

Strengthening Good Governance & Human Rights in Africa – AGA: Footprint of Success



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DEUTSCHE ZUSAMMENARBEIT

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Introduction



Introduction

Deteriorating governance trends and violation of human rights continue to remain major development and peace and security challenges in Africa. Over the years, the African Union (AU) and its predecessor, the Organization of the African Unity (OAU), have adopted a plethora of normative and policy frameworks to promote good governance, democracy, and respect for human rights in Africa, commonly referred to as the AU Shared Values Instruments (SVIs). However, the translation of these frameworks from policy to practice has been slow, largely attributed to lack of political will, human and financial capacities, as well as weak institutions at the AU Member States level.

As such, in 2010, the AU Heads of State and Government established the African Governance Architecture (AGA) – a framework aimed at improving the implementation of AU’s commitments on democracy, good governance and human rights at all levels. The Architecture through its Platform of 19 Members – 11 AU Organs and 8 Regional Economic Communities (RECs) – is mandated to foster cooperation and synergy among its members towards an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law and envisioned under Aspiration 3 of the Agenda 2063.

About the Project

To improve the implementation of AU’s commitments specifically on good governance and human rights, the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), through the technical support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH co-created a project with selected AGA Platform Members on “Strengthening Good Governance and Human Rights in Africa-AGA” which ran from January 2020 to June 2023. It aimed at strengthening the capacities of AU Organs with mandates to promote good governance and human rights towards improved implementation of AU commitments in these fields and enhance collaboration with relevant actors and AU Member States.

The project builds up on over seven years of the BMZ support to AGA through a regional project implemented within the broader context of the AU-German Government Development Cooperation. The Support to the African Governance Architecture project was commissioned in two successive project phases – AGA I and AGA II – with the former focusing on the establishment of AGA and its structures and the latter focusing on the operationalisation of AGA Structures, including the Secretariat and its Platform.

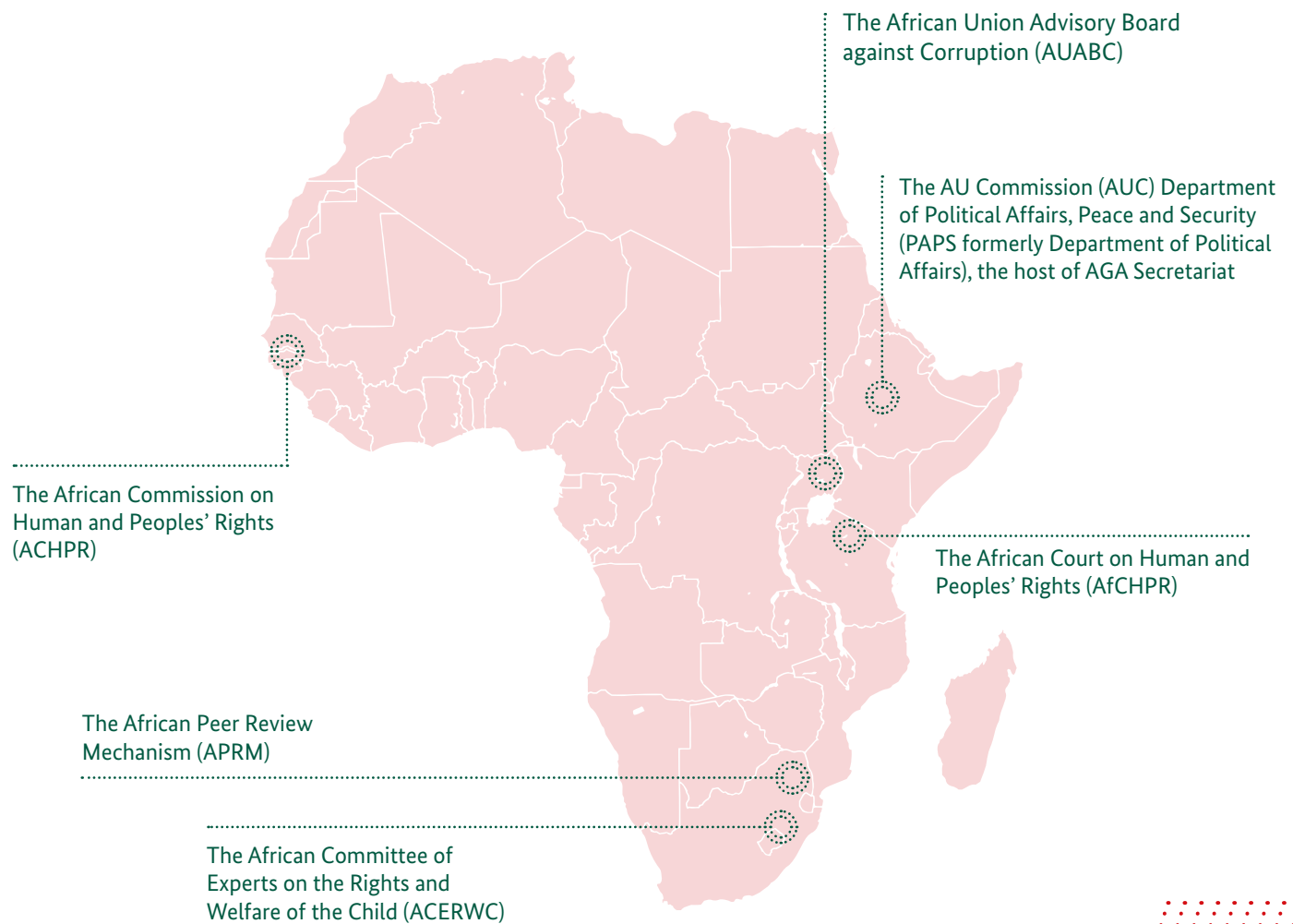


Project Sector Approach

Guided by the AU Agenda 2063 and the global Agenda 2030 on the Sustainable Development Goals, the “Strengthening Good Governance and Human Rights in Africa-AGA” project was conceived and implemented using a governance in sectors approach. The project specifically focused on 4 sectors:



Our Implementing Partners



Strategic Partnerships and Alliances

As part of the GIZ-UA AGA project approach, collaborations have been established with several non-AU partners towards enhanced promotion of good governance and stronger human rights ecosystem. Such partnerships have been established with institutions/organisations such as:



To ensure synergized approaches and facilitate closer linkages in the engagements and support to partners, the GIZ-AU AGA project nurtured and/or scaled up strategic alliances and collaborations with other BMZ commissioned GIZ-AU projects. Specifically, to expand its advisory services into include governance at sector level, the project worked with the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) project in achieving a closer link between governance and peacebuilding and by extension synergies between the AGA and APSA frameworks within the context of the ongoing AU institutional reforms. Similarly, the project collaborated with the Support to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) project to enhance stakeholder engagement into the AfCFTA processes, leveraging the Human Rights Based Approach. In this regard, special focus was given to enhancing the participation of women, youth, and human rights actors, including National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in AfCFTA processes at all levels.

Cooperation was also achieved with the GIZ-AU Citizens Engagement and Innovative Data Use for Africa's Development (Data-Cipation), which facilitated the mainstreaming of digital approaches, including digital by default, in the work of the GIZ-AU AGA project partners towards enhanced citizens engagement, focusing on women and young people. To promote implementation of the Shared Value Instruments, especially in the field of anti-corruption and human rights, at member state level, the project worked with global programmes such as Sector Programme on Anticorruption and Integrity, Global Disability Programme, Sector Programme on Human Rights, and Sector Programme on Public and Corporate Responsibility for Sustainable Supply Chains (G120).

To promote closer cooperation between the partners and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), the GIZ-AU AGA project fostered collaborations with regional projects such as Support for Peace, Security and Governance in the SADC Region. This cooperation focused on the co-creation of internal platforms for sharing experiences and best practices on topical governance and peace and security issues, dubbed "Governance Reflections". In addition, the project contributed to the strengthening of the collaborations between human rights partners like AfCHPR and RECs structures, including sub-regional courts – ECOWAS and EAC Courts of Justice, syncing the advisory services at continental and regional level.



Our Footprint of Success





Promotion of Good Governance in Africa



The project supported the implementation of African Union (AU) commitments to promote good governance across Africa, focusing specifically on the tracking of key continental governance initiatives. Emphasis was placed on enhancing governance through technical assistance and strategic partnerships with AU organs mandated to foster good governance, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC), AU Member States, and other relevant actors. These efforts sought to monitor the implementation of core governance areas outlined in Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030 and measure the efficiency of public institutions in conducting public affairs, managing resources, and safeguarding human rights free from abuse and corruption. Special attention was also directed towards boosting the participation of African citizens, particularly women and young people, in democratic governance and decision-making processes. The success of this approach has been reflected in the achievements outlined below.

40 Media Practitioners in Africa equipped with Skills to Report on Corruption



The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) provides a framework which State Parties can follow to combat corruption. Specifically, Article 12 of the Convention calls upon governments to fully engage the Civil Society and Media in the fight against corruption. Recognizing the role that Media has in educating, informing, and acting as watch dogs and whistleblowers, it is paramount that Media professionals are equipped with the right information on how they can engage State Parties to the Convention. The Media remain a practical and effective tool to foster awareness on corruption, as well as voices that demand accountability and transparency from the public and private sectors. In this regard, the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AUABC) with support from the GIZ-AU AGA project conducted a training workshop for 40 journalists and communication experts from all over the Africa.

The initiative was in part a response to the AU aspiration to rally citizen's participation in the fight against corruption and increase citizens' knowledge on the dangers of corruption on socio-economic and political transformation of Africa. It specifically focused on equipping media practitioners, including investigative journalists with knowledge on the different facets of corruption and anti-corruption activities at all levels, so that they are regularly informed on the various progress in preventing and combatting corruption across the continent.

The trained journalists and communication experts have since established and operationalized a Network of African Media Practitioners against Corruption, with members drawn from across the continent. A six-member interim committee is now in place, mandated to advance the commitment and coordination of the Network's work towards increased public's participation in the fights against corruption in Africa.



“As an African journalist, the training made me to understand and appreciate the extent to which corrupt practices have destroyed the continent’s economy, health, education, social infrastructure, security, and development. I want to appreciate the work being done by the Board and its partners like GIZ and I call upon other African journalists to support them by exposing corrupt practices for a more prosperous people and continent; only us Africans can do it with the support of others. The time to start is now!”



..... Bola Olajuwon, Assistant Editor, The Nation Newspaper, Nigeria



“The AUABC Media engagement workshop sponsored by GIZ came at the right time when the Board needed to increase its visibility, and this indeed was helpful. African media practitioners got a good opportunity to understand AUABC and see the gaps that do exist in effective media engagement in the fight against corruption, which was critical in helping us come up with possible strategies on how to address these gaps.”

..... Christopher Katuu, AUABC IT Specialist

“This workshop enhanced my understanding of the AUABC’s operations and its unique role in combating corruption. It also gave me the opportunity to network with the Board Members and Staff, which I believe will come in handy as we continually work together to fight corruption in Africa and beyond.”



..... Efe Ansah, Citi FM Ghana (now with IWatch Africa)



“The capacity building workshop for Media was very useful as we are forging ahead to expose corruption in Africa which is getting out of hand. For me it was my first time to know more and understand about AUABC responsibilities. I also believe the network we have created will provide a platform for our continued work with AUABC in the fight against corruption.”

..... Rebecca Chimjeka, investigative journalist Malawi



AUABC takes over the Secretariat of the Peer-to-Peer Alliance of Anti-Corruption Authorities

As part of its contribution to the implementation of the AU commitments on anti-corruption, specifically through institutionalisation of support to Anti-Corruption Authorities (ACAs) in Africa, the GIZ-AU AGA in collaboration with the Sector Programme on Anti-Corruption and Integrity facilitated the handover of the Secretariat of the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Alliance of ACAs. The handover took place at the P2P Alliance of ACAs Workshop that was held in Windhoek, Namibia from 26 to 29 April 2022. The Secretariat was initially hosted by the Sector Programme in Bonn, Germany and is composed of eight peers from four AU Member States - Namibia, Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania. It aims at empowering peers and strengthening their institutions through the mutual exchange of best practices and support to overcome challenges in their anti-corruption work. Over the years, the P2P Alliance of ACAs has facilitated individual empowerment, sharing of tacit knowledge on good practices, improved prevention and investigation capacities, and contributed to institutional changes in the participating ACAs.

Since taking over the Secretariat, AUABC has actively mobilised other African ACAs to join the alliance, in addition to ensuring that the alliance is more self-sufficient and sustainable. The Board has also been instrumental in identifying and facilitating ways to improve communication and knowledge management within the alliance, and in creating platforms for engagement with the senior management of the participating ACAs in order to communicate the benefits and results of the alliance. Activities of the Alliance have included benchmarking visits, providing peers with learning opportunities on how to strengthen ACAs in their respective countries, and offering a platform to share knowledge on different aspects of their work.

“The benchmarking visit to Kenya helped us to do an assessment of the backlog of anti-corruption cases in the country, which led to the establishment of the case management system that further unraveled the importance of intelligence for gathering of evidence. At a personal level, the Alliance has provided me with knowledge on other components of anti-corruption such as prevention and risk assessment, which has greatly informed by work on prosecution.”

.... **Brenda Kimbugwe, Head of Prosecutions, Uganda Inspectorate of Government**





“As a result of the benchmarking visit, I acquired knowledge which I used to contribute to the publication of the Namibia System Review Guidelines.”

..... Haviety Chizabulyo, Public Education and Corruption Prevention Officer, Anti-Corruption Authority of Namibia

AUABC and RECs Cooperation in the Fight against Corruption strengthened

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The GIZ-AU AGA project provided technical and financial support to AUABC towards the development of the AUABC and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) Engagement Strategy. The Strategy was adopted by the Board on 9th September 2021 during its 37th Ordinary session as part of its efforts to strengthen cooperation with the AU recognised RECs – Arab Maghreb Union (AMU), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CENSAD), East African Community (EAC), Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

The Strategy serves as a framework for promoting synergies and harmonizing efforts between the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the Board in combating corruption and related offences across the continent. It also presents the Board with fresh opportunities to strengthen cooperation and coordination with RECs, enhancing the anti-corruption work of Member States. The AUABC cooperation with RECs is guided by the AU Executive decision EXT/Assembly/AU/Dec.104(XI) on Institutional reform, which encourages AU Organs, including the Board, to establish an effective division of labour and collaboration between RECs, Member States, and continental organizations abiding by the principles of complementarity, subsidiarity, cooperation, and coordination.

“The Board’s Engagement Strategy with RECs has been a very helpful document, which we are currently using to guide our work with RECs anti-corruption structures, including informing our recent efforts to develop a framework for a regional anti-corruption programme which will allow RECs to implement programmes on common areas.”

..... Charity Hanene Nchimunya, Executive Secretary, AUABC



11 AU Member States capacitated to undertake inclusive Reviews of Agenda 2030 Implementation

In line with 'from policy to practice approach', the GIZ-AU AGA project supported the APRM Continental Secretariat in undertaking capacity-building measures for national institutions and stakeholders towards implementing Agendas 2063 and 2030 (SDGs) policies and programmes. National experts from 11 AU Member States - Egypt, Benin, Chad, Djibouti, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Uganda, Mauritius, Ghana, and South Africa – were trained in preparation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) through a regional workshop that took place from February 22 to 23rd, 2021. Three countries due to submit their VNRs in 2022 – Djibouti, Ghana, and Mali – made their submissions at the 2022 High Level Political Forum on sustainable development. These countries are also among the nine AU Member States that have aligned their national development plans and monitoring frameworks with both Agenda 2063 The Africa We Want and Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

2 AU Member States develop APRM National Programme of Action

To fast track the implementation of the APRM country self-assessments/reviews, the GIZ-AU AGA project supported the APRM Continental Secretariat to provide technical assistance to two AU Member States – Egypt and Niger – towards developing their first-ever National Programme of Action (NPOA). The NPOAs clearly outline the priorities and actions needed to address the governance challenges identified in the country and accelerate effective delivery of development results. It provides a guiding framework for implementing recommendations from the APRM country assessments/reviews. Since its inception, 43 AU Member States have acceded to the APRM, with 26 of them undergoing country peer reviews thus far. These reviews have generated numerous recommendations aimed at improving governance in African, with a focus on democratic and political governance, economic governance and management, socio-economic governance, and corporate governance. However, slow implementation of the recommendations has impacted APRM's efficiency and effectiveness. With the newly developed NPOAs, Egypt and Niger now have a framework that facilitates harmonization and integration of the Programme of Action with national, regional, and international development strategies, including Poverty Reduction Strategy, National Development Plan, Agenda 2063, and SDGs 2033. This ensures adequate resources for its funding.



Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Africa



The GIZ-AU AGA project supported the African Human Rights System towards improved implementation of AU commitments in the field of human rights. The support focused mainly on measures aimed at enhancing the promotion and protection of human and people's rights, including children's rights.



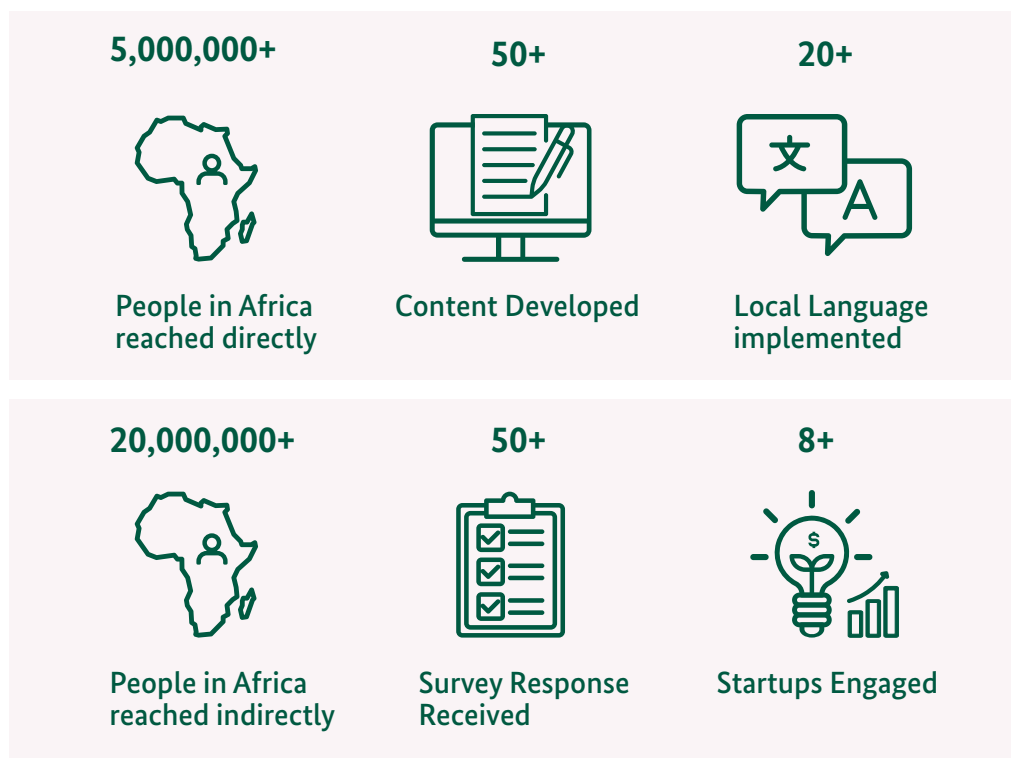
8 Startups supported to roll out innovative Mass Messaging on COVID-19

As the world transitioned into a global pandemic occasioned by COVID-19 in 2020, the AU, through the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), expressed an urgent need to put in place an effective communication strategy to ensure real-time information transmission to African citizens, as well as counter misinformation and misconceptions related to the pandemic. In response to this urgent need, the GIZ-AU AGA Project and Data-Cipation programme collaborated with Co-Creation Hub (CcHUB) to engage eight startup companies. The goal was to educate and sensitize Africa's most vulnerable populations about the pandemic and curb the spread of misinformation about the virus. The companies were offered the necessary funding and design support to propagate the reach of their projects, reinforcing our commitment to solving Africa's biggest development and social challenges. This included the promotion of the right to health for all, using design and innovation. Some of the supported projects included vetted animated COVID-19 information by Capital Power Multimedia, the production of 1,000 protective face shields by S-band, and the production of 1,000 clinical masks by The Assembly Hub.

Flare (Kenya) *“The support allowed us to train 350 ambulance team members, develop specific COVID19 content via videos and games, and developed the needed COVID19 prehospital care protocols”*

Chekit (Nigeria) *“The funds were extremely important in delivering the services as we targeted, as it helped to pay for 3rd party telecommunications value added service charges (SMS and USSD calls) and distribute airtime, at little or no cost to the users”*





Human Rights Actors capacitated to mainstream HRBA in AfCFTA Processes

Established in 2018, African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Agreement is an AU flagship project aimed at enabling the free flow of goods and services across the continent and boosting Africa’s trading position in the global market. At the core of the AfCFTA is the right to development, enshrined in Article 22 (2) of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights. A Study by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, entitled “The Continental Free Trade Area in Africa: A Human Rights Perspective”, provided an ex-ante human rights impact assessment of AfCFTA. This study established the foundation for the necessary next steps to ensure human rights-consistent outcomes during the negotiations, drafting, and implementation of AfCFTA through an inclusive, constructive, and participatory process. It demonstrated the value of a rights-based approach and the opportunity it provides for meeting the sustainable development goals and strengthening accountability of economic actors.

Building on the findings of the assessment, the GIZ AGA Project in collaboration with NANHRI and IHRDA undertook initiatives to capacitate human rights actors at all levels in Africa. These initiatives aim to mainstream a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) into AfCFTA processes. Over **40 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)** were trained through regional programs and provided with a Guiding Framework to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable AfCFTA. The Framework was officially launched during the Policy Forum held between the AU Permanent Representatives Committee and human rights actors, including NHRIs from 15 to 17 May 2023 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. To date, **five NHRIs from Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Gambia, and Togo** have been supported through technical assistance to develop national strategies for mainstreaming human rights into their respective countries' AfCFTA processes, as well as to create a platform for inclusive participation for all.

Within the framework of the cooperation between the GIZ-AU AGA project and IHRDA, over **20 Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)** were equipped with skills to advocate for the mainstreaming of human rights in AfCFTA processes through an Economic, Social and Cultural Rights perspective. This was accomplished through a workshop that was held from 19 to 20 July 2022 in Nairobi, Kenya, convened by IHRDA. Guided by the findings of a study role of HRDs in AfCFTA that was conducted by IHRDA with support from the project, the training aimed at enhancing the knowledge and capacities for HRDs to meaningfully participate in AfCFTA processes. Specifically, HRDs were educated on the opportunities for effective participation in preventing, mitigating, and addressing human rights violations in AfCFTA implementation processes. They were also provided with a Toolkit to guide their efforts towards advocacy for mainstreaming human rights in AfCFTA processes, especially on issues affecting vulnerable persons. Building on the momentum created by these interventions, HRDs have since utilised the skills they acquired to initiate awareness campaigns about the AfCFTA in their respective fields.



P2P Alliance of ACAs Workshop



“As an organization, we conducted a survey on about 50 businesspersons in our area to ascertain their preparedness for business under the agreement. We discovered that more than 3/4 of them had no knowledge of the agreement let alone its impact on human rights. Few people know of how it will benefit their businesses and Cameroon as a whole especially given the present state of the economy. We are currently educating Cameroonians on the importance of this trade agreement and its correlation to human rights especially as it is estimated to lift more than 50million persons out of poverty by 2035.”



..... Sonia Achatoh Miyanwi, Young African Defenders in Action



“As a journalist, shared the news about the need for countries in west Africa to fully commit to the AfCFTA, which was set up to allow freedom of movement of goods and people. It was also a privilege to report, through radio, on the challenges which include multiple cross-border taxes and levies of all types on traders undermining the essence of the continental agreement. I also held discussions on the lack of provisions for human rights in AfCFTA, in addition to highlighting violations of human rights that could emanate from implementation of the treaty. We continue to advocate for an AfCFTA complaint to human rights standards.”

..... Itohoimo Uduak Edet, Journalist, West Africa Democracy Radio

Implementation of Decisions by AU Human Rights Organs fast tracked

The AU Human Rights Organs – ACHPR, AfCHPR and ACERWC – are mandated, among other things, to protect human and peoples’ rights, including the rights and welfare of the child, guided by international and regional human rights norms and standards. Leveraging this mandate, continental human rights actors, such as IHRDA have over the years conducted strategic litigation, to advance clarification, respect, protection, and fulfilment of human rights by duty bearers. To IHRDA, the ultimate aim of strategic litigation before the regional human rights organs is to change laws, policies, and practices, as well as secure remedies and access to justice by the victims of human rights violations and abuses. Specifically, IHRDA represents victims of human rights violations in cases before national and regional human rights bodies and has litigated over 35 pro bono cases in more than 16 countries in Africa, including cases concerning forced evictions, unlawful deportation, and discrimination against indigenous communities. Most of these cases have been successfully litigated and decisions issued. However, there has been slow, if any, efforts towards their implementation.



Based on this context, the GIZ-AU AGA project collaborated with IHRDA to undertake a pilot measure focusing on strengthening advocacy for, and expediting the implementation of, decisions by AU human rights organs. Consequently, IHRDA conducted an analysis of the status of implementation of three decisions by ACERWC and ACHPR on the Nubian case (Communication 317/06 Nubian community in Kenya v Kenya, and Communication 002/2009 IHRDA - on behalf of children of Nubian Descent - v Kenya); AfCHPR on the Mali Family Code Case (case 046/2016- Association pour le Progrès et la Défense des Droits des Femmes Maliennes (APDF) and IHRDA v. Republic of Mali); and ACHPR on Kilwa Massacre Case (Communication 393/10 – IHRDA, Accountability in Development (RAID) and Action contre l’Impunité pour les Droits Humains versus Democratic Republic of the Congo), declaring DRC responsible for the 2004 massacre of over 70 people in Kilwa, in the southeast of the country.

The analyses were followed by public national dialogues in the three countries – Kenya, Mali, and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The national dialogues, an innovative platform jointly created by GIZ-AU AGA project and IHRDA, advocated for improved implementation of decisions and/or judgements by the AU Human Rights Organs. They brought together representatives of relevant Government institutions, NHRIs, members of affected communities, civil society organisations, and the media. Stakeholders were equipped with knowledge and encouraged to craft strategies for improved coordination towards the implementation of these decisions. During these dialogues, stakeholders engaged in constructive exchanges and jointly developed roadmaps towards the full implementation of the decisions. Over 80 national stakeholders participated in the dialogues across three countries, resulting in the development of roadmaps for the implementation of the decisions by the respective countries. Given the convivial atmosphere of the deliberations and the clear roadmaps that were generated, the dialogues provided a platform for victims, the State, treaty monitoring mechanisms and civil society to collectively evaluate the progress of implementation of the decisions and further explore the tenacity of legal advocacy work through strategic litigation and enhancing state accountability.

“The DRC national dialogue could not have come at a better time for victims of the Kilwa Massacre. The ACHPR’s decision issued over 6 years ago – one with the highest reparation recommended – was proving to be an illusory victory. The DRC stakeholders are commended for their willingness and in the spirit of reconciliation and justice to implement the ACHPR decision. IHRDA is confident that the road map that was agreed upon will ensure the victims are duly compensated in good time.”



..... Edmund Foley, IHRDA Interim Head

“As a child advocate for children’s rights, I got an opportunity to attend the Kenya National Public Dialogue on the decisions on the Nubian Cases in Nairobi in July 2022 convened by IHRDA and GIZ-AU Project. I got to learn more about what the government has done in this regard and what different people and organisations are doing to hold the government accountable. I also got a chance to point out the challenges we still experience as Nubian children when it comes to accessing and enjoying our rights as determined by the African Children’s Committee. I also gave recommendations on behalf of the children on what we feel must be done. I have since used my position at the Kenya Children Assembly to share the outcomes of the dialogue with the 110 Assembly members.”



..... Fardossa Abdulrahman (12yrs old), Sergeant at Arms-Kenya Children Assembly Nairobi County and Trained Child Journalist at Mtoto News, Kenya



“Education and awareness are the most powerful tools in eradicating child marriages. By spreading knowledge and fostering understanding, we can empower communities to reject this harmful practice and create a future where every child can thrive and fulfil their potential by fully implementing the Mali Family Code. As key stakeholders responsible for supporting the Mali government to comply with international and regional human rights obligations, we are privileged to have been convened by IHRDA with support from GIZ to develop a roadmap towards the full implementation of the Mali Family Code decisions.”

..... Thiam Tiernon Hady, Imam of the High Islamic Council and Member of the National Human Rights Commission

African Human Rights Eco-System strengthened

As part of the efforts to make AU Human Rights Organs more efficient and effective, the GIZ-AU Project supported measures that strengthened the cooperation and collaboration between the organs and other human rights actors.

NANHRI Collaboration with ACERWC

The project facilitated cooperation between NANHRI and ACERWC towards the popularisation of the ACERWC Affiliate Status Guidelines. As a result, 18 NHRIs have so far been granted affiliate status with ACERWC. This status entitles NHRIs to participate in sessions of the Committee including by presenting statements on the human rights situation of children in their respective countries, propose agenda items, provide expert advice or briefings, and submit alternative or shadow reports. It also allows NHRIs have standing to directly work with the Committee in the discharge of any aspect of its mandate.

SN	NHRI granted affiliate status
1	Benin Human Rights Commission
2	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC)
3	Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone
4	Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (Conditional Grant)
5	Malawi Human Rights Commission
6	National Commission for Human Rights of Burkina Faso
7	National Commission for Human Rights of Mali (Conditional Grant)
8	National Commission for Human Rights of Mauritania
9	National Commission for Human Rights of Niger
10	National Commission for Human Rights of Nigeria
11	National Commission for Human Rights of Rwanda
12	National Commission for Human Rights of Togo
13	National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms of Cameroon (NCHRF)
14	National Human Rights Commission of The Gambia
15	South African Human Rights Commission
16	Zambia Human Rights Commission
17	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (Conditional Grant)

CHR collaboration with ACHPR

The GIZ-AU Project also strengthened collaboration between academic/research institutions and AU Human Rights Organs. In particular, it fostered a collaboration between the Centre for Human Rights (CHR) at the University of Pretoria and ACHPR. The CHR was supported to deploy four human rights researchers to the Commission which boosted the Commission's human rights research capacity, thereby enhancing its promotion work. The researchers also enhanced the ACHPR's complaints management capacity, leading to the conclusion of over 50 communications within a year. The researchers also assisted the ACHPR special mechanisms in the execution of their mandates. This collaboration established a new model for the deployment of CHR human rights fellows/researchers to ACHPR. It is now possible to deploy these experts for over a year, extending the previously institutionalised six-months period. Moreover, this partnership has increased the number of young human rights experts with experience working with the ACHPR, thereby improving their employability in the African Human Rights System.

My Story as a Senior Legal Researcher deployed to ACHPR by CHR



My name is **Dr Chairman Okoloise**. As a human rights expert, one of the most striking impacts of my deployment at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights has been the unique opportunity to offer professional legal support to the Legal Unit. Through my work, I have been able to address complex allegations of human rights violations and provide practical solutions to real-life problems on the continent. In the process, I have gained tremendous skills in conducting advanced legal research, drafting decisions and undertaking complex legal analysis. I have also acquired in-depth experience and understanding of the adjudicatory and deliberative processes of the Commission. It has been, for me, a rare privilege to learn, in a practical way, how to effectively plan and execute human rights promotion/field missions, communicate effectively and diplomatically, organize continental meetings, and engage with AU member states' delegations, civil society actors, academics, indigenous groups, local communities, and human rights defenders on the ground.

Regarding the realization of the mandate of ACHPR, my deployment has had the added value of strengthening the human resource capacity of the Commission's Secretariat at a professional level. I currently conduct human rights research, draft decisions and legal opinions, and support two special mechanism of the Commission: the Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities and Minorities in Africa and the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of People Living with HIV and Those at Risk, Vulnerable to and Affected by HIV. In the course of my service, I have contributed to the substantial reduction in the backlog of Communications before the Commission. I have also contributed to the faster adjudication of cases, the increased monitoring of the situation of human rights in Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Sierra Leone and the Gambia, and the effective implementation of the thematic programmes of the special mechanisms.

..... Dr Chairman Okoloise, Senior Legal Researcher

To enhance ACERWC’s capacity to deliver on its mandate, the GIZ-AU AGA project through collaborations with IHRDA supported to deploy seven child rights experts to the Committee Secretariat. This followed the relocation of ACERWC Secretariat from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia to Maseru, Lesotho, ACERWC, which left the Secretariat with very limited human resource capacity to effectively execute its mandate effectively. The deployed experts played a crucial role were instrumental in the operationalising of the newly established Working Groups, an integral part of the ACERWC Special Mechanisms. These Working Groups were established during its the 35th Ordinary Session, which was held virtually from 31 August to 08 September 2020. They, the Working Groups are mandated to address specific thematic challenges in some specific thematic areas such as issues related to– children with disabilities, climate change, children and business, and implementation of decisions – and to facilitate a sustainable and systematic approach to addressing these challenges sustainably. They operate are anchored on the principles and norms of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and the aspirations of Africa’s Agenda for Children 2040. The Working Groups on the rights of are composed of members of the ACERWC and external experts, except for the Working Group on Implementation of Decisions which is only composed of Members of the Committee.

ACERWC has over the years worked with IHRDA as a strategic partner, especially in the area of litigation of children’s rights issues before the Committee. The Experts that were deployed by IHRDA to ACERWC, greatly enhanced the work of the Committee and demonstrated how the Institute can be leveraged as a substantive partner in other areas beyond litigation. The relationship built and trust cultivated between the Committee and IHRDA within the context of the GIZ-AU AGA Project will ensure continuity of the cooperation towards an Africa Fit for Children even beyond this project.



..... Ayalew Getachew, Senior Child Protection Officer, ACERWC



APRM-PSC Joint Retreat

“IHRDA’s collaboration with GIZ has broken new grounds for the organisation. As a pacesetter in strategic litigation and legal advocacy within the African human rights system, but also a learning organisation, IHRDA strengthened its legal advocacy with the opportunity offered by the support from and collaboration with GIZ to urge States to improve implementation of decisions of the African human rights mechanisms. The innovative Implementation Hearings commenced under this project were not only novel, but also paved the way for a constructive dialogue between State institutions, victims of human rights violations and civil society at the national level. This has brought a renewed impetus to mutual partnership to ensure victims receive justice. The collaboration has also spawned a new thematic area for IHRDA – business and human rights – through activities on mainstreaming human rights into the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Treaty. From undertaking the study and developing the toolkit for human rights defenders on mainstreaming human rights into AfCFTA processes, IHRDA has now added the AfCFTA and human rights to its thematic focus areas in the new Strategic and Operational Plan 2023 – 2027, to be approved by its Board of Directors. Further, IHRDA and GIZ collaborated under this Project to augment the human resource capacity and skill set of the ACERWC Secretariat by seconding six Technical Experts to the ACERWC’s thematic Working Groups. The Officer-in-Charge of the Secretariat attests to the immense contribution that the Experts have made to the work of the ACERWC, having produced as she put it, ‘two years’ work in five months.’ IHRDA could not be happier to be part of such a success story which fulfils its institutional mission of strengthening the mandate of African regional human rights mechanisms.”



..... Edmund Amarkwei Foley, Interim Head of the Institute for Human Rights and Development in Africa



Inaugural Children Summit Convened

The AGA project supported the inaugural Africa Children Summit that was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 10 to 12 April 2023. The Summit is the first ever child led convening in Africa and is planned as an annual event, to be held in rotation across different African countries. The Summit provided a platform for children to be seen, heard, and engaged on matters affecting them. It was attended by over 200 in-person and 700 virtual child participants drawn from all over Africa. Seven thematic areas and aspirations in Agenda 2040, namely Child Participation, Health, Education, Media and Technology, Access to Justice, Violence Against Children, and Children’s Environmental Rights (Climate Action), were discussed. The children developed a Communique/Outcome statement with policy recommendations which was disseminated to various regional bodies, governments, and CSOs. Country chapters were formed to disseminate and monitor the implementation of these resolutions. A major outcome was the proposed establishment of a Shadow Africa Children’s Committee, comprised of children. This committee will work with the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) to ensure that children’s voices and views are included in the work of the Committee. There was also a proposal for the creation of the African Children Voices Report, an annual report compiling what children said before, during, and after the summit.



AUABC Board session



Nexus between Governance and Economic Development

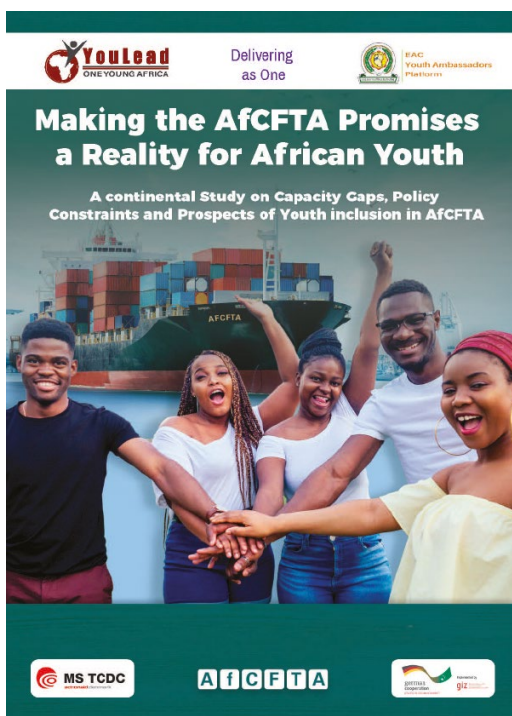
The GIZ-AU AGA project supported the inclusion of young people and women in the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The project aimed to empower youth and women, improve market access, competitiveness, and regional integration, ultimately fostering inclusive governance and economic development in Africa.



Platform for Youth Inclusion in AfCFTA Processes created

The youth population in Africa remains the largest in the world, with estimates showing that almost 60 per cent of Africa’s population is under 25 years. To harness this demographic dividend, the AfCFTA aims in part to create, among other things, opportunities for youth employment and economic development in Africa. However, there are currently no institutionalized avenues for meaningful inclusion of young people in AfCFTA processes.

To address this, the GIZ-AU AGA Project and AfCFTA Programme collaborated with MS-TCDC to implement the “AfCFTA Youth Inclusion Accelerator Project”. The project was designed to mobilize and amplify young voices between 18 and 35 and enhance their ability to participate effectively in the popularization and implementation of AfCFTA. The project initiatives included a youth-led continental scoping study, essay and debate competitions, 12 youth-focused events, two continental bootcamps for youth and policymakers on the AfCFTA, and an Afro-Europe Trade Facilitation forum. These efforts directly reached over **50,000 young people** across Africa and beyond and generated over **2,000,000 impressions** on social media platforms through the hashtag #AfCFTAYouthInclusion. The project also nurtured the formation of the Independent Continental Youth Advisory Council on the African Continental Free Trade Area (ICOYACA). The Council continues to lead interventions aimed at mainstreaming youth’s views into AfCFTA processes at the continental and national levels and so far, there are 44 ICOYACA chapters in 44 countries of Africa.



[↓ The study](#)



“The outcomes of AfCFTA Youth Inclusion Accelerator Project have positioned MS TCDC/YouLead as one of the reputable youth organisations on AfCFTA in Africa and leveraging our wide youth network we played a crucial role in infusing youth voices in the drafting of the AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in trade. The Protocol is expected to address the specific constraints and barriers women and youth face when trading on the continent, creating an environment that allows women and youth to utilise the AfCFTA by accessing wider markets, improving their competitiveness, and participating in regional value chains.”



..... Ivan Atuyambe, YouLead Africa Director



“The Youlead Bootcamp on AfCFTA helped me to strengthen my skills on this topic, and my country has since appointed me as representative in the women and youth in Trade Protocol negotiation committee.”

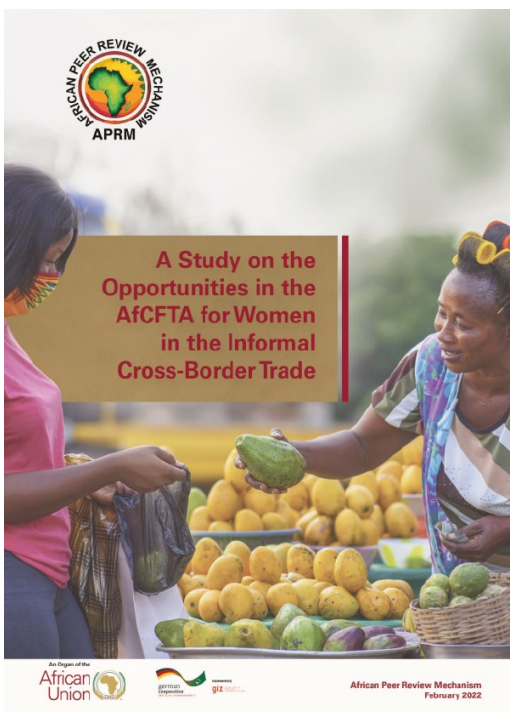
..... Tamarah Moutotekema Boussamba, Entrepreneur, Women and Youth in Trade Committee Member, Gabon

Knowledge on Opportunities in AfCFTA for Women in Informal Cross-Border Trade curated

As part of GIZ-AU AGA project and AfCFTA programme’s contribution to inclusivity, a collaboration was established with APRM to undertake a study on the opportunities in AfCFTA for women in the informal cross-border trade. The study identified challenges faced by women in informal cross border trade, the opportunities presented by AfCFTA for these women, and outlined policy actions and practical recommendations aimed at enhancing regional and continental integration frameworks from a gender perspective.

The findings of the study greatly informed the development of the AfCFTA Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade, integrating the voices of women in informal cross-border trade into the Protocol. The study report has received over

40,000 views and reads on the APRM online platforms and continues to serve as one of the leading reference materials for consultation on gender related engagement in AfCFTA implementation across the continent. More than ten women-based civil society organizations have used the findings from the report to develop advocacy materials and tools for engaging policy makers on the need for women’s access to opportunities in the AfCFTA implementation process. Women’s associations from the Democratic Republic of Congo’s (DRC) informal cross border trade association (ICBT), Malawi’s ICBT Association, Zambia’s ICBT Association, Zimbabwe’s ICBT Association, and the Benin women ICBT Association, amongst others, contributed and benefited from the study. The findings were validated in collaboration with GIZ-AfCFTA project during the Arusha Symposium, hosted by the Pan African Centre for Policy Studies (PACPS) from 8-10 November in Zanzibar, Tanzania. The symposium’s theme was “Women in intra-Africa trade: overcoming organizational challenges for a successful implementation of AfCFTA”. The event drew over seventy stakeholders from members of the Civil Society Organizations, AU organs and entities, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Member States representatives, Associations that represent informal cross-border traders, AfCFTA Secretariat Officials and APRM community members. The symposium endorsed the report findings, enhancing stakeholders’ understanding of the opportunities that AfCFTA presents for women in informal cross-border trade. Stakeholders committed to implementation the study’s recommendations beyond merely using the findings to developing the AfCFTA protocol on Women and Youth.



[↓ The study](#)





Nexus between Governance and Peace and Security

One of the main aims of the GIZ-AU AGA project was to promote and strengthen good governance, peace, and security on the African continent. Through various initiatives, collaborations, and research studies, the project sought to enhance youth participation in transitional justice, address unconstitutional changes of governments, and understand the impact of COVID-19 on conflict drivers and vulnerabilities. The ultimate goal was to foster inclusive governance, uphold the rule of law, respect human rights, and contribute to the peaceful and stable development of African nations.

African Youth Ambassadors for Transitional Justice appointed

The GIZ-AGA, in collaboration with GIZ-APSA, supported the Department of Political Affairs and Peace & Security (PAPS) of the African Union Commission in organizing the second batch of training for over forty young Africans on Transitional Justice. The trainees were taught about the conceptualization and implementation of transitional justice mechanisms in AU Member States. This exciting opportunity, labeled the African Youth for Transitional Justice (AY4TJ) Training, was co-organized by PAPS, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI), and the GIZ office. It took place on November 23-24, 2021, in Nairobi, Kenya, with participants from across the continent.

The training's aim was to enhance the understanding of transitional justice among African youth, increase the number of TJ experts, establish a Youth Platform for TJ, strengthen youth participation in ongoing TJ programs in AU Member States, and operationalize the African Union's Youth for Transitional Justice initiative. Covered topics included the definition, principles, and goals of the African Union Transitional Justice Policy (AUTJP), cross-cutting issues in TJ processes, and the roles of stakeholders in implementing the AUTJP programs.

Despite Covid-19 and travel-related challenges, the event was successful, encouraging youth participation in post-conflict reconstruction and peace processes within their communities. All 45 trainees were inducted into the African Youth for Transitional Justice Platform. Future recommendations include extending the training period to three days, organizing similar events at sub-regional and country levels, allocating more resources for youth development, and planning a large physical retreat for all past participants.

“As someone new to the concept of transitional justice, I found the session rich and informative. Therefore, after attending the session in Nairobi, I felt the need to organise a virtual session for other youth who were not privileged to attend the session as I did. From the feedback of the youth who attended the virtual session, there is a demand for more information about transitional justice capacity building. I would therefore encourage the continuous implementation of training for the youth”.

.....Chimwemwe Manyozo



The African Union (AU) General Assembly endorsed the African Governance Report (AGR) 2023

The African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) was mandated by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government (Assembly) to develop report on the state of governance in Africa in collaboration with the African Governance Architecture (AGA). Following the ongoing continental concern on incessant changes of government in some parts of Africa, the AU further mandated APRM to refocus the theme of the Africa Governance Report 2023 (AGR 2023) to be on unconstitutional changes of governments. To fulfil this mandate, the GIZ-AGA and GIZ-APSA projects provided substantial support to APRM, enabling it to execute the mandate to produce the AGR 2023. The support included the commissioning of African experts by the GIZ to develop thematic analysis on the integrity of democratic constitutional order and state legitimacy, diversity management and human rights, economic governance and public sector accountability, and popular uprisings, mass protests and military interventions. The outcome of these thematic analyses, among other information, greatly informed the content of the final AGR 2023 which was presented to the Assembly during the 36th Ordinary Session, 18/19 February 2023. One of the high points of the 36th Assembly Decision was the satisfactory endorsement of the AGR-2023 by the AU Assembly of all 55 heads of states and government in Africa.

The 36th Assembly expressed appreciation of the Africa Governance Report 2023 (AGR-2023) which focused on unconstitutional changes of governments. The Assembly commended the AU and APRM structures, AGA Platform Members, and Member States who participated in the targeted reviews on unconstitutional changes of governments, as part of the development of the AGR 2023. It also expressed appreciation to the African experts for their commendable work in developing the AGR 2023. Thus, the Assembly endorsed the AGR-2023, acknowledging the observations and recommendations of Member States, and urged all AU Member States to implement the recommendations contained in the Report. The aim of this action was to enhance good governance, rule of law, respect for human rights, and to encourage the sharing of best practices at both country and continental levels.



“The unique value of the AGR 2023 in illuminating the causes, catalysts and triggers of unconstitutional change of governments derives from the unique approach that was used to obtain perspectives from different actors. The use of APRM targeted reviews in affected countries ensured that the findings are legitimate and owned thereby enhancing the commitment to address the issues. The support from GIZ-AU AGA project towards the development of the AGR 2023 was very instrumental in curating.”



..... Eddy Maloka, CEO APRM

GIZ-AGA Partnership with Peace and Security Research Institutions and Think-Tanks improved

The track record of GIZ in supporting knowledge-driven agencies has been commended by partners, one of which includes the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD). This think tank group appreciates the overwhelming support received from GIZ and the partners such as the APRM. Noteworthy is the initiative to address issues raised by various research findings indicating that threats to peace and security in Africa during the pandemic, and in a post-COVID 19 context, are likely to escalate. In response, GIZ-AGA in collaboration with the APRM commissioned ACCORD to conduct five regional studies on the impact of COVID-19 on the Drivers of Conflicts and Structural Vulnerabilities in Africa. The studies revealed diverse perspectives from all five AU regions (North, West, Central, East, South) and presented, among other findings, the emerging drivers of conflict and its dynamics as amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic. The highlights of the outcomes and recommendations were further presented at the maiden joint retreat of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) and APRM, and were subsequently endorsed as a valuable reference document that Member States should adopt, and from which to develop implementation plans for the policy actions recommended by the study. It is also important to note that ACCORD has been one of the key partners and co-conveners of the maiden and second joint annual PSC and APRM retreat. This collaboration contributed to the successes and resolutions that emerged from the retreats.

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