against a backdrop of diminishing government revenues.

16. The Government of the Comoros has cited the need for help with data production, analysis and publication. The Government of Kenya has noted that limited statistical capacity and the disaggregation of data at a more granular level required large sample sizes, which had cost implications. The Government of the Niger, meanwhile, has emphasized the persistence of such constraints as weak financing of the national statistical system; the need for more statistics professionals to support the process of monitoring data related to the Sustainable Development Goals; inadequate collection of administrative data; and weak coordination and centralization of sector statistics articulated in its 2020 voluntary national review reports.

17. In addition, the Government of Benin has expressed the continued need to strengthen its statistical information system. The Government of Nigeria has highlighted challenges with the consistency of data produced by the country's national statistical office. The Government of Chad has cited insufficient funding for its statistical operations, which are highly dependent on external financing from international and multilateral sources. The Government of Egypt has reported on its implementation of several projects with the financial and technical support of development partners.

III. Main initiatives to tackle challenges

18. Statistical capacity-building in all areas, including data collection, analysis, disaggregation and dissemination, continues to be identified as critical to the monitoring and tracking processes necessary for reporting on progress with the implementation of several development agendas, including national development plans, the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union. In the *2021 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report*, as in previous years, the Governments of Chad, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Zimbabwe called for continued strengthening of the data-collection and statistical capacity of national statistical systems.

19. In the present section, analysis of the lessons learned and best practices identified is set out, along with an assessment of the most common initiatives employed to enhance monitoring of and reporting on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

A. Lessons learned and opportunities

20. Many lessons learned and opportunities arising from the challenges associated with tracking progress towards the Goals are set out in various documents and platforms. For example, country experiences and a range of the

opportunities that such experiences present are highlighted in voluntary national reviews.⁶

21. Different African States have adopted the following distinct institutional frameworks to support the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda:

(a) In the voluntary national review of Ghana the importance of effective institutional mechanisms for monitoring and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals is highlighted. The Government of Ghana has established several bodies specific to the Goals, including a ministerial committee responsible for providing strategic guidance regarding the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, a technical committee and a platform for engaging with civil society organizations;

(b) In Lesotho, the Minister of Development Planning chairs a national technical steering committee, which provides technical guidance regarding the implementation and monitoring of and reporting on the 2030 Agenda. The committee is notable for its inclusiveness, bringing together the representatives of various government bodies, international organizations, development partners, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations and trade unions;

(c) The Government of Cabo Verde has established a body governing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that includes representatives of all levels of government, civil society, the private sector and universities. With technical support from the national planning authority, it serves as the main political orientation body for efforts towards achieving the Goals.

22. To improve data availability, in most of the voluntary national reviews prepared since 2022, emphasis has been given to the central role played by the national statistical system in monitoring progress towards the Goals and to the role played by national statistical offices, which must coordinate their work with other parts of the national statistical system, including ministries, each of which must provide the data required for assessing progress towards the Goals in its own field.

23. In view of the broad scope of the Sustainable Development Goals, technology has been used to improve data collection, analysis and accessibility, including improvement of platforms for disseminating the Goal indicators. In particular, the Governments of Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe have noted the crucial role of technology in ensuring the proper monitoring of progress towards the Goals. The following are some of the lessons learned from the 2020⁷ and 2021⁸ voluntary national reviews:

(a) Increased use of non-traditional data sources, including administrative data systems, and of big data would go a long way towards closing data gaps in the monitoring of the Goals, as reported by the Governments of Kenya in 2020 and Zambia in 2021. The Government of Kenya is making use of big data to produce new and policy-relevant information and communications technology statistics;

(b) Establishment of new and mutually reinforcing institutional mechanisms for effective coordination of the Goals would facilitate the tracking of

⁶ United Nations, “Lessons learned and best practices”, High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development database. Available at <https://hlpf.un.org/lessons-learned-and-best-practices> (accessed on 1 July 2024).

⁷ The 2020 voluntary national reviews include: Benin, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Seychelles, Uganda and Zambia.

⁸ The 2021 voluntary national reviews include: Angola, Cabo Verde, Chad, Egypt, Madagascar, Namibia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Zimbabwe.

progress, as reported by the Governments of Malawi, the Niger and Uganda in 2020 and of Zimbabwe in 2021;

(c) National sustainable development frameworks should be designed that mainstream, integrate and realign the national visions and national development plans and policies with the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, as reported by the Governments of Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic and Nigeria in 2020.

24. The Government of the United Republic of Tanzania conducted awareness-raising workshops on the Sustainable Development Goals for regional secretariats and local governments, to ensure that such bodies mainstreamed the Goals into their plans and budgets. Other States used media campaigns to reach larger population groups. In Ghana, a Sustainable Development Goals media network was established. The Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia and Kenya reported, in their 2020 voluntary national reports, on lessons learned from raising awareness about the Goals.

25. Where funding for the efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals is concerned, the following steps were identified:

(a) Harnessing domestic resources and financing, which included reforms to boost the taxation capacities of States (Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Rwanda in 2020; and Chad and Zimbabwe in 2021); the strengthening of audit procedures to enhance the efficiency of tax administrations (Cameroon and Rwanda in 2020); tax compliance and enforcement measures (Sierra Leone in 2020); and the promotion of modern means of payment (Burkina Faso and Cameroon in 2020). In 2021, the Government of Chad reported the development of a national health-financing strategy;

(b) Increasing international development assistance, with the Governments of Chad, the Congo and Lesotho reporting that international partners provided the largest share of the resources that they used to fund work towards achieving the Goals. In its 2021 voluntary national report, the Government of Cabo Verde cited financing through official development assistance and concessional loans;

(c) Increasing other sources of financing, which comprise, first, the private sector (Algeria, Congo, Ghana and United Republic of Tanzania in 2020; and Madagascar and Zimbabwe in 2021); second, public-private partnerships (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Tunisia in 2020; and Angola, Egypt and Zimbabwe in 2021); third, micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises (Algeria, Cameroon, Chad and Eswatini in 2020); fourth, foreign direct investment (Algeria, Burkina Faso and Cameroon in 2020); fifth, remittances and contributions from the diaspora (Algeria, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritius, Rwanda and Sierra Leone in 2020; and Zimbabwe in 2021); and, sixth, such innovative mechanisms as blue economy financing (Cabo Verde in 2021) and the Green Economy Financing Facility of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Egypt in 2021).

B. Main initiatives

26. The chief initiatives undertaken to track the challenges associated with achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators include the following:

(a) Voluntary national reviews, first agreed on at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2016, have continued across different groups of participating States every year, thus providing a platform for continuous periodic tracking and assessment of progress with the 2030 Agenda and other development agendas, at both the national and subnational levels. By the end of 2023, 53 African States had conducted a total of 94 voluntary national reviews, with 35 of them having submitted more than one review;

(b) Drive to identify and employ non-traditional data sources, including administrative data, big data, geospatial data and non-official data, for the purpose of keeping pace with the requirements to monitor and report on progress towards the Goals and to provide more disaggregated data, guided by the principal of leaving no one behind;

(c) Organization of the annual Sustainable Development Goal Moment, held with the aims of reinforcing the continued relevance of the 2030 Agenda and of building momentum in advance of major summits and other intergovernmental meetings;

(d) Continued efforts by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, including activities relating to its workstreams for enhancing data availability and disaggregation, and the business of its three working groups, on interlinkages of Sustainable Development Goals statistics to allow for integrated analyses in the monitoring, on statistical data and metadata exchange for Sustainable Development Goal indicators and on geospatial information;

(e) Annual report on the assessment of progress towards the Goals in Africa, based on the methodology adopted from the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).⁹ In the report, measurements are provided pertaining to progress made towards achieving the Goals since 2015 and to the likelihood that all the targets will be hit by 2030. The same data sets can be visualized using the Africa United Nations Data for Development Platform snapshot and dashboard, available on the website of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

IV. Prospects for Africa: Sustainable Development Goal indicators by 2030

27. In the present section, the methodology used to track progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and related targets in Africa since 2015 is highlighted and summary results of the tracking are set out. The continent's prospects of attaining the Goals by 2030, if the current trends and pace of progress are maintained, are also presented, along with an assessment of progress towards the Goals, as measured using the related indicators.

28. The data presented in this section are based on the above-mentioned ESCAP methodology. Pursuant to the methodology, progress with the Goals is tracked using two measurements: the "current status index", with which progress since 2015 towards a specific target value is measured; and "anticipated progress", with which the gap between the predicted value of an indicator and its corresponding

⁹ ECA, "Africa Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report".

specified target value is measured, thus giving an indication of the likelihood that the target value will be achieved by 2030.

29. On the Africa United Nations Data for Development Platform, the “current status index”, is presented at the Goal level (snapshot), while the “anticipated progress” is at the target and indicator levels (dashboard and progress gap). Since the dashboard and progress-gap indices are calculated only for indicators with at least three data points and the snapshot indices for indicators with at least two data points, the two sets of results are not comparable.

30. According to the assessment methodology, in order to ensure representativeness, data for an indicator were considered sufficient if they could be aggregated over a minimum of two years (two data points) and covered at least 40 per cent of all African countries. Owing to data limitations, only 115 of the 169 targets were measured for the assessment.

A. Status of progress made by Africa in 2023

31. African progress with the Sustainable Development Goals is depicted in figure I. Some progress has been achieved on 12 of the Goals. If the continent continues on its current trajectory, however, it is at serious risk of not achieving any of the Goals by 2030.

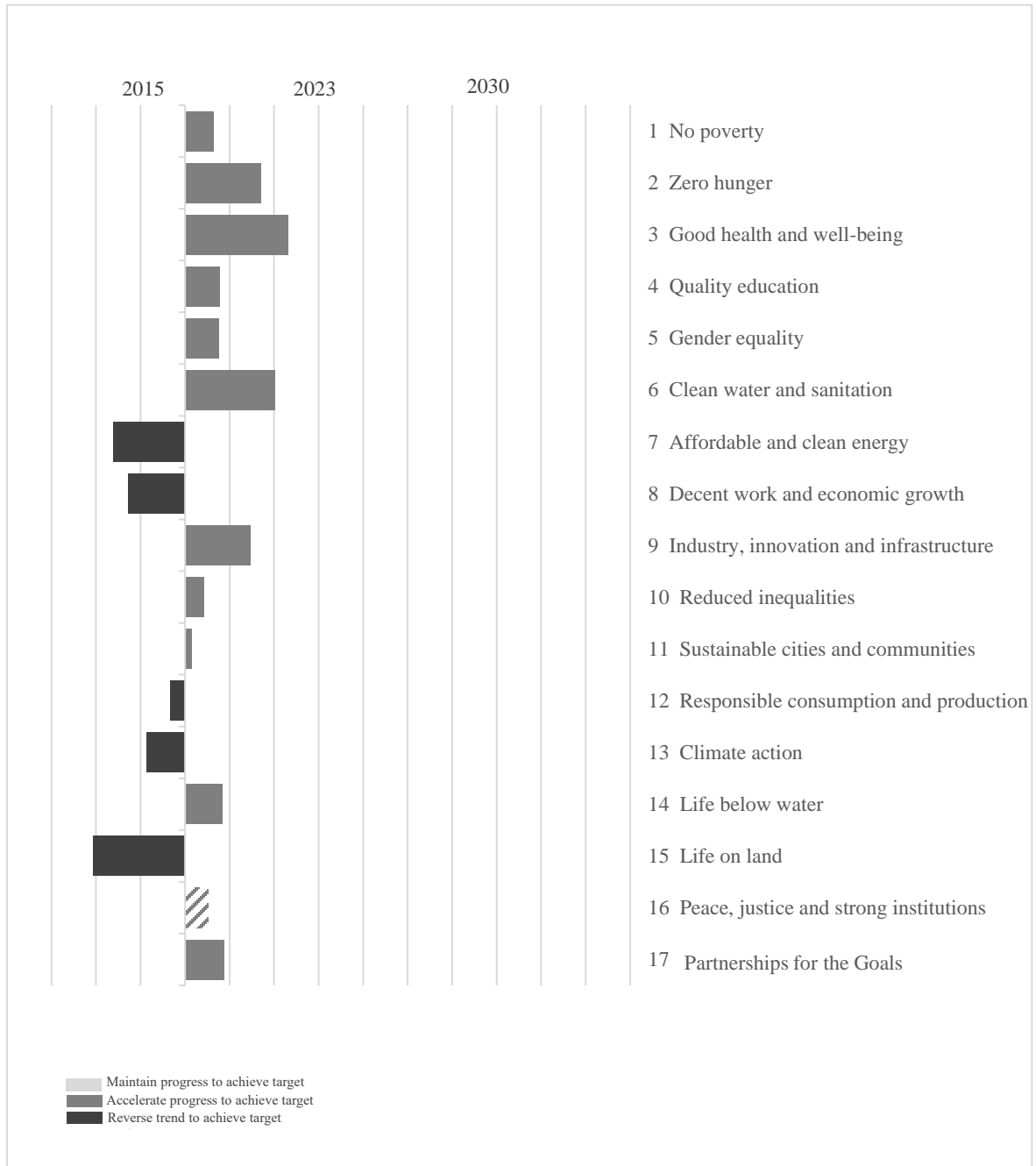
32. In comparison with the other Goals, relatively better progress has been achieved on Goals 3 and 6. The moderate progress observed on Goal 3 – ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages – is largely driven by efforts to reduce maternal and child mortality, address the health effects of pollution, implement tobacco-control measures, and support research and development in health. Nevertheless, significant challenges remain with regard to achieving universal health coverage, addressing substance abuse, reducing road-traffic accidents, and improving healthcare financing and workforce capacity. If the targets in those areas are to be met, more focused interventions and intensified efforts will be needed.

33. Progress on Goals 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16 and 17 has been slow. For instance, accelerated progress will be needed if Goal 1 – end poverty in all its forms everywhere – is to be achieved. Data from the Statistics Division show that an estimated 445 million people lived in extreme poverty in Africa in 2019. In 2022, moreover, Africa was the region with the highest prevalence of hunger, with more than twice the global average. As of August 2024, an estimated one fifth of Africans were experiencing hunger, while approximately a quarter of the continent’s inhabitants were facing severe food insecurity and some three fifths were suffering moderate or severe food insecurity. Furthermore, Africa is the region with the highest concentration of slums: 2024 data reveal that nearly half of Africans live in slums, compared with approximately a quarter of the global population.¹⁰

34. The continent is regressing in relation to Goals 7, 8, 12, 13 and 15. If these Goals are to be achieved, it is essential for African States and institutions to significantly step up their efforts, with a view to reversing these negative trends.

¹⁰ United Nations, SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database> (accessed on 2 August 2024).

Figure I
Snapshot of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa



Source: ECA, “SDGs”, Africa United Nations Data for Development Platform.
 Available at <https://ecastats.uneca.org/africaundata/SDGs/SDG-progress>
 (accessed on 1 July 2024).

B. Anticipated progress by 2030: likelihood of Africa achieving the targets by 2030

35. As shown in figure II, at the current rate of progress, Africa is on track to achieve only 4 of the 115 Sustainable Development Goal targets that have been measured (3 per cent of the total). In relation to another 80 (70 per cent), while progress is being made, accelerated progress is required. Of particular concern are the 31 targets (27 per cent) in relation to which there are signs of regression.

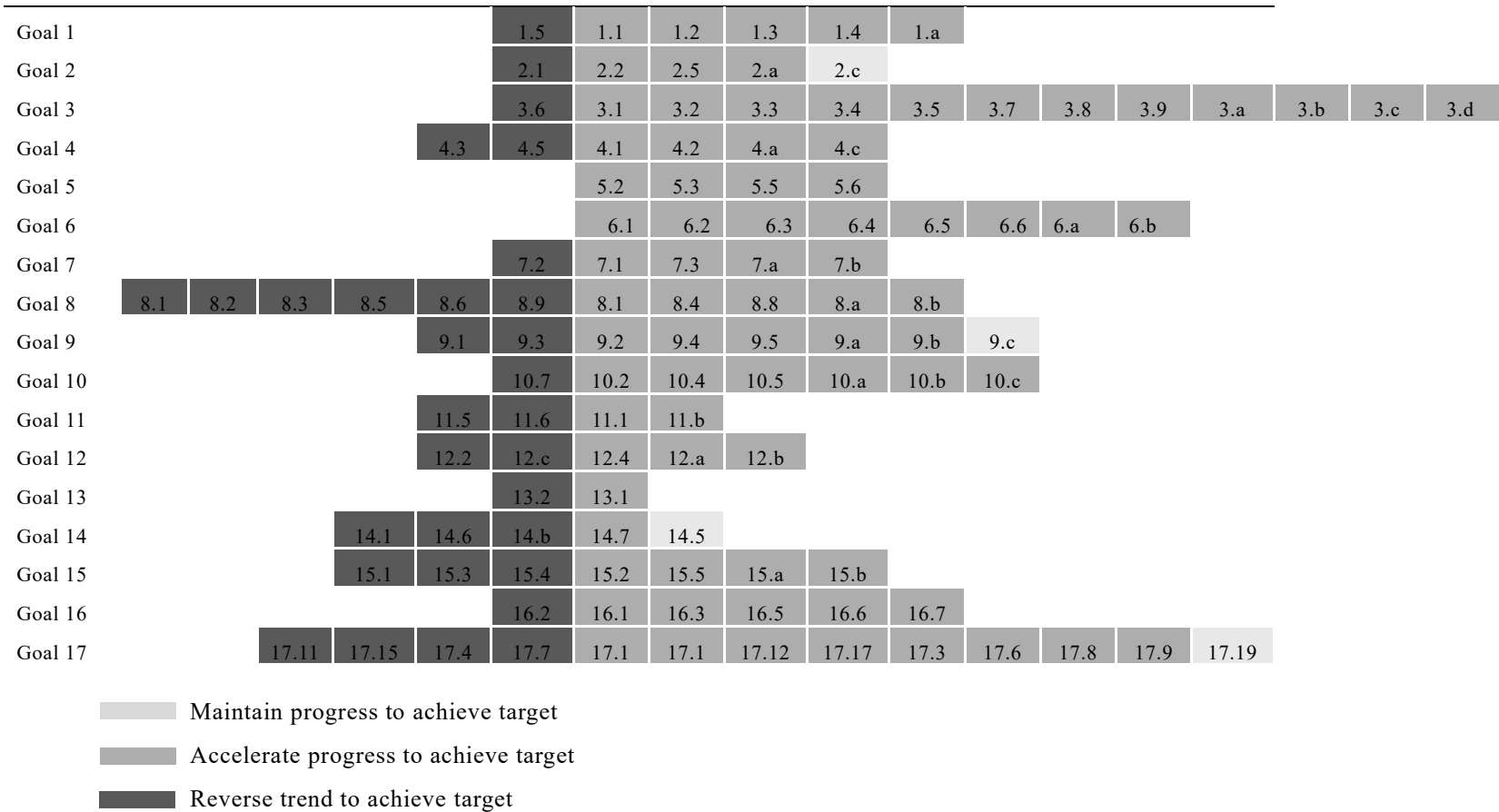
36. The four targets that Africa is likely to hit are 2.c, 9.c, 14.5 and 17.19; details of all the cited targets may be found in the annex to resolution 73/313 (A/RES/71/313). In relation to target 9.c, mobile Internet coverage in Africa has continued to grow steadily: in 2023, 85.2 per cent of North Africans and 63.3 per cent of sub-Saharan Africans had access to at least a fourth-generation mobile network.¹¹ Recognition has been given to the environmental importance of safeguarding biodiversity, with the area of the continent covered by marine key biodiversity areas having more than doubled since the mid-2000s, reaching 44.7 per cent in North Africa and 49.3 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa in 2023.¹²

37. Africa is regressing in relation to 31 targets (27 per cent of the total): 1.5, 2.1, 3.6, 4.3, 4.5, 7.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.5, 8.6, 8.9, 9.1, 9.3, 10.7, 11.5, 11.6, 12.2, 12.c, 13.2, 14.1, 14.6, 14.b, 15.1, 15.3, 15.4, 16.2, 17.4, 17.7, 17.11 and 17.15; details of all the cited targets may be found in the annex to resolution 73/313 (A/RES/71/313). Greater efforts are required towards achieving these targets by 2030, in order to reverse the current trends.

¹¹ United Nations, SDG Indicators Database. Available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/dataportal/database> (accessed on 2 August 2024).

¹² ECA, "SDGs", Africa United Nations Data for Development Platform. Available at <https://ecastats.uneca.org/africaundata/SDGs/SDG-progress> (accessed on 1 July 2024).

Figure II
Status of the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals at current rate of progress



Source: ECA, “SDGs”, Africa United Nations Data for Development Platform. Available at <https://ecastats.uneca.org/africaundata/SDGs/SDG-progress> (accessed on 1 July 2024).

C. Gaps in progress

38. In the present subsection, possible obstacles to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa are identified, in the form of gaps in progress at the indicator level. Specific indicators are identified that demonstrate progress, along with those that show where progress needs to be accelerated and those that reveal regression requiring the reversal of the trends measured at the indicator level.

39. As shown by the results of the 2024 assessment of progress with the Goals,¹³ Africa has made significant progress on only eight indicators: 2.2.2, 2.c.1, 3.3.1, 6.4.2, 9.c.1, 14.5.1, 16.6.1 and 17.19.1; details of all the cited targets may be found in the annex to resolution 73/313 (A/RES/71/313). The current pace of progress needs to be maintained if those targets are to be achieved by 2030.

40. The results show that Africa is regressing in relation to 43 indicators; details of all the cited targets may be found in the annex to resolution 73/313 (A/RES/71/313), except for indicators 2.5.2, 10.7.4 and 13.2.2, which may be found in the 2020 report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (E/CN.3/2020/2). Only through effective policy measures, taken as a matter of urgency, do African States and institutions stand any chance of reversing the current trend in relation to these indicators.

V. Conclusion

41. The present report is chiefly intended to identify and highlight the main challenges limiting the monitoring of and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals and the principal initiatives undertaken to address and mitigate such challenges in Africa, as reported in the voluntary national reviews. The report also includes a presentation of the most important results of the assessment of progress made towards the Goals in Africa since 2015, with a view to indicating how much further African States and institutions have to go.

VI. Points requiring the decision of the Statistical Commission for Africa

42. The Statistical Commission for Africa is invited:

(a) To support the overall statistical system in Africa by strengthening coordination of national statistical systems on the continent, and to ensure that policymaking in Africa is evidence-based and supported by the collection, processing, analysis and release of reliable, timely, available, high-quality and disaggregated data on the indicators;

(b) To take note of the continuing efforts made and measures taken in Africa to track the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national, subregional and regional levels;

(c) To call upon African States to continue aligning their national development plans and budgeting processes with the 2030 Agenda, with regional frameworks, such as Agenda 2063, and with international frameworks;

¹³ ECA, "SDGs", Africa United Nations Data for Development Platform. Available at <https://ecastats.uneca.org/africaundata/SDGs/SDG-progress> (accessed on 1 July 2024).

(d) To urge African States to embrace a whole-of-society approach in pursuit of the Goals that ensures the participation and engagement of all stakeholders and, in particular, relevant ministries and departments, in recognition of the interlinkages between the Goals.
