Framework for a renewed United Nations and African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda 2017-2027

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Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa

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I.   Introduction

1.   The General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/1 of 2005, provided the mandate for the formulation and implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme (for the African Union), and called for a review of the programme every three years. The second triennial review was undertaken in 2013, covering the period 2010–2012, and was presented to the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa (RCM-Africa) at its fifteenth session in Abuja, Nigeria, in March 2014. It stressed that the mandates of support to the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency were between 8 and 12 years old "... and so may have been overtaken by developments within these organizations and on the continent. It is time for [them] to be re-freshened and updated so that [they respond] more realistically to present-day needs."[1]

2.   Furthermore, it was recognized that significant changes had occurred on the African integration and development landscape. The Africa of hopelessness and despondency that needed all manner of assistance from donors and other well-wishers in the international community a decade ago is not the Africa of today. Indeed, Africa is rising, thanks to strengthened economic management, good governance and political stability. The continent has grown in confidence and stature and has been able to demonstrate its ability to more independently and confidently define its own agendas and articulate its own vision for the future.

3.   In virtually all areas of social, cultural, environmental, economic and political development, Africa has designed agendas and blueprints for transformations to occur. But particularly, it has spelled out its long-term vision of a prosperous, peaceful, integrated and resilient Africa, which is encapsulated in its over-arching major blueprint: the African Union's Agenda 2063, a people-centred fifty-year structural transformation framework; and in the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda. All of this now calls for new approaches to the support that the United Nations provide to the continent, and indeed, for a new United Nations partnership with Africa as it proceeds towards realizing its vision and aspirations, as enunciated in the aforementioned Agenda 2063 and the common African position.

4.   The second triennial review of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme (for the African Union) in April 2014, revealed that "…substantial contributions [had] been made towards developing the capacity of the African Union institutions through interventions that have advanced the objectives and responded to the priorities of these institutions at subregional, regional and global levels."[2] The Programme comes to an end in 2016, with its objectives having been largely met. It must be said that it has achieved an appreciable level of success in the sense that in virtually all its priority areas of action, it has contributed towards enhancing the capacity of the organization. Through this partnership, the African Union has been supported in the initiatives it took to define and articulate its priorities and strategies for the realization of its integration, peace and security, development and governance objectives and goals.

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[1] Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission, *United Nations Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union: Second Triennial Review, 2010-2012*, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, para. 191, p. 39, 2013.

[2] Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission, *United Nations Ten Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union: Second Triennial Review,* Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 2013.

5.   In many of the areas that are critical in Africa's integration and development, the United Nations entities in the RCM-Africa system have partnered well with the African Union, as it came up with strong frameworks, agendas, plans and programmes of action for Africa's integration and development; and industrial development, infrastructure, farming, science and technology, human resources, governance and human rights, peace and security, etc. It has also provided strong support to the African Union in its negotiations on global issues such as international trade (the Doha Round) and climate change. Furthermore, the African Union, in close and active collaboration with the United Nations system in Africa, has formulated several short, medium- and long-term integration and development blueprints – Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan 2013–2023, the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency Strategic Plans, and the common African position post-2015.

6.   The review went on to recommend that, as the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme (for the African Union) approaches its life's end, "[t]his is the time for action to be initiated on a coherent, well-resourced success or programme. There placement that is to be decided upon should be an integral part of one comprehensive medium-to long-term programme of support to the African Union."[3]

7.   In adopting the overall findings and recommendations of the review, RCM-Africa called upon the African Union Commission, in consultation with the United Nations, "…to set up a technical working group comprising members from the United Nations and the African Union, including the NEPAD Agency, the regional economic communities and the African Development Bank, to formulate a long-term programme of support for the African Union, and Agenda 2063…"[4]

8.   The technical working group was established in November 2014, and promptly set to work. It drew its membership from United Nations entities operating in Africa, the African Union system and the African Development Bank. This Framework – the New United Nations and African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda (PAIDA) – is the outcome of its work.

9.   It provides the context in which results-based programmes and plans of action in support of the African Union's integration and development agenda, will eventually be formulated for implementation by stakeholders in the United Nations family. It also follows a long tradition of partnership between the United Nations and Africa's continental organization, spanning more than three decades (annex 1), during which time, three major programmes of support to Africa were established by the General Assembly: the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986–1990 (UNPAAERD), the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF), and NEPAD.

10.   With the exception of the support to the NEPAD programme, which has been on-going, the others were subjected to thorough comprehensive reviews and appraisals. The experiences in the implementation of the programmes have informed the direction and thrust

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[3] Ibid, para. 209, p. 44.

[4] Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission, Report of the fifteenth session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa, recommendation K, 2014. Available from http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/images/report_of_rcm15_eng.pdf.

of this Framework. Unlike the previous programmes of support, the PAIDA Framework is more "Afro-centric", in that it is anchored on Africa's own expressed aspirations, needs and priorities, and is neither borne of crisis situations nor is it externally oriented. As the others depended on the goodwill of the international community, they remained precarious and subject to failure. Their final reviews and appraisals concluded that in fact, they were of limited success precisely because the support expected from the international community was not sufficiently forthcoming.

11. By contrast, PAIDA is not a "bail-out" from crisis and hopelessness, but a lever of support to the continent as it progresses along a new and positive trajectory of growth and development. It seeks to ensure that the United Nations accompanies the African Union on its journey towards the structural transformation of the African economy, its integration, and the social and economic development of its people. It emphasizes this perspective into the organization's concerns, in the full knowledge that its promotion will help create the conditions that would enhance peace, stability and security on the continent. In essence, it is a new United Nations partnership with the African Union.

A. Principles

12. The expressed concerns for the new relationship between the United Nations and the African Union, to be based on shared values and strategic partnership, call for the principles that should undergird this partnership to be clearly articulated and agreed upon. These are outlined below.

Ownership and leadership by the African Union

13. The expressed needs and priorities of the African Union must provide the context in which the United Nations support is to be conceived and delivered. In this way, these needs and priorities would more easily drive the process, and buy-in and ownership would be better assured.

Respect for Africa's policy space

14. Related to the need for leadership and ownership by Africans, is the important issue of respect for Africa's policy space. All efforts should be made to avoid actions that violate this principle or infringe the sovereignty of the African Union membership.

Faithfulness to commitments made

15. Commitments made in the partnership should, to the extent possible, be adhered to faithfully, so as to maximize results. This coheres with the General Assembly resolution 293 of September 2012, establishing the United Nations monitoring mechanism to review commitments made towards Africa's development.

Consultation and coordination

16. The partnership will thrive and wax strong with regular consultation and extensive coordination among all stakeholders. Dialogue and the quest for coherence and synergy should be an important basis for success.

Accountability

17.   Partners will be accountable to each other and to those they represent and serve. Beneficiaries of interventions will be accountable to stakeholders contributing to the implementation of this Framework.

Strategic partnership

18.   The partnership should be strategic in terms of its ability to catalyse change towards the attainment of Africa's objectives of integration, development, peace and security and governance, as enunciated in the Constitutive Act of the Africa Union. This is the type of partnership that should be extended to all the policy and implementing organs of the African Union, including the regional economic communities and the NEPAD Agency.

Proactive engagement

19.   Past strategies of "fire-fighting" or a reactive engagement with Africa, have not produced meaningful results. Programmes of support will avoid this. Rather, they will engage with Africa proactively on those aspects of the continent's agenda and priorities that are certain to obviate conditions that require firefighting, and engender negative developments or crises in the social, economic, political or security fields.

II.   Social and economic conditions, peace, security and governance: Africa's performance and challenges – a synopsis

20.   Africa's short, medium- and long-term priorities and goals should be situated in the context of the current challenges of, and opportunities for, integration and development that the region faces. The present day realities obtaining on the political, social, economic and even global plane are what have determined the direction of change that Africa should follow. Politically, democracy is being deepened and governance significantly strengthened throughout the continent. The regional economy is performing appreciably well. Poverty rates are declining, while the African middle class is growing fast. On the social front, all the access indicators, especially in reference to the Millennium Development Goals – education, health, water, sanitation, housing, etc. – are registering a very positive trend. The challenge now is to maintain, if not increase, this type and pace of change. PAIDA is designed to support Africa in its bid to rise up to this challenge.

A.   Economic conditions[5]

21.   In the past decade, Africa's growth performance has been relatively high compared with what was obtained in the rest of the world. The African economy registered a 3.3 per cent growth in 2014, up from 3.2 per cent in 2013. The drivers of this growth are the improvements in the regional business environment, and in political and economic governance; sound macroeconomic management; investments in infrastructure; and trade and investment ties with emerging economies. Africa's growth is also influenced by growing

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[5] This section and the following section are drawn from the ECA Economic Report on Africa, 2015: Industrializing through trade. Available from
http://www.uneca.org/sites/default/files/PublicationFiles/era2015_eng_fin.pdf.

domestic demand, driven mainly by the rising middle class, and increased private capital flows.

22.   With regard to the continent's gross domestic product (GDP) 65–70 per cent is generated from urban-based economic activities[6] and appropriately configured settlements have contributed to successes in meeting some of the Millennium Development Goals, including those of education, poverty reduction and improving the lives of Africa's slum-dwellers. Harnessing economies of scale and locational advantages has also contributed to a number of good performances on the Millennium Development Goals.

23.   Increase in private consumption and investment (gross capital formation) continued to boost GDP growth. Private consumption grew at 3.3 per cent in 2014, marginally down from 3.4 per cent in 2013, which was mainly influenced by greater domestic demand due to continued increase in consumer confidence and the expanding middle class with rising incomes. Investment growth was underpinned by improvements in the business environment and a reduction in the cost of doing business in a number of African countries.

24.   Government consumption, particularly public investments in infrastructure and the rise in wages, also contributed to GDP growth in 2014. Net exports continued to contribute negatively to growth because the value of the continent's exports (commodities mainly) is outweighed by its industrial imports. This trend is expected to persist as Governments continue to increase investments in infrastructure, and as private consumption remains strong.

25.   Notwithstanding the drop in the price of oil in 2014, oil exporting countries registered strong economic performance in the short term. Growth in oil-importing countries is expected to accelerate to 4 per cent in 2015, after stagnating at 3.4 per cent in 2013 and 2014. The robust growth in 2015 is expected to be driven by low oil prices as well as consumer and business confidence. The expectations are that these countries will increase investments in capital and private consumption. Africa's current account deficit continues to deteriorate over the recent period, owing to declining export earnings and the rising import of capital goods to support infrastructure development and construction.

26.   Africa's inflation decreased in 2014, continuing a trend that started in 2012. Factors responsible for the decline include the pursuit of prudent monetary policies, decreasing global commodity prices, and higher agricultural output. The depreciation of major African currencies, as a result of the combination of declining oil and commodity prices, and large trade and fiscal deficits, has impacted negatively on inflation.

27.   On the fiscal side, it has been observed that Africa's deficit increased in 2014, as a result of continuous expansionary fiscal policies being pursued by several countries in order to support infrastructure development, expenditure on the public sector wage bill, transfers and subsidies, and other social sector projects. This has led to an increase in Africa's average fiscal deficit. The drop in oil and commodity prices have also reduced the revenues of some countries and, therefore, with no change in expenditure, caused their deficit to rise. Also, a number of countries have taken steps to curb public waste, minimize corruption and inefficiencies, and cut allocations on non-essential expenditure. Revenue mobilization is expected to improve as countries continue to institute tax reforms and carry out measures for improved domestic resource mobilization. These measures, if strictly adhered to, are expected to lead to an improved fiscal position for African countries.

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[6] See *The State of African Cities 2014*. Available from http://unhabitat.org/the.state.of.African.cities-2014/.

28.   Demand for Africa's agricultural products and minerals remained weak as a result of increased supply and weakening global demand, which depressed export earnings. This trend is expected to persist in the medium term, given the continued fragility in the eurozone, slow growth in China and trade protectionism in developed economies. Nonetheless, weakened currencies in most African economies are expected to improve net exports, and so minimize the deterioration of the continent's current account deficit.

29.   The improvement in the business climate and the continuous rise in positive-corporate-sentiment ratings have combined to boost the flow of private capital into the economy. Foreign direct investment continues to be the largest source of external private finance, followed by remittances and portfolio equity. Remittances remain the stable source of private capital flow in Africa, increasing by 7 per cent in 2014, from their 2013 level of $63 billion. However, transfer costs remain very high, calling for measures to be instituted to have them substantially reduced so that they could be channelled more efficiently towards supporting development projects.

30.   Both foreign direct investment and portfolio equity flows are expected to increase in the coming years because of the improved business climate on the continent. Official development assistance constitutes an important component of public finance in many African countries. In addition to official development assistance, African countries have also relied on external debt to finance their development programmes. Since 2010, the total foreign debt stock has remained above 30 per cent of GDP, although in the short-run it is expected to rise. However, taking into account the ability of countries to cover their foreign debt using their current foreign currency reserves, net foreign debt (as a percentage of GDP) will be lower.

31.   Despite its positive growth trajectory, Africa's medium-term prospects face a number of internal and external risks. This is because the current decline in oil and commodity prices, slow recovery in the eurozone and Japan, and the decline in demand for commodities in China, could potentially impact negatively on Africa's growth prospects in the medium term as trade weakens. Adverse global monetary and financial conditions in developed economies through interest rate hikes could result in the outflow of private capital and cause increased volatility and weakness in some African currencies. While controls on capital flows can offer a temporary solution to this, more robust initiatives such as adjusting funding strategies and plans, and an improved business environment to retain capital, would play a vital role. Structural transformation, through value addition and diversification of African economies, must be central to strategies to mitigate the downside risks to the economy.

32.   Going forward, Africa stands ready to enhance its productivity through structural transformation and the promotion of industrialization. Sound policy interventions are needed to target the more productive sectors so as to foster job creation and reduce the size of the informal sector. Furthermore, in education and training, there is need to align skills and competences to labour market requirements, and to promote entrepreneurship and innovation. The continent also needs to increase intra-continental trade, as well as export diversification away from agricultural commodities, minerals and oil to value-added products.

33.   To translate the continent's economic growth into sustainable and inclusive development, Africa has to maintain its improved business environment, good political and economic governance and management in order to significantly enhance productivity in the sectors where Africa has a comparative advantage. This would call for infrastructure, technology and human capital deficits to be seriously examined, including by pursuing

innovative ways of domestic resource mobilization through, for example, improving public sector management, combating tax evasion and illicit capital flight, while improving tax revenue collection by widening the fiscal space, deepening financial systems, issuing infrastructure bonds and developing sovereign wealth funds. Furthermore, Africa should accelerate continental integration and establish the Continental Free Trade Area.

B. Social conditions

34. The magnitude and consistency of growth required for significant poverty reduction in Africa is yet to be fully realized. While rates have dropped in recent years, the absolute number of poor people has actually increased, due to faster population growth. It is expected that in 2015, 366 million Africans will still be living on less than $1.25 a day.

35. Africa also faces the challenge of growing inequality in the distribution of assets and in access to public services such as education and healthcare, as well as increased poverty. While the elasticity of poverty to changes in inequality is the lowest of all regions, a percentage change in inequality has a more significant effect on poverty than a percentage change in growth. Furthermore, in many countries, the lack of social protection mechanisms has increased exclusion of the poorest and most vulnerable groups of the population (women, adolescents, young people, rural dwellers, persons with disabilities, etc.).

Population and urban growth

36. Most African countries are, or will soon be, experiencing a demographic and urbanization transition that will have an effect on the continent's development prospects. The continent's rapid population growth is set to continue well into the future, doubling from 1.2 billion persons in 2015 to 2.4 billion in 2050. In this period, some 2 billion African babies will be born and the population of children under 18 years of age will hit the one billion mark. By 2050, around 40 per cent of all births and of all the world's children will be in Africa, up from only 10 per cent in 1950.

37. Africa has the youngest population in the world, and by 2040, this youthful population would have swollen into the largest labour force worldwide (one billion workers), more than that of China and India combined. This dramatic rise in the labour supply will only translate into a demographic dividend if the economy is made to expand significantly to allow it to effectively absorb these large numbers of additional workers, and if the right investments in developing the capabilities of these young men and women are made such that the future labour force is of high quality and employable. Furthermore, the formulation and implementation of the appropriate policies for social cohesion that positively affect labour market growth would also, in the process, bring about higher economic output, savings and investment.

38. While Africa is the least urbanized region in the world (38 per cent in 2012), its urban growth rate is also the fastest, and is projected to double in 20 years mainly as a result of rural-urban migration, natural population increase and territorial reclassification. In 2015, 40 per cent of Africa's population lived in urban areas. By 2050, this proportion of the urban population will increase to more than 50 per cent. Intermediate-size and smaller cities will absorb most of the growth.

39.   The presence of more people in Africa's towns and cities has placed a strain on the already inadequate infrastructure and services, including roads, access to water and sanitation, waste disposal, energy, education and health. The UN-Habitat estimates that no less than 40 per cent (and in some countries even up to 85 per cent) of the urban population live in slums, leading to economic and social alienation and tensions. Also, the urban poor live in life-threatening conditions with limited access to clean water, adequate drainage and sanitation. They are also affected by high levels of pollution due to toxic waste, traffic and industrial emissions, residential congestion and absence of green spaces.

Education

40.   In the area of education, Africa is making good progress. Although learning achievements have been inadequate, enrolment and retention rates are up. Enrolment rates for girls and gender parity in primary schools are rising faster than anywhere else in the world. Knowledge accumulation and its application are part of the major drivers of sustainable economic development, being central to a country's competitive advantage in the global economy, and indispensible to the sought-after demographic dividend. That is why African countries are redoubling their efforts in scaling up investments in education. However, challenges in the quest for quality in education and in matching education and training with the evolving labour market demands very much remain.

41.   Although there have been improvements in enrolment rates, completion rates continue to be low, especially for girls, due to factors such as child marriage and poverty. At the same time, numeracy and literacy skills achieved as primary school outcomes have also been inadequate. One out of every three school-going children in Africa falls short of the minimum learning threshold on numeracy and literacy, leading to critical skills gaps and barriers for social and economic opportunities in life. Educational systems are failing to tackle the skills gaps in response to the continent's skills needs for industrialization, and for the creation of a highly educated workforce – particularly in the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics – that is able to compete in the global marketplace and realize the prospect for a demographic dividend on the continent.

42.   However, intensive efforts are being made to enhance relevance and responsiveness of education, increase access to higher education to produce much-needed intellectual capital and higher order technical skills. Efforts are also being made to revitalize and strengthen scientific research and innovation to explore current challenges, including enhancing productivity in key sectors such as farming and the management of natural resources. Intra-African collaboration in research has increased significantly, thus enhancing Africa's capacity to develop solutions to common problems; and initiatives, such as the Pan-African University, are helping to model strategic linkages between higher education and research on the one hand, and the public sector on the other.

Health

43.   In the case of health, Africa is making progress, even with the formidable challenges they face. Since 1990, Africa has scored well on many of the Millennium Development Goals health-related indicators – a result of increased and more productive investment in the sector. Life expectancy has increased markedly from 50 years in 1990 to 58 years in 2012, although it is still below the global average of 70 years.

44.   The neonatal mortality rate has fallen significantly from 44 per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 32 deaths in 2012, due primarily to increased immunization and improved access to health facilities. The infant mortality rate dropped from 105 per 1,000 in 1990 to 63 per 1,000 live births in 2012, representing a 40 per cent decline. The under-five mortality rate recorded an impressive decrease of 45 per cent between 1990 and 2012, falling from 177 per 1,000 live births to 98 per 1,000 live births over the period.

45.   Africa also posted an appreciable improvement in women's health through a huge reduction in the maternal mortality rate from 870 deaths per 100,000 in 1990 to 460 deaths per 100,000 in 2013, representing a robust 47 per cent drop in the period, although still short of the 75 per cent goal set by Millennium Development Goals 5a. Notwithstanding the commendable progress, significant additional investments have to be made to strengthen health systems and ensure easier access to health services of good quality for all, particularly for women and girls, and to tackle the preventable causes that continue to claim the lives of many children and pregnant women every year.

46.   Africa has made notable progress in tackling the AIDS epidemic, tuberculosis and malaria. New HIV infections declined by 33 per cent among all ages in Africa south of the Sahara in the period 2005–2013, and by 42 per cent among young people 15-24 years since 2001. There was also a 21 per cent reduction in new infections among children between 2009 and 2011. In 2014, 7.1 million people received treatment and 57 per cent of pregnant women living with HIV received efficacious antiretroviral medicines for prevention of mother-to-child transmission. AIDS death rates have also declined significantly. This is attributed to the rapid expansion of the use of antiretroviral treatment (ART) across Africa. All this has contributed to a reduction in the incidence of tuberculosis infections and deaths. However, the highest levels of infection continue to occur in Africa south of the Sahara, which also hosts 71 per cent of people living with HIV globally, with women and children constituting a large proportion of the affected population. AIDS is the leading cause of death among adolescents and women of reproductive age in the region.

47.   Notable progress has also been registered in malaria and associated deaths. The outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in West Africa has exposed Africa's, and indeed the international system's, capacity weaknesses in effectively responding to this type of health emergency. At the country level, the disease has also uncovered the fragility of present health systems and the insufficiency of coping mechanisms, especially at household level, thereby pushing more and more affected communities into deeper poverty and vulnerability. In particular, the disease has posed an unprecedented challenge to women's rights and protection, given women's primary care-giving role in the household and community, and their role as nurses in healthcare systems. This has immensely elevated their risk of contracting the disease.

48.   The Ebola virus disease has also revealed the challenges to the predictability and adequacy of the international response to complex emergencies such as this. Building resilient and sustainable public health systems will be at the centre of the African Union's medium- and long-term post-Ebola recovery plan and strategy in its assistance to countries, in strengthening their capacities to effectively carry out international health regulations and prepare to avert future threats to the health status of the continent.

Unemployment

49.   Unemployment and the quality of jobs created on the continent remain a major challenge. The impressive growth rates registered over the past decade have not translated into any appreciable levels of employment growth. This is mainly because economic growth has been concentrated in the capital-intensive sectors of the economy, such as the extractive industrial sectors. Furthermore, job creation has occurred mostly in the low-productivity informal and agricultural sectors where women abound.

50.   On the brighter side, a dynamic private sector and increased public-private partnerships in many countries are providing opportunities for training and skills-upgrading, to better match the labour market's needs; and Governments are providing incentives to small and medium-size enterprises and putting in place job creation-oriented industrial policies. Industrialization and value-chain production, coupled with specialized training and skills adjustment programmes, especially including entrepreneurship and innovation, may be able to provide the quantity and quality of jobs needed to increase incomes and raise people out of poverty.

Gender equality

51.   Africa has also made progress in the area of gender equality and women's empowerment, especially in the context of Millennium Development Goals 3. Evidence from the Africa Millennium Development Goals reports confirms that there have been improvements in the political and economic empowerment of women. Notwithstanding these gains, challenges still remain and women constitute the majority of both the poor and extremely poor in informal, low-level and low-paying jobs. Indeed, current African economic growth is still not fully translating economic gains into meaningful gender equality outcomes for women.

52.   In general, much more needs to be done on the continent to bring more women out of poverty, and end all forms of gender-based discrimination, enhance their productivity and incomes, provide them with credit facilities that allow them to advance beyond the establishment of mere micro-businesses, improve their general and reproductive status, promote their human rights, and ensure that appropriate policies are formulated and legislations promulgated to further protect and empower them. All this will ensure the participation of women in Africa's structural transformation. It is therefore timely that the African Union has declared 2015 as the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development Towards Agenda 2063.

C.   Regional integration

53.   The need for the integration of the continent is now stronger than ever, if Africa is to overcome the constraints of marginalization on the global stage. Many of the countries on the continent are small in size with underdeveloped agrarian economies. Overall, intra-African trade is still insufficiently developed. This is why the leadership of the continent believes that the imperative for the integration of markets is an urgent necessity if African countries are to remove many of the constraints arising from their small domestic markets and reap the benefits of economies of scale, stronger competition, and increased domestic and foreign investment. Additionally, sixteen countries are landlocked and therefore face high transport costs and special difficulties, which can be resolved through improved regional cooperation or integration.

54.   Although progress on the integration agenda is being registered, the results are mixed. Improvements have been made in the areas of trade, education, infrastructure (transport, energy, information and communication technology) management of transboundary water resources and macroeconomic polices. Africa's current integration landscape contains an array of regional economic communities, including eight considered to be the building blocks of the African Economic Community: the Arab Maghreb Union (UMA); the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS); the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD); the Southern African Development Community (SADC); and the East African Community (EAC).

55.   Moreover, futher progress deriving from efforts to accelerate the roll-out of the continental agenda is hampered by, among other things, women (who form the bulk of the informal cross-border traders in Afica) suffering from stigmatism and lack of recognition of their contribution to the continent's economic development.

56.   ECOWAS, EAC, SADC and COMESA have made significant progress in trade liberalization and facilitation. In the area of the free movement of people, the achievements of ECOWAS stand out. SADC and EAC have progressed in the area of infrastructure development. For peace and security, both ECOWAS and SADC have to be commended for their gains. In the transportation sector, all the regional economic communities are embarking on methods to promote unrestricted facilitation, reduce costs and improve overall efficiency. However, it still remains that transport costs in Africa are exorbitant, while throughout the continent, many road, air and rail networks are not sufficiently interconnected.

57.   In a bid to advance the development agenda, the African Union Commission has been working together with the NEPAD Agency, the African Development Bank and the regional economic communities on a number of hard and soft infrastructure projects, as part of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA). These are aimed at facilitating and coordinating regional infrastructure programmes and projects, in particular the PIDA Priority Action Plan. PIDA is a major flagship project of Agenda 2063, and is also considered to be a key driver of social and economic integration on the continent through, among other things, strengthening intra-African trade, building peace and security, and promoting free movement of persons, goods and services. It would supplement and support the implementation of continental frameworks, such as the Continental Free Trade Area, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa, the Africa Mining Vision, the Minimum Integration Programme, and the Pharmaceutical Manufacture Action Plan.

58.   The NEPAD Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative (PICI) has re-energized efforts to accelerate the implementation of regional projects among African stakeholders. Through the Initiative, eight major PIDA infrastructure projects are being championed for implementation; and at the Dakar Financing Summit held in Dakar, Senegal, in June 2013, sixteen priority projects were identified for immediate implementation under the PIDA Priority Action Plan. Furthermore, the Institutional Architecture for Infrastructure Development in Africa has been operationalized and a monitoring, evaluation and reporting system set up.

59.   There have been marked improvements in the application and use of information and communication technology. This may be in part because of the global revolution in telecommunications technology and the growing commercialization and privatization of national services. While SADC, ECOWAS, COMESA and UMA have significantly increased connectivity, ECCAS and the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries are lagging far behind. To increase connectivity on the continent, the African Union Commission has been implementing the African Internet Exchange Systems project, aimed at providing capacity-building and technical assistance for the establishment and proper management of national and regional internet exhange points, and internet carriers on the continent.

60.   In a bid to minimize energy costs, the regional economic communities are exploiting economies of scale by establishing significantly expanded supply systems through regional power pools and the development of benign power sources. Some member States in ECOWAS, SADC and EAC have made appreciable progress in this direction.

61.   In January 2012, in a bid to robustly increase intra-continental trade, the Assembly of the African Union, at its eighteenth ordinary session, adopted the Decision[7] to establish a Pan-African Continental Free Trade Area by the indicative year of 2017. To ensure that the initiative achieves its objectives of boosting intra-Africa trade and accelerating Africa's market integration, the Assembly of the African Union also established, as part of the Continental Free Trade Area Architecture, a High-level African Trade Committee comprising Heads of State and Government and the Chairs of the regional economic communities. The Continental Free Trade Area is expected to build on the best practices of the SADC-EAC-COMESA tripartite free trade process and agreement, and other regional integration efforts.

D.   Peace and Security

62.   Many of the conflicts that plagued the continent in the 1990s and early 2000s have been successfully resolved. This has been the case in Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone. In a few other cases, conflicts have been long-running and have proven to be more intractable, including those in Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur (Sudan), Somalia and Western Sahara. Unfortunately, while some have been contained and resolved, others have flared up in other parts of the continent. Mali and Northern Nigeria and South Sudan are cases in point. Although the African Union, in partnership with the United Nations, has been engaged in tackling these new developments, chances of a speedy resolution are not yet in sight. This is therefore an area that requires concerted and focused interventions by the international community.

63.   State fragility is an ever-present threat to the peace and security of many countries in Africa. This is exacerbated by the emergence of new conflict situations on the continent, which have among their root causes: social exclusion on the basis of race, ethnicity and religion, and failure to manage diversity; conflict over scarce resources, in particular in the context of climate change and environmental vulnerabilty; transnational organized crime (trafficking in drugs, arms and persons, etc.); urban crime and lawlessness in the context of economic decline, high unemployment and the growth of large numbers of unemployed young people; and the effect of global trends, in particular the growth of terrorism based on mobilization of religious extremists. These have forced millions to flee their homes to seek refuge across borders or remain internally displaced in their own countries, seeking assistance and protection.

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[7] Assembly/AU/Dec.394 [XVIII].

64.   Over the years, several countries neighbouring conflict zones have been home to large and increasing numbers of refugees. Feelings of xenophobia, and refugee and donor fatigue are beginning to set in, bringing along with them, new sets of challenges in terms of funding for upkeep and welfare, compliance with laws and regulations, etc.

65.   A looming threat to cross-border peace and security is posed by policies or decisions on the utilization or exploitation of transboundary resources such as water or petroleum. Serious conflict prevention measures should deal with this. The continued presence of secessionist movements in many countries on the continent has to be recognized, and preventive actions taken to neutralize them. In some countries, differences between political groups, oftentimes over electoral processes and practices, have led to the flare-up of conflict.

66.   The increase in the number of young Africans, if not properly managed, might turn out to constitute a destabilizing factor in many parts of the continent. Land administration, management and use are potential sources of conflict. Problems arising from forced evictions disproportionately affect the urban poor, especially women and children. The rapid expansion of Africa's towns and cities is taking away valuable farming lands and threatening the continent's food security prospects, and agricultural productivity and rural incomes. A landless peasantry could be a new source of conflict on the continent.

67.   The African Union Peace and Security department and the United Nations Office to the African Union have developed a Framework for Cooperation in the Area of Peace and Security, which attempts to examine the full spectrum of conflict prevention, management and resolution activities, starting from joint analysis of the nature of the crisis or conflict, through to joint conflict prevention and management activities, including cooperation in the areas of peacekeeping and mediation, and in the area of resource mobilization. This Framework should be expanded beyond the departmental level to include all stakeholders, in ways that can holistically deal with all aspects of conflict prevention, resolution and management.

68.   The African Union's capacity for peacekeeping and conflict resolution has been enormously strengthened in the past decade, such that it has been able to successfully mitigate or prevent the emergence of conflict in many a situation. The African Union established the Peace and Security Council in 2004, following the entry into force of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council in 2003. The Protocol establishes the African Peace and Security Architecture, with the Peace and Security Council as its central pillar.

69.   The African Union has focussed on the operationalization of the various components of the African Peace and Security Architecture, particularly the African Standby Force, with the full support of the United Nations through the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme (for the African Union). The establishment of the African Peace and Security Architecture components such as the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, and the African Standby Force, has done much to enhance Africa's capacity for the maintenance of peace and the prevention and resolution of conflict. Even so, more still has to be done to enhance capacity for conflict prevention and peacebuilding.

70.   Women and girls are affected disproportionately by conflicts and wars on the continent. In conflict situations, the breakdown of law and order, and the weakening of justice systems and social norms, which at times of peace would offer minimum protection for

women, lead to the further exacerbation of women's marginalization and an increase in their vulnerability. Furthermore, in many instances, sexual violence against women has been used as a war strategy. The United Nations Security Council, the Assembly of the African Union, and African Governments have adopted various resolutions condemning violence against women in conflict situations, and calling for increasing women's involvement in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. Concerted action should be taken to carry out these resolutions.

E.   Governance

71.   By all accounts, Africa is making steady progress towards improving political, economic and corporate governance. The quest for greater democracy and good governance is now a common demand of citizens. Issues of transparency and accountability are certainly of great concern, especially to civil society and the ordinary citizenry. There have been marked improvements in the promotion of democratic culture, the observance of the rule of law and greater commitment to the fight against corruption, with the increasing spread of public anti-corruption institutions throughout the continent. There has also been a growing awareness and stronger embrace of civic and democratic values, while the African Union and the regional economic communities have displayed a strong determination not to tolerate actions that contravene their set standards of democracy and good governance.

72.   Many countries now hold regular elections, which are improving in quality, although still being tainted by the effects of illiteracy, ethnicity and regionalism, at times leading to violence and loss of life. Increasingly, electorates have been insisting on the observance of constitutionalism. Also, efforts to build capable States have been redoubled with, among other things, greater political inclusiveness; more competent, efficient and accountable public services; and greater decentralization of public administration and management to municipalities and local government institutions. The participation and share of women in political representation has also shown a marked increase. There is however, still room for further improvement through the institution of special enabling measures, better public and civic education and awareness-raising, etc.

73.   In order to increase the score on governance, the African Union has created, and is forging ahead with, the African Governance Architecture and Platform and the full implementation of the African Charter on Democracy and Elections. African Human Rights institutions, such as the African Court on Human and People's Rights and the African Commission on Human and People's Rights, need to be well resourced.

74.   Measures need to be instituted to increase the rate of ratification and domestication of human rights and related treaties signed by the Governments of Africa. The African Peer Review Mechanism has been in existence for more than a decade now. It acts as a useful scorecard for participating governments to gauge the level and quality of their performance in areas such as economic and political governance, including human rights, with a view to making the necessary improvements. Following its formal integration into the African Union family, the strengthening of its processes and its agenda to build synergies with other relvant institutions in the African Union family, should allow it to play its envisaged role of Africa's leading institution in the field of governance. The African Union Anti-Corruption Board must also be supported to build its capacity to effectively carry out its continental manadate in tackling corruption.

75.   Africa is increasing its contributions to the global quest for peace, security, good governance, the observance of human rights and the attainment of inclusive, sustainable socioeconomic development for all. This is even with its current place in the global system, which from time has been determined by the global interest in, and demand for, Africa's vast natural resources and primary products. Consequently, over the past fifty years, even as Africa has sought to redress its continued marginalization in the global security, political, governance and economic systems, it remains an indispensable supplier of natural resources to meet the needs of the developed countries.

76.   In the past decade, Africa's efforts have been particularly significant in advancing its own continental development agenda and evolving a programme of renaissance that seeks to build a strong, competitive continent capable of taking its rightful place in the global system. Some of these efforts are evident in the transformation of the Organization of African Unity into the African Union, the strengthening of the regional economic communities as the building blocks of continental integration, and in the elaboration of well-defined policy frameworks for the promotion of peace, security, good governance and socioeconomic development. Africa has also come up with new frameworks such as the African Peace and Security Architecture, the African Governance Architecture, and NEPAD. By relentlessly pursuing the objectives and goals of these frameworks, Africa hopes to emerge as a strong and active player in global affairs.

77.   Meanwhile, the continent is still faced with major structural challenges that hamper its progress towards inclusive development and its full integration as an equal partner, in the global political, economic, security, technological and social systems. Poverty levels, although declining, remain high notwithstanding the consistently high rates of economic growth registered in the past decade. There is growing inequality in income, assets and gender, among others things. Many African economies still lack the strength and resilience to reduce their dependence on development assistance. As they show a stronger resolve to reduce this dependence, they are redoubling their efforts to significantly enhance their capacities for mobilizing resources domestically, through a much broadened tax base, securitized remittances, much better harnessing of insurance and pension funds, and curbing illicit financial flows from their economies. Significantly higher levels of investment in infrastructure, farming, industry, human resource development, as well as a much deeper engagement with the private sector and civil society, will be needed to bring about the structural transformation that is required to usher in meaningful and lasting socioeconomic development of Africa; and endow it with the strength and resilience to allow it to function as an equal partner on the world stage.

78.   The Assembly of the African Union, in its fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration, spelled out its vision for Africa in the global system: to continue the struggle against all forms of racism and discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; to act in solidarity with oppressed countries and peoples; to advance international cooperation that aligns with the panAfricanist vision and promote Africa's interest; to speak with one voice and act collectively to promote common interests and positions in the international arena; to play an active role in the globalization process and international forums, including in financial and economic institutions; and to advocate for the reform of the United Nations Security Council and other global governance institutions, in particular the Bretton Woods Institutions, in order to ensure the equitable presence of Africa in these institutions.

79.	Africa's fortunes are certainly changing, and although the challenges it faces are many, its opportunities for prosperity and development are enormous. Africans themselves are conscious of this fact, which is why they have initiated the numerous frameworks, agendas and programmes and plans of action, to design for Africa a willed future of hope and promise.

## III.	Agenda 2063, the first ten-year implementation plan and the common African position on the post-2015 development agenda

80.	The contexts in which the United Nations is to order its programme priorities in support of the objectives and goals of the African Union have already been defined, and are expressed in the major frameworks and agendas drawn up by the African Union. These are Agenda 2063 and its Ten-Year Implementation Plan, the Strategic Plans of the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency, and the common African position Post-2015. These major blueprints have incorporated into themselves all the concerns of the other major sectoral frameworks already formulated – PIDA[8], the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the Africa Mining Vision, the African Governance Architecture, and the Peach and Security Architecture, etc.

81.	Furthermore, the African Union has developed, or is in the process of developing, new ten- to fifteen-year sectoral frameworks for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and flagship programmes such as the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa 2024, and the continental Technical and Vocational, Education and Training Strategy. It is from all of these that the action areas of this Framework are derived.

### A.	Agenda 2063

82.	Fifty years after the first thirty-three independent African States gathered in Addis Ababa to form the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union) the continent's leaders decided to look ahead towards the next fifty years. This prospective was decided on at the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Organization of African Unity (African Union) as Africa's political leadership reviewed their organization's past achievements, assessed its challenges and rededicated themselves to the pan-African vision of "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena."

83.	Agenda 2063, a fifty-year vision for Africa's structural transformation, was agreed upon by the Assembly of the African Union Golden Jubilee of May 2013. It also pledged, through the Solemn Declaration it subsequently adopted, to develop and pursue a transformational agenda in eight key areas:

(a)	African identity and renaissance;

(b)	The struggle against colonialism and the right to self-determination of people still under colonial rule;

(c)	Economic integration;

(d)	Social and economic development;

(e)	Peace and security;

(f)	Democratic governance;

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[8] PIDA: Programme for Infrastructural Development in Africa.

(g) Determining Africa's destiny;

(h) A stronger place for Africa in the world.

84. Agenda 2063 takes strongly into account the convergent voices of Africans from different backgrounds in the extensive consultations that went into its preparation. From these consultations, the following common set of aspirations have emerged, which constitute the pillars of the Agenda:

(a) A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development;

(b) An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's renaissance;

(c) An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law;

(d) A peaceful and secure Africa;

(e) An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics;

(f) An Africa whose development is people-driven, unleashing the potentials of its women and young people;

(g) Africa as a strong, resilient and influential global player and partner.

85. These seven aspirations are in sync with Agenda 2063, and are in line with the eight priorities of the Assembly of the African Union fiftieth Anniversary Solemn Declaration. In addition, they collectively demonstrate a strong continuity of thinking between the founders and the present generation of Africans, albeit in a different context. Agenda 2063 takes account of past achievements and challenges, and the continental and global context in which the continental transformation is being implemented. It also builds on the African Union Constitutive act and continental frameworks. In addition, it takes cognizance of, and reviews past continental frameworks such as the Monrovia Declaration, the Lagos Plan of Action and the Abuja Treaty, and present ones such as PIDA, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and the Minimum Integration Programme.

86. The aspirations reflect the desire of Africans for prosperity and well-being, for unity and integration, and for a continent of free citizens and expanded horizons with freedom from conflict and improved human security. They also project a continent of strong culture and values, and a strong and influential partner on the global stage making appreciable contributions to human progress and welfare – in short, a different and better Africa. There are transitions along the realization of the aspirations, with each milestone along the way representing a step towards the attainment of the end goal of Agenda 2063.

87. The aspirations embed a strong desire to see a continent where all men and women are guaranteed the full exercise of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and where they assume a leading role in the development of their societies, in the conviction that Africa has the potential and capability to catch up with other regions of the world. To take her rightful place in the global community of nations and realize its vision of a prosperous, united and integrated Africa.

B. First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2013-2023)

88. Agenda 2063 is to be realized through the implementation of five ten-year implementation plans, the first of which has been drawn up and covers the period 2013-2023. It deals with the following areas:

- Sustainable inclusive economic growth

- Human capital development

- Employment creation

- Social protection

- Gender or women development and youth empowerment

- Good governance and capable institutions

- Infrastructural development

- Science, technology and innovation

- Peace and security

- Culture, arts and sports.

89. In addition, it spells out its goals and areas of priority which it bases on the seven aspirations of Agenda 2063. The goals that the implementation of its priorities will seek to attain are: poverty reduction; the expansion of education at all levels; improved maternal and child health, water and sanitation facilities; industrialization of the African economy; greater resilience to the effects of climate change and prioritized adaptation; modernized farming methods for increased production, productivity and value-addition; better and more sustainable management of natural resources, including mineral and agricultural resources; the establishment of a continental free trade and a significantly developed intra-African trade; and a well-developed infrastructure network.

90. The proper observance of good governance, the rule of law and human rights, and the cessation of all intercountry and intracountry conflicts on the continent are also goals to be attained by 2023. Also to be achieved are goals in the realm of culture – full engagement with the African diaspora, the development and wider use of African languages, and the growth of the creative arts and cultural industries. The greater empowerment of women and young people is also an important goal to be pursued as is the need to increase Africa's presence and voice in global affairs.

91. In taking this forward, the Assembly of the Union twenty-fourth ordinary session held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in January 2015, requested the African Union Commission to formulate road maps for the implementation of the following flagship projects of Agenda 2063: the integrated high-speed train network; the Great Inga Dam project; the single aviation market; the outer space programme; the Pan-African e-Network; an annual African consultative platform; the virtual university; the African passport and the free movement of persons; the Continental Free Trade Area; silencing the guns by 2020; the development of a commodity strategy; and the establishment of the continental financial institutions, including the African Central Bank by 2030. The United Nations will work closely with the African Union towards the achievement of these goals by 2023.

C.   Common African position on the post-2015 development agenda

92.   The common African position is Africa's consensus on the continent's challenges, priorities and aspirations, and the strategies for dealing with them. It reaffirms the Rio Principles, especially the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the right to development and equity, and mutual accountability and responsibility.

93.   The focus of the common African position is on structural economic transformation for inclusive and people-centred development. Achieving this, would require the development of productive capacities in the areas of infrastructure, sustainable farming, nutrition and food self-sufficiency, industry and services, science, technology and innovation; youth development and engagement; women's empowerment; and sustainable natural resource management. It also requires meeting the challenges posed by climate change, desertification and land degradation, drought and loss of biodiversity; promoting peace and security; and elaborating a responsive and accountable global governance architecture through, among other things, the full and equitable representation of African countries in international financial institutions.

94.   The common position therefore positions Africa's development priorities upon six pillars: structural economic transformation and inclusive growth; science, technology and innovation; people-centred development; environmental sustainability, natural resources management and disaster risk management; peace and security; and finance and partnerships.

95.   It recommends that the agreed goals of the post-2015 development agenda should be implemented in the current continental mechanisms, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism, NEPAD and the African Governance Architecture. It also calls for an effective global governance architecture, including full and equitable representation of African countries in international, financial and economic institutions; and decision-making processes that reinforce the principles of fair trade and of deterring illicit financial flows, and are framed by genuine cooperation and partnerships for development based on trust. The common position further calls for the protection of human rights of all citizens in order to ensure their meaningful participation in society; fight against all forms of discrimination; eradicate all forms of violence and harmful practices against women, such as female genital mutilation and childhood and forced marriage; and promote the constructive management of diversity through democratic practices and mechanisms at the local, national and continental levels.

96.   The common position strongly supports the promotion of the right to development, as adopted in 1986 by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/41/128, and reaffirmed in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The Charter also includes the right of all countries to be allowed the policy space to fashion their own development and participation in global governance systems. The common position recommends that the post-2015 development agenda should ensure equality and access to justice and information for all through the unequivocal observance of justice and the rule of law, and guarantee the protection of the rights of minorities and people living in vulnerable situations, including children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, rural populations, refugees, displaced persons and migrants. It stresses the need for mutual accountability between the State and its citizens, and between the State and its development partners. It also recognizes the need to improve the health status of vulnerable groups by ensuring universal access to quality health care, including reproductive health.

97.   To achieve its goals, the common position stresses that there is need for countries to pursue sound macroeconomic policies that combine short-term imperatives of growth with long-term development considerations such as equality, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion at the national, regional continental and global levels. Furthermore, private sector development has to be encouraged by improving the investment and business climate and supporting small-scale enterprises, and by promoting public-private partnerships, quality assurance, participation and leadership of the private sector, local content policy, and socially responsive and accountable business practices. The implementation of continental mechanisms to promote intra-African trade, including the NEPAD framework, is also crucial in achieving this objective.

98.   There is also the need to establish viable and credible participatory processes that respect diversity and encourage inputs from all stakeholders, from priority setting to the planning and monitoring of implementation of development policies. The pursuit of effective monitoring and evaluation practices, and the preservation and protection of traditional intellectual property, as well as the promotion of knowledge creation, are vital for the successful implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

IV.   Priority action areas of the framework

99.   All United Nations entities operating at the continental level will be required to tailor their programmes to fit the objectives and priorities set forth in this Framework. These priorities are, in turn, based on frameworks established by the African Union, primarily Agenda 2063 and its First Ten-Year Implementation Plan, the Strategic Plans of the African Union Commission and the NEPAD Agency, and the common African position post-2015. Broadly, these frameworks seek to: accelerate the socioeconomic development of the continent; achieve the full economic integration of Africa; significantly strengthen political and economic governance throughout the region; and bring about lasting peace and security for the African people.

100.   Ultimately, they seek to render African economies and societies much stronger and more resilient. As economies become more widely diversified away from a dependence on oil and gas, minerals and primary agricultural and other commodities, and into renewable sources of energy, manufacturing, financial and other services, telecommunications, etc., the sources of growth will become less precarious. The effort to decrease external dependence should also aim at encouraging much higher levels of domestic investment, especially in the productive sectors (industry, commercial farming and fishing, energy, mining, etc.), and significantly reduce the huge outflow of financial resources from the continent. Domestic savings will also have to be significantly increased.

101.   Africa is urbanizing fast, and planning this rapid urban growth is essential if Africa's towns and cities are to serve as the foundation for the continent's economic transformation. Compact, integrated and connected urban development offers opportunities for increasing urban and national prosperity, and raising the standard of living of hundreds of millions of people. The private sector, including banks and other financial institutions, will play its part in guiding urbanization towards an efficient and equitable urban future through its more vibrant participation in the urban economy.

102.   The current preoccupation with confronting or averting threats to national security and the integrity of States, takes attention and resources away from more productive endeavours. The violent break-up of States cannot be allowed to constitute the only answer to disagreements. A number of countries in the Sahel and in Central Africa are already threatened with such an eventuality. The United Nations will continue to work together with the African Union and its bilateral partners to completely remove this threat to Africa's security and stability. Integration rather than disintegration must be the ultimate goal.

103.   The regional economic communites will pursue this goal with greater vigour. With the instruments of integration firmly established, economic and (to a lesser extent) political integration will be far advanced. As the BRIC countries[9] continue to alter the configuration of power at the global level, so also will Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa take the lead in the economic, social and political transformation of their respective subregion.

104.   With peace, stability and development firmly planted on African soil, Africa's presence in the global political and economic arena will be greatly enhanced. Even socially and culturally, Africa's global influence will spread more widely through the spread of its music, fashion, dance and food.

105.   The Framework's priorities on the **development** front, which the United Nations partnership with the African Union should examine, are to:

(a)   Undertake the total structural transformation of the African economy through the formulation of the appropriate macroeconomic frameworks, whose implementation would facilitate and enhance inclusive growth; reduce inequalities and spur beneficiation and industrialization, by boosting productivity in the private sector and shifting emphasis from lower to higher production sectors; restructure trade; and accelerate the sustainable development of the green and blue economies;

(b)   Significantly strengthen capacity for the judicious and sustainable management of Africa's natural resources (farming, mineral, land and marine, etc);

(c)   Significantly increase the role of the private sector in bringing about more inclusive and sustainable growth. Any support to be accorded in this regard should focus on implementing the African Union 2016–2020 Private Sector Development Strategy;

(d)   Develop and effectively maintain public infrastructure for energy, water and sanitation, transport and communication, information and communication technology, education and health delivery, including reproductive health services;

(e)   Develop and effectively use Africa's human resources through the expansion of access to high quality education and training of relevance at all levels; significant strengthening of primary, secondary and tertiary health systems; and a greatly widened employment market;

(f)   Promote and increase gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all fields of endeavour as a key factor for sustained progress and development;

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[9] Brazil, Russia, India and China.

(g)   Significantly enhance capacity for domestic resource mobilization, public financial management, tracking and curbing illicit financial flows and evolving innovative financing models that fit African realities;

(h)   Harness the data revolution through support to the African data revolution agenda as a means of enhancing evidence-based development policymaking. This is with a view to reaping the demographic dividend through the formulation of an African social cohesion agenda, under the Framework of Agenda 2063.

106.   For the **economic integration** of the continent, actions will be undertaken to:

(a)   Support the implementation of the integration programmes of the regional economic communities;

(b)   Strengthen the institutions of integration such as the regional monetary and financial institutions and river basin organizations;

(c)   Continue the support to NEPAD integration projects, particularly in farming and infrastructure;

(d)   Promote the increase of intra-African trade;

(e)   Support the adoption and implementation of gender-responsive intra-African trade policies.

107.   To achieve the continent's priorities in the area of economic and political **governance**, actions will seek to:

(a)   Deepen democracy, the rule of law, systems of justice and the observance of human rights;

(b)   Enhance the protection of human rights of all citizens in order to ensure their meaningful participation in society;

(c)   Support the fight against discrimination and help promote the constructive management of diversity through enabling democratic practices at the local, national and continental levels;

(d)   Strengthen public institutions of governance;

(e)   Achieve gender parity in economic and political governance at all levels in Africa.

108.   In **peace and security,** the priorities will be to:

(a)   Silence the guns by 2020;

(b)   Deal with the current and emerging threats to peace and security in Africa, including maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, terrorism and violent extremism, among others;

(c)   Confront emerging new health threats such as the Ebola virus, which has tested the strength of governance in some of the countries affected;

(d)   Confront the threat of climate change to African farming and fisheries, and to its islands, coastal villages, towns and cities;

(e)   Confront the threat of transnational organized crime, including money-laundering and the trafficking in drugs, persons, wildlife, artefacts;

(f)   Examine the causes of conflict, and re-examine and strengthen Africa's conflict prevention management and intervention initiatives, in addition to post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction;

(g)   Intensify efforts to ensure the full protection of women, girls and children in armed conflicts, and from terrorism, as well as end impunity in sexual and gender-based violence;

(h)   Intensify efforts to promote and ensure women's involvement in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding and post-conflict decision-making, and post-conflict reconstruction processes.

109.   In particular, to attain the objective of **structural transformation**, priority will be accorded to the development of **sustainable farming** and its modernization for the attainment of continental food and nutrition security and self-sufficiency. This will be realized through the pursuit of policies and programmes that boost productivity, increase diversification, and value-addition across the agricultural value chain. This will also be achieved through the development of agro-industries and agribusinesses, and a significant stimulation of the blue and green economies.

110.   A commodities strategy will be formulated to help African countries receive higher earnings from their commodity exports, ease their stronger integration into the global value chains, and boost their value-addition and content development. To this end, efforts will be geared towards the realization of the 2014 African Union Malabo Commitments on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods, and the Malabo Declaration on Nutrition Security for Inclusive Economic Growth and Sustainable Development in Africa. Special emphasis will also be placed on the mechanization of African farming, an area where the continent stands to experience quick gains.

111.   Given the importance of the transformative effect of **industrialization**, critical interventions will also be required for the rapid industrialization of Africa. Policy will seek to enhance beneficiation and to prioritize value-addition, especially in the extractive industry and in the primary commodities producing sectors generally. Linkages between the sectors will be significantly strengthened. The Action Plan for the Accelerated Industrial Development of Africa will guide industrial policy implementation.

112.   The **private sector** will be further strengthened by improving the business and investment environment and promoting strong partnerships with the public sector. The informal sector and small and mediumsize enterprises will be more robustly supported through policies and measures that increase their productivity and their fuller involvement in the transformative process. Innovative strategies will be employed to activate the potentials of private sector operators as responsible financing partners, implementing agents or intermediaries in the development of critical sectors such as sustainable energy, farming and agribusiness, digital and physical infrastructure, education and health, and the **green and blue economies**.

113.   The development of the continent's **infrastructure** will be accorded high priority. Policy will seek to enlarge transport and communications infrastructure; expand the continent's energy capacity with greater emphasis on renewables; significantly improve water and sanitation systems; and bring about appreciable improvements to Africa's social infrastructure. Integration and development projects formulated in PIDA[10], such as the Trans-African Highway, the African high-speed rail network, the Grand Inga Dam (in the Democratic Republic of the Congo), the Pan-African e-Network and the regional economic communities' information and communication technology broadband and infrastructure projects, will be accorded priority attention. Member States will be encouraged to better harmonize their policies and regulatory frameworks in the transport, energy and information and communication technology sectors.

114.   **Capacity** will be enhanced for more effectively managing Africa's biodiversity and reversing environmental degradation, especially the growing desertification and the depletion of the continent's forest cover. Action will be undertaken to intensify capacity development and strengthen initiatives, especially for contract and trade negotiation, natural resource management, transfer of technology, etc. Capacity for a more effective management of Africa's mineral resources will be significantly strengthened through, among others, the African Minerals Development Centre and the resolute pursuit of the African Mining Vision. Generally, the ultimate goal will be to create capacities at continental, regional and country levels. Capacity for implementing Decisions of the Assembly of the African Union will be further reinforced.

115.   Action will be undertaken to achieve a faster expansion of Africa's **education and training** systems to meet the continent's demographic challenges, particularly the increase in the number of young people, and the human capital requirements for structural transformation. Issues of enhancing access will be dealt with, including through open, distance and e-learning technical and vocational education, and through a new continental education strategy to succeed the Plan of Action for the Second Decade of Education for Africa.

116.   Maternal and child **health and nutrition** will remain high on the agenda, as will the double burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Special programmes will continue to tackle pandemics such as HIV AIDS, and intransigent scourges such as malaria and tuberculosis. Priority will be assigned to issues of increased access to healthcare services, especially in rural areas, and to food and nutrition security in accordance with the African Health Strategy that is to be implemented. Every effort will be made to build resilient health systems that can help prevent, detect and respond to public health emergencies. The African Centre for Disease Control will be made operational and will provide the necessary support for early detection and response to outbreaks in Africa.

117.   More will be done to ensure that the continent takes full advantage of its robust economic performance to foster social inclusion. This will call for a fuller and more equitable participation of all segments of the population with a view to achieving the type of growth that would be more inclusive and broad-based, leading not just to equality of treatment and opportunity but also to a reduction of poverty, and increases in employment.

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[10] PIDA: Programme for Infrastructural Development in Africa.

118.   In all this, particular attention will be paid to **women,** to ensure that gender-sensitive policies are designed and implemented at national, regional and continental levels. Efforts will be intensified to deal with the issues surounding women's occupational mobility, wage inequality, ownership of land and other productive assets. Stronger policies and strategies will be put in place to ensure that they more fully empower the continent's women and young people through increased access to financial and credit services, more relevant training opportunities, and decent and productive employment in accordance with the Ouagadougou Plan of Action. Youth volunteerism will be promoted to enhance pan-Africanism, social responsibility and employment preparedness among young Africans.

119.   Africa's rapid urban growth calls for careful planning of its towns and cities. Programmes for the development of capacity for municipal management will be strongly supported, as will the efforts of municipal administrators to deal with urban overcrowding, improve the provision and delivery of services, and reduce or eliminate the cities' slums. In sum, all initiatives for improving Africa's **human settlements** will be given the attention they deserve.

120.   The sustainable management of Africa's vast **natural resources** is also a major concern of the African Union. Important **waterways** such as the Nile River, the Niger River, the Volta River, the Great Lakes and Lake Victoria are transboundary resources, and therefore need to be collectively managed and in a regulated manner so as to ensure their sustainability. Support will be provided to efforts in reducing dependence on fossil fuels and promoting the exploitation of Africa's vast sources of renewable **energy**. Policies that seek to promote a more judicious and sustainable exploitation of the continent's **mineral resources** will be encouraged and supported.

121.   In pursuit of the continent's **integration** objectives, priority will be accorded to transboundary, transnational infrastructure projects, especially those identified by PIDA. In addition, policies and programmes that boost **intra-African trade** will receive greater attention, and extensive support will be provided to the Continental Free Trade Area, the Customs Union and the Common Market programmes. Priority will also be given to the creation and strengthening of the financial and monetary instruments of integration such as the African Central Bank, the African Monetary Fund, the African Investment Bank and the Stock Exchange.

122.   A continental observatory mechanism to anticipate crises and assess their potential effect on African countries will be set up. It will play a role in the designing of optimal policies with a view to reducing disparities and enhancing coherence in Africa's integration agenda*.*

123.   The regional economic communities, being the African Union's building blocks for the continent's integration, also have their special programmes of integration whose implementation will be strongly supported. These programmes include the creation of free trade areas, customs unions and common markets. The promotion of intraregional trade and the development of transport and communications infrastructure are also high on their agenda. Their initiatives in these areas will be fully supported through the work of the Subregional Coordination Mechanisms.

124.   Concerted efforts will be made to tackle *threats* to human security in Africa. Priority action will be directed at containing and degrading **insurgencies** based on ethnic, religious or

regional differences. The objective of silencing the guns will be vigorously pursued with the elaboration of an African human security index and the full implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture. Every effort will be made to insulate the continent from threats of new **diseases** such as Ebola.

125.   Threats to the social and economic wellbeing of the continent such as **climate change**, will also be examined frontally. The African least developed countries are at most risk because they are more dependent on farming; more vulnerable to coastal and water resource changes; and have less financial, technical and institutional capacity for climate adaptation. Efforts to protect the many cities, towns and villages in the 35 African coastal countries threatened by coastal erosion and its consequences will be fully supported. The African Climate Change Strategy will be implemented and the African Climate Fund made fully operational. Substantial support will be provided to the African Climate Policy Centre as part of the Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDev-Africa) initiative.

126.   Particular attention will also be given to support Africa's efforts in fighting and combating land degradation and desertification, which is a challenge unique to Africa. In the fight against desertification, initiatives such as the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and the Sahel will be pursued with greater vigour. With regard to exposure and vulnerability of livelihoods and production systems to various risks, efforts will be geared towards supporting the implementation of continental, regional and national risk reduction programmes, such as the African Union's African Risk Capacity. In addition, equitable and sustainable management of the environment and natural resources will be promoted. Programmes on capacity-building in early warning will be pursued and the implementation of Africa's Space Policy and Strategy will be strongly supported.

127.   Every effort will be made to more resolutely tackle the scourges of **trans-national organized crime**, including the trafficking in illicit drugs, persons, arms and artifacts, wildlife and natural resources, and to arrest the spread of money laundering practices. Capacity will be enhanced to allow Africa to confront problems of terrorism, violent extremism and piracy.

128.   To reap the demographic dividend and turn the increasing number of young people to Africa's advantage, an African social cohesion agenda will be formulated for implementation in the context of Agenda 2063.

129.   In pursuance of the continent's **peace and security** objectives, much attention will be paid to tackling the causes of conflict in Africa: social and economic exclusion; gender and income inequalities; discrimination on religious, ethnic or regional grounds, etc. Efforts will be intensified to strengthen cross-border cooperation in the resolution of disputes and in enhancing cross-border security. Inclusive conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction programmes will be developed and fully supported, as will the African Union's African Peace and Security Architecture. The African Stand-by Force and the Rapid Deployment Capability will also be fully developed.

130.   For Africa's objectives and priorities to be realized, serious measures must be undertaken to improve and strengthen political and economic **governance**. Action will be taken to: improve the quality and efficiency of public services; intensify the fight against corruption; promote greater transparency and accountability in public affairs; strengthen the observance of human rights and the rule of law; improve democratic practice; and strengthen current continental governance mechanisms such as the African Peer Review Mechanism

and the African Governance Architecture and Platform. Efforts will be intensified to arrest and reverse the illicit financial flows from the continent and to promote probity, accountability and integrity in political leadership.

A.   Priorities of the regional economic communities

131.   The regional economic communities in each of Africa's five subregions have their individual programme priorities, which will be supported by their respective Subregional Coordination Mechanisms. Apart from the programmes on regional integration, which are common to them all (intraregional trade, infrastructural development, energy, industrialization, peace and security and governance), there are important priority programmes that are peculiar to each. These will equally have the full support of the United Nations system operating in each of the subregions.

132.   In **East and Southern Africa**, the development of transport corridors in the eastern, northern and central parts is a top priority. Climate change and natural resource management will also command much attention, as will the transformation of farming (including livestock and fisheries), the development and strengthening of integrated water resource management systems such as those of the Nile Basin Initiative and the Lake Victoria Basin Authority, and the greater exploitation of the vast tourism potentials of the subregion. Programmes on science and technology, and information and communication technology for development will also be fully supported.

133.   **North Africa**, being the least integrated of all the subregions, places special emphasis on integration programmes in intraregional trade, multi-modal transport systems and information and communication technology connectivity. It assigns special importance to agricultural development in order to reduce its heavy dependence on food imports and increase its food and nutrition security. Given the recent political developments in the subregion and the rise of religious extremism, special attention will be paid to peace and security initiatives being developed, and also initiatives aimed at promoting political reform, strengthening governance, further empowering women and young people, and tackling the problem of unemployment.

134.   Internal and cross-border conflicts have plagued the **Central Africa** region for more than two decades. Naturally, this has negatively affected the socioeconomic development and poverty reduction efforts of the countries in the subregion. Conflict resolution and prevention initiatives will therefore be accorded high priority, with the instruments designed for this purpose such as the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa and the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa being fully supported.

135.   Special attention will be paid to the infrastructure and transport projects of ECCAS, which are important for the attainment of the integration goals of the subregion. Support will be provided to the sustainable management of its forestry resources, which is top on the list of priorities of the countries in the subregion. In addition to what will be done to assist in the implementation of the energy projects of NEPAD Agency's PIDA, programmes that examine the requirements that are peculiar to the subregion's energy needs will also be supported.

136.   Progress towards the attainment of the integration goals in **West Africa** is far advanced, with the free movement and residency of people anywhere in the Community having been achieved, and the key Community institutions being more firmly established.

The object of ECOWAS, to create a common market in West Africa by 2020, will be strongly supported. Its programmes for the development of infrastructure and public utilities such as the West Africa Power Pool and the West African Gas Pipeline, will be accorded priority attention. As it seeks to accelerate its pace of industrialization and revolutionize its food production systems (cereals, roots, tubers, fruitand vegetables, fish and livestock production), the United Nations system will lend its full support.

137.   Jihadist and Islamist militancy is now on the rise in the Sahel belt of West Africa. The United Nations, together with the African Union and ECOWAS, will intensify the effort to confront, degrade and eliminate this threat to the peace, stability and integrity of countries in the subregion.

138.   Integration strategies need **financing**. Strengthening and deepening Africa's financial markets and institutions are essential for mobilizing financial resources needed for the implementation of integration projects. In addition, efforts must be made to encourage the regional economic communities to establish development banks in their regions to assist member countries in financing integration projects. However, the integration of financial markets in Africa requires the harmonization of national policies and procedures governing these markets and institutions across member countries. This requirement will be fully examined.

B.   Support to the New Partnership for Africa's Development – Planning and Coordinating Agency

139.   As the implementing agency of the African Union, the NEPAD Agency's mandate is to convert policy into realistic frameworks and implementable programmes in pursuit of the organization's objectives and goals. In fact, over the years it has come up with numerous frameworks and programmes for implementation at the national, regional and continental levels and has endeavoured to assist in their implementation. As has already been mentioned, United Nations support will be provided to promote these frameworks and major programmes, but in addition, the particular needs of the NEPAD Agency will also be examined.

140.   One of NEPAD Agency's major preoccupations is with across-the-board capacity development. Its Capacity Development Strategic Framework seeks to significantly enhance capacities at the national, regional and continental levels for the planning, monitoring and implementation of programmes; building effective partnerships; mobilizing domestic and external resources to finance development projects and plans; and for judiciously managing economic development; in addition to carrying out the NEPAD Agency programmes. Institutional re-engineering and strengthening, including for the regional economic communities and the NEPAD Agency itself, is an important part of the capacity development requirements of the continent. The United Nations will lend its full support to interventions aimed at dealing with these preoccupations.

141.   The NEPAD Agency is also committed to ensuring that in the implementation of its programmes, the objectives of equity – especially gender equality, employment creation, environmental sustainability, and greater private sector involvement – are taken fully into account and kept in view. These are objectives that it shares with the United Nations, making them lend themselves easily to the latter's support.

142.   Other concerns of the NEPAD Agency include the development and transformation of farming systems and fisheries, rural development programmes, the strengthening of knowledge management systems (indigenous knowledge, etc.), and gender and youth empowerment. This Framework deals with all these issues and envisages that they will all receive United Nations support at the continental and regional levels, as well as in the way they are tackled in the implementation of NEPAD Agency programmes.

143.   Another major preoccupation is the need to diversify its partnerships towards a much better quality of cooperation based on its own priorities and desires. Forging new and better partnerships in the South is an area of need in which much United Nations assistance will be required.

V.   United Nations support

A.   Programmatic and institutional support

144.   As in the past, the programmes and priorities of the African Union, as laid out in this Framework, will enjoy the full support and cooperation of the United Nations system at the global, continental and regional levels. At the global level, it will continue its advocacy role in support of Africa's requirements in respect of foreign direct investment, official development assistance, trade promotion, global governance issues, etc.

145.   Partnership at the continental level will be in the form of support in the implementation of integration and development programmes and projects of the African Union and its NEPAD Agency, while at the regional level, this support will be extended to the work of the regional economic communities.

146.   The Office of the Special Adviser on Africa will continue its global advocacy and policy advisory activities on behalf of the African Union, the NEPAD Agency and the regional economic communities. At the continental level, the Regional Coordination Mechanism will be responsible for the delivery of programmes of support through the activities of its clusters (annex 2) and subclusters. RCM-Africa, as a mechanism for the coordination of the delivery of United Nations system-wide support to the African Union, has been tried and tested, especially through the implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme (for the African Union), and has proven to be worthy. It has sharpened the focus of United Nations support to the African Union for relevance and effectiveness and so will continue to serve as the vehicle through which the United Nations system, operating at the continental level, will continue its support of the African Union through the operationalization of this Framework.

147.   ECA and the African Union Commission will work together to constitute the Joint Secretariat of RCM-Africa, providing the requisite direction and administrative, and logistical backstopping. ECA will also be responsible for coordinating the support to be provided to the African Union by key stakeholders in its negotiations on trade matters, especially on the Doha Round, climate change, and mining and other contract agreements. It will provide focused support to the capacity development requirements of the African Union Commission, the regional economic communities and the NEPAD Agency in the elaboration of its Capacity Development Strategic Framework.

148.   The United Nations Office to the African Union, with strong backstopping by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Field Operations, all at the United Nations Headquarters, will continue to be the primary mechanism of support to the African Union on peace and security issues, in close collaboration with the relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system.

149.   United Nations partnership with the regional economic communites will be through the activities of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism, whose secretariat will be located in the ECA subregional offices. United Nations entities, participating in the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the Subregional Coordination Mechanism, will be required to harmonize their programme planning and budgeting cycles and (to the extent possible) have them aligned with those of the African Union system. This would make for greater synergy and coherence in the delivery of support.

150.   There are a number of global frameworks and plans of action with special provisions for dealing with the priorities of Africa. Frameworks such as the Vienna Programme of Action on Social Development, the Istanbul Programme of Action on Least Developed Countries, the Rio Outcomes, all contain commitments whose delivery would go a long way in alleviating Africa's stresses and strains in their particular areas of concern. Implementation of these programmes and plans of action would therefore complement many of the actions that are envisaged in this Framework, which is based primarily on Agenda 2063.

B.   Resource support

151.   The United Nations system continues to commit substantial technical, material and financial resources to support the development programmes of Africa; build institutional and human capacity; develop policies, strategies and programmes; enhance coordination, collaboration and synergies at different levels; and build and strengthen confidence among the agencies of the United Nations system and between the United Nations and African Union institutions. Through this Framework, it will strive for greater focus on the implementation of the plans and programmes of the African Union that are aligned with, and developed for, the roll out of Agenda 2063 and its Ten-Year Implementation Plan.

152.   One of the major constraints in the implementation of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme (for the African Union) and the smooth operation of the RCM-Africa system, was that they were not funded in a regular, predictable and dedicated manner, even though both were mandated by the General Assembly. This Framework should not suffer the same fate.

153.   The General Assembly will be called upon to make the requisite budgetary allocations for the proper functioning and effective operation of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the Subregional Coordination Mechanism. All funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, including offices and commissions participating in both mechanisms, will be expected to ensure their full and effective involvement by making regular financial provisions towards this end. This is irrespective of any other commitments in their respective memoranda of understanding with the African Union Commission and the regional economic communites. The Joint Secretariat of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and the secretariat of the Subregional Coordination Mechanism will also be adequately resourced to ensure their effective delivery of services.

154.   Extrabudgetary resources will be mobilized to supplement the provisions of the General Assembly.

C.   Delivery strategies

155.   The point cannot be over-emphasized that this partnership will be led by the African Union and will be defined and directed by Africa's expressed objectives, goals and priorities. The United Nations system will continue to improve and strengthen its working methods, and increase synergy, coordination and coherence among all stakeholders. The RCM-Africa system − including its clusters and subclusters, which have proven themselves capable of successfully delivering services of high quality − will serve as the vehicle for programme delivery, aligning its clusters very closely with the established structures of the African Union Commission and the regional economic communities. It will be through the work of the clusters and subclusters that programme delivery, in pursuit of the priorities of this Framework, will be assured.

156.   RCM-Africa and its Subregional Coordination Mechanisms will be serviced by a well-resourced Joint Secretariat, in accordance with the decision taken by the Regional Coordination Mechanism in 2010. It will comprise dedicated staff of the ECA and its subregional offices, and the African Union Commission. The Joint Secretariat is to serve as the institutional anchor of the mechanism. It will provide coordination between its respective ECA and African Union Commission components, which will in turn jointly manage and strongly coordinate the activities of the clusters and subclusters, in order to ensure joint programming and joint implementation based on the programmes and priorities of the African Union. It will formulate and carry out a robust information and communications strategy, and be the knowledge hub for the generation, collation and dissemination of information among participating United Nations entities, and between them and the African continental organizations.

157.   The Joint Secretariat will also be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Regional Coordination Mechanism system and for providing regular reports on RCM-Africa to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It will convene and service the meetings of RCM-Africa and those of each cluster and subcluster; undertake policy research and provide policy guidance and direction; prepare and disseminate RCM-Africa and cluster reports; monitor and evaluate cluster activities; and mobilize resources in support of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and cluster activities.

D.   Accountability and reporting provisions

158.   The clusters and subclusters will provide annual reports on their activities to the Regional Coordination Mechanism, which will present annual reports to the Secretary-General, who will then report to the General Assembly. Annual reports will also be made by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to present to the Assembly of the African Union.

159.   As was the practice with the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme (for the African Union), a review of the programme will be undertaken every three years and a comprehensive final review and appraisal carried out in 2028. Reports on these reviews will be presented to the General Assembly by the Secretary-General and to the Assembly of the African Union by the Chairperson of the African Union Commission. These reports will also indicate the

commitments of support that may have been made by donors and the international community at large, and the extent to which these commitments have been honoured. The Joint Secretariat will be expected to conduct periodic formative evaluation exercises of activities being implemented with a view to reporting to the leadership of RCM-Africa on their results and impact.

160. The bilateral and multilateral donors supporting this Framework will receive comprehensive reports on the outcomes of their support. The Joint Secretariat will be responsible for such reports.

E. Coalition of partnerships

161. The partnership of the United Nations and the African Union, as elaborated in this Framework, will be expanded to bring in important inputs and resource support from major multilateral partners such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank, and bilateral support from sources such as the TICAD (Tokyo International Conference on African Development) initiative of Japan, and the European Union. They will all be called upon to provide material, technical and financial support to the Framework's initiatives, and the work of the regional coordination mechanism's clusters and subclusters. Much is to be derived from a better coordinated and harmonized course of action by all stakeholders in support of Africa's integration and development agenda.

Postscript

162.   This Framework – PAIDA[11] – is anchored on Agenda 2063, and takes account of Africa's past achievements and challenges, as well as the continental and global contexts in which the transformation of the continent is being pursued. PAIDA is therefore aimed at supporting the African Union as it forges ahead with the implementation of Agenda 2063, which is essentially a continuation of the pan-African journey towards full self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity.

163.   Agenda 2063 derives from, and restates the objectives and goals of earlier continental frameworks such as, most notably, the Lagos Plan of Action, the Abuja Treaty and NEPAD; and more recently, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, the Plan of Action for Accelerated Industrial Development in Africa, the Minimum Integration Programme, the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, the African Union NEPAD Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, Africa's Agro-industry and Agribusiness Development Initiative, and the Peace and Security Architecture and the African Governance Architecture and Platforms. It is to these and other related programmes and plans of the African Union that the United Nations system in Africa, through PAIDA, will provide coordinated, committed and unconditional support.

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[11] PAIDA: New United Nations and African Union Partnership on Africa's Integration and Development Agenda.

Annex 1
United Nations and African Union partnership: past programmes of support

1.   For the past 30 years, the General Assembly has consistently been according special attention to the needs of Africa. This concern over the plight of the African continent became even more pronounced in the 1980s when the continent was hit by a series of adverse events that led to a serious social and economic crisis of unprecedented proportions.

2.   On 3 December 1984, and at the request of the Organization of African Unity, it adopted resolution A/RES/39/29 on the **Declaration on the Critical Economic Situation in Africa**. A year later, as those conditions continued to deteriorate, it decided, by its resolution A/RES/40/40 to convene a special session "to focus, in a comprehensive and integrated manner, on the rehabilitation and medium-term and long-term development problems and challenges facing African countries..."[12] That decision was prompted by a 1985 initiative of the Organization of African Unity, in which it spelled out, **Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery 1986-1990**. The Priority Programme not only reaffirmed the primary responsibility of African Governments for the social and economic development of their people, but also stressed that the socioeconomic crisis that had gripped the continent called for concerted action by the international community in support of the efforts of African countries.

3.   The nature of the crisis had been thoroughly analysed, the result being – an unfavourable external environment caused by a global economic recession, the collapse of commodity prices, adverse terms of trade, severely reduced financial flows, high interest rates and increased protectionism, a heavy debt burden and debt servicing obligations, all combined to constrict Africa's growth and development. To further compound matters, the region had experienced a long period of drought, which worsened the desertification situation in a good portion of the continent and exacerbated the problems of hunger and famine in the Horn of Africa and certain parts of the Sahel.

4.   The General Assembly therefore decided to institute a programme of support for Africa's economic recovery, the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990. The Programme was the response from the international community to Africa's declared commitment to mitigating the adverse effects of the crisis and forging a path for its transformation and sustained development. A number of action measures were agreed upon to be undertaken by African Governments and by the international community in the key sectors of the African economy: farming and food security; trade and finance; human resources development; economic management, etc. The financial requirement for the implementation of the programme by the international community over a five-year period was estimated at $128 billion.

5.   In 1991, the General Assembly, at its forty-sixth session, conducted an assessment of the Programme. It concluded that it had by and large, achieved only very limited results:

> Sharp export price falls, real interest rate increases and declines in private sector investment and loans, all severely limited the positive effects of efforts made by Africa and its development partners.... none of the goals of the Programme of Action were fully realized. Targets for growth, food security,

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[12] A/RES/S.-13/2.

human investment and debt reduction were missed, so declines rather than hoped for increases [had] been recorded...[13]

6.   In fact, a review of the prevailing social and economic conditions on the continent revealed that economic performance during the period of programme implementation "...was not satisfactory...The human condition of many millions of Africans continued to worsen. Absolute poverty rose in Africa."[14]

7.   The assessment concluded that the conditions that had given rise to the institution of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, were still valid. It therefore called for the international community to renew its support to Africa in the decade of the 1990s, and so decided to adopt a new programme – the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s (UN-NADAF) – whose objectives were: "The accelerated transformation, integration, diversification and growth of the African economies in order to strengthen them in the world economy, reduce their vulnerability to external shocks and increase their dynamism, internalize the process of development and enhance self-reliance."[15]

8.   The General Assembly went on to explain the role of the United Nations in the implementation of the UN-NADAF. It called upon all United Nations entities operating in Africa to design special programmes of support that would be consistent with the objectives and strategies of the Programme and ensure that adequate resources were dedicated towards their implementation. Priority would be accorded to integration and infrastructure projects and programmes, and to the continent's industrialization needs. It then laid down a monitoring and evaluation timetable, which in fact culminated in a final review and appraisal of the Programme in 2000.

9.   That review revealed that the UN-NADAF had also not achieved its desired results. It demonstrated clearly that, perhaps with the exception of one or two countries, Africa as a region, had honoured its commitments to reform and adjustment. The same could not be said of its partners in the international donor community in respect of their pledges of support to the Programme. It stated that "components of the New Agenda were partially implemented by African Governments and hardly at all by the donor community"[16]. That was why the Programme failed. It found that the official development assistance promised was not provided at the levels agreed upon. Earnings from exports had declined as a result of unfavourable terms of trade. Support for adjustment came along with conditionalities that had a deflationary effect on African economies; weakened development structures, institutions and overall capacities; eroded the skills base through the brain drain; greatly increased poverty; and reversed much of the gains made in growth and development. Furthermore, the review concluded that "none of the countries that faithfully implemented market-based structural adjustment had progressed in the manner anticipated...poverty increased substantially as did the disparity between rich and poor".[17]

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[13] A/46/151 (annex).

[14] Ibid.

[15] Ibid.

[16] A/RES/57/7 (agenda item 41a).

[17] Ibid.

10.   In the circumstances, the General Assembly decided to continue its special programme of support to African development by adopting a new, home-grown African initiative that had been put out the year before, **NEPAD**. At its fifty-seventh session on 20 November 2002,[18] it called upon the agencies of the United Nations system, in their respective mandates, to "align their activities in Africa within the priorities of the New Partnership"...and to "organize the activities of the United Nations system around clusters covering the priority areas of the New Partnership". It also "urged the United Nations system to work closely with the African Union and other regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations to ensure the implementation of the programme and priorities of the New Partnership."

11.   In order to provide institutional support for the new programme, the General Assembly endorsed the creation of the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, whose mandate, as outlined in the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/2003/6 of April 2003, was to coordinate "global advocacy in support of NEPAD" and be the NEPAD focal point at the United Nations Headquarters. Regional coordination of support to NEPAD was assigned to ECA and the mandate for public information on NEPAD went to the Department of Public Information. Provision was also made to finance that support in section 11 of the United Nations programme budget, which from 2003 to 2014 provided almost $80 million in budget support to the programme.[19]

12.   In 2005, the African Union approached the United Nations with a request for assistance with its capacity-building requirements. In responding to the request, the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/60/1 in which it approved the formulation and implementation of a ten-year capacity-building plan for the African Union. The objective, focus and areas of priority of such a plan, were subsequently elaborated in the Declaration entitled, "**Enhancing UN-AU Cooperation: Framework for the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union**",[20] which was signed in November 2006, by the Heads of the two organizations. It took into consideration the new, broadened mandate of the African Union (that of the Organization of African Unity) and sought to reinforce the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union to strengthen the latter's institutions and build its capacities in order to empower it to better carry out its objectives and goals in peace and security, governance, human rights, conflict prevention, development and integration.

13.   By executive decision, the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme (for the African Union) was to be implemented through the work of the Regional Coordination Mechanism, which had been established by the General Assembly in 2002[21] to enhance consultation on, and coordination of, activities of the United Nations entities operating at the regional level in Africa. The thematic clusters of the Regional Coordination Mechanism were required to use the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme (for the African Union) as the framework for cooperation with the African Union. They were also expected to "increase focus on, and align activities with, the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme (for the African Union)" taking into consideration "...the programmes and strategic plans of the African Union Commission

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[18] Ibid.

[19] See *Development of a Regional Cooperation Framework between the African Union Commission and the United Nations Agencies in Africa*, p. 39. Available from http://repository.uneca.org/bitstream/handle/10855/22409/b10803981.pdf?sequence=1.

[20] General Assembly A/61/630.

[21] A/RES/57/7 (agenda item 41 a).

and the NEPAD secretariat, relevant decisions of the African Union and the regional economic communities, as well as the African Union sectoral ministerial bodies".[22]

14.   It is in that way, that the United Nations system working at the regional level in Africa, has ordered its capacity-building support to the African Union in implementing the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme (for the African Union) which comes to an end in 2016.

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[22] Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa Secretariat, *"Delivering as One for Africa"*, p.12, 2009. Available from http://repository.uneca.org/bitstream/handle/10855/4060/bib.%2030612_I.pdf?sequence=1.

Annex 2
Members of the Regional Coordination Mechanism and its clusters

African Union Commission	Department of Peacekeeping Operations (United Nations) (DPKO)
African Development Bank	Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
International Association of Agricultural Economists (AIEA)	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)	United Nations Education, Scientific and Agricultural Organization (UNESCO)
Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)	United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
East African Community (EAC)	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT)
International Labour Organization (ILO)	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU)
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	UN-Women
International Telecommunications Union (ITU)	United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)
NEPAD Agency	World Food Programme
Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	World Health Organization (WHO)
United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA)	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
Southern African Development Community (SADC)	World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	World Bank
United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	World Trade Organization (WTO)
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
Department of Political Affairs (United Nations) (DPA)	