DRAFT AFRICA CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2020 - 2030

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ACRONYMS

ACCF	Africa Climate Change Fund
ACMAD	African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development
ACPC	Africa Climate Policy Centre
ADFC	African Diaspora Finance Corporation
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGN	African Group of Negotiators
AGRHYMET	Agriculture, Hydrology and Meteorology
AMCEN	African Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AR	Assessment Report
ARC	African Risk Capacity
ARSO	African Organisation of Standardization
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
AUDA	African Union Development Agency
AWF	African Water Facility
BTR	Biennial Transparency Reports
CAHOSCC	Committee of African Heads of State on Climate Change
CAPC-CA	Climate Application and Prediction Centre for Central Africa
CBIT	Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency
CAP	Common African Position
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
COP	Conference of Parties
CSA	Climate Smart Agriculture
CSS	Climate Safeguards System
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
Eco-DRR	Ecosystem-Based Disaster Risk Reduction
ECOSOCC	Economic, Social and Cultural Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework

FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GGW	Great Green Wall
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre
IDDA3	Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa
IDRDRSI	IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative
IPCC	International Panel on Climate Change
KP	Kyoto Protocol
LDC	Least Developed Countries
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OSAA	Office of the Special Adviser on Africa
PA	Paris Agreement
PAP	Pan African Parliament
RCC	Regional Climate Centers
REC	Regional Economic Community
SADC CSC	SADC Climate Services Centre
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRR	United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Education Fund
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organisation
WMO	World Meteorological Organisation

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Africa is comprised of 55 Member States with a population of over 1 billion people all of whom are members of the African Union. It is the eleventh largest economy in the world with a nominal GDP of about US$2,3 trillion. Area wise, Africa is the second largest continent after Asia. The African population is the youngest in the world and the continent is set to be the most populous by 2023.

The Pan African Vision is spelt out in Agenda 2063 as: *'… an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its citizens and representing a dynamic force in international for a…..'* Attainment of this Vision is threatened by the impacts of climate change unless concerted efforts are made to adapt to and mitigate its effects. Although climate change has been the subject of political controversy, the scientific consensus is overwhelming; 'climate change is the defining issue of our time and we are at a defining moment' (UN, n.d.).

Africa faces the greatest impacts from climate change including predicted large decreases in precipitation in northern and southwestern South Africa whilst the Ethiopian Highlands are likely to record increases in rainfall and extreme rainfall by the end of the 21st century. More frequent and intense tropical storms and cyclones, recurring droughts and rising sea levels are also forecast. This is despite Africa having contributed the least to the greenhouse gases that are causing climate change.

The African youth must grapple with the idea of a stolen future, robbed by climate change as they are especially vulnerable today and will face the far worse predicted future consequences. The impacts of climate change on youth include school disruptions, social and political disorders, food insecurity, diseases, threats to water and sanitation services to name a few.

Women are also disproportionately affected due to their higher levels of poverty, lower education and less involvement in decision making. They make up 70 per cent of people living below the poverty line in the world. Their responsibilities are more vulnerable to climate change as they depend on environmental resources for their sustenance such as water, firewood and other forest products and agriculture, a climate sensitive sector.

African countries have been active in the global climate change negotiations and have all signed the Paris Agreement of 2015. They submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions and are implementing national climate actions. The African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities and their agencies together with many other partners have programmes supporting Member States and communities in their climate strategies and actions.

While much has been achieved by these programmes, the continent still lags other regions of the world primarily due to insufficient capacities and resources.

While adaptation is unquestionably and rightly the top priority for African countries, in order to create optimal responses, mitigation should be considered to balance the climate change solution equation. It is recognised that the continent has an immense mitigation potential in its vast land mass, forests, agricultural systems and oceans. Africa also has unrivalled potential for renewable energy, especially solar for its own development and export. This potential should be quantified and put on the table as the continent's contribution in return for finance and technology needed to adapt and develop despite climate change.

Agenda 2063 calls for united efforts, self-reliance, Africa financing its own climate smart, all-inclusive, people-driven development and Africa speaking with one voice in global fora. This is the guiding philosophy of the Africa Climate Change Strategy. This Strategy was arrived at through reviewing the 2014 Draft Continental Climate Change Strategy, the 2015 Paris Agreement, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, the Africa Programme of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sendai Framework, national and regional climate change frameworks. Feedback from key stakeholders, Regional Economic Communities, academia, the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment and civil society was incorporated to give a holistic fresh African strategy on climate change. As the world is made up of dynamic and complex interrelationships, the Africa Climate Change Strategy aims to be a living document that keeps pace with developments at the global, continental, regional and national levels.

The Overall Objective of the Africa Climate Change Strategy is the '*Achievement of the Agenda 2063 Vision by building the resilience of the African continent to the impacts of climate change.*' The Logical Framework is the road map that defines how

to attain the Specific Objective of this Strategy which is the attainment of SDG 13: '*Take urgent action to combat climate change'* through harmonised adaptation and mitigation responses to climate change in Africa. Five key results are envisaged for the strategy:

Result 1: Effective institutional capacities to implement climate change strategies

Result 2: Climate change strategies are harmonised

Result 3: Africa speaks with one voice

Result 4: Resilience built, and vulnerability reduced

Result 5: Increased access to finance

The strategy is intended for the African Union and the Regional Economic Communities in Africa together with their organs and agencies, the Member States departments and institutions responsible for climate change. Non-governmental organizations, partners and the private sector, are encouraged to align their climate change strategies and programmes to the Africa Climate Change Strategy for coherence of climate action in Africa.

Part I: INTRODUCTION

The African Union (AU) is comprised of 55 member states which represent all the countries on the African continent covering an area of about 29 million kilometers^2 with a population of just over 1 billion people (UNECA, 2016). Africa is the second largest continent in the world after Asia. The combined states of the AU constitute the world's 11th largest economy with a nominal gross domestic product of US$2,26 billion (Eurostat, 2017). Africa's population is among the fastest growing and youngest in the world with the continent set to become the world's most populous region by 2023 overtaking China and India (IEA, 2019).

The main objectives of the AU are to achieve greater unity, cohesion and solidarity amongst African countries; to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States; and to accelerate the political and social-economic development and integration of the continent. The AU works through the following organs: The Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the Executive Council, the Committee of Permanent Representatives, the Specialized Technical Committees, the Peace and Security Council and The African Union Commission (AUC). The AU promotes participation of all African citizens and civil society through the Pan-African Parliament and the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC). Specialised agencies of the AU such as the African Union Development Agency/New Partnership for Africa's Development AUDA/NEPAD, Africa Risk Capacity, among others, work towards the African Vision in different capacities. The Regional Economic Communities (REC's) and their specialised institutions, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) are the principal drivers of the African Renaissance and integration.

The AU's Vision is articulated in Agenda 2063 as: '*To ensure the realization of its objectives and the attainment of the Pan African Vision of an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa driven by its citizens and representing a dynamic force in international fora*.' Agenda 2063 is a 50-year Vision (2014-2063) developed as a shared strategic framework for Africa's inclusive long term sustainable socio-economic and integrative transformation and growth. It is fully aligned with the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and calls for greater collaboration and

support for African-led initiatives and identifies key programmes to boost economic growth and development to ensure the achievement of the Aspirations of the African people; termed '*The Africa We Want.*'

Agenda 2063 is anchored on Declarations and Aspirations that define the ideology to guide all African initiatives including this Africa Climate Change Strategy. Specifically, the African leaders declared:

1. *'We, the people of Africa and her Diaspora, united in diversity, young and old, men and women from all walks of life, deeply conscious of history, express our deep appreciation to all generations of Pan-Africanists and in particular, the founders of the Organization of African Unity for having bequeathed us an Africa with exemplary successes in the fight against slavery, colonialism and apartheid.'*
2. *'We echo the Pan-African call that Africa must unite in order to realize its Renaissance.'*
3. *'In this new and noble initiative, past plans and commitments have been reviewed, and we pledge to consider lessons from them as we implement the new climate change agenda. These include: mobilization of the people and their ownership of continental programs at the core; the principle of self-reliance and Africa financing its own climate smart development; the importance of capable, inclusive and accountable states and institutions at all levels and in all spheres; the critical role of Regional Economic Communities as building blocks for continental unity; taking into account the special challenges faced by both island and land-locked states; and holding ourselves and our governments and institutions accountable for results.'*

Agenda 2063 has seven key Aspirations each with its own specific goals and targets. The Aspirations are summarized below with a brief commentary on how they link with and inform the Africa Climate Change Strategy.

Aspiration 1

A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development - ending poverty for which an educated, knowledgeable and healthy citizenry is key to transform African economies and ensure environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

Aspiration 2

An *integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the Vision of Africa's Renaissance -* market integration, efficient systems, physical inter-connectivity and social and political emancipation are essential for building an Africa that is resilient to both natural and man-made disasters.

Aspiration 3

An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law – democratization, strong capable institutions, inclusivity in development and decision-making processes are the hallmarks of a resilient society.

Aspiration 4

A peaceful and secure Africa - strengthening governance and accountability mechanisms for securing and financing peace are essential for sustainable all-inclusive development which best occurs in peacetimes where there is security for all.

Aspiration 5

An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics – it is essential to build the African fight against climate change on the spirit of Pan-Africanism, common history, culture and destiny which inspired the victories of the founders as declared above. This also embraces the African wise saying that '… if you want to go far, travel with others…'

Aspiration 6

An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth and caring for children - gender equity, youth empowerment; children's rights; inclusive planning and development; re-orientation of the educational system to serve the new and evolving development needs of the continent is key for generating a cadre of conscious citizenry for tackling the challenges ahead.

Aspiration 7

Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner - unity and solidarity against external interference and influence, stronger role in global

governance, reducing aid dependency, Africa fully responsible for financing its own development and forging smart win-win partnerships; these are keys for success in the fight against climate change. Such strength can only come from within a self-reliant Africa and is critically important for the success of the Africa Climate Change Strategy.

Rationale for the Africa Climate Change Strategy

'No continent will be struck as severely by the impacts of climate change as Africa' (UNEP, n.d.). Lake Chad, once one of Africa's largest bodies of freshwater is shrinking - an ecological catastrophe but equally a human disaster as 30 million people who live in the lake region are being forced into ever-keener competition for this vital and disappearing resource (FAO, n.d.). This year 2020, a record 45 million Southern Africans are facing food insecurity driven by climate change (WFP, 2020). In the Seychelles, temperature rise will increase the risk invasive species pose to Seychelles' food systems whilst sea level rise will damage critical coastal infrastructure (Government of Seychelles, 2020). During the March to May season 2020, many weather stations in Eastern Africa recorded the highest amounts of rainfall in over 40 years, with some recording the highest amounts on record (ICPAC, 2020). These are but a few examples that highlight the cause and effect relationship of the impacts of climate change in Africa and African societies and the urgent need to address climate change in Africa.

Africa has been often been given the title of the 'most vulnerable' and 'least prepared' continent in the face of climate change and other scourges. Added to this, the dynamic nature of the world and climate change requires an effective climate change strategy that is flexible and evolves to best address the challenges as they unfold. The threat of climate change in Africa is twofold as climate change destroys developmental progress and hinders further developmental progress. More pertinently to Africans, it threatens the advent of the African Renaissance; the hope of Africa.

'… And no challenge poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change...' – President Barack Obama, State of the Union Address 2015

Objectives of the Africa Climate Change Strategy

The Agenda 2063 Aspirations are of high relevance and together with the declarations form the bedrock on which this Africa Climate Change Strategy is built. This strategy defines the main parameters for an effective, coordinated climate change response for the African continent that builds resilient capacities for adaptation and unlocks the benefits of the massive mitigation potential of the continent. Rooted in Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance, the strategy also provides a robust framework for ensuring climate justice for Africa and Africans through effective participation as an equal at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and other international fora. This strategy is thus key for realizing the African Vision of *'an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena.'*

The Overall Objective of the Africa Climate Change Strategy is the '*Achievement of the Agenda 2063 Vision by building the resilience of the African continent to the negative impacts of climate change.'* The Specific Objective is the *Attainment of SDG 13: 'Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.'*

The strategy is intended for the AU, its organs and agencies, the RECs, the Member States agencies and departments responsible for climate change. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), partners and the private sector, are encouraged to align their climate change strategies and programmes to the Africa Climate Change Strategy for coherence of climate action in Africa.

The 2014 fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) confirmed the human cause of climate change through emissions of great amounts of greenhouse gases (GHG) from power generation, industrial processes, transport and other activities. Carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere in 2018 was about 410 parts per million (ppm) compared to pre-industrial (1700s) levels of 280ppm. This level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere was last seen 800,000 years ago during a warm inter-glacial period. At that time, global temperatures were 2-3°C higher than now, the sea levels were several metres higher than at present and it was before the advent of modern humans (Lindsey, 2020).

The global climate is dynamic and naturally changes over geological time. Changes to the global climate inevitably lead to changes in other environmental conditions, planetary dynamics and biodiversity. The climate ultimately determines which species evolve and thrive or become extinct.

The emergence of homo sapiens about 200,000 years ago and its imperative survival stimulated a long series of innovations that enabled man to climb to the apex of the animal kingdom and dominate the planet like never seen before. The most transforming innovation of man that made this possible is evidently the controlled use of fire. This innovation enabled man to cook which expanded the availability of food sources and enhanced humanity's adaptive capacity and resilience. Controlled use of fire eventually enabled man to smelt metals and graduate from the stone age. Mastering the art of metallurgy enabled man to produce spears for defence and hunting, progressing into increasingly sophisticated arms, tools, machines, structures, power plants, vehicles, planes, spacecraft, electronics, military and industrial hardware, health, social and political systems. These innovations brought about unprecedented growth in the human population, wealth and living standards across the board and the emergence of the global village that the world is today.

However, this amazing feat by man has a downside. Firstly, this progress brings with it an insatiable demand for the planet's finite resources. This in turn exerts a heavy toll

on the environment from the massive amounts of land, water and air pollution, degradation and depletion of the planet's natural capital and biodiversity. The interaction of carbon, which is the basic building block of life, and man's greatest innovation of controlled use of fire is threatening man's very existence and that of other species that call the earth home.

Secondly, the carbon dioxide generated by the burning of massive quantities of fossil fuels, to meet man's ever-growing needs for energy, food and processed materials, accumulates in the upper atmosphere causing a greenhouse effect on the planet leading to global warming. This increase in global average temperatures is causing changes in the global climate and weather that are now visible everywhere on the planet. The effects of climate change range from erratic rainfall patterns, rising ocean temperatures and acidity levels, increased frequency and severity of cyclones, droughts, floods, melting of glaciers and ice caps leading to sea level rise, sparing no one; impacting and threatening the existence of all.

African Climate

The African climate is controlled by a complex mix of large-scale weather systems from distant parts of the planet and the continent itself. The interaction of these systems is yet to be fully studied and understood.

No other region in the world has experienced longer and spatially extensive droughts as Africa with the two most extensive projected decreases in rainfall anywhere on the planet likely over northern Africa and the southwestern parts of South Africa. In contrast to droughts, is the projected increase in precipitation in east Africa. Each sub-region of Africa is impacted differently further adding complexity to the crisis. In southern Africa there is a delay in the onset of and an early end to summer rains. Central Africa is a sub-region that drives the rest of the planet's weather system and is now perilously close to the rainfall minimum needed to support this second largest rainforest system in the world after the Amazon (Niang et al., 2014).

Africa's complex climate system and events are also influenced by the three main oceans. Out of one of these warming oceans, tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth

emerged killing and displacing thousands and destroying parts of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Tanzania in 2019.

IPCC Predictions

The IPCC has issued five assessment reports (ARs) since 1988. The latest is AR5 that was issued in two parts in 2013 and 2014 with an additional Synthesis Report issued in November 2014. AR6 is expected in 2021.

The principal findings of AR5 were:

- Warming of the atmosphere and ocean system is unequivocal. Many of the associated impacts such as sea level rise are occurring at rates unprecedented in the historical record
- There is clear human influence in the climate
- Concentration of GHGs has increased to levels not seen in 800,000 years
- The most significant driver of climate change is the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere

The projections were that:

- Global warming will continue if GHG emissions continue
- The global surface temperature rise is likely to exceed $1.5^{\circ}C$ in most scenarios and likely to exceed $2^{\circ}C$ in many scenarios
- The global water cycle will change with increases in disparity between wet and dry regions and seasons
- The oceans will continue to warm affecting circulation patterns
- The rate of sea levels rise will continue to increase
- Climate change will continue even after carbon dioxide emissions are stopped

In 2018, the IPCC issued a special report on the impacts of global warming of $1.5^{\circ}C$ above pre-industrial levels. It found that:

- Human activities have so far caused $1.0^{\circ}C$ of global warming
- Global warming is likely to reach $1.5^{\circ}C$ between 2030 and 2052

- Warming greater than the global average is being experienced in many land regions and seas.

Regarding Africa, the report stated that:

- Land temperatures are forecast to rise faster than the global average reaching between 3ºC and 6ºC by the end of the century

- A reduction in precipitation is likely over northern Africa and parts of south western South Africa by the end of the 21st century

- Tropical Africa could see an annual increase, one that is projected to be greatest in East Africa, where annual precipitation could increase by 5-20 per cent for 3-4°C warming

- By the end of the century, sea-level rise is expected to be approximately 10 per cent higher along Africa's coastlines than the global mean although not homogenous along the coastline of the continent (Schellnhuber et al., 2013)

- African ecosystems are already being affected by climate change and the future impacts are expected to be substantial

- Ocean ecosystems, especially coral reefs will be affected by ocean acidification

- Climate change will amplify existing stress over water availability in Africa

- Climate change will interact with non-climate drivers to exacerbate vulnerability in agricultural systems especially in semi-arid areas

- The progress made in managing risks to food production from current climate vulnerability will not be adequate to address the long-term impacts

- Climate change may increase the burden of a range of climate-related health outcomes and a multiplier of existing health vulnerabilities including insufficient access to safe water, sanitation, health care and education

- Evolving institutional arrangements in Africa cannot yet effectively co-ordinate the range of adaptation initiatives being implemented

Kyoto Protocol

Global authorities have been seized with these issues within the UN framework for more than five decades leading to the signing of several multilateral environmental agreements. In the case of climate change, the UNFCCC was established in 1992 to

marshal all countries of the world in finding a lasting solution and limit the global temperature rise. This led to the Kyoto Protocol (KP) that was signed in 1997 and became international law in 2005. Its objective was to reduce the onset of global warming by reducing the concentration of GHGs to a level that would prevent dangerous interference with the global climate system. The Protocol put the onus to reduce emissions on developed countries as they were responsible for the increase in the concentrations of GHGs in the atmosphere. The KP had two commitment periods, 2008-2012 and 2012-2020 where many of the signatories of the Protocol met their emission reduction targets. However, some countries withdrew from the KP while others opted for the flexibility mechanisms of the Protocol by funding emission reductions in other countries as their national emissions were higher than their targets. This was the genesis of the Clean Development Mechanism and the birth of the carbon market and carbon trading.

Paris Agreement

Negotiations continued to be held within the framework of the annual UNFCCC Conferences of Parties (COP) on measures to be taken after the second commitment period which ends in 2020. This resulted in the adoption of the Paris Agreement (PA) in 2015 which is a separate instrument under the UNFCCC and not an amendment of the KP. As of 2020, all UNFCCC members had signed the PA and 189 had ratified it (UNFCCC, 2020).

The PA's long-term goal is to limit global temperature rise to less than 2°C below pre-industrial levels and make efforts to further limit the increase to below 1.5°C. The PA pays special attention to the need for all Parties to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, with an emphasis on improved access to finance and technology by the more vulnerable countries. A critical feature of the PA is the implementation of global stocktakes which are set to be carried out every five years starting in 2023.

Under the PA, each country determines and reports regularly on its contribution and undertakings to limit global warming. These voluntary undertakings and targets are the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Unlike the PA, there are no

mandatory targets, but each new voluntary target must go beyond the previous one. While each Party's NDCs are not legally binding, the Parties are bound to have their progress tracked by technical experts to assess achievement of the NDCs and determine how ambitions can be increased. This will be achieved through the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF) which establishes harmonised monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) requirements under the PA. All developed and developing nations that are Parties to the UNFCCC are required to report on their mitigation actions every two years and will be subjected to uniform technical and peer reviews. Although more flexibility is accorded to developing Parties at the beginning, all Parties bind themselves to the commitments they make.

NDC implementation is a challenge for many countries with some having developed implementation plans while others are yet to. To assist developing countries in meeting their NDCs and in building the necessary institutions and processes to comply with the ETF, the PA set up the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT). Adoption of this Strategy by Member States may indirectly accelerate implementation of the voluntary contributions and could potentially bring together National Adaptation Plans (NAP) and NDC processes while raising ambitions.

Despite all the commitments, support and actions taken through current and previous initiatives, the Emissions Gap Report found that GHG emissions have risen 1.5 per cent per year over the last decade and that the G20 nations collectively account for 78 per cent of all emissions (UNEP, 2019). Ominously, each subsequent report by the IPCC paints a grimmer picture than the one before it. Further aggravating the context, the year 2020 also witnessed the emergence of the novel COVID-19 global pandemic that has exposed the fragility of the relationship between people, planet, profit and politics; unleashing economic, social and political upheavals. Despite the unravelling of misfortunes, the COVID -19 pandemic cloud does have silver linings; the most pertinent to this Strategy being that the earth is overworked due to anthropogenic activity and that humanity's immediate actions to regenerate it are urgent.

To respond to the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is recommended that African countries in updating their NDCs, highlight the economic sectors with the greatest potential for post COVID-19 green recovery and job creation

which can rebound and develop sustainably through international investment and financial, technological and capacity building support.

Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted by all UN Member States in 2015. There are 17 of these global goals designed to be a blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.

Although all SDGs have an impact on climate change, the most pertinent to this document is SDG13: *'Take urgent Action to Combat Climate Change and its Impacts'* as it speaks directly to the Africa Climate Change Strategy. The other 16 SDGs all have direct and indirect linkages with this Strategy. It was observed above that Agenda 2063 is fully aligned with the SDG Agenda 2030. As the Africa Climate Change Strategy is anchored in Agenda 2063, it therefore follows that the Strategy must be in harmony with the SDGs.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 was the first major agreement of the post-2015 development agenda and provides Member States with concrete actions to protect development gains from the risk of disasters. It sets out the overall objective to substantially reduce disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries.

In 2016, the AUC published the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the SFDRR 2015-2030. The programme gives the priorities and actions to be undertaken by all stakeholders involved in DRM in Africa to implement the SFDRR. Its aim is to strengthen resilience to disaster risks at the continental, regional, national and sub-national levels. The programme of action applies to the AUC, RECs, regional centres, national ministries and agencies responsible for disaster risk management (DRM).

Geography

Explicit recognition of geographical diversity is important for any scientific assessment of anthropogenic climate change (IPCC, 2014). Africa has diverse climates with the following predominant physical regions:

- **The Sahara** is the world's largest hot desert making up 25 per cent of the continent, (Gritzner and Peel, 2019).

- **The Sahel** is a semi-arid transitional zone between the Sahara Desert in the north and the belt of humid savannas to the south. This region experiences 8 months of no rain with the rainy season confined to June, July and August. (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2020).

- **The Ethiopian Highlands** form Africa's highest plateau and support over 85 per cent of the Ethiopian population mainly engaged in agriculture. The area is the source of the Blue Nile, an important transboundary river and hosts a wide variety of flora, fauna and rich biodiversity (Dejene, 2004).

- **The Savannas** cover more than 50 per cent of the continent, encompassing diverse ecosystems from woody cover, dense Miombo woodlands to Serengeti grasslands with scattered trees. Savanna ecosystem goods and services provide a total annual value exceeding $9 billion (Osborne et al., 2018).

- **The Tropical African forest** is 18 per cent of the world total and covers over 3.6 million kilometers of land in West, East and Central Africa and is home to rich biodiversity and ecosystem services (Beron, 2018).

- **The Islands** - Africa has a total of 6 small island developing states (SIDS) which are: Cape Verde, Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe and the Seychelles. Madagascar is the largest African island and the 5th largest island in the world with a population of 25.6 million (World Bank, 2019).

- **The Equatorial Rain Forests** - The Congo Basin in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Republic of the Congo, Angola, and the Democratic Republic of Congo covers around 2 million kilometers[2,] providing food, fresh water and shelter to more than 75 million people. It is also an important global carbon sink. There are about 10,000 species of plants in the Congo Basin of which 30 per

cent are unique. Endangered wildlife, including forest elephants, chimpanzees, bonobos, lowland and mountain gorillas inhabit the lush forests (WWF, 2020).

- **The African Great Lakes** include; Victoria, Albert, Edward, Kivu, Malawi and Tanganyika. Lake Victoria is the second largest fresh-water lake in the world (Global Nature Fund, 2020) and Lake Tanganyika is the longest lake in the world (676 kilometers) and ranks as one of the deepest at 1.5 kilometers (WWF, 2020). The Great Lakes region is one of the most densely populated areas of the world, with an estimated 107 million people. Additionally, due to past volcanic activity this part of Africa contains some of the world's best farmland.

- **Southern Africa** has forests, mountains, grasslands and deserts. It is home to several river systems the most prominent being the Zambezi and two extensive deserts; the Kalahari and the Namib. Vast mineral resources make this one of the wealthiest regions of Africa as roughly half of the world's vanadium, platinum, chromite, and diamonds occur in the region, along with 36 per cent of gold and cobalt (Southern African Development Community (SADC, 2010).

The African continent has diverse geography, climates and landscapes and it is in this diversity that the weaknesses and strengths lie for each country or region regarding climate change management. This Africa Climate Change Strategy cannot be too prescriptive, but must be flexible, relevant and applicable to regions and Member States with diverse circumstances such as coal, oil and gas producers, desert, rainforest, SIDS, Least Developed Countries, medium or high-incomes countries.

Despite Africa having a diverse geography, Africa's particular aridity deserves special attention pertaining to climate change as it is the driest of the world's continents with 45 per cent of its landmass falling under dry lands and 50 per cent of the population living in arid, semi-arid, dry, sub-humid and hyper-arid areas (Kigomo, 2003). It is forecast that climate change induced water stress will displace between 24 and 700 million people in arid and semi-arid areas (United Nations Decade for Deserts and the fight Against Desertification, 2011). The impacts of climate change add to the already difficult water management challenges in the arid and semi-arid regions increasing the likelihood of the escalation of latent tensions and potentially fueling resource wars. It is significant to note that increasing human pressures on land combined with climate

change, will reduce the resilience of dryland populations and constrain their adaptive capacities thereby increasing Africa's distinctly complex relationship with climate change (Mirzabaev et al., 2019).

Vulnerability

'Strictly speaking, there are no such things as natural disasters, but there are natural hazards. A disaster is the result of a hazard's impact on society. The effects of a disaster are determined by the extent of a community's vulnerability to the hazard (or conversely, its ability, or capacity to cope with it). This vulnerability is not natural, but the result of a range of constantly changing physical, social, economic, cultural, political and even psychological factors that shape people's lives and create the environments in which they live' (UNISDR, 2002).

The IPCC defines climate vulnerability as the degree, to which a system is susceptible to, and unable to cope with the adverse effects of climate change including climate variability and extremes'… (Schneider et. al, 2007). Despite having contributed the least to the GHGs that are the cause of global warming and still having the lowest emissions, Africa remains the most vulnerable and least prepared continent to deal with climate change. Africa faces exponential collateral damage, posing systemic risks to its economies, infrastructure investments, water and food systems, public health, agriculture, and livelihoods, threatening to undo its modest development gains and slip into higher levels of extreme poverty (AfDB, 2020).

Developing countries are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change because they have a lower adaptive capacity (Guillaumont and Simonet, 2011). Africa's peculiar vulnerability to climate change is brought about by the effects of multiple stressors notably; low adaptation and mitigation capacities fueled by scant finance and investment sources. This creates obstacles to the attainment of the *'Africa We Want'* Pan-African Dream and for Africa to take her rightful position on the global stage.

The predicted impacts of climate change are progressively being felt across the African continent with devastating consequences. Extreme weather events are now occurring with increased frequency and severity threatening the development gains

on the continent and making it harder to attain the *'Africa we Want'* goal of Agenda 2063, the SDGs, regional and national development goals. According to UNEP (2019), if international efforts to keep global warming below 2°C do not succeed, the continent would need to invest an additional US$ 50 billion per year in climate change adaptation by 2050 meaning more competition for the meagre financial resources available.

Africa's social vulnerability stems from poor governance, conflicts, weakened capacities, high disease burden, food insecurity and poverty resulting in a low human development index. An inversely proportional relationship exists between African vulnerability to climate change and African development. To overcome the challenges of this link, climate change cannot and should not be addressed separately from Africa's development.

Poverty

1 in 3 Africans, i.e. 422 million people, live below the poverty line representing 70 per cent of the world's poor people (Hamel, Tong and Hofer, 2019). The economic landscape of African countries depends essentially on the dynamics of climate change. Key sectors driving their economic performance and livelihoods such as agriculture, forestry, energy, tourism, coastal and water resources are highly vulnerable to climate change (Abiodye and Ayodele, 2015). Resource scarcity, endemic rural poverty and complex governance systems compound the matter, further threatening millions of lives and livelihoods. According to the World Bank (2020), 210 million Africans are affected by conflicts and climate change is likely to add increased political, societal, economic and environmental instability.

Current estimates state that the 'negative effects of climate change are already reducing Africa's GDP by about 1.4 per cent according to the Africa Climate Change Fund (ACCF) (2020). Limited diversification of economies has led most African economies to be dictated by climate variability and change. A perfect example of this is agriculture which is the highest contributor to the African GDP at 25 per cent, employing 60 per cent of Africa's labour force. The pivotal role agriculture plays in the African economy and employment sector is of great concern in the face of climate change as 96 per cent of all agriculture in Sub Saharan Africa is rainfed (FAO, 2016).

An almost complete dependence on rainfed agriculture poses a risk to food security and livelihoods, ultimately increasing the vulnerability of local communities and jeopardizing the realization of the '*Africa We Want.*'

According to Maslow, needs reflect things that humans require in order to survive. Food, safe water, housing, energy, education and health care are examples of basic needs. However, for the most part, these needs are unmet for a large proportion of people on the continent; 250 million Africans are food insecure (FAO, 2019), 326 million people in Sub Saharan Africa are without access to an improved water source (Ritchie and Roser, 2019); 1/3 of children, adolescents and youth are out of school (UNESCO, 2018) and 90 per cent of Africans live in informal housing (World Bank, 2015). According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), Africa carries 25 per cent of the world's disease burden but its share of global health expenditures is less than 1 per cent. (Africa Renewal, 2017). These statistics define the traditional development challenges of Africa. This struggle continues, however, now with the additional heavy burden of climate change.

Applying Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs in the African context will naturally relegate climate change to a secondary issue due to the pressing demands of food and energy availability and security, poverty eradication, natural resource management and infrastructure development which are already competing for limited resources. However, relegating climate change to a secondary issue fails to recognize that its impacts affect the very needs that are prioritized. As a result, a paradigm shift in the setting of government priorities is critical to sustain the development momentum and attain the '*Africa We Want'* in tandem with a well-managed climate change crisis.

Agriculture

Agriculture is the main economic activity in most of Africa where it provides employment for around 60 per cent of the population and constitutes 25 per cent of the continent's GDP (Goedde, Ooko-Ombaka and Pais, 2019). The prolonged droughts in the Horn and east of Africa; unprecedented floods in west Africa; shrinking rainforests in equatorial Africa; a rise in ocean levels and acidity across Africa's coasts and islands; and extreme climate events threaten agricultural production and food

security; health, water and energy security, which in turn weaken Africa's capacity to grow and develop.

According to Boko et al., (2007), rain-fed agriculture productivity could drop by as much as 50 per cent by 2050 in some countries. The IPCC predicts that wheat may disappear from Africa by 2080, and that maize productivity will fall significantly in southern Africa. Arid and semi-arid lands are set to increase with severe ramifications for livelihoods, poverty eradication and meeting SDG and Agenda 2063 deadlines.

Cities

Climate change also affects different aspects of African cities such as infrastructure, ecosystems and economic development. The effects and challenges vary and depend on the characteristics, location and adaptive capacity of the city concerned. Cities depend on different types of infrastructure such as roads and bridges; power generation, transmission and distribution; communication and water reticulation. Climate induced floods, landslides and heavy rainfall can damage this infrastructure. Africa's infrastructure gap was estimated to be between $52 to $92 billion per year by the AfDB in 2018 (AfDB, 2019). A robust link exists between infrastructure and climate resilience and adaptation.

Health

Human health may also be negatively affected by climate change which can modify the transmission of diseases such as cholera, malaria, meningitis, and zoonoses such as Ebola and the novel Corona virus. The death rate from climate change is between 60 per cent and 80 per cent higher in Africa than it is in the next most vulnerable region (South East Asia) due to pre-existing vulnerabilities and the weakened ability of Africa to adapt to the impacts of climate change. These results imply that there will be 40,000 to 70,000 additional deaths in Africa in 2030 as a result of climate change with malaria and diarrhea responsible for the largest proportions of these deaths (AfDB, 2011).

Furthermore, climate change induced floods and cyclones can lead to contamination of water supplies increasing the prevalence of vector borne diseases. The health of animals and plants that humans depend on is not spared as it is also impacted by climate change in ways that are still to be fully understood.

Ecosystems and Biodiversity

According to Swiss Re (2020), over half (55 per cent) of global GDP, equal to USD 41.7 trillion, is dependent on high-functioning biodiversity and ecosystem services. Regrettably, ecosystems and the services they provide such as oxygen, water and protection from flooding are also affected by climate change. Additionally, climate change is projected to decrease biodiversity and wetland regions leading to loss of soil and trees and the possible proliferation of zoonoses. The poor and vulnerable communities mostly depend on ecosystem services and are thus the most affected by the crisis.

Conflicts and Migration

The cocktail of climate change and conflicts is a reality in parts of Africa especially the Sahel region which faces recurrent floods and droughts further impoverishing communities. Climate change is bringing additional burdens to existing challenges such as displacement of people, internal and international migration and conflict. Sea-level rise, wetter coasts and drier mid-continent areas will induce human migration as do flooding and landslides.

Decreasing rainfall leads to poor harvests which can prompt farmers to migrate to cities in search of better livelihoods. 'The share of Africans living in urban areas is projected to grow from 36 per cent in 2010 to 50 per cent by 2030' (World Bank, 2015). The incessant rural-urban migration poses a challenge to the realization of this Strategy as climate change impacts exacerbate urbanisation; stretching the ability of city authorities to provide adequate housing, infrastructure and essential services leading to overcrowding, urban squalor, resource stress, crime and insecurity.

Gender

Natural disasters strike and affect the poor communities first and the hardest. As women make up an estimated 70 percent of those living below the poverty line, they bear the heaviest burden (Oxfam, 2008). It is evident that climate change impacts women and men differently largely due to the distinct poverty women face which is a result of the gender roles assigned by society to the different genders. In traditional societies, women's responsibilities which require most of their time include tending to the fields, fetching environmental resources for sustenance such as water, firewood, and other forest products, preparing food, cleaning and looking after children, the sick and the elderly. Women in sub-Saharan Africa collectively spend about 40 billion hours a year collecting water (UN Women, n.d.).

Consequently, the roles assigned to women are more susceptible to the impacts of climate change which pose a risk of further increasing the existing gender disparities and deepening the distinct poverty trap that women face. Men on the other hand tend to look after livestock and often relocate to the towns and cities in search of better opportunities whilst women mostly remain in the rural areas.

Women are more exposed and vulnerable to climate change because they are often poorer, receive less education, and are not involved in political and household decision-making processes that affect their lives (Habtezion, 2012).

Women's unequal participation in decision-making processes and labour markets compound inequalities and prevents them from fully contributing to climate planning, policy making and implementation of climate actions. Still today, women continue to be overlooked regarding climate change processes although they can play a critical role as they are often in the best position to provide solutions due to their closeness to the environment and their knowledge and expertise in sustainable resource management at the household and community levels.

The UNFCCC, in its Gender and Climate Change paper, reports that there is evidence that women's participation at the political level has resulted in greater responsiveness to citizen's needs and increased cooperation. Conversely, if policies are implemented

without meaningful participation of women, inequalities can increase and effectiveness decreases. As it has been well established that most victims of both natural and man-made disasters are women, children, the old and the physically challenged, empowering women in any way including building resilience has a stronger positive impact on the family and community. As a result, access to education by women, young girls and adolescent females must be a priority in the fight against climate change and poverty which, as discussed above, are interlinked.

Youth

In the next decade, up to 175 million children are likely to be affected every year by natural disasters brought about by climate change (UNICEF, 2007). Climate change poses significant risks to the health and wellbeing of children. The upheavals caused by extreme weather events cause school disruptions, social and political disorders, food insecurity, diseases and threats to water and sanitation services that impact the survival and welfare of children.

According to the UN,'s Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), Africa has the largest concentration of young people in the world with 226 million youth aged between 15-24 years in 2015 representing nearly 20 per cent of Africa's population and making up one fifth of the world's youth population. This means that a large proportion of the African population is significantly vulnerable to climate change. The 'Africa We Want' articulated in Agenda 2063 has a strong element that focuses on children and the youth of today as they are the elders and leaders of tomorrow and the key to the survival of mankind. Youth, particularly the African youth, are projected to experience the worst impacts of climate change. As a result, not only should their welfare and interests be provided for, but their voices should also be heard, and they should play key roles in the development and implementation of solutions to the challenges they face from now into the future.

Challenges

The first challenge stems from the fact that not enough is known scientifically about climate change to make accurate site-specific forecasts about the changing climate

especially in Africa. The regional and national climate information service centres are often poorly resourced to make accurate weather forecasts.

The competition for limited resources between climate change demands and other pressing developmental needs greatly paralyses progress as when disasters occur, resources and capacities often must be diverted into managing and recovering from the disasters. Yet, if a small proportion of the resources later channelled into disaster relief and recovery had been invested into effective early warning, preparedness and resilience building, the negative impacts and the reconstruction costs could be greatly reduced making recovery much quicker.

A proliferation of well-intentioned but often poorly coordinated initiatives that are mostly supply driven and donor-funded on project bases with weak sustainability and impact prospects further compounds the climate change crisis in Africa.

The low level of financial and technological capacity of many African countries and institutions makes for weaker home-grown solutions. It also bears the unfortunate side effect of promoting brain drain from the continent. Most of the uncoordinated projects referred to above, instead of complementing government programmes may weaken the public sector capacity by offering better conditions than governments.

The need to reduce emissions by developed countries especially the binding goal of the European Union Member States to reach net zero emissions across the bloc by 2050 is going to witness the retiring of much of their polluting technologies some of which could be offloaded into Africa under the guise of the much needed foreign direct investment. If this is unchecked, it will propel Africa into the high emission ranks as happened to China and other Asian countries.

The argument for a coordinated continental response to climate change has been well articulated and refined over the years. However, connecting the dots to get an effective continental programme is yet to be achieved. Much effort goes into developing and approving the unified African Position at the negotiations, it is however not a commitment neither does it bind any party.

All these challenges mean that instead of countries investing into more effective disaster forecasting, preparedness and resilience building, the little they have is never enough for disaster relief, making them perennially dependent on international relief agencies many of whom now have permanent presence on the continent.

Opportunities

The many challenges of the situation obtaining on the continent and the shortcomings of current measures being implemented must be adequately addressed and turned into opportunities and strengths. This is essential for the continent to re-invent and position itself for the transformation necessary for the achievement of the goals of Agenda 2063, the SDGs, the PA and the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction.

There is an opportunity to craft a new African narrative away from that of a continent whose cup is half empty which requires empathy and salvation to one that embraces and is inspired by the spirit of Agenda 2063 of a vibrant Africa that drives and funds its own agenda in partnership with like-minded entities.

It is imperative for African leadership to evolve and entrench a new ethos and establish pan African networks for creating sustainable jobs and livelihoods out of enhancing the continent's natural capital, ecosystems and biodiversity.

The population demographics in Africa are an opportunity and latent strength in that the majority of the population is of school going age and hence can be equipped with the skills to become innovative and enterprising cadres for the huge task of delivering '*The Africa We Want.'*

The African continent has a huge mitigation potential which if fully unlocked, can realise significant resource inflows into the continent to fund adaptation and resilience building. The massive untapped potential for clean renewable energy on the continent is an advantage for its own low emission development and the ever rising global

demand for clean energy especially green hydrogen that is fast becoming the fuel of the future as the technology develops and costs come down.

Climate smart sustainable land and water use, agricultural practices and ecosystem management can turn Africa from a hungry continent into a net food exporter in a short period of time.

PART IV: CURRENT MEASURES TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE IN AFRICA

Africa at the UNFCCC

While Parties to the UNFCCC are all equal under international law, the conditions in Africa, of note its fledgling physical and economic systems, make the continent (and other developing nations) more vulnerable to the changing weather patterns. This is the basis for the G77 Negotiating Group at the UNFCCC of which Africa, with its 55 members is the largest bloc.

Africa's Common Position on Climate Change

The Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC) was established in 2009 by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government to spearhead the African Common Position on climate change and ensure that Africa speaks with one voice in the global climate change negotiations at the UNFCCC starting with the 2009 Conference of Parties (COP 15) in Copenhagen, Denmark. The African Common Position, which evolves in response to the progress of the negotiations and the changing circumstances on the continent, is arrived at through sustained consultations at the national, REC and the African Group of Negotiators (AGN) levels. The outcome of these consultations is tabled for approval by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) and endorsed by the CAHOSCC. This is the Position that guides the AGN members in their engagement at the UNFCCC, its mechanisms, bodies and panels.

Adopting an African Common Position enables the few delegates from the continent to pool and ensure adequate representation and backing for key African interests in the negotiations especially on climate justice, access to finance and technology for adaptation. A common position lends itself to harmonised approaches in implementing climate actions bringing about synergies, effectiveness and economies of scale. The best example of an effective common position on climate change is the EU with its overarching regional target of becoming carbon neutral well before 2050. All efforts

and resources are channelled towards this common objective greatly enhancing success prospects.

However, because of the unique history and circumstances of Africa, there are challenges of implementing and maintaining a sustainable common position. This stems from the fact that the bonds holding Africans together are at times not as strong as those that bond some Africans to other groupings with similar climate change interests. A realistic common African strategy and targets that is driven by visionary leadership to adequately address the interests of all Africans and giving them hope for the future is the logical starting point. This should be backed by sustained awareness and consciousness building, capacity building, doing, learning and moving together.

Implementation Facilitation

Several global and/or international funding and capacity enhancing mechanisms, facilities and partnerships have been set up within and outside of the UNFCCC to support vulnerable developing country actions to tackle climate change. Substantial amounts have been mobilised or pledged for these initiatives.

Despite these supporting mechanisms, the present reality on the ground is that Africa's access to and share of these resources is at a low level and requires a quantum boost if the African countries are to achieve the targets they set in their NDCs to which they bound themselves. All African NDCs incorporated two targets: an unconditional target and a conditional one. The unconditional target will be met by African countries using their own resources (average 15 per cent). However, and more importantly, the conditional target (85 per cent), is dependent on financial support from the international community which is not always guaranteed (AfDB, 2018).

The other reality is that if Africa continues using present development trajectories, meeting the Aspirations of Agenda 2063 will result in a sharp increase in its GHG emissions. This situation will be markedly worse if Africa continues to be the dumping ground for used, inefficient and high emission technologies discarded by more advanced countries.

These seemingly contradictory goals can be brought into alignment if the continent adopts an ' all onboard' approach vis a vis clean, low carbon growth and development strategies in the near term and net zero emission development in the long term to ensure adequate resource mobilisation for climate change. African countries urgently need to agree and implement a protocol setting minimum energy efficiency and emission standards for technologies to be imported or deployed locally.

Having adequate resources for climate action has been and continues to be a challenge. If Party and Non-Party stakeholders work together, there will be less duplication of efforts and efficient and effective resource mobilization and utilization.

Climate Change Action in Africa

AU and its agencies

AUC

The AUC has been engaged in climate change issues from participation in the COPs of the UNFCCC to ambitions of mainstreaming climate change through the development of this Strategy. It has taken great and commendable steps in addressing climate change. The establishment of a joint AU/ECA/AfDB Secretariat on the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev) is another important milestone in mainstreaming climate change in the development agenda of the continent through enhancement of capacities at both regional and national levels to enhance Africa's resilience and adaptability to the phenomena of climate change.

The draft African strategy on climate change that was developed in 2014 provided a framework for integrated and coordinated mechanisms to give strategic direction to Member States and other stakeholders in addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with climate change on the continent with the view of improving the livelihoods of the African people and the environment they live in. It identified Africa's priorities to implement climate change programmes in such a way as to alleviate poverty and attain the SDGs with emphasis on the more vulnerable groups, especially

women and children. The overall objective of the draft strategy was to enable the continent to achieve 'climate-smart' socio-economic development.

It is this draft strategy that is up for renewal and the subject of this exercise.

AUDA/NEPAD

AUDA supports the implementation of the priorities of Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. It also supports the implementation of the following pertinent strategic priorities:

- Uplifting the welfare of Africans and strengthening the effectiveness, capacities and capabilities of African institutions
- Building healthy national and regional food systems and empowering rural communities through the Africa Climate Smart Agriculture Vision 25x25 which aims to have 25 million African farmers adopting climate smart agriculture (CSA) by 2025
- Promoting climate resilience, environmental protection and sustainable management of natural resources
- Facilitating access to affordable and sustainable energy
- Advancing African economies scientifically and technologically, intensifying generation and application of knowledge and innovation

A NEPAD Climate Change Fund was established in 2014 to offer technical and financial assistance to AU Member States, RECs and institutions for programme and project implementation.

African Risk Capacity

The African Risk Capacity is a specialized agency of the AU established to help African governments improve their capacities to plan, prepare for and respond to extreme weather events and natural disasters, it enables countries to strengthen their DRM systems and access rapid and predictable financing whenever disaster strikes. It also supports participating Member States to access state-of-the-art early warning technology, contingency planning, risk pooling and transfer facilities.

The Great Green Wall

The Great Green Wall (GGW) is an African-led flagship movement that aims to plant indigenous and commercial trees like gum Arabic over an 8,000 kilometer natural wonder of the world across the entire width of the African continent from Senegal to Djibouti. It was started in 2007 and when complete in 2030 will be the largest man-made structure on the planet at a cost of $8 billion contributed by the 21 Sahelian countries, the World Bank, the EU and the UN. It will absorb 250 million tonnes of carbon dioxide annually and secure up to 10 million green jobs, it will also create a micro-climate that will increase local rainfall, recharge the water table and rejuvenate biodiversity.

The Wall is a compelling global symbol for humanity overcoming the biggest threat of a rapidly degrading environment made worse by climate change. It is a convincing and successful solution to the perennial challenges of drought, famine, climate change, conflict and migration in the Sahel. At about 20 per cent implementation, the GGW is already bringing back life to the degraded landscapes, providing food security and jobs for people in its path and dampening the prospects of conflict arising from climate vulnerability. These are all life changing impacts in the Sahel region which is home to 150 million people, two thirds of whom are below the age of 25.

The GGW is proof that Africans can set an ambitious target and achieve it, overcoming much adversity to build a better future for all generations. It also shows the power of partnerships, local participation and ownership. The concept is being extended to the Kalahari and Namib deserts, drylands and other areas that are threatened by land degradation, deforestation or desertification.

African Regional Standards Organisation (ARSO)

ARSO is an intergovernmental organisation established by the AU and UNECA to harmonise African standards and conformity assessment procedures. Standards play a crucial role in the fight against climate change and for the realization of the *'Africa We Want.'* Thus, standards pertaining to climate change need special emphasis in the Africa Climate Change Strategy. ARSO currently has 2 standards that centre around the environment, energy and natural resources; ARSO/THC 09 Environmental

Management and ARSO/THC10 Energy and Natural Resources. However, of interest is the Eco Mark Africa (EMA) a recognition system for sustainability standards which functions as a quality assurance mechanism considering climate relevant indicators. This standard can be adopted with a climate change lens to include standards related to infrastructure, health, food, water, transport, employment, education and agriculture to improve resilience, adaptation, mitigation, DRM, energy efficiency and emissions.

African Water Facility

The African Water Facility (AWF) supports the implementation of the Africa Water Vision 2025 which addresses climate change mitigation and adaptation and the foundations for the *'Africa we Want'* through transformative decentralisation of demand-responsive institutional arrangements, promoting transparency and accountability along with market orientation.

African Development Bank

The AfDB is committed to achieving climate resilience on the African continent through its Climate Risk Management and Adaptation Strategy (CRMA) adopted in 2009. The strategy focuses on adaptation, mitigation and financing.

It aims to build climate-resilience into its investments through climate friendly development strategies and climate proofing investments. To compliment this initiative, the AfDB developed the Climate Safeguards System which enables the Bank to screen projects in sensitive sectors vulnerable to climate change and identify and incorporate appropriate adaptation measures to minimize the risks. Knowledge generation and capacity building form an integral part of the strategy. It acknowledges the limited data and awareness of climate change in the African population and aims to address this through mainstreaming climate change using its access to global financial resources.

The ACCF was created in 2014 as a multi-donor trust fund administered by the AfDB to assist African countries access larger amounts of climate finance, mainstream

climate change in their development plans, provide capacity building in green growth and pilot innovative adaptation projects.

RECs

Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

IGAD comprises of 8 countries in the Horn and eastern Africa that are some of the most vulnerable nations in the world to climate variability and change; especially drought. Its Climate Change Strategy focuses on sustainable resource management with core pillars centered around DRM, promotion of low carbon and climate resilient development and food security. To support improved DRM, IGAD set up the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC), a set of capacity building programs at the sub-regional and national level providing climate information, prediction products and services, early warning and related applications. Additionally, the IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) was created as a support to address the effects of drought and related shocks in a sustainable and holistic manner.

Southern African Development Community (SADC)

The SADC strategy aims to develop a common climate change and development agenda, supported by science and technology. Adaptation remains a top priority for SADC while voluntary mitigation actions that promote regional integration and socio-economic development are encouraged. SADC aims to have a cross-sectoral single climate change strategy, around the vision and core values of SADC with all sectors participating and accountable.

East African Community (EAC)

The EAC Climate Change Policy is founded on three key pillars: adaptation, mitigation and research. These are supported by technology development and transfer, finance, education, training, public awareness, information and knowledge management. Gender considerations are given adequate attention in the Policy.

The Policy takes cognizance of the existing national sectoral policies and strategies in environment, water, land, forestry, energy, transport, agriculture, livestock, fisheries, health, DRM and gender among others. To compliment the Policy, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) passed the Regional Climate Change Bill that has been domesticated into the laws of its partner states – a first on the continent.

Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)

The ECCAS Climate Change Strategy aims to strike a balance between Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and sustainable development. The focus areas are; sustainable use and management of ecosystems; food security; integration of DRR into the health sector; protecting and strengthening of public facilities and physical infrastructure particularly schools, clinics, hospitals, water and power generation, communications and transport.

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

ECOWAS is seeking to use its new agricultural policy, ECOWAP 2015-2025, and various other policy tools, to contribute to the acceleration of growth and transformation of agriculture in West Africa for shared prosperity and better living conditions for the people of the region. Its overall objective is to contribute, in a sustainable way towards food and nutrition security, sustainability of food systems in West Africa, economic and social development and poverty reduction in Member States.

Africa-Focused UN Agencies

All AU Member States are also members of the UN and its specialised agencies. In the UN, Africa is treated as a region. Some of the agencies have country offices in Africa while others also have Africa Regional Offices that collaborate and support the work of the AU, RECs and Member States. They are important sources of capacity, technical expertise and partnerships through which Africa can have access to the vast knowledge, resource and experience base of the entire UN system. Africa should take

full advantage of the support and services offered by these agencies. The key activities of selected agencies that are relevant to the Africa Climate Change Strategy are summarised below.

UNECA/Africa Climate Policy Centre (ACPC)

Based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the ACPC is a hub for knowledge generation on climate change in Africa. It addresses the need for improved climate information and strengthening the use of such information for decision making. It is an integral part of the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) programme, which is a joint initiative of the AU, UNECA and the AfDB. The ACPC's work is in three broad areas of knowledge generation, advocacy and advisory services to strengthen African countries' capacities in global climate governance, developing integrated climate policy frameworks, mainstreaming climate change and ensuring a solid foundation of applied science and assessment of vulnerability, risks and impacts.

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Africa (UNDRR - Africa)

The UNDRR-Africa is hosted in Nairobi, Kenya. It coordinates DRR initiatives and the Sendai Framework Implementation in support of 44 Member States in Sub-Saharan Africa. It aims to foster national ownership of the disaster reduction process by providing tailored assistance for the establishment and strengthening of national DRR platforms and fostering partnerships.

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

UNEP is responsible for coordinating the UN's environmental activities and supports developing countries in implementing environmentally sound policies and practices. It hosts the AMCEN Secretariat whose mandate is to spearhead environmental protection by providing continent-wide leadership, approving common positions to guide African negotiators in international dialogue and reviewing and monitoring environmental programmes.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The Africa Adaptation Programme was established in 2008 by the UNDP in partnership with the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme (WFP) to address climate change on the continent through climate resilient policy development, innovative financing, knowledge generation and sharing and enhanced adaptation.

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)

Founded in 1945, FAO is the specialised agency of the UN that leads international efforts to defeat hunger, improve nutrition and food security. In carrying out its mandate, the FAO Regional Office for Africa, based in Accra, Ghana, promotes technical cooperation, reports of major developments and follows up on food security in the region. FAO is at the forefront of promoting and supporting the adoption of CSA for food security in the face of climate change.

World Meteorological Office (WMO)

The WMO is a specialised agency of the UN on meteorology, hydrology and related geophysical sciences. The Africa office of the WMO is located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It aims to strengthen the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS) to provide better weather and climate information and warning systems to enhance the adaptive capacity and climate risk management of African countries.

United Nations Children's Education Fund (UNICEF)

The regional office is a hub of technical support, policy guidance and intellectual leadership on children's issues such as young child survival and development, children and AIDS, basic education, gender equality, child protection and emergency preparedness and response. UNICEF's work is based on the notion that climate change poses a direct threat to children's ability to survive, grow and thrive especially

in Africa. Children are the least responsible for climate change, yet they bear the greatest burden of its impact.

World Health Organisation (WHO)

The WHO Regional Office for Africa aims to promote health, disease prevention, elimination and eradication of high impact communicable diseases, prepare for emergencies, prioritize health in all policies and settings. Climate change is exerting strong influences on health with increased death and illnesses from natural disasters and changing patterns of vector-borne diseases such as malaria and diarrhoea. WHO supports countries in building climate resilient health systems.

United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO)

UNIDO supports industries in adopting cleaner, resource and energy efficient and low carbon patterns of production. The Third Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA3) spanning from 2016-2025 which is led and implemented by UNIDO aims to firmly anchor Africa on a path towards inclusive and sustainable industrial development. IDDA3 brings together the AUC, AUDA/NEPAD and UNECA to operationalise and implement the programme whose focus areas are: technology transfer; access to information and communications technology; productive diversification; agribusiness value chain development; trade; capacity-building; renewable energy and energy efficiency; industrial policy; special economic zones and industrial parks; action on climate change and human capital development.

World Food Programme (WFP)

The WFP in Africa delivers food assistance in emergencies and works with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. It is also working towards ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition by 2030. In the last decade, almost half of WFP's emergency and recovery operations have been in response to climate-related disasters (WFP, n.d.). The Food Insecurity and Climate Change Vulnerability map is a tool developed by the WFP that highlights areas where urgent

action is needed to scale up adaptation and mitigation actions for the most food insecure people.

From the foregoing, it can be seen that the climate change action adopted throughout Africa varies from policies, strategies, frameworks and plans with some of the actions being outdated and others in the process of being revised and updated. Although the documents are given different names, there are common and sub-region-specific elements responding to the different ecosystems and climatic conditions on the continent. The approaches and implementation modalities, institutional arrangements, though not all the same, are as per each organisation's mandates and approved by the respective Policy Organs.

Shortcomings of Current Measures

The most glaring shortcoming of the current measures being implemented on the continent is that despite all that has been and is being done, Africa continues to lag other regions of the world in terms of its climate change response. This gap continues to widen where an increasing reliance on external support for the continent's climate actions further exacerbates the crisis. The disproportionate impacts of climate change on youth and women is another evident shortcoming that needs to be addressed.

The African ministers of environment noted 'with concern that existing financial mechanisms are inadequate, complex and fragmented and have constrained African countries from gaining full access to these resources ...' (Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change, 2009). The reality of insufficient capacity development and resources at national, regional and continental levels availed to keep up with this dynamic issue must be recognised, as new evidence and knowledge is perpetually grasped influencing global discussions and agreements that bind all Parties. This puts an especially heavy burden on Africa that, with a few exceptions, finds itself perennially playing catch up.

While it is acknowledged that adaptation is a much more important response for Africa than mitigation, it must also be recognised that there are huge potential gains if the

continent were to push adaptation together with unlocking its mitigation potential. As seen, adaptation in Africa is heavily dependent on development assistance which has the downside of entrenching the beggar perception of the continent consequently compromising its ability to speak as an equal in the global discussions. Mitigation on the other hand, is where Africa can speak from a high moral ground given its historically insignificant emissions and its large share of untapped mitigation potential. A well-orchestrated and coordinated common African agenda on climate change with common targets, indicators and milestones is key for a stronger African climate change response and voice. Regarding negotiations, Africa could learn and take a cue from the EU that has a single regional NDC and the EU Commission which was accorded Party status by its Member States speaks for all during the negotiations. However, agreeing and sustaining a common position is much easier said than done as differences will always exist, thus it is imperative for the Common African Position to be strengthened and balanced by putting on the table what Africa can give in return for what it needs to sit as an equal at the table.

Much of the climate change efforts at the continental and regional levels are often supply driven and donor funded. This is not a sustainable arrangement and is not in keeping with the core principle in the Agenda 2063 Declaration on self-reliance which bids Africa to drive and finance its own climate smart development.

Although the PA is not legally binding, if a signatory ratifies the Treaty, it officially agrees to hold itself responsible to meet its targets and incorporate them into national laws. The flexibility of the PA has an advantage as countries commit to what they deem feasible relative to their national context. However, the voluntary nature of the NDC ambitions has been shown by the IPCC to be substantially insufficient to meet emission reduction targets for less than 2°C average global temperature rise by 2100.

'Criticism of the KP is progressively focusing on the question of incentives for participation and compliance' (Barrett 2003). As the KP only bound developed nations and exempted developing countries from reductions, it was viewed as an inherently flawed agreement that has seen influential powers like the USA not becoming a Party to it. Committing industrialized countries and economies in transition to limit and

reduce their GHG emissions in accordance with agreed individual targets is pivotal for success.

The Draft African Union Strategy on Climate Change was developed in 2014 and the PA was created in 2015, thus the Draft African Union Strategy on Climate Change did not incorporate the NDCs. The consideration of NDCs will play a pivotal role in the new climate change strategy as they embody the fundamental mechanisms by which each country will table their national efforts to keep the increase in global temperature below 2°C. For this strategy to be successful, strengths and weaknesses of current measures must be carefully addressed. With NDCs being updated or submitted by December 2020, it would have been ideal if this Strategy could have incorporated the updated contributions.

PART V THE AFRICA CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY

The issues that this Strategy seeks to address have been discussed in the preceding sections and are aptly summarized in the IPCC predictions. Of concern are the weak capacities at the national, regional and continental levels to develop and implement climate change actions; lack of coherence in national and regional strategies; inadequate partnerships; weak African participation in international fora including negotiations and inadequate resources among others. Addressing these issues is the rationale for the strategic results and approaches of the Africa Climate Change Strategy.

Theory of Change

The theory of change for the strategy is anchored in the African Vision articulated in Agenda 2063. It contributes to and operationalises key global and continental initiatives. It recognises that communities, countries and regions are doing the best they can under the circumstances to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. If they are supported by a more enabling environment, they will be better able to bring about the necessary transformation to attain the set goals of Agenda 2063, SDGs, Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement.

The Africa Climate Change Strategy will contribute to the attainment of these goals through harmonised all-inclusive approaches that bring together and involve all African stakeholders including youth, diaspora, business and non-state actors while promoting resilience, competence, innovation and entrepreneurship. New approaches to finance are put forward as self-reliant ways to attract investments to achieve these goals.

The development of this strategy was arrived at through reviewing the 2014 Draft Continental Climate Change Strategy, 2015 Paris Agreement, SDGs, Agenda 2063, Africa Programme of Action on Disaster Risk Reduction, Sendai Framework, national and regional climate change frameworks. The feedback from consultations with selected key stakeholders such as Member States, RECs, AMCEN and civil society was incorporated to give a holistic fresh African strategy on climate change.

Logical Framework

Vision

The vision to guide this Strategy is derived that of Agenda 2063 as: '***A climate resilient Africa We Want'***

Mission

The mission is derived from that of the organisation (AU and RECs) i.e. what they do within their mandates to achieve '*The Africa We Want**.'*** In this case, the proposed mission is: '***To mitigate the impacts of climate change on the attainment of The Africa We Want.'***

Objectives

The overall objective of the Africa Climate Change Strategy is: '***Achievement of the Agenda 2063 Vision by building the resilience of the African continent to the impacts of climate change****.'* The Strategy provides Africa and its stakeholders with a single source of strategic guidance that enables them to address the climate-caused challenges that may hinder the attainment of Agenda 2063 goals. Specifically, the strategy aims to contribute to the attainment of SDG 13 '***Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts****,'* the PA goal of less than 2°C global temperature rise by the year 2100 and the seven targets of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction.

There are five intermediate outcomes or results and activities are proposed for their achievement. These are:

Result 1: Effective institutional capacities to implement climate change strategies

Result 2: Climate change strategies are harmonised

Result 3: Africa speaks with one voice

Result 4: Resilience built, and vulnerability reduced

Result 5: Increased access to finance

As observed, the African continent consists of diverse landscapes, ecosystems and weather and climate systems all of which are impacted differently by climate change. The actual responses on the ground will be specific to the impacts experienced there. However, when looked at from a higher perspective, common approaches and threads can be discerned that are universal irrespective of the specific situations and impacts on the ground. These constitute the pillars of the Africa Climate Change Strategy.

A flexible, less prescriptive and easier to apply strategy is called for at this stage as it has the best chances of success under the circumstances. The Strategy is a set of principles and approaches whose goal is to counter the negative consequences of climate change, leverage the capacities, resources and opportunities to facilitate the attainment of the Agenda 2063 Vision. The flexibility of the Strategy allows those that can or wish to move faster to do so while targeted support can be provided to resolve challenges and accelerate the progress of the group as a whole.

In line with the declaration of Agenda 2063, the Strategy must be owned and driven by the stakeholders and partners it addresses. This is best achieved through consultative, validation and approval processes of the Africa Climate Change Strategy in line with the mandates and applicable procedures.

The results and activities to achieve them are detailed below.

Result 1: Effective institutional capacities to implement climate change strategies

Activity 1.1   Institutional Development and Strengthening

Right at the outset, it is critical to determine the institutional structures, mandates and capacities necessary for successfully driving the Strategy to meet the objectives. These structures and capacities must be closely linked and networked for optimum effectiveness. They are at the political, governance, policy, economic, social, technical levels and should include all stakeholders.

At the continental level, the Pan African Parliament (PAP), AUC, ECOSOCC, AUDA, AfDB, and continental agencies have their mandates and responsibilities given by their respective Policy Organs to usher in the goals of Agenda 2063. These structures, together with approved continental NGOs, develop and implement their programmes in close coordination with the RECs and other regional entities. This Strategy sets out the approaches that these structures need to mainstream and actively pursue in their work. The structures must be strengthened and capacitated to carry out their mandates in a sustainable way.

Regional level structures include the REC Secretariats, agencies, financial institutions, parliaments and CSOs whose mandates are to coordinate regional interventions in close collaboration with the continental and national players. These regional structures and their programmes should focus on the specific threats and situations on the ground in their areas and enhance their capacities in a sustainable way. A structured coordination arrangement from the continental, regional and national perspectives needs to be instituted and operationalized, led by the AUC with the support of continental, regional and national entities. Likewise, these structures must be capacitated by enhancing their competencies and effectiveness in carrying out their mandates regarding climate change.

National structures include government ministries, parliaments, financial institutions, local government authorities, CSOs and business all of whom should work in unison within the regional and continental strategies. These must be re-focused and strengthened to be able to deliver on national goals and commitments while contributing to the realisation of Agenda 2063, SDGs, the Sendai Framework for DRR and the PA targets. These structures also need to be adequately capacitated to undertake their responsibilities in a sustainable manner.

There are other institutions and structures that are of importance for the success of the Africa Climate Change Strategy. These include the UN Africa-focused agencies described above and Non-Party Stakeholders including CSOs, women and youth organisations. These bring on board technical and human capacity and resources for climate action. Engaging Party and Non-Party stakeholders to work together reduces duplication of efforts and enhances capacity utilization and resource mobilization.

Activity 1.2   Capacity Building

Due to the evolving nature of climate change and the uncertainty surrounding it, sustained capacity building at the institution right down to the individual levels is imperative. This entails continuous needs assessments, awareness raising, professional training, knowledge and information sharing and management. CSOs, NGOs, African institutions and specialists have built up a vast body of knowledge and experience over the years that can be tapped into and where successful and relevant elements can be gleaned, replicated and scaled up. In line with 'The Africa We Want,' this Strategy acknowledges the need for the exchange of knowledge and expertise between countries on the continent.

Adopting deliberate policies to make use of local services and experts is an effective way to stimulate self-reliance and further capacity building to meet the evolving needs. It also increases the circulation of resources among Africans leading to dynamic self-propelling development and resilient building capabilities on the continent.

Activity 1.3   Education and Training

The educational system in Africa has worked well to get the continent to where it is today on the development trajectory. However, as noted in the IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C, the evolving institutional arrangements in Africa cannot effectively coordinate the initiatives that need to be implemented. The educational system as one such institution, therefore, needs to be revised and re-focused so that it serves the present and evolving needs for Africa to achieve the Agenda 2063 and PA goals. Factoring the issues discussed in this Strategy into the

educational systems is a sure way of generating a high level of awareness and consciousness in the general population. This should be coupled with strong and sustained public awareness campaigns and mainstreaming into all programmes of governments and other stakeholders. Likewise, issues of gender equity, community engagement and women and youth empowerment should be introduced early and sustained throughout the education system.

Documentation and integration of indigenous knowledge into the education systems and supporting research for its further enhancement entrenches this wealth of knowledge into the climate response measures besides ensuring this valuable resource is readily available to future generations.

If done diligently, well over 60 per cent of the population will have gone through this new educational system within a generation thereby creating a large pool of young cadres for tackling these challenges more effectively and with a higher assurance of success.

Steps in the right direction have been made as youths are already engaged in the climate discourse and action and many African youth NGOs are admitted observer organizations to the UNFCCC. At the national level, young people are venturing into climate change through activism, communication and visibility, conservation, waste recycling, climate smart agriculture, renewable energy and many other interventions. Increasing numbers of universities and colleges are offering various climate change related courses.

Activity 1.4   Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Along with awareness and consciousness creation, DRR and resilience building, innovation and entrepreneurship must be promoted and boosted through the educational system, training and capacity building programmes. This is central to creating a self-propelling dynamic entrepreneurship class anchored on African values and technological capacity – i.e. that which Africans can do by themselves for

themselves with what is available to them at that point in time while infusing external elements where appropriate and applicable.

Up to 80 per cent of business in Africa is informal. Training and capacitating these businesspersons to migrate from informal to formal and green business practices will create more economic opportunities for them and their economies and contribute towards realising the Agenda 2063 goals.

There are successful innovation and entrepreneurship development programmes targeting small businesses, youth, women and other groups in Africa that can be re-focused to address climate change challenges and, in the process, create new and sustainable green business opportunities.

Activity 1.5   Research and Technology

Today's era of access to increasingly affordable information communication technologies (ICTs) opens 'big data' opportunities for Africa through the development of crowdsourcing and community engagement in local data collection and verification, particularly regarding weather forecast verification. Consequently, Africa can adopt a plethora of knowledge, technology and capacity from beyond its boundaries for quick responses to climate change.

However, for sustainability, effectiveness, efficiency and job creation, Africa must develop its own strong and dynamic technological capability. African solutions work best for solving African problems. Indigenous knowledge and practices backed by science should be the cornerstone of this technological capability. The indigenous knowledge must be packaged, documented and factored into the educational systems, so it is never lost.

Researching for this Strategy has shown that information and statistics on climate change in Africa are not always readily accessible. Often, policies and decisions are made without reference to the national statistical agencies to formally organize collection and collating the needed statistics. Africa needs to create climate change

information databases and raise climate change scientists and specialists, to fight the crisis and ensure sustainable development of the continent and achievement of the Vision of Agenda 2063 in their lifetime.

Activity 1.6   Visibility and Communications

A well thought through and up-to-date communication and visibility strategy and plan of action is required for the Africa Climate Change Strategy. It should be coordinated by the AUC supported by the RECs and their agencies. It has been shown that the youth are already generally better informed about climate change and the relevant agencies need to capitalize on this. Acting on climate change should be made everyone's business as all are affected by it.

The impacts, risks and implications of climate change must be effectively articulated and communicated and appropriate information sharing programmes through various media platforms should be developed for target audiences and stakeholders. More structured and coordinated information on climate change and climate action is required for factoring into the educational curricula. Improved coordination of curriculum development about global issues such as climate change and climate action which would benefit all African Member States is required and the AUC, RECs and their agencies should play a key role in this regard.

Identifying, documenting and disseminating best practices and success stories is essential to facilitate exchange of knowledge and experiences between regions, countries and communities.

The challenges of capacity and resource limitations will persist unless they are decisively dealt with for Africa to effectively tackle climate change. Agenda 2063 provides the ideology and framework within which these limitations can be addressed by calling on the collective strength of a united Africa and her Diaspora within the unique African spirit of *Ubuntu* and the famous principle: '*It takes a whole village to raise a man'*. The continent can only reap sustainable rewards from what it does with its youthful population, its social and cultural values and natural capital endowments.

Research, innovation and entrepreneurship development are key to overcoming the limitations to unlock the great latent potential of the sleeping giant that Africa is.

Result 2: Regional and national climate change strategies are harmonised

An opportunity exists, through this Strategy, to fortify and enhance the robustness of climate action in Africa by integrating the approaches of different African stakeholders into a seamless continental strategy in conformity with the decisions of the RECs and AU Heads of State that Africa should speak with one voice and join hands in combating climate change and building resilience. This is best achieved if strategies and approaches are harmonised and streamlined at the continental, regional and national levels where all are pulling in the same direction.

Activity 2.1   Review of Existing Strategies

An assessment of the climate change policies, frameworks, strategies obtaining on the continent reveals that most of them are outdated. The opportunity thus exists to review and revise these instruments and in so doing, align the approaches with the continental Strategy. The Member States in the review of their national climate change policies, strategies and NDCs should be called upon to align their strategies with the continental Africa Climate Change Strategy.

A possibility presents itself to kick start these processes through the consultative, validation and approval processes at the continental, regional and national levels. This will be sustained through regular co-ordination processes by the AUC and RECs.

The continental strategies and frameworks should inform, speak to and be flexible enough to accommodate specificities at the regional and national levels.

Activity 2.2   Harmonised, Inclusive Planning and Design

Agenda 2063 calls for ownership of continental programmes by the people of Africa and her Diaspora. It is essential that the planning and design phases are carried out

with the full, prior informed knowledge and active participation of all stakeholders affected. Advocacy, communication and visibility should be factored into the design of the intervention with everyone playing their role.

It is important to establish baselines at the start of any intervention by involving the people concerned. This enables the setting up of realistic targets, indicators and milestones. National targets should inform the regional targets which in turn inform the continental targets. This ensures that the targets are harmonized and streamlined making for easier tracking and M&E.

Activity 2.3   Multi-Stakeholder Partnership and Engagement

To deal with the issue of the proliferation of well-intentioned but often poorly coordinated efforts, it is suggested to bring together the combined expertise and resources of the different stakeholders to pursue a unified programme to create greater synergy and accelerate the achievement of results for less overall cost.

Agenda 2063 recognizes the crucial importance of smart win-win partnerships for the achievement of its goals and targets. Effective partnerships at all levels including CSOs, NGOs, communities, the media, arts and culture, sports, public and private champions, exhibitions are essential to raise the level of awareness and consciousness.

Partnerships enable the pooling of resources and capacities for the achievement of agreed goals. Participatory planning with the stakeholders and partners enables each to identify and focus on their core mandate areas where they are best placed to more effectively and efficiently support implementation. Areas with no takers define the targets for resource mobilization and capacity development.

Result 3:   Africa speaks with one voice

The wise African saying: '*If you want to go fast, go alone: but if you want to go far, go with others'* aptly captures the key message in this Strategy. The push and pull of

going together increases the pace of the slower ones while giving room for those that wish to move faster towards Agenda 2063 goals to do so. Moving together is best for countries and communities facing similar challenges as it is easier to learn from and emulate each other. Sharing and comparing stimulates friendly competition towards the goal thus quickening the pace of the group.

Activity 3.1   Addressing the Development Gap

Over the years, much support has been rendered to the African continent and its people by well-wishers from within and beyond the continent and no doubt, this support has led to a material improvement in the welfare of Africans as measured by standard development indicators. While this is welcome and greatly appreciated, the reality is that the gap in the standard of living between Africans and citizens of other regions of the world is widening. The other realities are that climate change is here and is not going to go away any time soon and it is a serious obstacle to the continent's development as it exacerbates the underlying vulnerabilities of the African population.

Other regions of the world are also similarly impacted by climate change, however, due to their high levels of adaptive capacity and resilience, they can better resist the effects, quickly rebound and innovate to achieve ever higher levels of development despite the setbacks. The impetus and resources for Africa to make the quantum leap required to close the widening development gap and attain the level of climate resilience to sustainably deliver the '*Africa We Want'* can only, and must be mobilised, marshalled and focused by the Africans themselves relying on their own resources. The support from outside the continent while welcome, should complement what the Africans are doing for themselves. This is the cornerstone of Agenda 2063 and by extension, the Africa Climate Change Strategy.

The African continent remains the richest on the planet in terms of natural capital. This is despite centuries of exploitation for the benefit of the rest of the world. This natural capital, the growing youthful population, a large diaspora and a mighty Pan African spirit are the means that Africa has with which to fight poverty and climate change.

With 55 Member States, 8 RECs, continental and regional agencies and institutions and cognisant of the fact that climate change knows no national boundaries, it is imperative that the African continent and its stakeholders pursue harmonised approaches in adaptation and mitigation and building resilience to climate change.

It is recognised that African countries and regions are at different levels of development, have different capacities and face different challenges. Thus, a flexible approach must be in-built to allow each of the entities addressed in this Strategy to set their own targets and determine the pace at which they will converge with agreed continental goals and targets. That way, the differences cease to be obstacles to unity and the continent can move forward in unison.

Activity 3.2   Building Negotiation Capacity

A united African voice at the global table is a well proven strategy for the collective to attain advantageous outcomes in negotiations than each country can obtain on its own. This is how the AGN, LDCs, SIDS and other groupings of weaker entities managed to get favourable provisions in the PA. Arriving at the global Agreement was the relatively easier part. The implementation of the PA and realising the $2^{o}C$ global temperature goal is a lot more challenging for all Parties. This will likely result in increased pressure on Africa and hence the need for deeper African unity. Working together generates synergy and economies of scale while friendly competition increases the pace of progress.

A unified African Position at the UNFCCC must be derived from a synthesis of the commitments made in the updated NDCs to be submitted by December 2020. As implementation progresses, conditions change, countries update and increase the ambition of their NDCs, the Position should be adjusted accordingly so that Africa always has its best foot forward. Not only should this Position guide the negotiations, it must be internalised and guide the climate actions by all down to the individual. In addition, the Position must be supported by robust research and verified facts that can withstand international scrutiny.

Lack of resources and weak capacities provides for a robust rationale that Africa should literally and figuratively speak with one voice at all levels of the negotiations guided by the approved unified African Position. Such an approach enables the pooling of resources and expertise to cover and represent African interests across all tracks of the negotiations which increases the prospects of better outcomes for the continent.

A precedent has already been set whereby the Chairperson of CAHOSCC speaks for the continent at Summit level. This should cascade to the Ministerial and technical levels. Furthermore, the AUC should initiate consultations with its Member States and the UNFCCC for the Commission to be accorded Party status at the UNFCCC just as the EU Commission is a Party and speaks on behalf of the EU.

Result 4: Resilience built; vulnerability reduced

Activity 4.1   Prioritizing Adaptation

'Human and natural systems have a capacity to cope with adverse circumstances but, with continuing climate change, adaptation will be needed to maintain this capacity' (IPCC, 2012). The IPCC AR5 (2014) defines adaptation as 'the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects.'

Adaptation to the impacts of climate change will remain the universal top priority action for Africa and a pre-requisite for building resilience. This is confirmed by the NDCs submitted by African countries where adaptation is the focus. As observed, the impacts differ according to the location hence specific adaptation actions by the stakeholders will be determined by the threats they face.

The AfDB (2011) concludes that adaptation costs in Africa are in the region of US$ 20-30 billion per annum over the next 10 to 20 years and that of approximately $350 million of adaptation funding approved for spending in Africa, only $130 million has been disbursed. This highlights the gravity of Africa's 'financial adaptation gap.' It is urgent for African nations to leverage the common but differentiated responsibility

principle raised by the KP to encourage and increase sustained funding to meet Africa's adaptation needs.

The UNDP (2008) argues that 'adaptation is closely linked with development and this linkage is critical to reducing vulnerability to climate change.' Increasing general and targeted development of African countries will simultaneously strengthen their ability to adapt to climate change by reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience. The need to mainstream adaptation into policies and investment planning is evident, coupled with a multi-sectoral approach.

Accordingly, as 'the global ambition for mitigation is also projected to have significant consequences for adaptation costs in Africa,' mitigation and adaptation both need to be prioritized for optimal resilience building and vulnerability reduction (UNEP, n.d.).

Activity 4.2   DRR

The AU Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is the blueprint that informs action in this regard. The plan of action gives the priorities and actions to be undertaken by all stakeholders to strengthen resilience to disaster risks at continental, regional, national and local levels.

The natural course of action is to adapt to climate-induced disasters such as floods, cyclones and rising sea levels that cause loss of many lives and irreparable damage to infrastructure, settlements and landscapes. A delicate balance exists between human resilience and the integrity of ecosystems, hence people-centric concepts and nature-based solutions such as ecosystem-based DRR should be prioritized to increase resilience and reduce the vulnerability of communities and the environment to climate change. IUCN (n.d.) defines Eco-DRR as the sustainable management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems to provide services that reduce disaster risk by mitigating hazards and by increasing livelihood resilience. Effective Eco-DRR comes about through paying attention to the landscape in which the risks need to be reduced and the role the ecosystem plays in achieving this.

Activity 4.3   Set up a Continental Early Warning System

A continental Multi-Hazard All Stakeholder Early Warning and Response System that integrates the existing continental, regional and national climate information systems and brings together all the investments, capacity and expertise is the cornerstone of this endeavor. Implementation of a continental early warning system can capacitate decision making of governments and communities to anticipate weather variability, plan and adjust action plans and budgets to reduce losses and damages.

It has been conservatively estimated that upgrading all hydrometeorological information production and early-warning capacity in developing countries would save an average of 23,000 lives annually and would provide between US$3 billion and US$30 billion per year in additional economic benefits related to disaster reduction (Hallegatte 2012).

Partnerships with global and other international climate information systems opens the door for newer technology, data and information. For example, the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) developed a world class regional system that is integrated with national and local systems. Implementation of this system has increased disaster preparedness leading to a marked reduction in loss and damage due to the many disasters that region faces. A willingness to learn from such systems is imperative in gearing this Strategy into action. The implementation of early action beyond disaster preparedness through acting early based on forecasts can save lives and ensure more efficient use of scant resources.

Activity 4.4   Capacitate Regional Climate Centres

On the African continent, the concept of Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) was developed to bridge the gap between climate information at the global and national levels. Up to date weather, water and climate services require high computing power, modelling and specialized expertise that not all countries have. The RCCs offer opportunities for networking, learning, exchanging and pooling national capacities to provide the weather, water and climate services to meet national needs. There are five designated RCCs:

1. African Centre for Meteorological Applications for Development (ACMAD)
2. Agriculture, Hydrology and Meteorology (AGRHYMET)
3. IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC)
4. Climate Application and Prediction Centre for Central Africa ((CAPC-CA)
5. SADC Climate Services Centre (SADC-CSC)

These RCCs need to be capacitated and networked into an integral component of the continental early warning system. The ability to forecast the likely impacts of climate change makes it possible to revisit the physical plans to avoid or minimize the losses and damages. It will also inform the appropriate agricultural systems to adopt for food and livelihoods security as well as the location and design standards for infrastructure and settlements. Undoubtedly, weather, water and climate services play an integral part towards climate change governance, however, this information must be accessible, understandable and actionable in order to be put to good use.

Activity 4.5   Reduce Loss and Damage

Africa has called for the full implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts, including the provisions of Article 8 of the PA and that African countries should be supported to deal with loss and damage associated with floods, droughts and cyclones as well as other natural disasters.

The African Risk Capacity (ARC) is well positioned to play a key role in mitigating the impacts of climate related natural disasters if adequately resourced and all countries participate. Conducive policies and incentives at the national and regional levels are key to engaging more national and regional insurance companies to roll out their products and services to cover losses and damages suffered by most of the poor people of Africa.

At the national level, African governments need to allocate enough resources to DRR programmes, particularly at local government level and mobilize both local and

international financial and technical support, where required, to effectively deal with natural disasters and to be able to recover from these in a sustainable manner. An abundance of knowledge is already available at national and local level, including through local and national CSOs/NGOs but which unfortunately, for the most part remains unlocked and needs to be capitalized on.

Activity 4.6 Build Resilience

Building resilience of livelihoods, food, water and energy supplies, infrastructure and settlements to the anticipated impacts of climate change is a pre-requisite to the developments necessary to attain the goal of '*The Africa We Want.'* Otherwise scarce resources will continually be diverted to deal with recurring disasters, repairing damaged infrastructure and settlements each time disasters strike. If resilience is not built, much of poor Africa will be trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty and suffering. Resilience strategies and action plans have been developed by RECs like COMESA, some countries, cities and other stakeholders. As with climate change and DRR strategies, a continental resilience building strategy that integrates and builds on what is already going on is recommended to guide continental, regional, national and other stakeholders in their resilience building efforts. The aim is to build high levels of awareness and consciousness on these matters across the entire African population.

As observed, much of Africa is still grappling with the provision of basic needs such as shelter, food, water, energy and health services. The availability and security of these basics are threatened by climate change. Dealing with these challenges is a high priority in the NDCs of the African countries and forms the backbone of the support rendered to the Member States by the RECs and others guided by the appropriate continental sectoral frameworks.

Activity 4.7 Integrating DRR, Climate Change and Ecosystem Management

Climate change is already modifying the frequency and intensity of many weather-related hazards as well as steadily increasing vulnerability and eroding the resilience of exposed populations. This is clearly witnessed by the increasing frequency and

intensity of droughts and floods on the continent. On the other hand, a well-managed natural environment supports livelihoods and economies by delivering services in the form of fresh water supply, timber, fisheries products and soil protection, to name just a few. These provide an important resource base for vulnerable communities, act as a buffer against hazards allowing them to cope in times of crisis and to actively adapt to climate change. A degraded ecosystem often results in a substantial increase in vulnerability as a result of the loss of critical ecosystem services. Therefore, acknowledging and understanding the deep interdependency between climate change and ecosystem degradation and their influence in changing the nature, behaviour and patterns of disaster risks is at the core of bringing a lasting change and attaining the goals of Agenda 2063. This interdependency of climate change and ecosystem degradation calls for an integrated approach to DRR, climate change adaptation and ecosystem management and restoration whenever possible and locally applicable enhances synergy, efficiency and effectiveness.

Activity 4.8   Private Sector Involvement

The Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction calls for the involvement of the private sector as businesses are also affected by disasters and as entities, they also need to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Climate change has a domino effect on businesses and business continuity which in turn affects economies, workforces, customers and suppliers, disrupting the well-being and social fabric of communities. As a result, private sector engagement vis a vis climate change is in the sector's own interest and it is strongly encouraged that the sector contributes resources, capacity building and knowledge to protect society and their business interests.

Result 5:   **Increased Access to Finance**

It is apparent that to successfully address the issues raised in this Strategy requires resources and capacities far beyond what the actors on the continent have been able to mobilise thus far. Already, more than three quarters of the resources needed to fund the NDCs submitted by African countries is expected to come from beyond the continent. With this level of dependence, it will be a challenge to even consider

increasing the ambition of African NDCs to be submitted in 2025. Thus, innovative mobilisation of adequate investments for climate actions at national, regional and continental levels is the only viable option.

Facilitating access by African countries to finance from different sources, in particular public finance, is critical as a means of closing the financing gap. The current estimate of the finance gap for implementing the full scope of African NDCs is US$3 trillion (AMCEN President, 2020). African countries have already contributed an estimated 20 per cent of the annual cost of adaptation from their own budgets. Such contributions have an impact on the availability of resources for other sectors nationally, such as education and health, as well as on overall poverty reduction.

This financing gap can only be bridged if concerted efforts are made to think outside of the box and come up with innovative ways to ensure additional financial flows to fully implement the NDCs. Some examples of proposed innovative mobilisation of funds are discussed below.

Activity 5.1   Promote Climate Sensitive Public Sector Financing

Government is by far the biggest spender in many African countries. It therefore follows that mainstreaming climate change into all national budget lines will have the largest impact on climate action on the continent. Public investment mobilization and management must be climate sensitive and promote resilience.

The commitments made in the NDCs must be turned into concrete action by deliberately allocating budgetary resources into adaptation actions and re-direction of subsidies and incentives to stimulate mitigation and low carbon development. At the same time, consideration should be given to broadening the base for carbon emission taxes to finance green investments. The 'polluter pays' principle should be extended and applied to local extraction and processing of wasting assets like minerals and fossil fuels including renewable but GHG emitting energy sources such as wood, biomass and biofuels.

The oversight and governance structures including Non-State Actors described above have essential roles to play to ensure equity in the governance of these resources so that revenues collected are utilized for the intended purposes.

Activity 5.2   Incentivise Private Capital

After the government, the private sector is often the next biggest spender in Africa. There are many entrepreneurs that have interests in lucrative renewable energy, energy saving, waste recycling and other businesses for profit and not necessarily as climate change adaptation and mitigation or NDC interventions. Re-orienting, marshalling, measuring and quantifying these efforts is a major step towards achieving the NDC emission targets of African countries. This should be coupled with incentives and other enabling instruments to bring about a self-sustaining green/circular economy, sustainable wealth creation and jobs.

Crafting effective win-win private-private and private-public partnerships brings together combined expertise and resources to accelerate achievement of results and enhance the impact of green investment projects in Africa to create more wealth while contributing to the goals at the same time.

Government budgets and donor provided resources have finite limits. However, there is practically no limit to profit-seeking private capital. Thus, crafting new profit opportunities for private capital from investments that address climate change opens the doors to this great source of capital. Efforts should not be spared in nurturing a strong African entrepreneurial sector as the best way forward to partner with international capital to make this happen.

There are more business opportunities for private sector (including micro, small and medium sized enterprises) engagement and participation in mitigation than in adaptation. Investments in renewable energy, clean green technologies, energy efficiency, circular production and others all make business and economic sense. Policies need to be developed and aligned to facilitate this. Incentives and subsidies should be shifted to get more private sector participation. Particular attention should

be paid to avoid the pitfalls of falling prey to cheap used technology discarded from wealthier economies on account of their emissions. Africa should adopt and enforce standards to curtail this from happening. It also applies to new products that are inefficient or have a short lifespan as this generates significant quantities of waste.

The regional and continental trade and investment facilitation instruments (Free Trade Areas, Customs Unions, Monetary Unions) should mainstream climate change, promote and give more incentives for environmentally friendly goods, services and technologies and monitor and manage the emissions associated with the production and trade value chains.

African private sector investment, engagement of the diaspora, remittance flows, green bonds, climate finance and a layered approach to risk financing are all areas of opportunity in building prosperous generative economies and stimulating African wealth creation.

Activity 5.3   Expand and Diversify Existing Financial Services

There is a need to broaden the scope of existing development and investment financial institutions to mainstream climate change and give priority to projects that also build climate resilience and/or contribute to the attainment of the country's NDCs, the PA and Agenda 2063 goals. Involvement and partnership with the public sector to enact conducive policies and incentives is essential to encourage this shift.

Weather/risk indexed, micro-insurance and micro-finance services need to be set in motion to cover more vulnerable people and assist them to begin the recovery process from climate change induced loss and damage as opposed to depending on government and/or relief agencies. At the continental level, the ARC is well positioned to spearhead this in collaboration with the public and private insurance and re-insurance entities. Governments should support such developments by enacting a more enabling environment and offering incentives for small players to partner with the large conglomerates to increase coverage.

The AU, RECs, their agencies and other stakeholders should factor advocacy, capacity building and facilitation of this in the support they render to the countries to encourage the changes required in addition to organizing dedicated consultative and exchange sessions for key enablers of the financial services sector.

Activity 5.4   Monitor Official Development Assistance (ODA)

A sizeable core of donors exists that support Africa at the local, national, regional and continental levels. They are mostly visible in humanitarian assistance, averting hunger caused by failed harvests, disaster relief and re-construction, water, sanitation and health, education, training and capacity building. A number of these donors are supporting the piloting of proof-of-concept projects in adaptation and mitigation. In light of mainstreaming climate change into all aspects, it is prudent to propose closer engagement with development partners so as to ensure that their support is aligned with the priorities of the NDCs and that investments have the best value for money and sustainable positive impacts in building resilience.

Activity 5.5   Enhance Access to Climate Finance

Over the years, several global (UN-sanctioned), international, continental, regional, national and private funds have been set up to support adaptation and mitigation actions in developing countries. The experience in accessing these funds are yet to reach levels where they make material difference in the lives of the most vulnerable.

The major reason for this slow progress can be summed up as a weak capacity to develop and implement projects that meet the requirements for accessing the funding. The fact that other regions of the world are accessing significant amounts from these same funds points to an acute need for boosting the capacity of Africans in this area.

Once again, as with innovation and entrepreneurship, integrating project management and climate finance into the education and training systems on the continent and providing support and incentives will produce many experts in a short period of time thereby plugging this gap. Many institutions exist that offer training in project

management, innovation and entrepreneurship in virtually all countries that, with the right policies and incentives, can quickly re-focus and offer the necessary training and capacity building support starting almost right away. Students can take actual priority projects from the national NDCs priority list to further develop as part of their studies and thereafter to enhance practical capacity and prospects for accessing funding. Some of the government and philanthropic scholarships and support from development partners can be channeled to access specialized expertise that is not readily available from outside the continent with the aim to localize it.

Activity 5.6   Unlocking Africa's Mitigation Potential

While adaptation unquestionably and rightly remains the top priority action for Africa, it should be recognised that there is an immense mitigation capacity in the continent's vast landmass, oceans, lakes, forests, agricultural systems, land use and renewable energy among others. A significant opportunity also exists to decarbonise African development by adopting clean, low emission technologies. This combined mitigation potential, if fully deployed, can launch Africa into a lead position in low carbon and ultimately, net zero emission growth and development. Building on the continent's historically low emissions, Africa already has a head start in the low carbon race and can earn significant additional income from green exports, renewable energy and carbon trade. To unlock this enormous latent potential requires a conscious citizenry with a good understanding and appreciation of the issues at stake. Next is to quantify and put values to these potentials. Appropriate policies and facilitative incentives are required to attract investments by African entrepreneurs in collaboration with others to liberate this idle potential for the benefit of all.

Africa historically and currently is the least emitter of GHGs. Additionally, most of the countries on the continent have much less un-amortized investments in heavy polluting industries using outdated technologies. This situation obtains at a time of increased availability, competitiveness and affordability of alternative cleaner and greener technologies, especially in renewable energy, waste recycling, circular economies, high ICT penetration and the 'Internet of Things' that African countries should embrace for low carbon growth and development. The African continent has

significant advantages for playing a lead role in the fast-evolving technology to produce green hydrogen - the fuel of the future due to its zero emissions and near universal applicability. Hybrid energy systems combining two or more renewable energy sources – hydro, solar, wind, geothermal, wave, green hydrogen and biomass are increasingly popular as they offer sustainability, reliability and consistency of supplies. This is a boat that Africa should not miss.

This opportunity for renewable energy propelled low carbon growth and development coupled with the massive current untapped carbon absorption capacity of agriculture, forestry and land use and circular economy approaches can propel the African continent into zero net emissions well before the 2063 target date for Africa's full emancipation. Flagship projects such as the GGW are a strong testament of what is possible, and a similar approach should be extended to other arid, degraded and deforested lands in Africa and climate interventions articulated in this Strategy.

Not only can Africa quickly attain net zero emission development, opportunities also exist to export renewable energy beyond the continent. Green hydrogen produced from clean renewable energy and water is a perfect replacement for fossil fuels. Africa has the advantage of vast solar and other renewable energy and water resources that can be deployed and propel the continent to become a global leader in the production and export of this precious fuel of the future and contribute to global emission reduction targets. If achieved, this can place the continent on a higher pedestal at the global table.

Given the relative ease with which this can be done, countries and RECs are encouraged to set up their own carbon neutrality targets from which the continental target can be synthesized and factored into the African Position. Efforts and resources of the continental, regional and national stakeholders should not be spared to establish, quantify and table this massive mitigation potential as Africa's contribution in return for the technology and finance required to adapt and unlock the potential for the benefit of all Africans. To negotiate as an equal, one must be able to bring to the negotiating table offers that the other party wants to make one an equal. The developed countries put up their technological, organizational and financial strength in global affairs. However, these advantageous attributes of the developed countries

cannot solve the problem of climate change by themselves unless they are combined with the vast mitigation potential that Africa possesses. This should be one of the the keystones of the African Position going forward.

Activity 5.7   Monetizing Africa's Natural Capital and Mitigation Potential

The African continent is endowed with much human and natural resources which have been obtained from the continent for centuries by other nations with the practice continuing to this day. African labour and raw materials have contributed largely to the higher quality of life enjoyed in the developed countries. While the era of resource and labour-based economies is fast closing and giving way to a knowledge and artificial intelligence era, there will continue to be demand for materials and labour from Africa. It is essential to identify and quantify these resources, the demand for which is forecast to persist to position African countries to extract the most out of these wasting, non-renewable assets while they still have value. Adding value to these resources in Africa is strongly recommended as green technologies and clean renewable energy can be deployed while offsetting the unavoidable emissions is easier given the continent's vast GHG sequestration potential.

The Natural Capital Protocol is a decision-making framework that enables organisations to measure and value their direct and indirect impacts and dependencies on natural capital flows. This assists in tracking and managing the health of the natural assets and assure sustainability and growth of the ecosystem services they provide. Many poor people in Africa live off the natural capital but not in a sustainable way. A natural capital approach and a revamped educational system that integrates these issues is the starting point on this journey.

An opportunity also exists to grow the continent's natural capital base so that future generations can benefit from it in a more sustainable way. Once again, a high level of awareness and consciousness of the citizenry is a pre-requisite that is best addressed through a revamped educational system.

Activity 5.8   Payment for Ecosystem Services

A lot has been extracted from the African ecosystem for centuries by locals and others without putting much back to preserve and grow this natural capital. In some areas, the ecosystem has been so depleted that the returns from it are diminishing thus accelerating further depletion as the rate of extraction far exceeds the rate of replenishment. If the continent is ever to win this war, this trend must be reversed through approaches such as restorative landscape or basin-scale management to increase productive function and to maintain the provision of ecosystem vital services to Africa's millions of users. The Water Vision 2025 is a sterling example that proposes adopting the river basin as the unit for water resources management which in turn strengthens river-basin and aquifer management.

Placing the correct value on the services the ecosystem provides and ensuring that those benefiting from it pay the right price will go a long way towards generating the resources with which to restore the ecosystems. This is a model of market-based conservation to ensure continuous and sustainable flow of ecosystem benefits.

The concept of payment for services is well established in many countries that collect fees for services such as refuse collection, road tolls and tax vehicle emissions among others. These schemes must be extended to ecosystem services and all emitters must account and atone for their emissions. Government and all stakeholder involvement and partnership is necessary for success. The AUC, RECs and their agencies have a vital role to play in developing and implementing pilots of concept schemes in this regard. However, it is critical to note that the success of this hinges on governments ensuring that the revenues generated are utilized in the implementation of national climate change strategies.

Activity 5.9   Securitizing Land Tenure

Land is without doubt, the mother of all natural capital as everything of value is on or derived from it. Giving the right value and title to land so it can be bought or sold can unlock vast amounts of capital for the buyers, sellers and the government.

According to the 2016 AU Gender Scorecard, insecure land rights for women lead to underinvestment. Many women farmers face insecure land tenure and are thus less likely to invest in their land or to adopt more efficient agricultural practices as they are uncertain of reaping the benefits over the longer term. Women represent fewer than 5 percent of all agricultural landholders in North Africa and West Asia, while in sub-Saharan Africa they make up an average of 15 percent (UN Women, n.d.).

Different land tenure systems evolved in Africa as a result of different historical, social and cultural practices and processes. Rwanda is an example where all land is under title. Guaranteed security of tenure with a gender inclusive lens can give more value to the land which can be used as collateral for climate smart and profitable investments.

Activity 5.10   Engaging the African Diaspora

Agenda 2063 recognised the African diaspora as a key stakeholder in '*The Africa We Want*' with good reason as for many countries, diaspora remittances now exceed FDI and ODA put together as a leading source of foreign exchange. According to the World Bank, in 2018, formal remittances to Africa totaled US$ 86 billion. It therefore follows that facilitating and coordinating diaspora remittances and savings is a major potential source of finance for green investments through channels such as diaspora green bonds and listings in diaspora stock exchanges.

One of the 10 key recommendations of translating the AU commitment for a legacy project on diaspora investments into practical terms involves supporting and facilitating the implementation of a diaspora investment and innovative finance strategy based on the creation, marketing, issuance and management of regulated diaspora bonds, mutual funds and endowment trust funds, through a continental African Diaspora Finance Corporation (ADFC). In 2008, the World Bank estimated that African diaspora bonds can raise between US$5 billion to US$10 billion per year. It is important to note

that diaspora remittances will be divided amongst other sectors and will not only be attributed to climate change related activities.

Governments must incentivize African financial institutions to set up diaspora special purpose vehicles to mobilize and channel FDI into high profile, high impact green projects in Africa. Flagship projects such as The GGW are model initiatives for mobilizing and rallying the support and active engagement of Africans on the continent and the diaspora. Building on this, other continental conservation and restoration projects, investments in renewable energy and food production can be promoted and funded.

With the 'Internet of Things' as an enabler, nearly everyone on the continent now has internet access. Networking green business and value chains must be promoted at the national, regional, continental and global/diaspora levels. Incentives should be availed to the African diaspora to mobilise and convey green investments into the continent. The diaspora can be organised to become the most important investment and technology transfer link between the African continent and countries they live in. It has been shown that circulating African money more among Africans can open channels for accessing enhanced resources to meet the needs of Africans. This is the basis of the Pan Africanist approach adopted in Agenda 2063.

PART VI: MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Mainstreaming Climate Change

To allow for the holistic implementation of the Africa Climate Change Strategy, efforts must be made to mainstream climate change into the strategies of other sectors. Each entity, the REC Secretariats, their agencies and other stakeholders addressed in this Strategy must develop their own strategies in harmony with the continental Strategy, prioritising their mandates and the threats faced in the regions they serve. They are responsible for the development detailed implementation plans, budgets and resource mobilization plans to address their specificities.

Roles and Responsibilities

The AU Commission and REC Secretariats have similar roles and responsibilities, the difference being the scope of the AUC which covers the entire continent and its 55 Member States including the African diaspora. The RECs, on the other hand, are the building blocks of the AU that focus on their specific geographical areas and Member States. The common roles and responsibilities regarding the Africa Climate Change Strategy include:

1. Develop implementation plans, projects, budgets and mobilize resources to ensure the objectives and results of this Strategy are attained
2. Mainstreaming climate change into other initiatives and programmes
3. Partnerships development, coordination and harmonisation
4. Research, knowledge management and capacity strengthening
5. Preparation of briefs, progress reports, lessons learnt and best practices
6. Facilitate the development of common positions and strategies
7. Support Member States to achieve their goals, synthesize them into regional and continental goals and targets to establish and drive common ambitions
8. Conduct M&E and impact assessments
9. Information and knowledge sharing
10. Advocacy, communications and visibility

The AUC and RECs also have specialised agencies and institutions with mandates to support specific intervention areas. They are also called upon to integrate climate change into their programming and align their approaches with the Africa Climate Change Strategy as their contribution.

The Member States as Parties to the UNFCCC, are responsible for the development, implementation, revision and updating of their national climate change policies, strategies and NDCs. In terms of the PA, they set their own goals, targets and priorities which become binding once submitted. They are expected to report progress in achieving these goals to the UNFCCC within the ETF. The Africa Climate Change Strategy seeks to support the Member States in the pursuit of these goals from which common targets and ambitions can be derived and synthesized.

Partnerships have crucial roles to play in the success of the Africa Climate Change Strategy. They bring resources, technology, capacity and experience to create synergy to ramp up the adaptive capacities and resilience of the vulnerable. In this category are international organisations, Non-State Actors, CSOs, NGOs, technical collaborators and development partners.

M&E

The targets, indicators and milestones are the pillars of M&E frameworks that must be developed for the interventions. The M&E framework must be built into the design of the interventions. Regional and continental targets will be synthesized from the national commitments. Best African practices will be identified and used as benchmarks to propel the continent to ever higher levels of achievement and ambition. Continental and regional entities will champion regional, cross border projects and initiatives in close collaboration with Member States and other partners.

In all these endeavours, the principle of subsidiarity will be respected and actively promoted where action is taken by the entity (i.e. continental, regional or national) best positioned to do so and supported by the others.

A major undertaking such as the Africa Climate Change Strategy requires an M&E Framework developed with the participation of all stakeholders and partners for ownership, better implementation traction, synergy and value for money. M&E should be integrated into the design of programmes and projects. Baselines must be established in order to set realistic targets that can be readily accessed.

The purpose of the M&E Framework is to ensure successful implementation of the M&E activities and consequently lead to the achievement of results of the Strategy. The framework is a living document and it will be updated on a regular basis to take into considerations any changes in the implementation environment.

Responsibility

The overall responsibility for the implementation and reporting on the implementation of the Africa Climate Change Strategy lies with the AUC. Reports will be presented to and guidance will be provided, and decisions made as necessary by the AMCEN, relevant specialized technical committees, CAHOSCC and the Summit of Heads of State of the AU. The Commission will be actively supported by the RECs guided by their Policy Organs and Summits of Heads of State.

The implementation plans and logical frameworks will include targets for each result to be used as measures of progress against the targets. Independent consultants may be recruited to carry out external monitoring.

Evaluation

Evaluations are preferably undertaken by external expertise for importability in the assessments. A mid-term review, final evaluation and impact assessments are recommended, reports of which will be shared with stakeholders and partners.

CONCLUSION

This Strategy gives the key issues, priorities and suggested actions for the effective tackling of climate change in Africa. In line with the PA, the Strategy is anchored on the commitments that the countries make and the targets they set for themselves. The Strategy is addressed to the AUC, RECs, and their agencies, Member States, partners, other stakeholders and the private sector.

The Strategy re-iterates that adapting to and building resilience to climate change is the top priority for African countries, however, it also recognises the important role that Africa can play in mitigating climate change at the global level. If done diligently, this would make the continent a truly equal player as it can put on the table something of global significance and remove the beggar stereotype that has been attached to the continent.

Self-reliance and all stakeholder engagement and involvement is the cornerstone of success of the Strategy which is derived from the spirit of Agenda 2063. Africa must generate its own dynamic scientific, technological and entrepreneurial capability, innovate new, predictable and sustainable sources of funding for its response to climate change. The African diaspora is identified as an important link with the outside world for Africa's climate smart development.

The youth hold a special position as it is their future at stake. They are going to remain the majority in Africa for the foreseeable future. Youth should therefore be encouraged to become active players in shaping their future through preparation at an early stage and sustained grooming throughout their education and training about the crucial importance of environmental sustainability, innovation and entrepreneurship in creating a climate resilient '*Africa We Want*.' Within a generation, more than half the population will have gone through this conscientization process and hence will be better able to tackle the challenges ahead.

AFRICA CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY 2020: LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

INTERVENTION LOGIC	INDICATORS	TARGET	SOURCES	ASSUMPTIONS
Vision: A climate Resilient *Africa We Want*	• Rising prosperity indices • Level of integration • Political stability peace and security indices	Agenda 2063 Targets	AUC, RECs and country reports	Commitment by all to achieve Agenda 2063 goals
Mission: To mitigate the impacts of climate change on the attainment of *The Africa We Want*	• Harmonised climate strategies and actions in Africa	All RECs and MS harmonise strategies	REC and MS Reports	RECs and MS committed to Agenda 2063 goals
Overall Objective: Achievement of the Agenda 2063 Vision by building the resilience of the African continent to the impacts of climate change	• Resilience Frameworks developed and internalised by RECs and MS	Reduction in loss and damages from cc impacts	MS reports	WIM is fully supported
Specific Objectives: **SO1:** Attainment of SDG 13 'Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts' **SO2:** Attainment of Paris Agreement goal of less than 2°C global temperature rise by the year 2100	• Resources mobilised and deployed for climate action • Number of countries meeting their NDC Targets	CC integrated into NDPs of all MS and RECs strategies	ETF reports by the MS	Developed countries honour their commitment to mobilise $100bn annually by 2020

INTERVENTION LOGIC	INDICATORS	TARGET	SOURCES	ASSUMPTIONS
Result1: Effective institutional capacities to implement climate change strategies **Activity 1.1:** Institutional Development and Strengthening **Activity 1.2** Capacity Building **Activity 1.3** Education and Training **Activity 1.4** Innovation and Entrepreneurship **Activity 1.5** Research &Technology **Activity 1.6** Visibility and Communications	• Number of effective national and regional structures for tackling CC • Number of institutions offering training and capacity building	All MS and RECs	REC and MS reports	RECs and MS harmonise strategies and are willing to collaborate and share
Result 2: Regional and national climate change strategies are harmonised **Activity 2.1** Review of existing strategies **Activity 2.2** Harmonised, Inclusive Planning and Design **Activity 2.3** Multi-stakeholder partnership and engagement	• Number of strategies reviewed, updated and aligned with the continental strategy	All RECs and MS	• RECs and MS reports • Assessment reports commissioned	Commitment by MS and RECs to harmonise

INTERVENTION LOGIC	INDICATORS	TARGET	SOURCES	ASSUMPTIONS
Result 3: Africa speaks with one voice **Activity 3.1** Addressing the development gap **Activity 3.2** Building negotiation capacity	• Unified African Position developed for all negotiations • AUC has Party status and speaks for Africa	2025 for AUC Party status	• AUC Reports • UNFCCC register	MS willing to confer party status to the AUC
Result 4: Resilience built; vulnerability reduced **Activity 4.1** Prioritising Adaptation **Activity 4.2** Disaster Risk Reduction **Activity 4.3** Set up a Continental Early warning System **Activity 4.4** Capacitate Regional Climate Centres **Activity 4.5** Reduce Loss and Damage **Activity 4.6** Build Resilience **Activity 4.7** Integrating DRR, Climate Change and Ecosystem Management **Activity 4.8** Private sector involvement	• Number of harmonised resilience frameworks developed and domesticated • Continental early warning system operational	AUC, all RECs and MS	• Reports of the AUC, RECs and MS • Bulletins issued from the EWS	Convergence of minds on resilience and the continental EWS

INTERVENTION LOGIC	INDICATORS	TARGET	SOURCES	ASSUMPTIONS
Result 5: Increased access to finance **Activity 5.1** Promote Climate Sensitive Public Sector Financing **Activity 5.2** Incentivise Private Capital **Activity 5.3** Expand and Diversify Existing Financial Services **Activity 5.4** Monitor Official Development Assistance **Activity 5.5** Enhance Access to Climate Finance **Activity 5.6** Unlocking Africa's mitigation potential **Activity 5.6** Unlocking Africa's mitigation potential **Activity 5.7** Monetizing Africa's Natural Capital and Mitigation Potential **Activity 5.8** Payment for Ecosystem Services **Activity 5.9** Securitizing Land Tenure **Activity 5.10** Engaging the African Diaspora	• Number of income streams in use • Quantum of resources mobilised by the AUC, RECs and MS	MS fully fund the non-conditional NDCs by 2025	MS reports	MS deploy resources as planned

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