

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
9 May 2016

Original: English

Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Second session
Cairo, 17-19 May 2016**Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals:
Integrated implementation****I. Introduction**

1. Both Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are broad and comprehensive. Together they are expected to address a range of political, economic, social and environmental challenges facing Africa. Agenda 2063 will be implemented through successive 10-year plans. The first 10-year implementation plan, for the period 2014-2023, is designed to facilitate the implementation of both agendas at all levels. However, the success of both agendas depends on their incorporation at the national level and on coherence in planning and reporting mechanisms, supported by robust statistics.

II. Integrated approach

2. In order to realize the aspirations, goals and targets of both agendas, countries have to adopt effective national plans and implementation arrangements that take into account both agendas. Evidence of the alignment between the two agendas was provided by a mapping exercise conducted by the African Union Commission that showed a high level of convergence between the goals and targets of the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, integrated and coherent implementation of both agendas into national planning systems was acknowledged to be one of the major operational challenges.

3. The Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission, in collaboration with other partners, have developed an integrated results framework that captures the goals and targets of the two agendas. The framework, which is essentially a composite of the two agendas, it is a one-stop resource to guide countries to achieve effective mainstreaming of both agendas into national strategic frameworks. Integrated planning and implementation remains a challenge and will need to be addressed through capacity development at the national and local levels.

4. In order to successfully integrate the implementation of both agendas, a number of aspects need to be considered, such as different national realities, capacities, levels of development and priorities. In addition, the need for inclusion, broad multi-stakeholder engagement and adequate financing means and modalities must be taken into account.

5. Indeed, inclusion and broad multi-stakeholder participation and engagement is crucial for the effective implementation of the two agendas, as stressed during the 2015 session of the high-level political forum on sustainable development. In this regard, local governments, which operate on the front line of development, parliament, the private sector and civil society have an important leadership role to play in localizing and owning the implementation of the agendas.

6. The experiences of African countries that are front runners in integrating and mainstreaming global and continental development frameworks into national development plans highlight the need for extensive consultations with a wide array of stakeholders, the active participation of subnational institutions and strengthened policymaking and statistical capacities.

7. It was with a view to promoting multi-stakeholder engagement and better integrating sustainable development into national development frameworks that the Africa regional implementation meeting on the post-Rio+20 follow-up processes recommended the establishment or strengthening of national coordinating bodies on sustainable development. Consistent with that recommendation, the first session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, which was held in 2015, called for African countries to establish national coordinating bodies for sustainable development to ensure coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at the national level, effective linkages, and the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063, both of which are inclusive in nature and seek to leave no one behind, lends even more urgency to the need to strengthen such bodies and adopt inclusive, multi-actor, integrated and coordinated approaches for their implementation.

8. To ensure ownership at all levels, appropriation of both agendas is required. To this end, there is a need to popularize them through awareness-raising campaigns, education and communication, including by translating the agendas into local languages. Communicating the high levels of convergence between the two agendas will reduce the burden on member States of implementing them and eliminate the issue of resource allocation competition.

9. A comprehensive resource mobilization strategy driven by incremental investments in focus areas will need to be put in place to meet the financing needs of implementing the agendas. This strategy will form the basis for developing and implementing financing plans at the national, subregional and continental levels.

10. In addition, the development of human capital is a critical point for the successful implementation of both agendas, which are intended to ensure the structural transformation of the continent. A better education system is the cornerstone of this transformation. The successful integrated implementation of both agendas also requires the establishment of institutional frameworks and mechanisms to assess performance, adjust targets and overcome potential hurdles.

III. Means of implementation

11. Timely realization of adequate means of implementation, including financing, technology and capacity development, is essential for the efficient and effective implementation of the agendas. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development identifies the mobilization of financial resources, capacity-building and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms as the means required to implement the

Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda also reaffirms the importance of supporting Agenda 2063.

A. Financing

12. The implementation of most of the goals and targets of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda will require considerable financial resources, over time. Such requirements were highlighted by Heads of State and Government in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. They particularly emphasized the need to strengthen political commitment to addressing the challenge of financing, by establishing a platform to coordinate investments in infrastructure, strengthen international cooperation on tax matters, curtail the tide of illicit financial flows and improve capacities for domestic resource mobilization activities.

13. Indeed, reliable sources of funding will be needed to coordinate and monitor key activities and action plans, such as the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063.

14. Sustainability of funding refers to both institutional sustainability – which depends on the type of legal entity that is established to ensure that the political commitments made are maintained – and financial sustainability. Realization of the long-term goals of the agendas requires stable sources of funding, such as domestic resources. The active engagement of private sector agents such as chambers of commerce and manufacturing associations, small and medium enterprises and large domestic and multinational manufacturing companies is also required.

15. Agenda 2063's first 10-year implementation plan, for the period 2013-2023, considered a number of financial facilities, including government investment and budget allocations, enhanced capitalization, private equity and venture capital, foreign direct investment, public-private partnerships, diaspora funding via bonds, mutual funds or direct participation in projects, commercial finance and the Africa 50 Infrastructure Fund.

16. Domestic resource mobilization will play an important role in realizing the ambitious levels of finance needed for the implementation of the two agendas. According to the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063, domestic resource mobilization should contribute to at least 75 to 90 per cent of the financing of Agenda 2063 on average per country. This could be generated through enhanced fiscal resource mobilization, maximization of natural resource rents, the leveraging of the pool of African institutional savings, enhanced retail savings mobilization through financial inclusion, the curbing of illicit financial flows, and the reduction of inefficiency and corruption-based financial leakages and waste.

17. At the ninth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Finance, Monetary Affairs, Economic Planning and Integration and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, participants echoed that domestic resource mobilization should be the main strategy for financing Africa's development in a sustainable manner, but noted that international development partners should honour their official development assistance commitments. That position is consistent with the 2030 Agenda, which notes that international public finance plays an important role in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilize public resources domestically, especially in the poorest and most vulnerable countries with limited domestic resources. In addition, it is important that both international and national public and private resources are efficiently and effectively allocated and channelled to achieve the required impact.

18. Innovative financing mechanisms could also be investigated, such as cost-sharing beneficiary contributions to projects and tapping diaspora communities for potential knowledge and technology transfer and funding contributions through the sale of bonds. There are also lessons to be learned from the experiences of other countries with innovative financing tools, such as the use of long-term sovereign infrastructure bonds in Brazil, Chile and Malaysia to raise capital for large-scale infrastructure projects.

19. In addition, consideration must be given to funding through levies on African private sector firms and other sources of financing identified in the report of the High-level Panel on Alternative Sources of Financing the African Union. An effective African partnership strategy will ensure optimal implementation of both agendas thanks to the growing number of partnerships through which African countries are receiving financial and technical support.

B. Technology

20. Science, technology and innovation are the key drivers of economic growth and sustainable development of countries and regions. This is illustrated by the words of Robert Solow in 1957, when he noted that between 1909 and 1949, 87.5 per cent of economic growth in the United States of America could be attributed to the applications of science and technology, whereas capital alone, without technology, accounted for a mere 12.5 per cent.

21. The importance of technology for development and economic growth was recognized in both agendas. In fact, the Goal 9 of the Sustainable Development Goals, “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”, implies that without technology and innovation, industrialization will not happen, and that without industrialization, development will not happen.

22. According to the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda, the acceleration of Africa’s infrastructure development has a pivotal role to play in connecting African people, countries and economies and helping to drive social, cultural and economic development on the continent. Technology and innovation are identified as key means of achieving Africa’s transformation agenda and are therefore given special priority in the context of Africa. Furthermore, the common African position reiterates the need to establish a global technology facilitation mechanism to accelerate global technology transfer and diffusion, commensurate with the sustainable development challenge.

23. Many African countries have expressed interest in setting up industrial development zones and innovation parks. However, they should also put in place national research, development and innovation strategies with well-defined clusters linked to the goals and targets of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda. In addition, there is a need to further develop basic education and the skills needed to use new technologies. In this regard, research, development and innovation funds could be set up to support strategic interventions, in which academics could play a key role in terms of science, technology and innovation knowledge development and expertise. It is also critical to establish dynamic science, technology and innovation centres of excellence and technology transfer and business development centres in strategic economic clusters.

24. African countries are recipients of technology in many areas, making effective international cooperation a critical enabling factor. However, international discussions concerning technology transfer have suffered from a lack of coherence in policy positions. The implementation of a technology facilitation mechanism has been discussed as part of ongoing efforts to define and accelerate the operationalization of both agendas. Such a mechanism will

have to address enablers of innovation and technology transfer, such as legal and regulatory frameworks, public procurement systems, financial instruments and public-private partnerships, as well as support innovation, science and technology. In addition, awareness of such a mechanism will have to be raised among stakeholders, including the private sector, banks and domestic and international development partners, with a view to mobilizing support.

25. Governments should develop policy incentives to promote public-private sector partnerships and collaboration in the research and development of appropriate and clean technologies for development. This should include building research and development infrastructure and the associated supportive environment to promote research and development activities, innovation and creation of indigenous technologies, and life skills education.

C. Human and institutional capacity-building

26. The development of human capital is a critical factor for the successful implementation of both agendas. Capacity development will be needed to guarantee the requisite technical competencies, institutions, systems and processes at all levels to generate, drive and execute effective policies, plans and processes for the implementation, follow-up and review of the two agendas. The first 10-year implementation plan for Agenda 2063 recognizes that the full realization of Agenda 2063 requires the development of considerable capabilities and capacities across sectors and at various levels, including at the individual and institutional level, and an enabling policy, legal and regulatory environment. Target 17.9 of the Sustainable Development Goals aims to “Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation”.

27. In this connection, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, which coordinates the assistance provided by the United Nations agencies and the African Development Bank to the African Union and its NEPAD programme, stand to enhance their role if properly realigned to meet the implementation support that the two agendas demand. The Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa has already started examining how the African Union Commission and United Nations agencies could best deliver capacity development and other support for the implementation of the two agendas. Recommendations to this effect were adopted at the seventeenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, held on 2 and 3 April 2016, on the theme: “African Union-United Nations partnership for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals”.

28. A number of countries already have strategies in place for integrated sustainable development; but they need additional technical and capacity development support with regard to the integrated implementation of the two agendas. This requires strategies for human capital development and innovation (research and development and technology transfer) that respond to the continent’s needs.

29. Emphasis must be placed on capacity-building and organizational strengthening of human capital with a view to creating capacity for value addition for the benefit of the continent. Creating highly qualified implementers in engineering, the sciences, health care and education is crucial for the realization of both agendas. Furthermore, the importance of intergovernmental coordination should be seriously addressed through the creation of a new forum or institutional framework to coordinate compliance by various government

institutions and administrative structures, including decentralized governments. Effective alignment and implementation of the agendas could be affected by governance challenges such as corruption, lack of institutional and human capacity in managing, mobilizing and coordination, aid absorption, financial constraints, weak planning systems and ineffective development management.

30. The knowledge economy has the potential to stimulate innovation, create new jobs, generate income and promote inclusive growth for sustainable development. It could also create enabling conditions for the emergence and development of a critical mass of expertise, strengthen the scientific and technological capacity of national research and innovation institutions, and develop citizens' scientific literacy to create sustainable conditions for industrial development. Countries must promote industry-education partnerships and involve private sector actors to ensure that skills development is relevant to the needs of the evolving knowledge and innovation-based economy.

31. With regard to data collection and monitoring, it is of paramount importance to improve statistics. In collaboration with partners, African Governments should initiate activities involving various stakeholders to strengthen capacity in the development of core indicators to assess progress made on the implementation of the two agendas.

32. Effective implementation calls for effective strategies to ensure the coordination of public policies through national plans, improved monitoring of public policies through a functioning institutional mechanism, and independent evaluation of public policies. There is, therefore, a need to build institutional capacity, including statistical capacity and monitoring and evaluation. Countries could use existing frameworks such as the World Bank's generic framework for country application of the Sustainable Development Goals. This involves four steps: benchmarking the current level of progress for each Goal, relative to other countries; projecting the business-as-usual country outcomes by 2030 for each Goal; evaluating the current policies in place related to each Goal and discussing room for improvement; and discussing ways to increasing the spending and funding related to each priority area.

D. Fast-tracking implementation

33. The effective implementation of the two agendas rests on the strengthening of enabling frameworks and creation of favourable conditions. It is for this reason that the first 10-year implementation plan of Agenda 2063 identifies and prioritizes 12 projects and programmes. The immediate implementation and impact of these priority investment areas is designed to provide the big push and propel growth and transformation. These initiatives are also expected to galvanize and sustain the commitment of Africans to the cause of Agenda 2063. A close examination of these fast-track projects reveals a close match with the necessary enabler to effectively implement and follow-up and review the 2030 Agenda. Examples include the establishment of the continental free trade area by 2017, silencing the guns by 2020, the introduction of an African passport and free movement of people, the formulation of a commodities strategy and the annual stakeholder forum. Some of them, such as the Grand Inga Dam project and the African virtual and e-university, are directly linked to the Sustainable Development Goals on energy and education. Implementation of such fast-track initiatives synergistically and through unified approaches could form a bedrock and provide the momentum needed to achieve the goals and targets of both agendas.

IV. Conclusion

34. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 share two important common denominators. The first is sustainable development and transformation. The second is their ambition to allow all human beings to fulfil their full potential, ensure the respect of their dignity and equality, and live in a healthy environment. Both agendas took on board many of Africa's aspirations and concerns, as reflected in the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda. It is vital, therefore, for all African countries to implement both agendas in a coherent and integrated manner, that is by prioritizing financing, capacity-building and technology to effectively achieve the targets and goals of the agendas.