



Report on sustainable development goals for the North Africa subregion

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Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

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First printing October 2015

ISBN: 978-99944-92-21-3

eISBN: 978-99944-92-41-1

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Edited, designed and printed by the ECA Publications Section

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Table of Contents

Acronyms	ii
Acknowledgements	iii
Executive Summary	iv
1. Introduction	1
2. Sustainable development priorities of the subregion	5
3. Analysis and alignment of priorities by sector and by theme	20
4. Sustainable development goals, targets and indicators	30
5. Conclusions and recommendations	34
References	37

List of acronyms

AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
FDI	foreign direct investment
GDP	gross domestic product
HDI	human development index
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

Acknowledgements

The present report on the Sustainable Development Goals for the North Africa subregion was prepared within the framework of the Africa consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and the post Rio+20 follow-up processes. The report team benefited from the guidance of Fatima Denton, Director of the Special Initiatives Division of ECA, Karima Bounemra, Director of the ECA Subregional Office for North Africa, and Aida Opoku-Mensah, Special Adviser to the Executive Secretary of ECA on the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

The report's substantive team comprised Isatou Gaye (team leader), Marieme Bekaye, Nassim Oulmane, Yacouba Gnègnè, Somlanare Romuald Kinda, Mathilde Closset, Richard Osaliya, Charles Akol, Benjamin Banda, Andrew Allieu, Bartholomew Armah and Mama Keita, from ECA; Albert Ndayitwayeko, Gilles Ogandaga, Dossina Yeo and Selamawit Mussie, from the African Union Commission; and Anthony Nyong, Mwila Musole Musumali, Mbarack Diop and Aimee Bella Corbin, from the African Development Bank. The contribution of Alessandra Sgobbi, formally of ECA, is acknowledged with thanks.

We would like to thank Dr. Abdelkader Mohamed Saleck of the University of Nouakchott, Mauritania, for helping to put the report together, and all staff at ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank for their useful comments. The report also benefited from the constructive comments and inputs provided by participants at the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals, which was organized jointly by ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank from 31 October to 5 November 2013.

The team is grateful for the valuable administrative and organizational support provided by Martha Messele, Tsigereda Assayehegn, Helina Abye, Yealemzer Yilma, Rahel Menda, Asnakech Megersa, Hidat Mebratu, Gezahegn Shiferaw and Tariku Agogi, of ECA.

Lastly, we would like to thank Demba Diarra, Chief of the ECA Publications and Documentation Section, and his team, including Marcel Ngoma-Mouaya, Teshome Yohannes and Charles Ndungu, for their efficient handling of the editing, text processing, proofreading, design and printing of the report.

Executive summary

At a time when the international community is assessing the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, evaluating the progress made towards the achievement of sustainable development and identifying the shortcomings that need to be addressed in order to effectively tackle emerging challenges, North Africa must not only make its own contribution but also join the international process by participating actively in the development of a new world vision. This is consistent with the goals agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the post-2015 development agenda.

As part of the process to prepare this agenda, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized subregional and regional consultations in Africa. The consultations were held in Accra, Ghana in November 2011; in Mombasa, Kenya, in October 2012; in Dakar, Senegal in December 2012 and in Hammamet, Tunisia, in March 2013. The main objectives of the Hammamet regional consultations were to define Africa's priorities for the post-2015 development agenda, identify the enablers and critical success factors for this agenda, and align the post-2015 priorities with other development priorities and agendas such as Rio+20 and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). In the outcome document of the meeting, it was agreed that the post-2015 development agenda would incorporate the outcomes of Rio+20 and Africa-wide initiatives, as well as documents resulting from national and regional consultations and United Nations forums.

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

- (a) Emphasize economic growth and structural transformation;
- (b) Reorient the development paradigm away from externally-driven initiatives towards home-grown and nationally-funded initiatives, based on national ownership;
- (c) Prioritize equity and social inclusion and measure progress in terms of availability and quality of service delivery;
- (d) Pay greater attention to vulnerable groups such as women, children, young people, the elderly, people with disabilities and displaced persons;
- (e) Focus on development enablers and development outcomes, especially structural economic transformation and inclusive growth, innovation and technology transfer, human development, financing and partnerships.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which was held in June 2012 in Brazil, adopted a document entitled "The future we want", which was subsequently approved by the General Assembly. It gave new impetus to the monitoring and implementation of the commitments agreed upon at the Conference, including the preparation of sustainable development goals. These goals would be used to pursue targeted and coherent action on worldwide sustainable development by integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

As part of efforts to monitor the Rio+20 outcomes, ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized a regional implementation meeting for Africa, which was held from 19 to 21 November 2012. The meeting reaffirmed the principles on which the sustainable development goals are founded and identified broad priority areas for Africa (see below). The participants also called on the international community to provide Africa with adequate support to help it to establish an efficient, broad-based, bottom-up consultative process in order to develop the goals, indicators and targets that would underpin the sustainable development goals. The broad priority areas identified were:

- (a) Eradicate poverty;
- (b) Combat hunger by ensuring food security and proper nutrition;
- (c) Ensure access to safe water supply and adequate sanitation facilities;
- (d) Ensure access to quality education and health services;
- (e) Promote gender equality and women's empowerment;
- (f) Ensure universal and equitable access to social services and social protection;
- (g) Ensure sustainable and inclusive economic growth;
- (h) Curb vulnerability and boost resilience, including to the effects of climate change;
- (i) Create decent employment opportunities;
- (j) Enhance infrastructure development;
- (k) Ensure access to affordable and sustainable energy;
- (l) Combat land degradation, desertification, drought and deforestation;
- (m) Address climate change challenges, including through adaptation and mitigation;
- (n) Promote sustainable water resource management;
- (o) Facilitate access to, and transfer of, environmentally-friendly technologies, including for climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- (p) Promote peace and security.

The present report is one of five subregional reports, prepared following the African consultative process, on the post-2015 agenda and the monitoring of Rio+20, and marks the commitment of African countries to the process of setting international sustainable development goals and ensuring that such goals are consistent with Africa's sustainable development priorities. The subregional reports inform the Africa regional report on the sustainable development goals, which was presented at the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals, organized by ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank from 31 October to 5 November 2013 in Addis Ababa. The meeting adopted a technical outcome document to be considered by the African high-level committee on the post-2015 development agenda.

The approach adopted entailed an initial assessment of the implementation of sustainable development policies in the seven countries of the North African subregion, followed by a definition of the development priorities for the forthcoming periods. The national consultations conducted under the post-2015 development agenda in five countries of the subregion (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and the Sudan) were reviewed and analysed. The results obtained were used to fine-tune the priorities in question. These priorities were translated into global goals, taking into account the recommendations extracted from the Rio+20 document and included in the terms of reference of the study and the concern for regional integration as a factor crucial to the achievement of sustainable development goals. The goals were then broken down into targets and indicators.

The report also highlights the importance of themes not covered by the Millennium Development Goals at the subregional level and which are crucial to the achievement of the sustainable development goals, such as governance, corruption, climate change, green economy, employment and regional disparities. It identifies 4 global goals, 36 targets and 54 indicators. These are compared with programming priorities and matrices defined through a consultative approach in other subregions.

Lastly, the report identifies a certain number of risks which could undermine attainment of the goals and makes recommendations to prevent the failure of such an exercise. These recommendations include: (i) strengthening national data production and analysis systems; (ii) capacity-building to ensure greater ownership of the sustainable development goals and the systemic approach underpinning them; (iii) conduct of training and information campaigns on the green economy (sustainable development approach, principles, tools and benefits); (iv) mobilization of financial means, including internally; and (v) stakeholder coordination.

1. Introduction

The Millennium Declaration made at the General Assembly in September 2000 in New York inaugurated the era of the Millennium Development Goals. The eight Goals set out targets that countries have to attain by 2015. Economic, social and environmental indicators are used to measure the progress achieved. During the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg in September 2002, world leaders renewed their commitment to making the Millennium Declaration a reality and adopted an implementation programme that encourages countries to mainstream sustainable development into their decision-making, including measures that promote the consideration of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments as a means of mainstreaming the environment into public policies and the budget planning process.

The 2005 World Summit held in New York served as an opportunity to assess the progress made in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, five years into the process. On that occasion, the international community noted a wide disparity in progress made, despite the significant progress achieved in some countries. While Asia was on track, mainly owing to sustained growth in countries such as China and India, most African countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, could not generate sufficient growth to achieve the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In September 2008, the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly convened a high-level meeting in New York to hold emergency mid-term discussions on the 2015 deadline, progress made and difficulties encountered in the implementation of programmes and strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The meeting called for action to be taken to accelerate the process of achieving the Goals. Processes considered to be slow had yielded unsatisfactory results in some countries and raised fears among the organisers that no African country would be able to achieve all the Goals if key steps were not taken to speed up the process. The meeting led to the adoption of a certain number of commitments and partnerships between countries of the North and developing countries to accelerate achievement of the Goals.

During the next assessment of progress towards achievement of the Goals, at the 2010 Summit, the international community once again sounded the alarm by stressing the need for countries to adopt comprehensive and integrated approaches based on the three dimensions of sustainable development. A global action plan was adopted with a view to achieving the eight Goals by 2015. It was also recognized that, although aid to Africa had increased in recent years, it still fell far short of the commitments made. Hence, countries of the North were urged to honour their commitments vis-à-vis Africa.

The latest report on Africa's progress (ECA, 2013) concludes that, with the deadline of 2015 imminent, major efforts are needed to accelerate progress towards achievement of the Goals. Again, disparities in progress were noted between the regions, countries, goals, indicators and targets. A large number of countries still lagged behind in all the goals. Issues relating to the quality of services provided, especially in the education and health sectors; unequal access to such services; poor economic diversification and insufficient integration of the economy into the global market; and unemployment, especially among young people, continue to feature among the priorities on which special efforts should be focused.

North African countries have made significant progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the areas of health, access to water and poverty reduction. Some countries, such as Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, may achieve most of the Goals by 2015. However, this performance masks significant spatial inequalities. For example, the poverty rate exceeds the threshold of 40 per cent in the Sudan and Mauritania, but is below 5 per cent in Algeria and Libya.¹ Throughout North Africa, it is very likely that the employment-related Goal will be the most difficult to achieve. Indeed, structurally high unemployment, especially among young people and women, is one of the major future challenges of the subregion. North Africa's economic structures are not diversified enough to increase the creation of added value at the national level and thus generate more job opportunities.

1 ECA-Subregional Office for North Africa. 2012. *Analysis of the implications of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) for North Africa*.

As part of the process to prepare this agenda, ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and UNDP organized subregional and regional consultations in Africa. The consultations were held in Accra, Ghana in November 2011, in Mombasa, Kenya, in October 2012, in Dakar, Senegal, in December 2012 and in Hammamet, Tunisia, in March 2013. The main objectives of the Hammamet regional consultations were to define Africa's priorities for the post-2015 development agenda, identify the enablers and critical success factors for this agenda, and align the post-2015 priorities with other development priorities and agendas such as Rio+20 and NEPAD. In the outcome document of the meeting, it was agreed that the post-2015 development agenda would incorporate the outcomes of Rio+20 and Africa-wide initiatives, as well as documents resulting from national and regional consultations and United Nations forums.

- (a) The meeting also agreed that the post-2015 development agenda should:
- (b) Emphasize economic growth and structural transformation;
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- (d) Prioritize equity and social inclusion and measure progress in terms of availability and quality of service delivery;
- (e) Pay greater attention to vulnerable groups such as women, children, young people, the elderly, people with disabilities and displaced persons;
- (f) Focus on development enablers and development outcomes, especially structural economic transformation and inclusive growth, innovation and technology transfer, human development, financing and partnerships.

The objectives of Rio+20 were to secure a renewed political commitment to sustainable development, assess the progress made and the difficulties encountered in implementing Agenda 21 (Rio 92) of the 2002 Johannesburg action plan and identify emerging challenges. Rio+20 concluded with a declaration entitled "The future we want",² a roadmap for better addressing sustainable development challenges. Two major themes were discussed: the green economy in a context of sustainable development and poverty eradication; and the institutional framework for implementing sustainable development policies. During Rio+20, countries attempted to provide solutions to the difficulties encountered in achieving some of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals. They agreed that significant progress had already been made, particularly with regard to reducing poverty at the global level, providing access to drinking water and raising public awareness about environmental issues. Rio+20 also served as an opportunity to indicate that the major differences already highlighted in the world were becoming more alarming, with nearly 1.4 billion³ people still living in extreme poverty and more than 15 per cent of the world's population suffering from malnutrition. Shortcomings in implementing cooperation policies and partnerships were also highlighted.

The important agreements that emerged from Rio+20 included the need to develop targeted and specific sustainable development goals, taking into account the priorities, specificities and capacities of each country. Sustainable development goals are intended to be universal goals applicable to all countries, in addition to the Millennium Development Goals. They should be consistent with and integrated into the post-2015 development agenda, take into account the strengths and weaknesses encountered in the implementation of Millennium Development Goals, and integrate the linkages between the three dimensions of sustainable development.

² The Rio+20 outcome document, June 2012.

³ Note of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, June 2012.

To implement this commitment on the development of sustainable development goals, the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly decided to create a working group whose membership remains open. Four countries of the subregion (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia) are members of the group. The group began its work in March 2013 and submitted its proposals to the sixty-eighth session of the Assembly in 2013. At Rio+20, a document entitled “The future we want” was adopted and subsequently approved by the General Assembly. The document gave new impetus to the monitoring and implementation of the commitments agreed upon at the Conference, including the preparation of sustainable development goals. These goals would be used to pursue targeted and coherent action on worldwide sustainable development by integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.

As part of efforts to monitor the Rio+20 outcomes, ECA, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs organized a regional implementation meeting for Africa in November 2012. That meeting reaffirmed the principles on which the sustainable development goals are founded and identified broad priority areas for Africa (see below). The participants also called on the international community to provide Africa with adequate support to help it to establish an efficient, broad-based, bottom-up consultative process in order to develop the goals, indicators and targets that would underpin the sustainable development goals. The broad priority areas identified were:

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- (h) Curb vulnerability and boost resilience, including to the effects of climate change;
- (i) Create decent employment opportunities;
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- (n) Promote sustainable water resource management;
- (o) Facilitate access to, and transfer of, environmentally-friendly technologies, including for climate change adaptation and mitigation;
- (p) Promote peace and security.

1.1 *The present report*

The present report falls within the framework of Africa's consultations on the post-2015 development agenda and the post-Rio+20 follow-up process, to help African countries to engage effectively in the global process on sustainable development goals and ensure that the continent's sustainable development priorities are duly reflected in a global agreement. Five subregional reports, including the current report, and a regional report for Africa, were prepared and presented at the African Regional Consultative Meeting on sustainable development goals organized by ECA, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank from 31 October to 5 November 2013. The meeting adopted a technical outcome document to be considered by Africa's high-level committee on the post-2015 development agenda.

The current report, which is the contribution of the North African region to this process, is organized as follows:

Chapter 2	Sustainable development priorities of the subregion
Chapter 3	Analysis and alignment of priorities by sector and by theme
Chapter 4	Sustainable development goals, targets and indicators
Chapter 5	Conclusions and recommendations on ownership and operationalization of the sustainable development goals in the subregion

2. Sustainable development priorities of the subregion

Most of the countries in the North African subregion are currently focusing on mainstreaming the sustainable development goals and principles into their development policies and programmes. This is evident in international commitments (signature and ratification of sustainable development protocols and conventions), institutional decisions (establishment of ministries and agencies dedicated to sustainable development) and statutory reforms (adaptation of the legal arsenal of environmental requirements) and the development and implementation of targeted strategies, programmes and projects. The level of progress achieved varies with the political, economic and social constraints in each country; the extent to which all stakeholders take ownership of the issues; and political will.

Sustainable development priorities were identified by analysing the relevant challenges in the various countries of the subregion. The process took into account both the progress made by these countries since Rio+20, and the constraints and difficulties encountered.

The priorities are set out according to the various sustainable development pillars that articulate the policies and programmes implemented. They are also determined based on some emerging challenges currently faced by the countries of the subregion. A brief description of the economic, social and environmental contexts is proposed to support the analysis.

2.1 *Economic priorities*

2.1.1 **Economic context**

The current economic dynamism of the subregion is driven by a number of key sectors such as agriculture, mining, oil and tourism. An average economic growth rate of 5 per cent was achieved from 2000 to 2012, although there was a significant decline to almost zero growth (0.5 per cent) in 2011, and a slight improvement in 2012 (2.3 per cent). Most countries in the subregion recorded a large current account deficit, including trade deficits stemming from a decline in production and in exports of goods and services, as well as a sharp drop in foreign direct investment (FDI). Although FDI declined in 2011 (by nearly 42 per cent), it grew in 2012 thanks to the funding of major infrastructure projects, which had been suspended because of the prevailing political situation, particularly in Egypt and Libya. There are still wide disparities between the countries in terms of economic performance, implementation of economic and political reforms and openness. The fact that some countries, including Mauritania and the Sudan, still lag behind in terms of infrastructure development is detrimental not only to their own economic development but also to that of the entire subregion. Table 1 presents the main economic indicators of the subregion.

2.1.2 **Major constraints**

Development policies and strategies implemented at the subregional level are promoting economic growth and good governance. These goals focus on developing certain key assets of the subregion, namely the great diversity of natural resources, the existence of solid physical infrastructure, homogenous geographical and cultural spaces and significant human resources. Analysis of the implementation of these policies reveals the factors which undermine economic policies. These factors are analysed in order to identify future priorities for action.

2.1.2.1 Economies vulnerable to the vagaries of climate

The vagaries of climate cause a steady degradation of the vegetation and consequently a decline in productivity. Hence, the economies become dependent on highly vulnerable natural resources. These factors account for the poor yields in the agricultural sector and contribute to food insecurity, uncertainty and the dependence of North African countries on world commodity prices. The agricultural sector plays an important role in their economies (30 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in the Sudan and, on average, 10 per cent of GDP in other countries, except for Libya and Mauritania, where it is less than 4 per cent). Furthermore, agricultural development cannot be dissociated from water resource management (over 80 per cent of water in the subregion is used for farming) and the relevant public policy choices made in this area. The subregion is also heavily dependent on world imports, estimated at an average 59 per cent (for 2012, see table 1), which could lead to catastrophic food insecurity (certain items out of stock, no control over world prices, etc.).

North Africa is plagued by one of the highest water deficits in the world (water availability below 1,000 m³/year); desertification, which affects about 85 per cent of the land – land that is already increasingly threatened by erosion and salinization; predominantly rain-fed agriculture that is highly sensitive to climatic conditions; and a growing concentration of the population and economic activities in coastal areas. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, North Africa is the second most vulnerable region in the world with regard to climate risks. Certain cities, especially along the coast, are exposed to natural disasters, particularly Tunis, Casablanca, Cairo and Nouakchott.

Policy reforms and significant investments must be made to help the subregion adapt to climate change and boost community and ecosystem resilience to natural disasters.

2.1.2.2 Economies highly dependent on natural resources

North Africa's economy is highly dependent on natural resource exploitation and remains undiversified. Algeria and Mauritania are a case in point. The oil sector in Algeria accounts for 98 per cent of total exports⁴ and 70 per cent of budget revenue (US\$ 71.4 billion). Between 2011 and 2012, the country recorded a very low volume of non-oil exports, worth US\$ 500 million. The report of the Central Bank of Algeria (2012) highlighted the weak external competitiveness of the national economy; it is still dependent on imports, particularly goods, which grew by 3.5 per cent, or US\$ 23.9 billion, from 2011 to 2012. Similarly, foreign direct investment figures are not satisfactory since FDI plummeted by 42 per cent, from US\$ 2.57 billion in 2011 to US\$1.48 billion in 2012.

In Mauritania, exports remain highly concentrated on a very limited number of products (minerals, fish, oil and, to a lesser extent, cattle), thus aggravating the vulnerability of the economy. Primary and extractive activities in 2012 generated almost 45 per cent of GDP. Not much progress has been made in the diversification of trade with neighbours. Mauritania does not conduct enough trade with sub-Saharan Africa (unlike Senegal) or with Arab countries (unlike Egypt). The volume of FDI increased between 2011 and 2012, from US\$ 60 million to over US\$ 80 million, which is significant, relative to GDP, but remains far short of the US\$ 814 million recorded in 2005.

North Africa is also heavily dependent on exports of primary products and consequently is unable to create sustainable jobs. Although its industrial development is the most efficient in the African region, it remains limited. Moreover, it seems to be suffering the effects of a difficult world economic situation. Indeed, the contribution of manufacturing to subregional GDP, estimated at approximately 13 per cent,⁵ has not evolved much over the past 20 years. This figure masks certain disparities between countries: Algeria, Libya, Mauritania and the Sudan recorded 6 to 8 per cent, while the average for Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia is about 17 per cent.⁶ Countries should make an effort to diversify their production

⁴ For 2011.

⁵ ECA, 2013. *Regional integration and development of intra-regional trade in North Africa: What trade potential?*

⁶ ECA and AU. 2013 *economic report on Africa*.

systems and create processing industries for their primary products. To that end, the countries of the subregion have real opportunities, given the huge supply of raw materials which abound in the region and the opportunities for industrialization and creation of value-added from such natural resources. The development of renewable energy, through proactive policies such as those implemented in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, and more recently in Mauritania, is one example of the development of the region's huge potential. The agricultural potential of the Sudan and the mining potential of Mauritania could be developed to generate significant value.

To create favourable conditions for inclusive growth, the countries of the subregion should not only aim to become manufacturing economies driven by sectors with high growth and decent job-creating potential, but also achieve targeted economic diversification to meet current and future needs, including greater integration of new technologies to modernize production processes.

Lastly, there is a need to speed up export diversification (exports rallied significantly in 2012) and stimulate investment by creating an enabling business environment, especially for the private sector. The investment rate of the subregion, which is approximately 15 per cent of GDP, is below the rates recorded by some emerging countries, especially those in South-East Asia, which exceed 30 per cent of GDP.

2.1.2.3 Insufficient economic growth to generate employment

The economic growth of the subregion is not enough to generate employment. After rising rapidly from 1960 to 1980, growth and employment began to stagnate in most North African countries. From 1980 to 2012, the region's average annual per capita growth was only 0.5 per cent.

Growth forecasts for 2013 are expected to average around 4.2 per cent, and to accelerate to 4.6 per cent in 2014 as the political environment normalizes and economic activity resumes.⁷ The economy of Libya, which has experienced wide fluctuations, should recover enough to return to its pre-crisis level. Algeria, Mauritania and the Sudan will have better agricultural yields.⁶

Economic growth and job creation are constrained by poor results in national production, particularly in the creation of value-added, and by the limited nature or even lack of strategies governing the redistribution of wealth (generated from natural resources). Consequently, the various Governments of the subregion must reform their economic policies in order to promote more inclusive, job-creating and income-generating growth. This will enable the entire region to enjoy lasting political stability.

High youth unemployment remains a concern for the subregion. To reduce the unemployment rate among all age groups, there is a need to initiate structural reforms in the labour market by focusing on a deliberate policy to create jobs for young people and women, the revival of confidence in the market, inclusive growth, the replenishment of foreign exchange reserves and maintenance of political and social stability.

7 IMF. *World economic outlook*. April 2013.

Table 1

Presentation of key economic information (ECA, 2013)

	GDP 2012 2013 (%)	Inflation 2012 2013 (%)	Foreign exchange reserves (US\$ billion) – import months	Budget deficit (% of GDP) – 2012	FDI – ranking 2013 (2012)	Obstacles to investment	Dependence on cereal imports (2012) %	Subsidies on essential goods – 2012 % of GDP	Dependence on natural resources	Outlook / Reforms
Algeria	2.5 4	8.9 8	190 39	4	152 (150)	Transfer of property/ Payment of taxes/ Connection to the electric power grid	30	1,1	Oil and gas (72% of budget revenue)	Diversification (agriculture – agro-food industry, industry and tourism, construction sector) Inclusive growth
Egypt	2 3	8 7.5	15 3	11	109(110)	Building permit/ contract execution	52	10	Moderate dependence (gas, agriculture, tourism)	FDI/ improvement of the investment climate Rallying of the currency Revival of growth
Libya	106 7.5	8 5	Not determined	Nil	Not ranked	Limited openings foreign investors	78	-----	High Oil and gas (70% of GDP)	Diversification of the economy (agriculture, industry...) Consolidation of infrastructure and the private sector
Morocco	2.4 4.3	2.1 2.6	12 3.5	6	97 (93)	Transfer of property	40	3	Moderate dependence (services, agriculture, tourism)	Modernization and extension of basic services Inclusive growth
Mauritania	4.2 5.3	2.1 6	0.6 3.6	6.1%	167 (164)	Taxes/Loans/ Business creation/ Insolvency	90	4.6	High dependence on mining (iron, copper and gold) – 27 per cent of GDP and 52 per cent of budget revenue	FDI/improvement of the investment climate Inclusive growth

	GDP 2012 2013 (%)	Inflation 2012 2013 (%)	Foreign exchange reserves (US\$ billion) – import months	Budget deficit (% of GDP) - 2012	FDI – ranking 2013 (2012)	Obstacles to investment	Dependence on cereal imports (2012) %	Subsidies on essential goods - 2012 % of GDP	Dependence on natural resources	Outlook / Reforms
Sudan	2 1.8	20 15	-----	5	143 (140)	Getting loans/ investor protection / granting of building permits	60	-----	Moderate (agriculture, stockbreeding)	Diversification of the economy Modernization of the private sector FDI Eliminate regional disparities Inclusive growth
Tunisia	3.6 4.5	4.4 5.6	0.52 3.5	4.8	50 (45)	Good investment climate	64	5	Low (services, agriculture, tourism, ICTs...)	Resumption of inclusive growth Containment of inflation Consolidation of the Investment Promotion Agency

2.2 Social priorities

2.2.1 Social context

The unemployment rate averaged around 12 per cent over the past two decades, representing a threshold rarely attained in the world. In 2012, the unemployment rate in Egypt, Morocco, the Sudan and Tunisia ranged from 10 to 20 per cent, whereas it was around 32 per cent in Mauritania. In 2013, this upward trend is expected to continue despite the predicted resumption of growth in the subregion. This rate stems primarily from high youth unemployment. Indeed, 90 per cent of the unemployed are aged 15 to 29 and the unemployment rate for this age group was estimated at 28 per cent in 2012. In comparison, the global unemployment rate for young people in the same age group was approximately 13 per cent in 2012. Finally, unemployment particularly affects young graduates. Furthermore, there are real disparities between various social groups and geographical areas of the same country (provinces, rural and urban areas, etc.). This is the case for all the countries as regards disparities between provinces, in development between urban and rural areas and in gender equality.

The report on the state of food insecurity in the world (FAO, 2012) indicates that North Africa has about 4 million undernourished individuals, representing 2.7 per cent the general population⁸. The FAO report notes an increase in obesity in all countries of the subregion, with prevalence rates of 10 to 20 per cent in Morocco, Mauritania, the Sudan and Algeria; 20 to 30 per cent in Tunisia, and over 30 per cent in Egypt and Libya. Table 2 presents the main social indicators in the subregion.

2.2.2 Major constraints

Despite a particularly difficult global economic environment, the Governments of North African countries are currently trying to meet the expectations of their peoples, which were strongly expressed during the Arab Spring of 2011. These expectations relate to the improvement of democratic processes and the reduction of inequality and unemployment, especially among young people. To tackle these challenges, major social priorities must now be defined to ease social tensions and improve living conditions in the subregion through sustainable development.

Analysis of the social policies implemented gives rise to the following observations.

2.2.2.1 Disturbing unemployment rate, particularly among young people

High unemployment is a major obstacle to North Africa's development, and particularly affects young people, women and graduates. Despite the huge investments made, the current education system of North African countries does not provide the skills needed by the labour market. This situation hampers sustainable growth and employment, and promotes the development of an informal market. Safety nets in this area remain weak and most workers have no social protection.

According to the 2012 report of the International Labour Organization,⁹ employment in the subregion is characterized by an increase in "vulnerable jobs" within the informal sector. These jobs are generally characterized by informal arrangements that deprive workers of social protection, low wages and difficult working conditions that could adversely affect the fundamental rights of workers.

⁸ This figure has remained unchanged since 2007, in contrast to sub-Saharan Africa, where it spiralled from 216 to 234 million undernourished persons, representing 26.8 per cent of the region's population. In developed countries, the percentage of undernourished persons inched up from 1.3 per cent in 2007 to 1.4 per cent in 2012.

⁹ International Labour Organization. *Global Employment Trends 2012*.

The progress made by the subregion in achieving the health-related and education-related Millennium Development Goals has resulted in longer life expectancy, thereby generating a significant increase in the elderly population in the medium and long term. The result has been more significant medical and social coverage for countries of the subregion.

The population growth within the subregion in recent decades has fuelled an increase in the youth population (the 15-29 years age group has grown by 50 per cent over the past 20 years), and as a result young people are having difficulties finding employment in the current economic climate. This situation poses risks of social destabilization and entrenchment of youth marginalization (petty crime, illegal immigration, religious extremism, etc.) within the subregion.

This problem can be solved through far-reaching reform of the education system, in order to adapt it to the realities of the current labour market (job-relevant training). Social and regional inequalities should also be considered in order to provide better employment opportunities for young people and propose a sustainable social protection system that takes into account the aging process of the population.

2.2.2.2 Threatening food insecurity

North African countries remain heavily dependent on cereal imports and climatic factors for the regular supply of their staple foods. Such dependence makes them vulnerable to shocks resulting from food price fluctuations on the international market. Food prices have been rising steadily for more than 10 years. Hence, food security is a strategic priority challenge and an important factor of social, political and fiscal stability.

The specialized Arab Maghreb Union (AMU) ministerial committee on food security has emphasized the need to strengthen trade in agricultural products in order to achieve subregional food security and to address challenges in certain sectors and areas that are closely linked to food security, namely sustainable water management, the establishment of a common price stabilization policy and the strengthening of production systems.

Agriculture has great potential to ensure poverty reduction and food security. Major efforts in this area could become the key lever of inclusive economic growth, particularly in countries with widespread rural poverty (Egypt, Mauritania and the Sudan).

Addressing this challenge requires the implementation of integrated approaches to natural resource management (water, soil, vegetation, etc.), and strengthening of the resilience of production systems and of communities vulnerable to climate change.

This move must be accompanied by policies to control the factors of production (primary and industrial processing/development), namely, rational water use, access to clean and sustainable energy, technology transfer and capacity-building for farmers.

2.2.2.3 Wide regional and gender disparities

North African countries have made significant progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, particularly in the areas of health, access to water or poverty reduction. Some countries (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia) will likely achieve many of the Goals by 2015. However, their performance masks significant regional disparities (poverty rate ranging from 42 per cent in Mauritania to less than 1 per cent in Algeria). The human development index (HDI) ranges from 0.795 in Libya (64th in the world) to 0.402 in the Sudan (169th).

Disparities exist not only between countries but also between various regions of the same country, with regard to economic development, food security, access to basic health services, water, energy and sanitation. Discrimination against women in terms of wages, employment and decision-making are major concerns

raised by civil society and regularly highlighted by the country's technical and financial partners. The situation of women in the countries of the subregion is disturbing since the region's overall unemployment rate in 2012 was about 18 per cent for women compared to 9 per cent for men. The unemployment rate for young women was estimated at almost 42 per cent (in 2012), and the number of women part of the workforce at 28 per cent, which is very low compared to other regions of the world. However, progress has been made in female representation in parliament. In 2011, this percentage was seven times higher than in 1990. The factors which account for this situation included affirmative action measures such as legal frameworks that guarantee seats for women in politics.

Furthermore, the subregion is subjected to growing urbanization pressure. Coastal cities are experiencing unprecedented human settlement, which has disastrous economic (poverty), social (unemployment) and environmental (pollution) consequences. Given such poorly controlled urbanization, access to basic social services poses considerable challenges to Governments. Meeting water and energy demands will be particularly difficult in a region where these two resources are hugely constrained. The rapid urban population growth in coastal areas increases the potential risks of natural disasters and further complicates the process of adapting to climate change in these areas. Anticipating the future, increasing funding and adapting to climate change would enable countries in the subregion to better meet these challenges.

Table 2

Main social indicators

	Unemployment rate (%), 2012	Poverty rate (%), 2012	HDI ranking, 2012	Health sector expenditure (% GDP), 2010	Education expenditure (% of GDP), 2012
Algeria	10	5	0.713 (high) – 93 th	3.6	4.6
Egypt	13	26	0.662 (average) – 130 th	2.4	3.8
Libya	30	< 1	0.769 (high) – 64 th	1.9	NA
Morocco	9	28	0.591 (average) – 130 th	1.7	5.4
Mauritania	31.2	42	0.467 (low)	1.6	4.4
Sudan	13	46.6	0.414 (low) – 171 st	1.3	6
Tunisia	16	18	0.712 (high) – 93 rd	3	6.3

Source: ECA (2013)

2.3 Environmental priorities

2.3.1 Environmental context

The severity and urgency of environmental issues and lack of coordination at the subregional level have led to limited performance in environmental governance, which varies greatly from country to country. The environmental performance index (2012), prepared by the World Economic Forum and Yale University, ranks Egypt 60th, Algeria 86th, Tunisia 99th, the Sudan 104th, Morocco 105th and Libya 123rd out of the 132 countries listed. Mauritania is not included in this recent ranking due to lack of data. However, this country has hitherto recorded poor performance in environmental governance: in 2010 it was ranked 161st out of 163 countries. All of the countries with the exception of Libya and the Sudan have signed and ratified the Kyoto Protocol and have already produced and submitted their first and second national reports (ECA, 2013).

North Africa is plagued with one of the highest water deficits in the world (water availability below 1000 m³/year); desertification, which affects about 85 per cent of the land – land that is already increasingly threatened by erosion and salinization; predominantly rain-fed agriculture that is highly sensitive to climatic changes, and a growing concentration of people and economic activities in coastal areas. Considering all these factors, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has described North Africa as one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change.

The cost of environmental degradation ranges from 2 to 5 per cent of GDP in Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia, and an estimated 17 per cent of GDP in Mauritania. Based on this criterion, Tunisia has the best performance. The estimated cost in Mauritania, though much higher than in other countries, is of the same magnitude as the costs recorded by Sahelian countries such as Mali, Senegal and Burkina Faso. Table 3 presents the main economic indicators of the subregion.

2.3.2 Main constraints

The countries of the subregion share certain similar environmental issues: desertification; water scarcity; degradation of land, forests and pastureland; pressures on the marine environment; climate change; and industrial, urban and agricultural pollution. Although all these issues are currently not given full consideration at the subregional level, tackling them remains a major regional integration challenge. To highlight the importance of these issues and tackle the environmental challenges, all the countries are implementing appropriate strategies and policies in accordance with national priorities and the provisions of various environmental agreements and major multilateral instruments to which they are party. A review of these policies reveals a certain number of major constraints that countries have to address in order to curb current trends and promote environmental and natural resource preservation to ensure the sustainable development of the subregion.

2.3.2.1 Steady natural resource degradation

North Africa is comprised of coastal plains, mountain ranges and plateaux. Its surface area is mostly covered by desert formations. The region is predominantly semi-arid to arid, with a climate that is a combination of maritime influences in the north, east (Mediterranean Sea) and west (Atlantic Ocean) and Saharan influences in the south. There is little arable land, whose surface area ranges from 1 per cent (Libya) to 18.2 per cent (Tunisia) of the national territory. Overall, North Africa receives only 7 per cent of the total rainfall on the African continent. Moreover, this rainfall is unevenly distributed between and within countries.¹⁰

The subregion is hard-hit by the effects of desertification (85 per cent of the land), which destroys the biological potential of land, causing water scarcity, a decline in land productivity, loss of biodiversity and deterioration of the quality of life. Potential farmland (15 per cent of the subregion's total surface area) is threatened by erosion, salinization and unsustainable farming practices. Although these problems are shared within a common geographical area and an economic zone which is under construction, the various countries implement their own national policies to combat these phenomena, without consulting one other. Soil and forest degradation undermines food security efforts and threatens the living conditions of future generations. It also has a direct impact on migration, which could exacerbate social pressures on land.

North Africa has no major permanent rivers apart from those in Mauritania (Senegal River) and the Sudan and Egypt (the Nile). As a result, the subregion has opted for irrigation using aquifers and hydraulic structures. However, problems relating to the sustainability of these aquifers, which often lie across national borders; growing demand; and potential conflicts resulting from uncoordinated water resource management remain major concerns that must be factored into any subregional water resource mobilization strategy.

¹⁰ EU, 2012. Great Green Wall: Initiatives and Programmes in North Africa. OSS-FAO Agreement.

Oases, which are the economic pillars of the subregion and models of sustainable development built by humans over the centuries, are now at risk due to climate change, and especially its impact on water resource availability; geographical isolation; difficult access to markets; and the evolution of consumption patterns towards manufactured products to the detriment of local products. Furthermore, the region has a biodiversity which is important for the world heritage and the balance of ecosystems. According to the United Nations Environment Programme,¹¹ 870 plant species are classified as rare, threatened or endemic in North Africa. Lastly, fishery resources, which are significant in countries such as Mauritania and Morocco, are overfished for certain varieties, including sardine and octopus.

To reverse this trend, it is important to adopt new sustainable modes of production and consumption as well as integrated natural resource management that effectively involves all local stakeholders.

2.3.2.2 Energy insecurity and an underdeveloped renewable energy potential

The energy demand of all countries is rising steadily (6 to 8 per cent annually). Furthermore, this demand is covered by subsidized fossil fuels. The ultimate depletion of fossil energy sources and the implications of the sustainable development programme in terms of the reduction of carbon emissions¹² place energy issues at the very centre of the subregion's environmental challenges.

Yet the subregion has a significant renewable energy potential that could satisfy almost all demand in the medium and long terms, but which remains poorly developed. To ensure their energy security, North African countries have decided to significantly increase the share of renewable energy in their energy mix. Some countries, including Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and, more recently, Mauritania, have made substantial investments.¹³

The development of this renewable energy potential is hampered by financing and profitability difficulties. The challenge remains that of energy efficiency, which is considered to be the most profitable basis for developing energy services. Meeting this challenge requires mobilization of the necessary funding and promotion of technology transfer, by strengthening exchange networks and partnerships between member States and optimizing cross-border interconnection infrastructure networks.

In this context, actions should be taken at the subregional level, namely: (i) the gradual harmonization of network regulations and codes; (ii) the formulation of a regional strategy for capacity-building and knowledge transfer; (iii) the formulation of a subregional renewable energy strategy that promotes the emergence of regional industrial clusters; and (iv) the development of unifying regional programs, particularly in the field of scientific research, focused on renewable energies.

2.3.2.3 Uncontrolled climatic changes

The subregion is currently ranked among the areas most vulnerable to climate change. In the short-term, climate change could affect the lives of the people in this subregion (productivity losses, declining farm incomes, migration, etc.) and contribute to natural resource depletion. Steadily rising greenhouse gas emissions,¹¹ changes in rainfall and temperature, the risk of rising sea levels (Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia) and the increase in extreme weather events are currently the many visible signs and challenges faced by this region. The investments needed to reverse or halt this trend, through adaptation or mitigation of the effects of climate change will be particularly heavy and unbearable for the States if emergency policies are not implemented in this area. A sustainable solution requires integrated management of natural resources (soil, water and forests) through coherent and concerted policies at the subregional level as well as regional and international partnerships focused on adaptation and mitigation of the effects of climate change.

11 United Nations Environment Programme, 2013. Bio diversity losses due to cropland expansion in tropical countries.

12 The subregions average CO₂ emissions, calculated over the last 30 years, are approximately 2.1 metric tonnes per capita. They vary considerably from country to country and range from a maximum of 8 metric tonnes per capita in Libya to 0.2 metric tonnes per capita in the Sudan.

13 ECA, 2012. *The renewable energies sector in North Africa*.

Table 3

Main environmental indicators by country

	Annual average deforestation (2000-2010)	Protected areas % of national territory 2010)	Renewable freshwater resources (m ³ per capita) 2010 domestic total	Access to drinking water (% of population) 2010	Access to sanitation (% of population) 2010	Annual growth of urban population (1990-2011)	CO ₂ emissions (millions of metric tonnes) 2010	Energy use (kg of oil equivalent per capita) 2010	Electricity production (kw/hour) 2010
Algeria	0.57	6.2	313 < 1000	83	95	2.6	121.3	1.138	45.6
Egypt	-1.73	6.1	22 < 1000	99	95	2.1	216.1	903	146.8
Libya	0.00	0.1	109 < 1000	ND	97	1.3	62.9	3	31.6
Morocco	-0.23	1.5	899 < 1000	83	70	1.6	48.8	517	22.3
Mauritania	2.66	1.1	153 3000	62	26	3	2.1	ND	ND
Sudan	0.08	4.2	672 2000	58	26	2.6	14.3	371	7.8
Tunisia	-1.86	1.3	393 < 1000	94	85	1.5	25.2	913	16.1

Source: ECA (2013)

For example, AMU has already made strategic policy choices pertaining to the vulnerability of the subregion and its need to adapt to climate change. These are to: (i) initiate large-scale community awareness and education programmes on climate change and the use of available technical means to enhance adaptation; (ii) design projects aimed at transferring to the countries of the subregion technologies which adapt their actions to the region's new climatic context and create financial mechanisms to promote such transfer of technology (UMA-Japan cooperation action has been identified in this area); (iii) establish permanent structures in the subregion to ensure the sustainable management of climate change issues (in this regard, AMU proposed the creation of the Maghreb Early Warning Drought Observatory).

2.4 Crosscutting priorities

2.4.1 Balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development

The poor integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development has significant consequences for the effectiveness of poverty reduction policies. Ecosystem assessment through functions, goods and services, such as those that have been implemented on specific ecosystems (wetlands) in Mauritania,¹⁴ shows that there is a direct relationship between the health of the environment (ecosystems) and economic and social well-being, and concludes that efforts to reduce poverty and improve community well-being would not succeed if nothing is done to stop environmental degradation. In essence, the goods and services which stimulate economies and bind social systems are largely derived from healthy environments. Such approaches make it possible to propose governance options which rely on sustainable ecosystem management to ensure local and national development.

To promote sustainable development, it is important to bear in mind the fundamental principle that environmental sustainability, economic development and social well-being are complementary goals. In reality, the relevance of the environment to the other two pillars of sustainable development is not yet sufficiently recognized in major decision-making processes. Five principles must be considered to ensure the success of this holistic vision, namely: (i) the political will of all countries; (ii) definition of a coherent crosscutting action framework; (iii) capacity-building in the areas of monitoring and implementation; (iv) elimination of institutional and legal bottlenecks; and (v) the establishment of a permanent framework for evaluating results and efforts made to ensure policy coherence.

To that end, the following recommendations can be made:

- Develop information systems and articulated governance indicators that combine the three dimensions;
- Promote integrated ecosystem assessments;
- Involve all social, economic and environmental stakeholders in the decision-making process at subregional, national and local levels;
- Develop guidelines for integrating the three dimensions in various sectors of activity;
- Promote socially responsible and environmentally-friendly investments;
- Develop a common reference framework for the 7 countries of the subregion;
- Promote synergies between multilateral agreements on the environment and determine the operational elements which will guide the establishment of such synergies;
- Establish a closer link between the development of sustainable development policies and budget planning processes.

14 APE, UNDP-UNEP, 2010. *Integrated Assessments of Productive Wetland Ecosystems in Mauritania*.

2.4.2 Promoting a green economy

The countries of the subregion are now aware of the ineffectiveness of current growth trajectories. Most of them have declared their determination to promote green and inclusive growth. However, they remain confident that the current trend can only be reversed through heavy investments and profound social changes. Such a transition implies that economic analysis should also add natural capital and ecosystem services to GDP when reckoning national wealth.

The real challenge for North African countries is to transform green economies into engines of sustainable growth and development. The implementation of this vision presupposes: (i) mainstreaming the principles of inclusive green growth into existing policies, programmes and development plans at the national and local sectoral levels; (ii) involving all civil society and private sector stakeholders in the pursuit of the main goal of poverty eradication and promotion of food security. Efforts should be made at the local, national and subregional levels; (iii) urging developed countries and the international community to honour commitments on financing, capacity-building as well as transfer and development of humane and environmentally-friendly technologies; (iv) strengthen existing partnerships and develop new technical and financial partnerships at the global, regional and subregional levels to ensure the effective mainstreaming of green and inclusive growth into development models; and (v) adapt institutional frameworks in order to improve the handling of emerging challenges (green growth, sustainable modes of consumption and production, climate change).

For the transition to succeed, countries of the subregion will also have to make smart investments that prevent any additional future costs. These include investments in infrastructure, energy and sustainable urban areas; better management of natural resources, including land, forests and minerals; boosting of economic, social and physical resilience, including resilience to natural disasters and climate change, and the enhancement of food security.

2.4.3 Mobilization of financial resources

Despite the economic and social progress made, the countries of the subregion continue to face many challenges, such as improving their productivity, diversifying their economies, increasing and accelerating exports, improving the quality of education and tailoring it to the needs of the productive sectors, developing social services and covering their financing needs. However, one major constraint remains inadequate means to finance economic activity. Some promising sectors are currently difficult to develop for want of suitable and sufficient funding. This is the case, for example, with renewable energy.

In most countries of the subregion, funding priorities are often expressed in terms of mobilization of domestic funding. Recourse to external financing, as a supplement to domestic sources, focuses more on private resources from the rest of the world than on official development assistance. Indeed, it is estimated that the share of ODA in subregional financing is only 4 per cent.¹⁵ The capacity to mobilize domestic financing will depend on the degree of involvement of all development stakeholders, banking system participation, and the sustainability of established credit instruments.

Given the magnitude of the global economic crisis and the new challenges currently faced by developing countries, North African countries ought to explore innovative ways of securing funding sources. The subregion's private sector could be a key player in financing sustainable development in the region. To that end, it must become more involved in the development of instruments and opportunities at the national and international levels. Public-private partnerships could play an important role, particularly by contributing to the mobilization of clean technologies.

¹⁵ ECA, 2011. Mobilise resources to finance development in North Africa.

The funding mobilization strategy should also explore the potential for subregional cooperation, which has hitherto been underutilized, mainly by adopting subregional sectoral policies. A win-win partnership among countries of the subregion can be considered, characterized particularly by the involvement of countries with substantial liquidity, such as Algeria and Libya. The counterpart contribution of beneficiary countries could take the form of economic facilities such as investment, imports or transfer of skills and technology. On that basis, mutual funds could be developed with the domestic resources of the subregion and used to finance sustainable development best practices identified in the various countries.

South-South cooperation, especially between North Africa and Arab countries, must also be pursued. Indeed, the geographical and cultural proximity of North Africa to the Middle East is definitely an asset for promoting successful financial cooperation.

It will also be necessary to explore the funding opportunities offered by the three major environmental conventions: the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Convention on Climate Change and the Convention to Combat Desertification. Of the three conventions, the Convention to Combat Desertification has been neglected. Hence, it is important to call for increased implementation of this convention in order to address the challenges faced by this subregion which is 75 per cent desert. In this regard, it should be noted that the countries of the subregion have shown a limited capacity to activate such financial tools. Projects and initiatives funded through mechanisms such as the adaptation fund or the clean development mechanism remain limited to certain countries (mainly Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia). Countries such as Libya, Mauritania and the Sudan are excluded from such initiatives.

As regards climate change, a green climate fund has been created; it is located in the Republic of Korea. The commitments made in Cancun by developed countries were reiterated at the Doha conference. On that occasion, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Denmark, Sweden and the European Commission announced concrete financial contributions for the period up to 2015 totalling approximately US\$ 6 billion.

Lastly, North Africa should be able to benefit from voluntary pledges, estimated at nearly US\$ 500 billion. The commitments made during Rio+20 cover the following ten areas:

- (1) Poverty eradication: these are essentially funds to support the development and implementation of acceleration plans for the Millennium Development Goals;
- (2) Biodiversity, forests and fragile ecosystems: over US\$ 61 billion;
- (3) Water: over US\$ 4 million;
- (4) Sustainable energy: preferential channelling of funds to Africa in general and North Africa in particular;
- (5) Climate change: the amounts that can cover North Africa may not be very significant given the limited geographical coverage proposed (other African countries have already been proposed);
- (6) Sustainable development monitoring systems (indicators): estimated at US\$ 10 million, these funds are for the post-2015 phase;
- (7) Sustainable development economics: a significant share will be devoted to the promotion of green businesses;
- (8) Sustainable development strategies and policies: financing of actions based on the green economy;
- (9) Oceans and seas: for North Africa, these are mainly efforts aimed at reducing coastal and maritime pollution;
- (10) Awareness-raising and communication on sustainable development.

However, to translate these commitments into concrete action, North African countries should contact the parties operating in the abovementioned areas and define with them the terms of implementation of these commitments. Such actions could be concerted and coordinated as part of a global initiative in which geographically-closer international organizations, including ECA, should play a leading role (mobilizing funds from the parties concerned; supporting the regions concerned; defining roles, responsibilities and schedule; making an inventory of real needs, etc.).

2.4.4 Good governance

Promoting good governance remains one of the major objectives of North African Governments, and is also a strong recommendation made by the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) for all member countries.

Good economic and political governance is essential to promote and preserve development gains. This is one of the basic conditions for effective public policy.

Although economic governance has improved in some countries of the subregion, as evidenced by North Africa's performance in this domain, much remains to be done in terms of political governance. This includes strengthening State institutions to ensure: (i) greater transparency in the management of public affairs; (ii) promotion of free and fair electoral processes; (iii) corruption control; and (iv) improvement of effective public service delivery. These efforts vary from country to country and with the level of progress already achieved in each country.

The events that rocked the subregion in 2011, fuelled by economic and social protests, elicited a favourable response in terms of greater involvement of the civil society and young people in decision-making. This strengthened social responsibility and transparency in governance.

Countries such as Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia have already implemented strategies and established institutions to combat corruption. Meanwhile, Mauritania has adopted an anti-corruption strategy with the support of the United Nations.

In general, all countries should implement measures to promote good governance. It is also necessary to strengthen institutional capacity at national and local levels to ensure the active participation of various stakeholders (including civil society, the private sector, etc.) in the subregion's development process.

2.4.5 Regional integration

Regional integration provides an opportunity for real economic growth because it facilitates the channelling of resource flows from one economic activity to another or from one level of productivity to another. Despite its undeniable advantages, the economic union of the North African subregion has not yet succeeded in terms of economic, social and environmental integration. To date, North African countries have not taken full advantage of the links between them as markets and supply sources. Consequently, they have not achieved their potential gains in terms of economic growth and employment. Trade between countries of the region represents less than 3 per cent of their total volume of trade, which is the lowest level among all regional trade agreements registered with the World Trade Organization.

Strengthening regional integration remains one crucial way of ensuring the sustainable management of the natural resources in this region, which are subjected to enormous pressure. It is also one way of providing effective collective responses to the sustainable development challenges of the entire subregion. Currently, none of the Maghreb economies is sufficiently developed to achieve prosperity on its own. Hence, they will succeed only if they act together. Deeper reflection and a win-win partnership to promote the economic development of the entire region must be initiated to ensure the reciprocal development of each country's assets and potential.

3. Analysis and alignment of priorities by sector and by theme

In the previous chapter, we highlighted the major constraints to sustainable development in North Africa. Some of these constraints are economic, while others are social or environmental. The report also identifies major crosscutting issues which North Africa must tackle in order to achieve sustainable development. Table 4 summarizes the main constraints.

Table 4
Summary of the main constraints identified

Economic constraints	Social constraints	Environmental constraints	Crosscutting constraints
Vulnerability of economies to shocks and weather conditions	Still high unemployment rate, especially among the youth	Steady degradation of natural resources (desertification, decline in biodiversity, etc.)	Limited regional integration
Poor diversification and high dependence of economies on natural resources / sectors (mining, oil, gas, agriculture, livestock, tourism, depending on the country)	Threatening food insecurity and lack of nutritional quality	Water scarcity and poor sanitation, particularly in rural areas	Still insufficient promotion of good governance
Inability of current growth rates to generate employment	Population growth and urban development	Energy insecurity (access, sustainability, etc.) and limited development of renewable energy potential	Poor mobilization of financial resources
Non-inclusive growth	Poverty and limited social protection	Poor control of climate change and pollution	Inadequate promotion of the green economy
Limited industrial development and a lethargic investment climate	Regional disparities (geographical and gender-related)	Insufficient mainstreaming of development principles into public policies	Unbalanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development

In the light of the foregoing, these constraints are formulated as priorities before being matched with the main outcomes of the national consultation processes conducted in some countries in order to draft the post-2015 development agenda.

3.1 *Summary of priorities by area and by topic*

In the previous chapter, a certain number of priorities which could guide the future strategic actions of North African countries were identified. These priorities have been grouped into four intervention pillars (see table 5).

Table 5

Identification of priority intervention pillars

Pillar 1: Green and inclusive economy	Pillar 2: Access to basic social services	Pillar 3: Integrated control of global changes	Pillar 4: Rule of law and effectiveness of public action
Sustainable agriculture and food security	Population growth and urban development	Climate change and disaster risk reduction	Good governance
Inclusive growth, poverty reduction and employment	Youth unemployment and social protection	Desertification and drought	Peace and security of persons, property and territory
Green economy and sustainable development of natural resources	Social inequality, poverty and sustainable livelihoods	Sustainable management of natural resources (soil, water, forests)	Equality and social justice
Investment and private sector development framework	Universal access to quality health care	Energy security and sustainable and clean energy	Mobilization of financial resources
Infrastructure for sustainable economic development	Hygiene and nutritional quality	Preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems	
Industrial development, research and development, and sustainable modes of production	Education and quality technical and vocational training	Pollution and management of chemicals and hazardous waste	
Reduction of regional disparities and territorial approach to sustainable development	Gender and women's empowerment	Universal access to water and sanitation	
Regional integration (trade, trade, cooperation, policy coordination, etc.)	Safety nets and social protection	Mainstreaming of the environment into public policy	

3.2 Thematic and sectoral priorities determined during national consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The consultations were launched in five of the seven countries of the subregion. Four have already been completed (Algeria, Egypt, Morocco and the Sudan) and one is underway in Mauritania. For Tunisia and Libya, it was impossible to obtain information on the implementation status of this process.

During the national consultations conducted in the various countries, the importance of the Millennium Development Goals implementation process was widely discussed. In terms of planning, awareness-raising and the means deployed, this approach led to proper ownership of the issues, at least by some stakeholders (Governments, civil society, experts). The participants at these national consultations welcomed certain benefits of the Millennium Development Goals achievement process. According to participants, standardization of the format and regular production of progress reports by country, subregion, region and globally, facilitated ownership of the exercise.

Despite the relevance of the Goals, certain themes crucial to the achievement of sustainable development were either overlooked or had limited data. These include governance, green economy, social justice and the safety of persons and property.

In monitoring and evaluation, most countries underscored the need to combine qualitative and quantitative indicators so as to better identify targets to be attained and promote a sense of responsibility in implementation.

The lack of local indicators was identified as a major shortcoming responsible for the persistence and even aggravation of the economic, social and environmental disparities between different regions of the same country. Equitable access to basic services and optimal development of the regional economic potential cannot be achieved without defining appropriate indicators at the local level.

A summary of the results of these national consultations on the post-2015 development agenda is presented in table 6.

Table 6

Summary of the priority domains and Themes identified through the national consultation processes

Country	Progress status of national consultations as of June 2013	Priority areas	Priority themes
Algeria	Finalized	Good governance and rule of law	Improved access to quality public services, especially for the most vulnerable persons; Streamlining of administrative procedures, corruption control and better communication between authorities and citizens; Respect for freedoms, better law enforcement and consolidation of justice; Social dialogue and development of consultation forums.
		Housing	Better management of land and the living environment, incentives to build more efficiently, and cost reduction; Greater equity in the distribution of social housing.
		Peace and security	Combat certain social ills (crime, etc.); Awareness-raising for stakeholders involved in this area, promotion of prevention, and synergy between the many stakeholders; Combat terrorism, organized crime and other transnational scourges.
		Employment, especially for the youth and women	More diversified economy; economic growth driven more by the productive sectors, and which is environmentally-friendly and has a high ICT content (income redistribution based on the productivity of labour, driven by agriculture, construction and the knowledge economy); better distribution of the wealth generated; and an education/training system that is efficient and carefully tailored to the economy and to greater territorial equity; Empowerment programmes for women and youth.
		Elimination of environmental degradation factors	Combat desertification and drought; Improve resilience to climate change; Restore degraded ecosystems and ensure biodiversity conservation; Combat pollution.
		Education	Improve education quality and accessibility (especially for persons with special needs and in the most remote areas); Modernization (especially by generalizing ICTs); Eradicate illiteracy; Invest more in vocational training and scientific research in order to boost productivity and workers' incomes; Introduce greater equity in State support; Maintain free education.
		Social cohesion	Solidarity within the family, among communities and among civil society organizations; Institute a culture of social dialogue, listening to others.
		Health and access to care	Increase the supply of care, including specialized care, by further extending the network of care to the most poorly covered areas (the South and isolated areas in particular) and highly fragile communities (through multiplication of appropriate structures); Build the capacity of health services and increase allocated resources (by instituting life-long training and increasing budgets); Introduce greater rationality and transparency in their management.

Country	Progress status of national consultations as of June 2013	Priority areas	Priority themes
Egypt	Finalized	Inclusive economy	Support development initiatives which target the youth, women and children; Reduce regional disparities and increase social spending; Stimulate the economy by restoring investor confidence, creating more jobs and increasing social spending.
		Human security	Take appropriate measures to control youth emigration; Protect Egyptian borders and restore security in the streets by enforcing laws against crime and violence.
		Governance	Promote institutional capacity-building and involve all stakeholders in the design and implementation of economic and social policies (including the youth, women and rural communities); Ensure that sufficient resources are mobilized for monitoring/evaluation and archiving of documents during the implementation of development projects; Ensure that sustainable strategies and programmes are formulated rationally and provided with the human and financial resources needed for their implementation; Develop a code of ethics for civil society; Broaden the dialogue between the Government and the private sector; Open communication channels with all civil society organizations; Promote greater citizen participation in civil society actions and encourage volunteerism; Involve the Egyptian civil society, academia and private sector in the formulation of public policies, including the country's future vision, targets and indicators; Reform the educational system by adapting it to labour market needs.
		Social justice	Promote the rule of law and justice for all; Adopt profound reforms in the education and health sectors to ensure the wellbeing of all citizens; Strengthen social policies by controlling population growth and health through information and awareness-raising campaigns (family planning, reproductive health, birth control...); Include the promotion of human rights and gender equality in the Constitution, in government policies and strategies and in religious establishments.
		Sustainable environment	Support initiatives targeting alternatives to fossil fuels (including renewable energies); Introduce measures to protect the environment, food safety and preservation of water resources for future generations.
Morocco	Finalized	Economic and social rights	Provide quality universal education; Ensure access to quality health services; Guarantee decent employment for every citizen in a context of sustainable economic growth.
		Governance and rule of law	Support the emergence of a responsible political class that guarantees the respect of rights and institutions; Promote women's participation in politics; Promote citizenship values; Effectively combat corruption in order to guarantee the rights of all.
		Sustainable environment	Respect for the environment is primarily a civic value.
		Peace and security	Only peaceful coexistence and international peace can guarantee the safety of persons and communities.
		Coordination and financing of sustainable development	Ensure availability of the financing required for sustainable development; Strengthen the United Nation's role in the coordination sustainable development financing.
		Human rights	Ensure equal rights for all, without any inequalities or disparities.

Country	Progress status of national consultations as of June 2013	Priority areas	Priority themes
Mauritania	Ongoing	Inclusive growth and sustainable livelihoods	Reduce poverty; Reduce unemployment, especially among the youth; Revitalise agriculture and industry; Strengthen the private sector; Combat environmental degradation; Control the impact of climate change, natural risks and disasters; Diversify livelihoods in rural and urban areas; Promote investments in the agricultural and livestock sectors; Provide a social safety net and basic social protection.
the Sudan	Finalized	Peace and governance	Ensure institutional capacity-building for better governance; Support and finalise the decentralization process; Improve the coordination of development aid; Promote the rule of law; Decentralise management, planning and budget allocation; Strengthen civil status and child protection systems; Build stakeholder capacity in the areas of planning and data analysis; Build capacity in gender mainstreaming; Ensure peace and social cohesion by promoting dialogue and cultural diversity (support civil society to play an important role in this area, ensuring the security of the various communities, control trafficking in light weapons).
		Access to basic services and infrastructure	Provide sustainable access to basic services for the entire population (achieving the Millennium Development Goals); Build capacity for sustainable development; Promote reforms for transparent governance; Strengthen sectoral policies; Ensure effective and efficient implementation of sectoral reforms for economic and social development; Support the generalization of quality basic services by targeting the poor.

3.3 Alignment of domains and themes

In light of the preceding analyses and considering the priorities identified by some countries through their national consultation process for post-2015, we can propose and describe the priority areas and themes selected for the subregion. Given the interdependence of certain themes (linkages between the three sustainable development pillars) and the need to reduce the number of priority themes, these issues were aggregated. The aggregation was done while ensuring consistency between the domains and themes and bearing in mind the priorities expressed at the subregional level.

3.3.1 Goal 1: Reduce poverty, marginalization and social exclusion of poor communities

This goal has on four main targets, namely: (i) eradicate poverty; (ii) ensure gender equality; (iii) guarantee education and training, and (iv) ensure food security.

3.3.1.1 Eradicate poverty

Although poverty has declined significantly in recent years across the subregion and several countries will be able to achieve MDG 1 in 2015, there are still alarming figures in some countries. This is the case with Mauritania and the Sudan, which recorded poverty rates of 42 per cent and 46 per cent respectively in 2012. Poverty rates in Egypt and Morocco are also high (over 25 per cent). Poverty is also rife in rural areas where it affects over 50 per cent of the population, particularly in Egypt, Mauritania and the Sudan.

The assessment of the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals yielded lessons on the determinant factors in poverty reduction which were not taken into account in this first exercise. These are access to land and land tenure. This theme will be included among the priority issues selected. Appropriate measures must be taken by the countries to facilitate equal and fair access.

Furthermore, a poverty line should be defined at the national and subregional levels. The impact of regional disparities and social inequality on poverty can thus be considered as a priority issue. A study of the effects of social (welfare, health), environmental (access to water and energy) and economic (inclusive growth) measures on poverty will make it possible to monitor the holistic integration of the three sustainable development pillars.

3.3.1.2 *Promote gender equality*

Although the situation of women has greatly improved in the areas of education and health, there are still significant drawbacks in terms of employment, access to means of production, justice and representation in decision-making. However, providing women with better economic opportunities would boost growth and lead to a decline in poverty.

This study will also address issues such as security, given the resurgence of violence, especially violence against women, in the subregion (as in Egypt recently). Gender mainstreaming in budgetary processes should be a priority. Lastly, the importance of access to health care, particularly in rural areas, appears to be another priority.

3.3.1.3 *Ensure education and vocational training*

The quality of educational systems in the subregion is steadily declining. These systems no longer meet labour market needs. To correct this problem, profound reforms have to be implemented. Such reforms will target vocational and technical training in order to better address market needs, and also target primary, secondary, higher and non-formal education. To that end, it is important to mobilize significant funding for the sector and invest in capacity-building for teachers. Consideration should also be given to gender equality and ensuring the employability of human capital.

3.3.1.4 *Ensure food security and nutritional quality*

Agriculture, livestock and fishing hold considerable potential for food security and poverty reduction. Two countries (Mauritania and the Sudan) of the subregion frequently experience major food crises and severe nutritional deficiencies.

Themes such as natural resource management, sustainable modes of production and consumption, social inequalities, health and poverty should guide the policies which need to be implemented to achieve food security and adequate nutritional quality.

3.3.2 Goal 2: Ensure universal access to basic services

This goal has two components, namely: (i) health and quality care; (ii) universal access to water and sanitation.

3.3.2.1 *Guarantee universal access to quality healthcare*

The right to health is currently enshrined in the development strategies of most North African countries. Performance in this area has been remarkable, except in Mauritania and the Sudan. Significant progress has been made, particularly in access to basic health services, reduction of infant and maternal mortality and improvement of the overall health of the population. However, a lot remains to be done in the subregion,

which also faces new challenges. Such challenges, which include infant malnutrition, lead to a reduction in the productive capacity of the population, drastic budget cuts due to the current economic situation, low health sector spending in some countries or increased healthcare costs. Other issues to be resolved relate to the quality and level of social protection, training for health staff and management of biomedical waste.

Consequently, significant investments will be needed to introduce modern processes, information management systems and new regulatory structures which guarantee the quality, safety, fairness and effectiveness of health services. In countries such as Mauritania and the Sudan, significant efforts should be made to achieve the health-related targets of the Millennium Development Goals.

With respect to expected outcomes, the targeted actions under this pillar should: (i) facilitate access to care in terms of quality, cost and proximity; (ii) boost the productivity of the population in the subregion; (iii) modernize and safeguard healthcare systems; (iv) ensure sustainable financing for this sector; and (v) reduce regional disparities and social inequalities.

3.3.2.2 Guarantee universal access to water and sanitation

Although there has been significant progress in access to improved water sources, water resource management will be one of the major challenges of North African countries in coming years, given the scarcity of this resource and water stress forecasts announced for the coming years.¹⁶

High water consumption, especially for agriculture, and the effects of climate change require the adoption of integrated and sustainable management methods. In this regard, there is a need to have a detailed knowledge of demand and demand trends per consumption type in order to establish an effective and sustainable management system.

The sanitation situation is more disturbing, especially in rural areas and in countries such as Mauritania and the Sudan.

Significant progress will also be expected in this area in terms of economic development, particularly in rural areas, as well as improved health conditions, hygiene and quality of life in general.

3.3.3 Goal 3: Structurally transform economies and achieve green and inclusive growth

This goal has four major targets, namely: (i) green economy; (ii) sustainable environmental protection; (iii) sustainable energy; and (iv) inclusive growth.

3.3.3.1 Create conditions for a green economy

More of the economic benefits derived from natural resources should accrue to the poor. Revenue from forest, fish, oil, gas and mineral resources is often embezzled by a privileged elite, which is however aware of the fact that this revenue could be used to significantly improve the living conditions of the poorest communities. Taxing these natural resources is also crucial to the promotion of green growth. However, such taxation must be adapted to the social context so as to protect the livelihoods of the poorest people.

This area supplements all the others, especially Area 5 (inclusive growth and employment) and Area 9 (environment), given the current (economic, social and environmental) situation in the subregion. Sustainable natural resource management, climate resilience and clean growth which are supposed to be the three dimensions of sustainable development, constitute the essential thrust of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development.

¹⁶ World Bank, 2011. Adaptation to climate change and resilience to natural disasters in the coastal cities of North Africa.

To achieve this, countries need to conduct or commission systematic environmental assessments at all levels: macroeconomic policies, development programs, private businesses and civic behaviour.

There will also be need to encourage green technology transfers between countries of the North and those of the subregion through, for example, the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). The technological needs assessments of the subregion should be conducted in this area.

These various activities offer the countries concerned an opportunity to strengthen regional integration through policy, harmonization of regulations, green financing mechanisms, employment, technology exchange and trade.

With respect to expected outcomes, the implementation of all these themes should: (i) improve well-being; (ii) reduce regional disparities and inequalities; (iii) create green jobs; (iv) reduce carbon emissions and pollution in general; and (v) ensure the development of a clean national industry.

3.3.3.2 *Encourage inclusive growth*

Despite the structural changes made by the economies of the subregion over the last 3 or 4 decades, the level and pace of economic growth could not generate enough jobs to respond to rapid population growth, especially for the youth. The youth unemployment rate is currently one of the highest in the world. Investor and consumer confidence has been severely shaken. This became evident after the social protest movements which rocked the subregion two years ago. Industrial development has been slow and inefficient compared to the level of industrialization in other developing countries, particularly in East Asia.

Private sector involvement, based on transparent relationships between the sectors and Governments, is crucial. Economic diversification, improvement of the business environment, adaptation of education and training sectors, and the creation of value-added by developing sectors with high growth potential are important themes which should be included in development policies and strategies.

The expected outcomes are: (i) creation of decent and sustainable jobs, especially for the youth; (ii) poverty eradication; (iii) reduction of gender inequalities; (iv) boosting entrepreneurship; and (v) reduction of regional disparities.

3.3.3.3 *Adopt sustainable energy*

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2012 as the International Year of Sustainable Energy for All. It served as a forum for the international community to highlight the importance of technology transfer and dissemination on a global scale in the context of North-South, South-South, regional and subregional cooperation.

The global agenda has set the following three main objectives: (i) universal access to modern energy services; (ii) a 40 per cent reduction in global energy intensity; and (iii) a 30 per cent increase in the use of renewable energies in the world.

The Rio+20 outcome document refers to access to modern energy for all, doubling of the rate of energy efficiency and doubling of the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix. It further recommends that this much-needed energy transition should take account of the capabilities and vulnerabilities of each country.

In North Africa, renewable energy is a real alternative to fossil fuels. The potential of sustainable energy sources is able to meet current and future energy needs of North African countries and support sustainable economic growth. However, it should be noted that, despite growing energy demand in all countries, significant disparities exist in terms of energy needs and supply, renewable energy use and energy efficiency policy. A country like Mauritania currently has one of the lowest rural energy access rates in the world (<5 per cent).

Significant efforts have to be made to address all the constraints of the subregion, which range from (human and technological) capacity-building to develop considerable potential, to the mobilization of sustainable financing with efficient private sector involvement.

3.3.3.4 *Ensure sustainable environmental protection*

This pillar covers all environmental challenges of the subregion, which are primarily desertification; sustainable natural resource management, including soils, forests, minerals, oil and fisheries resources; biodiversity and (especially fragile) ecosystem conservation; pollution and waste management; and control of the effects of climate change. Progress in this area was very limited in the first phase (Goal 7).

Ownership of these issues starts with effectively mainstreaming them into policies, programmes and projects, and also ensuring private sector and civil society participation and support. Environmental governance at the local level should be a major theme, underpinned by a territorial vision of sustainable development (Agenda 21) and targeting the sustainable use of natural capital in order to reduce social inequalities and economic disparities between regions.

The development of this pillar also provides a strategic opportunity to strengthen subregional integration through better coordination of actions and closer technical and financial cooperation.

3.3.4 Goal 4: Build lasting peace based on transparency

This goal has two targets: (i) guarantee peace and security; and (ii) ensure sustainable good governance.

3.3.4.1 *Guarantee peace and security*

Recent developments in North African countries and other countries of the region justify a need to anticipate the future and adopt policies and instruments to stave off the spectres of terrorism and organized crime.

It is equally necessary to ease social and political tensions and help countries make a peaceful transition to the rule of law and democratic governance. Reaching the targets under this area will be heavily predicated on the success achieved by countries of the subregion in other areas like employment, social justice (reducing social inequalities and regional disparities), governance and access to basic services (health, water and energy).

The guarantee of equal justice for all, capacity-building for security forces, border security, combating terrorism and extremism, and crime reduction should be the priority themes for meeting the targeted objectives this area.

The expected outcomes are: (i) reduce the risk of political instability and restore investor confidence; (ii) anchor social justice within the functioning of the State; and (iii) improve the living conditions and well-being of the population.

3.3.4.2 *Ensure sustainable good governance*

This entails strengthening the capacity of State and non-State stakeholders and the private sector in the areas of good governance, technical and budgetary planning, inter-sectoral coordination, public policy assessment and corruption control. At the same time, emphasis will be laid on civil status control, strengthening of citizen participation, transparency of democratic processes and support for devolution and decentralization policies.

This pillar will have a positive impact on equal opportunities for citizens and regions, strengthen State authority, facilitate access to basic services throughout the country, create sustainable and decent jobs, and also to protect natural resources, biodiversity and ecosystems at the subregional and local levels.

4. Sustainable development goals, targets and indicators

4.1 *Summary of the assessment of the Millennium Development Goals*

4.1.1 Benefits

Across the subregion, there is strong stakeholder mobilization whose effects were felt in the Millennium Development Goals implementation and monitoring process. Cooperation efforts made by technical and financial partners, especially the United Nations system, singularly heightened the awareness of all development stakeholders in the various countries of the subregion. The approaches adopted fuelled the emergence of civil society which has since earned greater representation in decision-making processes and bodies. They also led to the internalization of consultative and participatory mechanisms on major sustainable development issues.

Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals also yielded the key result of placing poverty control at the forefront of development challenges. The typology and the complex dimensions of poverty were identified and explained to the various stakeholders. Furthermore, to provide quality data for the proposed indicators, the States made special efforts in data collection and the organization of more suitable information systems.

These achievements must be developed and should serve as the basis for formulating sustainable development goals.

4.1.2 Shortcomings

Despite the interest in the Millennium Development Goals and the investments made by countries to achieve them, it is clear that the main poverty challenge is still persistent, especially given the expansion of extreme poverty in some countries (Mauritania). Two factors could explain this failure, namely: (i) the fact that the Goals have rather focused on the manifestations of poverty instead of the real causes, which vary from region to region and from country to country; and (ii) the exclusion of certain major issues that have a direct impact on poverty (governance, corruption control, climate change, green economy, employment, regional disparities, etc.).

Consultations already conducted in some countries of the subregion often reveal the fact that the Goals sought to achieve a result without giving consideration to the means used to achieve such result.

The exclusion of indicators that show the relationship between the three dimensions of sustainable development is another major shortcoming of the Goals. Hence, the approach can be considered to be too sectoral. Furthermore, the specificities of certain regions and the contribution of regional integration to sustainable development were overlooked.

4.2 *Proposed programming matrix for sustainable development goals*

The report relies on previous analyses as well as identified priority areas and themes to propose for the North African subregion, a programming matrix of sustainable development goals which clearly outlines the priority goals, targets and indicators.

Table 7

Matrix presenting the goals, targets and indicators proposed for the North African subregion

Goals	Targets	Indicators
Goal 1: Reduce poverty and social exclusion for vulnerable groups	Target 1: Reduce to zero, between 2015 and 2035, the percentage of the population living on less than US\$ 1.25 per day.	Percentage of the population having less than US\$ 1.25 per day in purchasing power terms
	Target 2: Increase by 50 per cent the number of persons having secure access to land and land tenure (urban/rural, male/female, regional disparities, etc.)	Percentage of the population having access to landed property
	Target 3: Provide by 2035, universal social protection to all the poor and destitute segments of the population (100 per cent coverage of the population)	Social protection coverage rate (global, per region, per gender and per quintile)
	Target 4: Reduce by at least 75 per cent, the percentage of the population suffering from hunger between 2015 and 2035	Percentage of the population suffering from hunger
	Target 5: Adopt sustainable management modes for productive sub-sectors like agriculture, livestock and fisheries, while increasing production by 50 per cent between 2015 and 2035.	Share of imports in national consumption
	Target 6: Improve the nutritional quality of food (primary production and food industries) by adopting own production methods	Percentage of the population which does not attain the minimum calorie intake
		Percentage of the surface area irrigated relative to overall potential
		Net secondary enrolment ratio
		Net primary enrolment ratio
	Target 7: Provide all children, both boys and girls, with the means to complete a full cycle of secondary education by 2035.	Number of persons undergoing technical and vocational training
	Target 8: Increase the intake capacity of technical and vocational training structures by 50 per cent between 2015 and 2035	Labour market post-training absorption rates and recruitment deadlines
	Target 9: Eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women by 2035.	Boy/girl ratio in primary, secondary and higher education
		Literacy rate among women aged 15 to 24, compared to men
		Proportion of seats occupied by women in national parliaments and elective local government positions

Goals	Targets	Indicators
Goal 2: Structurally transform the economy and achieve green and inclusive growth	Target 10: Create green jobs, between 2015 and 2035, equivalent to 20 per cent of national employment	CO ₂ emissions (per capita) and consumption of CFCs which deplete the ozone layer (potential ozone depletion in tonnes)
	Target 11: Develop, between 2015 and 2035, an environment industry equivalent to 30 per cent of national industrial production	Number of environment sector businesses and jobs created
	Target 12: Transform and strengthen energy infrastructure to make electricity cheap and affordably by 2035	Number of electricity infrastructures constructed and network density
	Target 13: Halve the proportion of unemployed youths without diplomas, between 2015 and 2035	Share of green investment in total investments
	Target 14: Reduce by at least 50 per cent the unemployment and underemployment rate of young university graduates by 2035	Unemployment rate for youths without qualifications
	Target 15: Double the private investment growth rate between 2015 and 2035	Unemployment rate for young university graduates
	Target 16: Double the manufacturing sector share in GDP by 2035	Employment/population ratio
	Target 17: Increase by 50 per cent, between 2015 and 2035, the number of persons benefitting from credit services for the establishment of a productive activity	Share of private investments
	Target 18: Halve the number of persons working in the informal sector between 2015 and 2035	Manufacturing sector share in GDP
	Target 19: Increase the share of renewable energies in the energy mix by 30 per cent between 2015 and 2035	Percentage of the population having no access to electricity
	Target 20: Ensure universal access to clean, modern and efficient energy (especially in the agricultural, construction, industrial and transport sectors) by 2035	Share of renewable energies in the energy mix
	Target 21: Mainstream the environment into all (subregional, national and local) policies on sustainable environmental management by 2035	Rate of reduction in energy intensity associated with energy efficiency programs
	Target 22: Halve the degradation rate of natural resources, forests and biodiversity by 2035	Proportion of terrestrial and marine protected areas relative to total surface area
	Target 23: Reduce land degradation by 50 per cent and combat desertification and drought by 2035	Proportion of endangered species
	Target 24: Boost the productivity of oases ecosystems	Natural resource degradation rate
	Target 25: Improve the resilience and adaptability of ecosystems, production systems and communities to climate change	Cost of natural resource degradation (per cent of GDP)
	Target 26: Improve the management of risks and disasters	Rate of application of environmental studies and audits to (public and private) programmes or projects
		Land degradation rate
		Productivity of oasis ecosystems
		Number and nature of climate change initiatives and programmes
		Number of CDM projects and volume of financing mobilized

Goals	Targets	Indicators
Goal 3: Ensure universal access to basic services	<p>Target 27: Reduce the under-five mortality rate by two-thirds, between 2015 and 2035</p> <p>Target 28: Reduce maternal mortality rate by three-quarters, between 2015 and 2035</p> <p>Target 29: Increase the volume of public spending on health by 25 per cent, between 2015 and 2035</p> <p>Target 30: Ensure universal access to drinking water for all households and buildings and public establishments</p> <p>Target 31: Increase the proportion of the population having access to sanitation and by 75 per cent in urban areas and by 50 per cent rural areas, between 2015 and 2035</p>	<p>Proportion of the population situated at most 15 minutes from a health centre</p> <p>Doctor-population ratio in rural areas</p> <p>Under-five mortality rate</p> <p>Maternal mortality rate</p> <p>Share of health spending in national public spending</p> <p>Proportion of the national population having no access to drinking water</p> <p>Proportion of the rural population having no access to drinking water</p> <p>Proportion of the urban population having access to an adequate sanitation system</p> <p>Proportion of the rural population having access to an adequate sanitation system</p>
Goal 4: Build lasting peace based on transparency	<p>Target 32: Eliminate sources of (ethnic, border, community, religious, etc.) conflicts by 2035</p> <p>Target 33: Eliminate imprisonment for crimes of opinion by 2035</p> <p>Target 34: Totally secure civil status by 2035</p> <p>Target 35: Reduce by 2035 all forms of corruption by at least 90 per cent</p> <p>Target 36: Ensure the free participation of countervailing institutions by 2035</p>	<p>Number of acts of violence recorded (including those related to terrorism and extremism)</p> <p>Number of press offences punished/ articles censored/ media outlets closed</p> <p>Number of persons imprisoned for crimes of opinion</p> <p>Average time period for processing of files by the justice system</p> <p>Number of civil status documents which are fraudulent or falsified</p> <p>Number of administrative acts fully handled by decentralized and devolved services</p> <p>Number of peaceful political changes at the national (presidential elections) and local (municipal and legislative elections) levels</p> <p>Degree of autonomy for constitutional countervailing bodies</p> <p>Frequency of constitutional amendments</p> <p>Number of development projects, programmes and initiatives implemented by civil society and the private sector</p>

5. Conclusions and recommendations

The objective of this study was to analyse the sustainable development priorities of the countries of the North-African subregion in order to propose a matrix of the sustainable development goals, broken down into objectives, targets and indicators. It is evident from this analysis that despite its extraordinary human potential and significant natural resources, the subregion is currently facing major social, economic and environmental challenges that could hamper its sustainable development if no action is taken.

The report has outlined and analysed the various challenges that the subregion needs to tackle in order to achieve its sustainable development goals. Major objectives have been defined to cover all priority areas (see table 7).

Priorities have been formulated from the results of sustainable development implementation in the North African subregion. These priorities stem from the analysis of Rio 92 and Rio+20 and are supplemented by the outcomes of national consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, launched in five of the seven countries in the subregion. This approach led to the formulation of priority areas and themes that were subsequently used to define the sustainable development goals (see table 6).

To implement the identified priorities, there is a need to initiate real economic reforms to foster sustainable, inclusive and equitable growth and to improve the living conditions of the people. The development approach adopted should help to reduce poverty and inequality, create decent jobs, increase access to social services and promote resilience to climate-related disasters. The proposed sustainable development goals and associated targets should make it possible to meet these expectations as long as appropriate policies and rigorous monitoring/evaluation tools are implemented and the necessary human and financial resources are available. The indicators have been proposed to fine-tune monitoring/evaluation of the progress made.

The process of formulating the sustainable development goals was informed by a number of recommendations from the Rio+20 document, which were included in the terms of reference of the study. These recommendations include the need to: (i) maintain the consistency and continuity of Millennium Development Goals implementation in order to ensure completion of the actions already initiated; (ii) reduce the number of goals; (iii) ensure interdependence between the various sustainable development pillars through balanced integration of these dimensions; (iv) maintain the universal character of the goals while integrating subregional and national specificities; and (v) facilitate the mainstreaming of these sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda.

In this regard, the study proposes four global goals, 36 targets and 54 indicators. The relevance and originality of the sustainable development goals presented are also evident in the fact that they cover certain themes that were totally overlooked by the Millennium Development Goals but which are crucial to the achievement of sustainable development, such as governance, corruption control, climate change, green economy, employment or regional disparities.

The proposed sustainable development goals will be included in an international programme to which all regions of the world have contributed and on which a committee of experts mandated by the United Nations is already working. The contributions of each party will help to address the needs and priorities of the various countries and to tackle any noted shortcomings. The summary of the reports prepared in the five subregions will be Africa's contribution to the new development vision outlined in the Rio+20 report, entitled "The future we want".

However, it should be noted that the effective implementation of these goals comes with a certain number of risks which the countries of the subregion should tackle.

First of all, adopting a truly systemic vision is always difficult in practice and thus requires awareness-raising, information, training and appropriate tools. Gaps in data collection and data analysis are also likely to hamper the process. Consequently, States must make significant efforts to endow the structures

responsible for statistics and information systems with sufficient human, material and financial resources to meet this challenge.

Furthermore, there is a need to rely on a long-term strategy to: (i) raise awareness and educate stakeholders involved in the implementation of the sustainable development goals; (ii) fully involve the private sector and civil society organizations; and (iii) regularly monitor and evaluate obtained results in order to correct errors and enhance success.

Ownership of the sustainable development goals by various stakeholders will be crucial. To that end, the countries, with United Nations support, must initiate information campaigns on the challenges and goals of this agenda, and on the cooperation means to be deployed. Coherence, complementarities and differences between the Millennium Development Goals process and the sustainable development goal process should be explained to all stakeholders responsible for implementation.

To clarify the financial resources issues often raised during Millennium Development Goals implementation, meetings and roundtables should be organized on this subject, firstly to reassure countries on the support expected from partners and secondly to coordinate the operations of technical and financial partners. First of all, it would be appropriate for all countries to initiate a planning process on attainment of sustainable development goals, based on a specific reference situation (2015) and a needs assessment which ends in 2035.

Domestic and external financial resources have to be mobilized through targeted strategies, taking advantage of subregional assets and highlighting institutional, regulatory and good governance reforms.

Some of the more sensitive issues must certainly be addressed with firmness, without losing sight of the cultural and religious sensitivities they could generate. These include security issues or community and ethnic conflicts.

Capacity-building is also crucial to the achievement of the sustainable development goals, because it allows for the effective involvement of all stakeholders, especially on relatively new themes and challenges, such as the green economy. Contributions in terms of economic and environmental sustainability of results and job creation need to be explained to and owned by the various categories of stakeholders.

Lastly, it is important to prepare the policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks to ensure the smooth implementation of the sustainable development goals. These frameworks should be designed at the local, national and subregional levels. Indeed, this approach, if properly conducted, should make it possible to benefit from all the opportunities resulting from regional integration. The role of United Nations bodies, especially those based in the subregion, will be primordial in this crucial exercise, which falls within the framework of North Africa's sustainable development.

Table 8
Sustainable development goals and priority themes adopted

Goal 1: Reduce the poverty, marginalization and social exclusion of vulnerable groups	Goal 2: Structurally transform the economy and encourage green and inclusive growth	Goal 3: Ensure universal access to basic services	Goal 4: Build lasting peace based on transparency
Sustainable agriculture and food security	Green economy and sustainable development of natural resources	Universal access to quality health care	Good governance
Poverty reduction and employment	Inclusive growth	Population growth and urban development	Peace and security of persons, property and territory
Nutritional quality and hygiene	Youth unemployment and social protection	Universal access to water and sanitation	Rule of law and social justice
Social inequality, poverty and sustainable livelihoods	Investment and private sector development framework		Mobilization of financial resources
Education and quality technical and vocational training	Infrastructure for sustainable economic development		Capacity-building
Gender and women's empowerment	Industrial development, research and development, and sustainable modes of production		
Safety nets and social protection	Climate change and disaster risk reduction		
Reduction of regional disparities and territorial approach to sustainable development	Desertification and drought		
	Sustainable management of natural resources (soil, water, forests, etc.)		
Regional integration (trade, commerce, cooperation, policy coordination, etc.)	Energy security and clean sustainable energy		
	Preservation of biodiversity and ecosystems		
	Mainstreaming of the environment into public policy		
	Pollution and management of chemicals and hazardous waste		

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