



# Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals

## Outcome Document



United Nations  
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# I. Background and introduction

1. This outcome document is intended to submit recommendations on the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as technical input for consideration by the High-level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

2. The development of sustainable development goals was among the key commitments agreed at the United Nations. The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), which took place from 20 to 22 June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, requested the United Nations Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations system provided all the necessary inputs and support for the work on the sustainable development goals. Rio+20 further requested the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, to support the Regional Commissions in collecting and compiling national inputs to inform this global effort. The Conference also resolved to establish an inclusive and transparent intergovernmental process open to all stakeholders, to develop global sustainable development goals to be agreed by the United Nations General Assembly. In this connection, a United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group, co-chaired by Kenya and Hungary, and comprising 30 representatives nominated by member States from the five United Nations regional groups was established on 22 January 2013 by decision 67/555 (A/67/L.48/rev.1).

## *Africa consultations on the sustainable development goals*

3. As a follow-up to the Rio+20 outcomes, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, in collaboration with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, organized the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting (Africa-RIM) in November 2012, in Addis Ababa, to deliberate on the main outcomes of Rio+20 and their implications for Africa. This multi-stakeholder meeting, which brought together participants from the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, adopted the Africa-RIM Outcome Document for the post Rio+20 follow-up processes, including the Twentieth Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-20). The Africa-RIM reaffirmed the principles underlying the sustainable development goals and identified the broad priority areas that they should cover. In this regard, the RIM agreed on the need to have an effective, broad-based and bottom-up consultative process to flesh out the goals, targets and indicators that should underpin the sustainable development goals. The RIM also agreed that the goals, targets and indicators should be informed by, among others, the outcomes of the Africa process on the post-2015 development agenda.

## *Africa-wide consultations on the Post-2015 Development Agenda*

4. The Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme jointly organized subregional and regional consultations on the post-2015 development agenda in Africa. These consultations were held as follows: Accra, in November 2011; Mombasa, in October 2012; Dakar, in December 2012; and Hammamet, in March 2013. The regional consultations were designed to: identify Africa's priorities for the post-2015 agenda; identify enablers and critical success factors for the post-2015 development agenda; and align the post-2015 priorities with other development programmes and agendas, including Rio+20 and the New Partnership for Africa's Development. The Hammamet meeting adopted an outcome document in which it agreed that the post-2015 development agenda process should incorporate the Rio+20 outcomes and the outcomes of the Africa-wide initiatives, national and regional consultations.

## *The Sixth Joint Annual Meetings of the African Union Commission Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the Economic Commission for Africa Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development*

5. The Conference, which was held in March 2013, deliberated on the post-2015 development agenda and the implementation of the Rio+20 Outcomes in Africa. In the ministerial statement adopted by the meeting, the ministers inter alia:

- (a) Urged that necessary steps should be taken to achieve an early convergence between the post-2015 development agenda and the Rio+20 follow-up processes.
- (b) Called on the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank to ensure that Africa's priorities, identified through the region's consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, were duly incorporated into the global SDGs and the African Common Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda that were being formulated. In this connection, the Conference also called on the three collaborating institutions to translate the African Common Position into concrete goals, targets and indicators.

## *The Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the sustainable development goals and its outcome document*

6. Against this backdrop, the Economic Commission for Africa, jointly with the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank, convened the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals at experts and ministerial levels from 31 October to 5 November 2013. The main objectives of the meeting were to: enable African countries to identify, articulate and reach consensus on the region's sustainable development priorities and goals, taking into account the ongoing Africa-wide consultations on the post-2015 Development Agenda; and prepare Africa to speak with one strong voice and rally international support for the goals that were well aligned with the region's sustainable development priorities and aspirations.

7. This Outcome Document constitutes Africa's collective recommendations on the sustainable development goals, as a technical input to the High-level Committee process. The goals specified herein are not final and may be subject to modification, on the basis of new information and developments in consultation with the Africa members of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Africa High-level Committee on the post-2015 Development Agenda.

## **II. Preamble**

8. *We, Ministers and other high-level representatives of African member States,*

*Having met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 4 to 5 November 2013, for the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals,*

*Mindful of the Meeting's objective to reach consensus on the continent's sustainable development priorities and goals, taking into account the ongoing Africa-wide consultations on the post-2015 Development Agenda, including the important work of the High-level Committee established by the African Union; and to prepare Africa to speak with one strong voice and rally international support for the sus-*



tainable development goals that are well aligned with the continent's sustainable development priorities and aspirations,

*Recalling* the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) adopted by the General Assembly,

*Reaffirming* Africa's commitment to the outcome document of Rio+20, "The Future We Want", in which Heads of State and Government and high-level representatives renewed their commitment to sustainable development and to promoting an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable future for our planet and for present and future generations,

*Also reaffirming* Africa's commitment to mainstreaming sustainable development at all levels, integrating economic, social and environmental development objectives and recognizing their interlinkages, with a view to eradicating poverty,

*Lauding* the reaffirmation by Rio+20 of the Rio principles, particularly that of common but differentiated responsibility, as well as Agenda 21, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the commitment to accelerate the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and the support to Africa's sustainable development efforts, including the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development,

*Cognizant* that the key commitments agreed at Rio+20 included the development of sustainable development goals to facilitate focused and coherent action on sustainable development, and in this connection, welcoming the establishment on 22 January 2013, of the United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group on the SDGs co-chaired by Kenya and comprising 30 representatives from the five United Nations regional groups,

*Commending* the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs for organizing the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting in November 2012 to deliberate on the main outcomes of Rio+20 and their implications for Africa,

*Also commending* the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on Africa and the United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Africa for their support to the Africa-wide consultations on the post-2015 Development Agenda, and welcoming the establishment of the Africa High-level Committee to guide the continent's development of a common position on the post-2015 Development Agenda,

*Reiterate* the decisions and resolutions on the post-2015 Development Agenda and on the sustainable development goals of various African Union summits and the joint annual meetings of the AU Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance and the ECA Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development;

*Endorse* the outcome document of the Africa Regional Implementation Meeting, including all agreements pertaining to the sustainable development goals, and the outcome document of the Africa-wide consultations on the post-2015 Development Agenda;

*And hereby adopt* this outcome document as follows:

### III. Africa's vision and aspirations for the sustainable development goals

9. *We recall* that the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development recognizes that the New Partnership for Africa's Development provides the framework for sustainable development on the continent. We further recall that Rio+20 affirmed its support to Africa's sustainable development efforts, including the implementation of NEPAD, and reaffirm our commitment to achieving the laudable objectives of this continental development framework.

10. *We are encouraged* by the launching of the "Agenda 2063" discussions, which seek to draw lessons from the past, build on progress and achievements made and strategically exploit all possible opportunities to achieve the African Union's vision of "An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena".

11. *We remain convinced* that poverty eradication is the overriding sustainable development challenge in Africa, and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development and reaffirm that the continent requires adequate policy space, capacity-building, financial resources and technology development, innovation and transfer to effectively address this challenge.

12. *We are also convinced* that achievement of equitable sustainable development requires an enabling international environment, backed by good governance, peace and security, infrastructure development and sound global partnership for development.

13. *We emphasize* the important role that sustainable development goals, anchored on the Rio Principles, particularly the principle of "Common but Differentiated Responsibility", could play in pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development. We further emphasize that the sustainable development goals should advance sustainable development through further integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development to guide and contribute to transformative change in support of the right to development and equitable and inclusive processes that enhance sustainability at the global, regional, national and local levels.

14. *We emphasize* that while we are primarily responsible for achieving development objectives, and must have the policy space to pursue efforts at eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development, an international enabling environment for development would be required, with international partners playing a key role to honour their commitments and support country-led strategies.

15. *We reiterate* the importance and usefulness of a set of sustainable development goals that inter alia, take into account regional and national specificities, builds upon existing international commitments on development already made and contributes to the full and effective implementation of the outcomes of all major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields.

16. *We underscore* that the goals should be integrated into the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015, thereby contributing to the achievement of sustainable development and serving as a driver for implementing and mainstreaming sustainable development in the United Nations system as a whole.

17. *We stress* the need for progress towards the achievement of the sustainable development goals to be assessed and accompanied by appropriate targets and indicators, taking into account different regional and national circumstances, capacities and levels of development.

## **IV. Key principles and criteria in the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

18. *Mindful* of Africa's vision and aspirations for the sustainable development goals as highlighted, and building on the Africa-RIM Outcome, we affirm that the goals shall:

- (a) Be guided by the Rio Principles, particularly the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibility, taking into account different national circumstances, capacities and priorities;
- (b) Build upon commitments already made and contribute to the full implementation of the outcomes of all major summits in the economic, social and environmental fields, particularly the Millennium Development Goals;
- (c) Address and incorporate all three dimensions of sustainable development and their interlinkages in a balanced manner;
- (d) Be action oriented and allow for tracking progress towards sustainable development over time. In this regard, they shall have clear and measurable targets, which take into account different regional and national priorities, realities, capacities and levels of development;
- (e) Be universal in nature and flexible enough to deal with different national priorities and build on the Millennium Development Goals;
- (f) Be accompanied by adequate means of implementation, particularly financing, technology transfer and capacity-building. For each goal, there should be clearly defined means of implementation;
- (g) Be developed as part of the post-2015 Development Agenda, taking into account national visions, circumstances and priorities for their implementation;
- (h) Promote equitable and inclusive human-centred development and participate in Africa's environmentally friendly and gender-sensitive transformation and emergence;
- (i) Be supported by appropriate plans, strategies and programmes for their achievement;
- (j) Have a time-horizon of 15 years for implementation and evaluation, that factor
- (k) intergenerational equity;
- (l) Drive implementation with the active involvement of all relevant stakeholders.

## **V. Africa's key sustainable development priorities**

19. *We agree* on the following as constituting Africa's key sustainable development priorities.

### *Economic development*

20. *We reaffirm* that sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and development remains critical and should be underpinned by accelerated investment in infrastructure and industrial development, value addition, research, innovation, technology development and accelerated productivity. We further reaffirm the need for partnership for the transfer of adapted, appropriate and environmentally sound technology. These are important for wealth and employment creation, as well as diversification of African economies to make them globally competitive.

21. *We are mindful* that increase in gross domestic product alone does not truly reflect economic well-being and recognize that poverty goes beyond income and includes access to safe and affordable basic services and social protection. In this regard, we remain concerned about the challenges of access to quality education and health, clean water and water for development, improved sanitation, energy and decent housing, which are necessary to comprehensively eradicate poverty and reverse the negative sustainable development trends.

22. *We remain convinced* that increased agricultural production and productivity will significantly contribute to Africa's structural transformation. Investment in efficient food systems is critical to improving household incomes and meeting the food demand associated with the region's urbanization processes. Food security and nutrition will only be achieved if Africa increases its food production through structural transformation of the agriculture sector, and a secure land tenure system, which will reduce food losses and improve food distribution and access.

23. *We emphasize* the importance of responsible management of fish stocks, marine, coastal and pastoral resources as an avenue for industry, trade and food security. We equally emphasize the importance of protecting and developing our oceanic space as a cross-cutting platform for boosting trade, industry, inter-connectivity, research and innovation, food security and social inclusion for all.

24. *We urge* developed countries to eliminate agricultural subsidies and other trade distorting measures in order to increase market access for agricultural products from African countries; and further reaffirm the need for technology transfer to enable African countries to shift to sustainable agriculture. We remain concerned that food security is threatened by manipulation of commodity prices, the diversion of seeds and the unsustainable use of food crops for biofuel, particularly the conversion of arable land for mining and the production of biofuel crops.

25. *We affirm* the need to ensure the economic empowerment of young people and women through equal opportunity to ownership and control of economic resources, technology, markets, land, property and inheritance rights. In addition, the special needs of people with disability and the elderly must be mainstreamed into development programmes.

26. *We are mindful* that Africa is the fastest urbanizing continent globally, with an estimated growth rate of 3.4 per cent. About 40 per cent of the continent's people are already urbanized, with projections that over 50 per cent of Africans will be living in urban areas by 2050. Efforts should therefore be deployed to eradicate urban poverty, expand decent employment and productivity, raise living standards, especially in slums and informal settlements and ensure universal access to secure and affordable housing and basic urban services.

27. *We are concerned* about the huge transport and energy infrastructure deficit that constitute a considerable challenge to Africa's transformation agenda. There should be sustained political focus to keep the momentum of infrastructure development as a priority.

28. *We affirm* the need to promote an integrated approach to policymaking at the national, regional and local levels for transport services; as well as systems such as infrastructure, public transport systems and goods delivery networks to promote sustainable development, with a view to providing safe, affordable and efficient transportation, thereby increasing energy efficiency, reducing pollution and limiting the urban sprawl, taking into account national priorities and circumstances.

## *Social development*

29. *We agree* that priorities in the social sector should be informed by relevant African decisions and declarations on youth, women, girls and gender.

30. *We are cognizant* that people are the embodiment of development and as such investments in human and social development can significantly contribute to increasing their resourcefulness. Building a

healthy population that is educated and has the appropriate skills mix to adequately respond to the social, environmental and economic challenges of each country is a priority. We therefore recognize the need to harness the demographic dividend for high and sustained economic growth that ensures full and productive employment and decent work for all and generates adequate quality jobs for Africa's labour force, in particular, the youth and women.

31. *We remain convinced* that all citizens must have a guaranteed minimum income to ensure full participation in economic and social development.

32. *We note with concern* that Africa's current economic growth is yet to translate into poverty eradication, real employment creation and improved labour productivity, health and child protection and well-being for various social groups. This calls for targeted policies and actions to ensure equitable access for women, the youth and persons with disabilities to quality education and training, decent employment opportunities, social protection and social security measures.

33. *While we are encouraged* by the gains made in human resource development, which is important for the inherent capacity of society to respond to challenges and harness opportunities for wealth creation and social sustenance, much remains to be done. Africa must formulate appropriate policies to shape its future, for instance, by developing education curricula at all levels to equip people with the skills required for transformation towards sustainability.

34. *We note with concern* the increasing incidence of gender-based violence; which calls for laws against all forms of discrimination against women.

35. *We welcome* progress in health programmes, but remain concerned that Africa still reels under a severe health burden and prevalence of communicable and non-communicable diseases such as HIV, malaria and tuberculosis. Of equal concern are high maternal and infant mortality and morbidity, recurrent epidemics and humanitarian crises. It is important to enhance ongoing improvements in health care systems and broad-based primary health care; and intensify prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases as well as access to sexual and reproductive health.

## *Environment and natural resources*

36. *We are concerned* about the challenges posed by climate change, desertification and land degradation, drought, floods, loss of biodiversity, management of waste and chemicals, coastal erosion, marine pollution and rising sea levels that threaten the existence of Small Island Developing States. Their combined negative effects are already being felt in terms of increased vulnerability and the social, economic and environmental cost for adaptation and mitigation. While the support of development partners, in view of their historical responsibility, remains critical to adaptation and mitigation measures in the region, we agree to fully integrate these environmental concerns into national development plans to effectively address these challenges. We also reaffirm the need for urgent action to reverse land degradation.

37. *We are also concerned* that the exploitation of Africa's natural resource base is not translating into adequate employment opportunities and economic returns for the continent. We note the continuing depletion and degradation of Africa's natural resource base and recognize the need to promote sustainable development of the continent's natural resources, including land and marine. We further note that value addition, research and development and technological innovation are key to sustainably harnessing the natural resource base for the continent's economic and social transformation.

38. *We remain concerned* at the increase in the number, severity and frequency of natural disasters, which are slowing down and disrupting progress towards sustainable development. Efforts should focus on integrating disaster-risk reduction and management measures by building resilient livelihoods and introducing early warning systems into development frameworks in order to effectively respond to natural disasters. In addition, appropriate relief materials and psychosocial services should be provided for disaster victims, especially the most vulnerable.

## *Institutions and governance*

39. *We recognize* that strong institutions, good governance at all levels, as well as fair and equitable globalization are critical to achieving sustainable development and poverty eradication. In this regard, we emphasize the need to build on political gains and reform global economic governance to make them responsive to the development needs of African States. Likewise, there is a need to deepen political, economic, social, environmental and local governance, and build effective and viable institutions at the international and national levels. Particular emphasis should be put on statistical data and the creation of a conducive environment. Africa's voice and participation should be strengthened to ensure more responsive, legitimate, democratic and inclusive Governance at the international level.

## *Means of implementation*

40. *We emphasize* that sustainable development remains a challenge for Africa due to the huge gaps in meeting financial, capacity-building and technology transfer needs.

41. *We note* that while foreign direct investment is on the rise in some parts of the continent and sectors of the economy, the level of official development assistance to Africa is on the decline. We also note with concern the slow repatriation of illicit financial resources to their countries of origin. We should combat tax evasion and ensure sustained mobilization of increased domestic and external resources.

42. *We emphasize* that access to clean, affordable and environmentally sound technologies, adapted to local needs and circumstances would help the region exploit its rich natural resource base without undermining its sustainability.

43. *We recognize* that human resource, organizational and institutional capacity development is crucial to implementing sustainable development commitments in the region. We emphasize the need to strengthen South-South cooperation and involve the private sector to leverage additional resources and capacities for sustainable development, noting that this does not substitute but rather complements North-South cooperation.

44. *We acknowledge* the significant role that cities and rapidly growing urban areas can play in the sustainable transformation of our continent. We recognize that by channeling current investments in large urban infrastructure towards more sustainable solutions, we can promote development in urban and human settlements, so as to effectively address urban poverty.

## *Promoting an integrated approach to sustainable development*

45. *We are mindful* that efforts at integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development require interlinkages that promote flexibility, cooperation, collaboration; as well as learning to deal with the challenges of integrated development and responsive governance. Broadening participation by all actors, including the private sector, will further enhance the ability to harness the interlinkages for sustainable development.

## VI. Sustainable development goals, targets and indicators

46. *We recommend* the sustainable development goals below, based on the continent's priorities and the framework for action and follow-up, as contained in the Rio+20 outcome document, "The Future We Want"; taking into account the priorities identified in the Africa Regional Consultations on the goals.

47. *We also recommend* that achievement of the sustainable development goals should be set for a period of 15 years starting from 2016.

Goal 1: Eradicate poverty in all its forms.

Goal 2: Promote sustainable agriculture, and achieve food security and adequate nutrition for all.

Goal 3: Ensure quality, adequate, affordable, accessible and comprehensive health services for all.

Goal 4: Achieve universal access to affordable and quality education at all levels.

Goal 5: Achieve gender equality, protect and empower women, the youth and persons in vulnerable situations.

Goal 6: Ensure social inclusion and protection, including guaranteed minimum income, and social security and decent employment for all, particularly for the youth.

Goal 7: Structurally transform economies and attain inclusive sustained economic growth; accelerate infrastructure development, industrialization and access to affordable energy; and build resilient cities and sustainable human settlements.

Goal 8: Enhance the quality, resilience and protection of the environment; and promote sustainable exploitation, use and management of natural resources.

Goal 9: Combat desertification and land degradation, mitigate drought and promote sustainable management of land and oceanic spaces.

Goal 10: Promote culture, research, science, innovation and technology development.

Goal 11: Scale up global partnerships for development.

Goal 12: Promote good governance at national and international levels.

48. *We are cognizant* that the sustainable development goals are strongly interlinked and should be implemented in an integrated manner, using an interlinkages approach in order to achieve the desired sustainable development results. This implies that the inputs and processes for achieving the goals will be the guide to ensuring sustainable development outcomes in all dimensions.

49. *We are also cognizant* that the goals could be subject to modifications on the basis of new information and developments. In this regard, the refinement of the goals will be undertaken in close consultation between the African members of the United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group on the sustainable development goals and the High-level Committee on the post-2015 Development Agenda. In the same vein, the targets and indicators proposed in the Draft Africa Regional Report on the sustainable development goals are also expected to undergo a continuous refinement process to complement the most suitable set of goals that will guide the region's development in the post-2015 period.

50. *We commit* to ensuring Africa's effective participation in the consultations and negotiations leading to the adoption of global sustainable development goals by the United Nations General Assembly and undertake to:

- (a) *Ensure* that Africa speaks with one strong voice to articulate and rally international support for the aforementioned goals, which are well aligned with the continent's sustainable development priorities;

- (b) *Promote* the ownership, championship, domestication and implementation of activities towards the achievement of the goals by member States, continental and regional organizations and major groups;
- (c) *Mobilize*, enhance understanding and strengthen the capacity of member States, continental and regional organizations and major groups for the development and subsequent implementation of programmes and activities towards the achievement of the goals in particular, and sustainable development in general;
- (d) *Enhance* linkages between the national, subregional, regional and global levels.

## VII. Strategy and means of implementation for the sustainable development goals

51. We *affirm* the importance of adequate means of implementation to realize sustainable development in general, and the sustainable development goals in particular. These include financial resources, technology development and transfer, capacity development, regional integration, trade and market access, as well as South-South cooperation. We also recognize that these are not mutually exclusive and should be employed in a complementary manner for efficient and effective delivery.

52. We *also affirm* that Africa must take responsibility for its development and must therefore endeavour to step up domestic financial resource mobilization significantly to achieve the sustainable development goals. In this regard, we recognize the importance of domestic savings and improvements in public revenue collection; and the significance of private capital flows, as sources for development financing. We also endeavour to improve governance and ensure an enabling investment climate for increased domestic and foreign investment. We emphasize, in this regard, the importance of a conducive international environment and effective global partnerships for mobilizing resources. We further urge partners to fully honour their development commitments to Africa.

53. With regard to mobilization of financial resources:

- (a) We call on the African Union to mandate the NEPAD Agency, the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank to work with relevant institutions such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to explore the implementation of instruments recommended in the report on domestic resource mobilization requested by the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Orientation Committee.
- (b) We invite governments to continue implementing reforms in tax administration to address transfer-pricing manipulation and sophisticated and advanced tax planning and avoidance measures that have led to significant revenue leakage, resulting from illegitimate shifting of profits to jurisdictions where lower rates apply, especially by multinational companies.
- (c) We request the international community to double their efforts to track, report, stop and repatriate illicit financial flows from the continent, by improving the effectiveness of global regulatory and institutional frameworks to combat such flows. The African Union and the General Assembly should engage rich countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to improve their disclosure policies. The recommendations of the High-level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows from Africa, the African Regional Anti-Corruption Programme (2011-2016) and the African Tax Administrative Forum should be implemented.
- (d) We express the need for the World Bank, with the support of G8 Heads of State, to fulfil its 2009 pledge to reduce the average global cost of remittances from 10 per cent to 5 per cent by 2014. Achievement of this pledge in Africa will enable the region to save more than \$2.884 billion annually in Diaspora remittance charges, which could be used to implement the sustainable development goals.



54. *We urge* developed countries to: honour their commitment to reach the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance; provide 0.15-0.20 per cent of their gross national income to least developed countries; and encourage the private sector, including transnational corporations, private foundations and civil society institutions, to provide financial and technical assistance to developing countries. We call upon those countries to extend this commitment beyond 2015, throughout the implementation of the sustainable development goals.

55. *We recall* the establishment of the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, under the auspices of the General Assembly, and look forward to receiving its report, with clear options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate resource mobilization.

56. *We further urge* development partners to honour their commitment to reduce the unsustainable debt burden through debt relief, debt cancellation, debt swap and other innovative mechanisms geared towards addressing the debt burden of developing countries, in particular the poorest and most heavily indebted.

57. *We reaffirm* the need to eliminate all trade distorting measures applied by developed countries, in order to increase market access for agricultural products from African countries, thereby increasing revenues from their agricultural exports.

58. *We also reaffirm* the need to uphold universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading systems that contribute to growth, sustainable development and employment, particularly for African countries.

59. *We further reaffirm* the importance of climate finance for funding sustainable development-related initiatives and call on developed countries parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to honour their commitment to provide new and additional resources for climate change adaptation and mitigation and ensure that Africa receives adequate climate finance through the Green Climate Fund.

60. *We underscore* that technology development and transfer are a key means of implementation and an integral part of the Rio+20 outcomes. African countries will have to rely on technology, if they are to shift to a more sustainable development path. It is imperative to bridge the technological divide so as to promote sustainable industrialization, inclusive growth and transformational change across the African continent. Progress towards realizing the sustainable development goals and post-2015 agenda will depend on strides made in the means of implementation, particularly finance and technology. To this end, the continent has been actively participating in the discussions and workshops on the technology facilitation mechanism called for by Rio+20, to ensure that technology development, adaptation and transfer priorities and concerns are adequately catered for.

61. *We reiterate* the need to establish a global technology facilitation mechanism to accelerate global technology transfer and diffusion, commensurate with the sustainable development challenge. The mechanism should address gaps throughout the full technology cycle - research, development, demonstration, market formation and diffusion - as well as all the steps involved in technology transfer, notably: (a) identification of the need and the technology of interest; (b) potential sources, costs and negotiations for access; (c) actual transfer of technology; (d) adapting and learning to operate and maintain the technology; and (e) use and further upgrade of the acquired technologies. To this end, we call on the General Assembly to develop the format and modalities for this technology facilitation mechanism.

62. *We also reiterate* the need for the United Nations to establish an independent advisory board, drawing on its various agencies to provide different perspectives on technology development, transfer and use. This would ensure a system-wide approach to development, transfer and use of clean technology, thereby enabling the organization to coordinate its activities across its agencies.

63. *We urge* the international community to commit to adequately support the establishment of a continental network of centres of excellence and hubs, leveraging existing networks and institutional arrangements, to assess the needs and identify, develop, adapt and transfer clean technologies.

64. *We appreciate and underscore* the call of Rio+20 for relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations to support developing countries in capacity-building for developing resource-efficient and inclusive economies. In this regard, we reiterate our call for the international community to commit to support the:

- (a) Updating and implementation of the AU-NEPAD Capacity Development Strategic Framework to enhance the building of capacity for implementing sustainable development commitments. The new strategy should include clear and measurable indicators to monitor and evaluate interventions that address the continent's progress in capacity development;
- (b) Elaboration of broader national capacity development strategies that embody all aspects of capacity development, including human resource, organizational and institutional development;
- (c) Reform of Africa's educational curricula to ensure the development of knowledge and skills for sustainable development at all levels;
- (d) Promotion of coordination and synergies among the various capacity development initiatives in international agreements in the economic, social and environmental spheres.

65. *We are mindful* that effective political leadership is at the heart of the drive for sustainable development. The continent needs renewed commitment to sustainable development from African leaders.

66. *We are also mindful* of the need to step up efforts to enhance awareness of sustainable development issues and provide appropriate incentives to encourage participation by all stakeholders. Leaders in all sectors of the economy and society must champion sustainable development-compliant practices and ensure commitment by all stakeholders.

## **VIII. Monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the sustainable development goals**

67. *We appreciate* that the monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the sustainable development goals need to be undertaken at all levels – local, national, subregional, regional and global. Data should be systematically collected, disaggregated and analysed to inform regular performance reports. A common reporting framework for the indicators will be required to compare performance across countries, subregions and regions.

68. *We call* on the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development established at the sixty-eighth session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2013 to effectively monitor implementation at the global level, taking into account specific regional and national circumstances and the Principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibility.

69. *We underline* that in Africa, the African Union remains the apex institution for monitoring the implementation of the goals in the region. Its various ministerial bodies should monitor corresponding thematic areas of the goals; and the African Peer Review Mechanism should incorporate the goals and indicators into its assessment framework. The regional economic communities will take responsibility for collating performance at the subregional level, the African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the NEPAD Agency, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme will support continental and regional monitoring and evaluation.

70. *We also underline* the need for a clear and actionable indicator framework for sustainable development at the national level, to enhance understanding, guide integration modalities and identify the type of linkages that should exist among different sectors. In this connection, we request international and continental institutions to support the development and application of sustainable development indicator frameworks.

71. We recognize that capacity is central to effective monitoring and evaluation and therefore undertake, with the appropriate international support, to strengthen institutional capacity for the systematic collection and collation of data on all indicators and to ensure that they are updated at appropriate intervals at all levels.

72. We reaffirm the role of the Economic Commission for Africa in promoting a balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in Africa, and call on the Commission, together with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the NEPAD Agency, the regional economic communities, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme to continue facilitating consultative meetings and processes to monitor progress and scale up the implementation of sustainable development commitments by African countries.

73. We welcome the Rio+20 call for broader measures of progress to complement the gross domestic product in order to better inform policy decisions. Africa looks forward to the successful launching of a programme of work in this area by the United Nations Statistical Commission, in consultation with United Nations system agencies and other relevant organizations, including those in the region. The continent will then be able to make a more accurate assessment of the state of its economies and adopt policies that internalize the social and environmental costs of growth, so as to better inform sustainable development trajectories. In this regard, we reiterate that:

- (a) The Statistical Commission for Africa should provide a platform in the region to discuss and inform the continent's position on the programme of work on measures to complement the gross domestic product. In this regard, the Africa Working Group on Development Indicators should provide the technical input and documentation to be tabled at the StatCom-Africa sessions and coordinate the contributions of the various working groups, with a view to ensuring effective linkages with one another and relevant statutory committees of the Economic Commission for Africa and the United Nations Statistics Division;
- (b) The African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa and the African Development Bank, should develop a management framework for the implementation of the African Charter on Statistics, taking into account the need to consider statistics and indicators to complement the gross domestic product and other economic indicators from the System of National Accounts, to provide more comprehensive measures of sustainable development;
- (c) The African Union Commission, the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank and other regional institutions, as well as the international community, are called upon to step up their support to African countries, through the relevant regional and sub-regional frameworks, to facilitate their participation in the programme of work on measures to complement the gross domestic product;
- (d) The United Nations Statistics Division should foster effective linkages with relevant regional platforms to ensure that region-specific priorities and concerns, as well as challenges and constraints, are factored into the global discussions.

## **IX. Enhancing convergence between the post-2015 Development Agenda and the sustainable development goal processes**

74. *We underscore* the need for steps to be taken to achieve an early convergence between the post-2015 Development Agenda and the sustainable development goals at global, regional and national levels, towards ensuring a “Delivery as One” United Nations development agenda. We therefore invite the African members of the United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group on the sustainable development goals and the High-level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to work together towards that end.

75. *We recommend* that policymakers and negotiators in Capitals, Addis Ababa, New York and Geneva should coordinate and continuously consult on the post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goal processes, with a view to ensuring consistency in messages and positions conveyed at various international forums.

## **X. Ensuring that Africa’s priorities are effectively articulated and negotiated at the global level**

76. *We recommend* this outcome as a technical input to be conveyed for the consideration of the High-level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, through its secretariat.

77. *We request* the African members of the United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals and the High-level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to effectively coordinate and ensure a coherent and strong articulation of Africa’s priorities in the two processes.

## **XI. Vote of thanks**

78. We commend the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank, the United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Africa and other partners for supporting Africa’s implementation of the outcomes of Rio+20 and consultations on the post-2015 Development Agenda.

79. We further commend the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the African Union Commission and the African Development Bank for successfully convening the Africa Regional Consultative Meeting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

80. We are grateful to the African members of the United Nations General Assembly Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals and the High-level Committee on the Post-2015 Development Agenda for their tireless efforts in ensuring that Africa’s priorities and aspirations regarding the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 Development Agenda are adequately reflected in the relevant global agreements.

81. Finally, we express our profound gratitude to the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia for their generosity and warm hospitality during our stay in Addis Ababa.