

# AU ECHO

2020 Annual Magazine

## SILENCING THE GUNS IN AFRICA

### AU PEACE FUND

#### Interviews with Women in Peacekeeping

- LT. Colonel Tenneh Puteteh Sesay
- CSP. Esther Mary Kaintor
- CSP. Glory Urhere

AU AT  
**EXPO  
2020  
DUBAI**

## FIGHTING ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

## AfCFTA OPERATIONAL INSTRUMENTS LAUNCHED

### SPECIAL PULLOUT!

- OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combatting of Terrorism
- Protocol to the OAU Convention on the Prevention & Combatting of Terrorism

“

IF WE WANT TO REAP THE HARVEST OF PEACE AND JUSTICE IN THE FUTURE, WE WILL HAVE TO SOW SEEDS OF NON VIOLENCE, HERE AND NOW, IN THE PRESENT



**Mairead Corrigan**



**2020**  
**SILENCING THE GUNS:**

Creating Conducive  
Conditions for Africa's  
Development

**#SilencingTheGuns**

**SILENCING THE GUNS.**

Towards a Peaceful and  
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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

**N**elson Mandela once said that *“One effect of sustained conflict is to narrow our vision of what is possible.”*

When we focus on the chaos and disruption of conflicts and wars, when we place our trust in the gun to effect change rather than on the strength of our collective wisdom and desire to improve our lives and when we normalise destruction over construction, then we inevitably fail to see what potential lies in our people, our land and the resources it holds

The year 2020 is one where we as Africans will be called upon in all walks of life to band together to widen our vision and to see the full spectrum of what is possible economically, socially and politically if we create the environment for peace to endure. Our theme for 2020 of ***Silencing The Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa’s Development*** is in keeping with Africa’s Agenda 2063 and our Aspiration for a Peaceful and Secure Africa. Anchored on the African Union’s African Peace and Security Architecture, 2020 will be the year where all tools to promote peace will be pulled out of the box; from preventive diplomacy and dialogue-centred approaches to conflict prevention and resolution, as well as support to member states and citizens through the work of the various AU peacekeeping forces to manage crises and work towards reconstruction of societies so as to create the firm foundation for enduring economic growth and development.

In our efforts to promote peace and stability in line with the theme of the year, the role of women must not be negated, but in fact a more inclusive approach to peace keeping must be embraced. In this edition we highlight the need to close the gender gap in matters of peace and security and profile the role of women in the peace keeping efforts of the African Union and celebrate their achievements.

Finally, peace and stability are necessary for achieving the desired objectives of one of Africa’s most ambitious economic integration initiatives, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The AfCFTA entered into force in May 2019 and in July 2019 the Operational Instruments were launched. Africa is all set to transform the landscape when trading under the AfCFTA commences in July 2020. In this edition of the AU Echo we cover the operational instruments as well as the requirements and expectations for the start of trading.

To achieve our ambitions for sustainable growth and development let us make 2020 the year when we lay the strong foundations for lasting peace



**LESLIE RICHER**

**DIRECTOR**

Directorate of Information & Communication

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**Defining Africa's Future Through Digital Transformation**



On 31 January 2020, it will be three years since the official inauguration of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC); the African Union's lead continental public health agency that provides support to African states in managing disease outbreaks and other public health threats as well as supporting them to efficiently prevent disease transmission, implement surveillance and detection, and always be prepared to respond effectively to health threats and outbreaks.

Africa CDC has increased from 53 staff members in December 2018 to 75 in December 2019. Key positions filled in 2019 included the deputy director, human resources officer, coordinator of the mortality surveillance programme, and a senior programme officer.

In spite of the fact that Africa CDC relies heavily on seconded staff and temporary personnel of the African Union, the agency stepped up recruitment of its own personnel in 2019 which was key to providing more support to countries, including response to three disease outbreaks in 2019: cholera in Sudan, Rift Valley Fever in Kenya and Ebola Virus Diseases (EVD) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

EVD preparedness and response required a large amount of programme resources

## Africa CDC makes Significant Progress in Africa's Public Health Management

– human, material, financial and technical – with support being provided in large part to the DRC and some at-risk countries such as South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The 63 African Union supported experts in the DRC are working with other partners in the communities, at border posts and health care centres to support contact tracing, risk communication, infection prevention and control, surveillance, laboratory testing, training of health care workers and community relays, logistics, treatment and care, advocacy and sensitization, and mobilization for vaccination.

In October 2019, Africa CDC partnered with the World Health Organization to hold a meeting of health ministers and key stakeholders from the DRC and its nine neighbouring countries. The meeting resulted in a joint framework for preparedness and response to EVD and other disease outbreaks by the 10 countries. This jointly organised meeting was the first of its kind jointly organized by Africa CDC and WHO and provided a learning





**Delivery of infection prevention and control materials to a health facility by Africa CDC volunteers in the DRC**

opportunity for the two organisations in working effectively together.

On 2 December 2019, the African Union convened a forum of partners to raise funds for the response to EVD outbreak in the DRC. The event resulted in both cash and in-kind contributions pledged by Member States and partners to support the DRC government in fighting the 10th Ebola outbreak.

With the signing of hosting agreements for the Central Africa and Southern Africa Regional Collaborating Centres (RCCs) by the governments of Gabon and Zambia respectively, the RCCs are began to take shape. RCC's are currently staffed by interim coordinators provided by the host countries and African Union supported short-term staff, including assignees from the African Union Youth Volunteer Corps. Africa CDC RCCs are currently established in Central, Eastern and Southern Africa, while preparations are at advanced stages for the inauguration of the Northern and Western Africa RCCs.

In 2019, Africa CDC implemented several specialized programmes and initiatives, such as the Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Network (RISLNET), mortality surveillance, the Pathogen Genomics Intelligence Institute, the Public Health Workforce Development Institute, the Africa Collaborative to Advance Diagnostics, One Health, and antimicrobial resistance control.

Through these programmes and initiatives, Africa CDC is helping to strengthen technical capacity and public health systems across the continent. For example, through RISLNET, Africa CDC is supporting seven laboratories in seven Member States in Central Africa to become the first cohort of reference laboratories enrolled for ISO 15189 accreditation. Following an assessment exercise, senior personnel of these laboratories have been trained on strengthening laboratory management towards accreditation (SLMTA) 01, quality assurance and external quality assessment, basic laboratory information systems, quality management of point-of-care testing, and equipment maintenance and calibration. RISLNET has supported the development of three framework documents and five guidance documents for the improvement of laboratory services in Central Africa.

Through the mortality surveillance programme, Africa CDC has held one continental and three regional workshops to support the development of national action plans on mortality surveillance. A draft framework on mortality surveillance for Africa, developed during these meetings, is currently being finalized and will be launched during the World Health Assembly in May 2020.

Launched in October 2017, the Africa CDC Framework for Antimicrobial Resistance Control, 2018–2023 was revised and amended in 2019 by the African Union Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance Control to include plant, animal and environmental health issues. It was then upgraded to an African Union strategy for the control of AMR in Africa and endorsed by the Ministers of Health, Agriculture, and Environment from Member States along with the African Common Position on Antimicrobial Resistance, during the Specialized Technical Committee meetings on health of the African Union in 2019.

Through its weekly virtual Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes (ECHO) forums, Africa CDC has facilitated learning, knowledge and information exchange among over 30 Member States on such issues as disease outbreak and emergency preparedness, laboratory strategic planning, laboratory quality assurance, One Health, public health emergency response simulation exercises, public health information systems, antimicrobial resistance, and preparation of national action plans.

In addition, Africa CDC is supporting Member States to establish and strengthen their National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) to guarantee health security for the continent. Two key guidance documents were developed and launched in 2019: Legal Framework for NPHI Development and Framework for Development of NPHIs.

In its first year of existence, the Africa CDC Institute for Workforce Development, in partnership with NPHIs and equivalent institutions of Member States, trained nearly 250 professionals from across the continent in key aspects of public health. The Africa CDC framework for public health workforce development was launched in December 2019 as a tool to assist Member States in addressing the human resource for health challenges in their respective countries.

Africa CDC continues to grow stronger in its role to shape a new public health order for Africa, and the institution is gaining increasing support from Member States and partners around the globe.



H.E. Prof. Victor Harison, Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission at the 11<sup>th</sup> African Private Sector Forum

# Leveraging **PRIVATE SECTOR** Engagement for the Africa we Want.

To set Africa firmly on the path towards economic and social transformation, private sector engagement is crucial. The African Union, has throughout the years worked closely with the private sector to define the great contribution and significant role the private sector plays in driving the economic development Agenda of the continent. The private sector in Africa accounts for over 80 per cent of total production, two thirds of total investment, and three fourths of lending within the economy. The sector also provides jobs for about 90 per cent of the employed working-age population.. Small Medium Enterprise (SMEs) are the backbone of the African private sector accounting for over 90% of businesses in Africa and translating to 63% of employment in low-income countries while contributing to over

.... private sector development, including SMEs, in Africa continues to be impeded by several challenges. The environment in which they operate could be more conducive with better institutional frameworks...

**Moussa Faki Mahamat,  
AUC Chairperson**

African Private Sector accounts for over 80% of total production, 67% of total investment, 75% of lending within the economy. And provides 90% of employed working-age population.

Source: UNECA.

50% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Although trends in intra-African trade point toward progress, trade within Africa remains very low in proportion to total global trade highlighting the need for enhancing intra-African trade. The tides however look promising with the operationalisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AFCFTA). The AFCFTA is expected to increase intra-African Trade by over 50 per cent, and will boost the continent's GDP by more than \$40 billion, and its exports by more than \$55 billion. The common market is expected to upscale the prospects in the agriculture sector, a bedrock of employment for majority of Africans, by improving regional market access thereby stimulating growth. These prospects underscore the need to leave no one behind in moving forward the agenda of the "Africa we want".

To promote private sector engagement, the AU has implemented programmes that seek to form strategic partnerships with the private sector through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) engagements, including developing strategic partnerships with African Philanthropists to support the implementation of key development initiatives at a regional and continental





**Dr. Bruno Razananirina**  
from INSCAE  
Madagascar  
(right) and  
**Mr. Khatib Bencheikh**,  
Expert at the  
Arab Bank  
for Economic  
Development in  
Africa.

The ultimate aim of the African Economic Platform is to catalyze economic transformation on the continent by seeking solutions to unregistered trade through informal cross-border exchanges, promote economic integration and greater intra-African trade, skills development and capacity building.

**Dr. Dlamini Zuma,**  
*Former Chairperson,*  
**African Union Commission**

#### **A commitment to inclusive development.**

In developing policies and conceptualizing projects, the African Union undertakes a broader consultative process with stakeholders and experts. Such consultations enable the development of relevant, practical and implementable projects that address the actual deficits on the ground, for tangible economic transformation and in fulfilling the vision of the founding fathers to bring the African Union closer to the people. The private sector engagement has been a prominent feature in the continuous dialogue on key projects by the Union.

Over the years, the African Union has focused on institutionalising the PPP engagement to provide an all-inclusive policy space for various stakeholders to explore realistic regional and global opportunities and network to expand business growth. The various structures serve as platforms for awareness and sensitization of AU Member States and

citizens, including women and youth, on topical issues. The platforms bring together the African Union, member states, subject-matter experts and professionals, academicians, women, youth, the private sector, the diaspora and civil societies.

The AU Commission has existing structures that include;

- 1. The African Economic Platform (AEP)** a flagship programme of Agenda 2063, is the premier multi-stakeholder meeting bringing together the African political leadership, the private sector, academia and civil society to reflect on how to accelerate Africa's economic transformation by harnessing its vast resources to enhance the development of the African people. The forum looks into key opportunities and the constraints that hamper economic development and propose solutions.
- 2. The African Private Sector Forum** is an annual gathering of stakeholders in the public and private sector convened by the African Union, to promote the work of the AU in the area of economic integration and private sector development and engagement. The Forum also acts as a vehicle for empowering the African Private Sector through advocacy, Networking, sharing of business and market information and skills. During the forum the AU proposes policy solutions for the resolution of Africa's debt problem and provides a framework for the use of harmonised statistics which will be further entrenched through the the establishment of the AU Institute for Statistics and the Statistics Training Centre.
- 3. African Inclusive Markets Excellence Centre (AIMEC).** The AU is in the process of operationalising AIMEC. It is going to be the premier pan-African regional platform for thought leadership and action on inclusive business (IB) and inclusive markets (IM), identifying, facilitating and replicating best practice and innovation in IB and IM policy, programming and public-private collaboration. Ultimately, this will foster inclusive growth and regional economic integration in Africa.
- 4. The AU Foundation** focuses on engaging with private sector



**H.E. Christina Ntsay**, Prime  
Minister of  
Madagascar

philanthropy to support key development initiatives on the continent such as agriculture and youth development.

The African Union has also engaged the private sector to support public health emergencies such as the “Africa Against Ebola Solidarity Trust Fund” towards the West Africa Ebola epidemic in 2014, investing in the continent’s capacity to respond to public health emergencies through the deployment of African Health Workers. A similar call to the private sector was also made in 2019 for the “Africa Against Ebola Forum” to support efforts in eliminating Ebola in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

### **Fostering entrepreneurship; for the people, by the people**

The private sector development, including SMEs in Africa, continue to be impeded by several challenges. The AU works to foster within member states an environment conducive to the development of the private sector through addressing skills gaps and skills mismatches which remains a great constrain, better institutional frameworks that enable skilling and development, access to financing to spur innovations and promoting private sector participation in industrialisation processes and value chains.

Africa’s industrial policies should be coherent with other policies, including trade policies, to promote value addition and economic diversification.

### **Dr. Dlamini Zuma, Former Chairperson, African Union Commission**

Through its various policies, projects and activities, evidenced by the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA); the launch of the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM); the push for the implementation of the Protocol of Free Movement of Persons in Africa; and accelerating the infrastructure development in the continent, the AU has signaled its commitment to facilitate the growth and development

## The continent needs to promote “Made in Africa” in which the private sector, in particular SMEs, has a crucial role to play

of the African private sector. Providing effective assistance to the Africa’s SMEs, especially in the manufacturing sector,

A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. Eradicate poverty in one generation and build shared prosperity through social and economic transformation of the continent.

could ensure that the continent benefits in employment creation for its young population and increase the beneficiation of the local products, while maximizing regional values chains.

This is especially significant in looking at the public debt levels within the continent, which though sustainable, remain high thus calling for the need to invest funds borrowed into productive sectors to generate returns that could allow timely repayment and enhance the countries’ growth prospects. To facilitate the growth and development of the African private sector, the African Union Commission places emphasis on several key aspects that include but are not limited to;

1. The need for Africa to diversify economically and add value through commodity-based industrialization raise productivity in agricultural and nonagricultural sectors.
2. Promote industrialisation in Africa to meet the requirements of private businesses, in particular SMEs that are the backbone of the African private sector. The continent undoubtedly needs to promote the “Made in Africa” in which the private sector, in particular SMEs, has a crucial role to play. This could reflect in the design, marketing and branding that promote the “Made in Africa”.

3. Africa’s industrial policies should be coherent with other policies, including trade policies, to promote value addition and economic diversification. These policies could include ‘smart protectionism’, of which nascent industrial sectors can develop productivity through learning-by-doing, technology upgrade, support from leading firms and reducing tariffs on imported inputs to industrial sectors, as well as reducing barriers to imports of services that are inputs to the industrial sector.
4. Mobilizing finance to support the private sector in Africa has been

### **Agenda 2063, Aspiration 1:**

underscored as a crucial element. Promoting financial market development to harness domestic resources for long-term development, accessible to the range of economic actors would be a significant contribution to improving the capacity of Africa’s private sector to participate in Africa’s industrialization and value chain development.

5. At the regional and continental levels, harnessing cross-border financial flows from Africa’s diaspora could be crucial for the continent’s development. Initiatives to enhance the use of remittance channels, cutting the associated costs and mobilizing remittances for investment purposes, could help channel the diaspora’s finance into the industrialization process of African economies.
6. There is also a need for the continent to actively promote all viable means of domestic as well as foreign resource mobilization. This includes harnessing excess liquidity in the banking sector for development (particularly for long-term development projects) and stemming illicit financial flows out of Africa.
7. Member States are also urged to strengthen public-private dialogue



platforms at all levels, in order to harness the goodwill of the private sector for it to be a reliable partner in Africa's development.

### **The 11th Edition of the African Private Sector Forum.**

Over the last 11 editions of the African Private Sector Forum, the annual forum has evolved to focus on the wide range of Africa's development priorities and has successfully provided a platform for information exchange, business networking and policy recommendations including business development services, regulatory reforms, and capacity-building for women and youth, with a particular focus on strengthening local micro, small and medium size enterprises. This forum offers varied sectoral engagement opportunities in the Business to Business (B2B); Business to Government (B2G); Business to Others (B2O); and Others to Others (O2O) models.

The 11th edition held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, in November 2019 under the theme, "Transforming African economies through private sector mobilization and capitalization of experiences from other regions of the world", accorded the various participants opportunities to;

Advance dialogue on issues of economic development between policy makers, specialized development agencies and financial institutions, civil societies, private sectors, researchers, and professional organizations.

Explore avenues for greater private sector's role and contribution to Africa's growth and economic transformation.

Promote and reinforce exchanges between the African private sector and international private sector stakeholders, investors, policy makers and entrepreneurs.

Empower the private sector as catalyst in the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Celebrate and recognize the best performing African Manufacturers in the "Made in Africa" Award.

Explore complementary interventions to boost competitiveness and improve Africa's investment and business climate;

Provide recommendations on the economic development challenges in Africa, for consideration in the 2020 Ordinary session of the African Union Heads of State and Governments Summit.

The High-Level sessions and discussions focused on various Agenda 2063 flagship projects and programmes such as the AfCFTA, Cyber Security; Financing of the Union; the African Passport and Free Movement of People; the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP); Gender and Youth Empowerment, among other key projects.

In acknowledging entrepreneurship as a key driver towards the structural economic transformation, the 11th Edition also included a two-day event on training and equipping African Women and Youth with modern and innovative entrepreneurship and Leadership Skills. The event was important as a platform to explore the potential to create millions of jobs; generate innovations in fields such as market analysis, risk analysis, feasibility analysis, social and environment, human resources and commercial and technical feasibility, enhance marketing skills and expansion of businesses.

***It is Africa's time.***

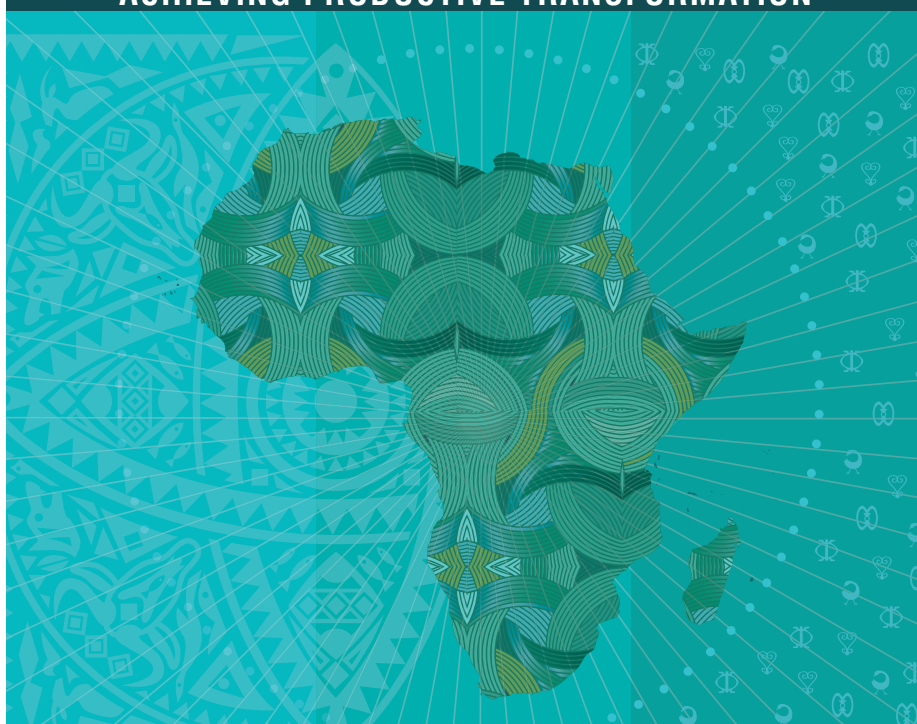
**Download the 2019 Africa's Development Dynamics Report (ADD) on "Achieving Productive Transformation" at [www.au.int/en/afdd2019](http://www.au.int/en/afdd2019)**



**Visit of Exhibitions of H.E. Robert Ahomka-Lindsay, Deputy Minister of Industry Ghana and H.E. Jean-Marie Oganaga, Minister of Commerce, SMEs and Tourism, Ghana**

# AFRICA'S DEVELOPMENT DYNAMICS

ACHIEVING PRODUCTIVE TRANSFORMATION



## PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE

# AFRICA'S FIGHT AGAINST ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS

The African Union advocates for strengthened tax cooperation to stem illicit financial flows (IFFs) through the High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa. The Panel which was established to improve the knowledge of the nature, scale and impact of illicit financial flows and to track and stop the outflows, estimates that the continent loses over 50 billion dollars annually to illicit outflows. The estimates show that commercial activities are by far the largest contributor to IFFs, accounting for 65% due to abusive transfer pricing, trade mispricing, over-invoicing of services and intangibles, using unequal contracts and tax evasion. Criminal activities account for 30 percent due to money laundering, trafficking and smuggling of people, drugs and arms. Corruption and abuse of office account for 5 percent of the illicit outflows.

These figures highlight the urgency to identify modalities and steps that must be taken to radically reduce these outflows and to ensure that these development resources remain within the continent as well as the need to improve and enforce good governance and sustainable improvements in the business environment.

On reflecting on the effectiveness of the approach to fight corruption on the continent, the AU report on the progress on implementation of the 2018 theme of the year, gives a preliminary assessment of the implementation of the activities towards the fight against corruption and similarly concludes with some key findings and recommendations. The report by H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Champion of the AU theme of the year 2018 "Winning the Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Africa's Transformation," identifies key priorities, notably, the development

of a Common African Position on Asset Recovery; the development of an African Anti-Corruption Methodology; as well as continued advocacy on the issue of Illicit Financial Flows through the Consortium on Illicit Financial Flows.

**Download the report Domestic Resource Mobilization: Fighting Against Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows from [www.au.int](http://www.au.int)**

Domestic Resource Mobilization: Fighting Against Corruption and Illicit Financial Flows

2019

...large commercial corporations are by far the biggest culprits of illicit outflows, followed by organized crime. We are also convinced that corrupt practices in Africa are facilitating these outflows, apart from and in addition to the related problem of weak governance capacity

**Thabo Mbeki, Chairperson, High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa.**

Following on the commitment to stem graft on the continent, in 2019 the AU Assembly adopted the Nouakchott Declaration on the African Anti-Corruption Year, in which AU member states committed to progressively abolish bank secrecy jurisdictions and tax havens on the continent, establish public beneficial ownership registers and ensure that public officials declare their assets. The Assembly also called on international partners and

#### **The Common African Position on Asset recovery**

In seeking a common framework to enhance the fight against illicit financial flows; the swift recovery and return of African assets; and transparency in the utilization of returned assets, the AU, through its organ, the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC), has embarked on a progressive approach for the development of the Common



## Africa loses US\$50 billion annually to illicit outflows driven largely by commercial activities (65%) and Criminal Acovities (30%) and Corruption and Abuse of Office (5%)

African Position (CAP) on asset recovery, an institutional framework to support coherent and stream-lined administrative strategies on the recovery of stolen assets. The development of a Common African Position on Asset Recovery is timely and critical in ensuring that Africa presents a united front, in dealing with internal and external challenges being faced in the recovery of African assets.

In 2019, the AUABC embarked on a consultative process to establish the legal, policy, procedural and institutional frameworks regulating asset recovery in all the 55 AU member states. The process included the collation of information from member states as relates to initiatives undertaken on asset recovery, the challenges encountered and measures of redress as well as recommendations. As of October 2019, fifteen member states had submitted their data (Benin, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa, Togo, Zambia, and Tanzania).

The data will be key in unpacking the numerous internal and external obstacles faced by African counties in recovering stolen assets. The absence of comprehensive policies, lack of technical capacity and ineffective inter-agency cooperation have often been cited as the main challenges hampering the recovery efforts of stolen assets. Other constraints include moderate investigative knowledge, the inherent secrecy of the activities and inadequate resource allocation to financial aspects of the crime, and inadequate use of reports by investigators and customs agencies on suspicious transactions. The development of the CAP will also be key in defining effective collaboration between African states and external agencies such as Interpol, money transfer agencies, and

central banks in their respective countries to ensure assets recovery.

### **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition of the African Anti-Corruption Dialogue**

The 3rd Edition of the African Anti-Corruption Dialogue convened in 2019 focused on the development of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery. The dialogue brought together the AU Permanent Representatives Committee; the national anti-corruption agencies, civil societies, the media, academia and international organisations to deliberate on the development of the Common African Position on Asset

...African countries should explore more options for mobilizing domestic resources to finance productive activities, generate inclusive growth and mitigate the increasing social demands

**Moussa Faki Mahamat, AUC Chairperson**

Recovery. Held under the theme "Towards a Common African Position on Asset Recovery," the meeting made the following eight observations towards developing the CAP:

1. The quest for the recovery of African assets must be situated and contextualized in the broader historical, political, economic and social narrative of Africa including demands for the return of stolen African artefacts and reparations for slavery and colonisation of Africa
2. The technical and legal processes involved in recovery of African assets are complex and unduly lengthy and the CAP must ensure that legal and other processes are streamlined and simplified
3. While noting that the development of the CAP is in part a technical process, it must further be recognised that it is also fundamentally a political process. Therefore, the CAP shall require strong political will and ownership by African leaders and its development should be conducted in accordance with the African Union's policy-making processes
4. The CAP should address measures to prevent further loss of African assets. It should propose mechanisms and

strategies to ensure that financial institutions identify and refuse to accept Illicit Financial Flows

5. The CAP should prioritize the creation and establishment of an asset recovery database including information required to facilitate asset recovery such as the legal frameworks and applicable processes in the destination countries, the requirement's for mutual legal assistance and a list of experts. In addition, there is need for further research and data into the field

6. The CAP should incorporate five pillars namely asset identification, asset repatriation, asset management, applicable legal frameworks and institutional mechanisms

In the 2019 Nouakchott Declaration on the African Anti-Corruption Year, member states committed to progressively abolish bank secrecy jurisdictions and tax havens on the continent, establish public beneficial ownership registers and ensure that public officials declare their assets

“

BULLETS CANNOT  
BE RECALLED.  
THEY CANNOT BE  
UNINVENTED.  
BUT THEY CAN  
BE TAKEN OUT  
OF THE GUN

**Martin Amis**

**2020**  
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7. Inter-agency collaboration and mutual legal assistance, experience sharing and learning remain key in asset recovery processes. The inclusion and participation of all stakeholders such as the Legislature, Civil Society Organisations, Regional Economic Communities, the Media, the Academia will enhance its development and implementation
8. The CAP should be accompanied by a robust communication and implementation strategy and action plan which is well resourced and has support at the highest level in order to promote better understanding of the Common African Position and its role in the transformation of African lives under Agenda 2063

The report with these recommendations will be submitted for consideration by the AU policy organs in 2020

#### **The fight against corruption is key to upscale resource mobilization.**

Africa has experienced strong economic growth with an average of around 5% since 2000. However, the growth has not substantially reduced poverty and inequality nor led to job creation on the continent. In recognition of the limited budgetary resources, the scarcity and volatility of development assistance, further, the scale of socio-economic destruction evidenced by sluggish or ceased development plans and programmes, due to undue diversion of resources through corruption, the AU has over the years, deepened the resolve, focus and expertise for addressing the many facets of corruption on the continent, as a prerequisite for the realization of the goals articulated in "Aspiration 3" of Africa's development framework, Agenda 2063, which seeks an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law.

Strong institutions have often been cited as a necessary condition in the fight against corruption. H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Champion of the AU theme of the year 2018 has remained stern on the need for strong institutions. He underscores the need for African leaders to build synergy between the executive, legislative and judicial arms of

...Corruption is indeed, one of the greatest evils of our time

#### **H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria**

government as a prerequisite to entrench good governance, transparency and accountability. He similarly advocates for strong national and regional institutions, observing the need to not only adequately empower the national anti-corruption agencies, but to also insulate them from political influence. The AU Champion notes, "it is evident that corruption has a devastating impact on marginalized communities especially the youth, women and children. Corruption breeds unequal societies, renders vulnerable groups prone to human trafficking, as well as recruitment into armed groups and militia. In effect, corruption deprives our young citizens of opportunities to develop meaningful livelihoods. We must therefore, work together to defeat this evil."

The designation of year 2018 as the African Anti-Corruption Year and the annual commemoration of the 11th of July as the African Anti-Corruption Day, therefore, have been among the deliberate actions by the AU to scale up advocacy efforts and broaden partnerships towards the realization of tangibles efforts in the fight against graft. These actions have also been crucial in supporting the implementation of policy frameworks, such as the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC) adopted 2003.

The efforts have yielded commendable policy action by Member States on the implementation and monitoring of anti-corruption strategies. As of October 2019, 43 member states had ratified the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption while another 25 other Member States, had also undertaken to implement domestic reforms to strengthen anti-corruption measures.

Lessons from the African Anti-Corruption Year 2018 showed that there is a need to strengthen and further capacitate national anti-corruption agencies and related institutions to ensure their functional autonomy as well as capacitate the African Union Advisory Board on Corruption (AUABC) to understand the challenges of Member States in ratifying and domesticating the Convention.

#### **Catalysing the fight against graft through inclusive engagement**

The AU has been keen to rally citizen's participation on AU-led anti-corruption initiatives across the continent and a correlated increase in knowledge on the dangers of corruption on socio, economic and political transformation of Africa. This has also provided a platform for strengthened partnerships with key stakeholders including national anti-corruption agencies, supreme audit institutions, civil society organizations, and the media. It is through the deepened collaboration that the Africa Group at the United Nations successfully led an initiative to have a resolution on IFFs adopted by the UN General Assembly.

Various youth-led activities such as the African Youth Congress Against Corruption (AYCAC) has since adopted the Youth Declaration against Corruption and endorsed the establishment of the African Youth Community of Practice on Anti-Corruption (AYCPAC) as a framework for coordination of youth-led efforts in the fight against corruption in Africa.

The consultative process has been critical in consolidating the gains and in driving momentum for the legal and political frameworks to enhance the fight against corruption and accountability and transparency in the continent.

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*Read the AU Convention on Preventing & Combatting Corruption and find out more about the status of ratification by member states by visiting [www.au.int/en/treaties](http://www.au.int/en/treaties)*

# AFRICAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSIONS (AUEOM)

The African Union's Constitutive Act, the OAU/AU Declaration on the Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa, the Africa Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, and the Guidelines for AU Electoral Observation and Monitoring Missions provide the benchmarks for the promotion of democratic elections.

Since the early 1990s, when most African countries returned to multiparty rule, there has been exponential growth in elections in Africa. With the growth in elections has come the development and institutionalisation of election observation activities. In response to the democratic waves on the continent, the African Union (AU) has developed norms intended to promote political participation, improve electoral standards and facilitate the consolidation of democracy in Member States.

Africa has made significant progress in institutionalising electoral democracy. This is reflected in the number of successful multiparty elections in most of AU member states. In spite of these achievements, challenges remain. These include the prevalence in some countries of conflict, violence and instability resulting from disputed elections.

The AU Commission Manual on African Union Election Observation was developed with the aim of strengthening the democratisation and governance processes underway in Africa and a view to guiding the involvement of the AU in the observation and monitoring of elections in Member States. The manual is designed as a reference guide for use by African Union election observers in the field during AUEOMs. It is designed to provide guidance to observers on the benchmarks and the methodology for observation of elections by the AU.

**The objectives of the AUEOM are:**

1. To provide an accurate and impartial reporting or assessment of the election,

including the degree to which the conduct of the elections meets regional, continental and international standards for democratic elections;

2. To offer recommendations for improvement of future elections based on the findings;
3. To supporting Member States' elections and the democratisation process to ensure that the conduct of genuine elections contributes to the consolidation of democratic governance, peace and stability.

The AUEOM draws its mandate from various African Union instruments, most importantly the African Union Guidelines for Elections Observation and Monitoring Missions, the OAU/AU Declaration on Principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa; the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance. The observations of the AUEOM are based on the principles and standards for the conduct of democratic elections as enshrined in the aforementioned AU instruments.

In line with its mandate stipulated in the aforementioned instruments, the objective of the AUEOM is to make an independent, objective and impartial assessment of the electoral process and, where necessary, make recommendations for improved management of elections in member states, in accordance with key international normative frameworks and national laws.

In election observation missions, the AU normally draws its heads of missions from former heads of state and government, as well other eminent



**African Union  
Observers at  
the Presidential  
Elections in  
Guinea Bissau,  
December 2019**





**H.E Joaquim Rafael BRANCO, former Prime Minister of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome & Principe and Head of AUEOM in Guinea Bissau and the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs Amb. Minata Samate Cessouma addressing the press during the presidential elections in Guinea Bissau on 29 December 2019**



public personalities on the continent. The observers are drawn from the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) of the AU, the Pan-African Parliament, election management bodies, civil society organizations working in the area of democracy, governance and elections in Africa, think tanks, and independent election experts.

The AUEOM will meet with the political, administrative and judicial authorities of the country, the institutions in charge of elections, the national actors involved in the electoral process and the representatives of the international community in order to be aware of the arrangements made for the holding of credible, free and fair elections.

To achieve its mandate AUEOMs undertake the following activities:

- Deployment of a team of Long-Term Observers (LTOs) to have consultations with national elections commissions, relevant government departments and agencies, political parties and candidates, the media, academic institutions/think tanks, civil society organisations and the security agencies in order to make an informed assessment of the pre-election context.
- The LTOs will be joined by a team of Short-Term Observers (STOs) to observe elections in the country. The STOs will have an intensive 2-day orientation training during which they will receive briefings from a wide range of electoral stakeholders including: national elections commissions, political parties, candidates, security agencies, media, civil society groups and election experts.
- The AUEOM Leadership Team also will have high-level consultations with electoral stakeholders. It coordinates its efforts with other international election observer groups in the country by hosting a pre-election coordination meeting of international observer missions and attending the post-election coordination meeting hosted by the other regional or international observer missions.
- On the Election Day, AU STOs will visit polling stations to observe all aspects of Election Day
- Issuance of a final report of the AUEOM's overall assessment of the entire process.

The recommendations made by the AUEOM are meant to assist the member states electoral stakeholders to improve the management of future elections and to deepen democratic governance in the country in line with the Aspiration 3 of Agenda 2063 which envisions an "An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law"

Electoral observation and monitoring has become an integral part of the democratic and electoral processes in Africa. International, regional and national observers have come to play important roles in enhancing the transparency and credibility of elections and democratic governance in Africa and the acceptance of election results throughout the continent. Electoral observation and monitoring missions can also play key roles in diminishing conflicts before, during and after elections.



## The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Enters into Force & Operational Instruments Launched

**O**n May 30th 2019 Africa made history as the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA officially entered into force. With 54 out of the 55 member states of the African Union signing the agreement, Africa brought into being the largest trading block since the formation of the WTO. The entry into force of the AfCFTA is also marked by the speed at which African countries worked together within a year to establish a regional trading block to promote intra-African trade following the adoption of the AfCFTA on 21 March

2018 in Kigali, Rwanda

Following the ratification and entry into force of the AfCFTA, 5 supporting Operational Instruments were launched during the AU Summit held in Niamey, Niger in July 2019. These instruments are the key tools that will support the launch of the operational phase of the AfCFTA with start of trading scheduled for July 2020. The occasion also marked the announcement of the Republic of Ghana as the country to host the AfCFTA Secretariat.

### The Operational Instruments of the AfCFTA

- 1. The Rules of Origin:** A regime governing the conditions under which a product or service can be traded duty free across the region.
- 2. The Tariff concessions:** It has been agreed that there should be 90% tariff liberalisation and the deadline is 1st July 2020. (Over a 10 year period with a 5 year transition, there will be an additional 7 % for "sensitive products" that must be liberalised). This will be supported by the AfCFTA Trade in Goods online portal where Member States will upload their tariff offers covering 90% of the tariff lines.

### The AfCFTA Online Negotiation Tool

- Facilitate the negotiations on tariff liberalisation between State Parties, Customs Unions or Regional Groupings under the AfCFTA;



- Provide tools to ensure the technical quality of the offers made;
- Increase transparency while safeguarding confidentiality; and
- Provide tools for users/ negotiating groups to interact.

The tool will be accessible to all parties to assist in their negotiations and will be a collaborative platform to exchange the lists of products defined at the tariff line level as well as the tariff that could be applied. The tool will allow each party to:- define their own product lists; share lists with selected parties for discussion; comment on shared lists; and suggest counter proposals. In order to facilitate the creation of initial product lists, a module will analyse various factors among which are:- fiscal revenues; employment by sector; production; potential trade; existing tariffs; commitments; and Infant industries. Based on this methodology, the tool will automatically suggest product lists as a potential starting point for negotiation, taking into account the tariff-dismantling schedules.

**3. The Continental Online Tool/ Mechanism for monitoring, reporting and elimination of Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs):** (NTBs) are a greater hindrance to intra-African Trade than Tariff Barriers. One of the key objectives of the AfCFTA is to progressively eliminate existing NTBs and refrain from introducing new ones in order to enhance and facilitate intra Africa trade. The Continental tool will ensure NTBs are monitored with a view to ensuring they are eliminated.

**4. The Pan-African Payments and Settlement System (PAPSS):** Is a centralised payment and settlement infrastructure for intra-African trade and commerce payments. This project which is being developed in collaboration with the African Export-Import Bank, Afreximbank will facilitate payments as well as formalise some of the unrecorded trade due to prevalence of informal cross-border trade in Africa. It will also provide alternative to current high-cost and lengthy correspondent banking relationships to facilitate trade and other economic activities

among African countries through a simple, low-cost and risk-controlled payment clearing and settlement system. The benefits of PAPSS for cross-border payments include cost reduction; reduction in duration and time variability; decreasing liquidity requirements of commercial banks; decreasing liquidity requirements of central banks for settlement as well as its own payments; and strengthening Central Banks' oversight of cross border payment systems.

**5. The African Trade Observatory:** A trade information portal that will address hindrances to trade in Africa due to lack of information about opportunities, trade statistics as well as information about exporters and importers in countries.

The lack of up-to-date and reliable trade data and statistics is one of the contributing factors to the low level of official intra-African trade. Instances abound of goods and services, which could have been sourced from other African countries being imported by African countries. According to ITC (2018), more than 40% of African companies identify lack of access to information and absence of inquiry points as factors affecting the business environment across

the continent. Whereas, a number of African countries and Regional Economic Communities (RECs) have established trade information portals and systems several challenges remain such as: outdated information; uniformity of data; absence of data and information on non-tariff measures and informal trade and limited collaboration between various government agencies as well as countries and RECs. The trade observatory will act as a central repository providing exhaustive qualitative and quantitative trade data and information at the continental level to enable policymakers and the private sector to make evidenced-based policies and business decisions.

**President Mahamadou Issoufou of Niger & Champion of the AfCFTA (Right) and Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi Secretary-General UNCTAD (Left) at launch of operational instrument of AfCFTA**



# AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AREA (AfCFTA): Towards start of Trading

By **H.E. Amb. Albert M. Muchanga**



**T**he Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) was opened for signature on 21st March, 2019 in Rwanda, Kigali during which forty-four African Union Member States signed the Agreement. At the time of writing, we had fifty-four signatures, leaving only one African Union Member State yet to sign. The twenty-second instrument of ratification, the minimum threshold was attained on 29th April, 2019 and the Agreement entered into force thirty days later on 30th May, 2019. We now have twenty-eight ratifications deposited with the African Union, leaving us with twenty-seven ratifications remaining before all the fifty-five African Union Member States have signed and ratified the Agreement. By historical trends both within and outside Africa, the AfCFTA Agreement has been negotiated, signed and ratified in record time. This has in turn generated strong momentum and high expectations.

This article addresses the key issues that are being done to have a start of trading under

**African Union Commissioner for Trade and Industry, Amb. Albert Mudenda Muchanga outlines what needs to be done to have a high impact start of trading under the African Continental Free Trade Area on 1st July, 2020.**

the AfCFTA on 1st July, 2020 that is active and efficient. The preparatory work is being done at national, regional and continental levels. These three levels of preparations for the start of trading also require distributed leadership to sustain strategic and tunnel vision focus on what needs to be done to deliver on the promises of the African Continental Free Trade Area. In this respect, technical experts, chief negotiators, senior trade officials, ministers of trade, heads of state and government; among others, are all expected to contribute in ensuring success

in the preparations for start of trading as well as implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement after 1st July, 2020.

I now look at some underlying factors that Africa has to confront as she undertakes preparatory activities in the period of nine months before the start of trading.

### **Underlying Issues**

The first issue here is that in opening for signature the AfCFTA Agreement and launching its operational phase in Niamey, Niger where it was decided; among others that the start of trading would be 1st July, 2020, Africa laid out for the whole world to see, her ambitious transformational agenda of creating one African market to

Africa must unite, and has committed to being united in order to be strong in the international system. This unity is based on promoting continental integration and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is the foundation. Our efforts to establish the AfCFTA will produce results if we remain united, speak with one voice and consolidate our integration.

**H.E. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger and Champion on the AfCFTA.**

usher in inclusive prosperity. This bold move has also raised high expectations for decent livelihoods among ordinary Africans. The underlying tasks here are to transform this ambition into tangible results and in the process, meet the expectations of the African people. Failure would create a crisis of expectations.

The second underlying issue is that in making this bold move, Africans within the continent and in the other parts of the world where they live, as well as the African Diaspora, have placed their honour and integrity to public scrutiny. Failure to implement the AfCFTA Agreement will undermine them. On the other hand, success will enhance them. In this respect, the momentum that has been built in the negotiation, signature, ratification and launch of the operational phase of the AfCFTA Agreement must not just be sustained during its implementation but also be enhanced.

The third underlying factor is that we are on the eve of starting implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement with the backdrop of Africa being well known for crafting well intended agreements, resolutions and declarations but falling short in their implementation. The AfCFTA must not suffer the same fate.

The fourth underlying factor is the need to be fully aware that there are some cynics within Africa and outside who believe that we lack the capacities to deliver on the commitments that we have made in the AfCFTA Agreement. In addition to this, there are also several detractors whose aim is to slow the momentum in the implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement and preserve the status quo of weak and fragmented African economies. Furthermore; among us, we also have skeptics and people with self-doubt about our individual and collective capacities to fully and effectively implement this Agreement. With self-doubt comes a fixed mindset that with or without the AfCFTA, it is business as usual. In connection with this is the underlying conviction in those quarters that national markets should co-exist with the AfCFTA market when the agenda for transformation dictates that the AfCFTA market is the new and larger domestic market for each and every African country.

The fifth underlying factor is the need for Africa to meet the expectations of investors for stability, scale, predictability, fair treatment, combatting corruption; and, among others, an enabling environment in the AfCFTA market in order to attract them to deploy large-scale and long-term investments. These are critically important to create jobs opportunities for Africans, thereby offering alternative solutions to young Africans who risk their lives in search of decent livelihoods outside the Continent.

With this mixed bag of perspectives on the road ahead as Africa prepares for the start of trading, I now bring out what is being done at the national, regional and continental levels to ensure active and efficient start of trading on 1st July, 2020.

But before I do that, a few elaborations on what I mean by active and efficient AfCFTA market. By an active AfCFTA market is meant the capacity of the market to generate interest from a critical mass of investors, producers and traders to supply the AfCFTA market to scale and sustain these activities in order to have high levels of transactions and a growing market as measured by annual levels on intra-African trade relative to the start of trading. An efficient AfCFTA market will be characterized by reduced costs of production and trading as well as supply of high quality products and services with lower prices relative to the price structures that existed before the start of trading.

By creating the African Continental Free Trade Area, Africa is signalling to the world that she is committed to multilateralism and global interdependence. It is also a call to the rest of the world to strengthen the multilateral trading system to promote shared prosperity.

**H.E. Amb. Albert M. Muchanga,  
Commissioner for Trade and Industry  
AUC.**

Related to this will be the capacities of Africa to eliminate non-tariff barriers to intra-African trade as well as not to have the AfCFTA market become a dumping ground for low quality manufactured goods from outside the market.

Against the background of these underlying factors, I now turn on key preparatory activities being undertaken at national, regional and continental levels for the start of trading.

#### **National Level Preparations**

From a private sector's perspective, the number one priority is to scale up investments and production to supply the large market of 1.27 billion people with a growing middle class. This may require entering into partnership or joint-ventures for some businesses. To achieve this, the July 2019 extra-ordinary Summit called on all African Union Member States to embark on strong and sustained advocacy to mobilize the private sector operating in their countries to invest, produce and supply to the scale of the AfCFTA market.

From AfCFTA State Party perspective, top on the list of national level preparations is the development of offers on liberalization of trade in goods and services by each AfCFTA State Party by February, 2020. The AfCFTA State Parties have the opportunity of using the online negotiation platform built for this purpose. Offers are very important because the two documents on tariff concessions and specific commitments will provide a clear picture of the level of ambition and commitments of AfCFTA State Parties as well as the specific trade preferences and opportunities that will become accessible to the private sector.

The second priority is the production of trade documents. To this effect, the July 2019 Niamey extra-ordinary Summit called upon all State Parties to the AfCFTA Agreement to start producing trade documents on the basis of existing templates. These are: Certificate of Origin, AfCFTA Origin Declaration, and AfCFTA Suppliers and Producers Declaration. After producing these documents, each State Party is expected to distribute these to all points of trading in the AfCFTA, including the business community.

Third on the list is the need for clear national implementation strategies. In this regard, national level preparations demand alignment of efforts involving the executive and legislative wings of government; business; labour; academia; youth; women; civil society; and small-scale cross border traders, among other stakeholders of the AfCFTA. In this connection, the July 2018



Key Elements	Key Elements
1. Applications of Lessons of Experience from Regional Economic Communities in the Implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement	1. Trade Facilitation: a) Management of Simplified Trade Regime b) Transit Guarantee Scheme c) Trade Facilitation along Corridors d) Cooperation amongst Customs Administrations in State Parties e) Border Management f) Interconnectivity g) Publication of Trade Laws and requirements h) Simplified and harmonized Customs laws and Procedures i) Any other Trade Facilitation measures
3. Exchange of personal -Placement of technical personnel in each other's offices	4. Collaboration in trade data, including the African Trade Observatory
5. Monitoring, Reporting and Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers	6. Monitoring, Reporting and Elimination of Trade Deflection
7. Development of Regional Value Chains	8. Collaboration in the competitive positioning of Africa in the Fourth Industrial Revolution
9. Collaboration on Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures	10. Collaboration in the development of trade related infrastructure
11. Enhancing collaboration among the private sector, African Union Commission, AfCFTA Secretariat and Secretariats of Regional Economic Communities	12. Alignment of the Pan-African Payments and Settlement System to regional payments and settlement platforms
13. Collaboration in the development of regulations on export trading companies in Africa	14. <b>Collaboration in Trade in Services</b> a) Schedules of specific commitments on the five priority sectors of finance, tourism, business services, transport and communication b) Cooperation on the Regulatory Frameworks for all services sectors c) Collaboration in the negotiations for the remaining services sectors
15. Resource Mobilization and AfCFTA Adjustment Facility	16. Monitoring and Evaluation
17. Miscellaneous Issues	

Nouakchott, Mauritania Summit called on all African Union Member States to embark on formulation of National AfCFTA implementation strategies as well as establishment of national AfCFTA committees. Where similar structures exist, African Union Member States were encouraged to use those structures instead of creating additional and overlapping national AfCFTA committees. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa is spearheading the process of assisting African Union Member States in the formulation of national AfCFTA implementation strategies. National AfCFTA Strategies should clearly identify opportunities of export sectors and value chains that can benefit from the AfCFTA market access openings, and the measures that are needed to support them.

The fourth priority is to enhance coordination, keep track of the progress achieved, identify and address the issues affecting implementation. At the inaugural meeting of the AfCFTA Council of Ministers held in Addis Ababa

in October, 2019, all State Parties to the AfCFTA Agreement were requested to provide briefings on the state of national level preparations. A number of gaps were identified, including the way the briefings were presented. In order to have a uniform format of reporting, a template is being developed by the AfCFTA interim secretariat for use by each State Party between now and 1st July, 2020. In addition, the Afro-champions Initiative has commissioned an assessment of the readiness of all the fifty-five African Union Member States for the start of trading. The indicators used in assessing countries are commitment to free trade agreement (signing and ratification of AfCFTA); commitment to free movement of persons (signing and ratification of the Protocol on Free Movement of people and country's Visa Openness) and completion of a publicly accessible AfCFTA Country Implementation Strategy (spelling out a country's framework and road map to maximize the benefits of AfCFTA and mitigate risks). The assessment, which should be ready by February 2020, will be shared with African Union Heads of State

and Government. It also will highlight specific areas where more efforts are needed to be undertaken by African Union Member States in order for them to be ready for the start of trading on 1st July 2020.

After the start of trading, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa will be producing an annual AfCFTA Business Index which will measure and monitor businesses' experience with AfCFTA implementation at a country level using a number of key indicators. In doing so, it will allow for cross-country comparisons of progress in terms of AfCFTA implementation as well as contribute to better understanding of the challenges faced by the private sector when trading across borders. The Index will also provide the private sector with a tool for use when articulating their challenges to policy-makers vis-à-vis implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement.

#### **Regional Level Preparations**

The July 2019 Niamey extraordinary Summit directed the AfCFTA interim

secretariat to develop a framework of collaboration among the African Union Commission, the secretariat of the AfCFTA and secretariats of Regional Economic Communities. Box 1 below outlines the initial set of elements of the draft framework of collaboration. The elements will be refined during the process of substantive formulation of the framework. Broad-based consultations will be undertaken to generate buy-in by 7th July, 2020 when the Framework of Collaboration is expected to be signed. The 2019 Niamey extra-ordinary Summit designated 7th July of each year as Africa Integration Day.

### Continental Level Preparations

Four main activities are being undertaken at continental level. The first task is the operationalization of the permanent secretariat of the AfCFTA in Accra, Ghana. The 2019 Niamey Extra-ordinary Summit decided that this should be done by March, 2020. To this end, the African Union Commission as interim AfCFTA secretariat has created a task team drawing representation from the relevant departments, directorates and units to liaise with the host Government in carrying out preparations at legal, logistical and institutional levels.

Secondly, the interim AfCFTA secretariat is finalizing work on the five key operational instruments that were unveiled during the 2019 Niamey extra-ordinary Summit which are vital for the effective and successful implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement. These are: AfCFTA Rules of Origin; On-Line Negotiation Password Protected Portal which facilitate the negotiation of schedules of concessions on trade in goods; Online Mechanism on Reporting, Monitoring and Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers; Pan-African Payments and Settlements System; and, African Trade Observatory. In addition, work has started on the preparation of specific commitments on trade in services. All these instruments are expected to be fully functional by the start of trading on 1st July, 2020.

Thirdly, following the inaugural meeting of the AfCFTA Council of Ministers, the interim AfCFTA secretariat is exploring options to strengthen implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement at the national level, with a view to ensuring that State Parties are well equipped to fully implement their obligations and harness the AfCFTA opportunities. To this end, the interim AfCFTA secretariat is also in the process of developing a concept paper for consideration by the second meeting of the AfCFTA Council of Ministers on ways and means of strengthening national level implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement, including levers for promoting alignment at national, regional and continental level during implementation of the AfCFTA Agreement. Such alignment will deepen policy, regulatory and institutional harmonization. This will be key in delivering the benefits of reduced cost of doing business, as well as competitiveness and efficiency across Africa.

Fourthly, work on the operationalization of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism instituted under Article 20 of the AfCFTA Agreement is underway. This work is being done by the Interim AfCFTA Secretariat. In this regards, priority is being given to: ensuring the constitution of the Dispute Settlement Body established under Article 5 of the Protocol on Rules and Procedures on the Settlement of Disputes which will comprise State Parties representatives; preparing draft rules of procedures for the Dispute Settlement Body and Rules of Procedure for the selection of the Members of Panel; facilitating the election of the President of the Dispute Settlement Body and the designation



**the Republic of Ghana will host the AfCFTA Secretariat**

of Members of the Appellate Body; and, most importantly, the Interim Secretariat formulating an indicative list or roster of individuals willing and able to serve as Members of Panels. This will be considered and adopted by the Dispute Settlement Body.

With a view to consolidating the one African market, work has started on negotiation of protocols on investment, competition policy and intellectual property rights. The target date for completion of negotiations on these protocols is June, 2021.

Considering Africa's history of regional integration and the Continent's record in implementing trade agreements, there is no doubt that a successful implementation of the AfCFTA requires a change of mindset. All Africans should be convinced of the new reality emerging as a result of the establishment of AfCFTA. The new reality is that the AfCFTA is a disruptor of the status quo of fragmented economies. In this disruption, it is ushering in a new era of defragmentation. As Africa embarks on this transformational journey, the most effective tool to complement change of mindset is innovativeness.

*We are being closely watched! How do we respond?*

## AGENDA 2063

# Looking Forward to the African Continental Free Trade Area: Customs Administration still the key Factor for Facilitation of Intra African Trade

Customs reforms and modernization are the phenomena which are trending in customs administration, requiring a total change in the way work is conducted doing, by shifting from using manual work in customs operations into sophisticated technology in the processing of customs data.



By George  
G. Msuya

Revamped  
border crossing  
in Busia between  
Uganda and  
Kenya



Customs administration brings the connection to international trade by illuminating every transaction that is involved through export and import. Quality customs data and data integrity can portray the real situation of how much the country is exporting and disclose competitive items coming through importation. This information from customs administration can provide the roadmap for a country to direct its resources well and respond to the global trade competition.

It has been observed that, introduction of automation system for processing customs data has brought great revolution to different countries especially less developed and developing countries, by producing quality customs data which generated higher government revenue collection, transparencies and trade facilitation. Tanzania began reformation and modernization in 1992, by restructuring customs tariff laws and establishing a semi –autonomous authority responsible for collection of government revenue in 1996. In 2005 the Authority introduced the Automated System for Customs Data (ASYCUDA) through UNCTAD. Since then the clearance average time taken from lodgment to issuance of release across airports has decreased from 4 days to 9 hours and 7 days to 48 hours across sea ports when the cargo is already offloaded from the vessels

Among the key important issues that should be observed and addressed with regard to the AfCFTA pertaining to customs administration are the two areas of Harmonization and Simplification of Customs Procedures and Reviewing and Reformation of Customs Tariff on the Rules of Origin;

**Harmonization and Simplification of Customs Procedures**

Customs procedures refer to clearance of imports, exports and goods in transit from the time of lodgment of customs documents up to the release of goods to the importer. Using automated systems, customs documents can be lodged before the arrival of goods, be processed and payment done before the arrival of physical goods. This can reduce the clearance time and unnecessary cost

of delays at customs area

Globalization has led trade into a new era of e-commerce. As large a continent as Africa is, business can be promoted even more via internet, media and business forums. The world today is operating in the sphere of information communication and technology (ICT), businesses are advertised through online platforms, payment is conducted electronically, customs administrators receive and assess invoices & bills of lading electronically through banks in the absence of physical goods. The significance of e-commerce in intra- African trade should not be underestimated.

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) should implement and establish a uniform customs automated system which can link to all customs authorities in Africa. This will solve the challenges of irregularities for African commodities' classification i.e. HS Code grouping, and control risks of mis-invoicing and undervaluation. The Automated Customs System (Integrated Supply Chain Management – ISCM) will integrate and manage outbound goods at the point of exit-export and inbound goods at the point entry – import. This system will be used to identify African produced commodities and receive preferential treatment. Any goods which do not originate from Africa will not qualify for preferential treatment. In this way, African products will be able to compete within Africa and the outside world; and manufacturing industries will be promoted.

**Reviewing and Reformation of Customs Tariff on the Rules of Origin**

One of the prevailing challenges in Regional Economic Communities (REC's) is the determination of customs tariffs based on rules of origin under

the economic cooperation bodies. Basically, in Africa we have five major economic cooperation bodies, SADC, COMESA, ECOWAS, EAC & SACU. The main objectives of these bodies are not only preferences gained through trade agreement, but also security and maintenance of peace among community members.

Most of African countries have signed up to more than one economic community body for one reason or another. For instance, Kenya gains customs duties relief to trade with Tanzania based on the EAC, but to trade with South Africa it would be required to pay full customs duties. South Africa is not a member of the EAC but a member of SADC and SACU. Therefore, For Kenya to trade with South Africa and gain trade preference, it should open an industry in Tanzania under SADC in order to trade with South Africa; this situation leads to trade deflation.

Among the objectives of the formation AfCFTA is to develop regional value chains, fostering infrastructure and industrial development on the African continent. Reviewing and reformation of customs tariffs will facilitate African goods to compete in a fair game within Africa., Goods produced in West Africa will be treated the same with goods produced in East and Southern Africa

**Moyale One Stop Border Post**, Along the Isiolo-Hawassa Road between Kenya&Ethiopia



## SILENCING THE GUNS



# Silencing the Guns in Africa

**P**ace and stability are key ingredients for any nation to achieve its social and developmental goals. When there is peaceful coexistence between the citizens of a nation, and between a nation and its neighbours, the opportunities for social, cultural and economic interaction and integration increase.

Promoting peace, security and stability on the continent is one of the key activities of the African Union (AU), as the linkages between peaceful environment and sustainable development are naturally evident.

The AU Agenda 2063 places importance on the aspiration for a peaceful and secure Africa and one of the Flagship Initiatives is that of Silencing the Guns by 2020 which aims to drive the African agenda to end all wars, civil conflicts, gender based violence and violent conflicts and prevent genocide.

Significant progress has been made towards Silencing the Guns in Africa in spite of the common narrative of Africa being a continent always at war with itself, with severe humanitarian consequences. In 2002 when the AU was formed as the successor to the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), there were around 28 conflicts/crises situations. By 2009

**Kenya Burnt 5,250 Illegal Guns to encourage Peace and stability within the Nation**

these had reduced to around seven, due to the efforts of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC).

The achievements in the reduction in conflicts is as a result of the efforts deployed by the Member States of the AU in promoting peace, security, stability and development to all African citizens by facilitating dialogue-centered conflict prevention and mediation, as well as peacebuilding efforts in Member States emerging from violent conflicts, specifically the strengthening of national infrastructures for peace. In addition, the AU deploys troops for the protection of citizens in conflict zones to maintain peace and bring stability in the continent. However, the emergence of terrorism and violent extremism affecting parts of Northern Africa, the Sahel, Western and Central Africa has changed the nature of armed conflict requiring new strategies to identify and address the causal factors leading to armed conflict.

#### **The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)**

The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), is the African Union's blue print for the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa. The central pillar of the APSA is the PSC, which is the AU's standing decision making organ for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts as well as, on Post-Conflict



Reconstruction and Development. The PSC is supported, in the discharge of its mandate, by various structures, namely: the AU Commission, the Panel of the Wise, the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), the African Standby Force (ASF) and the AU Peace Fund. The PSC has developed the AU Master Roadmap (AUMR) on Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa. The Master Roadmap is premised on the principle that Africa should assertively assume total responsibility for its destiny by fostering lasting peace and stability, which contributes to building prosperity and the well-being of African Citizens. The Roadmap is geared towards effective interventions on conflict prevention, management, resolution and post-conflict reconstruction and development, which would contribute to the goal of Silencing the Guns in Africa. Within the framework of APSA, the AU continues to work with strategic partners such as the European Union (EU), United Nations (UN) and other bilateral partners in its efforts towards attaining peace on the continent.

The Peace and Security Council meeting held in June 2017 made several recommendations on working towards Silencing The Guns including:

- African Member States to sign, ratify and implement all relevant AU and international instruments related to silencing the guns in Africa, in particular the Arms Trade Treaty, which will play a great role in this initiative;
- Encouraged political actors, especially political parties and parliaments, to foster conducive conditions that contribute to the preservation of peace, security, stability, and cohesion and encouraged them to use Agenda 2063, as a guide for elaboration of their manifestos and programmes;
- Highlighted the need to capacitate law enforcement agencies to enable them effectively contribute to stopping inflow of illicit weapons into Africa, and at the same time curb the circulation of illicit weapons within the continent, and also enhance capacity to identify, seize and destroy illicit weapons;

- Recommended the declaration of the African Day, 25 May, as an Amnesty Day for surrender and collection of illegally owned weapons/arms to designated national law enforcement agencies;
- Multi-stakeholder collaborative effort - AUC, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), policy makers, civil society organisations, private sector- to take all necessary measures to fully implement the AU Master Roadmap to find sustainable solutions to conflict/crises situations in the continent.

Some of the ongoing actions being taken by the AU to deliver on Silencing the Guns include

- Establishment of the AU Peace Fund to secure financing for Africa's peace support operations and to promote Africa's ownership of its peace and security agenda by establishing a foundation for creating a more responsive international peace and security architecture
- Establishment of the Noukachott and Djibouti Processes for the enhancement of security cooperation and intelligence sharing in the Sahel and Eastern Africa regions, respectively, to respond to existing and emerging security challenges such as extremism, terrorism and transnational threats.
- Resource mobilisation through close partnership with relevant stakeholders, in financing the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).
- Appointed of H.E. Ramtane Lamamra, of Algeria as the AU High Representative for Silencing the Guns in Africa
- Declaration of September of each year, until 2020, as "Africa Amnesty Month for the surrender and collection of illegally owned weapons and arms. During Africa Amnesty Month:
  - a. Persons who surrender their illegally owned weapons/



#### **Destroying Excess Weapons in Niger Weakens Terrorists in the Sahel and Sahara**

arms shall not be subjected to disclosure humiliation, arrest or prosecution;

- b. Persons who fail to surrender their illegally owned weapons/arms beyond the Africa Amnesty month, shall automatically be considered to be in violation of national laws and the Amnesty and shall therefore be prosecuted according to the national laws of the Member States
- c. All Member States, RECs/RMs as well as civil society organizations shall give wide publicity, through all media networks, to the Africa Amnesty Month within their territories and regions;
- d. Member States will adhere to and promote the Africa Amnesty Month, September each year, and mobilise their citizens to actively participate in the efforts to silence the guns.



## SILENCING THE GUNS

# H.E SMAIL CHERGUI ON THE THEME OF THE YEAR

## **Silencing the Guns:** Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development

**D**uring the 50th Anniversary of the OAU/AU, African Heads of State and Government committed to *Silence the Guns in Africa by 2020*. What progress has been made to achieve this goal?

Thank you very much for the opportunity to exchange on the progress and challenges made in our common effort to silence the guns in Africa.

First, the Peace and Security Department supported the Peace and Security Council in the development and adoption of the AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps for Silencing the Guns. Currently, we are coordinating the initiatives undertaken by Member States, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs), the United Nations (UN), civil society organizations, and other partners to realize our common aspiration: A conflict-free Africa by 2020. These initiatives have highlighted experiences and lessons learned which provide an opportunity for our Member States to adapt and better shape the implementation process of this continental flagship project.

At the same time, we continue to focus on the operationalization of many of our tools, including: The Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, the African Union Border Programme, the Mediation Support Unit, the Network of Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa), the Gender Peace and Security Programme and the recently launched Youth for Peace Africa initiative.

We have also been working with our Member States to assist them in identifying their structural vulnerabilities and resilience and to develop mitigation strategies through the Continental Structural Conflict Prevention Framework (CSCPF). We are supporting Member States' National Peace Architectures driven by the belief that the primary responsibility for peace-making lies with the Member States.

The AU Commission has put a strong emphasis on Regional Security Coordination Mechanisms in our efforts to fight terrorism through the Djibouti and Nouakchott Processes which bring together Heads of Intelligence and Security Services from the Greater East Africa region and the Sahel. We also launched the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL), which is the equivalent of Interpol for the African continent. Moreover, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism continues to guide us on how to address extremist threats.



We need to transform African defense and security forces into professional national security institutions subject to civilian oversight in order to avoid eruption or relapse into conflicts which perpetuate cycles of violence and disrupt stabilization and peace-building efforts."

We have also focused on the implementation of the AU Post Conflict and Reconstruction (PCRD) Policy, which demonstrates the AU's commitment to comprehensively address recovery and reconstruction in countries emerging from conflict. Since the adoption of the PCRD policy in 2006, the AU has provided a platform for coordination, coherence and the development of tools at regional and national levels. The recent establishment of the African Union Centre for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development will further consolidate the AU's work on PCRD.



# SILENCING THE GUNS:

## Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development

In our peace support efforts, the operationalization of the African Standby Force and the Continental Logistics Base and Regional Logistics Depots, attest to our readiness to deploy in a timely manner.

As you may recall, the Peace and Security Council also instituted the Africa Amnesty month, which is commemorated every September by Member States, in order to facilitate reconciliation and thus promote the rebuilding of conflict affected countries.

We recognize the evolving nature of conflict in Africa and the new challenges they raise, such as climate change and the rise of inter-communal conflicts. Our efforts and our successes are made possible through inter-departmental collaboration, support from our Regional Economic Communities/Regional Mechanisms and strong partnership with the UN and other international partners.

That said, it must be noted that in spite of the progress made, the continent continues to be confronted with crises such as the situations in Libya, Mali and the Sahel, the Lake Chad Basin, South Sudan, instability in the Horn, proliferation of armed groups in the Great Lakes region, as well as elections and governance related challenges. More needs to be done to ensure strong linkages between peace and security efforts on the one hand and development initiatives on the other.

***The Central African Republic peace deal, the political transition in Sudan and the first ever-democratic transition in the Democratic Republic of Congo are some encouraging examples of continental will to achieve progress. Why do you think we have seen these positive changes? And what are some of the lessons learned?***

Credit must be given to the people of these countries, who have suffered for

decades and yet demonstrated a strong will to end instability. Their efforts are an example of the continental agenda we pursue- "An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens, representing a dynamic force in the international arena". Credit must also be given to regional and international efforts that have helped deliver the positive changes we are witnessing.

In terms of lessons learned, I would argue that these developments have shown that successful interventions require sustained commitment. One-off approaches do not work. Second, any peace agreement must be accompanied by the requisite resources. Failure to resource peace agreements can reverse the gains made. Lastly, not a single entity can do it alone. Success requires cooperation and collaboration with unity of purpose among all stakeholders, as we accompany our Member States in their transition from conflict to stability and peace.

***On the other hand, some situations including in the Sahel, South Sudan and Libya continue to be of grave concern. What impetus do you think must be given to steer these towards the right track?***

The protracted conflicts in Libya, the Sahel and South Sudan are indeed priorities for the AU. The reality is that not everything that has been tried has worked. We need to build on what has been achieved. We also need to be more innovative.

In Libya, there is a need to bring to an end to the external interferences that increase the risk of confrontation and whose motives have nothing to do with the fundamental interests of the Libyan people. The AU remains committed to an inclusive political solution in which the voices of all political and social actors are taken into account.

In the Sahel, the threat of terrorism is expanding and even threatening

coastal countries. On the security front, there is a need for joint efforts as the challenges supersede the capacities of some individual member states. There is also a need to ensure implementation of peace agreements and the adoption of a comprehensive approach which strengthens state presence in the peripheries, revives traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, tackles youth unemployment while ensuring that no one is left behind in terms of development, political engagement and justice.

In South Sudan, progress has been made but we expect more from the parties. I think that there is a general consensus that the crisis and the suffering of the South Sudanese people has lasted for too long. We expect a new government in the near future as part of the agreement that will pave the way for the implementation of other key articles of the peace accord. In all these efforts in Libya, the Sahel and South Sudan, we continue to emphasize the importance of accountability as well.

***Over 10 years of AMISOM supporting the people of Somalia towards stability and peace: What are the lessons learned and what is the way forward?***

In Somalia, significant progress has been made. The Federal Government of Somalia with the support of AMISOM and other international partners has been able to expand its authority throughout the country. In 2007, the then Transitional Federal Government controlled a few roads in the capital. Today, we are discussing the handover of security responsibilities from AMISOM to Somali security forces. More recently, the International Monetary Fund's Executive Board approved a financing plan that will help the IMF cover its share of debt relief for Somalia.

As such, progress has been made but challenges remain as extremists continue to carry out suicide attacks as demonstrated by the attacks on

December 27, 2019 and January 8, 2020. Extremists also extort and assassinate in areas under their control and we continue to witness tensions between the centre and the periphery.

We have learnt a number of lessons from our engagement in Somalia.

First, the primacy of continuous political engagement. Political engagement is key to reconcile the Somali people, to assist them in securing a consensus on the state that they want, the army that they want and most importantly, it guides our support efforts. ***In Somalia we are involved in both conflict resolution and counter terrorism efforts. We cannot efficiently implement our mandate without securing unity of purpose of the parties.*** I often remind those who seek to box AMISOM as simply a military endeavor that the Peace and Security Council assigned AMISOM three areas of intervention; civilian, military and police. It recognized that our role was not only limited to military aspects. As Somalia transitions, these other two components will increasingly play an important role.

Second, robust AU peace support operations are both necessary and relevant. The nature of the conflict and threat in Somalia requires a robust response to create the required stability and security for the facilitation of humanitarian assistance and to enable an environment conducive for the political process.

Third, the need for AMISOM to have the requisite capacity and ability to pre-empt, prevent and respond to the threats posed by Al Shabaab which include direct attacks on civilians, government and AMISOM personnel and installations, in line with its mandate as given by the PSC to protect civilians and extend state authority and control across Somalia. Although the UN Security Council authorizes AMISOM, the mandating authority remains the AU Peace and Security Council. Hence there is a need to align the mandate of the PSC with that of the UNSC. We still call for more alignment of the political direction of the two councils to ensure unambiguous direction to AMISOM and support to the Somalis.

Fourth, our efforts are focused on supporting Somali institutions in creating the enabling security and political environment. Over the past 12 years, AMISOM has been able to assist the Somali authorities in successfully conducting two elections, and we are currently involved in planning a third. Our success was a direct result of AMISOM's support in strengthening Somali institutions. Currently, we have achieved good progress in supporting the implementation of the Somali Transition

**A young Seleka soldier walks in the region of Sibut, the north of the Central African Republic**



Plan which represents Somalia's vision to take over from AMISOM primary responsibility for the security and stabilization of Somalia.

Fifth, AMISOM's exit is not underpinned by the completion of all processes in Somalia. Currently all our efforts are directed to the achievement of the AMISOM 2018 to 2021 Concept of Operations designed to support the implementation of the Somali Transition Plan, which has a similar timeline. As part of our strategy, the AU Peace and Security Council has called for the revitalization of the tripartite MoU between the AU, IGAD and the UN through the immediate operationalization of appropriate coordination mechanisms in support of Somalia's efforts towards taking full responsibility of its security by 2021 and ensuring inclusive politics to guarantee sustainable peace.

Lastly, Somalia needs coordinated and sustained political and financial support from the AU, UN, EU, bilateral partners and the wider international community.

#### ***Why is security sector reform and governance a key priority for silencing the guns?***

Security Sector Reform (SSR) is indeed a key conflict prevention, crisis management and mediation tool as highlighted in the AU SSR Policy Framework of 2013. The AU recognises the need to transform African defense and security forces into professional national security institutions subject to civilian oversight in order to avoid eruption or relapse into conflicts which perpetuate cycles of violence and disrupt stabilization and peace-building efforts.

As stipulated in the 2013 AU Policy Framework on SSR, it is therefore critical for countries to "formulate or re-orient the



policies, structures, and capacities of institutions and groups engaged in the security sector, in order to make them more effective, efficient, and responsive to democratic control, and to the security and justice needs of the people." It is important to note that although the majority of SSR processes have taken place in Africa, these have been mostly informed by externally driven considerations, adopting processes and trajectories sometimes in discord with African realities and sources of insecurity. That is why at the AU, we firmly believe that national and regional ownership of SSR initiatives is a condition sine qua non for concrete security sector reforms on the continent.

In light of these key considerations, the African Union decided on the theme of to convene of, "Security Sector Reform and Governance in Africa: Evolving Principles and Practices from Prevention, Peacemaking and Peacebuilding Interventions"; for its 10th High Level Retreat on the Promotion of Peace, Security and Stability in Africa, held in Djibouti on 29 and 30 October 2019.

The retreat sought to review the AU's existing Security Sector Reform/Governance instruments and partnerships, and their effectiveness in preventing, managing and resolving conflicts, and to address the challenges of incorporating security sector reform/governance (SSR/G) dimensions into conflict prevention, mediation and the effective implementation of peace agreements.

It is with this in mind and with a recognized need for increased coordination among political partners that we have established the AU Steering Committee on SSR to provide a consistent and institutionalized platform where the AU, the RECs, Regional Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention and Management (RMs), the UN, and international Partners can jointly identify priorities. This platform also enables discussions on aligning approaches and providing guidance to Member States on means to enhance and streamline security sector governance in all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution. As the principal organ on peace and security matters, the Peace and Security Council will continue to encourage SSR processes in relevant Member States. I must here state clearly that, ultimately, meaningful progress in this area can only be achieved

with the demonstrable political will and commitment of member states.

***You took charge of the Peace and Security Department at a time when there was renewed momentum to address the scourge of violent conflicts on the continent. Six years into this job, what continues to give you hope for a brighter future? and what are some of the challenges that need to be addressed?***

One of my favorite quotes is that of John C. Maxwell, an American author who has extensively written on leadership. He once said that "Where there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present." I am hopeful when I meet young men and women from the different parts of Africa. Half of the continent is under 20, which will represent a formidable workforce and they are ambitious. They are not ready to settle for less as we saw in the streets of Tunis, Ouagadougou, and Khartoum etc. They want governments that serve the people, and not people that are serfs to the leaders. We need to work with them, to equip them with the values that drove our forefathers who fought for African independence. Indeed, the demographic dividend is an asset for Africa if well harnessed; but the youth bulge can also represent an imminent and present threat if governments do not meet their needs, particularly with regards to job opportunities.

In my view, there are four challenges, which if not addressed, could leave the continent in a far worse state. The first, is impunity, when you look at the root causes of many conflicts or radicalization; impunity is always on top of the list. Many countries continue to be haunted by crimes committed decades ago that remain unpunished. Second, the lack of inclusivity. Societies that discriminate against a certain segment of their populations are creating fertile ground for future conflicts. Third, is jobless growth and inequalities. Our economies continue to grow but they are not creating jobs for our young people. As a result, the rich are getting richer while the poor are getting poorer. Fourth, the unequal distribution of resources. Just like the lack of inclusivity, the unequal distribution of resources marginalizes categories of people in our societies. It's not surprising,

that often those that are enrolled in armed groups or extremist movements come from neglected regions. Addressing these issues will create more unity in our Member States and make us less vulnerable to external interferences.

Not least, the constant invocation of sovereignty by some of our member states hampers our efforts to prevent and mediate conflicts. Also our institutions need to be nimbler and responsive to the changing realities and the myriad of challenges facing our continent.

If there is one strong message you would want all African Heads of State and Government and other decision makers to take from this AU Summit, what would it be?

Our continent is at a crossroad. It holds a lot of promise, but it is equally facing unprecedented challenges. There is no reason why Africa should continue to lag behind. The AU is and will only be as strong as its member states want it to be.

***"Where there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present.***

***John C. Maxwell***

# A call to Serve Africa: Women in Peace and Security



**Lieutenant  
Colonel Tenneh  
Puteteh Sesay**

**Military Gender  
Focal Points  
of the African  
Union Mission  
in Somalia  
(AMISOM)  
attend Gender  
Awareness  
Training in  
Mogadishu**



**T**he year was 1986, and she was 19 years old. Tenneh Puteteh Sesay walked into the examination room to sit her finals at the National School of Nursing in Sierra Leone. This would lead to her qualifying as a State Registered Nurse (SRN).

Right there, in front of her stood a young female captain, resplendent in military uniform. Her name was Ms. Chinsman Johnson, and she was the exam invigilator.

“She had an aura of soft authority, and the officers saluted her, including the men. It was inspiring to see, considering I grew up in a community where women were relegated to the kitchen as housewives. That lady inspired me to join the military,” says Lt. Col. Puteteh Sesay.

Tenneh Puteteh Sesay enlisted in the Sierra Leone Armed Forces immediately after completing her SRN exams and twenty-eight years later, Ms. Puteteh now 52, is a Lieutenant Colonel, four ranks shy of becoming a Lieutenant General, the highest in the Sierra Leonean military.

“But it’s not about ranks, really,” says the mother of four. “As long as I serve, that’s the highest calling I aspire to. My husband, Retired Major Samuka Sesay, always tells me ranks can always come whenever, as long as I serve,” she adds.

## **Serving in AMISOM**

And serve, she does. Lt. Col. Tenneh Puteteh Sesay is as of December 2019, the highest ranking female military officer serving in the African Union Mission in Somalia

(AMISOM).

She is one of five officers running a unique AMISOM capability called Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis, and Reporting Cell (CCTARC).

The African Union Peace and Security Council created CCTARC in 2015 out of a realisation that casualties of war could impact on AMISOM operations. CCTARC captures and records reported incidents of civilian casualties within AMISOM's area of operation and supports the force to maintain relations with the locals.

"We follow up on harm caused to civilians arising from AMISOM engagements while out in the field fighting terrorism, whether it's a road traffic accident or someone caught up in an armed fire exchange. Ultimately, our work leads to investigations where the end is casualties getting medical care, and bereaved families receiving ex gratia payment. It's not compensation since nothing can compensate life; it's a support package," says Lt. Col Puteteh.

During her service in Somalia, she has trained AMISOM troops in best practices to prevent civilian casualties. She guides on response mechanisms like the use of ambulance emergency response in combat situations and reporting incidents of civilian casualties.

She has fostered healing of bereaved families through counselling, encouragement, and paving the way for a formal inquiry into incidents.

"Cases involving death are delicate, considering a right to life has been violated. Our intervention here is key and helps mend relations," she states.

Lt. Col. Puteteh's assignment to an AMISOM unit dealing with war casualties follows a record of distinguished service as a professional nurse in the military.

### Being a medic in the military

Since she was already a registered nurse when she joined the military, Lt. Col Puteteh furthered her nursing studies after cadet training.

I was deployed to the frontline as a rescue nurse; I was only 24. I would carry my rifle on one side and a distressed casualty and first aid kit on the other. From gouged-out stomachs to spilled brains and broken limbs, I saw it all"

### Lt. Col. Puteteh Sesay

She would later qualify as a State Certified Midwife at the National School of Midwifery in Sierra Leone in 1988 before joining Fourah Bay College at the University of Sierra Leone. In 1990, she graduated with a Certificate in Tropical Community Medicine.

Since then she has achieved a host of medical qualifications from different colleges in the USA, China, the United Kingdom and Sierra Leone – including two diplomas, several certificates,

and countless military courses that include one in Stabilisation and Peace Support Operations from the UK.

She has also worked in several private and military hospitals in Sierra Leone, and risen through the ranks, working in nearly every hospital department.

She has helped women deliver their babies for 12 years, headed the maternity ward at Daru Military Hospital in Sierra Leone, headed the paediatric ward, antenatal clinic and accident and emergency wards at 34 Military Hospital in Freetown, and overseen training programmes in the hospitals.

While in AMISOM, she concurrently holds the post of Director of Medical Services in Sierra Leone's Ministry of Defence, a post she will return to after her tour of duty in Somalia.

Puteteh's first assignment in the military was on March 2, 1991, just three weeks before the outbreak of the 11-year-long civil war in Sierra Leone that claimed over 50 000 lives.

"I was deployed to the frontline as a rescue nurse; I was only 24. I would carry my rifle on one side and a distressed casualty and first aid kit on the other. From gouged-out stomachs to spilled brains and broken limbs, I saw it all. We tried to serve everyone, airlifting some to hospitals," she recalls.

Puteteh says what she saw on the frontline, and saving casualties of war, gave her the heart to serve. That is why she didn't hesitate when she was deployed to serve in AMISOM.

She is the only female in her unit of five, but it doesn't bother her. Instead, she feels privileged to serve in a male-dominated mission.

"For me it reaffirms my belief that whatever a man can do, a woman can do even better. My male colleagues and I perform the same tasks, and I haven't failed. In fact, I contribute perspectives that none of my colleagues think about," she says.

Puteteh feels she has made a difference, but also learnt a lot during her term of service in AMISOM because of the mission's multinational environment.

"The civil war in Sierra Leone ended with intervention from other countries. So, my serving in Somalia is an opportunity to return a favour, as an individual and as a Sierra Leonean," she says.

**The African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace, and Security, Bineta Diop, greets the Chief of the AMISOM Civilian Casualty Tracking, Analysis, and Reporting Cell (CCTARC), Lieutenant Colonel Tenneh Puteteh Sesay. Ms. Diop was on a joint UN-AU Solidarity Mission to Somalia**





## SILENCING THE GUNS

# AMB. MATIAS BERTINO MATONDO

## Au Special Representative and Chief of MISCA

**W** *hy is there a presence of the African Union in the Central African Republic?*

To put it briefly, I would say that the African Union (AU) has always been beside the Central African Republic (CAR), a founding member of the OAU. Having said that, in the recent past, the robust and the significant presence of the AU was necessitated following the serious crisis experienced by the CAR in 2013 with an outburst of unspeakable violence in the country. At its 380th meeting on the situation in the CAR, the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) decided to establish an African Union led International Support Mission for the Central African Republic (AFISM-CAR) better known by its acronym MISCA. As you know MISCA was a multidimensional civil-military & police mission made up of African contingents.

I think it is widely recognised today that MISCA from December 2013 to September 2014, fulfilled its mandate, namely: protection of civilians and the restoration of security and public order, the stabilisation of the country and the restoration of state authority, the reform and restructuring of the defense and security sector, and the creation of conditions conducive to the provision of humanitarian assistance to the needy populations.

Following the successful transfer of authority from MISCA to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA), which took place in Bangui, on September 15, 2014. At the same period on September 17, 2014, the AU's PSC decided to continue to maintain a strong presence in the CAR to enable the AU to continue supporting the efforts to promote peace, security and stability in the CAR, for the transformation of MISCA into an AU Mission for the CAR and Central Africa (MISAC) and also to enable the AU, in close coordination with Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), MINUSCA, and other relevant international actors, to continue to support the ongoing national efforts, with particular focus on support to the political transition, the organization of elections, national reconciliation, support for the disarmament, demobilisation, rehabilitation, and reintegration process, as well the security and justice sectors reform, post-conflict reconstruction, gender, and facilitation of coordination between the AU-led Regional Cooperation Initiative for the Elimination of the Lord's Resistance Army (RCI-LRA) and MINUSCA, in the discharge of their respective mandates, and support more effectively the efforts of the countries of the region aimed at promoting peace, security, and stability in the region.



These are in summary what we are undertaking daily in CAR and the region, of course with an African approach in the process.

***How have the people of the CAR benefitted from the presence of the AU in CAR?***

Both the people and the Central African leaders show us this fraternal gratitude on a daily basis. I have just mentioned that MISCA has successfully stabilised the security situation and is the foundation on which MINUSCA is building effective peace throughout the territory. You will also remember that the AU facilitated in July 2014 with the Mediator at the time President Sassou Nguesso, an Agreement for the Cessation of Hostilities in Brazzaville between the different armed groups which enabled this deployment of the MINUSCA under fairly favorable and less hostile conditions.

Besides, we have implemented several projects in CAR. I can quote, among other things, the project on gender-based sexual violence in partnership with the NGO Médecins d'Afrique between 2014 and 2016 and the rehabilitation of several community hospitals as part of this partnership; the improvement of adduction water and construction of boreholes in the 3rd District of Bangui, in particular at PK5 with the ICRC in 2016; support for the electoral process with a financial contribution from the AU and dispatch of electoral experts and observers in 2016; support for the DDR Commission with the delivery of a rolling stock comprising ten vehicles including tankers, trucks, buses and ambulances in 2017; support for the Truth-Justice-Reconciliation Commission; an endowment of IT equipment to the Central African Government in 2019 and so on.

In addition, in line with the AU's goal to find African solutions to African problems, the peace process in CAR through the African Initiative chaired by the AU initiated in 2017 and composed of a Panel (representatives of the countries of the region) made it possible to create an initial agreement between the Government and the armed groups which contributed to the dialogue and

then to the negotiations in Khartoum in Sudan under the leadership of the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the AU, Ambassador Smail Chergui. It is this African approach under the auspices of the AU that led to the signature between the Government and 14 armed groups, under the auspices of the AU Mediator, of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, February 6, 2019, in Bangui.

It is an opportunity for me to show appreciation again to the countries of the region and the partners for their multifaceted contributions in this process.

Indeed, we are still far from fulfilling the expectations of the population due to the nature of the crisis and that is why I appeal to the CAR partners on the need to mobilise the necessary additional resources, to implement socio-economic development projects with rapid impact, as a peace dividend in areas where the state is being redeployed across the country.

***The security and humanitarian situation in CAR remains worrying despite the signing of the Peace Agreement on February 6, 2019, in Bangui, what is causing the problem? How does one explain the continuation of violence in the country following the Agreement?***

As a whole, I note with satisfaction a significant drop in violence since the signing of the Peace Agreement, while expressing my concern at the hostile acts which continue to be perpetrated in the country. In this regard, I echo the AU Peace and Security Council which strongly condemned the clashes between the armed groups in Birao and in the Vakaga District in general which have resulted the loss of many lives and the displacement of more than 15,000 people. It is an opportunity for me to emphasise the need for all signatories to scrupulously respect the provisions of the Agreement, in particular, the ceasing of hostilities throughout the territory. My message and that of the entire international community is also firm concerning all those who seek to hinder the implementation of the Agreement and the comprehensive peace process in CAR, that they will answer for their actions and that the AU PSC and the UN Security Council remain committed to considering appropriate punitive measures.

We have to admit that the humanitarian situation in CAR recently worsened at the end of October 2019 with floods in Bangui and certain localities of the country following the torrential rains which caused the flood of the Oubangui River. More than 57,000 people have been affected with at least 10,000 homes destroyed and this has resulted in large numbers of displaced persons and a significant health crisis.

You know, we don't aim to solve the Central African crisis in a few days. The implementation process may not be progressing at the desired pace, but efforts are made every day to speed it up. This is what the Executive Committee monitoring the Agreement and which co-chaired by the Central African Government Prime Minister and the AU represented by me, is working on. Several commitments remain unsatisfied and several challenges remain such as: the launch of the working group on inclusiveness, citizenship and the protection of minorities; the intensification of the awareness-raising and popularisation campaign on the Agreement; the adoption of the law on decentralisation; the review of the law on parties and political organizations; the status of former Heads of State; the preparation of a transhumance management plan at the national and sub-regional level; the immediate implementation of the modalities of free movement and removal of illegal barriers; and the operationalisation of the Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) among others.

I am hopeful that measures will be taken by the various actors in the desired direction with the speed required given the current situation in the country.

***We have observed in CAR a certain level of competition between several international actors and other partners who intervene in the sector of Security System Reform. Do you not think that such a situation is of concern to the AU as the Guarantor of the Agreement?***

The AU has always stressed the need for a holistic approach to peace efforts in the CAR, which cannot be separated from those aimed at improving the living



**Soldiers serving with the African-led International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA)**

**NEVER  
THINK THAT  
WAR,  
NO MATTER  
HOW NECESSARY,  
NOR HOW  
JUSTIFIED, IS  
NOT A CRIME**

**Ernest Hemingway**

**2020**  
**SILENCING  
THE GUNS:**  
Creating Conducive  
Conditions for Africa's  
Development

**#SilencingTheGuns**

**SILENCING  
THE GUNS.**

Towards a Peaceful and  
Secure Africa

A Flagship Project of  
Agenda **2063** The Africa  
we Want

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conditions of the people of the CAR wounded by so many years of instability and violence.

Progress has been made in the reconstruction of the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) and given the significant progress made by the authorities of the CAR in its efforts to reform the security sector, the AU through the CPS during its 884th meeting, wishes, in particular, to lift the embargo to this end.

Besides, I also welcome the launch by President Touadera, on October 16, 2019, in Bouar, in north-west CAR, of the Special Mixed Security Units (SMSU). In this regard, the AU, with EU funding, has committed to pay SMSU food premiums during the "training and deployment" phases. The AU begun payment of the said premiums since October 23, 2019. The AU plans to deploy in the coming days to Bouar the first Military Observers, 15 in number. I note on this subject, the arrival of a first 04 MilOps team in Bangui.

You know the SMSU is an important lever to revitalise the process of implementing the Political Agreement and national reconciliation and essential for forming an esprit de corps.

Also, among the main activities of the Agreement, there is the acceleration of the national Disarmament-Demobilization-Reintegration (DDRR) program which consists of disarming armed groups and avoiding the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in CAR and the sub-region. In this regard, the SMSU constitutes a vehicle towards this great DDRR. I emphasise that the effective and full implementation of the Peace Agreement in CAR by scrupulously respecting the commitments made by all actors is also part of the AU program on Silencing the Gun in Africa in 2020.

In this respect, the AU, through its representation in Bangui, MISAC, will spare no effort so that this noble and imperative objective which is beneficial

for our continent is a reality in CAR. The stabilisation of the CAR will also promote the dynamics of peace and sub-regional security, the foundation of all socio-economic development and promote exchanges and the integration of populations in this Community in particular and Africa in general.

***General elections in CAR are scheduled for 2020-2021, with violence continuing on the ground and some opposition members of a platform composed also from a civil society called "E ZINGO BIANI" demanding a transition. In such a context do you think that the elections will be held calmly and on time?***

The electoral process constitutes a priority stage for the consolidation of democratic gains and the stability of the CAR. I once again urge the Central African actors to respect the upcoming 2020/2021 electoral deadlines and to ensure that they are free, transparent and peaceful.

I also want to be very clear: this is not about any umpteenth transition. The AU rejects any idea of a new transition in CAR and further reaffirms the need for all parties to work in good faith to organise and hold these elections, which are part of the consolidation process of peace in the CAR.

The international community has also made this clear during the recent high-level joint visit of the African Union-United Nations-European Union from 4 to 7 October 2019 in CAR, composed of the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the AU, The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations in charge of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and the Director-General - Africa of the European External Action Service of the European Union, who was part of the follow-up implementation of the Agreement.

During all the meetings with their interlocutors, the three organisations (AU-

UN-EU) insisted on a strong message so that the presidential and legislative elections planned for December 2020-2021 are held on the due date. They also confirmed their determination to work for these elections to be free and peaceful. In the same spirit, the 3 organisations reaffirmed that any inclination to want to force a transition will not be tolerated and that there will be no other democratic alternative than the actual holding of the elections in 2020, following the electoral calendar.

I take this opportunity to appeal to the international community for a strong mobilisation around funding and support for the 2020-2021 elections in CAR.

#### ***Any final words?***

I encourage the people of the Central African Republic, including the signatory and non-signatory parties, political actors, civil society and associations of women and young people, to continue to support the implementation of the Agreement, which remains the only way for the return to lasting peace throughout the territory.

I reiterate the will of the AU to continue within the framework of African solidarity, to support the efforts of all the Central African Institutions and the population in the implementation of the Peace Agreement, good conduct of upcoming elections and stabilisation of CAR.

Finally, I welcome the continued support of the Economic Community of Central African States, (ECCAS), co-guarantor of the Peace Agreement and welcome the exemplary cooperation between the African Union, the United Nations, and the European Union, in close coordination with the countries of the region, in the efforts of stabilisation and socio-economic recovery of CAR, and I can assure you that our three organisations and other partners will continue our coordinated commitment in favor of promotion of peace, security, and stability in CAR.

## SILENCING THE GUNS

# Closing the Gender Gap:

## Deepening Women's and Girl's Participation in peace & Security

**S**ignificant advances have been made in reducing violent conflicts in Africa, however many African countries and regions remain trapped in a vicious cycle of conflict with devastating consequences that undermine the continent's development and integration agenda. The traditional challenges to peace and Security such as political competition, ethnic tensions or electoral violence are now exacerbated by emerging non-traditional security challenges such as terrorism and transnational crime, drug trafficking in the Sahelo-Saharan region or

I acknowledge the efforts of all women across the continent and the diaspora who continue to work very hard to build the Africa we want

**Moussa Faki Mahamat-  
Chairperson, African  
Union Commission**

the Horn of Africa, and complex competition between super powers which has scaled up the militarization of some parts of the continent. Social and economic discontent as a result of youth unemployment, gender inequality, extreme poverty, and economic disparities constitute the structural factors that fuel the wheels of these conflicts.

Notwithstanding, recent years have seen many African countries invest in furthering gender equality and women's empowerment. This is evidenced in the increasing number of adoption of legislation and policies to protect and promote the rights of women and girls, and prevent violence against them; the readmission of teenage mothers back to school; integration of an increasing number of women in defence and security forces; and demobilisation and reintegration of child soldiers in countries emerging from conflicts. However, challenges remain with regards to women's representation in governance structures and peace processes, women's economic empowerment, as well as with respect to early marriages and harmful traditional practices.

In reviewing the gender dimensions in the maintaining and creating new avenues and mechanisms for peace and security in the continent, one of the

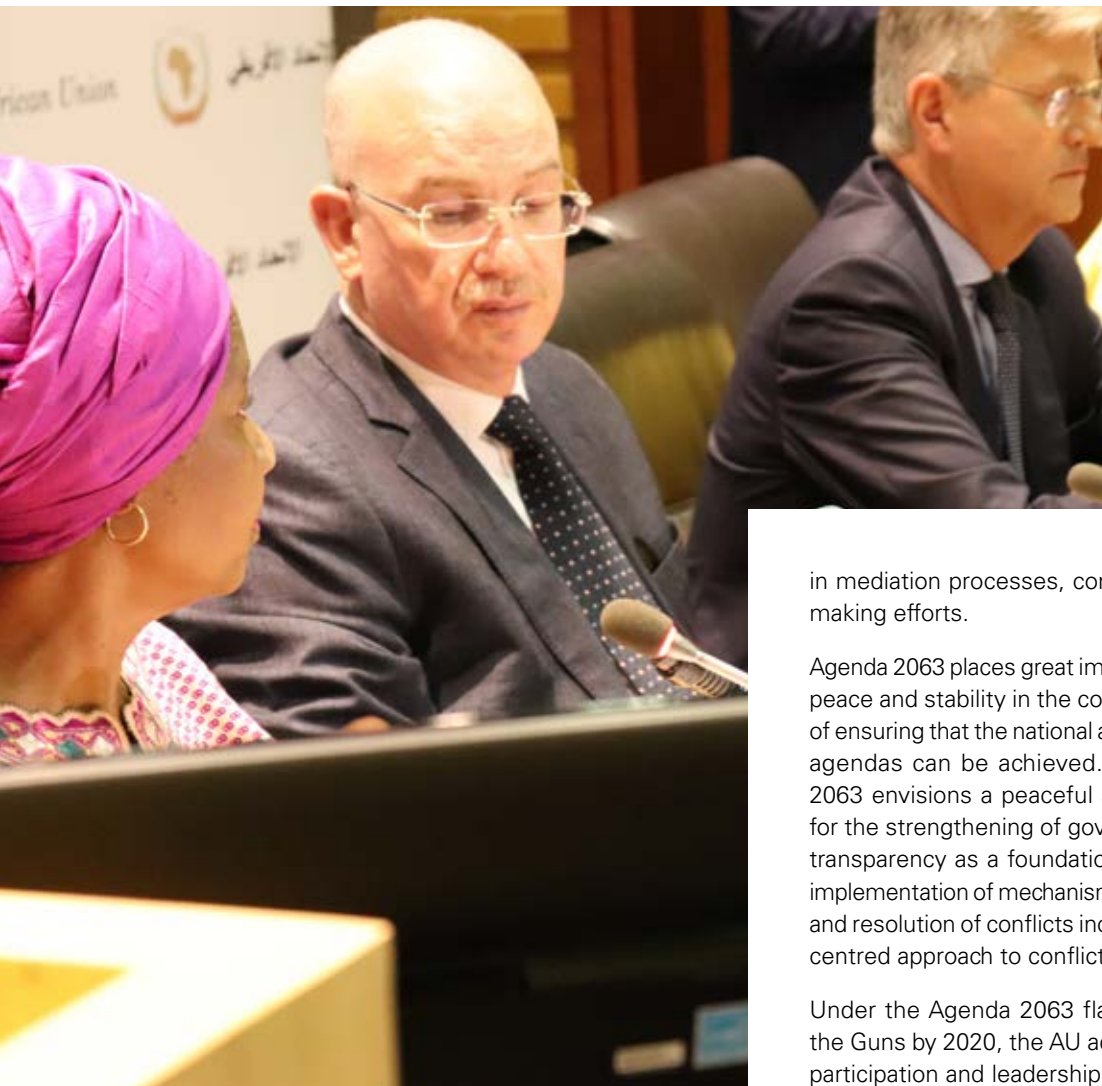
FemWise Africa is the only Network of Women mediators globally and it mobilises women and girls from all over the continent and the diaspora to promote and professionalise the role of African women in mediation processes, conflict prevention and peace-making efforts.

greatest achievements registered by the AU, is the involvement of women and girls in the peace process. For instance, the long-term deployment of members of the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation – commonly known as FemWise-Africa, to support the AU Liaison Offices in Sudan and South Sudan has been lauded as a progressive way to support formal peace processes in the countries but also in counting the benefits to the region. The long-term deployment of the mediators have been useful and timely, especially in ensuring that women, and their concerns, are included in the ongoing efforts to transform Sudan and South Sudan, and accompany them along the path towards peace. FemWise is the only Network of Women mediators globally and

We should be intentional in championing the cause for youth and young women leaders' empowerment, not as privilege but as an undeniable necessity of our collective future.

**Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the  
Republic of Kenya.**

it mobilises women and girls from all over the continent and the diaspora to promote and professionalize the role of African women



**The AU Commissioner for Peace and Security, the UN Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, the Executive Director of UN WOMEN and the Co-Chair of the AU Network of Women Mediators (FemWise) briefed the AU Peace and Security Council on their joint mission to South Sudan**

in mediation processes, conflict prevention and peace-making efforts.

Agenda 2063 places great import on the need to establish peace and stability in the continent as a key component of ensuring that the national and continental development agendas can be achieved. “Aspiration 4” of Agenda 2063 envisions a peaceful and secure Africa and calls for the strengthening of governance, accountability and transparency as a foundation for peace, as well as the implementation of mechanisms that ensure the prevention and resolution of conflicts including the use of a dialogue-centred approach to conflict prevention and resolution.

Under the Agenda 2063 flagship project on Silencing the Guns by 2020, the AU advocates for the meaningful participation and leadership of women and their efforts towards promoting peace, enhancing good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law. The AU’s commitment is demonstrated in its policy formulation and allocation of resources - human, institutional and financial - towards attaining gender equality and women’s empowerment. These efforts also act as a catalyst towards the realization of Agenda 2063’s Aspiration 6, which recognises the centrality of women in Africa’s development and their role in the peace and security architecture.

The African Peace and Security Architecture road map 2016–2020 recognizes gender, peace and security as key to conflict prevention, management, resolution and post-conflict reconstruction. The road map sets out to strengthen women’s participation in peace, security and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa and improve the quality and effectiveness of agencies responsible for protecting women and children in conflict and post-conflict contexts. It aims to mainstream gender in the continental peace and security agenda and safeguard women’s increased participation and protection in times of conflict. Further, the AU strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (2017–2027) calls for equal participation of women in peace processes.

**Officers from the Somali Police Force and the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) meet Internally Displaced People (IDPs) to sensitise them about Sexual and Gender-Based Violence at an IDP camp in Baidoa, Somalia**





The time is ripe for us to catalyse our efforts, reinvigorate our commitments and raise our voices, loud and clear to say that Africa needs action; that Africa must walk the talk to break the cycle of violence on women and deprivation that ultimately continues to hold Africa in poverty and instability.”

### **Bineta Diop, AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security**

#### **Documenting stories on the impact of African women's contribution to peace and security.**

Year 2020 promises to be yet another year to advance the women and youth agenda, especially, in consolidating gains and upscaling efforts of women's involvement in peace and security. As the AU rolls out initiatives for the theme for the year 2020 on “Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive conditions for Africa's Development, it will also be an opportunity to reaffirm the important role African women play in creating and maintaining peaceful and stable societies.

This year also presents timely opportunities to enhance synergies and partnerships for African women around the world. Through such synergies and collaboration, the African Union and the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) will jointly publish a commemorative book recognising and celebrating outstanding African women who have exceptionally advanced the women, peace and security agenda in Africa. The book honours the work of African women in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution, peace keeping and peace building, and seeks to send a message of encouragement to women across our continent and the rest of the world. It documents exceptional stories and contributions of the women to peace and security on the continent, and serves as a learning experience and motivation to other women, especially

young women involved in mediation, peacebuilding and peacekeeping activities.

The book features 20 African women from across the continent, each with a chapter that captures their story or contribution towards Africa's Agenda 2063 initiative to Silence the Guns as well as the 4 pillars of UN Resolution 1325 on prevention, protection, participation and/or relief and recovery, as part of advancing the peace and security agenda. The book is part of the activities for the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and is also in line with the AU's theme for the year 2020, “Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive conditions for Africa's Development”. The publication of the book comes at a time the global community is also commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action and the 5th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security.

In 2014, the Chairperson of the AU Commission appointed Mme. Bineta Diop as the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), with a mandate to promote and echo the voices of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution, as well as advocate



**An opening ceremony is held by the African Union and the Somali Police Force to commemorate the beginning of a new training program for the force**

for the protection of their rights, including putting an end to impunity on sexual and gender-based violence.

The office supports the work of the AU Peace and Security Department and the Women Gender and Development Directorate to develop strong, progressive and articulate policies to support the commitment towards the realisation of real transformation for gender equality and women's empowerment. To ensure effective assessment of, and reporting on the delivery of the commitments at the continental, regional and national levels in Africa, the AU Continental Results Framework (CRF) for Monitoring and Reporting on the Implementation of the WPS Agenda in Africa was instituted. The CRF provides twenty-eight (28) indicators agreed upon by African countries for tracking and reporting on the implementation of the WPS Agenda on prevention, participation, protection relief and recovery) as well as emerging security threats.

*Download the AU Continental Results Framework (CRF) for Monitoring and Reporting on the Implementation of the Women Peace and Security Agenda in Africa on [www.au.int](http://www.au.int)*

SILENCING THE GUNS

# CLOSING THE GENDER GAP: WOMEN IN PEACE KEEPING

## The role of female peacekeepers in securing Somalia.

Despite their importance, the number of women in peacekeeping operations is still low due to gender imbalance in disciplined forces. The African Union seeks to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping operations such as African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), and in line with the UN resolution 1325 (adopted in 31 October 2000) 'Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building' AMISOM has continuously demonstrated its commitment to promoting the participation of women in peacekeeping operations with Troop Contributing Countries being urged to help increase the number of women in senior decision-making positions within AMISOM military.

AMISOM continues to increase the number of female uniformed personnel, ensure women's participation and mainstream gender in the mission's programmes and activities; increase the percentage of female uniformed personnel deployed to AMISOM by the Troop and Police Contributing Countries, and ensure the full, effective and meaningful participation of women across its operations and to integrate a gender perspective throughout the delivery of its mandate. Currently, women constitute 19% percent of the AMISOM police component.

Female peacekeepers in AMISOM act as role models in the local environment, inspiring women and girls in often male-dominated societies to push for their own rights and for participation in peace processes. Apart from fostering cordial relations with local communities, women peacekeepers have vital skills in information gathering. African female peacekeepers continue to mentor Somali Police Force officers in key areas including

gender equality and mainstreaming, which immensely contributes to the success of the AMISOM, by helping tackle sexual and gender-based violence, advocating for the rights of vulnerable groups and capacitating their Somali counterparts.

Currently, the Troop and Police Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) are: *Uganda, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Kenya, Ghana, Zambia, Chad, and Zimbabwe.*  
Amisom Police Daily Strength Report for 21st October 2019

### AMISOM POLICE: DAILY STRENGTH REPORT FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2019 Strength Nationality and Gender Representation

PCC	SLT		Contigent				Sub-Total		Total
	Male	Female	Male		Female		Male	Female	
			IPO	FPU	IPO	FPU			
Uganda	0	0	24	140	14	20	164	34	198
Nigeria	2	0	27	146	11	14	175	25	200
Sierra Leone	0	0	23	130	13	30	153	43	196
Kenya	0	0	28	0	10	0	28	10	38
Ghana	0	0	29	12	10	1	41	11	52
Zambia	0	0	19	0	13	0	19	13	32
Chad	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Zimbabwe	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>718</b>
<b>Gender Representation</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>%</b>							
<b>Male</b>	<b>582</b>	<b>81.05</b>							
<b>Female</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>18.95</b>							
<b>Total</b>	<b>718</b>	<b>100%</b>							

### Military female peace keepers

Female Pk	Officers	NCO	Others	Total
FHQ	4	0	0	4
Burundi	4	8	47	59
Uganda	24	228	143	455
Kenya	3	23	06	32
Djibouti	0	3	14	17
Ethiopia	5	56	165	226

# AFRICAN UNION

## MISSION IN SOMALIA (**AMISOM**)

**T**he African Union (AU) Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) was established by the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) on 19 January 2007 to support the Transitional Federal Institutions in Somalia in their efforts towards dialogue and reconciliation; facilitate humanitarian assistance; and create conditions conducive for long-term stabilisation, reconstruction and development.

In February 2007, the African Union deployed troops to Somalia. AMISOM was initially deployed in Mogadishu for six months with an initial mandate of six months. The mandate was subsequently extended and expanded to include an increase in operational scope and three surges in uniformed personnel. Uganda was the first African country to deploy troops in Somalia in March 2007, followed by several other African countries. The military and police contingents are from Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone, and Uganda.

Since 2007, AMISOM's mandate has been repeatedly renewed and modified by both the AU PSC and the United Nations Security Council

In July 2017, the PSC endorsed a gradual and phased reduction and reorganisation of AMISOM's uniformed personnel, aimed at providing a greater support role for the Somali National Security Forces to progressively take the lead in security tasks. The PSC stressed the need to put on hold a proposed reduction of military personnel taking into account the capabilities of the Somali security forces to gradually take over security responsibility from AMISOM and emphasised that reconfiguration of AMISOM should include the expansion of its civilian component.

In May 2019, the AU PSC proposed a renewed mandate of AMISOM for another 12 months until 27th May 2020, to support implementation of the Somali Transition Plan. This is in line with the

objectives of the 2018-2021 AMISOM Concept of Operations and the Exit Strategy from Somalia. The UN Security Council Resolution 2472 of 2019 renewed AMISOM's mandate until 31 May 2020, with a third reduction of 1000 troops to a maximum of 19,626, by 28 February 2020. The current mandate takes into account conditions set out in the Somali Transition Plan, including the ability of Somalia to generate able, accountable, acceptable and affordable forces, as well as joint AU/UN/FGS threat assessments of the conditions on the ground, in coordination with relevant partners.

As per the UN Security Council Resolution 2372(2017) AMISOM is mandated to pursue the following strategic objectives:

1. Enable the gradual handing over of security responsibilities from AMISOM to the Somali security forces contingent on abilities of the Somali security forces and political and security progress in Somalia;
2. Reduce the threat posed by Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups;
3. Assist the Somali security forces to provide security for the political process at all levels as well as stabilization, reconciliation and peace building in Somalia.

Under the same UN Security Council Resolution 2372 (2017), AMISOM is also authorised to carry out the following priority tasks to achieve these objectives:

1. Maintain a presence in the sectors set out in the AMISOM Concept of Operations, prioritizing the main population centres;
2. To assist, as appropriate, the Somali security forces to protect the Somali authorities to help them carry out their functions of government, their efforts towards reconciliation and peace building, and security for key infrastructure;
3. To protect, as appropriate, its personnel, facilities, installations,

equipment and mission, and to ensure the security and freedom of movement of its personnel, as well as of United Nations personnel carrying out functions mandated by the Security Council;

4. To secure key supply routes including to areas recovered from Al-Shabaab, in particular those essential to improving the humanitarian situation, and those critical for logistical support to AMISOM, underscoring that the delivery of logistics remains a joint responsibility between the United Nations and AU;
5. To conduct targeted offensive operations against Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups, including jointly with the Somali Security Forces;
6. To mentor and assist Somali security forces, both military and police, in close collaboration with UNSOM and in line with the National Security Architecture;
7. To reconfigure AMISOM, as security conditions allow, in favour of police personnel within the authorized AMISOM personnel ceiling, and provide updates on the reconfiguration through the Secretary-General;
8. To receive on a transitory basis, defectors, as appropriate, and in coordination with the United Nations and the Federal Government of Somalia.

### **AMISOM's achievements**

Despite the challenges, Somalia has made remarkable progress. Some of the developments that can be attributed to the presence of the AU Mission are as follows:

- Relative peace has been restored to the country, with the AMISOM working in conjunction with the Somali National Army, driving Al-Shabaab and other armed groups out of major town centres and





**AMISOM soldiers interact with the children along the way of their daily routine of ensuring peace and security amongst various regions in Africa**

securing key infrastructure such as State House, Parliament, seats of regional administrations, airports and seaports.

- The improvement in security has enabled Somalia to establish federal states following a successful state formation process, allowing the Somali authorities to carry out functions of government, including reconciliation, peacebuilding and election preparation.
- Somali Security Forces are gradually taking over the security of key installations in the country, a testimony of the effective training and mentoring of Somali police and the consistent capacity building of the state police, Darwish, and regional security forces, by AMISOM.
- Despite the asymmetric warfare employed by Al-Shabaab and the indiscriminate use of Improvised Explosive Devices by the militants to cause fatalities to civilians, senior government officials and security forces including AU peacekeepers, AMISOM in joint operations with the Somali National Army have succeeded in liberating vast swathes of the country from the control of the militants- another testimony of effective AMISOM combat readiness mentoring for Somali military forces.
- The country has ushered in a period of stability on the political, security and socio-economic fronts. There is increased mobility and trade, increased operations of international airlines – both private and public carriers.
- In addition to protecting its personnel, facilities, installations, equipment and

mission, AMISOM provides protection to United Nations personnel carrying out functions mandated by the Security Council and international partners supporting Somalia.

- International financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have made a comeback to Somalia, after a hiatus of more than 25 years.
- The country's economic growth is on an upward trajectory. After a successful completion of the third Staff Monitored Programme (SMP III), Somalia has embarked on the SMP IV covering May 2019 - July 2020 with focus on further efforts to mobilize revenues, expand and deepen measures to build fiscal sustainability across the FGS and the Federal Member States (FMS).
- Somalia's diaspora population has returned to the country in large numbers and are investing millions of dollars in various businesses that have helped spur economic growth.
- AMISOM, working with the Somali Security Forces, created a secure environment that enabled the country to hold successful electoral processes in 2012 and 2016/2017, which culminated in peaceful transfer of power.
- The rebuilding of state institutions to deliver services, including in the education, water and health sectors is taking place, as a result of the relative peace in the country.
- In liberated areas, AMISOM provides life-saving and early recovery basic support. Through its Civil-Military Coordination (CIMIC) programme, AMISOM has implemented several Quick Impact Projects that have improved the lives of populations in fragile parts of the country. They include the construction of schools, hospitals, police stations and boreholes. AMISOM military, in its engagement with communities through CIMIC, also facilitates clearing up Main Supply Routes to enable free movement of goods and services among other things.

### **The African Union Mediation Support Unit (AU MSU)**

is a mechanism established to deliver systematic and sustained support to the mediation work of the AU, including through the Panel of the Wise. It is located within the Peace and Security Department's Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Reconstruction Division. The MSU was operationalised in March 2019, and forms part of AU's efforts to enhance the effectiveness of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).

#### **The core functions of the AU MSU are :**

- To provide technical and operational support throughout the planning, designing, implementing and evaluating phases of AU-led or supported mediation and dialogue processes;
- Develop the institutional capacity of the AU, including through the production of relevant policy documents and provision of mediation training to AUC staff, Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms (RECs/RMs) as well as Member States seeking to strengthen their mediation capacity;
- Promote knowledge management and sharing on AU mediation practices and lessons learned. The Unit will partner with African Centres of Excellence and Civil Society Organizations to roll out its training programmes.

In its efforts to operationalise the MSU, the Crisis Management and Post-Conflict Reconstruction Division has initiated the development of an advanced training manual (generic and themed curricula) for enhancing the capacities of mediation support personnel.

- The generic advanced training is designed as a simulation exercise that is supported with experience-sharing and peer to peer coaching, to address the specific dimensions of mediation by the AU.
- The themed curricula caters for specific issues in mediation such as inclusivity, constitutionalism, natural resource management and power sharing among others are also being developed.

These training packages will form the AU's bespoke training on mediation and negotiation that reflects the organisation's culture and the African values that have been tried and tested in various mediation efforts on the continent. The AU MSU is working closely with RECs/RMs to enhance coherence, coordination and complementarity of mediation efforts, and ensure that mediation efforts across Africa reflect the different actors' comparative advantages.

## SILENCING THE GUNS

# No Sacrifice is too small for Peace: Chief Superintendent of Police, Esther Mary Kaintor

**B**ehind Esther Mary Kaintor's laid back, unassuming demeanour is a go-getter who will not settle for less. The 47-year-old Chief Superintendent of Police (CSP) from Sierra Leone is one of the two-highest ranking female police officers under the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

Her 12-year police career is dotted with milestone after another, and with several firsts too.

In December 2018, CSP Kaintor was deployed to Mogadishu under AMISOM and hit the ground running as a police trainer based in Jowhar, the capital of HirShabelle State of Somalia.

Due to her track record in leadership, training and management, she was soon reassigned to the AMISOM Police Headquarters in Mogadishu to lend her expertise from a strategic and managerial post. Today, she is the Deputy AMISOM Training and Development Coordinator.

She is also the commander of the Sierra Leone Police contingent of individual police officers (IPOs) under AMISOM.

The IPOs support the implementation of the AMISOM mandate to train, mentor and advise their Somali Police Force (SPF) counterparts to transform SPF into a force that adheres to international policing standards.

More women participate in community policing activities when they see fellow women in Somali Police uniform and other women in AMISOM,

Ms. Kaintor's role in the training and development unit is integral, as it directly impacts on the delivery of the AMISOM Police mandate.

"I spearhead the development of training curriculums, organise and facilitate trainings. I also liaise with the SPF leadership to keep tabs on their responsiveness to the trainings we roll out," says Ms. Kaintor.

Since her arrival on the mission, this mother of two and wife to civilian Abdul Dukuray, has seen to the training needs of more than 2,500 Somali police officers.

The training covers human rights, community policing, the criminal justice system, gender issues, public order management, mid-level and senior-level management, and routine duties. The standard operating procedure is to capacitate SPF officers to become trainers by undergoing Training of Trainer (TOT) courses. These SPF officers, in turn, become training instructors for their colleagues.

"As a result, the SPF has a pool of trainers to instruct the police recruits. Also, there is a remarkable improvement in the handling of suspects and respect for their rights. The cells are cleaner and less congested. The public is closer to SPF and takes part in crime prevention, like reporting cases of sexual violence, thanks to community policing. SPF is transforming," says Kaintor.

Her dream is to see more women join the police force and actively serve in peacekeeping missions and ongoing efforts to secure Somalia.

Women are an asset to peacekeeping, community development, and rehabilitation. They can de-escalate tensions and gain public trust and confidence. Ms. Kaintor's community



All I can do is to play my part. I can't pay back enough because the price to restore peace to my country was huge. Also, I understand that to avoid a spill-over of war into one's country, contributing to peace in a neighbouring country is important. No sacrifice is too small.



**Somali women, training to become Military Police, carry plastic weapons to train with at Jazeera Camp in Mogadishu, Somalia**

policing training sessions with AMISOM have endeavoured to toe this line.

“More women participate in community policing activities when they see fellow women in Somali Police uniform and other women in AMISOM,” she says.

Ms. Kaintor holds a masters’ degree in Educational Administration from Njala University College in Freetown and a first degree in education from Milton Margai College of Education and Technology.

She joined the police force in 2007 after her first degree. Owing to her education background, she carved herself out as a trainer. She has attended more than 30 local and international policing courses and travelled the world representing the Sierra Leone Police.

While at it, as a professional teacher she has also designed curriculums for several courses, alongside undertaking various research in education and law enforcement.

Besides community policing, she is versed in command, epidemic response, forensics, management, conflict-related gender-based violence, gender mainstreaming, and peacekeeping.

Before joining AMISOM, Kaintor was the first-ever female commandant of the Sierra Leone Police Training School. She also spearheaded the establishment of the Sierra Leone Peacekeeping and Law Enforcement Academy (SILEA), becoming its first female vice principal. The academy recently graduated the first batch of diploma students in Safety and Security Studies.

The fourth of six children, her late father, James Eddie Kaintor, was a police officer and wished his children to become law enforcers. However, she did not join the police service to fulfil her fathers’ wish. “Rather, I was moved by the female police officers that struggled to end the civil war in my country that killed over 50,000 people,” she says. The war broke out in 1991, two years after Ms. Kaintor had completed the ordinary level of education. In 1993, she joined Makeni Teachers College, finishing in 1996 as the war raged on. In 1999, she enrolled for the higher teacher’s certificate completing in 2002, the same year that the war ended.

“I saw ladies my age contribute to my country’s peace, and I felt indebted. I made up my mind to join the police after my degree. Two years later, I enrolled for my degree, completed in 2007, and immediately enlisted,” she recalls.

While she rose through the ranks, she prayed to serve in a peacekeeping mission. Then the opportunity to join AMISOM beckoned. She feels accomplished as a person, and as a Sierra Leonean.

“Looking back to how my country was crying, and it is now peaceful and sending peacekeepers to missions across the world, I am humbled. It shows how today it’s me, tomorrow it’s someone else,” says Ms. Kaintor, introspectively. “All I can do is to play my part. I can’t pay back enough because the price to restore peace to my country was huge. Also, I understand that to avoid a spill-over of war into one’s country, contributing to peace in a neighbouring country is important. No sacrifice is too small.”



“

WAR DOES NOT  
DETERMINE WHO  
IS RIGHT, ONLY  
WHO IS LEFT.

**Bertrand  
Russell**

**2020**  
**SILENCING  
THE GUNS:**

Creating Conducive  
Conditions for Africa's  
Development

**#SilencingTheGuns**



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# IDENTIFYING A COUNTRY'S STRUCTURAL VULNERABILITY TO CONFLICT

Ghana was the first country to volunteer to identify its vulnerabilities, its resilience and develop a mitigation strategy



**D**uring the the 50th Anniversary of the OAU/AU in 2013, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government pledged “not to bequeath the burden of wars to the next generation of Africans” and undertook to end all wars in Africa by the year 2020 adopting “Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 as one of the flagship projects and programmes of Agenda 2063.

The continental framework titled the Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) and Country Structural Vulnerability Mitigation Strategy (CSVMS) was inspired by the African Union’s renewed emphasis on conflict prevention and the goal to Silence the Guns on Africa.

The CSVRA and CSVMS tools are designed to facilitate the identification of a country’s structural vulnerability to conflict at an early stage, with special emphasis on areas that are relevant in identifying drivers of violent conflict namely: **(i)** socio-economic development; **(ii)** good governance, rule of law, democracy and human rights; **(iii)** security sector; **(iv)** environment and climate change; **(v)** gender and youth; **(vi)** post-conflict peacebuilding and **(vii)** transitional justice and reconciliation. These tools also facilitate the identification of structural stability indicators and propose mechanisms and strategies for further strengthening such indicators that make countries more resilient to violent conflict, thereby creating opportunities for other member states to share experiences and best practices.

## CSVRA and CSVMS processes in the Republic of Ghana

The Government of the Republic of Ghana requested for technical assistance from the AU Commission in the conduct of the CSVRA and CSVMS and is the first country to have volunteered to identify its vulnerabilities, its resilience and develop a mitigation strategy. The process of the conduct of the CSVRA was carried out in various phases. National and regional level consultative meetings were held in Accra, Tamale and Kumasi from October to November 2017, which brought together various stakeholders from Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs), Civil Society Organizations, the media, traditional leaders as well as representatives of the four focal institutions, namely Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC), National Peace Council (NPC), Ghana-Africa Peer Review Mechanism – Governing Council (APRM-GC) and The West Africa Network for Peace-Building (WANEP).

The meetings culminated in the development of a draft CSVRA and CSVMS report, which was validated in a workshop held in March 2018 with the participation of stakeholders that took part in the consultative meetings. The Country Structural Vulnerability and Resilience Assessment (CSVRA) and Country Structural Vulnerability Mitigation Strategy (CSVMS) Report of the Republic of Ghana was launched in the presence of President Nana Akufo-Addo and AU Commissioner for Peace and Security Amb. Smail Chergui, at Jubilee House, in Accra, on 24 October 2018 .

It is believed that the CSVRA and CSVMS tools developed by the African Union will aid all Member States in the prevention of conflicts as well as consolidation of peace and stability on the African Continent.

SILENCING THE GUNS



**FINANCING PEACE & SECURITY IN AFRICA IS NOT ONLY AN AFRICAN PRIORITY BUT A GLOBAL STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE**

A peaceful and secure environment is an imperative for the attainment of any socio-economic agenda and the African Union has devised strategies that respond to the evolving complex nature of conflicts and crisis in the continent including implementation of sustainable funding for peace and security activities.

The AU has made commendable progress in its domestic resource mobilisation agenda through the implementation of the 0.2% levy on eligible imports to finance 100% operational budget, 75% program budget and 25% budget of the peace support operations of the AU.

The 25% budget allocation for peace support operations will finance activities that evolve around mediation and preventive diplomacy; institutional capacity; and peace support operations. Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AU Commission underscores the critical importance for member states to implement the decision on financing of the Union, noting with regard to the Peace Fund, that "it is crucial to

Not to fund our peace efforts in a more substantial way would be tantamount to entrusting others with the essential levers of the continental sovereignty.

**Moussa Faki Mahamat-Chairperson, African Union Commission**

attain the objectives set and to secure sustainable funding for this tool on the basis of the assessed contributions. It is on this condition that we shall be able to ensure African ownership and continental leadership that we are constantly claiming."

The AU's proven ability to act as 'first responder' is a critical element of the evolving international peace and security architecture. In reference to Peace Support Operations, since 2002, the AU and its Regional Economic Communities and Regional Mechanisms have demonstrated a clear comparative advantage in missions where offensive operations are needed and the United Nations is unable to deploy; and in situations where the UN Security Council is unable to mobilise the requisite political consensus to initiate action.

The high cost and complexity of AU Peace Support Operations places a premium on greater investment in the component of Mediation, Preventive Diplomacy and Institutional Capacity. The AU has developed significant institutional capacity over the past decade to undertake early warning analysis and conflict prevention building up an impressive toolbox for prevention and peace making. These include the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, Special Envoys, and ad hoc mediation panels, often comprised of sitting and former Heads of State. The AU also has experience in deploying liaison offices and "special political missions" in countries at risk of, or emerging from, conflict.

The urgency of implementing the domestic resource mobilisation decision illustrates the shared African solution towards the realisation of Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063 which underscores the need for dialogue-centred conflict prevention, as well as the



**H.E Pierre Buyoya, former President of the Republic of Burundi (Left) H.E Thabo Mbeki, former President of the Republic of South Africa, (Centre) Dr. Donald Kaberuka, High Representative for AU Peace Fund, (Right) at the launch of AU Peace Fund**





When the endowment reaches its full strength, Africa will be in a strong position to drive the continent's peace and security agenda toward the most appropriate solutions. As you know, Africa is pursuing a resolution at the United Nations Security Council to provide stable funding for African Union peace support operations. The re-launched Peace Fund is a critical piece of that architecture.

**H.E. Paul Kagame,  
President of Rwanda  
speaking at the launch of  
the African Union Peace  
Fund in November 2018**

management and resolution of existing conflicts, with a view to Silencing the Guns in our continent.

The Peace Fund, replenished through financial appropriations from the regular AU budget, is also able to accept contributions from other sources within Africa, including the private sector, civil society, donations from individuals, and through appropriate fundraising activities.

The Peace Fund has for many years been highly dependent on external partners which has greatly impacted the AU's ability to independently manage its peace and security priorities. The multiplicity of donor financing channels led to fragmentation and high transaction costs related to the numerous reporting requirements.

However, the changing tides in Africa's resolve towards domestic resource mobilisation saw 2017 to 2019 register the highest level of contributions to the peace

fund since its establishment in 1993. 50 Member States made their contributions to the Peace Fund amounting to US\$ 141 million. At the conception of the Peace Fund, Member States were expected to contribute US\$400 million by 2021, gradually from an anticipated amount of US\$325 million in 2017. Member states are now expected to contribute US\$ 400 million by 2023.

**The AU Peace Fund Board of Trustees**

In January 2018, a Board of Trustees made up of five African members representing the 5 AU Regions and two international partners, was established.

**The Board members.**

- **Zainab Ahmed** (Minister of finance, *Nigeria*)
- **Tito Mboweni** (Minister of Finance, *South Africa*)
- **Anicet Dologuele** (Former Prime Minister, *Central African Republic*)
- **Kamel Morjane** (Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, *Tunisia*)
- **Elene Makonnen** (Senior Advisor, multilateral organizations, *Ethiopia*)

In addition to these African members, the European Union and the United Nations will occupy two seats on the Peace Fund Board that have been allocated for international partners. The role of the Board of Trustees is to ensure strategic coherence and enhanced governance, financial and administrative oversight of the Peace Fund. Additional elements have been factored in the governance and management structure which elaborate on the Independent Evaluation Panel that regularly reviews the effectiveness and impact of the Fund; the Executive Management Committee which provides a strategic management oversight of the Fund; a Fund Manager who manages the finances; and a Peace Fund Secretariat

**Between 2017 and 2019, member states contributed about US\$ 141 million, the highest level of contributions to the Peace Fund since its establishment in 1993.**

that manages the day to day operations of the Fund.

Dr. Donald Kaberuka and the AU Commission are undertaking regional consultations on the scale of assessment for the Peace Fund for the consideration and adoption by the AU policy organs. Currently, member states are funding the peace fund on the basis of the existing scale of assessment for the regular budget.

**Enhancing multilateralism to Silence the Guns by 2020.**

Africa cannot achieve its development agenda in isolation. While AU Member States are primarily responsible for financing the Peace Fund, partnerships will continue to play a vital role in supporting peace and security activities of the African Union. Deepening co-operation with partners, both traditional and emerging ones is therefore imperative. The AU has developed critical partnerships within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) to develop innovative ways to respond to the continent's peace and security challenges.

Women and children bear the blunt of humanitarian crisis emanating from conflict and instability and the AU has ensured greater involvement and engagement of women in the conflict resolution for sustainable peace through initiatives such as Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention & Mediation (FemWise).

Overall, peace and security in Africa will only be achieved through effective and committed leadership and greater local and global cooperation. Better coordination and synchronisation of efforts by stakeholders to avoid silo efforts and duplication as well as the threat of reversing the gains accumulated are equally as important.

“

WITHOUT PEACE,  
ALL OTHER DREAMS  
VANISH AND ARE  
REDUCED TO ASHES

**Jawaharlal Nehru**

**2020**  
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# The Peace and Security Council of the African Union

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) is the standing decision-making organ of the AU for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. It is a collective security and early warning arrangement intended to facilitate timely and efficient responses to conflict and crisis situations in Africa. It is also the key pillar of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), which is the framework for promoting peace, security and stability in Africa.

The Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council was adopted on 9 July 2002 in Durban, South Africa, and entered into force in December 2003. The PSC became fully operational in early 2004. The PSC Protocol, together with the PSC Rules of Procedure, the AU Constitutive Act and the conclusions of various PSC retreats, provide operational guidance to PSC activities.

## The powers of the PSC, in conjunction with the Chairperson of the AU Commission, include to:

- To anticipate and prevent disputes and conflicts, as well as policies, which may lead to genocide and crimes against humanity
- Undertake peace-making and peacebuilding functions to resolve conflicts where they have occurred
- Authorise the mounting and deployment of peace support missions, and lay down general guidelines for the conduct of such missions including the mandate
- Recommend to the Assembly, pursuant to article 4(h) of the AU Constitutive Act, intervention, on behalf of the Union, in a Member State in respect of grave circumstances, namely, war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity as defined in relevant international instruments
- Institute sanctions whenever an unconstitutional change of government takes place in a Member State
- Implement the AU's Common Defence Policy
- Ensure implementation of key conventions and instruments to combat international terrorism
- Promote harmonisation and coordination of efforts between the regional mechanisms and the AU in the promotion of peace, security and stability in Africa
- Follow-up promotion of democratic practices, good governance, the rule of law, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and respect for the sanctity of human life and international humanitarian law
- Promote and encourage the implementation of conventions and treaties on arms control and disarmament
- Examine and take action in situations where the national independence and sovereignty of a Member State is threatened by acts of aggression, including by mercenaries



**Memorial Wall of fallen AU Soldiers killed in action at the Julius Nyerere Peace & Security Building, AU Headquarters in Addis Ababa**

- Support and facilitate humanitarian action in situations of armed conflicts or major natural disasters.

The PSC has 15 members with equal voting powers. All members are elected by the AU Executive Council and endorsed by the AU Assembly during its ordinary sessions. For continuity, five members are elected for three-year terms and 10 for two-year terms. While there are no permanent members, the PSC Protocol does not prevent any Member States from seeking immediate re-election.

Article 5(2) of the PSC Protocol lists criteria used in electing PSC members, including: contribution to the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in Africa; participation in conflict resolution, peace-making and peacebuilding at regional and continental levels; willingness and ability to take up responsibility for regional and continental conflict resolution initiatives; contribution to the Peace Fund and/or Special Fund; respect for constitutional governance, the rule of law and human rights; and commitment to AU financial obligations.

The PSC Secretariat provides direct operational support to the PSC, and is housed within the Peace and Security Department (PSD) of the AU Commission.

The PSC is assisted by the AU Commission (AUC), the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, the African Standby Force and the AU Peace Fund. The PSC also works in collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution; the UN Security Council and other similar international organisations; civil society organisations; and other AU organs, including the Pan-African Parliament and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights.

The PSC Subsidiary Bodies include Military Staff Committee which advises and assists the PSC in all questions relating to military and security requirements for the promotion and maintenance of peace and security in Africa, and Committee of Experts that assists the PSC to elaborate its draft documents including PSC decisions.

Other Bodies Related to the PSC include the African Union Police Strategic Support Group (PSSG) which was launched in June 2013, to provide strategic and technical advice and support to the PSC, AUC and Member States on police matters in the context of AU-led Peace Support Operations.



## SILENCING THE GUNS

# POLICE WORK ISN'T JUST ANOTHER JOB.

**Glory Urhere, Chief  
Superintendent  
of Police**



I believe when you understand people's trials, you serve them better, so continuous learning is key.

projections, and recommendations that inform decision-making for the three components of AMISOM: civilian, military and police.

The MAC operates directly under the office of the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission (SRCC) for Somalia. Essentially the head of the mission, the SRCC, Ambassador Francisco Madeira, convenes a daily Senior Leadership Team meeting that Ms. Urhere must attend and brief on the current status. This, in addition to other meetings in coordination with different high-level mission capabilities, defines CSP Urhere's normal day, alongside updating the cell database as information trickles in from different listening posts. Generally, her work helps the mission to keep a finger on the pulse of all goings-on, and maintain political neutrality while continuously moving to degrade Al-Shabaab and other armed opposition groups in the ongoing efforts to restore peace in Somalia. "I feel fulfilled playing this part in freeing Somalia and representing my country to maintain peace in Africa," she says.

CSP Urhere's stellar performance with AMISOM borrows partly from her previous work as a UN peacekeeper. From November 2005 to February 2007, Ms. Urhere served as a gender officer and

**C** hief Superintendent of Police Glory Urhere from Nigeria is no stranger to peacekeeping. With two United Nations (UN) peacekeeping missions under her belt, this 42-year-old has seen first-hand, the devastation caused by conflict and war.

Indeed, as she talks about her past experiences working especially with women and children affected by war, she gets emotional. What she has witnessed over her 19-year experience as a police officer has moulded her into someone who is driven to make a difference with every deployment, wherever she goes. "For me, police work isn't just another job. So much evil is happening to innocent people out there, and my heart yearns to help them whenever I have a chance," CSP Urhere says. And help them she is, serving as an Information Analyst with the Mission Analysis Cell (MAC) of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).

As the more senior of the two highest ranking female police officers on the mission, Ms. Urhere compiles, categorises and analyses operational, humanitarian and political data on the work of the AU mission to Somalia. She uses the data to write weekly and monthly analyses reports focusing on mission assessments,

mentor under the UN Mission in Kosovo, a Southeast European country that suffered a long-running political and territorial dispute against Serbia. She successfully boosted the capacity of Kosovo Police with knowledge in handling sexual and gender-based violence, investigations of gender crimes, statement-taking from children witnesses and gender awareness advocacy.

Five months later, the UN Mission in East Timor wrote to the Nigerian government requesting her temporary discharge from the police force, to take up a civilian role investigating war crimes and crimes against humanity, and use of rape as a weapon of war. The crimes were committed in East Timor during the Indonesian invasion, between the years of 1975 and 1999. Upon her discharge, Ms. Urhere returned home six years later in 2013, having successfully helped the mission achieve its mandate.

“What I saw in East Timor humbled me; so many widows with children they couldn’t afford to feed or provide healthcare for. Their husbands died in the war. I couldn’t provide for them, which hurt, but looking back, I am comforted knowing the work we did helped them challenge impunity and get justice,” she recalls.

To serve efficiently, Ms. Urhere is always on a quest for knowledge. “I believe when you understand people’s trials, you serve them better, so continuous learning is key. In fact, after AMISOM, I will enrol for my doctorate,” she says. Ms. Urhere currently holds a Master of Science in Gender and Development Studies, a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, a post-graduate Diploma in International Law, and a Diploma in Data Processing.

Growing up, and even at university, she didn’t imagine herself in law enforcement. “Interestingly, my father, the late Abavo Urhere, worked for the Department of State Security, which is the main intelligence agency of Nigeria. But I knew nothing about his work to peak interest; he never discussed it because whatever they do there is classified,” she recalls.

But after her first degree in 1999, she travelled to Ogun State in southwestern Nigeria to serve under the compulsory one-year youth service to the nation. As fate would have it, her uncle was the State Commissioner of Police there. “I visited him regularly at his workplace and home. Unlike my father’s job, there was no secrecy with police work. I learned that police officers were angels of justice and maintainers of peace, a dignifying job that when done judiciously, can advance humanity. I enlisted immediately after my youth service in May 2000,” she recalls.

Over 19 years, Ms. Urhere has risen through the ranks in the Nigeria Police Force. Her last designation before AMISOM in November 2018 was Head of Information Technology Unit at Force Headquarters Annex in Lagos. She has also worked as Deputy Head of General Investigations Department SCID, Head of Anti-Fraud Department SCID, Station Commander, and District Anti Crimes Officer.

With over 30 local and international police courses under her belt, CSP Urhere has expertise in information analysis, academic research with published and unpublished papers, investigation of general crime, investigation of gendered crime, gender analysis and gender mainstreaming, administration, training and mentoring, crime control and reduction, and investigation of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

A mother to an 11-year-old and triplets aged eight, Ms. Urhere credits her civilian husband, Francis Obogai, for her success. “I wouldn’t be such an achiever if my husband wasn’t holding the fort whenever I am away on deployment or studying. He is a businessman, a very busy one. But he is an involved father and supportive husband. I guess I am lucky because many women’s promising careers are killed by husbands insisting that they sit home and raise the children,” she says.

This strong foundation at home has given Ms. Urhere the peace of mind to dedicate her life to bringing hope and justice to hundreds of women and children, globally living in conflict.



**AMISOM police travel to General Kaahiye Police Academy in Mogadishu to hand out supplies to Somali police.**

## SECURING THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SUPPLY CHAIN TO PROMOTE PEACE AND SECURITY: A Case of the Uganda Authorised Economic Operator



**From left to right:**  
**Mr. Dicksons C. Kateshumbwa**,  
*Commissioner of Customs, Uganda Revenue Authority (URA);*  
**Hon. Anite Evelyn**, *State Minister for Privatization and Investment, (Uganda);*  
**H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni**,  
*President of Uganda;*  
**Dr. Kunio Mikuriya**, *WCO Secretary General;*  
**Ms. Doris Akol**, *Uganda Revenue Authority Commissioner General*  
**at the First WCO Global AEO Conference in Africa, Kampala, Uganda**

by **Ms. Peace P. Hadoto**

A

International trade is the exchange of goods and services among different states. Trading globally gives consumers and countries the opportunity to be exposed to goods and services not available in their own countries, or which would be more expensive domestically. In 2013, Vijayasri conducted a study which highlighted numerous gains from international trade. These include; proper allocation and efficient use of scarce resources; increased global competitiveness; increased government revenues and reduction in poverty levels. Countries that engage in international trade tend to grow faster, become innovative, and improve labour and capital productivity. International trade provides higher income and more opportunities to their people, ultimately ending global poverty and promoting economic development.

The international trade supply chain management is the flow involving goods or services, represented by transportation and storage, by inventory and shipping

schedules, beginning with the acquisition of raw materials to providing the final product to the end consumer. The international supply chain can include; manufacturers, importers, exporters, brokers, carriers, consolidators, intermediaries, ports, airports, terminal operators, integrated operators, warehouses and distributors.

According to the World Customs Organisation, WCO (2019), terrorism, proliferation of weapons and materials of mass destruction, trafficking of small arms and explosives, and illicit diversion of dual use goods pose a serious threat not only to security and safety of people, but also to economic development, political stability and social cohesion of countries across the globe. Ireland (2011), also argued that the 9/11 attacks birthed the customs supply chain security paradigm. This led to new national customs policies and prompted the WCO standards, which were intended to deter international trade transport from becoming a conduit for the delivery of violent extremism.

Customs administrations play a critical role at the international border crossings in the whole of government efforts to mitigate these threats. Customs manages the cross-border flows of goods, people and means of transport to ensure they comply with laws. The elevated threat level countries are facing after the surge in terrorism saw an increasing number of customs administrations including security as part of their core mandate. The significance of customs' role in border security has been reiterated in various United Nations Security Council Resolutions (e.g. UN SCR 1540 (2004)) and through other high-level political commitments, such as G7 and G20 declarations.

In the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the WCO adopted the SAFE Framework of Standards (SAFE FoS) to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade in June 2005 as a global customs instrument to deter international terrorism, secure revenue collection and promote trade facilitation worldwide. The WCO Policy Commission issued the Punta Cana Resolution in December 2015, which



readdresses and highlights customs' role and contribution in the context of border security and counter terrorism. With the SAFE Framework of Standards, the WCO developed the blueprints for effective customs controls from a supply chain security perspective while additional guidance regarding specific security related risks is provided by the Security programme. The SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade (SAFE Framework) would act as a deterrent to international terrorism, secure revenue collections and promote trade facilitation worldwide. In 2007, the WCO's flagship Customs-Business partnership programme; the Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) Programme was introduced. The SAFE Framework has emerged as the global Customs community's concerted response to threats to the supply chain security, equally supporting facilitation of legitimate and secure businesses. It prescribes baseline standards that have been tested and are working well around the globe. This unique international instrument endeavors to usher in a safer world trade regime and also heralds a new approach to working methods and partnership for both Customs and business towards a common goal based on trust. The Framework has been regularly updated to effectively address new and emerging developments in the international supply chain. Notable additions were provisions on AEO Programme, Coordinated Border Management and Trade Continuity and Resumption, Pillar 3 (Customs-to-Other Government and Inter-Government Agencies), and Pre-loading Advance Cargo Information (ACI) for air cargo.

The latest 2018 edition of the SAFE Framework of Standards augments the objectives of the SAFE Framework with respect to strengthening cooperation between and among Customs administrations, for example through the exchange of information, mutual recognition of controls, mutual recognition of Authorized Economic Operators (AEOs), and mutual administrative assistance. In addition, it calls for enhanced Customs cooperation with government agencies entrusted with regulatory authority over certain goods (e.g., weapons, hazardous materials) and passengers, as well as with entities responsible for postal issues. The Framework now also includes a comprehensive list of AEO benefits with certain minimum assured benefits. The updated SAFE Framework offers new opportunities for Customs, relevant

government agencies and economic operators to work towards a common goal of enhancing supply chain security and efficiency, based on mutual trust and transparency.

The Uganda AEO Programme was established in 2010 with a pilot of 10 companies and was officially rolled out by Uganda Revenue Authority department of Customs in March 2013. The AEO programme established is in line with the WCO SAFE Framework of Standards supporting supply chain security by rewarding non risky international trade supply chain players on account of the minimal risks they pose along the supply chain. Uganda has registered success both regionally and internationally since implementation of the programme. As of October 2019, the Uganda AEO programme has 60 national accredited AEOs and 30 EAC regional accredited AEO companies. The programme has registered a lot of benefits in regard to trade facilitation, but importantly has minimized the proliferation of entry of dangerous weapons and firearms by ensuring goods entering the countries are managed on a risk based approach.

The implementation of the Uganda AEO programme requires that before one becomes an AEO, the AEO applicant undergoes numerous checks and has to meet a safety and security criteria. Uganda Customs alongside the AEO programme operates a mature risk management system under the unit called the National Targeting Centre (NTC). The NTC unit is responsible for; management of selectivity/targeting criteria; providing operational support through 24x7x365 tactical analysis and co-ordination; coordinating and providing a central risk related information hub for better decision making; providing a platform for stakeholder co-operation & better coordinated border management under the specialized areas of Trade Based AML and Cross Border declaration of cash and cash equivalents to provide real time risk status from goods originating from destination country to country of exit. Highlighted risk information established from the tactical risk analysis from the NTC unit is able to send information to the country field enforcement teams to intercept any cargo or passengers who pose a security risk to the country. By so doing, any security threat is minimized and in the long run this silences any conflict tendencies entering the borders of the country.

By adopting trade facilitation measures such as the AEO Programme, international trade supply chain players who would be actors to advance insecurity weapons and warfare which would trigger conflict are eliminated. Development of Customs risk management systems and trade facilitation act as a promoter of enhancing the security of a state.

By adopting trade facilitation measures like the AEO programme, risk based interceptions and exchange of pre-arrival information, border scanner operations, Customs is able to work jointly with other regulatory agencies in curbing trade of illicit items in the country which would cause instability and conflict. Customs plays a pivotal role in ensuring that it promotes legitimate trade to safeguard the nationals of the country and discourage illegitimate trade.

Adopting Customs trade facilitation programmes like the Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programs is the right approach for strengthening overall supply chain security which contributes immensely to the promotion of peace and security among states. According to Fletcher (2007), Authorised Economic Operator (AEO) programmes are the right approach for strengthening overall supply chain security. Customs has positioned itself at the fore front of promoting trade facilitation initiatives like AEO programmes and these reforms should be strengthened and enhanced.

With the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), there is a requirement for African states to open borders. Thus peace building and security on the continent can only be achieved with the security of international trade. Customs administrations which control and administer the international movement of goods, are in a unique position to provide increased security to the global supply chain and to contribute to socio-economic development. It is in this regard, that Customs administrations should be largely involved to not only build a secure and safe trading environment which promotes legitimate trade and a secure trading environment, but also in the long run, protect the global trading system from vulnerability to terrorist exploitation that would severely damage the entire global economy and social well-being of nations, which ultimately shall promote peace and security for the state

## SILENCING THE GUNS

# Recognising African Women's Contribution to the Peace and Security Agenda



**A**frica's Agenda 2063 places great import on the need to establish peace and stability on the continent as a key component of ensuring that the national and continental development agendas can be achieved. "Aspiration 4" of Agenda 2063 which envisions a Peaceful and Secure Africa, calls for the strengthening of governance, accountability and transparency as a foundation for peace, as well as the implementation of mechanisms that ensure the prevention and resolution of conflicts including the use of a dialogue-centred approach to conflict prevention and resolution.

Under the Agenda 2063 flagship project of Silencing the Guns by 2020, the African Union advocates for the meaningful participation and leadership of women and their efforts towards promoting peace, enhancing good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law. The AU's

commitment is demonstrated in its policy formulation and allocation of resources - human, institutional and financial - towards attaining gender equality and women's empowerment, as a critical goal and strategy in the realization of Agenda 2063 "Aspiration 6" that recognises the centrality of women in Africa's development. These efforts also act as a catalyst towards the achievement of the goals of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 to further drive the women's agenda in the peace and security architecture.

To honour the work of African women in the areas of conflict prevention and resolution, peace keeping and peace building, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) are jointly publishing a Commemorative Book that will recognise and celebrate outstanding African women who have exceptionally advanced the women, peace and security agenda in Africa. The book aims to send a message

of encouragement to women across our continent and in the rest of the world, by reflecting on the exceptional stories and contributions of the women to peace and security on the continent, and serve as a learning experience and motivation to other women, especially young women involved in mediation, peacebuilding and peacekeeping activities.

The Commemorative Book will feature African women from across the continent, each of whom will have a chapter dedicated to them to share their story or contribution towards Africa's Agenda 2063 initiative to Silence the Guns as well as the 4 pillars of UN Resolution 1325 on prevention, protection, participation and/or relief and recovery, as part of advancing the peace and security agenda. The Commemorative Book is part of the activities for the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and also in line with the AU's theme for the year 2020 which will be "*Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive conditions for Africa's Development*"

The book will be launched during the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government / AU Summit in February 2020, at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

## About the AU Special Envoy on Women Peace & Security.

In 2014, the Chairperson of the AU Commission appointed Mme. Bineta Diop as the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) mandated to promote and echo the voices of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution, as well as advocate for the protection of their rights, including putting an end to impunity on sexual and gender-based violence. The envoys' efforts are also complemented by other mechanisms such as the Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation – commonly known as FemWise-Africa. FemWise-Africa mobilises women and girls from all over the continent and the diaspora to promote and professionalize the role of African women in mediation processes, conflict prevention and peace-making efforts.

The office supports the work of the AU Peace and Security Department and the Women Gender and Development



Directorate to develop strong, progressive and articulate policies to support the commitment towards the realisation of real transformation for gender equality and women's empowerment. To ensure effective assessment of, and reporting on the delivery of the commitments at the continental, regional and national levels in Africa, the AU Continental Results Framework (CRF) for Monitoring and Reporting on the Implementation of the WPS Agenda in Africa was instituted. The CRF provides twenty-eight

(28) indicators agreed upon by African countries for tracking and reporting on the implementation of the WPS Agenda on prevention, participation, protection relief and recovery) as well as emerging security threats.

Find out more about Agenda 2063, and the Commemorative Book on Women Peace and Security by visiting <https://au.int/commemorative-book>



African Union 

in partnership with 

In celebration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UN Security Council's resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security, the African Union and United Nations are collaborating to publish a Commemorative Book that will honour African Women involved in maintaining and promoting peace and security in Africa towards creating the '**Africa We Want**' in line with Africa's Agenda 2063.

Visit <https://au.int/commemorative-book>

**SILENCING THE GUNS BY 2020**  
Towards a Peaceful and Secure Africa

A Flagship Project of  
Agenda **2063** The Africa we Want

**#SheStands4Peace**  
**#OutstandingAfricanWomen**  
[www.au.int](http://www.au.int)     



# Promoting Agenda 2063 with African Media

AU awards grants to women journalists to produce Agenda 2063 content



## The Award Winners

**Zahara Tunda (Tanzania)** for the African Continental Free Trade Area: **Topic** – Free trade sustainability through technology, **Mary Mwendwa (Kenya)** for *Silencing the Guns by 2020*: **Topic** – The story behind women joining extremist groups in Kenya, **Culton Scovia (Uganda)** for the African Passport and Free Movement of People: **Proposed Topic** – South Sudanese women thrive in cross border trade despite war, **Christabel Ligame (Kenya)** for *Free Trade Migration*: **Vinzensia Fuko (Tanzania)** for the *Women and Free Trade* award: **Topic** – Video Diary on the Access of Free Trade Information: Stories from the experiences of rural women in East Africa.

**A**frican media is an important partner channel and tool in the effort to change the narrative about Africa and promote Agenda 2063, the continent's framework for inclusive and sustainable growth and development. The importance of the role of media was reinforced in the decisions of the African Union Ministers of Communication and Information Communication Technologies during the STC-CICT of 2017, in which it was resolved to recognise the contributions of journalists towards the achievement of Agenda 2063.

In July 2019, the African Union in collaboration with the African Women in Media (AWIM) held the African Women Conference and Festival as well as the AWIM Media Awards. AWIM 2019 was held under the theme 'Showcase' with the aim of promoting the amazing work produced by African women working in a variety of media industries including film, to journalism, marketing. The Conference assembled over 250 communication and media practitioners from across Africa

and internationally from Europe, Asia and America and representing over 50 organisations.

While spotlighting the challenges facing the industry and women in media, the Conference also sought to showcase the expertise of African women in media in addressing the urgent issues affecting the industry. Some of the challenges, barriers and injustices discussed included sexual harassment in the workplace, unequal pay, under representation of women in media leadership, and disinformation and the post truth era. Different panel discussions on these and other topics provided spaces for debate on possible solutions, sharing of ideas, and mentoring as well as opportunities, such as the business of media, media innovation and growing the reach of media in Africa.

A unique feature of AWIM 2019 Conference was the Pitch Zone where aspiring young film producers were given the opportunity to pitch their ideas to major regional and international media houses with the opportunity to receive funding for the production of their content. The Pitch Zone also provided the backdrop for the selection of the winners of the AWIM Agenda 2063 Awards bade on their presentations.

The AWIM Agenda 2063 Awards which was the culmination of the Conference were sponsored by the AU and AU's development partners Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale

Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the International Organisation for Migration.

Five African women journalists were awarded grants of US\$2000.00 each to enable them to produce stories on key sectors of Africa's development under Agenda 2063.

In recognition of her contribution to promoting Africa's development narrative, the late journalist Hodan Nayaleh was posthumously awarded the First Changing Narratives award, after she was murdered in a terrorist attack in Kismayo, Somalia on the 12th of July 2019. The award was received, on behalf of Hodan's family, by Mr Mukhtar Ogle, Secretary for Strategic Cabinet Initiatives from the Office of the President of the Republic of Kenya.

To expand the scope of recognising the role of the media in promoting Agenda 2063 with the aim of launching a pan-African Media Awards o Agenda 2063,

the AU's Directorate of Information and Communication is in the process of identifying key partners in the media to create and launch the AU Media Awards. This effort received the support of ministers responsible for Communication and Information and Communication Technologies when they met at their Specialised Technical Committee meeting in Sharm El Sheik in October 2019 , when they directed the AU to "Provide the necessary support to ensure the effective implementation and launch of the AU Media Awards within the period 2020-2021". Ongoing efforts included engagement with the Pan-African network of Agenda 2063 journalists launched in collaboration with AU Development Agency/NEPAD; improved engagement and collaboration with the African Union of Broadcasting (formerly Union of African National Radio and Television URTNA), and AU development partners keen to support the effort to recognise the contribution of African jmeda towards development journalism and defining a new narrative on Africa's development.



**Dr Yemisi Akinbobola,  
Award-winning  
Journalist and co-  
founder of the Africa  
Women in Media (AWIM)**



In Partnership with  
**African Union** 

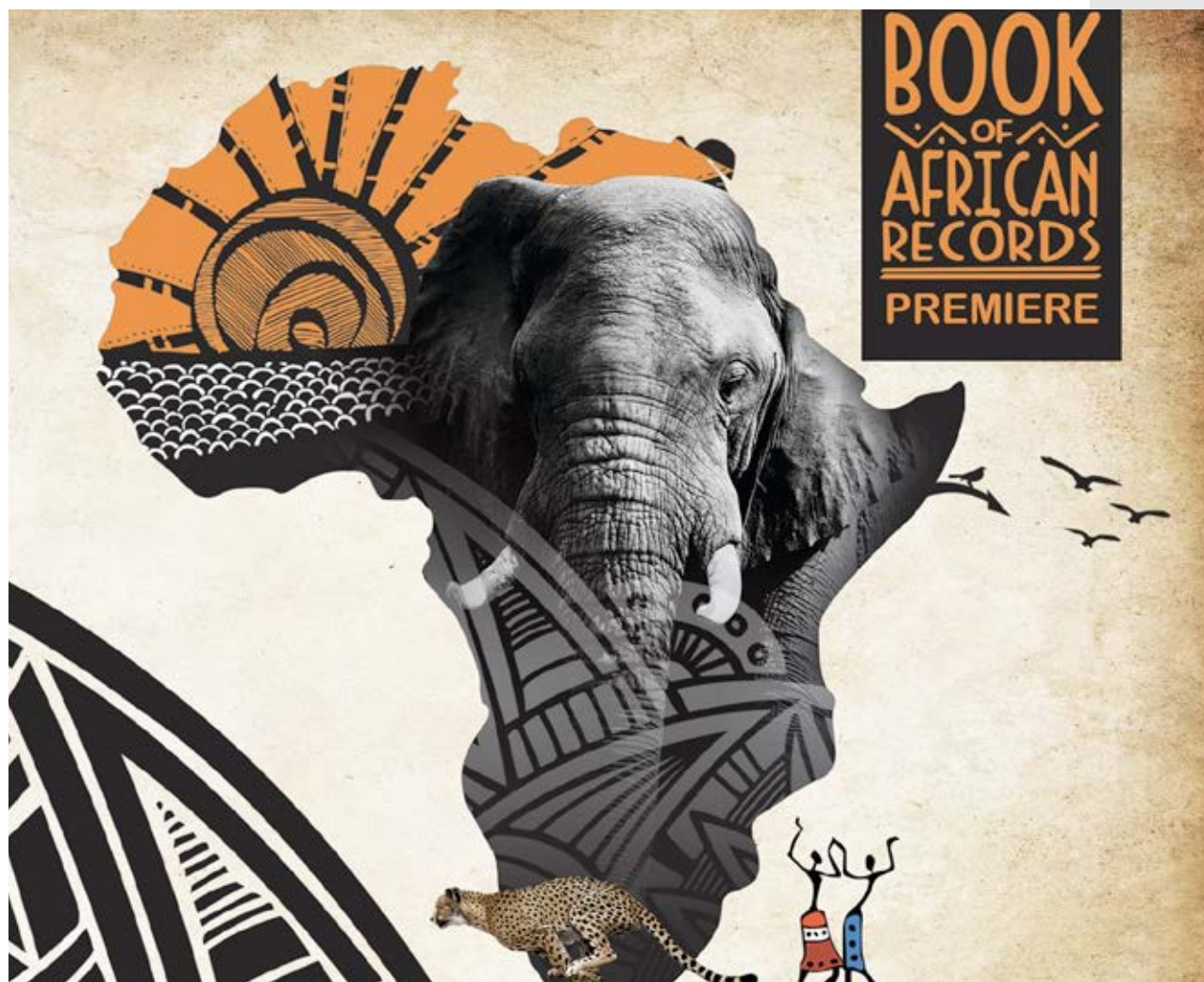
## African Women in the Media

### Conference & Festival

University of Nairobi  
25<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> July







There are too many myths about Africa that have actually made it into textbooks in schools around the world. Myths such as Africa has no history, or that there are no inventors and discoverers from Africa. The Africa Factbook will show that Africa was and remains the backbone of world civilisation and it's about time we unapologetically push for our right place in the annals of world history.

**Amb. Kwame Muzawazi, CEO of Book of African Records.**

**T**he Africa Factbook project is an initiative undertaken under Agenda 2063 Aspiration 5 which seeks to enhance the strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics of Africa. The Africa Factbook is designed to contain useful facts about Africa and the African peoples for the purpose of information dissemination, education, entertainment, reference, statistics and documentation.

The premiere edition of the Book of African Records was presented to African Heads of State and Government during the 27th AU Summit in July 2016 in Kigali, Rwanda and in December 2016, a MOU between African Union Commission and the Book of African Records (BAR), for the research and production of a publication titled The African Factbook was signed. The MOU was renewed in January 2019.

To set the ball rolling on the project, a stakeholders fundraising conference was



# INAUGURAL EDITION OF THE AFRICA FACTBOOK INTENDS TO BUST NEGATIVE STEREOTYPES ABOUT AFRICA

held in Harare, Zimbabwe in March 2018 attended by representatives from the AU, Member States and International development partners. Seed funding and office space was provided by the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe to support efforts for production of the first edition.

Between September and October 2019, 35 researchers from diverse African countries were brought on board to work on the first edition over 60 day non-stop in camp "International Convention for the Africa Factbook Making Process." A High Level Editorial Board has been incorporated in the process whose role shall be to review the publication before its presentation to organs of the African Union. This board will consist of 1 former head of state and government in good standing, 7 internationally recognised scholars of African history and 5 editors of international news organisations in Africa.

Africa's fight back against fake news about the continent and its people got to a resounding start with The Factbook's editorial team selecting "Busting the Myths" as the theme for the inaugural edition, capturing the intention to correct wrong information that over the last 500 years has negatively impacted on Africa's image.

As the African Union commemorates "Silencing the guns by 2020," The Africa Factbook will also be a platform to demonstrate new knowledge that points to the fact that many wars and conflicts in Africa have been caused by artificial misunderstandings of our cultures and history.

It is expected that upon completion, this publication will become an official source of reference and facts about Africa as stated in the decisions of the November 2017 2nd Ordinary Session of the AU's

Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and ICT (STC-CICT-2), wherein the Ministers reiterated the African Union's commitment to the African Fact book project and called upon "Member States to adopt the Africa Factbook as an educational tool, to enhance their knowledge of and pride in Africa."

Furthermore, while commending the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe for funding the process for the creation of the first edition of the factbook, one of the major outcomes of the 3rd STC-CICT held in October 2019 regarding the Factbook was to call upon Member States to fund subsequent publications on a rotational basis and for the AU Commission to finalise the production of the book and launch it.



PEACE IS COSTLY  
BUT IT IS WORTH  
THE EXPENSE

**African Proverb**



# 2020 SILENCING THE GUNS:

Creating Conducive  
Conditions for Africa's  
Development

**#SilencingTheGuns**



**SILENCING  
THE GUNS**

Towards a Peaceful and  
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# THE GREAT MUSEUM OF AFRICA

Preserving and promoting African cultural heritage by creating awareness of Africa's vast, dynamic and diverse cultural artefacts and Africa's past and continuing influence on world cultures in art, music, language, science

**T**he culture and creative industries generate annual global revenues of up to US\$2,250 billion dollars and exports in excess of US\$250 billion. According to the UNESCO's report on diversity of cultural expression, these sectors, which currently provide nearly 30 million jobs worldwide and employ more people aged 15 to 29 than any other sector, contribute up to 10% of GDP in some countries.

The African Charter for African Cultural Renaissance recognises the important role that culture plays in mobilising and unifying people around common ideals and promoting African culture to build the ideals of Pan-Africanism; and Africa's Agenda 2063, Aspiration 5 envisions "An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics". To achieve this aspiration, the framework further calls for all African Union (AU) member states to inculcate the spirit of Pan Africanism, by tapping into the continent's rich heritage and culture, to ensure that the creative arts are major contributors to Africa's growth and transformation; while restoring and preserving Africa's cultural heritage, including its languages.

During the Second Ordinary Session of the Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture

and Sports, AU member states endorsed the establishment the Great Museum of Africa by 2022 in Algiers, Algeria in order to harness the benefits of the creative industry. The Great African Museum project as an Agenda 2063 flagship project, aims to preserve and promote African cultural heritage and create awareness about Africa's vast, dynamic and diverse cultural artefacts and the influence Africa has had and continues to have on the various cultures of the world in areas such as art, music, language, science, and so on. The Great African Museum will be a focal centre for preserving and promoting the African cultural heritage.

AU members of the Technical and Advisory Committee of the Great Museum of Africa which include Algeria, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Nigeria and South Africa, highlighted the following on the last progress of the report:

- The project will be located near the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Algiers; and the need to think through all technical aspects of the Great Museum of Africa as well as its legal basis as an AU institution, as well as its diplomatic status;
- The estimated cost of establishing the Great Museum of Africa and the requirement to develop a collections policy

which will allow contributions by AU Member States and other institutions to the museum;

- The necessity for all stakeholders to work towards the inauguration / launching of the Great Museum of Africa by 2022.

#### **Components of the Museum include:**

- The Interpretation Centre/Research Centre
- The Thematic Exhibitions
- The Museum Reserves
- The Conservation Centre
- The Ambience of the Museum (Zoo-Botanical Areas/Agro - Ecological Areas and a Sculpture Park)
- A Temporary Structure for Awareness Raising for Potential Users and the Public at large
- A leisure/shopping area which will include a boutique, a bookshop and restaurant to showcase Africa's rich cuisine

The creation of the African Museum is one of the key initiatives being undertaken by the AU in the area of promoting African culture. Other initiatives include partnerships with the African World Heritage Fund and the Observatory of Cultural Policies in Africa (OCPA) as well as supporting the organisation of the Pan-African Film Festival of Ouagadougou (FESPACO) and the Pan-African Music Festival (FESPAM) and organising the annual Pan-African Cultural Congress

The development of the AU Model Law on the Protection of Cultural Property /Heritage will go a long way in ensuring Africa protects and preserves its cultural assets

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*Find out more about The Charter for African Cultural Renaissance and the status of ratification by visiting [www.au.int/en/treaties](http://www.au.int/en/treaties)*

# AFRICA DRIVING ITS DEVELOPMENT AGENDA THROUGH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

## AU-EU Partnership

To further support the African Peace and Security Architecture and African-led efforts to Silence the Guns such as the operationalisation of the AU peace fund, the EU has committed an additional €800 million to this endeavour.

The additional funding under the African Peace Facility will support:

- a) The strengthening of conflict prevention, management and resolution structures and mechanisms of the African Peace and Security Architecture;
- b) AU efforts to establish a continental Human Rights and international humanitarian law compliance framework;
- c) An Early Response Mechanism which will provide the African Union with quick funding for preventive diplomacy initiatives, mediation, fact-finding missions, and the first stages of peace support operations;
- d) The financing of African-led peace support operations, such as the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) against Boko Haram, the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) or the G5 Sahel Joint Force, with specific regards to capacity building, troop allowances, and non-lethal equipment. It will also support efforts of the AU to promote gender and human rights principles and practices in peace support operations.

The African Union is playing a leading role in improving Africa's partnerships and refocusing them more strategically to respond to African priorities for growth and transformation as accentuated in the continent's development blueprint, Agenda 2063. Various development partners continue to work with the African Union, to strengthen cooperation and streamline agreed projects and activities to ensure they are delivering on Agenda 2063 and "the Africa we want".







**AU-UK Partnership**

In February 2019, the AU Commission signed a MOU with the United Kingdom to collaborate amongst others, in the following areas:

- a) **Strengthening resilience:** Peace, security and governance and increased political participation of women and youth;
- b) **Mobilising Investments for African Sustainable Transformation:** inclusive growth, trade and economic partnerships, including the promotion of UK-Africa trade and investment, the African Continental Free Trade Area and action to secure a demographic dividend;
- c) **Migration & Human Mobility:** tackling the upstream drivers of irregular migration, protecting vulnerable migrants, including those at risk of trafficking and exploitation, and maximising the benefits from regular migration across the Continent and beyond;
- d) **Promoting Multilateralism and a Rules-Based International System:** ensuring countries and individuals have the freedom, security, justice and mechanisms to prosper, including co-operation on global issues such as climate change, human rights and serious organised crime
- e) **Investing in People:** education, science, technology and skills development for women and youth

**The Africa - Arab partnership**

The AU and the League of Arab States (LAS) continue collaboration on the broad array of political developments and security challenges in the African and Arab regions and work towards strengthening their cooperation and complementary activities in support of regional peace, security, stability and development.

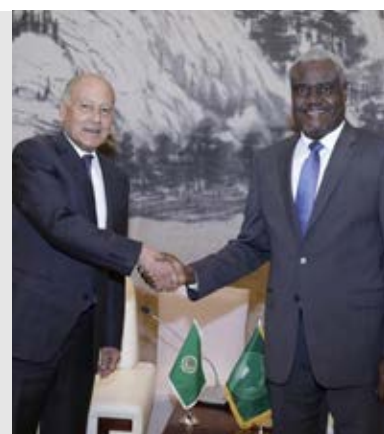
The AUC hosted the 14th Senior Officials Meeting of the Coordination Committee of the Africa-Arab Partnership held on 11 September 2019 at the AU Headquarters, to further discuss: the financing modalities of the agreed projects like the migration and disaster response fund, an overview of the security situation on continent i.e. Somalia, Sudan and the lake Chad Basin, and the establishment of the Afro-Arab Cultural Institute as well as the organization of the Arab Africa Trade Fair.

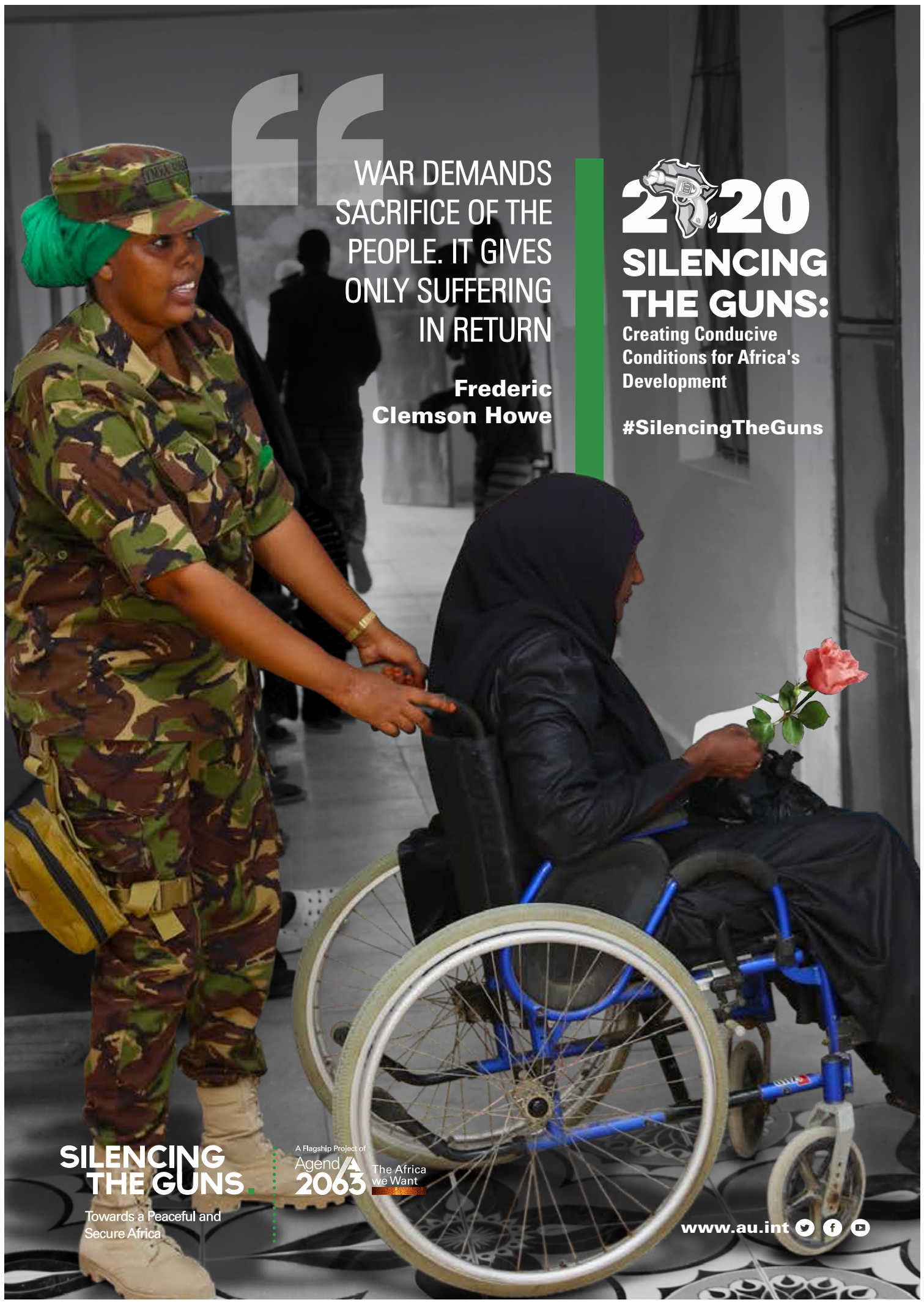
The Joint Africa–Arab Heads of State and Government Summit is held every three years, with ministerial-level meetings every 18 months.

**The 2019 Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) Summit**

TICAD 7 was held 26 years, after the first TICAD, which was organized in Tokyo, in 1993. TICAD 7 was themed “Advancing Africa’s Development through People, Technology and Innovation,” with the objective to strive to expand technological cooperation, boost business support and promote participation of women and enhance citizen exchange that activates and fosters the future.

The three-day Summit hosted by the Government of Japan in Yokohama, brought together AU Heads of State and Government, heads and representatives of international organizations, African and Japanese private sector, civil society, academia and media among others, to discuss key thematic issues around science, technology and innovation, human resource development/ education, health as well as agriculture, disaster risk reduction, climate change and the blue economy. The Summit concluded with the adoption of the Yokohama Declaration, 2019 and the Action Plan Declaration, 2019.





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WAR DEMANDS  
SACRIFICE OF THE  
PEOPLE. IT GIVES  
ONLY SUFFERING  
IN RETURN

**Frederic  
Clemson Howe**

**2020  
SILENCING  
THE GUNS:**




Creating Conducive  
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**#SilencingTheGuns**

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### African Union - Korea

In support of the African Union's 1 Million by 2021 initiative, the Republic of Korea, and the AU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on youth engagement, with a focus on youth exchange programmes. International learning and knowledge propels students towards acceptance and understanding of an array of different cultural and community perspective and the programme will enable youth between the two continents to share best practices through practical immersion, awareness and adoption of alternative, multi-faceted approaches to learning, analytical and problem-solving skills, enhanced interest in global issues as well as a broader general knowledge.

The Republic of Korea also engaged with the AUC on how Korea can support the implementation of the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement.



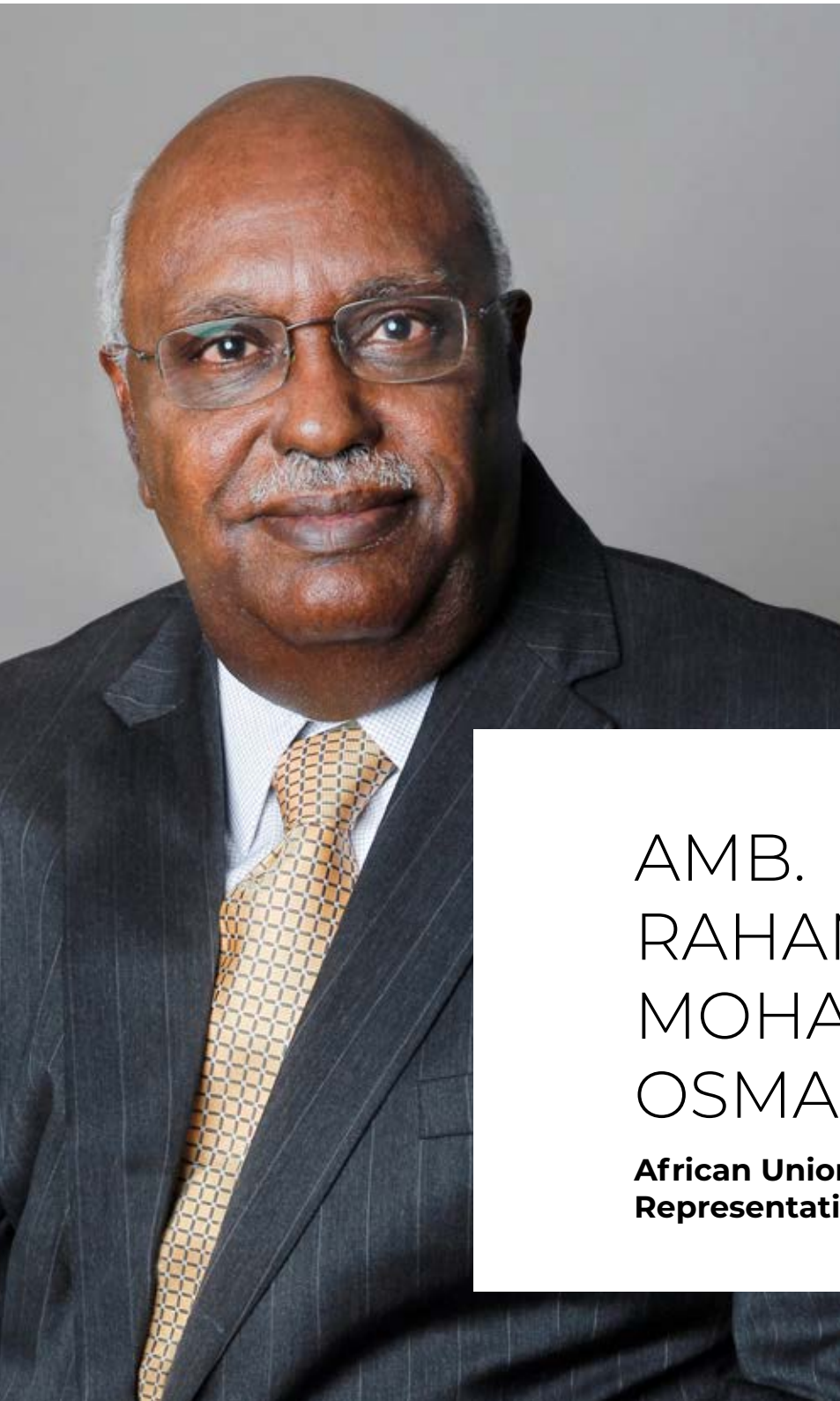
Korea also signed an MOU pledging Korea's contribution to the AU Peace Fund and Silencing the Guns in Africa through the AUC-led initiatives such as Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation (FemWise-Africa), which continues to deploy high-profile African women to address conflict situations on the continent; the post conflict stabilisation strategy in the Lake Chad Basin and peace-making endeavours in Somalia, South Sudan, the Central African Republic (CAR) and the Sahel; the issue of climate change and its impact on peace and stability efforts in Africa, and the AU Youth for Peace Network which is currently carrying out a study on youth contributions to peace-building in Africa.



### African Union – Eurasia Economic Commission (EEC).

On 16th September 2019, a delegation from the Eurasian Economic Commission and representatives from the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Addis Ababa, visited the Commission and met with senior officials to discuss a possible partnership between the two entities.

This is the second visit of the EEC. During the first meeting, the two sides agreed to discuss the formalization of a partnership through the signing of a MoU. It's also important to note that in March 2018, Mr Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation visited the AU headquarters where he met with AUC Chairperson Mr. Moussa Faki Mahamat. The two exchanged views on the establishment of formal cooperation between the Eurasian Economic Union and the African Union and emphasized the need to finalize a Memorandum of Understanding in this respect.



In January 2015, the AU Commission (AUC) and the National Development and Reform Commission of China signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on an African integrated high-speed train network (AIHSRN). Following that, a Joint Africa–China Five Year Action Plan (2016–20) was agreed on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

AMB.  
RAHAMTALLA  
MOHAMED  
OSMAN ELNOR

**African Union  
Representative to China**



## **H**ow far has the Joint Plan progressed and what is the role of AU representative office in following the progress?

As you know the cooperation since 2000 was under the FOCAC umbrella, which focused primarily on bilateral relations between China and individual African countries. However, after 2011, the African Union was given a prominent role; i.e. spearheading the promotion of unity and solidarity among African States and engaging in the enhancement of economic development and international cooperation of the continent. Since then the AU has been fully engaged in the negotiations which led to the adoption in 2018, of the Beijing Declaration and the Beijing Plan of Action. In both documents the role of the AU was clearly defined: it covers a wide range of projects and activities which differ from those attributed to the individual member states. The activities entrusted to the AU were mainly pertaining to continental or integration flagship projects. They stem mainly from the continental development framework, Agenda 2063.

To implement these ambitious projects, the AU signed a number of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) covering priority areas including infrastructure, agriculture, as well as the Belt & Road Initiative. All these memos are in the stages of transformation into concrete doable projects. The discussions and negotiations are progressing satisfactorily. The major plan in this regard is to be signed soon with the National Development & Reform Commission on the Belt & Road Initiative, which synergises its activities with Agenda 2063. The agreed plan will cover a number of flagship projects in the economic and infrastructure domains.

***The China-Africa Cooperation Forum is a platform established by China and friendly African countries for collective consultation and dialogue and as a cooperation mechanism among developing countries. The African Union Commission was admitted into FOCAC on 26 October 2011. Which role is your office playing in promoting Africa - China overall cooperation and the mechanism of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)?***

The decision to open an AU representational office in Beijing was taken in the FOCAC meeting held in Johannesburg in 2015. The implementation of this decision was announced during the FOCAC Ministerial Meeting which took place in Beijing in September 2018. The main objective of opening the office is to have better liaison and coordination with Chinese authorities on the implementation of the agreed cooperation plans. The office will also serve the African missions in Beijing and provide them with needed expertise to follow up on the implementation of their bilateral plans stemming from the Beijing Plan of Action. To this end, the office established a modern and high-tech conference hall at its premises which accommodates up to 120 persons. The hall will also facilitate the activities of Africans in the Diaspora, which is estimated to be the biggest out of all the other countries.

***Are there any plans for agricultural cooperation between Africa and China that your office is proposing? And how are you contacting the potential AU Member States?***

The first activity undertaken by the office was a meeting with the Chinese Vice Minister of Agriculture to discuss the



**Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (R) meets with Rahamtalla Mohamed Osman Elnor, first African Union (AU) representative to China, in Beijing, capital of China, Dec. 13, 2018**

implementation of the agricultural sector under the Beijing Plan of Action. The outcome of the meeting was very encouraging and resulted in the drafting of an MOU which will be signed in due course. The Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs has been actively working in Africa over the last decade. These activities include inter-alia:

- Signing of 16 MOUs with African countries;
- Science & Technology transfer support;
- 20 Agri demonstration centres;
- Providing Agricultural experts to 37 African countries;
- 337 training sessions, in and outside Africa;
- 18 occupational programs in Ethiopia;
- 500 applicable technologies which benefited one million farmers.

With regard to the implementation of the Beijing Plan of Action over the period 2018-2021, they identified 7 major areas and 39 minor items. 81 projects were designed to be implemented in consultation with AU member states. These projects cover a wide range of areas including science & technology transfer, formulation plant, and commercialization.

Recently, the office in close collaboration with the AU Commission's Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture, arranged a visit for the Chinese Minister in charge of strategic food security and safety, where he met the AU officials and signed an MOU, which stipulated assistance for the continent on the after-harvest losses and sharing the Chinese experience in building food reserves. The visit took place from 4-6 September 2019.

Finally, I would like to add that the office is still in the establishment stage and has only two officers: one in charge of administration and finance, and the other is loaned from the Peace and Security Department. The tasks assigned to the office are immense, taking into consideration the multifaceted programs and projects envisioned in the Africa China cooperation. Once it is fully staffed, it will realize the objectives entrusted to it.



EXPO  
2020  
DUBAI  
UAE



OFFICIAL PARTICIPANT – AFRICAN UNION

Agenda  
**2063**

The Africa  
we Want



AFRICAN  
UNION AT  
**EXPO 2020**  
DUBAI

20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2020 - 10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021



Since they were first introduced in 1851, World Expos have become the most prominent global gathering of nations organised every five years and lasting for a remarkable six months. The Expo 2020 Dubai will be the 34th Edition of the World Expo and holds a special position as the first ever to take place in the the Middle East, Africa and South Asia (MEASA) region in the almost 170 year history of the World Expos.

Expo 2020 Dubai will be held between 20 October 2020 and 10 April 2021, under the Theme "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future", with sub-themes of Sustainability, Mobility and Opportunity. Connecting Minds, Creating the Future aims to move beyond a theme and towards a way of working. The Theme emphasises the need to move away from the silo approach to sustainable development towards an interdependent network committed to future generations by bringing together partnerships across various sectors, organisations, and geographies as a way to keep up with a rapidly changing world.

Dubai Expo 2020 has an expected attendance of over 190 countries and 25 million visits and will bring participants and businesses closer to the world's fastest growing markets and create opportunities for accessing a region of more than 3.2 billion people with a collective GDP of more than US\$ 6.5 trillion.

In advancing the collaboration between the United Arab Emirates and the African Union (AU), the African Union has been invited by the Government of the U.A.E to participate in the Dubai Expo2020.

The participation of the AU in what promises to be the largest World Expo to date is key in its continental role of working towards Africa taking its place in the global arena and will use this platform to engage new partnerships at the multilateral, bilateral and private sector levels to drive the continental development vision as enshrined in Africa's Agenda 2063. Specifically, the AU's participation will support its objectives to:

- Showcase the progress achieved towards creating conducive business environment in Africa and project the continent as "ready for business";
- Showcase unlimited investment opportunities that exist in Africa amidst its diverse human and natural resource endowments; African success stories (across sectors and regions) and depict a continent on the move towards integration and transformation;
- Utilise the platform to redefine the African narrative and tell the African story to the world the way it really is, and project "the Africa we want"; and
- Position Africa for hosting an edition of world Expo in the future.

Through AU Pavilion will be located in the Opportunity District of the Dubai Expo 2020 and will showcase



Africa's continental institution, projects and programmes of Agenda 2063, profile the opportunities in the AU Member States, and the role of women and youth in driving and achieving Africa's development agenda as well as Africa's diverse and great history, arts and culture

Furthermore, the AU in collaboration with its key stakeholders including African Private Sector, Financial Institutions, Civil Society and African artists, celebrities and champions with the aim to ensure greater visibility of Africa will organise several events during the 6 month period focusing on various themes showcasing the work of African players in various sectors around 6 key areas, under the theme "Spotlights on Africa," namely:

1. Arts and Culture
2. Trade and Investment
3. Infrastructure and Industrialization
4. Building Blue and green economy
5. Innovation and Technology
6. Social Development

These events will also create the space for African key stakeholders to establish links across the region and other parts of the world that would definitely promote African businesses and global partnerships. In particular, the events looking at aspects of Infrastructure Development and Industrialization, and Trade and Investment in Africa will look at ways in which Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) can be scaled up on the continent (from existing foreign companies) and establish a database with bankable projects.

**Dr. Levi Madueke** the Head of the Strategic Partnerships Division was appointed by the Chairperson of the AUC as the Commissioner General for Expo 2020 and together with his team are at the forefront of ensuring the AU achieves its objectives at Expo 2020.

**Joint workshop on preparations for the AU's participation at the Dubai 2020 exhibition From Left to Right: Miss Hind Alowais; Vice President, International Participants at Dubai Expo 2020, Mr. Ahmed Al Badawi; UAE Embassy in Ethiopia, H.E. Kwesi Quartey, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission and Dr. Levi Uche Madueke; Head of Partnership Management and Coordination Division (PMCD)**



**Jeanne Martin Cissé (6 April 1926 – 21 February 2017) was a Guinean teacher and nationalist politician who served as ambassador to the United Nations and in 1972 was the first woman to serve as President of the United Nations Security Council.**

## The Pan African Womens Organisation

In July 1962 in Dar es Salaam Tanganyika (now known as Tanzania), African women from across the continent gathered in the Conference of African Women, a monumental meeting and the first of its kind and decided to unite and create a common platform for solidarity and mobilisation of their efforts for the rights and freedoms of Africans in their fight for independence and liberation from the yokes of colonialism, elimination of apartheid and segregation in all its forms as well as advocating for the participation of African women in political decision making structures.

Fourteen countries and a dozen of the resistance organizations participated in the July 1962 meeting and a new organization known as “the Union of African Women”



**Signing of the  
MOU between  
the African  
Union and the  
Pan African  
Women's  
Organisation**



was created; a year before the founding of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The same meeting proclaimed an African Women's Day to be celebrated on 31st July of each year. In 1974, "the Union of African Women" was renamed as "the Pan-African Women's Organization" (PAWO).

PAWO is a representative organization of women on the African continent having presence in all 55 Member States of the African Union, with five regional representations.

Its objectives are, amongst others, to strive to achieve effective and responsible participation of African women in the socio-economic and cultural development of Africa; to pursue the struggle for the representation of women at decision-making levels; and to fight for women's empowerment and for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

Four countries have so far hosted the headquarters of PAWO since its formation: Mali (1962-1968); Algeria (1968-1986); and Angola (1986-2008). Since 2008 its headquarters are located in Pretoria, South Africa.

PAWO has an observer status in the African Union. The organization receives material assistance from the African Union and in turn, it also supports programmes undertaken by the AU.

In January 2017, during the 28th Ordinary Summit of the Heads of State and Government, the AU Assembly decided to grant the status of a specialized agency to PAWO. The decision materialized on 21 February 2019 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the African Union Commission (AUC) and PAWO signaling a key step towards consolidating the AU efforts in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment on the continent as outlined in Agenda 2063 and other instruments.

**The MoU states the objectives of PAWO in its interactions of with AU including:**

1. Support and contribute to the overall efforts of the AU to achieve the goals and aspirations of its Agenda 2063, particularly in strategic areas pertaining to the achievement of political, social, economic and cultural empowerment of women, gender parity, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women
2. Leverage its reach, agency and convening power to mobilise a broad-based communities of women within the membership of the PAWO, and in Africa more broadly, to actively contribute to the effective translation of the AU's objectives,

principles and policies into concrete programmes. that positively advance the status and lives of African women and children;

3. Leverage it's political capital with Member States and Regional Economic Communities (RECS) of the AU to ratify, domesticate and implement commitments under continental treaties, and implement all national policies and programmes that contribute to the protection, promotion and realisation of the AU's vision and objectives as it pertains to women and children;
4. Leverage its international networks to expand and amplify the AU's voice in international forum by advocating for the rights of women and children in Africa in a manner consistent with the Common African Position in this respect;
5. Support the implementation of programmes of the AUC as it pertains women's empowerment and gender equality in Africa, including by generating and sharing data and knowledge, contributing to policy and programme design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation, and strengthening the technical capacity needs of the AUC, as required

*Find out more about PAWO by visiting [www.pawowomen.org](http://www.pawowomen.org)*



Ryan Brown/UN Women

**GA72 - Acceleration Efforts to Eliminate Child Marriage in Africa by 2030 side event**

On the margins of the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly, the governments of Zambia and Canada, with support from UN Women, UNICEF, UNFPA and the African Union Commission, hosted a high-level side event for global leaders to renew their commitments and accelerate efforts to end child marriage in Africa by 2030.

We need to change mentalities, we need to talk to families, we need our Governments involved to preserve and protect the girl's future...

Angélique Kidjo



Albert González Farrán/UNAMID

**Sisters Nana (left) and Zakia Abdulrahman Mohamed Ahmed (Right).**

Nana, 16 years old, got married when she was only 13 years old, and she had to stop going to the school.

Zakia, 20 years old, was married in 2010, when she was only 17 years old. Her family arranged the marriage, but she never saw her husband until she got divorced due to the threats of her husband's second wife, currently living in Khartoum with him.



# Ending Child Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

the child, due to the needs of his / her physical and mental development requires particular care with regard to health, physical, mental, moral and social development, and requires legal protection in conditions of freedom, dignity and security

**T**he African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child defines the rights of children and the responsibilities of state parties in ensuring these rights and protections are adhered to.

Article 21 of the Charter on the Protection against harmful social and cultural practices requires that

1. States Parties to the Charter shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate harmful social and cultural practices affecting the welfare, dignity, normal growth and development of the child and in particular:
  - a) those customs and practices prejudicial to the health or life of the child; and
  - b) those customs and practices discriminatory to the child on the grounds of sex or other status.
2. Child marriage and the betrothal of girls and boys shall be prohibited and effective action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify the minimum age of marriage to be eighteen years and make registration of all marriages in an official registry compulsory .

The African girl-child continues to be subjected to harmful cultural practices such as child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) which are contrary to the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and specifically Article 21 of the Charter. Child marriage and FGM are human rights violations that rob girls of their rights to health and to live in security and threatens their lives, future and family.

Child marriage refers to any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child. Today, 125 million girls globally are married before age 18 and Africa has the lion's share of this figure which is 40 per cent after South Asia. According to UNICEF data, if stringent measures are not taken very soon, child

the situation of most African children , remains critical due to the unique factors of their socio-economic, cultural , traditional and developmental circumstances , natural disasters, armed conflicts , exploitation and hunger, and on account of the child's physical and mental immaturity he/she needs special safeguards and care

brides in Africa could more than double to 310 million by 2050. According to the UNFPA report, "Marrying too Young – End Child Marriage", the leading cause of maternal mortality and morbidity for girls age 15 to 19 is pregnancy and childbirth. Child brides are almost always married to older men, and lack the standing or skills to negotiate over sex or birth control. That means many girls get pregnant soon after marriage when their bodies are underdeveloped. Among the disabilities associated with early childbirth is obstetric fistula, an injury which leaves girls in constant pain, vulnerable to infection, exposed to sexually transmitted diseases including HIV, and incontinence which results in their being shunned by their husbands, families and communities.

Education is one of the most powerful tools to enable girls to avoid early marriage and fulfil their potential. Girls who marry before 18 are more likely to experience domestic violence and less likely to remain in school. Child brides usually drop out of school and are denied the opportunity to complete their education, significantly reducing their ability to earn an income and lift themselves and their children out of poverty. This imposes substantial economic costs at the national level, with major implications for development and prosperity when a significant proportion of the population of a country are disadvantaged and less likely to contribute effectively to economic development.

### **African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage**

The African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage was launched in May 2014 during the fourth AU Conference of Ministers of Social Development. It is aimed at promoting, protecting and advocating for the rights of women and girls in Africa. The Campaign's main objective was to accelerate an end of child marriage in Africa by enhancing continental awareness of the negative socio-economic impacts of the practice; building social movement and social mobilization at national level and increasing the capacity of non-state actors to undertake evidence-based policy advocacy including the role of youth leadership through new media technology, monitoring and evaluation among others. The Campaign works towards building on existing activities of governments and partners in ending child marriage and

the child occupies a unique and privileged position in the African society and that for the full and harmonious development of his personality, the child should grow up in a family environment in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding,

is based on advocacy, monitoring and evaluation as well as the facilitation of technical assistance and capacity building.

A year after the launching of the Campaign, on 17 June 2015, the African Common Position on Ending Child Marriage was adopted. Under this agreement, Member States are urged to establish comprehensive action plans, including establishing and enforcing laws which set the minimum age for marriage at 18.

Heads of State and Governments agreed to commit themselves and to, among other things, take urgent actions on:

- i) developing national strategies and action plans aimed at ending child marriage;
- ii) ratifying and applying international and regional instruments aimed at improving the welfare of children and women rights;
- iii) enacting and implementing laws that set the legal minimum age for marriage at 18 years or above with no exceptions and applicable under all legal systems;
- iv) implementing appropriate legislation and policies that effectively prohibit, prevent, punish and redresses child marriage including cross-border movement of girls for child marriage purposes;
- v) ensuring that child marriage prevention information, including legal measures and policies are embedded in the educational curricula and hence schools should prohibit withdrawal of girls from school for child marriage purposes;

- vi) implementing all continental policies and legal instruments relating to human rights, gender equality, maternal and child health, and harmful traditional practices for the empowerment and participation of girls and women in development

### **African Girls' Summit on Ending Child Marriage in Africa**

The First African Girls' Summit on Ending Child Marriage in Africa was held from 26-27 November 2015 in Lusaka, Zambia with the main objective sharing experiences and good practices, addressing the challenges on ending child marriages at country, regional and international levels and ultimately renewing and securing commitments from stakeholders notably governments, to invest more on ending child marriage in their respective countries. Governments and participants committed themselves and to, among other things, take urgent actions on redoubling efforts to eliminate child marriage not later than 2030; employ focused interventions and measures to keep girl children in school beyond the age of 18; and facilitate a social movement in their countries at local, regional and national levels, with the participation of the youth, traditional and religious leaders, community leaders.

The Second African Girls' Summit took place from 23-24 November, 2018, in Accra, Ghana under the theme, "Enough with the Silence". It addressed the need for investing in adolescent education, specifically, access to services such as sexual health care, sexuality education and rights protection. The Summit provided opportunity to review the stakeholders' roles in the Campaign to End Child Marriage and renew their commitment to the same. The Summit focused on issues such as: regional perspectives, programmes and lessons on ending child marriage; educating girls and ending child marriage; overcoming social norms to address adolescent sexual reproductive health and to end child marriage; gender-based violence (GBV); addressing the psycho-social trauma of child marriage, female genital mutilation and other harmful traditional practices; the role of media and civil society in raising awareness; and the role of schools and educational institutions.



### Recommendations made included

- increasing resource funding and capital to the campaign to end Child Marriage;
- girls as well as boys should be given equal opportunities for education;
- perpetrators of GBV should be prosecuted and brought to justice;
- training of service providers especially those providing psychosocial care;
- increasing collaboration between religious and traditional leaders on best practices in ending child marriage;
- governments should limit taxes and control on the media in order to enable them engage the community more on issues of child marriage and harmful traditional practices;
- guidance and counselling centres should be reintroduced in basic schools and there should be punishment for perpetrators of sexual harassment, especially against girls;
- communities and schools should have professional counsellors to assist girls.

### Eliminating FGM in Africa

FGM refers to all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It causes irreparable and irreversible harm as well as lifelong health and psychological complications. More than 125 million girls and women between 15 and 49 years of age in Africa have been subjected to FGM. While it is generally practiced on older women, girls 14 years of age and below are more likely to undergo this injurious practice than other age brackets. By 2030, 50 million girls below 15 years of age will be at risk of having undergone FGM if no action is taken today to accelerate its elimination. Across the continent, prevalence rates range from 15% to over 95% for girls and women aged 15 to 49 years, with selected countries in central and western Africa regions accounting for a large part of the figures.

In February 2019, on the margins of the 32nd AU Summit a special assembly was set up to discuss about the negative effects of FGM, a practice that has had serious costs on African societies. The President of Burkina Faso, was designated as the AU Champion for the Elimination of FGM. This determined action indicates that the AU is keen for the expeditious elimination of this harmful practice. The Initiative on the Elimination of FGM (Saleema) was launched together with the adoption of a decision on *“Galvanizing Political Commitment Towards the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation in Africa”*.

The Initiative will mobilize political action to enforce strong legislative frameworks, allocate domestic financial resources, promote use of evidence and data, regular reporting, and the engagement of civil society and community groups in ending this harmful practice which deprive women of their basic rights. The AU Commission will put in place an accountability framework for Member States to monitor progress at the regional and national level in line with commitments made at the Summit

The AU also joined the global community to observe the “International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation” which was adopted on 20 December 2012 by the UN General Assembly to enhance campaigns to raise awareness and educate people about its dangers as well as to take concrete actions against it; and the AUs call on all its Member States to take concrete actions to eliminate FGM and to protect young girls and women against violation of their fundamental rights.

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Read the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the child and find out more about the status of Ratification by member states by visiting [www.au.int/en/treaties](http://www.au.int/en/treaties)



**Sumia Mohamed Omar, 22 years old** got married when she was only 15 to a 35 year old man and got pregnant when she was only 17 years old. she now has three children (2 twins) between 2-4 years old. She left her husband a year ago due to the problems with his family.

When Sumia was a child, she wanted to become a doctor or teacher, but unfortunately she had to leave her education very early to work in the farms and she is not optimistic to resume the studies.



## ENDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Every year, the African Union organises the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign, an international campaign to end violence against women and to advocate for the promotion and protection of women's rights.

The campaign runs from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). The campaign was inceptioned in 1991, and calls on all people in all parts of the world to take action in their communities, play their part and stand up against violence against women and girls. The 16 Days of Activism is used as an organising strategy by individuals and organizations around the globe to advocate for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

The campaign focuses on raising awareness about violence against women and girls, and its negative consequences

on individuals, community and national development, as well as to encourage AU Member States to develop and implement legislation and policies to combat gender based violence. It supports the efforts of networks and public and private institutions that work to eradicate violence against women and girls.

A specific focus is to increase understanding and buy-in at Member State level, of AU legal instruments, policies and actions in support of gender equality and women's empowerment. Ending violence against women is a key priority for the AU and campaigns at community, national, regional and continental levels are considered key and concrete enablers to achieve this objective.

Africa's Agenda 2063 commits AU Member States to end violence and discrimination against women and girls, as well as to end all harmful social norms and customary practices that promote

violence and discrimination against women and girls in Africa.

Orange is the official colour of the campaign. It signifies a brighter future with no violence against women and girls. Each year the campaign has a different theme that mobilises stakeholders to work towards elimination of violence against women and girls.

The AU, has developed policies which seek to promote and protect the rights of women and that eliminate and prevent all forms of violence against women. These include: the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women (Maputo Protocol), the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), the 2009 Gender Policy and the just launched the new AU Strategy on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE).



# Saleema Initiative aims to end Female Genital Mutilation by 2030

**D**espite the fact that the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is recognised internationally as a violation of the human rights of girls and women, and a form of gender based violence in numerous regional and international human rights instruments such as the African Charter on People and Human Rights and its Protocol on the Rights of Women (the Maputo Protocol); the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, FGM still affects more than 200 million women and girls around the world, with 125 million of these in Africa. An estimated 50 million more girls are at risk of FGM in Africa between now and 2030.

During the 32nd Summit of the African Union (AU) held in February 2019, the assembly endorsed a continental initiative known as ‘Saleema: AU Initiative on Eliminating Female Genital Mutilation’, led by the AU Commission. The Arabic word “Saleema” means to be intact. Member States were urged to implement the initiative, with a focus on social norms and cultural dimensions addressing cross border practice of female genital mutilation; in addition to implementing strong legislative frameworks, allocating domestic financial resources, promoting use of evidence and data, regular reporting, and the engagement of civil

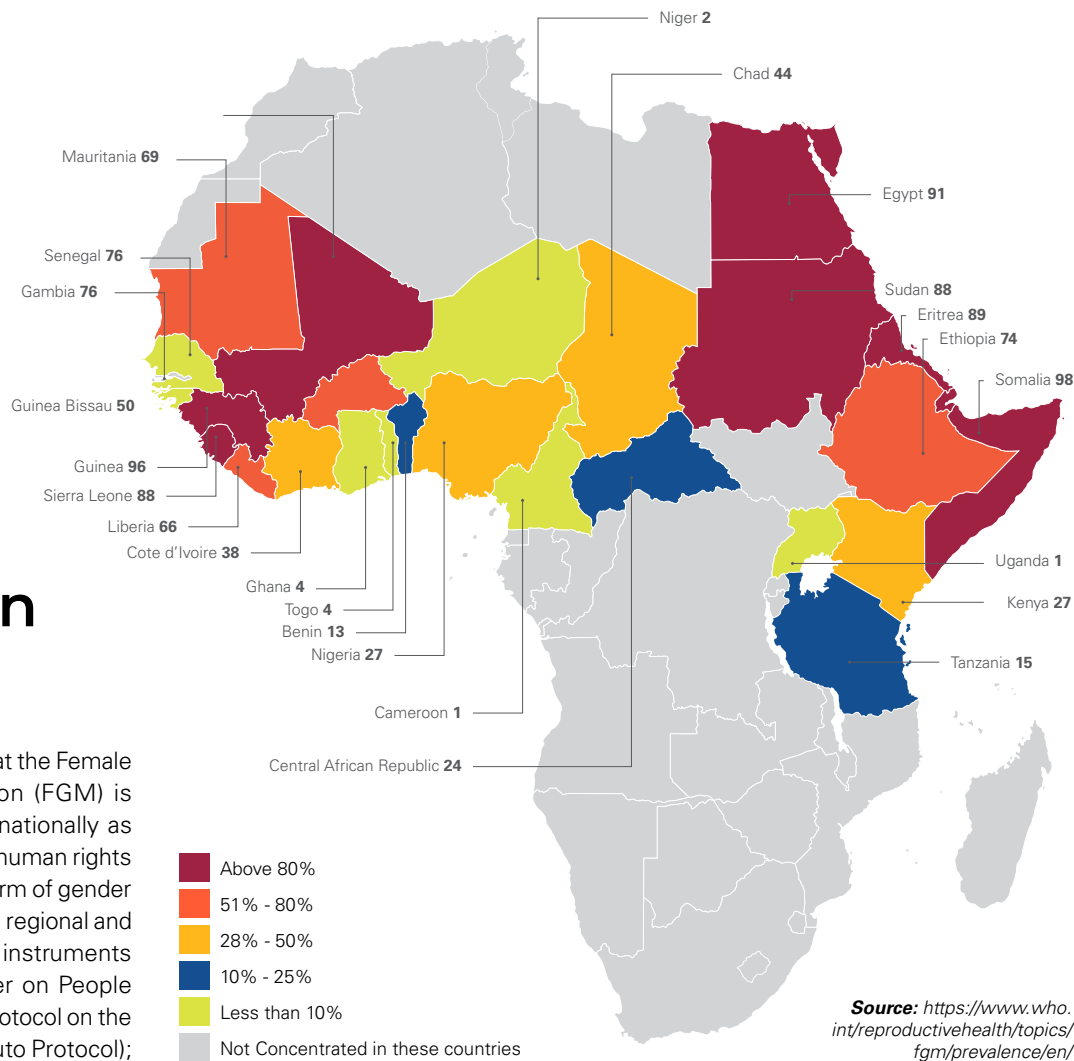
society and community groups in ending this harmful practice. Furthermore, the assembly decided to designate H.E. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of the Republic of Burkina Faso, as the AU Leader for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation and requested the AU Commission to convene annually a high-level meeting to review progress, strengthen partnership and renew commitment for action on the elimination of female genital mutilation by 2030.

Saleema was launched on the margin of the 32nd Summit, on 11 February 2019, by the Government of Burkina Faso and the AU Commission, The Initiative aims at changing the negative social norms which FGM is rooted in, by adopting a holistic approach that considers this harmful practice a result of a given social, political, economic and anthropological context. It is only through enhancing the cognitive social capital of communities as a whole, and community members individually, that FGM will be abandoned.

Increased efforts in member states to bring an end to this harmful practice must be made to engage holistically with the

social contexts in which communities today are compelled to navigate, including the negative cultural heritage of FGM. One significant approach that embodies these aims is the conceptualization behind Saleema Initiative. The Initiative looks to galvanise political action to enforce strong legislation, increase allocation of financial resources and strengthen partnerships to end FGM, particularly within communities most impacted by the harmful practice. Currently 22 AU member states have national legislation criminalising FGM.

The Saleema Initiative is committing to “not leave any woman - any girl - behind to be subjected to the injurious, irreversible practice that is FGM” and will work to ensure that all countries will fully protect women and girls from FGM through their national legislative frameworks. The Plan of Action of the Saleema Initiative and its accountability framework shall provide guidance to Member States, partners, civil society and communities. It is expected that the Saleema Initiative shall create a momentum that results in scaling-up efforts to bring to an end the practice of FGM in Africa by 2030.



Source: <https://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/fgm/prevalence/en/>



# TEACHER DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

## The African Union Continental Teacher Prize

**Winners of the 2019 Edition are from left to right Ms. Gladyce Kachope (Uganda), Mr. Eric Ademba (Kenya), Ms. Augusta Larthey-Young (Ghana)**

and teacher award, among others. This was in response to a recommendation of the Conference of Ministers of Education (COMEDAFVI) based on technical advice from the Pan African Conference on Teacher Development (PACTED IV).

The preparation of the Teacher Study involved a wide-ranging consultative process with various experts, practitioners and stakeholders in Africa. The study was carried out by a team of highly qualified African experts between May and October 2016. The first draft of the AU Teacher Study was tabled and discussed during a validation workshop which was held at the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 8th- 9th December, 2016. Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Ministries of Education, pan-African organizations and stakeholders in the Teacher Development field also provided valuable inputs and comments

**T**eachers are one of the most influential and powerful forces for equity, access and quality in education and key to sustainable global development. However, their training, recruitment, retention, status and working conditions remain preoccupying.

Moreover, there is a worldwide shortage of well-trained teachers. According to the United Nations Education, Science and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics (UIS), 69 million teachers must be recruited to achieve universal primary and secondary education by 2030.

The status of the Teacher in Africa is critical for achieving the development goals of Agenda 2063 by facilitating acquisition of not just skills and knowledge, but also requisite values and attitudes; and therefore the status of the Teacher must unquestionably assured.

In the bid to “create” a new African citizen who will be an effective change agent for the continent’s sustainable development as envisioned in Agenda 2063 the African Union (AU) developed a comprehensive

ten-year Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25).

The CESA strategy is driven by the desire to set up a qualitative system of education and training to provide the continent with efficient human resources adapted to African core values and therefore capable of achieving the vision and ambitions of the African Union of “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena.”

The AU hosted the first Inaugural Ceremony of AU Continental Teacher Prize and Validation of Teacher Professional Guidelines and Qualification Framework in October 2019. The aim of the Forum was to contribute towards the achievement the first strategic objective of the CESA, which is Teacher Development. Furthermore, the event came as a follow up of a decision by the AU Heads of State and Government in 2016, to carry a study on teachers’ training, working and living conditions in Africa, with wide ranging recommendations including the need to enhance teacher motivation, professionalisation, quality regulatory mechanisms, teacher mobility

The establishment of a Continental Teacher Mobility Protocol and ‘Teachers without Borders’ will facilitate optimisation and sharing of the teacher resource in Africa.



for the development of the Teacher Study at various states.

The AU Teacher Study points out the need to deliberately address the issue of professionalisation, as well as teachers employment ecosystem. Concerning the shortage of teachers in Member States, the study further recommends the establishment of a Continental Teacher Mobility Protocol and 'Teachers without Borders' to facilitate optimisation and sharing of the teacher resource in Africa.

The AU Commission therefore proceeded towards development of commonly agreed professional guidelines at continental level; establishment of teacher qualification frameworks which will provide guidelines for comparing teacher development outcomes and enable sharing of teachers and teacher training resources; and the establishment of the Teacher Prize as a means for demonstrating respect for teachers and the teaching profession, by encouraging and celebrating the committed teachers in Africa.

The AU Continental Teacher Prize is an important and valuable instrument that contributes to the success of Agenda 2063 and the CESA, with the following objectives:

1. Enhance visibility and status of the Teacher in Africa at all levels: Pre-primary, Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary including TVET;
2. Promote Teaching as a first choice profession at all levels; and
3. Celebrate and encourage outstanding teachers.

The winners of the AU Teacher Prize are identified through Calls for Nomination at local and international levels. Eligible nominating agencies include certified government, non-government, private sector, community based organisations and institutions. The selection process involves public officials, teachers, academics, journalists, entrepreneurs, company directors, scientists and entertainment industry figures in Africa.

#### The criteria for determining winners include:

- Be a citizen of an African Union Member State;
- Engaging in quality teaching which is focused on high standards of student achievement including social outcomes for varied groups of students;
- Demonstrated knowledge of the subject matter, while keeping up with recent;
- Encouragement of good behaviour through positive feedback and other methods;
- Managing classes to enhance the quality of learning processes, ensuring accommodation of students with varied learning needs;
- Employing pedagogical practices that enable classes and other learning groupings to work as caring, inclusive, and cohesive learning communities;
- Engaging in activities and networks that facilitate engagement of learners with various cultural contexts in which students are socialised, to enhance the social value of learning;
- Achieving teachers' and students' engagement in constructive goal-oriented assessment to facilitate reaching present and future educational goals of the students or to reach the students' full potential;
- Helping students to achieve their long term intellectual needs by providing new materials to gain new insights or to open up new channels of intellectual stimulation, and to enhanced student's essential and creative thinking power.
- Demonstrating multi-valency in facilitating acquisition of knowledge and skills, as well as values for peace building and responsible citizenship
- Positive reputation from stakeholders and community members

Member States, through ministries of education, are encouraged to nominate and submit names of two teachers, one male and one female, who meet the above eligibility criteria. Ministries are encouraged to work with relevant national agencies including Teacher Unions, in selecting the two top teachers.

A total of Ten (10) winners, two (2) from each geographic region of the African Union are selected for the Award with

## The AU Continental Teacher Prize aims to

- Enhance visibility and status of the Teacher in Africa at all levels: Pre-primary, Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary including TVET;
- Promote Teaching as a first choice profession at all levels; and
- Celebrate and encourage outstanding teachers.

winners receiving a Plaque and Certificate of Recognition and a cash prize of US\$10,000 for each winning candidate.

During the 2019 edition of the African Union Continental Teacher Awards, prizes of \$10,000 each were awarded to top African teachers at the secondary school level.

The winners for 2019 edition were:

1. **Ms Augusta Lartey-Young** (Ghana);
2. **Sister Gladyce Kachope** (Uganda);
3. **Eric Ademba** (Kenya).

The Teachers Prize will be a means for demonstrating respect for teachers and the teaching profession, by encouraging and celebrating the committed teachers in Africa. The Prize mechanism will shine a spotlight on great teachers and facilitate sharing of their remarkable stories. It will raise the status of teaching, and inspire the best possible candidates to join the teaching profession.

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Find out more about the Continental Education Strategy for Africa and download the document from [www.au.int](http://www.au.int)

## EDUCATION

The AU Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) recognises information, communication and technology (ICT) as a major tool for empowering graduates and ensuring they contribute to social economic development by ensuring they not only have universal access but also ensuring they enhance the quality of provision and delivery, of services. ICT opens up possibilities for innovation, entrepreneurship and employability; flexibility in pedagogies; beating the limitation of time and space for varied learner needs; and enhancing confidence and dignity of graduates at all levels.

From the two editions of the Innovating Education Expo in Africa held in 2018 and 2019, five girls and young women in Africa have been recognised by the African Union and awarded for their efforts towards achieving 'Aspiration 6' of Agenda 2063 which calls for a continent whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children. Furthermore the awards are a demonstration that empowering girls and young women, through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), can play a key role in bringing solutions to daily challenges in the societies and give young women the possibility of becoming the drivers leading change in their communities.

The 2019 Expo held in August, identified two top winners from the eleven innovators awarded. The achievements by these young women contributes towards the work of the African Union International Centre for Girls' and Women's Education in Africa (AU/CIEFFA) whose mission is to empower girls and women through



**Susannah Farr receiving her prize at the education Forum in Gaborone, Botswana**

## FEMALE INNOVATORS USING TECHNOLOGY TO TRANSFORM THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN AFRICA



**Anne Nyaboke Wakesho receiving her prize at the education Forum in Gaborone, Botswana**

education, in line with the strategic objective 6 of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) which aims to "accelerate processes leading to gender parity and equity".

Through the 2019 Innovation Education Expo, AU/CIEFFA shed light on the work of these talented young women, the impact on their communities and how STEM significantly transformed them. The Centre had the opportunity



to closely follow five of the innovators (from Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa) who attended the Expo and showcased what they have been doing in their respective countries.

**Susannah Farr, CEO of the Gold Youth Development Agency (GYDA) in South Africa,** was the top innovator at the Expo.

Her organisation is committed to serving young people at grassroots through a replicable scalable peer-education model that considers every young person on the continent as a future nation builder. The GYDA is harnessing the positive influence young people have over their peers to drive sustainable outcomes in the area of education and behavioural change. The organisation is addressing education outcomes in challenging circumstances and looking at solutions to create jobs in areas where there are no jobs. Their evidence-based youth peer education model has been used to reach over 55 000 young people in 123 communities across 4 countries.

**Anne Nyaboke Wakesho: Enhancing access to literacy through Digital Apps**

Anne, representing eLimu Kenya, a leading digital educational content provider in East Africa, won the second prize at the Innovating Education Expo 2019. Her company created Hadithi Hadithi, a literacy app targeting young people out-of-school and early childhood kids in communities and refugee camps. Available in English, Swahili and Somali, Hadithi Hadithi provides an education content reflecting Africa’s local reality through stories written and illustrated by Kenyan teachers and artists across East Africa. It also encompasses letter tracing, spelling and sentence making exercises. All these form a pedagogy known as “Reading to Learn” which aims at improving progress in reading and writing four times faster than traditional methods.

**Amina Umuhoza: Empowering girls through e-counselling**

Amina, a young Rwandan woman, stands up for women’s empowerment in her country. Through the initiative Dukataze, an online platform aimed at equipping girls with the right skills, as well as to mentally, socially and economically empower them to reduce unwanted pregnancies. Some

of the services of Dukataze include career guidance, counselling on sexual reproductive health, and start-up tutorials where young women access guidance on how to start up their businesses. Dukataze currently includes an e-commerce component where different products made by girls and young women can be sold.

**Angèle Messa: Designing alternative methods to increase access to education**

From Cameroon, Angèle was among the top innovators at the first edition of the Innovating Education Expo 2018 in Dakar, Senegal. She developed, Educlik, a platform designed to promote alternative teaching methods for children who cannot access the formal education system. Through online and offline technologies (internet, USSD, SMS), education content is designed and transmitted to vulnerable and marginalized categories including young people and children in refugee camps, orphanages as well as people living with disabilities. The Innovating Education Prize in 2018 helped Educlik completely digitise their services and design more education content. In order to enhance girls’ and young women’s access to their content, the subscription is free. As of August 2019, more than 3,000 young people had benefited from the services of Educlik.

**Anita Antwiwaa: Breaking down space science for young people**

Ghanaian Dr. Anita Antwiwaa is a certified Engineer with a PhD in Electronics and Communications Engineering. She is the head of operations for All Nations University Space Systems Technology Laboratory (SSTL), which successfully launched the historic GhanaSat-1, developed by young Ghanaian Engineers from the University in 2017 to take photographs of the Earth and to monitor Ghana’s coastal areas. One of her current projects is teaching Space Technology to the Youth using CanSat in order to boost their interest in choosing a career in that area as well as teaching young women

in the field of technical and vocational studies, entrepreneurship; as well as using ICT to stand out in branding and marketing their innovative products. Her ambition is also to establish an electronics institution which will train young women in the area of electronic circuits design and assembling as well as give informal training in the area of electronics and electrical devices troubleshooting and servicing to young women who dropped out of school but still want to pursue a career in STEM.

**About Innovating Education Expo in Africa.**

The Innovating Education in Africa Expo is an annual event of the African Union intended to showcase practical social and technological innovations aimed at enhancing access, quality, relevance and inclusion in education in order to release the potential for empowerment, employability and inventiveness. The 2019 Expo brought together innovators and educators across the continent with the goal to showcase concrete innovations geared towards enhancing access, quality, relevance and inclusion in the education sector. This year, 380 innovators submitted applications to exhibit and present papers at the event. The selected top eleven innovators had the opportunity to pitch to an expert jury during the event for a chance to win prizes ranging from US\$5,000 to US\$50,000 to scale up their projects under the AU Education Innovation Prize.



**AUC, HRST Commissioner H.E. Prof Sarah Anyang Agbor presents cheque to one of the winners**

YOUTH



# ONE MILLION BY 2021:

The  
Trace TV  
Academy  
Initiative

**TRACE**<sup>®</sup>



In April 2019, the African Union launched the 1 Million by 2021 initiative which aims to reach 1 million young people by the year 2021 by creating opportunities for them in Education, Employment, Entrepreneurship and Employment (4E's)

One of the organisations that pledged to support the AU in this initiative is Trace TV which pledged to avail to the AU a Digital and TV learning platform focused on vocational training towards equipping youth for jobs of today and tomorrow and to respond to the pathways of alternative learning and digital skills under the Es of **“Education and Employment respectively.**

In April 2019, Trace TV signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the AU. The MOU is anchored on the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25) and the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Strategy which are key African Union instruments under Agenda 2063 aimed at enhancing the economic development and prospects of young people in Africa.

One of the key areas of cooperation outlined in the MOU is Collaboration in the implementation of the pathway on 'Alternative models for Education and skills development' through the Trace Academy Project which is a disruptive and affordable freemium TV and online learning platform and ecosystem that will provide remediation basic skill courses, soft skills, entrepreneurship and vocational training courses adapted to Africa and leading to employability and job creation.

Branded as the “The Netflix of Education for Africa” and “the Number 1 Edutainment Platform for Africa” Trace Academy courses will use the latest entertainment and technical features to guarantee adoption and engagement and avoid the high rates of dropouts as seen in most western E-learning services.

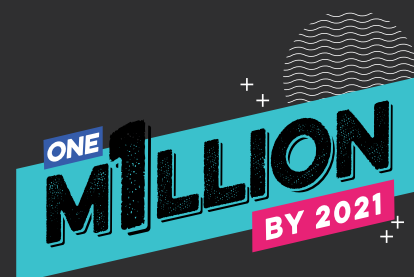
**Trace Academy aims to:**

- Train millions of African youth at a very small fraction of existing education costs
- Bring entertainment, technology and Africanisation to traditional academic courses
- Offer remediation courses for basic skills that will include African

narrative and edutainment approach through dedicated TV channels and on-demand video courses

- Avail courses in French, English, Portuguese and other widely spoken African languages
- Offer original online vocational training courses
- Provide short and modular personalized courses adapted to African employment realities
- Promote soft skill and entrepreneurship learning
- Develop courses adopted for mobile with offline usage solution to avoid costly data consumption
- Associate with Governments / African Union for learning certification and with mentors, schools, universities, incubators for onsite and human support
- Partner with companies & job boards to facilitate path to employment (internships)
- Develop an industrialized model to guarantee fast expansion and quality throughout all African countries so that millions of youth can access courses leading to employability
- Leverage the Trace brand and marketing power to engage with African youth

ACADEMIC	ENTERTAINMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic skill remediation courses adapted from official courses</li> <li>• Online vocational courses adapted from existing e-learning services</li> <li>• Soft skill &amp; entrepreneurship courses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gamification</li> <li>• Story telling</li> <li>• Animation</li> <li>• Video usage and visual effects</li> <li>• Master classes with celebrities to understand the entertainment industry</li> </ul>
AFRICANISATION	TECHNOLOGY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build African characters &amp; narrative for animations, comic books etc.</li> <li>• Courses in African languages in addition to English, French, Portuguese</li> <li>• Use of African cultural identity to engage and keep learners' interest</li> <li>• Local billing and content delivery network (CDN) solutions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personalized tests</li> <li>• Interactivity and Adaptive learning</li> <li>• Augmented reality</li> <li>• Artificial intelligence and recommendation engine</li> </ul>



# Trace TV

“ ONE EFFECT OF  
SUSTAINED CONFLICT IS  
TO NARROW OUR VISION  
OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE

**Nelson  
Mandela**

**2020**  
**SILENCING  
THE GUNS:**

Creating Conducive  
Conditions for Africa's  
Development

**#SilencingTheGuns**



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THE GUNS.**

Towards a Peaceful and  
Secure Africa

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Agenda **2063** The Africa  
we Want

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# IT'S IMPOSSIBLE UNTIL ITS DONE: Teens build and fly a 4 Seater Plane from Cape to Cairo

South African teenagers made history when they assembled a four-seater plane from a kit and flew it from Cape Town to Cairo

**S**outh African teenagers made history when they assembled a four-seater plane from a kit and flew it from Cape Town to Cairo

The kit, manufactured by the Airplane Factory based in Cape Town, South Africa and which would normally take 3000-man hours to assemble was built by 20 inexperienced teens in three weeks. Over 6 weeks, the teens flew the self-assembled Sling 4 plane from Cape to Cairo; making fueling stops in Namibia, Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Ethiopia with the final stop in Egypt.

This monumental achievement began with one girl's dream to become a pilot so she could fly across Africa. 17-year-old pilot Megan Werner is also the founder of the U-Dream Global, a non-profit organisation and aviation outreach initiative that fosters the aspirations of young people to pursue innovation,

technology and entrepreneurship as necessary key drivers for Africa's development.

To bring this dream to life, Megan and the U-Dream Global team published a call for students who would be interested in flying across Africa in a plane they built themselves. Over 1,500 students from diverse backgrounds across South Africa applied, with only twenty being selected on the basis of aptitude test results and motivation statements which displayed their passion for aviation.

#### How did the teenagers do it?

In an interview with international media before the flight, Megan's father Des Werner, who is a commercial pilot and U-Dream co-founder explained that, "The engine and avionics were fitted by specialists, but the building was all done by the kids." He explained further that the stop-overs in nine countries were a way to also inspire the youth in those countries and highlight the viability of the aviation industry

for younger generations. The teens co-piloted the light aircraft across the continent supported by another Sling 4 plane flown by professional pilots that escorted them on the entire trip.

**Meet the some of the young students who built and flew the plane.**

- **Megan Werner (17)** - Pilot
- **Abel Dlamini** 18 – Pilot
- **Driaan Von Den Heever** 18 - Co-pilot
- **Keamogetswe Seemela Agnes (15)** – built the wing, center fuselage, horizontal and vertical stabilizer
- **Resego Moroka (18)** – Built the central fuselage (the cockpit)
- **Lesego Ngoasheng (16)** – Build the tail of the plane
- **Merritt Tyson and Daniel Stewart (19)** – Built body of the plane
- **Morgan Moretsele (21)** – Mechanic

"The purpose of the initiative is to show Africa that anything is possible if you set your mind to it," Megan told the press after a flight from Ethiopia to Cairo.

# Agenda 2063

The Africa we Want



## Resources mobilized in USD for Transnational Projects implemented under GGW Initiative:

- **GEF and World Bank:** \$1.1B for SAWAP; 4.6M for BRICKS
- **European Union:** 24M for FAO –AAD project and 8M for GM-UNCCD – FLEUVE project
- **GEF:** 8M

**766 441 ha** under restoration including planted area, natural regeneration, green space: (754 441 by SAWAP and 12,000 h by AAD)

**15 million Beneficiaries** (14.9 million by SAWAP, 100,000 by AAD, FLEUVE and National Agencies)

**12,194 Capacity development beneficiaries:** (5,894 by SAWAP, 5,300 by AAD, 400 by FLEUVE, 600 by National Agencies)

Find out more about Agenda 2063 and Africa's Great Green Wall Initiative by visiting [www.au.int](http://www.au.int)

[www.au.int](http://www.au.int)   



# The Great Wall Project



**A** spiration 1 of Agenda 2063 envisions “A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development” and one of the enabling factors to achieve this ambition is ensuring that the continent has an environmentally sustainable climate and resilient economies and communities. This requires that Africa puts in place measures to sustainably manage the continent’s rich biodiversity, forests, land and waters and using adaptive measures to address climate change risks.

The African Union has put in place initiatives that build the resilience of communities and ecosystems in the dry lands of Africa by combating land degradation, desertification, loss of bio-diversity and climate change through the promotion of Sustainable Land Management and Restoration. To overcome the scourge of climate change and variability manifesting itself in the Sahel and the circum-Sahara regions through desertification, land degradation and drought, in 2007, the African Union launched the pan-African Great Green Wall Initiative for the Sahara and the Sahel.

The Great Green Wall (GGW) initiative aims to implement actions to end or reverse land degradation, loss of biodiversity in African drylands and to ensure that ecosystems are resilient to climate change, continue to provide essential services and contribute to human well-being and the elimination of poverty and hunger. The GGW Initiative aims to support over 425 million Africans living in the drylands to embrace sustainable development practices that protect the environment and fight against hunger and poverty. This is important given the fact that the cost of inaction leads to forced migration and conflict, reduction of crop yields, unemployment, poverty, hunger and malnutrition.

The Great Green Wall Regional Harmonized Strategy, the blue print for the initiative, identifies cross-cutting actions required to address a wide range of concerns, including natural resource management, sustainability of rural production systems (agriculture, livestock breeding, forestry, water etc.), the development of rural production and trade infrastructures, diversifying economic activities and wealth creation; considering gender, youth and wealth issues in development. Therefore, the GGW initiative highlights both socioeconomic

and environmental activities that are required to fight the external shocks jeopardising the wellbeing of people living in Africa’s drylands and its Ecosystems.

The GGW Initiative comprises 21 African countries and is implemented under the coordination of the African Union which brings together international Development & Technical Partners (EU, FAO, World Bank, UNCCD); partner institution’s (Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel), Civil society organisations (ENDATiers Monde, SOS Sahel International, CARI) to support the initiative. One of the programmes implemented as part of the GGW Initiative is the World Bank Sahel and West Africa Programme (SAWAP) which is implemented in 12 African countries through a funding of USD 1.1Billion and which by December 2017 had resulted in restoration of 1,080,956 hectares and more than 21M people benefitting from activities carried under SAWAP.

## Focal areas of The Great Green Wall Initiative:

- Sustainable Water and Land management
- Land restoration & rehabilitation
- Smart agriculture
- Alternative and Renewable Energy
- Animal husbandry
- Education and awareness
- Promotion of Agroforestry
- Knowledge exchange
- Non Timber Forest Products value chains development production
- Resources Mobilization
- Advocacy and political engagements
- Capacity building and innovation

## Some achievements of the GGW

**Senegal:** *Creation of 9 multipurpose gardens and 85% of people employed in these gardens are women and youth from pastoralist communities. Provision of alternative pasture and fodder gardens for pastoralists during lean / dry season to control transhumance which causes conflicts. Impact includes increase in number of school-going children, reduction in transhumance, improvement in health and nutrition, development of non-farming income*

**Nigeria:** *11 states of 36 involved, National resources mobilisation. 638.96 km shelterbelt established, 309 ha community orchard plantations established; 292.7 ha community woodlot established; 22 ha community vegetable gardening to enhance food security; 157 solar powered boreholes constructed and benefitting over 40,000 people and 150,000 livestock through the provision of water*

The GGW Initiative once completed will become one of the greatest environmental achievements of the 21st Century.



**H.E. Alassane Dramane Ouattara,**  
*President of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire,*  
**Implementation of Agenda 2063**

# AFRICAN UNION CHAMPION HEADS OF STATE

## Pushing the Continental Agenda at the Highest Levels

In order for Africa to occupy its rightful position as a key player in the global arena, African Union (AU) Heads of State Champions are chosen by their peers to lead the process in focal thematic areas that will drive growth and development and lead to the achievement of Africa's Agenda.

### **The AU Champion Leaders:**

- i)** Strengthen collaboration and team spirit at a continental level as it increases interaction between Heads of State and Government
- ii)** Promote ownership and involvement of African Union programmes and activities at the highest level;
- iii)** Facilitate peer learning and review

The AU Champions garner political support and advocate for AU activities at the highest level possible, promoting political buy-in as well as full ownership by Member States, thereby facilitating the implementation of key programmes of the Union.

During AU Summits, the Champions submit progress reports on their respective areas of focus to update on their achievements, and share their challenges for further consideration and recommendations by the Assembly.

Through this innovative way of enhancing the implementation of Africa's Agenda 2063, tangible results have been realised because of the commitment of the Champions to their respective areas of focus. The successful launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in 2019 is a prime example of

what can be achieved through the Heads of State Champion Initiative. The AfCFTA received the attention for Member States due to the lobbying at the highest level by H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou, President of the Republic of Niger, and Leader of the Continental Free Trade Area Issues. The President undertook various advocacy missions to AU Member States to collect the required number of ratifications for the entry into force of the AfCFTA.

With regards to the Institutional Reforms of the African Union, championed by H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, a lot of progress has been noted. Including the rationalisation of the leadership portfolios, the increased focus on sustainable financing and improved financial management, the prioritisation of AU programmes and division of labour between the AU and RECs as well as increasing targets for women and youth representation and participation in the institutions of the AU; all of which aim to ensure the African Union is transformed to better serve the citizens of Africa and deliver Agenda 2063

The areas of focus by the Presidents Champions include: peace and security, economic and political integration, migration, ending child marriage in Africa, agriculture (food security and nutrition), maritime security, safety and development in Africa, institutional reform of the African Union, elimination of female genital mutilation, domestic health financing, revitalization and operationalization of the African Union Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD) policy and ending corruption in Africa.

Only Heads of State and Government in office can be selected as Champions. Being a champion or leader provides a unique platform for steering the continent towards achieving a common goal. It creates visibility for Africa's development priorities at regional and continental level and promotes the continent in the international scene..

### **His Majesty King Letsie III of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Champion for Nutrition**



**H.E. Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso** *President of the Republic of Congo* **High Level Committee on Libya**





H.E. Mr. Cyril Ramaphosa *President of the Republic of South Africa, African Union-United Nations Cooperation*



H.E. Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, *President of the Republic of Uganda, Continent's Political Integration*



H.E. Mr. Nana Akufo Addo, *President of the Republic of Ghana, Champion of the African Union Financial Institutions. Gender and Development Issues in Africa*



H.E. Mr. Mahamadou Issoufou *President of the Republic of Niger African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)*



H.E. Mr. Idriss Déby Itno, *President of the Republic of Chad, Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through investments in Youth" (2017 AU Theme)*



H.E. Mr. Abiy Ahmed, *Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)*



H.E. Mr. Edgar Lungu, *President of the Republic of Zambia, Ending Child Marriage in Africa*



H.E. Mr. Faure Essozimna Gnassingbé, *President of the Togolese Republic, Maritime Security, Safety and Development in Africa. Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM)*



H.E. Mr. Abdelmadjid, *President of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Africa*



H.E. Mr. Abdel Fattah El-Sisi *President of the Arab Republic of Egypt Revitalisation and operationalisation of the policy on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development (PCRD)*

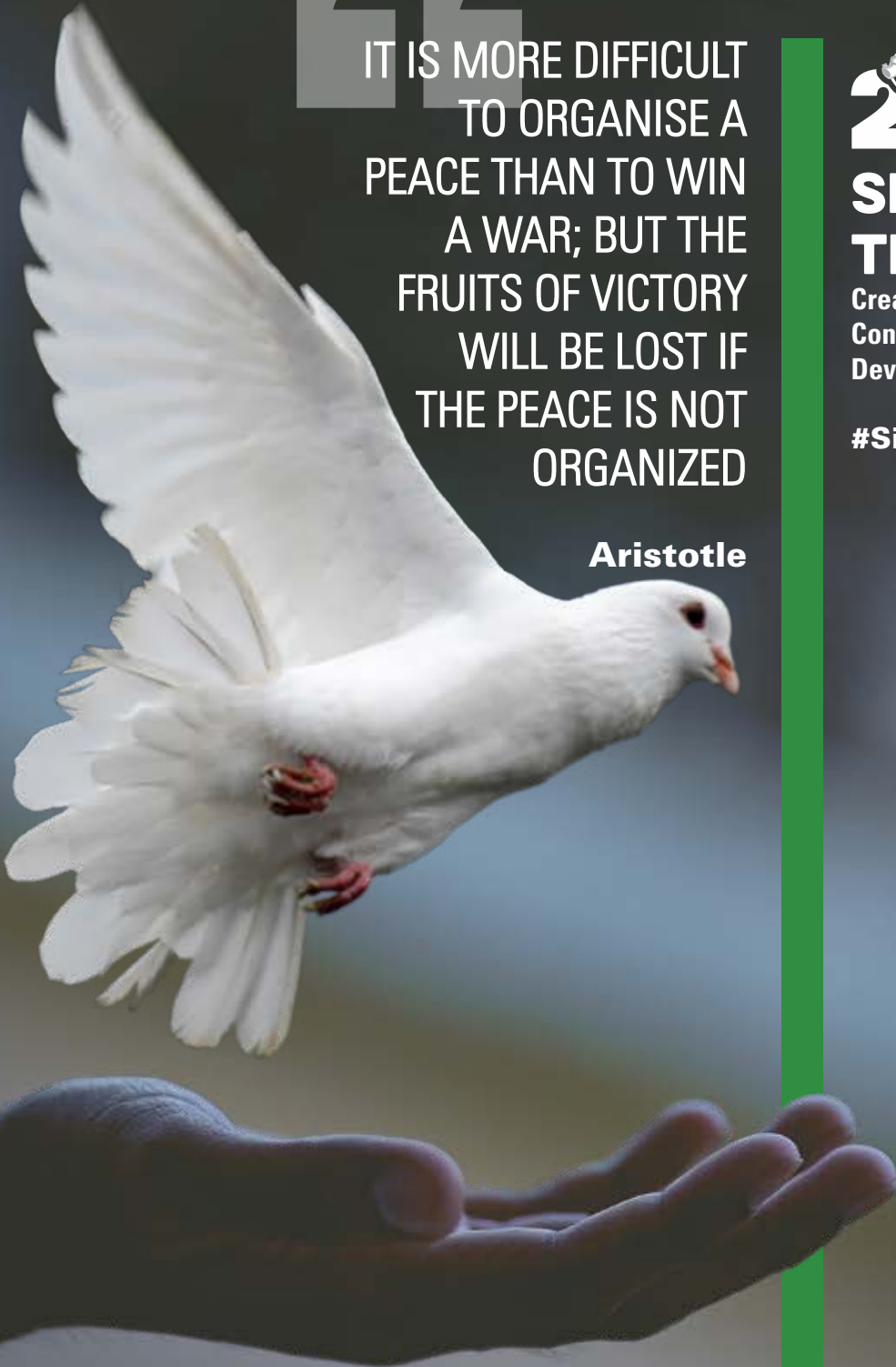


His Majesty Mohamed VI, *King of Morocco, Migration issue*

“

IT IS MORE DIFFICULT  
TO ORGANISE A  
PEACE THAN TO WIN  
A WAR; BUT THE  
FRUITS OF VICTORY  
WILL BE LOST IF  
THE PEACE IS NOT  
ORGANIZED

Aristotle



**2020**  
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H.E. Mr. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone, **Committee of Ten (C10) on the United Nations Security Council Reform**



H.E. Mr. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, **Institutional Reform of the African Union. Domestic Health Financing.**



H.E. Mr. Roch Marc Christian Kaboré, President of the Republic of Burkina Faso, **Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation**



H.E. Mr. Ali Bongo Ondimba, President of the Gabonese Republic, **Climate Change**



H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, **"Winning the Fight Against Corruption. A Sustainable Path for Africa's Transformation" (2018 Theme)**



H.E. Mr. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, **"Refugees, Returnees and Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs)" (2019 Theme)**



H.E. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, President of the Republic of Mali, **Leader on arts, culture and Heritage**



H.E. Danny Faure, President of the Republic of Seychelles **Leader on The Blue Economy**



H.M. King Mswati III, Head of State of the Kingdom of Eswatini, **Chairperson of the African Leaders of Malaria Alliance (ALMA)**

# THE ROLE OF SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEES (STC'S) OF THE AU

The Specialized Technical Committees (STCs) are thematic committees and are answerable to the Executive Council. Each STC is composed of Member States' ministers and senior officials responsible for sectors falling within their respective areas of competence.

The STCs work in close collaboration with AUC departments to ensure the harmonisation of AU projects and

programmes as well as coordination with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Article 15 of the Constitutive Act provides that each committee shall, within its field of competence:

- Prepare AU projects and programmes and submit them to the Executive Council
- Ensure the supervision, follow up and evaluation of the implementation of decisions taken by AU organs
- Ensure the coordination and harmonisation of AU projects and programmes
- Submit to the Executive Council, either on its own initiative or at the request of the Executive Council, reports and recommendations on the implementation of the provisions of the Constitutive Act
- Carry out any other functions assigned to it for the purpose of ensuring the

Each STC develops its own Rules of Procedure to define its detailed activities and functions, and submits these to the Executive Council for approval.

## STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration

Forum for African ministers responsible for finance, economy, planning, integration and economic development, as well as central bank governors, to discuss matters about the development of Africa. This STC is also charged with following up on implementation of the integration agenda for the continent.

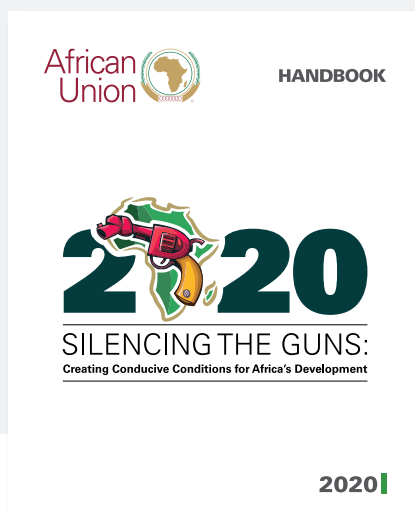
## STC on Social Development, Labour and Employment

Responsible for promoting cooperation amongst African countries in the areas of social protection, labour, employment, productivity and poverty alleviation. It reviews and harmonises Member States' policies and legislation, and coordinates Common African Positions to advance African interests, promote tripartism and freedom of association, collective bargaining and decent work as well as reviewing and assessing progress made by Member States and RECs in implementing the various instruments and policies that advance social protection.

## STC on Health, Population and Drug Control

It reviews progress in the implementation of policies, strategies, programmes and decisions, identifies areas of cooperation and establishes mechanisms for cooperation. It further serves to elaborate Common African Positions in its focal areas and advises relevant AU policy organs on priority programmes and their impact on improving lives

Learn more about the structure of the AU by downloading the AU Handbook from [www.au.int](http://www.au.int)



## Download the Mobile App



SEARCH  
'African Union Handbook'



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**STC on Justice and Legal Affairs**

It considers AU draft treaties and other legal instruments or documents; surveys international law with a view to selecting topics for codification within AU legal frameworks; following up on issues concerning the signature, ratification/accession, domestication and implementation of OAU/AU treaties. All STCs and the AU Commission on International Law (AUCIL) submit their proposed legal instruments to this STC for further consideration.

**STC on Youth, Culture and Sports**

Following up on the implementing the Decade for Youth Development Plan of Action, including the Youth Volunteer Corps, youth capacity building and the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Project in post-conflict countries; ratification and implementation of the African Youth Charter, Charter for the African Cultural Renaissance and the Policy Framework for the Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa; establishing the Architecture for Sport Development, Architecture for Culture Development in Africa, Pan African Cultural Institute and the African Audiovisual and Cinema Commission (AACC); and implementing adult education and lifelong learning.

**STC on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization**

Its functions include: developing, promoting and implementing the AU integration agenda and vision; promoting Member States' efforts for effective governance, development and building capacity; preventing and combatting corruption; promoting post-conflict reconstruction of public services, decentralization and local governance, and adoption of innovative approaches to service delivery including through information communications technology (ICT); and developing a mechanism for promoting sustainable human settlements.

**STC on Communication and Information Communications Technology**

It oversees development and implementation of policies on access to information and freedom of expression; oversees promotion of the capacity of African media; develops common African e-strategies; discusses resource mobilisation and capacity building for implementation of the African Regional

Action Plan on the Knowledge Economy; promotes public investment in ICT infrastructure; and develops frameworks for ICT policy and regulation harmonisation in Africa.

**STC on Defence, Safety and Security**

It facilitates development of the African Standby Force (ASF) and African Capacity for Immediate Response to Crises (ACIRC), Revised Roadmap III; discusses recruitment of additional civilian personnel for the AUC Peace Support Operations Division (PSOD); and discusses Member State contributions for funding AU peace operations.

**STC on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment**

It reviews strategic goals and identifies synergies and linkages, as well as implications for achieving the goals of the Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods; boosting the agenda for attaining food and nutrition security; reducing poverty; boosting intra-African trade; and enhancing resilience to climate change, related shocks and disasters.

**STC on Education, Science and Technology**

Works on elaborating, adopting and monitoring implementation of the African Continental Strategy for Education and the Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training; ensuring Member States provide education data to the African Observatory for Education and the

African Observatory of Science, Technology and Innovation (AOSTI); establishing performance

indicators for and receiving reports from relevant national, regional and continental agencies

and institutions; monitoring implementation of the Science, Technology and Innovation

Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024); engaging with Member States, international development

partners and the African Diaspora to mobilise resources; overseeing the promotion, coordination

and strengthening of programmes in response to Africa's Agenda 2063 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

**STC on Trade, Industry and Minerals**

It formulates recommendations on continental trade, industry and mineral resource policies; develops programmes and projects in line with the African Mining Vision and the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) Action Plan; and develops common views, positions and strategies for Africa's engagement in international trade, industry and mineral negotiations.

**STC on Gender and Women's Empowerment**

It advocates for ratification and implementation of AU policies and instruments on gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights. It promotes and protects all human rights for women, including implementation of Member States' obligations and commitments made under international, continental, regional and country-level human rights law; promotes gender-responsive practices and realisation of commitments to the human rights of women.

**STC on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

Focuses on strengthening mechanisms for effective humanitarian response on the continent through establishment of an African humanitarian agency; strengthening protection and assistance for populations in need of humanitarian assistance including through the formulation and implementation of AU guidelines; strengthening measures to popularise international

humanitarian law and principled action; discussing Africa's first comprehensive Humanitarian

Policy Framework, including guidelines on disaster management, epidemic response, and

the role of the African Standby Force in humanitarian and disaster situations.

**STC on Transport, Infrastructure, Intercontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism**

Its functions include: elaborating continental policies; development strategies, regulations, standards and programmes for transport, infrastructure, energy and tourism; ensuring oversight, monitoring and evaluation of decisions; ensuring coordination of programmes and projects; and monitoring relations with international partners.

# SUMMARY OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SPECIALIZED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

Ministers in charge of Communication and Information Technology (CICT) and Postal Services attended the Third Ordinary Session of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Communication and Information Communication Technologies (STC-CICT-3) which was held at Sharm El Sheikh, Arab Republic of Egypt, from 22 to 26 October 2019.



**A** summary of the decisions and outcomes are provided below:

## 1. Election of bureau members

- For a period two years namely: Egypt, Chair of the Bureau; Burundi, 1st Vice Chair of the Bureau; Malawi, 2nd Vice Chair of the Bureau; Sierra Leone, 3rd Vice Chair of the Bureau; and Djibouti, Rapporteur of the Bureau;

## 2. Digitalisation of Africa

- Develop and implement policies and regulations that create an enabling environment required to stimulate and accelerate digital transformation for national, regional and continental development
- Ministers to promote the implementation of The Policy and Regulatory Initiative for a Digital Africa (PRIDA) with the AUC urged to accelerate implementation of PRIDA and promote the development and use of the PRIDA Digital Platform;
- PRIDA Digital Platform to be used as a space to build an African Common Position
- Member States to promote and implement the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020- 2030) as the common digitalization agenda for the Continent upon its adoption

- AUC to mobilise the necessary resources to implement the Comprehensive Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa and develop the matrix for the implementation of the Strategy
- **3. Cybersecurity, Cybercrime, and Personal Data Protection**
- Accelerate the ratification of the AU Convention on Cyber Security and personal Data protection (Malabo Convention);
- AU Convention and the Guidelines on Internet Infrastructure Security, in order to promote a safer African Cyberspace
- AUC to develop guidelines on Privacy and Over The Top services



(OTT) in collaboration with relevant continental and regional institutions, and submit the guidelines to the STC-CICT 4 in 2021

- AUC to develop a continental framework on data policy and submit to the STC-CICT 4 in 2021

#### 4. Dot Africa

- Encouraged ownership and use of dotAfrica by Member States, African people and businesses;
- AUC requested to speed the transfer of the AUC Website from au.int to au.africa and the e-mail services from africa-union.org to au.africa.

#### 5. Action Plan for the Sustainable Development of the Postal Sector in Africa

- Implementation of projects on Addressing and Postcode Systems;
- Connectivity and Electrification of Post Offices in rural areas,
- AUC to mobilize resources in collaboration with Pan African Postal Union (PAPU) to support connectivity and Electrification of Post Offices in rural areas;
- Include postal digitalization in both national priorities and national digital strategies, pursue the digitization of postal financial services, and set up a cashless system
- Financial Inclusion of the Low-Income Population and e-Commerce Development in Africa
- Universal Postal Union 27th Congress to be held in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire in August 2020.

#### 6. Promoting the AU Mandates, Agenda 2063 and AU Brand Identity

- Member States to encourage National Broadcasters to support dissemination of content produced by the AU, including supporting the editing of produced films to make them available in national and local languages in order to reach the widest audience;
- AUC to ensure that the Brand & Communication Style Guide and the Communication Policies and Procedures are instituted within the organisation;
- AUC to dedicate realistic and appropriate resources (human, material and financial) to enable

it to better and more effectively communicate to various stakeholders and audiences on different media platforms, in a strategic, consistent and timely manner

- AUC to provide the necessary support to ensure the effective implementation and launch of the AU Media Awards within the period 2020-2021
- Republic of South Africa commended for offering to assist the AUC to hasten the refurbishment and operationalization of the AU Studio;
- Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe commended for funding the process for the creation of the first edition of the Africa Factbook, and Member States urged to fund subsequent publications on a rotational basis and AUC to finalise the production of, and launch the first edition of the Africa Factbook

#### 7. Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA);

- Promote the adoption of green ICT Infrastructure
- AUC to work with the African Telecommunications Union (ATU) to develop a road map and guidelines for spectrum harmonization and deployment for current and future mobile and wireless broadband networks such as IMT2020 /5G;

#### 8. African Satellite Communication Organisation (RASCOM)

- Minister to support implementation of RASCOM
- AUC to transfer the common assets of the Pan African e-Network to the management of RASCOM

#### 9. Efficient management of Spectrum and harmonized use of the digital dividend

#### 10. Promoting ICT Penetration in Rural areas to promote Development

- Ministers to promote access to rural communities and cooperation with Transport and Energy sectors on conduits and alternative ICT Infrastructure respectively

- AUC to the formulate strategy and pilot projects for Unlocking Access to Basic Infrastructure and Services for Rural and Remote Areas including Indigenous Community Networks, and develop guidelines on legislation on deployment of technologies and ICT applications, to accelerate infrastructure role out in collaboration with ATU and other regional institutions

#### 11. Promoting Creative Industries

- Encourage development and distribution of African Local Content
- Provide funding, infrastructure and skills development

#### 12. African Internet Governance to contribute to Africa's digital economy ;

- AUC to commit an annual budget for the organisation and support of the Annual African IGF and African School of Internet Governance

#### 13. Public-Private Partnerships

- Cooperation with the African private sector and institutions for coordinated mobilization of resources for Communication and ICT projects
- Establish a working group on Artificial Intelligence (AI) based on existing initiatives and in collaboration with African Institutions to study:
  - i. The creation of a common African stance on AI
  - ii. The development of an Africa wide capacity building framework
  - iii. Establishment of an AI think tank to assess and recommend projects to collaborate on in line with Agenda 2063 and SDGs

# UPDATE ON THE 3<sup>RD</sup> STC FINANCE, MONETARY AFFAIRS, ECONOMIC PLANNING & INTEGRATION

The Ministers of Finance, Economic Planning and Integration and Central Bank Governors of African Union (AU) Member States, attended the 3rd AU Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 7 to 8 March 2019.

**S**everal outcomes were agreed to in key areas including:

States for them to comply with the set convergence criteria

## 1. African Union Financial Institutions

- AUC to develop a strategy for accelerating the signature and ratification of legal instruments of the African Financial Institutions\*\* to be presented to the 4th STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning, and Integration
- AUC and the Association of African Central Banks (AACB) to work together to revise the timelines for the establishment of the African Central Bank using the AACB report on the refinement of the convergence criteria of the African Monetary Cooperation Programme as the reference document

## 3. Role of capital markets in mobilizing domestic resources in Africa

- AUC, in collaboration with African Stock Exchange Association (ASEA), to raise awareness encouraging Member States to set up national and regional stock exchanges including the development of vibrant bond markets, and to fast-track the establishment of the Pan-African Stock Exchange

## 4. International Credit Rating Agencies

- African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and AUC to develop a concrete proposal on the support to Member States on International Credit Rating Agencies (ICRAs), and carry out a feasibility study on the creation of an African credit rating Agency to be presented to the Fourth STC on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning, and Integration

*\*\*Proposed African Financial Institutions are the African Central Bank, the African Investment Bank and African Monetary Fund*

## 2. African Monetary Cooperation Programme (AMCP) - Convergence Criteria

- Endorsed the report on the refinement of the convergence criteria and the timelines for the establishment of the African Central Bank and the report on the monitoring framework and peer review mechanism;
- AUC to ensure that the AACB convergence programme is aligned with that of the RECs, including GDP per capita as a second criteria, and both institutions to work together to provide the necessary support to Member

## 5. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

- Member States to undertake the necessary processes required to accelerate the ratification of the Agreement of the AfCFTA
- AUC in collaboration with Afreximbank and the AACB to support the development of the Pan African Digital Payment and Settlement System;
- Member States to support and actively follow Phase II of the negotiations of the AfCFTA on investments, competition policy and intellectual property rights





- AUC in collaboration with the UNECA to provide technical support to Member states in the development of National AfCFTA Strategies

## 6. Regional Integration

- Member States to take the necessary measures to fully implement the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons and the Single African Air Transport Market
- AU Commission (AUC) to produce a bi-annual Regional Integration Bulletin and an Annual Regional Integration report
- Sensitisation of African citizens on integration issues through an annual integration forum that will include professionals, academics, women, private sector, diaspora and other African stakeholders

## 7. Public policies for productive transformation

- Improving the effectiveness of existing legal, regulatory, and institutional frameworks through improved governance in support of public policies for productive transformation;
- Improving the coherence of public policies for effective productive transformation by harmonising fiscal, industrial and trade policies and aligning them with regional and continental initiatives
- Accelerating the development of skills in diverse and relevant areas at the local, national, continental and international levels in order to increase the productivity, innovation capacity and competitiveness of the industrial and agro-industrial sector in Africa
- Member States and international financial institutions to promote cross-border investments for developing regional projects in the areas of energy, trans-boundary waters, information and communication technology, as well as value chains and trade;
- Working together to promote the entrepreneurial spirit and entrepreneurship through access to financial services to skills development, and affordable energy to enhance Africa's productive capacities
- Assessing productive transformation in Africa and setting up a platform for sharing experiences on successful productive transformation strategies implemented within and outside the Continent in order to capitalize on past experiences and to identify successful industrial clusters in countries

## 8. Statistical Development in Africa

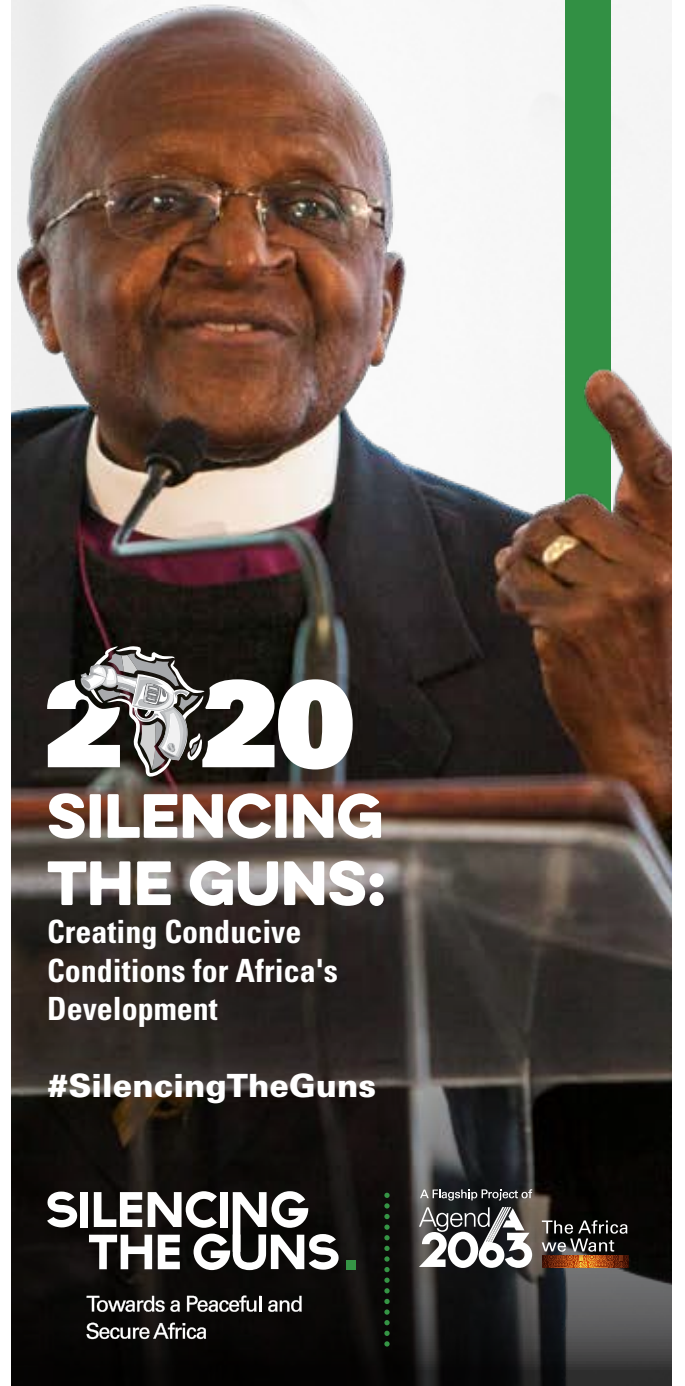
- Member States to align and adhere to new areas of statistical development such as big data, data revolution, and Statistical Data and Metadata eXchange (SDMX)
- AUC, AfDB, UNECA, ACBF, RECs, and Member States to mobilize adequate and sustainable resources to the activities of statistics, and invite Member States to implement the AU Heads of State and Government Assembly decision to allocate 0.15% of their national budgets to statistics

The ministers also deliberated and recognised the need for Africa to undertake deep structural reforms to successfully diversify its economy, both vertically and horizontally in order to generate decent, productive employment for its young population, and to stem the flow of migration of African youths towards the developed world; and the potential role that structural transformation can play in fostering rapid inclusive, resilient and sustainable socio-economic development leading to minimizing income and wealth disparities and eradicating poverty



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**Desmond  
Tutu**



**2020**

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# THE 3<sup>RD</sup> STC ON HEALTH, POPULATION AND DRUG CONTROL

The Ministers of Health of (AU) Member States, attended the 3rd AU Specialized Technical Committee on Health Population and Drug Control in Cairo, Egypt from 1 to 2 August 2019.

**T**he STC was convened under the theme “Increased Domestic Financing for Universal Health Coverage and Health Security for All African Citizens - Including Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons”

The Honourable Ministers made the following recommendations on the key issues discussed from Experts Sessions and High Level Dialogues

## 1. Health

- Introduction of earmarked legislative taxes through National and Social health insurance schemes while reducing and/or removing value added taxation on medical commodities and supplies to improve sustainability of national insurance schemes
- Establishment of updated unique identify electronic medical records to overcome fragmentation of primary health care supplies by aligning facility and national supply data
- Following consideration of the Report on the Next Steps Post-Africa Leadership Meeting on Domestic Financing for Health:-
  - i. Development Partners are to align their spending on health, to the health priorities of Member States, using the Regional Health Financing Hubs (based in the RECs) as a means to achieve alignment and harmonisation;
  - ii. Member States to address tax avoidance through reconsidering exemption laws and regulations.

## 2. Increased Domestic Financing For Universal Health Coverage And Health Security

- Translating growing political commitment to increasing domestic investment in health into action that results in increased resources for health (within existing fiscal realities) and using legislative prevention by

levying taxes on harmful products whose use ultimately consumes scarce health resources;

- Collectively insisting on the harmonisation of development assistance for health (DAH) with Member States’ and Continental priorities so that assistance complements and supplements domestic resources;
- Increasing allocative efficiency, including but not limited to the percentage of government health resources directed to primary health care and the use of strategic purchasing, and the effectiveness of spending;
- Improving cross-sectoral collaboration, taking a holistic approach to well-being as a development agenda which requires efforts beyond the health sector.

## 3. Dialogue on the African Union Role in Achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC): The Next Epidemic: How Prepared are we to Achieve Health Security in Africa

- Ensure access to health for all including refugees, returnees, and internal displaced persons as well as other vulnerable populations;
- There must be political commitment by Heads of State and Government towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC);
- Place emphasis on preventive medicines and scale up prevention measures in other to reduce the burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases in Africa;
- Increase domestic resource for health;
- Protect health professionals in conflict areas and emphasise the need for collaboration between Ministers of Health and Defence and/or Security;
- The need to combat terrorism because it deprives human beings of some of the vital rights necessary for life;
- Strengthen health information systems.

## 4. Drug Control

- Member States to recognise drug use as a public health matter which should be mainstreamed into multi-sectoral national strategies;
- Address recidivism and encourage reintegration, in a coordinated and holistic manner, by taking into consideration the needs of marginalised groups

## 5. Dialogue on Africa and Post-Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem

- Member States should move away from punitive approaches to drug use and tailor their responses in accordance with public health principles;
- AU to leverage technical assistance for research on new and emerging drug trends in order to respond appropriately
- Member States to establish drug epidemiology networks to collect treatment data that will inform evidence-based practices;
- Member States encouraged to allocate funds from national fiscus to respond adequately and effectively to the problems of drug use.

## 6. Population

- Member States to conduct national Censuses in accordance with recommended periodicity, and strengthen and expand coverage of civil registration and vital statistical systems in order to produce accurate and reliable data that will complement census data and provide

- the data necessary for planning
- Increase access to quality, affordable health care services for young people, through investigating the appropriateness of health insurance schemes
  - Income generation amongst young people is promoted
  - Obstacles on use of modern contraceptives are tracked in order to improve uptake
  - Issues of migration to be well incorporated into interventions on population and development

#### 7. **Consensus Building of a Common African Position on Populations Issues**

- Strengthen institutional mechanisms for population and development in order to harness and take advantage of the demographic dividend
- Need for accurate data on population and development

#### 8. **Campaign for the Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA) 2009-2019**

- Member States should regularly provide updated data and reports for the effective and efficient monitoring of the status of Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) across the Continent;
- Champions or Good will ambassadors should be identified at the national and continental levels to advocate for the mobilization/generation of domestic resources for Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH);
- iSouth-South Cooperation should be strengthened, with support and funding for MNCAH across the Continent;
- Establish a surveillance system of maternal and peri-natal deaths and response as an important component of the strategies to end avoidable maternal and peri-natal deaths.

#### 9. **Maternal, Newborn Child and Adolescent Health (MNCAH) Status Report for 2019**

- Timely collection of data should continue during crises and include situation analyses and needs assessments of migrants;
- A digitized central repository of up-to-date, open source humanitarian emergency MNCAH data should be established for planning purposes;
- A minimum basic package of MNCAH

services should be costed for the provision of services and training of personnel inclusive of conflict or humanitarian situations;

- The establishment of a continental mechanism to regulate and manage intra and extra-continental migration of health workers, particularly in relation to the provision of quality Nutrition and Primary Health Care (PHC) services;
- Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are encouraged to harmonise migration and health policies in order to address cross border health-related issues among those concerned;
- Situation analyses and needs assessment of the health of migrants for planning purpose, with the involvement and participation of the most vulnerable, including women and adolescents;
- Recognition for the safety and the security of health workers and emphasis should be placed on the collaboration between Ministers of Health and Defense and/or Security
- 10. Prevention, Care and Treatment of Viral Hepatitis
- Prioritise Infection, Prevention and Control (IPC) including water and sanitation in preventing viral hepatitis (for hepatitis E in particular);
- Reflect the high cost of preventing viral hepatitis, as it remains a challenge for implementation of Hepatitis programmes in Member States;
- Put in place bulk procurement mechanisms in order to ensure reduction of the costs for medicines, vaccines and diagnostics;
- Strengthen knowledge management on viral hepatitis in Africa

#### 11. **Cost of Hunger in Africa (COHA) Study**

- A continental nutrition report on the progress in the implementation of the COHA Studies recommendations be produced by the Commission, with the support of the WFP and other stakeholders;
- The results of the COHA Studies should be used to engage parliamentarians to allocate clear budgets for advocacy to track nutrition interventions and advocate for domestic resources for nutrition;
- The AU should leverage the support of RECs for the development of Regional Nutrition Strategies and Regional Nutrition Scorecards.

#### 12. **African Common Position on Antimicrobial Resistance**

- Develop policy, implement programs, finance, and train human resources to:
  - Improve monitoring of AMR**, including: Increase the number of tests performed on humans, animals, and plants for AMR organisms; Increase the proportion of human and animal diagnostic laboratories with quality assurance programs and international accreditation; Increase the number of national laboratories conducting surveillance for AMR using standardized protocols; Continuously collect, analyze, report, and disseminate data about AMR and antimicrobial use for high priority pathogens to relevant AU agencies and international organizations, such as the Tripartite Collaboration on AMR.
  - Delay emergence of AMR**, including: Restrict over-the-counter sales of antimicrobials classified as "watch" and "reserve" by the World Health Organization; Increase the proportion of healthcare providers adhering to prudent antimicrobial use guidelines; Increase the proportion of veterinarians and food producers adhering to prudent antimicrobial use guidelines, including use of safe farming practices (e.g. good nutrition, vaccination, biosafety and biosecurity) and halting all use of medically important antimicrobials for growth promotion; Reduce availability and sales of sub-standard and falsified antimicrobials.
  - Limit transmission of AMR**, including: Increase the proportion of healthcare facilities implementing infection control and prevention programs and antimicrobial stewardship programs; Increase the availability and sales of animal products and crops produced with prudent antimicrobials use; Increase access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene in healthcare facilities, farms, schools, households, and community settings; Increase compliance with international



standards for management of human, animal, and industrial waste.

- iv. **Mitigate harm from AMR**, including: Increase the number of healthcare facilities with quality diagnostic tests for infection and AMR; Reduce the availability and use of substandard diagnostic tests and supplies; Increase the proportion of healthcare providers, veterinarians, and healthcare facilities adhering to guidelines for treatment of susceptible and AMR infections in humans and animals; Maintain consistent supply of and access to essential antimicrobials that have been quality assured.
- Establish and strengthen national task forces that represent human, animal, plants and environmental agencies.
- Develop or revise, fund, and monitor national action plans for AMR.
- Engage civil society organizations, media, and the general public to promote awareness and understanding of AMR and support for programs to control AMR.
- AU Commission recommended to:
  - i. Fully constitute, fund, and manage an African Union Task Force on AMR, for monitoring, reviewing, coordinating, and developing policies related to AMR with representation from all relevant human, animal, plant, and environmental agencies in a One Health approach.
  - ii. Advocate for Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and other relevant organizations to adopt policies and laws to enable long-term prevention and control of AMR.
  - iii. Support human resources development for AMR prevention and control among African Union human, animal, plant, and environmental agencies.
  - iv. Convene at least one high-level meeting annually in conjunction with AU Summit to update Member States about progress in AMR prevention and control and advocate for sustained progress.
  - v. Work with African universities and research institutions to promote innovation in defining and quantifying the source and extent of AMR and development of new antimicrobials, vaccines, diagnostics, and waste management tools to secure the future of antimicrobial resistance so no one is left behind.
  - vi. Strengthen the AU to become a unified and influential voice in global governance and accountability in AMR.

## OUTCOMES OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> SPECIALISED TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY & WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

The Ministers in charge of gender affairs in African Union (AU) Member States attended the 4th Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 31 October to 1 November 2019 in Addis Ababa Ethiopia.

A summary of the outcomes of the STC are provided below.

### 1. Report on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA)

Ministers adopted the SDGEA reports in preparation for presentation to the relevant AU policy organs

- i. Requested the AU Commission to circulate the SDGEA reports to all Member States as a way of sharing good practices and experiences, to review the reporting cycle on a biennial basis, as per the recommendations of previous STCs and share reporting guidelines and timeframes with member States, to organise training/capacity building and provide ongoing support to Member States:
  - To report including on the new online reporting tool
  - To link the pre-existing online reporting tool with tools at national, regional and continental levels
  - To establish other means of reporting where appropriate to include people living in remote areas, who may not have access to the internet, and to include issues related to human trafficking in its priorities and reporting process for solutions.
- ii. Encouraged Member States to strengthen mainstreaming of gender in government institutions and promote effective financial mechanisms for women's empowerment
- iii. Encouraged member States who have not yet submitted their initial reports to do so urgently

### 2. Beijing+25 Review

Ministers adopted the Africa Political Declaration and Key Messages relating to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action + 25

# Gender

### 3. Budget of the Women, Gender and Development Directorate and Support to the Pan-African Women's Organization (PAWO)

#### Ministers:

- i. requested the AUC to fund WGDD activities from Member States' contributions, as per the recommendation of the PRC Sub-Committee on Finance and Budgetary matters and in line with the Rules and Regulations of the Commission related to financing and budgetary matters
- ii. Requested the AUC to undertake a detailed financial, legal, and structural assessment of PAWO and provide a report in conformity with the relevant Executive Council decisions on PAWO in consultation with Member States

### 4. African Union Pan-African Women's Awards (PAWA):

Ministers requested Member States to submit names of women (living or deceased) and the fields to be considered for the Award

### 5. AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (AU GEWE Strategy):

#### Ministers:

- i. Requested the AUC to continue to make the necessary amendments throughout the strategy, including acronyms, definitions and annexes to ensure that it is in conformity with the Common Africa Position (CAP);
- ii. Requested the Commission to suspend the dissemination of the strategy until it is amended and presented for adoption at the next STC in May 2020
- iii. Further urged the AUC to circulate documentations relevant to the meetings of STC on GEWE, including draft decisions and reports which will be adopted during the session, fourteen (14) days prior to the

commencement of the meeting

### 6. On African Women's Decade (AWD) and Fund for African Women (FAW)

#### Ministers:

- i. requested Member States to submit their national AWD reports, which will feed into the final AWD synthesis report at continental level
- ii. requested the AUC to undertake evaluations of the Fund for African Women and recommend its transformation

### 7. African Women's Leaders Network (AWLN) and African Women's Leadership Fund (AWLF)

#### Ministers:

- i. Encouraged member States who have not yet done so, to establish National Chapters by 2020
- ii. Encouraged Member States to involve civil society organizations (CSOs) as well as financial institutions in the AWLN and AWLF

### 8. Ratification, Domestication and Implementation of the Maputo Protocol on Women's Rights

#### Ministers:

- i. urged Member States who have not ratified the Maputo Protocol to continue engaging relevant national entities such as national parliaments, ministries of justice and of foreign affairs to accelerate efforts to ratify Maputo Protocol by 2020.
- ii. encouraged the AUC to conduct advocacy missions in countries that have not ratified the Maputo Protocol to accelerate ratification processes.

#### About the STC on Gender & Women's Empowerment:

The STC roles include advocating for ratification and implementation of AU policies and instruments on gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights; promotion and protection of all human rights for women, including implementation of Member States' obligations and commitments made under international, continental, regional and country-level human rights law; promotion of gender-responsive practices and realisation of commitments to the human rights of women.

African Union



PROTOCOL TO THE AFRICAN CHARTER ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS ON THE RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN AFRICA



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# Women Empowerment

# THE 3<sup>RD</sup> STC ON AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

The Ministers of African Union (AU) Member States, attended the 3rd AU Specialized Technical Committee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 21 to 25 October 2019.

**S**everal outcomes were agreed to in key areas including:

## **A: ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

### **1. Strategy for Environment, Climate Change, Water and Land Management Division (ECCWLM) 2019-2023**

- i. Member States and Partners asked to support the implementation of this strategy which aims to achieve the following:
- Framework for Sustainable Forest Management
  - Adoption of Tools and Guidelines on integration of Biodiversity
  - Reduction by 10% illegal exploitation and trade in wildlife and forest resources
  - Reduced open defecation;
  - Increased usage of wastewater through recycling and reuse;
  - Adoption of an Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Climate Services and Weather)
  - Regular production of continental climate outlook

- Natural Hazards Early Warning Systems (EWS) into the existing Continental Situation Room;
  - An overarching Strategy on Environmental Issues / African Environmental Charter;
  - Circular economy framework in place and single use plastics banned in 40% of African countries
  - Adoption of an African Drought Strategy
  - 20% of pledged land restored by Member States with support of AUC and Partners;
  - Africa's voice in multilateral environmental agreements strengthened
  - Production of biennial reports institutionalised for all sub-sectors
- ### **2. Disaster Risk Reduction**
- Africa Regional Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction: Adoption of the Tunis Declaration on accelerating the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 and the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction

- Establishment of an African Centre of Excellence for Disaster Risk Reduction which will contribute to strengthening of the disaster risk reduction institutions in Africa and is expected to be operational by 2022
  - Member States urged to ratify the treaty on the Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) and to actively participate in the ARC risk pool. The ARC is a specialised agency of the AU and works to improve the capacities of Member States to better plan, prepare and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters. It focuses on (i) Early Warning: Africa RiskView (ii) Preparedness: Contingency Planning; (iii) Insurance: Index-based insurance and risk pooling; and (iv) Accountability: Evaluation of the response delivery. To date 33 countries have signed the ARC Treaty and 8 have ratified.
- ### **3. Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Programme and Meteorology**
- Member States urged to expedite the development and implementation



of their National Strategic and Action Plans on Meteorology

- AUC and RECs to facilitate accelerated Member States' preparedness for transition from the use of products from the Meteosat Second Generation (MSG) to the Meteosat Third Generation (MTG) Satellites
- AU, RECs and Member States to establish/strengthen sector-specific climate services user interface platforms (e.g. climate-agriculture, climate-disaster risk reduction, climate-forestry, climate-health, climate-water, etc.) in order to ensure generation of relevant, tailored, and timely climate information services
- Member States to provide the legislative framework for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and financial resources to support the delivery of timely and accurate early warning, weather and climate services

#### 4. **Fourth Session of the African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology (AMCOMET)**

Adopted the Declaration which, among others, notes with concern the findings of the World Economic Forum 2019 Global Risk Report which states that the top three global risks facing the world are weather, climate and water related. It further recognizes the central role of observational data in enabling the generation of fit-for-purpose weather and climate products and services, and the need to improve the acquisition of data. Ministers endorsed the Cairo Ministerial Declaration on Meteorology

#### 5. **African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) as a technical arm of the AUC on Weather and Climate**

On the adoption of ACMAD as a technical arm of the AUC agreement governing the relationship between the AUC and ACMAD defined to detail and clarify the legal issues. Matter referred to the Bureau of the 3rd STC for appropriate recommendations

#### 6. **Climate Change**

- Member States urged to invest in innovative blended finance as a vehicle for green development
- Countries to adopt measures that encourage the private sector to pursue pro-climate investments
- AUC called upon to go beyond

climate change negotiations and support Member States in the implementation of NDCs, climate change adaptation and mitigation. AUC also requested to continue to support regional and continental initiatives on climate change, including the Climate Commissions established at COP22, (Congo Basin Climate Commission, Sahel Climate Commission and the Small Islands Commission), as well as the Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) and the Adaptation to African Agriculture (AAA Initiative)

- Member States to include youth in country delegations to Climate Conferences

#### 7. **Plastic Waste**

- African First Ladies from Angola, Botswana, Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana and Kenya congratulated for their acceptance to be Champions on 'Banning Single Use Plastics Towards a Pollution Free Africa Campaign.'
- AUC to broaden the scope of work and focus on circular economy due to its environmental and economic benefits

#### 8. **African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural resources**

- AUC requested to collaborate with RECs and Member States to convene the First Conference of the Parties (COP 1) of the Maputo Convention

#### 9. **Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative**

- Member States urged to support Sustainable Land Management and Restoration initiatives
- AUC and Partners requested to allocate more resources to enhance the implementation of projects under this initiative.

#### 10. **Strategic Framework for Drought Risk Management and Enhancing Resilience in Africa**

Endorsed the Windhoek Declaration on Enhancing Resilience to Drought and the Strategic Framework for Drought Risk Management and Enhancing Resilience in Africa which aims to enable the continent to become drought resilient and prepared at the national level by focusing on 6 elements: (i) Drought policy and governance for Drought Risk Management; (ii) Drought monitoring and early warning; (iii) Drought vulnerability and impact assessment; (iv) Drought mitigation, preparedness, and response;

(v) Knowledge management and drought awareness; and (vi) Reducing underlying factors of drought risk

#### 11. **Water and Sanitation**

- Commitment to promote achievement of African Water Vision 2025; Agenda 2063 and 2030 SDGs Goal 6
- Endorsed the proposal to convene an AU Summit on Water and Sanitation on the margins of the 9th World Water Forum in Senegal
- Endorsed the Partners Coordination Platform on Water and Sanitation Programme in Africa to support work of the Commission and AMCOW

#### 12. **Wild Fauna and Flora Conservation**

Endorsed the Monitoring and Reporting Tool developed to track the implementation of the AU Wildlife Strategy with Member States and Regional Economic Communities to provide data for the tool and AUC and partners to mobilise resources for supporting the implementation of the Strategy

#### 13. **African Ministerial Summit on Biodiversity**

- Endorsed the Pan-African Action Agenda on Ecosystem Restoration as Africa's response to addressing the loss of biodiversity and the continental implementation framework for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2020-2030
- Adopted the African Ministerial Declaration on Biodiversity and AUC and the Secretariats of the CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC, GEF, GCF, UN agencies, development partners, the civil society and the private sector to support implementation of the declaration

#### 14. **African Union Sustainable Forest Management Framework**

Adopted the Framework and endorsed the creation of an Experts Group on Forestry to support the implementation, monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Forest Management Framework.

### **B: AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES**

#### 15. **Bio-fortification**

- Recommended that bio-fortification in Africa be included or linked to bio-fertilisation.
- Endorsed the draft Declaration for onward submission for endorsement at the AU Summit in 2020

## 16. Framework for Irrigation Development and Agricultural Water Management (IDAWM) in Africa

AUC and development partners to (i) support RECs and MS in the domestication, integration and implementation of the IDAWM framework; and (ii) to mobilize financial and technical resources to support AU-SAFGRAD to coordinate the implementation of the Framework and report on progress accordingly

## 17. Decade of Implementation of the African Seed and Bio-technology Programme (ASBP)

- MS and RECs to domesticate the ASBP in their national and regional seed development initiatives
- AUC and the AU Development Agency (AUDA)/NEPAD to (i) put in place an institutional framework that will facilitate the implementation of the ASBP at national, regional and continental levels including the full operationalization of the Forum for African Seed Testing; (ii) lead the development of an action plan for the implementation of the ASBP with clear targets and milestones and development partners to support its implementation; (iii) review the ASBP Framework to encompass animal seed and wildlife seed.
- MS to fast track the implementation of the Assembly Decision (Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (V)) Add.6 of June 2005 related to the establishment of genetic resource banks for identification and preservation of indigenous plant genetic resources that can be used for the production of improved seeds that are adaptable to local



environmental conditions and to prevent the deterioration of plant biodiversity that the African Continent is experiencing

## 18. Ecological Organic Agriculture (EOA) Initiative in Africa

- MS to mainstream Ecological Organic Agriculture into their National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) and allocate adequate resources for its growth and development;
- Endorsed the Bio-vision Africa Trust (BvAT) as the host of the Secretariat of the EOA-I and requested AUC, AUDA-NEPAD and partners to strengthen and support its functioning
- MS and RECs to formulate and implement EOA policies and legal frameworks targeting inputs (fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, herbicides, feeds, drugs and additives), certification, market development, academic curricula, research and access to finance
- AUC to develop indicators to monitor progress in implementation of the EOA and report regularly to MS through the Biannual Review Reporting Mechanism

## 19. Bobo-Dioulasso Declaration on Reducing the Drudgery of Rural Women in Agriculture Within the Framework of the Launch of the Campaign On 'Sending the Hand-held Hoe to the Museum'

Adopted the Declaration

## 20. Establishing the Common African Agro-Parks (CAAPs)

- Adopted the CAAPs as a programme contributing to the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The CAAPs is meant to create a policy environment for boosting regional trade in agricultural commodities by increasing local processing of key agricultural products and their respective value chains
- Adopted rice, maize, cassava and yam, livestock (cattle, sheep, goat, pig, poultry) fisheries and horticulture as key strategic agricultural commodities for the implementation of the CAAPs

## 21. Institutionalisation of the African Land Policy Centre (ALPC)

Adopted the transitional arrangements for the interim ALPC pending its formal

establishment and capacitation by the Executive Council and Assembly and requested the AUC, ECA and AfDB to continue to provide technical, human, financial and operational support to the interim ALPC pending its formal establishment by the AU policy organs

## 22. African Union Commitments on Women's Land Tenure Security

- MS called upon to collect both sex-disaggregated data and specific data on women's land tenure security to better understand variables affecting women's land tenure security and inform policies, laws, and strategies for strengthening women's land tenure security
- MS urged to harmonise legal framework in favour of women's land and property rights with a focus on gender-responsive inheritance laws
- Land reform of any type must ensure that women have equal opportunity to exercise and enforce their rights
- AUC to take lead in the development of a continental strategy and guidelines on integrating gender in the land sector in Africa

## 23. Prevention and Addressing Land Based Conflicts in Africa

- National governments to put in place mechanisms for inclusive growth for minimisation of inequalities through fair resource distribution
- RECs to adopt and utilise the Guidelines on Prevention and Addressing Land-based Conflicts in Africa to minimise interstate tensions, trans-boundary conflicts and insurgencies
- Adopted the Monitoring and Evaluation of Land Governance in Africa (MELA) as the Framework to track and report progress on commitments related to land by member states.

## 24. Boosting Intra-African Trade (BIAT) in Agricultural Commodities

- Adopted the Continental Framework for BIAT in Agricultural Commodities and Services, and the associated Guidelines for the development of Regional Agricultural Value Chains (RAVCs)
- AUC to continue collaboration with FAO, UNECA and other relevant partners to support AU Member States and RECs to develop and implement their national and regional agricultural trade policies, strategies and programmes informed by the Continental Framework

- AUC to support efforts to mobilise and strengthen pan-African Agribusiness Private Sector Apex Bodies for implementation of the Framework and Guidelines.

## 25. Continental Post-Harvest Loss Management Strategy

- MS called upon to adopt the AU Post-harvest Loss Management Strategy as a Continental framework to guide the development of their national Post-harvest Loss Management Strategies
- Endorsed the institutionalisation of the All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition as an AU biennial continental platform for mutual accountability, knowledge and experience sharing, and reporting on progress made on food loss and waste reduction efforts on the continent
- AUC to support Member States to include measures to reduce food loss and waste in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. These measures include policies, programs, practices, and technologies that reduce food losses on the farm, during storage and distribution, at market and in the home
- AUC to identify Centres of Excellence relating to post-harvest loss management

## 26. Animal Health Strategy for Africa (AHSA) 2020-2035

Strategy endorsed, and AU institutions, RECs, MS and partners requested to pursue partnerships necessary for effective, efficient and sustainable implementation of this strategy and mobilise resources required for the implementation of the strategy at all levels

## 27. International Scientific Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (ISCTRC)

Tsetse & Trypanosomiasis be tackled within the broader context of One Health, Sustainable Rural development, agriculture strategies and changing climate conditions

## 28. African Institutions for Designation as African Union Reference Laboratories and Collaborating Centres for Food Safety

The following African institutions endorsed as AU Collaborating Centres for Food Safety:

- Animal Health Research Institute

(AHRI), Egypt for microbiological contaminants in food and feed;

- Food Research Institute (FRI) Ghana for microbiological contaminants in food and feed;
- Institut de Technologie Alimentaire (ITA), Sénégal for mycotoxins in food and feed;
- Central Laboratory of Residue Analysis of Pesticides and Heavy Metals in Food (QCAP-Lab), Egypt for pesticide and heavy metals in food;
- Office nationale pour l'inspection sanitaire des produits de la pêche et aquaculture de Mauritanie; and
- Laboratoire d'analyse des denrées alimentaire de Douala

## 29. African Common Position (ACP) on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and the AU Framework on Antimicrobial Resistance 2020 – 2025

- Endorsed the ACP and AU Framework and requested the AUC to fully constitute and fund the AU Task Force on AMR for monitoring, reviewing, coordinating, and developing policies related to AMR with representation from all relevant sectors in a One Health approach
- Requested the AUC to work with African Universities and research institutions to promote innovation in defining and quantifying the source and extent of AMR and development of new antimicrobials, vaccines, diagnostics and waste management tools to secure the future of antimicrobials

## 30. The Blueprint for Africa's Blue Economy Strategy

Endorsed the Blueprint and requested the AUC to (i) support adequate awareness creation, capacity building and sharing of best practices of the application of the Blue Economy concept (ii) setting up Blue Governance mechanisms to ensure planning and coordination at continental, regional and national levels; (iii) mobilize resources for the implementation of the strategy

## 31. African Union Centres of Excellence in Fisheries and Aquaculture

The following institutions endorsed as African Union Centres of Excellence:

- Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, University of Cape Coast (Ghana) for Academic training in Marine Fishery and coastal zones management; with additional options in policy and governance

- National Fisheries Resources Research Institute (NaFIRRI), Uganda, Research in Aquaculture (Fish feeds, nutrition, genetics etc) and Research Inland Capture Fishery; with additional options in Climate Change;
- Rhodes University, South Africa for academic training in Marine Fisheries and Aquaculture; additional options in biodiversity; Oceanography and Ecosystems studies;
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria, for academic Aquaculture and inland fisheries;
- Faculty of Fisheries Resources, University of Suez, Egypt, Academic Aquaculture, Marine Fishery Sciences and Technology; Research Aquaculture; Fish Feeds, diseases, genetics (incorporating the Central Laboratory for Aquaculture Research (CLAR), Egypt)
- Académie Régionale des Sciences et Techniques de la Mer (ARSTM), Cote D'Ivoire, for training in Marine Engineering, Seafaring and Safety, Navigation, fishing gear and fish technologies;
- L'Agence Gabonaise d'Etudes et d'Observation spatiale (AGEOS); and
- Institut des Arts et métiers nautique de limbe, Cameroon

## 32. 10-Year Action Plan for Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries Development in Africa

Endorsed the 10 year plan as a vehicle to support the operationalisation of the policy arena on small scale fisheries development of the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for Fisheries and Aquaculture in Africa

## 33. African Fisheries Reform Mechanism (AFRM)

Endorsed the revised structure of the AFRM and recommended that matters of the Blue Economy should be handled by the Sectoral Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture

## 34. The African Union 10-Year Aquaculture Action Plan for Africa

Endorsed the action plan which aims to provide a harmonised and coherent continental approach for implementing the Policy Framework and Reform Strategy for fisheries and aquaculture in Africa (PFRS) and prioritises:-

- Establishing an enabling environment for sustainable aquaculture development,
- Improved Service Delivery to the



Sector

- iii. Capacity Building,
- iv. Trans-boundary Ecosystem Management for Aquaculture; and
- v. Innovation (Research and Development).

### 35. Pan-African Platforms for Enhancing Entrepreneurship and Coordination in the Animal Resources Sector

Endorsed the establishment of the pan-African platforms and requested the AUC to mobilise resources for their operationalisation

**36. AU Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Policy Framework**  
Framework endorsed and MS and RECs requested to facilitate the domestication of the AU SPS Policy Framework; AUC to mobilise resources to support its implementation

### 37. Strategic Framework for Scaling Holistic Country-led Model for Aflatoxin Control in Africa

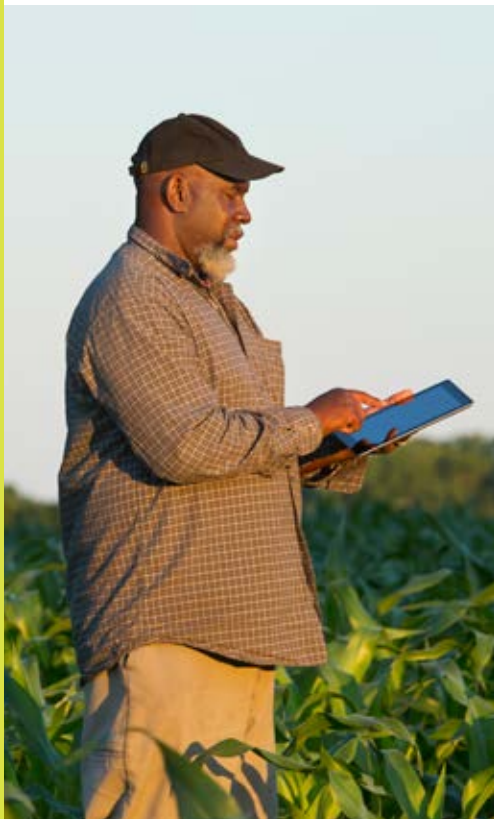
Endorsed the strategic framework with the tools and models generated by AU Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA) from its support to six (6) African countries; and CALLED for continued integration of aflatoxin control into the NAIPs/NAFSIPs and other national frameworks for sustainable implementation by all AU Member States.

### 38. Fall Armyworm (FAW)

Adopted the report on the FAW which called for setting up of a national emergency fund to tackle this menace and urged for the establishment of National Emergency Fund for the control of emerging pests in Africa.

### 39. Coffee as a Strategic Commodity for Africa's Economic Transformation

AUC requested to identify strategic commodities for export and identify institutions that can promote these commodities



**Agriculture looks different today - farmers are using GPS and you can monitor your irrigation systems over the Internet.**



The Ministers of African Union (AU) Member States, attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons in Addis Ababa, ethiopia from 7 to 8 November 2019

# THE 3RD STC ON MIGRATION, REFUGEES & INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS

A summary of the key decisions is provided below. Several outcomes were agreed to in key areas including:

## 1. Theme of the Year 2019: The Year Of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement In Africa

- Expressed satisfaction on the activities undertaken in the implementation of the theme of the year and thanked the Champion of the 2019 theme of the year, H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, President of Equatorial Guinea for the steadfast leadership; and requested the AUC to ensure that the theme of the year focuses broadly on results-oriented interventions
- Expressed commitment towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa by dealing with root causes of displacement and requested the AUC Department of Political Affairs to work closely with the Department of Peace and Security towards implementing the theme of 2020, "Silencing the Gun: Creating Conducive Conditions for Socio-Economic Development" given that part of the root causes are conflicts
- Implored all AU member states to sign, ratify domestic and implement the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugees problems in Africa and the 2009 AU Convention on the Protection and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (The Kampala Convention)

## 2. Protocol to The Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community Relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment

- Commended the 4 Member States

that have signed and ratified the protocol and encouraged the other Member States to do the same.

- Requested the AUC to (i) identify the impediments and bottlenecks to ratification of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in Africa without financial cost with a view to expedite ratification in order for the said protocol to enter into force; (ii) to continue popularisation efforts of the protocol for increased signatures and ratification;
  - Welcomed the proposal by AUC to appoint a Head of State as a Champion to promote the signature, ratification and implementation of the protocol
- ## 3. Establishment of The Observatory and African Union Centres for Migration and the Operationalisation of The African Humanitarian Agency
- Welcomed the progress made by the AUC and the Government of the Republic of Mali on the establishment and operationalisation of the African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration
  - Welcomed the progress made by the AUC and the Kingdom of Morocco towards establishment of the African Migration Observatory in Morocco, namely signing of the host agreement on 18 December 2018 and provision of financial resources for operationalisation of the Observatory and to continue working for the operationalisation of the Observatory in 2020
  - Commended the efforts of the AUC and the Government of Sudan towards operationalisation of the Continental Operational Centre in Khartoum and to continue working for the operationalisation of the Centre in 2020
  - Reaffirmed the need for the speedy establishment of the African

Humanitarian Agency to respond to the humanitarian challenges on the Continent and requested the AUC to expedite the validation of the feasibility study with full involvement of member states and RECs; submit proposals for consideration by the PRC Sub-Committees on Structural Reforms and Budget Matters; develop the Statute for the Agency

## 4. Plan of Action on Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration

AUC to circulate the draft plan of action to Member States present the consolidated draft of the Plan to the extraordinary session of the STC in March/April 2020.

## 5. Pan African Forum On Migration (PAFOM)

Adopted frequency of the meeting of the PAFOM to be annually for senior officials and every two years for the Ministers. Frequency will take effect in 2022 after the 2020 forum in Senegal and 2021 forum in Rwanda.

## 6. Situation of Migrants and Refugees in Africa

- Commended Member States who have shown generosity to offer and host refugees and asylum-seekers in Africa.; and called on other Member States to follow their example
- Commend the work of the AU–EU–UN Tripartite Taskforce on the Situation of Migrants and Refugees in Africa, and the leadership of the AUC, as well as the support provided by partners including, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, International Organizations for Migration and the European Union
- Requested the AUC to expedite the process of developing the AU Reintegration Guidelines to provide Member States with principles and approaches for sustainable reintegration of returning concerned nationals
- Reiterated the decisions of the policy organs of the situation of migrants in Libya and expressed appreciation to the State of Libya for its support and efforts directed to address the situation of migrants and refugees in Libya



# MIGRATION POLICY FOR AFRICA & PLAN OF ACTION


## Opportunities for Migration and Free Movement of Persons in Africa

**M**igration is one of the defining features of the 21st century and significantly contributes to economic and social development everywhere. As such, governance of labour migration and the protection of migrant workers is key and where labour migration is well-governed, fair and effective, it can deliver benefits and opportunities for migrant workers, their families, country of origin and their host communities.




**Young  
Children  
within  
Migration  
Camps in  
Somalia**





On 19 September 2016 Heads of State and Government came together for the first time ever at the global level within the UN General Assembly to discuss issues related to migration and refugees. It was a powerful political message that migration and refugee matters had become major issues squarely in the international agenda. In adopting the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, the 193 UN Member States recognized the need for a comprehensive approach to human mobility and enhanced cooperation at the global level.

Comprised of 23 objectives - all of which contain a commitment - the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) outlines actions considered to be relevant policy instruments and best practices alongside measures for implementation, follow-up and review. Commitments centre on the use of data to elaborate policies, minimizing the drivers of mobility, providing accurate information, ensuring proof of legal identity and enhancing the availability of legal pathways for migration.



The GCM guiding principles focus on the human dimension of mobility and reaffirm States' sovereign rights to determine their national migration policies and to govern migration within their jurisdictions. States also can distinguish between regular and irregular migration status.

In Africa, the process towards forging a global compact takes full cognizance of the African Union strategic and policy frameworks for migration. These include the 1991 Abuja Treaty establishing the African Economic Community; the Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA); the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and Establishment; the African Union Convention on Cross Border Cooperation (Niamey

Convention); the African Union Border Programme and Measures for its Consolidation; the Declaration on Migration and the Joint Labour Migration Programme.

The MPFA identifies eight key pillars: Migration Governance; Labour Migration and Education; Diaspora Engagement; Border Governance; Irregular Migration; Forced Displacement; Internal Migration and Migration and Trade

The MPFA takes into account AU priorities and policies, Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and international migration management policies and standards. It provides Member States and RECs with comprehensive policy guidelines and principles to assist them in the formulation and implementation of their own national and regional migration policies in accordance with their priorities and resources.

For labour migration and education the MPFA calls for the establishment of regular, transparent, comprehensive and gender-responsive labour migration policies, legislation and structures at national and regional levels.

The AUC's Joint Labour Migration Programme (JLMP) promotes the facilitation of the free movement of workers as a means of advancing regional integration and development. Key activity areas of the JLMP include skills portability and mutual recognition of qualifications, as well as labour market information systems which support market driven skills development and skills pooling across the Continent. The framework advocates for the integration of migrants into the labour market and the education and training sector, as well as the provision of social protection and social security benefits for labour migrants while working abroad, as well as upon their return.

The African Union has developed a plan of action on the Implementation Plan of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) in Africa which aligns with the AU

## 8 Pillars of the Migration Policy for Framework for Africa

1. Migration Governance
2. Labour Migration and Education
3. Diaspora Engagemene
4. Border Governance
5. Irregular Migration
6. Forced Displacement
7. Internal Migration
8. Migration and Trade

Migration Policy Framework and carries forward the priority actions of the AU Employment Creation, Poverty Eradication and Inclusive Development Declaration and Plan of Action (2018-2023).

Member States of the African Union were invited for a meeting to validate the Implementation Plan in Lusaka, Zambia on 18 June 2019 the outcome of which was a clear roadmap on the follow up and review mechanism of the GCM in Africa and agreed priorities for resource mobilisation to effectively build the capacity of AU Member States and RECs to implement the GCM.

The GCM is only one of the initiatives being undertaken by the AU towards building a stronger global architecture on migration governance and the Union will continue to pursue and promote its priorities and concerns at the bilateral, regional and international level through the processes dedicated to implementation, follow up and review.

“

BE CAREFUL, THINK ABOUT THE EFFECT OF WHAT YOU SAY. YOUR WORDS SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTIVE, BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER, NOT PULL THEM APART

Miriam Makeba

2020  
SILENCING THE GUNS:

Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development

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# SUMMARY OF THE KEY ACTIVITIES ON THE AU THEME OF THE YEAR 2019

The African Union’s (AU) Assembly of Heads of State and Government adopted a Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness (CAP) in January 2016 and called for a ten year period of transformation to strengthen humanitarian action on the continent. The CAP defines Africa’s new humanitarian architecture, which includes the creation of the African Humanitarian Agency as a vehicle for Africa’s humanitarian action. The new humanitarian architecture also emphasises addressing root causes and achieving durable solutions, as well as bolstering the capacity of States and other stakeholders to tackle the challenges of forced displacement on the continent.

Given the urgency and need to address the growing crises of refugees and other displaced persons the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union declared the year 2019 as “the Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa.” Additionally, the year 2019 also marked the 50th Anniversary of the adoption of the 1969 OAU Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, and the 10th Anniversary of the adoption of the 2009 AU Convention for the

Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention).

In 2019 a number of activities were undertaken to highlight the theme of the year and address the concerns of Africans forcibly displaced from their homes.

### **Operationalisation of the African Humanitarian Agency (AfHA).**

AfHA is part of the new humanitarian architecture adopted by the AU as enshrined in the Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness. The overall objective of AfHA is to provide the general policy direction for the African-led humanitarian system, strengthen the disaster management bodies of member states, and create sub-regional hubs for training and funds mobilisation.

AfHA is a continental institutional mechanism that will leverage regional and national arrangements in addressing structural and proximate causes of humanitarian crises. It will also play a strategic role in exploring durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa. The Agency will be funded primarily through Africa’s own resources in the spirit of Pan-Africanism which encourages African solutions to African problems.

A study was commissioned by the AUC to determine the structural, legal and financial implications of the AfHA and the draft report of the study was shared with Member States experts in



**The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa.**





a workshop which took place on 15 April 2019 in Johannesburg, South Africa to validate and provide inputs to the findings and recommendations of the study before submitting to the Policy Organs of the AU.

### **Advocacy by the AU Champion for the 2019 Theme, H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo**

In addition to driving political commitment at the highest levels of the continent and internationally to address the issues of refugees and IDPs in Africa, the AU Champion for the 2019 Theme H.E. Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo visited refugee camps across the continent including the Tsore camp in Assosa Ethiopia in June 2019. Where US\$50,000 was donated as seed money for the construction of a primary school for refugee children in the Tsore camp. The AU Champion also visited Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement in Uganda in December 2019. The visit came in line with the integration of forcibly displaced persons in national plans and service provision

### **Emergency Evacuation Transit Mechanism (ETM)**

The AU-EU-UN Task Force on Libya undertook an experience sharing visit to Niamey, Niger from the 10th to 13th July 2019. Representatives of the government of Rwanda, the African Union Commission and UNHCR participated in the visit. The mission's main objective was to facilitate experience sharing between the governments of Niger and Rwanda regarding the operationalisation of the Emergency Evacuation Transit Mechanism (ETM) in Niger.

The mission took place days after the tragic and brutal air attacks against a detention centre in Tajoura, Libya on 3 July 2019 which was hosting close to 600 refugees and migrants. By hosting the ETM, the people and government of Niger have reaffirmed Niger's commendable solidarity towards refugees especially those who face severe protection risks and vulnerabilities in Libya.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the establishment of an ETM in Rwanda was signed on the 50th anniversary date of the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention. On September 10, 2019, the African Union, the Government of Rwanda and the UNHCR signed a MOU to set up a transit mechanism for evacuating refugees and asylum seekers out of Libya. Under the agreement, the Government of Rwanda will receive and provide protection to refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as others identified as particularly vulnerable and at-risk, who are currently being held in detention centres in Libya. The first batch of 66 refugees from Libya was transferred to Rwanda on 26 September 2019.

### **Giving Refugees a voice in providing solutions**

A Dialogue with women refugees and returnees was held from 17-18 June 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The meeting was organised to support the full and effective participation of refugees in the AU theme of the year activities. The meeting created a safe and intimate environment for participants to discuss their challenges and share their ideas on how to overcome them.

Participants drafted a statement which called for inclusion in peace processes; full and quality education, including within national systems in host countries; an end to impunity for violence; lifting of barriers to work and entrepreneurship; psycho-social support for trauma; and the convening of further Dialogues and the creation of a permanent platform for their

interaction. The statement was delivered to the Continental Consultative Meeting (CCM), which was held on 19 June 2019 in Addis Ababa, by a representative of the group.

### **High Level Dialogues, Meetings and Interventions**

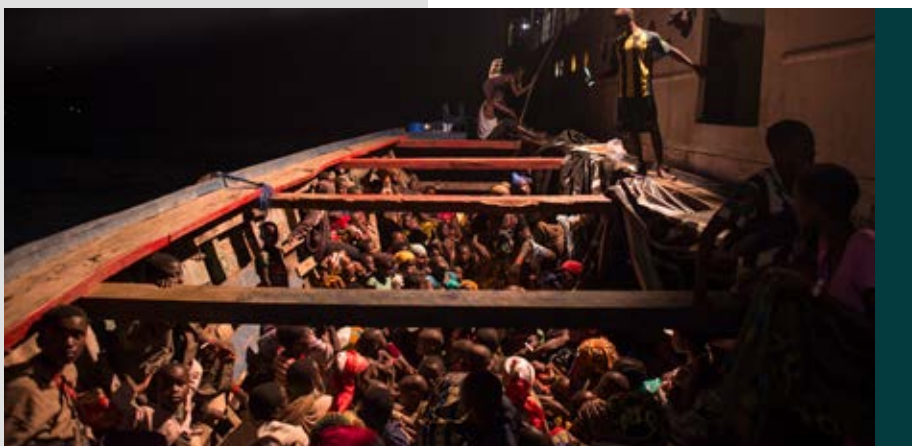
The 8th High Level Dialogue (HLD) on the AU Theme of the Year 2019, was held from 4-6 December 2019 in Kampala, Uganda. The overall goal of the 2019 HLD was to provide a platform for AU Member States and stakeholders to discuss challenges and prospects in the implementation of durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa, with particular focus on issues of refugees, IDPs and returnees and the need for their protection and support.

The Dialogue was centered on the following 6 thematic areas:

1. Forced Displacement in Africa: Dimensions, Causes and Policy Directions.
2. Implementation of Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa: Challenges and Prospects.
3. Securing the Rights of Refugees, IDPs and returnees.
4. Addressing the Needs for Justice by Displaced Persons.
5. Management of Returns Policy: Balancing Returnees and other Durable Solutions.
6. Burden Sharing and the Role of International Actors.

### **The 8th High Level Dialogue was preceded by several events including**

- The 7th Humanitarian Symposium, held in Nairobi, Kenya, 18-20 November 2019 under the theme, Gender Dimension of Forced Displacement in Africa: Towards Durable Solutions.
- Continental Consultative Meeting (CCM) on Promoting the Ratification, Domestication and Implementation of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, held from 2-3 December 2019 in Kampala, Uganda. The CCM underscores the strong and foundational role of law and policy frameworks in support of not only durable solutions but also towards the prevention of future conflict, humanitarian disasters and forced displacement.
- The 2019 Continental Youth Consultation under the theme 'Youth and Forced Displacement in Africa



– Trends, Challenges and Prospects towards Durable Solutions' was convened in Kampala, Uganda from 2-3 December 2019. The consultation aimed to harness young people's insights, capacities and creativity to offer solutions to forced displacement through inter-generational and inter-regional exchanges.

### **Briefings to the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC)**

The following briefings were provided to the PSC on the 2019 Theme of the Year:

- The Role of women in conflict and peace-building: contributions of women refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees, 19 March 2019, Addis Ababa. The PSC discussed how to ensure effective implementation of existing AU instruments for protection of the rights of women and girls in situation of conflict and forced displacement.
- The African Humanitarian Agency: Ameliorating the impact of Terrorism and Armed Conflict on Africa's Social Fabric, 9 April 2019, Addis Ababa. Status update on progress regarding the operationalization of the African Humanitarian Agency shared with the African Union PSC.
- PSC Open Session on Advancing Refugee Protection in the Context of Human Rights in Africa, 20 June 2019 discussed the imperative to promote and protect human rights of displaced persons, especially refugees.
- PSC Open Session on Natural and Other Disasters on the Continent: Beyond the Normative Framework, 6 August 2019. Discussed Natural Disasters and their impact on displacement including, inter alia, cyclones Idai and Kenneth which ravaged Southern Africa with devastating impact on Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Comoros etc.

### **AU Pan-African Parliament Activities**

Workshop involving Pan-African Parliament's Committees on Immigration Matters and Justice and Human Rights was held from 5-6 March 2019, in Midrand, South Africa. The workshop created awareness among African MPs about the 2019 theme and allowed them space to contribute to the exploration of durable solutions to forced displacement in Africa.

A Special Session of the Fifth Pan African parliament (PAP) Ordinary Session on 13 May 2019, Johannesburg, South

Africa focused on the Theme of the Year. PAP adopted recommendations and resolutions outlining key areas of action by members of PAP and other stakeholders in relation to the Theme of the Year.

### **Other meetings and interventions held to address the Theme of the Year 2019:**

The 3rd Ordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee (STC) on Migration, Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (MR&IDPS-STC) was held from 4-8 November 2019. The STC focused on an important legal instrument that will contribute to the Migration governance within and outside the continent, progress report on the implementation of the Protocol on Free Movement of Persons in Africa and the African Passport and also the establishment of the African Humanitarian Agency which will help to coordinate and manage humanitarian situations on the continent as well as on the realization of the Aspirations of the Agenda 2063 of the African Union and its first 10 years implementation plan.

The Fifth Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFoM) was held under the theme: 'Strengthening Migration Data and Research for evidence-based policy development and implementation towards effective migration governance in Africa' from 14-16 September 2019 in Cairo, Egypt. The main objective of PAFOM 5 was to open dialogue on ways of developing and strengthening the collection and utilization of accurate and disaggregated migration data and statistics for effective migration governance in the continent.

Africa Dialogue Series (ADS 2019), 21-23 May 2019 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, USA. The African Dialogue Series was held with the overarching theme: "Towards durable solutions for forcibly displaced persons in Africa". The objectives of the ADS were to provide an advocacy platform to discuss durable solutions to forced displacement of refugees and IDPs in Africa, and the need for their protection and support

African Regional Conference on efforts to "localise" International Humanitarian Aid held on 17 July 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The conference brought together governments, donor agencies, African and international aid groups have explored ways of increasing investment in local humanitarian organizations and promoting their leadership in major response

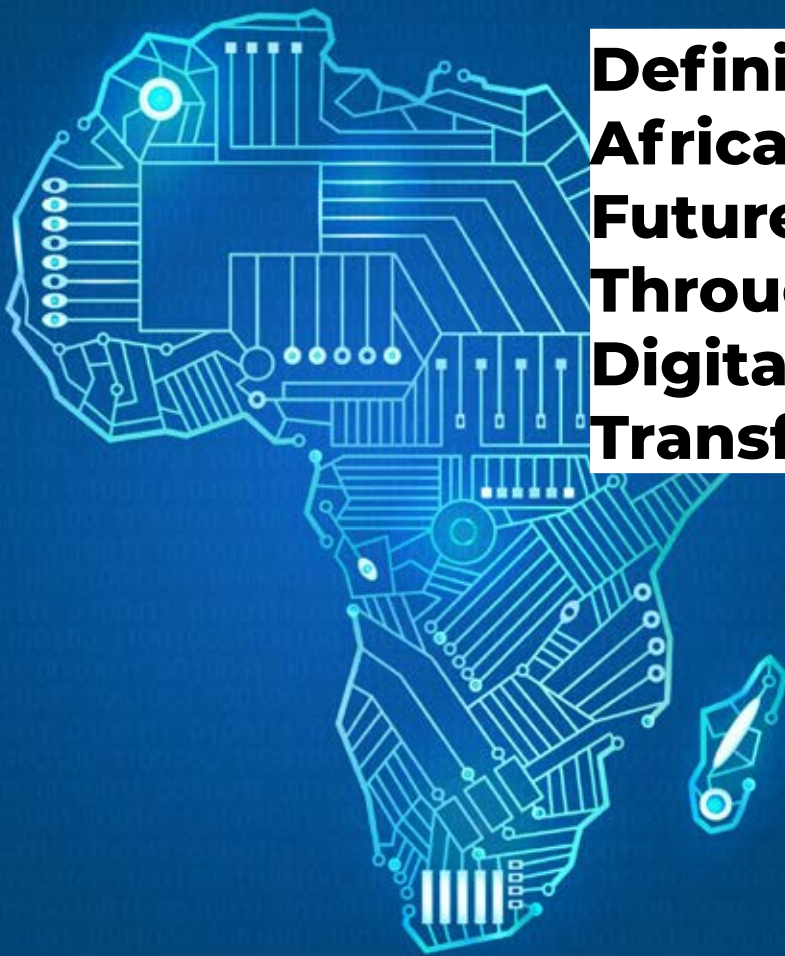
operations.

The African Union Humanitarian Law and Policy Training on African Humanitarian Architecture was held from 18-22 March 2019, Livingstone, Zambia. The project is an initiative of the African Union and the UNHCR and a key component of AU's 10 years Plan of Action aimed at popularizing and promoting the implementation of AU normative instruments to strengthen governance of humanitarian issues in Africa. The training was also in line with strengthening the capacity of Member States prior to the celebration of the 50th and 10th anniversary of the 1969 OAU Convention and the Kampala Convention respectively in 2019.

Roundtable on Addressing Root Causes of Forced Displacement and Achieving Durable Solutions in Africa was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on 9 February 2019. The roundtable aimed at galvanizing support from a wide variety of AU partners to the theme of the year 2019 and to serve as a forum for AU partners to exchange views on root causes of forced displacement and ways to achieve durable solutions. Five thematic panels discussed drivers of forced displacement; preventive diplomacy and mediation; social inclusion and sustainable development with focus on youth, children and women; climate change and natural disasters; and responsibility sharing and partnerships.

High-Level Side Event on the Margins of TICAD 7 on the theme "Towards Enhanced Partnership and Solidarity to Support Forcibly Displaced Persons in Africa" was held from 28-30 August 2019 in Yokohama, Japan. The side event highlighted the plight of refugees but also underlined the importance of new partnerships and approaches.

The 20th Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RM-Africa) and the 3rd joint meeting of Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and the Africa regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group were held on 23-24 March 2019 in Marrakech, Morocco. The meetings addressed African solidarity; best practices and lessons learned in African countries hosting refugees; IDPs and the Kampala Convention; the contribution of the youth in Africa and the diaspora to peace and development; and collaborating for greater impact and durable solutions for forcibly displaced persons in Africa.



# Defining Africa's Future Through Digital Transformation

Home to the youngest population in the world, Africa is rapidly progressing in digital adoption. Over the last decade, mobile technology has helped Africa leapfrog into the digital era. Cooperation across borders, industries and sectors, and the development of effective digital policies, is essential for the future of Africa's digital transformation. According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), over the past ten years, the continent has recorded the highest growth globally in Internet access, moving from 2.1% in 2005 to 24.4% in 2018.

To achieve the development aspirations of Africa's Agenda 2063, significant advancements in information and communication technology are required hence the reason Digital Transformation is positioned among the top priorities of Agenda 2063.

Digitally transformation will be key to the success of regional economic integration initiatives such as the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) through the facilitation and effective use of digital technology in promoting linkages in key sectors such as education, agriculture, trade, manufacturing and health.

Africa has the ambition to create a Single Digital market in the continent. African governments have committed to accelerate sustainable socio-economic development on the continent by adopting the African Union Agenda 2063 and the AfCFTA, while substantial harmonisation work is taking place at the level of the majority of Regional Economic Communities (RECs). In addition, initiatives are bringing new additional African-made solutions in boosting the

digital economy in the continent, such as the Smart Africa, which is an innovative commitment to accelerate sustainable socio-economic development on the continent, ushering Africa into a knowledge economy through affordable access to Broadband and usage of Information and Communications Technologies. The Smart Africa Manifesto was endorsed by all Heads of State and Government of the African Union at the 22nd Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union in Addis Ababa in January 2014.

The development by the AU of a comprehensive Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa will guide a common, coordinated response to reap the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution for Africa's socio-economic development.

The Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa will be developed collaboratively by African institutions through a multi-stakeholder approach, considering the broad and diverse range of previous activities, initiatives, and mandates at the continental level and input from a wide range of stakeholders. The strategy will be embedded in Africa's realities and will unleash the African spirit of enterprise and creativity, to generate more homegrown digital solutions and contents.

The African Union Commission in collaboration with the European Union launched **The EU-AU Digital Economy Task Force (DETF)** on the margins of the High-Level Africa-Europe Forum: Taking cooperation to the digital age, organized



by the Austrian EU Presidency, in Vienna, in December 2018. The High-Level Task Force brings together African and European political and business leaders to identify policies and measures that can underpin pan-African digital integration, support investment in the African digital economy, and improve the environment for digital business.

The DTEF provides a platform of partnership for the private sector, donors, international organisations, financial institutions and civil society based on a shared understanding of how an already fast evolving African digital transformation can achieve cross-border integration, and bring benefits to all citizens and opening up the possibility to leapfrog in development

The Task Force led by the AU Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy, H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, and the European Commission Vice President Andrus Ansip, will provide recommendations based on the four priority areas of intervention, namely: access to affordable broadband connectivity and digital infrastructure, Digital skills, Digital entrepreneurship and eServices (i.e. (Fintech, eGovernment, eCommerce, eHealth).

As one of the tools to be deployed in achieving this ambition, the DETF will work on four complementary areas including:

- (i) To provide recommendations on policies and measures that can support pan-African digital integration. Specific attention will be paid to the specific measures to overcome fragmentation of existing markets and the development of a common enabling regulatory environment.
- (ii) To identify ways to boost both public and private investment in the African digital economy.
- (iii) To provide recommendations on development assistance interventions. Particular attention will be paid to actions that benefit women and young people.
- (iv) To identify structural reforms to support improvement of business environment and investment climate in African digital economy but also intra-African and EU-African digital trade. Specific attention will be paid to identify the necessary actions for establishing the digital economy regulatory environment.

The Task Force has set four main goals:

- (i) Accelerating the achievement of universal access to affordable broadband.
- (ii) Guaranteeing essential skills for all, in education and Vocational Education and Training (VET), to enable citizens to thrive in the digital age.
- (iii) Improving the business environment and facilitating access to finance and business support services to boost digitally enabled entrepreneurship.
- (iv) Accelerating the adoption of eServices and the further development of the digital economy for achieving the SDGs.

Due attention is given to the challenges of job displacement, disinformation, protection of both privacy and human rights. A more harmonised set of policies, rules and legislation at the regional and continental level lead to increased investment, while workers and consumers' rights are protected. eGovernment services are interoperable and accessible regardless of the country of origin, digital entrepreneurs are able to set up businesses with ease at low administrative costs and data. Digital goods, services and physical products associated with intra-African digital trade circulate freely across borders.

Digital economy is a key driver for inclusive growth, job creation and sustainable development and is providing innovative solutions to ongoing development challenges by removing physical boundaries between people and thus enabling access to vital services that improve people's quality of life, especially for Women and youth.

Therefore, there is a need for African Governments to collaborate and work with the industry to make the necessary investments for citizens to bridge the digital divide and to benefit from the digital economy, which is supported by an enabling environment of digital skills, national innovation systems, as well as policies and regulations and other digital accelerators.

## African Internet Exchange System

Africa is currently paying overseas carriers to exchange local/ continental traffic on our behalf. This is both a costly as well as an inefficient way of handling inter-country exchange of Internet traffic.

The African Internet Exchange System project aims to keep Africa's internet traffic local by providing capacity building & technical assistance to facilitate the establishment of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), Regional Internet Exchange Points (RIXPs), Regional Internet Carriers (RICs) in Africa and strengthen national programmes and regional cooperation for the development and interconnection of broadband infrastructures.

The main objectives of the African Internet Exchange System project are to support the establishment of Internet Exchange Points (IXP) in Member States of the African Union; Regional Internet Hubs; and Regional Internet Carriers and develop a certificate curriculum on Internet Exchange technologies.

### **Benefits of the AXIS Project**

1. Reduction of delay / latency on packets between participating Internet Exchange Point networks
2. Transit costs savings
3. Increased number of new local online applications
4. Increased quality of access

IXPs have direct benefits such as reduced latency, low cost and good bandwidth as a result of avoiding the data route through upstream internet providers

Lowering communications costs by facilitating the establishment of the African Internet Exchange System will reduce the cost of financing trade and ultimately the price of the goods. Affordable and accessible bandwidth will encourage regional trade, reduce poverty and generate wealth.

It is therefore in the interests of all countries in Africa to find ways of optimising internet traffic, to support intra-continental traffic flows and create opportunities for private sector investment in these areas.

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For more information on AXIS different visit the AU website <https://au.int/en/axis>



We must pay tribute to the **Women of the Continent**, to our mothers and sisters, who work tirelessly for **peace, security and harmony**. They make **peace, nurture and cultivate** it in our **homes, our schools, our religious centers, our markets** and across our **borders**. Their **perseverance and courage** is worthy of **admiration** and a source of **inspiration** for all those who are labouring for a **better world**

**H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat,**  
Chairperson of the African Union  
Commission

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The Conference Center is situated in the heart of Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia known for hosting the African Union Summit which brings together over 3000 representatives from government (African and international), private sector, international institutions, regional and international media and members of the public. The AU Conference center is centrally located with easy access to the city's landmarks, diplomatic missions, hotels and many other key locales, making an ideal venue to organize your events.



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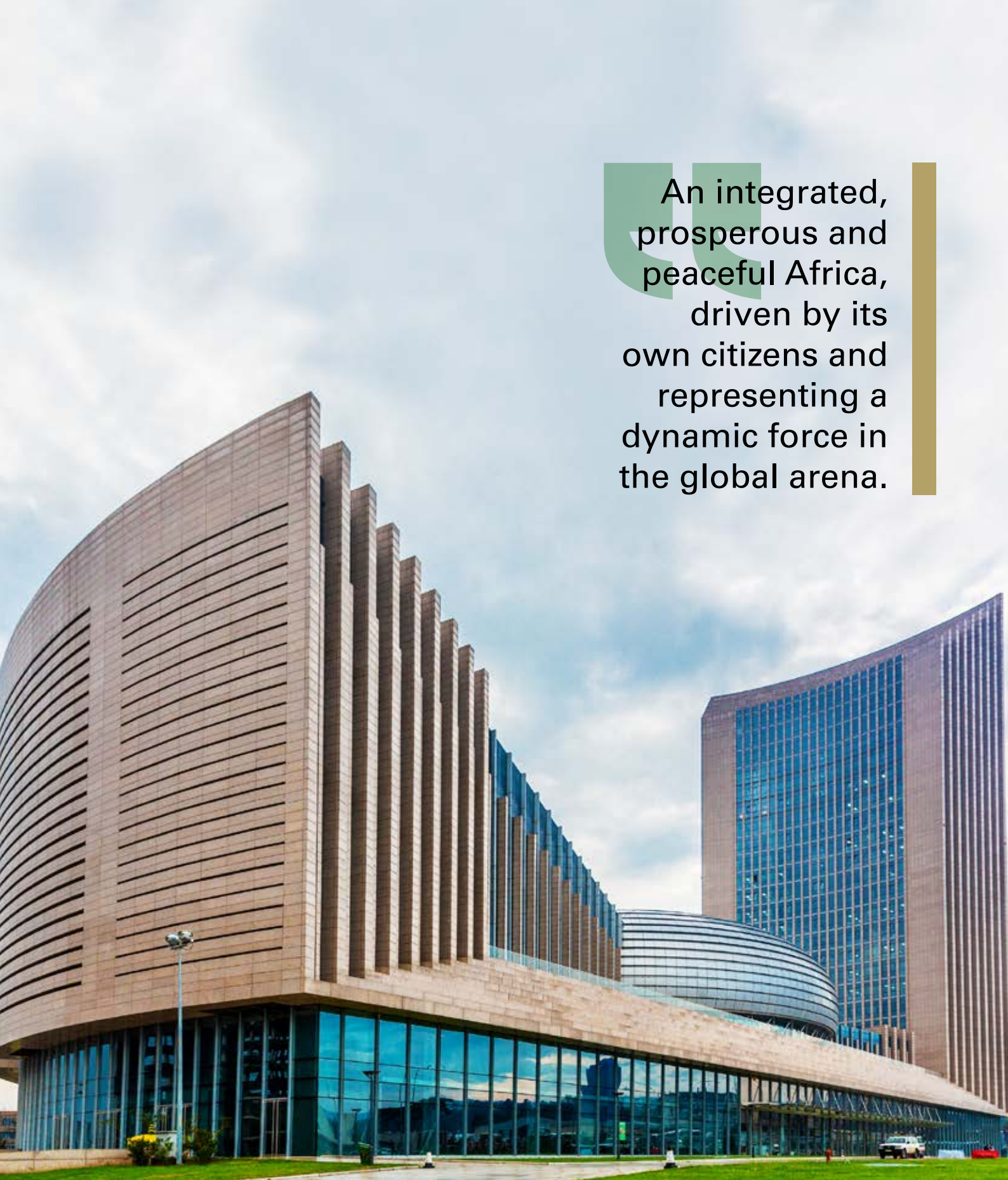
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