



**African Union-United Nations  
High-Level Strategic Dialogue Meeting  
Addis Ababa, 1 May 2023**

**Concluding Statement**

1. On 1 May 2023, the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Monique Nsanzabaganwa, and the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed, convened a high-level strategic dialogue meeting, in the presence of members of the African Union Commission and representatives of various entities of the African Union and the United Nations. The meeting discussed measures to accelerate Africa's development within the collaborative framework of Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; to strengthen the agency of the African Union and its organs; and to enhance partnership between the African Union and the United Nations in furthering the socioeconomic development and transformation of the continent.
2. The meeting was convened in follow up to the Annual AU UN conferences whose last session was held in Addis Ababa on 1 December 2022 between the Chairperson of the African Union, Mahamat Faki, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, and as part of the periodic consultations between the African Union and the United Nations that were launched on 23 June 2022, when it was decided that there should be regular consultations between the Deputy Chairperson and the Deputy Secretary-General to promote stronger collaboration and partnership, and to enhance synergy between the African Union and the United Nations in promoting the African development agenda.
3. The meeting noted that the multifaceted crises affecting the global community, including the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, climate pressures, and the repercussions of the Russian Federation- Ukraine conflict had deleterious effects on Africa's development, with lower economic growth, heightened importance of digitalisation along with increased vulnerability, poverty, inequality, and food shortages and greater insecurity, social tension and conflict, all of which have retarded the pace of and progress towards achieving Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.
4. The impact of the global crises had been exacerbated by an international financial architecture that did not serve Africa well, which highlight the need for continental and global leadership at all levels to address all structural impediments with a view to establishing a fairer environment for building resilience and providing access to sustainable financing and investment to fast-track the continent's development.
5. While presenting massive challenges, the global and regional contexts also provided opportunities to increase the role for Africa in the global governance structure and to transform



its production systems with a view to accelerating economic diversification, industrialization and social development.

6. It was therefore urgent for the African Union and the United Nations to collectively rethink and retool their strategies and processes of engagement in a manner that ensured African ownership and accelerated the implementation of the African Union-United Nations Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

7. The agency of the African Union remained central to all efforts to build African common positions on major development issues, provide political leadership on Africa's development agenda, amplify Africa's voice within the global community, and ensure greater space and fairer outcomes for African countries in the global governance system, especially within the global financial architecture.

8. The meeting agreed that the following key strategic pillars would drive Africa's structural transformation in the context of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda: (a) ensuring macroeconomic stability and sustainable financing; (b) trade, sustainable industrialization and economic diversification; (c) climate action and energy access, security & just transition; (d) digital and physical connectivity; (e) education, science, technology, and innovation, (f) health, humanitarian and social development issues, and (g) governance, peace and security. Significant progress in relation to these pillars would certainly stimulate economic recovery, reduce poverty and inequality, and create jobs and a stable political environment, with a view to Africa's economic emancipation and structural transformation.

9. The meeting also agreed on a matrix that would spell out key priority areas of collaboration within the pillars and serve as a basis for programmatic engagement and collaboration in the medium term between the African Union and the United Nations to deliver on those priorities.

10. The meeting underscored that the ecosystem for transformational change in Africa required stronger unity of purpose and institutional cohesiveness and coherence between the African Union and the United Nations, the co-creation of solutions, and the implementation of deliberate, coordinated and urgent action with elevated scale and depth.

11. To facilitate effective implementation in agreed priority areas, it was imperative to strengthen the existing mechanisms of collaboration between the African Union and the United Nations, especially the African Union-United Nations Collaborative Platform and the opportunity and issue-based coalitions, and for the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa of the United Nations to work more closely with relevant African Union departments, organs and agencies, within enhanced coordination, clear targets and accountability in relation to the agreed priority areas, the modalities of financing, and the mechanisms for monitoring, reporting and evaluation. The meeting welcomed the opportunity that this process would provide to map already existing initiatives, policy tools and analytical instruments of the African Union and the United Nations against the priority areas and requested the technical team to embark on this process, with a view to providing a concrete and holistic overview that would inform the direction to be taken.

12. Equally, there must be both horizontal and vertical integration in delivering on Africa's development priorities, to ensure that regional economic communities, member States, United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations country teams are seamlessly integrated in the regional development ecosystem, so as to achieve the objectives of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda.

13. The meeting reaffirmed the necessary contribution of the African Union and the United Nations to support African common positions, and their joint responsibility to utilize various tools for social and economic analysis to help Africa determine how to use its resources as leverage and bargaining tools in demanding a fairer development deal, advance its regional integration objectives and enhance the continent's agency in charting its future.

14. In this context, the meeting re-emphasized as guiding frameworks for the partnership the centrality of Agenda 2063, the realization to the fullest extent possible of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and the enablement of a second 10-year implementation plan, along with progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda, through the African Union-United Nations framework for implementation of the two agendas. The meeting looked forward to deepening coherent integration, with a special focus on "one framework, two agendas". In this regard, the meeting requested the technical teams to continuously review the matrix, when applicable, ensuring its alignment with the second 10-year implementation plan.

15. The meeting celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of the creation of the Organization of African Unity and the twentieth anniversary of the African Union. The meeting agreed to feature Agenda 2063 at the high-level political forum convened under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council, with a view to it gaining a pivotal position among the preparatory activities leading to 2023 Sustainable Development Goals Summit. Agenda 2063 was considered to be integral to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The meeting recalled that, in 2023, as the United Nations conducted a midterm review of the Sustainable Development Goals, the African Union would be reviewing the implementation of the first 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063 and embarking on the formulation of a second 10-year implementation plan. The year 2023 would therefore be a year of reflection for both organizations, especially in terms of their vision for developing the world we desire by 2030 and the Africa we want by 2063.

16. The meeting took note of upcoming major global engagements that would provide opportunities for Africa to shape the global agenda, in particular the summit for a new global financial pact, a forum to take stock of food systems, the African Union mid-year coordination meeting, the meetings of the Group of 20 and the General Assembly, the annual meetings of the World Bank and the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference. The meeting agreed to work with the view to ensuring that Africa's positions in these forums are strengthened and yield positive outcomes for the continent.

17. The meeting reiterated the commitment of the African Union and the United Nations to work together more collaboratively and ensure a closer alignment of agreed priorities, which would play a key role in promoting structural transformation in Africa. The meeting highlighted the need to pool resources, further coordinate activities, and deepen partnership. In this regard, the meeting called for the provision of additional support to the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations to strengthen the strategic role it played in supporting member States in coming together with one voice. The meeting also

underscored the importance of building the capacity of African Union institutions to enhance their implementation capacity at the national and subregional levels.

18. To ensure closer alignment in purpose and strategic focus, clarify expectations and foster collective implementation of key priorities, with a view to having a transformative impact, it was agreed that the African Union and the United Nations would meet on a quarterly basis, with the format and modality to be determined by the Deputy Chairperson and the Deputy Secretary-General, and include thematic college-to-college meetings of principals to determine the strategic focus and discuss means of implementation. The meeting further agreed that the development of the matrix and the mapping exercise would be done under the coordination of the Cabinet of the Deputy Chairperson and the Economic Commission for Africa, while the college-to-college meetings would also be convened under the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa on the UN side.

19. The Deputy Chairperson and the Deputy Secretary-General agreed to convene the next meeting in the second half of 2023.