

AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي



UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

---

P. O. Box 3243, Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA Tel.: 00251-11-5517700, ADDIS ABABA  
Website: [www.africa-union.org](http://www.africa-union.org)

---

## **COMMON AFRICAN POSITION (CAP) ON THE POST- 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

## **Preamble:**

**We**, Heads of State and Government of the African Union assembled in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union on 31 January 2014,

**NOTE:** The participatory approach that led to the elaboration of the Common African Position (CAP) on the post-2015 Development Agenda involving stakeholders at the national, regional and continental levels among the public and private sectors, parliamentarians, civil society organizations (CSOs), including women and youth associations, and academia. This approach has helped address the consultation gap in the initial preparation and formulation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

**RECOGNIZE:** The efforts of the members of the High-Level Committee on the post-2015 Development Agenda, the coordinating role of the African Union Commission, and the technical support of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Regional Bureau for Africa, and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in facilitating the process;

**EMPHASIZE:** That the post-2015 Development Agenda provides a unique opportunity for Africa to reach consensus on common challenges, priorities and aspirations, and to actively participate in the global debate on how to provide a fresh impetus to the MDGs and to examine and devise strategies to address key emerging development issues on the continent in the coming years. The post-2015 Development Agenda should also reaffirm the Rio Principles, especially the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the right to development and equity, and mutual accountability and responsibility, as well as ensure policy space for nationally tailored policies and programmes on the continent, including appropriate support for the implementation of the NEPAD;

**ACKNOWLEDGE:** The rising trends such as population growth, the youth bulge, urbanization, climate change and inequalities, and therefore **REITERATE** the importance of prioritizing structural transformation for inclusive and people-centred development in Africa. We are **CONVINCED** that such a development approach requires: development of adequate policy space and productive capacities, notably through infrastructure development; science, technology development, transfer and innovation; value addition to primary commodities; youth development; women's empowerment. It also requires addressing the challenges posed by climate change, desertification and land degradation, drought, loss of biodiversity sustainable natural resource management; and promoting responsive and accountable global governance architecture, including through the full and equitable representation of African countries in international financial and economic institutions;

**REASSERT:** The urgent need to end poverty in all its forms and achieve an integrated, prosperous, stable and peaceful Africa that is effectively engaged in the global arena, which is Africa's vision in this development agenda.

**We therefore commit ourselves to speak with one voice and to act in unity to ensure that Africa's voice is heard and is fully integrated into the global development agenda.**

## **I. Background**

1. Recalling the July 2012 Decision of the African Union Summit (Assembly/AU/Dec. 423 (XIX)), which mandates the African Union Commission, in close consultation with Members States and Regional Economic Communities, to identify Africa's priorities for the post-2015 Development Agenda, and further recalling the Decision of May 2013 of the African Union Summit, which decided to establish a High-Level Committee (HLC) of Heads of State and Government to sensitize and coordinate the activities of African leaders and build regional and inter-continental alliances on the Common African Position (CAP) on the post-2015 Development Agenda (Assembly/AU/Dec.475(XXI)), a ten-member committee was formed.<sup>1</sup>
2. The CAP identifies substantive issues of importance to Africa and arrives at a consensus on Africa's key priorities, concerns and strategies to be reflected in the outcomes of the post-2015 negotiation process. This was achieved by taking into account the wealth of information collected and collated from national and regional stakeholders (the executive and legislative arms of governments, private sectors, civil society organizations, youth associations, women groups, trade unions, and academia) African multilateral institutions and selected pertinent UN organizations and agencies.
3. We take note of the various initiatives established to articulate the post-2015 Development Agenda including the United Nations Task Team and the High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons. We also take note of the United Nations Secretary-General's report, "A Life of Dignity for All" (A/68/202), and the outcome of the United Nations General Assembly at its September 2013 Special Event on the MDGs (A/RES/68/6).
4. We recall the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, "The Future We Want", which, *inter alia*, agreed to a coherent and integrated global post-2015 Development Agenda.
5. We acknowledge the processes in the implementation of the Rio+20 outcomes such as the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development Goals, and the Africa Regional Consultation on the Sustainable Development Goals.

---

<sup>1</sup>Members of the HLC are Heads of State and Government of Liberia (Chair), Algeria, Chad, Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Mauritania, Mauritius, Namibia and South Africa.

6. We reiterate that the post-2015 process should galvanize political will and international commitment for a universal development agenda, focused on the eradication of poverty and exclusion as well as the pursuit of sustainable and inclusive development.
7. We call for the adoption of concrete measures supported by adequate means of implementation in order to ensure the full realization of the Agenda.
8. We emphasize the primacy of a transparent and a fully inclusive intergovernmental process in the articulation of the global post-2015 Development Agenda.

## **II. Context and Justification**

### ***(a) Learning from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):***

9. Remarkable advances have been made in some areas, such as net primary school enrolment, gender parity in primary education, representation of women in decision making, immunization coverage, and reversing the trend of the spread of HIV/AIDS.
10. Notwithstanding the progress made, more needs to be done. Africa's progress remains uneven across goals and targets, within groups and among countries. For example, despite rising enrolment rates in primary schools, the quality of education remains a concern, and learning outcomes in many cases are poor. Progress on the health-related MDGs such as child and maternal mortality, quality of health services, and access to sanitation is insufficient to achieve the targets by 2015 in many countries. Reducing inequity in access to basic social services remains a major challenge for many African countries.
11. The inclusive process used to formulate the post-2015 Development Agenda should: enhance Member States' ownership of development; generate the required political will to address the unfinished business of the MDGs; and respond to the emerging issues and gaps in implementation, particularly with regard to data collection and monitoring.
12. While Africa acknowledges its primary responsibility for the attainment of the MDGs, international partners also have a key responsibility to honour their commitments and support country-led strategies.

### ***(b) Assuming ownership:***

13. The post-2015 Development Agenda should be Member State-driven, and in this regard, Africa will stand together in solidarity in negotiating an outcome that will result in our collective ownership of the new agenda. This CAP is our contribution to this process. We come as 54 countries in unison, determined to represent a broad spectrum of stakeholders. The elaboration of this common position takes us on the path of ownership, which engages all citizens and enables them to hold key development stakeholders mutually accountable.

### ***(c) Reaffirming our common interests:***

14. The post-2015 Development Agenda presents a unique opportunity for Africa to articulate its common priorities, opportunities and challenges. Therefore, we affirm our collective interests, which include the pursuit of structural economic transformation for inclusive and people-centred development. This requires: productive capacities development, notably in the areas of infrastructure, agriculture, industrial and services sectors development; science technology and innovation; value addition; youth development and engagement; women's empowerment; and sustainable natural resource management. It also requires addressing the challenges posed by climate change, desertification, land degradation, drought and loss of biodiversity; promoting peace and security; and implementing a responsive and accountable global governance architecture through, *inter alia*, the full and equitable representation of African countries in the international financial and economic institutions.
15. We stress that the post-2015 Development Agenda should also reflect Africa's priorities and development programmes.

### III. Statement of our Position on the post-2015 Development Agenda

16. Africa's development priorities are grouped into six pillars: (i) structural economic transformation and inclusive growth; (ii) science, technology and innovation; (iii) people-centred development; (iv) environmental sustainability natural resources management, and disaster risk management; (v) peace and security; and (vi) finance and partnerships.

#### Pillar One: Structural economic transformation and inclusive growth

17. **CONCERNED** that the benefits of Africa's resources have been concentrated in a few enclave sectors and limited to narrow segments of society, thus exacerbating poverty, inequality and fragility;
18. **RECOGNIZING** the need to promote an integrated economy that nurtures inter-sectoral synergies, linkages and job growth; and **AWARE** of the potential role that structural transformation can play in creating resilient economies, decent employment opportunities, minimizing income and wealth disparities, and eradicating poverty;
19. **ACKNOWLEDGING** the role of value addition in promoting job creation and expanding the fiscal space for development financing, including social protection programmes, and eliminating poverty; **MINDFUL** that a successful and effective value-addition programme depends on a stable supply of raw materials, as well as a services sector that is supportive and responsive to the needs of the agricultural and industrial sector;
20. **STRESSING** the importance of a conducive international environment, including the international economic and financial institutions, in the achievement of sustained and inclusive economic growth; and **RECOGNIZING** that governance at the international level should be more responsive, legitimate, democratic and inclusive by strengthening the voice and participation of African countries; we **COMMIT** to:

#### (a) Inclusive growth that reduces inequality

21. **We DEDICATE ourselves** to accelerated, stable and sustained inclusive economic growth that: creates decent and productive employment that rapidly reduces inequality; nurtures sustainable social protection programmes; facilitates economic diversification; strengthens resilience to external shocks; and fosters rapid inclusive, resilient and sustainable socio-economic development leading to eradication of poverty.

**(b) Sustainable agriculture, food self-sufficiency and nutrition**

22. To address this development priority, we **RESOLVE** to:

- (i) Enhance the production, storage, transportation, availability, accessibility, utilization, safety and quality of food.
- (ii) Improve the productivity of smallholder agriculture and livestock through extension of technological support, small-scale irrigation schemes, rural infrastructure, credit and social services.
- (iii) Support modernization and diversification of agricultural sectors through: private sector participation in agriculture; agri-business development; improved agro-industry linkages; providing special support to integrate women into agri-business value chains; equitable access to land; and sustainable land management practices, including on our arable lands, for present and future generations.
- (iv) Promote agricultural marketing and information flows by establishing national and regional information centres and cooperation mechanisms in agriculture, food and nutrition security.
- (v) Adopt sustainable agricultural, ocean and freshwater fishery practices and rebuild depleted fish stocks to sustainable levels.
- (vi) Strengthen resilience to external and climate shocks, such as droughts, floods, commodity price volatility, food shortages and export restrictions, particularly on staple foods.
- (vii) Urgently call for multilateral partnerships aimed at food loss reduction, resilience to commodity price fluctuations, and addressing food shortages and export restrictions during crises.

**(c) Diversification, industrialization and value addition**

23. In achieving this, we **PLEDGE** to:

- (i) Develop the private sector and strengthen the productive capacity of the informal sector to ensure a more active contribution to industrialization and value-addition;
- (ii) Reallocate and reinvest wealth generated from extractive and other primary commodity sectors into sectors that prioritize value-addition, promote job-rich growth and ensure fair taxation;
- (iii) Promote processing of primary commodities by developing national value chains across sectors and designing and enforcing national content and beneficiation policies in the extractive and primary commodity producing sectors of the economy;
- (iv) Advocate for the Blue/Ocean Economy as well as sustainable exploitation of marine resources in order to make the oceanic industry a solid and viable pillar of our economies.

**(d) Developing the Services Sector**

24. Developing the service sector is vital for generating decent employment and optimizing and upgrading our industrial structures and other important sectors of African economy. Noting the important role that the service sector can play in facilitating economic transformation and recognizing the weak linkages between the services sector and other sectors of the economy,
25. We **COMMIT** to:
- (i) Improve linkages between the services and real sectors, *inter alia*, through strengthened support to the agricultural and industrial sectors, improved coverage of broadband Internet services, and strengthened telecommunications as backbones of the service sector.
  - (ii) Stimulate home-grown innovations in service delivery, including by improving the quality and efficiency of public services, modern logistics, high-tech services, culture, e-commerce, tourism and health-related services..
  - (iii) Accelerate international development exchanges and cooperation in this sector.

**(e) Infrastructure development**

26. Accelerating Africa's infrastructural development is pivotal to connect African people, countries and economies as well as to help drive social, cultural and economic development. In this regard, we are **DETERMINED** to:
- (i) Develop and maintain reliable, sustainable, environmentally friendly and affordable infrastructure in both rural and urban areas with a focus on land, water and air transport and storage facilities, clean water and sanitation, energy, waste management and Information and Communication Technologies (ICT);
  - (ii) Implement infrastructure projects that facilitate intra-African trade and regional and continental integration including, with the assistance of the international community, enhancing research and technological development and the provision of adequate financial resources; and
  - (iii) Promote the delivery of infrastructure programmes to generate local jobs, strengthen domestic skills and enterprise development, as well as enhance technological capability.

**Pillar Two: Science, technology and innovation**

27. **MINDFUL** of the importance of science, technology and innovation for the transformative agenda of the continent, and **COGNIZANT** of the low levels of technology development, transfer and utilization in Africa and its capacity deficits with respect to technology;
28. **STRESSING** the importance of access by all countries to environmentally sound technologies, new knowledge, know-how and expertise and the importance of cooperative action on technology innovation, research and development; we **COMMIT** to:

**(a) Enhancing technological capacities for Africa's transformative agenda**

29. This will entail: enhancing the development, transfer and diffusion of technology and innovation in line with each country's development needs; improving access to funding for home-grown technological innovations and to environmentally sound technologies; and strengthening the science and technology component of education curricula. It is also important to concentrate our efforts on developing technological capacities by enhancing utilization of ICT in key social and economic sectors.

**(b) Building enabling environment for innovation**

30. This will require strengthening the financial and regulatory environment to support an innovation culture by: strengthening and creating, where needed, African property rights institutions; protecting intellectual property and industrial rights; increasing funding for science and technology research and innovation; and fostering collaboration among African countries on science and technology for development.

**(c) Increasing support for research and development**

31. This requires: promoting greater links among academia, industry, government and civil society organizations with respect to their roles in R&D; marketing and commercialization of R&D;



scaling up investments in science and technology parks; and encouraging action-oriented research at all levels of the education and training system.

**(d) Optimal utilization of space and geospatial technologies**

32. This will require increasing investments and promoting human resources development in the management and deployment of space and geospatial technologies.

**Pillar Three: People-centred development**

33. **CONVINCED** that the eradication of poverty in all its forms must be the overarching priority in the post-2015 Development Agenda;
34. **COGNIZANT** of the fact that sustainable and equitable development can only be guaranteed in Africa when people are the means and end of the economic growth process, particularly when the potential contribution of women and youth is fully realized, and that investment in children, youth and women always generates substantial development multipliers with positive effects on all sectors of the economy and society;
35. **MINDFUL** that Africa is witnessing a number of demographic trends including the youth bulge and increasing migration, and thus of the need to respond to the social and economic consequences of the continent's changing demographic structure by implementing the right public policies, particularly in education and health services;
36. **AWARE** of the need to provide universal and equitable access to affordable and quality healthcare for all, with particular attention to improved access for people in vulnerable situations, end preventable newborn, child and maternal mortality, and significantly reduce the incidence of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including mental health and cancer;
37. **MINDFUL** that education is the foundation for development and of the need to strive to achieve excellence in education and boost human resource capacities through improvements in the quality of learning and investment in education infrastructure, we **COMMIT** to:

**(a) The eradication of poverty**

38. This will require the empowerment of all people, including those living in vulnerable situations (including women, children, the elderly, youth, people with disabilities, rural populations, displaced persons and migrants), through inclusive growth that creates decent jobs, improved access to social protection and through the promotion of measures that ensure that no individual remains below the poverty line. In this regard, we commit to ensure that no person – regardless of ethnicity, gender, geography, disability, race or other status – is denied universal human rights and basic economic opportunities.

**(b) Education and human capital development**

39. We must achieve excellence in human resources capacity development through an improvement in the quality of education and training by: investing in learning infrastructures; increasing the use of ICT; ensuring higher completion rates; promoting pre-schooling, integrated adult education and tertiary education; and improving the quality and conditions of service of educators and trainers.
40. Enhancing equity will require: improving and sustaining progress on gender parity at all levels of education, with special emphasis on secondary and tertiary education; creating a positive environment for girls and boys at school; increasing the representation of female teachers, especially in science and technology; and eliminating human trafficking and child labour, thus allowing children to benefit from educational facilities for their full development.
41. In order to strengthen the school curriculum, it must include: basic rights and responsibilities of citizens; quality education beyond primary schooling; the development of entrepreneurship skills, life skills and vocational and technical training to respond to labour market demands; the provision of information and technology skills; and the introduction of age-appropriate and comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education for all.

**(c) Universal and equitable access to quality healthcare**

42. We must improve the health status of people living in vulnerable situation such as mothers, newborns, children, youth, the unemployed, the elderly and people with disabilities by: reducing the incidence of communicable diseases, non-communicable diseases (e.g. mental health) and emerging diseases; ending the epidemics of HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria; reducing malnutrition; and improving hygiene and sanitation. This can be achieved by: ensuring universal and equitable access to quality healthcare, including universal access to comprehensive sexual reproductive health and reproductive rights (e.g. family planning); improving health systems and health financing, and medical infrastructure, the local manufacturing of health equipment, (e.g. commitment to the Abuja Declaration); and setting up monitoring and evaluation, and quality assurance systems.

#### **(d) Gender equality and women's empowerment**

43. This will require: enhancing women's occupational mobility and eliminating gender-based wage inequality; ensuring their access to, and ownership of, land and other productive assets, credit and extension services and training; eradicating all forms of violence against women and children, and harmful practices such as female genital mutilation (FGM) and early marriage; and eliminating gender-based discrimination in political, economic and public decision-making processes.
44. We must provide adequate resources to strengthen women's voices, and ensure full and equal participation of women in all decision-making bodies at the highest levels of government and in the governance structures of international organizations, including by eliminating gender stereotyping in appointments and promotions, and building women's productive capacities as agents of change.
45. The crucial role of women in conflict prevention and resolution, mediation and peace-building efforts, and in the rebuilding of post-conflict societies must be supported by strengthening their capacities, including leadership skills, and creating legal frameworks that protect their engagement in political and economic decision making.

#### **(e) Leveraging population dynamics for development**

46. We must improve space planning and evidence-based urban policies, and provide equitable, quality services for all age groups, supported by a monitoring and regulatory framework. This will be achieved through public and private partnerships, the strengthening of municipal revenue generation and collaboration between municipalities, scholars, ministries and civil society.
47. We must ensure the provision and implementation of adequate public policies in education and health services; create jobs, especially for youth; strengthen the linkages between migration and development; support the elderly; promote human capital development within the context of regional integration; develop innovative plans that respond to population dynamics and incorporate them into the national planning frameworks; ensure equal access to quality and affordable healthcare and social services for all; ensure equity and access to services by making them adequately and geographically available in both urban and rural areas; promote good governance; and eliminate human trafficking, especially youth, particularly girls.

#### **(f) Harnessing Africa's youthful population**

48. To ensure that Africa's youth bulge is translated into demographic dividend, we must put in place policies and strategies that: strengthen entrepreneurial skills and capacity; increase youth's access to financial services; promote decent and commensurate jobs; increase access to business advisory services and credit facilities; promote participation in decision-making processes; and support the African Union initiative to create a continental framework on demographic dividends.

**(g) Improving access to sustainable human settlements**

49. We are cognizant of the rapid urbanization rates in Africa and the importance of having the necessary infrastructures and amenities for an improved quality of life. We are therefore committed to expanding urban infrastructures and developing a planned approach to rapid urbanization and the emergence of new cities, as well as promoting urban and rural planning. This includes increasing decent and affordable housing; improving sanitation and hygiene services, promoting access to social and economic amenities in human settlements and increasing the efficiency of delivery and use of physical facilities and amenities, including waste management, transportation and energy.

**Pillar Four: Environmental sustainability, natural resources management and disaster risk management**

50. **CONCERNED** that the exploitation of Africa's natural resources and biodiversity base is not fully translating into value-adding activities, adequate employment opportunities, and enhanced economic returns for the continent;

51. **CONSCIOUS** that many of these resources are non-renewable and **DETERMINED** to ensure profitability, intergenerational equity and sustainability in their use;

52. **MINDFUL** of the importance of ensuring the availability of safe water supply for all and closing the sanitation gap, and **CONCERNED** about the challenges posed by climate change, desertification and land degradation, natural disasters such as drought and floods, loss of biodiversity, management of waste and chemicals, coastal erosion, marine pollution and rising sea levels that threaten the existence of coastal mega-deltas and Small Island Developing States;

53. **DETERMINED** to address the potential adverse effects of these challenges on Africa's transformative agenda and **COGNIZANT** of the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities in addressing the challenges of natural resource management and biodiversity, we **COMMIT** to:

**(a) Improving natural resource and biodiversity management**

54. Achieving this objective will require:

- (i) Promoting sustainable utilization of the continent's natural resources and biodiversity, including land and water for the continent's economic and social transformation. This can be achieved by combating the depletion and degradation of Africa's natural resource base and fostering the conservation and recovery of African biodiversity, which represents an inestimable heritage, through improved control of access to the genetic resources of the continent;
- (ii) Ensuring that the use of the natural resources and biodiversity will financially and economically benefit the countries that possess them and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from their use, with consideration for both present and future generations; and

- (iii) Promoting value addition, pertinent R&D, and technological innovations for sustainably harnessing the natural resource base and biodiversity by developing joint ventures and private- public- partnerships to facilitate the establishment of industries in Africa.

**(b) Enhancing access to Safe Water for All**

- 55. To this end, we will ensure universal and reliable access to safe water in a sustainable manner, especially access to safe drinking water in urban and rural areas by: enhancing the protection and judicious management of water resources to safeguard water quality, and assurance of access to these resources for all uses; ensuring effective conservation and management of catchments areas; minimizing wastewater discharges; and improving wastewater and water quality management systems as well as sanitation and hygiene services in rural and urban areas.

**(c) Responding effectively to climate change**

- 56. While Africa is not responsible for the pollution and the factors causing climate change, it stands to suffer the most, the African leadership is poised to cooperate fully along the lines of the Rio+20 outcome.
- 57. We will reduce deforestation, desertification and pollution, promote reforestation and reduce soil erosion; improve land management; promote renewable energies; promote efficiency of energy production, consumption and recycle; and effectively implement the Kyoto Protocol.
- 58. Recognizing that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our times, we emphasize our deep concern with the vulnerability of developing countries, in particular in Africa, to the adverse impacts of climate change, and also recognize that adaptation to the phenomenon represents an immediate and urgent global priority.
- 59. We urge developed country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to fully implement their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol in order to bridge the gap between the aggregate efforts of mitigation pledges and aggregate emission pathways consistent with having a likely change of holding global average temperature rise below 2 degrees or 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels.
- 60. We call upon developed countries to provide sufficient and predictable financing to developing countries, mainly through effective use of the Green Climate Fund with US\$100 billion per year by 2020, as well as the transfer of technologies and capacity building in accordance with the relevant decisions adopted in Cancun.

**(d) Addressing desertification, land degradation, soil erosion, flooding and drought**

- 61. We are conscious that desertification, land degradation, soil erosion, flooding and drought are challenges of a global dimension and continue to pose a serious threat to the sustainable development of all countries, in particular in Africa, as recognized in the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD).

62. There is an urgent need to reverse land degradation, soil erosion and desertification. This should act as a catalyst for adequate support, including by mobilizing predictable, appropriate and timely financial resources in order to enable developing countries especially in Africa to face these challenges.

**(e) Natural disaster risk reduction and management**

63. We must strengthen Africa's resilience to natural disasters by: building capacities for adequately anticipating and responding to disasters and reducing their impact on people living in vulnerable situations; implementing the African Solidarity Initiative, which targets countries in difficult situations; developing and supporting early warning systems; and increasing support for loss and damage incurred through climate disasters.

**Pillar Five: Peace and Security**

64. **ACKNOWLEDGING** the importance of peace and security in Africa and in the world, and the inextricable links between development and peace, security and stability;
65. **REAFFIRMING** that peace and security is essential for the achievement of the continent's development aspirations particularly for countries affected by conflict and those emerging from conflict, we **COMMIT** to:

**(a) Addressing the root causes of conflict**

66. To address this priority, we must: tackle economic and social inequalities and exclusion; strengthen good and inclusive governance; fight against all forms of discrimination; and forge unity in diversity through democratic practices and mechanisms at the local, national and continental levels.

**(b) Preventing the outbreak of armed conflicts**

67. We must take measures to prevent the outbreak of armed conflicts by: strengthening cross-border cooperation for the resolution of disputes and the promotion of cross-border security; implementing comprehensive, post-conflict reconstruction programmes, including the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), in countries emerging from conflict through effective partnership at regional and continental levels; supporting domestic financing for conflict resolution and stabilization; and promoting the use of mediators for conflict resolution, including traditional conflict resolution mechanisms.

**Pillar Six: Finance and Partnerships**

68. The priority strategies identified in this common position need to be financed. To this end, resource mobilization and innovative financing methods need to be implemented. In addition, implementation of the strategies will require the consolidation of existing partnerships and the forging of new ones.

## A. Finance

69. **REAFFIRMING** that previous commitments by developed countries in financing development, including through Agenda 21 and its programme of implementation, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development, and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, among others, are indispensable for achieving the full and effective translation of partners' commitments into tangible sustainable development outcomes;
70. **REITERATING** that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development, and that the role of national policies, domestic resources and development strategies is critical; **REAFFIRMING** that African countries need additional resources for sustainable development; and **RECOGNIZING** the need for significant mobilization of resources from a variety of sources and the effective use of financing;
71. **ACKNOWLEDGING** that a stable global financial architecture that supports global systemic economic risk management and that emphasizes the importance of financial and investment flows as opposed to aid as well as fair and inclusive multilateral trading systems is vital for financing development in Africa, we **COMMIT** to:

### (a) Improving domestic resource mobilization

72. We must improve domestic resource mobilization by: ensuring financial deepening and inclusion (e.g. domestic savings and microfinance) and strengthening tax structures, coverage and administration; carrying out fiscal reforms; encouraging public private partnerships; and deepening capital markets.
73. It is imperative to curtail illicit financial flows and fight corruption in a way that ensures the efficient and effective use of resources and domestic long-term financing, such as insurance, pension schemes and capital market instruments.

### (b) Maximizing innovative financing

74. To promote and enhance the efficiency of innovative financing mechanisms, we must: develop mechanisms to harness and invest remittances; reduce remittance transfer costs and enhance their effective management; and strengthen long-term, non-traditional financing mechanisms.

### (c) Implementing existing commitments and promoting quality and predictability of external financing

75. The global commitments on financing development have not been fully met, which has been one of the reasons among others that several of the MDGs are not likely to be achieved by 2015 in many African countries. We therefore call upon development partners to fulfill their promises and commitments in the spirit of the Monterrey Consensus and G8 Gleneagles Summit. This will restore trust, confidence and mutual respect in global partnerships.

76. Enhancing the quality and predictability of external financing will require: encouraging reinvestment of the proceeds from foreign direct investment; promoting conducive policies to encourage capital in-flight; holding external partners accountable for their commitments including allocation of 0.7 per cent of gross national income (GNI) to international development; encouraging official development assistance (ODA) in short, medium and long-term development; mobilizing external, non-traditional sources of financing, including from philanthropists and emerging partners; facilitating access to various global financing mechanisms without conditionalities, such as the Education For All-Fast Track Initiative (EFA-FTI) and Climate Finance; and accelerating the implementation of the global commitment to address issues of illicit financial flows. We urge an expeditious transition to a development-friendly, international financial architecture.

## **B. Partnerships**

77. **NOTING** that the post-2015 framework will require a conducive, global environment to ensure effective implementation, which includes mutually beneficial partnerships that ensure ownership, coherence and alignment of international support with national and regional priorities; working with partners to develop a global framework that includes technology and skills transfer, and that takes into account Africa's specific characteristics; promoting public-private partnerships; boosting intra-African trade; promoting Africa's access to global markets and the fair trade system; and ensuring that the global governance architecture is inclusive, responsive, legitimate, democratic, equitable and accountable;

78. **CALLING for** a new spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual accountability to underpin the post-2015 Development Agenda, and **AFFIRMING** our commitment to the achievement of a truly inclusive and transformative 'Global Partnership', we **COMMIT** to:

### **(a) Promoting mutually beneficial partnerships**

79. Fair and equitable partnerships will require: strengthening ownership, coherence and alignment of international support with national and regional priorities; working with partners to develop financing frameworks that take into account Africa's specific characteristics and priorities; promoting public-private partnerships; strengthening South-South, North-South, triangular partnerships and Diaspora cooperation; enhancing the involvement of private sector and civil society stakeholders to ensure better ownership, implementation and accountability; supporting intra-African cooperation including solidarity; supporting countries in special situations, namely low-income, landlocked, small island and post-conflict countries; ensuring that the global governance architecture promotes ownership, reliability, equality of states, leadership and accountability; promoting partnerships for international peace and security; and promoting autonomy and independence of countries to advance alternative policies for development.

### **(b) Strengthening partnerships for trade**

80. We must accelerate regional integration including by boosting intra-African trade and enhancing Africa's participation in the global supply chains systems.



81. We reaffirm the critical role that an open, universal, rules-based, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading and financial system as well as meaningful trade liberalization can play in stimulating economic growth and development worldwide, thereby benefitting African countries at all stages of development as they advance towards sustainable development. In this context, the post-2015 Development Agenda should urgently address a set of important issues such as, *inter alia*, trade-distorting subsidies and trade in environmental goods and services.
82. We urge the members of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to redouble their efforts to achieve an ambitious, balanced and development-oriented conclusion to the Doha Round while respecting the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and consensual decision-making. These efforts aim to strengthen the multilateral trading system and promote trade initiatives (including Aid for Trade) in order to address key developmental concerns of the poorest and most vulnerable states, including countries in special situations.
83. We wish to reaffirm our full solidarity with all African countries in the process of accession to the WTO and urge all WTO members to facilitate and accelerate the accession in line with their level of development and the contours of the current WTO rules. We insist that acceding countries should not be asked to make commitments that go beyond their level of development and current WTO rules. In this context, the principle of Special and Differential Treatment and non-reciprocity should be applied. These processes should be accelerated and carried out without political impediment.
84. WTO members, the WTO Secretariat and relevant international organizations must provide technical assistance and capacity building prior to, during, and in the follow-up to the accession process in line with countries' needs and development priorities.

**(c) Establish partnerships for managing global commons**

85. The experience from implementing the MDGs shows that Africa has not capitalized on the benefits of global commons including trade, finance and climate change, among others. We therefore believe in the need for sustainable management of global commons, which are important for development.
86. The international community must collectively address the sustainable management of global commons in the post-2015 Development Agenda. In this regard, we identify five areas of global commons that are vital to accelerating Africa's development priorities: (i) creating and implementing strategies for managing *environmental commons* such as the prevention of climate change, climate change adaptation and the promotion of biodiversity; (ii) preventing and managing *cross-border and communicable diseases* (including HIV&AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and avian influenza); (iii) promoting a fair, predictable, non-discriminatory and rule-based *multilateral trading system* including the completion of the Doha Round; (iv) ensuring *international financial architecture* that promotes access to concessional development finance, penalizes illicit financial flows, strengthens early warning systems for global financial fragility, and deepens responsive

financial risk management; and (v) promoting a *global knowledge for development system* that encourages building, documenting and sharing good practices on pertinent development issues.

#### IV. Enabling Implementation

87. In order for above efforts to be successful, an enabling domestic, continental and global environment is imperative. To this end, we reaffirm the importance of key enablers underpinned by the African Union's Agenda 2063, which presents the vision for the Continent's development. We also recall that the obligations under the Millennium Declaration that must be respected by Africa and the international community. The MDGs are still highly relevant to Africa, and we call on the global community to sustain progress made and deepen the implementation of the challenging areas in the years ahead. To enable effective implementation, we **COMMIT** to:
88. **SUSTAIN** efforts towards democratization undertaken on the continent, and **REITERATE** our commitment to end instability and conflicts on the continent, and to build resilience.
89. **ADOPT** additional measures to fight corruption, promote good political and socio-economic governance, transparency and accountability, especially in the field of natural resources management; and **IMPROVE** the enabling environment for the involvement of civil society.
90. **ACCELERATE** decentralization of the governance system, reinforce rule of law frameworks and strengthen capacities of our institutions in order to protect human rights and meet the aspirations of our people; and **PROMOTE** integrity and leadership that is committed to the interests of the people.
91. **ENHANCE** the implementation and impact of existing continental mechanisms, such as the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), the NEPAD and the African Governance Architecture.
92. **ENSURE** an effective global governance architecture, including full and equitable representation of African countries in international, financial and economic institutions, as well decision making processes, that reinforces the principles of fair trade, deters illicit financial flows, and is framed by genuine cooperation and partnerships for development based on trust.
93. **PROTECT** human rights of all citizens in order to ensure their meaningful participation in society; fight against all forms of discrimination; and promote the constructive management of diversity through democratic practices and mechanisms at the local, national and continental levels.

94. **PROMOTE** the right to development, as adopted in 1986 by the United Nations General Assembly (GA) in its Resolution 41/128 and recognized in the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. This is an inalienable human right by virtue of which every human person and all peoples are entitled to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development. By extension, this also includes the right of poor countries to develop through adequate policy space and involvement in global governance systems.
95. **ENSURE** equality and access to justice and information for all through the pre-eminence of justice and rule of law, and guarantee the protection of the rights of minorities and people living in vulnerable situations, including children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, rural populations, displaced persons and migrants in order to achieve social sustainability.
96. **ENCOURAGE** mutual accountability between the State and its citizens, and between the State and development partners.
97. **PROMOTE** sound macro-economic policies that combine short-term imperatives of growth with long-term development considerations such as equality, environmental sustainability, and social inclusion at the national, regional, continental and global levels.
98. **RESOLVE** to promote private sector development by improving the investment and business climate and supporting small-scale enterprises as well as by promoting public private partnerships, quality assurance, participation and leadership of the private sector, local content policy, and socially responsive and accountable business practices. The implementation of continental mechanisms to promote intra-African trade including the NEPAD framework is also crucial in achieving this objective.
99. **ENSURE** a viable and credible participatory process that respects diversity and encourages input from all stakeholders – from priority setting to the planning, implementation and monitoring of development policies.
100. **INVEST IN** and **STRENGTHEN** national statistical capacities and geospatial information systems for the collection, analysis, production and dissemination of disaggregated data to measure and evaluate policy effectiveness; and **PROMOTE** a culture of evidence-based decision making.
101. **INSTITUTE** and **STRENGTHEN** effective monitoring and evaluation systems, and **IMPROVE** accountability.
102. **ENSURE** the preservation, protection and promotion of traditional intellectual property, and promote knowledge creation through its integration in development programmes.

103. To strengthen human and institutional capacities in all of the priorities mentioned above, we **COMMIT** to:

- (i) Building and strengthening capacity to negotiate contracts, concessions and fiscal incentives for investors, including natural resource management, capacity for trade negotiations, e.g. WTO and related issues, as well as capacity for technology transfer, innovation and R&D.
- (ii) Strengthening of technical and scientific cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation. We reiterate the importance of human resources development, including training, the exchange of experiences and expertise, knowledge transfer and technical assistance for capacity-building, all of which require strengthening institutional capacity, which includes planning, management and monitoring.
- (iii) Continued and focused implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-Building.

## V. Conclusion

**We, Heads of State and Government of the African Union:**

104. **COMMEND** the participatory approach of the post-2015 Development Agenda formulation process, which provides a unique opportunity for Africa to present a united and common set of priorities. We believe in a world with a just and equitable economic order that is free from poverty, exclusion and human suffering, and respects the limits of the planet earth.

105. **REITERATE** that the post-2015 process should galvanize political will and international commitment for a universal development agenda focused on the eradication of both poverty and exclusion, as well as on the pursuit of sustainable development.

106. **RECOMMEND** that the global post-2015 Development Agenda **GIVE ADEQUATE ATTENTION** to: the development of productive capacity underpinned by value addition, technology and innovation, and infrastructure development; people-centred development with a particular emphasis on youth empowerment and gender equality; natural resources and disaster risk management in the context of sustainable development; peace and security; and a truly inclusive and transformative global partnership. This is important for us to achieve an integrated, prosperous, stable, peaceful and secure Africa that is effectively engaged in the global arena.

107. **CALL FOR** a fully open, transparent and inclusive negotiation process in which nations are equal and have an equal voice. We commit to speak with one voice in order to ensure that Africa's position is heard and fully integrated into the global development agenda.

108. **BELIEVE** that these objectives are attainable within 15 years; we therefore **RECOMMEND** that the post-2015 Development Agenda should extend over a period of 15 years starting from 2016.