

7 WAY FORWARD:
Reorienting ECA's Work
Programme to respond
to the needs of a resilient
and changing continent



Africa finds itself in a new macroeconomic environment in which the shifting domestic policies of emerging countries and regional dynamics are shaping global discourse. The continent's ability to respond to new and emerging challenges will depend on its ability to create much-needed jobs and grow its economies sustainably by fully leveraging its own human, physical and social assets. These changes call for a reorientation of the Commission's strategic direction and programmes to ensure that it can respond to the evolving needs of member States.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union provide blueprints for Africa to achieve inclusive sustainable development. Rapid technological changes provide Africa's young and innovative population with opportunities to rapidly transform the continent. African countries need to raise trillions of dollars to finance development. The role of the private sector in effective capital market is critical. By leveraging the private sector, Africa can shift the production frontiers, create sustainable economies, generate additional jobs and build a prosperous continent.

Moving into the seventh decade, ECA is repositioning itself to continue responding to the priorities and aspirations of Africans. This process also takes into account the ongoing reforms of the United Nations development system and the Secretary-General's emphasis on stronger collaboration across the United Nations and within the African context.

Accordingly, the new vision of ECA is articulated as delivering ideas and actions for an empowered, inclusive and transformed Africa. This process is cognizant of the need to link development priorities with issues of peace and security and the importance of the Commission's engagement with the African Union.

To deliver on its vision, the Commission's programmatic focus will concentrate on the following five strategic directions:

1. Advancing the ECA position as a premier knowledge institution by strengthening the knowledge profile of the staff;
2. Developing macroeconomic and structural policy options to accelerate economic diversification and job creation;
3. Designing and implementing innovative financing models for infrastructure, human, physical and social assets for a transforming Africa;
4. Contributing solutions to regional and transboundary challenges, with a focus on peace, security and social inclusion as an important development nexus;
5. Advocating Africa's position at the global level and developing regional responses as a contribution to global governance issues.

To effectively implement these strategic directions, ECA will centre its work on the following nine interdependent and complementary areas:

1. Macroeconomic and governance;
2. Regional integration and trade;
3. Private-sector development and finance;
4. Data and statistics, and climate change;
5. Environment and natural resource management;
6. Gender and women in development;
7. Subregional activities for development;
8. Economic development and planning;
9. Poverty, inequality and social policy.

ECA will deliver its programmes through its three core facets – on convening, think tank and operational functions – to support member States in building strong institutions for economic and social development.



United Nations partnership with the African Union



United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres (left) and the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat (right), after they signed the AU–UN Framework for the Implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the thirtieth Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa on 27 January 2018. Photo © ECA



The President of Rwanda, Paul Kagame, hands over the African Union Chairmanship to the President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, during the opening ceremony of the thirty-second Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union on 10 February 2019. Photo © African Union



During the signing, the Secretary-General, António Guterres, noted that “eradicating poverty is the overriding priority of the Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,” and that he was happy that “today, we signed the framework on the implementation.” He further stated that: “Strong cooperation with the African Union (AU) is essential for the United Nations to be able to fulfill its mandate ... The international community would not be able to have successes in development if Africa does not succeed its development taking advantage of its youth ‘dividend’... We will be side by side with the African Union in respecting African leadership in solving African problems to help in this [regard].”

In the same light, the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, expressed satisfaction with the existing partnership between the African Union and the United Nations, adding that the signing of the Framework will enhance the achievement of the two Agendas.

The nexus between peace, security and development in the implementation of the two Agendas in Africa is emphasized in the Framework. A harmonized and integrated approach to the implementation of the two Agendas will minimize duplication, optimize domestic resource mobilization and external stakeholders and development partners support and strengthened partnerships.

Africa's Development Agendas - Side By Side

AGENDA 2030 GOAL

AGENDA 2063 GOALS



1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all
5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production
7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities
17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life



1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all
3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens
4. Transformed economies and job creation
5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production
7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities
8. United Africa (Federal or Confederate)



3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens
7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities
17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life



1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all
2. Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation
16. African cultural renaissance is pre-eminent
17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life
18. Engaged and empowered youth and children



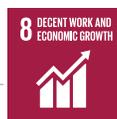
3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens
5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production
10. World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa
17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life



1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all
7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities



1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all
6. Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth
7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities
10. World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa



1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all
2. Transformed economies and job creation
12. Capable institutions and transformed leadership in place at all levels
16. African cultural renaissance is pre-eminent
17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life
18. Engaged and empowered youth and children



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4. Transformed economies and job creation
5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production
6. Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth
8. United Africa (federal or confederate)
10. World class infrastructure crisscrosses Africa
19. Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence



1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all
8. United Africa (federal or confederate)
16. African cultural renaissance is pre-eminent
20. Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development



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11. Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched
12. Capable institutions and transformed leadership in place at all levels
13. Peace, security and stability are preserve
17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life
18. Engaged and empowered youth and children



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ECA staff at work



