

Seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

*“Building forward better: towards a resilient and green Africa to
achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”*

1 – 4 MARCH 2021

Brazzaville, Republic of Congo

SDG 10 REDUCING INEQUALITIES



REDUCING INEQUALITIES IN AFRICA: INTRODUCTION

- **SDG-10, *reducing inequalities* within and amongst countries conceptually aligns with the principle of leaving no one behind in the quest to achieve the SDGs and in the aspirations of Agenda 2063, *The Africa We Want*, for a prosperous continent based on inclusive growth.**
- **In line with Agenda 2063, this goal is particularly attuned to:**
 - **Goal 1 of Aspiration 1 - beckoning for higher standards of living, improved quality of life and well being for all citizens.**
 - **Goal 4 of Aspiration 1 – calling for sustainable and inclusive growth, and diversification and industrialization, through economic and job transformations.**
- **While relative income inequalities have reduced in a few countries, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated vulnerabilities and made social and economic a lot more stark in several places across the continent.**

IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON PRE-EXISTING INEQUALITIES IN AFRICA

- **Growing disparities in income and wealth continued to persist during the economic downturn triggered by the COVID pandemic. Weaknesses in public service delivery & inequalities in access to services.**
- **Increased unemployment, > 20 million and more job losses, reduced incomes, & young people hit hardest (AU & ILO).**
- **> 40 million people into poverty, erasing 5 years of progress fighting poverty (World Bank).**
- **Vulnerable populations, refugees and migrants, as well as indigenous peoples, older persons, people with disabilities and children are particularly at risk of being left behind.**
- **Disproportionate effects on vulnerable groups and communities with the rise of hate speech, facing the repercussions from onset socio-economic downturn & countering measures (border control & security responses undermining the health responses)**

KEY TRENDS AND PROGRESS MADE TOWARDS GOAL 10 TARGETS

- **In 2020, the growth of Africa's GDP, which is usually above 3.2 % was insufficient to accelerate economic and societal growth enough to reduce poverty.**
- **Job creation has not met up to the demands of almost 29 million youths entering the workforce on an annual basis.**
- **Due to COVID-19, the likelihood of income and societal inequality increasing has heightened, due to:**
 - 1) **The inability for low-income workers to work from home**
 - 2) **The drop in economic performance**
 - 3) **The lack of access to social services by low income groups, gender based factors and rural dwellers**
- **However, Africa has a comparative advantage in tackling the impacts of COVID-19, through:**
 - 1) **Its booming young population**
 - 2) **Increasing connectivity through transportation and communication**
 - 3) **Increasing freedom of movement within regional blocs**

OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESILIENCE & GREEN RECOVERY

- **Development financing, trade and investment with a focus on connecting people to job opportunities:**
 - **AfCFTA largest free trade area and a 1.2 billion-person market, increasing the returns from remittance**
 - **Facilitating free movement of persons, goods and services**
- **Facilitating the safe migration and mobility of people, ensuring inclusive and sustainable engagement of migrant groups in the economy.**
 - **In particular, aligning migration management and migration governance within development initiatives.**
- **Tapping into the benefits of digital innovation**
- **Capitalizing on Africa's natural resources to generate renewable natural capital**
 - **Noting that, 50% of the world's total GDP is dependent on nature, and efforts made towards sustainable use of natural resources could generate up to 395 million jobs globally (AfDB, 2021)**



THANK YOU!

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Ideas
to
Action