



## Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, and Mauritanians Abroad

**Speech by His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs,  
Cooperation, and Mauritanians Abroad at the 45th Ordinary Session  
of the Executive Council of the African Union**

**July 18-19, 2024**

**Accra**

## UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION

**Her Excellency Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration, Republic of Ghana,  
Excellencies Ministers, members of the Executive Council,  
Excellency Moussa Faki Mahamat, President of the AU Commission,  
Excellency Madam Vice-President of the Commission,  
Mr Claver Gatete Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa,  
Excellencies the Representatives of the Regional Economic Communities and the Regional Mechanisms,  
Excellencies Ladies and Gentlemen Commissioners,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Honorable participants,**

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the sisterly Republic of Ghana, its government, and its people for the warm welcome and legendary hospitality extended to us upon our arrival in the beautiful city of Accra.

I wish to commend the meticulous organization that has been put in place, ensuring the success of our current session. My sincere appreciation goes to His Excellency Moussa Faki Mohamat and his team for their exemplary management of our organization, particularly in advancing our decisions and guiding us forward.

I must also acknowledge the invaluable efforts of the Permanent Representatives Committee, whose diligent preparations have greatly contributed to the success of these meetings.

Allow me to convey the regards of His Excellency, the President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and President of the African Union, along with his best wishes for the fruitful outcomes of our session.

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The convening of this forty-fifth regular session of the Executive Board is occurring at a pivotal juncture for our organization. The first decade under Agenda 2063 has concluded with a reasonably positive outcome, despite the challenges posed by global crises such as the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, and climate-related disasters, each with profound economic, social, and security implications.

As we embark on the second decade, we must redouble our efforts to regain lost ground and meet our ambitious goals. This will undoubtedly be a formidable challenge, but with our steadfast commitment and collaboration with regional and international partners, we are poised to overcome it.

I commend the promising opportunities presented through our organization's participation in events like the **G7 Summit**, the **Africa-Korea Summit**, and our forthcoming membership in the **G20 Summit**. These engagements, alongside the outcomes of the Nairobi Summit on **Fertilizers and Soil Health**, underscore our dedication and potential in addressing pressing global issues.

Our efforts today can pave the way for Africa to become a beacon of peace, stability, mutual prosperity, and good governance in these turbulent times. Let us build upon our continent's unique strengths and civilizational identity to play a pivotal role on the global stage.

As we deliberate on decisions and resolutions during this session, let us advance towards our shared ambition of constructing the African edifice

we aspire to. Key among these decisions will be the establishment of the **African Humanitarian Agency**, the **African Inclusive Markets Excellence Centre**, and their budgets, and addressing the situation of **African Fund for Peace**.

Lastly, it is crucial to empower these institutions to address humanitarian issues and crises stemming from migratory flows, climate change, and armed conflicts with utmost efficiency. These challenges are widespread across all regions of our continent and directly impact stability and peace—both essential for overall development.

With that, I hereby call this meeting to order.

**Thank you.**

**Mohamed Salem Ould Merzoug**