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Subregional Office for North Africa
Intergovernmental Committee of Senior
Officials and Experts for North Africa

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda*

**Review of the implementation of regional and international
development agendas and special initiatives in North Africa**

**Progress towards Sustainable Development Goal
17: Partnerships for the Goals in North Africa**

**Strengthening the means of implementation and
revitalizing the Global Partnership for
Sustainable Development in North Africa**

* ECA/SRO-NA/ICSOE/41/1



Executive summary

1. The overall score for North Africa on the SDG Index,¹ produced by the SDG Transformation Center of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network to measure progress towards the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, remained at 64.8 out of 100 in 2026, unchanged from 2025 and indicating limited progress as the 2030 deadline approaches. The subregion is not on track to achieve several of the Goals by that date, owing in part to the spillover effects of conflicts, mounting debt-service pressures, financing gaps, fragmented policies and structural challenges that hinder sustainable growth. Identifying persistent barriers is an important step towards accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union.

2. Accelerating progress towards sustainable development in North Africa will require a transformative approach, supported by greater investment, economic diversification, digital transformation and stronger regional integration. This will also require robust implementation frameworks, adequate financial resources and effective governance, together with the strategic application of science and innovation and the use of reliable data to inform policymaking and monitor progress.

3. Although it remains unlikely that North African countries will achieve Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development) by 2030, they have made steady progress to that end over the past 10 years. Indeed, the subregion's SDG Index score for Goal 17 has increased by approximately 10 per cent over that period. In particular, North African countries have made modest progress in strengthening the capacity of their national statistical systems and have increased public spending on vital social sectors, particularly health and education. Significant challenges nevertheless continue to impede the mobilization of domestic resources.

4. The subregion continues to make relatively limited progress in supporting United Nations-based multilateralism and broader international cooperation. The lack of substantial progress in those areas underscores the need for stronger engagement in global partnership frameworks and a renewed commitment to collective action for sustainable development. To accelerate the implementation of Goal 17, North African countries should:

(a) Strengthen tax administration, broaden the tax base and improve tax compliance; foster stronger global partnerships;

(b) Strengthen the mobilization of alternative and sustainable financial resources, including remittances, green finance, angel investment, venture capital, crowdfunding and revenue-based financing, and;

(c) Strengthen statistical capacity by improving data quality and availability.

5. The present report focuses on progress towards the “Partnerships for the Goals” portion of Goal 17 in North Africa. It is organized into three main sections. Section I provides an

¹ Unless otherwise stated, the source of the data contained in the present report is Grayson Fuller and others, “The SDG Index and Dashboards”, in *Sustainable Development Report 2026: Implementing Sustainable Development – 2030 and beyond* (Dublin, Dublin University Press, 2026). Available at: <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/chapters/part-2-the-sdg-index-and-dashboards/>. In some cases, the figures presented are author calculations based on data originating in that source.

overview of progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals across the subregion. Section II examines the performance of North African countries in selected areas covered by Goal 17. Section III, the final section, contains policy recommendations for strengthening partnerships and accelerating progress towards the achievement of Goal 17.

I. Progress towards the achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in North Africa

6. As shown in table 1, North Africa had the highest SDG Index score of all the African subregions in 2026, at 64.8 out of 100. The score remained unchanged from 2025 and was slightly below the 65.2 recorded in 2024, indicating limited overall progress in recent years amid global uncertainty, regional conflicts, fiscal constraints and other persistent challenges

Table 1
Average aggregate SDG Index scores by African subregion, 2023–2026

	2023	2024	2025	2026
North Africa ^a	64.9	65.2	64.8	64.8
Southern Africa	58.3	59.3	59.4	59.3
West Africa	53.2	54.5	58.0	57.8
Central Africa	57.0	57.6	55.2	54.4
East Africa	52.6	53.2	53.7	53.6

Source: Author's calculations based on Grayson Fuller and others, "The SDG Index and Dashboards".

^a Excluding Libya.

7. There were considerable disparities in SDG Index scores among North African countries in 2026. Morocco had the highest score, at 71.7, followed by Algeria (71.6), Tunisia (71.3) and Egypt (69.0). At the other end of the spectrum, Mauritania had a score of 57.4, while the Sudan had the lowest score in the subregion, at 47.7 (see table 2).

Table 2
Average SDG Index scores and global rankings of countries in North Africa, 2026

	<i>Score</i>	<i>Ranking</i>
Algeria	71.6	70
Egypt	69.0	86
Libya ^a	..	..
Mauritania	57.4	137
Morocco	71.7	68
Sudan	47.7	165
Tunisia	71.3	72

Source: Grayson Fuller and others, "The SDG Index and Dashboards".

^a Data for Libya are unavailable.

8. At the global level, progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals remains insufficient, with none of the 17 Goals projected to be achieved by 2030. Progress towards a number of Goals has stalled, particularly Goals 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 14 (life below water), 15 (life on land) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). Against that backdrop, differences in performance among North African countries provide opportunities for peer learning and the sharing of successful practices in areas in which countries face particular challenges.

9. Analysis of the 2026 SDG Index scores for North African countries highlights persistent structural challenges to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Encouraging progress has nevertheless been made towards Goal 1 (no poverty), Goal 13 (climate action) and Goal 14 (life below water). Common challenges persist in relation to Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), Goal 15 (life on land) and Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). Significant gaps also remain in relation to Goal 2 (zero hunger), particularly with regard to food security and sustainable agriculture, Goal 3 (good health and well-being), Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy) and Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure).²

10. Despite progress in selected areas, all countries continue to face substantial challenges in achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Across the subregion, nearly 78 per cent of the ratings for individual Goals indicate that major or significant challenges remain (see table 3), illustrating the scale of the development gaps. Ratings indicating that a Goal has been achieved (“A”) were confined to Goal 10 (reduced inequalities) in Algeria and Goal 13 (climate action) in Mauritania, Morocco and the Sudan. Results varied across the subregion compared with the previous year. Egypt, Libya, Mauritania and Morocco recorded improvements, while Algeria and Tunisia experienced setbacks. In Algeria, setbacks were recorded for Goal 1, while in Tunisia they were recorded for Goals 1 and 12. Results for the Sudan remained unchanged.

Table 3

Progress thresholds in the 2026 SDG Index, by country

	<i>Algeria</i>	<i>Egypt</i>	<i>Libya</i>	<i>Mauritania</i>	<i>Morocco</i>	<i>Sudan</i>	<i>Tunisia</i>
Goal 1	B	B	..	C	B	D	B
Goal 2	C	C	D	D	C	D	D
Goal 3	C	D	C	D	D	D	C
Goal 4	C	C	..	D	C	D	C
Goal 5	D	C	D	D	D	D	D
Goal 6	C	C	D	D	B	D	C
Goal 7	C	C	D	D	D	C	D
Goal 8	D	D	D	D	C	D	D
Goal 9	D	C	D	D	C	D	C
Goal 10	A	B	..	B	C	C	C
Goal 11	C	D	C	D	C	D	B
Goal 12	B	B	C	B	B	B	C
Goal 13	C	B	D	A	A	A	B
Goal 14	C	C	C	C	D	D	D
Goal 15	C	D	C	D	D	D	D
Goal 16	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
Goal 17	B	C	C	C	B	D	B

Source: Author’s compilation based on Grayson Fuller and others, “The SDG Index and Dashboards”.

Note: A, Goal achieved; B, challenges remain; C, significant challenges remain; D, major challenges remain. Two dots (..) indicate that insufficient data were available.

² The analysis of Libya was constrained by persistent data gaps, which limited the depth of the assessment.

11. Partnerships for the Goals (Goal 17) are important for accelerating progress towards all the Sustainable Development Goals. In that context, stronger regional cooperation and knowledge-sharing can help countries to address challenges by facilitating the adaptation and replication of successful policies and practices. For example, Algeria has achieved Goal 10 (reduced inequalities), owing in part to its public redistribution system, which operates through three complementary channels: direct social transfers, universal subsidies for essential goods and services and free access to universal public services. The experience of Algeria could provide useful lessons for policy design and implementation elsewhere in the subregion, including through South–South cooperation.³

II. Progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 17

12. Sustainable Development Goal 17 is focused on strengthening the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development. Its targets cover areas including finance, technology, capacity-building, trade, policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships and data, monitoring and accountability.

13. Goal 17 plays a central role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as progress towards its achievement supports progress towards the other Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to poverty reduction, health, education, inclusive economic growth, innovation and industrialization, and climate action. Progress on Goal 17 is, however, constrained by a substantial financing gap. According to estimates established by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Africa faces an annual financing gap of between \$670 billion and \$848 billion for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.⁴ The magnitude of that gap underscores the need to mobilize additional financial resources and strengthen international cooperation.

14. North Africa has made measurable progress towards Goal 17 over the past decade, with the average score for the Goal increasing from 66 to 73, or by approximately 10 per cent. Progress has been particularly evident in the capacity of national statistical systems, public investment in human development and the use of technology.

15. For Goal 17, three of the seven North African countries were assigned SDG Index scores below the global average of 69 in 2026, while Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco had the highest scores in the subregion, at 82, 77 and 76, respectively (see figure I). Government spending on health and education has increased in Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia in recent years. In 2026, it accounted for 11 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in Algeria and Tunisia and 9 per cent in Morocco. Tunisia has also made progress in modernizing its national statistical system. The country has strengthened its capacity to monitor progress towards the Goals by improving coordination between the National Institute of Statistics and the statistical systems of line ministries, specialized agencies and international partners. In addition, the Institute has taken steps to integrate new data sources, including big data, and adopt innovative

³ Algeria, *Voluntary National Review 2026: Towards a Future of Sustainability, Social Inclusion and Innovation* (2026). Available at: hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2026/VNR%202026%20Algeria%20Report%20EN.pdf.

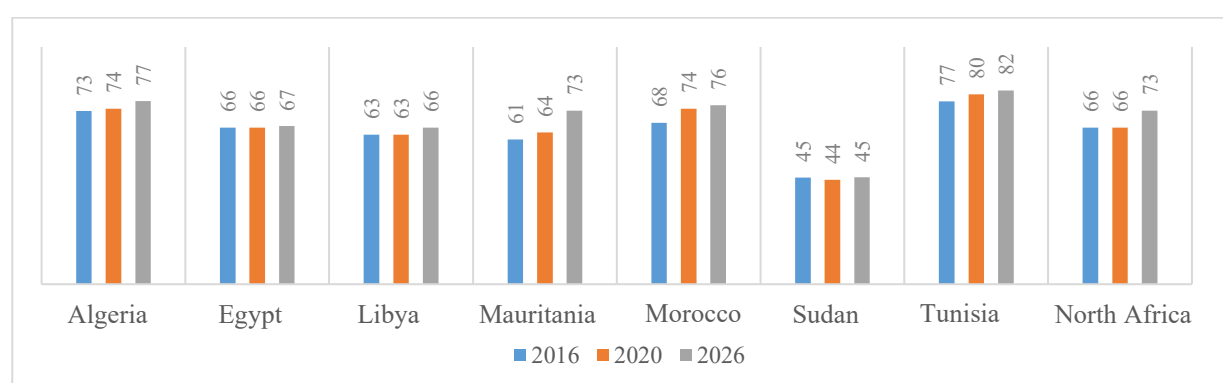
⁴ United Nations, ECA, “What Would It Take to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa? New Estimates of the Financing Gap” (Addis Ababa, 2025).

technologies and methodologies to produce and disseminate more timely, granular and disaggregated data for sustainable development.⁵

16. Progress towards Goal 17 has been uneven. Persistent challenges remain in mobilizing domestic resources, with limited progress in increasing tax revenue and insufficient financing for sustainable development priorities. The subregion has also made limited progress in supporting United Nations-based multilateralism and broader international cooperation. Accelerating progress towards Goal 17 will require stronger global partnerships, increased mobilization of domestic and external resources, greater policy coherence and a more supportive international financial and trading system.

Figure I

SDG Index scores for Sustainable Development Goal 17, by country, 2016–2026



Source: Author's calculations based on Grayson Fuller and others, "The SDG Index and Dashboards".

A. Domestic resource mobilization

1. Total government revenue as a percentage of gross domestic product

17. Resource mobilization remains a fiscal challenge for North African countries, reflecting limited fiscal space, elevated levels of public debt and constrained access to international financial markets. In 2024, the subregion's average tax-to-GDP ratio stood at 12.2 per cent, below the 15 per cent benchmark referenced in the Sevilla Commitment and often used by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank as an indicative threshold associated with stronger State capacity, sustained growth and the financing of core public services. However, the relevance of that benchmark may be limited in resource-rich economies, where total government revenue may be supported by hydrocarbon rents. For those countries, attention therefore needs to be given not only to the overall level of revenue but also to the strength, stability and diversification of the non-hydrocarbon tax base.⁶

⁵ Tunisia, *Rapport National Volontaire Tunisie 2026: Suivi de la Mise en Œuvre des Objectifs de Développement Durable 2030* (2026). Available at: <http://un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2026/VNR%202026%20Tunisia%20Report.pdf>.

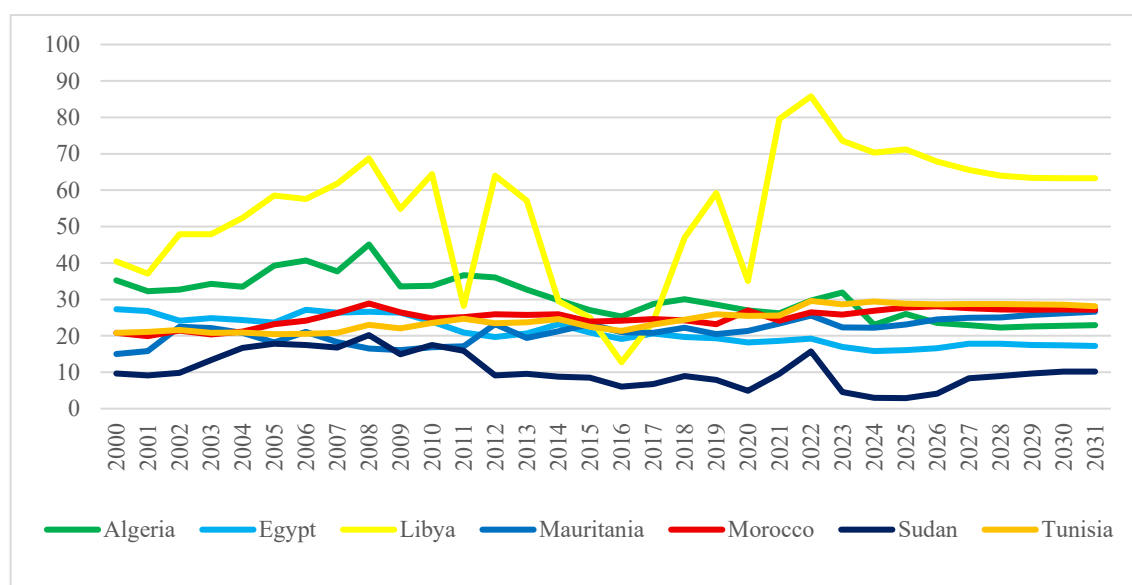
⁶ IMF and World Bank, *IMF-WBG Background Paper for G-7: Principles for Effective and Efficient Support for Domestic Resource Mobilization (DRM)*, IMF Policy Paper, No. 2026/011 (Washington, D.C., IMF, 2026). Available at: www.elibrary.imf.org/view/journals/007/2026/011/007.2026.issue-011-en.xml?cid=575646-com-dsp-crossref.

18. On average, government revenue as a share of GDP in North Africa increased from 21 per cent in 2000 to 25 per cent in 2026, indicating a gradual strengthening of domestic resource mobilization. As shown in figure II, significant disparities persist among countries, with government revenue ranging from approximately 4 per cent of GDP in the Sudan to more than 68 per cent in Libya, reflecting differences in their resource endowments and the composition of their economies.

19. The stability of government revenue also varies across the subregion. Resource-rich economies, particularly Algeria and Libya, show considerable fluctuations in government revenue, reflecting their high exposure to commodity price cycles. By contrast, revenue-to-GDP ratios in Morocco and Tunisia are relatively stable, highlighting the potential benefits of economic diversification for fiscal resilience.

Figure II

Government revenue as a percentage of gross domestic product, 2000–2031 (including projections)



Source: Author's calculations based on IMF, World Economic Outlook database. April 2026. Available at: data.imf.org/Datasets/WEO (accessed on 1 July 2026).

2. Tax revenue as a percentage of gross domestic product

20. As shown in table 4, tax-to-GDP ratios vary substantially across North African countries. In 2024, Tunisia and Morocco had the highest ratios, at 25.26 per cent and 20.78 per cent, respectively, while Libya and the Sudan had the lowest, at 1.22 per cent and 1.95 per cent, respectively. Algeria recorded a relatively modest tax-to-GDP ratio of 9.35 per cent, while Mauritania recorded a substantial increase over two decades, from 9.75 per cent in 2005 to 15.30 per cent in 2024. More generally, limited capacity to mobilize domestic tax revenue may increase reliance on non-tax revenue, grants and domestic or external borrowing to finance public expenditure.

21. Morocco is reforming its corporate tax system by moving towards unified proportional rates, modernizing its value added tax regime and giving regional authorities direct access to

local tax revenue to improve administrative efficiency.⁷ Tunisia is modernizing its tax administration through the expansion of mandatory electronic invoicing, the introduction of a wealth tax on high-value assets and targeted fiscal contributions from large enterprises to enhance tax equity.⁸ Both countries are implementing reforms aimed at improving the efficiency of their tax systems and promoting more inclusive and growth-friendly fiscal frameworks.

22. Since 2022, the ECA Subregional Office for North Africa has been implementing a programme to support Egypt, Libya and Mauritania in strengthening their institutional mechanisms to combat tax evasion and illicit financial flows, resolve tax disputes and improve tax administration. The programme now encompasses the provision of technical assistance to help them in assessing their debt profiles and strengthening their debt management capacity.

Table 4

Tax revenue as a percentage of gross domestic product, 1995–2024

	<i>Algeria</i>	<i>Egypt</i>	<i>Libya</i>	<i>Mauritania</i>	<i>Morocco</i>	<i>Sudan</i>	<i>Tunisia</i>
1995	12.13	15.98	7.95	..	17.18	7.43	17.91
2000	8.93	13.88	10.19	..	19.13	4.66	18.39
2005	8.17	13.38	2.39	9.75	19.38	6.21	18.00
2010	9.81	13.44	3.81	10.02	21.09	5.85	19.20
2015	12.47	11.88	1.07	13.47	19.38	6.03	20.59
2020	12.56	12.02	1.18	12.54	20.02	3.02	22.72
2024	9.35	11.73	1.22	15.30	20.78	1.95	25.26

Source: IMF, World Revenue Longitudinal Database (WORLD), 2026 update. Available at <http://www.imf.org/en/topics/fiscal-policies/world-revenue-longitudinal-database>.

B. External resource mobilization**1. Foreign direct investment net inflows as a proportion of gross domestic product**

23. According to World Bank estimates, foreign direct investment net inflows to North Africa averaged approximately 1.8 per cent of GDP in 2025. As shown in table 5, those inflows varied considerably across countries. Mauritania recorded the highest ratio in 2025, at 5.4 per cent, reflecting investor interest primarily in the extractive sector (mining and energy).⁹ Egypt followed, at 4.2 per cent, compared with 2.1 per cent in 2015. This increase coincided with structural and institutional reforms, including the simplification of licensing procedures, the modernization of digital platforms, the strengthening of the legal and regulatory framework and the expansion of opportunities for private sector participation. Inflows in Tunisia remained relatively stable, with a ratio of 2.0 per cent in 2025, while Morocco recorded a ratio of 1.8 per

⁷ Morocco, Finance Law No. 50–22 for Budget Year 2023, art. 6; Finance Law No. 55–23 for Budget Year 2024, art. 6; Framework Law No. 69–19 on Tax Reform.

⁸ Tunisia, Finance Law 2025, Law No. 2024–48 (9 December 2024), arts. 38 and 71; and Finance Law 2026, Law No. 2025–17 (12 December 2025), art. 88.

⁹ Khattar Cheibani, “Foreign direct investment in Mauritania: opportunities, policies and risks”, *Journal of Economic Integration*, vol. 14, No. 1 (March 2026), pp. 361–368. Available at: asjp.cerist.dz/en/article/291915.

cent. Libya recorded a ratio of 1.7 per cent, amid renewed investment activity in the energy sector.¹⁰

Table 5

Foreign direct investment net inflows as a percentage of gross domestic product, 1995–2025

	1995	2005	2015	2025
Algeria	0.00	1.07	-0.31	0.53
Egypt	0.99	6.00	2.10	4.23
Libya	-0.35	2.19	0.00	1.72
Morocco	0.85	2.40	2.95	1.83
Mauritania	0.33	27.65	8.12	5.43
Sudan	0.09	4.60	3.34	0.00
Tunisia	2.09	2.43	2.19	2.04

Source: ECA calculations based on United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), *World Investment Report 2026: International Investment in a Turbulent Era*, and World Bank, “Foreign direct investment, net inflows (BoP, current US\$)”, World Development Indicators. Available at data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.KLT.DINV.CD.WD.

2. Remittances as a percentage of gross domestic product

24. Over the past decade, remittances have been a relatively stable source of external financial inflows in North Africa, exceeding both foreign direct investment and official development assistance. Remittance flows have also remained relatively resilient during successive global and regional crises, reinforcing their importance as a source of external finance.¹¹

25. Figure III shows that, between 2000 and 2024, the subregional average remained relatively stable at 3–4 per cent, despite successive global and regional crises. However, the relative importance of remittances varied considerably across countries. Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia had the highest remittance-to-GDP ratios, while Libya, Algeria and the Sudan had the lowest. In Mauritania, the ratio was comparatively modest, ranging from 0.8 per cent to 2.0 per cent.

26. The development impact of remittances can be enhanced by reducing transfer costs, promoting formal transfer channels and expanding financial inclusion. Morocco has strengthened its institutional framework for remittances through financial inclusion reforms, stronger regulation of microfinance institutions and the adoption of a new investment charter. Those measures are intended to encourage the use of diaspora remittances for productive investment, particularly in rural areas.

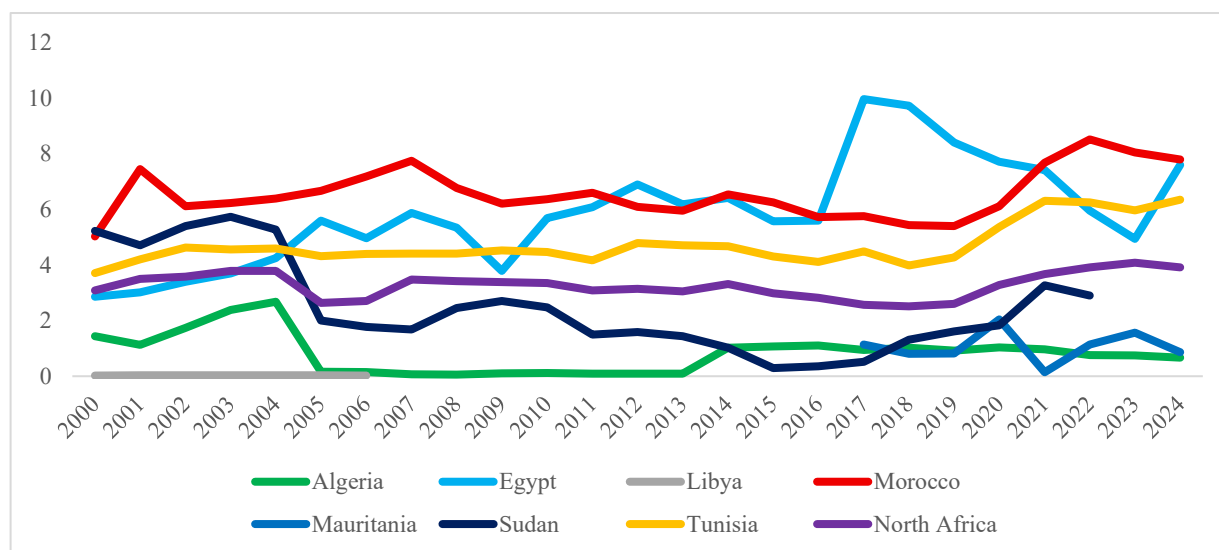
¹⁰ Samy Magdy (Associated Press), “Italy, Libya sign \$8B gas deal as PM Meloni visits Tripoli”, AP News, 28 January 2023. Available at: apnews.com/article/politics-libya-government-italy-tripoli-082b5c0ded65b84e63a3df8442868b9c.

¹¹ ECA, “Remittances: an important source of external finance in North Africa”, ECA Policy Brief, No. ECA/25/002 (Rabat, 2025).

27. ECA is calling on all African Governments to adopt policies and measures to encourage the use of remittances for productive investment. To support such efforts, ECA is implementing a project entitled “Strengthening the migration–development nexus in Africa” in the Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Egypt, Ghana, Lesotho and Tunisia. Through the project, which runs from 2024 to 2028, it is helping Governments to integrate remittances and diaspora contributions into national development strategies and develop frameworks for channelling remittances towards productive investment.

Figure III

Remittances as a percentage of gross domestic product, 2000–2024



Source: Grayson Fuller and others, “The SDG Index and Dashboards”.

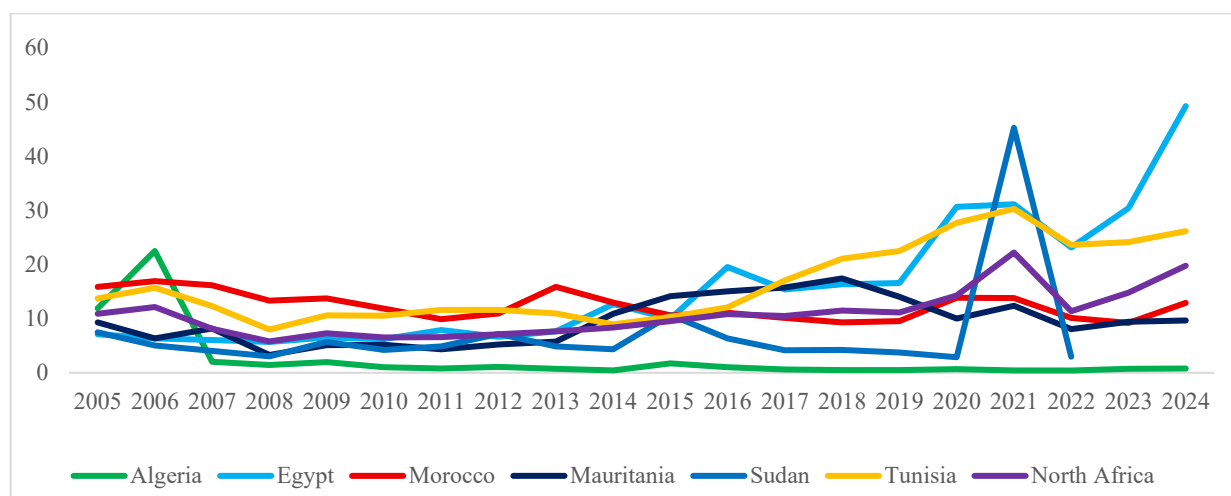
C. Debt management

Debt service as a proportion of exports of goods, services and primary income

28. Figure IV shows debt service as a percentage of exports of goods, services and primary income for the period 2005–2024 for selected North African countries. That indicator is widely used to assess external debt sustainability. The figure shows a clear increase in debt-servicing pressures in the subregion since the second half of the 2010s. The North African average remained broadly within the range of 10–13 per cent for much of the period 2005–2020, rose sharply to approximately 22 per cent in 2021 and stood at nearly 20 per cent in 2024. That indicates that external debt payments are now absorbing a greater share of the subregion’s foreign-exchange earnings than during much of the 2005–2020 period.

29. The figure also shows a marked divergence in debt-service ratios among North African countries. Egypt and Tunisia experienced the most pronounced increases in debt-service ratios, while Algeria recorded comparatively low ratios and Morocco and Mauritania occupied intermediate positions. No debt-service data are provided for Libya.

Figure IV
Debt service as a percentage of exports of goods, services and primary income, 2005–2024



Source: World Bank, “Total debt service (% of exports of goods, services and primary income)”, International Debt Statistics database. Available at: data.worldbank.org/indicator/DT.TDS.DECT.EX.ZS (accessed on 16 July 2026).

D. Access to science, technology and innovation and enhancement of knowledge sharing

1. Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions

30. The number of fixed Internet broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants is an indicator of the uptake of fixed high-speed Internet services and can be used to assess the progress of countries towards building inclusive digital economies. As shown in table 6, North Africa made substantial progress in that regard between 2011 and 2024. However, subscription rates in the subregion remain well below those observed in advanced digital economies,¹² underscoring the need for continued investment in broadband infrastructure and improved access to broadband services. The table also shows considerable disparities among countries. Tunisia, Algeria and Egypt recorded significant increases in subscription rates between 2011 and 2024, while rates remained comparatively low in Mauritania and Morocco. For Libya and the Sudan, the most recent data shown are for 2019; between 2011 and 2019, the subscription rate increased in Libya but fell sharply in the Sudan.

¹² Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), *OECD Digital Economy Outlook 2024 (Volume 2): Strengthening Connectivity, Innovation and Trust* (Paris, OECD Publishing, 2024). Available at: www.oecd.org/en/publications/oecd-digital-economy-outlook-2024-volume-2_3adf705b-en.html.

Table 6

Fixed broadband Internet subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, 2011, 2019 and 2024

	2011	2019	2024
Algeria	2.66	8.28	13.32
Egypt	2.03	7.04	11.69
Libya	1.10	4.57	..
Morocco	1.81	4.84	7.30
Mauritania	0.17	0.24	0.95
Sudan	5.14	0.07	..
Tunisia	5.14	10.05	14.97

Source: Grayson Fuller and others, “The SDG Index and Dashboards”.

2. Proportion of individuals using the Internet

31. Internet use is relatively high in North Africa compared with the African average. Morocco recorded the highest proportion of individuals using the Internet, at 91 per cent, followed by Libya, at 82 per cent, Tunisia and Algeria, both at 77 per cent, and Egypt, at 75 per cent. The proportions were considerably lower in Mauritania and the Sudan, at 46 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively.¹³

32. Expanding access to affordable Internet services in North Africa requires sustained investment in broadband infrastructure and digital skills and more competitive telecommunications markets. Tunisia is strengthening connectivity through new undersea cable projects; Egypt is expanding fibre-optic networks to rural communities; and Algeria is upgrading its broadband infrastructure, including through the deployment of a 400G ultra-high-speed optical network.

3. Export of environmentally sound technologies

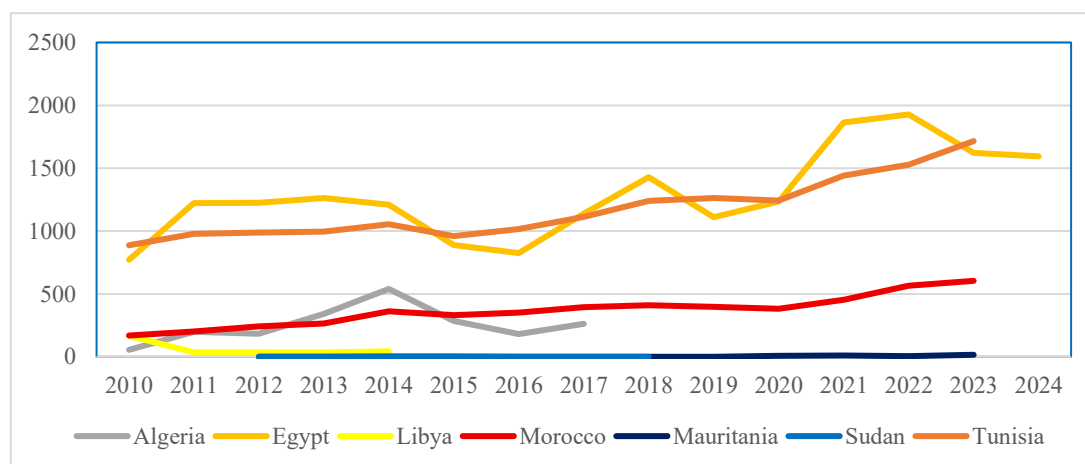
33. Figure VI shows the value of exports of environmentally sound technologies from North African countries. At slightly less than \$4 billion in 2024, the total value of such exports from North Africa was small in relation to the global market, which was valued at \$2.7 trillion in 2024. Exports were concentrated in a small number of countries, with Egypt and Tunisia accounting for the largest shares and exports from Morocco increasing. The export potential of the other countries in the subregion remains largely untapped.

34. The performance of Egypt and Tunisia reflects a number of structural advantages, including diversified manufacturing sectors, significant foreign direct investment, strong integration into global value chains, supportive green industrial policies and strategic investment in renewable energy and environmental industries.

¹³ World Bank, “Individuals using the Internet (% of population)”, World Development Indicators, based on data from the International Telecommunication Union, World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators Database. Available at data.worldbank.org/indicator/IT.NET.USER.ZS.

Figure V

Value of exports of environmentally sound technologies
(Millions of United States dollars)



Source: Grayson Fuller and others, “The SDG Index and Dashboards”.

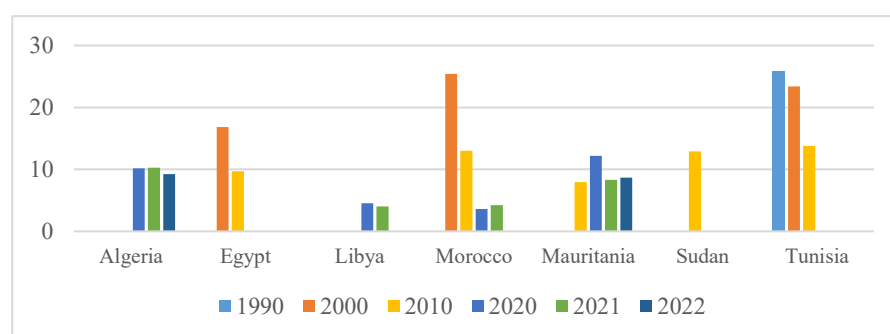
E. Promoting a universal trading system under the World Trade Organization

Applied tariff rates

35. Figure VI shows that tariff protection declined generally across North Africa between 1990 and 2022, reflecting progress on Sustainable Development Goal target 17.10 (Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda). Morocco recorded the largest reduction in applied tariff rates in North Africa during that period, while rates also declined in Algeria. In Egypt, tariff rates remained comparatively high and fluctuated over the period.

36. While long-term trends indicate a gradual reduction in tariff barriers, figure VI reveals considerable variation in applied tariff rates across countries. Algeria, Egypt, Mauritania and Tunisia continue to maintain relatively high tariff protection, particularly on primary and agricultural products. In contrast, Libya and Morocco have adopted more open tariff regimes, especially for manufactured goods.

Figure VI
Weighted mean applied tariff rate, all products, 1990–2022
 (Percentage)



Source: World Bank, “Tariff rate, applied, weighted mean, all products (%)”, World Development Indicators. Available at data.worldbank.org/indicator/TM.TAX.MRCH.WM.AR.ZS (accessed on 16 July 2026).

37. As part of broader trade liberalization efforts, North African countries should accelerate implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, moving beyond tariff reductions to focus on reducing non-tariff barriers, strengthening trade facilitation, harmonizing rules and standards, strengthening digital trade systems and developing regional value chains.

F. Policy coherence and monitoring progress in sustainable development

1. Macroeconomic Dashboard

38. As shown in table 7, North Africa has made progress in increasing economic growth and reducing unemployment, although that progress has been uneven across countries. Encouragingly, Algeria, Libya, Mauritania and Morocco recorded relatively low inflation in 2025. By contrast, across the subregion, the deterioration in the external balance on goods and services indicates growing dependence on imports, weaker export performance and heightened exposure to commodity price fluctuations. At the same time, marked differences in inflation rates reveal considerable variation in macroeconomic stability across countries.

39. Policy responses should be tailored to country-specific challenges. Algeria and Morocco should focus on improving their external balances, while Egypt and Tunisia should focus on accelerating growth and reducing their external deficits. Libya and Mauritania should focus on diversifying their exports and developing the private sector to strengthen their external resilience. In the Sudan, restoring peace, stabilizing inflation and securing external financing are essential for macroeconomic recovery.

Table 7
Main macroeconomic indicators, 2000 and 2025
 (Percentage)

	<i>GDP growth</i>		<i>Unemployment</i>		<i>External balance on goods and services (percentage of GDP)</i>		<i>Inflation</i>	
	<i>2000</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2025</i>	<i>2000</i>	<i>2025</i>
Algeria	3.80	3.82	29.77	11.63	21.28	−5.31	0.34	1.42
Egypt	6.37	4.39	8.98	6.78	−6.62	−11.69	2.68	14.04
Libya	3.68	13.37	19.28	19.00	17.83	5.77	−2.90	1.84
Mauritania	−3.92	4.03	10.03	10.32	−7.91	−14.32	3.25	1.55
Morocco	2.58	4.60	13.58	9.00	−5.05	−9.16	1.89	0.70
Sudan	6.35	3.06	15.60	7.53 ^a	2.56	−0.18	7.12	138.81 ^a
Tunisia	4.71	2.49	14.94	15.11	−3.18	−8.14	2.96	5.15
North Africa	3.37	5.11	16.02	11.30	2.70	−6.15	2.19	26.86

Source: Author's calculations on the basis of World Bank, World Development Indicators.

^a 2022 data

2. Statistical capacity indicators

40. Table 8 presents the Statistical Performance Index for North African countries for the period 2016–2024. The Index, developed by the World Bank, assesses the performance of national statistical systems across five pillars: data use, data services, data products, data sources and data infrastructure, and assigns each country a score out of 100. Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia performed well, with scores above both the African average of 58 and the global average of 64. Algeria and Mauritania have made moderate progress but continue to face challenges in sustaining improvements, while Libya and the Sudan continue to have relatively weak statistical capacity.

41. Six of the seven countries have statistical legislation that is in line with the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.¹⁴ Strong statistical capacity, including the availability of high-quality, timely and accessible data, provides a solid foundation for monitoring implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and supporting evidence-based policymaking. Increased investment in statistical systems is therefore needed as part of broader country efforts to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

¹⁴ Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), SDG Survey.

Table 8
Statistical Performance Index, 2016–2024

<i>Country</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2024</i>
Algeria	45	49	56	58	54	64	61	57	55
Egypt	76	76	76	74	76	77	76	78	78
Libya	23	27	23	22	23	24	24	33	35
Mauritania	41	45	51	54	54	60	60	61	58
Morocco	60	64	67	66	70	70	68	70	73
Sudan	38	35	43	39	36	40	43	44	42
Tunisia	62	60	65	65	66	75	75	75	75

Source: Grayson Fuller and others, “The SDG Index and Dashboards”.

III. Conclusion and policy recommendations

42. North Africa has made gradual progress in strengthening the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including through improvements in domestic resource mobilization, social investment, digital connectivity, statistical capacity and international cooperation. The subregion nevertheless needs to step up its efforts through coordinated, innovative and transformative action to accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

43. With regard to Sustainable Development Goal 17, performance has improved over the past decade but remains uneven across countries and across the various dimensions of the Goal. While some countries in North Africa have strengthened their revenue collection systems, increased their public expenditure on health and education and improved their statistical performance, the subregion remains off track to achieve Goal 17 by 2030.

44. Significant financing gaps continue to be a major constraint. Domestic resource mobilization remains insufficient to meet development needs, with tax revenues below desired levels in several countries, while foreign direct investment inflows remain modest and highly concentrated. Rising debt-servicing obligations and limited fiscal space further constrain the resources available for sustainable development. At the same time, the subregion continues to face challenges in strengthening international partnerships, fostering technology transfer and creating a more enabling environment for sustainable financing.

45. These findings underscore the need for accelerated action, stronger cooperation and innovative policy responses to strengthen the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in North Africa. A comprehensive and coherent approach combining domestic resource mobilization, sustainable debt management, investment promotion, digital transformation, technology transfer, stronger data and statistical systems and enhanced international cooperation will be essential to accelerate progress towards Goal 17 in the subregion.

46. In particular, countries in North Africa should:

(a) Strengthen domestic resource mobilization and fiscal sustainability by broadening the tax base, improving tax compliance, reducing tax evasion and accelerating the digitalization of their tax administrations;

(b) Enhance public financial management and align public spending with national sustainable development priorities, particularly in health, education, social protection and productive sectors;

(c) Improve debt sustainability through stronger debt governance frameworks, fiscal consolidation, prudent borrowing strategies, higher-quality public spending and greater transparency in public debt reporting;

(d) Harmonize trade standards, improve trade facilitation, reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers, strengthen digital trade systems and accelerate implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area;

(e) Foster an enabling business environment and leverage regional frameworks and innovative financing solutions to mobilize private capital and blended finance for sustainable development;

(f) Leverage remittances as a source of development finance by establishing appropriate frameworks to channel remittances towards productive investment, reducing transfer costs and expanding financial inclusion;

(g) Expand access to digital infrastructure and affordable broadband services, particularly in rural and underserved areas, to support inclusive economic growth;

(h) Strengthen national innovation ecosystems through increased investment in research and development, greater support for innovation hubs, incubators and accelerators, and stronger university–industry partnerships, and promote technology transfer through public–private partnerships, peer-learning initiatives and strengthened South–South cooperation;

(i) Strengthen administrative data and statistical systems by increasing the use of digitalized administrative data, strengthening the capacity of national statistics offices to use predictive modelling and developing new and improved ways of using data to track progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals;

(j) Deepen regional and international cooperation in integrated planning, regional integration, climate resilience, digital transformation and change management, while investing in skills to strengthen the capacity of public institutions to respond effectively to development challenges;

(k) Promote greater policy coherence and coordination across government institutions to ensure that sustainable development objectives are integrated into national planning and budgeting processes.
