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PRESENTATION OF THE BACKGROUND PAPER ON PEACE:
Transformative actions for peace, justice and strong institutions towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

1 SDG 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels) is a foundational Goal, vital to the inclusive achievement of all the SDGs.

2 SDG 16 is central to sustaining peace, preventing and responding to conflict, by strengthening institutions (including multilateral institutions). It contributes to addressing the root causes of poverty, forced displacement, statelessness, human rights challenges & the marginalization of people, as well as educating for a culture of peace and non-violence.

3 Good governance, espoused in Goal 16, constitutes the foundation upon which the other Goals are built. Aspirations articulated in Agenda 2063 are hinged on good governance and aligned Agenda 2030 Agenda.

4 Overall, governance in Africa remains, on average, on an upward trajectory. Member States' strongest performances were in socioeconomic development, particularly economic governance and management, and corporate governance, while the least gains were recorded in democracy and political governance.

The messages focus on opportunities and transformative actions, commitments, levers, partnerships and other measures to accelerate implementation.

1 Progress on Goal 16 is mixed and paucity of data is the most marked of all the SDGs.

2 Significant investment is required in reliable disaggregated data to ensure that policy and programmes include marginalized and vulnerable groups.

3 Country level action on SDG 16 remains critical, including through human rights-based, conflict-sensitive and gender-sensitive approaches in development planning, implementation and monitoring, in partnerships with civil society.

4 Policy, practice and process at all levels are required for advancing peaceful and inclusive societies in the region, including through regional & international cooperation.

5 Access to meaningful justice is key to sustaining peace & accelerating inclusive sustainable development.

6 Transparent, accountable & inclusive institutions are central to the effective achievement, monitoring & evaluation of the SDGs at local, national, regional and global levels.

7 ICT-based solutions that engage & include the most vulnerable and marginalized groups need to be comprehensively leveraged as enablers, including their power to LNOB.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Personal safety and national security were at their lowest in 10 years in 2017.

Between 2014 & 2017, 29 countries experienced weakening national security performance; 16 improved.

Only 4 countries managed to reduce their conflict involvement, while 22 countries were involved in more conflicts in 2017 than in 2014.

Insecurity, terrorism, social strife, political tension and riots remain visible on the continent, alongside progress in conflict prevention & violence reduction, in some countries.

Violence by non-State actors peaked in 2017, leading to forced migration, internally displaced persons and refugees.

From 2005-2016, 85% children 1 to 14 years had experienced a violent form of discipline in the previous month.

Incitement to radicalization & violent extremism has grown. A homicide rate of 12.5 per 100,000 inhabitants places Africa second to Latin America with 23 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants.

Proliferation & availability of weapons are fuelling violence & armed conflicts.

Exclusion from society occurs for reasons, including a lack of legal identity that denies people existence, to demand for access to public services and human rights – they are invisible to the State and at high risk of being left behind.

An estimated 500 million of Africa's 1.2 billion people lack official identification, underpinned by a poor civil registration and vital statistics system, further contributing to marginalization and exclusion of the uncounted.

Africa has the lowest levels of registration for children under 5 years of age (46%).

Rule of law institutions including the police, the judiciary and elected officials are perceived as some of the most corrupt.

only 24 African countries have promulgated access to information legislation. There is concern about the high number of imprisoned journalists and shutdowns of social media. The number of killings journalists decreased between 2012 & 2017.

Access to rights is being denied when laws deviate from key international standards and exclude population groups – such as the right of refugees to access education.

There are positive improvements in the range of rule of law indicators, including access to justice and judicial independence, as 72% of Africans said courts had the right to make decisions that people always had to abide by, reflecting increased legitimacy of the judiciary.

Countries are searching for efficient and effective ways to deliver justice, including alternative dispute resolution forums, mobile courts and legal aid provision.

Corruption continues to weaken governance, increasing the cost of development, enhancing inequalities, discrimination and injustice.

- ➢ The majority of citizens surveyed in 35 African countries think that corruption is getting worse. Governments are not doing enough. Poor people pay bribes twice as often as the richest to access public services including health care & police assistance. Younger people pay more bribes than their elders.
- ➢ More than 75% of countries had budget variances. 40 per cent of countries experienced deterioration in the reliability of budget execution estimates.
- ➢ Corruption affects around 70% of public procurement contracts in Africa and inflates the cost of contracts by roughly 20-30%.
- ➢ Countries with higher incomes generally have lower rates of bribery, compared to countries with the lower incomes.
- ➢ Countries with high levels of corruption collected fewer taxes, due to tax evasion bribery, kickbacks etc among others.
- ➢ Progress is slow on combating IFFs. An estimated $100 billion is lost annually, equivalent to 4% Africa's GDP.
- ➢ Money laundering and financing of terrorism remain a major influenced by porous borders, terrorist groups, organized criminal gangs, in given financial, economic and sociocultural contexts.
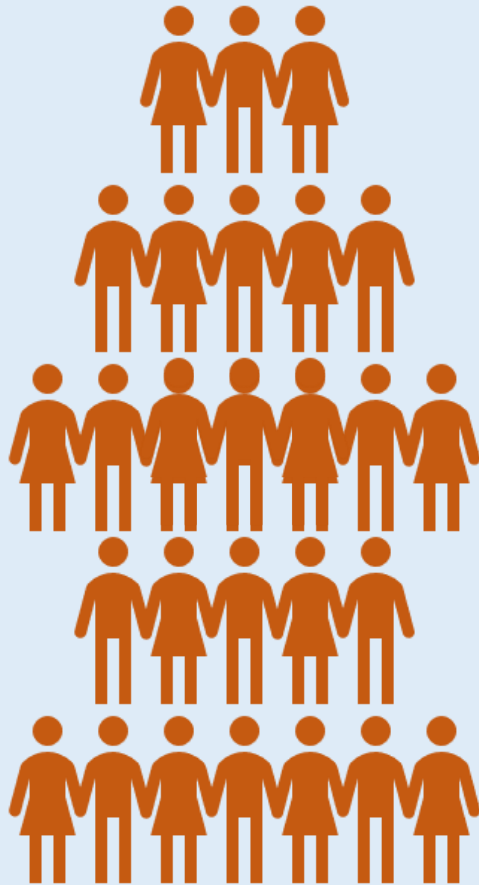
Track it! STOP IT! Get it!

Illicit Financial Flows

Report of the High Level Panel
on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa

Commissioned by the AU/ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development

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There are mixed results on the inclusivity of the continent's institutions.

- ✓ Participation has improved, driven by democratic elections.
- ✓ But civil society space is shrinking.
- ✓ Freedom of association and assembly, civil rights and liberties, and freedom of expression are deteriorating.
- ✓ 54 %of people in 36 countries expressed more trust in informal institutions, such as religious & traditional leaders (72 & 61% respectively), than in the formal executive agencies of the State.
- ✓ 64% & 57% respectively, find the national army and the State presidency, to be quite trustworthy.
- ✓ Eight out of 10 African citizens feel "somewhat free" to join any political organization they want, 58 per cent feel "completely free", while 17 per cent felt "not very" or "not at all" free to associate as they wished.
- ✓ Issues of transparency, anti-corruption and accountability are some of the areas where the Continent is performing worst. While indicators on transparency and accountability have been improving during 2008–2017, they remain the lowest of all 14 subcategories.

Stepping up the pace & scale of implementation requires opportunities for transformative leadership, partnerships, commitments and actions to drastically accelerate implementation.

1. Implementation of SDG 16 requires a "whole of government" and "whole of society" approach.

2. Political will and financial investment are needed to accelerate progress on SDG16.

3. Fundamental freedoms and rights need to be protected, for inclusion, peace & justice.

4. Multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration are accelerators and enablers for the means of implementation towards achieving SDG16, fully leveraging the comparative advantage of each partner.

5. Sustained investment is required in reliable data to address persistent data gaps, including disaggregated data, to ensure that policy and programmes reach marginalized and vulnerable groups, and others who are left behind.

THANK YOU!

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