



# END OF TERM REPORT

2017 - 2025

**8 YEARS SERVING AFRICA**

*Leading a Transformative and Impact Oriented Journey*



# **END OF TERM**

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# **REPORT**



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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

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<b>ACERWC</b>	African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
<b>ACHPR</b>	African AUC on Human and Peoples' Rights
<b>AfCFTA</b>	African Continental Free Trade Area
<b>AfCHPR</b>	African Court on Human and People's Rights
<b>AFTCOR</b>	Africa Taskforce on COVID-19 Response
<b>AFRICA CDC</b>	Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention
<b>AGA</b>	African Governance Architecture
<b>AMA</b>	African Medicines Agency
<b>AMERT</b>	Africa Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Tool
<b>AMISOM</b>	African Union Mission in Somalia
<b>APSA</b>	African Peace and Security Architecture
<b>ARBE</b>	Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy and Sustainable Environment
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>AUC</b>	African Union Commission
<b>AUDA</b>	African Union Development Agency
<b>AUEOM</b>	African Union Electoral Observer Mission
<b>AUFIS</b>	African Union Financial Institutions
<b>AUHR</b>	African Union High Representative
<b>AWLF</b>	African Women's Leadership Fund
<b>CIEFFA</b>	International Centre for Girls and Women's Education in Africa
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>CSV/RA</b>	Country Structural Vulnerability/Resilience Assessments
<b>EMBS</b>	Election Management Bodies
<b>ESTI</b>	Education, Science, Technology and Innovation
<b>ETTIM</b>	Economic Development, Tourism, Trade, Industry and Minerals
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>G20</b>	The Group of Twenty
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GEWE</b>	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
<b>HHS</b>	Health, Humanitarian Affairs and Social Development
<b>HRST</b>	Human Resources, Science and Technology
<b>IBAR</b>	Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources
<b>IED</b>	Infrastructure and Energy Directorate
<b>MAPUTO PROTOCOL</b>	African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa
<b>PAPS</b>	Political Affairs, Peace and Security

<b>MPFA</b>	Migration Policy Framework for Africa
<b>MPSI</b>	Maputo Protocol Scorecard and Index
<b>MS</b>	Member States
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental Organizations
<b>ODA</b>	Overseas Development Aid
<b>ODG</b>	Office of the Director General
<b>PANVAC</b>	Pan African Veterinary Vaccine Centre
<b>PAP</b>	Pan-African Parliament
<b>PAVEU</b>	Pan African Virtual and e-University
<b>PBFA</b>	Programming, Budgeting, Finance and Accounting
<b>PIDA</b>	Program for Infrastructure Development in Africa
<b>PRC</b>	Permanent Representatives' Committee
<b>PSC</b>	Peace and Security Council
<b>PSO</b>	Peace Support Operations
<b>RECs</b>	Regional Economic Communities
<b>SAATM</b>	Single African Air-Transport Market
<b>SACA</b>	Skills Audit and Competency Assessment
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SDGEA</b>	Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
<b>SEZS</b>	Special Economic Zones
<b>SSR</b>	Security Sector Reform
<b>STC</b>	Specialized Technical Committee
<b>UN</b>	United Nations

## FOREWORD: A MESSAGE FROM H.E. THE CHAIRPERSON

**A**s we conclude the transformative period of 2017 to 2025, I reflect with immense pride and gratitude on the remarkable journey we have undertaken together. The African Union Commission (AUC), guided by our shared vision for Agenda 2063, has navigated a challenging and dynamic era with resilience, innovation, and collective determination. It is with profound humility that I present this End of Term Report, a testament to the progress we have achieved and the foundation we have laid for the future.

The past eight years have been marked by unprecedented global and continental challenges. From shifting geopolitical landscapes and escalating conflicts to health crises and the relentless impact of climate change, Africa has stood resilient. Amidst these trials, the AUC has emerged as a strong, unified voice for the continent, championing the aspirations of our people and ensuring that Africa remains at the centre of global decision-making.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering commitment and dedication of the individuals and institutions that form the backbone of the African Union. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Deputy Chairpersons, the Commissioners, Heads of Organs and Agencies, and the entire staff of the Commission for their tireless efforts, expertise, and unwavering passion. Your contributions have been instrumental in translating vision into action, delivering tangible results across critical areas such as peace and security, governance, women and youth empowerment, climate change, and socio-economic transformation.

To the Member States and Champions of the African Union, I offer my heartfelt appreciation for your leadership and solidarity. Your collaboration has strengthened our Union, allowing us to achieve milestones such as the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the rise of the Africa CDC, and our historic admission as a permanent member to the G20 in 2023.



I express my gratitude to Ethiopia, the AUC Host Country, and its leadership, for graciously providing a home for the African Union Headquarters, and for their hospitality, unwavering support and dedication to unity and cooperation.

To our Partners - international organizations, development agencies, and civil society - your support has been invaluable in amplifying our efforts and ensuring that our shared goals align with Africa's priorities. Together, we have built strategic partnerships that will continue to drive the continent's development agenda.

Above all, I extend my gratitude to the citizens of Africa, whose aspirations, resilience, and determination inspire every step of our journey. Your voices have been central to our mission, and your energy fuels our commitment to delivering "The Africa We Want."

As we move into the second decade of Agenda 2063, I am confident that the foundation we have laid will propel the continent towards greater integration,

peace, and prosperity. Let us continue to work together, united by our shared vision and guided by the spirit of Pan-Africanism.

I cannot conclude this foreword without expressing my heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to my predecessor, **H.E. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma**, for ensuring a seamless transition during the handover process when I assumed office in 2017.

To the incoming leadership of the Commission, I extend my best wishes. May your tenure build on these achievements and take our Union to even greater heights.

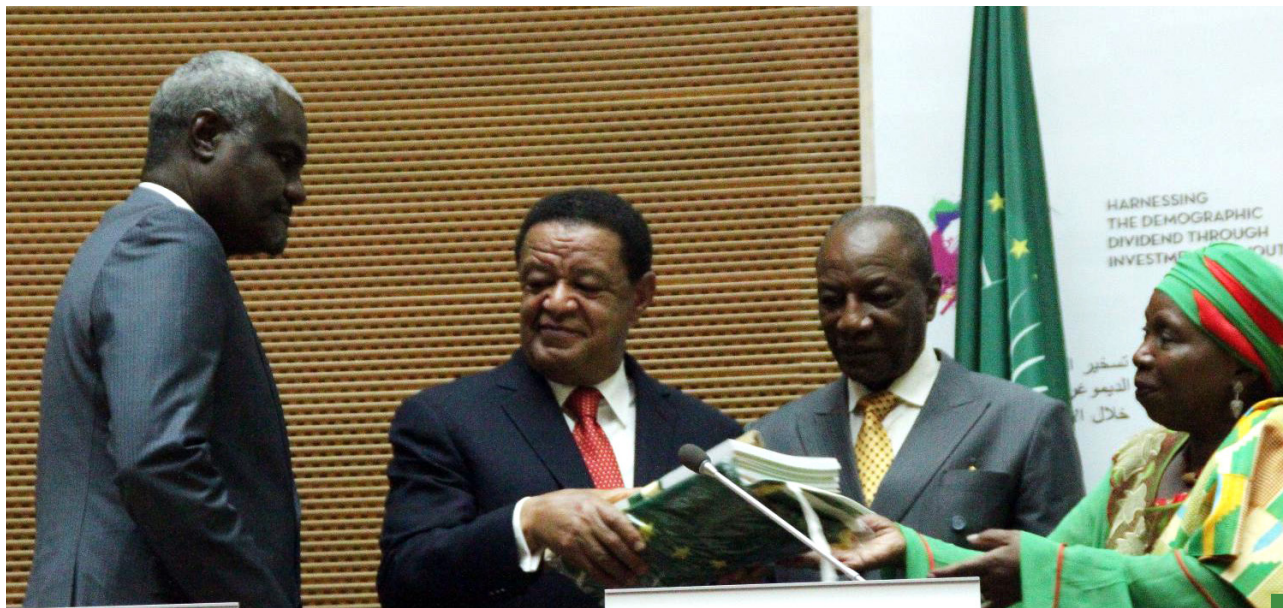
With profound gratitude and optimism for the future,

■ **H.E. MOUSSA FAKI MAHAMAT**  
Chairperson  
African Union Commission



**H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, Chairperson of the AUC with  
H.E. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic of Ethiopia**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Handover from H.E. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma to H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat

**T**he years from 2017 to 2025 marked a transformative period for the African Union Commission (AUC) under the leadership of **H.E. Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat**. Amidst significant global and continental challenges, the AUC demonstrated resilience, innovation, and strategic action to address crises and opportunities under the guidance of the Heads of States and Governments of the African Union.

Despite complex circumstances, the African Union Commission (AUC) demonstrated strong leadership during major health crises, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic, which tested Africa's capacity for collective response. It emerged as a symbol of resilience and self-reliance, coordinating continent-wide efforts to manage the pandemic, procure vaccines, and build public health infrastructure.

The AUC's response to the growing impacts of major issues in the areas of peace and security, international governance, climate change, food insecurity and many other strategic issues reflected its commitment and resolve to be a key continental and global player through African-led initiatives.

This era laid a strong foundation for accelerating the implementation of Africa's development blueprint, Agenda 2063, and served as a pivotal transition from the first decade of Agenda 2063 (2014 - 2023) to the second (2023 - 2033), with a renewed focus on strengthening implementation mechanisms, achieving measurable outcomes, and fostering collective ownership.

### Evaluating Agenda 2063 and Charting the Future

The period concluded with a comprehensive review of the first decade of Agenda 2063 and the adoption of a roadmap for the second decade (2023 - 2033). Significant milestones were achieved in education, healthcare, infrastructure, and governance. However, challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for even greater resilience and adaptability. The second ten-year plan builds on these lessons, focusing on increasing manufacturing, improving agricultural productivity, reducing post-harvest losses, and advancing education and skills development. It emphasizes stronger ownership by Member States, clearer objectives, innovative financing mechanisms, and robust monitoring

frameworks to ensure measurable progress toward achieving “The Africa We Want”.

### **A Journey of Transformation: Advancing Institutional Reforms**

Institutional reform has been central to the African Union Commission’s (AUC) transformative strategy, driving advancements in governance, operational efficiency, and financial sustainability. Under visionary leadership, these reforms have redefined internal structures, streamlined processes, and strengthened collaboration with Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Since 2017, the AUC has made significant strides in enhancing its governance systems, operational workflows, and financial frameworks, fostering greater inclusivity with an emphasis on gender and youth representation.

Key initiatives included restructuring leadership selection processes to ensure transparency and meritocracy, reducing bureaucratic inefficiencies, and implementing a restructured human resources framework. Transparency was further reinforced through merit-based recruitment and competency assessments. Financial self-sustainability emerged as a critical focus, with the introduction of the 0.2% import levy and stronger financial oversight. Inclusive and participatory mechanisms were strengthened through the Staff Association.

A hallmark achievement during this period was the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), a landmark initiative that catalysed intra-African trade and economic integration. Similarly, the transformation of NEPAD into the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) enabled a more strategic approach to development, innovation, and sustainable growth. The establishment of specialized

agencies such as the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the African Medicines Agency (AMA) further underscored the AUC’s commitment to addressing public health challenges and closing healthcare infrastructure gaps.

Financial reforms were also prioritized, with innovative solutions reducing reliance on external funding and enhancing the Union’s financial autonomy. However, declining contributions from Member States posed ongoing challenges to sustaining long-term programs.



**Swearing in Chairperson AUC**

## Global Governance: Democracy, Human Rights and Economic Development

The AUC has significantly strengthened its institutional ecosystem, empowering key organs to promote democracy, uphold human rights, and foster economic development across the continent. The Pan-African Parliament (PAP), African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR), African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), and African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) have played vital roles in implementing the goals of Agenda 2063. These bodies address complex transnational challenges, contributing to a more peaceful, equitable, and sustainable future for Africa. Their efforts in promoting legal frameworks, advancing human rights, and ensuring accountability have been pivotal in fostering collaboration among African nations.

## A Key Global Player: Africa's Growing Presence and Role in International Relations

During this period, significant power shifts occurred globally, including the rise of the Global South, the expansion of the BRICS bloc, and Africa's growing influence in global decision-making platforms. The AUC amplified Africa's voice on global platforms, culminating in the African Union's (AU) historic admission as a permanent member of the G20 in 2023. This milestone signified Africa's enhanced ability to contribute to and influence international discourse on critical issues. Strategic international partnership was strengthened in density and increased in numbers. The AU Permanent Representatives continued playing a pivotal role.

The AUC also forged enhanced partnerships with international organizations, strengthening Africa's position in global affairs and driving collective action.



## Navigating Geopolitical and Continental Shifts: Peace, Security, Stability, Governance and Democracy

Faced with significant challenges, including rising conflicts in the Sahel, the Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes regions, alongside a worrying increase in the number of unconstitutional changes in government and the spread of terrorism, the African Union Commission demonstrated resilience and strategic

leadership in addressing these issues. These issues, compounded by climate impacts, food insecurity, and socio-economic vulnerabilities, demanded coordinated and proactive responses. Under the AUC's leadership, Africa's Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) was strengthened, with initiatives such as "Silencing the Guns" achieving significant breakthroughs in peace negotiations. Enhanced cooperation with the United Nations led in particular to Resolution 2719 (2023),

underscoring the importance of sustainable financing for African peace operations.

In parallel, the African Union (AU) has made substantial progress in conflict resolution through mediation, preventive diplomacy, and peace enforcement. The AU has integrated development, climate, and socio-economic factors into its security framework. The AUC's commitment to peace has been bolstered by the establishment of forums, peacekeeping operations, and the appointment of key peace advocates.

The AUC has also strengthened its partnerships, notably with the United Nations, signing several joint frameworks to enhance cooperation on peace, security, sustainable development, and humanitarian issues. The revitalized African Union Peace Fund (AUPF) is pivotal in reducing Africa's reliance on external aid, with contributions steadily increasing. As of July 2024, the Peace Fund has raised over \$341 million, nearing its target of \$400 million. Additionally, the establishment of the Crisis Reserve Facility (CRF) ensures the swift mobilization of funds to address urgent security challenges across the continent.

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU) celebrated its 20th anniversary in May 2024, reflecting on its significant contributions to the continent's peace and security. The council has also focused on terrorism, violent extremism, climate

change, and humanitarian issues, while advocating for reform to enhance its efficiency and responsiveness to evolving security challenges. Additionally, the PSC has fostered Africa's unified voice in multilateral forums, furthering collaboration for peacebuilding across the continent.

The AUC has also made strides in strengthening its capacity for conflict prevention and governance through initiatives like the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace, and Security, which has empowered women in peace processes, and the Youth, Peace and Security program, which engages youth in promoting stability. In governance, the AU has supported democratic processes by deploying Election Observation Missions and fostering anti-corruption efforts through initiatives such as the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption. Furthermore, the AU has advanced regional security collaboration through organizations like AFRIPOL and the African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre, while addressing constitutional governance, public sector reforms, and the protection of children in conflict zones. The AUC Special Representatives were actively engaged in their various areas of action.

However, challenges, including the limited effectiveness of sanctions and delays in Peace and Security Council (PSC) reforms, highlighted the need for more robust mechanisms to address instability.



### **Accelerating Regional Integration: Economic Development, Trade, Finance, Minerals and Tourism**

The African Union Commission (AUC) has made significant strides in regional integration, focusing on economic development, trade, finance, minerals, and tourism. Key initiatives include the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the African Business Council, and tools like the African Trade Observatory and the African Union E-Commerce Strategy, all of which have boosted intra-African trade. The African Union has also supported Africa's Common Position in WTO negotiations. In the mineral sector, efforts have been made to boost governance and development, with the establishment of the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) and the introduction of frameworks like the African Minerals Governance Framework. Additionally, industrial and value chain development has been a priority, with strategies aimed at diversifying economies, reducing imports, and creating opportunities for women and youth.

Tourism has also received significant attention with the formulation of the African Tourism Strategic Framework (ATSF).

### **Advancing Industrialization, Investment and Private Sector Development**

The African Union is further supporting industrialization through the establishment of an Africa Manufacturing Institute and initiatives to improve the competitiveness of African small and medium enterprises (SMEs), such as the AU Small and Medium Enterprise Strategy and the Enterprise Africa Initiative. The AUC has made notable progress in advancing initiatives like the African Union Financial Institutions (AUFIs), which include the African Central Bank, the African Monetary Fund, the African Investment Bank, and the Pan-African Stock Exchange. These efforts aim to foster sustainable development across the continent. Significant strides were also made in addressing global financial issues, such as driving international tax reforms. In addition, the AU has promoted domestic resource mobilization and tackled illicit financial flows. A key focus was also the development of the AU Start-ups Policy Model Framework to create a supportive environment for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with initiatives focused on youth and women entrepreneurs. The establishment of the African Inclusive Markets Excellence Centre (AIMEC) is set to facilitate inclusive business practices across the continent.



The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is central to the Union's strategy for economic integration, aiming to boost intra-African trade and create a single market for 1.3 billion people.

### **Connectivity in Africa: Transport, Mobility, Energy and Digitalization**

The African Union Commission (AUC) has made notable strides in transport, energy, and digitalization, aligning with the goals of Agenda 2063. In transport, the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) now covers 37 countries, representing 90% of intra-Africa air traffic. The AUC has also worked on road safety, integrating the Trans-African Highway Network, and fostering maritime development through the African Maritime Charter and initiatives to digitalize port operations. In energy, the AUC established the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) and the Continental Power System Master Plan (CMP), aiming to significantly increase Africa's energy capacity by 2040. Key projects, like the Grand INGA Dam and

geothermal power initiatives, continue to progress, with an emphasis on balancing energy access and sustainable transition strategies.

In digitalization, the AUC developed the Africa Digital Transformation Strategy, guiding the continent toward an inclusive digital economy by 2030. This includes initiatives to harmonize data policies, improve internet governance, and secure digital spaces, particularly for children. The AUC also launched the Pan-African e-Network to improve healthcare and education services across Member States. Key projects under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) have resulted in improved electricity access for 30 million people and increased ICT broadband penetration. With the second phase of PIDA focusing on 69 priority projects across sectors, the AUC is driving digital, energy, and transport connectivity to foster sustainable development across Africa.



### **Accelerating Agricultural Growth and Transformation**

The AUC has made substantial progress in advancing agricultural growth through the CAADP Biennial Review (BR), providing valuable insights for member states to adjust their National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs). Despite improvements from some countries, the 2023 BR report indicated that no

member state is on track to meet the 2025 Malabo Commitments. The AUC has also played a crucial role in presenting Africa's Common Position on Food Systems at the 2023 UN Summit and organizing the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit to address soil degradation. The Post-Malabo Agenda, a 10-year strategy for agricultural transformation, along with initiatives like the Food Systems Resilience Program

and the African Youth Agribusiness Forum, aim to bolster food security, resilience, and youth and women empowerment in agriculture. This culminated in the decisions taken during the recently held Extraordinary Summit held in Kampala (Uganda) 9-11 January 2025.

In addition to strengthening policies and frameworks for agricultural development, the biennial conferences on land policy and post-harvest loss have facilitated discussions and solutions for better land rights, particularly for vulnerable groups, and reducing food losses. PANVAC with its new building and IBAR with its centre of excellence continue developing actively their activities.

### **Climate Change, Water and Blue Economy**

Africa, contributing less than 4% of global greenhouse gas emissions, is the most vulnerable continent to climate change. To address this, the AUC developed

several strategic plans, including the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy (2022 - 2032), promoting regional collaboration and addressing climate adaptation and low-carbon development. The AUC also launched the Green Recovery Action Plan (2021 - 2027) to tackle the dual challenges of COVID-19 recovery and climate change, focusing on climate finance, renewable energy, and resilient agriculture. Africa's biodiversity is under severe threat, with increased risks of food, water, and energy insecurity. In response, the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (ABSAP) was created, focusing on governance, sustainable resource use, and financing for biodiversity conservation. The Africa Climate Summit (2023) called for decarbonization, climate finance, and investment in sustainable infrastructure to build resilience against climate shocks.



The Blue Economy initiative, launched by the AUC in 2021, focuses on the sustainable use of Africa's vast aquatic resources. The Africa Blue Economy Strategy, developed after the 2018 Nairobi conference, outlines key areas such as fisheries, maritime security, tourism, and sustainable energy. The AUC has also worked to combat illegal fishing through guidelines supported by the WWF, aiming to protect marine biodiversity. The Great Blue Wall Initiative, promoting climate resilience in island and coastal states, was emphasized at the 2023 ministerial conference in

Comoros. Furthermore, the AUC's efforts on water investments have led to the development of the Africa Water Investment Action Plan, supporting member states in tracking progress and mobilizing resources to meet water investment needs.

### **Humanitarian Affairs**

The African Union Commission (AUC) has made significant progress in humanitarian affairs, focusing on refugees, returnees, and internally displaced

persons (IDPs). Notable achievements include the Malabo Declaration on Humanitarian Issues and the establishment of the African Humanitarian Agency (AfHA), which aims to enhance disaster preparedness and crisis coordination, particularly in conflict, climate change, and disease-affected areas. AfHA, headquartered in Uganda, will focus on local capacity building and partnerships to respond to humanitarian crises.

### **Labour, Employment and Migration**

The African Union Commission (AUC) has tackled key issues such as trafficking, smuggling, and migrant reintegration by developing new policies and guidelines. The Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFOM) was established to enhance dialogue on migration, labour, and socio-economic benefits, while the African Social Security Institutions Coordination and Cooperation Forum (ASSCCF) was launched to strengthen social security systems. Institutions like the African Migration Observatory and the Centre for the Study and Research on Migration monitor migration flows and address the root causes of irregular migration, provide critical insights to inform policy and promote sustainable socio-economic development and support sustainable development across the continent.

### **Health Systems, Disease and Nutrition**

The AUC has made significant strides in improving health systems, disease management, and nutrition across Africa. The AUC has focused on combating infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS, integrating Community Health Workers into national health systems. The Africa Leader Nutrition platform and the Abidjan Declaration on Nutrition and Food Security solidified commitments to tackling malnutrition and improving food security. The establishment of the African Medicines Agency (AMA) and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has been pivotal in addressing access to medicines, disease surveillance, and emergency response.

The AUC has advanced health financing through initiatives like Africa Leadership Investing in Health, supporting reforms and private sector engagement to achieve universal health coverage. Africa CDC has responded to over 100 public health emergencies since its establishment, strengthening disease surveillance and supporting AU Member States.



AMA, based in Kigali (Rwanda), improves the regulatory oversight of medical products. The AUC has continued efforts in social welfare, drug control, and crime prevention, including the ratification of key protocols on the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities.

### **Social Development, Sports and Culture**

The African Union Commission (AUC) has made significant strides in promoting sports, culture, and heritage across the continent. Key initiatives include the endorsement of the Policy Framework for Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa (2023 - 2033), the promotion of clean sport through the African Anti-Doping Forum, and the popularization of the Kazan Action Plan to enhance physical education. The AUC also successfully organized the 13th edition of the African Games in Ghana.

In arts, culture, and heritage, the AUC declared 2021 as the Year of Culture and implemented key policies such as the African Audio-Visual and Cinema Commission Statute and the AU Model Law on Cultural Property. Significant projects launched include the Temporary Site of the Great Museum of Africa and the African Audio-Visual and Cinema Commission's Temporary Secretariat. 15 African

World Heritage Sites were added to the UNESCO list, and the restitution of illicitly trafficked cultural resources gained momentum. The AUC also focused on promoting African languages, launching the African Languages Week and developing frameworks for Kiswahili as a working language of the Union.

### **Empowering through Knowledge: Education, Science, Technology and Innovation**

The African Union Commission (AUC) has made notable progress in advancing education, science, technology, and innovation across the continent with key strategies and initiatives, which include the adoption of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA), the Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), the Continental Technical and Vocational Education and Training Strategy (C-TVET) and the launch of the African Year of Education 2024. The AUC has also emphasized teacher development and the integration of STEM education, promoting professionalization and mobility of teachers through various programs. Additionally, initiatives like the Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) aim to improve vocational training and youth employment.



The AUC has further strengthened science and technology through the African Union Kwame Nkrumah Awards for Scientific Excellence, research grants, and the African Space Programme. The GMES and Africa program, providing free Earth Observation data, has enhanced African capacity in environmental monitoring. Institutions like the Pan African University and the African Space Agency are key to fostering innovation and collaboration. The AUC's focus on gender-responsive education, girls' education, and education in emergencies has also made significant strides, with programs aimed at overcoming barriers to education.

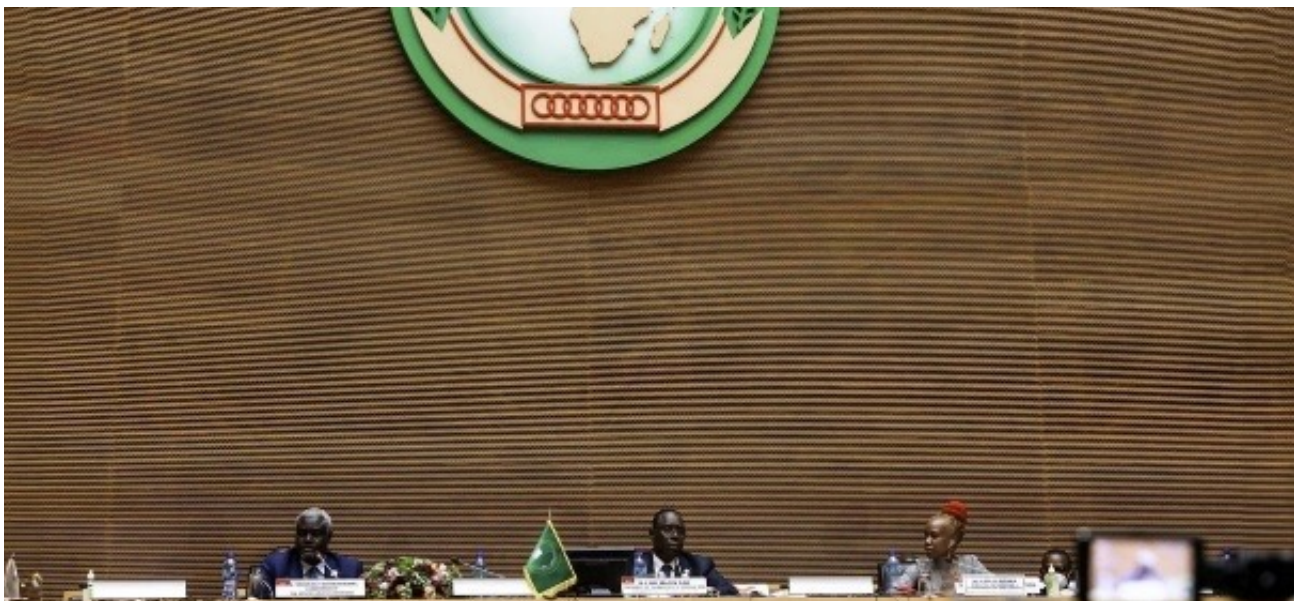
### **Empowering Youth and Women, and Bringing the Diaspora Closer**

Africa's young and predominantly female population presents both challenges and opportunities for sustainable development. With over 60% of the population under the age of 25, the African Union (AU) has prioritized engaging youth and women in decision-making processes and development initiatives. Through structures such as the Office of the Special Envoy for Youth, the Women, Gender,

and Youth Directorate (WGYD) and the Citizens and Diaspora Organizations Directorate (CIDO), the AUC fosters inclusivity and empowers women and youth to shape Africa's future. These efforts align with the AU's Agenda 2063 aspirations for a people-driven continent that leverages the full potential of its citizens, addressing barriers like gender inequality and limited access to economic opportunities.

The AUC's focus on gender equality and youth empowerment is reflected in initiatives such as the African Union Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy, the 1 Million by 2021 Initiative, and the establishment of the Pan-African Women's Leaders Network. Meanwhile, the inclusion of youth in platforms like the AU Youth Connekt Africa Summit and the Pan-African Youth Union strengthens their role in shaping continental policies.

By harnessing the potential of Africa's diaspora, the AUC's Economic and Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) fosters inclusivity and advanced the continent's development goals aligned with Agenda 2063.



## Legacy, Lessons Learned and Strategic Recommendations for the Future

The period from 2017 to 2025 cemented the African Union Commission's (AUC) role as a driving force in Africa's transformation journey. This era leaves behind a legacy of significant achievements and invaluable lessons for advancing the continent's integration and development. The AUC's leadership in addressing global and regional challenges has firmly established it as a central institution guiding Africa's progress.

While substantial progress has been made, persistent challenges continue to hinder Africa from fully realizing its potential. The AUC has laid a strong foundation for advancement, but sustaining this momentum requires enhanced collective action and bold, innovative reforms. By addressing these challenges head-on, Africa is well-positioned to achieve its vision of an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful continent.

The sharp decline of Pan-Africanism at the State level and the subsequent prioritisation of inward-looking policies and strategies are not helping to galvanise the continent's immense energies that can coalesce into a unified force. This contrast is significant to the ambitious, determined, committed and optimistic pan-Africanist impetus of civil society, young people, and women. This contradiction must challenge us collectively.

The bold recommendations outlined in this report emphasize the need to align the African Union's (AU) structures with Africa's unique realities. Overhauling institutional frameworks to address persistent challenges remains crucial. Central to these recommendations is a comprehensive reform of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) to ensure greater effectiveness in conflict resolution, peace enforcement, and addressing unconstitutional changes in government. Integrating socio-economic factors, such as climate resilience and inclusive development, into peacebuilding reflects a forward-thinking approach that tackles root causes of insecurity rather than merely addressing symptoms.

Financial sustainability emerges as a cornerstone of these recommendations, urging the AU to strengthen its financial independence through innovative mechanisms like the 0.2% import levy while reducing reliance on external donors. Achieving

fiscal autonomy is vital to maintaining the Union's credibility and its capacity to implement long-term strategies. Simultaneously, infrastructure investment, education, and regional integration through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) are prioritized as pathways to boosting intra-African trade and socio-economic transformation.

This report also underscores the dire need of empowering the African Union Commission (AUC) and its leadership to take decisive action while fostering inclusivity by integrating youth and women into decision-making processes. By addressing these areas with urgency and bold reforms, the AU can position itself as a stronger, more effective institution capable of driving Africa's transformation and fulfilling the aspirations of Agenda 2063, "The Africa We Want."

The report ends with the AU Champions Reports highlighting the importance that the Champions are playing to further promote the strategic priorities they are championing and working on.



# 1 INTRODUCTION: CHARTING 8 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATION

The years 2017-2025, during the leadership of **H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat**, Chairperson of the African Union Commission, were marked by a particularly turbulent and complex international and continental context. Multiple key challenges defined this period:

## Global Geopolitical Shifts

The world underwent profound transformations, defined by major shifts in the global geopolitical landscape. The expansion of the BRICS group, now representing over 45% of the world's population, is a significant example. Its most recent summit, held in Kazan, Russia, on 22–24 October 2024, underscores the increasing prominence of what is often referred to as the “Global South.” This bloc has emerged as a powerful and diverse force, fuelling legitimate ambitions among its members while also reshaping strategic alliances and influencing present and future international relations.

Africa is asserting its position as a strong united continent with one voice, highlighting the continent's collective aspirations for the “Africa We Want”.

America and Europe are continuing their efforts to maintain their pre-eminence of the post-World War II and Cold War eras not taking into full consideration the dramatic shifts in the global order of the 21st century.

Moreover, Latin America and other Asian countries are also organizing themselves as they are part and parcel of the ongoing global rivalries.

The current geopolitical landscape is a reminder of the significant threats to multilateralism, a principle that emerged at the end of the Second World War, and ushered in the United Nations system and the regional and sub-regional groupings that have since created the conditions for stability and progress in the world.

The search for new international and geopolitical balances, and the turmoil that accompanies them, pose real challenges for the continent's positioning. Such a search for balance could exacerbate, if it has not already done so, socio-economic imbalances and



disparities both between countries and within each country or group of countries taken in isolation.

At the continental level, these challenges are accompanied by an upsurge in pre- and post-electoral political tensions in almost every region of Africa. The spread of violence, war, terrorism and violent extremism are evidence of a highly precarious continental dynamics. Conflicts, wars and security tensions in Sudan, the Horn of Africa, the Sahel, the Great Lakes, Lake Chad, the Gulf of Guinea, Somalia, Libya, and Gabo d'El Gado (Mozambique) are particularly worrying examples.

Climate change, along with droughts, floods, and other natural disasters, has compounded these issues, disrupting the continent's ability to harness its abundant energy, mineral, and agricultural resources as engines of growth. The health crises, from COVID-19 to MPOX, have further demonstrated Africa's pressing need for sovereignty in public health governance.



**Chief of Staff of the AUC,**  
H.E. Prof. Mohamed El Hacem Lebatt

Economically, the continent faces dual pressures: the direct and severe impacts of these crises as well as enduring challenges stemming from inequitable international economic and financial systems. Crippling debt and limited access to financings continue to burden the continent and impede progress.

The obvious shortcomings within the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and the bottlenecks at the continental level, despite the ongoing institutional reform, have weakened the capacities of our continental system and the innovative architectures to deal with them.

The political difficulties in many African countries are increasing the demands for change that are being voiced repeatedly and forcefully by an impatient youth and a demanding African intelligentsia. As a result, it is imperative to think in innovative and original ways about new legal and political foundations adapted to African cultures, to the continent's current specificities and to the need to distance with all the forms of archaic mimicry and intellectual servility that have tainted and tarnished the African institutional model since independence and especially since the creation of the African Union.

The sharp decline of Pan-Africanism at the State level and the subsequent prioritisation of inward-looking policies and strategies are not helping to galvanise the continent's immense energies that can coalesce

into a unified force. This contrast is significant to the ambitious, determined, committed and optimistic pan-Africanist impetus of civil society, young people, and women. This contradiction must challenge us collectively.

A true renaissance appears here as a requirement of the imperative of resistance, of positioning and conquering our rightful place in the ongoing restructuring of the international landscape, to take up the challenge of Africa's marginalisation in global governance that we have not ceased to stigmatise throughout the period described by this consolidated activity report.

This renaissance would benefit enormously not only from limiting the negative impacts as far as possible, with a view to transforming these impacts into opportunities for change, but also, in a more enterprising way, from going beyond resistance to take bold and realistic initiatives in view of our potential.

In this international and continental context, the AU Commission, based on its mandate and action plans, has resolutely committed itself, despite its numerous shortcomings and limitations, to a strategy of consolidated action that has made it possible to achieve significant results in the various areas of activity detailed in this Report.

The Commission has thus demonstrated its capacity for resilience in a complex context. Not only has it shown resilience in its actions, but it has also turned difficulties into opportunities in many strategic areas for the Union, thereby making a considerable contribution to its consolidation and influence.



In this global undertaking, issues of peace and security have obviously been at the top of our priorities, given that, as everyone knows, sustainable development cannot and will not be possible without a guarantee of peace and security.

The flagship project ‘Silencing the Guns’ has supported the active role that the AU Commission has tried to play in the various processes aimed at achieving peace, initiating inclusive political dialogue, overcoming crises, and preventing the risk of conflict.

In this effort, it is important to point out that the conclusion of a framework agreement with the United Nations signed in 2017 with the implementation of a roadmap has paved the way for the creation of an environment conducive to cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations. Such cooperation is witnessed in the ongoing cycles of High-Level Dialogues between the two organisations, to strengthen the alignment of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030. An illustrative example of the benefits of this relationship was the adoption of Resolution 2719 on the financing of African peacekeeping missions, the implementation of which is currently the focus of our joint action.

In Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, the Sahel, Libya, the Great Lakes region and Mozambique, the AU Commission, in close liaison with the States and groups of States concerned and in consultation with the Regional Economic Communities and other international partners, has been able to play an active role and succeed in initiating political solutions and, in some cases, signing breakthrough peace agreements.

The Peace and Security Council, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024, has constantly addressed these issues despite the real difficulties that have limited the impact of its decisions, as recently emphasised in a special letter to all the continent’s Heads of State. Its ongoing interactions with the United Nations Security Council and the EU PSC, as well as with other regional organisations, confirm the central role it is set to play, once reformed, on the major geopolitical issues facing Africa and the world.

Our action has been enriched by in-depth work to ensure a facilitating environment through the offices (now institutionalised) of the special envoys for youth, for women, peace, and security, the work on the ground of the special representatives and the offices and permanent representatives of the AU. During the period under review, the Commission put the youth and women dimension at the heart of its strategies,

and mainstreamed it in all areas of action, including peace and security.

Finally, the constant deployment of electoral observation missions has demonstrated our determination to support the political processes of many African countries, thereby helping to prevent electoral conflicts, which are often a prelude to more serious tensions.

Over the past eight years, the AU has established itself on the international stage as a key and indispensable interlocutor, not only on issues relating naturally to the continent, but also on all matters of interest to the international community.

The existing partnerships have been strengthened with the European Union, Arab League, China, Japan, India, Turkey, Russia, Korea, etc., and new strategic partnerships and high-level dialogues have been added with the USA, France, United Kingdom, Canada, and Saudi Arabia.

The AU’s membership to the G20, and its first full member participation at the summit in Brazil on 18 and 19 November 2024, will strengthen the opportunities for amplifying advocacy in favour of its own priorities and will open new horizons for Africa’s contribution to the international debate and to the solution of global problems. The High-Level Dialogue between the African Union and the United Nations, the regularity of which was mentioned above, is an important means of strengthening the AU’s international positioning.



Thus, the period 2017 - 2025 has, despite challenges and limitations that should not be overlooked, considerably strengthened and established the legitimacy and visibility of the AU at the international level.

The eight years 2017 - 2025 coincided with the transition between the first decade (2013 - 2023) of the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the launch of the second decade (2023 -2033).

Within this framework, a scientific and meticulous exercise has been undertaken using an inclusive approach by Member States and other stakeholders to systematically assess the results of the first 10 years of implementation of Agenda 2063.

This assessment, which has been very mixed, has made it possible to draw some key lessons, particularly in terms of the need for stronger and more consistent ownership, by both States and populations, of this great Pan-African project that is Agenda 2063.

This central idea has served as the basis for drawing up the plan for the second decade, 2023 - 2033. This second implementation plan is intended to be more precise in terms of its objectives, expected impacts and the synergies that need to be promoted between among different AU institutions.

Similarly, this second plan puts in place an evaluation and monitoring methodology to ensure that the various programmes and projects are effectively coordinated with the maximum possibility of successful implementation.

The period 2017 - 2025 was therefore a time for evaluation, launching the momentum for action and creating the conditions for accelerating and general undertaking to translate our major doctrinal reference, Agenda 2063, into reality.

By way of illustrative and non-exhaustive examples, certain convincing signals deserve to be highlighted here.

Foremost among these is the adoption of the AfCFTA, which is currently being put into operation despite the difficulties associated with the legal and political constraints resulting from the historical balkanization of Africa and the unsuitability of certain national laws for integration, compounded by the deficiencies in the infrastructure required to support this major integration project.



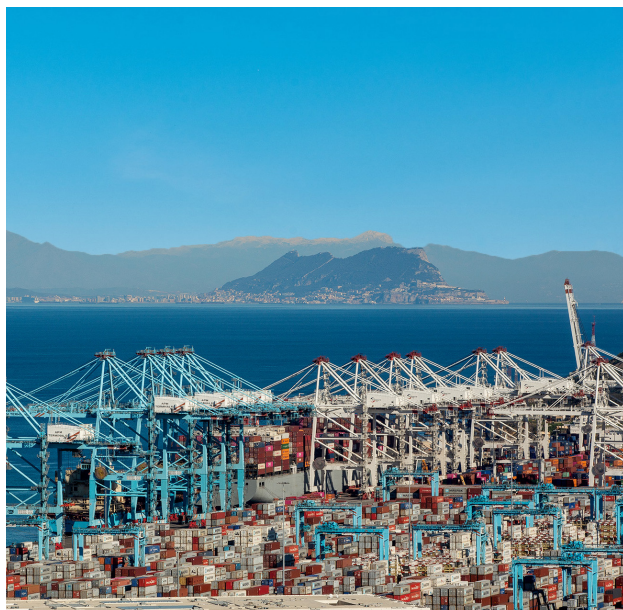
The rise of Africa CDC, which rose to the challenges of Ebola and the COVID19 pandemic with dignity and is now working to do the same in the face of MPOX and other deadly pandemics/epidemics, is a signal that deserves to be mentioned.

The transformation of NEPAD into a development agency (AUDA), the establishment of African agencies in the humanitarian field, medicines, space, the African Migration Observatory, and many other strategic institutional innovations are all part of the drive to implement Agenda 2063.

The desire to strengthen the AU's effectiveness, efficiency, and proximity to the people of Africa inspired the launch of an institutional reform of the organization. This reform process has brought significant progress, including the establishment of a steering unit to guide its implementation and continuity.

The reform has introduced a new structure for the Commission, fostering synergies between the Commission, other organs, and specialized institutions of the Union. Additionally, it has laid the foundation for a global division of labour between the AU and the RECs, supported by newly adapted legal instruments. This division of labour aims to enhance operational efficiency, particularly if the principle of subsidiarity is upheld across the various levels of the continental institutional framework. Such an approach would ensure a stronger and more tangible impact in addressing the evolving needs and priorities of our populations.

It is important to emphasize that the effort to ensure continuous improvement in the AU's working methods to achieve tangible results, and the revitalization of administrative and financial structures, remains an essential requirement for good administrative and financial governance of the Commission.



Improved, modernized, and digitized processes and more frequent internal and external audits have been introduced. It is essential to ensure that these recommendations are rigorously applied.

This necessary effort is critical to allow the new teams of Directors and Heads of Division (recruited in accordance with the relevant decisions of the competent bodies) to be aligned on these objectives and be mobilized to deliver. The decisions taken by the deliberative organs of the AU for the efficient implementation of the SACA are part of this logic of institutional reform, which remains a long-term undertaking, requiring consistency, resoluteness, and effective follow-up by the new leadership of the Commission that will take office after the February 2025 summit.

It is indisputable that, despite its weaknesses and shortcomings, this package of measures will enable the new leadership to have a starting point that is nothing like the one the current Commission found at the start of its mandate.

In short, despite the particularly complex and difficult circumstances mentioned at the beginning of this introduction, the 2017 - 2025 period has been a time of action that has led to undeniable achievements in terms of institutional reform. The scale of the challenges and the interference of specific agendas sometimes overshadow these achievements obtained collectively by the Member States, the Commission and the specific institutions and organs.

The consolidated activity report that follows seeks to present a comprehensive assessment, both factual and analytical, of the existing challenges, the risks incurred, and the prospects open to the Member States and the incoming Commission. It does so with humility and, above all, with gratitude for the opportunity to serve the continent as it seeks to realize the vision for Agenda 2063.

Beyond these introductory lines (I) the activity report is structured to cover the evocation of the clear consolidation of the AU as a central institution in Africa, and the world (II) to the subsequent development of the priority strategies of Agenda 2063 (III) leading finally to a projection into the future with bold strategic actions based on the recommendations of this report (IV).



# AU CHAIRS OF THE UNION

(From 2017 - 2024): Guinea (2017), Rwanda (2018), Egypt (2019), South Africa (2020), DRC (2021), Senegal (2022), Comoros (2023) and Mauritania (2024)



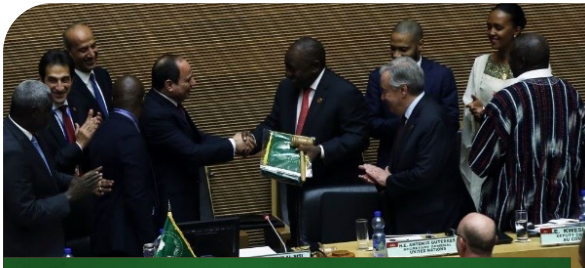
**AU CHAIR 2017:** Handover to H. E. President Alpha Conde, The Republic of Guinea



**AU CHAIR 2018:** Handover from H. E. President Alpha Conde, The Republic of Guinea to H.E. President Paul Kagame, The Republic of Rwanda



**AU CHAIR 2019:** Handover from H.E. President Paul Kagame, The Republic of Rwanda to H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, The Arab Republic of Egypt



**AU CHAIR 2020:** Handover from H.E. President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, The Arab Republic of Egypt to H.E. President Matamala Cyril Ramaphosa, The Republic of South Africa



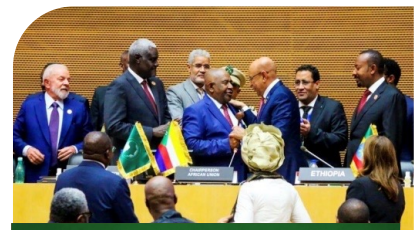
**AU CHAIR 2021:** Handover from H.E. President Matamala Cyril Ramaphosa, The Republic of South Africa to H.E. President Felix Antoine Tshisekedi, The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)



**AU CHAIR 2022:** Handover from H.E. President Felix Antoine Tshisekedi, The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to H.E. President Macky Sall, The Republic of Senegal



**AU CHAIR 2023:** Handover from H.E. President Macky Sall, The Republic of Senegal to H.E. President Azali Assoumani, The Union of the Comoros



**AU CHAIR 2024:** Handover from H.E. President Azali Assoumani, The Union of the Comoros to H.E. President Mohamed Ould El-Ghazouani, The Islamic Republic of Mauritania

## 2 THE AU: A CONSOLIDATED CONTINENTAL INSTITUTION AND A KEY GLOBAL PLAYER

### 2.1. AGENDA 2063: A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR THE CONTINENT

**A**genda 2063, Africa’s fifty-year development blueprint articulates the aspirations and dreams of the African people, encapsulated as “The Africa We Want”. Agenda 2063 was developed, informed by an acknowledgment of the need for a unified and strategic approach to tackle Africa’s developmental challenges. The African Union, reflecting on the successes and drawing lessons from the design and implementation of previous development efforts, identified the imperative for a new framework that would galvanize the continent’s efforts towards socio-economic transformation.

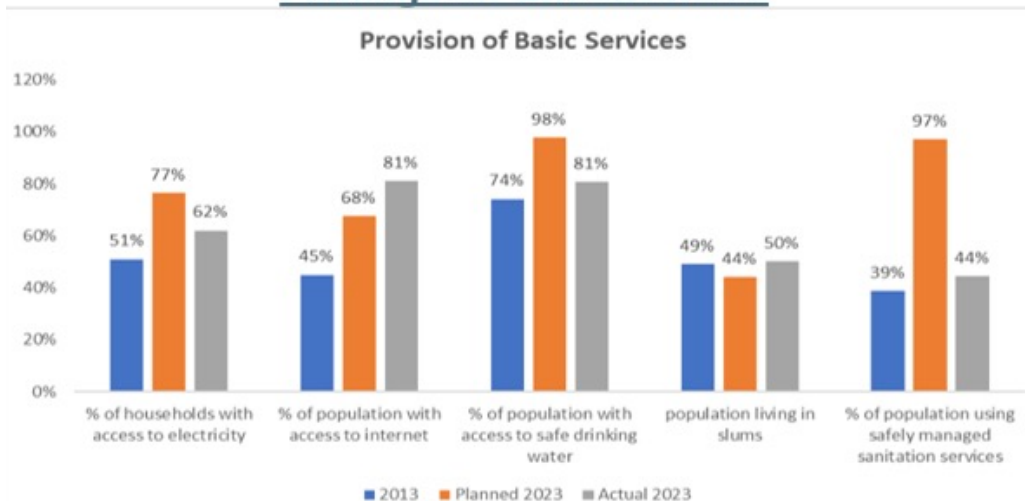
Agenda 2063, reflects the AU vision of “an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and playing a dynamic role on the global stage” is anchored, among others, on inclusive growth, sustainable development, and regional integration. Africa’s development blueprint is operationalized through five ten-years implementation plans.

#### 2.1.1. ASSESSMENT OF THE FIRST TEN YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (FTYIP)

The First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (FTYIP), spanning 2014 to 2023, laid a robust foundation for Africa’s transformation. This term coordinated the rigorous monitoring and evaluation of Agenda 2063 mainly revealed by the launch of the Biennial Continental reports in 2019, 2021 and 2023. In addition, the evaluation of the first decade revealed that notable progress was made across various sectors. For example, concerted efforts on the continent in

pursuit of economic growth and integration saw the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), thereby fostering intra-African trade and economic collaboration. The continent also made notable progress in infrastructure development, increasing access to electricity, water, and sanitation, and enhancing internet connectivity thereby promoting regional integration.

### Findings on Effectiveness



In terms of social development, notable advances in education, health, and gender equality were registered. Initiatives aimed at enhancing access to quality education and healthcare services were implemented within continental development frameworks, contributing to improved human development indices across several African countries. Efforts to promote gender equality resulted in increased representation of women in political and economic spheres, empowering women and fostering more inclusive development.

Governance and peace initiatives were strengthened, leading to relative stability in many parts of the Continent. Mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution were bolstered, contributing to a more secure environment conducive for sustainable development. The deployment of peacekeeping missions and diplomatic efforts to mediate conflicts helped reduce violence and promote political stability. Additionally, anti-corruption measures and reforms in public administration improved governance and accountability, fostering trust between citizens and their governments.

The inclusive approach in the design and implementation of the first ten-year plan fostered a sense of ownership among stakeholders. However, the need for deeper engagement and popularization of Agenda 2063 – especially at national and sub-national levels to ensure broad-based support and implementation was underscored. This would require raising awareness about Agenda 2063 among citizens, local governments, and civil society organizations,

and encouraging their active participation in the development process.

The implementation of Agenda 2063 during the first decade also highlighted the necessity to build resilience into the design and implementation of the flagship projects. The incidence of global events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, wiped-out a significant proportion of the continent’s socio-economic achievements, hence underscoring the imperative for establishing adaptable and robust systems to mitigate external shocks. Establishing resilience measures would involve investing in robust healthcare infrastructure, developing emergency response capabilities, and creating social safety nets to protect vulnerable populations during crises.

Effective implementation requires sustained, structured, and well-coordinated efforts, particularly in strengthening the capacities of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States to mainstream and implement Agenda 2063 through their national planning and budgeting processes. Strengthening institutional capacities, enhancing data collection and analysis, and promoting intergovernmental coordination are crucial for achieving Africa’s development blueprint. Furthermore, conscious efforts should be made to co-create, and share knowledge, promote peer learning, harness appropriate technologies, leverage existing implementation mechanisms and foster mutual accountability around a set of defined results.

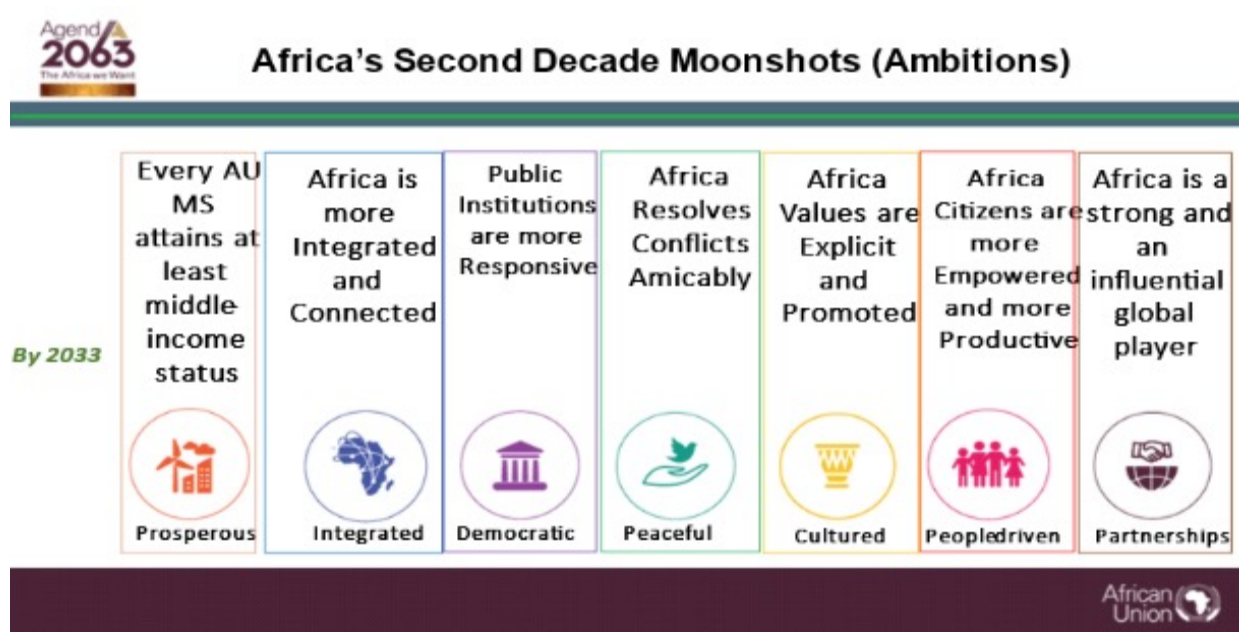


## 2.1.2. ROADMAP FOR ACTION: THE SECOND TEN-YEAR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (STYIP)

As Africa embarks on the implementation of the second ten-year implementation plan that span 2024 to 2033, emphasis is placed on acceleration of the development effectiveness, acknowledging that a significant proportion of the targets and planned results in the first decade were not realised.

The second ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 takes cognizance of the achievements, limitations experienced, and lessons learnt from the first implementation plan and is thereby framed to addressing identified gaps and foster achievement for greater outcomes.

To this end, seven Moonshots, inspired by the 50-year long aspirations of Agenda 2063, were identified to serve as clarion calls for enhanced collective efforts. The Moonshots are ambitious but realistic transformative targets for the next ten-years, designed to catalyse significant and lasting change, addressing both immediate needs and long-term goals thereby contributing to a more integrated, prosperous, and resilient Africa. The Moonshots are enumerated in the diagram below.



To realise each Moonshot, a set of implementation strategies have been elaborated. For example, to achieve the first Moonshot that aims to ensure prosperity of the continent, agricultural production and productivity, industrialization – featuring economic diversification and good governance are presented as some of the potential key drivers. Currently, Africa’s economies are heavily reliant on primary commodities, making them vulnerable to global price fluctuations. In 2023, the manufacturing sector contributed only 10% to Africa’s GDP. To achieve sustainable growth, the continent aims to increase this contribution to 20% by 2033. This involves supporting small

and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), promoting innovation and technology adoption, and creating favourable business environments to attract investment. Efforts such as enhancing value addition in critical sectors such as agriculture and addressing challenges such as reducing post-harvest losses that currently stand at 30% to maximum 10% by 2033, are expected to significantly boost productivity and thereby increase household incomes.

Therefore, driving this second ten-year implementation plan of the blueprint Agenda of our Union requires an estimated funding of USD 8.6 trillion that needs

to consider the capacity of Member States to fund and implement their national development plans and priorities.

Looking at the framing of the different Moonshots, it is clear that there is already a synergy of actions that need to be applied and strengthened to better achieve our collective goal. For example, if we look at Moonshot 6 whereby “empowering African citizens” is the most important and central in driving other Moonshots objectives. Therefore, some of the initiatives will include expanding access to quality education, vocational training, and healthcare services. These will be essential for building a skilled and healthy workforce capable of contributing to sustainable development. Emphasis will be placed on equipping the youth with requisite skills, competencies, and tools to drive the transformation agenda of the continent. Currently, only 40% of African children complete secondary education. The goal is to increase this to at least 75% by 2033. This will imperatively have an impact on other crucial issues such as Peace and security, sustainable development, and climate resilience among other factors, are essential for fostering development and growth.

With the foregoing, concerted efforts are underway to support effective domestication and implementation of Africa’s second development plan of Agenda 2063. The efforts include, among others:

- Deepening domestication of the second ten-year implementation plan, including raising awareness among a critical mass of African citizens, adapting, and embedding the continental targets and development strategies into regional and national planning, budgeting, and implementation instruments. The role of champions and good-will ambassadors of Agenda 2063 is critical. In the medium to long term, this will also include infusing Agenda 2063 into existing socio-economic initiatives – such as school curriculum.

- Strengthening tracking, assessment, reporting, mutual accountability, and knowledge capitalisation among stakeholders.
- Exploring innovative and sustainable ways of funding the second ten-year implementation plan, including, inter alia, assessing the feasibility of establishing an Agenda 2063 Development Fund, and fast-tracking the 0.2% levy and the Johannesburg AU Decision on programme funding.
- Strengthening planning and implementation capacities at country, regional and continental levels. This will require structured technical support in enhancing Africa’s capacities in areas such as scenario analysis and foresight planning, integrated planning, nurturing, and leveraging appropriate technologies – including artificial intelligence, in-building resilience measures in the programming cycle, and enhancing capacities in thematic and sectoral areas, among others.
- Under the framework of the AU-UN Joint Implementation Framework, dedicated efforts will be made to work closely with UN entities towards actualising the “Two Agendas, One Plan”. This will entail promoting synergies and alignment between Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030, leveraging the implementation mechanisms of Agenda 2030 at country level to strengthen the delivery of Agenda 2063, and to foster alignment in areas such as reporting on the two agendas at country-level using one report.

Together, and with unity, determination and unwavering resolve, the aspirations of the African people can and will be realised. The journey continues, and with everyone’s support, the future is bright for Africa.



**H.E. Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas**, new CEO of AUDA-NEPAD and **H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Assane Mayaki**, former CEO of AUDA-NEPAD

*African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD)*, the African Union's development arm, drives sustainable growth across Africa through the implementation of initiatives aligned with Agenda 2063, targeting prosperity, integration, and peace. Its activities focus on advancing sustainable development across Africa through strategic programs and partnerships.

#### **AUDA-NEPAD's Achievements, Contributions, and Implementations:**

1. **Development and Implementation of PIDA (Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa):** Oversees and coordinates transformative infrastructure projects under PIDA's framework.
2. **Priority Action Plan 2 (PAP 2):** Encompasses 69 transformative projects in transport, energy, water, and ICT sectors.
3. **Energy Sector Initiatives:**
  - Grand Inga Hydropower Project: Aiming to be the world's largest electricity generation project.
  - Continental Power Systems Masterplan (CMP): Target - Provide electricity to 80% of Africa's population by 2040. Enabling intra-African electricity trade worth \$136 billion annually.
4. **Transport and Connectivity Projects:**
  - Developing corridors like the Lobito Corridor (Angola, DRC, Zambia) and the Trans-African Highway Network (over 56,000 km).
  - Facilitating the operationalization of 32 One-Stop Border Posts to enhance cross-border trade.

5. **Broadband and Digital Infrastructure:** Boosted broadband penetration to 25%, advancing Africa's digital transformation.
6. **Water Sector Developments:** Creation of critical water storage infrastructure to support agriculture and trade.
7. **Job Creation and Economic Impact:**
  - Generated over 160,000 direct and indirect jobs during project construction and operations.
  - Enhanced infrastructure has modestly increased intra-African trade to 16% of total trade.
8. **Community-Centric Infrastructure:** Emphasis on local ownership and capacity-building to empower communities.
  - Promotes public-private partnerships that integrate local businesses.
9. **Innovative Financing Mechanisms:** Introduced tools like blended finance and partial risk guarantees to mitigate risks and attract private sector investments.
10. **Regional Coordination and Integration:** Aligns implementation of projects within national strategies with regional priorities through treaty-based organizations and corridor initiatives.
11. **Impact on Energy Access and Electrification:** implementation of projects likely to provide electricity to over 30 million people, fueling economic growth and improving livelihoods.
12. **Monitoring and Reporting:** Published the PIDA First 10-Year Implementation Report (2023), showcasing progress and identifying gaps.

The African Union Commission (AUC), in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD as its implementing arm, has advanced Africa's development agenda. To strengthen coordination, the AUC established the AUDA-NEPAD Coordination Unit (CU), serving as the Secretariat to the PRC Sub-Committee on NEPAD. From 2017 to 2025, the CU has navigated leadership transitions, budget constraints, and global challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, while fulfilling its mandate. AUDA-NEPAD remains a driving force for sustainable development, implementing infrastructure projects that foster continental integration, empower communities, and advance Africa's goals.

## 2.2. BUILDING STRONGER INSTITUTIONS: CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & REFORM



**H.E. Thomas Kwesi Quartey,**  
former Deputy Chairperson (2017 - 2021)



**H.E. Dr. Monique Nsazabaganwa,**  
Deputy Chairperson (2021 - 2025)

**I**n 2017, the African Union (AU) embarked on a transformative journey to enhance its institutional framework and better serve the needs of Africa. This marked the beginning of an ambitious reform process aimed at improving governance, fostering economic integration, and strengthening the AU's role on the global stage. Central to these reforms was the desire to streamline operations, reduce bureaucracy, and create a more efficient, transparent organization that could deliver on its mandate.

The reforms were guided by two key objectives: increasing institutional efficiency and securing sustainable financial independence. Despite some challenges, significant progress has been realised, and the Reform efforts have laid a strong foundation for future progress. By refining its financial strategies, accelerating human resource reforms, and continuing to engage Member States, the AU is working to further strengthen its governance and continue to drive Africa's development. As the AU advances, it remains committed to its vision of a more integrated and prosperous Africa, poised to play a stronger role on the global stage.

### 2.2.1. THE INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS PROCESS – A JOURNEY OF TRANSFORMATION

The African Union (AU) has embarked on an ambitious journey of institutional reform over the past eight years, driven by the need to enhance its impact and effectiveness in serving the evolving needs of the African continent. This journey, marked by both

significant achievements and persistent challenges, is a testament to the AU's commitment to continuous improvement and its dedication to the people of Africa.

**OAU - AU  
1963-2023**



The 60th Anniversary of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), now the African Union (AU), marked a significant milestone in the journey towards a united and prosperous Africa.

The commemorative events on May 25, 2023, brought together various stakeholders, including AU officials, government representatives, regional economic communities, civil society organizations, development partners, and media representatives. It all aimed at honouring the legacy of the OAU/AU and its Founding Mothers and Fathers, as well as inspiring future generations to continue the journey towards a united and prosperous Africa.

May the spirit of unity, prosperity, and peace continue to guide the continent towards a brighter future.

### **A Vision for Change**

In 2017, the AU Assembly laid the foundation for this transformative journey by identifying five key priorities for institutional reform: focusing on key continental priorities, realigning AUC institutions, promoting efficient management, connecting with African citizens, and achieving sustainable self-financing. These priorities served as guiding stars, illuminating the path towards a more robust and responsive AU. The initial phase of the reform process was characterized by strong leadership from Heads of State and Government, who actively engaged in shaping the reform agenda. This dynamic leadership played a pivotal role in driving the process forward and ensuring sustained momentum through successive phases.

### **Milestones Achieved: Progress Across Key Areas**

Through Assembly Decision 635 and subsequent ones, Continental leaders committed to a series of interventions to reform the Union and propel it on a path to efficiency and effectiveness. One of the

prongs of the African Union institutional reform has been the improvements in its working methods.

The AU has made progress on aligning its programs and activities with the identified key priorities, concentrating efforts on critical areas such as political affairs, peace and security, economic integration, and global representation.

The AU institutionalized one Ordinary Summit of all Heads of State and Government in February of each year and one Mid-Year Coordination Meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly and Heads of State and Government chairing Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) held every year in July to assess progress in integration. The Ordinary Executive Council session was held prior to the above sessions, with its sitting in July delegated by the Assembly to adopt the Budget and consider other administrative and financial matters. Virtual meeting platforms were embraced, enhancing the quality and accessibility of these crucial sessions.

The institutional realignment started with streamlining the African Union Commission (AUC) itself. A new departmental structure for the AUC, approved in 2020, reduced the number of senior leadership positions from ten (10) to eight (8), comprising a President of the Commission and Accounting Officer of the Union, a Deputy Chairperson in charge of Administration and Finance and Chief Controller of the Union, as well as six Commissioners, eliminating redundancies and improving efficiency.

The election process for senior leadership positions was revamped to include presentations and interviews, allowing candidates to showcase their visions and plans for the AUC. Candidatures to the Commissioner positions were filtered through a competency-based process. Regional rotation and gender parity principles were upheld, making the Commission's leadership 50-50 in terms of female and male Commissioners.

Through a merit-based recruitment system, significant progress was made in implementing the new departmental structure of the Commission with more than 85% of Director General/Director positions and over half of senior managers and critical positions (114 of them) filled, with a commendable emphasis on gender balance. A skills audit and competency assessment of existing staff was conducted to guide the placement of incumbents into the new structure.

The adoption of the agreement establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the Protocol relating to Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Right of Establishment in 2018 marked a major step towards greater integration and cooperation across the continent. The implementation of the AfCFTA made commendable progress while the ratification of Free Movement of Persons is in progress.

With the African Union Economic and Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) institutionalized, mechanisms for civil society organizations accreditation were improved, fostering greater participation from citizens in AU initiatives. Engagements with the African Diaspora, the AU's sixth region, gained momentum.

Several youth initiatives were implemented, such as One Million Next Level initiative and the appointment of a Youth Envoy. The Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion (WYFEI) 2030 initiative was launched, demonstrating the AUC's commitment to economic empowerment for all. Efforts to achieve gender parity and 35% youth representation in AU institutions continued, reflecting a dedication to inclusivity and equal representation.

On the review of the mandates and strengthening the functioning of other AU Organs, key achievements include the transformation of NEPAD into the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD). Its Mandate was adopted by the Assembly in Nouakchott in July 2018 and its structure was adopted by the Executive Council in January 2021. This structure was then revised in 2023.

The mandate of the APRM was also expanded by the Assembly in 2018 – with a new Structure adopted in January 2021. In addition, APRM's budget was integrated into the Statutory Union Budget in 2021. This has stabilized the APRM Secretariat and its work in key governance areas, which include collaboration with the African Governance Architecture and contributing to the annual governance reports that cover recommendations on actions to be undertaken by Member States.

In addition, a study undertaken in 2019 on policy coherence between AUC and other African Union Organs, Treaty Bodies and Mechanisms, highlights a range of issues and options which either impede or promote policy coherence between the AUC and the Organs. This study thus contributed to better working methods and steps of improving the quality and

impact of decision-making in the Union as a whole.

The AUC also successfully operationalized new organs and entities such as the AfCFTA Secretariat, the Africa Centres for Disease Control (Africa CDC), the AU Peace Fund governance structures, the African Medicines Agency (AMA), the African Humanitarian Agency, and the African Space Agency.

In 2017 the Commission granted and implemented the status of specialized agency to the Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO), and in 2023 institutionalized the Office of the Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security as a permanent directorate on the new departmental structure of the Commission.

### **Fostering a Citizen-Centred African Union Through Effective Communications**

The African Union is committed to becoming a truly people-centred organization by leveraging unified and impactful communication strategies that engage and empower its citizens. To achieve this, the AU relies on the services and expertise of its Information and Communication Directorate (ICD) to build a strong and cohesive brand identity. Through ICD's efforts, the AU has enhanced its visibility and strengthened ownership of Africa's development agenda by creating a unified corporate identity and promoting it across its organs and institutions.

The AU's focus on inclusivity and accessibility is exemplified by initiatives such as the multilingual production of the AU Anthem and the African Union Media Fellowship, which empowers African Storytellers to reframe the continent's narrative. These efforts, supported by strategic partnerships with global media and ICT platforms, ensure that the AU's messages reach a broad audience, amplifying Agenda 2063 and the Union's key achievements.

To sustain these gains and deepen connections with its citizens, the AU prioritizes content creation, such as films and digital campaigns like The Future is Africa, to highlight its impact in relatable and engaging ways. The Agenda 2063 Media Awards and high-profile international collaborations further reinforce the AU's role as a champion of Africa's aspirations and narratives.

By positioning communication as a strategic investment, enhancing coordination across departments, and equipping the ICD to meet its mandate, the AU can solidify its role as a transparent,

accountable, and people-centred organization. This commitment ensures African citizens remain informed, inspired, and actively engaged in shaping the continent's future.

Moreover, the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) was empowered to play a more active role in bridging the gap between policy frameworks and citizen engagement, ensuring that the voices of the people are heard, and Agenda 2063 adequately domesticated at national levels.

### **State of Play and Way Forward**

In February 2024, during the 37th Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly, **H.E. President Kagame**, President of Rwanda, presented a report on the progress of the AU reforms. Assembly Decision 866(XXXVII) emphasized the need to finalize key reform priorities, including restructuring remaining AU organs, institutions, and offices, as well as conducting a study on the division of labour between the AU, RECs, and Member States. The decision also appointed **H.E. President William Samoei Ruto** of Kenya as the new AU Champion for Institutional Reform Implementation.

In his capacity as Champion, **H.E. President William Samoei Ruto** engaged with **H.E. Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat** and the Head of the Reform Unit to drive reform efforts. In June 2024, he convened a high-level retreat in Naivasha, Kenya, to address reform priorities and pledged Kenya's support for funding consultant analyses on outstanding AU entities. During a visit to Addis Ababa on November 7, 2024, he called on the PRC to expedite the reform process.

The progress made under his leadership will be presented at the AU Assembly's Ordinary Session in February 2025, highlighting milestones achieved and outlining the next steps to advance institutional reforms.

## **2.2.2. FINANCING OF THE UNION AND PLANNING AND BUDGETING REFORMS**

### **Towards Predictable and Sustainable Self-Financing**

Regarding sustainable and predictable financing, through implementation of Assembly Decision 578 instituting the Union's self-financing target, and Decision 605 instituting a 0.2% levy on eligible imports, the Union's finances greatly improved.

At the Johannesburg Summit in 2015, Member States reaffirmed their commitment to establishing a predictable, reliable, and sustainable financing system through Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.578(XXV). With this Decision, Member States agreed to finance 100% of the AUC operational budget, 75% of the AUC program budget, and 25% of the AU peace support operations from funds mobilized within the continent by 2021. To achieve this, in 2017, during the Kigali Summit, through Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.605(XXVII), Member States adopted a 0.2% levy on eligible imports from outside the continent to generate funds and bolster revenue. In parallel, a sanction regime was introduced to promote timely payment of contributions by Member States.

Based on this foundation and background, and as part of a comprehensive set of reforms, the "Financing the Union" initiative was launched to ensure that the Union's financing is predictable, sustainable, equitable, and accountable. In January 2016, **H.E. Donald Kaberuka**, former President of the AFDB, was appointed as the AU High Representative for 'Financing the Union' and the Peace Fund. The legacy peace fund was revitalized, with a commitment by Member States to raise an initial endowment of US\$400 million by an initial deadline of 2020, which was eventually extended to 2023.

The African Union implemented budget and planning reforms, including the institution of the nine Golden Rules for financial management and accountability principles, and set a solid ground for transitioning to result-based management, thereby enhancing the efficiency, transparency, and value-for-money across the organisation.

### Transition towards a Result-Based Budget

Over the years, as part of the reform process, the Member States, and strategic partners have increasingly called for greater accountability, transparency, and effectiveness from AU Organs and Specialised Offices in delivering policies and tangible results aligned with the aspirations of Agenda 2063. In response to these calls and in accordance with decisions made by the Policy Organ, the AUC has prioritized the development of a cohesive framework for strategic, results-oriented, multi-year planning and budgeting processes.

By end of term of the outgoing Commission, the transition to more comprehensive multi-annual budget planning anchored by Agenda 2063 and its ten-year implementation plans is ongoing. The Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) was adopted in February 2024. To support the implementation of the STYIP, the AUC initiated the development of an AU-wide Strategic Plan (2024 – 2028) that aligns with the core foundations, vision, mission, aspirations of Agenda 2063, and “Moonshots” of the STYIP. Although the Strategic Plan was still to be formally adopted by the Policy Organs, it has been shared with all Departments and Organs of the AU as well as Member States relevant committees and has served as the basis for planning the 2025 Budget and the 2026 Budget Framework Paper (BFP).

The AUC remains committed to continuous improvement, refining processes to maximize impact. Central to this effort is the focus on Results-Based Management (RBM). By investing in extensive RBM and Integrated Process Management training programs, the AUC is empowering its staff to enhance financial and technical performance while effectively planning, monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on all activities. This fosters a culture of accountability, ensuring that every action contributes to achieving the AUC’s strategic goals.

On this basis, the AUC has made significant strides in enhancing its operational effectiveness, leveraging technology, and streamlined processes to improve service delivery and coordination across the organization.

### Member States Contributions to the AU Budget: State of Play

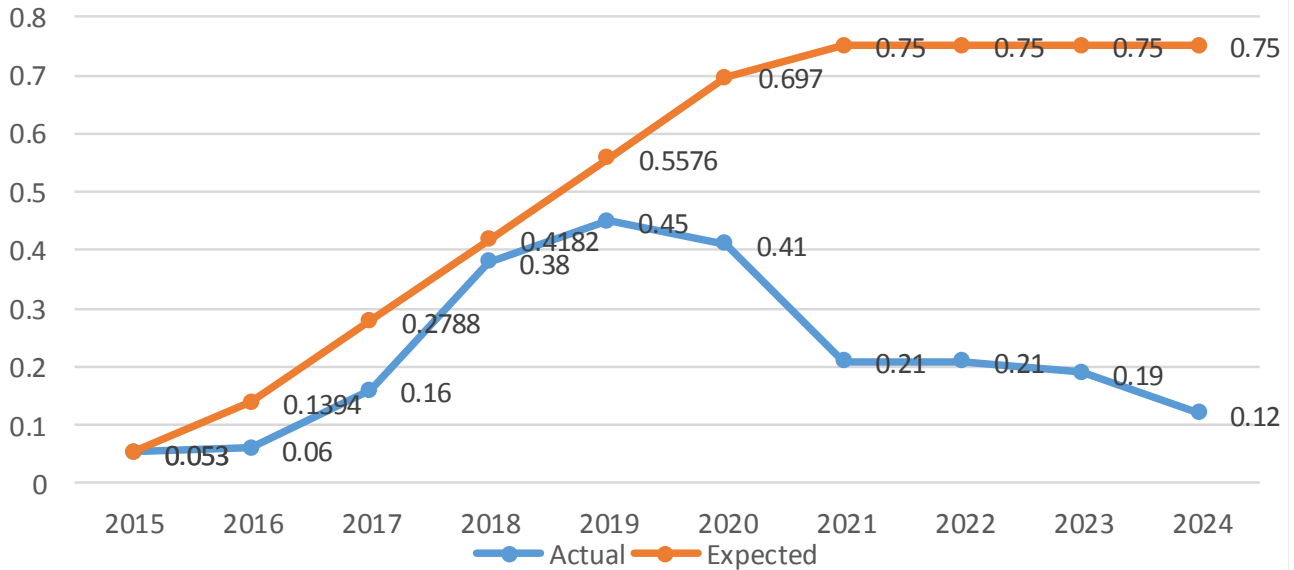
While the initial target for achieving the Johannesburg targets was 2021, this target date was revised to 2025. From 2016 to 2021, Member States successfully funded the African Union’s operational budget at the optimal level.

BUDGETTYPE	Baseline 2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020 Target	2025 Target
	Operational	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	85%	98%	98%	100%
Operational (Adjusted)	80%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Program	5.3%	6%	16%	38%	45%	41%	21%	21%	19%	12%	75%	75%
Peace Operations	0%	0%	4.4%	4.1%	5.3%	3%	0%	0%	0%	10%	25%	25%

Contributions of Member States to the program budget have been significantly lower. While contributions steadily increased and peaked at 45% in 2019, they have sharply declined since then. By

2024, contributions had reduced to just 12%, far short of the 75% target. This decline posed a significant challenge to the funding of AU programs.

### Trend of Member States Contribution to Program Budget



The African Union’s budget has experienced an average negative growth rate of 1% since 2019 due to a cap on Member State contributions and austerity measures. This has led to an imbalance in spending, with the operational budget increasing while the program budget decreases, contradicting the AUC’s goal of balanced allocation.

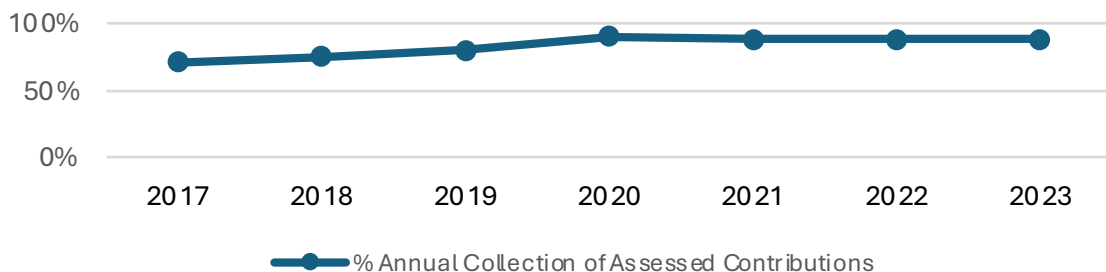
Funding peace support operations was largely met with partner funds. On a positive note, mobilisation of Member States contributions towards the revitalized peace fund exceeded 92% of the US\$ 400 million initial endowment. The Union started tapping into some of the interest income earned through investing the fund, on pilot basis, to meet urgent needs in peace support operations.

To strengthen financial governance by ensuring the timely collection of Member State assessed contributions, the Policy Organs established in 2019 a

dedicated unit, the F15 Secretariat and Contributions Unit, under the Cabinet of the Deputy Chairperson. The Unit provides an administrative function between the Commission and Member States by, issuing quarterly reminders on assessed contributions and, supporting the work of two key committees – the Ministerial Committee on Scale of Assessment and Contributions and the Committee of Fifteen Ministers of Finance. The two Committees, sitting biannually in February and July, consider the report on the status of Member States contributions, and recommends to the Policy Organs the application of the relevant sanctions for non-compliance.

With the strengthened governance mechanism in place, collections of assessed contributions have noted significant improvements over time, registering an increase from 71% in 2017, and stabilizing at 88% over the 2021 - 2023 period as shown in Figure below:

### % Annual Collection of Member States Assessed Contributions



While the improved collections may be attributable to enhanced communication between the AUC and Member States, as well as the strengthened sanctions regime adopted in November 2018, a revised Assessment Formula recommended by

the F15 provided for a fairer and equitable burden distribution model among Member States. As of July 2024, only two countries were placed under comprehensive sanctions for the non-payment of contributions.

### Sustained Improvement in Budget Performance

Year	Overall Budget	Released Funding / Available	Execution	% Execution on Available
2015	446,874,036	335,938,968	230,095,163	68%
2016	482,952,651	324,160,329	220,586,369	68%
2017	850,808,582	645,821,155	504,859,289	78%
2018	792,486,284	714,060,314	590,069,516	83%
2019	726,321,924	658,735,474	541,709,295	82%
2020	694,005,490	584,634,315	481,304,305	82%
2021	727,770,484	665,817,135	527,248,640	79%
2022	684,423,701	648,598,156	508,768,067	78%
2023	686,582,008	631,744,920	537,317,828	85%

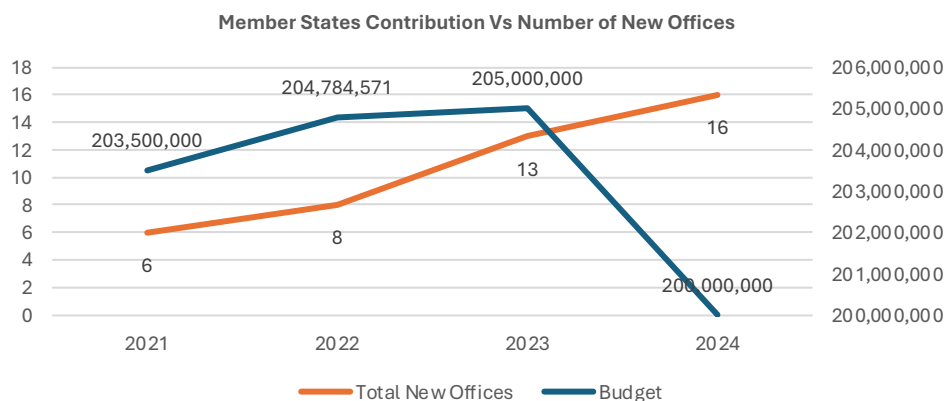
The above table provides an overview of the African Union’s budget over several years, highlighting key aspects such as the total budget, released or available funds, budget execution, and the execution percentage relative to available funds.

In recent years, the AUC has demonstrated a significant improvement in its budget execution. Despite fluctuations in both the budget size and available funds, the consistent increase in execution percentages reflects enhanced financial management and more effective resource utilization.

Future strategies could focus on maintaining or even increasing the budget, while continuing to improve execution efficiency and institutionalizing Result Based Management in the Union’s budget process. This would ensure that the Union is well-equipped to meet its growing mandates and commitments.

### Increased African Union’s Offices and Responsibilities

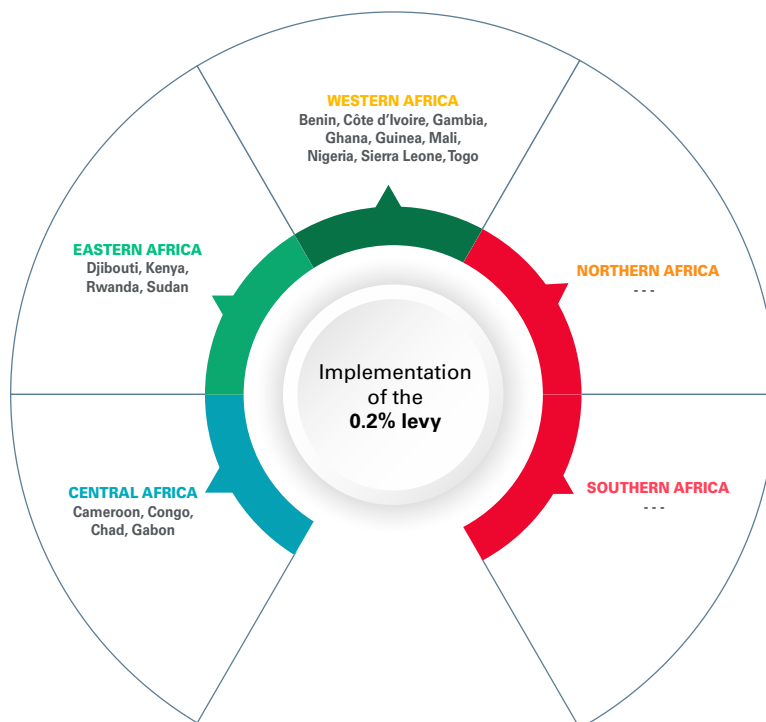
The establishment of over 16 new institutions in recent years, including the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat, Africa CDC, African Medicines Agency, Migration Observatories, and the Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Centre, has placed additional demands on the budget. Furthermore, relocating institutions such as the Economic, Social, and Cultural Council, the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption, and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child away from AUC headquarters has increased to budgetary pressures. These offices have necessitated significant budgetary accommodation, highlighting the need for a more flexible financial strategy to support the Union’s growing responsibilities and institutional infrastructure. Compounding these challenges, the Union’s statutory budget has been declining.



## Implementation of the 0.2% Levy

In July 2016 in Kigali, the Assembly adopted Decision 605 which instituted a 0.2 percent import levy on eligible imported goods into the continent to finance the Union's budget. With potential revenues from the

levy estimated at US\$1.2 billion, the adoption of the resource mobilization mechanism was a reaffirmation of the determination to ensure that the AU is financed in a predictable, sustainable, and accountable manner with the full ownership by its Member States:



Despite some countries reporting challenges in domesticating the levy, including compliance with various commitments made under bilateral and multilateral trading systems, and restrictions due to National Constitutions, the AUC continues to provide advisory and technical support to Member States in their efforts to domesticate the levy. In addition, a strong communication and advocacy drive at the highest political levels is imperative to ensure consistent and coherent messaging to Member States.

## A New Strategy for Resource Mobilization

The African Union Commission (AUC) is increasingly prioritizing sustainable and diverse funding sources. African institutions such as the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the African Export-Import Bank

(Afreximbank) are playing a larger role in providing financial support, which the Union aims to further integrate into its multi-year plans. To reduce dependency on external funding, the AUC is actively pursuing alternative funding strategies, including domestic resource mobilization. For example, financial assistance from African institutions to the Union rose from US\$8.4 million, accounting for just 1% of total revenue in 2023, to US\$46.7 million, or 8% of total revenue, in 2025 AU budget. This is a clear indication of increased financing from African Institutions.

## FUNDING SOURCES (Share of Member States in AU's Total Budget)

Fund Source	2023	% Share	2024	% Share	2025	% Share
Member States Assessed Contribution	205,000,000	29.9%	200,000,000	31.6%	200,000,000	32.9%
Maintenance Fund	3,900,000	0.6%	3,771,441	0.6%	4,174,004	0.7%
Admin Fund/Generated Income	9,130,000	1.3%	501,461	0.1%	1,318,199	0.2%
Reserves	2,586,206	0.38%	1,023,159	0.16%		0.00%
Peace Fund (Interest)	1,584,830	0.23%	6,758,756	1.07%	1,774,367	0.29%
African Institutions	8,354,231	1.22%	28,704,775	4.54%	46,664,299	7.67%
Member States Voluntary Cont.	843,472	0.12%	2,036,845	0.32%	635,000	0.10%
Acquisition of Property Fund		0.00%	15,000,000	2.37%		0.00%
Refugee Fund		0.00%	1,196,479	0.19%		0.00%
Special Emergency Fund		0.00%	2,136,686	0.34%		0.00%
African Women Fund		0.00%	735,749	0.12%		0.00%
<b>Aggregate African Contribution</b>	<b>231,398,739</b>	<b>33.8%</b>	<b>261,865,351</b>	<b>41.39%</b>	<b>254,565,869</b>	<b>41.86%</b>
International Partners	455,183,268	66.30%	370,863,888	58.61%	353,682,677	58.15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>686,582,007</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>632,729,239</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>608,248,546</b>	<b>100%</b>

To enhance coordination with partners, the AUC has established platforms like Joint Financing Arrangements and Partners tripartite meetings, which promote predictable financing, reduce transaction costs, and inform better planning and budgeting. Centralized fund management further strengthens efficiency and accountability. These initiatives demonstrate the AUC's commitment to financial autonomy, effective resource utilization, and sustainable development.

The Commission also participates in initiatives like the Joint AU-UN Roadmap and has improved its

management of partner funds, including establishing oversight committees, streamlining funding processes, and implementing standardized policies.

Additionally, the AUC is centralizing fund management and advancing domestic resource mobilization (DRM) to ensure sustainable, self-reliant funding for AU initiatives.

Partnerships with the private sector, as exemplified by the AU Peace Fund roadshows that returned commitments in cash and kind, are promising.



AU - AfDB

## Enhanced Policy Environment to Attract and Generate Income

To leverage continentally raised funds towards financial autonomy, the African Union Commission (AUC) has strengthened its investment capabilities, generating substantial income over the past eight years, including notable returns from the Peace Fund.

In addition, the AUC generates supplementary revenue by renting out assets such as meeting halls, shops, and restaurants—an initiative aimed at maximizing revenue to support property maintenance. The Commission is also expanding this approach by reclaiming land in Lagos and renovating properties in New York and Brussels also to be offered for rent. This will be realized potentially with support from Afreximbank.

A major milestone in 2024 was the approval by the Executive Council of two key financial policies: the AU Investment and Treasury Policy and the Indirect Administrative Cost Recovery Policy. These policies establish a framework for effective financial management, emphasizing the optimization of investment returns, maintenance of liquidity, and long-term financial sustainability for the Union.

## Increased Transparency and Accountability

To safeguard the resources, the AUC has established robust oversight and accountability mechanisms. These measures are designed to ensure the effective and prudent management of the funds, aligning with the Union's goals of transparency and fiscal responsibility. In this respect the AUC has strengthened financial oversight and accountability through automated payment processing, a comprehensive Investment and Treasury Policy overseen by an Investment Committee chaired by the DCP, and the Bank Communication Management module for secure transactions and efficient reconciliation.

The Finance Department ensures IPSAS-compliant accounting and unqualified audit opinions, while the Internal Accountability Committee (IAC), established by H.E. the DCP and chaired by the Director General of the AUC, diligently monitors audit findings and recommendations. The IAC's core functions include reviewing audit recommendations and advising the DCP on their implementation, ensuring effective financial and administrative controls across the Union.

In addition to IAC other measures taken by the AUC include holding accountable those who were found guilty of fund mismanagement, assets misappropriation and other fraudulent activities within the AUC through due process as defined by the Staff Rules and Regulations (SRR). The due process includes HRMD Fact Finding Missions on staff involved, filing of charges to the Disciplinary Board for disciplinary hearings and **H.E. the Chairperson's** final decision on appropriate sanction. Consequently, in the last two years and half (2022-2024) HRMD have carried out 27 fact finding missions and a total of 21 disciplinary cases have been charged and approved for presentation to the Disciplinary Board.

The Board has deliberated and finalized 16 of these cases and submitted its reports and recommendations to **H.E. the Chairperson**. Subsequently, 13 cases have been approved by **H.E. the Chairperson** and the recommendations have been implemented by the HRMD. The reports for the remaining three cases have been submitted to **H.E. the Chairperson** for his final decision. Out of the sixteen cases deliberated by the Board, three decisions were for dismissal and the decisions involved separation from the AUC, and these decisions have been implemented. One of the cases currently awaiting approval from **H.E. the Chairperson** also involves separating the staff members from the AUC and HRMD.

The African Union Commission (AUC), through its Office of Internal Oversight (OIO), is focused on enhancing internal controls, improving efficiency, and ensuring effective implementation of its mandate. Originally established as the Office of Internal Audit (OIA) in 2003, the OIO's scope has since expanded to include investigation, inspection, forensic audits, and human rights oversight. The OIO reviews and strengthens internal systems, processes, and procedures across the AU, working to ensure transparency and operational effectiveness in all AUC organs and institutions.

Key Areas of Focus

### 1. Preventing and Reducing Audit Findings:

The OIO focused on improving audit and investigation services, which resulted in a 73% implementation rate of audit recommendations across the Union. This effort has strengthened internal controls and improved budget performance through forensic audits and cybersecurity assignments.

## 2. Enhancing the Implementation of Audit Recommendations:

The OIO collaborated with Internal Audit Committees to increase follow-up on audit issues, ensuring more effective management-level actions. It also guided the Internal Audit Progress Committee to enhance the follow-up on critical initiatives linked to AU Agenda 2063.

## 3. Capacity Building and Strengthening Oversight:

The OIO has operationalized its expanded structure, with new Division Heads recruited and additional functional areas initiated. The office is working to implement the New Global Internal Audit Standards, which will take effect in January 2025.

## Key Achievements

- Over 80% of planned audit coverage was completed, improving internal control systems.
- The OIO conducted audits, reducing fraudulent actions through awareness programs.
- Participated in regional public sector audit meetings, influencing best practices across the continent.
- Strengthened staff training and professional development to stay aligned with evolving audit standards.

The OIO’s work has played a pivotal role in promoting accountability, transparency, and efficiency within the AUC. Through its expanded mandate and commitment to capacity building, the OIO continues to strengthen oversight functions across the AU, supporting the AUC’s mission and objectives.

## 2.2.3. HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

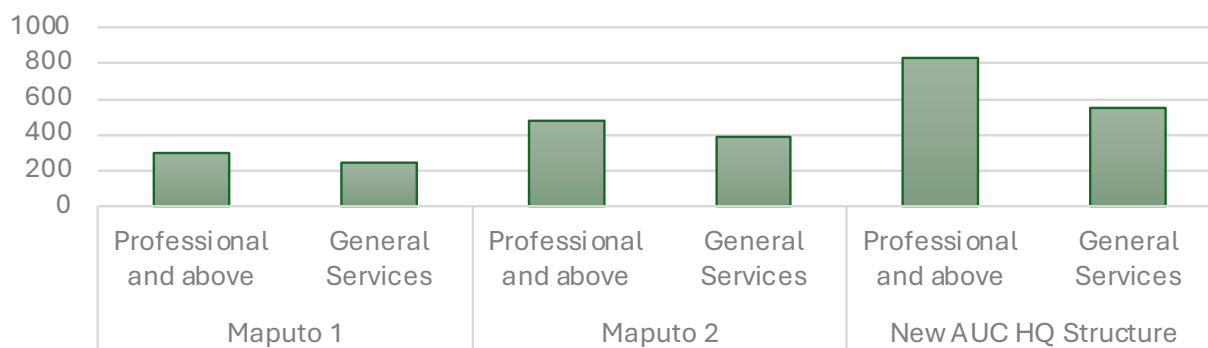
From 2017 to 2024, the AUC undertook substantial reforms to transform its Human Resources Management Directorate (HRMD) to align with the strategic objectives of Agenda 2063. The Commission’s efforts focused on decentralizing activities, improving regional presence, and restructuring the workforce to support ambitious continental goals. This transformation was guided by institutional reforms, evolving global HR trends, and the critical need for operational alignment within the Commission.

## Key Achievements in HR Management and Capacity Development

### Restructuring and New Departmental Framework

In February 2020, the African Union embarked on a significant restructuring to transition from the longstanding “Maputo Structure” to a new framework with 1,380 positions, as approved by the Assembly (Assembly/AU/Dec.750(XXXIII)). This transformation aimed to reduce inefficiencies, streamline operations, and align the AU’s departmental functions with the strategic priorities of Agenda 2063.

Structural Developments of AUC HQ



The transition from the Maputo Structure to the new AUC structure marks a significant shift in the Commission’s approach to organizational efficiency and sustainability. By addressing the challenges of the past, such as the over-reliance on short-term staff and the resulting operational inefficiencies, the new structure is designed to create a more responsive and strategically aligned workforce. With a focus on reducing turnover and ensuring continuity through long-term staffing solutions, the AUC is positioning itself to better serve its continental mandate.

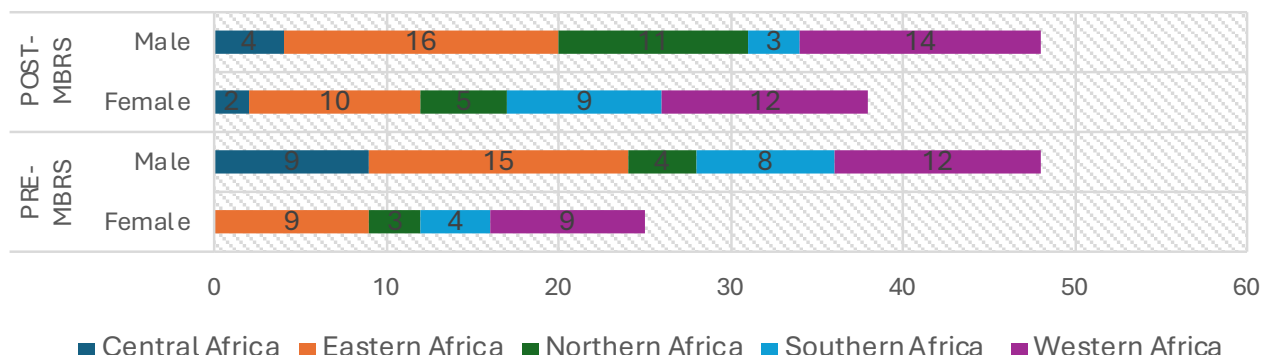
### Merit-Based Recruitment System (MBRS) and Talent Acquisition

The restructuring approved in February 2020 was instrumental in establishing an effective organizational framework. A significant component was the Merit-Based Recruitment System (MBRS), introduced in 2021 to ensure transparency and accountability.

The MBRS filled critical leadership roles, moving 21 Directors and 24 Heads of Division from acting to permanent positions, which strengthened managerial stability and capacity. Additionally, the AU reinforced diversity goals by implementing quotas, aiming for 50% female and 35% youth representation by 2025.

During the period under review, the Commission also launched innovative initiatives to position the AU as an employer of choice across Africa and beyond, with a strong emphasis on achieving gender parity and youth inclusion. To date, the AUC achieved 36% female representation and 16% youth representation at its peak. Talent symposia and career fairs helped attract candidates, particularly from under-represented Member States, strengthening the Union’s diverse talent base.

Leadership Position by Region (P5 and Above)  
Pre and Post MBRS



Further embedding the AU’s diversity and inclusion objectives, the MBRS incorporated quotas to achieve representation targets of 50% for women and 35% for youth by 2025. This commitment to gender parity and youth inclusion was strengthened by Assembly Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.805 (February 2021), which also introduced a Union-wide quota system based on the principles of solidarity and equity.

Following Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1126(XXXIX), the AU implemented a Gap Cap system for nine months from July 2021, which was subsequently moved to a six-month cycle, allowing the MBRS and quota system to adapt based on feedback and lessons learned, reinforcing the AU’s goals of fair and transparent staffing practices.

### The Skills Audit and Competency Assessment (SACA)

The Skills Audit and Competency Assessment (SACA) emerged as a cornerstone of the AU’s institutional reforms, aimed at ensuring that staffing aligned with organizational objectives and strategic demands. Mandated by Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Dec.1073 (XXXVI) in February 2020, SACA was introduced to assess the competencies of both regular and non-regular staff. This process was essential for establishing the most effective workforce configuration within the new departmental framework and for identifying gaps and opportunities for development.

Out of the 833 staff members that were selected for positions and completed the process, 29 (Directors and Heads of Divisions) were successful and placed in 2023. Regarding staff on grades P4 and below, the Commission is in its final preparations for SACA's full implementation, contingent on the upcoming decisions from the Extraordinary Executive Council meeting. These final directives will solidify the path forward for placements, while also addressing any necessary adjustments to ensure financial sustainability and structural balance. This last stage is instrumental in supporting the integrity and long-term goals of the AU's institutional reform, bringing the organization closer to fulfilling its mandate through a well-structured, capable, and equitable workforce.

### Other Strategic Achievements

Beyond restructuring and recruitment, the AUC achieved substantial progress in several strategic areas to support its HR and operational goals. Key initiatives included the review and adoption of the new Staff Rules and Regulations (SRR), which provided updated guidelines for managing the Commission's human capital in compliance with Member States expectations.

The operationalization of new organs and offices done through HRMD, such as the Africa CDC, the AfCFTA Secretariat, and the African Union Humanitarian Agency (AfHA), expanded the AU's regional presence and service capabilities. These agencies enhanced the

The table below reflects that, of the 3,324 staff positions across all organs and offices of the union, only 684 (21%) are filled, leaving a huge deficit of vacant positions. This is mainly due to budgetary constraints, as well as delays in the implementation of SACA.

Organs/ Institutions	Number of Positions	Filled Positions	Vacant Positions	Total Staff Costs in USD	Percentage of Filled Positions
<b>Total</b>	<b>3324</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>2644</b>	<b>442,017,332.60</b>	<b>21%</b>

To address challenges and build on the progress achieved, several strategic recommendations are proposed:

- Enhancing financial flexibility and resource allocation through a participatory budget approach with policy organs can ensure alignment with strategic goals.
- Strengthening leadership accountability frameworks by tying performance evaluations for leaders to successful HR reforms will help secure consistent support for transformative initiatives.
- Accelerating digital integration through an integrated HRMS and enhanced HR analytics will improve data-driven decision-making across

Commission's ability to respond to critical issues in public health, trade, and humanitarian efforts.

Digital transformation projects were also undertaken, leading to the implementation of an enhanced Human Resources Management System. This streamlined essential HR functions and supported remote work capabilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, reinforcing operational resilience and adaptability.

Additionally, significant steps were made toward harmonization of policies to ensure alignment with the new SRR across various offices and institutions. These initiatives ensured that HR practices were consistent, fair, and supportive of cross-organizational improvement.

### Budget Constraints

Throughout the restructuring period and the adoptions of new structures within the AU, the Commission, as custodian of AU-wide staff costs faced recurring budgetary challenges. Operational budgets for staff costs were constrained by policy organ decisions, limiting full operationalization of AU organs and institutions. Despite the increase in the required funding, budget allocations were systematically reduced, complicating the Commission's ability to maintain operational efficacy. The projected costs of the current structure necessitate additional contributions from Member States, leading to complex financial planning or a drastic restructuring.

recruitment, performance management, and workforce planning.

- Additionally, promoting organizational culture and structured career development will engage staff, bolster morale, and cultivate a culture of excellence.

These recommendations are designed to strengthen the capacity of HRMD, enhance organizational effectiveness, and ensure the AUC can fully align its operations with the goals of Agenda 2063. By addressing leadership, structural, budgetary, and technological challenges, the Commission can foster a capable, motivated, and well-supported workforce.

*The African Union Staff Association (AUSA)* serves as a pivotal and dynamic body advocating for the interests of African Union Staff in their interactions with AU leadership, management, and Member States.

Through the active engagement of its Presidents and Bureaus, AUSA has consistently championed

the rights of staff, upheld the principles of equity, integrity, and transparency, and spearheaded numerous initiatives aimed at enhancing staff well-being across the continent-wide organization. These efforts underscore AUSA's essential role within the broader institutional ecosystem of the African Union, with numerous achievements attesting to its critical contribution.

## 2.2.4. OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS

### Enhanced Coordination and Collaboration

The AUC has also initiated annual coordination meetings with senior officials from various AU organs and agencies has established monthly Operational Coordination Meetings to enhance operational alignment and prevent duplication of effort.

Through the Office of the Director General (ODG), established as part of the AUC's reform agenda, the AUC has enhanced internal coherence and external coordination. By convening a pre-budget retreat, the ODG streamlined budget proposals and

improved the Union's budget process. The AUC has also strengthened reporting methodologies through interactive and collaborative approaches, with departmental leadership contributing to a cohesive narrative of the Union's performance.

The launch of the ODG portal and a global dashboard has improved information sharing and knowledge management across departments, while a global calendar of events has enhanced coordination and scheduling efficiency.



All Directors Retreat organized by the Office of the Director General (ODG)

## Efficient Management of Decisions

Over the years the AUC has been grappling with a high number of Policy Organs Decisions with very low implementation rates. Several attempts were made by AU management and different policy organ structures to ensure improvement in the efficiency of execution, management, and monitoring of AU Policy Organs Decisions. However, despite the many attempts as guided there had not been a tangible traction, especially in execution.

Reflecting on EX.CL/929 (XXVIII) paragraph (v), the AUC was requested, in collaboration with the PRC, to ensure the adoption of necessary measures to strengthen and establish effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for the implementation of Policy Organs Decisions through the improvement of a follow up matrix. The matrix was done, which helped to understand the quantum, nature and magnitude of issues that were beyond monitoring including how decisions are conceived and responsibility apportioned.

The AUC evaluated the situation and presented a report on the progress of implementation of AU Policy Organ's Decisions from 2011 to 2020, to the PRC during the PRC – AUC Retreat in December 2022 in Dakar, Senegal.

The main outcome of the retreat was the Dakar Recommendations that outlined 16 main activities that needed to be realized to enhance the follow-up of the implementation of AU Policy Organs Decisions. Subsequently, a roadmap to ensure implementation of the Dakar Recommendations was developed in March 2023 and by November 2023, thirty-one percent of the activities were implemented.

## Digital Transformation and Service Delivery

The AUC has accelerated its digital transformation efforts to boost efficiency and accountability, with digital transformation as the driving force behind more efficient service delivery. Key initiatives include the automation of core processes, adoption of Service Level Agreements (SLAs), and performance dashboards for improved monitoring. Supported by strategic partnerships, the AUC established a world-class data centre with enhanced IT governance and cybersecurity frameworks, successfully averting a major ransomware attack. With the support of the World Bank and African Development Bank the data centre capacity has more than doubled, while IT policies, tools, and governance were enhanced, strengthening data sovereignty and security.

Additionally, the AUC supported the Africa CDC in launching its own secure data centre, enhancing its independent operational capabilities.

Over the past eight years, the Operation Support Services Directorate (OSSD) has played a key role in enhancing service delivery across the African Union Commission (AUC).

## Major Projects and Accomplishments

In committing to modernizing infrastructure and optimizing service delivery, several major projects have been completed:

- **AU Clinic Modernization (2020):** The upgraded clinic now offers enhanced medical services, including dental care and physiotherapy. A budget in July 2024 was voted to introduce a baby and mother care unit in 2025.
- **Africa House (AUC Chairperson's Residence) and AU Perimeter Fence Upgrades (2021-2023):** Security and aesthetic upgrades enhanced these facilities.
- **Meles Zenawi Integrated Service Centre Building:** A multifunctional facility annexed to the AU Conference Complex designed to enhance AU operations, featuring a cafeteria, accreditation centre, archive centre, printing centre and warehouse.
- **Africa CDC Building (2023):** This facility includes advanced labs and emergency operation centres to support public health across the continent.
- **Congo Hall Cafeteria Renovation (2023):** Improvements included enhanced accessibility and an upgraded dining environment.
- **"Building A" Renovation (2024):** With funding from Kuwait, this renovation increased space and improved functionality.
- **DCP's Residence (2022-2024):** Initiated on 15 September 2022 and completed in July 2024, the construction aims to provide a functional, secure, and high-standard residential facility in Addis Ababa for the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission.
- **AUREMS and ARCHIBUS Software Implementation:** These systems were implemented to streamline records and facilities management, improving operational efficiency.

- **Procurement Modernization:** Plans for full e-Procurement integration are underway, with a target completion year of 2028.
- **Travel Management:** Automation has been increased, and partnerships with airlines have improved cost recovery.
- **Warehouse Automation:** Scheduled for 2026, this project aims to enhance asset tracking.
- **Service Level Agreements (SLAs):** Established for procurement and travel services to ensure accountability.
- **Fleet GPS Tracking:** Enhanced monitoring and efficiency of the AU fleet.
- **AU Fuel and Service Station:** The renovation aims to increase fuel storage capacity, enhance safety with addition of two EV charging stations aiming to improve service efficiency.
- **Old Conference Centre Renovation:** In 2021 façade cladding replaced the costly repainting with durable granite, enhancing aesthetics and reducing maintenance

### Meeting Support Modernization and Sustainability

With the Directorate of Conference Management and Publications (DCMP), the AUC has modernized its meeting support, incorporating a paperless system across six languages, including Kiswahili and Spanish, and providing digital document access. Automation of document translation has improved accuracy, translating over 174,000 pages in four years. Additional advancements include translators/interpreters contract management automation, eco-friendly printing technology, and an upgraded calendar system for efficient meeting scheduling.

### Protocol Services Modernization

The AUC initiated a digital transformation of its Protocol Services, establishing an e-archiving system, digital consultancy, and essential IT upgrades. This project also provides training for protocol staff, enabling the efficient use of digital tools and supporting modernized, streamlined protocol operations across the Commission.

*The Following is a Summary of Key Achievements*



By continuing to embrace innovation, streamline processes, and strengthen collaboration, the African Union Commission (AUC) can further enhance its operational effectiveness and deliver stronger results for the people of Africa.

*The African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)*, an AU specialized agency since 2017. In 1991 the ACBF was established to support capacity building and development initiatives across Africa.

ACBF plays a crucial role in supporting the implementation and monitoring of the African Union's Agenda 2063. In collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC), ACBF has been

involved in enhancing the capacity of AUC Member States to effectively monitor and report on the first ten-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063.

ACBF has accomplished many achievements but can play an even bigger role in supporting the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the AU in the perspective of an accelerated implementation of Agenda 2063.

## 2.2.5. LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC) provides comprehensive legal services to ensure adherence to international law, AU legal instruments, and due process. The OLC represents the AU in international legal forums, including treaty negotiations, legal opinions, and disputes before the AU Administrative Tribunal and other international jurisdictions. It also advises on cooperation with international organizations and provides legal support for peacekeeping and field operations, including diplomatic privileges and immunities.

### Defending the Union's Interests

The OLC plays a crucial role in defending the AU's interests in international legal proceedings. Notable achievements include:

- Chagos Archipelago Case
- Al-Bashir Case (ICC)
- Israel-Palestine Case (ICJ)
- Climate Change Obligations Case (ICJ)

### International Court of Justice (ICJ), Obligations of States Concerning Climate Change, Advisory Opinion, 2024 (Climate Change Obligations Case)

In 2024, the AUC, through its Office of the Legal Counsel, played a pivotal role in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) advisory proceedings on climate change obligations, highlighting Africa's disproportionate vulnerability despite contributing only 3% of global emissions. The AUC's oral statement underscored the principles of fairness, intergenerational equity, and common but differentiated responsibilities, framing climate justice as a moral and legal obligation tied to human rights and sustainable development. Advocating

for reparative measures such as debt relief and adaptation support, the AU called for decisive global accountability while reaffirming Africa's leadership in climate advocacy. This landmark intervention emphasized the AU's commitment to justice for vulnerable communities and its role in shaping a fair and sustainable international legal framework.

### Internal Justice and Legal Reform

The OLC has significantly contributed to internal justice within the AU, including participation in 151 Administrative Tribunal cases. The OLC's litigation success rate has improved dramatically, with a 53% increase in new cases from 2022 to 2023 and from 40% in 2020 to 80% in 2021. Out of 69 judgments issued, the OLC successfully litigated 34 cases, settled 18, and received 17 adverse judgments.

Additionally, the OLC has supported the Skills Audit and Competency Assessment (SACA) process as well as the new SRR, offering legal guidance on their implementation.

### Treaty and Election Support

The OLC has been instrumental in the adoption and ratification of legal instruments, with 91 instruments adopted between 2017 and 2024, 55 of which require ratification. It has also conducted 187 elections for AU organs and supported Member States in establishing National Sectorial Committees.

### Minimum Ratification Requirements for Treaty Entry into Force

A treaty enters into force 30 days after the deposit of ratification or accession instruments by at least 15 Member States, ensuring a minimum commitment before it becomes binding.

### Measures to Accelerate Treaty Ratifications

To expedite ratifications, the AU, through the Office of the Legal Counsel (OLC), has implemented several strategies:

- **Promotion & Advocacy:** Treaties are highlighted during the February and July AU Summits to raise awareness.
- **National Committees:** These are established to support and coordinate ratification efforts at the national level.
- **Ministerial Committee:** This committee works to identify and address barriers to treaty ratification.

### Treaties Deposited with the AUC (2017 – 2024)

From 2017 to 2024, 323 ratifications and 299 signatures of AU treaties were deposited, reflecting strong Member State engagement in regional cooperation.

### Instruments Entering into Force (2017 – 2024)

Seven key legal instruments entered into force, meeting ratification thresholds. Notably, the Statutes of the African Space Agency and the African Institute for Remittances (AIR) entered into force immediately upon adoption (January 29, 2018).

### OLC Litigation Success (2017 – 2024)

The OLC managed 151 Administrative Tribunal cases, with filings increasing by 53% from 2022 to 2023. Of 69 judgments, the OLC successfully litigated 34, settled 18, and received adverse rulings in 17. The success rate improved from 40% in 2020 to 80% in 2021, following reforms prioritizing amicable settlements.

However, challenges remain, including the lack of an appeal mechanism, increasing caseloads, and delays in judgment implementation, highlighting the need for institutional reforms.

## 2.3. GLOBAL GOVERNANCE ORGANS

**T**he AU institutional ecosystem has been significantly strengthened with the empowerment and full operationalization of key organs in the key strategic areas. The Pan African Parliament (PAP), the African Commission on Human and People’s rights (ACHPR), the African Court on Human and People’s Rights (AfCHPR), the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC) play a key role in creating a stable and interconnected Continent by promoting democracy, upholding human rights, ensuring accountability, and facilitating economic development across Africa. These institutions contribute to the AUC’s goals

under Agenda 2063, strengthening governance by promoting legal frameworks, protecting human rights, and fostering dialogue and accountability.

By addressing complex, transnational challenges, this ecosystem plays a critical role in fostering collaboration among nations of our Continent and striving for a more peaceful, equitable, and sustainable future for all.

Collectively, these Organs strengthen governance by promoting legal and ethical frameworks, protecting human rights, ensuring judicial oversight, and creating platforms for dialogue and accountability.

### 2.3.1. PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT (PAP)



PAP has established a legislative forum for dialogue, influencing policymaking and boosting engagement among African countries on issues like public health, poverty reduction, and climate change.

## Achievements

- **Agenda 2063 Implementation:** PAP has significantly contributed to the domestication and implementation of Agenda 2063 by strengthening parliamentary oversight and ensuring its alignment with national development plans.
- **African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA):** PAP has actively advocated for the acceleration of AfCFTA, promoting the harmonization of trade policies across Africa.
- **Annual AU Themes:** Through the Speakers' Conference, PAP has successfully mobilized African Parliaments to address the annual AU themes, including gender equity, youth empowerment, and conflict resolution.
- **Strengthening Regional Cooperation:** Partnerships with regional economic communities have fostered cross-border trade and security initiatives, with notable achievements in promoting good governance.
- **Human Rights, Democracy, and Governance:** PAP has advanced AU objectives by promoting human rights and democracy, notably through its participation in AU Election Observer Missions.
- **Model Laws:** PAP has developed model laws on food security, cooperatives, and disability rights, harmonizing legal frameworks across Member States.
- **Capacity Building:** PAP conducted numerous training programs to enhance the capacity of parliamentarians, aligning its activities with the AUC's Agenda 2063.

## 2.3.2. AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (ACHPR)



**ACHPR**  
African Commission on  
Human and Peoples' Rights

## Achievements

- **Communications and Decisions:** ACHPR received 154 communications and concluded 214, including decisions on admissibility, merits, and provisional measures. It issued 189 decisions on continuing communications and 124 urgent appeals.
- **State Reporting:** Considered 30 state reports and issued concluding observations. ACHPR also developed over 30 soft law instruments (guidelines, protocols) and conducted 20 promotion missions.
- **Norm Elaboration:** Adopted 29 supplementary human rights instruments and contributed to protocols on disability rights and social protection.
- **Collaborations:** Strengthened cooperation with AU bodies, including the African Court, and international partners. Engaged in knowledge-sharing, advocacy missions, and workshops to promote human rights.
- **Advocacy & Sessions:** Held 15 public sessions and organized 150+ workshops and conferences on human rights issues.

## 2.3.3. AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS (AfCHPR)



**AfCHPR**  
African Court on Human  
and Peoples' Rights

Strengthened legal frameworks for human rights enforcement, delivering landmark rulings that have set precedents in human rights jurisprudence, such as decisions on unlawful imprisonment and free speech protections.

## Achievements

- **Ground-breaking Decisions:** The Court delivered over 400 decisions (2017–2024), covering key issues such as the rights of indigenous communities, environmental protection, fair trials, freedom of expression, and the prohibition of child marriages. These decisions have significantly shaped human rights jurisprudence in Africa.
- **Legal Integration:** Many national courts and parliaments have cited the Court’s decisions, contributing to the harmonization of national laws with AU legal instruments.

- **Agenda 2063:** The Court’s rulings have directly supported various AU aspirations, including democracy, good governance, peace, and security.
- **State Participation:** During the reporting period, five more states ratified the Court’s Protocol, and four states deposited special declarations allowing direct access to the Court for individuals and NGOs.

## 2.3.4. AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM)



Enhanced governance through peer review processes, fostering transparency and accountability in political, economic, and corporate governance across 40+ Member States.

### Achievements

- **Universal Accession:** By 2024, 44 Member States had joined the APRM, with the Central African Republic (CAR) being the latest to accede in February 2024.
- **Governance Reviews:** First-generation peer reviews were completed for Liberia, Namibia, and Niger, while second-generation reviews were done for Nigeria, South Africa, and Zambia.

- **Targeted Reviews:** Several focused reviews were completed, such as Zambia’s review on tourism and mining, Sierra Leone’s health governance response to COVID-19, and Kenya’s Presidential Big 4 Agenda.
- **Africa Governance Reports:** APRM completed biennial Africa Governance Reports for 2019, 2021, 2023, and 2025. The 2023 report focused on unconstitutional changes of government, while the 2025 report emphasizes natural resource governance.
- **Credit Rating Support:** APRM assisted eight countries in improving their credit ratings in 2023, resulting in ratings upgrades for Kenya and Nigeria. It also spearheaded efforts to establish an African Credit Rating Agency.
- **Conflict Prevention:** APRM developed a Policy Framework on Early Warning for Conflict Prevention to aid in identifying the root causes of governance-related conflicts in Africa.

## 2.3.5. AFRICAN COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (ACERWC)



ACERWC has pioneered policies for children’s rights, contributing to legal protections, awareness campaigns, and enhanced welfare support systems in countries across Africa.

## Achievements

- General Comments & Guidelines were developed on key articles of the African Charter, such as those on child marriage, female genital mutilation, and children affected by armed conflict.
- Various studies research & policy studies were, including those on children in conflict situations, the impact of COVID-19, and children's rights in business.
- Day of the African Child (DAC) organized annual celebrations across Africa, with themes promoting children's rights, such as "No Child Left Behind" (2018) and "The Rights of the Child in the Digital Environment" (2023).
- Increased the number of ratifying countries to 51. Twenty-eight countries submitted state party reports since 2017, with 42 initial and 23 periodic reports submitted overall.
- Conducted fact-finding missions in countries like

Sudan and Mozambique and follow-up missions in 13 states. Advocacy led to four countries ratifying the Charter and increased reporting from Member States.

- Strengthened stakeholder engagement in collaboration with civil society, media, and regional organizations, promoting children's rights through training for journalists and partnerships with UN and AU organs.

By addressing these areas, the AU, and its Governance Organs moved closer to effectively safeguard human rights, support democratic governance, and foster sustainable development across Africa. These steps serve as strong pillars in advancing the AU's vision of a more integrated, prosperous, and peaceful continent. Each step taken brings the continent closer to a future where every citizen, every child, and every leader is committed to building a prosperous and peaceful Africa for generations to come.

## 2.4. AFRICA'S GROWING PRESENCE AND ROLE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**S**ince 2017, the African Union Commission has gained increasing visibility and legitimacy in international relations, driven by its growing role in diplomacy, peacekeeping, economic cooperation, and development. In the last years, the AU's visibility was significantly boosted notably, when it became a permanent member of the G20 in 2023, marking a major recognition of its importance in global governance. The African Union over the past eight

years has consistently promoted Common African Positions enabling the continent to speak with "one voice" on global issues such as Climate Change, the Reform of the United Nations Security Council as well as the Reform of the International Financing Governance. Moving closer to advancing efforts toward the realization of aspiration 7 of the AU Agenda 2063, Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner.



## 2.4.1. STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

### AU – EU Partnership

Recognizing the uniqueness of the relationship between the African Union and the European Union, **H.E. the Chairperson of the AUC** after assuming Office, provided clear guidance to strengthen the AU-EU relationship with the view to invigorating a new strategic dimension to the partnership between Africa and Europe based on the principles of equality, mutual respect, fostering win-win cooperation to achieve tangible results.

It is within this context that two AU-EU Summits were successfully organized, respectively, in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, in 2017, and in Brussels, Belgium, in 2022. In addition, two joint AU-EU Ministerial Meetings to follow-up on progress made in delivering the commitments of the partnership

were held respectively in January 2019, in Brussels, and in October 2021, in Kigali, Rwanda. Regular engagements between **H.E. the Chairperson of the AUC** and the respective Presidents of the European Commission as well as Commissioners of the AUC and High-Officials were also organized. All these intense high-level engagements and dialogues contributed to forge closer collaboration and mutual understanding on strategic issues, including Africa's economic transformation, peace and security, governance, access and production of vaccines, immigration, renewable energy, digital transformation, and cooperation in multilateral affairs.



Over the past eight years, the renewed and strengthened African Union and European Union partnership has put forward and promoted the importance of investments, trade, regional integration, peace security and good governance as necessary key drivers for economic growth and sustainable development. It is within this context that the European Union launched in 2022, during the 6<sup>th</sup> AU-EU Summit, the Africa – Europe Investment

package of at least 150 billion euros targeting key sectors concerning industrialisation, investment in energy, digital transformation, transport, and job creation. In one hand, it is important to note that the position of the European Union as the first supplier of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Africa has been therefore supported and consolidated.

The EU represents one of the first Africa's trading partner with trade volume exceeding euros 280 billion<sup>1</sup>. On the other hand, continued joint efforts in enhancing the partnership has ensured that the European Union remains the largest contributor of Official Development Assistance (ODA) toward the continent. The EU's contribution toward Peace Support Operations in Africa over the past years has increased and surpassed more than 1 billion USD and has been used to sustain the African Union peace operations in Somalia and other Regional Mechanism for peace in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa.

### Africa – Arab Partnership

Since 2017 to date, **H.E. the Chairperson of the AUC** has been instrumental in promoting closer collaboration with the Arab world under the framework of the Africa-Arab Partnership. Although the 5th Africa-Arab Summit (the highest decision making body of the partnership) could not hold a meeting during his tenure due to unforeseen circumstances, **H.E. the Chairperson** had been consistent in advancing the

process of implementing the Resolutions from the 4th Africa-Arab Summit held in Malabo Equatorial Guinea in 2016, agreed areas of cooperation as identified by the Africa-Arab Strategy and ongoing programmes and activities of the partnership without diminishing the interests of the Partner and thereby ensuring that the partnership between AU and the Arab world remained mutually beneficial.

To this end, **H.E. the Chairperson** has been actively involved in engagements with the Arab League such as the 7th to 9th General Cooperation Meetings between the African Union Commission (AUC) and the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States from the period of 2018 to 2019; the 29th to 33rd League of Arab States Regular Summits from the period of 2018 to 2024; the 6th to 10th Ministerial Meetings of the Coordination Committee of the Africa-Arab Partnership from the period of 2018 to 2024 and preparations for the 2023 5th Africa-Arab Summit in Riyadh Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which was postponed.



Under the leadership of **H.E. the Chairperson**, the Commission and the General Secretariats of the League of Arab States have concluded their consultations at experts' level regarding the 2023 - 2026 Africa-Arab Joint Action Plan which contains concrete programmes and activities in the areas of Agricultural Development and Food Security, Clean Energy and Climate Change; Economic Cooperation (Infrastructure Connectivity, Trade and Investment);

Political, Peace and Security Cooperation (Political, Crisis Management and Conflict Resolution, Combatting Terrorism) and Social and Cultural Cooperation expected to be considered and adopted during the 5th Africa-Arab Summit.

<sup>1</sup> Source: eurostat

## Forum on China – Africa Cooperation (FOCAC)

Under the Leadership of **H.E. Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat**, the African Union Commission has ascertained its relevance and importance within the FOCAC process with the realization of key milestone achievements marked by the opening of an African Union Permanent Mission in Beijing, China, in 2018, when the 3rd FOCAC Summit held in Beijing, China. The Commission equally contributed to the successful organization of the 9th FOCAC Ministerial Meeting held in Dakar, Senegal in 2021, as well as the just concluded 2024 FOCAC Summit held in Beijing. Since 2017, the Commission has promoted cooperation agreements with China scaling up the number of critical investments from China in physical infrastructure at the African Union premises, including the Meles Zenawi Service Centre equipped with

modern reprography equipment, the renovation projects of the AUC Building A, and the construction and equipment of the Headquarters of the Africa Centre for Disease Control in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Through the FOCAC process, China has provided training opportunities for more than one hundred staff of the Commission through seminars and short-term training programmes in China. It is also worth noting the diversification of the Cooperation with China beyond physical infrastructure and trainings with the establishment of the China-Africa peace and security fund to boost China-Africa cooperation on peace, security, peacekeeping, law, and order as well as the substantial support provided by China to the African Standby Force, valued at a total of USD 100 million.



Since its establishment in 2000, the Forum on China – Africa Cooperation has contributed to strengthen dialogue, closer economic and political cooperation and solidify a mutually beneficial partnership between Africa and China. In 2023, for example trade volume between African countries and China reached a record high of 283 billion USD<sup>2</sup>, cementing the position of China as the main bilateral trading partner of the continent. In addition, and through various initiatives recently launched by the Government of China such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), the Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the newly established ten Partnership's Actions by China

during the 2024 FOCAC Summit, have served as key instruments supporting Chinese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Official Development Assistance in Africa. Despite the challenges paused by the imbalance in trade exchanges due to limited access of African exports to the Chinese market, China's Cooperation with the continent has been applauded as a result-oriented and beneficial for Africa as Chinese investment and Development Assistance has surpassed 100 billion dollars over the past 6 years.

<sup>2</sup>IMF Statistic

## Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD)

The Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) was launched in 1993, by Japan. The main objective was to help promote high-level policy dialogue amongst African leaders and their development partners. The TICAD process, which marked its 30th anniversary in 2023, has since grown into a major global forum to promote development in Africa, under the principles of African “ownership” and international “partnership.” The African Union Commission jointly organized and participated in the TICAD 7 (2019, Yokohama), and TICAD 8 (2022, Tunis) Summits. The Commission played a lead and critical role in ensuring that the interests of the African Union were fully reflected and represented in all outcome documents of both Summits. The TICAD 7 and 8 Summits gave prominence to the centrality of the AU Agenda 2063 and its Implementation Plans in the identification of priority areas that form the basis of the cooperation between the AU and Japan.

The Declarations of the TICAD 7 and 8 Summits committed to the transformation of the African

business environment through innovation and private sector engagement, strengthening of peace and stability in Africa, transformation of the agriculture sector, catalysation of the science, technology and innovation sector, and climate change. The TICAD 8 Summit also saw Japan commit to the Recovery of Stolen Assets, debt treatments, the channelling of the Special Drawing Rights, initiation of the 5th phase of the Enhanced Private Sector Assistance for Africa (EPSA5), support to AfCFTA, up to USD 1.5 billion of financial contribution to the COVAX facility for global access for COVID-19 vaccine, and USD 1.08 billion over 3 years for the 7th Replenishment of Global Fund. Furthermore, Japan provided training for approximately 291,000 people through various projects such as the ABE Initiative (African Business Education Initiative for Youth), a master’s degree and internship program based on public-private academic partnership. Japan has contributed US\$ 320 million in food production enhancement assistance to some African Countries. Food assistance worth US\$ 215 million has also been distributed across 36 countries.



The Government of Japan has also contributed significantly to the development of projects related to the AU Peace Fund, Pan-African Network of the Wise, Network of African Women in Conflict Prevention and Mediation, ATMIS, Sahel Region and the appointment of a Special Envoy for the Horn of Africa.

## Africa – India Partnership

The Indian diaspora in Africa, spanning 46 countries, is not just a statistic but a significant and valued part of India’s total diaspora. Their crucial role in enhancing bilateral relations and shaping Africa-India cultural connections through substantial investments, involvement in cultural programs, and participation in governance sectors is integral to the partnership. The

first India–Africa Forum Summit was held in 2008 in New Delhi, India; the second, in 2011, was hosted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; and the third, in 2015, was held in New Delhi, India. The fourth Summit is scheduled to be hosted in Africa. The Third Africa-India Forum Summit was a significant event that led to the adoption of two outcome documents: The Third Africa–India Summit Declaration and the Third Africa-India Summit Framework for Strategic Cooperation. These documents mark a milestone in the partnership, provide a clear strategic direction, and outline key areas of cooperation. As stipulated in the last Paragraph of the Framework for Cooperation, both sides: “Agreed to establish a regular formal monitoring mechanism to review the implementation of the agreed areas of cooperation and identified projects by the competent bodies of the Partnership. Modalities of the monitoring mechanism and the detailed Plan of Action will be jointly developed within three months.”

Both sides also agreed to cooperate in the following areas: (i) peace and security; (ii) health; (iii) Education and skills development; (iv) Economic cooperation; (v) trade and industry; (vi) Agriculture; (vii) Renewable energy; (viii) Blue/ocean economy; (ix) Infrastructure.

India and Africa have a time-honoured partnership based on shared values, and India enjoys considerable goodwill within Africa. The growth of India’s trade with Africa, from US\$68.5 billion in 2011-12 to US\$90.5 billion in 2022-23, and the expansion of Indian investors’ footprint in Africa, highlights India’s commitment to the partnership. India is now one of the top five investors in Africa, with cumulative investments worth US\$73.9 billion between 1996 and

2022. Together, India and Africa have also effectively contributed to protecting the interests of developing countries at international forums, particularly the World Trade Organization (WTO).

The African Continent and India developed joint proposals such as the Agriculture Framework Proposal and, more recently, proposed an intellectual property rights waiver for COVID-19 vaccines at the WTO. The partnership reached a momentous milestone when the African Union Commission was admitted to the G20 under the Indian presidency. This achievement testified to India’s commitment to Africa and underscored the partnership’s mutual benefits, reflecting both partners’ aspirations.

### **Africa – Türkiye Partnership**

The Second Africa-Türkiye Ministerial Review Conference was held in Istanbul in 2018, where both sides reviewed progress achieved with regards to the partnership and discussed steps to be taken to strengthen the cooperation between Africa and Türkiye. The Conference also consolidated and streamlined the partnership, and focused on socio-economic development, equality, and mutual benefit. The 3rd Africa – Türkiye Partnership Summit was held in December 2021, in Istanbul, Türkiye and adopted the Türkiye – Africa Partnership Joint Implementation Report 2015 - 2020, the Africa-Türkiye Partnership Joint Action Plan 2022-2026 and the Istanbul Declaration. The Third Ministerial Review Conference was held on 3rd November 2024 in Djibouti and adopted the Joint Communique and the Africa-Türkiye Joint Implementation Report 2022 - 2024.



Over the last decade, the Africa-Türkiye partnership has been strengthened based on equality, mutual respect, trust, and mutually beneficial cooperation. The current Joint Action Plan 2022 - 2026 is aligned to Agenda 2063 Aspirations and covers various areas, including peace and security, governance, investment, education, youth empowerment, health, and infrastructure. Trade between the African continent and Türkiye in the last two years (2022 - 2023) have totalled nearly 78 billion USD.

### **Africa – Korea Partnership**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Korea-Africa Ministerial Forum was held in March 2021 in Seoul, Korea and adopted the Seoul Declaration and the Framework of Cooperation 2022 - 2026. On 4-5 June 2024, **H.E. Chairperson, Moussa**

**Faki Mahamat** attended the Korea-Africa Summit in Ilsan Seoul under the theme: “The Future We Make Together: Shared Growth, Sustainability, and Solidarity” followed by the Korea-Africa Business Summit. **H.E. the Chairperson**, recognized Korea’s model of development and for its technological advancement, education, and industrialization performance and called for promoting bilateral trade relations and private sector investments in key value-added areas. He further called on Korea to show support towards the ongoing efforts to reform the entire international system of political, diplomatic, and financial governance, so that universal prosperity and justice are more widely shared.



Economic cooperation between Africa and Korea has been strengthened over the past eight years through mechanisms such as the Africa – Korea Forum and the Korea – Africa Economic Cooperation Forum (KOAPEC). Korea’s Official Development Assistance in Africa has increased to an amount of 600 million USD in 2023, while the trade volume between Korea and the continent was estimated at 20.45 billion USD in 2022. The strengthening of the partnership between Africa and Korea has also led the Korean Government to pledge to increase Korea’s ODA to Africa to 10 billion USD and offering 14 billion USD in export financing to Korean companies in Africa from 2024 to 2030.

### **Africa – South America Partnership**

The Partnership between Africa and South America is relatively new. However, in 2019, under the guidance of the leadership of the Commission and at the behest of the African Coordinator, Nigeria, a meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, with the Brazilian Ambassador as the Coordinator for the South American side. Discussions at the meeting revolved around revitalizing the Partnership.

The Africa – South American Partnership is one that holds a lot of promise and has the potential to represent South-South Cooperation and enable both sides to work as a bloc in promoting multilateralism globally leading to exponential benefits for all. The African Union will need to prioritize its interests,

objectives, and value addition of the Partnership. This will ensure the African Union's engagement with the most relevant regional grouping in the region. It is

a process that must be driven by the African Union Commission.

## 2.4.2. HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUES

### African Union Commission – United States of America

The legal framework guiding the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United States (US) cooperation is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between AUC and the U.S. Government through the U.S. Department of State, signed on 1 February 2013. The Framework has established the Annual High-Level Dialogue between the two Parties and put in place a structured process for dialogue on matters of strategic importance, as well as cooperation, to realize shared goals related to

Africa's development and integration agenda based on four (4) areas for collaboration as follows: (i) Peace and Security; (ii) Democracy and Governance; (iii) Economic Growth, Trade, and Investment; and (iv) Opportunity and Development. The High-Level Dialogue (HLD) reports annually on implementing the four (4) areas of cooperation. The report highlights insights, challenges, lessons learned and the way forward in attaining the goals set in the respective work plans within the cooperation framework. Incremental progress has been made in these areas.



The AU-U.S. dialogue has proved useful in enhancing the AUC's capacities in conflict prevention, management, and resolution, post-conflict stabilisation, and counterterrorism and violent extremism. The US has been a key partner in AU's peace and security efforts, culminating in the US supporting the addition of two new permanent seats on the U.N. Security Council for African nations. Positive strides have been made in other areas as well, including Democracy and Governance, Economic

Growth, Trade and Investment and cooperation on issues transcending national boundaries in the fields of natural resource and labour management, sustainable fisheries, environmental protection, food security, climate change, renewable energy and regional energy integration, organised crime, conservation of biodiversity, labour migration, agriculture, civil aviation and regional information network and communications through the collaboration and engagement on AGOA and AfCFTA. Advancements in health and well-being

have been made, with continued support from the AfCDC, education and skills development, and humanitarian resilience, as witnessed in both the response and recovery efforts following the COVID-19 pandemic. Special attention has been paid to youth and women's roles and the leveraging of research and innovation.

### **Africa Union Commission – Canada**

The African Union Commission and Canada have maintained long-term partnerships (since OAU in 1996) in addressing peace and security on the Continent and, more recently, global health during the pandemic in 2020. Canada has been actively participating and engaging with the AU Commission in the process of institutionalising and implementing the Framework of Cooperation between the AU

Commission and the International Partners (Mutual accountability framework) established to, among others, improve coordination, communication, and collaboration, between the AUC and the International Community to ensure more effective development cooperation mechanisms so that AUC priorities are met. Canada and the African Union Commission concluded their first high-level dialogue on 27 October 2022 in Ottawa. The dialogue consisted of thematic discussions. **H.E. Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat**, three Canadian ministers, and African Union Commission and Canadian officials identified opportunities for increased collaboration on peace and democracy, sustainable development, health, and economic cooperation.



Canada reaffirmed its commitment to a strengthened Canada-African Union Commission partnership based on shared priorities, recognizing the strategic vision of the African Union Commission's Agenda 2063. They announced their intention to hold regular high-level and sectoral dialogues on trade and development and welcomed the award of privileges and immunities to African Union Commission officials. Before the High-Level Dialogue, Canada announced the establishment of a dedicated mission and permanent observer to the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in June 2022. This will enable Canada to renew its focus on its relationship with the African Union Commission and strengthen ongoing efforts on shared priorities. The two sides agreed to regularly consult technical

departments to develop a Joint Action Plan and a clear Memorandum of Understanding. Canada has been supporting different programs of the AUC since 2005; these include: (i) Peace and security; (ii) Institutional reform and renewal; (iii) Service delivery, capacity development, partnership, and outreach; (iv) Advancing continental integration; (v) Investing in the African people and (vi) Governance, human rights, and Institutions. Through the Joint Financing Agreement (JFA) mechanism, Canada supports various activities in many areas, including initiatives for democratic development, trade policy, and strengthening food security across Africa. It also provides training and equipment to African countries involved in peace operations and conflict management.

## AUC - France

On 8 June 2018, **H.E. Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat**, and **H.E. Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian** signed a declaration of intent between the AUC and France to establish a strategic dialogue and cooperation between France and the AU Commission. **H.E. President Emmanuel Macron**, President of France, and **H.E. Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat** had various engagements through High-Level Dialogues and held the first France-AUC strategic dialogue on 11th June 2019, in Paris, France. The next AUC-France HLD could not hold on the 21st June 2023 as previously communicated but France however reiterated its readiness to hold it as soon as possible.

Moreover, France has obtained an observer status to the African Union and has a Permanent Representation of France to the African Union in Addis Ababa. France has provided financial support to the African Union and its different specialized agencies in the framework of various projects since 2014 via

“Agence Française de Development” (AFD), Expertise France and EU African Peace Facility. This substantial support benefits, for instance, the African Renewable Energy Initiative, the African Risk Capacity, and the AUDA-NEPAD’s Rural Futures program. In addition, in the partnership framework with the “International Organization of La Francophonie” (OIF), France supports teaching the French language to benefit the AUC staff at the AU HQ in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

During the visit of the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Ms. Catherine Colonna, and the Foreign Minister of Germany at the African Union Headquarters on January 13th, 2023, in Addis Ababa, the Ministers voiced support for Africa to have two permanent seats on the U.N. Security Council. This was after **H.E. Emmanuel Macron**, the President of the Republic of France, told the world leaders gathering at G-20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia that Paris “supports the complete integration of the African Union into the G20” in the same way as the European Union is a member.



Finally, France made a new commitment of 2.5 million Euros to be channelled through technical cooperation and this was followed with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the African Union Commission and “l’Agence Française de Development” (AFD Group) in April 2024. This MOU includes a training component of AUC staff as well as the deployment of five experts from Expertise France within the AU Commission. High-level dialogue took place in Addis Ababa in November 2024.

## African Union Commission – United Kingdom

On 30 October 2023, the United Kingdom, and the African Union Commission (AUC) held the inaugural AU-UK High-Level Dialogue in London. The Dialogue opened with a bilateral meeting between African Union Commission **H.E. Chairperson, Moussa Faki Mahamat**, and UK Minister for State for Development and Africa, Rt. Hon. Andrew Mitchell MP, where the two exchanged on UK engagement with Africa, the UK’s cooperation with the African Union, and the

multilateral system, including the African Union's admission as a permanent member of the G20.

Throughout the Dialogue, **H.E. the Chairperson of the AUC** emphasized on the longstanding historical relationship between the African continent and the UK focussing on multiple domains, particularly in the realm of peace and security. Minister Mitchell and the Deputy Prime Minister affirmed the UK's commitment to strengthening the AU-UK partnership across priorities of mutual importance.

Minister Mitchell also announced further UK funding in support of the African Union's Agenda 2063 flagship project Silencing the Guns campaign: £10 million to support troops in Somalia, bringing the UK's total commitment to the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS, formerly AMISOM) since 2022 to more than £57m; £3 million contribution through the FCDO's Tackling Deadly Diseases in Africa Programme to support the Africa Centres for Disease Control and World Health Organisation address emergency preparedness and response in Africa. The partnership was cemented with a refreshed MoU for AUC-UK cooperation, setting out agreed areas of collaboration over the next few years and pledging to hold biennial high-level dialogues going forward.

### **AFRICAN UNION COMMISSION – UNITED NATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

The 2017 UN-AU partnership sought to enhance collaboration between the two organizations through all stages of preventing and resolving conflict in Africa. These range from planning joint preventive interventions to developing shared approaches toward conflict management, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction and development. The framework focused particularly on strengthening and systematizing cooperation between UN and AU administrative structures at operational and working levels. **H.E. the Chairperson of the African Union Commission** and **the H.E. Secretary-General of the UN** endorsed the Development Framework as the foundation for stronger coordination to achieve the mutual strategic intents of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. This partnership aims to maximize the comparative advantages, mandates, and synergies between the African Union Commission and the United Nations for the effective implementation of and reporting on the two Agendas.

On 28 November 2023, **H.E. Chairperson of the AUC** and the **H.E. Secretary-General António Guterres** convened the seventh African Union-United Nations Annual Conference in New York. The two leaders

reviewed progress in the implementation of the "UN-AU Joint Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security" and the "AU-UN Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and signed the AU-UN Joint Framework on Human Rights.



The High-level Strategic Dialogue also recalled the mandate provided by the 7th Annual AU-UN Conference for it "to consider and address priority issues of strategic importance in the joint partnership of the United Nations and the AUC on sustainable development, including by providing recommendations for consideration at the African Union-United Nations Annual Conference". The dialogue provided an opportunity for both institutions to highlight shared values, including a call for global peace and security, a joint preventative and mediation process in conflict prevention and conflict resolution, collaborative efforts on climate change, addressing women's and youth expectations, sharing statistics and data sets for development, and working together to reform the global financial architecture.

### 2.4.3. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

To rally support and mobilize resources for the implementation of Agenda 2063 flagships programmes the AUC has fostered strong international cooperation with key partners such as Germany and its development Agencies, Italy, Spain, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria,

Netherland, New Zealand, Australia, the Gulf Council Countries (GCC), Mastercard Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the World Bank, and African Financial institutions represented by the African Development Bank and Afreximbank.

### 2.4.4. G20 MEMBERSHIP

The African Union's (AU) admission as a permanent member of the G20 during the November 2023 G20 Summit in New Delhi marked a historic moment for Africa in global governance. This inclusion elevates the continent's role in addressing critical global issues, including economic development, energy transitions, and sustainability. Following this milestone, the AU

Heads of State adopted Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.873(XXXVII) in February 2024, outlining modalities for AU participation in G20 meetings and preliminary priorities, including Agenda 2063, UN Sustainable Development Goals, and reforms in international finance and trade.



The AU Commission (AUC) actively engaged in G20 activities under Brazil's 2024 presidency, which emphasizes social inclusion, hunger alleviation, sustainable energy transitions, and governance reforms.

#### **Implementation of Summit and Executive Council Decisions on G20**

The AU strengthened its G20 representation by appointing an AU G20 Sherpa and Sous-Sherpa and established a directory of AU representatives for G20

meetings. To enhance efficiency and coordination in all G20-related matters, the Policy Organs have also approved the creation of an AU G20 Coordination Unit.

#### **Impactful Participation in G20**

The AU actively engaged in key G20 meetings. Notable contributions included the development of the G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration and initiatives, such as the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, which will host a regional office in Addis Ababa. In addition, advocacy by AU delegates secured

commitments for Sustainable Development Goals, climate finance, debt management, and African trade integration, aligning with Agenda 2063.

### G20 Collaboration and Coordination

Moreover, important collaborations took place at two levels: with AU policy organs through briefings and consultations, and with AU G20 Member States, including South Africa (as Permanent Member),

Angola, Egypt, and Nigeria (as Invited Guests). Some of the key achievements included consultations on South Africa's 2025 G20 presidency and alignment of its priorities with AU's Agenda 2063 goals. Internal coordination was also improved through periodic taskforce meetings, development of templates for reporting, and engagement with AU knowledge partners.



Africa's inclusion in the G20 signals a transformative era of increased global influence and partnerships, laying a strong foundation for sustainable development and a more prominent role in international affairs.

In conclusion, the foundation laid through these partnerships positions the African Union for an enhanced role in global affairs. Furthermore, we have experienced a significant shift from traditional donor-recipient relationships to more equitable partnerships based on mutual interests and shared responsibilities, setting a strong foundation for Africa's continued emergence as a global player. Still, success will depend on the effective implementation

of commitments and maintaining the momentum of strategic engagement while ensuring these partnerships contribute meaningfully to Africa's development agenda as outlined in Agenda 2063.

**AU PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES**  
The 6 AU Permanent Representations in Beijing, Brussels, Cairo, Geneva, New York, and Washington, have been very active in promoting the role and the voice of the AUC in international bilateral and multilateral frameworks.

## 3 THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES OF AGENDA 2063

### 3.1. THE CHALLENGE OF PEACE, SECURITY, STABILITY, GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY

**T**he Peace and Security situation has significantly deteriorated in Africa in the last decade. Regional conflicts increased. The number of anti-constitutional changes of government increased leading for the first time in the history of the organization 6 countries are placed under political sanctions. Currently, numerous complex political transitions are witnessed across the Continent. The terrorist and violent extremist threat is expanding.

Despite multiple challenges, efforts in peace making, peacebuilding and peace enforcement on the

African continent have improved considerably. The deterioration of the security issues on the Continent would probably have been much worse had the AU not acted actively on peace and security across the Continent.

The AUC has therefore continued to play a pivotal role in promoting peace and stability across the Continent through its mediation and preventive diplomacy efforts. As conflicts in Africa become increasingly complex, the AUC's approach to addressing these issues has evolved, aiming to foster long-term solutions and sustainable peace.



**H.E. Amb. Smail Chergui,**  
Commissioner for Peace and Security (2017 – 2021)



**H.E. Amb. Bankole Adeoye,**  
Commissioner for PAPS (2021 – 2025)

Throughout the outgoing Commission's mandate, it was observed that action needed to move from a restrictive security-oriented perspective to an enlarged approach encompassing the dimensions of development, climate, and socio-economic parameters.

The nexus approach was developed, and forums

such as the Aswan in Egypt, Oran in Algeria, and the Tangier Morocco forums took place.

Under the leadership of **H.E. Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat**, spanning from 2017 to 2024, the AUC, worked tirelessly in enhancing early warning mechanisms, preventive diplomacy, mediation, dialogue, and reconciliation, managing conflicts,

including through the deployment of peace support operations resolving conflicts through facilitating negotiation of peace agreements. In addition, the AUC implemented a number of decisions of the AU Assembly and the PSC on thematic issues related to

peace and security in Africa, such as youth, peace and security; women, peace and security; climate change peace and security; border programme, and protection of children in conflict situations.



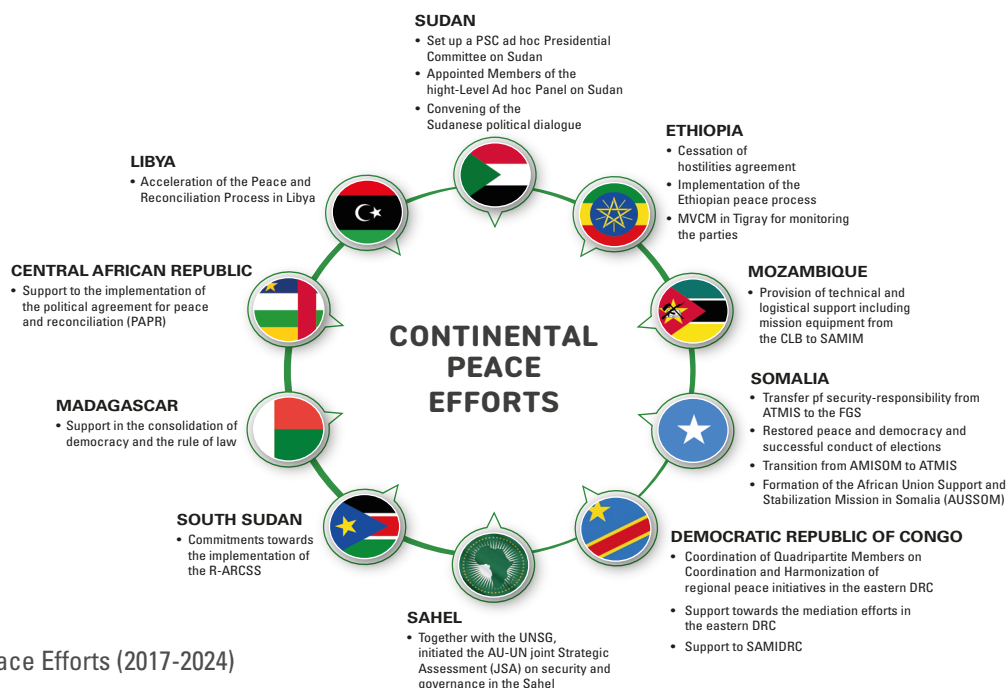
### 3.1.1. PEACE RELATED ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FLAGSHIP PROJECT “SILENCING THE GUNS”

From 2017 - 2025, the Continent experienced increased crisis, conflicts and security related issues, during this period the AUC engaged on several activities to promote peace and stability across. These activities involved all five regions.

These actions have been conducted with an inclusive approach both with concerned Member States as

well as with relevant stakeholders, including when appropriate international partners.

The following chart summarizes the different actions conducted by the AUC on the different conflict terrains across the five regions of the Continent.



Continental Peace Efforts (2017-2024)

It is noteworthy to highlight that these peace and security activities of the African Union (AU) have been actively supported by several African Heads of State who have spared no effort in advancing progress on critical issues.

Notable Leaders include:

- **H.E. Denis Sassou-Nguesso**, President of the Republic of Congo, who has played a pivotal role in mediating the Libyan national reconciliation.
- **H.E. João Lourenço**, President of the Republic of Angola, whose efforts have focused on peace and stability in the Great Lakes region.
- **H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo**, former President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, who has been instrumental as an AU High Representative for the Horn of Africa, specifically mediating in the Ethiopian conflict.
- **H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta**, former President of the Republic of Kenya, who has taken significant steps in peace-building efforts in South Sudan and Somalia, and more recently, in the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

These leaders, among others, have made substantial contributions, demonstrating a commitment to collaborative conflict resolution and peace-building initiatives across the continent, addressing complex security challenges through mediation, dialogue, and peacekeeping frameworks.

The AUC, through its Envoys, HR/SRCCs, Panel of the wise, Emissaries and other Mediators, have continued to be engaged in various mediation and peace-making processes towards the effective prevention, mitigation, and resolution of conflict.

Additionally, the 2022 appointment of **H.E. Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco**, President of the Republic of Angola, as AU Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa, also underscored the continental focus in promoting the principles of dialogue, reconciliation, and the long-term implementation of peace agreements.

### 3.1.2. AN ENHANCED AU-UN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP ON PEACE AND SECURITY

Also, the AU and the UN significantly strengthened their strategic partnership on peace and security issues, and a joint framework was signed on the 19th of April 2017. In addition, two other joint frameworks were signed in 2018 and 2023, respectively on sustainable development and humanitarian issues. The cooperation framework between the AU and the UN is therefore global and operational.

Within these dynamics and in support of peace keeping operations on the Continent, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2719 (2023), on 21st December 2023, addressing financing for African Union-led peace support operations (AUPSOs).

The Framework Agreement AU-UN Resolution 2719 (2023) reflects a collaborative effort to address these

concerns and represents a historic demonstration of the growing partnership between the African Union and the United Nations. Adopting this framework resolution aligns with AU's commitment to regional integration and its ongoing efforts to combat conflicts, insurgency, and terrorism in the region.

The UNSC adopted also Resolution 2748 (2024) that extends the authorization for the AU Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) until the 31st of December, and requests the Secretary-General, jointly with **H.E. the Chairperson** and in consultations with Somalia and international stakeholders, to report on the overall mission design for the proposed successor mission by the 15th of November 2025.

### 3.1.3. A REVITALISED PEACE FUND

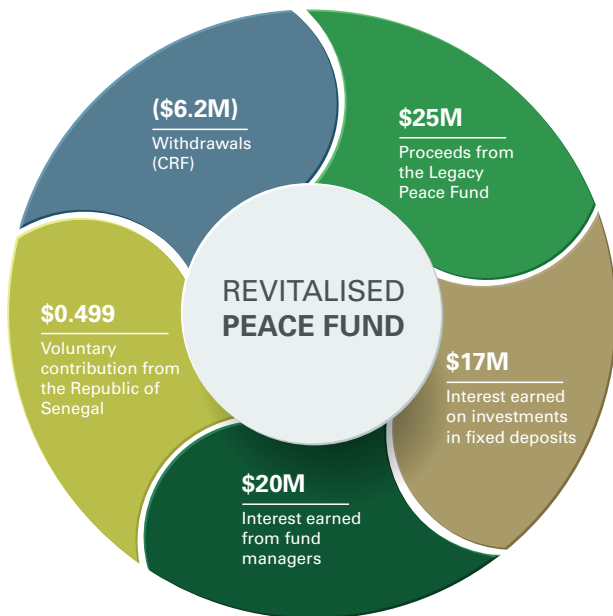
The African Union Peace Fund (AUPF) is a crucial tool that unites Africa’s resources to promote peace and drive development. Bringing the Peace Fund into operation marks a practical step toward reducing Africa’s reliance on external and donor funding. This strategic move enhances the continent’s ability to handle security challenges by directing funds toward mediation, preventive diplomacy, institutional readiness, and capacity building, including maintaining the Crisis Reserve Facility (CRF).

The AUC successfully launched the revitalized Peace Fund with a robust governance structure, instilling confidence in Member States and stakeholders. Since the Fund’s initiation in 2017, contributions have been solicited from Member States in line with the scale of assessment for the period of 2020-2022 extended by one year up to December 2023 (Assembly/AU/Dec. 838 (XXXV), February 2022, Addis Ababa).



As of July 2024, the Fund has amassed US\$341,229,534.38, approaching the target of US\$400 million required for its full endowment.

In addition to the total contributions from Member States, the Peace Fund has accumulated \$59,736,789.87, derived from the following sources:



The African Union Peace Fund convened a pivotal resource mobilization platform in Accra, Ghana, alongside the Mid-Year Coordination Meetings. This initiative was undertaken in response to a decision from the Executive Council (EX.CL/ Dec.1223(XLIII) paragraph 31, taken during its ordinary sitting in July 2023 held in Nairobi), which requested the AUC to explore options for mobilizing resources from the private sector and other sources to support the Peace Fund.

In addition to ongoing resource mobilization efforts, the African Union Peace Fund Secretariat is working on creating a technology-based resource mobilization platform. This platform aims to facilitate contributions from both the people of the continent and the diaspora. It will be developed in collaboration with key partners, including the telecommunications and financial sectors.

The AU Peace Fund’s Governance:

- The AU Peace Fund’s governance and management structure has been finalized and overhauled to enhance accountability, transparency, and operational efficiency. The initiatives include the establishment of the Audit Committee, meticulous External Fund Manager selection, and quarterly Board of Trustees meetings. The Secretariat advanced by formulating Terms of Reference for the

Independent Evaluation Group, endorsed by the Board, with the selection process set for 2024.

- **Moreover, fund managers** were appointed from the Old Mutual Investment Group from South Africa and Sanlam Investments East Africa from Kenya as external fund managers of the African Union Peace Fund through an international open bid conducted in late 2022.

The first disbursements already took place highlighting the full operationalization of the Peace Fund for the benefit of peace and stability on the Continent: In addition to the primary budget allocation of the Peace Fund, the African Union has instituted the Crisis Reserve Facility (CRF) as an integral component of the Peace Fund's financing mechanism. As delineated

in Article 21 of the PSC protocol, the CRF operates as a dynamic trust fund designed to swiftly address Africa's immediate and evolving peace and security requirements. The 2023 level of the CRF has been established at USD 7 million, with a planned increase to USD 10 million in 2024.

Notably, the Peace Fund has already disbursed USD 4 million in 2023 through PAPS, with allocations directed towards the EAC Regional Force in Eastern DRC (USD 2 million) and the ATMIS Shortfall (USD 2 million). These disbursements have exclusively utilized the interest accrued, reflecting a judicious management approach to ensure the fund's sustained effectiveness.



**AU Leadership with H.E. Prof. Benedict Oramah, President of Afreximbank**

### 3.1.4. PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL

On 25 May 2024 the PSC marked its 20th Anniversary of its establishment and reflected on its achievements, challenges, and prospects. Since its establishment, the PSC has been actively engaged in the promotion of peace, security, and stability, addressing peace and security challenges on the continent.

The PSC has provided the required political guidance for addressing conflict and crisis situations in the continent. This involved the deployment of peace support operations, high representatives, envoys, and

the Panel of the Wise for preventive diplomacy, which led to the de-escalation of several crises. The PSC has, on several occasions, engaged civilians through field missions and open forums, particularly those affected by conflicts, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and the representatives of civil society organizations.

The PSC has led the adoption of several common African positions that provide guidance to AU Member States and for Africa to speak in one voice

in multilateral fora. The PSC developed and adopted a landmark AU Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns in Africa, which provides guidance to the continent on steps to be undertaken to realize a conflict-free continent. To complement efforts to

silence the guns in Africa, the PSC proposed the endorsement of the month of September each year as 'Africa Amnesty Month' for the surrender and collection of illicit small arms and weapons.



The PSC has been active in addressing thematic issues related to the state of peace and security in Africa, such as terrorism and violent extremism, unconstitutional changes and government, climate change, peace and security, post-conflict reconstruction and development, humanitarian issues, and the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons.

The reform of the PSC has been a recurring topic, particularly regarding its effectiveness, efficiency, and the need for the AU to better respond to the continent's dynamic security challenges.

Time has come for the PSC to be reformed to adapt the tools to the new realities in the World and on the Continent. Recommendations to that effect will be shared in the conclusion of this Report.

### 3.1.5. ENABLERS OF PEACE AND SECURITY

#### Mediation and Dialogue

The AUC has made significant progress in strengthening the capacity for preventive diplomacy, dialogue, and mediation, particularly following its reorganization under the ongoing AUC institutional reforms. This reorganization integrated two previously separate entities into a more cohesive unit, enabling streamlined operations despite limited staffing. One of the notable achievements was its pivotal role in the Ethiopian peace process, which culminated in the signing of the Agreement for Lasting Peace through a Permanent Cessation of Hostilities in Pretoria on November 2, 2022.

The Panel of the Wise, with robust support from the office of **H.E. the Chairperson of the AUC**, has also been actively engaged in implementing peace agreements through a combination of fact-finding missions, shuttle diplomacy, and facilitating dialogue.

#### Women, Peace, and Security (WPS)

In addition to these efforts, the AUC has been at the forefront of advancing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and Youth Peace and Security agendas through its support of FemWise-Africa and the WiseYouth network, both subsidiary mechanisms of the Panel of the Wise. Since its establishment in

2017, FemWise-Africa has expanded its reach by establishing chapters in several countries, providing critical platforms for women mediators to engage in conflict prevention, mediation, and peacebuilding.

These initiatives have ensured that women's voices are increasingly represented in high-level peace processes, contributing to more inclusive and sustainable outcomes.

### THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

The African Union Commission (AUC) established the Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace, and Security (OSE) in 2014 to amplify women's voices in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. Guided by UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the Maputo Protocol, and Agenda 2063, the OSE promotes gender equality in peace processes across Africa. Since its establishment, the office has worked to bridge the gap between policy and implementation, leading efforts that have resulted in 37 AU Member States adopting National Action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security, making Africa the global leader in this area. Six Regional Economic Communities have also implemented Regional Action Plans.

The AUC, through the OSE, created the Continental Results Framework (CRF) in 2018 as the first accountability tool for Women, Peace, and Security delivery in Africa. This framework drives Member States' systematic reporting on the implementation of WPS commitments. The office has contributed to the AUC Chairperson's annual reports and the UN Secretary-General's reports, increasing visibility on the challenges and progress related to women affected by conflict and insecurity.

Through its advocacy, the AUC has enhanced women's participation in peace processes and governance by supporting initiatives like the African Women Leaders Network and FemiWise Africa, while also ensuring gender parity in the appointment of mediators and technical teams. Solidarity missions to conflict zones, have resulted in practical outcomes such as codes of conduct for peacekeepers and improved humanitarian support. The office has also been at the forefront of campaigns addressing gender-based violence, including organizing Men's Conferences on Positive Masculinity to shift societal norms.

The AUC has fostered strategic partnerships with stakeholders, including the United Nations, development partners, and research institutions, to support the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. These collaborations have led to resource sharing, the establishment of centres of excellence, and the implementation of programs promoting gender equality and peace across the continent. Over the past decade, the OSE has strengthened its capacity to deliver impactful results, ensuring its efforts contribute meaningfully to Africa's peace and security landscape. Recognized by the AU Executive Council, the OSE remains a cornerstone of the Commission's commitment to gender equality and inclusive peacebuilding, embodying the transformative vision of Agenda 2063.

### Youth, Peace and Security

The Youth, Peace and Security Programme was established to ensure meaningful participation of youth on peace and security activities. The Continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security (CFYPS) and its 10-Year Implementation Plan was adopted by the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) as the flagship framework guiding the continental implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, with 5 key pillars of implementation, namely: Participation, Prevention, Protection, Partnership & Coordination, and Reintegration and Recovery.

*The African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAP)* is an AUC initiative to involve young Africans in promoting peace and stability. Operating under the AU's Peace and Security Council, AYAP empowers youth to take leadership roles in peace advocacy across Africa's five regions.

Key Components include:

- Youth Empowerment: AYAP equips young leaders with platforms to advocate for peace.

- **Conflict Resolution:** Ambassadors mediate conflicts, promote dialogue, and represent youth in policymaking.
- **Policy Alignment:** AYAP supports AU initiatives like Silencing the Guns, aiming to end conflicts continent-wide.
- **Regional Representation:** Ambassadors address region-specific conflicts, tailoring peace strategies to local contexts.
- **Capacity Building:** Training prepares youth with skills in peacebuilding and leadership, fostering a network of informed advocates.

AYAP contributes to the AU's Agenda 2063 vision of a peaceful, united Africa by mobilizing young leaders for sustained impact on the continent's security and social cohesion.

### Protection of Children

The AUC has made significant progress in its efforts to better prevent and respond to grave violations against children in the context of armed conflicts. It has established a programme for the protection of children in situations of conflict. Through this programme the AUC promoted the voice and visibility of children in situations of conflict on the continent. Two policies on child protection in AU Peace Support Operations and Mainstreaming Child Protection in African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) have been adopted (2022).

### Border Programme

In February 2020, the 33rd Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union adopted the African Union Strategy for Better Integrated Border Governance (AUBGS). The Strategy seeks to “put in place a new form of pragmatic border governance aimed at promoting peace, security and stability, in order to facilitate the integration process and sustainable development in Africa”.

### AUC Initiatives

The period 2021 - 2024 was critical in the AUC reform process as it saw the implementation of the merger and realignment of part of the Department of Political

Affairs and the Peace and Security Department to form the Department of Political Affairs Peace and Security (DPAPS). Within this department, is a focus on Governance and Conflict Prevention whose mandate is to support Member States to enhance political and democratic governance, public sector governance, and the governance of defence and security.

Member States have remained consistent in holding elections to ensure the participation of citizens in selecting the leaders of their choice. The AUC deployed Election Observation Missions (AUEOMS) to support electoral processes in forty-nine (49) countries during this period. The AUC also provided technical support to Member States as per requests which included training of electoral staff and electoral stakeholders, deployment of experts and in some cases financial support.

In the area of Transitional Justice technical support was provided to Member States undergoing policy formulation/revision or implementation of transitional justice. The AU Special Envoy on the Prevention of Genocide and Mass Atrocities was appointed in 2024 showing AU's commitment to tackling genocide and other mass atrocities. The Special Envoy's role as the vanguard for the prevention of Genocide and mass atrocities on the continent brings the campaign closer to Member States.

In the area of Human Rights, the AU Strategic/Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human and Peoples' Rights in Africa (2024 - 2026) was adopted during the period under consideration, guiding the work of the Union and its joint initiatives with partners going forward. The AU Business and Human Rights Policy was also developed during the period under consideration. On 28 November 2023, **H.E. the Chairperson of the AUC** and **H.E. the UN Secretary General** signed the AU-UN Human Rights Framework which sets the tone for collaboration and synergy between the two institutions in pushing forward the human rights agenda.

### 3.1.6. CONFLICT PREVENTION

Around the Constitutionalism and Rule of Law, tangible results to be highlighted include the outcomes of African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) mainstreaming project, and the development of various manuals, tools, and curriculum since 2021 that were piloted in two countries, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau.



**PAPS Election Observers on Mission**

In addition, the AUC has developed a Guideline on Constitutional Amendments in 2022 and has done an in-depth experts' study on Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCG) which will serve as a foundation for developing a new doctrine to prevent and manage UCG situations, thereby reinforcing the continent's dedication to constitutionalism and the rule of law.

Efforts in Public Sector Governance saw increased engagements to strengthen the implementation of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR) adopted by the AU Policy Organs in February 2020.

The Establishment of an African Forum of Asset Recovery Experts and Practitioners and AU's first participation in the G-20 Technical Working Group Meeting on Anti-Corruption helped to position AU within the global anti-corruption narrative. The development of the State Party Assessment and Reporting Tool (SPAT) for the implementation of the African Charter on the values and principles of Public Service allowed Member States to introspect on the domestication of the charter at national levels.

*The African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AUABC)* was established to oversee the implementation of the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (AUCPCC), which was adopted in 2003 and came into effect in 2006. By 2024, 48 out of 55 AU Member States had ratified the Convention. The AUABC's mandate is to promote anti-corruption measures, monitor state compliance, and provide progress reports to the AUC.

#### Achievements

- **Ratification Progress:** 87.2% of AUC Member States ratified the AUCPCC by July 2024, with five states ratifying between 2021-2024.
- **State Reporting:** Only 17 of 48 ratified states submitted baseline reports, but new guidelines were introduced to streamline reporting.
- **Review and Sensitization Missions:** AUABC conducted review missions in Kenya, Burkina Faso, and Egypt, and a sensitization mission in Eswatini to encourage ratification.
- **Annual Anti-Corruption Events:** The AUABC held annual African Anti-Corruption Days and Dialogues, focusing on issues like COVID-19 fund transparency, regional anti-corruption efforts, and whistle blower protection.
- **Regional Economic Communities (REC) Engagement:** A strategy aligning REC anti-corruption efforts with the AUCPCC was developed, with the Regional Anti-Corruption Program set to be finalized in 2024.
- **Asset Recovery:** CAPAR, a policy to combat illicit financial flows, led to initiatives like the African Asset Recovery Practitioners Forum and consultative meetings with asset recovery experts.
- **Partnerships:** The AUABC collaborated with organizations like Transparency International and established the Network of Media Practitioners Against Corruption (NAMPA).

Defence and Security Governance is critical in enhancing the prevention of conflict and the promotion of peace. To improve strategic and operational capacities of Member States and peace

support Operations, the AUC provided support to Fifteen (15) Member States to implement ongoing SSR and DDR national processes. Strong collaboration and engagement with Peace Support missions also allowed for comprehensive accompaniment and technical support for affected Member States. The AUC has continued to encourage Member States to make efforts in reducing the number of small arms within communities through the Africa Amnesty month held every year in September where citizens are called on to surrender their firearms with no questions asked. This has gone a long way in the prevention of community violence and reducing the number of unlicensed weapons within communities.

Also, the African Governance Architecture (AGA) and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) Platform produced the first draft of a feasibility study on harmonizing reporting on AU Instruments was produced. This study aims to reduce the reporting burden on Member States and be more impactful in ensuring that Member States submit reports in a timely manner on the AU shared values instruments.

The revised Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy was adopted by the Assembly in February 2024, and progress has been made to fully operationalize the PCRD Centre in Cairo, Egypt.

Efforts in Public Sector Governance saw increased engagements to strengthen the implementation of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR) adopted by the AU Policy Organs in February 2020.

**AFRIPOL**, established to enhance cooperation among African law enforcement agencies, aligns its efforts with Agenda 2063 to ensure a peaceful and secure Africa. AFRIPOL has focused on strengthening collaboration, improving capacity-building, and combating transnational organized crime, terrorism, and cybercrime

*The African Union Commission (AUC) on International Law (AUCIL)*, established in 2009, serves as an advisory body for the AUC on matters of international law. Its mandate includes the progressive development and codification of international law, revising treaties, and promoting the teaching and study of international law.

*The African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre (AUCTC)* focuses on implementing various counter-terrorism activities aligned with its mandate. These activities include workshops, capacity-building programs, and the establishment of operational mechanisms.



## 3.2. FOSTERING GROWTH: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ACCELERATING REGIONAL INTEGRATION

### 3.2.1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRADE, FINANCE, MINERALS AND TOURISM

In the area of Regional Integration, 5 African Integration Reports (ARI) were produced highlighting the continent's progress towards achieving the Abuja Treaty.



**H.E. Prof. Victor Harison,**  
Commissioner for Economic Affairs (2017 – 2021)



**H.E. Amb. Albert Muchanga,**  
Commissioner for ETTIM (2017 – 2025)

In addition, the Africa Synthesized regional Integration Index (ASRII) was developed. The ASRII builds on the commonalities of previous measuring tools, namely, the African Regional Integration Index (ARII) and the African Multi-dimensional Regional Integration Index (AMRII), while also incorporating lessons learned from global institutions involved in measuring globalization and regional integration. The period under review also included a readiness assessment study towards establishing an African Customs Union and Common Market.

Similarly, in the trade sector, several tools were developed. These included the African Trade Observatory, which aims to provide real-time trade

flows information and data, a new methodology for collecting informal cross border trade data and an African Union Stakeholder Engagement Manual for Trade policy making. In addition, an African Union E-Commerce Strategy, a Commodity Strategy and an Export Development and Diversification Strategy were developed and adopted.

During the period under review, the establishment of the AfCFTA and the African Business Council significantly bolstered the presence of an organized private sector at the continental level. This development has subsequently boosted intra-African trade and enhanced Africa's share in global trade.



Globally, the AUC has championed Africa's Common Position at the WTO negotiations. This was achieved through the facilitation of Geneva-based AU Ambassadors' Retreats and African Ministers of Trade Meetings prior to WTO Ministerial Conferences, as well as coordinating the African Growth Opportunity Act. Additionally, the African Union-Canada Trade Policy dialogue Forum was inaugurated. Its main objectives are to support inclusive economic growth for the benefit of all by reinforcing a global open rules-based international trade and investment environment and to establish a common foundation for trade policy engagement between participants through future bilateral and multilateral trade policy initiatives.

### **Industrial and Minerals Resources Development**

The African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) was consolidated, following the adoption of its Statutes in 2016 under Article 24 of the Statutes, 15 Member States must ratify the Statutes to ensure its entry into force. So far, 12 countries have signed with 4 countries having ratified and deposited the instrument of ratification at the AUC. Ratification of the Statutes would give the AMDC full legal backing and a level of administrative, operational, financial independence to pursue the vision as agreed and defined by the African Mining Vision (AMV).

To give a boost to minerals governance in Africa, the African Minerals Governance Framework was published in 2017 as a tool to assess and monitor alignment of national mining sector policies, legal, standards, procedural and regulatory frameworks to the African Mining Vision. In addition, a continental Artisanal and Small-scale Mining (ASM) strategy, among others, aimed at improving the market structures for ASM products and promoting value addition, was developed. Similarly, an African Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS) is expected to be adopted in 2024. AGMS would ensure the region's strategically important green minerals reserves are leveraged to effectively support the development of the region. In this regard an African Green Minerals Observatory was also developed in partnership with the Southern Africa Institute for International Affairs (SAIIA).

To boost investments in the African Minerals, the African Minerals and Energy Resources Classification and Management System and the Pan-African Resource Reporting Code (PARC) was developed. This was in parallel to the establishment of the Africa Gem, Jewellery Exhibition and Conference (AGJEC), a platform for women miners and traders, and women-led artisanal, small, and medium scale enterprises (ASMMEs) and associations to showcase their gemstones and jewellery through an exhibition.



A study aimed at identifying regional and continental value chains that could drive industrialization of the continent and supply the integrated African market was conducted. Ninety-four (94) feasible value chains were identified in 24 sectors at the continental level. Each of them links at least five African countries from different regions and offer the potential to add value, reduce imports, boost trade, diversify economies and open opportunities for women and youth. The value chains covered in the study span four strategic sectors: pharmaceuticals, infant food, cotton clothing and automotive. This was followed by the development of an Action Plan for industrial development and economic diversification in Africa.

An African Quality Policy, with the overall objective of contributing to poverty reduction and economic prosperity by realizing an effective African Quality Infrastructure (QI) capable of raising the quality of African goods and services, was developed. This was followed by a Made in Africa Guide designed to encourage firms in Africa to optimize use of local inputs in their production processes; meet African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) rules of origin requirements; minimize negative environmental impacts and comply with relevant standards and quality requirements in addition to promoting innovation.

This period also saw the development of the AU Small and Medium Enterprise Strategy aimed at developing competitive, diversified, and sustainable economies. Augmented by an Enterprise Africa Initiative whose main objective is to provide African start-ups and

SMEs with trade information, business Development Services (BDS) through mentoring/coaching, and access to finance for their growth and development journey. Under this, the African Women in Processing Program (AWIP) was established with the aim of encouraging women to take advantage of the AfCFTA. The other initiative aligned to this was the adoption of an AU Fashion Industry Development Strategy and its Delivery Framework aimed at tackling the challenges that Fashion Industry entrepreneurs experience trying to upscale and grow their businesses.

To further boost the industrialization drive, a draft Special Economic Zone (SEZ) Model Law was developed. The rationale for introducing a Model Law on SEZs is to attract investment, and job creation, boost manufacturing and export performance, economic diversification, and development of regional value chain. To compliment this, work is also under way for the establishment of an Africa Manufacturing Institute. The Institute serves as a hub for research, innovation, and training that can enhance productivity, competitiveness, and value-added production in Africa. The Institute will support Member States and the Private Sector in the development of modern manufacturing skills and fostering innovation in the manufacturing sector. So far terms of reference for a feasibility study for its establishment have been finalized.

The Commission also participated actively in the implementation of the Third Industrial Development Decade. This program had activities aimed at the transformation of African countries into locations

of competitive industrial production. This included the strengthening of key elements of industrial productive capacity such as infrastructure, innovation and technology transfer, industrial financing, industrial knowledge skills, and the support from public and private sector institutions that regulate and advocate industrial development.

### Tourism

The AUC in partnership with UNECA, formulated the African Tourism Strategic Framework (ATSF) and conducted a Continental study on profiling

and mapping the African Tourism sector. The AUC entered partnership with the African Tourism Board (ATB), in accordance with the African Tourism Strategic Framework vision to boost the African Tourism industry, Intra-African Trade, and to foster sustainability and inclusive green growth. The AUC also initiated an MOU with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia aimed at building the capacity of the African Tourism industry. This will allow Africa to establish its first Tourism Centre of Excellence.

## 3.2.2. INDUSTRIALISATION, INVESTMENTS AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Significant progress has been made in the establishment of the African Union Financial Institutions (AUFIs) which comprise of; the African Central Bank (ACB), the African Monetary Fund (AMF), the African Investment Bank (AIB) and the Pan-African Stock Exchange (PASE) to deliver on its goals for inclusive and sustainable development.

The African Investment Bank registered 22 signatures and six ratifications of its legal instruments. The African Monetary Fund registered twelve signatures and only two ratifications (Cameroon and Chad). In March 2019, the AUC and the government of Cameroon signed the Headquarters Agreement for the AMF. A peer review mechanism for the monitoring of the Macroeconomic convergence criteria for the African Central Bank was activated in 2023. The draft Statute of the African

Monetary Institute was submitted for consideration and endorsement before submission to AU Policy Organs for adoption in 2025. In the same manner, the AUC and African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA) continued to strengthen their collaboration in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the establishment of the Pan African Stock Exchange to fast-track the implementation of the PASE through the African Exchanges Linkage Project (AELP) which now links nine (9) African securities exchanges. All this was capped by a Study on the technical issues surrounding the establishment of AUFIs in the current economic and financial context of Member States. Furthermore, progress has been made in the establishment of a private sector-led African credit rating Agency.



Significant milestones were also achieved during this period on emerging issues including the Admission of the African Union as a permanent member of the G20, the Reallocation of Special Drawing Rights, issues of Carbon Trading as well as Debt Restructuring Challenges among Member States. The AUC has been instrumental in pushing for International Tax Reforms which saw it submit the Term of Reference of the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation as well as on Cross-Border Services and Illicit Financial Flows protocols.

In addition, the AUC in collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa are leading the High-Level Working Group on the Reform of the Global Financial Architecture. This has culminated with the framing of African priorities to be presented at international platforms for a deep and comprehensive Reform of the Global Financial Architecture.

A Domestic Resources Mobilization strategy was developed, alongside programs to combat illicit financial flows. Which included regional and continental capacity building programs aimed

at strengthening the capacities of African tax administrations. Several research and publications were completed, including the Africa's Development Dynamic (AfDD), the Revenue Statistics Report, and two studies on Regional and Continental value chains. Additionally, in close collaboration with the African Development Bank and AUDA NEPAD, the AUC finalized a study on key actions to drive inclusive growth and sustainable development, to be launched in the 2025 Ordinary Session of the Assembly.

### **Investments and Private Sector Development**

During this review period, an AU Start-ups Policy Model Framework Law was developed. This Law aims to create a conducive policy and regulatory environment essential for the development of Start-ups and small and medium-sized businesses (SMBs). This was complemented by several other initiatives including the AU Policy Response and Oversight on Cryptocurrencies, a continental program for women and youth entrepreneurship development in Africa, with a Master Class training for women and youth entrepreneurs.



In the investment sector, an Investment Promotion Network Website (IPN) was launched. This digital trade and investment portal facilitates engagement among businesses within and outside the continent and includes a Business Directory. This was improved by a Continental Strategy for mobilization of Quality and Sustainable Investment in Africa, which aims to enhance the continent's appeal as an investment hub

and attract greater flows of both domestic and global Multinational Corporations (MNCs) into the continent.

The AUC also organized four annual private sector forums which serve as key instruments for dialogue and partnership between the African Union policy makers and the private sector.

The establishment process for the African Inclusive Markets Excellence Centre (AIMEC) was finalized. AIMEC will serve as a Pan-African public-private platform focused on inclusive business and market policy and programming. It aims to identify, facilitate

and replicate best practices in policy formulation and public-private collaboration across the continent. The Statutes and the Structure of the centre, which will be hosted by the Republic of Tunisia, have been adopted by the Executive Council.



**H.E. Wamkele Mene,**  
Secretary General of AfCFTA

*The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)*, established in 2018, seeks to create a single market for Africa's 1.3 billion people, advancing the AU's Agenda 2063 vision of unity and prosperity. With 54 of 55 African countries signed on, it aims to boost economic integration, free trade, and industrial growth.

In 2020 the AfCFTA Secretariat was established in Accra, Ghana, focusing on policy coordination, monitoring commitments, and driving initiatives.

### Key Achievements

AfCFTA has already achieved significant milestones to streamline trade and foster economic collaboration:

- **AfCFTA Protocols:** Essential protocols on Trade in Goods, Trade in Services, Investment, Intellectual Property, Competition Policy, Digital Trade, and Women and Youth in Trade have been established to standardize and support diverse trade aspects across the continent.
- **Pan-African Payments and Settlement System (PAPSS):** Launched in January 2022, PAPSS enhances intra-African trade by enabling secure and efficient cross-border payments in local currencies.
- **E-Tariff Book:** Introduced in July 2022, this digital resource provides accessible tariff information, simplifying cross-border trade.
- **Guided Trade Initiative (GTI):** This program, initiated in 2022, focuses on stimulating meaningful trade under AfCFTA, initially covering seven countries and expanding to 35 by 2023.
- **Intra-African Trade Fair (IATF):** Held in Cairo in 2023, the fair led to over \$43.8 billion in business deals, spotlighting Africa's trade potential.
- **Youth and Women Engagement:** The AfCFTA has prioritized inclusivity through initiatives like the AfCFTA Conference on Women in Trade and the Youth Symposium, empowering historically underrepresented groups.

### 3.2.3. CONNECTIVITY: TRANSPORT, MOBILITY, ENERGY AND DIGITALISATION

The AUC has coordinated and advanced development across three key sectors specifically: Energy, Transport & Mobility, and Digitalisation. Significant progress has been achieved in the development, harmonisation and

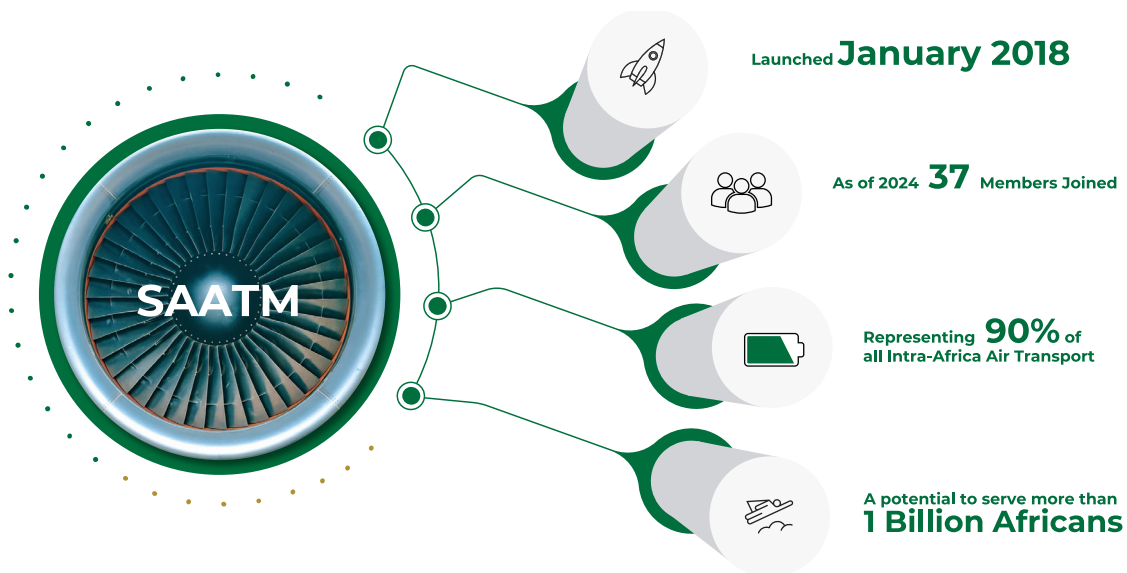
implementation of policies, strategies, and programs to drive infrastructure and energy initiatives at the continental level, aligning with the African Union Agenda 2063.

## Transport and Mobility

During the 30th AU Summit in January 2018, the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) was launched and as of 2024, 37 AU Member States have joined it, representing 90% of all intra-Africa air traffic with a potential to serve more than 1 billion Africans. The AUC has strengthened the capacity of the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) which was designated as the Executing Agency of the Yamoussoukro Decision (YD) and SAATM. The AUC has developed an aviation infrastructure gap analysis to identify bankable projects to close the aviation gaps and support a seamless airspace, air navigation architecture, and smart airports. Additionally, a continental Strategy and action plan for producing and deploying Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF) in Africa will contribute to climate change mitigation efforts.



**H.E. Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid,**  
Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy (2017 – 2025)



Significant progress has been made in the road transport sub-sector since 2017, aimed at creating an integrated road transport network with smart and efficient transport corridors. This includes the development of the Trans-African Highway Network with ten priority links and a more efficient, harmonized regulatory framework for the road transport sector.

Regarding road safety, the AUC continues to coordinate the implementation of the Road Safety Action Plan for 2021-2030, which was approved by

the AU Summit in 2021. The AUC has also established an interim African Road Safety Observatory and a network of national safety data coordinators. Additionally, the AUC has been advocating for the signing and ratification of the Road Safety Charter, ratified by twelve Member States.

Under the Africa Integrated Railway Network (AIRN) flagship project of Agenda 2063, the completion of 13 pilot railways links has been prioritized for completion by 2033.

In the maritime sector, the AUC developed the African Maritime Charter to implement harmonized transport policies for sustained growth and development. The AUC also launched initiatives to improve port efficiency

and competitiveness, digitalize port operations and infrastructure, and strengthen coordination for low-carbon maritime transport through the African Green Ports Forum (AGPF) roadmap and action plan.



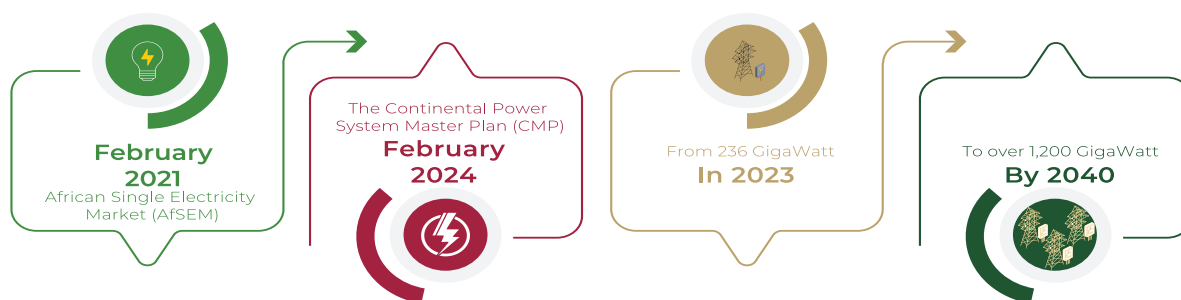
### Energy

In 2017, the AUC developed a Strategy and Action Plan for the Harmonisation of Regulatory Frameworks in the African Energy sector, leading to the establishment of the African Single Electricity Market (AfSEM) which was adopted in February 2021 at the AU Summit. Since its launch, the AUC has successfully implemented several initiatives, including the development of the harmonised continental transmission tariff methodology, its implementation guidelines, and a corresponding tariff computation model.

In February 2024, the Continental Power System Master Plan (CMP), together with AFSEM were adopted as flagship projects for the Second Ten Year

Implementation Plan of Agenda 2063. The CMP aims to increase the continent’s installed capacity rising from 263 Gigawatt (GW) in 2023 to over 1,200GW by 2040. Since its inception in 2019, it has achieved significant milestones, including extensive preparatory work, energy modelling, collaborative development of key deliverables, and resource mobilization.

Furthermore, in the geothermal sector, the AUC launched the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility (GRMF) in 2012. By 2024, it had conducted eight application rounds, and total awarded grants of US\$100 million, with a pipeline of over 40 geothermal power generation projects. These projects could attract US\$ 10 billion in investments and generate about 3.5GW of geothermal energy.



In addition, the New Zealand Africa Geothermal Facility (NZ-AGF) was established, with the objective of training Member States' experts and project developers on various policy and technical aspects of geothermal development, resulting in significant capacity improvements and the development of the Africa Geothermal Drilling Code,

The Grand INGA Dam project, a key flagship project of Agenda 2063 progressed with the enactment of a law on INGA in the DRC and the establishment of a dedicated unit under the DRC Presidency. Efforts were also made to establish off-take options through inter-governmental agreements and MOUs to support the development of interconnection corridors for transmission lines from the Inga to various destinations.

The AUC successfully assessed the political, technical, economic, and social implications of green hydrogen development in Africa. Based on these recommendations, a green hydrogen strategy and action plan were developed, outlining a clear roadmap to implement policy and technical priority actions. Additionally, the African Energy Commission's host agreement was finalized, and an organizational structure was established.

Beyond consistent publishing of yearly African Energy Balances and Key Energy Statistics, AUC through AFREC, supported Member States in establishing their National Energy Information Systems (NEIS), as well as training 297 national focal points and 40 experts to operate this system. The AUC has established an NDCs Support Centre to assist Member States in statistics and modelling to better define their climate change priorities. Furthermore, AFREC is developing a continental energy transition strategy, and national decarbonization pathways aligned with the African Common Position on Energy Access and Transition.

Recognising the need to strike a balance between energy access and transition to low carbon development, the AUC developed the African Common Position on Energy Access and Transition, which was adopted by the AU Summit in February 2023, calling Member States to use all available energy resources in the short and medium term to accelerate access for more than 600 million people still left without electricity on the continent.

The AUC also developed the African Energy Efficiency Strategy Roadmap (AfEES), which seeks to double energy productivity by 2050. AfEES provides specific energy efficiency roadmaps for the short, medium,

and long term for industrial, power, agriculture, transport, building and appliance sectors. In addition, the assessments of potential energy savings from regional Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) have been undertaken.

The AUC has leveraged economies of scale through AfCFTA to facilitate cross-border infrastructure development for trading in crude oil, oil products, and natural gas among Member States. The program has developed and disseminated the publication on Africa and the Just Energy Transition: Considerations for the Expansion of the African Oil & Gas Domestic Market.

The African Clean Cooking Programme (AfCCP) aims to provide clean cooking access to over 900 million people relying on traditional methods. The developing Strategy and Action Plan will support global efforts to provide clean cooking for 300 million Africans annually up to 2030 and will include standardized tracking and reporting mechanisms to monitor progress towards universal access throughout Africa.

## **Digitalisation**

The AUC developed the Africa Digital Transformation Strategy (2020-2030), which was adopted by the AU Summit in 2020, acting as a blueprint to steer the continent's digital transformation, with a focus on building an inclusive digital society and economy. It has further developed the AU Data Policy Framework which was adopted by the Executive Council in February 2022. The strategy will help African countries to use data as a key asset in efforts to create a lasting and inclusive data-driven economy and society. To accelerate the domestication of the framework by AU Member States, the AUC developed an Implementation Plan, a Self-Capacity Assessment Tool, and a Responsibility Matrix, along with dedicated technical assistance and capacity building programs. In line with the objective of the Digital Transformation Strategy (DTS), to integrate the continent into a secure and competitive Digital Single Market by 2030, a comprehensive Continental Strategy on Enabling Policy and Regulatory Environment for Africa's Digital Single Market has also been developed and endorsed.

The Continental Strategy on Artificial Intelligence (AI), which aims to equip Africa to harness AI's potential while addressing societal, ethical, security, and legal challenges, was considered by the STC on Communication Information Communication Technology and endorsed by the Executive Council in July 2024. This strategy is accompanied by a Call for Action and a 5-year Implementation Plan.

The AUC developed a Harmonisation Methodology and Tool under the Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA); to address the harmonisation gap and assess the alignment of ICT and digital policy frameworks at regional and continental levels. The PRIDA Internet Governance project supported 23 Member States to develop an online curriculum to establish Internet Governance (IG) systems and processes. By June 2023, 20 countries utilised the curriculum to organise Schools of Internet Governance and strengthen national processes.

Recognising that 40% of African youths aged 15-24 have internet access which increases their exposure to online risks, the AUC developed the African Union Child Online Safety and Empowerment Policy, adopted by the AU Summit in February 2024. It lays out 10 policy aims to protect children's rights and create a safe online space and represents Africa's big commitment to keep children safe and empower them in the digital world.

The Development of the Malabo Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection was adopted by the AU Summit in June 2014 with the treaty entering into force in May 2023. This sets up a single cybersecurity plan for the whole continent while also bringing together African laws on online deals, data protection, and cybersecurity. The AUC developed the African Digital Compact in collaboration with various stakeholders to leverage digital technologies for sustainable development and economic growth in Africa.

The AU Interoperability Framework for Digital ID, which was adopted by the AU Summit in February 2022, aims to facilitate secure access to services by citizens and promoting the African Digital Single Market. The AUC conducted an assessment in ten pilot countries aiming to enhance postal services through digitalisation.

Furthermore, the AUC developed the Pan-African e-Network (PAeN) Project aimed at creating a telecommunications network that would offer telemedicine, tele-education, and diplomatic communications to all Member States. This development underscores the high stakes and the value of the network as a promoter for improving education and healthcare in Africa.

The implementation of African Internet Exchange System project (AXIS) by the AUC resulted in significant reduction of latency and operational costs by boosting the number of Internet Exchange Points in Africa from eighteen to thirty-five and enabling local and regional traffic exchange without relying on overseas carriers.

During this period, under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), about 30 million people gained access to electricity, ICT broadband penetration increased to more than 25%, while 112,900 direct and 49,400 indirect jobs were created during construction and operation of the projects. The second phase of PIDA (PIDA PAP 2) for the period 2021 – 2030 was adopted by the AU Summit in February 2021, with a priority list of 69 projects (worth US\$ 161 billion), in the sectors of transport, energy, ICT, and water.



### 3.2.4. ACCELERATED AGRICULTURAL GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION: THE 2014 MALABO COMMITMENTS

#### The CAADP Biennial Review

Five extensive Biennial Reviews (BR) reports were produced in 2017, 2019, 2021, 2023 all the reports were endorsed by the Heads of States and Government of the AU 49-Member States reported during the 4th BR report produced in 2023, and the results indicated that no Member State is on course to meet the Malabo Commitments by 2025 despite 12 Member States

improving their scores in all the cycles. The CAADP BR report is important for countries in using the findings of the report to adjust the implementation of their National Agricultural Investment Plan (NAIP) to achieve better results and outcomes, which may in turn encourage policymakers to implement the resulting recommendations to accelerate agricultural transformation.



#### Development of the Regional and National Agricultural Investment Plans (RAIPs/NAIPs)

From 2016, the AUC provided technical support to 45 MS for their next-generation NAIPs with over 200 experts across the continent mobilized to analyses each thematic area of the CAADP Malabo commitment. This led to the MS simulating alternative growth trajectories to identify investment priorities; and provided guidance on policy and program opportunities for accelerating progress on agricultural growth on the Continent.

#### Production of a Common African Position to the UN Food System

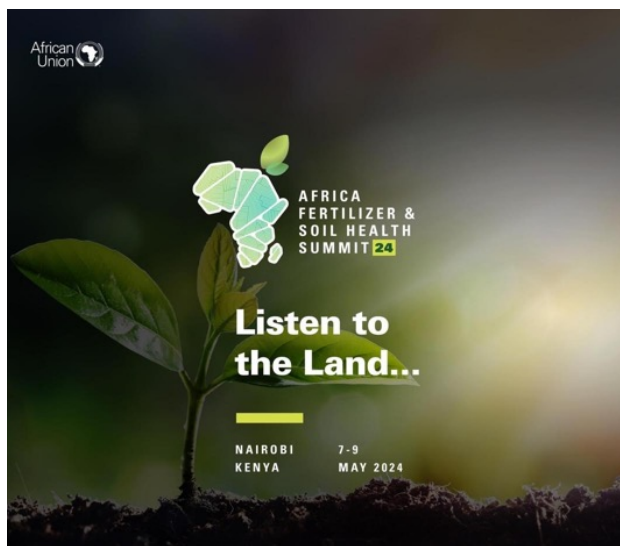
Africa, led by the AUC was the only Continent that presented to the 2023 UN Food Systems Summit a Common Africa Position. This Framework outlined 43 game-changing solutions and a Post-Summit Rollout

Plan on agri-food systems to create awareness, build consensus on shared vision and critically galvanize necessary individual and collective set of actions including policy alignment and increased investments towards building and sustaining resilient, viable and inclusive agri-food systems for Africa.

#### Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit

The AUC successfully organized the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit in May 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya, a follow-up to the 2006 Abuja Fertilizer Summit which deliberated on Africa's widespread decades-long decline in soil quality of farmland that negatively impacts the agricultural production capacity and food security in the continent. Three documents were endorsed: (i) 10-year Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan. (ii) Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA) Framework Document, and (iii) Nairobi Declaration

making a concrete recommendation for steps to be taken by African leaders and stakeholders over the next 10 years to improve soil health and fertilizer production in Africa.



### The Post Malabo Agenda

Building on 20 years of implementing the CAADP commitments through the Malabo and Maputo Declarations, the AUC developed the Post-Malabo Agenda that including the 10-year CAADP Strategy and Action Plan and the Kampala Declaration, to guide the continent’s agri-food system transformation from 2026-2035.

### Key Achievements in Food Security and Agriculture

The AU has demonstrated its commitment to advancing food security, resilience, and sustainable agriculture through the following milestones:

- **First International Conference on Food Safety (12 – 13 February 2019, Addis Ababa):** Attended by over 700 delegates, the event focused on investing in safe food, sustainable systems amid climate change, innovation, and consumer empowerment.
- **High-Level Conference on Food Security and Nutrition (9 – 10 October 2019, Addis Ababa):** Co-organized by IFRC, AU, AfDB, and FAO, the conference produced a “Call for Action” to strengthen partnerships among the AU, RECs, and development partners for collective food security efforts.
- **Food Systems Resilience Program for Eastern and Southern Africa:** Targeted completion by August 2029, this \$9.7M program focuses on rebuilding agricultural capacity, enhancing market access, and promoting resilience-focused policies.
- **World Without Hunger Conference (5 – 7 November 2024, Addis Ababa):** The conference issued a “Call to Action” advocating political and financial resource mobilization, infrastructure investments, and reduced post-harvest losses.
- **African Youth Agribusiness Forum (5<sup>th</sup> November 2024, AU Headquarters):** Produced a “Call to Action” to empower youth agripreneurs and enhance agribusiness policies while promoting collaboration.
- **Agricultural Policy Dialogue with Germany:** This initiative, launched with Germany’s Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, established consultative working groups to strengthen collaboration among policymakers, RECs, and donors in support of Agenda 2063 and CAADP.



## Youth and Women Empowerment

The Commission made significant strides in empowering women and youth within Africa's agriculture and agri-food systems through key policy frameworks and strategies that it developed such as the African Agribusiness Youth Strategy (AAYS, 2022) and Investment Guidelines for Youth in Agri-food Systems in Africa (2021). Through these policies and Frameworks, more than 10 workshops and seminars related to youth in agriculture and agri-food systems, involving over 10,000 youth across Africa were organized leading to an enhanced Agribusiness Skills for the youth.

The Directorate also partnered with UN Women and conducted a baseline study on the status of women in agriculture in Africa. In collaboration with FAO and UNIDO developed a programme called Opportunities for Youth in Africa (OYA): Accelerating Jobs Creation in Agriculture and Agribusiness programme mobilizing over USD 1.6 million and enhanced the capacity of over 3,000 youth-led agribusinesses in 6 target countries.

To further implement the AU Initiative on "Retiring the Hand held Hoe to the Museum" and recognize the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, the commission commemorates the International Day of Rural Women every October 15 beginning with the first celebration in 2019 notably marked by the unveiling of a statue titled in the town of Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, symbolizing the continent's commitment to promoting agricultural mechanization among women.

## Land Governance and Administration

Inclusive land governance is critical to achieving the African Union (AU) Agenda 2063. The Conference on Land Policy in Africa (CLPA) is convened biennially by the tripartite consortium consisting of the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). It serves as a platform for African Union Member States to deliberate on critical land-related issues and formulate actionable recommendations. So far, four have been held and the Fourth African Land Policy Conference was held in November 2023, and it addressed the land rights of vulnerable groups, particularly women and youth. It was attended by over 10000 participants comprised of a multiplicity of stakeholders drawn from African Union Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), International Organization, Civil Society Organization, Academia and representatives

of the Forum for African Traditional Leaders (FATA) among others.

## Post Harvest Loss and Management

The African heads of state committed to supporting efforts to reduce postharvest losses by 50% (of the 2014 levels) by 2025 as part of the efforts to end hunger and improve nutrition. Four convenings of the biennial congress in 2017, 2019 and 2021, and 2023 were held to present an important platform to create awareness about FLW and showcase sustainable solutions in the African context.

## Digital Agriculture

In response to the Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa, the AUC developed the African Union Digital Agriculture Strategy (DAS) and Implementation Plan for the digital transformation of African agriculture and cover the period from 2024 to 2030.

The strategy prioritized the development of national digital agriculture/e-agriculture strategies that are in line with the respective national development plans for agriculture. An additional AU Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Agriculture Strategy has been developed under the auspices of the PRIDA project, providing information on the state of development of the most innovative technologies serving agriculture.

## Other Frameworks and Initiatives

To harness Africa's agricultural potentials, several other frameworks, mechanisms and action plans have been instituted. These include, the African Seed and Biotechnology Programme, the Continental Strategy for Geographical Indications (GIs) in Africa, the Ecological Organic Agriculture Initiative, the Partnership for Aflatoxin Control in Africa (PACA), the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Programme, the Common African Agro-Parks (CAAPs), the Youth and Women in Agribusiness Empowerment, and the Pastoralism Policy Framework for Africa.

Several achievements were recorded over the past years in fighting both animal diseases as well as zoonotic diseases in Africa. The AU-PANVAC has the privilege to be the Continental Rinderpest Vaccine reserve for emergency preparedness to ensure emergency preparedness to respond to any outbreak of rinderpest and other animal diseases in Africa with a current stock of 2.5 million doses.

AU-PANVAC is also at the forefront on the harmonization of Standards for Registration of Veterinary Vaccines and Certification of Manufacturing Facilities. Through the Development of a Pan-African

Programme for the eradication of PPR (2023 - 2027), the Agency has mobilized Eight (8) million Euros for the preparatory phase of the eradication program to facilitate mutual acceptance of quality standards which is in line with the objective of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

AU-SAFGRAD assisted Member States to adopt respectively an African Common Position towards a Global Binding Protocol on Drought and irrigation as climate smart agriculture technologies that promoted the development of competitive and inclusive agro-food systems transformation through projects for 34 MS.

AU-IBAR also coordinated African Union Member States and partners in efforts to control and eradicate Peste des Petits Ruminants (PPR) by 2030 in line with the Global strategy.

### **Design and Construction of the New Facility Complex**

AU-PANVAC and the U.S. Defence Threat Reduction Agency's Biological Threat Reduction Program's

(DTRA/BTRP) supported the design of a new PANVAC high containment laboratory and training facility to consolidate laboratory operations and strengthen the facility's biosafety and security for safe and secure handling and storage of pathogens and vaccine seed stocks, including Rinderpest.

Additionally, the Government of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia graciously provided a 39,120 m<sup>2</sup> plot of land and deeded it to AU-PANVAC for use for the future facility. The new AU-PANVAC Laboratory Complex will have the following facilities: The laboratory facilities, Training and Technology Transfer Centre, Incinerator for the treatment of laboratory waste and post-mortem animals, Conference and meeting rooms, gymnasium, canteen, offices, restrooms and storerooms. The ground-breaking ceremony for the construction for the New Facility was held on the 21st of February 2024.

## **3.2.5. THE CHALLENGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, WATER AND BLUE ECONOMY**

### **Climate Change**

Despite contributing less than 4% of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, Africa is the most vulnerable continent to the impact of climate change. To enable Africa to adapt to climate change while simultaneously switching to low carbon development,

the Commission developed both the African Union Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2032 and the Green Recovery Action Plan specifically to build back better from the COVID -19 Pandemic.



The AU Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022 - 2032) endorsed by the African Heads of State and Government is a key instrument in supporting regional collaboration on climate change and more effective international partnerships. It provides a framework for joint action and clearly expresses Africa's needs and priorities. It is structured in four key strategic intervention axes, each with specific activities, as highlighted below:

- Strengthening Governance and Policy.
- Transformative Climate-Resilient Development.
- Enhancing Means of Implementation towards Climate-Resilient Development.
- Leveraging Regional Flagship Initiatives.

The Commission also developed the AU Green Recovery Action Plan 2021 - 2027 (AU GRAP) and launched it virtually on 15 July 2021. The Green Recovery Action Plan aim to tackle the combined challenges of the COVID-19 recovery and climate change, by focusing on critical areas of joint priority, including climate finance, renewable energy, resilient agriculture, resilient cities, land use and biodiversity.

### **The Africa Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan**

The close of the last decade saw a heightened concern by the global community around the triple planetary crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution.

Current assessments present Africa as the most affected continent globally from the impact of the planetary crisis, with projections that the continent will experience an increased risk of food, water and energy insecurity, with significant implications for the wellbeing of its people.

The urgent need for a coordinated effort across the continent to strengthen regional and national efforts in addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation led to the development of the African Union Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (ABSAP) by the Commission.

The Strategy which was largely informed by the vision and goals adopted under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and other global biodiversity-related multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), to which African states are committed is structured around five pillars:

- Strengthening biodiversity governance and practice.
- Sustainable use and benefit sharing from biological and genetic resources.

- Sectoral mainstreaming and integration of ecosystem-based approaches.
- Increasing financing for Africa's biodiversity, and
- Enhancing capacities, equity and inclusion for effective implementation.

Under these pillars, several intervention areas and priority actions are outlined, with the flexibility to take into consideration national circumstances.

### **The Africa Climate Summit**

The African Union partnered with Kenya to convene the *Inaugural Africa Climate Summit (ACS)* from 4 - 6 September 2023 in Nairobi Kenya under the theme "Driving Green Growth and Climate Finance Solutions for Africa and the World".

Underlining that Africa was not historically responsible for global warming, but bore the brunt of its effect, impacting lives, livelihoods, and economies, the leaders emphasized that the continent possessed the potential and the ambition to be a vital component of the global solution to climate change. The leaders expressed concern that many African countries face disproportionate burdens and risks from climate change-related, unpredictable weather events and patterns.

In a call to action, African leaders stressed the importance of decarbonizing the global economy for equality and shared prosperity. They called for investment to promote the sustainable use of Africa's natural assets for the continent's transition to low carbon development and contribution to global decarbonization.

The Summit proposed a new financing architecture responsive to Africa's needs including debt restructuring and relief and the development of a new Global Climate Finance Charter through the United Nations General Assembly and the COP processes by 2025.

They emphasized the need for concrete action and speed on proposals to reform the multilateral financial system currently under discussion specifically to build resilience to climate shocks and better deployment of the Special Drawing Rights liquidity mechanism.

The Nairobi Declaration was adopted to be the basis for Africa's common position in the global climate change process to COP 28 and beyond.

### **Blue Economy**

Since its inception in 2021, the Blue Economy Division at the African Union Commission has made tremendous progress in promoting sustainable use

of Africa's vast aquatic resources. Through gender inclusion, enhanced regulatory frameworks, value chain development, and strategic partnerships, the division has laid a solid foundation for the long-term growth of Africa's Blue Economy.



### **The Blue Economy Strategy**

The Africa Blue Economy Strategy was developed following the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference that took place in Nairobi, Kenya in 2018. The African leaders at that Conference urged the African Union (AU) to work with relevant stakeholders to develop Africa Blue Economy Strategy. Such a Strategy would guide sustainable development and the utilization of aquatic resources in Africa.

The Africa Blue Economy Strategy is consolidated based on the following five thematic areas critical to the blue economy's growth in Africa:

- Fisheries, aquaculture, conservation and sustainable aquatic ecosystems.
- Shipping/transportation, trade, ports, maritime security, safety and enforcement.
- Coastal and maritime tourism, climate change, resilience, environment, infrastructure.
- Sustainable energy and mineral resources and innovative industries
- Policies, institutional and governance, employment, job creation and poverty eradication, innovative financing.

The strategy was officially launched as a side event during the 2020 AU Summit. Since then, considerable efforts have gone in domesticating the strategy. The AU has led a process for the development of the National Blue Economy Strategy for 3 SADC countries.

### **Guidelines for Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing**

Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing remains a significant challenge for Africa's fisheries, threatening marine ecosystems and depleting resources that are vital for economic development. To address this issue, the Blue Economy Division worked in collaboration with the Worldwide Fund (WWF) developed a comprehensive guideline to curb IUU fishing. The guideline was validated in 2023 and is currently supporting Member States in enhancing their monitoring, control, and surveillance (MCS) of fishing activities and to promote sustainable fisheries and protect marine biodiversity through strengthened enforcement mechanisms.

### **Blue Economy Governance and the Great Blue Wall Initiative**

The African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly organised a three-day ministerial conference on "The Blue Economy and Climate Action in Africa: Island and Coastal States at the Forefront" with a focus on the Great Blue Wall initiative. The conference integrated expert sessions and a high-level segment, from 12 to 14 June 2023 in Moroni, Union of the Comoros and culminated with the Moroni Declaration, which added value to a process for the recognition and the strengthening of island specificities in continental and regional forum, policies, frameworks and strategies as well as build awareness on the Great Blue Wall Initiative as a unifying and emblematic aspect of the commitment of African island and coastal states to climate and ocean resilience. Moreover, a set of recommendations for action, including policy and investment priorities and concrete measures to support a sustainable, resilient and inclusive blue economy in the region, was also issued, which will also serve as a model for the rest of the continent.

### **Implementation of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology (Weather and Climate Services) and the ClimSA Programme**

The AUC facilitated the revision of the Integrated African Strategy on Meteorology Weather and Climate Services, taking into consideration emerging weather and climate challenges, as well as Agenda 2063 and global Sustainable Development Goals. The Strategy was adopted by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government. The implementation Plan, the Resources Mobilization Plan, and the Monitoring and Reporting Framework for the Strategy are in place and endorsed by the African Ministers responsible for Meteorology. Also, it finalized the acquisition process for the meteorological and climate equipment to be deployed to Member States and has passed the Factory Acceptance Test and is ready for delivery and installation in Member States.

Through the EU-funded Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) and the Monitoring for Environment and Security in Africa (MESA) programmes, critical infrastructure observing weather, accessing and processing hydrometeorological data, environmental and climate monitoring, has been mobilized and installed in 49 AU Member States. This, together with tailored and gender-sensitive trainings and scholarship programme, has enhanced the capacities of Member States to generate and deliver scientific environmental and climate information services for environmental sustainability, adaptation planning, and weather and climate-informed decision-making for agriculture, food security, disaster risk reduction, sustainable energy, health, and water resources.

This period has also witnessed extensive resource mobilization including EU funding for the implementation Space for Early Warning in Africa project - aimed at developing space-based meteorological services, applications, and tools to enhance Early Warning Systems for hazardous weather and climate-related events in Africa.

### **Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance in Africa**

Substantial progress has been made in disaster risk reduction (DRR). The inaugural Africa Report on Disaster Risk Reduction, covering the period 2015 - 2018, was developed and launched in August 2020. The report highlighted worrying disaster risk with many countries at high-risk index, characterized by increased frequency of natural hazards, and growing vulnerability and exposure of populations to risks.

In response to increasing disaster losses, the African Union Commission developed the Africa Multi Hazard Early Warning System (AMHEWAS) Programme in 2021 to contribute to resilience building and reduce disaster losses by 2030. The Programme has since gained momentum leading to the establishment of four Multi-hazard Early Warning Situation Rooms. The AMHEWAS Programme has also played a significant role in training of Member States experts and building their capacities to implement the AMHEWAS Programme. More than 35 experts from at least 30 African Union Member States have been trained in the AMHEWAS Situation Room in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The AMHEWAS Situation Room with the support of the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) and the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD) Disaster Operation Centres co-produced more than 416 advisories to bolster anticipatory action. During major extreme events that hit the continent during the 2022/ 2023 rainy season, AMHEWAS Situation Room supported some Member States with early warning advisories.

### **Great Green Wall Initiative**

The African Union in 2007 initiated the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) as a continental flagship solution in response to the increasing threat of advancing deserts. The Initiative aims to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land, create 10 million jobs, and sequester 250 million tonnes of carbon by 2030. These interventions aim to transform the lives of tens of millions of people living in marginal areas, by increasing their food security, providing additional and alternative incomes, and increasing their climate resilience.

In the past eight years the African Union Commission has made concerted efforts in the implementation of GGWI. The Great Green Wall Implementation Status and Way Ahead to 2030 report shows that between 2007 and 2018, 20 million hectares of land were restored, and 350,000 jobs were created through the diversification of economic activities and income regeneration, thus improving the quality of life for millions of people in the Sahel. Revenues from income-generating activities amounted to \$90 million across all 11 countries.

Following its success, the Great Green Wall initiative was recently extended to the SADC Region.

### The first International Conference on Afforestation and Reforestation

The first International Conference on Afforestation and Reforestation was convened from 2-5 July 2024 in Brazzaville, Congo under the aegis of the African Union and the United Nations Forum on Forests. The conference brought together over 2,000 participants from over 25 countries and included Heads of State and Government, Ministers, Regional and International

organisations, UN agencies, scientists, indigenous people and local communities and the private sector. The two main outcomes from the conference include: the Brazzaville Declaration on the First International Conference on Afforestation and Reforestation and its Roadmap, and the Strategic Axis of the draft Global Strategic Framework for Afforestation and Reforestation (2025 - 2035).



Livestock Farming

### Water and Sanitation Program

The International High-level Panel on Water Investments for Africa developed and launched the Africa Rising Investment Tide, and an Africa Water Investment Action Plan with actionable pathways for countries to mobilize resources for implementing the AIP. The AIP-PIDA Water Investment Scorecard was developed and piloted in 10 countries, ahead of its roll out across AU Member States. The Scorecard supports countries to track progress, set benchmarks,

identifies bottlenecks, and takes action to meet Africa's water investment needs. The Scorecard Framework was adopted by AUDA-NEPAD as part of PIDA in February 2022. The Africa Water Investments Program (AIP) supports AU Member States to develop national water investment programs. About 20 AU Member States either developed or are in the process of developing national water investment programs.

## 3.3. A PEOPLE-CENTERED ACTION

### 3.3.1. HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS

The AUC has successfully discharged its leadership role in implementing the 2019 AU theme of the year, "Refugees, Returnees, and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa". Key achievements include promoting and implementing the Kampala Convention, the 1969 OAU Refugee

Convention, the Common African Position on Humanitarian Effectiveness, and the Global Compact on Refugees. HHS conducted various capacity-building interventions that included seven refugee law and humanitarian policy trainings, nine annual humanitarian symposiums on various themes related to the AU theme of the year took place.



**H.E. Amira Elfadil,**  
Commissioner for Social Affairs (2017 – 2021)



**H.E. Amb. Minata Samate Cessouma,**  
Commissioner for HHS (2021 – 2025)

The AUC attended key global forums and promoted the AU's policies and common positions on refugees, displacements, and humanitarian situations in Africa. These include the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), Side Events at United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Global Humanitarian Forums, European Humanitarian Forum, UNHCR Executive Committee Meetings (EXCOM) among others. Overall, these achievements helped to harmonise and standardise policies and procedures, as well as facilitate learning and experience exchange across Member States.

The Extraordinary Humanitarian Summit and Pledging Conference held on May 27, 2022, in Equatorial Guinea, yielded the Malabo Declaration on Humanitarian Issues and its 10 Year Implementation Plan, whereby Member States and partners pledged USD 50 million and USD 127,004,645.00 to the AUC for AfHA and partners implementing humanitarian programmes in Africa, respectively. The operationalizing of the African Humanitarian Agency (AfHA) is at an advanced stage. The full structure and the assessment report on hosting the AfHA were adopted by the Executive Council in 2024, following the adoption of the statute in 2023. Kampala, Uganda was identified as the host of the headquarters of the Humanitarian Agency by the 6th Mid-Year Coordination Meeting in Accra, Ghana.

*The African Humanitarian Agency (AfHA), an AUC initiative aimed at strengthening Africa's ability to respond to humanitarian crises through coordinated and localized efforts. Established to fulfil Agenda 2063's goal of a more resilient and self-reliant Africa, AfHA's purpose is to enhance Africa's disaster preparedness, management, and recovery in areas affected by conflict, climate change, disease outbreaks, and other emergencies.*

**AfHA's Key Functions include:**

- **Crisis Coordination:** Streamlines and unifies response efforts across AU states.
- **Capacity Building:** Invests in local expertise to foster independent crisis management.
- **Collaborations:** Partners with international organizations to maximize resources.
- **Prevention:** Implements disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation measures.
- **Focus on Vulnerable Populations:** Prioritizes aid to women, children, and displaced groups.

AfHA's headquarters will be in Uganda. The agency will function as a resource and coordination hub for crisis response and recovery efforts across the continent. With a focus on African-driven solutions and resilience, AfHA represents the AU's vision of addressing Africa's humanitarian needs with greater unity and independence.

In close collaboration with the PRC Sub-committee on Refugees, Returnees, and IDPs, the AUC demonstrated solidarity in conducting humanitarian assessment missions to the affected countries and provided significant financial assistance. The combination of all these achievements contributed to make Africa a better place for those affected by natural and human-induced disasters.

### 3.3.2. LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND MIGRATION

#### **Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM)**

The AUC developed new Policies on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM) in Africa that were adopted by AU Member States in 2022 to address the prevention of irregular migration in Africa.

#### **Return, Readmission and Reintegration**

The AUC has developed Continental guidelines on Return, Readmission and Sustainable Reintegration of migrants, as requested by the Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action (2018 – 2030). The AUC has also developed operational tools that will support Member States and their partners in the efficient implementation of the Continental Guidelines.

#### **Pan-African Forum on Migration (PAFOM)**

Over the last 4 years, the AUC has established the Pan African Forum on Migration (PAFOM), a continental interstates dialogue forum on issues of migration in Africa. This forum was aimed at promoting an improved understanding of the nexus between migration/labour migration, free movement and trade by unpacking socio-economic benefits and positive multiplier effects of this relationship. PAFOM has provided a more focused engagement with all relevant Migration stakeholders to enhance collaboration among African Union Member States for sustainable Migration Governance in Africa.

#### **Launch of the Africa Social Security Institutions Coordination and Cooperation Forum (ASSCCF)**

The AUC launched the African Social Security Institutions Coordination and Cooperation Forum (ASSCCF) at the ISSA Regional Social Security Forum (RSSF) in 2023 which aimed at providing a coordination and cooperation platform for informal

and non-binding dialogue on issues and opportunities related to the management of social security and their role in the development agenda of Member States and the African Union.

#### **The Launch of the Africa-Gulf, Jordan and Lebanon Dialogue on Labour Migration**

The AUC together with the Government of Qatar, established the Doha Dialogue on 21 - 22 May 2024, in Doha, Qatar. The main goal of the dialogue is to provide a forum to discuss labour migration issues of common interest to ensure triple win for migrants sending and receiving countries. It will also strengthen partnerships, information sharing and harmonizing policies, in line with global and continental commitments such as the Global Compact for Migration, SDGs, Agenda 2063, and MPFA.

*The African Migration Observatory (AMO) in Morocco was established in December 2020, following a decision at the 2018 African Union Summit as part of the AUC's Migration Policy Framework.*

*The Continental Operational Centre in Sudan was approved in 2020 to tackle human trafficking and smuggling across the continent.*

*The African Centre for the Study and Research on Migration (ACSRM) in Mali was established in 2008.*

Together, these institutions aim to enhance the AUC's capacity to monitor migration flows, address the root causes of irregular migration, and support sustainable development initiatives across the continent.

### 3.3.3. HEALTH SYSTEMS, DISEASE AND NUTRITION

From 2017 to 2024, the AUC achieved notable successes, particularly: Through the Campaign on Accelerated Reduction of Maternal Mortality in Africa (CARMMA). The campaign, which prioritized maternal, child, and adolescent health and promoted sexual and reproductive rights, resulted in reduced maternal mortality rates and improved health outcomes. Building on this, CARMMA Plus (2021-2030) was introduced to enhance reproductive health for women,

children, and adolescents. The AUC made significant strides in advocating for strategies addressing infectious and non-communicable diseases and integrating Community Health Workers into national health systems. They focused on combating malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS through various initiatives, including scorecards, resource mobilization, and prevention plans.



In response to the Nutrition agenda the AUC created Africa Leader Nutrition (ALN) as a platform for high-level political engagement, ALN advocates for urgent actions to tackle malnutrition in Africa and has made strides in policy mobilization. ALN supported nutrition to be high on the agenda and promoted impactful food and nutrition policies in the continent. In 2022 the African Union theme of the year was dedicated to Nutrition which marked a significant advancement on nutrition agenda in the continent, reducing health disparities, and enhancing the quality of life across African nations.

The Abidjan Declaration on Nutrition and Food Security, led by **H.E. President Alassane Dramane Ouattara**, President of Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), underscores Africa's commitment to addressing malnutrition and improving food security across the continent. Adopted as AU Decision EX.CL/Dec.1216(XLII), this declaration focuses on key areas: eradicating malnutrition through sustainable and gender-sensitive approaches, engaging communities and strengthening governance to integrate nutrition into various sectors, and securing sustainable financing and monitoring mechanisms. By setting clear targets and enhancing data systems, the Abidjan Declaration calls for coordinated action and investment to build long-term nutrition resilience in Africa.

With regards to the health financing agenda the AUC under the leadership of **H.E. Paul Kagame** launched Africa Leadership Investing in Health to strengthen finance health and support universal health coverage. These include the establishment of regional health financing hubs in SADC and EAC to support reforms and private sector engagement on health financing.

In addition, the establishment of African Medicines Agency (AMA) is considered as a huge milestone to the AUC to respond to issue of access to quality medicine and medical product and further health care services within Member States, in addition of Africa CDC. The headquarters of the agency is identified in Kigali Rwanda and 26 countries ratified the treaty of AMA establishment.

In the framework of the operationalization of AMA, an interim team is already in place in Kigali.

Since its official launch in 2017, Africa CDC has significantly evolved as a premier public health institution in Africa and has strengthened the continent's public health systems. Key achievements include Elevation to an autonomous health institution of the African Union, Public Health Emergency Management, strengthening integrated health systems to prevent and control high burden of diseases, Strengthening Laboratory Systems and National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs).



During the third meeting of the Committee of Heads of State and Government (CHSG) of the Africa CDC that was held virtually on September 22, 2024, under the chairmanship of **H.E. Mohamed Ould El-Ghazouani**, President of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and **H.E. the Chairperson of the African Union (AU)**, with the participation of distinguished Heads of State and Governments, international

partners, and representatives of global health institutions. Africa CDC was congratulated for its proactivity and leadership in managing the outbreak and the collaboration with WHO. The meeting reviewed the progress made since the launch of the Mpox Continental Preparedness and Response Plan, which was enacted in response to the ongoing Mpox outbreak.



Moreover, two Plans of Action on the AU 2nd and 3rd Decades (2010-2020 and 2025-2035) of Traditional Medicines have been developed. Additionally, a Digital Health Strategy has been developed in line with the AU digital transformation agenda, to guide and support the digitalization of health within Member States. From 2017 to 2024 the Division has organized

three AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) Committee Action Committee of Heads of State and Government, Four Ministerial Sessions of the Specialized Technical Committee on Health and 7 AWA Consultative Experts Committee Statutory Meetings all in a bid to advance for continental health policy enactment and implementation.

*The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and the African Medicines Agency (AMA) are essential institutions established by the African Union Commission (AUC) to enhance health security and regulatory oversight across Africa.*



**H.E. Dr. John Nkengasong,**  
former Director-General of the Africa CDC  
(2017 - 2023)



**H.E. Dr. Jean Kaseya,**  
Director-General of the Africa CDC  
(2023 - )

Africa CDC focuses on disease surveillance, prevention, and response, while AMA strengthens regulatory frameworks for medical products, ensuring access to safe and effective medicines. Together, they work to improve public health outcomes, empower communities, and build resilience against health threats on the continent.

Since its establishment in 2017, Africa CDC has played a pivotal role in bolstering public health across Africa. Its mission is to safeguard the continent's health through effective disease prevention, control, and emergency response. Africa CDC has evolved from a small entity into an autonomous health body, addressing public health emergencies, enhancing disease surveillance, and supporting the capacities of AU Member States.

#### **Achievements of Africa CDC**

Since 2017, Africa CDC has expanded its staff from 9 to over 350 and established five Regional Coordinating Centres (RCCs) to ensure comprehensive coverage across Africa. It has responded to over 100 public health emergencies, including Ebola and COVID-19, significantly reducing response times and providing over

\$1 billion in support to 54 AU Member States. The agency has also helped establish National Public Health Institutes (NPHIs) in 23 countries and trained over 2,500 health professionals. Additionally, Africa CDC mobilized resources for pandemic responses and launched the first AU multisectoral task force on non-communicable diseases (NCDs) in 2023.

*The AMA* was launched by the AUC to improve regulatory capacity and oversight of medicines across Africa. As a specialized agency, AMA will coordinate and harmonize medical product regulations, ensuring access to quality, safe, and effective medicines and vaccines. Its aim is to create a streamlined approach to managing pharmaceutical and medical products continent-wide. The headquarters, with a beginning of operationalization are in Kigali, Rwanda.

Together, Africa CDC and AMA represent significant progress in improving health outcomes in Africa by ensuring robust regulatory oversight and better access to quality healthcare resources across the continent.

## SOCIAL WELFARE, DRUG CONTROL AND CRIME PREVENTION

### Status of the Signing and Ratification of the Treaties

The AUC has been following up on the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa: 14 Member States have ratified the Protocol. One to go for it to come into force.

Entering into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa in May 2024; Signature of Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Citizens to Social Protection and Social Security by two Member States.

## DRUG CONTROL AND CRIME PREVENTION

Integration of traditional leaders into drug dependency prevention, treatment, and care to expand community interventions in response to the growing burden of substance use and related mental health disorders on the continent; establishment and operationalisation of a continent-wide drug surveillance sentinel to provide evidence for review of legislative, policy and operational responses to drug challenges.

The AUC also led the formation of an inclusive African Civil Society Platform on Drugs to engage the African Union with one voice on support to the implementation of the continental framework on drug control, joint launch of the Global Network on Women in treatment for substance use and related mental health disorders.

## 3.3.4. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, SPORTS AND CULTURE

### SPORT

The AUC spearheaded the endorsement of the Policy Framework for Sustainable Development of Sport in Africa (2023-2033); Further, Contribution to the global dialogue on anti-doping and clean sport on the continent through engagement with key stakeholders in the World Anti-Doping platforms; Institutionalization of an African Anti-Doping Forum.

The AUC also led the Popularization of the Kazan Action Plan (KAP) which was adopted on 15 July 2017 by the Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport on the promotion of Quality Physical Education in Kazan, Russia. Lastly, the AUC Signed an MoU with

the Tegla Loroupe and Peace Foundation to develop sport activities for refugees and internally displaced people to be empowered despite their precarious situation, the signing of this MOU is a testament to what sport can do if applied appropriately.

### AU SPORT COUNCIL

AU Sports Council in collaboration with the Republic of Ghana and the African Sports Movement stakeholders organized and delivered the 13th edition of the African Games Accra 2023 in the Republic of Ghana. Athletes from Fifty-three (53) AU Member States took part in the games and competed in 29 Sports Codes of which seven out of twenty-nine were qualifiers for the Paris Olympic Games in 2024.





## ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE

### Achievements

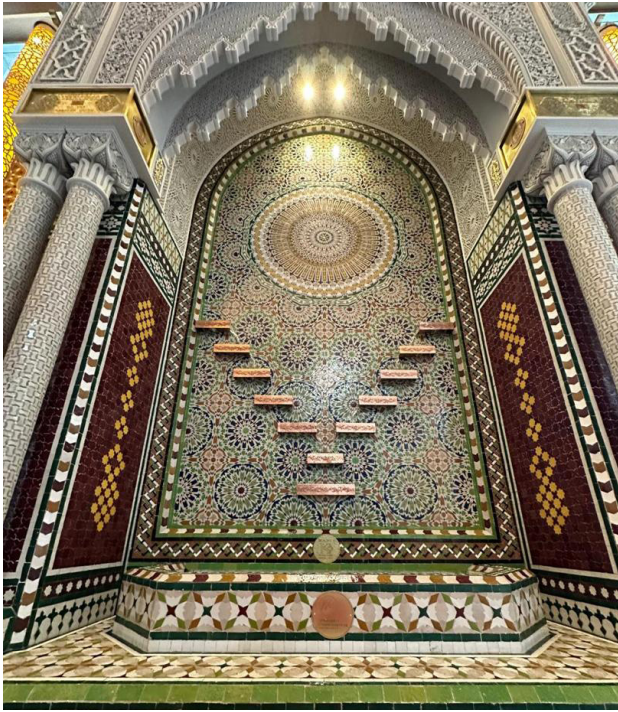
- Declaration of 2021 as the year of culture under the theme 'Arts, Culture and Heritage: Levers for Building the Africa We Want' further profiled and promoted the sector.
- Development and/or review and endorsement of key policies instruments including the Statute of the African Audio-visual and Cinema Commission (AACC); The AU Model Law on the Protection of Cultural Property and Heritage; the Revised AU Plan of Action on Cultural and Creative Industries and the Common African Position (CAP) on Restitution of Heritage Resources.
- Entry into force of the Charter for African Cultural Renaissance with the deposit of 15 ratification instruments by Member States.
- Launching of the Temporary Site of the Great Museum of Africa: A Permanent Memorial for Slave Trade and a flagship Project of the AU Agenda 2063 in Algiers, Algeria.
- Launching of the Temporary Secretariat of the African Audio-Visual and Cinema Commission in Nairobi, Kenya.

Profiling of the arts, culture and heritage was enhanced through the implementation of the above continental initiatives and programmes. Key decisions that emanated from the initiatives and programmes including the Assembly Decision AU/Dec 772 on the allocation of 1% of Member States national

budgets to the arts, culture and heritage sector; great contributed to the involvement of cultural workers and artists into the policy making process. Furthermore, the AU launched an advocacy campaign for the development of arts culture and heritage as Africa's creative economy.



As a direct result Member States are increasingly enhancing the support to the arts, culture and heritage sector through policy frameworks, skills development, and investments in the sector. And increased visibility of the arts, culture, and heritage sector on the continent through the initiatives and programmes as well Agenda 2063 aspiration and moonshot 05. At least fifteen (15) African World Heritage Sites were inscribed in the UNESCO World Heritage List in the period under review. In addition, successful negotiations for the return and restitution of illicitly trafficked cultural resources took place.



### AFRICAN LANGUAGES AND ORAL TRADITIONS

Established twenty-two Vehicular Cross-border Language Commissions as part of its sub-regional working structures, in the Member States of the African Union:

- Launched the African Languages Week (ALW) in Ouagadougou in July 2021, in line with its adoption by the third Specialised Technical Committee for Youth, Culture and Sports (STC-YCS3) in Algiers, Algeria, in October 2018, through ACALAN’s proposition.
- Developed the Dar-es-Salaam Framework for Action in 2019 as a collective commitment to action for African governments to ensure that Article 25 of the Constitutive Act of the AU (Previously Article 29 of the OAU Charter) is implemented by promoting Kiswahili as a Working Language of the African Union and Language of Wider Communication in Africa.
- Published nine issues of CELHTO’s scientific journal meeting international scientific standards which is one of the best around oral traditions in Africa and about ten scientific books to disseminate, in the required scientific standards, the results of research carried out on the African continent and in its Diasporas.
- From 2018 to 2024, CELHTO has conducted studies of collection and documentation of endogenous mechanisms for conflict prevention and management in the different regions of Africa.

### 3.3.5. EMPOWERMENT THROUGH KNOWLEDGE: EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

For the development of the Continent progress in Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation have a far-reaching impact on all aspects of human capital development. Africa’s youth skewed population is a powerful source of economic growth and progress, provided it receives quality education driven by science, technology, and innovation, as well as skills for 21st century job opportunities. Investing in Education, and STI is thus, the most effective investment to improve socioeconomic growth and development, thereby reducing poverty, gender inequalities and enabling people to thrive and contribute to their individual and collective prosperity.

In that regards the AUC highlights the below interventions in the promoting and advocating for an improved Continental Education, Science,

technology, and Innovation Ecosystems. Two key accomplishments for the AUC were (i) the adoption of a truly systemic strategic package, ranging from continental strategies for CESA, STISA and TVET for the period 2025-2034 to the declaration of a “decade for the acceleration of education and skills development”, via the strengthening of tools for the harmonious continental development of start-ups and a welcome reflection on an African charter devoted to reversing the brain drain of African competencies; and (ii) the launch and implementation of the African Year of Education 2024 under the theme: “Educate an African fit for the 21st Century: Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa.”



**H.E. Sarah Mbi Enow Anyang,**  
Commissioner for HRST (2017 - 2021)



**H.E. Prof. Mohamed Belhocine,**  
Commissioner for ESTI (2021 - 2025)

## EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

*Implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25):* CESA aims to ensure quality transformative education and lifelong learning opportunities for all, develop and retain African intellectual capital, and harmonize education systems and networking across Africa.



**In addition to the adoption of the renewed CESA 2025 - 2034, the achievements recorded include:**

- **Teacher Development:** Africa needs over fifteen million teachers, with many current

teachers underqualified or untrained, especially in STEM subjects and specific regions. A study recommended professionalizing teaching, developing a continental teacher mobility protocol,

establishing a “Teachers without Borders” corps, promoting teacher motivation, and developing teacher standards and qualification frameworks at all levels. The AU Teacher Award was launched to enhance the status of teachers, promoting teaching as a profession, and celebrating outstanding African teachers. Since its launch, 36 teachers from 21 AU Member States have been awarded.

- **On Higher Education:** The AUC has developed within this time frame The Pan-African Quality Assurance and Accreditation Framework (PAQAF) with several tools such as the Africa Credit Transfer System, Africa Quality Rating Mechanism, an Africa Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance and Accreditation to establish a Continental Accreditation Agency to implement the framework. The AU also developed the African Continental Qualifications Framework (ACQF) to enhance transparency, comparability, and recognition of qualifications, promoting lifelong learning and supporting Member States in developing national qualification frameworks (NQFs). In that same vein, the AUC set up the Mwalimu Nyerere African Union Scholarship Scheme to award students, particularly women and students with disabilities, to study science-based programs at the master’s and PhD levels in African countries outside their own. The Intra-African Academic Mobility Scheme has facilitated mobility for over 1,000 students and 140 academic staff since 2010.

Since its inception the *Pan African University (PAU)*, enrolled over 2,000 MSc and 700 PhD students from 53 countries, graduated through PAU. Most graduates from PAU are integrated into the international and national markets with some occupying strategic positions and others starting their own companies. The governance of PAU has been strengthened by the recruitment, for the first time, of fully-fledged rector and vice rector, and the long overdue renewal of the PAU Council membership. Additionally, a new financial contribution from the African Development Bank has been negotiated and is being finalized. MOUs with Argentina, Canada, China, Japan, and Russia are also being finalized, reflecting increased cooperation with PAU. The launch of the fifth Institute of PAU, i.e. PAU Space Sciences Institute, is being discussed with the South African Government.

- **Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET):** The most strategic move has been the adoption of the new continental TVET Strategy 2025 - 2034.

The Skills Initiative for Africa (SIFA) program was established to enhance employment-oriented skills development for youth in eight pilot countries. Grants totalling EUR 61.75 million have been awarded to 30 grantees for TVET system improvements and innovation projects. The African Skills Portal for Youth Employment and Entrepreneurship promotes policy dialogue and experience sharing. The WorldSkills Africa platform empowers and inspires youth through skills competitions, with events hosted in Rwanda, Namibia, and upcoming in Zambia. The AUDA-NEPAD Agency designed an Agriculture Technical and Vocational Education Training (ATVET) curriculum tailored to high-priority agricultural value chains. Over 6,200 students have been trained, with an emphasis on women’s competencies in rural regions. A study on gender stereotyping in TVET suggests integrating STEM subjects from lower education levels to broaden vocational career options for girls and minimize gender biases.

As part of the AU Theme of the Year, the first Africa Skills week was successfully organized with AUDA-NEPAD and the Government of Ghana. More than 1000 participants attended the event, and it brought together experts, decision-makers and many youth participants. The STC-EST5 recommended that it be an annual event, to disseminate best practices and take stock of TVET efforts and progress in Africa.

- **Digital Transformation in Education:** The Commission developed the AU Digital Education Strategy, which provides a holistic framework for adopting digital technologies in education. In that regards the commission also launched the Innovating Education in Africa (IEA) initiative to promote scaling up feasible and sustainable educational innovations. Since 2018, 25 innovations have been accelerated and awarded grants up to USD 1,000,000.

*The Pan African Institute for Education for Development (IPED) serves as Africa's observatory for education. It acts as a repository of policies and knowledge to guide education reform and implementation across Africa. IPED is one of the implementers of the Knowledge Information Exchanges (KIX) project, funded by GPE and IDRC, aiming at strengthening the Education Management Information Systems and the necessary tools for their full operationalization.*

*As part of the implementation of the AU theme of the year 2024, IPED organised, together with the members of the KIX project, the 3rd KIX Symposium to give increased visibility to recent and emerging national research, innovations and good practices in improving learning outcomes in sub-Saharan Africa.*

- **Girls' and Women's Education in Africa**

In line with the implementation of its 3 consecutive 2015 - 2017, 2018 - 2020 Strategic Plans and the current 2021 - 2025 Strategic Plan, key attainments have spanned across the following axis.

- i. In promoting Gender responsive Education frameworks, 8 high-level dialogues took place convening state and non-state decision-makers to dialogue on girls and young women's access to Education, notably on policy reforms. The Gender at the Centre Initiative (GCI) is in its second phase of implementation in close partnership with AU Member States and Development Partners. The Dakar Declaration on "Assessing Learning Losses to Embrace Learning Recovery for African Girls" following the Education Expert Meeting held in Dakar, Senegal in September 2022, was adopted by 33 Member States. Furthermore, AU CIEFFA convened the 1st Pan African Conference on Girls Education (PANCOGED), which culminated into a Call for Action and Recommendations of the PANCOGED.
- ii. In favour of Education in emergencies and humanitarian contexts, the #AfricaEducatesHer campaign has been launched in response to the COVID19 pandemic, which negatively impacted education systems in Africa. The phase II of the campaign and its action plan has been launched, and 6 Member States,

now are implementing this campaign through various Education related activities, including, organizing workshops and dialogue in collaboration with experts from AU Ministries of Education, other key partners, youth, community partners, and CSOs.

In addition, School Feeding programmes and regular celebrations of the African Day of School feeding, Peace Education, and Health Education are key programmes and actions that positively impacted the education agenda in Africa.

## **POLICIES AND STRATEGIC PROGRAMS FOR SCIENCE, RESEARCH, AND INNOVATION**

*Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA - 2034):* The next continental strategy on Science, Technology and Innovation has been developed through a largely inclusive and participatory process and adopted.

*Key Activities in Science, Technology and Innovation includes:*

**The African Union Kwame Nkrumah Awards for Scientific Excellence (AUKNASE):** with which the AUC awarded 8 Continental and 11 Regional awards to eminent African scientists since 2017. The award amount was \$100,000 (at the Continental level) and \$20,000 (at the regional level) per awardee.

**The African Union Research Grant Programme AURG:** supported research through grants and established over 88 partnership networks, involving master's and PhD students in research activities. The programme was able to award grants to 19 lead institutions with an amount ranging between \$500,000 to \$1 million each. More than 88 partnership networks were established and have given opportunities to master's & PhD students in research activities. The programme has also built the capacity of African research institutions and researchers in terms of experience sharing, learning, diffusion of research, technology transfer, and acquiring research facilities as well as laboratory equipment. AURG also contributed to the Integration of Africa, enabling intra-Africa and North-South collaboration through research. In this regard, the AU-EU High-Level Policy Dialogue on Science, Technology, and Innovation can be captured as a strategic example of this collaboration.

## **SPACE PROGRAMME**

**Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa (GMES and Africa):** GMES and Africa, a cooperation programme with the European

Commission for free EO data access, enhances African capacities for Earth Observation (EO) services. Achievements include the establishment of 13 multinational and multisectoral (public, private, academia etc) consortia representing some 72 institutions from 44 countries, EO station installations, operational geoportals, and numerous training activities. The program has awarded over EUR 32 million in grants and developed extensive communication platforms to raise awareness of EO benefits, in addition to Data access and Infrastructure development. A true contribution to Africa's integration, GMES and Africa provides a wealth of real-time information on various issues like the status of coastal areas, navigability of rivers, status of wetlands, 3-day marine weather forecasts for fishermen use, soil degradation, forestation, or deforestation etc.

### **African Space Agency (Afsa) and African Space Council**

In 2023, the AUC signed a host-agreement with the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, related to AfSA. The agency should be operational in 2025.

The election of the African Space Council was successfully organized in 2024.

STATAFRIC and PANSTAT can be categorized as **statistical and research institutions**, within the framework of the African Union Commission (AUC).

*The African Union Institute for Statistics (STATAFRIC)* is a specialized agency of the African Union Commission (AUC) focused on developing a coherent African statistical system aligned with international standards. With the objective of enhancing the coordination, production, and dissemination of quality statistics for evidence-based decision-making in Africa.

*The Pan-African Statistical Program (PANSTAT)* promotes statistical cooperation among African countries, emphasizing the harmonization of data collection and methodologies. Addressing statistical capacity gaps and support the African Union's Agenda 2063 through collaboration and reliable data.

On the Science and Technology grants component, some of the challenges faced during the implementation are misunderstanding of the

reporting procedures by grant beneficiaries; internal management issues within the consortia and the COVID-19 pandemic were some of the challenges faced.

One of the primary success factors was the strong emphasis on collaboration and partnership. The implementation of the Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) was significantly bolstered by a coalition of partners and stakeholders, including Member States, agencies, and education experts working together. This collaborative approach was further exemplified by the thematic clusters, which facilitated coordinated efforts across various areas of education.

Though there is room for improvement, the cluster approach was another key success factor. By creating clusters that focused on specific areas such as Teacher Development, STEM education, ICT in education, and Peace and Education, targeted interventions could be implemented more effectively. This specialization allowed for more precise and impactful solutions to be developed and executed. In this same vein, the importance of teacher development, the role of ICT in education as well as the school feeding programs are also key insights that contributed to quality education programs to achieve better educational outcomes.

### **Recommendations and Implications for Future Work**

Member States and policy organs should focus on ratifying and implementing key frameworks to facilitate academic mobility and recognition of qualifications across Africa. Investing in education infrastructure is vital. Allocating sufficient resources to build and maintain schools, laboratories, and digital learning platforms will create conducive learning environments. Addressing socio-economic barriers to education, such as hunger and poverty, through multi-sectoral programs will improve access and retention rates.

These insights and recommendations provide a comprehensive roadmap for future efforts in the education sector. By building on the successes achieved and addressing the ongoing challenges, these strategies can help advance education across Africa. It is expected that the adoption of the "Accelerated decade of education and skills development" will help iron out most of these challenges and keep high the advocacy for sustainable financing of education in the continent, as well as the level of commitment and action of Member States around ESTI.

### 3.3.6. BRINGING AU CLOSER TO THE PEOPLE: ENHANCING WOMEN, YOUTH & DIASPORA ENGAGEMENT

Over 50% of Africa’s population are female and according to the World Population Prospects 2022, Africa has one of the youngest populations globally. Over 60% of this population is under the age of 25, 35% of which are young women. Africa’s youth bulge presents both challenges and opportunities for development. Coupled with a growing female population, this youth bulge highlights the need for targeted efforts in the advancement of gender equity, education, and employment opportunities to meaningfully leverage the full potential of African women and youth for sustainable development.

Women in Africa play a vital role in the continent’s social, economic, and political landscapes. They are integral to the continent’s development and resilience. Supporting empowerment and addressing the challenges they face is essential for achieving sustainable growth and social progress across the continent.



On the other hand, young people in Africa represent a dynamic and diverse demographic with significant potential to drive change and development across the continent. They are a powerful force for change, with the potential to shape the continent’s future. By addressing challenges and harnessing their energy and creativity, African nations can drive sustainable development and create a brighter future for all.

#### INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF WOMEN, GENDER AND YOUTH IN AFRICA

Recognizing the deliberate engagement of women, youth, and the diaspora work carried out remains key in realising a people driven African Union. As such, over the past eight years, the AUC has undertaken efforts to create a more inclusive and representative organization that truly reflects the continent’s diversity and potential. These efforts are in line with the AUC’s leadership commitment in 2017, to undertake a transformative journey of bring the AU closer to the people by ensuring the inclusion of women and youth in decision-making and policy processes. The vision was clear: promote gender equality, empower women, and engage Africa’s youth in shaping the continent’s future.





Through structures such as the Office of the Special Envoy for Youth, AUC Women, Gender and Youth Directorate (WGYD) and the Citizens and Diaspora Organizations Directorate (CIDO), as well as Organs like the Economic, Social & Cultural Council (ECOSSOCC) programmatic interventions have been implemented towards promoting inclusive development and representation across the continent. The Office of the Special Envoy for Youth, WGYD, CIDO, and ECOSSOCC are pivotal in advancing gender equality, empowering youth, and promoting the voices and participation of citizens, including women, youth and the diaspora in the AUC's activities and AU decision-making processes in general. The collective efforts of these structures continue to contribute to a more inclusive and equitable Africa, aligning with the AUC's vision for sustainable development and unity.

Leveraging its convening power, the AUC has built strong collaborations with Member States, RECs, civil society, diaspora organizations, and grassroots movements towards creating a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of diverse populations. Through these collaborations, the Commission has been able to position gender equality, women and youth empowerment at the forefront of Africa socio-economic transformation and peace and security agenda.

## **ENGAGING WOMEN AND YOUTH IN POLICY AND DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES**

### **Multistakeholder Policy Platforms**

One of the first milestones in this journey was the establishment and/or operationalisation of multistakeholder policy platforms. Thousands of women and young people, previously underrepresented, found their voices amplified at platforms like the AU Gender Pre-Summits, High-Level Panels, intergenerational dialogues and Civil Society Gender Pre-Summits. These platforms were not just ceremonial, they influenced significant policy decisions at the AU. For example, the adoption of the AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) in 2018, with one of the pillars focusing on "Leadership, Voices and Visibility" of women, including young women, marked a pivotal moment in aligning AU gender policies with Agenda 2063 Aspiration 6. Additionally, the AU declaration of the second African Women's Decade (2020 - 2030), focusing on financial and economic inclusion was a vital step toward sustainable economic empowerment for women.



### **PAN AFRICAN WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION (PAWO): Advancing Gender Equality in Africa**

The African Union Commission (AUC) has prioritized gender equality and women's empowerment, granting the Pan African Women's Organization (PAWO) specialized agency status in 2017.

PAWO supports the AUC's mission by advocating for women's leadership, addressing systemic barriers, and fostering collaboration, in alignment with Agenda 2063.

Key achievements include promoting the Maputo Protocol, increasing women's representation in leadership, and advancing peacebuilding efforts in conflict zones. PAWO's agricultural initiatives, like sustainable farming programs for rural families and refugees, have improved food security and income generation.

Inspired by their mentor Maama Wangari Mathai, PAWO has championed environmental conservation and climate resilience through afforestation and advocacy. Additionally, PAWO's efforts contributed to the revival of the East African Community and strengthened regional integration.

Through its strategic partnership with PAWO, the AUC drives inclusive development, empowering women and advancing Africa's progress toward "The Africa We Want."

### **Women and Youth Participation in STC Statutory Meetings**

In addition, the Statutory meetings for the Specialised Technical Committees (STC) on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, as well as Youth Culture and Sports continue to provide avenues for women and youth engagement in high-level policy decision-making processes. For instance, 3rd and 4th STC Meetings on Youth, Culture, and Sports provided young people with opportunities to engage directly in AU high-level decision-making. Also, the AUC's facilitation of youth participation in global platforms such as the African Youth Consultative Forum and Youth Connekt Africa Summit further solidified the youth's role in shaping Africa's policies.

### **PAN-AFRICAN YOUTH UNION (PYU)**

In 2024, the African Union Commission (AUC) took significant steps to implement the 4th Specialized Technical Committee on Youth, Culture, and Sports (STC-YCS4)'s Decision to strengthen ties with the Pan-African Youth Union (PYU). Representatives from both institutions convened two technical workshops to draft a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at aligning PYU's mandate with the AUC's reform agenda.

The workshops fostered collaboration, leveraging institutional strengths to enhance the youth development ecosystem. A phased strategy was developed to address Africa's youth challenges, with a strong focus on reinforcing PYU's role as a continental youth coordination mechanism.

These efforts reflect the AUC's steadfast commitment to empowering Africa's youth, ensuring their active participation in driving the continent's transformation and inclusive development agenda.

### **Building Networks for Women and Youth**

Recognizing the need to strengthen the women and youth leadership in Africa, the African Women's Leaders Network (AWLN) was launched in 2017. As of 2024, AWLN has 34 national chapters, a powerful testament to the AU's commitment to women's leadership across the continent. Also, the historic transformation of the Pan-African Women's Organization into an AU Specialized Agency in 2018 further demonstrates the AU's resolve to strengthen the women's movement on the continent.

Meanwhile, youth were engaged in innovative ways, including through the Model AU simulations which provided a hands-on experience in policymaking. The Office of **H.E. the Chairperson's** Envoy on Youth, established in 2018, became a Pan-African platform for young people to engage with the AU, ensuring that their voices continued to influence AU and global actors' policies and decisions on topics pertinent to their lives and wellbeing.

## THE OFFICE OF THE YOUTH ENVOY

African Union Commission: Driving Youth Empowerment Across Africa

The African Union Commission (AUC) has reinforced its commitment to youth empowerment, placing it at the core of Africa's development agenda.

A milestone achievement was the institutionalization of the Office of the Youth Envoy during the 45th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in July 2024 (EX.CL/Dec.1268(XLV)). This decision solidifies the AUC's efforts to ensure youth representation and strengthen structural support for youth-driven initiatives across the continent.

In collaboration with the Youth Envoy, the AUC spearheaded a resolution to review the African Youth Charter, aligning it with contemporary realities and reaffirming its importance as a cornerstone for youth development. Additionally, the AUC revised its Procurement Policy to mandate 35% youth inclusion in tender evaluation boards, a bold step toward institutionalizing youth participation in governance and economic development.

To amplify youth engagement, the AUC established the African Union Youth Reference Committee (YRC23), ensuring diverse youth representation from across Africa and the diaspora, with 60% of members being young women. This platform has shaped policies under Agenda 2063, influenced

foreign strategies like the Netherlands-Africa and Germany-Africa policies, and secured commitments such as Nigeria's 30% youth and women representation in federal appointments.

The AUC also facilitated groundbreaking programs, including the LeadHer Fellowship, training 200 young women in political leadership, and the Make Africa Digital (M.A.D.) Campaign, which trained over 10,000 youth in digital literacy across nine countries. Mental health initiatives, like the #ICanSurvive Toolkit, supported over 2,000 youth, while climate education programs trained 500 youth and planted 1,000 trees, showcasing the AUC's commitment to holistic youth development.

Advocacy efforts led by the AUC enabled youth participation at key platforms such as AU Heads of State Summits and the UN General Assembly, ensuring youth voices shape global and continental decisions. The AUC's innovative tools, such as the calendar of events and dashboard, have further enhanced coordination and evidence-based decision-making.

The institutionalization of the Youth Envoy's Office symbolizes the AUC's enduring dedication to youth inclusion. This legacy, supported by the vision of **H.E. Chairperson Moussa Faki Mahamat**, highlights the transformative power of Africa's youth as key drivers of Agenda 2063, reinforcing the AUC's role as the backbone of Africa's progress.

## Confronting Violence and Inequality: Initiatives for Gender Justice

In 2020, the AU took bold steps to address gender-based violence through the High-Level Presidential Initiative on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG). By convening annual Men's Conferences on Positive Masculinity, the AU sought to reshape societal norms and combat VAWG. This initiative resulted in a decision by the AU Assembly through which it tasked the

AUC to facilitate the drafting of an AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, signalling a historic move to institutionalize gender justice across the continent. In addition, through programmes like the Spotlight Initiative Africa Regional Programme (SIARP), the AUC in collaboration with other strategic partners contributed to strengthening legal frameworks and civil society capacities to address violence and harmful practices across Africa.



**Walk at the AU in Celebration of 16 Days of Activism**

Youth Empowerment: The 1 Million by 2021 Initiative  
 One of the most impactful programmes during this period was the 1 Million by 2021 Initiative, launched in 2019. The Initiative aimed to create 1 million opportunities in education, employment, entrepreneurship, and engagement (the 4Es) for African youth. The results were significant: more than

40,000 young entrepreneurs received grants, training, and mentorship, while millions of young Africans were empowered to tackle continental challenges through engagement activities. Following the success of this initiative, the AU scaled up the effort with the 1 Million Next Level initiative in 2022, aiming to reach 300 million youth by 2030.



**Youth Advocacy Training on the AU Free Movement Protocol in Addis Ababa**

### **Pushing Forward: Challenges and Lessons Learned**

Despite these remarkable achievements, the WGYPD faced several challenges. Funding limitations continue to significantly affect the scale and reach of the Directorate's programmes, with inconsistent budget allocations and delays hindering timely implementation of programmes. The COVID-19 pandemic further disrupted activities, restricting large-scale mobilization and delaying in-person engagements. Additionally, the digital divide exposed inequalities in access to technology, particularly among women and youth, impeding their meaningful participation in online platforms.

Lessons learned from these challenges included the importance of flexibility and adaptability in programme designs to address varying national contexts and crises. Strong partnerships were

identified as crucial for success, as was the centrality of women and youth involvement in the design and implementation of programs. The AUC also learned that consistent engagement of women and youth in economic activities at all levels - national, regional, and continental, remains essential to achieving sustainable development in Africa.

### **A Future of Equality and Empowerment**

Looking ahead, the AUC has set the following ambitious goals. The AU Gender Parity Project, aiming for 50/50 gender representation and 35% youth inclusion in the AU's workforce by 2025, underscores the Commission's commitment to inclusivity. The WYFEI 2030 seeks to unlock \$100 billion for 10 million women and youth by 2030, addressing systemic barriers that perpetuate poverty and social injustice.



### **AFRICAN PEOPLE AND THE DIASPORA**

AUC's efforts to bridge the gap between the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African people, including the diaspora, with a mission to increase participation and influence on the AUC's decision-making process.

Citizens and Diaspora Organizations (CIDO) was established to ensure that the AUC represents not just African governments but the African people, the AUC embarks on a critical mission: to unite the voices of civil society and the diaspora, creating a direct channel into the heart of Africa's decision-making body.

In 2024 the African Union Interfaith Dialogue Forum in Rwanda hosted an event, bringing together religious leaders from across the continent. The event, filled with spirited discussions that paved the way for collaboration and peace-building efforts stretching across religious divides. Later, in May, the AU headquarters hosted Africa Spiritual Day, where policymakers and spiritual leaders explored the profound connection between education and spirituality in the continent's development.

While successes have been made, the AUC faces challenges, particularly in advancing key projects like the Encyclopaedia Africana Project (EAP). However,

recent developments, such as the formation of a scientific committee and an assessment mission in Ghana, brings hope for the project's revival.



### **New Paths: Diaspora Engagement**

The AUC also forges bold new paths in diaspora engagement. From launching the African Diaspora Development Marketplace to establishing the Historical African Diaspora Placement Programme (HADIP), its efforts emphasize not just financial investment but the power of professional and cultural exchange. Member States like Togo partnered with CIDO to support Pan-African ideals, culminating in the 9th Pan-African Congress.

Partnerships and collaborations with organizations like IOM, the African Development Bank, and faith-based leaders, CIDO secured funding for critical initiatives. MoUs signed with groups such as the African Muslim Council and Faith for Our Planet supported CIDO to take part in the global conversation on peace, development, and climate change.

### **THE UNION AND ITS CITIZENS**

The African Union Commission (AUC) has long sought to ensure that the voices of the African people are integral to its decision-making. To bridge the gap between the Union and its citizens, the Economic, Social, and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC) was established as a vital advisory organ. Tasked to ensure that civil society organizations (CSOs) played a meaningful role in shaping AUC policies, ECOSOCC became a critical force in advancing the AUC's vision for a united, inclusive, and prosperous Africa.

*The African Union's Economic, Social, and Cultural Council (AU ECOSOCC) serves as an advisory body linking AU Member States and African Citizens, supporting Agenda 2063. By engaging with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the private sector, ECOSOCC integrates grassroots perspectives into AU policymaking.*

In conclusion, to build on the progress achieved, the AUC's WGYD and CIDO, as well as ECOSOCC should focus on institutionalizing inclusive practices, enhancing financial sustainability, addressing cultural barriers, and improving monitoring mechanisms. By leveraging grassroots involvement and fostering

stronger partnerships with State and non-state actors, including the private sector and diaspora communities, the AUC can create a more inclusive future for women, youth, and diaspora populations across Africa.

## 4 CONCLUSION: REFLECTING ON 8 YEARS OF ACTION AND PROPOSING BOLD & KEY STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

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t the end of this consolidated Report, which has been both factual and analytical, the time has come to highlight the main conclusions on which the

recommendations relating to the essential issues that require the full attention of the leadership of the Continental Organization and Decision-makers for the coming term, and even beyond should consider.



Our experience of almost a decade has also helped us to identify, throughout this review, such recommendations, which are not mere flights of imagination, but the inevitable consequences of the whole narrative to which the general corpus of the Report has given rise.

While throughout the report we have, in a spirit of objectivity and transparency, presented the main achievements and advances recorded during the period under consideration, we have not concealed the serious dysfunctions, failures, shortcomings and limitations.

Our Recommendations are therefore based on these two levers - the advances and setbacks, the successes and failures - to give them maximum relevance and bring them as close as possible to the need for efficiency and progress in our organisation.

Bearing in mind this dual basis of the logic of the Recommendations, it seems more expressive to group them under six main headings.

### **Revitalizing Pan-Africanism and the Ideal of Continental Unity and Integration**

During this report, we have come across a few shortcomings resulting from the collapse of Pan-Africanism at government level, and the idea of Unity and integration, which are one of the sources of the project that the continental organization is responsible for driving forward.

The lack of African solidarity in the face of crises, civil wars, terrorism, natural disasters, injustices suffered by Africa and external interference in the Continent's affairs, has multiplied and seriously affected the efficient mobilization of our material and moral resources.

During the period under consideration, we were unable to generate the necessary impetus needed to revive our original ideals, despite the sometimes very strong appeals made to African leadership, elites and populations. This failure, or well-nigh failure, makes it an urgent need for an intellectual and doctrinal awakening, without which faith in our project may be dulled, and its soul sullied.

In the quest for awakening, through all possible mechanisms (political, academic, religious, communicational and educational), we also need to rethink our institutional model, whose appropriateness to African realities is, in many respects, highly questionable. The question of inventing an African

institutional model free of all intellectual servility and mimicry that hinders innovation has long been an ardent desire. It is high time to resonate its deservedly in the Programmes of the African Union.

Should we devote an Extraordinary Summit to this dual problem (the collapse of Pan-Africanism and the inappropriateness of the institutional model) to heighten awareness and give the appropriate orientations?

Should we embark on a longer process of reflection, along the lines of the one initiated for the drafting and adoption of Agenda 2063?

Whatever the modalities: the essential point is that we need to tackle the two issues head-on.

### **Ensuring Peace, Security and Stability on our Continent**

The AU has taken numerous Decisions and strategic initiatives in the field of Peace and Security. To this end, it has set up a relatively comprehensive peace and security architecture with operational bodies.

On this basis, it has taken numerous actions, some of which have produced positive and encouraging results. A few examples are described in this Report.

Nevertheless, the peace and security situation in Africa to say the least is extremely concerning. In fact, it has deteriorated. There are more conflicts and hotbeds of tension in 2025 than in 2017.

Never have so many countries been suspended simultaneously for reasons of unconstitutional changes of government, followed by strong resistance to the implementation of genuine democratic transitions.

Today, there is a zone of instability and insecurity stretching from the Atlantic to the Red Sea. The terrorist threat extends its geographical tentacles as far as the Gulf of Guinea. All five regions of Africa are affected by worrisome security tensions and chaotic political processes.

There is therefore an urgent need for action, and for in-depth reflection on the tools available to our Continental Organization to better attain the objectives of "Silencing the Guns" and establishing general peace on a continental scale.

At a time when we have celebrated 20 years of the Peace and Security Council, let us recognize that its reform is urgent and necessary. Are sanctions as

they are designed and implemented today effective? How can a country be sanctioned by the AU but not by its Regional Economic Community? How can we explain that a President who came to power through a Coup d'état is forbidden to speak at AU Summits in Addis Ababa, but can address the entire world from the podium of the United Nations General Assembly or other international fora? This is even the case in some of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs).

Countries under sanctions have not established the right conditions for lifting them. The paradox is that these same sanctions even seem to diminish, or even discredit, the role of the AU, or even create a vacuum conducive to interventions from outside the Continent.

Unfortunately, the Decisions and Communiqués of the PSC have gradually become meaningless on the ground. The AU is therefore being called upon to question the relevance and real scope of the existing political and legal framework.

Reforming the PSC, strengthening the AU's financial capacities of the AU to ensure that Peacekeeping Operations are led and owned by our Continent, investing more massively in prevention and mediation actions, including greater inclusion of young people and women, and looking into the state of the Regional Economic Communities, which are currently in a bad shape; these are the strategic axes that should be the subject of a new African Pact for Peace and Security.

### **Democratize and Accelerate Sustainable Socio-Economic Development**

The continent is experiencing significant growth. However, to truly achieve the objectives of Agenda 2063, this growth needs to be even stronger, more equitable and more qualitative.

Stronger, because the current average rate of 3% needs to be at least doubled if it is to have a significant impact on lives of the people. More equitable, because internal and intra-state disparities pose major risks to stability. More qualitative, because the aim is to boost the share of Africa in the major production value chains of the world.

*To achieve this, we need to:*

- Substantially, increase our investment in Infrastructure, Transport, Digital connectivity and Energy.
- Invest more substantially in Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.
- Accelerate Regional Integration through the AfCFTA, by facilitating intra-African trade and promoting investments that strengthen African value chains, particularly based on strategic minerals for these productions.
- Boost food security efforts within the CADDP framework and combat the pernicious effects of Climate Change within the framework of various African initiatives in this field.
- Operationalize as a matter of urgency the actions taken to guarantee sovereignty in Public Health (Africa CDC and AMA) and Humanitarian Aid (AHA).

The challenge today is to speed up the implementation of Agenda 2063. During the period under consideration, institutional and organizational momentum and milestones were set in order to lay down the right conditions for the acceleration and impact phase to be felt and experienced.



### **Continue to Improve the Rigorous and Optimal Management of the Union's Resources**

The Institutional Reform initiated in 2017 and continuing to this day is specifically aimed at ensuring the conditions for greater efficiency within the organization.

The socio-economic context in the world and in Africa, as well as the scale of the challenges to which the AU must respond with urgency and impact, require us to be able to strengthen coordination and synergies as much as possible, and avoid waste.

With the new structure of the Commission, the recommendations for streamlining management methods and the division of labour with the RECs, the conditions are ripe for a new phase of action.

However, several conditions need to be met before this can be achieved:

- The contributions of Member States have been steadily declining since 2018, and dependence on international partners is increasing. Is it sustainable that in 2024, the share of international funding for AU activities will be over 80%?
- The question of financing our organization therefore remains almost unanswered. Since the decision to allocate a levy of 0.2% of revenues

from eligible imports to the financing of the organization, only 17 countries have so far agreed to apply it.

- At a time when Member States' contributions are falling, expectations of the organization are rising sharply. The number of Extraordinary Summits are on the increase, with their share of Decisions that are binding on the organization, without any attention to the conditions of their implementation. The number of Specialized Agencies follows the same rhythm.

Requests for new structures for existing bodies are approved. The expected number of new recruits rises. And all this on a budget that is steadily shrinking. This equation is unsustainable.

The conclusion is simple and inescapable: either increase resources or reduce ambitions. Rationalizing what already exists, even if successful, is not enough to solve the equation.

### **Amplifying Africa's Voice in the World**

The strengthening of regional integration in Africa, and the ability of the Continent to make significant progress towards unity, are directly correlated with the way we interact with our international partners.



Speaking with one voice on the sole basis of our common positions, defending the collective interests of the Continent, reducing its dependencies, safeguarding our freedom to diversify our Partnerships

and ensuring synergies to the benefit of the African Agenda are the fundamentals to be respected in our international strategic partnerships.

This Report has demonstrated that since 2017, the voice of the AU is stronger, more listened to, more structured, and increasingly respected.

*However, the process, which is based on the following three conditions, now needs to be consolidated:*

- Our Organization must be able to implement its own Decisions. Decision 625 adopted a principle of representation: the aim was to prevent Africa from presenting itself with all its Member States when meeting with a single partner. This Decision has never been implemented. It needs to be revised or implemented.
- Our International Partnerships need to focus more on substantive objectives linked to the implementation of Agenda 2063, and the regular and meticulous monitoring of the various actions undertaken. What we have observed is that debates are focusing more and more exclusively on questions of format and participation, even though these were clearly clarified by Decision 762 on Multilateral Cooperation, and to which the Commission has provided additional reading grids in the document submitted for the new Partnership Strategy currently under discussion. It would be highly desirable for discussions to refocus on substantive issues.
- Our effectiveness in discussions and negotiations with international partners must be based on a strategy of reducing our financial dependence, which is detrimental to the relevance of our advocacy with these partners. No serious discussions with international partners can take place if financial dependency levels remain as they are today.

### **Strengthening the Role of the Commission and its President**

Finally, the future of the Organization depends very largely on our ability to strike a new balance between the institutional reality and Intergovernmental policy of the Organization, and the necessary strengthening of the powers of the Commission and its Chairperson. In my letter to the Heads of State of the Union, I drew their close attention to this issue, which is crucial to the effectiveness and efficiency of the work of the Commission.

The entry of the African Union in the G20 and the much-discussed prospect of a permanent seat on the UN Security Council for the Organization reinforce the urgent need to consider the issue of the powers of the Commission and its Chairperson.

At the Institutional level, the question arises as to whether the Union should remain a strictly Intergovernmental organization or evolve towards a Regional Integration Organization, which would require a new mix of subsidiarity and delegation of authority in the interests of the global and agreed interests of the Continent.

At the end of its 8 years term, the Commission has, in complex and difficult situations, been able to take up numerous challenges and maintain a constant posture of action and resilience. The commitment of the Member States has been decisive in this respect, and the highest level of leadership, namely the Assembly of Heads of State, is to be rightly congratulated.

The world is in crisis. Africa is no exception to its international environment. The need for resolute action to promote African Regional Integration is more vital than ever before.

The main legacy of the current Commission is to leave its successor with achievements, a Roadmap, and the conditions to begin their new mandate with, as always, the benevolent support of Member States, their vigilance, their wisdom and the clear-sightedness of their strategic orientations to achieve “The Africa We Want”.

## H.M. KING LETSIE III OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO AU CHAMPION FOR NUTRITION

This Executive Summary presents the Nutrition Champion's work for the year 2024-2025. Since accepting the role in 2017, **His Majesty King Letsie III** has continued to engage various stakeholders on innovative and progressive approaches to support the nutrition agenda of the African Union, sensitizing various stakeholders and Leaders through dialogue at different fora, including at the African Union Assembly. The Kings' footprint has galvanized support and made a huge impact at national and continental levels but also ushered in more global players such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), among others, to increase efforts to overcome Nutrition related challenges.

**February, 2024 AU SUMMIT:** The Champion convened the African Union Commission, African Leaders for Nutrition, the African Development Bank, and development partners under the theme, *"Addressing Malnutrition, Catalysing Africa's Transformation through Enhanced Multi-sectoral Investments,"* to review progress made by leaders towards achieving targets for the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP), the Malabo Declaration, the World Health Assembly (WHA), and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) through sustained and increased investment in nutrition. The event took stock of several country-specific programs and investments made to address malnutrition. Leaders shared progress and lessons learnt from their multi-sectoral approaches to tackling malnutrition and further re-committed to aligning their National Strategic Objectives to the continental and global nutrition agenda.

**February, 2024 - Launch of ENOUGH Campaign:** In fulfilment of part of His Majesty's mandate of raising awareness about the worrying state of the falling nutrition standards among children in Africa and to galvanize support and the urgency to address the unfortunate situation, the Champion officiated the launch of World Vision's ENOUGH Campaign on ending child hunger and malnutrition, that commits \$1.2b over the next three years in 27 countries where it operates. Cognizant of the AU 2024 Theme: *"Educate an African fit for the 21st Century - Building resilient education systems for increased access to inclusive, lifelong, quality, and relevant learning in Africa,"* the King commended World Vision and African Union Member States that had made some progress in responding to incidences of undernourishment among children. He impressed on the importance of joint efforts that bring all stakeholders together (including children and youth) that are needed to achieve the progress sought in addressing child hunger and malnutrition through gender responsive approaches.

**September 2024 – Resource Mobilisation:** On the margins of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York, **His Majesty King Letsie III** made a clarion call for prioritization and expansion of the school feeding programmes. The appeal resulted in the signing of a Letter of Intent formalizing a commitment to establish the End School-Age Hunger Fund, with an initial pledge of \$50 million by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF). The fund will provide critical support to African countries committed to universal school feeding through a combination of grants and loans in order to build programs across Africa. He has urged all stakeholders to aim to reach 10 million vulnerable children in 10 pilot countries by the year 2030, towards a fully nourished, educated, and empowered Africa. The Champion is grateful to the AfDB, Aliko Dangote Foundation, Children's Investment Fund Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation for supporting the initiative to build a Prosperous, Inclusive, and Resilient Africa.

## H.M. KING MOHAMMED VI OF THE KINGDOM MOROCCO AU CHAMPION ON MIGRATION

Since his designation in 2017 as the African Union leader on Migration Issue, during the 28th Summit of Heads of State and Government, **His Majesty King Mohammed VI** has outlined an ambitious vision to address migration challenges in Africa. The African Agenda for Migration, presented in January 2018, offers a strategic framework aimed at harmonizing migration policies, strengthening regional cooperation, and enhancing the opportunities that migration presents.

In Africa, migration is neither a statistic nor a fatality: it stands for a driving force and a lever for progress. However, it requires an inclusive and multidimensional governance based on increased solidarity, strong policies, and evidence-based data. By taking stock of the achievements, this report illustrates how a structured and collaborative vision can transform the migration challenges into a lever for development and resilience for the future of the continent.”

### **I. The African Migration Observatory: a strategic tool for enlightened politics**

Since its establishment in Rabat in 2020, the African Migration Observatory (OAM) has positioned itself as an essential lever for structuring migration policies in Africa. By prioritizing the analysis of migration dynamics, expecting emerging challenges, and rigorously sending reliable and precise data, it provides decision-makers with a solid framework to act in an informed manner. The OAM has started capacity-building programs and inter-state cooperation to standardize the collection and sharing of migration data at the regional level. These efforts are reflected in technical workshops and harmonized methodologies, essential for creating coherent databases.

Furthermore, the Observatory has played a pioneering role in addressing the migration-climate nexus. During COP28 (2023) and the Climate Mobility Summit (2024), the OAM highlighted an urgency: the imperative to consider forced displacement related to climate change in international agendas. In doing so, it has strengthened its strategic role and the position of the African continent as a central actor at the intersection of migration and environmental issues.

### **II. The African Advocacy: A Strong Voice on the Global Stage**

Among the major advancements, the adoption of the Marrakech Pact in 2018 marked a decisive step in recognizing the fundamental rights of migrants and setting up comprehensive and inclusive migration governance. During the Regional Review of the Pact held in Addis Ababa in October 2024, Morocco called for increased socio-economic integration of migrants while ensuring the preservation of skills and talents from country of origin, thus affirming the coherence between African regional priorities and international commitments.

Within the framework of the Rabat Process, Morocco organized an inter-regional dialogue in January 2023, bringing together the Middle East, Africa, and the OECD, in partnership with the IOM and the United Nations Migration Network, to enhance cooperation and share best practices. In July 2024, an expert meeting on the Africa-EU Partnership for the Mobility of People, held in Rabat, illustrated the ambition to build mobility frameworks adapted to the challenges of both continents. In this dynamic, the Rabat Declaration, adopted in April 2024 by the North Africa Ministerial Conference, preparatory to the 9th Pan-African Congress in Lomé, emphasized the root causes of migration by fully integrating these issues into development and resilience strategies.

As co-chair of the Champion Countries Initiative of the Marrakech Pact, Morocco has placed the issue of beliefs at the heart of its advocacy. During a conference held in February 2024, it called for the construction of a positive narrative on migration in response to persistent stereotypes. This position reflects a deep conviction: in the face of rejectionist discourse that distorts the migratory phenomenon, dehumanizes migrants, and reduces them to threats or scapegoats, it is imperative to impose a fact-based vision where borders cannot annihilate human rights.

### **III. A humanistic governance of migration: between national actions and global solutions**

The National Immigration and Asylum Strategy (SNIA), launched in 2013 under the initiative of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, embodies a humanistic and integrated approach to migration. It aims to improve the living conditions of migrants and refugees, guarantee their fundamental rights, and promote their integration through measures such as regularization, access to public services including education and health, as well as adapting the regulatory framework and simplifying procedures. This strategy has also strengthened the socio-economic integration of migrants through literacy programs, professional insertion, and access to culture.

In parallel, constant efforts have been made to combat irregular migration and the criminal networks that exploit migrants, while supporting voluntary returns with dignity.

In a consistent approach between its national policies and its commitment to global solutions, Morocco launched the African Initiative for Migration and Development (IAMD) in 2018 to promote humane and effective migration management in Africa, based on regional cooperation and sustainable development. Furthermore, it hosted the Global Consultation on the Health of Refugees and Migrants, highlighting the urgency of ensuring the right to health and access to care. With the Forum on Reducing the Costs of Remittances from the African Diaspora, organized in partnership with Togo, Morocco emphasized the strategic role of the diaspora in the continent's development and the need for concrete mechanisms to maximize its impact.

In conclusion, under the leadership of His Majesty King Mohammed VI, migration is at the core of development and cohesion dynamics in Africa. Strengthening OAM's capacities and expanding its partnerships remain priorities to structure regional efforts, while the creation of a Special Envoy for Migration will enhance the coordination of African initiatives. Driven by fair and inclusive policies, migration thus becomes a force for prosperity and innovation, uniting the diaspora with the fate of a united, solidary, and forward-looking Africa.

# **H.E ABIY AHMED PRIME MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA AU CHAMPION ON CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW**

## **IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MALABO CAADP DECLARATION**

The 2014 Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, through advancement of agriculture systems, has seven commitments with goals and targets to be achieved by 2025. The CAADP is one of the flagship projects of Agenda 2063 and H.E Dr. Abiy Ahmed, Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, is the Champion of the Program. Its implementation has been tracked by the AUC Commission every two years through the CAADP biennial review mechanism that started in 2017.

### **The CAADP Biennial Review**

Four extensive CAADP Biennial Review (BR) reports were produced in 2017, 2019, 2021 and 2023. In the 4th CAADP BR report, 49-Member States reported, and the continental report was endorsed by AU Heads of States and Government. The CAADP BR report is important for countries in using the findings of the report to adjust the implementation of their National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIPs) to achieve better results and outcomes, which in turn encourage policymakers to implement the resulting recommendations to accelerate agricultural transformation. The fifth and last CAADP BR report, under the Malabo declaration, will be produced in October 2025 and will be presented to the AU Assembly in January/February 2026.

Development of the Regional and National Agricultural Investment Plans (RAIPs/NAIPs)

From 2016, the AUC provided technical support to 45 Member States for their next-generation NAIPs with over 200 experts across the continent mobilized to analyse each CAADP Malabo commitment. This led to the Member States considering alternative growth trajectories to identify investment priorities and provided guidance on policy and program opportunities to accelerate implementation to achieve the CAADP goals and targets by 2025.

### **Production of a Common African Position to the UN Food System**

The AUC led the development and endorsement by AU Member States, of a Common Africa Position on food systems transformation that was presented to the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021. The common position identified over 40 food systems transformation pathways. It has been used to create awareness, build consensus on a shared vision and critically galvanize necessary individual and collective set of actions including policy alignment and increased investments towards building resilient, inclusive and sustainable agrifood systems for Africa. The common position emphasized that the food systems transformation pathways were meant to boost and accelerate CAADP implementation on the continent.

### **Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Summit**

The AUC successfully organized the Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health (AFSH) summit, which deliberated on Africa's widespread decades-long decline in soil quality of farmland that negatively impacts agricultural production capacity and food security in the continent. Three documents were endorsed: (i) 10-year Africa Fertilizer and Soil Health Action Plan. (ii) the Soil Initiative for Africa (SIA) Framework Document, and (iii) the Nairobi AFSH Declaration, making concrete recommendations on actions to be taken by African leaders and stakeholders over the next 10 years to improve soil health and fertilizer production and consumption in Africa.

### **The Post-Malabo CAADP Agenda**

After 20 years of implementing the CAADP commitments through the Malabo CAADP declaration, the African Union developed the post-Malabo CAADP agenda that includes a 10-year CAADP Strategy and Action: 2026-2035 and the Kampala CAADP Declaration to guide the continent in transforming its agrifood system over the next decade. Both documents were presented and adopted AU Assembly during an extraordinary session in January 2025 in Kampala, Uganda.

**H.E. ABDEL FATTAH EL-SISI**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**  
**AU CHAMPION ON POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND**  
**DEVELOPMENT (PCRD)**

**1. Review of the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy (AU PCRD Policy)**

- am pleased to report on the progress made in implementing the directives of the African Union Assembly and the African Union Peace and Security Council on the need to review of the African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy (AU PCRD), adopted during the 9th Ordinary Meeting held in Banjul on 28-29 June 2006.
- The AU Peace and Security Council (PSC), in its 670th session of March 2017, highlighted that the PCRD dimension remains the “weakest link” in the implementation of both the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) and the African Governance Architecture (AGA). It requested in its 1047th session a review of the AUPCRD Policy Framework to consolidate its response to an ever-evolving security environment, including through widening the scope of AU PCRD to cover the entire conflict cycle, and incorporating a peacebuilding dimension.
- Upon my instructions, as the African Union Champion for Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development in Africa, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt hosted the 2nd High-level AU workshop on the Review of The African Union Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy, from 30 May to June 1, 2023 in Cairo, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) and the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA). The workshop finalized the review of the AU PCRD Policy and recommended widening its scope to cover the entire conflict cycle.
- The finalized copy of the revised AU PCRD Policy 2024 was adopted during the AU Summit by Heads of State, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in February 2024. The adopted Policy has now been translated into the AU official languages and mass production for dissemination has already started. This revised policy represents an important and timely milestone in Africa’s path towards sustainable peace and development, particularly as we embark on our collective efforts to implement the Second Ten-Year plan of Agenda 2063.

**2. Operationalization of the Africa Union Center for Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development (AUC PCRD)**

- Egypt has also worked closely with the African Union Commission to achieve the full operationalization of the AU Centre for PCRD, to enhance Africa’s ownership of its peace and development agendas.
- I have instructed the Egyptian Government to promptly finalize the Centre’s new premises in the New Administrative Capital. I call upon the African Commission to conclude all outstanding issues and to expedite the full operationalization of the centre at the earliest possible date in order for it to effectively execute its mandate, including the appointment of the necessary staff.
- Going forward, I look forward to continued engagement with the AUC PCRD in implementing all relevant decisions related to peacebuilding activities in Africa, including following through on policy pronouncements of the AU Peace and security Council to carry out peacebuilding needs assessments and to implement PCRD programs and projects, in Somalia South Sudan, the Sahel and Lake Chad basin.

### **3. Meeting of the Peace and Security Council held in Cairo on 2 October 2024, on Peace, Security and Development Nexus in Africa: Bridging the Gaps Between Policy and Practice:**

- As part of my efforts to advance a comprehensive and integrated approach to peace, security and development in Africa, the Egyptian Chairmanship of the Peace and Security Council (October 2024) hosted a meeting of the Council in Cairo to discuss the operationalization of the peace-security-development nexus. The meeting underscored the importance of taking practical steps to bridge the gaps between policy and practice in the application of the Nexus Approach to facilitate the realization of the aspirations of the AU Agenda 2063. Subsequently, the Council directed the AU Commission to develop a matrix on the status of implementation of all AU decisions and declarations on peace, security and development nexus since 1991, including those that specifically address PCRDR.

### **4. Commemoration of the Fourth Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development Awareness Week**

- The Fourth AU Awareness Week on PCRDR was held this year during the period 18-24 November 2024, under the theme "Collaborative Strategies and Pathways for Effective AU PCRDR Policy Implementation," which aimed at the dissemination and popularization of the AU PCRDR and to facilitate the sharing of best practices and experiences, align efforts and optimize resources to address the multifaceted challenges of post-conflict environments.
- Egypt will work diligently with the AU Commission in the upcoming period to develop operational guidelines for the implementation of the revised policy, in order to achieve policy coherence within AU institutions. We will seek to enhance the implementation of the revised PCRDR Policy through collaborative efforts among member-states, regional stakeholders and international partners.

### **5. Enhancing Partnerships to Effectively Implement the AUC PCRDR Policy:**

- Egypt hosted the fourth edition of the Aswan Forum for Sustainable Peace and Development on 2-3 July 2024, under the theme "Africa in a Changing World: Re-envisioning Global Governance for Peace and Development." The Forum's conclusions emphasized the importance of amplifying African voices by advancing Common African Positions (CAPs) on critical issues impacting the continent's peace and development, including strengthening the global peacebuilding architecture.
- The conclusions highlighted the need to adopt holistic approaches to promote the peace-security-development nexus in Africa, particularly through nationally and locally owned initiatives. They stressed the importance of integrating the nexus into post-conflict reconstruction and development (PCRDR) efforts, in line with the revised AU PCRDR policy. Additionally, they underscored the importance of harnessing the potential of youth in fostering peace education to achieve sustainable peace.
- The Aswan Forum's conclusions also emphasized the urgent need to prioritize state-building and the development of strong, resilient institutions as vital foundations for sustainable peace and development in Africa.
- The Forum reaffirmed Africa's ownership and leadership of its peacebuilding agenda, emphasizing the alignment of UN peacebuilding and prevention activities with continental, regional, and national frameworks under the revised AU PCRDR Policy (2024). It further emphasized the centrality of reinvigorating the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda as a framework for prevention and sustaining peace in perspective of 25th anniversary of UNSCR 1325. The Aswan Conclusions also highlighted the need for the AU-UN partnership to harness synergies between prevention, peacebuilding strategies, and development agendas, particularly the AU Agenda 2063.
- Additionally, a new Aswan Forum Award for PCRDR was presented honour African initiatives, efforts and best practices in this field.

## **H.E. FAURE ESSOZIMNA GNASSINGBE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO AU CHAMPION ON SAATM**

The Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM), one of the flagship projects of the African Union's 2063 Agenda, was launched at the 30th ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Union, held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 28 and 29 January 2018.

As a tangible and clear expression of the political will of African leaders, the SAATM offers a number of benefits for the entire continent, including job creation, increased GDP, improved connectivity through the opening of new routes, lower ticket costs and collaboration between airlines.

In 2015, at the adoption of the declaration to establish a Single Market for Air Transport in Africa, eleven (11) African Union member States declared their solemn commitment to creating the Single Market by 2017. When the market was launched in 2018, the number of signatory states to the solemn undertaking was twenty-three (23). To date, the number of countries having made the solemn commitment has increased to thirty-seven (37) accounting for more than 88% of intra-African trafficking and more than 800 million people in Africa. It is worth noting that twenty-six (26) of these States have signed the memorandum of implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and the MUTAA, adopted in Lomé in May 2018.

In addition, a Pilot Project for the implementation of the MUTAA (SAATM Pilot Implementation Project) was launched on 14 November 2022 in Dakar. The project aims to encourage all Member States to speed up the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and the MUTAA and currently involves twenty (20) States.

Significant progress has been made in the implementation of the SAATM in particular, the creation of new intra-African routes and the granting of more than fifth freedom traffic rights. Indeed, in 2023, fifty-nine (59) new intra-African routes were created, including thirteen (13) operated with fifth freedom traffic rights, thus increasing from 15% of total traffic in 2018 to 19% in 2023.

The President of the Togolese Republic, His Excellency Mr. Faure Essozimna GNASSINGBE, SAATM Champion, is actively stepping up efforts to get all African States to join. It also undertook several initiatives with a view to obtaining the support of the aviation industry and financial institutions for the financing of the SAATM. Indeed, it obtained from the AFDB funding of \$7 million to support the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), the implementing body of the Yamoussoukro Decision and the MUTAA. Such a support, together with technical and financial support from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the European Union (EU) and the World Bank, enabled AFCAC to operationalize the Secretariat of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism in October 2023.

Despite these successes, some challenges remain. These include the worrying delay of some states in joining the market, the protectionist policies applied by some states in favor of their national carriers, the weak cooperation between airlines, and the lack of harmonized regulations.

The Champion proposes the following to improve the implementation of SAATM:

- The AUC through the office of the commissioner of Infrastructure and in coordination with the RECs approach the non-member States of SAATM and convince them to join SAATM. This can also be done through the meetings of the African Ministers of Transport that is organized by AUC. This will help ensure no African country is left out from SAATM.
- on the issue of the other challenges mentioned in this report, the Champion of SAATM proposes that the AFCAC secretariat should focus on the member States that made solemn commitment for the implementation of SAATM. Since these countries represent 88% of African traffic, the success to be gained by the full implementation of SAATM will encourage others to join.

- AFRAA should work on its members to build trust and cooperation between African carriers to create better connectivity which is an advantage for all carriers. AFRAA should play a leadership role in bringing the airlines together for the better implementation of SAATM.

The champion will always be available to lend his support wherever needed.

## **S.E. TEODORO OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO**

### **PRESIDENTE DE LA REPÚBLICA DE GUINEA ECUATORIAL Y CAMPEÓN DE LA UNIÓN AFRICANA EN MATERIA DE REFUGIADOS, RETORNADOS Y DESLAZADOS INTERNOS**

El objetivo principal del presente informe es dar voz al sufrimiento, desesperación y desilusión de millones de refugiados, apátridas y desplazados que como consecuencia de las guerras, hambrunas y catástrofes naturales han tenido que huir a miles de kilómetros de sus hogares, familias y tierras en favor de su propia supervivencia; Ruego Me sea permitido en primer lugar elogiar a la Comisión de la Unión Africana y al Alto Comisionado de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados (ACNUR) por la encomiable labor que vienen desarrollando en favor de esas capas tan vulnerables de nuestro continente, así como agradecer profundamente su acompañamiento, asistencia y plena colaboración en esta ardua pero noble labor de Champion que me fue confiado para hacer más visible y crítica esta situación.

Cuando fui honrado por esta misma Asamblea en el año 2019 para servir de Líder del Tema de los **“Refugiados, Repatriados y Personas Internamente Desplazadas”**, nunca imaginé presenciar en primera línea la cruda realidad de tantas mujeres, niños y jóvenes faltos de esperanza de un futuro mejor cuando ciertamente la razón por la que se concibieron los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) era la de **“que nadie se quede atrás”**. Sin embargo, seguimos observado muy a nuestro pesar como las crisis humanitarias siguen dejando en la actualidad a millones de personas en una situación de vulnerabilidad insostenible debido a unas causas bien conocidas y aparentemente invariables como son: los conflictos armados prolongados, las economías en deterioro, la inseguridad alimentaria, eventos climáticos extremos, desastres naturales, habiendo que sumarle igualmente a todas esas causas las aun sentidas consecuencias de la pandemia del COVID-19 y el Ébola.

En efecto, desde el 2019 en el que adoptamos el tema de los refugiados como el tema del año, la situación humanitaria en África no ha dejado de considerarse compleja y difícil, pues, el panorama mundial de los refugiados, desplazados internos y repatriados nos indica que el continente africano sigue siendo el epicentro de las crisis humanitarias globales observándose especialmente en los últimos dos años, el desplazamiento forzado de más de 28 millones de africanos, 7 millones de refugiados, más de medio millón de solicitantes de asilo, 4,2 millones de repatriados y un millón de personas apátridas. Durante el curso del año 2024:

- En **África Oriental, el Cuerno de África y los Grandes Lagos** se observaron la acogida de más de **23,6 millones de personas desplazadas por la fuerza y personas apátridas** (18% del total mundial), entre los cuales se destacaron Millones de personas que huían de los conflictos en Sudán, Etiopía, Somalia y la República Democrática del Congo (RDC), así como de las inundaciones y sequías causadas por el cambio climático. Sus dificultades se han agravado por la recesión económica mundial y las repercusiones de la guerra en Ucrania.
- En **África Austral**, el número de desplazados forzosos, repatriados o apátridas en los 16 países de esta región alcanzó los **12,2 millones en 2024** (9% del total mundial), y eran principalmente personas desarraigadas por situaciones de emergencia complejas en la República Democrática del Congo (RDC) y Mozambique. La región también enfrenta desplazamientos prolongados y migraciones mixtas desde el África subsahariana. En toda esta región, las personas desplazadas y las comunidades que las acogen están cada vez más expuestas a la desigualdad, los conflictos, la inseguridad alimentaria, los sistemas frágiles y los desastres naturales.
- En **África Occidental y Central**, las inestabilidades políticas, los nuevos conflictos, competencia creciente por los recursos y la inflación que de manera directa o indirecta incidieron en las necesidades humanitarias de las personas, supusieron sin lugar a dudas los factores determinantes en el creciente número de Apátridas y personas obligadas a desplazarse forzosamente en dichas regiones, pasando de un 9% hasta alcanzar los **13,6 millones en 2024** (es decir, el 10% del total mundial), incluidos 8,4 millones de personas desplazadas dentro de su propio país (**“desplazados internos”**). He de señalar que dichas regiones vienen sufriendo desplazamientos prolongados debido a conflictos de larga data como son los caso de la República de Chad y alrededor de la cuenca del Lago Chad, la actual crisis en Sudán que está

obligando a más refugiados a huir a Chad y la República Centroafricana (RCA) donde las necesidades y los esfuerzos humanitarios ya excedieron las respuestas proporcionada y, las inestabilidades políticas y el empeoramiento de la inseguridad en países como Burkina Faso, Malí y Níger que han provocado nuevas llegadas a los países costeros como Benín, Côte D'Ivoire, Ghana y Togo.

Con todo lo anteriormente citado, no es sorprendente afirmar que en comparación con otras regiones, África es la región del mundo que ha experimentado sistemáticamente más desplazamientos asociados a conflictos, violencia, desastres naturales, hambrunas y otros multifacéticos fenómenos, dando lugar a un marcado aumento de las cifras medias anuales según se recoge en el Informe Llamamiento Global 2024 de la Agencia de la ONU para los Refugiados (ACNUR), en el que se registró solamente en África alrededor de 50 millones de casos de personas refugiadas, desplazados internos, repatriados y otras personas que necesitaban protección internacional, lo que representa casi el 40% del total mundial (130,8 millones) todo ello, a pesar de los notables e importantes esfuerzos desplegados por muchos de nuestros gobiernos para la efectiva implementación del Convención de Kampala y demás instrumentos jurídicos vinculantes.

Sin embargo, tras mis visitas los campos de refugiados situados en las localidades de Kiryandongo en Uganda y Tsore en Etiopía, respectivamente y hacer seguimiento al proyecto de construcción de una escuela primaria a las niñas y niños del campo de refugiados de la localidad de Tsore (íntegramente financiado por mi país), fue un gran orgullo y motivo de satisfacción saber que en un mundo donde abundan tendencias de fragmentación y conflicto, existiesen todavía países que son un ejemplo de tolerancia, de convivencia y sobre todo de solidaridad, porque como una vez dijo el Secretario General de la ONU ***“la crisis global de refugiados y migrantes no es una crisis de numeros, sino una crisis de solidaridad”***.

Antes de concluir la presentación de este informe, no quisiera desaprovechar la pertinencia de este encuentro sin antes recodar una vez más el importante papel de la ayuda humanitaria como el conjunto de acciones emprendidas para ayudar, proteger y defender a las personas afectadas por un desastre, tanto sus vidas como sus medios de subsistencia. Se trata, por tanto, de salvaguardar las vidas humanas, aliviar su sufrimiento, mantener su dignidad y garantizar su acceso a servicios básicos como la alimentación, la atención médica, el agua o el refugio y, a pesar de que las cifras hoy proporcionadas nos muestran que todavía queda mucho por hacer, pensamos que cumpliendo con los compromisos alcanzados en la Cumbre Humanitaria Extraordinaria y la Conferencia de Donantes celebradas en Malabo en el año 2022, estoy seguro que con la necesaria voluntad política y la determinación que nos caracteriza, juntos podremos revertir este fenómeno.

## **H.E. PAUL KAGAME**

### **PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**

### **AU CHAMPION ON DOMESTIC HEALTH FINANCING**

*Note: following communicated guidelines on highlighting AU Champions' activities over a longer period of time than the usual one-year reference, below is a summary of the African Leadership Meeting (ALM) initiative's key actions as implemented under the technical leadership of AUDA-NEPAD over recent years.*

As you may recall, the Africa Leadership Meeting - Investing in Health (ALM) was launched a few years ago on the sidelines of the 32nd African Union Assembly, by AU Heads of State and H.E. the President of Rwanda, with the support of global partners. With the overarching goal of increasing African domestic investment in health as well as member states' leadership and accountability towards this objective, AUDA-NEPAD was promptly tasked by the 34th AU Assembly to coordinate the implementation of key milestones of the ALM Declaration, namely establishing Regional Health Financing Hubs (RHFHs) and increasing the private sector's investments in health. AUDA-NEPAD's achievements in this regard include:

#### **Advancing Regional Health Financing Hubs.**

With a mandate to coordinate the establishment and operationalization of regional financing hubs and mobilize health resources, AUDA-NEPAD has partnered with the AUC, RECs, the Champion's Office, the Global Fund, and: (i) developed a Regional Health Financing Hub design and operational guiding manual, (ii) set up two pilot Regional Health Financing Hubs in the Southern region (SADC) and Eastern region (EAC), (iii) engaged talks with other regional RECs (ECOWAS, IGAD), (iv) developed an M&E framework to track activities, and (v) developed a framework for the private sector's engagement. In the upcoming year, AUDA-NEPAD will prioritize the establishment and/or reinforcement of regional hubs in selected African regions (Central, Eastern). It should however be recalled that financial resources remain a constraint for regional hubs in implementing the ALM agenda, and member states must demonstrate ownership by availing resources for their operationalization.

**Health Financing Toolbox.** A number of tools have been introduced and improved over the years to support the AU's health financing agenda at the regional (RECs/hubs) and national (countries) levels. Some of these consist of (1) the Africa Scorecard for Health Financing, which is an advocacy tool for financial planning and expenditure tracking that the AU has digitized and availed online, (2) the Health Financing Tracker which complements the Africa Scorecard and guides health financing reforms while tracking country progress on effective allocation, pooling and spending of resources. Member states should be reminded that these tools are particularly useful when the underlying data provided is regularly updated, for optimal use and impact.

#### **Private Sector Engagement.**

With respect to the private sector's involvement, AUDA-NEPAD and the Africa Business Council co-organized a meeting on strengthening the role of the private sector in health financing within the Community of West African States (ECOWAS), from June 20 to 22, 2024 in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire). Participants which counted Ministries of Health, the Federation of West African Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and private sector experts, committed to disseminating a strategic framework for private sector involvement, sharing best practices, identifying strategies for increasing private investment, and defining an action plan for 2024/2025.

In the same vein, AUDA-NEPAD, the AfroChampions Initiative and the Corporate Council on Africa, organized the BOMA@UNGA meeting on 23rd September 2024, on the sidelines of the 79th UNGA Session in New York, USA. Under the theme 'Unlocking Africa's demographic dividend opportunities for financing and investment in Africa's health sector,' the event spoke to the pressing need for innovative financing solutions in Africa's health sector. A key feature was the launch of AUDANEPAD's Programme for Investment and Financing in Africa's Health Sector (PIFAH), which builds upon the ALM Declaration to attract private investment. High-level participants including H.E. William Ruto, President of Kenya, H.E. Ellen JohnsonSirleaf, former President of Liberia, H.E. Monique Nsazabaganwa, Deputy Chairperson of the AUC, H.E. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, CEO of AUDA-NEPAD and Amb. John Nkengasong, U.S Global AIDS Coordinator, all reaffirmed the critical importance of health systems security in Africa.

**Non-Profit Partnerships in Health Financing.** In the non-profit sector, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2024 between AUDA-NEPAD and the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP), an African-led non-profit research policy institute with a footprint in Kenya and Malawi, which formalizes a mutual collaboration on innovative health financing policies.

Programme For Investment and Financing in the African Health Sector (PIFAH).

Among AUDA-NEPAD's flagship initiatives, the recently launched Programme for Investment and Financing in the African Health Sector (PIFAH), seeks to address financing gaps in Africa's healthcare sector, by leveraging strategic partnerships and technical capacity to support governments and the private sector's scaling up of health investments. Milestones achieved to date in the rollout of PIFAH include: (1) a document framework developed on the basis of lessons learnt from the implementation of the African Leadership Meeting (ALM) agenda, which is currently under review for validation and approval by key stakeholders, and (2) key partnerships such as with Purpose Africa and USAID, to support the first PIFAH funding window aimed at strengthening clinical trials ecosystems.

Forward Outlook. As mentioned over the years, given its objectives to establish RHFHs in Africa's five (5) regions and support health financing, AUDA-NEPAD will keep advancing ALM goals through among other approaches: (i) stakeholders' engagement, (ii) capacity building in RECs, (iii) technical support for Regional Health Financing Hubs rollout in other RECs, (iv) institutionalizing the private sector's engagement framework at national and regional levels, (v) leveraging civil society coalitions on health financing, and (vi) enhancing health financing reforms governance through dialogues with health officials, Ministers of Health, and Ministers of Finance.

## **H. E. FELIX ANTOINE TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO** **PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)** **AU CHAMPION ON POSITIVE MASCULINITY**

In a bid to provide concrete responses to the problem of violence against women and girls, on the one hand, and transforming the structural and institutional inequalities that lead to such violence, on the other, the African Union has deemed it useful to convene the First African Union Men's Conference on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Girls, in Kinshasa (DRC) on November 25, 2021.

The aim of the Conference, held under the patronage of **His Excellency Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, President of the DRC**, was to raise awareness among African Heads of State of the thorny issue of positive masculinity, and to encourage them to adopt and ratify the **African Union Convention on Violence against Women and Girls**.

At the end of these meetings, the **Kinshasa Declaration** was adopted and President Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO was elected Champion of Positive Masculinity.

It should be noted that the Kinshasa Declaration, which was signed by the Heads of State, contains the various commitments made by the latter, the objectives they are pursuing and the missions entrusted to President Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, in particular that of submitting an annual follow-up report on the aforementioned Declaration to the African Union Commission.

### • **Establishment of a Focal Point**

President Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO has appointed **Mrs Chantal YELU MULOP as the focal point for positive masculinity, in her capacity as Special Advisor in charge of combating violence against women**. This is to assist him, given that in view of his high responsibilities, it is not possible for him to directly carry out activities relating to positive masculinity.

The actions carried out by His Excellency President Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, Champion of Positive Masculinity, as part of the follow-up to the Kinshasa Declaration during the period 2023 to 2024 are as follows:

### **A. At National Level:**

- **Political aspect:** improvement in the representation of women in the Government (from 17% to 33%) and appointment of a woman to the post of Prime Minister;
- **Legal and programmatic aspect:** promulgation of Ordinance-law n°23/023 of September 11, 2023, amending and supplementing the Decree of January 30 1940 on the Congolese penal code relating to gender-based violence, and Ordinance-law no. 24/023 of September 11, 2023 amending and supplementing the Decree of August 06, 1959 on the penal procedure code, and adoption of the National Positive Masculinity Strategy;
- **Social aspect:** consolidation of free primary education and introduction of free maternity, as part of universal health coverage (in the provinces of Kinshasa, Equateur and Haut Katanga), and popularization of positive masculinity among young men's organizations (province of Kasai Central in June 2022, city of Mbandaka in March 2023 and city of Kisangani in August 2023);

### **B. At Continental Level:**

- **Organization of consultations with African religious and traditional leaders:**
- **The Kinshasa consultation in October 2023:** which aimed to gather recommendations and information that opinion leaders wished to integrate into the draft Convention;
- **The consultation of women leaders in The Comoros on October 30 and 31, 2023: under the leadership of H.E. the President of the Union of The Comoros AZALI ASSOUMANI,** it was aimed to collect inputs of women leaders in the Comoros in order to integrate them into the draft Convention;

- **The Addis Ababa consultation in October 2024:** under the patronage of **H.E. SAHLE WORK ZEWDE, Honorary President of Ethiopia**, in collaboration with the Office of the **Special Envoy of the Chairperson of the AU Commission in charge of Women, Peace and Security**, it was aimed to have the draft Convention adopted by these two stakeholders;

#### **Participation in Heads of State Conferences:**

- **The South Africa Conference in December 2023:** The Champion of Positive Masculinity was represented at this event by Focal Point Chantal YELU MULOP. The aim was to collect additional recommendations made by participants for the Champion of Positive Masculinity;
- **The 37<sup>th</sup> AU Summit from February 14 to 19, 2024:** as Champion of Positive Masculinity, H.E. President Félix Antoine TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO presented the follow-up report on the Kinshasa Declaration for the year 2023, and pledged to mobilize Heads of State to support the process, and to welcome traditional chiefs and religious leaders to validate the Convention.

#### **Lobbying Mission:**

- **The mission to Malabo from September 10 to 16, 2023:** the aim was to get Equatorial Guinea to adopt the AU Convention on Combating Violence against Women. During the meeting, Equatorial Guinea's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Gender Affairs gave their agreement in principle to a positive vote by her country.
- **Participation in the process of drafting and adopting the AU Convention on Combating Violence against Women and Girls in Africa:** as a member of the follow-up committee, the focal point took part in various meetings (by videoconference) to monitor the drafting of the AU Convention on Combating Violence against Women.

#### **What is Left to be Done:**

- **Organization of the launch of the AU campaign to combat violence against women:** this activity is under preparation, and the related concept note has been forwarded to the Office of the Chief of Staff of President Félix Antoine TSHIDEKEDI TSHILOMBO.
- **Lobbying missions to Member States of SADC, ECCAS, ECOWAS and EAC (Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad and Kenya):** these have been recommended by the AU Technical Commission on Positive Masculinity and will involve explaining to the Heads of State of the target countries the need to adopt the Convention.
- **Monitoring of the adoption process of the AU Convention on Combating Violence against Women and Girls in Africa:** Chairman Félix Antoine TSHIDEKEDI TSHILOMBO monitors the adoption process of the Convention. .
- **Transmission of the draft final document of the Convention to HE Félix Antoine TSHIDEKEDI TSHILOMBO:** once the draft Convention has been validated by the members of the drafting committee, the document will be submitted to HE President Félix Antoine TSHIDEKEDI TSHILOMBO.

## **H. E. JOÃO MANUEL GONÇALVES LOURENÇO** **PRESIDENT REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA** **AU CHAMPION ON PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN AFRICA**

**His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço**, was appointed by the African Union as African Champion for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa, and Mediator to “hold contacts with the parties concerned, and present the report of his political-diplomatic efforts for the re-establishment of the dialogue mechanism between the two Member States”, namely the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Republic of Rwanda, during the 16th Extraordinary Summit of the African Union, held in May 2022, in Malabo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea.

### **I. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE YEAR 2024**

During the period in review, His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola, as Champion of the African Union for Peace and Reconciliation in Africa, carried out the following activities:

#### **1. In the framework of the Mediation of the conflict between DRC and Rwanda:**

Negotiation process through the holding of seven (07) Ministerial Meetings on the Peace and Security Situation in the Eastern DRC, between March and December 2024, with emphasis on the following achievements:

- a)** The agreement on the institutionalisation of a **Ceasefire** between the Parties to the conflict in the Eastern DRC, which entered into force on 4th of August 2024, supervised by the **Ad-Hoc Verification Mechanism** by the **Intelligence Experts of the three countries**.
  - b)** Presentation of the **Draft Peace Agreement** to the Parties in August 2024.
  - c)** Preparation of the **Harmonised FDLR Neutralisation Plan and the Plan for the Disengagement of Forces/Lift of Defensive Measures in Rwanda (Harmonised Plan)**;
  - d)** Presentation of a proposed **Concept of Operations (CONOPs)**, adopted on 25th of November 2024.
  - e)** Official launch of the **Enhanced Ad-hoc Verification Mechanism (EAM-R)** on 5th of November 2024 in Goma, DRC.
- 2.** Holding of the **High-Level Forum of Women of the Great Lakes Region** on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2024, in partnership with the African Union with the main objective of analysing the greater participation of women in Peace and Security Processes in the Great Lakes Region.
- 3.** Additional activities were carried out, including:
- a)** Continuous monitoring of the implementation of the Luanda Roadmap within the framework of the pacification of the Central African Republic.
  - b)** Logistical support for the deployment of the SADC Mission in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique.

Consultations with the President of the Republic of Sudan with a view to contributing to peace and security in that country.

**H.E. JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**  
**AU CHAMPION ON THE AU FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS**

The Report of **H.E. John Dramani Mahama**, President of the Republic of Ghana and African Union (AU) Champion of the AU Financial Institutions (AUFIs), is submitted in accordance to Decision **Assembly/AU/Dec. 819(XXXV)** adopted by the 35th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union Heads of State and Government held in February 2022, requesting for the submission of regular progress reports. This report, the fifth since 2020, provides an update on the progress made in 2024 on the strategic programme of the AUFIs namely, the African Central Bank (ACB), African Investment Bank (AIB), African Monetary Fund (AMF), and Pan African Stock Exchanges (PASE), as well as other selected emerging developments in Global Finance and Economics.

The AUFIs are one of the flagships projects of the AU Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. Despite their importance, challenges persist, hindering progress towards the full operationalisation of the AUFIs. The slow pace of signature and ratification of the legal instruments creating the AUFIs impedes their operationalization by the stipulated timeframe. In 2024, significant milestones consisted of the endorsement by the Fifth Extraordinary Session of the Specialised Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs Economic Planning and Integration of the Draft Statute of the African Monetary Institute (AMI), and of the Technical Study of the African Financing Stability Mechanism (AFSM). This report therefore calls upon Member States, the African Union Commission and other relevant African Multilateral Financial Institutions to expedite the operationalisation of the AMI through the relevant Policy Organs of the Union in 2025. The report further reiterates the call to Member States to sign and to ratify without delays, the Protocol establishing the AIB and the AMF. Concerted efforts by all stakeholders will facilitate the establishment of the AUFIs with a view to building robust financial institutions to achieve Africa's transformation in the coming decades.

Furthermore, the report provides a comprehensive update on the progress made on the implementation of some key flanking measures such as the admission of the AU as permanent member of the G20, the endorsement of the Strategic Framework on Key Actions to Achieve Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa and the finalisation of the study on the technical issues surrounding the establishment AUFIs. Progress on Domestic Resources Mobilization and the reforms of the Global Financial and Taxation Systems are also highlighted. The report proposes concrete recommendations and a set of Draft Decisions for consideration and adoption by the Assembly, calling for decisive actions to achieve Agenda 2063 through operationalisation of the AUFIs. The Report also acknowledges the excellent work of H.E. Mr. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, Former President of the Republic of Ghana in his capacity of former AU Champion, for his leadership in accelerating the implementation of the AUFIs.

## **H.E. FILIPE JACINTO NYUSI**

### **PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**

### **AU CHAMPION FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT**

Over 2024, the African Union Champion for Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and President of the Republic of Mozambique, H.E. Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, has been instrumental in raising awareness for more and improved support by Member States, Regional Economic Communities, and development partners to our continent's Disaster Risk Reduction efforts and in advocating for increased investments in DRR.

His work has prompted Key DRR discussions and helped to raise awareness of the need for the continent to shift from reactive to proactive Disaster Risk Reduction and Management including the adoption of holistic approaches to DRR that integrate development across all sectors with a focus on resilience building.

Among major activities carried out, H.E President Nyusi presided over the launch of the Africa Urban Resilience Programme (AURP) on 4 September 2024, on the margin of the Africa Urban Forum in Addis Ababa and the Third African Biennial Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (2021-2022) on the margin of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The AU Champion on DRM further delivered specific messages, such as one on the occasion of the World Day to Combat Drought and Desertification, 17th June 2024 and the other on the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, 13th October 2024.

Additionally, the AU Champion for DRM supported the following initiatives: Humanitarian Appeal to help people affected by the El Niño induced Drought and Floods in the SADC Region; the 9th Africa Regional Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction held from 2-6 October 2024 in Windhoek, Namibia; the meeting of the SADC Ministers Responsible for Disaster Risk Management held in Victoria Falls, Republic of Zimbabwe, on 27 November as well as the Establishment of the Sovereign Insurance through African Risk Capacity (ARC) in countries affected by the 2023/24 El Nino.

Besides the above-mentioned activities, the AU Champion supported the African Union Commission in the implementation of the following initiatives: Programme to strengthen disaster risk governance for resilience in African regions and countries funded by the European Union; Strengthening capacities for disaster risk reduction and adaptation in the Sahel region, funded by the Swedish government, through UNDP; African Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Action System (AMHEWAS) Program, supported by the Italian Government, UNDRR, the CIMA Foundation, Sweden, UNDP, and Denmark.

Furthermore, the AU Champion on DRM, as the main Promoter of the Regional Initiative to conserve biodiversity, mitigate the impact of climate change and promote the sustainable exploitation of the Miombo Woodlands, successfully held international Conferences where significant pledges of financial support were made to finance the Miombo Initiative in the 11 Member States that are part of this initiative, namely Angola, Botswana, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

## **H. E. DR. JOSE MARIA PEREIRA NEVES PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE AU CHAMPION ON PRESERVATION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN AFRICA**

The President of the Republic of Cabo Verde, Dr. José Maria Pereira Neves, was appointed *African Union Champion* for the Preservation of Africa's Natural and Cultural Heritage in February 2023.

In May, in the **Journal for African Heritage Professionals**, the President of Cabo Verde presented the mission of the Champion and his vision for a shared governance of Africa's Natural and Cultural Heritage for better preservation.

**May 5, 2023, International African World Heritage Day**, was celebrated under the motto *"Our Natural and Cultural Heritage at the service of an Africa without borders."* An International and Online Conference was organized by the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, which began with a message from **His Excellency Dr. José Maria Neves**. On the same day, the African Union *Champion chaired* a colloquium on *"What are we talking about when we talk about preserving Africa's Natural and Cultural Heritage,"* in Cabo Verde, **at the People's Palace, in the City of Mindelo, in São Vicente**.

On 20 May 2023, the AU Champion presided over a Commemorative Conference of Africa Day on *"Identity and preservation of African Natural and Cultural Heritage,"* **at the Presidential Palace in the Republic of Cabo Verde, in Praia**.

Following the **45<sup>th</sup> Session of the World Heritage Committee, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 10-25 September 2023**, the Champion sent a **Statement** to Organizations, World Heritage Institutions, African Technicians for the Preservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage, welcoming the historic number of African sites inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2023 and calling for enhanced synergies and collaborative intelligence to maintain or improve the level of inscriptions for Africa over the next five years and beyond.

For the second year of his mandate as Champion, the President of the Republic of Cabo Verde intends to continue advocating for more actions and efforts in the Preservation of Material and Intangible Cultural Heritage, of the Environment, of Species, and of Terrestrial and Marine Protected Areas, with the collaboration of his African and world peers and private investments.

## **H.E. WAVELRAMKALAWAN**

### **PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES**

### **AU CHAMPION ON BLUE ECONOMY**

Seychelles, as a recognized champion for the Blue Economy (BE) on the African continent, has positioned itself as a leader in sustainable ocean governance. Central to its efforts is the implementation of a comprehensive Blue Economy Strategic Policy Framework and ‘Roadmap’ (2018-2030). Remarkably, Seychelles has successfully implemented 75% of this framework, resulting in the completion of over 500 projects, with significant improvement in institutional development, marine resource management, and educational frameworks aligned with its blue economy-related goals. These initiatives have not only propelled national progress but have also established Seychelles as a model for other African nations aiming to harness the potential of the blue economy.

#### **National Achievements:**

To strengthen traditional sectors like fisheries, ports and shipping, Seychelles has established more than 50 robust institutional frameworks, with the aim of enhancing sustainable use of marine resources, fisheries governance, and fostering the production of value addition service in these sectors.

Seychelles is also focused on the establishment of emerging sectors such as aquaculture, marine biotechnology, renewable energy, and the circular economy. These sectors are projected to foster the creation of more than 100 entrepreneurs, 2,500 new jobs, with 50% of these roles expected to be filled by women, thereby increasing female participation in traditionally male-dominated industries.

Sharing prosperity is a core pillar of the Seychelles’ Blue Economy ‘Road Map’, ensuring equitable distribution of benefits across society. To achieve this, Seychelles has integrated ocean literacy into the national curriculum for all secondary schools. Additionally, 100% of schools have undergone a comprehensive sensitization on opportunities that exist in the blue economy sector.

Seychelles’ achievements are further bolstered through the emphasis on innovative financing. Through USD 3.5 million in grants, over 80 projects have been supported to foster research, development, and innovation across various blue economy sectors. Additionally, USD 12 million has been mobilized to develop value-adding processes and businesses that contribute to the growth of sustainable fisheries.

Building the capacity of its people is vital for advancing the blue economy in Seychelles. In the last five years, 500 individuals have been trained in key areas such as ocean governance, and circular economy. This investment in human capital is essential to foster growth in both established and emerging sectors, ensuring a sustainable future for our island nation.

#### **International Achievements:**

Internationally, Seychelles has demonstrated its commitment to conserving marine resources beyond its EEZ. It became the first country in Africa and the fourth in the world to ratify the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ) treaty. Moreover, the country’s advocacy efforts in this thematic area have extended to more than 26 countries globally, where it has encouraged a unified African stance through outreach initiatives with countries such as Togo, Cape Verde, Kenya, Mauritania, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, and Morocco.

In addition, Seychelles plays a pivotal role in the global Ocean Panel’s 100% Alliance campaign, which calls on coastal and ocean states’ commitment to sustainably manage 100% of their ocean areas under national jurisdiction. As a leader in this effort, Seychelles has welcomed over 10 countries to learn from its experience in Marine Spatial Planning (MSP); having achieved its 30 by 30 target ahead of schedule.

To actively involve all African states in the development of the Blue Economy, Seychelles, in collaboration with the African Union, has been working on initiating a series of educational and advocacy webinars targeting over 20 youths from across the continent. These sessions, currently in the planning phase with a drafted concept note, aim to empower young leaders by deepening their understanding of key themes such as the BBNJ, circular economy, and other topics relevant to the region, highlighting the opportunities and significant benefits the Blue Economy can bring to Africa.

Seychelles' participation since 2019 in FiTI has contributed towards the recognition of Seychelles' leadership for increasing transparency and stakeholder collaboration in fisheries management an achievement which was acknowledged in the 8th Conference of Ministers responsible for Oceans, Inland Waters and Fisheries (OACPS).

Additionally, Seychelles has been one of the founding members of Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Association and has been attending all its statutory meetings. At the 9th Annual meeting of the Scientific Committee, Seychelles presented for information purpose only, the result of the exploratory harvesting of sea cucumber in the Joint Management Area (JMA) which is managed jointly by Mauritius and Seychelles.

**Key Message:**

Achieving a sustainable Blue Economy requires urgent and purposeful action. Central to this effort are investments in education, research, and capacity building. As the lifeblood of our planet, oceans are essential to our shared future. By fostering a holistic approach that integrates education, research, and capacity building, Seychelles aims to create a resilient Blue Economy that drives socio-economic progress while protecting marine ecosystems for generations to come. The time to act is now—because a future without a healthy ocean is no future at all.

**H.E. ABDELMADJID TEBBOUNE**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC**  
**REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA**  
**AU CHAMPION FOR COMBATING TERRORISM**  
**AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

- 1.** Africa stands at a defining crossroads in the fight against terrorism, which by the end of 2024 has spread relentlessly across every region of the continent. Over 3,131 terrorist incidents and 12,753 fatalities have been recorded this year alone, as reported by the African Union Counter-Terrorism Centre (AUCTC). These figures highlight the severity of the threat and its implications for security, stability, and development. The Sahel and West Africa remain the epicentres of violent extremism, driven by governance challenges, transnational organized crime, and socio-economic disparities. These realities emphasize the urgent need for a comprehensive, forward-looking, and human-centred strategy.
- 2.** The impact of terrorism on civilian populations is staggering. According to the AUCTC, over 6,586 civilian deaths were recorded in 2024, alongside widespread destruction of critical infrastructure such as schools, markets, and healthcare facilities. Terrorist groups have exploited governance challenges, leveraging illicit activities such as drug trafficking, resource exploitation, and kidnap-for-ransom to fund their attacks. The return of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs), bringing combat experience and extremist ideologies, has further destabilized regions already grappling with governance and socio-economic challenges. Meanwhile, emerging technologies, including cryptocurrency, drones, and artificial intelligence, have amplified the tactical capacities of these groups, posing critical challenges to counter-terrorism efforts and regional mechanisms.
- 3.** Institutional gaps and delayed implementation of key decisions have undermined Africa's collective response. Key mechanisms such as AFRIPOL, CISSA, and the AUCTC require urgent strengthening to adapt to the rapidly evolving nature of terrorism. The lack of adequate funding and regional cooperation also poses significant barriers to progress. The operationalization of the African Standby Force and the establishment of a Special Fund for Combating Terrorism remain critical priorities.
- 4.** This report outlines a multi-pronged strategy to address these challenges. Short-term measures include strengthening intelligence-sharing platforms, deploying advanced surveillance technologies, and establishing robust regulatory frameworks for drone warfare and Private Military Companies (PMC). Medium-term actions prioritize governance reforms, the expansion of community-driven counter-radicalization programs, and the operationalization of the African Union Special Fund. Long-term solutions emphasize the integration of counter-terrorism efforts into broader development agendas, including poverty alleviation, youth empowerment, and inter-community dialogue.
- 5.** Ultimately, this report underscores that sustainable, African-led solutions, supported by robust continental and global partnerships, are essential to overcoming these challenges. Such a vision aligns fully with Agenda 2063's aspiration for a peaceful and prosperous Africa. By reinforcing institutional frameworks, ensuring predictable funding, and upholding the rule of law, African nations can decisively fight against terrorism and forge a future defined by security, development, and shared hope for all African citizens.

# **H.E. EVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE**

## **PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**

### **AU CHAMPION FOR THE YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA**

This second report of **H.E. Evariste NDAYISHIMIYE, President of the Republic of Burundi** and African Union (AU) Champion for the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, covers activities realized by different key stakeholders during the year 2024 and assesses the progress made towards the implementation of the continental Framework on Youth, Peace and Security Agenda and its 10-year implementation plan. It also highlights key recommendation for accelerating the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, as well as for mainstreaming peace education in school curriculums to capacitate youth to effectively engage in formal peacebuilding interventions.

In fact, during the year 2024 which was dedicated to the theme of “Educate and Skill Africa for the 21st Century,” some progress in advancing the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda on the continent in line with the implementation of the framework and its 10-year implementation plan has been registered, including the commencement of the Mandate of the 3rd Cohort of the African Youth Ambassadors for Peace (AYAPs); the completion of the Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the AU Continental Framework on YPS; the kick starting of the process to developing NAPs on YPS by some countries; the operationalization of the WiseYouth Network as a subsidiary mechanism to the Panel of the Wise, under the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) with the mandate to contribute to strengthening the role of youth in conflict prevention, mediation and dialogue efforts; the convening of the 1243rd meeting of the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) held on 1st November 2024 on the theme “Implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda in Africa”; as well as the 3rd edition of the Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and security which took place from December 12 to 13, 2024 in Bujumbura (Burundi), under the theme: “Empowering African Youth for Peace: Education and Enhanced Coordination as a Catalyst for the implementation of the Continental Youth, Peace and Security Agenda ”

However, despite of all the efforts deployed by various actors for the implementation of the Continental Agenda on Youth, Peace and Security (CFYPS) and its ten-year implementation plan, the performance against the objectives set at mid-term of the ten-year implementation plan of the CFYPS remains very low. The main challenges remain the: continued deterioration of peace and security in some areas, particularly in Sudan and the Eastern part of the DRC; low willingness of Member States to develop NAPs on the Youth, Peace and Security; insufficiency of qualified human resources in matters of Youth Peace and Security, mainly at the level of Member States; insufficient financial resources allocated to the Youth for Peace Program; the absence of a sustainable financing mechanism for initiatives linked to the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at the national, regional and continental level; and the absence of a monitoring-evaluation continental mechanism for the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at the national, regional and continental level.

For the strengthened and accelerated implementation of the African Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, the following key recommendations are formulated:

#### **KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **On the acceleration of the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda:**

- i. Convening an extraordinary meeting of Ministers responsible for youth of AU Member States, aimed at galvanizing strong political commitment needed to accelerate the development and implementation of NAPs on the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda, and providing a platform for Member States to share best practices and experience in the development and implementation of NAPs and National Youth Strategies;
- ii. The nomination by Member States of National Focal Points for the Youth, Peace and Security agenda in order to actively collaborate with the AU Commission and RECs/RMs to ensure effective coordination between the national and regional levels to maximize the effectiveness of national and regional initiatives in implementing the YPS Agenda and strengthen the overall impact of the program;
- iii. Accelerating the adoption and popularization of the Guidelines for the Development and Implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the AU Continental Framework on YPS;

- iv. Formalizing the role and participation of young people in formal mechanisms, missions, processes and institutions of mediation and preventive diplomacy, through a clear quota system;
- v. Promoting youth participation in the implementation of the “Silencing the Guns in Africa” agenda through the development of concrete and achievable National Action Plans that align with the Youth, Peace and Security agenda;
- vi. The establishment, at the level of all Member States, of Youth Support Programs for socio-economic empowerment through entrepreneurship and innovation, in order to empower youth and mitigate their vulnerability to be recruited or engaged in conflict;
- vii. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for commitments made by Member States and, above all, the development and implementation of national action plans focusing on youth, peace and security; and
- viii. Convening the 4th edition of the Continental Dialogue on Youth, Peace and Security agenda in September 2025, before the high-level general debate of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly and the annual AU PSC open session on Youth, Peace and Security;

#### **On Coordination, partnerships and resource mobilization for the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda:**

- i. Convening annually a joint coordination and planification meeting, as well as regular consultations between the different stakeholders of the Youth Peace and Security Agenda (the AU Champion for Youth, Peace and Security, the AU Commission, the RECs/RMs, the Special Envoys for Youth, the AYAPs, the WiseYouth Network, Member States, multilateral institutions and partners) to maintain a constructive dialogue on youth, peace and security issues;
- ii. The imperative of operationalizing the African Youth Fund adopted by decision [Assembly/AU/Dec.661(XXIX)] of the 29th ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the AU held from February 4 to 6, 2017 in Addis Ababa; in order to finance the four pillars of the fund, namely: Employment and Entrepreneurship, Education and Skills Development, Rights, Governance, and Youth Empowerment and Health and well-being that are critical in the advancement of the youth, peace and security agenda;
- iii. The need to strengthen strategic partnerships, especially with organizations of the United Nations System, aimed at mobilizing resources required for the implementation of the Youth, Peace and Security Agenda at continental, regional and national levels.

#### **On Peace Education and its Integration into School Curricula:**

- i. Mobilization of all potential partners to set up a coordinated program to support Member States’ educational authorities in integrating peace education into school programs;
- ii. Develop a continental toolbox or Guidelines for peace education and promote its implementation in schools and formal and informal spaces;
- iii. Encourage and support Member States to adopt and implement peace education in school programs with a view to achieving the mid-term objective of 10% defined in the Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the Continental Framework.

## **H.E. PRESIDENT MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA AU CHAMPION ON PANDEMIC PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE, A.K.A AU PPR CHAMPION (FORMERLY THE COVID-19 CHAMPION)**

**H.E. President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa** outlines the achievements of his Championship under the guidance of the AU's New Public Health Order policy. The Champion's term is active until February 2026 [Assembly/AU/Dec.877(XXXVII)].

This Championship has built on the AU's accomplishments during South Africa's AU chairmanship in 2020: 400 million vaccine doses were mobilised, 200 million USD in COVID-19 relief funding was raised, and 200 billion USD in special drawing rights was negotiated. In addition, the AU supported the India and South Africa proposal for a TRIPS waiver for COVID-19 medical countermeasures and established the African Medical Supplies Platform to address global supply shortages. As of January 20, 2025, the AU had fully vaccinated 51.8% of the continent's population against COVID-19, rolled out 200 million COVID-19 tests, and negotiated for Paxlovid to be procured at cost price for member states.

In the spirit of fostering respectful and action-orientated partnerships, the Champion established a COVID-19 Commission (now the PR Commission) to unite health experts and support his leadership [Assembly/AU/Dec.797(XXXIV)].

Collaborating with the Prime Minister of Norway, the Champion mobilised 24 billion dollars in global COVID-19 response financing for the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator.

His Excellency successfully advocated for a TRIPS waiver for COVID-19 vaccines [Assembly/AU/Dec.797(XXXIV)] and galvanised the AU to expand local manufacturing capacity [Assembly/AU/Dec. 816(XXXV)]. He led the transformation of the African Medicine Supplies Platform to the Africa Pooled Procurement Mechanism [Assembly/AU/Dec.880(XXXVII)]. He brought together various stakeholders to form the Platform for Harmonised Africa Health Manufacturing (PHAHM) [Assembly/AU/Dec.880(XXXVII)]. As part of a robust market-shaping agenda, the Champion has secured 1.2 billion USD fund from GAVI that exclusively purchases vaccines from African manufacturers [Assembly/AU/Dec.854(XXXVI); Assembly/AU/Dec.880(XXXVII)].

Following this recommendation, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has transformed into an autonomous agency with the authority to declare a Public Health Emergency of Continental Security (PHECS) [Assembly/AU/Dec. 816(XXXV); Assembly/AU/Dec.854(XXXVI)].

In pursuit of equitable access to medical countermeasures for future pandemics, the Champion Collaborated with multiple international organisations and entities to establish the Johannesburg Process [Assembly/AU/Dec.880(XXXVII)]. This process has delivered a global medical countermeasures platform, which plays a central role in responding to the current Mpox PHECS.

To secure day zero and surge financing for future pandemics, the Champion established the Africa Epidemic Fund and is mandated to lead its replenishment [Assembly/AU/Dec. 816(XXXV); Assembly/AU/Dec.854(XXXVI); Assembly/AU/Dec.880(XXXVII)].

The Champion has established the Health Workforce Foundational Team and an African Union Health Workforce Compact. This is part of a broader health systems strengthening agenda. [Assembly/AU/Dec.880(XXXVII)].

# H.E. HAKAINDE HICHILEMA

## PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

### AU CHAMPION ON ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE

#### 1.0. INTRODUCTION

The Campaign on Ending Harmful Practices remains the anchor initiative for supporting member states to fulfil the Campaign to Ending Child Marriage (ECM). The Zambian President, His Excellency Dr. Hakainde Hichilema, has continued to play a leading role in championing efforts to end child marriage. ECM Programming anchors on, among other things, engagement with traditional, religious and civic leaders, with communities using gender transformative approaches as well as engagement with men as allies to address negative traditional, cultural and religious norms and practices that perpetuate gender inequalities and gender-based violence (GBV), strengthening of the legal and policy framework on issues relating to children and young people.

#### 2.0. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (HHSD) AND ITS HARMFUL PRACTICES UNIT (HPU)

- 2.1 The HHSD organized and hosted High-Level Policy Advocacy Meetings and side events aimed at ending child marriage Sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) and the annual UN General Assemblies.
- 2.2 The AU Goodwill Ambassador and Special Rapporteur on Ending Child Marriage led monitoring missions in several countries (six of them in 2024). These missions provided recommendations to accelerate actions towards achieving the 2030 SDGs and identified best practices for sharing with other member states.
- 2.3 The HHSD trained fifty-nine (59) media professionals from 19 African countries in a three-day training in Addis Ababa on reporting sensitively on harmful practices and also conducted a consultative workshop on accountable implementation of child protection initiatives for CSOs and government officials from the Eastern and Southern African countries.

#### 3.0. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN BY ZAMBIA

- 3.1 Zambia, as the Champion's host country, also continues to make progress and undertook the following: -
  - a) Working with Canada at the 79th UNGA, co-hosted the Side Event on **Charting Brighter Futures: Utilizing Data for Accelerated Action to End Child Marriage and Achieve SDG 5.3** and co-sponsored the UN Resolutions on Child, Early and Forced Marriage which came up for negotiation this year and a total of 123 member states supported it. In-country, Zambia and the Canadian High Commission hosted a luncheon for SADC and West African member states, whose ambassadors are based in Lusaka, to thank them for their support for the UN Resolution as well as to solicit their support for accelerated implementation of the same.
  - b) Participated in the first Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence against Children that was held in Bogota, Colombia on 7th and 8th November 2024. Several bilateral meetings were held at which pledges were made to support ECM work, continentally and nationally, *including the hosting of side events on ECM during the February AU Heads of State Summit.*
  - c) Made significant progress with legal reform on ending child marriage, namely the enacting of the **Children Code Act (CCA) No. 12 of 2022** (which criminalized marriage of persons under the age of 19, Zambia, in December 2023); the **Marriage (Amendment) Act No 13 of 2023** (which renders child marriages void, whether conducted under customary or statutory law); the **Matrimonial Causes (Amendment) Act of 2024**, whose object is to revise the grounds on which a marriage is considered to be void) and the amendment of the **Penal Code Act**, which seeks to align the Act with the Children's Code Act, the Marriage Act and any other relevant laws.

- 3.2** The Gender Division under the Office of the President continued to engage with stakeholders in-country. In this regard, the Division: -
- a) Spearheaded the development of the second National Strategy for Ending Child Marriage (NSECM), which is projected to be validated and launched in the first quarter of 2025.
  - b) With support from several stakeholders, hosted a 3-day Cultural Resetting Symposium that focused on raising awareness on some of the harmful practices in relation to gender equality; and sharing best practices to address the issue.
  - c) Hosted the Men’s Indaba which engaged high-level men from various sectors. The Indaba issued a Call to Action in which high-level men are committing to ending GBV.
  - d) Works with the Global Programme on Ending Child Marriage (GPECM), now in Phase III; the Office for the Southern Regional Convener for the Council of Traditional and Religious Leaders of Africa (COTLA), His Royal Highness Chief Madzimawe; the Network on Ending Child Marriage in Zambia (NECMZ), 42-member network of CSOs working to end child marriage; to mobilise traditional and religious Leaders as well as rural and urban communities to prevent child marriage.
- 3.3** Girls Not Brides, Plan International, UNICEF, UNFPA, HIVOS and the SADC PF organized a regional convening in Lusaka in August 2024 that sought to catalyse the full implementation and dissemination of the SADC Model Law, ensuring its impactful contribution to the well-being and empowerment of girls and women across the region.

#### **4.0. CONCLUSION**

Zambia appreciates the support it continues to receive from all stakeholders (cooperating partners, CSO as well as the AUC), globally, continentally and in-country and urges all to accelerate their efforts in implementing initiatives that address in ending child marriage. His Excellency, Mr. Hakainde Hichilema appreciates the work undertaken by, and under, the outgoing Chairperson of the AUC and wishes him well in his future endeavours.

## **H.E HAKAINDE HICHILEMA**

### **PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**

### **AU CHAMPION ON ELIMINATING CHOLERA**

The President of the Republic of Zambia, His Excellency, Dr. Hakainde Hichilema, in his capacity as the Global and Regional Cholera Elimination Champion, is highly committed and dedicated to ensuring that the cholera elimination agenda is adequately addressed. His Excellency has noted with concern that in the recent past there has been an unprecedented ongoing multi-country outbreak of cholera and other water-borne diseases, many of them associated with climate-related health emergencies and cross-border transmission.

In this context, Dr. Hichilema has been leading by example starting with addressing the prevailing cholera risk factors in Zambia including but not limited to the following:

- Ensuring a functional Multisectoral National Cholera Elimination Program with Task Forces to implement various activities at all levels of care, that is, national, provincial and district levels.
- Promoting local pharmaceutical manufacturing of commodities; an initiative that has resulted in an MoU signed between government and a Chinese manufacturer to set up a local manufacturing project in Zambia. This project has commenced will commence with “Fill and Finish” production initially that is aimed at having end to end production within 3-5 years.
- Increased investment in the current cholera emergency response to the tune of \$2million domestic funding, while maintaining long-term investment for a sustainable solution to the recurrent cholera crisis through demonstrated WASH investment in hotspot communities
- Improving water and sanitation in the country, especially in peri-urban areas through the urban renewal initiative and resettlement of some households from unplanned settlements to better living conditions.
- Improving drainage in some hotspot areas to avoid flooding and thereby reduce the risk of exposure to water contamination
- Facilitated the improvement in disease surveillance, early case detection and management and well as risk communication and community engagement including the setting of permanent oral rehydration points within the communalities.
- Ensured general health systems strengthening as well as increasing human capital for health with workforce development including the incorporation of community health workers for improved health service delivery, and mass recruitment of over 4000 health care workers

At the global, continental and regional level, the President has been advocating for increased investments in efforts towards cholera elimination. These include the following:

- Advocacy with other regional leaders for regional and global commitment to control cholera and ensuring development and implementation of Multisectoral Cholera Control or Elimination Plans in line with the Global Roadmap as recommended by the World Health Organization through the Global Task Force on Cholera Control (GTFCC).
- Enhancing regional collaboration for early detection, risk assessments and prevention as well as jointly planning and executing cross-border vaccination campaigns.
- Appealing to bilateral, multilateral and other international organizations for increased funding to cholera control, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and other high-risk regions
- Increasing investment in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, sustainable water supply and other long-term measures as well as climate-resilient WASH programs.

His Excellency has led various programs and initiatives throughout the year and has used several platforms to champion the cholera elimination agenda globally and regionally; these include but not limited to the following:

1. First Conference on Trans-disciplinarity Meeting of Heads of State and Government for the Elimination of Cholera, held in Maputo, Mozambique.
2. Extraordinary Summit Addresses Cholera Situation in SADC Region, Angola
3. Launch of the Southern Africa Regional Cholera Control and Prevention Taskforce led by Minister of Health Zambia and Malawi with support from Africa CDC and other supporting partners, in Lusaka, Zambia
4. Hosting cross-border collaborative meetings with DRC in Chililabombwe, and again the cross-border simulation exercise in Livingstone – led by the surveillance and cholera coordination teams to ensure that technocrats met to prepare jointly for shared outbreaks

The strategies and policy approaches are expected to improve livelihoods and ensure cholera elimination in line with the global and regional targets.

**H.E. DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**AU CHAMPION ON INSTITUTIONAL REFORM**

1. **His Excellency President William Ruto** was appointed as the new Champion of the African Union Institutional Reforms during the 37<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Heads of State and Government with a clear mandate to finalize the remaining reform priorities of the Union, namely **the Restructuring of the remaining AU organs, institutions and offices as well as the Study on the Division of Labour between African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States**.
2. In this regard, H.E. the President has had strategic and extensive engagements with AU stakeholders to advance the reform agenda. The key engagements include: Meetings with H.E. Moussa Faki, AU Commission (AUC) Chairperson, Prof. Pierre Moukoko Mbonjo, Head of the AU Institutional Reform Unit, a Retreat in Naivasha on Reforms, the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) in Addis Ababa, H.E. Chief Fortune Charumbira, President of the Pan African Parliament (PAP), along with his delegation including the Kenyan PAP team and Dr. Donald P. Kaberuka, AU High Representative for Financing the Union at State House, Nairobi.
3. In addition, the Champion is convening an Extended Bureau Retreat, to be held from **26<sup>th</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025** in Nairobi to galvanize political will among AU Heads of State and Government aimed at finalizing the reform priorities.
4. On restructuring of the remaining organs, institutions and offices, out of the 57 entities, 42 have been duly analysed and are under consideration by the PRC. To expedite the restructuring process, the Champion graciously pledged a sum of USD 130,000 to facilitate engagement of the consultant to review the remaining 15 entities. The restructuring process aims at rationalizing the functioning of the Union and reducing the financial burden on Member States.
5. Regarding the Study on the Division of Labour between African Union, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Member States, the consultant hired by the AU Commission submitted a draft report in December, 2024 to the AUC Chairperson H.E. Moussa Faki Mahamat, who subsequently circulated it to all AU Commissioners, CEOs of RECs and the 14 Representatives Member States that constitute the Mid-Year Coordination Committee for consideration.
6. In conclusion, the Champion will present a progress report on the Institutional Reforms of the African Union during the 38<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly, which will highlight key achievements, challenges and recommendations towards the conclusion of the AU Reforms.

# H.E ALASSANE DRAMANE OUATTARA PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE AU CHAMPION ON INSTITUTIONAL REFORM

This report presents the state of implementation of the Second Ten-Year Plan of Agenda 2063 (STYP 2024-2033). To this end, it presents the progress made in the development of the main operationalization instruments, as well as the organization of ownership sessions. It also outlines efforts to align continental and regional strategic frameworks and national policies with the Second Ten-Year Plan, and the conclusions of the flagship project prioritization exercise.

This report highlights the main challenges encountered and makes appropriate recommendations to address them. Finally, it presents the roadmap at national, regional and continental levels to fast-track the implementation of the Second Plan.

## Status of Implementation of the Second Ten-Year Plan (2024-2033) of Agenda 2063

- **As part of the operationalization of the Second Ten-Year Plan**, technical tools and guidance documents have been developed to promote harmonized implementation of DPDM. They serve as reference guides for awareness-raising, alignment, integration, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting. These new tools have been significantly improved in terms of content and parameterization, depending on the context.
- **Concerning ownership of the STYP**, online orientation sessions were organized for Member States from the five African regions and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). They were attended by representatives of 52 Member States and 07 RECs. Additional bilateral training sessions were also organized at the request of some Member States.
- **With regard to strengthening the alignment of strategic frameworks**, several continental strategic frameworks, notably the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) and the Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation in Africa (STISA) are currently being aligned with the STYP. The same applies to the specific strategic plans of the various organs of the African Union and its specialized agencies. These strategies are being aligned with the AU Strategic Plan 2024-2028, the reference framework, which remains aligned with the STYP.
- In addition, the African Union and the United Nations reaffirmed their commitment to the effective application of the common framework for implementing Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063.
- At national level, the alignment process got off to an effective start with countries beginning their new planning cycle, in particular by drawing up their national development plans.
- **With regard to flagship projects**, a prioritization exercise resulted in five projects being classified as high priority, five as medium priority and five as low priority. In addition, a sequence for the execution of these projects was proposed.

## Main Challenges

Despite the efforts made, the implementation of the STYP faces a number of difficulties and constraints:

- Poor dissemination of communication tools, which are unlikely to foster greater awareness of Agenda 2063 within communities;
- The weakness of statistical systems for the regular production of reliable data enabling sound decision-making as part of the implementation of Agenda 2063; Poor mobilization of national and international resources to implement Agenda 2063;
- Weak synergy and collaboration between key players at national, regional and continental levels, leading to duplication of resources and inconsistency in actions to implement Agenda 2063;

- Poor institutional and technical arrangements in Member States, which continue to experience enormous difficulties in taking ownership of the implementation of Agenda 2063;
- The varying levels of implementation of flagship projects, which reduce their contribution to achieving the expected impact of Agenda 2063.

### **Recommendations**

The recommendations are essentially aimed at meeting the challenges of implementing Agenda 2063. They are as follows:

- Strengthen awareness-raising and communication to ensure greater ownership and accountability in the implementation of the Second Ten-Year Plan.
- Set up an appropriate data management, monitoring and evaluation system, together with a funding mechanism;
- Accelerate implementation of the resource mobilization strategy and the establishment of the Union's financial institutions.
- Strengthen existing coordination mechanisms, taking into account information flows and periodic evaluations, at local, national, regional and continental levels.
- Develop strong collaborative mechanisms that can ensure the meaningful engagement of different stakeholders in achieving the objectives of Agenda 2063 at national level.
- Put in place a clear process and appropriate tools to support Member States in improving their institutional arrangements and technical skills and;
- Implement the conclusions of the flagship project prioritization exercise

### **Roadmap at National, Regional and Continental levels**

A roadmap has been defined to support Member States in implementing the Ten-Year Plan. It comprises the following activities:

- Domestication of the Second Ten-Year Plan, through: (i) awareness-raising and communication on Agenda 2063 and its Second Ten-Year Plan (ii) analysis of national and regional contexts (iii) alignment of national and regional priorities with the STYP (iv) identification of key interventions and choice of investments (v) development of the action plan and follow-up.
- Capacity-building, through the organization of training and orientation sessions on the Second Plan and the use of the various tools for its operationalization.
- Production of the first biennial report on the Second Ten-Year Plan, through support to Member States and RECs.

**H.E. JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**  
**AU CHAMPION ON GENDER**  
**AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES IN AFRICA**

**A. Introduction**

1. I am honored to deliver Ghana's 6th report as the African Union (AU) Champion on Gender and Development Issues in Africa, which covers progress made in implementing our Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment commitments in 2024.
2. This report is presented against the backdrop of two global milestones in the Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Agenda, in that 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing +30), as well as the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325).
3. On this note, I would like to congratulate the AU Member States that have submitted their Beijing +30 Africa Review Reports, which form part of the Common Africa Position on Beijing +30 and will be Africa's contributions to the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW69) to be held next month at the UN Headquarters in New York.
4. I would also like to commend the tremendous work of the AUC Chairperson's Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, H.E. Madam Bineta Diop. Under her exceptional leadership of the AU Peace and Security Agenda, we are celebrating the 20th anniversary of the UNSCR1325 with Africa leading the globe with 36 UNCRR national reports.
5. The year 2025 also marks the mid-term of the 2nd African Women's Decade on Financial and Economic Inclusion, where we will review Africa's progress in providing solutions for women's access to financial resources and their economic empowerment.

**B. Achievements**

1. Following the landmark decision of this Assembly in February 2023, to negotiate an AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (Assembly/AU/Dec.865(XXXVI)) and your subsequent decision in February 2025 committing to speedy conclusions of the negotiations of the draft Convention to prepare for its adoption by this Assembly during this Summit (Assembly/AU/Dec.881(XXXVII) and Assembly/AU/DEC.882 (XXXVIII)), I am pleased to report that the Convention was drafted in record time, successfully negotiated and considered by various AU Policy Organs including the Specialized Technical Committees on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment as well as on Justice and Legal Affairs; the Permanent Representatives Council and the Executive Council.
2. I recommend that this Assembly takes a decision to adopt the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls with its accountability and monitoring mechanism, the African Committee on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls. On this note, I wish to acknowledge the moratorium on the establishment of new structures. However, considering that the scourge of violence against women and girls has reached a pandemic status in Africa and the urgent need to prevent and eliminate it, combined with the lack of effective coordination and accountability across existing structures, it is crucial to establish the African Committee on EVAWG to oversee and enforce the provisions of this Convention. The need for specificity in the monitoring of this widespread and pervasive human rights violation is an imperative that cannot be ignored. This is consistent with our decision to adopt the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child with its special monitoring mechanism, the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, that the government of Lesotho is currently hosting.
3. In light of the above, I call on this Assembly to waive the moratorium on the establishment of new structures and adopt in this Assembly the establishment of an African Committee on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

4. I would also like to recommend to this Assembly to take a very firm decision to declare Violence Against Women and Girls a Pandemic in Africa and call on all AU Member States to take emergency measures to prevent and eliminate this scourge
5. This year marks the mid-term of the 2nd African Women’s Decade (AWD) following the declaration by this Assembly of 2020 to 2030 as the African Women’s Decade on Financial and Economic Inclusion of Africa Women (Assembly/AU/Draft/Dec48.XXXIII). I’m pleased to report that the implementation mechanism of the AWD, the Women and Youth Financial and Economic Inclusion (WYFEI) Initiative continues to make great strides in providing solutions for women and youth. Among others the WYFEI initiative has attracted over 480 registered members as part of the public-private-women and youth partnership framework. WYFEI initiative has strengthened its advocacy efforts by convening annual high-level advocacy breakfasts which identifies priorities and designs solutions for women and youth’s financial and economic inclusion. The initiative is additionally engaged in a resource mobilization drive working with key stakeholders towards demonstrating solutions that are scalable at the national and regional level. In 2024, the first 12-month cohort of women and youth entrepreneurs within the creative industry was launched towards providing the entrepreneurs with access to essential tools necessary to unlock funding opportunities for scaling creative businesses and enhancing financial resilience and sustainability.
6. In addition, within the framework of the AWD-FEI and following the Executive Council decision to harmonize the accountability, governance, management and operational mechanisms of the Trust Fund for African Women (TFAW) with the African Youth Fund (AYF) (EX.CL/Draft/Dec2 (XLLII)) and a subsequent Executive Council decision mandating AUDA-NEPAD to operationalize and implement the TFAW and AYF, I’m pleased to report that in collaboration with AUDA-NEPAD, a joint architecture for the governance, management and operationalization of the two Funds has been developed. This will go a long way to facilitate implementation of the two funds and ensure that women and young people have access to resources for their economic empowerment.
7. To compliment the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SDGEA), Africa’s reporting framework on gender equality and women’s empowerment, which marked its 20th anniversary in 2024, the AU Gender and Youth Observatory (AUGYO) was developed as a comprehensive online platform to generate gender data and information. It is an all-encompassing system for monitoring, evaluating and reporting on gender equality and youth development, acting as a vital tool for evidence-based policymaking and offering a sustainable and long-term solution to gender-data generation. The AUGYO will be synchronized with Gender Observatories in RECs, enabling seamless dataflow across Member states, RECs and the AUC.
8. To promote the ratification and domestication of the Maputo Protocol on Women’s Rights, an In-country Advocacy Mission was conducted in Ndjamena, Chad to promote ratification of Maputo Protocol. A Domestication Mission was undertaken to Tindouf, Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic to promote domestication of the instrument. I would like to encourage AU Member States which have not ratified the Maputo Protocol to please do so, and to those who have ratified, to please make all efforts to have it domesticated and fully implemented.

### C. Recommendations and Conclusion

I would like to recommend the following two decisions:

1. **Draft Decision on the Adoption of the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls**  
**RECALLS** Assembly decision Assembly/AU/Dec.865(XXXVI) on the Negotiation of an African Union Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls;  
**FURTHER RECALLS** Assembly decision Assembly/AU/DEC.882 (XXXVII) committing to “expedite the negotiations of the AU Convention on EVAWG in preparation for its consideration for adoption by the AU Summit in February 2025;  
**RECALLS** Assembly decision Assembly/AU/DEC.881 (XXXVII) which commits the Heads of States to “support and conclude the negotiations and submit the draft Convention for adoption by this Assembly in February 2025;

**APPLAUDS** the AU Commission, through the High-Level Presidential Initiative on Positive Masculinity in Leadership to End Violence Against Women and Girls for leading the development of the draft AU Convention and successful multi-stakeholder consultations to promote citizens' participation;

**CONCERNED** with the high prevalence of Violence Against Women and Girls in Africa, that remains unabated;

**DECIDES** to declare Violence Against Women and Girls a Pandemic in Africa and calls on all AU Member States to take appropriate emergency actions to bring this scourge to an end

**DECIDES** to adopt the AU Convention on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls

**DECIDES** to waive the moratorium on the establishment of new institutions and establish the African Committee on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls to monitor and oversee implementation of the provisions of this Convention

**REQUESTS** the AU Commission to strengthen the AU Campaign on Ending Violence Against Women and Girls as a vehicle to promote the ratification, domestication and implementation of the AU Convention.

**FURTHER REQUESTS** AU Member States to ratify this important instrument speedily to enable entry into force.

**REQUESTS** the AU Commission to update this Assembly on a regular basis.

## 2. Draft Decision on the Implementation of the Trust Fund for African Women and the African Youth Fund

**RECALLS** Executive Council Decision EX.CL/Draft/Dec2 (XLLII) on the harmonization of the accountability, governance, management, and operational mechanisms of the Trust Fund for African Women (TFAW) and the African Youth Fund (AYF).

**FURTHER RECALLS** the subsequent Executive Council Decision mandating AUDA-NEPAD to operationalize and implement the TFAW and AYF.

**NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the collaborative efforts between the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD in developing a joint architecture for the governance, management, and operationalisation of the TFAW and AYF.

**ACKNOWLEDGES** the critical importance of these Funds in advancing the economic empowerment of African women and youth, in line with Agenda 2063 and the AU's commitment to inclusive development.

**DIRECTS** the AUC to transfer two million United States Dollars (USD 2,000,000) from the current available balances of the Fund for African Women (FAW) and the Africa Youth Fund - from the AUC's accounts to the AUDA-NEPAD, to facilitate the immediate commencement of the operationalisation of the Funds within the current fiscal year.

**REQUESTS** AUDA-NEPAD to expedite the operationalization of the TFAW and AYF, ensuring that the Funds are effectively utilised to support women and youth empowerment initiatives across the continent.

**FURTHER REQUESTS** the AUC and AUDA-NEPAD to update this Assembly on a regular basis.

**H.E. UMARO SISSOCO EMBALÓ**  
**PRESIDENT REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU**  
**AU CHAMPION ON MALARIA**  
**WORK ON AFRICAN LEADERS' MALARIA ALLIANCE (ALMA)**

***2024 AU Malaria Progress Report***

Africa continues to shoulder the lion's share of the global malaria burden, with an estimated 251 million cases and 579,414 deaths in 2023—95% and 97% of the worldwide totals, respectively. Over three-quarters of these deaths occurred in children under five. Despite noteworthy progress since 2000, with incidence reduced by 34% and mortality by 61%, most African Union (AU) Member States are not on track to reach the goal of eliminating malaria by 2030. While Cabo Verde and Egypt were both certified as malaria-free by the World Health Organization in 2024—proving that elimination is possible—only six Member States have achieved the 2020 interim target of 40% reduction in incidence and only seven have met that target for mortality.

Member States face a “perfect storm” of challenges that threaten progress against malaria. Critical funding gaps persist, highlighted by the 2023 shortfall of USD 4.3 billion compared to the USD 8.3 billion needed. An additional USD 1.5 billion is required simply to sustain current coverage levels through 2025–2026, and if resources remain flat, the continent could see a further 112 million malaria cases and up to 280,700 additional deaths by 2029. Climate change is driving up malaria risk in new and existing hot spots through rising temperatures and extreme weather events. Humanitarian crises led to the displacement of 74 million people in 2023, complicating service delivery. Biological threats, including insecticide and drug resistance and the spread of the invasive vector *Anopheles stephensi*, undermine the effectiveness of life-saving interventions and threaten to intensify urban malaria transmission.

To counter these challenges and get on track to meet the AU's 2030 target, this year's malaria progress report calls for the development and implementation of acceleration plans that convert high-level political commitments into practical, well-resourced programmes. This plan is designed to maintain momentum, mitigate emerging threats, and fast-track the adoption of new tools—including next-generation nets, vaccines, and diagnostics. It also places emphasis on integrating malaria interventions with broader health system strengthening maternal and child healthcare, pandemic preparedness, and climate resilience initiatives.

Key Priorities include:

- strengthening political leadership by engaging heads of state, government ministers, parliamentarians, and local leaders in accountability and advocacy
- mobilising and diversifying funding—from domestic budgets, private sector collaborations, and global partners—to close resource gaps and ensure sustainability
- enhancing multisectoral coordination, bringing together youth groups, religious leaders, and civil society (e.g., via End Malaria Councils) to promote community-led responses
- strengthening health systems via integrated community case management, expanded surveillance, and climate-driven contingency planning
- leveraging cutting-edge research and local manufacturing to streamline commodity supply chains and drive down costs
- deepening cross-border collaboration through regional economic communities for data sharing, crisis response, and unified action against malaria

## REPORTS OF AU CHAMPIONS (FULL TEXT)

1. **H.M. KING LETSIE III OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**, AU CHAMPION ON NUTRITION
2. **H.M. KING MOHAMMED VI, OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**, AU CHAMPION ON MIGRATION
3. **H.E. ABIY AHMED, PRIME MINISTER OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA**, AU CHAMPION ON CAADP BIENNIAL REVIEW
4. **H.E. ABDEL FATTAH EL-SISI, PRESIDENT OF THE ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT**, AU CHAMPION ON POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT (PCRD)
5. **H.E. FAURE ESSOZIMNA GNASSINGBE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TOGO**, AU CHAMPION ON SAATM
6. **H.E. TEODORO OBIANG NGUEMA MBASOGO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA**, AU CHAMPION ON REFUGEES
7. **H.E. PAUL KAGAME, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**, AU CHAMPION ON DOMESTIC HEALTH FINANCING.
8. **H.E. FELIX ANTOINE TSHISEKEDI TSHILOMBO, PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**, AU CHAMPION ON POSITIVE MASCULINITY
9. **H.E. JOÃO MANUEL GONÇALVES LOURENÇO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**, AU CHAMPION ON PEACE AND RECONCILIATION IN AFRICA
10. **H.E. JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**, AU CHAMPION ON THE AU FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
11. **H.E. FILIPE JACINTO NYUSI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE**, AU CHAMPION FOR DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA
12. **H.E. DR. JOSE MARIA PEREIRA NEVES, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CABO VERDE**, AU CHAMPION ON PRESERVATION OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE IN AFRICA
13. **H.E. WAVEL RAMKALAWAN, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SEYCHELLES**, AU CHAMPION ON BLUE ECONOMY
14. **H.E. ABDELMADJID TEBBOUNE, PRESIDENT OF THE PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA**, AU CHAMPION FOR COMBATING TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM
15. **H.E. EVARISTE NDAYISHIMIYE, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI**, AU CHAMPION FOR THE YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA
16. **H.E. MATAMELA CYRIL RAMAPHOSA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**, AU CHAMPION ON PANDEMIC PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE, A.K.A AU PPPR CHAMPION (FORMERLY THE COVID-19 CHAMPION)
17. **H.E. HAKAINDE HICHILEMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**, AU CHAMPION ON ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE
18. **H.E. HAKAINDE HICHILEMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA**, AU CHAMPION ON ELIMINATING CHOLERA
19. **H.E. DR. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**, AU CHAMPION ON INSTITUTIONAL REFORM
20. **H.E. ALASSANE DRAMANE OUATTARA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CÔTE D'IVOIRE**, AU CHAMPION ON THE FOLLOW-UP OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AFRICAN UNION'S AGENDA 2063
21. **H.E. JOHN DRAMANI MAHAMA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA**, AU CHAMPION ON GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES IN AFRICA
22. **H.E. UMARO SISSOCO EMBALÓ, PRESIDENT REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU**, AU CHAMPION ON MALARIA WORK ON AFRICAN LEADERS' MALARIA ALLIANCE (ALMA)

