African Institute for Economic Development and Planning

61st Meeting of the IDEP Governing Council

Saly Declaration of African Director General of Development Planning

IDEP/GC61/2026/6

Draft Saly Declaration of the African Directors General of Planning

3rd Meeting of the African Network of Directors General of Planning

Saly, Senegal, 30 July 2026

PREAMBLE

We, Directors General of Planning and heads of national planning institutions of African States, gathered in Saly (Senegal) from 28 to 30 July 2026, on the occasion of the third Meeting of the African Network of Directors General of Planning, organized by the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), on the margins of the fourth NTA-Africa Conference;

Reaffirming our commitment to the implementation of the African Union's Agenda 2063, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, and the national development strategies of our States;

Recognizing that strategic planning is an essential instrument for accelerating Africa's structural transformation, strengthening the resilience of African economies, and promoting inclusive, sustainable, and job-creating growth;

Recognizing also that our continent's demographic trends offer a historic opportunity to realize the demographic dividend, provided that greater investment is made in human capital, youth employment, women's empowerment, and social protection systems;

Emphasizing that the care economy represents a productive investment capable of strengthening women's economic participation, improving labor productivity, and supporting inclusive growth;

Recalling the conclusions of the meetings of Directors of Planning held in Johannesburg in November 2024 and in Grand-Bassam in February 2025, which laid the foundations for the African Network of Directors General of Planning;

Taking note of the discussions held during the fourth NTA-Africa Conference on the links between demographic dynamics, generational economics, development financing, and public policy;

Adopt this Saly Declaration.

I. ON STRENGTHENING THE AFRICAN NETWORK OF DIRECTORS GENERAL OF PLANNING

We decide to:

1. Consolidate the African Network of Directors General of Planning as a permanent platform for exchange, technical cooperation, peer learning, and the dissemination of good practices.
2. Organize a biennial continental meeting of the Network, supplemented by regular virtual meetings on priority themes.
3. Encourage balanced participation by African countries from all linguistic regions of the continent in order to promote a genuine African community of practice in planning.

II. ON STRENGTHENING DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

We commit to:

4. Strengthen the use of integrated planning approaches based on evidence, foresight analysis, and robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.
5. Foster better alignment between national development plans, medium-term budgetary frameworks, and sectoral policies.
6. Promote the integration of climate, demographic, technological, and geopolitical risks into national planning exercises.
7. Strengthen national capacities in strategic foresight, economic modeling, and territorial planning.

III. ON THE CARE ECONOMY AND THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND

We recognize that:

8. Investments in the care economy constitute a major lever for job creation, productivity improvement, and inequality reduction.
9. Care-related policies must be fully integrated into national development plans, social policies, employment strategies, and budgetary frameworks.

We commit to:

10. Strengthen the consideration of productive social investments in national development strategies.
11. Encourage the development of statistical systems to better measure the economic contribution of paid and unpaid care work.
12. Further integrate demographic dividend analyses into national planning policies.

IV. ON DEVELOPMENT FINANCING

We recommend:

13. Strengthening the mobilization of domestic resources to sustainably finance investments in human capital.
14. Promoting innovative development financing mechanisms to increase investment in youth, employment, and social infrastructure.
15. Strengthening coordination among institutions responsible for planning, public finance, and investment.

V. ON PARTNERSHIP WITH IDEP

We welcome:

16. IDEP's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan and its ambition to become Africa's leading center of excellence for capacity building in planning.

We encourage IDEP to:

17. Further develop training programs tailored to the needs of national administrations.
18. Strengthen applied research activities that directly address the priorities and challenges of Member States.
19. Develop partnerships with African universities, regional economic communities, and technical and financial partners.
20. Establish a permanent digital platform for exchange among Network members.

We express our interest in:

21. The launch of IDEP's Master's Program in Planning as a flagship program for Africa's future senior officials.

We commit to:

22. We reaffirm that the regular payment of Member States' statutory contributions is a collective responsibility and a commitment essential to IDEP's financial viability. To this end, we commit to undertaking, each in our respective countries, the necessary steps with the competent authorities to ensure the prompt settlement of contributions owed to the Institute.

VI. ON THE COMMITMENTS OF MEMBER STATES

We commit to:

23. Designate a national focal point responsible for coordinating the Network's activities.
24. Actively participate in the training offered by IDEP.
25. Regularly share our national experiences to inform the Network's work.
26. Contribute to the development of African knowledge on planning policies.
27. Support joint research and innovation initiatives led by IDEP.

VII. 2026–2028 ROADMAP

We agree to:

28. Develop an operational roadmap for the Network for the 2026–2028 period.
29. Develop a mechanism to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of this Declaration.
30. Identify priority areas of cooperation among Member States, particularly in integrated planning, the care economy, development financing, foresight, and structural transformation.

VIII. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We express our profound gratitude:

- to the Government of the Republic of Senegal for its warm welcome and hospitality;
- to the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning (IDEP) for organizing this meeting and for its ongoing commitment to strengthening the capacities of African States in development planning;
- to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) for its support for this initiative and its commitment to the economic and social development of the African continent;
- to the technical and financial partners who contributed to the success of this third Meeting of the African Network of Directors General of Planning.

IX. FINAL PROVISION

We request IDEP, in its capacity as Secretariat of the African Network of Directors General of Planning, to monitor the implementation of this Declaration, facilitate exchanges among Member States, and present a progress report at the Network's next meeting.

Adopted in **Saly (Republic of Senegal), on 30 July 2026**.