



Africa Regional Report on the Sustainable Development Goals

Africa Regional Report on the Sustainable Development Goals



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Acronyms

ACBF	African Capacity Building Foundation
AfDB	African Development Bank
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on Environment
APRM	African Peer Review Mechanism
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CFSSD	Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
GNI	gross national income
GNP	gross national product
IFF	Illicit financial flows
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
JPOI	Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
LDCs	least-developed countries
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
OAU	Organization of African Unity
ODA	official development assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
PIDA	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
RECs	Regional economic communities
RIM	Regional Implementation Meeting
Rio+20	United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, June 2012
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
UN	United Nations
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDESA	<i>United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs</i>

UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP/RBA	United Nations Development Programme/ Regional Bureau for Africa
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	<i>United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization</i>
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

Executive summary

A. Introduction

This report presents Africa's sustainable development priorities and goals, prepared under the framework of the Africa post-2015 consultations, and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development ("Rio+20") follow-up processes. It is based on information gathered through consultations undertaken in the five subregions of Africa and from an extensive literature review.

The report was presented at the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals held from 31 October to 5 November 2013, and finalized based on comments and recommendations of the meeting. The meeting, attended by ministers and high-level officials from African countries, regional and subregional organizations, a wide range of major groups and development partners, endorsed the 12 goals presented in this report. The outcome document of the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals was adopted as an input to the work of the Africa High-Level Committee on the post-2015 Development Agenda.

B. Background and context

One of the key commitments agreed at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) was the formulation of sustainable development goals. In the Rio+20 outcome document *The Future We Want* (UN, 2012c) it is recognized that the development of goals could be useful for providing focused and coherent action on sustainable development. Among other points, it is emphasized that the goals should address and incorporate all three dimensions of sustainable development and their inter linkages in a balanced way. The conference also recognized that the goals should be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations post-2015 development agenda and called for an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process that is open to all stakeholders.

In January 2013, the General Assembly established an intergovernmental Open Working Group to steer the global formulation of the sustainable development goals as a follow-up to Rio+20. In May 2013, the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government established the High-Level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to oversee and provide political guidance on the Africa process at the regional level. In this context, the high-level committee was also mandated to finalize the Common African Position and ensure that the priorities identified were integrated into the post-2015 development agenda.

Furthermore, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), organized the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa-RIM). This meeting brought together regional stakeholders on sustainable development to deliberate on the main outcomes of Rio+20 and their implications for Africa. Among other matters, the meeting agreed on the need to ensure that the region spoke with one strong voice, promoted ownership of the goals and adequately prepared for their implementation. Furthermore, subregional and regional consultations on post-2015 development agenda were organized to guide the identification of priority areas that would enjoy broad consensus across the region's diverse stakeholders.

C. Sustainable Development Goals— principles, vision, guiding framework and criteria

The formulation of the proposed goals took into account the vision, principles, guiding framework and criteria set out at the global and regional level. At the global level, the United Nations Secretary-General's High-level Panel proposed that the framework for the goals should meet a number of criteria in order to address sustainable development concerns effectively. These include that the goals are universal in character; incorporate a range of key areas that were not fully covered in the Millennium Development Goals; reflect equally the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the interconnections between them; and include progress metrics and scope to review goals in the light of evolving knowledge and evidence. The Africa Regional Implementation Meeting proposed that the development of the goals should be guided by the Rio principles, among other factors. It said the goals, targets and indicators needed to embody all three dimensions of sustainable development and to be action-oriented in order to allow for effective monitoring and evaluation, universality and flexibility. It added that adequate means of implementation should be available and stressed the need to promote equitable and inclusive human-centred development.

The Rio+20 outcome document also provides guidance on what the goals should seek to achieve. Foremost is poverty eradication and sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in developing countries is a necessary requirement for this. For Africa in particular, elaboration of sustainable development goals is critical at this period in global development. The Millennium Development Goals will come to an end in 2015. Although progress has been made globally, Africa is off track in achieving most of the targets and the Millennium Development Goals will remain relevant beyond 2015. Hence the development of sustainable development goals should recognize the need for complementarity with the Millennium Development Goals.

D. Sustainable development priorities in the five subregions of Africa

The present report and the sustainable development goals proposed are informed by an extensive literature review, consultations with regional and subregional bodies, and the sustainable development priorities identified in the reports of the five subregions— North, West, Central, Eastern and Southern Africa. The preparation of the five subregional reports was based on extensive literature review, field surveys and consultations with stakeholders in the subregions. The draft reports were deliberated at the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the sustainable development goals organized by ECA jointly with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank from 31 October to 5 November 2013.

In addition to common cross-cutting issues such as governance and institutions, peace and security, financing, capacity development and technology transfer, the following were identified as the key subregional priorities for sustainable development:

North Africa: climate change and environmental challenges; dependence on primary commodities and low economic diversification; insufficient employment-generating growth; food insecurity; inequality and lack of access to basic services; energy insecurity and the need for investments in renewable energy.

West Africa: addressing poverty; gender equality; improvements in quality of education; improved access to affordable and good-quality health care; sustainable water, energy and transport infrastructure development, inclusive growth; agriculture and food security; proper environmental and natural resource management; social protection for the poor and vulnerable; sanitation and urban management; and enhancing partnerships for development.

Central Africa: economic diversification to address the overdependence on natural resources; infrastructural development; poverty, hunger and malnutrition; improvements in water and sanitation; improvements in access and quality of education; enhancing gender equality and empowerment; unemployment and underemployment; and improvements in environmental, water resources and urban management.

Eastern Africa: high and sustained economic growth to translate into jobs and human development; improvements in education and skills development; increased agricultural productivity and value addition; sustainable energy development; improvements in access to affordable health care; addressing environmental and climate-related challenges; and infrastructural development.

Southern Africa: fight against poverty and inequality; improvements in health and nutrition; improvements in education; promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment; sustainable environmental management and climate change.

E. Overview of sustainable development issues and priorities in Africa

Over the last decade, Africa has recorded sustained and impressive economic growth. One quarter of the countries grew at an average of about 7 per cent or more, and some were among the fastest-growing countries in the world. However, this growth needs to be reoriented to provide a strong basis for sustainable development. In particular, growth has been underpinned by relatively high commodity prices. The contribution of industrialization has been relatively minimal with declining shares of manufacturing exports and manufacturing value addition. The impressive economic growth rates need to translate into jobs and improved human well-being.

The region has made notable progress on social development. The incidence of poverty is on the decline in many countries, public expenditures on education and health are steadily increasing, and most countries have achieved universal primary enrolment and gender parity in primary education. Progress is slow but encouraging on health, gender and women's empowerment indicators, although considerable challenges remain. However poverty, inequality and extreme hunger remain fundamental challenges for the post-2015 development framework. Other social-development challenges include access to basic infrastructural services, youth unemployment, quality of education, and inadequate social protection. Africa's projected demographic structure, population and urbanization growth present enormous implications and opportunities for human development, structural transformation and sustained economic growth.

Africa's sustainable development largely depends on goods and services derived from its environment and natural resource base. The environment and natural resources are crucial in the region's effort to eradicate poverty and inextricably linked to social dimensions such as health, gender and food security. Livelihood strategies and food security of the poor often depend directly on functioning ecosystems and the diversity of goods and ecological services they provide. Land, soil, water, forest, biodiversity, marine ecosystems and mineral resources form the basis of primary production and support most of the sectors that drive socioeconomic development in Africa. Agriculture, tourism, industry, mining and many forms of local, national, regional and international trade thrive on the goods and services provided by natural resources. The consumption and production patterns based on these resources also determine the pace of sustainable development (SDSN, 2013). Climate variability and change with its long-term implications for social, economic and ecological systems is an inevitable and urgent challenge. As Africa pursues sustainable growth pathways and structural transformation, the management of natural capital is critical. This will require innovative strategies for sustainably maximizing social, economic and ecological benefits from these resources.

F. Proposed sustainable development goals

The regional sustainable development goals presented in the present report are based on a synthesis of the five subregional reports, an extensive review of the literature on Africa's development challenges and priorities, issues of concern, perspectives on on-going discussions and consultative meetings on the post-2015 development framework, Rio+20 follow-up processes, and the African Union Africa Agenda 2063. The sustainable development goals consultations and processes, including this report, are contextualized within the framework of the post-2015 development agenda processes. As such, the proposed sustainable development goals and related targets and indicators presented in this report are based on a time horizon of 15 years, starting from 2016, in line with the timeframe of the post-2015 development agenda.

Based on the foregoing, the following 12 sustainable development goals were proposed to feed into the on-going global discussions and consultations on the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

Goal 1:	Eliminate all forms of poverty
Goal 2:	Promote sustainable agriculture and achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all
Goal 3:	Ensure quality, adequate, affordable, accessible and comprehensive health services for all
Goal 4:	Achieve universal access to affordable and quality education at all levels
Goal 5:	Achieve gender equality, protect and empower women, youth and persons in vulnerable conditions
Goal 6:	Ensure social inclusion and protection, including guaranteed minimum income and social security, as well as decent employment for all, particularly for the youth
Goal 7:	Structurally transform economies and attain inclusive sustained economic growth; accelerate infrastructure development, inclusive and sustainable industrialization and access to affordable energy; and build resilient cities and sustainable human settlements
Goal 8:	Enhance environmental quality, resilience and protection; and promote sustainable exploitation, use and management of natural resources
Goal 9:	Combat desertification and land degradation, mitigate drought and promote sustainable management of land and oceans
Goal 10:	Promote culture, research, science, innovation and technology development
Goal 11:	Scale up global and regional partnerships for development
Goal 12:	Promote good governance at national and international levels

G. Strategy and means of implementation of the proposed sustainable development goals

The means of implementation of the sustainable development goals discussed in this report include domestic and external financial resources; capacity development; regional integration; trade and market access; innovation, science technology development and transfer; and good governance and effective institutions.

Currently, there are no concrete estimates on the resources required to implement the ambitious development aspirations expressed in the proposed sustainable development goals. However, indications are that considerable resources will be required and aligning expectations with implementation will no doubt pose a daunting challenge. It is therefore critical that Africa begins to engage actively in assessing financing

needs and the articulation of a financing strategy for the goals. In particular, given that Africa has mostly depended on foreign sources to finance its development over past decades, it is crucial that the region invests adequate time and resources into estimating the resource needs for the sustainable development goals in order to inform or feed into dialogues including at expert, development cooperation and informal dialogues, and takes a proactive step in putting forward its ideas about how the sustainable development goals will be financed.

While developed countries will have to reaffirm their commitment to reach the United Nations target that official development assistance should not be less than 0.7 per cent of their gross national product, the African region must equally take responsibility for its development. To this end, Africa should considerably step up the mobilization of domestic financial resources to achieve the sustainable development goals. There is strong evidence that the Africa region has the potential financial resources to meet a significant portion of its development needs. What is required are appropriate instruments for mobilizing the resources, effective partnership with the international community to enable the region to reap the full benefits of its natural resources, fair trade and real market access, good governance and effective institutions.

H. Monitoring and evaluating implementation of the sustainable development goals

In order to ensure that the sustainable development goals are being achieved, it is imperative to put in place a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress, identify areas of concern, monitor financial resources allocated to the set priorities and assess the overall impact of the key policies and programmes. The monitoring framework should also provide for multi-stakeholder reviews at various levels; a common analytical framework across all countries and regions; and well-coordinated interventions to strengthen statistical capacity of institutions responsible for data gathering and analysis.

The monitoring framework for the sustainable development goals should, ideally, build on existing institutional mechanisms, principally those used for the Millennium Development Goals, noting and correcting for identified weaknesses. Particular attention should be paid to the emergence of new themes in the sustainable development goals that were not part of the Millennium Development Goals; issues of national ownership; selection and adaptation of targets and indicators to national circumstances; building capacities of national statistical systems; and institutional roles and responsibilities.

A common reporting framework for the indicators will be required to allow for comparability, coordination, credibility and sustainability of monitoring and evaluating of performance and results across countries, subregions and regions. Key institutions, which include the African Union Commission, ECA, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency, African Development Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) among others, could lead monitoring and reporting at the regional level, while the Regional Economic Communities will take responsibility for collating performance and results at the subregional level. National statistical systems should be strengthened to collect, collate and analyse national and subnational data. National monitoring and evaluation programmes should be integrated into statistical capacity-building from the outset so as to ensure a reliable supply of core statistics with which to monitor and evaluate the achievement of the sustainable development goals.

I. Conclusion and recommendations

Conclusion

Africa has recorded sustained and impressive economic growth, although this growth needs to be more inclusive and translated into jobs and improved human well-being. Despite encouraging progress, considerable social-development challenges still persist, in particular poverty and inequality. The environment is fundamental to sustaining the region's economic progress, critical in the fight against poverty and in-

extricably linked to social dimensions such as health, gender and food security. Land, soil, water, forest, biodiversity, marine ecosystems and mineral resources form the basis of primary production and support key sectors that drive socioeconomic development. Management of natural capital is, therefore, critical as Africa pursues sustainable growth pathways and structural transformation. Achieving sustainable development also necessitates addressing the challenges of climate variability and change.

The path towards sustainable development requires significant policy shifts and the scale of resources required for the achievement of the proposed sustainable development goals will be enormous. National, regional and global institutions as well as development partners will be required to work together in articulating and mobilizing the appropriate and adequate means of implementation to achieve the goals and targets proposed in this report. A robust monitoring, evaluation and reporting framework is crucial to the attainment of the goals.

Recommendations

The achievement of the proposed goals will require the following, among others:

- Strengthening political leadership and stakeholder participation, which are crucial for ownership, commitment, galvanizing support, mobilizing resources and ensuring accountability.
- Mobilization of adequate means of implementation. Although external financial resources are required to implement the sustainable development goals, Africa must also take active responsibility for its own development. Measures must be vigorously pursued to enhance domestic resource mobilization and curb illicit financial flows, attract foreign direct investment and create effective financing structures. Development partners should complement domestic efforts at capacity and technology development through effective international cooperation programmes.
- Promotion of good governance, transparent and accountable leadership, effective institutions as well as responsive and effective global partnerships. This would require appropriate human and institutional capacity-development strategies and programmes.
- ECA should collaborate with other regional institutions in the development and application of appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the goals, targets and indicators, the development of databases to facilitate performance-tracking and the provision of technical support to countries.

I. Introduction

A. Background and context

The formulation of sustainable development goals is among the key commitments agreed upon at the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20). The outcome document *The Future We Want* (UN, 2012c) was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/66/288. This document recognizes that the development of goals could be useful for providing focused and coherent action on sustainable development and emphasizes that the goals should address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development and their inter linkages, among other factors. The conference also recognized that the goals should be coherent with and integrated into the United Nations post-2015 development agenda and called for an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process that is open to all stakeholders.

In January 2013, the General Assembly established an intergovernmental Open Working Group to steer the formulation of the sustainable development goals. A High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development was established as another outcome of Rio+20 to provide political leadership and guidance for sustainable development and constitute a forum for reviewing commitments and objectives related to sustainable development. Africa established the High-Level Committee on the post-2015 development agenda to further strengthen political leadership in the region. In May 2013, the African Union Summit of Heads of State and Government mandated the committee to oversee and provide political guidance on the Africa process. The committee was also mandated to finalize the Common African Position (CAP) and ensure that the priorities identified were integrated into the post-2015 development agenda.

To deliberate on the main outcomes of Rio+20 and their implications for Africa, ECA, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, convened the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa-RIM) from 19 to 21 November 2012. The meeting outcome document on the post Rio+20 follow-up processes represents Africa's collective input into the United Nations General Assembly processes on Rio+20 follow-up, including the sustainable development goals.

The meeting emphasized that the goals should be based on clearly defined priority areas that enjoy broad consensus across the region's diverse stakeholders. Through this Africa should, among other outcomes:

- Effectively speak with one strong voice to articulate and galvanize international support around sustainable development goals that are well aligned with its sustainable development priorities
- Lay a firm foundation for the ownership, championing, domestication and implementation of activities towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals by regional and subregional organizations, countries and major stakeholder groups
- Mobilize, enhance understanding and strengthen capacity of regional and subregional organizations, countries and major groups in the development and subsequent implementation of programmes and activities towards the achievement of the set sustainable development goals
- Enhance linkages across national, subregional, regional and global priorities.

Furthermore, ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme - Regional Bureau for Africa (UNDP-RBA) jointly organized subregional and regional consultations on the post-2015 development agenda in Africa. These consultations were held as follows: Accra in November 2011; Mombasa, Kenya, in October 2012; Dakar in December 2012; and Hammamet, Tunisia, in March 2013. The regional consultation in Hammamet aimed, among other outcomes, to identify Africa's priorities for the post-2015 agenda; identify enablers and critical success factors for the post-2015 development agenda; and align the post-2015 priorities with other development

programmes and agendas including, Rio+20 and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The meeting adopted an outcome document in which it agreed that the post-2015 development agenda should incorporate the Rio+20 outcomes and the outcomes of Africa-wide initiatives, national and regional consultations as well as United Nations forums, among others..

The Hammamet meeting also agreed that the post-2015 development agenda should:

- (a) Emphasize inclusive economic growth and structural transformation
- (b) Reorient the development paradigm away from externally-driven initiatives towards domestically-inspired and funded initiatives that were grounded in national ownership
- (c) Prioritize equity and social inclusion and measure progress in terms of both the availability and quality of service delivery
- (d) Pay greater attention to vulnerable groups such as women, children, youth, the elderly, people with disabilities and displaced persons
- (e) Focus on development enablers as well as development outcomes, particularly structural economic transformation and inclusive growth, innovation and technology transfer, human development, and financing and partnerships.

The sustainable development goals consultations in Africa, including the preparation of the Africa Regional Report on sustainable development goals, are contextualized within the framework of the Africa consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and Rio+20 follow-up processes.

B. Scope and methodology

Scope

Based on surveys and consultations with subregional and regional institutions and informed by the five subregional reports, this report:

- (1) Reviews and analyses the priority sustainable development issues, opportunities and challenges in Africa
- (2) Identifies, analyses and proposes Africa's priority sustainable development areas and themes to inform the formulation of the sustainable development goals
- (3) Identifies and proposes sustainable development goals based on the priority areas and themes, taking into account Africa's aspirations and unique specificities in the global context. The proposed goals cater to both the aspired sustainable development outcomes as well as enablers of such development. The sustainable development goals embody the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – as well as the governance and institutional aspects fundamental to achieving the goals.
- (4) In the light of the above, the present report proposes targets and indicators to be used in tracking progress towards the achievement of the proposed sustainable development goals.

Methodology

The preparation of this report entailed a thorough and extensive review of documentation, including reports from field surveys and consultations undertaken in the five subregions– Eastern, Central, North, Southern and West Africa. Specifically, this involved:

- Data and information collected from: the subregional reports on sustainable development goals; Rio+20 Outcome Document; the Africa-RIM Outcome Document for CSD-20; the CFSSD-8/Africa-RIM Report; the Africa Consensus Statement to Rio+20; the outcomes of Africa's consultations on the post-2015 development agenda; the Africa Regional Review Report on Progress Towards Sustainable Development; the subregional review reports on Progress Towards Sustainable Development; the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (WSSD, 2002); and Agenda 21 (UN, 1992). The report also drew on subregional development strategies, plans and programmes related to sustainable development.
- Consultation with institutions and agencies on proposals towards the identification of priority areas/themes for sustainable development and elaboration of related goals, targets and indicators. The goals were refined based on comments and recommendations provided at the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals organized by ECA, jointly with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, from 31 October to 5 November 2013.

C. *Structure of the report*

This report consists of seven sections. The introductory section presents the background and context, scope and methodology. The second briefly outlines the concept of sustainable development and its dimensions, reviews the need to measure progress, discusses sustainable development principles, guiding framework and criteria as well as emerging themes and priority areas in the development of sustainable development goals, targets and indicators. In section three, the report discusses sustainable development priorities in the five subregions of Africa. Section four presents the regional-level priorities and proposes sustainable development goals and related targets and indicators. In section five, the strategy and means of implementation are presented and discussed. Monitoring and evaluation is discussed in section six, and section seven presents the conclusions and recommendations.

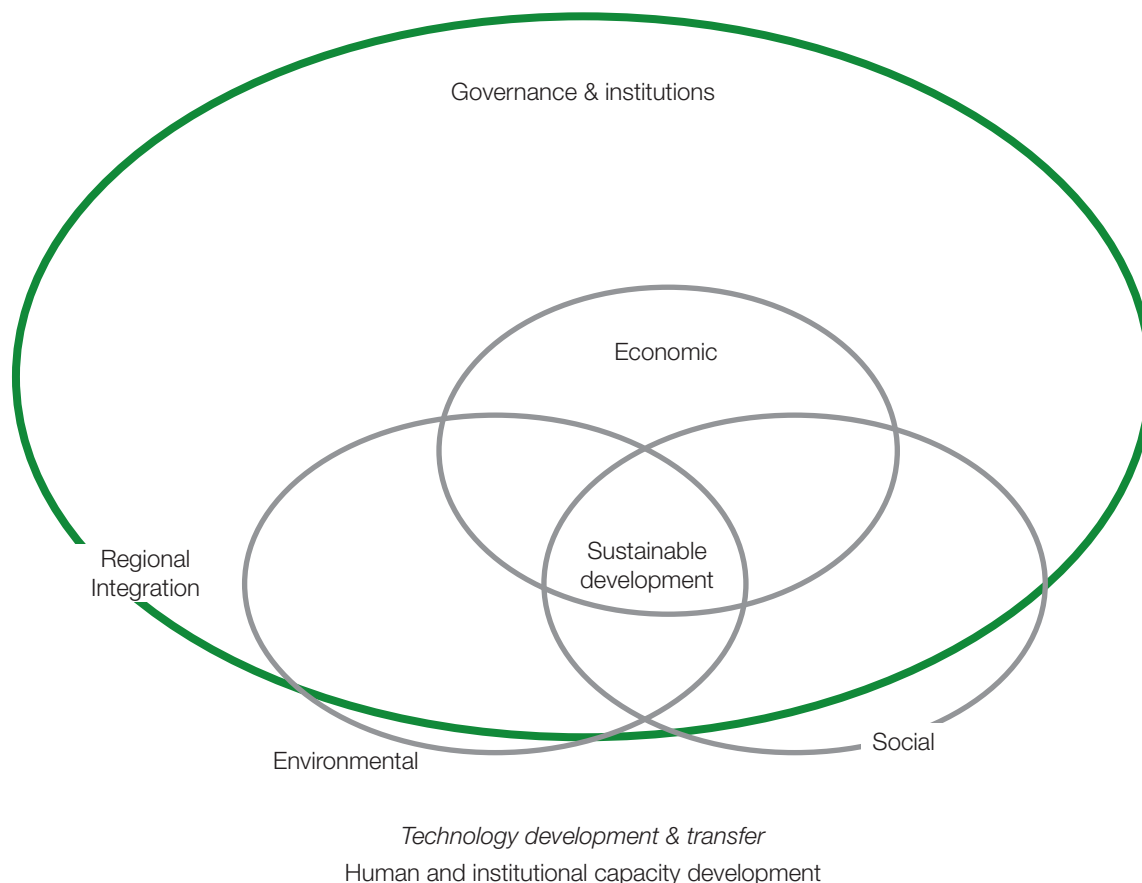
II. Sustainable development –concepts, guiding frameworks and criteria

A. Concept and dimensions of sustainable development

Humanity has the ability to make development sustainable, which means ensuring that it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The sustainable development concept resulted from a gradual shift in development perspectives. In the 1950s and 1960s, development mainly focussed on economic growth and increases in outputs based on theories of production efficiencies. However, during the 1970s it was observed that the gap between the rich and the poor was growing within and between regions and this resulted in the shift to addressing equity issues, with emphasis on social development and income distribution as key elements (ECA, 2012a). About the same period, observations on the impact of economic growth on the environment brought into focus the importance of integrating environmental concerns into the development agenda.

Sustainable development encompasses the inter-linkages of the three dimensions: economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability. The environment is considered the source of life and gives rise to economic activities. Economic activities in turn sustain social development. Without growth, there will be no social development. This is however not necessarily a linear relationship as the environment also directly influences social development. The challenge of sustainable development is to achieve a balance in interrelationships among the three dimensions. Current economic growth therefore has to be environmentally-friendly and socially responsible. For economic growth to be sustainable, efforts need to be directed to achieve efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, including: environmentally-friendly agricultural practices; renewable energy; less carbon-intensive production of goods and services, including efficient transportation; and less intensive production and consumption of resources, goods and services. These promote efficient and resilient production systems, minimize depletion and degradation of resources and greenhouse gas emissions, and lead to more resilient economies.

The social dimension focuses on poverty eradication, reducing inequalities, gender equality and enhancing access to education, health, water, sanitation and other socioeconomic infrastructure and services.

Figure 1: Dimensions of sustainable development

Source: ECA, Progress towards Sustainable Development in Africa, May 2012

Sustainable development recognizes the overarching role of governance and institutions. For the region, in particular, governance and institutions are fundamental to sustainable development, as they provide the foundation on which economic growth and socially-responsible and environmentally-friendly development rests. An enabling environment in terms of governance and functional institutions provides constitutional, accountable, regulatory and legal frameworks for productive activities to thrive that will enhance sustainable development. Thus, good governance, strong and effective institutions, availability of financial resources, the right policy mix, efficient use of resources, access to environmentally-friendly technology and innovations, human and institutional capacity development as well as strengthened and sustained international partnerships will together help ensure that the Africa region will transition effectively to sustainable development.

B. Sustainable development goals – guiding framework and criteria

The Rio+20 Conference called for the development of an agreed set of sustainable development goals and targets, including indicators to monitor progress. In the words of the United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, “Let us develop a new generation of sustainable development goals to pick up where the Millennium Development Goals leave off. Let us agree on the means to achieve them” (UN, 2011).

The United Nations Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Global Sustainability (UN, 2012b) also called for a sustainable development index or set of indicators to be developed that will provide clear guidelines and criteria to meet sustainable-development concerns. The panel proposed that the framework for sustainable development goals should, among others:

- Be universal in character, covering challenges to all countries rather than just developing nations
- Express a broadly agreed global strategy for sustainable development
- Incorporate a range of key areas that were not fully covered in the Millennium Development Goals, such as food-security, water, energy, green jobs, decent work, social inclusion, sustainable consumption and production, sustainable cities, climate change, biodiversity and oceans, as well as disaster-risk reduction and resilience
- Be comprehensive, reflecting equally the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the interconnections between them
- Incorporate near-term benchmarks, while being long-term in scope and looking to a possible 2030 deadline
- Engage all stakeholders in implementing and mobilizing resources, including local communities, civil society, the private sector and Governments
- Include progress-metrics alongside absolute targets, to focus policy attention as a means of driving development outcomes and to reflect various development priorities and conditions across countries and regions
- Provide scope to review these goals in view of evolving new knowledge and evidence.

C. Sustainable development goals – principles and vision

The Rio+20 outcome document provides guidance on what the sustainable development goals should seek to achieve¹. Foremost among these is poverty eradication. Sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth in developing countries is a necessary requirement for this. In addition, the sustainable development goals will also need to achieve outcomes such as reducing inequalities, promoting gender equality and ensuring equal access to quality education. The Rio+20 outcome document also indicated that the process of developing the sustainable development goals needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes of the post-2015 development agenda in order to facilitate the emergence of one set of appropriate goals, targets and indicators for the post-2015 development agenda.

The elaboration of sustainable development goals, targets and indicators is critical at this period in global development. The Millennium Development Goals will come to an end in 2015. Globally, progress has been made to achieve these goals but Africa is off-track in achieving most of the targets and so the Millennium Development Goals will remain relevant beyond 2015. Hence the development of sustainable development goals should recognize the need for complementarity with the Millennium Development Goals.

Thus, it is expected that the sustainable development goals will ensure that ongoing efforts, existing resources and focus are not diverted from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. As noted by the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting, the linking of the sustainable development goals to the Millennium Development Goals and establishing goals that become part of the post-2015 development agenda would promote coherence in policymaking and synergistic implementation of internationally agreed goals. It would also minimize the pressure on the limited institutional capacities of many African countries. The sustainable development goals will be expected to encompass all dimensions of sustainable development, so as to ensure greater convergence among the issues captured by the post-2015 development agenda. To this end, the meeting proposed that the development of the sustainable development goals should be guided by the following principles:

- The Rio Principles, particularly the principle of common but differentiated responsibility, taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities

¹ One major challenge in defining sustainable development goals, which this report attempts to address, is the development of goals that are universal in nature, yet reflect regional, subregional and national diversities in terms of their priorities.

- The goals, targets and indicators should embody the three dimensions of sustainable development, as well as issues pertaining to good governance and effective institutions for sustainable development
- The sustainable development goals should be action-oriented and allow for tracking progress towards sustainable development over time. In this regard, they should have clear and measurable targets, which take into account different regional and national priorities, realities, capacities and levels of development
- They should be universal in nature and flexible enough to cater for different national priorities. The sustainable development goals must build on and complement the Millennium Development Goals, which must also be maintained and effectively implemented and supported
- The sustainable development goals must be accompanied by adequate means of implementation, particularly financing, technology transfer and capacity-building. For each goal, there should be clearly defined means of implementation
- The goals should promote equitable and inclusive human-centred development
- The goals should build on the priorities identified in the Africa post-2015 development agenda process.

D. The need to measure progress

Sustainable development as a concept has existed for over two decades. However, so far there is no single universally accepted assessment metric that systematically measure progress towards its achievement.

Calls for measuring progress on sustainable development abound. The document *Realizing the Future we Want for All* (UN, 2012a, paragraph 250) outlined that progress towards the achievement of the goals needs to be assessed and accompanied by targets and indicators while taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and levels of development. Earlier calls for measuring progress include:

- (a) The World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987 called for the development of new ways to measure and assess progress (WCED, 1987).
- (b) Chapter 40 of Agenda 21 called on countries and the international community to develop indicators of sustainable development
- (c) Chapter X of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
- (d) The United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD – 11) encouraged further work on indicators for sustainable development by countries, in line with their specific conditions and priorities.

Although there are no universally accepted assessment metrics for sustainable development, goals, indicators and indices have been suggested and applied by various stakeholders over the past two decades. These include:

- (e) Indicators of Sustainable Development (CSD Indicators)² developed by the United Nations Statistic Division and the United Nations Department on Economic and Social Affairs for the United Nations Commission on the Sustainable Development
- (f) UNDP's Human Development Index
- (g) ECA's Sustainable Development Indicator Framework for Africa (ECA, 2012)

² Indicators and methodology revised in 2001 and 2006. The indicators reflect the chapters of Agenda 21 and were originally developed on the basis of the pressure-state-response-model

- (h) The Economic Commission for Europe, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and Eurostat– Measuring Sustainable Development
- (i) UNEP measures progress on the green economy
- (j) OECD’s Your Better Life Index and a set of indicators for its Green Growth Strategy; Ecological Footprint and Sustainable Society Index
- (k) The Sustainability Assessment by Fuzzy Evaluation (SAFE), Happy Planet Index
- (l) Environmental Sustainability Index (now the Environmental Performance Index), Genuine Progress Indicator and the Index of Sustainable Economic Welfare
- (m) Bhutan’s Gross National Happiness Index.

Other efforts at reporting on sustainable development include UNEP’S Global and Regional Environment Outlooks; the Millennium Development Goals and related targets; ECA *Sustainable Development Reports on Africa*; *African Women’s Report*, which measures gender inequality in the region based on the African Gender and Development Index (AGDI); the *African Governance Report*, which assess and monitor progress towards good governance in Africa; and UNDESA’s *Trends in Sustainable Development*.

In spite of these laudable efforts thus far, there is no universally accepted, comprehensive set of goals, targets and indicators to guide countries in the quest for the “the future we want”. For any goal to be effective, it is important to set out clear, numerical, measurable, time-bound targets and mechanisms to monitor, track and review progress. Indicators and composite indices illustrate and communicate complex data and trends in a simplified form and can help shape policy based on transparent information. While good indicator sets, or aggregated indices, can exist on paper, data are often lacking to populate them, especially for developing countries and regions.

E. Sustainable development goals – emerging themes and priority areas

Global level

Analysis of outcomes of global consultations so far shows that poverty eradication and sustainable management of natural resources are overarching priorities for sustainable development. Sustainable management of natural resources includes enhanced capacity of natural ecosystems to support human welfare, ecosystem conservation and restoration, sustainable ecosystem management, and reduction of ecosystem pollution.

Other emerging priority areas include ensuring equal opportunity in accessing basic needs such as energy, water, food, education and health services, as well as improving the quality of these services, in addition to sustainable agriculture, food security, nutrition, water management, combating desertification and land degradation, sustainable energy and energy security. Others point to priorities such as a fair and stable global trading system; adequate financing for development; affordable access to technology and knowledge; and good governance practices based on rule of law.

Africa regional level

The outcome of the Africa regional consultations is that eradication of poverty is considered Africa’s greatest challenge and as an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. The emerging perspective from the region, based on subregional priorities, is that the sustainable development goals will need to address the following key areas:

- Poverty eradication and wealth creation
- Combating hunger and ensuring food security and nutrition
- Access to safe water-supply and adequate sanitation facilities
- Access to quality education and health services
- Promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women
- Enhancement of equitable and universal access to social services and social protection
- Promotion of sustainable and inclusive economic growth
- Reduction of vulnerability and strengthening of resilience to the impacts of climate change
- Creation of decent employment opportunities
- Enhancement of infrastructure development
- Improvement of access to affordable and sustainable energy
- Arresting land degradation, desertification, drought and deforestation
- Promotion of sustainable water-resource management
- Ensuring access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies for climate-change adaptation and mitigation
- Fostering peace and security

In addition, the following priorities emerged from the extensive Africa region consultative process for the post-2015 development agenda. They include three key priority areas: structural economic transformation and inclusive growth; innovation and technology transfer; and human development.

- I. **Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth**
 - Employment creation and decent work, particularly for the youth
 - Rural development, agricultural transformation and promotion of rural-urban linkages
 - Domestic and external resource mobilization
 - Inclusive green growth initiatives
 - Fair trade, expanded intraregional trade and investment as well as South-South cooperation
 - Increased investments in infrastructure
 - Industrialization and value addition.
- II. **Capacity development and technological access and innovation**
 - Quality education
 - Effective technology transfer
 - Investment in research and development.
- III. **Human development**
 - Gender parity: women and youth empowerment
 - Access to social protection for vulnerable groups
 - Health for all, with special focus on women and child health
 - Empowerment of the elderly and disabled
 - Disaster risk reduction and management capacity and climate-adaptation initiatives
 - Adequate shelter and access to water, sanitation and hygiene.
- IV. **Development enablers**
 - Peace and security
 - Good governance, transparency and minimization of corruption
 - Human and institutional capacity

- Equality and access to justice and information
- Human rights
- Domestic resource mobilization
- Credible participatory process
- Statistical capacity to measure progress and ensure accountability
- Growth-oriented macroeconomic policy
- Existence of a developmental State
- Access to means of implementation and monitoring.

III. Sustainable development priorities in the five subregions of Africa

A. Introduction

This chapter presents an overview of sustainable development priorities for the five subregions— North, West, Central, Eastern and Southern Africa. Each of the five subregional reports is based on extensive literature review, questionnaire surveys and consultations with stakeholders in the subregions, and was discussed at the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the sustainable development goals. The subregional reports informed the Africa regional report, which was also presented at the meeting.

B. Overview of key subregional sustainable development priorities

North Africa

Environmental challenges and climate vulnerability

The countries of the subregion face severe environmental and climate-related problems, including desertification; increasing scarcity of water resources; degradation of the land, forests and pastures; steady deterioration of natural resources; strong pressure on the marine environment; climate change; and industrial, urban and agricultural pollution. Variability in climate has led to loss of soil fertility, degradation of land, loss of vegetation cover, increasing water deficit, desertification and concentration of populations in the coastal areas with significant impacts on agriculture, food security and water availability. There is an urgent need to address environmental and climate variations through strategies and policies for adaptation to climate change and to raise resilience of communities, conserve biodiversity and protect ecosystems.

Economies dependent on primary commodities and low economic diversification

The subregion's economies are highly dependent on primary products from natural resources and are not diversified. Hydrocarbons account for 98 per cent of Algeria's exports and 70 per cent of budget revenues. Mauritania's exports are concentrated on a limited number of products – minerals, fish, cattle and, to a lesser extent, oil. As a result of the dominance of primary products, the manufacturing sector accounts for an average of 13 per cent of the gross domestic product of the subregion. This ranges between 6 and 8 per cent for Mauritania, the Sudan, Libya and Algeria, up to about 17 per cent for Morocco, Egypt and Tunisia. Diversification of the subregional economy from primary production is therefore a priority.

Insufficient employment-generating growth

The growth rate of the subregion has virtually stagnated since the increase recorded between 1960 and 1980. The forecasts were that growth would average around 4.2 per cent in 2013, and would increase to 4.6 per cent in 2014, as the political environment normalized and economic activities resumed. Libya's economy was expected to recover to regain its pre-crisis levels, while the Sudan, Mauritania and Algeria were expected to benefit from better agricultural harvests. Because of weak growth performance, unemployment has reached worrying proportions especially among young people. Wide disparities in incomes and wealth also point to the need for strategies and policies for redistribution of earnings from natural resources. On the whole, structural economic transformation is needed to promote inclusive growth and create jobs. This is vital for restoration of socio-political stability.

Threat of food insecurity

Countries in the subregion are heavily reliant on food importation, especially imports of cereals. Climate variability is affecting local agricultural production and this dependence makes them vulnerable to shocks related to fluctuations in food and commodity prices on the international market. Food prices have been rising steadily for over 10 years, making food security a strategic priority issue and an important factor for financial, social and political stability.

Inequality and access to basic services

Developments in the subregion since the Arab Spring of 2011 have brought a number of development priorities to the fore. These include the need to address inequalities and youth unemployment, lack of skills that are required by the labour market, inadequate social protection, lack of adequate access to basic health-care services, water and sanitation, gender disparities and discrimination against women in terms of salary, employment and decision-making.

Energy insecurity and need for renewable energy

The demand for energy in all countries of the subregion is increasing steadily (6 to 8 per cent per year on average) and these needs are still being met by subsidized fossil energy. The long-term depletion of fossil energy sources and the growing demand for reduction of carbon emissions places energy at the heart of challenges facing the subregion and makes a case for investments in other energy sources, especially renewable energy.

Additional crosscutting issues

In addition to the above-mentioned economic, social and environmental challenges, the countries of the subregion also face issues that must be considered in the framework of development policies. These are:

- (i) The transition towards a green economy to ensure the sustainability of actions undertaken
- (ii) Balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, which was one of the major shortcomings of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals
- (iii) Mobilization of financial resources needed for the development of growth sectors, such as renewable energy
- (iv) Good governance to strengthen effectiveness and transparency in the management of public affairs and to ensure social responsibility
- (v) Subregional coordination, in an effort to increase the effectiveness of national policies designed to increase productivity, mitigate social pressure and ensure the sustainability of the environment and natural resources.

West Africa

Education

Gradual improvements have been made in the education sector, although this is more in terms of school enrolment than quality. With the exception of a few countries, the gender gap has improved. However, there are obstacles to making the current formal education system more responsive to the labour market by developing vocational and technical skills training. Efforts should be geared towards improving the quality of education to ensure a balance in labour demand and supply, and also to facilitate decent jobs for citizens, especially for young people.

Health

Although there are marginal improvements in terms of maternal and infant mortality, life expectancy, health-service coverage and the health workforce, much remains to be done to improve the health status of the population. Improving the health situation calls for effective policies and investments to eliminate preventable diseases; improve nutrition security; enhance access to clean water and sanitation facilities; and improve access to health services that are affordable and of good quality.

Social protection for the poor and vulnerable

Not only is social protection coverage generally low and limited to a minority of the population in the formal sector, but it also does not provide adequate benefits. The majority of the population are in the informal sector and they usually belong to the most vulnerable population categories, who rely on traditional family and social support systems that are either no longer adequate or do not exist at all. Social-protection arrangements in the informal sector, which are patchy at best, are grossly inadequate to address the welfare needs of this segment of society. There is a need for comprehensive national social-protection systems that ensure the provision of basic income and livelihood security and affordable access to essential health care, food and adequate nutrition, education, housing and other services for all, with particular attention to poor and vulnerable groups.

Sanitation and urban management

Urbanization is taking place at a very fast rate and has resulted in many environmental and social problems – poor sanitation and waste management, increased crime, violence, traffic congestion, slums, and youth unemployment and underemployment, among others. There is a real need for investment in modern sanitation facilities and decent and affordable housing, along with the design of cities that offer opportunities for greening through the proximity of urban functions, modal shifts in transportation and increased efficiency in the provision of basic infrastructure.

Agriculture and food security

Agriculture, a major economic sector in the subregion, remains largely underdeveloped. Key constraining factors include tenure insecurity, poor farming practices, poor value-chain development, limited access to international markets and poor linkage between research and development. This has rendered the sector somewhat unattractive, with serious implications for food security. Policies to ensure sustainable agricultural development should focus on the provision of agricultural infrastructure and mechanization; provision of research, extension services and marketing; establishment of agro-industries; improved access to inputs and credit; and reform of land-tenure systems to encourage investments in agriculture.

Sustainable infrastructural development: energy, water and transport

There are huge infrastructure supply deficits in the areas of energy, water and transport. Close to one third of West Africans have no access to improved water sources, while efficient and reliable transport and energy-service delivery remain elusive. In addition, private-sector participation in infrastructure development and operation and cost recovery is still low. Progress towards sustainable development will be greatly accelerated if the provision of sustainable energy, water and transport is enhanced in an efficient and effective manner.

Inclusive economic growth, diversification and transformation

Over the past two decades, the subregion has experienced stable economic growth largely attributed to political stability, strong global demand for the main export commodities, better macroeconomic management, rapid recovery by post-conflict countries and new mineral discoveries. Sustaining and augmenting this growth over the long term remains a challenge, however. This is because growth has been driven

mainly by foreign direct investment inflows rather than domestic savings and has failed to generate employment, since these inflows focus more on the exploitation of natural resources with little or no value addition. Governments should embark on a structural transformation that will ensure diversification, reduce risks, significantly improve the quality of life of the people and ensure sustainable development.

Environment and natural-resource management: forest, water and soils

The environment and natural resources such as forests, water bodies and soils on which livelihoods depend are being degraded or depleted at a rapid rate because of overuse, over-harvesting and pressure from other land uses, including agriculture. Efforts to minimize environmental degradation should aim to assess the value of the services provided by these resources, so as to inform economic pricing, to provide incentives for conservation, to strengthen institutions and regulatory frameworks, and also to boost public-private partnerships and investment, with a view to restoring, maintaining and enhancing the stock of these resources.

Good governance, rule of law, peace and security

Ensuring good governance, adherence to the rule of law, peace and security remains a key challenge, although some improvement has been observed over the years. This can be attributed to weak State institutions for the enforcement of laws and statutes, corruption, loopholes in the constitutions and outdated anti-graft laws, among factors that do not create the necessary incentives for people and leaders to abide by the laws. There is a need to strengthen governance institutions and the rule of law, as well as to ensure wider stakeholder participation in decision-making and governance.

Central Africa

Dependence on natural resources

The subregion's growth rate remains vulnerable due to low diversification of the economy; dependence on agricultural commodities, forestry, oil and mineral resources; and susceptibility to fluctuations in prices of raw materials on the international markets. Exports of raw materials account for more than 40 per cent of gross domestic product in half of the countries in the subregion, rising to more than 60 per cent in the Republic of the Congo and 64 per cent for countries dependent on oil exports, such as Equatorial Guinea, Chad and Angola. The industrial base and manufacturing have a very low share in gross domestic product. Other than mining, the industrial sector is severely constrained by inadequate investment, weak regulatory environments and underdeveloped financial systems, among other constraints.

Inadequate infrastructure

The subregion is constrained by inadequate vital infrastructure such as transport, energy, water supply, sanitation and health. This is compounded by demographic pressure and high rate of urbanization. With respect to transport infrastructure, interconnections and links are poor between different modes (air, road and rail). Air connections are insufficient and costly, ports are poorly equipped, railways are out-dated and inadequate. Intra-urban public transport in major cities is poor and inadequate and roads are often not in usable condition, with less than 10 per cent of roads tarred. Most agricultural production areas are inaccessible because they are not connected by road, rail and air networks.

Poverty, hunger and malnutrition

Due to limited access to basic social services (water and sanitation, housing, health, education, transport) the subregion has one of the highest levels of poverty in the region. It averages 50 per cent, except for a few countries such as Cameroon, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe where less than a third of the population is below the poverty line. The prevalence of malnutrition is high and pockets of population suffer extreme hunger. The subregion has vast expanses of virgin agricultural land. However, of the 1.6million hectares

of arable land, only 3.7 per cent is used for agriculture – the potential for agricultural growth is therefore enormous. The subregion performs poorly in agricultural production and is direly food insecure.

Need for improved access to water and sanitation

Access to water and sanitation facilities varies across countries in the subregion: Gabon – 87 per cent have access to water and 36 per cent to sanitation, Burundi – 79 per cent have access to water and 35 per cent to sanitation, and Sao Tome and Principe – 79 per cent have access to water and 24 per cent to sanitation. These are the best-performing countries. The most challenged countries with respect to access to water are Chad (34 per cent) and Equatorial Guinea (44 per cent). Poor access to water and sanitation has been a major factor in waterborne diseases and related deaths.

Access to quality education

A number of countries in the subregion have made remarkable achievements in ensuring primary education for all. Burundi, Cameroon, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe are among those that will achieve the 100 per cent target. A few, such as Chad and the Central African Republic, remain challenged. Low spending on primary education and conflicts are among the factors affecting the quality of educational infrastructure and access. Quality and access therefore remain challenges to educational attainment.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

The subregion has made significant progress in enacting laws to protect the rights of women. Gender parity has been achieved in primary-school enrolment. However parity is yet to be reached in a number of spheres, for example: women's representation in parliament is less than 20 per cent, their access to land is limited, and an extremely limited number of women have senior management positions in jobs that are not agricultural.

Unemployment and underemployment

The unemployment rate in the subregion of Central Africa ranges between 23 per cent and 70 per cent. Youth unemployment is particularly severe and could potentially become a destabilizing factor. Resources must be invested to address the unemployment problem and help stabilize the subregion.

Demographic pressure and need for sustainable urban development

Demographic pressure is set to rise significantly over the next decades, with the population forecast to reach 200 million by 2025, up from 108 million in 2002. This implies that there will be pressure on natural resources, land, housing, intra-urban transport, water, sanitation and electricity. If this pressure is not properly managed and planned for, it could potentially exacerbate urban poverty, unemployment and underemployment, especially among the youth. Slum populations could grow and there could be acute shortages of food and infrastructural services.

Pressures on environmental resources

Most countries in the subregion have developed and are striving to implement action plans on the environment. They have also taken steps to integrate social and environmental concerns into economic projects. Nonetheless, the plundering of natural resources and mining activities have taken a toll on the environment. In addition to addressing these, the adverse effects of climate change need to be managed. Protection is needed for groups that are most vulnerable to climate change, the effects of which have implications for biodiversity and ecosystems.

Sustainable management of water resources

Water management in the subregion is a major challenge due to inadequate cooperation among the countries and insufficient institutional capacity for effective management. In addition, the water sector suffers from hydro-climatic variability, inadequate storage and rising demand relative to supply. There is a need to strengthen cooperation among countries and to manage shared water from surplus and deficit areas effectively. The subregion has 16 international river basins that are either located within the subregion or shared with other subregions. However, only five of these basins are managed as part of interstate organizations such as basin commissions. There is an urgent need to develop institutional frameworks for formal management of river basins to avoid conflicts and to strengthen capacity to manage water resources.

Governance and institutional challenges

The subregion is plagued by a high level of political tension and frequency of riots and military coups. This is due to weak governance and institutional frameworks resulting from corruption and lack of transparency and accountability in the exploitation of natural resources, including mining. With few exceptions, the credibility of electoral processes and mechanisms is questionable. There is a strong need to strengthen governance and democratic institutions to allow for transparent and participatory democratic process.

Eastern Africa

High and sustained economic growth that translates into human development and jobs

Countries in Eastern Africa have realized impressive economic growth in recent years, which has averaged about 5 per cent during the period 2010 to 2012, despite the global financial crisis. However, the growth has not translated into high human development. In 2012, nearly all the countries except Seychelles scored low scores of 0.316–0.773 on the Human Development Index ranking. Employment creation, especially for the youth, equity in income distribution and poverty remain major challenges for countries in Eastern Africa. Although the region has made significant progress in addressing disparities, especially gender equality and empowerment of women, there are still disparities in employment and income between countries in the subregion, gender groups, age groups and other categories.

The average poverty rate is 47.5 per cent and over 100 million people in the subregion live below the poverty line. Food insecurity is one of the most pressing problems in Eastern Africa. There has been a considerable decline in the level of food production in the subregion and the price of food has increased significantly in the last two years, making food effectively unavailable to many households. The majority of small-scale farmers produce mainly for subsistence.

Agriculture

The subregion largely depends on agriculture and in most countries the sector contributes more than 25 per cent of gross domestic product, up to 40 per cent in some countries. It is also the major livelihood for over 70 per cent of the population, who are largely resident in rural areas. Improved performance of the sector is therefore key to realizing sustainable development. Agricultural productivity needs to be rejuvenated as it is essential for increasing overall economic growth and meeting the development goals related to reducing poverty and hunger. While there is progress in adopting sustainable agricultural practices through innovations and technology application, it is a priority to give more effort to enhance productivity and promote value addition.

Education and skills development

Although there is variation across the subregion, there have been major gains in education in Eastern African countries. These gains include enrolment and completion of primary and secondary education, university enrolments and adult literacy. However, the quality of education and adult literacy remain con-

cerns. Improvements have also been realized in gender parity. Countries should adopt appropriate policies to streamline the education sector, and equip the population with the skills required for transformation towards sustainability.

Health

Health concerns such as diseases and child- and maternal-mortality rates remain a burden in Eastern Africa. There has been significant progress in reducing child mortality and maternal-mortality rates but the rate of improvement is slow and remains a concern many countries in the subregion. Progress has also been recorded in combating HIV/AIDS, but more needs to be done. Access to health care remains low, although health-insurance schemes in some countries are improving both financial and geographic access to health care and its affordability. However, there are still high prevalence rates of non-communicable diseases in the subregion.

Infrastructure development

The subregion prioritizes infrastructure development as a basis for the transformation of the economies of its member countries. Potential has been identified in the development of infrastructure and regional economic integration bodies have backed the process through support and linkage of developing infrastructure across countries. The development of infrastructure would accelerate growth in other sectors such as health, agriculture, trade, manufacturing and processing in the subregion.

Energy

Major challenges remain in ensuring sustainable energy development and access to renewable energy sources that are affordable, clean, reliable and safe. Although the subregion has a high potential for both renewable and non-renewable energy, they are untapped due to low domestic and foreign investment and low adoption and implementation of supporting policies. Eastern Africa remains a net importer of oil and gas. The subregion can become an energy hub with improvements in natural-resource exploitation and application of energy-efficient technologies.

Environment and climate-related challenges

On the environmental front, the subregion faces climate-change challenges, land degradation, deforestation and pollution. Efforts have been made to develop and promote environmentally friendly policy frameworks that address specific environmental challenges, but more needs to be done to decouple economic and social transformation from environmental degradation. Increased financial resources should be mobilized and allocated to pursue environmental goals, including for climate-change adaptation and mitigation. The subregion also recognizes sound land management and efficient use of natural resources as priorities for achieving sustainable development.

Governance

While countries in the subregion have registered considerable progress in establishing democratic governance systems, including by regularly holding elections, insecurity concerns remain and more effort is needed to build lasting peace in the subregion. These include civil wars, cross-border conflicts, social strife, piracy and arms trafficking. Democracies are fragile. Insecurity and political instability curtail national economic and social progress and are serious obstacles to the effective and deeper integration needed to foster sustainable development. Considerable efforts and country-level commitments are needed to consolidate good governance and build lasting peace in the subregion. This would strengthen regional integration processes and enable countries to focus on development in a sustainable manner.

Southern Africa

Poverty and inequality

Southern Africa's average poverty rate of 45 per cent is not that different from the whole of sub-Saharan Africa (48.5 per cent). More than half the population of most countries have been living below the poverty line over the past decade or longer. Efforts to eradicate poverty should resolve high poverty rates, income inequality, limited value addition (in minerals and agriculture), high unemployment and limited economic diversification, food security, agricultural practices and other factors. Eradication of poverty should mean that poorer people move up the income ladder and this would automatically reduce income inequalities. This progress would imply improvements in food security and adequate access to basic social services, which would require development funding and resource mobilization.

Gender and women's empowerment

Gender inequality remains a major challenge for achieving sustainable development in the subregion. Many gender policies and instruments have been formulated at national levels. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has advanced in this area and most, if not all, countries are signatories to international conventions. At national level, there is noticeable political interest in gender issues and this is to be commended. Despite such strides, women remain marginalized in terms of status and control over resources. The lack of tangible progress in public action reinforces the need to mainstream gender equality systematically in all aspects of sustainable development. It has often been pointed out that many times gender considerations were an element added to programmes and interventions that had been designed previously. Addressing the persistent inequalities that exist in the subregion requires a much more vigorous and bold approach.

Major challenges in the subregion include gender-based violence, unequal distribution of wealth and wide gender gaps in participation and decision-making at all levels. The subregion is performing better than others in terms of achieving gender equity in political participation, especially as this relates to decision-making in the corporate world and also at community level. Despite this progress, the gender gap in participation and decision-making between men and women is still huge and needs to be addressed.

Education

The quality of education and skills remain important assets for access to more rewarding employment and business opportunities. Education is expected to improve social wellbeing including health, contribute to reduced population growth, enhance governance and lead to a more entrepreneurial society. Enrolment rates for Southern Africa, especially in higher education, remain among the lowest in the world. The subregion also faces high levels of brain drain, in particular in professions such as doctors, university lecturers and engineers. Challenges include access to and quality of education; the effective use of educated people; lack of requisite technical and vocational skills, training and skills upgrading; and labour market mismatch.

Health and nutrition

Health and nutrition include the challenges of combating HIV/AIDS and combating communicable and non-communicable diseases, which often result from poor nutrition. Health is both a means to achieve development and an aim of development. The health theme has strong linkages to improving levels of development funding and resource mobilization because many developing countries do not have the resources to build modern hospitals. A healthy population is the key to improved economic production, as this maximizes availability of labour. Southern Africa has a high HIV prevalence rate of about 12.6 per cent and this mostly affects the economically productive age group, aged between 20 and 49 years. The subregion also has high incidence of communicable diseases such as malaria. The diet of a large compo-

ment of the subregion's population is not diversified, despite the prevalence of alternative foods. Improving health and well-being of the population remain important objectives.

Environment and climate change

Southern Africa faces grave challenges on the environment: extensive loss of forests and related environmental impacts, deteriorating biodiversity and quality of the ecosystems as a result of climatic factors, and narrowly focused economic and sectoral policies that do not prioritize environmental conservation. Dependence on natural resources is relatively high, against the backdrop of pervasive poverty.

The agriculture sector is sensitive to climate change and variability. These, combined with poor soil fertility, pests, crop diseases and lack of access to technology, markets and infrastructure, have a huge impact on Southern Africa's livelihood base. Seasons of good rainfall are associated with plenty, while dry seasons are associated with adversity, deprivation, frustration, famine and possible displacement. As a result of climate change, severe drought and dry spells, flooding, changes in rainfall patterns, increasing temperatures and other changes are increasingly frequent. Carbon emissions from the use of fossil fuels are relatively low, but the carbon intensity of Southern Africa is rather high and there is a need to reduce this and facilitate a transition to a low-carbon economy.

Governance and institutions

Southern Africa's major challenges on governance relate to the persistent deficits in skills and professionalism affecting all elements of public service. Better governance would help the subregion to deal with the challenges it faces in the areas of institutional development, peace and security, public-sector management and resource mobilization. Institutional governance cuts across all three dimensions of sustainable development and it involves States' capacity to articulate social needs and respond to them, implement policies, establish new institutions for sustainable natural resource use, and negotiate bilateral economic and trade agreements.

Table 1: Overview of subregional sustainable development priorities

Central Africa	Eastern Africa	North Africa	Southern Africa	West Africa
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote peace, security and sociopolitical stability Promote good governance and accountability Develop physical, economic and social infrastructure Combat poverty and promote food security Promote green growth and the creation of decent employment Improve access to health for all Ensure high school education and vocational training for all Ensure protection of the environment and promotion of resilience to climate change Promote social inclusion, gender equality and the empowerment of women 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Achieve sustainable and inclusive growth and economic transformation Sustainable food security accessibility and use Sustainable land management and biodiversity protection Promotion of science and technology for development Disaster risk management Governance, peace and security 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce marginalization and social exclusion of vulnerable population Foster transition to a green and inclusive economy Ensure universal access to basic services Build lasting peace on a transparent basis 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable poverty eradication Improved learning Gender equality and empowerment Improvement of health and nutritional status Ensure environmental sustainability Governance and institutions 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduction of extreme poverty and hunger Achieve gender equality, equitable and universal primary and secondary education Improve child and maternal health Universal access to healthcare delivery service Increase and improve infrastructure and urban management Improve inclusive economic growth Achieve structural economic transformation Ensure good governance, peace and security Reduce environmental degradation and pollution (ensure sustainable use and management of natural resources) Enhance regional and global public-private partnerships for development (external financing and partnerships)

IV. Proposed regional sustainable development goals, targets and indicators

A. *Determination of the proposed goals, targets and indicators*

The regional sustainable development priorities, goals, targets and indicators identified and discussed in this chapter are based on a synthesis of the five subregional priorities, an extensive review of the literature on Africa's development challenges and priorities, issues of concern, and perspectives on ongoing discussions and consultative meetings on the post-2015 development framework, Rio +20 follow-up processes, and the African Union's Africa Agenda 2063. The five subregional reports were informed by questionnaire surveys administered to key institutions, development practitioners and partners in the subregions.

The draft report, including a set of proposed sustainable development goals, was presented to the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting that was held from 31 October to 5 November 2013. The meeting deliberated on the draft report and the proposed goals, and adopted the 12 sustainable development goals presented in this report. The meeting also provided comments on the targets and indicators, which were finalized based on the guidance and recommendations provided.

B. *Time horizon (2016-2030) and framework of analysis*

The consultations and processes, including the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting, on the sustainable development goals are contextualized and designed to feed into the processes of the post-2015 development agenda. As such, the proposed sustainable development goals and related targets and indicators presented in this report are based on a time horizon of 15 years, starting from 2016, in line with the timeframe of the post-2015 development agenda.

The determination of priority goals was guided by a number of factors, including: outcomes of surveys conducted, documents reviewed, priority development challenges put forward by African stakeholders, key elements of Africa's long-term vision currently articulated in the African Union's Agenda 2063 framework, the African common position on the post-2015 development agenda, particularly the need to complete the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals, the guiding principles of the sustainable development goals, and the need for balanced growth and development.

The attainment of the proposed sustainable development goals within this timeframe is deemed feasible as agreed at the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting. Factors informing this optimism include the robust economic growth rate that the region currently enjoys, encouraging progress made in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, impressive progress and impact of information and communication technologies, the increasing resource potential arising from the discovery of mineral resources in many countries of the region, continuing improvement in governance and institutions, efforts towards structural transformation, and the recovery of the global economy from the financial crisis in 2009 and challenges facing the eurozone.

C. Overview of Africa's sustainable development issues and priorities

Based on the framework of analysis indicated above, this section discusses Africa's collective sustainable-development priorities. While technology development and transfer, financing and capacity development also feature as priorities, they are discussed in detail under the section on strategy and means of implementation as they are significant as means of implementation.

Key economic development issues and priorities

Economic growth, jobs and structural transformation

Over the last decade, Africa has recorded sustained and impressive economic growth rates. In 2013, growth rates averaged 4 per cent, almost double the global average. One quarter of countries in the region grew at about 7 per cent or more, and a number of African countries are among the fastest growing economies in the world. This growth has been underpinned by relatively high commodity prices, increased domestic demand (due to increased private investment in infrastructure and energy) and improved economic governance and management (ECA, 2014). However, the contribution of industrialization has been relatively minimal with manufacturing exports and manufacturing value-addition making up declining shares of gross domestic products. Medium-term growth prospects are strong and the average gross domestic product growth rate is projected to accelerate to 5 per cent in 2014 and 5.1 per cent in 2015 (UNDESA, undated).

This impressive growth, however, presents a puzzling paradox. Despite the glowing gross domestic product figures, Africa has the lowest levels of human and social development and a large part of the population are trapped in poverty and face rampant unemployment and inequality. The continent is home to the world's highest proportion of poor people and is not on course to attain key Millennium Development Goals. Most Africans are locked into vulnerable jobs with low wages and low productivity. Vulnerable employment in Africa is stubbornly high compared with other regions and 46.5 per cent of workers earned less than \$1.25 a day in 2012 (ILO, 2013). This largely stems from an abundant labour supply coupled with an absence of social-safety nets, which makes it difficult for many low-skilled workers to exit the labour market as they have no alternative means of survival (UN, 2013).

Youth unemployment is rife and threatens social order. The youth unemployment rate in sub-Saharan Africa was estimated at 11.8 per cent in 2012, twice as high as the adult unemployment rate (ILO, 2013). On average about 72 per cent of the youth population in Africa lives on less than \$2 a day. And, although the current generation of Africans entering the labour force is the most educated ever, many are finding that their prospects for employment and earning differ very little from those of their parents (World Bank, 2014).

Many Africans are dissatisfied with their economic conditions: 53 per cent of Africans rate their national economic condition as "fairly bad" or "very bad", 67 per cent consider their personal living conditions to have remained the same or become worse than the previous year, 71 per cent rate their governments as "fairly bad" or "very bad" at creating jobs, and 56 per cent say the same for overall economic management (Afrobarometer, 2013).

Growing disillusionment and the continuing disconnect between economic performance (largely commodity-driven and measured by gross domestic product) and employment and social development both point to the failure of most African countries to transform their economies structurally. To translate rapid economic growth into sustained and inclusive development, Africa must put in place development strategies that foster economic diversification, create jobs, reduce inequality and poverty, and boost access to basic services. This can only be done through the structural transformation of its economies. Structural transformation of African economies will involve a shift in both employment and output from its dominant agriculture-based economies, with acute dependence on natural resources, towards an economic

structure based on industrial development and modern services, with strong employment potential, more equitable distribution of income, diversified manufactured goods, commodity-based value addition, optimal and sustainable use of natural resources, enhanced resilience to global shocks and greater regional integration.

Africa therefore needs well-crafted growth and transformation strategies that enhance the productive capacities of all segments of the labour force. This tends to reduce inequality by promoting equal opportunities for employment. Economic transformation strategies should also embody policies to promote high-quality education and health services, powering greater productivity and more inclusive growth.

Agriculture, food and nutrition security

Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for about two thirds of the region's population. It contributes about one third of the gross domestic product (GDP) and employs about 60 per cent of the population (AfDB, 2013). Enhancing its performance is central to food security and sustainable poverty reduction. Estimates by the World Bank show that growth in the agricultural sector is twice as effective in reducing poverty as growth in other sectors. The effects of a more prosperous agricultural sector on the wider economy also include strengthened backward linkages and greater demand for industrial products.

Despite the increase in food production in almost all countries, many Africans are food-insecure and this has been worsened by the global food crisis. Africa lags other regions in attaining food security. Food availability from local production and imports is often inadequate to meet the increasing demand and changing consumption patterns. On the whole, progress has been slow in achieving the Millennium Development Goal of reducing by half the proportion of the population living in chronic hunger by 2015. The number of undernourished people increased by 35 per cent over the last two decades and there were 239 million undernourished people in Africa in 2012 (FAO, IFAD and WFP, 2013). The situation is grave in the Sahel in West Africa and in the Horn of Africa. Many factors are responsible for this, including high population growth rates, frequent political and resource-based conflicts, climate change and endemic poverty. The situation may even be more precarious as the population grows, with population projected to double by 2050.

The agricultural sector is beset with many challenges: African farmers perennially lack access to productive inputs, including: specialized skills and knowledge for the transformation of the sector; under-investment in agricultural initiatives such as research and development that support productivity and develop agricultural capacity; the constraining legal and land-policy frameworks; and environmental challenges, including climate change.

It is imperative that these challenges are addressed within the framework of the sustainable development goals. Sustainable intensification and wider adoption of improved technologies will spur agricultural productivity and transformation. Greening agriculture is necessary to contribute to addressing the risks associated with agricultural intensification, and climate-smart agricultural practices and overall agricultural efficiency improvements present important opportunities for climate-change mitigation and adaptation, while increasing agricultural productivity and addressing food and nutrition security.

Energy

Africa currently faces many energy-related challenges. Over 75 per cent of the African population is without electricity and 81 per cent depend on solid traditional biomass fuels for cooking. Per capita electricity consumption levels in Africa are much lower (535.7 kWh/per capita) compared to the global average of 3,044.4kWh/per capita (World Development Indicators for 2011 in World Bank, 2014). The population growth in sub-Saharan Africa between 1990 and 2010 outstripped the increase in the number of people with access to electricity and modern cooking fuels, with the result that more people lacked electricity and relied on solid fuels in 2010 than in 1990. The population without access to electricity is projected to increase to 655 million (44 per cent) and those without clean cooking facilities to 883 million (59 per cent)

by 2030 out of an estimated population of 1.5 billion under the “business as usual” scenario (IRENA, 2012).

Africa continues to depend largely on unsustainably-harvested traditional biomass energy in the form of charcoal and firewood as cooking fuels. Both of these fuels result in many deaths from indoor air pollution. Firewood is increasingly becoming scarce, as can be seen in longer collection times for women and children. This practice also causes land and forest degradation. More than 30 sub-Saharan African countries have faced power shortages in the last 5-10 years affecting various facets of development through load shedding and inadequate supply. The power sector in sub-Saharan Africa faces a supply-demand deficit as a result of delayed and low investments in generation and low levels of plant and operational efficiency. The sector is also characterized by high costs of electricity generation partly emanating from the high dependence on fossil fuels for generating electricity.

These challenges occur despite Africa’s abundant fossil and renewable-energy resources. The existing paradigm of energy development has not delivered the desired level of energy services. Promoting inclusive green growth in the sector holds promise to address Africa’s challenges of energy insecurity, reducing energy intensity, increasing clean-energy mix, increasing energy access and consumption, reducing energy prices, reducing energy’s impacts on the environment and increasing human welfare.

Sustainable consumption and production

The level of resource or material productivity in Africa (a measure of the total amount of materials directly used by an economy in relation to economic activity typically measured by gross domestic product) is relatively very low at about \$516 per ton of material compared to the global average in 2008 of \$950 per ton of material. However consumption patterns are a growing source of concern due to the changing consumption patterns of an increasingly affluent middle class, among other factors. Africa also continues to be heavily reliant on solid fuels, such as wood, charcoal, crops, straw, other agricultural waste, dung, shrubs and coal, as the primary sources of domestic energy for cooking and heating. Over 90 per cent of the population in 21 countries used solid fuels in 2010.

Pollution intensity remains below the global average and has improved and greenhouse-gas emissions declined between 2002 and 2009 as Governments intensified campaigns and awareness on reducing pollution in all sectors. Sustainable transportation remains an area of concern. Although there has been an increase in infrastructural development, many challenges remain with road fatalities, poor transport governance, connectivity and increasing greenhouse-gas emission from cars.

As Africa pursues structural transformation-driven industrialization, with the inevitable intensified use of natural resources, more attention needs to be paid to sustainable consumption and production. It is imperative that current efforts by governments, the private sector, local communities and individuals in improving social and environmental accountability of production and consumption processes are accelerated. To increase the pace towards sustainable consumption and production, more coherent policy frameworks are needed that tackle both the supply and demand sides of using natural resources, coupled with improved implementation and enforcement of existing policies. Achieving sustainable consumption and production requires action and responsibility across sectors and urgent action should be taken with respect to building capacity and using environmentally friendly technologies.

Infrastructure development

Infrastructure development is a key driver of progress across the African continent and a critical enabler for productivity and sustainable economic growth. It contributes significantly to human development and poverty reduction, and is crucial to the attainment of the sustainable development goals. The results of the Africa Infrastructure Country Diagnostic show that investment in infrastructure accounts for more than 50 per cent of the recent improvement in economic growth in Africa and that it has the potential to achieve even more. In spite of its enormous mineral and other natural resources, Africa has the lowest

productivity of any region in the world. This is largely attributed to serious infrastructural shortcomings across all the subsectors: energy, water, sanitation, transportation and communications technology.

Africa's infrastructure deficit limits regional-integration initiatives, raises transaction costs of business and limits growth. It is estimated to reduce Africa's annual growth by at least 2 percentage points. Infrastructure is also critical for the promotion of inclusive and sustainable growth. Rural infrastructure, notably feeder roads and transmission lines that connect rural communities to national grids, enable individuals, households, communities and small businesses to embark on income-generating activities. Infrastructure development will also support sustainable development by enabling Africa to tap into its abundant renewable energy or environment-friendly sources of energy such as solar, wind, geothermal and hydropower, as it is well endowed in all of these.

Current regional initiatives, such as Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA), should continue vigorously to support infrastructure development on the continent. Regional initiatives must be based on environmentally sound considerations and technologies and must focus on developing transportation, rural infrastructure and market access, energy, information and communication technologies, as well as trans-boundary water basins.

Key social development issues and priorities

Poverty, inequality and social exclusion

Although the incidence of extreme poverty is on the decline in many countries, progress towards poverty eradication remains slow and Africa is not on course to attain the Millennium Development Goal of halving the number of people living in extreme poverty by 2015. Poverty remains the major challenge: 48 per cent (nearly half) of Africans are in extreme poverty, and 72 per cent of the youth population lives on less than \$2 a day. Burundi, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia have youth poverty rates of more than 80 per cent (Mubila, Lannes and Ben Aissa, 2012).

Africa continues to record one of the highest income inequalities among regions of the world as indicated by the Gini coefficient and by the proportion of the national income or consumption associated with different segments of the population. The Gini coefficient for Africa was 44.2 in 2008, ranking it second-highest region after Latin America and the Caribbean (Ortiz and Cummins, 2011). A 1 per cent rise in inequality increases poverty by 2.2 per cent in Africa, where gender inequalities persist. In Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire and Mauritania, women's wages are almost half the wages of men for similar work (ECA, 2014). The high income inequalities in the region mean that basic services are not accessed equally by all citizens. The worst affected include the poorest 20 per cent of people in most countries, making it difficult to address poverty and reduce the vulnerabilities of these segments of the population. Less than 5 per cent of the working-age population is covered by basic protection.

Poverty is multi-dimensional and linked to other sustainable-development priorities identified in this report, including education, health, access to drinking water, sanitation and other basic services. This multi-dimensional nature of poverty means that tackling poverty using an interlinkages approach would provide the opportunity to address other sustainable priorities in an efficient and effective manner. Africa's performance in terms of access to clean water, sanitation, energy and decent housing remains inadequate, with stark disparities between rural and urban areas. Addressing poverty in all its dimensions in Africa will require complex institutional and governance reforms that enhance the accountability of the State, raise the quality of service delivery and improve the overall economic and social environment, including in education, health, energy and housing.

Education

The education sector in Africa has recorded steady improvements over the years. It is becoming the norm to attend primary school, with most countries having achieved universal primary enrolment (above 90 per cent). Nearly half of African countries have achieved gender parity in primary school.

However, a few challenges remain in terms of quality of education, completion rates, secondary- and tertiary-level enrolment, reform in educational systems and curricula, teaching capacity and infrastructure. The quality of primary education has been of particular concern. Lower secondary education extends and consolidates the basic skills learned in primary school; upper secondary school deepens general education and adds technical and vocational skills. Neither is possible, however, without ensuring that all children complete a good quality primary education and this is a prerequisite in building the skills that individuals, societies and economies need.

Higher levels of education are important for students to acquire the skills needed by employers and to engage in technical and entrepreneurial activities. Basic literacy and numeracy alone are not enough to get a good job. Secondary school enrolment is an important channel through which young people acquire skills that improve opportunities for good jobs. It was 40 per cent in Africa (excluding North Africa) in 2010, compared with above the 90 per cent in developed countries and South East Asia (UNESCO, 2012). High-quality secondary education that caters to the widest possible range of abilities, interests and backgrounds is vital for the well-being of youth and provides countries with the educated workforce needed to compete in today's technologically driven world.

In addition to this, the poor education infrastructure and the quantity and quality of teachers pose serious constraints to educational attainment. The number of teachers increased by 59 per cent between 1999 and 2010 but the number of new teachers needed in Africa only to achieve universal primary education has been calculated at more than 2 million (UNESCO, 2012). In many countries, the proportion of teachers trained to national standards is very low, and teachers may often lack the necessary subject knowledge and ability to deliver instruction effectively.

While public expenditures in education have steadily increased over the years, much needs to be done in terms of investments in higher education, education infrastructure, strategic planning and reform of education curricula to make education relevant to the skills required by the labour market, as well as overall quality enhancement.

Water, sanitation and access to basic services

Globally the Millennium Development Goal commitment to halve the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water by 2015 was met globally in 2010, five years ahead of time. However, Africa still accounts for 40 per cent of the people without access to safe drinking water worldwide. Most of the continent is off track in meeting the target for improved sanitation facilities and coverage of improved sanitation increased by a mere 4 percentage points during 1990 to 2010, with stark disparities between urban and rural areas.

Lack of basic sanitation undermines efforts to end extreme poverty and disease in Africa's poorest communities, especially in rural and informal urban settlements. Safe water and sanitation are vital for human health and social dignity, as well as healthy ecosystems and productive livelihoods. Lack of clean water and poor sanitation are lead causes of child mortality with over 2,000 daily deaths of children from diarrhoeal diseases, largely spread through poor sanitation and hygiene. Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by the rampant scarcities of clean water and adequate sanitation.

Demography and population growth

The United Nations Secretary-General's High Level Panel report on Global Sustainability (UN, 2012b) reaffirmed that the impact of population growth is one of key drivers of the planet's sustainable develop-

ment challenge. The report further highlights the need to understand demographic change, particularly in developing countries where there are large youth populations, and makes clear the importance of integrating population dynamics into effective government policies.

Africa's population is projected to rise from 1 billion to 1.6 billion by 2030 and is forecast to double by 2050 (AfDB, 2011). Combined with current risks, vulnerabilities and challenges posed by poverty, hunger, disease, production and consumption patterns, and climate change, this population growth will place increased pressure on land, oceans, fresh water and other natural resources that sustain human life. This calls for appropriate measures to be put in place now to ensure that future efforts yield results in eradicating poverty and inequality; combating hunger, malnutrition and overall food insecurity; increasing access to energy; developing sustainable cities; and mitigating the impacts of natural and human-made disasters.

Africa has a growing youth population estimated at over 60 per cent of the region's total population and 45 per cent of the total labour force. With the right policies and essential support, such as education and health care, such a large youthful population offers tremendous opportunities as they enter the labour market. This includes their potential for innovation and ability to adopt new technologies, potentially accelerating economic progress and speeding up the transition to sustainable development. Sustained economic growth can create employment and allow for necessary social investments but it can also lead to resource degradation and depletion, and ultimately negate economic achievements if it is not based on sound environmental policies.

Africa's demographic structure offers a potential demographic bonus but this requires special attention. Current high levels of extreme poverty in many countries may mean there are formidable and multi-faceted challenges to realize this demographic bonus fully through maintaining or increasing per-capita spending on education and health care. Governments will require policies that especially focus on large youth populations and improve access to family planning, reproductive rights and health services. Such policies will not only reduce maternal and child mortality, but also slow population growth, help end the intergenerational transmission of poverty and ultimately lighten the burden on families as well as on countries with poor natural-resource endowments.

Comprehensive policies should also be put in place to ensure dignity in old age through sustainable pension systems, health care, housing, long-term care and appropriate income-support systems to elderly people.

Urbanization and sustainable human settlements

Although Africa is the least urbanized region of the world, with an urban population of only 38 per cent, it has the fastest urban growth rate of 4.5 per cent.³ United Nations projections indicate that Africa will become 50 per cent urban by 2035, and that this figure may rise further to nearly 60 per cent by 2050, if "moderate" growth-rate projections materialize (UNDESA, 2012). Between 2010 and 2050, the number of African urban dwellers will increase from about 400 million to 1.26 billion – greater than the current total population of the continent and nearly a quarter of the world's projected urban population. This growth is as a result of rural-urban migration, natural population growth and the spatial reclassification of urban areas.

Africa's changing landscape and its increasingly urban future have enormous implications for human development, as well as for the structural transformation of Africa's economies and sustained economic growth, among other effects. Cities now account for around 55 per cent on average of the gross domestic products of African economies.

Historically, urbanization has had a close association with the rise of the modern industrial and service economy as well as a demographic transition to lower rates of births and deaths and it has been associ-

³ The United Nations Population Division reports the official urbanization rates for most countries by decade from 1960 to 2010 (<http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/index.htm>).

ated with better health standards in urban areas. It has also been associated with improved human development, rising incomes and better living standards. But this potential has not been fully harnessed in Africa. The authors of a UN-Habitat concept note put it aptly: “Urbanization is neither given priority by national governments, politicians, bureaucrats and technocrats alike nor fully grasped by the population at large. This neglect is revealed in the failure by African policymakers to prioritize urbanization challenges and harness cities as drivers of development. Urbanization carries on without concurrent economic development and without systematic urban planning, which leads to urban poverty and chaotic physical expansion. Urban centres are expanding without adequate planning and yet there is no appreciable drive by relevant government departments to carry everyone along with their plans for addressing the urban challenges.” (UN-Habitat, 2013).

The observed urban growth has not generated the desired human, social and economic outcomes. Some 60-80 per cent of urban Africans still live in slum conditions characterized by overcrowding, inadequate housing, insecure tenure and lack of access to water and sanitation. These conditions are associated with health, social and environmental vulnerabilities.

It is imperative that the problems posed by rapid urbanization are addressed and the opportunities they present are harnessed in this time of increased economic growth of a number of African countries. Africa must reposition its cities as drivers of development. For this to happen, it needs to put in place new policy approaches and prioritize urbanization as a transformative force for sustainable development at all levels. Addressing urban poverty and slum conditions will require engaging urban poor majorities at an unprecedented level in defining the policy solutions needed and in better integrating social economies, informal economies and formal economic systems. Achieving sustainable cities requires consideration of the dynamic nature of cities over time. Forward-looking urban policies would help countries make use of economies of scale in the provision of vital infrastructure, including land, housing, water, sanitation and transport. Planned urbanization can also lead to retention of essential green spaces and ecosystems.

Health

Health is both a determinant and outcome of sustainable development interventions. Health is inextricably linked to other sustainable development outcomes, including better education, higher productivity and consequently higher wages in later life. Healthy children are able to learn better and achieve higher grades since they suffer less from school absenteeism and early drop-out. Prevalence of stunting in early childhood in Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda is in the range of 40–67 per cent and this is reflected later in life by its effect on the working-age population with substantial potential gross domestic product productivity loss of 0.5–3.8 per cent (ECA, 2013). Economist Jean-Louis Arcand found that poor health due to malnutrition could decrease annual gross domestic product per capita growth by 0.23 to 4.7 per cent worldwide (Arcand, 2001).

Health is a crucially important economic asset for people experiencing extreme poverty (WHO, 2003). Loss of health and productivity pose major problems for socially vulnerable people and their families. When a poor individual or a member of a poor family falls ill, the entire household may be forced to address the health needs of the sick by skipping school, missing opportunities to gain income and selling prized livelihood assets. In Oyo State, Nigeria, malaria was responsible for the loss of 64 workdays a year for agrarian households and in Ethiopia 42 person-days a year were devoted to taking care of a child with malaria (Asenso-Okyere and others, 2011). Healthier individuals often have the ability and incentive to save more, since they have a longer lifespan and lower medical expenses. Bloom and Canning (2000) show that health improvements would lift 30 million people out of absolute poverty by 2015.

Health and health-related events can be catastrophic and plunge people further into poverty due to loss of incomes and high health-care costs in the absence of health insurance. Out-of-pocket health payments deepen the level of poverty, leading to vicious cycles of poverty and ill health if left unattended. Social health protection is vital to address the health and financial risks to which vulnerable people are exposed.

Despite steady progress on the health front, Africa is still confronts the world's most dramatic public health crisis (WHO, 2014). The World Health Organization's 2014 report indicates that HIV/AIDS continues to devastate the region. More than 90 per cent of the estimated 300–500 million malaria cases that occur worldwide every year are in Africa, mainly in children under five years of age, but most countries are moving towards better treatment policies. Most African countries are making good progress on preventable childhood illness, including polio and measles, through increased immunization coverage but some hurdles still remain, including the high rate of maternal and newborn mortality and the strain on African health systems from life-threatening communicable diseases, coupled with increasing rates of non-communicable diseases such as cancer, hypertension and coronary heart disease.

Strengthening the fragile health system and addressing basic hygiene and health education are important in addressing Africa's health challenges. Insufficient funding remains the most significant threat to the health systems in the region. Resources are needed for the health systems to respond effectively to the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases, including cancers, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases, that are set to rise over the coming decades. Sustainable development programmes that improve or preserve the quality of water, air and other environmental goods and services will obviously lower national health budgets and ensure a healthy labour force.

Youth unemployment

Africa has a growing youth population estimated at over 60 per cent of the region's total population and 45 per cent of the total labour force – the youngest and fastest-growing in the world. As reported in the *Economic Report on Africa 2014* (ECA, 2014): "Although official youth unemployment rates in Africa (excluding North Africa) are lower than in most other regions", they are twice as high as adult unemployment rates (estimated in 2012 at 11.8 per cent youth unemployment rate and around 6 per cent adult unemployment).

"While the lack of skills is the common hurdle for youths trying to enter the labour market, sometimes the lack of jobs and the mismatch between skills demanded and supplied are the main sources of unemployment (African Economic Outlook, 2012). In Egypt, 70 per cent of the unemployed are 15–29 years old and around 60 per cent of them have a university degree, meaning that there is a very high level of 'educated unemployment' (AUC, 2013a)." Generally, although the current generation of Africans entering the labour force is the most educated ever, many are finding that their prospects for employment and earning differ very little from those of their parents (World Bank, 2014). On average about 72 per cent of the youth population in Africa lives on less than \$2 a day.

The region is making efforts to rise to the challenges of youth unemployment. The Seventeenth African Union Summit, held in 2011 in Malabo, was devoted to the theme of "*accelerating youth empowerment for sustainable development*". Some recent major African Union meetings, in particular those of March 2010, April 2011 and July 2011, provided opportunities to raise related themes of youth unemployment. In Yaoundé in 2011, African Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs, the African Union, employers' federations and trade unions committed to reduce unemployment of young people and of women by at least 2 per cent a year over five years and to harmonize labour-market information systems by supporting the development, implementation and evaluation of employment policies.

The large youth population not in employment, education or training is a growing group of discouraged unemployed youth. The represents a potential threat to social cohesion and political stability in many African societies and demands a greater sense of urgency. Concrete policies and actions are needed, including: increased investment in education and training; increased investment to improve the integration of young people into economic, political and social life; introduction of technical and vocational training that is responsive to labour-market needs; and enhanced participation in decision-making processes.

Gender and women's empowerment

Africa continues to record progress on gender equality and women's empowerment. Many countries are making remarkable performance, especially on gender parity in primary-school education and number of seats held by women in parliament. Challenges remain in promoting women in paid employment outside agriculture; cultural practices such as inequitable inheritance practices, early marriage and household power dynamics; and lack of equitable economic opportunities.

The need to do more is imperative. Enhancing gender equality and empowering women is critical to achieving a broad range of the sustainable development goals proposed in this report. For example, the more women are educated, the more they tend to delay marriage and pregnancies, leading to lower likelihood of maternal and child death during childbirth and greater probability that children will be strong enough to attend school and survive into adulthood. Better-educated mothers have the skills to compete for high-skilled and well-paid jobs and will therefore be in a better position to feed, care for and educate their children. Empowering women and girls through education also enables them to be involved in decisions at all levels, from the household through to local and national levels, and influence the allocation of resources in a gender-sensitive manner. This contributes to higher productivity, which increases economic growth and resources (in the form of taxes and additional incomes) to finance investments in social services (ECA, 2012). Countries that invest in promoting the social and economic status of women tend to have lower poverty rates and an extra year of secondary schooling can increase girls' future wages by 10–20 per cent (World Bank, 2011).

The cost to society of not investing in gender equality and female empowerment can be heavy. Over 2005–2015, wide gender gaps in education at primary and secondary levels were estimated to reduce economic growth by 0.4 percentage points annually, increase birth rates by about one child per woman, increase child deaths by 32 per year (per 1,000 live births) and raise by 2.5 percentage points the prevalence of underweight children (Abu-Ghaida and Klasen, 2004).

In order to accelerate the enhancement of gender equity and women's empowerment, policy changes should be directed at addressing discrimination against girls and women in educational systems, encouraging greater participation of women in productive and remunerative economic activities and increasing women's voices in making decisions at all levels of society. Economic and social policies that respond better to the needs of men and women – including affirmative action strategies, the reform of customary laws that discriminate against women and girls, and more human and financial resources to enforce and implement such laws – are crucial for meeting this goal. And countries with educational disparities against boys should address that issue (ECA, 2012).

D. Environment and natural resources issues and priorities

Africa's sustainable development largely depends on goods and services derived from its environment and natural resource base. The land, soil, water, forest, biodiversity, marine ecosystems and mineral resources form the basis of primary production and support most of the sectors that drive socioeconomic development in Africa. Agriculture, tourism, industry, mining and many forms of local, national, regional and international trade thrive on the goods and services provided by natural resources. The consumption and production patterns based on these resources also determine the pace of sustainable development (SDSN, 2013). The management of natural capital is critical as Africa pursues sustainable growth pathways. This will require innovative strategies for sustainably maximizing social, economic and ecological benefits from these resources.

Land

Land lies at the heart of social, cultural, spiritual, political and economic life in most of Africa. Land and natural resources are key assets for economic growth and development. In fact, most African economies

continue to rely heavily on agriculture and natural resources for a significant share of national income, food needs and employment. In practice, land rights claimed and allocated by governments often conflict with the land-tenure practices of local communities. As a result, land tenure and shelter are insecure for many Africans in both urban and rural areas. In addition, land remains extremely inequitably distributed, especially in the former settler economies of southern Africa, with the majority of rural people excluded from access to the most productive and valuable land.

As reported in the *Rio+20 Progress towards Sustainable Development in Africa* report (ECA, 2012b): “More than 30 per cent of the global dry lands are located in susceptible dry-land regions in North Africa, the Sahel and the southern part of Africa. They cover almost 2 billion hectares in 25 countries, representing 65 per cent of the region’s land mass. Over 400 million people live in the dry lands and the majority of them are the rural poor, with an annual population growth rate of 3 per cent. The dry land is under threat from deforestation, soil erosion, nutrient mining, recurrent drought and climate change, potentially resulting in land degradation, desertification and aggravated poverty. Sustainable agricultural innovations are key to limiting adverse impacts on the environment and on the livelihoods of rural populations (ECA and OECD, 2011). Without complementary societal and government actions, markets can be weak on environmental sustainability, and therefore will tend to create the conditions for environmental degradation (UNDP, 2010).”

Reliance on land as a principal source of livelihoods and as a basis for economic development in Africa is likely to persist in the foreseeable future. This calls for the continued formulation and implementation of appropriate land policies to create better livelihoods for the poor, as well as increased private investment in agriculture. In fact, the importance of land in Africa is multifaceted and central to the achievement of the sustainable development goals. Sound policies and effective land administration and information systems are necessary to address Africa’s twin land-related challenges of: (a) facilitating investment and generation of economic opportunities, and (b) guaranteeing secure land access to the rural and urban poor as a basis for improved livelihoods, food security and poverty reduction. (ECA, 2008). Initiatives such as the Pan African Framework on Land Policy for Securing Rights, Enhancing Productivity and Improving Livelihoods, UN-Habitat’s benchmarks and indicators of land policy and land reforms, the Land Policy Initiative by the African Union Commission, ECA and the African Development Bank, and the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) have supported countries in putting in place sustainable land-management systems.

Forests

Africa has made steady progress towards sustainable forest management in the last decade, compared to the 1990–2000 period. The net loss of forest area has slowed down, and the areas of forest designated for the conservation of biological diversity and included in protected areas have slightly increased (FAO, 2010). The percentage change in forest area was positive in 8 countries, negative in 37 countries and there was no change in forest area in 6 countries, both during 2000-2005 and 2005-2010. Inclusive green growth approaches can contribute to preserving forest resources and their ecosystems services. African countries must intensify efforts towards realizing the 10 per cent forest cover target through sustainable forest and land-use management, as part of inclusive green growth initiatives.

Biodiversity

The sustainable management of natural resources is also reflected in the conservation of biological diversity. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature in 2011, reports the highest number of threatened species of birds, mammals and fish in East Africa, followed by West Africa. The least number of threatened species of birds, mammals, fish and higher plants was observed in Southern Africa. With regard to critically endangered and vulnerable animal species, the number was highest in East Africa, followed by Southern Africa, while it was least in North Africa. The decline in the status of biodiversity may erode the benefits that accrue from the continent’s biodiversity resources. Sustainable development efforts should target preserving habitats, reducing the number of threatened species and halting further extinction of species. There have been efforts to reduce

biodiversity loss through protecting terrestrial forests. Terrestrial protected areas are totally or partially protected areas of at least 1,000 hectares that are designated by national authorities as strategic reserves with limited public access, national parks, natural monuments, nature reserves or wildlife sanctuaries, protected landscapes and areas managed mainly for sustainable use.

Mineral resources

Africa is rich in many types of mineral deposits. It has the highest potential for precious metals, base metals and diamonds, and produces tons of metal and mineral products. Several renowned strategic minerals and metals including gold, platinum, diamond, uranium, tantalum, manganese, chromium, nickel, bauxite and cobalt are produced in Africa. Although Africa is still under primary exploration, it hosts about 30 per cent of the planet's mineral reserves, including more than 80 per cent of the global platinum, chromium, and tantalum and more than 40 per cent of the gold, diamond, cobalt, manganese and phosphate. These reserves make Africa a strategic producer of these valuable metals. Metallic deposits are concentrated in Central and Southern Africa. In 2010, the exports of fuels and mining products accounted for about 58 per cent of total African exports.

The mining industry accounts for a substantial proportion of the gross domestic product in several African countries, although many countries are yet to benefit fully from mineral riches due to conflicts in some subregions that destabilize development and constrain new investment in mineral exploration and development. Africa's enormous mineral-resource endowment continues to provide limited contribution to poverty eradication. Discovery of oil and mineral resources is reported to be doing little to improve prospects for poor people. In response to critical sustainable development issues in the mining sector, the African Union launched the African Minerals Development Centre (AMDC) in December 2013 at the Mineral Resources Ministers' Conference in Maputo. The centre aims to enhance the capacity of African mining countries to derive economic and social benefits from implementing the Africa Mining Vision.

Freshwater resources

The interconnected system of Africa's inland freshwater and marine water resources is critical for human activities. Water is vital for all sectors. It is an input to industry, integral to hydropower generation and vital for tourism, subsistence and commercial agriculture, fisheries and livestock production. The agricultural sector remains the biggest user of water resources in Africa, representing 85 per cent of the total annual water withdrawals while domestic and industrial withdrawals stand at 10 per cent and 5 per cent respectively. The rapid population growth has resulted in a tripling of water withdrawals over the past three decades due to food demands and escalating industrial growth, thus causing increasing water scarcity in the region. This hampers development by limiting food production, health and industrial development. Climate change is exacerbating these negative trends.

Water withdrawal trends continue to be the same and efforts to conserve water as a renewable resource must focus on sustainable consumption, maintenance of water quality, reduction of waste and improvement in water-use efficiency in all sectors. Of utmost importance is efficiency improvements in agricultural water use since the sector is the continent's largest consumer of water. This should encompass the delivery and application of water in ways that enhance crops, livestock and aquaculture and water productivity in order to meet the rising food demand and competition from non-agricultural users.

Marine resources

Africa's marine ecosystems include oceans and seas, estuaries, coral reefs, mangrove forests, wetlands and dunes. These are important for several aspects of sustainable development and services, such as coastal stabilization from severe weather and rises in sea level, regulation of water quality and quantity, biodiversity and spawning habitat for many aquatic species. Sustainable management of these marine resources is crucial to the livelihoods of coastal communities as they seldom have other livelihood alternatives. Fish resources in particular provide livelihoods and contribute to food security. Up to 10 million people are employed in the fisheries sector in Africa and fish provide up to 70 per cent of the daily animal protein intake in some coastal countries. The sector also generates foreign exchange and public revenues. In

Mauritania and Guinea-Bissau, for example, the marine-fisheries sector contributes 25 to 30 per cent of government budgetary receipts.

The extent of sustainable use of marine ecosystems is captured by trends in the proportion of fish stock where exploitation remains within their safe biological limits. This indicator provides an important reference for policymaking related to sustainable management of fish stocks at the national level, regionally and at the global level. About 57.4 per cent of fish stocks were estimated to be fully exploited in 2009. On the other hand, the percentage of marine fish stocks that were overexploited and outside their safe biological limits has been increasing while the proportion of non-fully exploited stocks has been declining. From 1990 to 2009, the percentage of marine fish stocks that was overexploited outside their safe biological limits was higher than the percentage of marine fish stocks that were fully exploited outside their safe biological limits. Further, 29.9 per cent of marine fish stocks in 2009 were overexploited and outside their safe biological limits, compared to 18.6 per cent in 1990.

Climate change

Achieving sustainable development necessitates addressing climate variability and change as an inevitable and urgent global challenge with long-term implications for human and ecological systems. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2007), a warming climatic system is expected to impact the availability of basic necessities such as freshwater, food security, and energy. Efforts to address climate change, both through adaptation and mitigation, will also inform and shape the sustainable development agenda.

African countries continue to design and implement National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs) to guide country-level adaptation strategies. By December 2013, a total of 34 African countries had developed and submitted their national programmes to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, up from 28 in 2008. Countries that have submitted their programmes are eligible to adaptation funding for least-developed countries, which is managed by the Global Environment Facility. Designing adaptation measures requires: strengthening systematic and local context-based approaches of anticipation and preparedness; developing preventive measures and structures for tolerance, recovery and restoration capacities; mainstreaming risk management in sustainable development processes; and carrying out cost-benefit assessments of adaptation options. Institutional learning is important at all stages of the adaptation planning process. These elements should be reflected in national plans of action.

African countries, like those in other developing regions, are keen to contribute to reducing emissions in the context of sustainable development. Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, countries are increasingly implementing nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) supported and enabled by technology, financing and capacity-building. This is aimed at achieving by 2020 a reduction in emissions relative to the levels of emissions forecast under “business as usual” scenarios. By December 2013, 27 African countries were among 57 countries that had submitted their national mitigation actions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC, 2013). The national mitigation actions are diverse and range from project-based mitigation actions to economy-wide initiatives to reduce emissions. If implemented effectively, national mitigation actions are bound to contribute to the countries’ sustainable development and further propel the adoption of inclusive green growth principles through, among others, clean development mechanisms.

Natural disasters

The African population and the natural ecosystems are highly prone to natural disasters. The vulnerability of the population to natural disasters is heightened by the interaction with natural resources in the pursuit of livelihoods and development even in risky ecosystems. Natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic activity, landslides, tsunamis, tropical cyclones and other severe storms, tornadoes and high winds, river floods and coastal flooding, wildfires and associated haze, drought, sand or dust storms, and insect infestations cause major loss of human lives and livelihoods, the destruction of economic and social infrastructure, and general environmental damage.

In Africa, the overall human and economic losses due to disasters have been increasing due to the increased frequency of natural disasters and the vulnerability, especially of the poor, to cases of drought, earthquake, epidemic, extreme temperature, flood, insect invasion, storm, wild fire, volcanic eruption, landslides and other disasters. Africa's level of preparedness to natural disasters has not changed significantly. The number of countries with established and operational national platforms on disaster preparedness/disaster prevention and mitigation instruments remains largely the same. Efforts to reduce fatalities and manage the disasters are improving. For example, the number of countries with established and operational national platforms on disaster preparedness and/or disaster prevention and mitigation instruments is increasing, but capacity issues continue to constrain preparedness and response.

Chemicals and waste management

Sound management of chemicals is essential to achieving sustainable development, including the eradication of poverty and disease, the improvement of human health and the environment and the elevation and maintenance of the standard of living of people in all countries and at all levels of development. As chemical use and production increases, Africa's chemical management institutions, which already have limited resources and capacity, will be further constrained and overburdened. Measures and systems need to be developed to reduce exposure to negative impacts and to reduce human vulnerability, while examining the significant gaps in policy integration and institutional coordination related to implementation of chemicals-related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) at the regional, national and local levels (ECA, 2008).

The increased generation of wastes is driven by population growth, industrialization and rising living standards. The problem of solid-waste management is a growing source of concern in African countries, particularly in urban centres, and is identified as one of the major challenges in the promotion of sustainable consumption and production in Africa. Industrial, electronic and medical waste is also increasing rapidly in many countries, and some of this is hazardous waste. African cities have not been able to set up adequate systems for the collection of municipal and industrial waste due to poor infrastructure, limited resources and lack of proper urban management systems (ECA and others, 2010). There is need to: obtain adequate finance for the management of wastes; promote integrated management of hazardous wastes through use of waste minimization and cleaner production technologies; use efficient, sound and affordable technologies adaptable to African environment; review relevant legislations in order to promote efficient management of hazardous waste; invest in research and development for new technology and waste-minimization options for industries; and make multilateral environmental agreements on wastes more closely integrated into domestic frameworks.

Many African countries are signatories to a number of multilateral environmental agreements, which provide frameworks for addressing environmental challenges. These include the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). At regional and subregional levels, Africa has endorsed a number of agreements and protocols for the protection and management of the environment. Various actions are being taken to promote collaboration and harmonization of national laws, policies, strategies and programmes. The implementation of commitments has been guided by institutions set up at the regional and subregional levels, including the African Union through its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) agenda, and the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). However, challenges abound in spite of the progress in implementing commitments and efforts at establishing institutional frameworks. Mechanisms and institutional systems dealing with environmental issues are still weak. There is still insufficient public awareness about the causes and magnitude of environmental problems and the consequences of not dealing with them.

The region has enormous potential to benefit from an environmentally friendly development outlook. However, this will entail, among other initiatives:

- Strengthen policy and implementation capacities, including reforms of environmentally harmful approaches, while incentivizing environmentally-friendly approaches

- Pursue improvements in international environmental governance for improved response to Africa's sustainable development needs
- Step up financing and other means of implementation for environmental sustainability initiatives
- Encourage the development and application of measures of growth performance, which account and adjust for environmental issues/concerns and outcomes
- Invest and participate in collaborative research geared towards improving and deeper understanding of environmental and climate-related challenges, as well as how ecosystems such as forests and marine ecosystems can generate multiple benefits to support improved livelihoods.

Changes in production processes and consumption behaviour are fundamental to sustainable development. As Africa pursues industrialization driven by structural transformation and inevitably uses natural resources, more attention needs to be paid to sustainable consumption and production practices. It is imperative that current efforts are accelerated by governments, the private sector, local communities and individuals to improve social and environmental accountability of production and consumption processes.

E. Governance, policy and institutional reforms

Central to the achievement of the sustainable development goals and targets is good governance and effective policies and institutions at national level. Governments in the region will need to continue to pursue relentlessly programmes to raise the propitiousness of the enabling environment through governance reforms, refinement of the policy, legal and regulatory frameworks, functionality and effectiveness of public institutions, as well as efficient public-service delivery. These have significant effects on the participation of the private sector in investment financing and infrastructure development and on attracting foreign direct investment. Resourcing the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and strengthening the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency for effective implementation and monitoring of the resulting national plans of action will continue to yield good governance dividends. Good governance and effective institutions are overarching requirements for sustainable growth and development. They provide the desired level of investors' confidence for the proposed financing instruments to thrive.

Platforms are needed for regular consultation and collaboration between policymakers and other stakeholders regularly to review and improve the state of governance, policies and institutions. Where these already exist, they should be further strengthened. These platforms include the recent proposal by New Partnership for Africa's Development Agency (2013) on the possible establishment of a High-Level African Union Business Council, which could continually guide the development of innovative financial products and services to raise domestic savings and mobilize resources through appropriate instruments. It is envisaged that the Council would also provide guides for the review of rates and financial policies to ensure that these are not left entirely to market forces, but appropriately guided without causing financial repression.

As part of governance measures, the region needs to do more to track, report, stop and repatriate illicit financial flows. Repatriated funds will significantly augment available domestic resources for development programmes and projects.

F. Means of implementation

The means of the implementation for the sustainable development goals and targets discussed in this report consist of financial and technical resources required to achieve sustainable development goals. They include domestic and external financial resources, education and capacity development, regional integration, trade and market access, development and transfer of environmentally-sound technologies, good governance and effective institutions, reform of international financial and development institutions, and

South-South Cooperation. Most of these also related to specific goals targets identified at the regional level. These are discussed in the next chapter (Chapter V) on the means of implementation.

G. *Linkages among priorities*

Poverty restricts access to nutritious food, health care, good education, clean water and improved sanitation facilities. Poor governance, which leads to social exclusion, conflicts and insecurity, diverts resources from growth and poverty-eradicating programmes. This, in turn, worsens deprivation and poverty. Corruption and ineffective public institutions raise the cost of development programmes, thus reducing the potential scale of interventions and the proportion of the population that can benefit. With agricultural output largely dependent on small-scale producers, of which women make a significantly large proportion, empowering women through better access to land, credit, education, non-agricultural employment, equal pay and appointment to decision-making positions will contribute immensely in enhancing their productive capacity, improving childcare and nutritional status and reducing overall levels of poverty. Women bear the brunt of poverty, more than men, and this has significant implications for societal wellbeing. Lack of social inclusion and security heightens tension and conflict in society. This creates an environment that is less conducive for investment and stable economic growth.

Sustained growth in the real sectors of an economy, coupled with equitable distribution of income, provides opportunities for a progressively larger proportion of a population to participate in the growth and development processes, share in the fruits of economic growth and have a sense of inclusion in development. Growth is a prerequisite for the creation of employment opportunities to reduce the challenge of youth unemployment, reduce poverty and thus provide access to food, good health and quality education, and eradicate slums. Growth however is driven by fundamentals, which include availability of infrastructure, investments and capacity. A context of severe infrastructure deficit, as is the case in Africa, exerts a significant constraint on growth and this leads to the need to scale up infrastructure spending. Such spending will however not be possible without domestic financial resources, which depends on tax revenues that can only grow through sustained economic growth. Investments are also largely a function of a peaceful and stable political environment, among other factors, while capacity depends on the quality of education and institutions.

The quality of education, the nature of infrastructure, the capacity of economies to grow, sensible exploitation of natural resources and savings made for future investments determine intergenerational equity in the development process. Overexploitation of natural resources depletes capacity for future growth. Unsustainable consumption and production, high carbon intensity of production processes, poor waste management which leads to pollution, deforestation and poor agricultural practices contribute to increases in greenhouse-gas emissions, which raise the level of global warming and the risks of climate change. Environmental degradation, which results in loss of biodiversity and ecosystems, raises the cost of growth for future generations.

H. *Proposed sustainable development goals, targets and indicators 2016-2030*

Informed by the foregoing regional sustainable development situational analyses, and the subregional surveys and consultations, the regional sustainable development goals, presented in Table 2, are proposed to feed into the ongoing discussions and consultations on the sustainable development goals and post-2015 development agenda. Table 3 presents the sustainable development goals in more detailed form, to include related targets and indicators.

It may be contentious to rank one goal over the other, given the differences in subregional priorities and the difficulty of direct comparability of the sustainable development issues identified, there is however a

consensus that the region must place eradication of all forms of poverty, extreme hunger, sustainable agriculture and achievement of food security and adequate nutrition for all as its top priorities.

The proposed sustainable development goals are subject to further refinement, based on new information and developments. The targets and indicators are also expected to undergo a continuous refinement process to complement the most suitable set of goals that will guide the region's development beyond 2015. The sustainable development indicator set for the fifth issue of the Sustainable Development Report on Africa could be useful in the refinement process. The indicator set, which embodies the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as governance aspects, was developed through an iterative consultative process involving all relevant stakeholders, which began in 2011.

Table 2: Proposed regional sustainable development goals

Goal 1:	Eliminate all forms of poverty
Goal 2:	Promote sustainable agriculture and achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all
Goal 3:	Ensure quality, adequate, affordable, accessible and comprehensive health services for all
Goal 4:	Achieve universal access to affordable and quality education at all level
Goal 5:	Achieve gender equality, protect and empower women, youth and persons in vulnerable conditions
Goal 6:	Ensure social inclusion and protection, including guaranteed minimum income and social security as well as decent employment for all, particularly for the youth
Goal 7:	Structurally transform economies and attain inclusive sustained economic growth; accelerate infrastructure development, inclusive and sustainable industrialization and access to affordable energy; and build resilient cities and sustainable human settlements
Goal 8:	Enhance environmental quality, resilience and protection; and promote sustainable exploitation, use and management of natural resources
Goal 9:	Combat desertification and land degradation, mitigate drought and promote sustainable management of land and oceans
Goal 10:	Promote culture, research, science, innovation and technology development
Goal 11:	Scale up global and regional partnerships for development
Goal 12:	Promote good governance at national and international levels

Table 3: African region's sustainable development goals, targets and indicators

Goals	Targets	Indicators
Goal 1 Eradicate all forms of poverty	1.1 Eliminate absolute poverty and reduce to 0 the number of people who live on less than \$1.25 per day by 2030 in urban and rural areas	1. Per cent of population living on less than \$1.25 a day 2. Poverty headcount
Goal 2 Promote sustainable agriculture and achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all	2.1 End food aid dependency by 2030 2.2 Scale up irrigation agriculture by 2025 2.3 Double agricultural productivity by 2030 2.4 Reduce post-harvest losses by 75 per cent by 2025 2.5 Achieve 0 avoidable losses by 2030 2.6 Double nutrition status by 2025	1. Per cent of population depending on food aid 2. Proportion of farmland under irrigation 3. Per cent growth in agricultural productivity 4. Per cent of underweight children 5. National nutrition status 6. Per cent of population chronically hungry 7. Proportion of population below minimum level of dietary energy consumption 8. Per cent of post-harvest losses 9. Growth in investments in agriculture relative to National Agriculture and Food Security Investment Plans

Goal 3	Goals	Targets	Indicators
	Ensure quality, adequate, affordable, accessible and comprehensive health services for all	<p>3.1 Raise life expectancy at birth to a minimum of 60 years by 2020, 70-80 years by 2030</p> <p>3.2 Ensure universal access to quality basic health services and essential medicines by 2030</p> <p>3.3 Reduce to 0 preventable infant, under-five and maternal mortality rates by 2030</p> <p>3.4 Reduce by 50 per cent the number of deaths from cardiovascular and non-communicable diseases by 2030</p> <p>3.5 Reduce to 25 per cent the incidence of cardiovascular and non-communicable diseases by 2030</p> <p>3.6 Reduce by 75 per cent of HIV/AIDS new infections by 2030</p> <p>3.7 Reduce by 80 per cent tuberculosis infections by 2030</p> <p>3.8 Eradicate 80 per cent of deaths from malaria by 2030</p> <p>3.9 Reduce to 25 per cent the incidence of malaria by 2030</p> <p>3.10 Achieve at least 60 per cent target of building medical facility for every 1,000 population by 2030</p> <p>3.11 Produce 80 per cent of medicines locally by 2030</p> <p>3.12 Reform health policy to provide for the promotion and protection of reproductive health by 2018</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Average life expectancy 2. Per cent of population with access to primary health care 3. Per cent of births attended to by skilled health personnel 4. Per cent of 1 year old immunized against measles 5. Infant and under-five mortality rates 6. Maternal mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) 7. Number of deaths and incidence of cardiovascular and non-communicable diseases 8. HIV/AIDS prevalence and death rates 9. Per cent of population with advanced HIV/AIDS infection with access to antiretroviral drugs 10. Number of new HIV infections 11. Tuberculosis prevalence rate, infection per 100,000 population 12. Tuberculosis death rate, per cent per 100,000 population 13. Incidence of malaria per 100,000 population and deaths due to malaria 14. Nutrition, lifestyle and obesity 15. Number of medical facility per 1,000 population 16. Proportion of population accessing health facilities 17. Ratio of medical doctors to patients 18. Proportion of population living in a 5 km radius of a Health Centre

Goals	Targets	Indicators
<p>Goal 4</p> <p>Achieve universal access to affordable and quality education at all levels</p>	<p>4.1 Achieve full gender parity and 100 per cent net enrolment and completion rates in primary education by 2025.</p> <p>4.2 Achieve a minimum of 80 per cent enrolment and completion rates at secondary and tertiary levels by 2025 for both females and males and 90 per cent by 2030.</p> <p>4.3 Achieve 80 per cent literacy rate in age bracket 15-24 years by gender by 2030</p> <p>4.5 Raise adult literacy to a minimum of 60-70 per cent by 2030</p> <p>4.6 Achieve internationally comparable standard of education at national level by 2030 for 60 per cent of educational institutions</p> <p>4.7 Double the number of teachers to students at all levels by 2025 and achieve internationally comparable standards for 60 per cent of all educational institutions by 2030</p> <p>4.8 Achieve at least 80 per cent target of building primary and secondary schools for every 1,000 population by 2030</p> <p>4.9 Raise standards of at least one university in each African country to benchmarked world-class standard by 2025</p> <p>4.10 Reform and carry out successfully educational system to integrate curricula to promote early childhood care and development by 2018</p>	<p>1. Per cent of pupils starting grade 1 who reach the last grade of primary education</p> <p>2. Primary school enrolment and completion rate</p> <p>3. Secondary school enrolment and completion rate</p> <p>4. Tertiary education enrolment and completion rate</p> <p>5. Mean years of schooling vis-à-vis expected years of schooling</p> <p>6. Ratio of girls to boys in primary, secondary and tertiary education</p> <p>7. Youth literacy rate</p> <p>8. Adult literacy rate</p> <p>9. Existence of policy on early childhood care and development</p> <p>10. Ratio of teachers to learners at all levels (primary, secondary and tertiary education)</p> <p>11. Number of primary and secondary schools available per 1,000 population</p> <p>12. National and international ratings of quality of education</p>

Goal 5	Goals	Targets	Indicators
<p>Achieve gender equality, protect and empower women, young people and persons in vulnerable conditions</p>	<p>(a) Intensify gender equality and women empowerment</p> <p>5a.1 Achieve 50-50 gender parity in employment in at least 60 per cent of all major public and private sector organizations by 2030</p> <p>5a.2 Close gender pay gap – average female wage relative to male – by 2020 in major public and private organizations</p> <p>5a.3 Enshrine right to land ownership and inheritance by women and the poor in national constitutions by 2020</p> <p>5a.4 Reform laws and practices to grant equal land ownership right to women by 2020</p> <p>5a.5 Create a Women's Agricultural Development Fund for better access to credit by 2025</p> <p>(b) Raise youth employment and development</p> <p>5b.1 Reduce youth unemployment by at least 5 per cent every year</p> <p>5b.2 Halve the number of illiterate young people by 2030</p> <p>5b.3 Double resources to youth development agencies and programmes by 2025</p> <p>5b.4 Set up youth development fund and skills development programmes to build necessary skills for every 1000 illiterate and unskilled youth population</p> <p>5b.5 Provide for youth representation in key decision-making processes and structures by 2020</p> <p>5b.6 Develop by 2020 quality education and vocational training system that provides appropriate skills that meet labour market needs</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Per cent of women in non-agricultural wage employment in key public institutions and private sector organizations 2. Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments 3. Proportion of women in ministerial positions and as head of major institutions 4. Degree of access to land 5. Extent of access to credit <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Unemployment rate 2. Number of new jobs created for young people 3. Unemployment rate for 15-24 age bracket 4. Per cent of illiterate young people 5. Per cent of unskilled young people 6. Number and effectiveness of youth re-training programme 7. Relevance of skills to labour market needs 8. Number of training and skills development programmes relevant to labour market needs 	

Goals	Targets	Indicators
<p>Goal 6</p> <p>Ensure social inclusion and protection, including guaranteed minimum income and social security, and decent employment for all, particularly for young people</p>	<p>(a) Strengthen social security</p> <p>6a.1 Increase share of social security and welfare resources in support of the poor, disabled, the elderly and all other vulnerable groups by 2030</p> <p>6a.2 Reduce by two thirds the number of violent crimes per 100,000 population by 2020</p> <p>6a.3 Halve gender-based violence by 2020</p> <p>6a.4 Cut by half the number of rape cases per 100,000 population by 2020</p> <p>6a.5 Transform 80 per cent of unplanned settlements (slum areas) by 2030</p> <p>6a.6 Improve the quality of social capital and social cohesion</p> <p>6a.7 Promote disability friendly work environment by 2030</p> <p>6a.8 Place emphasis on cottage and small to medium-size enterprises for job creation</p>	<p>1. Per cent of child-headed households receiving welfare support</p> <p>2. Per cent of vulnerable group with access to housing</p> <p>3. Per cent of population with secure access to energy and other infrastructural services</p> <p>4. Degree of inequality in incomes and opportunities</p> <p>5. Violent crimes rate</p> <p>6. Gender-based crimes rate</p> <p>7. Proportion of rape cases</p> <p>8. Per cent of population living in unplanned settlements (slums)</p> <p>9. Rate of transformation of slums</p> <p>10. Proportion of disabled people with decent employment</p> <p>11. Share of social security and welfare resources in government expenditure</p> <p>12. Per cent of population covered by social security</p>
	<p>(b) Enhance social inclusion and equity</p> <p>6b.1 Mainstream social protection in national development strategies and provide safety nets for vulnerable groups without incomes by 2018</p> <p>6b.2 Ensure equity in sharing of benefits from mining and natural resources by local and disadvantaged communities by 2020</p>	<p>1. Share of revenue from mining and other natural resources to local and disadvantaged communities</p> <p>2. Extent of participation of local communities in the negotiation of mining contracts</p> <p>3. Share of public resources for social protection of vulnerable groups</p> <p>4. Number of people benefiting from social safety net</p>

Goals	Targets	Indicators
<p>Goal 7</p> <p>Structurally transform economies and attain inclusive sustained economic growth; accelerate infrastructure development, inclusive and sustainable industrialization and access to affordable energy; and build resilient cities and sustainable human settlements</p>	<p>(a) Structural transformation and inclusive growth</p> <p>7a.1 Achieve inclusive growth in all key sectors by 2025</p> <p>7a.2 Integrate by 2018 policies and strategies in national development programmes, which promote intergenerational equity in economic growth</p> <p>7a.3 Ensure emergence of knowledge-based economies driven by innovations by 2025</p> <p>7a.4 Reduce the high cost of development in Island economies by 30 per cent by 2020, and 80 per cent by 2030</p> <p>7a.5 Cut coastal waste by 30 per cent by 2020, and 80 per cent by 2030</p> <p>7a.6 Reduce maritime piracy by 50 per cent by 2020, and 80 per cent by 2030</p> <p>7a.7 Develop at least a maritime corridor between a landlocked and a coastal country by 2025</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Per cent growth in per capita GDP 2. Income share of the poorest 10-20 per cent of the population 3. Income share of the richest 10-20 per cent of the population 4. Gini coefficient 5. Per cent share of green investments in GDP 6. Per cent of green employment opportunities generated 7. Per cent of industries using renewable energy and green growth technologies 8. Per cent share of public and private investment in green growth drivers – research and development, innovations, etc. 9. Degree of local participation in growth investments 10. Medium to long-term trade balance 11. Debt and GDP ratios (domestic and external debts) 12. Volume of coastal waste in Island economies 13. Extent of maritime piracy in coastal economies 14. No of policies and strategies in national development programmes, which promote intergenerational equity in economic growth

Goals	Targets	Indicators
	<p>(b) Promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development</p> <p>7b.1 Achieve middle-income and emerging economy growth status by 2030, and develop online payment for goods and services by 2025</p> <p>7b.2 Share of manufacturing in GDP (raise to a minimum of 20-25 per cent by 2020)</p> <p>7b.3 Share of manufacturing total exports (raise to a minimum of 60-70 per cent by 2030)</p> <p>7b.4 Beneficiate 60-80 per cent of all raw materials by 2025 in the region and develop innovation systems around all key products produced from raw materials in which local communities are endowed</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share of manufacturing in GDP 2. Share of manufacturing total exports 3. Manufacturing value addition 4. Extent of application of guidelines to promote sustainable production and consumption 5. Conduciveness of policy environment for industry to invest in sustainable production technologies 6. Per cent of manufactures in trade (raise trade in manufactures to a minimum of 30 per cent by 2030) 7. Extent of development of financial and payment systems 8. Share of transactions and payment for goods and services processed online 9. Degree of efficiency in using natural resources in production 10. Degree of energy and carbon efficiency in production of goods and services 11. Degree of efficiency in consumption of infrastructure services, natural resources (crops, fish, timber, grass for livestock feed) 12. Timeline for public and private organizations to transit to green procurement 13. Existence of National Cleaner Production Centre and allowing environmental laws to promote their effectiveness in each country 14. Extent of gender-balanced growth in industrial employment

Goals	Targets	Indicators
	<p>(c) Accelerate infrastructure development, including access to affordable energy</p> <p>7c.1 Meet 60-70 per cent of infrastructure needs from domestic resources by 2030</p> <p>7c.2 Provide fuel efficient public transportation system by 2030</p> <p>7c.3 Transform power infrastructure to raise access and affordability of electricity to 70-80 per cent of the population by 2030</p> <p>7c.4 Secure access for at least 50 per cent of rural population to clean and renewable energy by 2025</p> <p>7c.5 Achieve a minimum of 50 per cent energy and carbon efficiency in production by 2030</p> <p>7c.6 Achieve 50 per cent efficiency in consumption of infrastructural services, natural resources and environmental resources by 2030</p> <p>7c.7 Ensure renewable energy accounts for 50 per cent of energy supply by 2030</p> <p>7c.8 Ensure every household has access to clean drinking water by 2025</p> <p>7c.9 Provide sanitation facilities to 70 per cent of the population by 2020; 80 per cent in 2025; and full coverage by 2030</p> <p>7c.10 Enhance capacity for infrastructure development</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share of public expenditure in infrastructure development 2. Share of public-private partnerships in infrastructure development 3. Rate of the functioning of transportation, energy, information and communications technology and Transboundary Water Basins projects under the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). 4. Per cent of energy generated from renewable sources 5. Quality and efficiency of freight and passenger transportation 6. Per cent of population with access to electricity 7. Per cent of population with access to clean drinking water 8. Per cent of population with access to improved sanitation facilities

Goals	Targets	Indicators
<p>Goal 8</p> <p>Enhance environmental quality, resilience and protection; and promote sustainable exploitation, use and management of natural resources</p>	<p>(a) Sustainable management of environment and natural resources</p> <p>8a.1 Reduce CO2 and greenhouse gas emission, including emissions from ships and aircrafts, per capita by 2-5 per cent annually</p> <p>8a.2 Achieve at least 60 per cent improvement in ocean and river quality by 2030</p> <p>8a.3 Put in place an effective and environmentally sustainable system to manage at least 80 per cent of waste by 2030</p> <p>8a.4 Halve the use of chemical pesticides by 2025</p> <p>8a.5 Create and resource a special African Fund for Environmental Management by 2025</p> <p>8a.6 Enact by 2018 laws and regulations to minimize intensity of exploitation and harvesting of natural resources – minerals, crops, fish stocks, timber resources and all endangered species</p> <p>8a.7 Rehabilitate all land degraded by extraction of mineral resources by 2030</p> <p>8a.8 Review and where applicable renegotiate mining contracts, mineral policies and legislations by 2020</p> <p>8a.9 Ensure the development of instruments for effective participation of local communities in the management of natural resources by 2020</p> <p>8a.10 Mainstream environment and natural resources management into policies by 2020</p> <p>8a.11 Put in place appropriate laws, regulations and policies to promote sustainable management of forests by 2018</p> <p>8a.12 Develop national capacity for determining location, quantity and quality of natural resource potential by 2025</p>	<p>1. CO2 emission per capita</p> <p>2. Urban air pollution</p> <p>3. Ambient levels of air pollutants</p> <p>4. Fresh water quality in rivers</p> <p>5. Per cent of degraded arable land rehabilitated</p> <p>6. Per cent of degraded protected land rehabilitated</p> <p>7. Status of major fish stocks</p> <p>8. Status of timber resources</p> <p>9. Status of mineral resources</p> <p>10. Agricultural soil quality</p> <p>11. Ecosystems destroyed by mining and rehabilitated</p> <p>12. Endangered species protected and restored</p> <p>13. Strategies and policies for participation of local communities in management of natural resources</p> <p>14. Effectiveness of institutional framework for natural resources management</p>

Goals	Targets	Indicators
<p>Goal 9</p> <p>Combat desertification and land degradation, mitigate drought; and promote sustainable management of land and oceans</p>	<p>(a) Sustainable land and water management</p> <p>9a.1 Reduce the rate of land degradation, desertification, deforestation, mitigate drought and reclaim half of lost land by 2030</p> <p>9a.2 Integrate in national development strategies and policies sustainable water resources development and management by 2018</p> <p>9a.3 Encourage practices and provide resource support to inputs, which improve soil quality and fertility by 2020</p> <p>9a.4 Halve the use of non-organic fertilizers and agricultural pesticides by 2025</p>	<p>1. Per cent of land area covered by forest</p> <p>2. Per cent of protected terrestrial and marine areas</p> <p>3. Per cent of grasslands replanted</p> <p>4. Size of reforested area</p> <p>5. Forest area under sustainable management</p> <p>6. Size of land recovered from desertification</p> <p>7. Level of use of pesticides and non-organic fertilizer</p> <p>8. Water availability per capita</p> <p>9. Extent of integration of sustainable land and water management in development strategies</p>
	<p>(b) Boost resilience to climate change and disaster risk reduction and management</p> <p>9b.1 Integrate in national development strategies and plans by 2020 full measures to reduce effect of climate change on natural resources and ecosystems</p> <p>9b.2 Enhance by 2025 disaster risk reduction and management capacity and climate adaptation initiatives</p> <p>9b.3 Mobilize \$18 billion annually through the clean development mechanism to meet climate change adaptation needs and support rural development by 2030</p>	<p>1. Per cent of population at risk of flooding</p> <p>2. Crop losses due to extreme variability in weather</p> <p>3. Changes in water level</p> <p>4. Status of marine resources</p> <p>5. Effectiveness of disaster risk management strategies</p>
	<p>(c) Rehabilitate biodiversity and health of ecosystems</p> <p>9c.1 Restore ecological value or integrity of depleted forests and natural parks by 2025</p> <p>9c.2 Promote by 2020 heightened consciousness of biodiversity conservation</p> <p>9c.3 Improve ecosystem quantity and quality by 2025</p> <p>9c.4 Integrate biodiversity and ecosystems conservation in educational curriculum at all levels by 2018</p>	<p>1. Per cent of natural ecosystem area left</p> <p>2. Per cent of species left</p> <p>3. Status of species and habitats</p> <p>4. Proportion of species threatened with extinction</p> <p>5. Proportion of species regenerated or restored</p> <p>6. Level of awareness of biodiversity and ecosystem conservation</p>
<p>Goal 10</p> <p>Promote culture, research, science, innovation and technology development</p>	<p>(a) Preserve and nurture culture</p> <p>10a.1 Preserve cultural identity, societal values and use of indigenous languages</p> <p>10a.2 Promote local knowledge in all aspects of development</p>	<p>1. Extent of use of indigenous languages in schools</p> <p>2. Extent of integration of local knowledge in health care, education and youth socialization</p> <p>3. Extent of integration of cultural practices in sustainable development</p>

Goals	Targets	Indicators
	<p>(b) Step up research, science, technology and innovations</p> <p>10b.1 Raise quality of science and technology education and provide appropriate incentives for strong and sustained interest by the youth. Ensure a minimum of 50 per cent of secondary school leavers achieve A-C grades in mathematics and science subjects by 2020.</p> <p>10b.2 Adequately fund science and technology education institutions at the tertiary level. Each country should upgrade at least one of such institutions to a world class level in training and research by 2020</p> <p>10b.3 Establish at least three world-class centres of excellence in science, technology and innovations in each African country by 2030 to drive innovations and the application of new knowledge in agriculture, industry and services</p> <p>10b.4 Resource and upgrade NEPAD Centres of Excellence in bio-sciences, water sciences, laser technology, mathematical sciences, among others, to attain global standards by 2025 and to promote development and safe application of new knowledge on the continent</p> <p>10b.5 Train at least 1000 highly qualified scientists annually on the continent</p> <p>10b.6 Develop systems of innovation around key processes and products in the agricultural, industry and services sectors by 2025</p> <p>10b.7 Promote application of Africa's indigenous knowledge in all aspects of societal well-being</p> <p>10b.8 Integrate the practice of traditional medicine with modern approaches by 2030</p> <p>10b.9 Mobilize partnership support to ensure that the African Union Science, Technology and Innovations Strategy for Africa 2024 (STISA 2024) is effectively carried out</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proportion of students taking, and quality of pass rate in, mathematics, science and technology subjects at primary and secondary school levels 2. Proportion of students at tertiary level undertaking science and technology based courses 3. Number of and international ranking of science, technology and innovation training and research institutions 4. Number of scientists and technologists trained annually 5. Number of innovation systems developed over the period 2015-2030 to support agriculture, industry and services 6. Number of patents on innovative processes and products registered and applied over each half decade 7. Extent of application of indigenous knowledge 8. Extent of integration of traditional and modern practices in medicine 9. Performance rate of African Union STISA 2024

Goals	Targets	Indicators
<p>Goal 11</p> <p>Scale up global and regional partnerships for development</p>	<p>11.1 Cut illicit financial flows by 50 per cent by 2020; halt flows by 2030</p> <p>11.2 Repatriate ill-gotten wealth in foreign banks by 2025</p> <p>11.3 Reduce cost of international transfers by 50 per cent by 2016</p> <p>11.4 Limit cost of diaspora remittances to a maximum of 1 per cent by 2016</p> <p>11.5 Transfer green technologies to African countries by 2025</p> <p>11.6 Raise trade and market access to African products</p> <p>11.7 Reinforce global partnership to shift collective action to development effectiveness</p> <p>11.8 Achieve full regional integration targets by the eight regional economic communities that are recognized by the African Union by 2030</p> <p>11.9 Raise intra-Africa trade to 50 per cent share by 2030</p> <p>11.10 Eliminate barriers to transfer of funds in Africa by 2020</p> <p>11.11 Cut remittance cost in Africa by 50 per cent by 2020</p>	<p>1. Size of illicit financial flows</p> <p>2. Amount of ill-gotten wealth repatriated</p> <p>3. Cost of international transfers</p> <p>4. Cost of diaspora remittances</p> <p>5. New green technologies transferred</p> <p>6. State of market access for African exports</p> <p>7. Effectiveness of global partnership</p> <p>8. Representation, accountability and transparency of major international multilateral development and financial institutions</p> <p>9. Share of intra-Africa trade in total trade</p> <p>10. Progress in meeting regional integration targets</p> <p>11. Diaspora remittance cost in Africa</p>
<p>Goal 12</p> <p>Promote good governance at national and international levels</p>	<p>(a) Good governance, transparency and accountability</p> <p>12a.1 Improve public service effectiveness and efficiency by 50 per cent by 2020, and 80 per cent by 2030</p> <p>12a.2 Reinforce participatory democratic processes and elections as means for change in government</p> <p>12a.3 Maintain zero tolerance to undemocratic change in government</p> <p>12a.4 Hold leaders to the highest standards of transparency and accountability in public and private sectors</p> <p>12a.5 Cut public sector corruption by 50 per cent by 2020, and 80 per cent by 2030</p> <p>12a.6 Achieve accession to the APRM process by all African countries by 2020</p> <p>12a.7 Promote post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation</p> <p>12a.8 Strengthen by 2025 Africa's voice in the governance of major global financial and development institutions – World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Finance Corporation and the United Nations Security Council – and promote balanced representation across regions</p>	<p>1. Quality, cost and timeliness of public services</p> <p>2. Number of undemocratic changes of government</p> <p>3. Degree of participation of stakeholders in political governance</p> <p>4. Quality of elections</p> <p>5. Level of corruption</p> <p>6. Number of countries acceding to the APRM and carrying out National Programmes of Action</p> <p>7. Number of post-conflict countries carrying out reconciliation, reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes</p> <p>8. Strength and effectiveness of Africa's voice in the governance of major global financial and development institutions</p>

Goals	Targets	Indicators
	<p>(b) Peace, security and sociopolitical stability</p> <p>12b.1 Reduce armed conflicts to 0 by 2020 and achieve violent conflict-free society by 2030</p> <p>12b.2 Reduce illicit trade in small arms, proliferation of arms and drug trafficking by 80 per cent by 2030</p> <p>12b.3 Enhance contribution to the Africa Special Fund for Peace and Security by African Governments and Development Partners</p>	<p>1. Number of armed conflicts per annum</p> <p>2. Availability of resources for peace and security operations</p>

V. Strategy and means of implementation for proposed sustainable development goals

A. Overview

The means of implementation for the sustainable development goals discussed in this report include domestic and external financial resources, capacity development, regional integration, trade and market access, development and transfer of environmentally-sound technologies, development effectiveness and South-South cooperation, among others. These have been extensively reviewed by recent reports in the region. Two such reports are the *Africa Review Report on Progress towards Sustainable Development* (ECA, 2012) and a study report on mobilizing domestic resources by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency and ECA (2013).

B. The scale of resource requirements

Currently, there are no concrete estimates on the resources required to implement the ambitious development aspirations expressed in the proposed sustainable development goals. However, indications are that the scale of resources will be immense, and aligning expectations with implementation will no doubt pose a daunting challenge. Recent indications of development finance estimates provide some clues of what would be required.

A quick estimate of the level of sources required to finance sustainable development in Africa carried out in the build-up to Rio+20 indicated that the region would require close to \$200 billion annually to implement sustainable development commitments under the social, economic and environmental dimensions. This included close to \$100 billion to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, when taking into account the need to adapt to climate change, investment in infrastructure to the tune of \$93 billion, and \$5.4 billion for cross-cutting capacity-development activities. This was likely to be an underestimation of the real needs to fully implement internationally-agreed sustainable development goals, including the outcomes of Rio+20 (ECA, 2012c).

Regarding climate finance, the World Bank estimates the global mitigation and adaptation costs to be in the region of between \$520 billion and \$840 billion annually. For Africa, the estimates for adaptation costs alone range from \$30 billion to \$50 billion annually. If we include current spending and scaling up expenditure requirements in the areas of arresting desertification, species depletion, water-resource depletion and pollution as well as the cost of providing universal access to basic services, social protection, fulfilling human rights and peace and security and infrastructure for regional integration (such as energy, railways, roads and water resources), among others, the cost requirements could run into hundreds of billions of dollars annually.

These estimates suggest a potentially huge financing requirement for the proposed goals or the set goals to be agreed. It is therefore critical that Africa begins to engage actively in assessing financing needs and articulating a financing strategy for the sustainable development goals. In particular, given that Africa has been mostly dependent on foreign sources to finance its development over the past decades, it is crucial that the continent takes a proactive step in putting forward its ideas about how the sustainable development goals will be financed. Africa needs to put adequate time and resources into estimating the resource needs for the sustainable development goals as soon as possible to inform or feed into expert, development cooperation, informal dialogues and intergovernmental negotiations.

C. Financing for sustainable development— commitments, actions and external resources

Over the decades, an important source of financing Africa's development has been resources from multilateral and bilateral commitments. The Millennium Development Goals, in particular, were strongly oriented towards development aid. Discussions and consultations on the sustainable development goals, however, point to a renewed commitment on the continent to take responsibility for its development through enhanced mobilization of domestic resources. To this end, evidence is strong that Africa has the potential financial resources to meet its development commitments. What is required are appropriate instruments for this resource mobilization, effective partnership from the international community to enable the region to reap the full benefits of its natural resources, fair trade and real market access, as well as good governance and effective institutions. This also calls on growing and diversified economies to deliver decent employment and incomes, higher aggregate savings, improvements in public-revenue collection and significant private-capital flows as sources of development financing.

However, while domestic financial resources are crucial, international commitments remain important⁴. Currently, developed countries have committed to reach the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product allocated to official development assistance⁵, with 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national income allocated to least-developed countries (LDCs)⁶, and to encourage the private sector, including transnational corporations, private foundations and civil-society institutions, to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries (WSSD, 2002, §86.d).

Development partners also have specific commitments with respect to debt relief and innovative financing mechanisms. The commitments on aid to developing countries were estimated in 2005 to amount to \$25 billion a year in 2004 prices and exchange rates by 2010 (ECA and OECD, 2010, p21). Further commitments were made in 2009 to increase the resources provided by the international financial institutions (IFIs), in response to the global crisis. Amongst the key initiatives put in place to support sustainable development in developing countries include: UNITAID, the International Finance Facility for Immunization (IFFIm) for the GAVI Vaccine Alliance (Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization), advance market commitments, the Voluntary Solidarity Contribution for UNITAID, (RED) branding and Debt-2Health funding mechanisms for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the carbon market, and socially responsible investments (see Bermudez and Douste-Blazy, 2011).

Official development assistance to Africa is estimated to have risen to \$46 billion in 2010, but the 2005 commitments have not been met. Although this is an increase to record levels, the increase from 2004 is significantly below the level implied by the commitments made in 2005. While the picture varies between individual donors, some of the main reasons include a shortfall against the global commitments made in 2005 and the fact that the region has received only around a third of the increase since then instead of the half assumed at the time (ECA and OECD, 2011). Development partners need to deliver their commitments in full and in a predictable manner to enable partner countries to plan effectively. They should honour existing commitments to increase global official development assistance over the period 2010–2015 and have plans for the post-2015 period. There is also a need to accelerate efforts significantly to improve

4 It must be mentioned that external development assistance has played a tremendous role in pushing the frontiers of the region's sustainable development efforts. In 2008, aid volumes reached their highest ever absolute levels (\$121.5 billion), though this was still some way below the pledges made at the Gleneagles G8 and United Nations (UN) Millennium +5 summits, which targeted an increase in aid to \$130 billion by 2010 at constant 2004 prices. Annual aid to Africa is estimated to increase by \$12 billion in 2004 prices. Although a number of individual donors met their individual commitments to sub-Saharan Africa in 2010, this was well below the \$25 billion target announced at the Gleneagles Summit for Africa. It must however be appreciated that, in spite of the global financial crisis, Africa received the highest proportion of official development assistance to developing regions in 2009. This is a demonstration of sustained commitment by the region's development partners to assist Africa in achieving the Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development.

5 This was resolved in the 1970 United Nations General Assembly Resolution and the commitment was reaffirmed at the March 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, and at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in 2003.

6 The Brussels Programme of Action (POA) for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for the Decade 2001-2010, 20 May 2001 available at http://www.un.org/special-rep/ohrrls/ldc/Contributions/Report%20of%20the%20LDC%20III_E.pdf

aid effectiveness in order to reach the targets agreed in the Accra Agenda for Action and commitments made at the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, Korea in November-December 2011⁷.

Developed countries also agreed on the need to reduce unsustainable debt burdens through debt relief, debt cancellation and other innovative mechanisms geared to address the debt burden of developing countries, in particular the poorest and most heavily indebted ones (WSSD, 2002, §89). Specifically, the G8 group of countries proposed to augment debt relief to countries that reach the completion point under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative, leading to 100% cancellation of debt owed by them to the International Development Association (IDA), the African Development Fund (AfDF) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)⁸.

At the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP) in Copenhagen in December 2009, developed countries committed to providing new and additional resources approaching \$30 billion over 2010–2012 to address the climate-change financing needs of developing countries, and mobilizing jointly \$100 billion a year by 2020 from public and private sources, including alternative sources of finance⁹. To that end, it was agreed to establish the Green Climate Fund as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention to support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing countries related to mitigation, including Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD-plus), adaptation, capacity-building, technology development and transfer.

The Green Fund was established at COP-16 in Cancun, Mexico. COP-17 in Durban, South Africa, committed to making the fund fully operational in 2012. Furthermore, flows of Fast-Start Finance, to which developed countries committed at COP-15 in Copenhagen, are yet to pick up, and there are calls for better transparency in the selection of activities and country allocations. African countries, in particular, have been calling for the establishment of an African Green Fund to be managed by African Development Bank from which priority mitigation and adaptation projects on the continent could be financed. Such a regional fund would facilitate access to resources and speed up actions towards the sustainable development goals. Although the region is not a major contributor to the climate-change problem, it is profoundly affected by the consequences. It is pertinent that developed countries deliver on the commitments made at Copenhagen and Cancun on climate finance and ensure that access to such finance is cost-efficient. Africa must also play a major role in the international climate-change negotiations.

Foreign direct investment provides another significant source of development finance, although these flows declined from \$72 billion in 2008 to \$58.6 billion in 2009, which is a decline equivalent to 0.34 per cent of gross domestic product. However, inflows to Africa's extractive industries increased, with a strong performance into countries such as Algeria, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Nigeria and the Sudan (ECA, 2011). External capital inflows contributed significantly to domestic investment and government spending in many countries. Africa will need to ensure that FDI flows are channelled to sectors and activities that can support the pursuit of sustainable national development strategies. Balanced flows should be encouraged but with greater concentration on sectors where foreign direct investment can provide value addition, promote job creation, enhance transfer of technology and know-how, and protect the environment. Developed countries should support the efforts of African governments to mobilize domestic revenues by significantly intensifying efforts to tackle issues such as tax havens, transfer pricing and illicit capital flows. They should also enhance support in reducing the transaction costs of remittances, as earlier mentioned.

7 See <http://www.oecd.org/dac/effectiveness/fourthhighlevelforumonaideffectiveness.htm>

8 The proposal is set out in the G8 Finance Ministers' Communiqué entitled "Conclusions on Development", issued on 11 June 2005.

9 UNFCCC 2009, Copenhagen Accord Decision 2/CP.15.

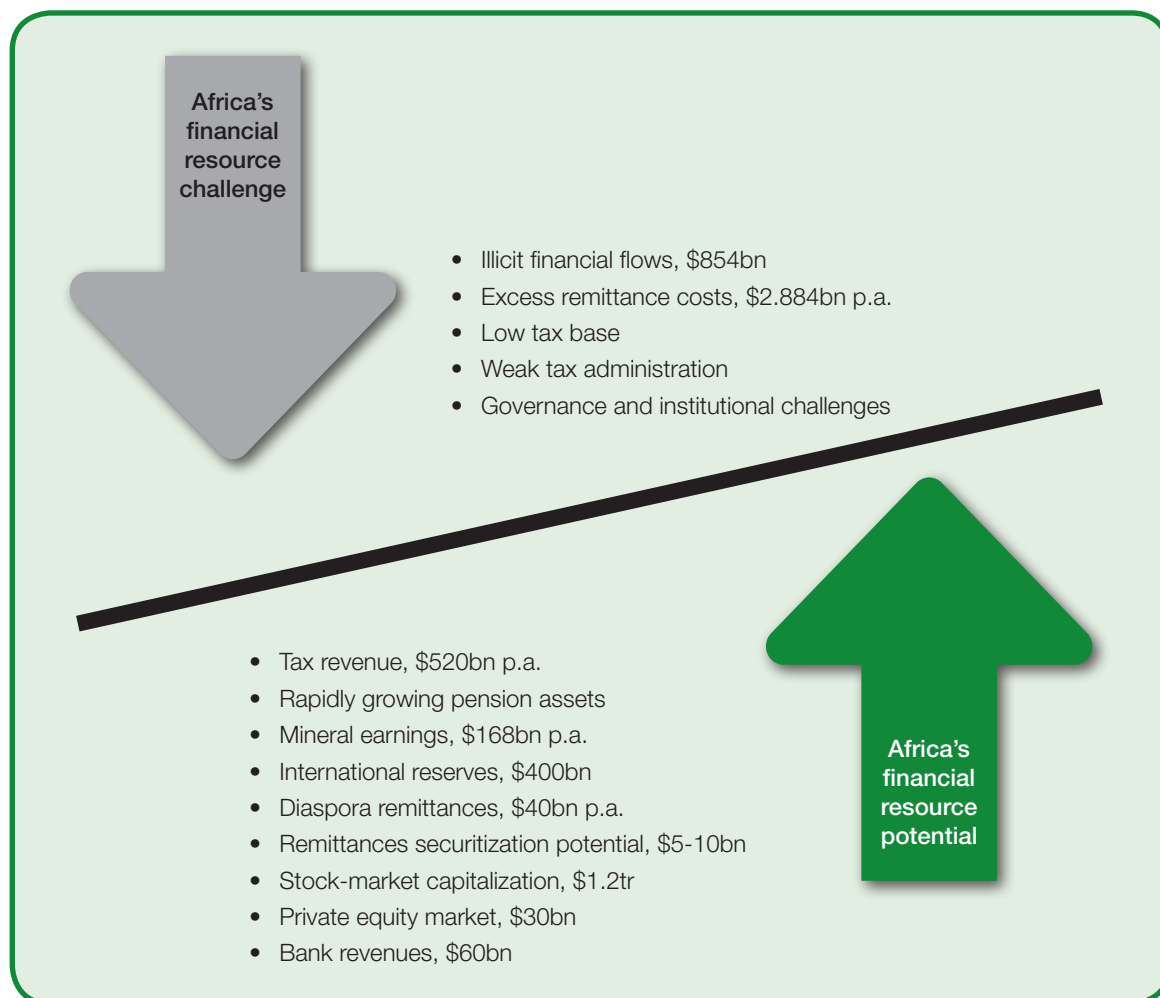
D. Domestic financial resources potentials

A report by the NEPAD Agency and ECA (2013) shows that Africa's resource potential is enormous and strongly suggests that the region has the means to finance its own development. Evidence for this includes the following:

- African countries raise more than \$520 billion annually from domestic taxes as against \$59 billion that the region receives in private flows and \$50 billion in official development assistance (ODA). This is an indication that there is a huge potential in tax revenue, if tax administration could be improved.
- The size of Africa's pension funds' assets is growing at an impressive pace. For instance: South Africa saw assets grow from \$166 billion in 2007 to \$277 billion in 2011; Nigeria from \$3 billion in 2008 to \$14 billion in 2010; and pension-fund assets in Namibia are put at N\$16.3 billion (US\$1.84 billion). Kenya's pension funds account for wealth estimated at K Sh397 billion (\$4.56 billion).
- Africa earns more than \$168 billion annually from minerals and mineral fuels and has more than \$400 billion in international reserves held by its central and reserve banks. Africa's diaspora remittances climbed to \$40 billion in 2012 and represented a significant portion of total global remittances of \$351 billion during the year. The World Bank estimated that in the next decade the amount remitted by Africa's diaspora could grow to \$200 billion. Africa has the potential to raise between \$5 billion and \$10 billion annually in the international capital market through securitization of remittances from its diaspora communities.
- Stock-market capitalization in Africa rose from \$300 billion in 1996 to \$1.2 trillion in 2007. Some 39 African countries issue treasury bills and 27 offer treasury bonds. With more than 700 bonds worth \$206 billion issued by African countries as at December 2011, the emergence of respectable bond markets is within reach. No less than ten African countries have established sovereign wealth funds.
- Illicit financial flows from the region reached \$854 billion over the period between 1970 and 2008. If curtailed, such flows are financial resources that would be available for the implementation of national and regional development programmes and projects towards the sustainable development goals and targets put forward in this report.
- The private-equity market in Africa is worth about \$30 billion. In 2011, private equity firms raised \$1.5 billion for transactions in the region.
- Banking revenues are estimated at \$60 billion across the region and there is high liquidity in the banking sector.

All these, among others, are pointers to resources that could support development programmes and projects, if appropriate mechanisms are deployed, and provide a highly optimistic outlook that, in the next two decades, Africa could robustly respond to most of its sustainable development goals and targets.

Additionally, a review of various development-finance options points to the possibility of viable instruments for mobilizing further domestic financial resources in the region to support the implementation of the proposed sustainable development goals. These include: the creation of an African infrastructure development fund; development of an African credit guarantee facility (ACGF); promotion of Africa-owned private equity funds; deepening of Africa's bonds markets through, among others, the promotion of infrastructure bonds and diaspora bonds; securitization of Africa's diaspora remittances; establishing a strategic development sovereign wealth funds; establishment of regional stock exchanges; and public-private partnerships.

Figure 2: Africa's financial resource potential and challenges

Source: NEPAD Agency and ECA (2013)

E. Development effectiveness

The global economy and the development landscape had undergone fundamental changes since the Paris Declaration's aid-effectiveness principles were defined in 2005 and reviewed in Accra in 2008 as frameworks for development effectiveness. For development co-operation to increase its effectiveness as a catalyst for poverty reduction, a fundamental change of focus was required – from global structures to a country-led approach, recognizing the range of actors in development partnerships and the important but different roles each plays. The 2011 Busan Partnership agreement is in recognition of this and embodies this shift with its four principles for achieving common development goals: ownership of development priorities by developing countries, a focus on results, inclusive development partnerships, and transparency and accountability.

A recent report assessing progress on the implementation of the commitments agreed at Busan shows that, on the whole, efforts to change the way development co-operation is delivered are paying off, but much more needs to be done to transform co-operation practices and ensure country ownership of all development efforts, as well as transparency and accountability among development partners. The report reveals that commitment to the Busan principles remains strong, despite global economic turbulence, changing political landscapes and domestic budgetary pressures. Achievements made on important aid-effectiveness commitments that date back to 2005 have been broadly sustained. This confirms that political commitment can translate into better practices at the country level, given sufficient time and sustained

commitment. However, more needs to be done to meet the targets that the Global Partnership set for 2015. Importantly, on inclusiveness – the “core” of the Busan partnership agreement – the report shows that development cooperation is translating into stronger recognition and engagement of non-state development actors in national systems and accountability processes.

Countries in the region are increasingly discussing their national development strategies with parliaments and electorates; and development partners are increasingly aligning their aid to national strategies and are working towards streamlining their efforts towards harmonization of practices. There is progress to untie aid; improve the quality of developing countries’ public financial-management systems; improve consultations, coordination and a common voice to Africa’s development; strengthen the quality of technical assistance; and promote mutual accountability.

Governments should continue their efforts to discuss national development strategies with parliaments and electorates, and improve public financial management and accountability. Development partners should align aid to national strategies and work towards streamlining and harmonizing practices and interventions, and they should also “untie” aid, strengthen the quality of technical assistance and promote mutual accountability.

F. South-South cooperation

South-South cooperation has also played an important role in development finance, promoting trade, access to finance and investment, and exchange of knowledge, skills and technical expertise. The region has entered into a number of arrangements to strengthen and coordinate cooperation efforts between Africa and other countries of the South, such as China, the Republic of Korea, India and Brazil. These include the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), Korea’s Initiative for Africa’s Development (KIAD), the India–Africa Forum, India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) partnership, the Turkey-Africa Cooperation Summit, the Africa and South America (ASA) Partnership and the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP).

Overall, Africa’s growing South-South cooperation has resulted in a significant increase in the importance of developing countries in the region’s merchandise trade. In addition, official flows from developing countries to the region have also increased. While appreciable progress has been made in strengthening this cooperation, the partnership is beset with a number of challenges. These include multiple and fragmented cooperation arrangements, inadequacy of Africa’s South-South cooperation strategy, and a poor environmental profile of some South-South cooperation initiatives.

South-South cooperation has become an important source of foreign direct investment and official development assistance. However the region must address the associated challenges to harness and benefit fully from South-South cooperation initiatives, such as developing an effective strategy to guide engagement in South-South cooperation partnerships. The strategy should be responsive to the sustainable development priorities of the region. African countries and their partners in the South need to pay attention to issues surrounding debt sustainability by the recipient countries. The social and environmental profile of their cooperation initiatives needs greater consideration. Cooperation interventions should also actively support capacity development, governance and institutions. While South-South cooperation has grown as an important development cooperation mechanism in the region, it could serve to complement North-South cooperation. It is therefore important for the region’s traditional donors and development partners to continue to scale up efforts in support of Africa-South and triangular cooperation.

G. Technology development and transfer

The recognition of technology development and transfer as a means to foster sustainable development has been a part of the sustainable-development discourse and included in many documents on sustainable

development. For example, Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration, Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, *The Future We Want* and other documents call for cooperation in the development and transfer of environmentally sound technologies. Rio+20 reaffirmed the need for green-economy policies in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication to facilitate technology development and transfer. In the run-up to the Rio+20 summit, African countries echoed their commitment to promote science, technology and innovation in order to ensure that Africa is competitive (ECA and others, 2011) and this has been reiterated in the post-2015 consultations and Rio+20 follow-up processes – calling for coordination and synergies across the various technology-transfer initiatives and international support for establishment of technology mechanisms and networks. Technology development is crucial for energy, improvements in agricultural productivity, abatement of pollution and proper environmental management, sustainable industrial development, and health and life sciences.

Following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), a number of multilateral environmental, trade and regional instruments contain provisions for technology development and transfer. At the international level, these include the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Montreal Protocol and the World Trade Organization Working Group on Trade and Transfer of Technology. At the Africa regional level, African countries have expressed the desire and commitment to promote development and transfer of technology. The NEPAD framework, *Africa's Science & Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (CPA) 2006*, *the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa (AIDA) 2007* and *Strategy for the Implementation of AIDA 2008* all underscore the role of science, technology and innovation in underpinning Africa's industrialization, economic growth and competitiveness.

Despite these recognitions, technology, science and innovation have not received adequate investments. According to UNESCO *Science Report* (UNESCO, 2010) Africa's share of world spending on research and development is 1.5 per cent: "African countries have begun to recognize that, without investment in science and technology, the continent will stay on the periphery of the global knowledge economy... There are moves by a growing number of African countries to enhance their science and technology capacity as part of poverty alleviation strategies."

Africa's continued low investment in science and technology is manifest in the declining quality of science and engineering education at all levels of educational systems. Institutions of higher learning, particularly universities and technical colleges, are in urgent need of renewal and links to sustainable development needs. For example there is a tenuous link between science, technology and innovation institutions and industry and a mismatch between research and development activities and national agricultural and industrial development strategies and priorities. For technology, science and innovation to play their strategic role as enablers and means of implementation of the sustainable development goals, regional and international commitments must be implemented more effectively. Increased investments are required for developing human capital in appropriate education, training and skills; financing innovation and technology development; attracting foreign direct investments; and creating the right policy, legal and regulatory frameworks.

H. Capacity development

The Africa Regional Implementation Meeting on follow-up of Rio+20 outcomes underlines that capacity-building is crucial to implementing sustainable development commitments in Africa. The meeting consequently calls for the development and implementation of comprehensive national capacity-development strategies as a matter of priority to further the implementation of the region's sustainable development agenda. The support of the international community in this respect was also solicited (ECA, 2013).

Capacity development is needed to support setting priorities; programme design, development and implementation; impact assessments; and appropriate monitoring and performance-evaluation frameworks. Countries across the region must develop requisite skills, institutions and infrastructure; upgrade educa-

tional systems; enhance health-care delivery facilities and personnel; and enhance access to public services. To be effective, the region's capacity-development programme must be responsive to its sustainable development issues, challenges and goals, at all levels – community, local, national, subregional and regional, including key institutions and stakeholders. Capacity development must respond to the need for effective governance, appropriate behavioural changes, strong and responsive institutions, effective policies, and the existence of a conducive environment for citizens' participation in governance and policy processes and enhancement of the space to innovate and generate new knowledge, technologies and systems of innovations.

Over the years, the region has made progress through country and subregional level efforts as well as with the support of development partners, to respond to its capacity constraints and challenges. African governments have signed up to the Education for All (EFA) programme of action. The Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) has built on gaps identified in the first set of education plans and moved beyond primary school enrolment (ECA and OECD, 2011). The World Bank, the African Development Bank, ECA, among numerous United Nations organizations, and major multilateral and bilateral organizations have made major contributions to the response. The African Economic Research Consortium was created in 1988, the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) was established in 1991, the Partnership for Capacity Building in Africa (PACT) was launched in 1999, the IMF launched the Africa Regional Technical Assistance Centres (AFRITACs) in 2002 and the African Union and its NEPAD Agency in 2010 rolled out the regional framework for capacity development – the Capacity Development Strategic Framework (CDSF), among numerous other initiatives.

A recent survey of 34 African countries by the African Capacity Building Foundation showed that 70 per cent of the countries had mainstreamed capacity-building in their national development plans, visions or strategies, and 54 per cent had specific national programmes for capacity development (ACBF, 2011, p13). African countries have improved the policy environment for capacity development through the establishment of national development strategies, effective dialogue mechanisms, and growing partnerships. Primary education remains a high national priority with increasing emphasis being placed on secondary and vocational training. Capacity development is now a cross-cutting element in all aid delivery modalities.

Despite significant progress in capacity development, school enrolment rates and completion rates remain low, especially at post-primary levels with an average of less than 70 per cent. The quality of education remains a challenge. The number of qualified teachers remains well below the requirement. Notwithstanding the fact that many African countries have developed strategic policy documents to guide capacity development, the rate of progress is inadequate to meet education and capacity-building commitments. Technical assistance for education and other areas of capacity development remain fragmented – often not properly aligned or responsive to government strategies or priorities. Ensuring the retention of trained staff is still a critical problem for many African countries. Thus, there is an urgent need to ensure that human and institutional capacity development is accorded the necessary priority, both as a cross-cutting issue in all development interventions, but also through targeted actions aligned with nationally identified sustainable development needs and priorities.

I. Trade and market access

International trade, particularly market access for exported products, is a key component of sustainable development. The link between trade and development is highlighted in Agenda 21 and further reinforced in the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, among others. Trade helps achieve a more efficient allocation of scarce resources and it makes it easier for countries to access environmental goods, services and technologies. Trade stimulates growth, creates employment and raises income levels which, over time, can help increase demand for a better environment. Trade can also improve access to green goods, services and technologies needed to reduce pollution and energy use, or help develop them. A stable and predictable system for international trade is beneficial for promoting investment, innovation and technological change

and all of these are vital for sustainable development. Sustainable development is an objective of the Doha Round, the latest multilateral round of negotiations to further open up world trade. The negotiations aim at removing environmentally harmful and distortional trade measures and promote greater access to environmental goods and services at a cheaper cost. The Doha Round also includes discussions on capacity building, “aid for trade” and special and differential treatment.

Cooperation agreements and regional trade are critical for sustainable development in Africa. At the regional level, average tariffs have fallen. Progress is being made in establishing regional free-trade areas (FTAs) and customs unions. Examples include efforts to integrate the countries which are members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) into one free-trade area. Several countries in the region and regional economic communities are involved in bilateral trade negotiations in order to diversify their export markets and enhance their integration into the global economic and trading systems. Despite these efforts, trade within Africa is still much lower than trade within other regions and Africa also remains marginalized in the global market.

The sustainable development goals, therefore, present a crucial opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its commitment to:

- Promote an open and equitable rules-based multilateral trading system that is non-discriminatory and predictable and benefits all countries in the pursuit of sustainable development
- Ensure that measures that are taken for environmental purposes and have impacts on trade do not constitute a means of arbitrary or unjustifiable discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade
- Promote an international trading system that takes account of the needs of developing countries, including by ensuring that trade capacity-building initiatives assist developing countries in capturing the benefits from trade
- Support the successful conclusion of the Doha Round as a powerful contribution to the sustainable development vision.

J. Regional integration

The role of regional integration in promoting economic diversification, expanding markets, pooling and strengthening efficient allocation of resources, and addressing trans-boundary as well as globalization issues and challenges confronting the region, makes it a crucial vehicle in the successful implementation of the sustainable development goals. Regional integration strengthens economic, social, cultural, political, technological and other ties for fast, balanced and sustainable development between countries and subregions. Cooperation at the subregional and regional levels will also help to maintain and enhance stability, and foster close and peaceful relations.

The importance of regional integration as a means for achieving sustainable development is evident in the creation of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, not long after many African countries had attained political independence, and it has been a driving force behind numerous regional cooperation initiatives. The transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the African Union set in motion actions to deepen progress towards regional integration. A number of regional institutions have been set up and strengthened. Among these are the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency and the Pan African Parliament. All of these facilitate efforts towards regional integration. The Minimum Integration Programme (MIP) has been developed to streamline and fast-track the integration process and to strengthen convergence of the regional economic communities.

These efforts are paying off. There has been substantial progress in regional integration (AUC, 2011) especially through the various regional economic communities, which are the building blocs for the region’s

integration process. In spite of the progress made, a number of challenges and constraints are still delaying the acceleration of integration. Among these are the multiplicity of regional economic communities and their overlapping memberships, fears of losing sovereignty, volatile political environments in some countries, weak institutional capacity for implementing the integration agenda at national level, weak intra-regional trade and inadequate infrastructure to support integration.

Deepening and accelerating Africa's regional integration should therefore remain a top priority of African countries and the region's development partners. Regional integration should be mainstreamed at national level. In this connection, there is need to strengthen political will and support African countries to undertake and enforce national reforms including setting up the necessary institutional frameworks in support of the regional integration agenda.

VI. Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the sustainable development goals

A. Introduction

The proposed sustainable development goals embody Africa's sustainable development priorities and goals within the global framework of the post-2015 development agenda. It is imperative to put in place a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress to ensure that the sustainable development goals are being achieved, as for any other goals. Such a monitoring and evaluation framework would also serve to identify areas of concern, monitor financial resources allocated to the set priorities, assess the overall impact of the key policies and programmes on the performance of sustainable development goals, and assess the overall impact of the development and planning strategies. The monitoring process should also provide for multi-stakeholder reviews from local through national, subregional, regional and international levels; a set timeframe for the review process; a common analytical framework across all countries and regions; and well-coordinated interventions to strengthen statistical capacity of institutions responsible for gathering data and analysing it.

The monitoring and evaluation framework for the sustainable development goals should, ideally, build on existing institutional mechanisms, principally those used for the Millennium Development Goals, noting and correcting for identified weaknesses. In particular, the monitoring process for the Millennium Development Goals taught important lessons on how to maintain focus on internationally agreed development goals and targets, while keeping the world informed of achievements, problem areas and emerging issues. It also brought to the fore the necessity of having well-defined, objectively measurable indicators that can be used to track progress across countries and be aggregated to represent regional and global trends.

A common reporting framework for the indicators will be required to allow for comparability, coordination, credibility and sustainability of monitoring and evaluating performance and results across countries, subregions and regions. Key institutions, which include the African Union Commission, ECA, NEPAD Agency, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme, could lead monitoring and reporting at regional level, while the regional economic communities will take responsibility for collating performance and results at the subregional level. National statistical systems should be strengthened to collect, collate and analyse national and subnational data. National monitoring and evaluation programmes should be integrated into statistical capacity-building from the outset so as to ensure a reliable supply of core statistics with which to monitor and evaluate the achievement of the sustainable development goals. At the global level, existing structures should be maintained such as the Millennium Development Goal Africa Working Group, which brings together regional and international institutions to monitor progress. The global statistical community, led by the United Nations Statistical Commission and guided by the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, should continue to play an authoritative and leadership role in strategic and technical guidance for monitoring the sustainable development goals indicators.

B. Elements of an monitoring and evaluation framework

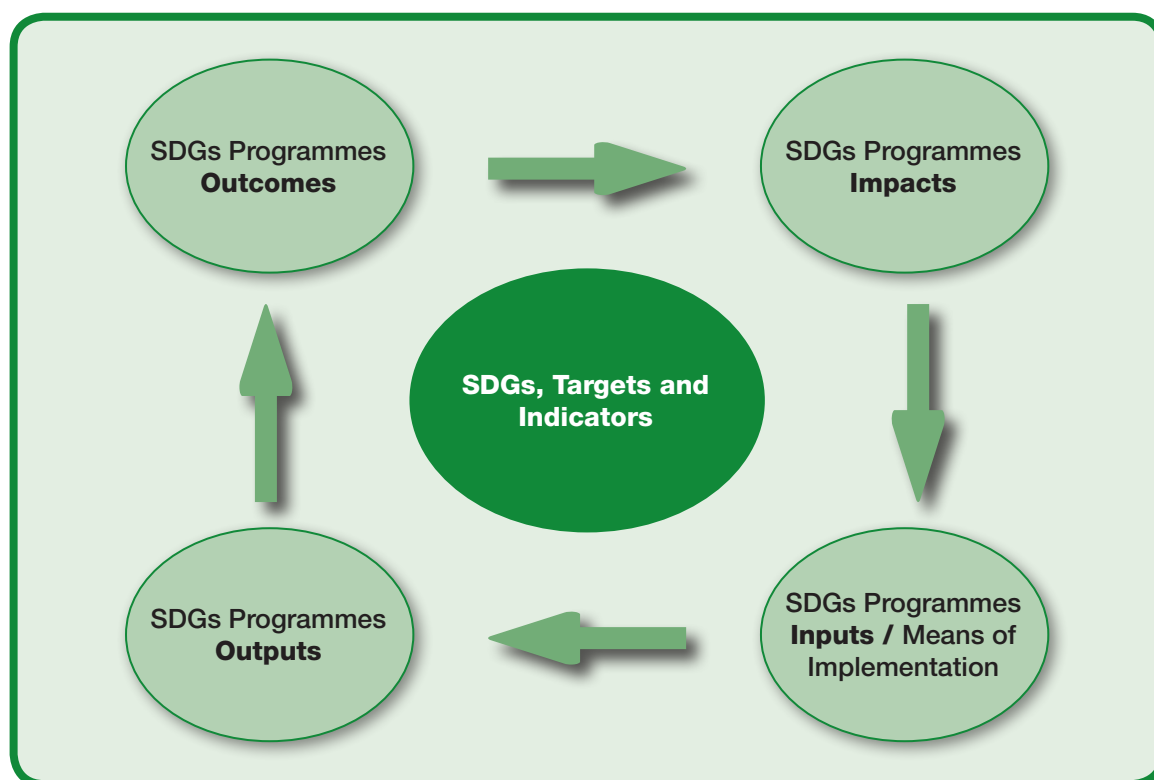
Countries will require a consistent analytical framework is required for systematic monitoring and evaluation of the impact of the sustainable development goals. Broadly, within such a framework, indicators could fall into two components – performance indicators and results indicators. Performance indicators are used to measure the effective use of inputs to generate outputs, and to compare the actual effects of the inputs to their expected effects. Inputs are the financial, physical, and human resources that are em-

ployed by the development programme to produce outputs. Outputs are the products, goods and services produced by means of the inputs. Monitoring performance by determining how effectively and efficiently inputs are converted into outputs is largely a book-keeping and financial-analysis exercise to produce data that can be used for cost-benefit analysis and to calculate cost and input-output ratios for financial and periodic progress reporting.

Results indicators, on the other hand, are generally classified as outcomes and impacts. Impacts are the ultimate effects of development programmes, whether intended or unintended. Monitoring these higher-level results of development programmes is significantly more involving than examining the information internally available in financial and management-information systems, and entails soliciting information from diverse beneficiaries across the broad spectrum of a population about how the programme has affected them. Results indicators have become increasingly prominent since the *Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness* in 2005 and before then, the *Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development* in 2002. Within the results indicator framework, the emphasis on aid effectiveness and results-based development, for example, places the responsibility on policymakers and development practitioners to demonstrate empirically the impacts of their programmes. This has consequently shifted the focus of monitoring and evaluation frameworks from a preoccupation with inputs and outputs to a concentration on results, measured by outcomes and impacts. Thus, the ability of a monitoring and evaluation system to measure and demonstrate outcomes and impacts depends on using indicators that are based on reliable data and on the capacity to collect and analyse such data systematically to generate information and reports.

A basic monitoring and evaluation system for the sustainable development goals could draw on a logical framework methodology and can be applicable at all levels. In overly simplified terms, such a conceptual framework would describe a sustainable development project, programme or component in terms of its intended goal or impact. In order to achieve this impact, for example people's behaviour or lives are expected to have changed in a way that will help with the achievement of the defined sustainable development goals. These changes in behaviour or in lives are known as the sustainable development goal programme outcomes, which may take several years to become apparent. In order for these outcomes to occur, the programmes must generate outputs (goods and services). These outputs in turn require that the necessary combination of the means of implementation or inputs (financial, physical, human, technological and institutional) become available at the right time, place and quantity. Thus, the means of implementation or inputs will generate outputs, which will yield outcomes and eventually impacts.

Figure 3: Main component elements of the logical framework for monitoring and evaluation



Source: ECA, 2014 – adapted from UNDP Handbook on Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation for Development Results (2009).

C. Monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the sustainable development goals – some issues for consideration and lessons from the millennium development goals

Emerging new themes in the sustainable development goals

The proposed sustainable development goals indicate that new development themes and goals will emerge, which were not part of the current Millennium Development Goals framework. Although the Millennium Development Goals monitoring framework achieved a lot to build upon in terms of institutional capacity, skills, methodologies, data collection and reporting, the additional resources and political commitment required for these new themes should not be underestimated. The new goals under consideration will, to a large extent, require the development of new data sources and sound benchmarking, some along more traditional data-collection lines, such as household surveys, and some with methods outside the mainstream of national statistical systems, such as opinion, perception and satisfaction surveys.

In addition, the inclusion of goals that seek to integrate social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development and related efficiency and sustainability indicators, could pose new challenges for monitoring and assessment. Time and resources must be allocated for these new themes to set up the necessary infrastructure and achieve consensus on responsibilities and therefore accountability in data compilation and analysis at national and international levels. Experience with monitoring the Millennium Development Goals, even with innovative methods and advances in information technology, shows that it could require a few years at least, as well as significant new resources, to put in place agreed new statistical

development programmes; achieve and begin to test and benchmark results; and follow up with regular data collection and reporting to support regional and global monitoring. A thorough assessment of long-term capacities and responsibilities at national and international levels must be an important dimension of implementation plans and strategies of the sustainable development goals.

Selection and adaptation of targets and indicators at national levels

The sustainable development goals process and the emerging proposals is the first comprehensive global attempt at establishing goals for sustainable development. The proposed regional goals and targets also serve, among others, the important purposes of rallying different actors, galvanizing political will and actions, and encouraging all nations to work towards a set of defined priorities – hence the need to harmonize monitoring and reporting on progress. However, development aspirations and processes should be context-specific and global/regional goals and targets should not be confused with national development aspirations, goals and targets. To be meaningful, regional goals and targets must be tailored and adapted to national contexts and initial conditions. The Millennium Development Goals have been criticized for not taking due account of national contexts and initial conditions whereby the relation between the agreed targets and indicators for global monitoring and possible and national modifications were not clear and countries have sometimes seen global targets and indicators as mandates.

The proposed sustainable development goals are, therefore, not meant to set or replace national priorities and could be implemented with varying degrees of selection, adaptation or modification to national circumstances. As in the case of the Millennium Development Goals, some countries may choose to complement the proposed targets and indicators with other targets and indicators, as deemed appropriate to their national development context. Countries should be encouraged continuously to review their own goals, targets and indicators through national participatory processes, with the regional and global post-2015 agenda as a useful benchmark but not necessarily a prescription. This is critical for national ownership, commitment and accountability.

The monitoring and reporting framework that would emerge is also not meant to set up a new international reporting burden, adding to an already long list of international requests for development information and statistics. Technical cooperation and partnerships among regional institutions and their member States should continue to play a positive role in the adaptation of global and regional goals, targets and indicators to national circumstances and priorities, including implementing needed basic data programmes and compiling national indicators, analyses and reports attuned to regional and global concerns.

National ownership

The Millennium Development Goals processes have often been criticized for lacking clear ownership and leadership at national levels and for not assigning accountability to any one institution. In part, this is because at inception, the Millennium Development Goals were conceived as a top-down approach and so developing countries' involvement in the initial framework was minimal, leading to weak national ownership. In addition, they have also been criticized as not aligned with continental programmes and efforts to have them linked to national development plans and poverty-reduction strategies has often been selective for mere "political correctness" (ECA, 2012). The sustainable development goals framework should seek to address these.

There has also been scrutiny of data collection and analysis and national participation and ownership in the course of the monitoring process for the Millennium Development Goals. Some national statistical offices have expressed concerns over estimations or imputations of missing data for indicators which were done using various statistical methods that international agencies employ, although they usually worked with national partners with a view to achieving internationally comparable data. For the sustainable development goals, transparency, accountability and national involvement in any estimation which is not derived from reported data should be enhanced at all stages, ensuring that methods must be replicable and easily understood by users and national stakeholders. Where international agencies use their own

methods of estimation and modelling to improve comparability and fill in data gaps, countries should likewise participate in the development and application of these methodologies. Improved consultations and support to national statistical services are needed to ensure collaboration and enhance national leadership.

Capacities of national statistical systems

For issues of national ownership, political commitment and accountability and other issues, it is fundamental that the international monitoring of global development is based, to the extent possible, on official statistics produced by national statistical services. Hence the enhancement of national capacities for collecting, compiling, analyzing and reporting on targets and indicators are critical to implementing, monitoring and evaluation of the proposed sustainable development goals.

National capacities have developed substantially since the Millennium Development Goal framework and indicators were established in 2001 and considerable new international support has been provided for the development of national statistics and data paucity continues to be addressed at different levels. However, most national statistical systems are still severely under-resourced and have failed to deliver both in terms of timeliness and reliability of data. Securing good quality, comprehensive and comparable data for measuring progress towards the sustainable development goals will pose a challenge. Even when data is available, it is often not adequately disaggregated to allow for comparison between spatial scales, time periods and even special grouping by gender and other social structures, thus constraining in-depth monitoring and reporting.

Principal challenges facing national statistical systems include: limited human and institutional capacity of the units that are responsible for collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistics; lack of adequate technical tools, packages and framework to support data-production efforts; insufficient funding; and poor institutional coordination. In addition, donor support has often focused too exclusively on data collection with inadequate attention to strengthening national capacities for follow-up reporting, analysis and development of indicators. To support the sustainable development goals, capacity-building and data-collection programmes should pay greater attention to analytical techniques and post-data collection processes, including methods of estimation to fill data gaps.

Monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the sustainable development goals would, therefore, place additional stress on these systems and more work and resources will be needed to support the effective implementation of the sustainable development goals. It will be useful at an early stage to comprehensively examine data gaps and compilation limitations country by country and goal by goal, with a view to addressing potential capacity challenges in national statistical services. With regard to the new emerging themes of the sustainable development goals, due consideration must be given to resource requirements, cost implications and data quality and continuity. It will be essential to identify, at the onset, new resources to support the needed data collection, compilation, and dissemination. African countries will continue to need assistance in improving their statistical systems so as to measure their development progress, support global development aspirations, participate effectively in their national monitoring programmes and help guide national policies.

Institutional roles and responsibilities

In terms of institutional arrangements, institutions and agencies charged with responsibility for monitoring and evaluation performance and results of the sustainable development goals will need to be clearly identified, appropriately mandated and capacitated. This should be case from the community through to the subnational, national, subregional, regional and international levels. Thus, at the community level, the monitoring and reporting units of local governments or local community councils will need to be strengthened to play a role in surveys to generate relevant data and implementation reports. At the subnational level, provincial administration or state governments, where applicable, will have to raise the effectiveness of existing monitoring and reporting mechanisms to collate statistics and community-level reports to produce subnational implementation reports. Reports at provincial or state levels will be consolidated at the national level through designated institutions and agencies. At this stage, the national office of statistics will play a fundamental role in the generation of timely and reliable data.

At the subregional level, the regional economic communities will provide the institutional framework for monitoring and reporting on the sustainable development goals for each of the five subregions. These will draw heavily on reports produced at the country level. Thus, subregional reports will, in turn, be consolidated at the regional level by relevant regional organizations such as the African Union Commission, ECA, NEPAD Agency, African Development Bank, UNDP and UNEP.

At the international level, the United Nations is expected to serve as the apex institution for the global report on the implementation of the sustainable development goals. The global report will draw on national and regional-level inputs, additional data and information provided by bilateral and multilateral institutions and agencies, United Nations organizations and global NGOs, among others. An appropriate organ of the United Nations will be required to serve as the coordinating agency.

It will be efficient and cost-effective if the emerging monitoring and reporting framework builds on and strengthens existing mechanisms, especially at the national, regional and international levels. All designated institutions and agencies will need to be adequately resourced to adequately track and report progress on the sustainable development goals. It is also critical that reporting at each level is subjected to multi-stakeholder reviews for validation before being processed to the next reporting level. It is expected that the adoption of a common monitoring and reporting framework at all levels will ensure comparability of progress over time across countries and regions.

VII. Conclusions and recommendations

This report has sought to examine the priorities of the African region with respect to economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability. The report also examines the overarching issues of governance and institutions. It then presents a proposal on sustainable development goals, targets and indicators for implementation over a period 2016-2030. To this end, it assessed findings from the five subregions on sustainable development priorities, reviewed relevant documentation and proposed a set of 12 goals that sustainable development efforts will aim to achieve in the region. To achieve these goals and targets, the report discusses means of implementation and monitoring and evaluation.

The following are the main conclusions and recommendations of the report.

A. Conclusions

Over the last decade, Africa has recorded sustained and impressive economic growth. One quarter of countries grew at an average of about 7 per cent or more, and a number of African countries are among the fastest growing in the world. This growth however needs to be reoriented to provide a strong basis for the transition to sustainable development. Growth should translate into improvements in human development. Africa's drive for structural transformation should have sustainability at its core and ensure the creation of decent jobs and poverty eradication.

On social development, the region has made laudable progress. The incidence of poverty is on the decline in many countries, public expenditure on education has steadily increased and most countries have achieved universal primary enrolment and gender parity in primary education. Progress on health, gender and women's empowerment indicators is encouraging but slow. Considerable challenges still remain. In particular, poverty, inequality and extreme hunger remain fundamental challenges for the post-2015 development framework.

Africa's sustainable development largely depends on goods and services derived from its environment and natural resource base. The environment and natural resources are crucial in the region's effort at poverty eradication and inextricably linked to the social dimensions of sustainable development. The land, soil, water, forest, biodiversity, marine ecosystems and mineral resources form the basis of primary production and support key sectors that drive socioeconomic development. Agriculture, tourism, industry, mining and many forms of local, national, regional and international trade thrive on the goods and services provided by natural resources. As Africa pursues sustainable growth pathways and structural transformation, the management of natural capital is critical. Achieving sustainable development also necessitates addressing climate variability and change as an inevitable and urgent global challenge with long-term implications for social, economic and ecological systems.

The path towards sustainable development requires significant policy shifts and the scale of resources required for the achievement of the sustainable development goals proposed in this report will be immense. While traditional development assistance and cooperation remain important, Africa must equally take responsibility for its development. It should considerably step up the mobilization of domestic financial resources, seek effective partnership from the international community to reap the full benefits of its natural resources, pursue fair trade and market access. Capacity and technology development are also key, and so are good governance and effective institutions.

A robust monitoring and evaluation framework is crucial to the attainment of the sustainable development goals. This framework should track progress, identify areas of concern, monitor financial resources allocated to the set priorities and assess the overall impact of the key policies. Management is only possible where there is measurement. The monitoring framework should also provide for multi-stakeholder reviews at various levels, a common analytical framework across all countries and regions, and well-coor-

minated interventions to strengthen statistical capacity of institutions responsible for gathering data and its analysis.

B. Recommendations

For the effective implementation of the sustainable development goals in the Africa region within the post-2015 development framework this report recommends the following:

General

- The process of implementing the sustainable development goals should be led at the highest level of political leadership at local, country, subregional and regional levels. Effective political leadership is crucial for ownership, commitment, galvanizing support, mobilizing resources and ensuring accountability.
- Effective participation of all stakeholders – public, private sector, civil society, youth organizations, and women’s organizations – should be vigorously cultivated, encouraged and sustained. In particular, effective participation entails multi-stakeholder reviews at various levels and further enhances accountability. Leaders in all sectors of the economy and society must actively steer the sustainable development agenda and ensure commitment by all stakeholders.
- The strengthening of good governance in the region is yielding positive dividends. For example, the *Economic Report on Africa 2014* indicates that Africa’s growth has been underpinned, among others, by improved economic governance and management. Progress has also been made in human rights, the rule of law and control of corruption, but challenges remain in other areas. Governments, regional, subregional and international institutions should continue to implement protocols and measures to ensure the emergence of capable, transparent and accountable leaders, as well as effective institutions and governance systems in the region.
- Countries should have well-defined national frameworks for the implementation of the goals and targets. Such frameworks must ensure that the sustainable development goals are tailored and adapted to national priorities, context and circumstances, and appropriately guide policy, planning and institutional development and reforms.
- The sustainable development goals will have implications for regional agendas, for example the African Union Agenda 2063, with varying implementation time horizons. Therefore, the articulation, implementation, and periodic reviews of the proposed sustainable development goals should take into account such regional development frameworks and initiatives.
- The African Peer Review Mechanism process should be reviewed to include measures for assessing the extent that policies and programmes in a member State’s national plans of action comply with sustainable development.
- Sustainable development entails a paradigm shift in the current development framework. Its principles, concepts, notions and general philosophical underpinning should become a part of the region’s educational curricula at all levels. Awareness should be raised and strongly promoted across all strata of the society, especially the youth on whom future sustainable development responsibilities fall.
- The development of human and institutional capacity for the implementation of the goals and targets is of great importance. The adoption of the sustainable development goals will require capacity-building strategies and programmes to be fully oriented to sustainable development. Present approaches and priorities at local, national, subregional and regional levels must be responsive to the sustainable development agenda. The Capacity Development Strategic Framework of the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa’s Development agency and other national, institutional and development cooperation frameworks will need to be revisited to ensure that they effectively cater to the sustainable development goals.

- Africa must take active responsibility for its development. While the resource requirement to implement the sustainable development goals will be substantial, the potential to raise domestic financial resources is huge. Measures to enhance domestic resource mobilization, in particular, implementation of the recommendations of the NEPAD Agency-ECA 2013 proposal on domestic resource mobilization, including the African Development Bank's Africa50Fund.
- While domestic resources are crucial, external financial resources will be required for the implementation of the sustainable development goals. Commitments and pledges, including on climate-change financing, should be upheld and followed through by the region's development partners.
- The African Union and the United Nations General Assembly should engage the rich countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development to step up efforts on disclosure standards. International partnerships should be more responsive to the challenge of illicit financial flows from the African region. The 2009 pledge by the World Bank, supported by the G8 Heads of States, to reduce the average global cost of remittances from 10 per cent to 5 per cent by 2014 is yet to result in any appreciable reduction in the African context. Achievement of this pledge in Africa will enable the region to save more than \$2.884 billion annually in diaspora remittance costs towards implementation of the sustainable development goals.
- Reforms in tax administration and public financial management should be pursued. Countries in the region which are underperforming in tax-revenue collection and administration should invest more resources in building the capacity of their revenue agencies. Independent revenue agencies that are well-resourced, technically competent and with appropriate mandates remain a preferred option.
- There is an urgent need to ensure that human and institutional capacity development, as well as technology development, are accorded the necessary priority, both as cross-cutting issues in all development interventions but also through targeted actions aligned with nationally identified sustainable development needs and priorities.

Monitoring and evaluation of programmes and performance

- ECA should collaborate with other regional institutions in the development and application of appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the goals, targets and indicators, the development of databases to facilitate performance tracking and the provision of technical support to countries on sustainable development strategy, policy and programmes.
- ECA and partners should also support countries in the selection and adaptation of targets and indicators to their national contexts and the development of monitoring and evaluating frameworks. National statistical capacities must be strengthened for data gathering and analysis in order to enhance reporting by countries to the designated regional body.
- With support from African countries, regional and subregional organizations, as well as development partners, ECA should establish a mechanism for systematically and regularly collating, processing and storing data and information on each of the goals and targets in the region. The aim is to provide ready access to data and information required by policymakers and development managers in monitoring progress in the implementation of the goals and targets as well as the means of implementation.
- ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank should regularly convene consultative review meetings and lead processes to monitor and evaluate progress in the implementation of the sustainable development goals, targets and indicators.
- ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank should create and strengthen platforms for dialogue on sustainable development between all stakeholders and at all levels – regional, subregional and national – in order to share information, knowledge

and lessons on progress in the implementation of the sustainable development goals and targets and to determine what works and what does not and why.

- ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank should ensure that annual progress reports on the implementation of the goals and targets are compiled using a participatory approach, with each country in the region reporting on its performance.

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