

## **Statement of Vision**

### **Candidacy of Ambassador Salah Francis Elhamdi – Algeria/Male- for the position of Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission**

As Vice-President of the African Union Commission (AUC) and in coordination with the Commission President, I will work to implement the 2024-2034 decade program of the African Union's Agenda 2063, which includes seven (07) main aspirations for a prosperous, integrated Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development. This will involve strengthening and developing basic infrastructure, particularly roads, highways, railways, ports, airports, and energy, including electricity, water, and technological transformation, as well as the industrialization of mineral resources to accelerate intra-African trade, especially within the framework of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Current road communication networks do not allow for fast, smooth, and cost-effective exchanges, straining public finances of member states and reducing their capacities and development efforts. Projects such as the trans-Saharan road from Algiers to Lagos, which particularly opens up Chad, Niger, and Mali, and the cross-border road corridors in all sub-regions of the continent, are of vital importance for the continent and its member states. Thus, axes like Cape Town-Cairo, Dakar-Ndjamena-Djibouti, Cairo-Dakar, or Abidjan-Bangui-Mombasa must be quickly operationalized to give the necessary impetus and dynamics for sustainable development and shared prosperity. Interconnectivity of member states to the internet will remarkably accelerate the rapid and secure circulation of information, especially technical and financial, significantly reducing the reaction time of economic operators and leading to substantial cost reductions, which will invariably reflect on the financial health of businesses.

Furthermore, member states will be supported in implementing the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) to eliminate hunger, reduce poverty, and ensure the continent's food security. The AUC will provide its expertise to increase arable land by developing agricultural areas, particularly through the provision of water resources and energy. In this regard, the construction of dams, hillside reservoirs, and the exploitation of groundwater reserves will be the main intervention areas of the AUC. It is also important to support the efforts of member states in training African farmers in modern techniques and technologies to increase yields and help them cope with the cyclical droughts that affect the continent.

Energy, particularly the electrification of rural areas aimed at modernizing agricultural production tools, will have a considerable impact and facilitate farmers' work. The interconnection of electricity networks will provide clean and affordable energy for all.

Africa, with its vast coastline and some of the world's most fish-rich seas and oceans, possesses invaluable resources that must be rationally exploited to reap the best benefits, especially since the fishing and tourism sectors are significant employment providers.

Health in Africa is a major concern of Agenda 2063 and, consequently, of the AUC. Despite its weaknesses in this sector, Africa demonstrated remarkable resilience and unwavering solidarity among its member states during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Africa CDC played a prominent role in channelling all energies to effectively tackle the pandemic and mitigate its devastating effects, not only on population health but also in terms of an active and robust response, saving many lives. The AUC will ensure the sustainable development of the health sector in Africa by supporting member states' efforts, particularly in enhancing knowledge and preparedness to respond to emergencies and epidemics.

The Africa CDC will work to strengthen capacities, resources, and partnerships to quickly detect threats and outbreaks to organize the fastest and most effective response. To achieve these goals, I will ensure the launch of an African health volunteer corps within the Africa CDC. This corps will be deployed in affected areas during epidemic outbreaks. Additionally, the AUC will support the school feeding program initiative to protect children and strengthen their resilience.

To achieve the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063, the AUC is committed to supporting member states by dedicating significant efforts and resources to human resources. This approach involves substantial investments in education and training to develop human capital, emphasizing innovation, science, and technology. The Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA) of the African Union will aim to reorient education and training systems to meet the continent's specific needs in knowledge and skills essential for promoting the fundamental values of African peoples.

Moreover, the Science, Technology, and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA), placed at the heart of the continent's socioeconomic development, will transform Africa and its member states into powerful knowledge- and innovation-based economies. The Pan African University, with its five highly specialized institutes spread across the continent's five sub-regions, aims to train tomorrow's African technical and technological elite.

For the timely realization of this decade program of Agenda 2063, essential tools must be quickly put in place. These mainly include the operationalization of African financial institutions (AIB, AMF, and AC). These tools will be indispensable for implementing various projects and programs of the African Union.

---