

## **Vision Statement of Ambassador Mohamed Edrees for the post of Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission**

I am greatly honored to submit my candidature for the post of the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission.

At the outset, I have to give due credit to all whom I worked with and learnt from, when I started as a junior diplomat and to all who worked with me and gave me advice and support, when I became in senior positions. I firmly believe that any success is not an individual endeavor. It is the result of teamwork and collective action.

Thus, I was able to assume key leading positions, in a highly professional and competitive institution like the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and beyond, as highlighted in my C.V.

My extensive career in diplomacy, international relations, and public service, including my tri-hated post in Addis Ababa as the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the African Union, and to the UNECA, as well as the Ambassador to Sisterly Ethiopia, in addition to my post as the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the UN in New York, and the Assistant Foreign Minister for African Affairs, equipped me with valuable insights and expertise necessary to contribute meaningfully to the African Union's Continental and Global mission.

If honored to be elected, guided by the overarching 2063 Agenda, which I contributed to and witnessed its birth, I will exert maximum effort to support the Chairperson of the Commission, cooperate, liaise and coordinate with the Commissioners and various Departments of the Commission, to achieve the following priorities:

### **1. System-wide Coherence within the AU Commission:**

To achieve synergy, complementarity and higher impact in pushing forward the aspirations of the 2063 Agenda, drawing lessons from the first 10 years endeavors for a better way forward towards the second ten-year plan.

### **2. Enhancing Good Governance, Accountability, and Administrative Efficiency:**

Good governance and accountability are essential for the credibility and effectiveness of the African Union. Building on my experience as a member of the Oversight Committee of the Union for Mediterranean UfM, I will prioritize the implementation of administrative, budgetary, financial good practices and reforms within the AU Commission. My goal is to ensure transparency, trust, efficiency, and accountability, aligning with the highest standards. Enhancing administrative efficiency will streamline processes, and ensure effective utilization of resources for the benefit of all member states.

### **3. Promoting Peace and Stability:**

I am committed to advancing peace and stability as a prerequisite for development and achieving the aspirations of the 2063 Agenda. I will build on my experience as a former Chair of the AU PSC, and former Chair of the UN Peace-building Commission, as well as my current role as a member of the UN Secretary General's Advisory Group for the Peacebuilding Fund and a member of the Group of Eminent Persons appointed by the UN Secretary General for the 2025 Review of the UN Peacebuilding Architecture. My vision is to strengthen the African Union's mechanisms for conflict prevention, early warning, conflict resolution, the updated African Union's Policy for Post- Conflict Reconstruction and Development, and ensuring that peacebuilding initiatives are sustainable, inclusive and African-owned.

### **4. Fostering Economic Growth and Integration:**

Economic development is at the heart of Africa's progress. I aim to promote policies that enhance intra-African trade, support the effective implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), encourage the Private Sector and foster better economic cooperation and integration. By leveraging my experience in international economic relations, including Chairing the Group of G77 & China, and being a member of the Board of the South Centre in Geneva; I will work tirelessly towards creating a conducive environment for investment, innovation, and sustainable growth in our Continent.

### **5. Empowering Youth and Engaging the Diaspora:**

Africa's Youth – young women and men- are a demographic dividend and our diaspora are a strategic asset. Both are vital to the Continent's better future. I am committed to empowering young people through giving priority to education, vocational training, skills development, and entrepreneurship. By engaging our diaspora, we can consolidate their African roots, harness their potentials and resourceful capabilities to contribute to Africa's development. My vision includes creating platforms for meaningful youth participation and strengthening diaspora networks.

### **6. Advancing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion:**

Gender equality and social inclusion are fundamental to achieving peace and sustainable development. I will full heartedly advocate for policies and programs that promote the rights, equal opportunities and empowerment of the great African women, and engage the marginalized groups. Ensuring that all voices are heard, heeded and included in the decision-making process is crucial for building a just, and equitable society.

### **7. Harnessing Innovation and Technology:**

In the digital age, innovation and technology are key drivers of progress. I will support initiatives that leverage technology to improve governance, education, healthcare, and economic activities. By embracing digital transformation, we can create new opportunities and bridge the digital divide.

### **8. Strengthening Partnerships and Collaboration:**

African challenges, being often associated with global challenges, require collective continental and global action. I will work to enhance the added value of the African Union's partnerships with the UN, other IGOs and strategic partners. In addition, I will promote synergies between the AU and its regional bodies. By fostering collaboration and solidarity, we can better advocate our causes, effectively address challenges - traditional and newly emerging - such as climate change, health crises, technological and digital divide, artificial Intelligence and not least security threats.

### **9. Commitment to Agenda 2063:**

My vision aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063, the blueprint for Africa's socio-economic transformation. I am dedicated to ensuring that the Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan (STYIP) is effectively executed, with a focus on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development priorities. Building on the aforementioned priorities, unwavering dedication and deep sense of responsibility, I am committed to serving as Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission. I firmly believe that together, we can build a prosperous, peaceful, and united Africa, fulfilling the aspirations of our peoples and creating a brighter future for the upcoming generations.