



# Sustainable development goals for the North Africa subregion

## Summary report



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# 1. Introduction

At a time when the international community is assessing the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), evaluating progress made towards sustainable development, identifying the shortcomings that need to be addressed and taking into account emerging challenges, North Africa must not only contribute to but also stimulate the international process through active participation in the development of a new world vision, in keeping with Rio+20, and more especially within the framework of the post-2015 programme.

As part of the preparation for the post-2015 development agenda, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission (AUC), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) jointly organized subregional and regional consultations in Africa. The consultations were held in Accra in November 2011; Mombasa, Kenya, in October 2012; Dakar in December 2012; and Hammamet, Tunisia, in March 2013. The regional consultation held in Hammamet was aimed at determining Africa's priorities for the post-2015 development agenda, identifying the facilitators and critical factors for the success of the programme and aligning the post-2015 priorities with other development programmes and priorities, including the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). The meeting led to an outcome paper, in which it was agreed that the post-2015 development agenda would encompass the outcomes of Rio+20 and the initiatives taken in Africa, as well as the recommendations that had emanated from national and regional consultations and United Nations forums.

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

- (a) Prioritize economic growth and structural transformation;
- (b) Redirect the development model to distance it from initiatives started from the outside and rather focus on home-grown ones, with national funding and ownership;
- (c) Make equity and social inclusion a priority and measure progress made in terms of service availability and quality;
- (d) Pay close attention to vulnerable groups such as women, children, youth, the aged, persons with disabilities and displaced persons;
- (e) Take a close interest in development facilitators and outcomes, particularly structural transformation of the economy and inclusive growth, innovation and technology transfer, human development, financing and partnerships.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in June 2012, in Brazil, adopted an outcome document "The future we want", which was later approved by the United Nations General Assembly. It gave new impetus to the follow-up and implementation of commitments agreed at the Conference, which included the drafting of the sustainable development goals, which would be useful for taking targeted and coordinated action for sustainable development at the international level, integrating its economic, social and environmental dimensions.

As part of the follow-up of the Rio+20 outcomes, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), in conjunction with the African Union Commission (AUC), AfDB and the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs, organized the regional implementation meeting for Africa in November 2012. The meeting reaffirmed the principles on which the sustainable development goals were founded, and identified broad priority areas for Africa, as shown below.

- (a) Eliminating poverty;
- (b) Combating hunger, by ensuring food security and proper nutrition;

- (c) Providing access to potable water and appropriate sanitation facilities;
- (d) Providing access to quality education and health services;
- (e) Promoting gender equality and women's empowerment;
- (f) Ensuring universal and equitable access to social services and social protection;
- (g) Ensuring sustainable and inclusive economic growth;
- (h) Reducing vulnerability and enhancing resilience to factors such as climate change;
- (i) Creating decent jobs;
- (j) Enhancing infrastructure development;
- (k) Providing access to affordable and sustainable energy;
- (l) Combating soil degradation and desertification, drought and deforestation;
- (m) Combating problems stemming from climate change, especially through adaptation and mitigation measures;
- (n) Promoting sustainable water resource management;
- (o) Facilitating access to ecologically rational technologies and their transfer, including in terms of adapting to climate change and mitigating their effects;
- (p) Promoting peace and security.

The implementation meeting also called upon the international community to provide Africa with adequate support to enable the region to set up an efficient and broad bottom-up consultation process to develop objectives, indicators and targets, which would serve as a basis for the sustainable development goals.

## **The present report**

The present report is in line with Africa's consultations on the development agenda beyond 2015 and the post-Rio+20 process to help countries to engage efficiently in the global process on the sustainable development goals and ensure the inclusion of the development priorities of the continent in the global agreement. The five subregional reports, including the present one, and the Africa regional report have been prepared. They were presented at the African Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals organized by ECA, in conjunction with AUC and AfDB, from 31 October to 5 November 2013. The meeting adopted its final document as a technical contribution to be reviewed by the High-level Committee for Africa on the post-2015 development agenda.

The present report starts with an assessment of the implementation of the sustainable development policies in the seven countries of the North Africa region to identify development priorities for the periods ahead. The national consultations, currently being undertaken as part of efforts to define the post-2015 development programme in five countries of the subregion, namely, Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and the Sudan, have been reviewed and analysed. The findings have helped to redefine priorities, which have been reformulated in the form of global objectives, taking into account the recommendations contained in the Rio+20 outcome document and the desire for regional integration, which is beneficial for achieving sustainable development. The objectives could then be categorized according to targets and indicators.



At the subregional level, the report underscores the importance of topics/thematic issues which were not taken into account by the MDGs, though essential for achieving sustainable development. These include governance, the fight against corruption, climate change, green economy, employment and regional disparities.

The report identifies 4 global objectives, 36 targets and 54 indicators that will be examined according to set priorities and programming matrices, as part of a concerted effort with other regions. Experts at the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals contributed to the report.

Lastly, the report highlights the existence of some threats which could undermine the implementation of goals. It sets forth recommendations which include:

- (i) building national production and data analysis systems;
- (ii) building capacities for better ownership of the objectives for sustainable development and of the underlying systemic approach;
- (iii) implementing the training and information campaign on the green economy (sustainable development approach, principles, tools and benefits);
- (iv) mobilizing internal and external financial resources; and
- (v) ensuring coordination among stakeholders.

## 2. Identification of subregional sustainable development priorities

Most North African countries recognize the importance of mainstreaming sustainable development objectives and principles in their development policies and programmes. This has resulted in international commitments (signing and ratification of protocols and conventions on sustainable development), institutional reforms (setting up of ministries and agencies to this end), regulatory reforms (adapting the legal arsenal to environmental requirements), and the adoption and implementation of targeted strategies, programmes and projects. The progress achieved varies greatly depending on the political, economic and social constraints of the country and the challenges encountered by all stakeholders, as well as political will.

Sustainable development priorities were identified by analysing relevant challenges in the various countries of the subregion. This analysis took into account both the progress achieved by these countries since the Rio summit and the challenges and setbacks.

Priorities are defined according to the different pillars of sustainable development around which policies and programmes implemented are articulated. They are also determined by some emerging challenges currently facing countries in the subregion.

### *(a) Economic priorities*

Development policies and strategies implemented in the subregion boost economic growth and promote good governance. These objectives are structured around developing some of the major assets of the subregion, namely, the great diversity of natural resources, the existence of solid physical infrastructures, homogeneous geographic and cultural spaces, and substantial human resources. An analysis of the implementation of these policies reveals a number of major obstacles which hinder economic policies. These obstacles are analysed below in a bid to identify future action priorities.

#### **Economies vulnerable to climatic hazards**

Climatic hazards cause loss in productivity in soils and the continuous degradation of plant cover, making economies highly dependent on particularly vulnerable natural resources. These factors contribute to the decline in the agricultural sector, food insecurity, precariousness and the dependency of the countries in the region on world prices for their raw materials. The agricultural sector occupies an important place in the economies of the various countries – 30 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the Sudan, and on average 10 per cent of GDP in the other countries except for Libya and Mauritania, where it represents less than 4 per cent. Furthermore, agricultural development is inextricably linked to water resource management (more than 80 per cent of this resource is used for agriculture in the different countries) and to the relevant political choices made by the authorities. This dependency by the subregion on world imports, estimated on average at 59 per cent in 2012, could lead to a disastrous food insecurity situation, such as stock-outs and the inability to control world prices.

North Africa experiences the most severe water shortages in the world, with water availability below 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> per year, and desertification affects about 85 per cent of land, which is increasingly threatened by erosion and salinization. In addition, agriculture in the region is mostly rain-fed and highly vulnerable to climatic variations, and there is a growing population concentration and economic activities in the coastal areas. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, North Africa is considered the second zone most vulnerable to climate hazards worldwide. Some towns, especially on the coast, are exposed to natural disasters, notably Tunis, Casablanca, Cairo and Nouakchott. Political reforms and important investments must be undertaken to enable the subregion to adapt to climatic changes and enhance the resilience of environments and ecosystems to natural disasters.

## Economies highly dependent on natural resources

The economies of most of the countries of the subregion depend on the exploitation of natural resources and remain largely undiversified. Algeria and Mauritania are good examples of this. In Algeria, the hydrocarbons sector accounts for 98 per cent of the total volume of exports<sup>1</sup> and 70 per cent of budget revenue (\$71.4 billion). Between 2011 and 2012, the country recorded very low levels of non-hydrocarbons exports, which amounted to \$500 million. The 2012 report of the central bank of Algeria states that the poor external competitiveness of the national economy, still dependent on imports, especially of goods, went up by 3.5 per cent, and amounted to \$23.9 billion between 2011 and 2012. As for foreign direct investment (FDI), results were equally unsatisfactory recording a 42 per cent drop from \$2.57 billion to \$1.48 billion in 2012. Regarding Mauritania, exports are still highly concentrated on a very small number of products such as minerals, fish, live cattle to a small extent, and hydrocarbons, worsening the vulnerability of the economy. In 2012, primary and extractive activities accounted for close to 45 per cent of GDP. Diversification of trade with neighbouring countries is not very developed: Mauritania does not have sufficient trade ties with sub-Saharan Africa, like Senegal, nor with Arab countries, like Egypt. The volume of foreign direct investments increased from 2011 to 2012, from \$60 million to more than \$80 million, which is a significant percentage of GDP though still far below the performances recorded in 2005 at \$814 million.

North Africa relies heavily on primary commodity exports, and as a result of this, creating sustainable employment is a problem. Its industrial development, though the most effective in the Africa region, is limited and above all, appears to have been affected by the global economic crisis. In fact, the manufacturing industry's contribution to the subregion's GDP, estimated at about 13 per cent<sup>2</sup> has hardly changed over the last twenty years. This figure conceals some of the disparities between the countries. In Algeria, Libya, Mauritania and the Sudan, the figure is between 6 and 8 per cent and in Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, the average is around 17 per cent<sup>3</sup>. These countries need to make substantial efforts to diversify production and set up raw material processing industries. To this end, countries in the subregion have great opportunities, considering the huge raw material wealth and the potential for industrialization and the creation of value added from natural resources. The development of renewable energy, on the basis of voluntary policies like those implemented in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, and more recently Mauritania, is an example of harnessing one of the region's great potentials. The agricultural potential of the Sudan and the mining potential of Mauritania could create important value chains.

In order to create enabling conditions for inclusive growth, countries of the subregion must become manufacturing economies focusing on sectors with a strong potential for growth and job creation, and also engage in targeted diversification of the economy in order to respond to current and future needs, notably with greater integration of new technologies to modernize production processes.

In addition, export diversification, which recorded a strong recovery in 2012, should be accelerated and investments increased by creating a climate conducive to business, especially for the private sector. Currently, the rate of investment in the subregion, which is about 15 per cent of GDP, is below that recorded in some emerging countries, such as those in South East Asia, where it exceeds 30 per cent of GDP.

## Economic growth is insufficient for job creation

The economic growth of the subregion is still insufficient to create employment. After a rapid increase between 1960 and 1980, growth and employment started stagnating in most North African countries. Between 1980 and 2012, per capita growth was on average only 0.5 per cent a year in the subregion. Growth in 2013 is projected to average around 4.2 per cent, and increase to 4.6 per cent in 2014, as the

1 For 2011.

2 ECA, 2013.

3 ECA and AU, 2013.

political environment returns to normal and economic activity picks up.<sup>4</sup> The economy of Libya, which has experienced significant fluctuations, is expected to return to pre-crisis levels. For their part, Algeria, Mauritania and the Sudan should record better agricultural yields.

Economic growth and employment policy are still limited by poor national production results, especially in terms of the creation of added value, and also by wealth redistribution strategies such as natural resource wealth, which are still insufficient or even non-existent. On account of the findings that have emerged, the various governments of the subregion must reform their economic policies in order to bolster more inclusive growth that would create jobs, generate income and usher in sustainable political stability in the entire region.

High youth unemployment remains a concern in the subregion. To reduce unemployment among all age groups, there needs to be a structural reform of the job market, restoration of confidence in the market, inclusive growth, replenishment of foreign exchange reserves and maintenance of political and social stability.

## *(b) Social priorities*

Governments of the subregion are currently striving to meet the expectations, as expressed by their people in 2011, in spite of the very difficult global economic climate. These expectations were about improving democratic processes and curbing inequalities and unemployment, especially among the youth. Faced with these challenges, major social priorities could be proposed to ease social tensions and improve the living conditions of people in the subregion within the framework of sustainable development.

The following observations can be made based on an analysis of social policies implemented:

### **High unemployment rate, especially among young people**

The high unemployment rate is a major obstacle to development in North Africa. It affects particularly the youth, women and higher education graduates. In spite of huge investments, the educational system in the countries of the subregion does not provide the skills sought by the job market. This situation hampers growth and sustainable employment, and promotes the development of the informal market. Moreover, safety nets in this sector are weak and most workers do not have social protection.

In its 2012 report, the International Labour Organization (ILO)<sup>5</sup> states that employment in the subregion is characterized by an increase in “vulnerable employment” in the informal sector. Such jobs are generally based on informal arrangements which deprive workers of social protection and are characterized by low pay and difficult working conditions that may undermine the fundamental rights of workers.

The progress made towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially for health and education, has resulted in increased life expectancy, with a significant increase in the elderly population in the medium- and long-term, sharply increasing the cost of medical and social care for countries of the subregion.

The population growth witnessed in the subregion over the past few decades has led to a substantial increase in the youth population, where the 15-29 age group has increased by 50 per cent over the last 20 years, and entering the workforce is difficult in the present economic situation. The increasing number of unemployed young people is resulting in youth marginalization (petty crime, illegal immigration and religious extremism, among other things) and poses a real danger of destabilization in the subregion.

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<sup>4</sup> IMF, 2013.

<sup>5</sup> ILO, 2012.

Addressing this issue will require far-reaching reforms of the educational system by tailoring it to the realities of the job market by matching training to employment. It is important to take into account social and regional inequalities to offer the best opportunities to the youth, and also to propose a sustainable social protection system, that can take into account the ageing population.

### **Threatening food insecurity**

North African countries still rely heavily on grain imports and climate vagaries for their basic food supply. This dependency makes them vulnerable to the shocks of fluctuating food prices on the international market which have been constantly on the rise for more than 10 years. Against this backdrop, food security becomes a strategic priority and an important factor for social, political and budget stability.

The specialized Arab Maghreb Union ministerial committee on food security has focused on the need for reinforcing trade in agricultural produce to achieve food security in the subregion and underscores the need for addressing challenges in some sectors and areas closely linked to food security, namely sustainable water management, adopting a common food price stabilization policy and strengthening production systems.

Agriculture has great potential for reducing poverty and achieving food security. Substantial efforts in this area could be an important engine for inclusive growth, particularly in countries where poverty is widespread in rural areas, such as in Egypt, Mauritania and the Sudan.

Addressing this issue will require on the one hand, the implementation of joint approaches to the management of natural resource such as water, soil, plant cover, and on the other hand, strengthening the resilience of productive systems and vulnerable populations to climate changes.

This approach should be accompanied by policies on mastering factors of production (primary and industrial processing/development): saving water, access to clean and sustainable energy, technology transfers and capacity-building for producers.

### **Significant regional disparities and gender equality**

North African countries have made significant progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals, especially in the areas of health, access to water and poverty alleviation. Some countries such as Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia are likely to achieve most Goals in 2015. However, performances conceal important regional inequalities such as poverty rates ranging from 42 per cent in Mauritania to less than 1 per cent in Algeria. The human development index (HDI) ranges from 0.795 in Libya (ranked 64th in the world) to 0.402 in the Sudan (169th).

Disparities exist among countries, as well as within regions of the same country. They include economic development, food insecurity, and access to basic health services, energy and sanitation. Discrimination against women with regard to salaries, employment and decision-making are major areas of concern raised by civil society and regularly highlighted by the country's technical and financial partners. The situation of women in the subregion is disturbing as the overall unemployment rate for the region in 2012 was about 18 per cent among women compared to 9 per cent among men. The unemployment rate for young women was estimated at close to 42 per cent in 2012, and the number of working women, at 28 per cent, is very low when compared to other parts of the world.

However, progress was made in the area of representation of women in Parliament. In 2011, this proportion was seven times higher than in 1990. The factors that contributed to this development included, among other things, affirmative action measures like legal frameworks guaranteeing seats for women in politics.

The subregion, moreover, is under mounting pressure from urbanization. The coastal towns are seeing unprecedented human occupation with disastrous consequences at various levels; economic (poverty), social (unemployment) and environmental (pollution). Faced with this poorly controlled urbanization, access to basic social services is a considerable challenge for the authorities. Meeting water and energy needs will be particularly difficult in a region where these two resources are subjected to major constraints. The increasing urban population growth, especially in the coastal environment increases the potential risks of natural disasters and complicates the process of adapting to climate change in these areas. Anticipating the future, increasing financing and adapting to climate change will enable countries of the subregion to better respond to challenges.

### **(c) Environmental priorities**

Countries of the subregion are suffering from a number of similar environmental problems: desertification, scarcity of water resources, land, forest and pasture degradation, considerable pressure on the marine environment, and industrial, urban and agricultural pollution. All these issues are currently not sufficiently taken into account, so remain a major challenge for regional integration. To show the importance of these issues and meet environmental challenges, all countries are implementing appropriate strategies and policies in accordance with national priorities and the provisions of various major multilateral environmental agreements and instruments to which they have acceded.

An examination of these policies reveals a number of major constraints that countries must overcome to change current trends and preserve the environment and natural resources for the sustainable development of the subregion.

#### **Degradation of natural resources**

North Africa is made up of coastal plains, mountain chains and high plateaus. Most of the region's land area is covered by desert-type growth. The region is mostly semi-arid to arid, subject to a climate resulting from maritime influences in the North, the Mediterranean Sea in the East, the Atlantic Ocean in the West and Saharan influences in the South. Arable land is limited, comprising between 1 per cent (Libya) and 18.2 per cent (Tunisia) of national land. On the whole, North Africa receives only 7 per cent of Africa's total rainfall, with unequal distribution between countries and within countries.<sup>6</sup>

The subregion is experiencing the full consequences of desertification (85 per cent of lands), which is destroying the biological potential of the soil, causing water scarcity, declining land productivity, biodiversity loss and deterioration in quality of life. Arable lands (15 per cent of the subregion's total land area) are threatened by erosion, salinization and non-sustainable cultural practices. Though these problems apply in a common geographic space and an economic zone under construction, national control policies are implemented differently by States, without any specific coordination.

Soil and forest degradation undermines food security efforts made and threatens the living conditions of future generations. It also has direct consequences on internal and external migration, which may worsen social pressures on land.

With the exception of Egypt (the Nile), Mauritania (Senegal River) and the Sudan (the Nile), North Africa does not have major permanent rivers. Consequently, States have opted for irrigation using aquifers and hydraulic structures, but issues relating to the sustainability of these aquifers which are often across borders, given the growing demand of countries and risks of conflicts over the resource, remain important concerns that must still be incorporated in any water resource mobilization subregional strategy.

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<sup>6</sup> EU, 2012.

The oases, which are the subregion's economic pillar and model of sustainable development constructed by man over the centuries, are today threatened by climate change, notably its effects on water resource availability, geographic isolation, difficulties accessing markets or shifts in consumption patterns from local products towards manufactured goods.

In addition, the region has a rich biodiversity that is important for the world heritage and for the balance of ecosystems. According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)<sup>7</sup>, 870 plant species are classified as rare, endangered or endemic in North Africa.

Fisheries resources are also important in countries such as Mauritania and Morocco but some species like octopuses and sardinellas are being overexploited. To reverse this trend, it is necessary to adopt new sustainable production and consumption methods as well as the integrated management of natural resources, effectively involving all local stakeholders.

### **Energy insecurity and underexploited renewable energy potential**

Energy demand has been increasing steadily in all countries (6-8 per cent on average per year) and the needs are still covered by subsidized fossil energy. The realization that energy fuel sources will run out at some point in the future and the interventions by the sustainable development programme for carbon emissions reduction<sup>8</sup> has placed energy issues at the centre of the subregion's environmental challenges. The subregion has a rich renewable energy potential that could meet almost the entire demand in the medium- and long-term, but this remains underexploited. To ensure energy safety, countries of the subregion have set a target to significantly increase the share of renewable energy in their energy mix. Some countries like Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, and more recently Mauritania have made substantial investments.<sup>9</sup>

The exploitation of this renewable energy potential is facing some financing and profitability setbacks. The challenge is energy efficiency, considered to be the most profitable resource in energy service development. Meeting this challenge involves mobilizing the necessary financing and promoting technology transfers, by strengthening exchanges and partnerships between member countries and optimizing cross-border interconnection infrastructures.

Within this framework, a number of actions must be undertaken at subregional level: (a) progressive harmonization of regulations and network codes; (b) formulation of a regional strategy for capacity development and knowledge transfer; (c) formulation of a subregional renewable energy strategy that promotes the creation of regional industrial centres; and (d) development of unifying regional programmes, notably in the area of scientific research dedicated to renewable energy.

### **Climate change challenges**

The subregion is today considered one of the most vulnerable to climate change, which, in the short term, may impact the life of the people in this subregion through productivity loss, drop in agricultural revenue, migration, among other things, and contribute to the degradation of natural resources. The current signs and the challenges for the region include increasing levels of greenhouse gas emissions,<sup>11</sup> changes in rainfall patterns and temperatures, threat of rising sea levels (Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) and the increase in extreme weather events.

If emergency policies are not implemented in this area, substantial and overwhelming investments will be required by States to reverse or halt the trend by adapting to or mitigating the effects of climate change. A sustainable solution must include the integrated management of natural resources such as land, water and forests, within the framework of subregional coherent and concerted policies and a regional and international partnership centred on measures for adapting and mitigating the effects of climate change.

<sup>7</sup> UNEP, 2013.

<sup>8</sup> Average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the region, calculated over the last 30 years, are about 2.1 metric tons/inhabitant. They vary greatly across countries and range from a maximum of 8t/inhabitant for Libya to 0.2t/inhabitant for the Sudan.

<sup>9</sup> ECA-NA, 2012.

For example, the Arab Maghreb Union has already implemented strategic policy decisions that take into account the subregion's vulnerability and the need to adapt to climate change. These include (i) setting up large-scale educational programmes to raise public awareness about climate change and the technology available to help adapt to it; (ii) conceive projects and create financial mechanisms that enable the transfer of such technology to countries throughout the subregion (a joint Arab Maghreb Union-Japan cooperation agreement is already under way); (iii) set up permanent structures to monitor and respond to climate change questions over the long term (the Arab Maghreb Union has put forward a proposal for a Maghreb drought early warning observatory (Observatoire Maghrébin d'Alerte Précoce à la Sécheresse).

## *(d) Cross-cutting priorities*

### **A balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development**

A poor holistic weak integration of the three pillars has significant consequences on the effectiveness of poverty alleviation policies. An evaluation of ecosystems through goods and services like those implemented on specific ecosystems like the humid zones in Mauritania<sup>10</sup>, show that there is a direct relationship between the health of the environment (ecosystems) and economic and social well-being. According to the findings of the evaluation, efforts to alleviate poverty and improve the well-being of mankind will not be successful if nothing is done to stop environmental degradation. In essence, goods and services which stimulate economies and form the basis of social systems mostly come from healthy environments. Hence, the need for governance policies that ensure the sustainable management of ecosystems for local and national development.

To advance sustainable development, it is important to underline the fundamental principle that environmental viability, economic development and social well-being are complementary objectives. In reality, the importance of the environment for the two other pillars of sustainable development has not yet been sufficiently recognized in major decision-making processes. For this holistic approach to succeed, five principles must be taken into account: (i) the political will of all countries; (ii) the definition of a coherent cross-sector policy; (iii) capacity-building in monitoring and implementation; (iv) reducing institutional and legal barriers; and (v) setting up a sustainable framework for evaluating results and efforts made to ensure policy coherence.

To achieve this objective, a number of recommendations are made:

- Develop articulated information systems and governance indicators that combine the three dimensions;
- Promote integrated assessments of ecosystems;
- Involve all social, economic and environmental stakeholders in subregional, national and local decision-making processes;
- Develop guides on the integration of the three dimensions in various spheres of activity;
- Promote socially responsible and environmentally friendly investments;
- Develop a common standard for the seven countries of the subregion;
- Promote synergies between multilateral environmental agreements and determine the operational elements to guide the implementation of such synergies;
- Establish closer ties between sustainable development policies and budget planning processes.

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<sup>10</sup> UNDP-UNEP, 2010.



## Promotion of an inclusive green economy

Countries of the subregion are aware of the inefficiencies of current growth trajectories. Most have expressed the desire to promote a green and inclusive growth. However, they remain convinced that reversing the current trend would require substantial investments and profound social changes. This transition supposes that economic analysis take into account not just GDP, but also natural capital and ecosystemic services when recognizing the wealth of nations.

The true challenge for countries of the subregion will be making the inclusive green economy the engine of strong economic growth and sustainable development. Implementing this vision must start with: (a) integrating the principles of inclusive green growth in existing development policies, programmes and plans at sector, national and local levels; (b) involving all civil society and private actors with the prime aim of eradicating poverty and promoting food security – efforts must be made at local, national and subregional levels; (c) urging developed countries and the international community at large to honour commitments made with regard to financing, capacity-building and transfers and development of technologies that are respectful of mankind and its environment; (d) consolidating existing partnerships and creating new ones (technical and financial, international, regional and subregional) for the effective integration of green and inclusive growth in development models; and (e) adapting institutional frameworks for better consideration of all emerging challenges such as green growth, consumption patterns and sustainable production and climate changes.

For this transition to be successful, countries of the subregion must also make smart investments that will prevent any additional costs in the future. These include sustainable investments in infrastructures, energy and urban areas; better management of natural resources, including land, forests and minerals; strengthening economic, social and physical resilience, including resilience against natural disasters and climate change, and reinforcing food security.

## Financial resource mobilization

In spite of the economic and social progress made, countries of the subregion are still grappling with numerous challenges, like improving productivity, diversifying economies, increasing and accelerating exports, improving the quality of education and making sure it meets the requirements of the productive sectors, developing social services and covering financing needs. However, one of the major constraints is the paucity of financial resources for economic activity.

Some promising sectors are having trouble developing because of lack of appropriate and sufficient financing, for instance, renewable energy.

In most countries of the subregion, financing priorities are often expressed in terms of internal finance mobilization. The main source of external financing used to supplement internal financing is private resources from the rest of the world and not official development assistance (ODA). ODA in the subregion is estimated at only 4 per cent.<sup>11</sup> Internal financing mobilization capacities depend on the level of involvement of all development actors, the participation of the banking system, as well as the viability of credit instruments in place.

Conscious of the scale of the global economic crisis and the new challenges currently faced by developed countries, North African countries must find innovative sources of financing. The private sector in the subregion could be a key player in financing the region's sustainable development. It must therefore be more involved in developing instruments and opportunities offered at national and international levels.

The financing mobilization strategy should also explore subregional cooperation so far underexploited. A win-win partnership may be envisaged in countries of the subregion, notably by involving countries with substantial liquidity, like Algeria and Libya. In return, beneficiary countries could offer economic

<sup>11</sup> ECA-NA, 2011.

facilities like investments or importation or transfer of skills and technologies. In the same vein, a common fund could be set up with internal resources from the subregion to finance good sustainable development practices in the different countries.

South-south cooperation particularly between North African and middle Eastern countries should be harnessed. The geographical and cultural proximities and affinities among these countries provide opportunities for a successful financial cooperation.

It is also possible to explore the financing instruments offered through the three main environmental conventions. The Convention on the fight against desertification, the poor relative of the three, which should be enhanced to address current challenges in a subregion that is 75 per cent desert land. However, it must be noted that to date, these countries have had limited capacity to activate such financial leverage. Projects and initiatives financed from mechanisms like adaptation funds and clean development mechanisms are still limited to some countries such as Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia. Countries such as Libya, Mauritania and the Sudan have not yet been caught up in this momentum.

Regarding climate change, it would be recalled that a Green Climate Fund to be based in South Korea was created and its work was to have started during the second half of 2013. The operational activities of this mechanism will be launched in 2014. Commitments made by developed countries in Cancun were reiterated during the Doha conference, where Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France, Denmark, Sweden and the European Commission announced concrete financial contributions amounting to about \$6 billion for the period up to 2015.

North Africa is to receive voluntary commitments estimated at close to \$500 billion made during the Rio+20 Conference, notably in the following ten areas:

- (1) Poverty eradication: these are basically funds to support the development and implementation of Millennium Development Goals acceleration plans;
- (2) Biodiversity, forests and fragile ecosystems: more than \$61 billion;
- (3) Water: more than \$4 million;
- (4) Sustainable energy: a priority target for funds to Africa in general and North Africa in particular;
- (5) Climate change: the money that returns to North Africa may be minimal given the limited geographic coverage proposed, which includes other African countries;
- (6) Sustainable development monitoring systems (indicators): these funds estimated at close to \$10 million are intended for the post-2015 phase.
- (7) Sustainable development economy: a large part will be devoted to the promotion of green businesses;
- (8) Sustainable development strategies and policies: financing of activities centred around the green economy;
- (9) Oceans and seas: for North Africa, these are basically efforts geared towards reducing coastal and maritime pollution;
- (10) Awareness raising and communication on sustainable development.

To translate these commitments into concrete action however, countries of the subregion should engage the parties involved in the above-mentioned areas and together with them define modalities for implementing the commitments made. These actions could be concerted and coordinated within the framework of a global initiative in which international community-based organizations, and notably ECA, should play a leading role (mobilization of funds from parties involved, definition of roles, responsibilities and schedules, inventory of real needs, among other things).

## Good governance

The promotion of good governance, one of the major objectives set by the governments of the various countries of the subregion, is also a strong recommendation of the Rio+20 Conference for all member States. Economic and political good governance is essential for promoting and preserving development gains. It is one of the basic conditions for effective public policies.

Though economic governance has improved in some countries of the subregion, as reflected in performances recorded in this domain in North Africa, there is still a lot to be done in the area of political governance. This involves strengthening state institutions to: (a) ensure greater transparency in the management of public affairs; (b) promote free and transparent elections; (c) combat corruption; and (d) streamline public services. These efforts will differ from country to country depending on the progress made by each one of them.

The 2011 events in the subregion, marked by economic and social protests, had some positive repercussions in that it led to greater involvement of civil society and the youth in the decision-making process. This consolidates social responsibility and transparency in the management of public affairs.

Most countries have already developed corruption control strategies and institutions, for example, Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt and Algeria. With support from the United Nations, Mauritania has adopted a corruption-control strategy.

Generally speaking, all countries must adopt measures geared towards promoting good governance. It is also important to build national and local institutional capacities in order to ensure active participation of various stakeholders like civil society, the private sector and others, in the subregion's development process.

## Regional integration

Regional integration offers a real opportunity for economic growth as it helps to direct resource flows from one economic activity to another, or from one level of production to another. In spite of its indisputable advantages, the economic union in the North Africa subregion is not yet a success in terms of economic, social and environmental integration. To date, North African countries have not yet fully capitalized on the ties existing between them such as markets and supply sources, and have therefore not achieved potential gains in terms of economic growth and employment. Trade between the countries of the subregion accounts for less than 3 per cent of total trade, the lowest level of all regional trade agreements recorded at the World Trade Organization.

Consolidating regional integration is an important means for sustainably managing the region's natural resources, under heavy pressure, and effectively responding collectively to the sustainable development challenges in the entire subregion. None of the Maghreb economies today are developed enough to achieve prosperity in isolation. Working together is therefore a prerequisite for prosperity. Cross-exploitation of the strengths and potentialities of each country will be subject to further reflection and could be a win-win partnership for the economic development of the entire region.

### 3. Analysis and harmonization of priorities by sector and by thematic issue

The previous chapter sets out the major constraints to sustainable development in the subregion, which can be economic, social or environmental (see table 1 below). The table also highlights key cross-cutting challenges that North Africa will have to tackle if it wishes to foster sustainable development.

Table 1

#### Summary of the main constraints to sustainable development

Economic constraints	Social constraints	Environmental constraints	Cross-cutting constraints
Vulnerability to economic shocks and meteorological disasters	High unemployment, especially among young people	Steady deterioration of natural resources (desertification, declining biodiversity, etc.)	Weak regional integration
Low diversification and high dependency on natural resources and related industries (mining, oil, gas, agriculture, livestock farming, tourism, etc.)	Threat of food insecurity; poor nutritional quality of food	Lack of water; inadequate sanitation, particularly in rural areas	Inadequate promotion of good governance
Low job creation owing to current growth rates	Population growth and urban development	Energy insecurity (access, long-term reliability, etc.) and low up-take of renewable forms of energy	Inadequate mobilization of financial resources
Non-inclusive growth	Poverty; low social protection	Climate change and pollution not tackled adequately	Inadequate promotion of inclusive green economy
Limited industrial growth and stagnant investment environment	Regional disparities (both geographic and thematic)	Sustainable development principles not sufficiently incorporated into public policy	Uneven integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development

Below is a presentation of the key priorities emerging from an examination of these constraints, followed by an analysis of the main outcomes of the national consultations carried out in some countries in preparation for a post-2015 programme.

## (a) Summary of priorities by sector and thematic issue

A number of priorities can be identified from the previous chapter; these priorities should dictate the future strategies of countries of the subregion. The priorities have been classified into four areas of intervention (see table 2).

Table 2  
Key areas of intervention

Area 1. Green and inclusive economy	Area 2. Access to basic social services	Area 3. Comprehensive management of global changes	Area 4. Rule of law and efficiency of public action
Sustainable agriculture and food security	Population growth and urban development	Climate change and reducing the risk of disasters	Good governance
Inclusive growth, poverty reduction and employment	Youth unemployment and social protection	Desertification and drought	Peace and security of persons, goods and territories
Green economy and sustainable development of natural resources	Social inequalities, poverty and sustainable livelihoods	Sustainable management of natural resources (land, water, forests)	Equality and social justice
Framework for investments and private sector promotion	Access to quality health care	Energy security; clean and sustainable energy	Mobilization of financial resources
Infrastructure for sustainable economic development	Hygiene and nutritional quality	Preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems	
Industrial development, research and development, and sustainable production methods	Quality education and technical and professional training	Pollution and management of chemical products and special waste	
Reduction of regional disparities and territorial approach to sustainable development	Gender equality and empowerment of women	Universal access to water and sanitation	
Regional integration (exchanges, trade, cooperation, policy coordination, etc.)	Safety nets and social protection	Mainstreaming environmental issues in public policies	

## ***(b) Thematic and sectoral priorities determined during post-2015 national consultations***

Consultations have been initiated in five of the seven countries of the subregion. Four have been completed (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and the Sudan) and one is under way (Mauritania). No update was available on the status of the consultation process in the two remaining countries, Libya and Tunisia.

During the national consultations in the different countries, the importance of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals was discussed extensively. The approach, in terms of planning and sensitization and the methods used allowed for proper ownership of the challenges, at least by some stakeholders such as those in public administration, civil society and experts. Participants at these national consultations applauded some of the benefits of the Goals process, and were of the view that harmonization of frameworks, and the regular preparation of progress reports at country, subregional, regional and world levels facilitated ownership of this exercise.

In spite of the relevance of set Millennium Development Goals, some thematic issues, though crucial for sustainable development, were either forgotten or poorly documented; for instance, issues relating to governance, inclusive green economy, social justice and security of people and goods.

With regard to monitoring and evaluation, most countries have underlined the need to combine qualitative and quantitative indicators to refine targets and promote responsible implementation. The absence of local indicators was identified as a major shortcoming which allowed or even worsened disparities between various regions of the same country at economic, social and environmental levels. Without relevant indicators, there can be no equal access to basic services and optimal use of economic potentials in the region.

## ***(c) Harmonization of sectors and thematic issues***

Based on previous analysis made, and taking into account priorities identified by some countries following post-2015 national consultations, priority sectors and thematic issues identified in the subregion can be highlighted and described. Considering the interdependency between these issues, namely relations between the three pillars of sustainable development, and the need to reduce the number of priority areas, there was an aggregation of thematic issues. It ensured that there was consistency between the areas and thematic issues without losing sight of the priorities identified at the subregional level.

This approach has led to the formulation of priority areas and thematic issues which subsequently evolved into sustainable development goals (see table below).

**Table 3**  
**Sustainable development goals and priorities**

<b>Goal 1.</b> Reduce poverty, marginalization and social exclusion of vulnerable groups	<b>Goal 2.</b> Launch a process of structural transformation and achieve green and inclusive growth	<b>Goal 3.</b> Ensure universal access to essential services	<b>Goal 4.</b> Build lasting peace based on transparency
<p>Sustainable agriculture and food security</p> <p>Poverty reduction and employment</p> <p>Nutritional quality and hygiene</p> <p>Social inequalities, poverty and sustainable livelihoods</p> <p>Quality education and technical and professional training</p> <p>Gender equality and empowerment of women</p> <p>Safety nets and social protection</p> <p>Reduction of regional disparities and territorial approach to sustainable development</p> <p>Regional integration (exchanges, trade, cooperation, policy coordination...)</p>	<p>Green economy and sustainable development of natural resources</p> <p>Inclusive growth</p> <p>Youth unemployment and social protection</p> <p>Framework for investment and promotion of the private sector</p> <p>Infrastructures for sustainable economic development</p> <p>Industrial development, R&amp;D and sustainable methods of production</p> <p>Climate change and reduction of disaster risks</p> <p>Desertification and drought</p> <p>Sustainable management of natural resources (land, water, forests, etc.)</p> <p>Energy security; clean and sustainable energy</p> <p>Preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems</p> <p>Mainstreaming environment issues in public policies</p> <p>Pollution and management of chemical products and special waste</p>	<p>Ensure access to quality health care</p> <p>Population growth and urban development</p> <p>Universal access to water and sanitation</p>	<p>Good governance</p> <p>Peace and security of persons, goods and territories</p> <p>Rule of law and social justice</p> <p>Mobilization of financial resources</p> <p>Capacity-building</p>

## 4. Sustainable development goals, targets and indicators

Based on the analysis carried out, the present report puts forward a programming matrix for sustainable development goals for the North Africa subregion, taking into account the priority goals, targets and indicators.

Table 4  
Matrix for the sustainable development goals, targets and indicators

Goals	Targets	Indicators
Goal 1. Reduce poverty and curb the marginalization and social exclusion of vulnerable groups	<p><b>Target 1.</b> Reduce to zero the proportion of the population earning less than \$1.25 per day, between 2015 and 2035</p> <p><b>Target 2.</b> Increase by 50 per cent the number of people with access to and ownership of land (urban versus rural; men versus women, regional disparities...)</p> <p><b>Target 3.</b> Provide social protection to all poor and destitute segments of the population (100 per cent coverage) by 2035</p> <p><b>Target 4.</b> Reduce the proportion of the population suffering from hunger by at least three-quarters, between 2015 and 2035</p> <p><b>Target 5.</b> Adopt sustainable methods for managing production sectors like agriculture, livestock breeding and fisheries while increasing production by 50 per cent between 2015 and 2035</p> <p><b>Target 6.</b> Improve the nutritional quality of foods (primary and industrial food production) by adopting clean production methods</p> <p><b>Target 7.</b> Give all children, boys and girls alike, the means to complete a full course of secondary education by 2035</p> <p><b>Target 8.</b> Increase the intake capacity of technical and professional training infrastructures by 50 per cent, between 2015 and 2035</p> <p><b>Target 9.</b> Eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women by 2035</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proportion of the population with less than \$1.25 per day in purchasing power parity</li> <li>2. Proportion of the population with access to and ownership of land</li> <li>3. Social protection coverage rate (global, by region, by sex and by quintile)</li> <li>4. Proportion of the population suffering from hunger</li> <li>5. Share of imports in national consumption</li> <li>6. Proportion of the population below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption</li> <li>7. Proportion of irrigated land in relation to total potential</li> <li>8. Net secondary school enrolment rate</li> <li>9. Net primary school enrolment rate</li> <li>10. Number of people receiving technical and professional training</li> <li>11. Rate and time it takes to obtain employment after training</li> <li>12. Girl/boy ratio in primary, secondary and higher education</li> <li>13. Literacy rate of women between 15-24 years compared to men</li> <li>14. Proportion of seats occupied by women in the national parliament and locally elected positions</li> </ol>



Goals	Targets	Indicators
<p><b>Goal 2.</b> Launch a process of economic structural transformation and promote green and inclusive growth</p>	<p><b>Target 10.</b> Create green jobs to account for 20 per cent of national employment between 2015 and 2035</p> <p><b>Target 11.</b> Develop a clean industry accounting for 30 per cent of national industrial production between 2015 and 2035</p> <p><b>Target 12.</b> Transform and strengthen energy infrastructures to make energy available and affordable by 2035</p> <p><b>Target 13.</b> Reduce by 50 per cent the proportion of unskilled unemployed youth between 2015 and 2035</p> <p><b>Target 14.</b> Reduce by at least half the rate of unemployment and underemployment of young university graduates by 2035</p> <p><b>Target 15.</b> Double private investment growth rate between 2015 and 2035</p> <p><b>Target 16.</b> Double the weight of the manufacturing industry as a share of GDP by 2035</p> <p><b>Target 17.</b> Increase by 50 per cent the number of people who receive loans to engage in a productive activity between 2015 and 2035</p> <p><b>Target 18.</b> Halve the number of people working in the informal sector between 2015 and 2035</p> <p><b>Target 19.</b> Increase the share of renewable energy in the energy mix to 30 per cent, between 2015 and 2035</p> <p><b>Target 20.</b> Ensure access for all to modern and efficient energy, notably in the agricultural, building, industry and transport sectors, by 2035</p> <p><b>Target 21.</b> Ensure mainstreaming of environmental issues in all public policies (subregional, national and local) for the sustainable management of the environment by 2035</p> <p><b>Target 22.</b> Halve the rate of degradation of natural resources, forests and biodiversity by 2035</p> <p><b>Target 23.</b> Halve the deterioration of land and soil by 2035 and combat desertification and drought</p> <p><b>Target 24.</b> Improve the productivity of oasis ecosystems</p> <p><b>Target 25.</b> Improve the resilience and adaptability of ecosystems, production systems and the public to climate change</p> <p><b>Target 26.</b> Improve risk and disaster management</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Carbon dioxide emission (per capita) and chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) consumption depleting the ozone layer (tons of ozone-depleting potential)</li> <li>16. Number of businesses and jobs created in the area of environment</li> <li>17. Number of electricity plants built and network density</li> <li>18. Share of green investments / global investment</li> <li>19. Unemployment rate among unskilled youth</li> <li>20. Unemployment rate among young university graduates</li> <li>21. Employment-to-population ratio</li> <li>22. Share of private investments granted</li> <li>23. Share of the manufacturing industry in GDP</li> <li>24. Proportion of the population without electricity</li> <li>25. Share of renewable energy in the energy mix</li> <li>26. Rate of reduction in energy intensity related to energy efficiency programmes</li> <li>27. Proportion of land and marine areas protected in relation to total land area</li> <li>28. Proportion of endangered species</li> <li>29. Rate of degradation of natural resources</li> <li>30. Cost of degradation of natural resources, as a percentage of GDP</li> <li>31. Rate of application of environmental studies and audits / programmes or projects (public and private)</li> <li>32. Rate of degradation of land and soil</li> <li>33. Productivity of oasis ecosystems</li> <li>34. Number and nature of climate change adaptation schemes</li> <li>35. Number of sustainable development schemes and amount of funding set aside</li> </ol>

Goals	Targets	Indicators
<p><b>Goal 3.</b> Ensure universal access to essential services</p>	<p><b>Target 27.</b> Reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate of children below 5 between 2015 and 2035</p> <p><b>Target 28.</b> Reduce by three-quarters, between 2015 and 2035, the maternal mortality rate</p> <p><b>Target 29.</b> Increase by 25 per cent, between 2015 and 2035, public expenditure on health</p> <p><b>Target 30.</b> Ensure universal access to potable water in households, and in all public buildings and institutions</p> <p><b>Target 31.</b> Increase by three-quarters, between 2015 and 2035, the proportion of the urban population with access to sanitation, and by 50 per cent the proportion of the rural population with access to sanitation</p>	<p>36. Proportion of the population living 15 minutes away from a health centre</p> <p>37. Doctor-to-population ratio in rural areas</p> <p>38. Mortality rate for children under 5</p> <p>39. Maternal mortality rate</p> <p>40. Share of health expenditure in national public expenditure</p> <p>41. Proportion of the national population without access to potable water</p> <p>42. Proportion of the rural population without access to potable water</p> <p>43. Proportion of the urban population with access to a proper sanitation system</p> <p>44. Proportion of the rural population with access to a proper sanitation system</p>
<p><b>Goal 4.</b> Build sustainable peace based on transparency</p>	<p><b>Target 32.</b> Eliminate sources of conflicts (ethnic, cross-border, community-based, religious ...) by 2035</p> <p><b>Target 33.</b> Eliminate imprisonment for beliefs or convictions by 2035</p> <p><b>Target 34.</b> Fully secure a civil state by 2035</p> <p><b>Target 35.</b> Reduce all forms of corruption by at least 90 per cent by 2035</p> <p><b>Target 36.</b> Ensure free participation of all opposition forces by 2035</p>	<p>45. Number of acts of violence recorded, including acts of terrorism and extremism</p> <p>46. Number of press offences punished/articles censored/media outlets shut down</p> <p>47. Number of people incarcerated for beliefs or convictions</p> <p>48. Average time it takes the justice system to process case files</p> <p>49.</p> <p>50. Number of cases of fraud and falsification of civil status documents</p> <p>51. Share of administrative activities totally handled by decentralized departments</p> <p>52. Number of peaceful political transitions at national (presidential elections) and local (legislative and communal) levels</p> <p>53. Level of autonomy of the opposition</p> <p>54. Frequency of constitutional changes</p> <p>55. Number of development projects, programmes and initiatives implemented by civil society and the private sector</p>

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