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**Economic Commission for Africa
Committee of Experts of the Conference of African
Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development**
Thirty-ninth meeting

Addis Ababa (hybrid), 17–19 March 2021

Item 6 of the provisional agenda*

Statutory issues**Summary report on the sixth session of the Africa
Regional Forum on Sustainable Development****I. Introduction**

1. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), together with the Government of Zimbabwe, the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and the United Nations system, convened the sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 24 to 27 February 2020.

2. The Forum was attended by more than 3,000 participants, comprising representatives of the Governments of 52 ECA member States, intergovernmental bodies, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies, international organizations, major groups and other stakeholders.

A. Background

3. The Forum was held against the backdrop of insufficient progress, despite deployment of considerable efforts, towards the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union. The current decade offered a window of hope to speed up the pace and expand the scale of implementation of the goals, in accordance with the designation by the General Assembly in its resolution 74/4 of the 2020s as a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

B. Theme and activities of the session

4. The sixth session was held on the theme: “2020–2030: A decade to deliver a transformed and prosperous Africa through the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”. The theme was aligned with that of the 2020 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development: “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

* E/ECA/COE/39/1.



5. The principal activities carried out during the Forum were the following:
 - (a) Regional follow-up and review of progress made in implementing the two Agendas. To promote an interlinked and integrated approach to the review and deliberation process, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals were clustered into five sub-themes articulated around the so-called “five Ps” – people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnerships;
 - (b) Peer learning through voluntary national and local reviews and other efforts to advance the integrated implementation of the two agendas;
 - (c) Identifying and articulating priorities, policy options and recommendations in the form of key messages to the 2020 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development.
6. The Forum was enriched by the more than 60 preparatory and side events held on its margins.

II. Opening of the session (agenda item 1)

7. The session was moderated by the Director of the African Centre for Statistics of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Oliver Chinganya.
8. The Executive Secretary of ECA, Vera Songwe, said that climate change, diseases and trade challenges remained significant obstacles, but Africa could overcome them if countries worked together. She noted that young people had developed solutions for future development and sustainable growth.
9. Nkosilati Nwatitu, a representative of young people and a climate ambassador from Zimbabwe, called upon African Governments to combat climate change and protect the environment by involving young people on the front lines of national development plans.
10. The outgoing chair of the Bureau, Nezha El Ouafi, stressed that African countries had made substantial, but still insufficient, progress in implementing the Goals. The fifty-second Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development had recognized the importance of mobilizing funding for implementing the two agendas.
11. The Deputy Chairperson of the African Union, Kwesi Quartey, noted that a priority task for Africa was to deliver on the commitment of “silencing the guns” and “to leave no one behind”. Poverty rates were declining, and gains, albeit insufficient, had been registered in respect to health, literacy and gender equality. High population growth, a lack of access to decent jobs, inequalities and data gaps persisted. The African Union was advancing a joint approach with the United Nations to reinforce action, review, reporting and resource mobilization for implementation of the two Agendas.
12. The Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed, recognized the significant progress that had been made in Africa, despite persistent gaps. The new generation of United Nations country teams and the regional repositioning of the development system would, in cooperation with the African Union and through the decade of action, provide stronger, more cohesive platforms for integrated support to member States. In the light of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area and the impetus to silence the guns, Africa had the skills, leadership, optimism and creativity to realize its full potential.

13. The Minister of Public Services, Labour and Social Welfare of Zimbabwe, Paul Mavima, said that threats to sustainable development required everyone to share experiences to determine a common vision and implementation framework. Zimbabwe had ensured that its national development plan took into account the Goals, with a dedicated unit in the Office of the President ensuring coordination.

14. The President of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, highlighted the Forum's current session as an opportunity to review progress as the United Nations decade of action and delivery for sustainable development began. Zimbabwe had been implementing the two agendas, including by refocusing its national budget to align the programmes of government ministries with specific Goals in Zimbabwe. The support of ECA in the preparation of voluntary national reviews was commendable. He also saluted the initiative of the young people and promised to support their initiatives.

III. Summary and key messages

15. The following sections summarize the key messages and policy recommendations arising from the Forum.

A. High-level panel on accelerators to deliver a transformed and prosperous Africa through the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 within the decade 2020–2030 (agenda item 2)

Key messages

16. The Forum agreed on the following key messages:

(a) In view of historical and environmental imbalances, Africa should be more assertive with regard to the resources to be provided by the global community to effectively implement sustainable development;

(b) Given that the effects of greenhouse gas emissions were deeply felt in Africa, which had contributed the least to climate change, developed countries should therefore take more responsibility for their own industrial emissions, following the polluter pays principle;

(c) In addition, member States should:

(i) Support implementation of the Goals at the local level, through strengthening local governance structures and funding;

(ii) Strengthen participation of the private sector and harness diaspora remittances to invest in social services, in particular, health, education and transformational infrastructure;

(iii) Adopt a results-based management approach combined with a monitoring and evaluation system;

(d) Good governance and trade within and among African countries are key to inclusive growth;

(e) Member States should take advantage of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area by investing in areas that support increased production and value addition, trade facilitation and trade-related infrastructure;

(f) The United Nations development system should provide support, including tools for member States to cost the implementation of the two agendas;

(g) The United Nations development system should scale up support for member States to strengthen integrated planning and reporting;

(h) In order to ensure that no one is left behind, member States should mainstream the two Agendas into their national development plans and ensure that such plans are, inclusive of all stakeholders from all sectors of society;

(i) The United Nations and its development partners should strengthen partnerships to finance capacity-building and data collection.

B. Progress report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at the regional and subregional levels (agenda item 4)

Highlights of the *Africa Sustainable Development Report 2019*

17. The 2019 *Africa Sustainable Development Report* produced by the Economic Commission for Africa, the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Development Programme covered all 17 Goals, clustered around the “five Ps”.

First continental report on the implementation of Agenda 2063

18. The African Union Commission, in collaboration with the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa’s Development, had prepared the continental report on the implementation of the first 10-year implementation plan (2014–2023) of Agenda 2063.

Key messages

19. Following this discussion, the Forum agreed on the following key messages:

(a) Sustainable development is everybody’s business. Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches are critical;

(b) Member States should adopt and implement inclusive policies, which should be backed by sustainable funding mechanisms;

(c) Member States should take measures to expand job creation, increase household incomes, secure property rights, develop infrastructure and enhance human capital and labour productivity, which are key to promoting inclusive growth and reducing poverty;

(d) Member States are encouraged to sign and ratify the legal documents on the establishment of continental financial institutions, along with other African Union treaties;

(e) Member States should plan for growing urbanization and ensure that cities and human settlements are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

(f) To realize the two Agendas, member States should design measures to expand fiscal space for equitable spending, adjusting fiscal and tax policies and the management of tax revenue;

(g) Member States should address the issue of mounting debt;

(h) Governments, the private sector, civil society and development partners should collaborate to realize the United Nations decade of action;

(i) The African Union and the United Nations system should develop a common monitoring and reporting framework, including one continental report on both Agendas, which would reduce the reporting burden on member States and ensure that Africa can speak with one voice.

C. Plenary round tables: voluntary national reviews on implementation of the two agendas [agenda item 5 (a)]

Key messages

20. Following this discussion, the Forum agreed on the following key messages:

- (a) Member States are urged:
 - (i) To conduct regular voluntary national reviews. Member States that have not yet done so are encouraged to volunteer in the forthcoming cycle;
 - (ii) To develop clear mechanisms for generating and using disaggregated data to support evidence-based voluntary national reviews and national development frameworks. They should also invest in information and communications technology that can contribute to the timely collection, dissemination and use of data and information for the reviews;
 - (iii) To ensure that voluntary national reviews highlight flagship projects and good practices that contribute to transformation and accelerate implementation, in particular in key areas such as poverty eradication, women's empowerment and job creation. They should be supported by the United Nations country team, ECA and other partners;
 - (iv) To strengthen resource mobilization for both conducting and implementing the recommendations resulting from voluntary national reviews that embody linkages and convergence between the two Agendas and national development plans;

(b) ECA and the African Union Commission are encouraged to develop a peer review mechanism and a community of practice to promote effective voluntary national reviews and implementation of the two Agendas.

D. Plenary round tables: voluntary local reviews and peer learning on implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 [agenda item 5(b)]

Key messages

21. Following the discussion during the plenary round table, the Forum agreed on the following key messages:

- (a) In order to accelerate the implementation of the two agendas, local and regional governments should be fully engaged in the work of the Forum;
- (b) In addition, member States should:
 - (i) Integrate voluntary local reviews in their voluntary national reviews;
 - (ii) Assist local authorities to collect reliable and consistent local data in order to conduct voluntary local reviews;
 - (iii) Establish voluntary local review mechanisms to improve accountability, transparency and public ownership;
 - (iv) Promote effective devolution and provide local authorities with tools and adequate resources to enable them to localize and implement the goals;

- (v) Establish peer reviews among local authorities to improve implementation, follow-up and review of the two Agendas;
 - (vi) Institutionalize the engagement of young people and vulnerable groups as key stakeholders for the conduct and follow-up of voluntary local reviews;
 - (vii) Integrate local development and urban issues in national and key sectoral development plans, policies and budgetary instruments;
- (c) The United Nations system should:
- (i) Assist in the development of a common template for voluntary local reviews for ease of integration and standardization of those reviews;
 - (ii) Design a template for peer-reviewed voluntary local reviews in Africa that is aligned with voluntary national reviews in order to better standardize key principles.

E. Plenary round table on the sub-theme of people [agenda item 6 (a)]

22. The sub-theme of people covered Goals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063.

Key messages

23. Following its consideration of the sub-theme, the Forum agreed on the following key messages:

(a) Member States should invest in data and research, while being cognizant of social norms and practices, to enable the identification of hotspots and pockets of deprivation and to effectively target resources and interventions to reach those furthest behind first;

(b) Member States should review their educational and health programmes and ensure that the development approaches are people-centred and rights-based;

(c) Educational systems should be geared towards human capital development and focus on quality, in particular in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and match the demand from the job market. Education systems should also cater to school age refugees and internally displaced young people;

(d) Member States should assist in the production of an annual African education monitoring report to inform the innovations required to accelerate the pace of implementation of education-related goals;

(e) Member States should tackle food security, build resilience and address human migration and security by scaling up strategies and programmes to mitigate and adapt to climate change, including through the management of underground water resources, climate-smart agriculture, and sustainable forest and land management;

(f) Member States should take a position on natural gas as a transitional energy source for the continent as they prepare for the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

(g) Member States should increase investment in sectors that are key to tackling inequality among the population, notably security, as highlighted by the African Union theme for 2020, “Silencing the guns”. In addition,

member States should address issues related to gender inequality;

(h) Member States must move from siloed approaches to integrated, inter-sectoral, systems-wide approaches that leverage co-benefits using interlinkages across the goals.

F. Plenary round table on the sub-theme of partnerships [agenda item 6 (b)]

24. The sub-theme of partnerships covered Goal 17 and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063, and the means of implementation needed to deliver on the two Agendas over the decade 2020–2030.

Key messages

25. Following its consideration of the sub-theme, the Forum agreed on the following key messages:

(a) African countries should design and implement innovative financing policies, combat illicit financial flows, undertake reforms to broaden their tax bases, eliminate tax avoidance and prioritize expenditure with the greatest impact on the less privileged;

(b) African countries should support multisectoral partnerships and promote South-South and North-South cooperation to strengthen human and institutional capacity, including for statistical offices and other public institutions and civil society organizations;

(c) African countries should identify and address critical national and subnational capacity needs;

(d) Disaggregated data were required for evidence-based monitoring and evaluation, tracking progress and allocating resources to accelerate the implementation of programmes for achieving the goals of the two Agendas. There needed to be greater collaboration among data generators, collectors and compilers, with a view to harmonization and ensuring the quality and completeness of national databases;

(e) African countries should design and implement digital transformation policies and strategies by 2025, and at least 40 per cent of their populations should be using digital financing.

G. Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of prosperity [agenda item 6 (c)]

26. The sub-theme of prosperity covered Goals 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11, and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063.

Key messages

27. Following its consideration of the sub-theme, the Forum agreed on the following key messages:

(a) Member States should redefine the concept of prosperity to resonate with ordinary citizens, adopt a people and human rights-based approach and institutionalize stakeholder processes to jointly implement the two agendas;

(b) Member States should integrate pro-employment policy approaches in their macroeconomic and sectoral economic policy frameworks to stimulate labour demand and decent jobs. These should be complemented with social protection systems to address extreme poverty and to facilitate a transition to affordable renewable energy;

(c) Member States should accelerate structural transformation by leveraging agricultural commodity-based industrialization and value addition to mineral endowments, while addressing deficits in transformational infrastructure and governance frameworks;

(d) Member States should integrate a spatial perspective and urban approach to achieving the Goals;

(e) Member States should create and reinforce regional systems as incubators for science, innovation and technology development, with emphasis on the involvement of young people and women;

(f) Member States should create an enabling environment for increased private-sector investment and involvement in financing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;

(g) Member States should consider migration governance as an integral part of all development efforts in the pursuit of prosperity;

(h) Member States should advance gender equality and women's empowerment and effectively engage young people and persons living with disabilities;

(i) The United Nations development system should provide technical assistance to regional economic communities to ensure that no country is left behind;

(j) Member States are called upon to accede to the African Peer Review Mechanism and undergo governance reviews.

H. Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of the planet [agenda item 6 (d)]

28. The sub-theme of the planet covered Goals 6, 12, 13, 14 and 15, and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063.

Key messages

29. Following its consideration of the sub-theme, the Forum agreed on the following key messages:

(a) All parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change must be more ambitious and accelerate actions to meet their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, the Doha Amendment and the Paris Agreement;

(b) Member States are encouraged to develop just transition strategies, using a new climate economy approach that guarantees social, economic and environmental benefits;

(c) Member States should facilitate innovative financing mechanisms, including the enhanced mobilization and efficient use of domestic resources, the use of green and blue bonds, and the creation of an enabling environment for direct private sector finance in meeting the Goals;

(d) Parties to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity should ensure that the new deal for nature and people includes tangible actions and the means for their implementation;

(e) The United Nations system should provide technical assistance to African transformative initiatives, including the Great Green Wall Initiative, the Congo Basin Climate Commission, the Sahel Region Climate Commission, and the Climate Commission for Small Island States. States are encouraged to

support the establishment of a committee on climate governance at the regional level;

(f) Member States should expedite national implementation of Africa's blue economy strategy through the development of policy, legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks. The United Nations system should support this process, which complements the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway;

(g) Member States should implement an integrated approach to disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies, and water management and sanitation plans. They should increase resource allocation to national and regional hydrological and meteorological institutions and strengthen frameworks for improved production and delivery of weather and climate information services.

I. Parallel meeting on the sub-theme of peace [agenda item 6 (e)]

30. The sub-theme of peace covered Goal 16 and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063.

Key messages

31. Following its consideration of the sub-theme, the Forum agreed on the following key messages:

(a) Member States must adopt a human rights-based approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and ensure access to justice for all, the protection of rights, the elimination of all forms of discrimination against marginalized people, and access to decent livelihoods for all;

(b) Violation of rules must face prohibitive penalties. Conflicts such as those in the Great Lakes region, the Horn of Africa and the Sahel must be prevented and managed responsibly and in a timely fashion, and adequate resources must be allocated to support the mandate for their resolution;

(c) The United Nations and the African Union Commission must reinforce their governance mechanisms and hold member States accountable, and banish the contradictions inherent in respecting the sovereignty of nations while they may be violating the aspirations of the peace goals;

(d) Member States must practise transformative leadership that is committed to silencing the guns.

J. 2020 session of the Africa Science, Technology and Innovation Forum [agenda item 8 (a)]

Key messages

32. The Forum agreed on the following key messages:

(a) Member States should build capacity in the basic sciences and engineering, guided by national heritage, priorities and comparative geographical advantages for Africa;

(b) Member States should significantly increase investment in research and development, universities and research centres;

(c) Member States should strengthen critical skills at the country level to effectively harness science, technology and innovation;

(d) Member States should establish innovation hubs, incubators and common equipment centres that serve industry, the academic sector and society at large and develop concomitant strategies to implement the second, third and

fourth industrial revolutions to achieve the goals;

(e) Member States should redesign their higher education curricula to place emphasis on the production of goods and services.

K. Perspectives of major groups and other stakeholders [agenda item 8 (b)]

Key messages

33. The Forum agreed on the following key messages:

(a) Member States should guarantee space for civil society and trade unions and protect all human rights defenders and media workers;

(b) The meaningful and inclusive participation of all stakeholders, including children, young people, older persons, people with disabilities, women, internally displaced persons, refugees, indigenous communities, smallholder farmers, and other marginalized groups in the implementation of the two agendas must be ensured.

L. Support from the United Nations development system to implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 [agenda item 8 (c)]

Key messages

34. The Forum considered the outcomes of the special session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa and agreed on the following key messages:

(a) Advancing the integrated implementation of the two Agendas is at the core of the work of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa. Ongoing reforms provide opportunities for strengthening partnership between the African Union and the United Nations;

(b) Subregional coordination mechanisms should work with the regional economic communities within the framework of the two agendas, taking into account subregional specificities;

(c) The African Union theme of 2020, “Silencing the guns”, calls for the mobilization of African Union and United Nations entities around the continent’s peace and security agenda in a coherent fashion. To that end:

(i) It is necessary to strengthen partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, in particular around Security Council resolution 2457 (2019), and in that regard, establish African Union-United Nations teams to coordinate joint initiatives;

(ii) The African Union Commission, regional economic communities and United Nations country teams should support member States and other stakeholders in developing and implementing country-level strategies on silencing the guns;

(iii) The United Nations should support the strengthening of capacities of the African Union blueprint mechanisms for the promotion of peaceful societies, such as the African Governance Architecture and the African Peace and Security Architecture;

(iv) National initiatives on conflict prevention should be mainstreamed into national, subnational and sectoral development planning, budgeting and implementation processes;

- (v) Voluntary national reviews and reporting processes should address issues relating to conflict, peace and security;
 - (vi) Environmental, natural resource and climate change challenges should be mainstreamed into peace and security initiatives;
 - (vii) The refugee-development nexus should be leveraged to contribute to local economies;
 - (viii) Cooperation in intelligence and information-sharing, including whistleblowing, should be strengthened to combat human, drug and arms trafficking, terrorism, terrorist groups and violent extremism;
 - (ix) The international community should implement international instruments, such as the Arms Trade Treaty, that prohibit the transfer of weapons into the hands of illegal end users;
 - (x) Member States should focus on youth employment as a core pillar for promoting peace and security in Africa by establishing income-generating programmes;
 - (xi) The African Union Commission and the United Nations should engage with the entities that are providing guns in Africa, to address the root causes of war in Africa;
- (d) In order to leverage the decade of action:
- (i) African Union-United Nations frameworks should be translated into time-bound plans of action;
 - (ii) The African Union should be consulted and engaged at the design stage of initiatives to ensure that it occupies the driving seat and facilitates the involvement of member States;
 - (iii) The interface among the regional, subregional and country levels should be ensured in the new framework between the African Union and the United Nations at the regional level, and member States and the United Nations Resident Coordinators and country teams should be actively engaged in the new cooperation architecture.

M. Outcomes from the youth forum

Key messages

35. Following its consideration of the outcomes of the youth forum convened earlier by the Deputy Secretary-General, the Forum agreed on the following key messages:

- (a) Youth agency is important in development processes and, as such, voice, power and participation should be accorded to young people in all stages of the development, design and implementation of peace and security policies;
- (b) To harness the youth demographic dividend, there is need for significant investment in young people, in particular young girls, including through innovation, science, technology, engineering and mathematics curriculum, and sex education;
- (c) Persons with disabilities should be accorded expanded access to high-quality education and budgeting frameworks should address their practical needs and strategic interests;
- (d) The United Nations should promote inclusion by strengthening the participation of people with disabilities.

Annex

Victoria Falls Declaration on the United Nations Decade of Action and Delivery for Sustainable Development in Africa

We, African ministers and officials responsible for sustainable development, finance and economic development, social development, agriculture, justice, statistics, and science and technology and representatives of the African Union Commission and other intergovernmental organizations, parliaments, the private sector and civil society,

Having met in Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, from 24 to 27 February 2020 at the sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on the theme “2020–2030: a decade to deliver a transformed and prosperous Africa through the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”,

Expressing profound gratitude and appreciation to the President of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, and the Government and people of Zimbabwe for generously hosting the sixth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the warm hospitality extended to participants,

Expressing also warm appreciation for the attendance at the Forum of President Mnangagwa, the Deputy-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed, and the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union, Kwesi Quartey,

Recalling and reaffirming the political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, held on 24 and 25 September in New York, proclaiming the 2020s as the decade of action to deliver on the goals,

Recalling and reaffirming also the Marrakech Declaration on Sustainable Development and the key messages adopted at the fifth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development held in Marrakech, Morocco, from 16 to 18 April 2019,

Recalling and reaffirming further General Assembly 70/1, in which the Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union at its twenty-fourth annual ordinary session,

Recognizing the efforts by member States and other stakeholders in implementing the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063,

Considering the critical role of young people in the continent’s transformation agenda,

Welcoming the presence for the first time in the Regional Forum of voluntary local review and underscoring the essential role of voluntary local review in localizing and strengthening voluntary national review, and ensuring the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063,

Noting with serious concern that Africa is not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and that there is a window of opportunity within the decade 2020–2030 for decisive action on a continental scale to achieve the Goals,

Emphasizing with serious concern the existential threat posed by climate change and the urgent need to raise ambition on climate action to avert catastrophic impacts of climate change across multiple goals,

Reaffirming our commitment to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing Agenda 2063,

1. *Call upon* all African countries to urgently revisit frameworks for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, to align their national development plans with the principles of the two agendas and to set in motion programmes and projects to deliver on the 10 commitments for action outlined in the political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, and invite the United Nations country teams to provide strong, coordinated and coherent support to member States in that regard;

2. *Also call upon* all African countries to develop and implement people-centred and inclusive national strategies to support the United Nations decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, which are mainstreamed in the national development plans and budgeting processes, and in that regard strengthen mechanisms for the mobilization of resources at the national level and make efficient use of funding for the two agendas;

3. *Further call upon* all African countries to implement the key messages of the Regional Forum;

4. *Call upon* the United Nations development system and partners to scale up their support of member States' capacity development for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, and develop and implement coherent and mutually reinforcing strategies at regional, subregional and national levels to support the United Nations decade of action and delivery for sustainable development through targeted interventions and capacity development in transformational areas, including climate action; youth; education; entrepreneurship and innovation; empowerment of women and persons with disabilities; food systems; health; data and statistics; trade; evidence-based voluntary national and local reviews and integrated planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting tools; science, technology and innovation; and stakeholder engagement;

5. *Reaffirm*, in the spirit of leaving no one behind, the centrality of the Sustainable Development Goals in the realization of the objectives of the global compact on refugees, the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Action Plan to End Statelessness, in particular to ensure protection, inclusion, assistance and the identification of solutions for affected populations, including with regard to the situation of internal displacement;

6. *Invite* the Economic Commission for Africa, together with the United Nations development system, to report annually to the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on the development and implementation of a regional strategy in support of the United Nations decade of action and delivery for sustainable development;

7. *Request* the Government of Zimbabwe to present the key messages on behalf of Africa to the high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council at its meeting in New York from 7 to 16 July 2020; and in various global, regional and subregional forums in order to advocate accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063.