



REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA



Analysis of **Liberia's performance** through the **Malabo Declaration (2015-2025):**

Liberia's 5th Biennial Reviews (BR)



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Background

The Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) Fifth Biennial Report for the Malabo Declaration of 2014 was presented virtually on May 14, 2026. The report, which can be accessed from the AU CAADP BR Communications Toolkit, presents the final scorecard of the CAADP Malabo Declaration (2015-2025), the successor Africa Agriculture Agenda of the CAADP Maputo Declaration (2004-2014). The AU website has resources that provide the background and evolution of the CAADP process, from the Maputo, the conclusion of the Malabo and the current transition to the CAADP Kampala ERA.

This brief note is focused on Performance of Liberia on the Malabo's commitments that were adopted and endorsed by Head of States in 2014 in the City of Malabo, Equatorial Guinea. The Malabo Declaration has seven (7) commitments and more than a hundred indicators that were expected amongst other things to monitor and motivate member countries to accelerate agricultural growth, eradicate hunger, reduce poverty, and promote inclusive economic growth and development across Africa by 2025. Commitment 7 covers the Mutual accountability Mechanisms and processes of the CAADP Biennial Review (BR) Report generation, dissemination, utilization and feedback into the implementation of the CAADP. The CAADP BR is intended to score each member states across bench marks and targets set to identify progress and challenges every two years, during its ten years implementation, and to set members on a score card with indication by one of three colors: green to indicate that member states is on track, blue to indicate that member state is progressing well or red to indicate that member state is not on track. Additionally, the Biennial review report showed, by an arrow indicator, the proportion of change from previous reports, highlights of strong performance areas of the member states amongst the commitments and areas where countries could consider improving their systems, data submission, and reporting to effectuate progress and improve country score in the next biennial review report.

This briefing note focuses on the fifth and final biennial review of the Malabo Declaration for two reasons: first, it closes the CAADP BR process of the Malabo ERA (2015-2025); and, it transitions member states in the mutual accountability mechanisms of the CAADP Kampala ERA (2026-2035).

The note presents Liberia's 5th BR Score, its performance across the indicators of the Malabo commitments, compares performance of ECOWAS member states across the five (5) Malabo BR and draws out Liberia's strategic opportunities available amongst counterpart regional member states. Thereafter, the note provides recommendations to enhance Liberia effective implementation of the New CAADP Kampala Declaration (2026-2035): Building resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

AU CAADP Malabo 5th Biennial Scorecard

The 5th Biennial review report presents the Continental performance of the Malabo Declaration with a clear and vivid announcement: “no country score reached the continental target of 9.4” toward the achievement of the CAADP Malabo Declaration. However, more than half, (52%) of the African Union Member States 5th BR scores indicated that they were “progressing well”, while almost 30%, including Liberia, were “not on track” and about 19% did not report for the 5th Biennial Review (Figure 1)

ECOWAS member countries with scores reflecting a status of “progressing well” are: Benin (7.15), Ghana (6.52), Nigeria (6.47), Sierra Leone (6.29), Cote D’Ivoire (5.83), Gambia (5.57), and Togo (5.61). In the Manor River Union, Cote D’Ivoire and Sierra Leone were “progressing well” in the CAADP 5th BR, while Guinea and Liberia were “not on track” based on their scores.

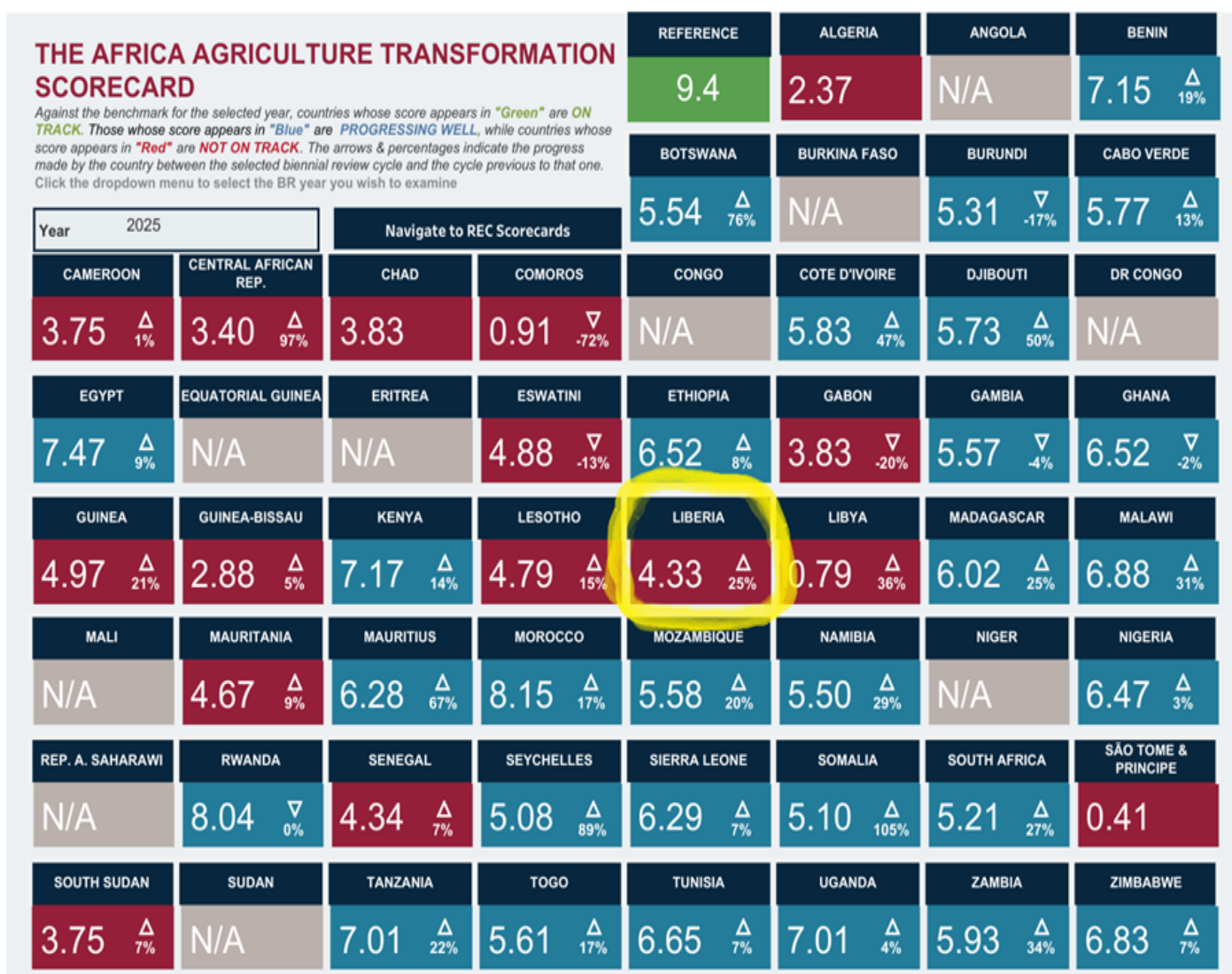
Despite Liberia 5th BR score and its classification as “not on track”, it is noteworthy, to indicate that Liberia made significant improvements in this report when using the 4th BR as the baseline. Liberia was amongst the ten (10) African Union (AU) member States that improved their scores from the 4th BR report. It ranked third amongst the ten countries with an improved performance of 25% since the 4th BR which was published in 2024. This progress indicates improvement in data systems, collaboration mechanisms and national supports that were exerted into the 5th BR Reporting process and need for continued efforts as were done..

Table 1: All AU Member countries “Not on Track” in the 5th BR Report of the CAADP Malabo

No.	Countries Not on Tracks	Score	% of progress/lag	No.	Countries Not on Tracks	Score	% of progress/lag
1	Central African Rep	3.40	97%	9	Guinea Bissau	2.88	5%
2	Libya	0.79	36%	10	Cameroon	3.75	1%
3	Liberia	4.33	25%	11	Chad	3.83	0%
4	Guinea	4.97	21%	12	Algeria	2.37	0%
5	Lesotho	4.79	15%	13	Sao Tome & Principal	0.41	0%
6	Mauritania	4.67	9%	14	Eswatini	4.88	-13%
7	Senegal	4.34	7%	15	Gabon	3.83	-20%
8	South Sudan	3.75	7%	16	Comoros	0.91	-72%

Source: CAADP 5th Biennial Report, 2026

Figure 1: The AU CAADP Malabo 5th Biennial Report Scorecard: Liberia at focus



LIBERIA'S 5TH BIENNIAL SCORECARD: A Call to Action!

Liberia overall score in the 5th CAADP Biennial Review Report for the Malabo Declaration is 4.33; an indication that Liberia's "not on track". This score tells a story that Liberia's achievement on the milestones of the Malabo were not effective and efficient enough to indicate that Liberia is on the path to achieve agriculture acceleration of the Malabo Declaration.

The Malabo Declaration was a bold vision that African Union (AU) Member States adopted and endorsed

Figure 2: Malabo Commitments

1. Recommit to CAADP
2. Recommit to agric.finance
3. End hunger
4. Half poverty
5. Boost intra-African trade
6. Enhance resilience
7. Mutual accountability

at the 23rd Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly between June 26-27, 2014 in Equatorial Guinea. With seven commitments (Figure 2 on the left). AU Heads of States and Government hoped that collaborative and intentional implementation of the CAADP Malabo would accelerate agricultural growth, eradicate hunger, reduce poverty, and promote inclusive economic development across Africa by 2025. The BR mechanisms were institutionalized in part of Commitment 7 on mutual accountability, BR produces a scorecard where country scores are expected to influence positive political actions and investment toward improvement of subsequent scores through enhancement of data systems and CAADP-based institutions and mechanisms for agriculture transformation and economic development.

The seven commitments were broken-down into indicators and sub-indicators, to enhance effective monitoring and reporting. Scores of indicators and sub-indicators for each of the seven commitments contribute to the overall score of a country (Figure 3). Determination of Liberia 5th overall BR Score of "not been on track" is linked to performance of several indicators that are tracking each of the commitments. Hence, understanding the nature of the break-downs into indicators and how they affect the overall score for Liberia is important for two reasons: (a) to continue actions on indicators and sub-indicators that showed improvements; and (b) to focus on underperforming indicators with intentions to improve data gaps, governance and national score. Hence, an excerpt of Liberia's performance on each of the commitments of the Malabo Declaration follows next.

Commitment 1 (Recommitment to the CAADP process) shaped the CAADP mechanisms into governance systems, policy framework and establish coordination committee and stakeholder groups for the implementation of the CAADP recommendation. Several indicators' scores of commitment 2, commitment 3, commitment 4 and commitment 5 of the Malabo 5th BR Report were strong determinants to the overall score Liberia achieved. It is important to note that these indicators track enablers and drivers of agriculture financing (commitment 2) and eradication of hunger (commitment 3). They also reflect and document the links of poverty reduction through agriculture (commitment 4) and boosting intra-africa trade (commitment 5). While there is an inherent overall challenge to accessing and assessing some of these data and indicators, it is important to review their scores and reflect on how they affected Liberia's current score and possibly future appraisals of Liberia's agriculture sector. Commitment 7 (mutual accountability) monitored the mechanisms set in Commitment 1 and tracked indicators to ensure Country's effective implementation and reporting to the BR process to inform progress on each of the Malabo Declaration Commitments.

Using Figure 3, this note presents score of each commitment, discusses their respective indicators and how they affected the commitment's score vis a vis the overall country's score. On Commitment 1 - Recommitment of Country to the CAADP process, Liberia's 5th BR showed that the country is "progressing well on target" on all three indicators of this commitment (Figure 3). Infact, it is the only commitment that Liberia progressed well on all its indicators. This insight is important: it shows that Liberia as a member states has demonstrated commitments to adopt the CAADP principles and to domesticate the tenets of the CAADP mechanisms in its policy frameworks and the the CAADP processes, including collaboration, partnerships and alliances for implementation of the Country's CAADP BR report.

On commitment 2 of the 5th BR, all the four indicators of public expenditure to Agriculture, Domestic and Foreign private sector investment in agriculture and access to finance are not on track. While domestic interest though nascent for agriculture investment exist, the lower score of access to finance for agriculture signals low empowerment for domestic investment. Moreover, low public investment through National Budget allocations and public expenditure in agriculture disincentivizes foreign direct investments in Liberia's agriculture sector. This commitment is continued into the Kampala Declaration II entitled "Boost Investment and Financing for Accelerated Agrifood Systems Transformation" with an objective to mobilize agriculture investment of \$100 billion from public and private sector by 2035, by ensuring that at least 10% of annual public expenditure is allocated to agrifood systems and at least 15% of agrifood GDP is reinvested annually.

On commitment 3 of the 5th BR, only one of the six(6) indicators is progressing well (i.e. social protection to agriculture). The rest of the other indicators are not on track (see figure 3). Indicators for agriculture research, access to improved inputs and technologies, productivity and post-harvest losses have very low magnitude and possible contributing factors to the reflective low scores of (i) food and nutritoin security, and (ii) sanitary & phytosanitary measures. There is need to allocate public and private investment (from both domestic and foreign private sector actions) into agriculture research search, effectiveness extension advisory Services and data systems are vital to monitor farming systems and improve productivity and processing of agrifood systems. The six Indicators of this Malabo commitment 3 are split across two of the CAADP Kampala Declarations: Kampala Declaration I: "Intensify Sustainable Food Production, Agro-Industrialization, and Trade" with a goal to increase agrifood output, reduce post-harvest loss significantly, triple intra-African trade and agrifood systems value addition; and, Kampala Declaration III: "Ensure Food and Nutrition Security" with a goal to achieve zero hunger and reduce stunting, wasting and overweight in Africa by 2035.

On commitment 4 of the 5th BR, indicators monitoring women in agriculture is on track. The rest of the other three indicators are not on track. The status of this indicator, women in agribusiness, articulates the effort of stakeholders to document and ensure that data on women issues in agriculture are leveraged and use for programming and implementations. The indicators measuring "Youths in agriculture" showed that more needs to be done to amplify the issues of youths in agriculture and to attract young people into the sector. Moreover, young people and youth issues needed to be considered peculiar and treated in this context as it is done with women in agriculture. Other indicators, measuring this commitment, that were tracking the existence of effective inclusive Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in agriculture value chains (agribusiness or agripreneurs) and evidences to account for agriculture driven poverty eradication through economic opportunities (jobs) in agriculture were non-existent. Without clear data to support these indicators, they were "not on track" hence reducing evidences to support PPP establishments and Poverty eradication through agriculture. These indicators are navigated into Kampala Declaration IV to "Advance Inclusivity and Equitable Livelihoods" with its goal to reduce people from extreme poverty, reduce productivity in yield between men and women farmers, and to empower women, youths and other vulnerable stakeholder groups in agrifood systems by 2035.

On Commitment 5 of the 5th BR (enhancement of intra-Africa Trade), one of the indicators is progressing well on track, while the other one indicator is not on track. The Indicator monitoring intra-trade policies and governance institutions is progressing well. This highlights the progress of Liberia's alignment to continental trade policies including the AFTCFA recification and national trade liberalizations and mechanisms to promote and ensure effective intra-africa trade. However, the other indicator tracking intra agriculture chain commodities and services could not be measured due to data gaps: an indication to build immigration and border monitoring system at key border points (entry/exists) for improve intra-Africa trade of agriculture goods and services to

effectively report on the CAADP initiative.

On commitment 6 of the 5th BR (Enhancing Resilience in Agriculture), both indicators monitoring this commitment performed well: one (Investment in Resilience Building in Agriculture) is “on track” while another (Resilience to climate related risks and shock) is “progressing well” indicators are support this commitment. This highlights the efforts of stakeholder to build and support early warning systems and subsidy support in agriculture. On the overall, this commitment signals the continue engagement of relevant stakeholders towards strengthening partnerships, alliances and cooperations to build resilience of the agrifood systems while tracking and reporting effectively to the CAADP initiative. The Kampala Declaration V on “Building Resilient Agrifood Systems” inherits this aspects of commitment from the Malabo Declaration with a goal to make Africa’s

agrifood systems resilient to shocks (climate, socioeconomic, and environmental) through sustainable agriculture land management.

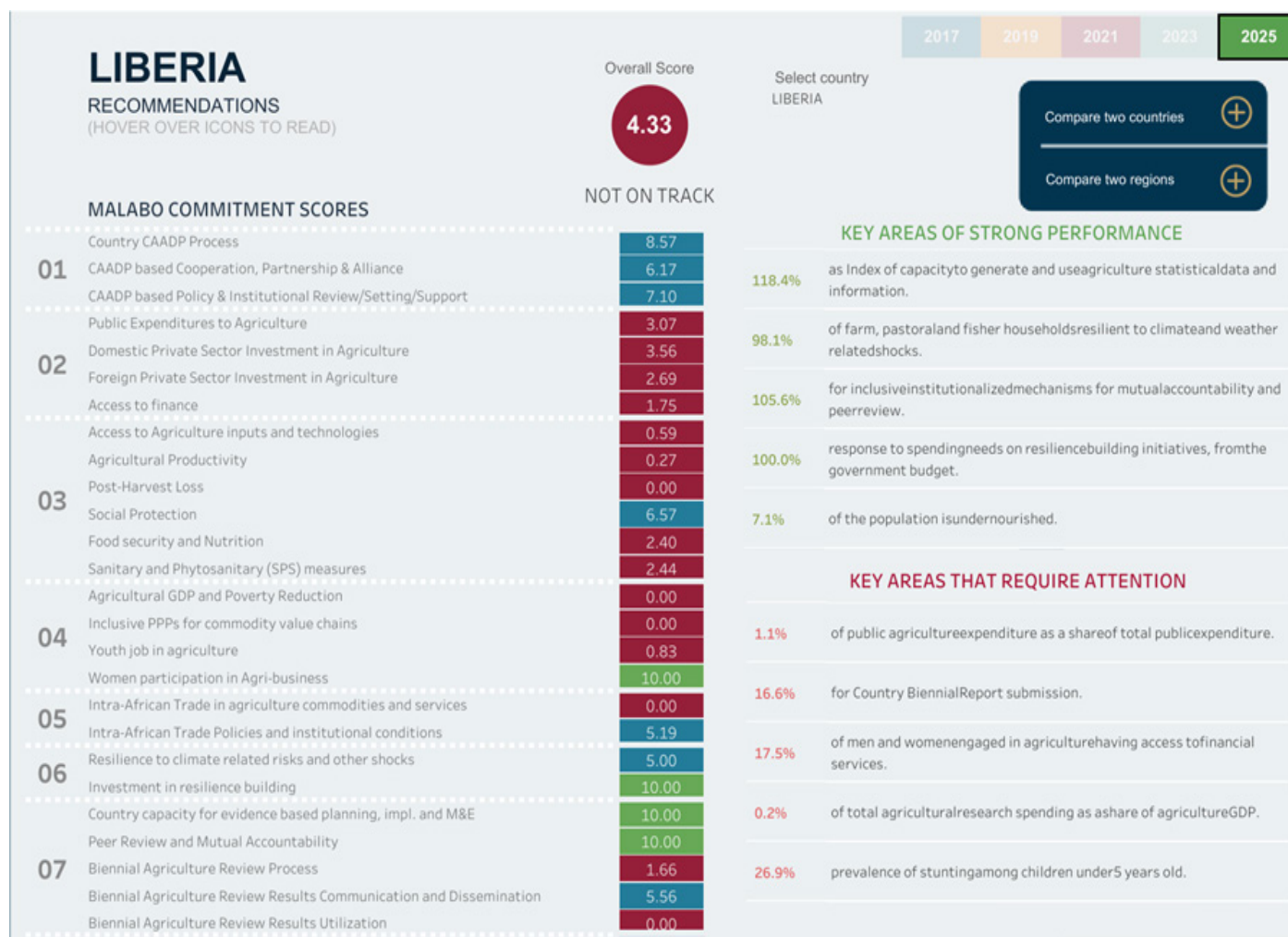
On commitment 7 (on Mutual Accountability) has five indicators. This commitment is similarly to commitment 1. However, Liberia achieved mixed scores on the indicators of this commitment as follows:

- ✓ On track scores on two of its indicators: (i) the ability of the country to generate agriculture and rural statistics, and (ii) the existence of a mutual accountability structure where CAADP reports are peer reviewed by relevant stakeholder group representatives.
- ✓ Progressing well score on the “BR communication and dissemination of the results”;
- ✓ Not on track score on two other indicators: (i) low agriculture sector review processes like the Joint Sector Review (JSR) for stakeholder engagement, and (ii) no evidence on the utilization of the BR results after dissemination.

These results highlighting the scores of the indicators showed the following: (i) that the country has positive capacity to generate agriculture and rural based statistics to report on the CAADP BR initiative, (ii) the country has engagement mechanisms supporting coordination and collaborative efforts that were evidenced in the preparation of the CAADP BR reporting process, and (iii) there are developing communication mechanisms between various stakeholder group that needs to be strengthened. On the other hand,, scores of the last two indicators of Commitment 7 in Liberia’s 5th BR indicate the need for continuous planned stakeholder engagements in the agriculture sector including the Joint Sector Reviews (JSR), and intentional consideration of the BR results in agriculture-based policy making, program design and project implementation when BR results are disseminated.

These two Malabo commitments (Commitments 1 & 7) summarized the essence of institutions needed to ensure effective implementation of the CAADP process and its BR production and use for agriculture transformation. Going into the next ERA of the CAADP Kampala, these two commitment are submerged into the Kampala Declaration VI entitled “Strengthening Agrifood Systems Governance” with one focal objectives to maintain the CAADP principles and integrate the BR process into Joint Sector Reviews (JSR) or JSR-like mechanisms by 2030.

Figure 3: Liberia's 5th Malabo Biennial Report Score by Commitments



The CAADP Malabo BR Outlook of ECOWAS and Liberia's Position

Liberia is located in West Africa, and is a member of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): a Regional Economic Commission (REC) of the African Union supporting AU member states with the internalization of the Africa Agenda 2063 principles and core values. Through the Directorate of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) of the ECOWAS Commission, this REC supported the CAADP Malabo Commitments through designed regional policies, programmes and mobilized resource for capacity strengthening to support country level institutions, systems and various stakeholders (including member states, farmer organizations, Civil Society, private sector actors, Research and academics, and development partners/donors) for the effective implementation of the CAADP Malabo Agenda at the country level.

Pivotal to the successful reporting of West Africa Countries across the Malabo BRs, has been the support of ECOWAS through the DARD. Its work focused on supporting regional alignment, coordination and cooperation of member states in sharing best practices during BR data collation, data quality assessment, analysis and reporting at all of the Malabo BRs. This showed in the improvement of all member states of the ECOWAS performance overtime with the upward movements along the Malabo BRs (Figure 4). To further emphasized this staller performance of the ECOWAS Member States, Eight of the Twelve (12) West African Countries (Benin, Cote D'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo) completed the 5th Biennial Report of the Malabo with a scorecard positioning them as "progressing well on target" indicating that more than 90% of ECOWAS Member States are progressing well on target of the Malabo.

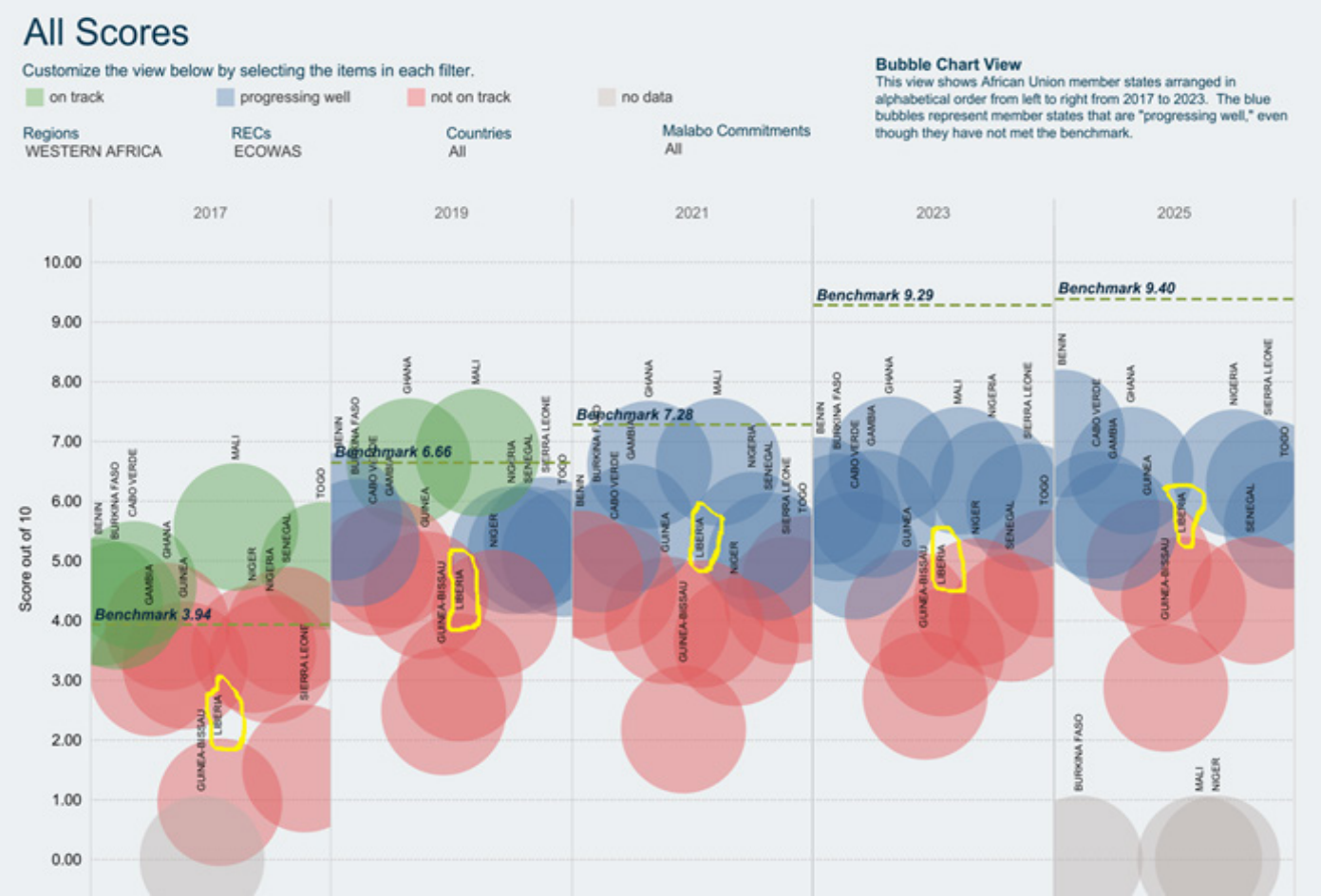
Comparing Liberia score to this regional performance is important to understand Liberia's involvement and responsiveness to these regional initiatives and the prospects therein that can be leveraged. From review of Liberia's data (yellow polygon) in the bubbles of ECOWAS Member States, there is a positive trend from BR1 to BR5. The highest performance of the BR reports is reflected in the high level in BR5, indicating the focus of Liberia and the commitment of current CAADP National Team member to the reporting requirements and processes of the BR. The drop in the BR4 result of Liberia can be attributed, among other things, to political transitions processes that came with new Political National Government. This calls for the institutionalization of CAADP focal points in mechanisms that will foster continuity even in the face of shocks and/or unforeseen circumstances.

As lessons to leverage from ECOWAS Member States, Liberia's can learn about data governance framework including data coordination mechanisms and system infrastructure that helped other member states to performed well as they did in the BRs.

Overall, the performance of ECOWAS member states provide a rich insight for an effective roadmap that Liberia can adopt to strategically enhance cross-border partnerships with other member states for better performance in future CAADP mutual accountability mechanisms.

The dangling of ECOWAS after the 3rd BR links to the withdrawal of three of its top performers (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) From ECOWAS after the 4th Biennial Report was published. "The formal withdrawal of these three countries became effective on 29th January 2025." Source: <https://www.voanews.com/a/west-africa-bloc-announces-formal-exit-of-three-junta-led-states-/7955666.html>

Figure 4: Comparison of ECOWAS Members CAADP Malabo Era Scores



Way forward into the Implementation of the CAADP Kampala

Now that the 5th Biennial Report is launched, there is a need to focus on the implementation of the Kampala Agenda. The real deal is to understand the domestic the declaration and begin mobilization of efforts toward its implementation and reporting. The following are worthy considerations for immediate, short and medium term considerations

Immediate (Within 3 months)

1. Improvement in the coordination, dissemination and communication of the 5th Biennial results to all stakeholders (farmer organizations, civil society organizations, private sector and non-state actors, youths and women organizations, MACs and development partners/donors) to inform strategic alignments toward the implementation of the Kampala and the next Biennial reporting time;
2. Enhancing awareness of the Kampala Declaration to various stakeholders, the Strategy Objective and Action Plan and the Implementation Guidelines
3. Mobilize Resources (financial and technical) to support the dissemination, communication and mobilization of stakeholder groups into action toward planning for the Kampala implementation and the Next Biennial Report
4. Establishment and strengthening of inter-ministerial and technical Multi-sector working groups linking technicians of relevant Ministries Agencies and Commissions (MACs) and stakeholders for collaborative implementation of the Kampala

Short term (3 – 7 months)

1. Establishment and strengthening of the Steering inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms and linking relevant Ministries Agencies and Commissions (MACs) of agrifood system for collaborative oversight of the Kampala implementation;
2. Establishment of Country Data clusters for BR data collection, collation and Reporting
3. Mobilize resources (human, financial and technical) for establishment of National data systems to accommodate data pulling, collation and reporting processes of the CAADP Biennial Reviews

Medium (Beyond 7-12 months)

1. Strengthening regional collaboration and scaling peer-to-peer learning through study visits, cross placement program of stakeholders to enhance best practices in the implementation of the Kampala
2. Strategic resource mobilization (including national budget, public resource, private and blended financing) to ensure strengthen country-wide and regional coordination for the implementation of the Kampala

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