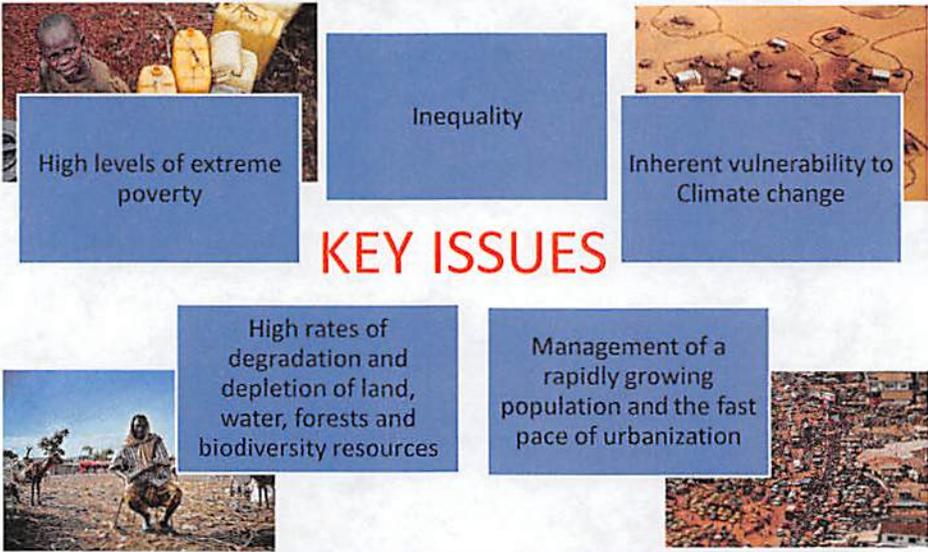


Introduction:

Welcome everybody to the presentation. Introduce speakers, panelists, etc.

I - A. Regional Perspectives on the HLPF theme 2 



KEY ISSUES

- High levels of extreme poverty
- Inequality
- Inherent vulnerability to Climate change
- High rates of degradation and depletion of land, water, forests and biodiversity resources
- Management of a rapidly growing population and the fast pace of urbanization

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Significance of the theme to Africa:

The theme offers opportunity to call and focus attention on critical factors, which if not addressed or well managed can undermine the creation of sustainable and resilient societies in the region.

First, continued high levels of extreme poverty in Africa: Despite progress in tackling poverty in the region, Africa remains the most poverty-stricken region in world. Africa is currently host to approximately two-thirds of the world's extreme poor. Disheartening projections show that by the end of 2018 there could be about 3.2 million more people living in extreme poverty than there are today. This trajectory is not consistent with the ambition of eliminating of all forms of poverty by 2030. An urgent step change in efforts is needed to correct the path and ensure that SDG 1 is achieved within the set timeframe.

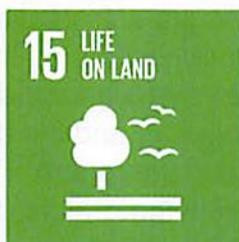
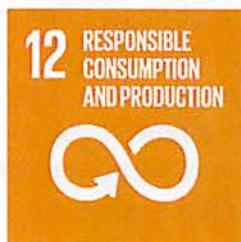
Secondly, inequality: The good growth rates registered by countries in region over the past two decades have not contributed to the reduction of inequality, which contributes to poor people being left behind. Based on data from ECA's Databank, the median Gini coefficient of 43 for 2013 among the 47 African countries for which data is available is significantly

higher than the median of 35 for 72 countries for which data was available from the World Bank. Implementing the SDGs and Agenda 2063 provides African countries the opportunity to reconfigure development plans which offer a central seat to inclusive structural transformation to generate growth that benefits the majority of their population including those working in the agricultural sector, the youth and other marginalized groups.

Thirdly, Africa's inherent vulnerability to the impacts of climate change: A large body of literature abounds with evidence demonstrating that Africa is one of the regions most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. For instance, related to SDG 6, which is under review during the current session of HLPF, predictions are that by 2025, twelve African countries would be limited to 1,000–1,700 m³ of water per person per year, and the population at risk of water stress could be up to 460 million people in the region. The momentum to ensure climate change adaptation and mitigation in the region should therefore be increased alongside that to achieve the SDGs.

Fourth, high rates of degradation and depletion of land, water, forests and biodiversity resources: More than 62 per cent of the population in Africa depends directly on ecosystem services for food, water, energy, health and livelihood needs. The total fishery value added (inland, marine and coastal) alone is 13 billion per year in the region. Pervasive degradation and depletion of ecosystem resources poses serious threats to Africa's social and economic stability and long-term sustainable development. For instance, recent assessments indicate that every 5 per cent loss of GDP, which is partly caused by land degradation is associated with a 12 per cent increase in the likelihood of violent conflict.

Fifthly, Africa's rapidly growing population and the fast pace of urbanization need to be well managed: Africa's population is expected to double to 2.5 billion by 2050 and half of the population of the region will live in urban areas by 2035. These trends combined with rising per capita consumption, are set to escalate requirements for employment, food, water, energy and shelter. Sustainable consumption and production patterns will, thus, be indispensable to building resilient and sustainable societies in Africa.



Access to safely managed water is extremely low in Sub-Saharan Africa, but much higher in North Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa

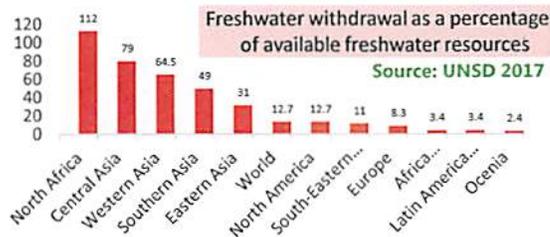
23.7%

Proportion of population with access to a safely managed source of drinking water

North Africa

80.8%

North Africa is experiencing water stress levels, which indicates the strong probability of future water scarcity.

Above 60%

Clean water and sanitation

In Africa, excluding North Africa, the proportion of people with access to safely managed sources of drinking water remains at only 23.7 per cent, although data is not available for all countries. In North Africa, the proportion stands at 80.8 per cent, however this is calculated only as the average for Morocco and Tunisia, for which data is available. Africans largely do not have access to safe drinking water at the same rates as the rest of the world. Hidden in this figure is also, as is usual, an urban-rural divide in terms of access. The global average for population using a safely managed drinking water source is 71 per cent.

Climate change, droughts, floods and water management further impede access to safe drinking water in Africa.

North Africa, Central Asia and Western Asia in particular are experiencing water stress levels above 60 per cent, which indicates the strong probability of future water scarcity.

Tackling water stress requires better governance of water resources, infrastructure investments, access to appropriate technology and policies to improve management of water scarcity.

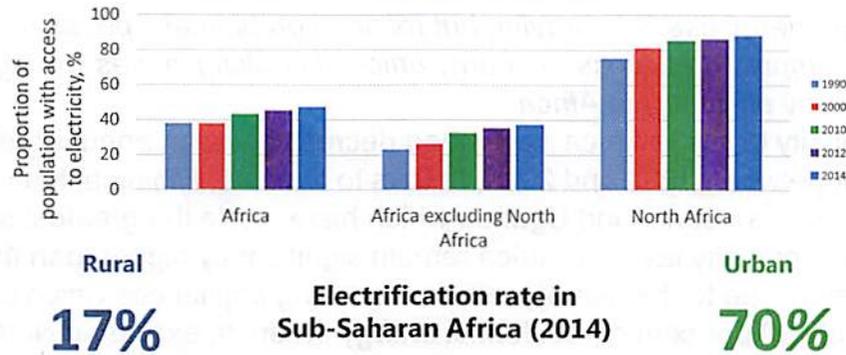
Defined as the ratio of total freshwater withdrawn to total renewable freshwater resources above a threshold of 25 per cent.

A particular problem in North Africa is that of water stress. Scarcity of water in the region has long been a problem, and climate change is set to exacerbate it. Water stress is defined as the ratio of total freshwater withdrawn to total renewable freshwater resources above a threshold of 25 per cent. Currently, the figure for North Africa stands at 112 per cent – clearly an untenable position. (How can freshwater withdrawals exceed 100 per cent?).

Affordable and clean energy



Source: Sustainable Energy for All – Global Tracking Framework



3% Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania expanded access to electricity by at least of their population annually between 2010 and 2016.

Source: UN – Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report 2018.

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Affordable and clean energy

Access to energy has been rising across Africa, but particularly in rural areas, many people remain disconnected from power supplies. Africa in general has abundant reserves of fossil fuels and also plentiful sources of renewable energy, but harnessing these resources remains a challenge. In 2014, across the whole continent, approximately 47 per cent of people had access to electricity. This stands in contrast from approximately 38 per cent in 1990.

Rural populations, however, still have particularly concerning lack of access to electricity. The electrification rate of 17 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa shows an acute lack of one of the basic precursors of economic and social improvement, and requires urgent policy attention.

Africa's renewable energy potential remains largely untapped

Renewable energy resources are abundant in Africa but dominated by biomass. Meanwhile, demand for modern renewable energy is growing and technology costs are falling. Hydro power generation, a renewable source of energy, is the single largest source of electricity in Africa, contributing to slightly over 60 per cent of the continent's supply. However, despite its strong potential, solar power remains largely untapped.

There is scope for utilization of newer technologies such as solar power

to be more fully exploited. The International Renewable Energy Agency reports that only half of African countries had undertaken national resource assessments for one or more renewable energy sources as of 2016.

Efficiency in energy use is improving but reliance on biomass poses a challenge to progress. Improving access to energy efficient cooking stoves will significantly improve energy efficiency in Africa.

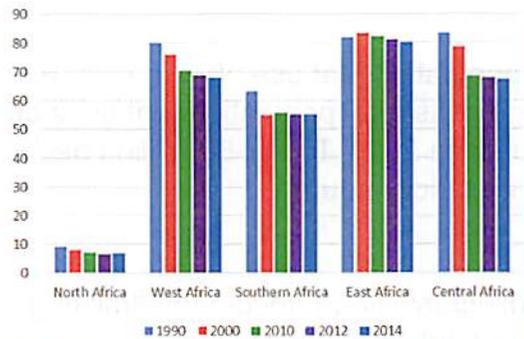
Energy intensity levels in Africa have been decreasing at an annualized rate of 1.6 per cent between 2004 and 2014, thanks to Burundi, Ethiopia, Mali, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, and Uganda which have made the greatest strides. However, the intensity levels in Africa remain significantly higher than the world average largely due to the use of inefficient cooking appliances which comprises approximately 80 per cent of residential energy in Africa, excluding North Africa. Indeed, the absolute number of people without access to energy efficient cooking stoves continues to rise in Africa, with around 780 million people cooking with solid biomass.

Ethiopia, Kenya, and Tanzania expanded access to electricity by at least 3 percent of their population annually between 2010 and 2016.

Affordable and clean energy

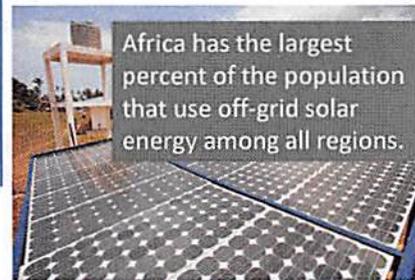


Share of renewable energy in total energy consumption %



Source: Sustainable Energy for All – Global Tracking Framework

60 Million Africans



Source: UN –Tracking SDG 7: The Energy Progress Report 2018.

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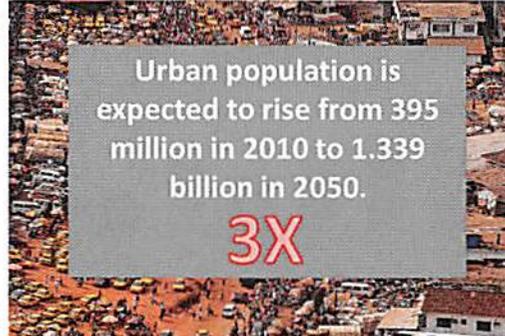
Africa has the largest percent of the population that use off-grid solar energy among all regions, and the percentage of its total population that uses off-grid solar electricity has nearly quintupled since 2011. Today, 60 million people in Africa use off-grid solar power as an electricity source.

https://trackingsdg7.esmap.org/data/files/download-documents/tracking_sdg7-the_energy_progress_report_full_report.pdf

Africa (excluding North Africa) has the highest proportion of its population living in slums

55 %

of the SSA urban population live in slums (2014)



Costs of food, transport, and housing are relatively high in African cities

Sustainable cities and communities

The rapid urbanization taking place in African countries is presenting a number of difficult to manage transitions. Africa (excluding North Africa) has the highest proportion of slum dwellers compared to other world regions. While the proportion of urban dwellers in Africa (excluding North Africa) has been declining, in absolute terms, there were estimated to be over 200 million slum dwellers in 2014. Weak public transport systems and a general lack of planning results in cities that are more challenging to live in, more expensive, and more insecure.

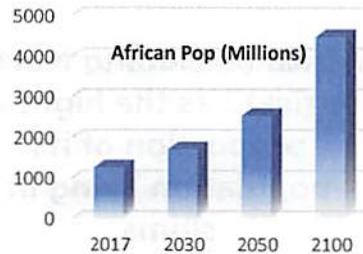
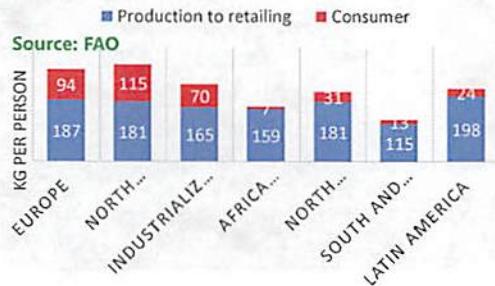
Despite high rates of urbanization in Africa, its cities are costly and often produce little in the way of exports, being more oriented towards non-tradable goods and services. The costs of food, housing and transportation are relatively and unnecessarily high among African cities due to coordination failures, weak policies and property rights.

Cities in Africa are also polluted, and problems with pollution can be exacerbated by rapid economic growth. In 40 African cities surveyed by the WHO over 2008-15, only eight per cent of them had levels of PM2.5 particulate pollution below the recommended threshold. Cameroon, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa and Uganda all had cities that measured more than six times the recommended limit of PM2.5 particulate matter.

Responsible consumption and production



Per capita food losses and waste, at consumption and pre-consumption stages 2010



Source: UNDESA

Africa excluding North Africa wastes over **30 %** of its annual food production largely due to poor post-harvest handling.

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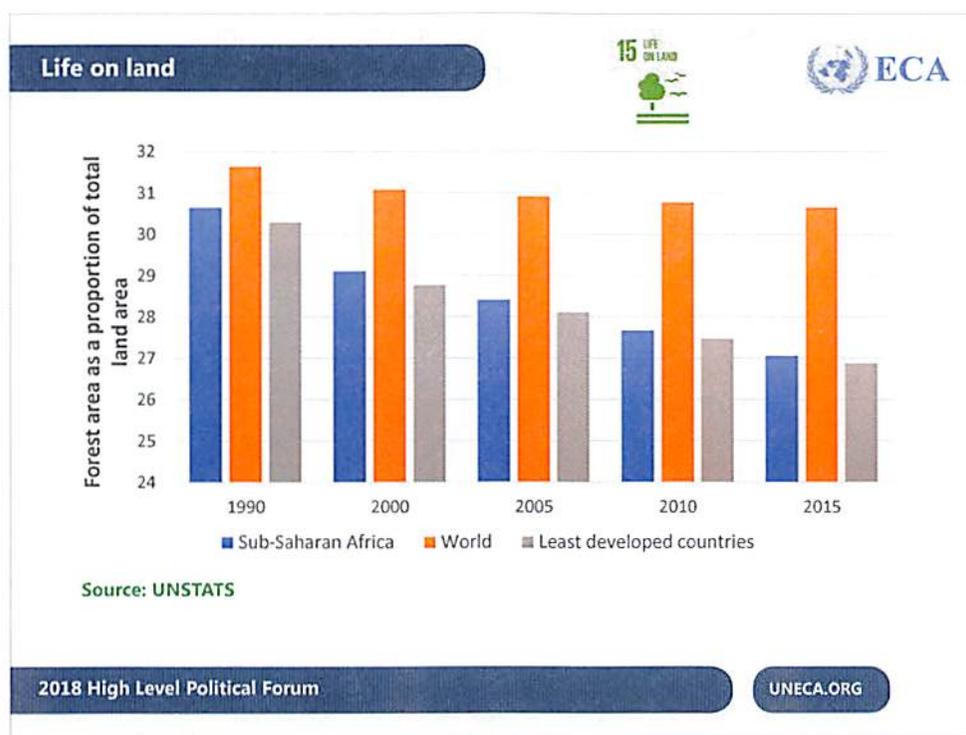
Responsible production and consumption

Post harvest losses are high in Africa and in the context of rising population, are an unsustainable production practice. Africa excluding North Africa wastes over 30 per cent of its approximately 230 million tons of annual food production (equivalent to more than some \$4 billion), because of poor post-harvest handling. (need a graph on post-harvest losses).

Responsible production and consumption

Resource consumption is driven to a large degree by population increases. Africa (excluding North Africa) has two out of the ten fastest growing cities in the world. In 2017, the African population was estimated to be 1.2 billion. By 2030, it is projected to increase to 1.7 billion, and to 2.5 billion by 2050. Given that Africa's population is still rapidly increasing while other regions are only increasing slowly, or even declining, Africa's share of global population will increase from its current 16 per cent to 20 per cent in 2030.

The World Food Programme estimates that Africa excluding North Africa wastes over 30 per cent of its approximately 230 million tons of annual food production (equivalent to about more than US\$4 billion), largely due to poor post-harvest handling.



Life on land

Africa's ecosystems are under growing threat of degradation. Globally, forest area as a proportion of total land area has been on a declining trend over the past two and a half decades, with the fastest decline registered in Africa excluding North Africa. This region, together with South East Asia are the two regions which registered a decline of at least two percentage points in relative forest cover (forest as a proportion of total land area) over the 2000 – 2015 period. This is four times the global average of 0.5 percentage points.

Within Africa, there exist wide sub-regional variations in the rate of deforestation with the fastest rate of deforestation occurring in the east Africa region. Rapid deforestation is actually coinciding with measures to manage forests: between 2005 and 2010, almost every country in Africa registered an increase in the proportion of forest area with long-term management plans.

Better news is that Africa outperforms most of the world's regions in the conservation and sustainable use of its mountain resources. Mountain ecosystems are important reservoirs of biological diversity, especially for endemic plants and animals. All African regions are increasing the coverage of protected mountain resources. Africa (excluding North Africa) has a Mountain Green Cover Index of 90 per cent, well above the

global average of 76 per cent and falling behind only Oceania and South East Asia at 96 per cent and 98 per cent, respectively.

- Awareness about the interrelationship of the SDGs with existing international commitments;
- Limited capacities to coherently integrate the multiple frameworks in national planning frameworks;
- Limited capacities for evidence-based prioritization and sequencing of policy interventions;
- Weak M&E (timely, reliable and accessible data) capacities to track progress;
- Coordination and adoption of multisectoral approaches to the implementation of the SDGs.



The challenges:

- Limited awareness about the interrelationship of the SDGs with existing international commitments such as Agenda 2063, the Paris Agreement, the SAMOA Pathway, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
 - Limited capacities to coherently integrate the multiple frameworks in national planning frameworks.
 - Limited capacities for evidence-based prioritization and sequencing of policy interventions in a way that leverages intersectoral synergies and minimizes policy trade-offs;
 - Weak M&E capacities to track progress on the multiple agendas in a coherent manner;
 - Challenges in prorating or reconciling the long-term targets of the SDGs with the shorter-term targets of national medium-term strategies.
 - Challenges in reorienting sectoral institutions to coordinate and adopt multisectoral approaches to the implementation of the SDGs.
1. Underlining these challenges is the dearth of timely, reliable and accessible data to inform evidence based policymaking and performance tracking. In the absence of such information, budgetary allocations are not effectively aligned to priorities or performance thus resulting in sub-optimal resource allocations.

2. Finally, for countries on IMF programs, there is often a disconnect between the macroeconomic framework of the Fund, which is largely short term oriented, and the medium to long term objectives of the national development plan. In such situations, there is the risk of policy incoherence and failure.

- Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS);
- Designing planning tools to support the SDGs;
- Evidence based policymaking;
- Improving Access to Technology.



Emerging Opportunities:

- *Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS):* The United Nations has undertaken several joint Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) missions to a number of African countries to provide an integrated package of support.
- *Designing planning tools to support the SDGs:* Furthermore, a number of tools have been developed to assist countries integrate the SDGs and Agenda 2063 in National Development Plans. ECA's Integrated Planning and Reporting software, for instance, supports the simultaneous alignment of both agendas in national plans and generates reports on alignment by sector and dimension of sustainable development (i.e., social, economic and environmental).
- *Evidence based policymaking:* The countries are being supported to develop intersectoral models that simulate ex-ante policy impacts on the achievement of the SDGs. For instance, the Millennium Institute's iSDG model assists countries in simulating the likely impacts of alternative policy interventions on the achievement of the SDGs. Similarly, ECA is working with member states to develop system dynamics models to assess the multi-sectoral impacts of policies.

- ***Improving Access to Technology:*** Access to technology by developing countries will be vital if they are to achieve the SDGs within the 15-year time frame. In particular adopting a green growth trajectory and adapting to climate change will require access to modern technology. To the extent that such technologies have already been developed, African countries need to reinvent the wheel but will require access on mutually agreed terms to such technologies.
- In this context, operationalization of the Technology Bank in September 2017 is an opportunity for African Least Developed countries to access and further develop their own traditional knowledge systems to achieve the SDGs. Indeed, the establishment and operationalization of the Technology Bank makes it the first SDG to be achieved since its endorsement in 2015. It is however important to coordinate such support to avoid confusing policymakers.

Technology Bank established in September 2017 is an opportunity for African Least Developed countries to access and further develop their own traditional knowledge systems to achieve the SDGs. Indeed, the establishment and operationalization of the Technology Bank makes it the first SDG to be achieved since its endorsement in 2015.

The main objectives of the Technology Bank are to strengthen:

The capacities of least developed countries to identify, absorb, develop, integrate and scale up the deployment of technologies and innovations, including indigenous ones, as well as to address and manage intellectual property rights issues;

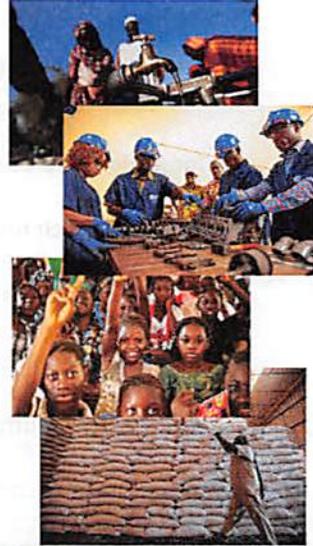
Develop and implement national and regional science, technology and innovation strategies;

Partnerships among science, technology and innovation related public entities and with the private sector;

Cooperation among all stakeholders (researchers, research institutions, the public and private sectors) involved in STI, within and between least developed countries, as well as with their counterparts in other countries; and

Capacity to access, identify and utilize appropriate technologies by the least developed countries, as well as their transfer to the least developed countries, while respecting intellectual property rights and fostering the national and regional capacity for the effective utilization of technology in order to bring about transformative change

- Prioritize investments in water and sanitation to improve access, enhance health outcomes and leverage the productive capacities of the population;
- Integrate urbanization in national development planning;
- Invest in technologies and infrastructure that reduce post-harvest losses;
- Improve rural access to energy to address rural urban disparities;
- Incentivize investments in renewable energy;
- Improve access to energy;



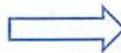
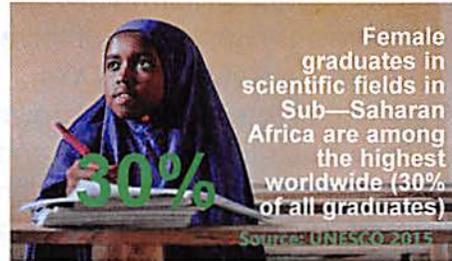
- The African Union-United Nations partnership framework for Agenda 2063 & 2030 Agenda;
- Domestic resource mobilization by African countries;
- Combating illicit financial flows from Africa;
- Tackling corruption in the region;
- The African Continental Free Trade Area;
- North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation;
- Honouring ODA commitments is important.



- The African Union-United Nations partnership framework has been signed to optimize resource use and mobilize support:
- Domestic resource mobilization by Africa countries is strengthening:
- There is continued focus on combating illicit financial flows from Africa:
- There is renewed impetus to tackle corruption in the region:
- The African Continental Free Trade Area has been launched:
- North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation continues to be important means for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Development partners need to honour their ODA Commitments:

- Harnessing science, technology and innovation (STI);

Africa produces only
1% of the scientific knowledge
2% of world research output
0.2% of the world's patents.



- Addressing the large gaps in data and statistics crucial;

20 %
 of African countries lack recent census data (some censuses dating back to the 1970s or 1980s)

Africa countries are making major effort to harness science, technology and innovation (STI) for the implementation of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 goals.

Today, half of African countries have adopted STI policies aligned with the needs of the Sustainable Development Goals and the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) 2024.

The mobile ecosystem also employed about 3.5 million in the region last year, and contributed \$13 billion to the public sector through taxes.

In 2016 the mobile industry contributed to \$110 billion to Sub-Saharan Africa economies, equivalent to 7.7 percent of the regional GDP.

ECA plays a pivotal role in advancing science, technology and innovation. (STI) as means of implementing SDGs across the African continent.

- Besides its support in the development of the AU's Sciences, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA) 2014, which helps in restructuring national STI policy development in the context of SDG and Agenda 2063, ECA helps AU's agencies to strengthen

national STI policy monitoring agencies to improve both the collection of STI statistics and the conduct of surveys on progress in implementation of national STI policies and strategies. Such surveys based on improved statistics are helping STI agencies formulate best recommendations both at REC and country levels on best ways of increasing STI readiness as a means implementing a number of SDGs.

- ECA continues to support the growth in the use of ICT, develop and strengthen institutional capacity and make the link with the private sector. As spaces for exchange and promotion of knowledge through multi-stakeholder platforms and a series of regional face-to-face meetings., ECA convenes an annual Africa Regional review of World Summit of Information Society (WSIS) outcome to strengthen the regional perspective of the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and alignment of the WSIS and SDG processes as well as Senior Expert Dialogue on STI. ECA is playing a key role in supporting the Sahel countries to transform their economy through digital economy as a main vehicle to create growth, employment and supporting the increased competitiveness and diversification of their economies as well as to take advantage of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Regional and national efforts are being taken to address the large gaps in data and statistics so as to ensure evidenced-based policy design and implementation, and progress reporting on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.

Specifically, on SDGs and agenda 2063, the key ECA interventions have been:

- Development of an integrated Regional Indicator Framework for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063. A handbook on the Integrated Regional Indicator Framework has been produced.
- Strengthening institutional environment, cooperation, dialogue and partnerships for the production and utilization of SDGs indicators.
- Promoting data disaggregation.
- Enhancing the integration of administrative data, big data and geospatial information for the compilation of SDG indicators.



THANK YOU!
MERCI!

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