

---

**Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International  
Standards of Accounting and Reporting  
(ISAR)**

**UNCTAD-ISAR Workshop**  
**Regional partnerships as a blueprint for maximising impact  
on strengthening national sustainability reporting practice and  
infrastructure**  
Monday, 31 October 2022

Presented by

Jutheau Toussé  
Chair, African Regional Partnership  
Cameroon

*This material has been reproduced in the language and form as it was provided.  
The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.*

---



# **African**

## **Regional Partnership**

for Sustainability and SDG Reporting

UNCTAD-ISAR Workshop

# **Regional Partnership for the Promotion of Sustainability and SDG Reporting**



# Background & Objectives

The regional partnership has been established within the **Development Account 11th Tranche Project** entitled *Enabling policy frameworks for enterprise sustainability and SDG reporting in Africa and Latin America*. It will **launched at the African Regional Workshop** on Sustainability and SDG Reporting in Africa, hosted by the Ministry of Finance, Cameroon in January 2022.

The Partnership acts as a **bridge for sharing knowledge among African countries**, as well as **between the African region and international organisations** in the field of sustainability reporting. The Partnership promotes mutual support among countries in their efforts to achieve the development of national strategies and policies to:

- a) establish and/or strengthen the national infrastructure to prepare high-quality sustainability reports by companies;
- b) increase the number of high-quality sustainability reports by companies;
- c) measure the contribution of the private sector to the implementation of the SDGs; and
- d) promote sustainable enterprise development.



# Members & Signatory Countries

**50 Members** from **26 countries** joined the Partnership

The Partnership includes stakeholders representing: **Professional Accounting Organizations, Government representatives, regulators, stock exchanges**, representatives of the private sector, **academia**

The Partnership is followed by **5 observers**

- Algeria
- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cameroun
- Egypt
- Ghana
- Guinea Bissau
- Kenya
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Mauritius
- Morocco
- Namibia
- Nigeria
- Rwanda
- Senegal
- South Africa
- Tanzania
- Tchad
- The Gambia
- Togo
- Tunisia
- Uganda
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

# Meetings (1/3)



## Launch of the Partnership – January 2022

### Background

The Partnership was **launched at the Regional Workshop** on Enabling Policy Framework for Enterprise Sustainability and SDG Reporting in Africa, hosted by the Ministry of Finance, Cameroon.

The Workshop was attended by over 400 stakeholders from 35 African countries. At the launch of the Partnership, 40 organizations from 20 countries had already joined the group.

### Outcomes

- **Creation and formalization of the Regional Partnership.** This also included the **proposal by the Ministry of Cameroon of a Declaration** (Yaoundé Declaration) on cooperation of countries towards the implementation of sustainability reporting and achievement of the SDGs.
- **Definition of UNCTAD's role in the partnership as Secretariat for the first year**, discussion on the next steps, including the creation of the Partnership's ToR, the online platform etc.

### Agreed conclusions

- Objectives and modalities of the Regional Partnership
- Election of the Chair and Vice-chairs of the Partnership agreed with no objections

# Meetings (2/3)



## April 2022 - Experiences and case studies on sustainability reporting practices & cooperation modalities

### Background

This second meeting was conceived to let members present their **countries' experiences on sustainability reporting practices and their expectations** for the work of the Partnership. The meeting also included discussions on **cooperation modalities** including the Partnership's ToR, planning of next meetings and further topics for agenda.

### Outcomes

- Experience sharing delivered by: Accountant General Department (The Gambia), Nairobi Securities Exchange (Kenya), Financial Reporting Council (Nigeria), and Southern African Institute for Business Accountants (South Africa).
- The meeting also included a presentation by the Chair of the Latin American Partnership in order to facilitate **exchange of experiences and establish interregional cooperation**.
- UNCTAD held a presentation on the ISSB Consultation on 2 Exposure Drafts and opened the floor for discussion to collect questions and feedbacks.

### Agreed conclusions:

- Members agreed on the structure of the ToR and on the frequency and subjects of the meetings.
- The ARP logo was adopted
- Members agreed to provide their feedbacks in written form regarding the ISSB's Exposure Drafts.

# Meetings (3/3)



## June 2022 – Integrated Reporting Practices and Tools

### Background

The meeting was co-organized with the **Pan African Federation of Accountants and the African Integrated Reporting Council**. It was conceived to bring together relevant organizations in the region to share the latest international trends, standards and best practices regarding sustainability reporting, as well as the relationship between sustainability and integrated reporting.

### Outcomes

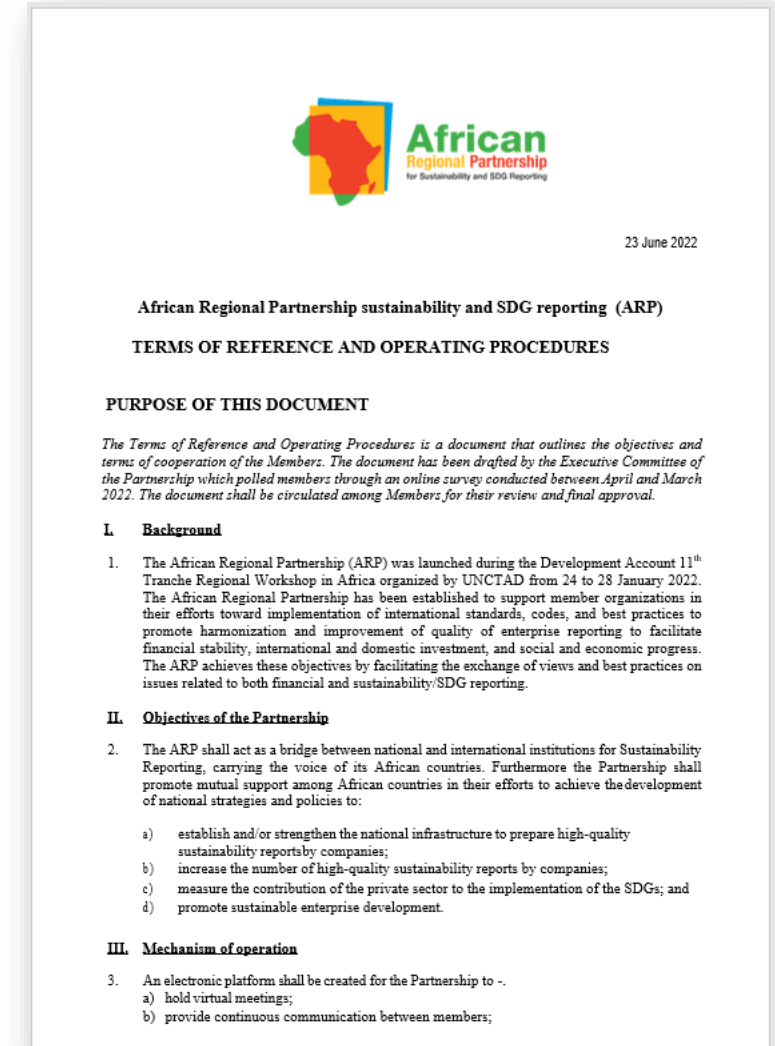
- Keynote address by Prof Mervyn King – Chairman: Africa Integrated Reporting Council
- Presentation on Standards and Frameworks on Sustainability reporting by the Pan African Federation of Accountants and the International Integrated Reporting Council Secretariat
- Experience sharing on Mainstreaming IR Practices delivered by: Integrated Reporting Committee (IRC) of South Africa, and Integrated Reporting Committee (IRC) of Ghana
- Providing recommendations on Improving coherence between sustainability and financial reporting by Kenyatta University, Kenya

### **Agreed conclusions:**

- Launch of the online platform for the African Regional Partnership and adoption of the ToR

# Partnership Terms of Reference

- The ToR outlines the **objectives and terms of cooperation** among the Members of the Regional Partnership
- The draft ToR was elaborated based on the **survey results** circulated among members in April'22.
- The Executive Committee with support of UNCTAD has drafted a proposal and shared with all members for their **final review and approval**.
- The Partnership agreed to hold **3-4 meetings per year**.





# Partnership ToR – Structure

The draft Terms Of Reference And Operating Procedures covers the following topics:

1. Background
2. Objectives of the Partnership
3. Mechanism of operation
  - A. Joining the Partnership
  - B. Types of entities that can join the Partnership
  - C. Terms of resignation and conduct
4. Composition and Management of the Executive Committee
  - A. Roles
  - B. Election Procedure
5. Funding and Costs
6. Logo
7. Intellectual Property
8. Amendments to the terms of reference

# Partnership Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is composed by the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Partnership.

The Chair of the Partnership is the **Ministry of Finance of Cameroon**, while the two vice-Chairs are the **Department of Trade, Industry and Competition of South Africa**, and the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of Kenya**.



the dtic

Department:  
Trade, Industry and Competition  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# Role of the Executive Committee



- The Executive Committee (EC), composed of the Chair and the Vice-Chairs, shall **organize the work of the Partnership, arrange the meetings and seek to attract new members** from the region.
- The EC shall **coordinate the overall work and mission** of the Partnership.
- **The Chair shall moderate the Executive Committee meetings** and shall propose the future activities of the Partnership, as well as guide on the topics to be addressed, based on the consultation of the Partnership members during the meetings and through online consultations.
- **The Vice-Chairs** shall support the work of the Chair and act on behalf of the Chair when he/she is not available.
- The **Chair shall moderate the Partnership's meetings**. In the event the Chair is not able to moderate a meeting, he/she shall designate one of the Vice-Chairs for this role.
- Upon agreement by Executive Committee, the **Executive Committee shall coincide with the Partnership Secretariat**.

# Partnership Secretariat

- The **Ministry of Finance of Cameroon**, Chair of the Partnership, committed to perform the role of Partnership Secretariat as a representative of the hosting country for implementing regional activities





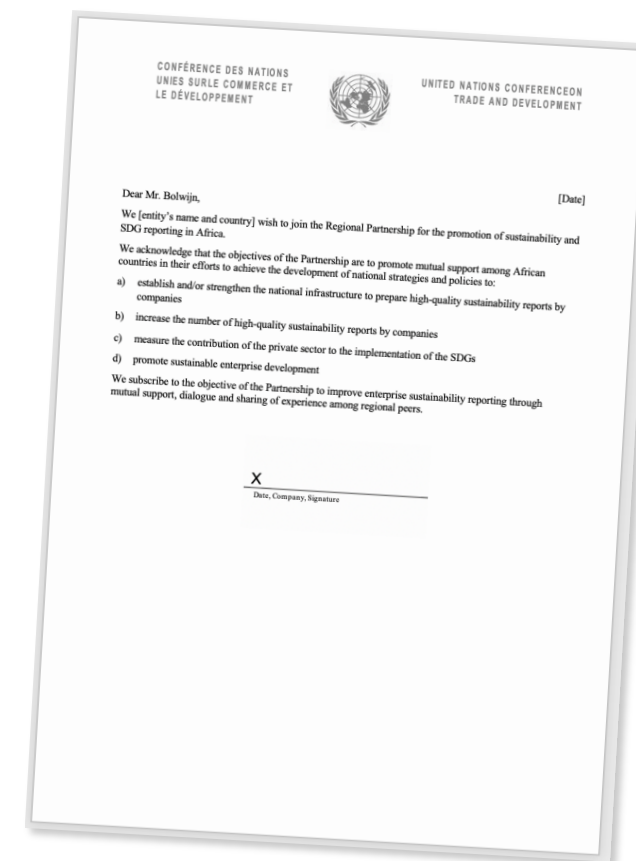
# Role of Partnership Secretariat

The main mission of the Secretariat is to **support the operational work of the Partnership Executive Committee**. Its duties includes, but is not limited to:

- **Organize and participate in the Meeting of the Executive Committee**, keep records of the agreed conclusions and key decisions made
- Support in the **preparation of the agenda for the upcoming meetings**, distributing invitations to the members
- **Processing voting procedures and aggregating results via circulating interactive surveys/polls**
- Performing as a **coordination focal point for the Group members** (assigning new members/ executing resignations etc.)
- Prepare **meeting reports** as well as aggregate and store all useful resources and materials on the Partnership online platform

# Joining the partnership

- National entities interested in joining the Regional Partnership are requested to communicate to the Partnership's Executive Committee and the Partnership's Secretariat in writing (template provided on the web-site).
- Every country can be represented by 5 national entities from:
  - Regulator/ local financial reporting standard setter
  - Government entity in charge of the implementation of the SDGs
  - Professional accountancy association
  - Auditing organization
  - Stock exchanges
  - Academia



# Partnership Online Platform

The online platform allows to:

- Keep track of the Partnership's activities and meetings
- Follow announcements and schedule of the upcoming events
- Enable continuous communication between members (contact database will be accessible)
- Provide access to useful resources
- Allow members to initiate discussions (in the Forum)
- Share achievements and tools that may be useful to other countries in the region etc.



**African**  
Regional Partnership  
for Sustainability and SDG Reporting

# Partnership Online Platform




**ARP** African Regional Partnership for Sustainability and SDG Reporting

Home About Meetings Members Resources Discussion Forum Edit

Share English

New Translation Page details Analytics


Draft saved 6/15/2022 Edit Republish




## African Regional Partnership

for Sustainability and SDG Reporting


### About the Partnership




Partnership's Meetings



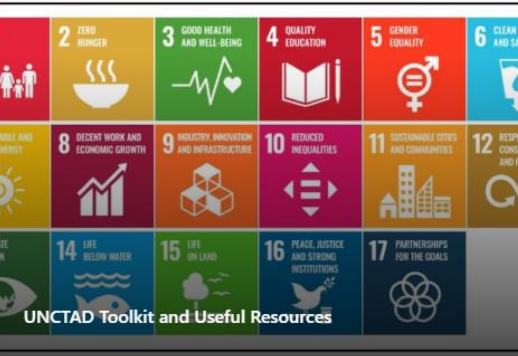
Terms of Cooperation



Free e-learning course




E-learning course on the GCI (Guidance on Core indicators for Sustainability Reporting) - English and French



UNCTAD Toolkit and Useful Resources


#### Upcoming Events

+ Add event

 ISAR 39 Session  
Fri, Oct 28, 9:00 AM


#### News


See all + Add

 IFRS  
International Financial Reporting Standards

IFRS Exposure Drafts Open Consultation  
The International Sustainability Reporting Standards (ISRS) are being developed by the International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB) as part of the IFRS Foundation's work to develop a comprehensive and consistent global baseline sustainability disclosure framework.

#### Useful Links

 E-learning course on GCI





# Thank you!

