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**Economic Commission for Africa**  
**Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**  
Twelfth session  
Addis Ababa (hybrid), 28–30 April 2026

Agenda item 11  
**Consideration and adoption of key messages and the  
declaration on the theme of the Forum**

### **Addis Ababa Declaration on Turning the Tide: Transformative and Coordinated Actions for the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063**

*We, African ministers and senior officials responsible for the environment and sustainable development, finance, planning, economic and social development, agriculture, water and marine resources, land management, energy, urbanization and human settlements, industry, infrastructure, statistics, the digital economy, science, technology and innovation, and foreign affairs, together with heads and members of delegations of parliaments and experts representing Governments and intergovernmental organizations, entities of the United Nations system, the private sector, the academic community, civil society, cultural institutions and faith communities,*

*Gathered online and in person in Addis Ababa from 28 to 30 April 2026 at the twelfth session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development, held under the theme “Turning the tide: transformative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union”,*

*Expressing appreciation for the participation of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina Mohammed, the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, Selma Malika Haddadi, the President of the Economic and Social Council, Lok Bahadur Thapa, and the Prime Minister of Uganda, Robinah Nabbanja,*

*Commending the Economic Commission for Africa, together with the African Union Commission, the African Development Bank and various United Nations entities, for having organized the Forum, which was defined by inclusive and interactive deliberations that delivered effective outcomes, such as:*

(a) Fruitful and high-quality discussions and peer-to-peer learning on best practices and progress achieved towards the attainment in Africa of Sustainable Development Goal 6, on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, Goal 7, on ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, Goal 9, on building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization and fostering innovation, Goal 11, on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, and Goal 17, on strengthening the means of implementation and revitalizing the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, and the corresponding goals of Agenda 2063, with a special focus on the second 10-year implementation plan (2024–2033) of



Agenda 2063,<sup>1</sup> taking into account gender equality and women's empowerment and the well-being of children,

(b) Consensus on key messages and the Addis Ababa Declaration, articulating African priorities and transformative and coordinated actions to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 and serving as regional input to the 2026 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and the World Water Forum, and on measures to follow up on the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Summit for Social Development and the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

(c) Productive discussions on implementable and financed interventions designed to accelerate progress towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063,

(d) Strengthened capacity of the 19 African States that are conducting voluntary national reviews in 2026 to undertake the reviews and present the associated reports at the 2026 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development,

(e) Provision of knowledge, skills and tools to members of the Economic Commission for Africa, civil society, young people, private companies, academic institutions and development partners in order to carry out transformative and coordinated policy solutions and actions to accelerate and expand progress on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063 and its second 10-year implementation plan,

(f) Formulation of African considerations on shaping the sustainable development priorities up to 2030 and the post-2030 United Nations framework for sustainable development,

(g) Forging of new multi-stakeholder partnerships, and the strengthening of existing partnerships, to mobilize and deliver strong and coordinated support, including financial, capacity-development and technological assistance for the implementation of projects and initiatives aligned with the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including the impact labs for the Sustainable Development Goals and the second 10-year implementation plan,

*Noting* with deep concern that progress in Africa towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is far off track, with little time left before the 2030 deadline, and that achievement of the five Goals selected to be addressed during the 2026 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development is lagging, as illustrated by the following:

(a) Progress is slow on 12 Goals and is regressing on 5,<sup>2</sup> despite the urgent need to accelerate action, with less than five years remaining until 2030,

(b) Of the 28 countries around the world in which more than a quarter of the population lacked access to basic drinking water services between 2015 and 2024, 24 were in sub-Saharan Africa,<sup>3</sup> where fetching water resulted in 40

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<sup>1</sup> African Union, *Decade of Accelerated Implementation: Second Ten-Year Implementation Plan, 2024–2033* (Addis Ababa, 2024).

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, Economic Commission for Africa, "Africa SDG progress tracker". Available at <https://ecastats.uneca.org/data/africa-sdg-tracker/> (accessed on 23 December 2025).

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization and United Nations Children's Fund, *Progress on Household Drinking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene 2000–2024: Special Focus on Inequalities* (Geneva, 2025).

billion hours of women's labour being lost per year,<sup>4</sup> representing a huge opportunity cost for families and economies, and in 2020 some 387 million people in that area lacked access to basic drinking water,<sup>5</sup>

(c) In 2025, some 600 million people in Africa, a disproportionate number of them women and girls – representing approximately 43 per cent of the population – lacked access to electricity, accounting for more than 80 per cent of the global population without electricity,<sup>6</sup>

(d) The industrial base of Africa remains weak, with only a 2 per cent share of global manufacturing value added,<sup>7</sup>

(e) Between 2014 and 2022, the proportion of the African urban population living in slums or informal settlements declined only marginally, and it remained almost twice the global average in 2022,<sup>8</sup>

(f) The region faces a substantial annual financing gap estimated at between 670 billion and 848 billion United States dollars, against an overall annual investment requirement of between 802 billion and 1.67 trillion United States dollars, for the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals alone,<sup>9</sup>

(g) Financial flows to the region at the country and local levels remain volatile, including fluctuations in foreign direct investment and official development assistance, while rising debt burdens have further constrained fiscal space and placed several countries at heightened risk of debt distress,

*Noting also* with deep concern the significant and interconnected challenges and setbacks arising from inequality and from multidimensional and intergenerational poverty,

*Expressing* deep concern that millions of African children continue to face limited access to safe drinking water and sanitation, unreliable energy supplies to power health and education services, inadequate infrastructure, and unsafe and underserved urban environments, and that there is therefore a need to ensure equity and inclusion, including for those in rural areas, informal settlements and fragile and conflict-affected settings, and communities exposed to climate-related shocks,

*Reaffirming* our commitment to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda and the aspirations of Agenda 2063, along with the strategic objectives of the second 10-year implementation plan, and the integrated and full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including through transformative and coordinated action at scale and at speed,

*Reaffirming also* the ministerial statement<sup>10</sup> adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development and other outcomes of the fifty-eighth session of the Economic Commission for Africa, held in Tangier, Morocco, from 28 March to 3 April 2026, the outcomes of the Africa Business Forum 2026, held in Addis Ababa on 16 and 17

<sup>4</sup> Andrew Myers, "In sub-Saharan Africa, a shorter walk to water saves lives", Stanford University, Woods Institute for the Environment, 13 February 2012.

<sup>5</sup> Willow Leahy, Meshack Achore and Florence Dery, "In the dry season, our suffering doubles': Barriers to water access in poor urban settlements in Ghana", *PLOS Water*, vol. 3, No. 9 (2024).

<sup>6</sup> Empower Africa, "Africa's energy deficit: 600 million people still lack electricity", 15 August 2025.

<sup>7</sup> United Nations Industrial Development Organization, *Factsheet: Africa – Highlights from the International Yearbook of Industrial Statistics 2023* (Vienna, 2023).

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), "Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (percent)", Urban Indicators Database. Available at: <https://data.unhabitat.org/pages/housing-slums-and-informal-settlements> (accessed on 23 December 2025).

<sup>9</sup> United Nations, ECA, "What would it take to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Africa?: new estimates of the financing gap" (Addis Ababa, 2025).

<sup>10</sup> E/ECA/CM/58/6, annex II.

February 2026, the Nairobi Declaration adopted at the Second Africa Urban Forum, held in Nairobi from 8 to 10 April 2026, the outcomes report<sup>11</sup> and other decisions agreed upon at the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Belém, Brazil, from 10 to 21 November 2025, the Sevilla Commitment<sup>12</sup> adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Sevilla, Spain, from 30 June to 3 July 2025, the outcome report of the 2025 United Nations Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, held in Nice, France, from 9 to 13 June 2025, the Doha Political Declaration of the “World Social Summit” under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development”,<sup>13</sup> adopted at the Second World Summit for Social Development, held in Doha from 4 to 6 November 2025, and the ministerial declaration<sup>14</sup> adopted at the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, held in New York from 14 to 23 July 2025,

*Reaffirming further* the key messages and declarations adopted at the previous sessions of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development,

*Reiterating* our commitment to gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls as a central pillar of sustainable development,

*Welcoming* the discussions held and decisions adopted<sup>15</sup> at the thirtieth ordinary session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa on 14 and 15 February 2026, on the theme “Ensuring sustainable water availability and safe sanitation systems to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063”,

*Welcoming also* the forthcoming hosting by Ethiopia of the thirty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which will provide an opportunity for Africa to drive the move from commitments to implementation, advance Africa-led solutions on adaptation, resilience and climate finance, and deliver climate outcomes that respond to African realities and advance the continent’s long-term development pathways,

*Welcoming further* the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 as a timely opportunity to galvanize global efforts to accelerate progress in the attainment of Goal 6, while advancing water and sanitation priorities in Africa in line with Agenda 2063,

*Underscoring* the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to be convened under the auspices of the General Assembly in 2027, as a vital platform for Africa to shape post-2030 sustainable development pathways that are aligned with Agenda 2063 and build on lessons learned,

*Cognizant* that frontier technologies and innovation can be used to unlock the growth potential of Africa and to enhance the competitiveness of African economies through productivity growth and diversification,

*Acknowledging* the critical role of the private sector, including investors, women-led enterprises and youth-led enterprises, not only as a source of capital,

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<sup>11</sup> Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Outcomes Report: Global Climate Action Agenda at COP30* (Belém, Brazil, 2025).

<sup>12</sup> General Assembly resolution 79/323.

<sup>13</sup> General Assembly resolution 80/5.

<sup>14</sup> E/HLS/2025/1.

<sup>15</sup> Assembly/AU/Dec.942–982(XXXIX), Assembly/AU/Decl.1–10(XXXIX) and Assembly/AU/Res.1–2(XXXIX). Available at <https://au.int/en/decisions/decisions-declarations-and-resolution-thirty-ninth-ordinary-session-assembly-union>.

but also as a driver of jobs, technological innovation, value chains, industrial transformation and practical solutions in the sectors that matter most to sustainable development,

*Underscoring* the opportunity offered by the Africa Development Impact Forum, led by the Economic Commission for Africa, to drive implementation and translate policy commitments into scalable, high-impact outcomes, including through job creation, inclusive economic growth and the accelerated achievement of the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063,

*Welcoming* the launch of impact labs for the Sustainable Development Goals and the second 10-year implementation plan as an initiative of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development designed to drive African-led innovation and leadership in accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and fulfilment of Agenda 2063 by co-creating, piloting and scaling-up transformative interventions,

*Do hereby:*

1. *Urge* members of the Economic Commission for Africa, regional organizations, the private sector, civil society and development partners to scale up transformative and coordinated action and to create a policy environment conducive to accelerating the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals;

2. *Call upon* participants at the 2026 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6 and other relevant global, regional and subregional forums to consider and undertake, as part of their respective outcomes, the following commitments aligned with the priorities of Africa:

(a) In relation to clean water and sanitation and assuring sustainable water availability and safe sanitation systems to achieve the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want, of the African Union:

(i) To mobilize and strengthen inclusive political and technical leadership and commitment at the regional, subregional, national and local levels, in order to accelerate progress towards Goal 6 alongside the goals of the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy;

(ii) To formulate and implement robust and evidence-based capacity-building policies, plans and programmes at the regional, national and local levels to achieve measurable results relating to Goal 6 and the goals of the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy;

(iii) To promote the status of water as a strategic pillar of job creation, growth and overall sustainable development by harnessing its political, economic and social value across national and regional development frameworks;

(iv) To mobilize sustainable and innovative finance, including from the private sector, and adopt tailored financing models to support the implementation of the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy and Goal 6;

(v) To leverage the Africa Water Vision 2063 and Policy and the United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation alongside the Sustainable Development Goal 6 Global Acceleration Framework in order to strengthen cross-sectoral and inclusive water governance and investments and drive coherence, coordination and measurable impact in rural communities and at the subnational, national and regional levels;

(vi) To strengthen operational arrangements for shared surface-water and groundwater resources through joint efforts to harmonize the collection and use of data, joint planning, sustained finance and

institutional cooperation, thereby positioning transboundary waters as assets for climate resilience, food security and peacebuilding;

(vii) To design gender-responsive interventions in the area of water, sanitation and hygiene that are led by women and young people, are grounded in lived experience and are tailored to the needs of young people, women, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups;

(viii) To embed gender-responsive water, sanitation and hygiene interventions within holistic health policies, budgets and standards to guarantee safe, accessible and dignified water and sanitation services for women, young people, adolescents and persons with disabilities;

(ix) To mainstream climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction into water resources management and water, sanitation and hygiene planning, prioritizing drought and flood risk management, groundwater resilience, ecosystem protection and basin-level efforts, in order to reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience;

(x) To protect, restore and sustainably manage rivers, lakes, wetlands, forests and groundwater recharge ecosystems as natural infrastructure for water security, biodiversity and resilience;

(xi) To prevent or significantly reduce water pollution from wastewater, plastics, hazardous chemicals, mining, agriculture and industrial sources through strengthened regulation and circular economy approaches;

(xii) To scale up wastewater treatment and reuse and water resource recovery in order to expand water availability, reduce pollution and generate green jobs;

(b) In relation to affordable and clean energy:

(i) To expand decentralized renewable energy solutions, including through viable business models, so as to accelerate sustainable energy development;

(ii) To embed life cycle sustainability and the principles of a just transition in all energy investments, ensuring that benefits are broadly shared and that young people, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable populations are protected;

(iii) To promote models and partnerships that mobilize finance at scale for investments in affordable and clean energy to power essential social services;

(iv) To mobilize affordable international and domestic capital, including from the private sector, for integrated and inclusive sustainable energy solutions;

(v) To strengthen regional power pools and cross-border connections in order to improve resource-sharing, reduce costs and enhance reliability for industry and large consumers;

(vi) To integrate energy efficiency and digitalization into all aspects of energy planning and implementation;

(vii) To elevate inclusive and gender-responsive clean cooking as a core development and public health priority, with dedicated finance and institutional support;

(c) In relation to industry, innovation and infrastructure:

(i) To adopt forward-looking, regionally aligned industrial strategies that address megatrends, including the green energy transition, artificial intelligence and digital connectivity, shifting supply chains,

demographic change and food system transformation, in order to advance inclusive, locally focused and sustainable industrialization;

(ii) To strengthen the structuring, bankability and delivery of industrial and infrastructure projects, explore financing innovations, including blended finance and debt swap solutions, and set up effective monitoring mechanisms;

(iii) To scale up targeted and community-centred investment in climate-resilient infrastructure and integrate energy planning into the deployment and operation of digital infrastructure;

(iv) To prioritize an inclusive and gender-responsive digital economy as a driver of industrialization, decent job creation and diversification;

(v) To take urgent action to deploy emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, build digital skills and support full business participation in all aspects of digital activity;

(vi) To bridge infrastructure gaps, with a view to enabling countries to benefit fully from regional integration and the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area;

(vii) To promote sustainable consumption and production by applying the principles of an inclusive circular economy and good product design and through sustainable lifestyles, resource efficiency policies, zero-waste initiatives, reduced exposure to hazardous chemicals and actions that minimize air, soil, land and water pollution;

(viii) To promote access to science and technology for women, young people and children by strengthening their capacity, including their capacity for digital learning and digital literacy;

(d) In relation to sustainable cities and communities:

(i) To integrate economic and spatial planning so that cities can actively generate decent jobs, support manufacturing and services and drive structural transformation;

(ii) To advance integrated and coordinated economic and spatial planning through evidence-based and participatory approaches, thereby enabling cities to generate decent and productive employment and care services, foster industrialization and dynamic service sectors, and drive inclusive, green and sustainable structural transformation;

(iii) To increase targeted investments, including from the private sector, to drive people-centred and inclusive urban development and a shift from managing urban growth to using cities as engines of inclusive and structural transformation that can leverage the African Continental Free Trade Area corridors, with a view to facilitating participation in regional value chains and digital transitions;

(iv) To scale up inclusive housing strategies that improve affordability, tenure security, construction quality and availability of public services, combining legal protections with resilient, energy-efficient building methods to upgrade slums and informal settlements;

(v) To institutionalize integrated land-use planning and transit-oriented development in which green infrastructure is embedded and to protect peri-urban ecosystems, so as to curb sprawl, cut pollution and strengthen climate resilience;

(vi) To establish multisectoral urban resilience platforms for disaster risk management and transboundary risks, aligned with the Paris Agreement, the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 and the Sendai Framework

for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, and scale up peer learning through such initiatives as the “Making Cities Resilient 2030” initiative;

(vii) To deploy digital public infrastructure for inclusive smart cities;

(viii) To strengthen the own-source revenue of cities by fully harnessing their economic potential, supported by digitalization, inclusive and gender-responsive land governance, land-value capture and digitalized subnational financial management, and to mobilize public-private partnerships for housing, infrastructure and urban technology;

(ix) To promote investments in inclusive, safe, accessible and sustainable cities, in which children, young people, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable populations are protected from physical and environmental hazards, displacement and insecurity;

(e) In relation to partnerships for the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063:

(i) To engage effectively in the Sevilla Platform for Action, launched at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development,<sup>16</sup> by leading and contributing to initiatives that advance inclusive domestic resource mobilization, systemic reform and sustainable finance, including blended finance, debt swaps and other debt solutions, thereby driving transformative and coordinated action to implement the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(ii) To mobilize domestic savings and crowd in domestic and international private investment and blended finance through regional mechanisms and innovative instruments, including by deploying public resources strategically, in order to significantly enhance the development financing landscape of Africa;

(iii) To operationalize the Africa credit rating agency so as to dampen systemic biases in global credit assessments, reduce borrowing costs and improve investor confidence;

(iv) To scale up gender-responsive blended finance and develop local currency capital markets in order to improve access to inclusive finance in Africa;

(v) To develop integrated, investment-ready project pipelines aligned with national plans, the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including by enhancing capacity to plan projects, structure risks and build public-private partnerships;

(vi) To recognize digital infrastructure as a strategic and essential enabler of economic growth, and to integrate the expansion of such infrastructure into national development planning alongside that of other core infrastructure sectors, with a view to prioritizing investment and addressing connectivity gaps, including, where appropriate, through targeted public support;

(vii) To accelerate the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area and its Protocol on Digital Trade, the reduction of non-tariff barriers, the scaling up of trade facilitation and the strengthening of digital trade systems;

(viii) To invest in data infrastructure and emerging technologies, treating data systems as critical public infrastructure, and to bridge the global data divide through the integration of emerging data sources into official statistics;

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<sup>16</sup> General Assembly resolution 80/129.

- (ix) To scale up integrated, coordinated, country-led and institution-focused capacity-development efforts, with a view to driving people-centred and human rights-based implementation and yielding more sustainable outcomes, especially in the areas of regional integration, inclusive climate resilience, gender-sensitive digital transformation and change management;
- (x) To equip volunteer and civil society organizations with the resources necessary to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, to integrate volunteerism into statistical measurements and to enhance advocacy of national volunteer programmes, with a view to optimizing such contributions and improving data collection;
- (xi) To institutionalize gender-responsive budgeting and public financial management reforms, ensuring that adequate resources are allocated to gender equality priorities in national and subnational budgets;
- (f) In relation to the thirty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change:
- (i) To mobilize and ensure the inclusive, coordinated and effective participation of Africa in the thirty-second session of the Conference, including the engagement of Heads of State and Government and important stakeholders;
- (ii) To ensure that climate financing pledges translate into delivery at scale with enhanced predictability, accessibility and accountability;
- (iii) To align climate finance with resilience and sustainable development priorities, including through a move away from short-term, project-based approaches towards programmatic and long-term finance that strengthens national financial systems, supports regional priorities and treats adaptation and resilience investment as core development financing goals, not as supplementary climate action;
- (iv) To recognize water as a central pathway for climate adaptation, resilience, disaster risk reduction and ecosystem recovery in Africa;
- (v) To foster equity, transparency, accessibility and trust as pillars in the delivery of climate finance, ensuring that such finance reaches children, young people, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable communities;
- (vi) To advance reforms of the international financial architecture aimed at scaling up access to climate finance and increasing its affordability for African countries, including through simplified access modalities, increased concessionality and the alignment of multilateral and bilateral finance with priorities relating to development and resilience in Africa;
- (g) In relation to achieving full employment and decent work for all, poverty reduction and social protection in Africa, building on the outcomes of the Second World Summit for Social Development:
- (i) To develop and support regional and national initiatives to effectively implement the commitments set out in the Doha Political Declaration of the “World Social Summit” under the title “the Second World Summit for Social Development” and to periodically assess the progress made, the gaps that remain and the opportunities to take the actions needed to fulfil those commitments;
- (ii) To strengthen regional cooperation and peer learning on gender equality, social protection, employment creation and inclusive growth;

(iii) To strengthen education systems in Africa in order to support young people in transitioning from the education sphere to the labour market;

3. *Urge* African countries to strengthen integrated and effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 in the lead-up to 2030, and to engage actively and collectively in shaping the post-2030 global development framework, ensuring that African priorities, experiences and lessons learned are fully reflected;

4. *Call upon* participants in the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to be held in 2027, to consider and undertake, as part of the outcomes of the Summit, the following commitments aligned with the priorities of Africa:

(a) In relation to advancing sustainable development by 2030:

(i) To reaffirm the full and accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in alignment with Agenda 2063, recognizing the complementarity of the two agendas and their shared vision for inclusive, resilient and sustainable development;

(ii) To accelerate progress towards inclusive and human rights-based economic transformation and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the period leading up to 2030 by prioritizing adequate, predictable and affordable finance for development, including through reforms of the global financial architecture, the scaling up of concessional finance and the reduction of borrowing costs for African countries;

(iii) To foster orderly and comprehensive debt solutions for African countries, including debt restructuring, debt for development and debt-for-climate swaps, in support of inclusive, gender-responsive and human rights-based sustainable development, climate resilience and long-term economic stability;

(iv) To engage actively and strategically in the Sevilla Platform for Action, including by leading and contributing to initiatives that advance inclusive finance, debt solutions and systemic reform, with a view to driving transformative and coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;

(v) To advance inclusive, gender-responsive and human rights-based structural economic transformation and productive employment as a foundation for sustainable development in Africa, and, in that regard, to scale up investments in pathways for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals that prioritize the empowerment of young people, women and marginalized groups, resilient infrastructure development, industrialization, value addition, agroprocessing and minerals processing, regional value chains, effective implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area and its Protocol on Women and Youth in Trade, and job creation, in particular for young people and women;

(vi) To strengthen support for women-led and youth-led enterprises through tailored financing instruments, enhanced ecosystem support, increased participation in economic decision-making and strengthened engagement in trust-based partnerships;

(vii) To advance climate action as an integral development priority by scaling up adaptation-focused climate finance, fully operationalizing loss and damage funding arrangements and integrating gender-responsive climate resilience and disaster risk reduction into national development strategies and into efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

- (viii) To scale up investment in education, health, water security, sustainable food systems and healthy ecosystems as a foundational enabler of sustainable development, including strengthened investment in skills development for job creation, local pharmaceuticals manufacturing, clean water and sanitation, climate-smart agriculture and ecosystem restoration, supported by integrated water, food and energy approaches;
- (ix) To enhance support provided to rural communities and local and subnational governments, including through increased finance and capacity-building, and facilitate the expansion of evidence-based voluntary national and local reviews that are linked to the timely and meaningful reform of planning, budgeting, investment and accountability processes to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- (x) To increase investment in national and subnational statistical systems, digital public infrastructure and technology transfer in order to support inclusive growth and evidence-based policymaking and the implementation of policies, programmes and other interventions in fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063;
- (xi) To scale up investment in technology and innovation by mobilizing domestic resources effectively, including through progressive digitalized taxation, digital public administration and innovative finance;
- (b) In relation to initial considerations by Africa on shaping the sustainable development framework beyond 2030:
- (i) To advocate that Africa proactively lead and shape the post-2030 development framework through a unified African voice that is grounded in Agenda 2063 and lessons learned from the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and that embeds human rights and dignity at its core, reflecting long-term development aspirations while advancing coordinated, country-led, people-centred, human-rights-based, context-specific and inclusive development pathways that incorporate meaningful participation by young people in the light of their central role as drivers of the continent's transformation;
- (ii) To address the main priorities of Africa with regard to human development foundations (health, education, gender equality, poverty eradication and jobs), sustainable agriculture and food systems, energy transition, industry and infrastructure, biodiversity, land, environmental management and circular economies, sustainable cities, climate resilience and climate justice, technology and digital transformation, data systems, governance, peace and global partnerships;
- (iii) To advance the adoption of broader metrics of progress beyond gross domestic product, including measures of resilience, inclusion, productivity and sustainability, in order to better capture development realities in Africa;
- (iv) To promote financial sovereignty within the post-2030 development framework by reforming the global financial architecture, strengthening domestic resource mobilization and taking decisive action on illicit financial flows, including by establishing institutionalized and predictable global mechanisms for financing inclusive sustainable development beyond 2030, including crisis response instruments, rules-based debt restructuring frameworks and strengthened borrower coordination;
- (v) To promote stronger accountability with regard to the means of implementation of policies, programmes and other interventions in

fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, including through commitments related to finance, trade, technology transfer, capacity-building, the strengthening of institutions, transparency and dignity-based governance, against which progress is assessed by its impact on people, especially the poorest, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups;

(vi) To strengthen and implement balanced review and follow-up mechanisms that assess both development outcomes and global commitments, and in particular to strengthen the visibility of voluntary local reviews alongside national reviews and to enhance linkages with regional forums on sustainable development;

(vii) To highlight the need to leave no one behind, prioritizing women, young people, persons with disabilities, displaced populations and communities facing climate and livelihood vulnerabilities;

(viii) To scale up finance for cities through strengthened domestic resource mobilization, innovative financing mechanisms and improved access to climate and development funds, thereby enabling sustainable urban development, resilient infrastructure and inclusive economic growth;

(ix) To combat illicit financial flows;

(x) To strengthen regional cooperation, coordination, peer-to-peer learning and participation in review platforms among States Members of the United Nations, entities of the United Nations system, the African Union, regional economic communities, development banks and non-State actors so as to catalyse efforts to address cross-border challenges, scale up investment and coherently implement the post-2030 development framework;

(xi) To embed resilience and intergenerational equity, anticipate systemic risks, including climate change, demographic shifts and economic shocks, and safeguard opportunities for young people and future generations;

5. *Urge* members of the Economic Commission for Africa to intensify efforts, with the support of the Commission, other United Nations entities and United Nations country teams, the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development, the regional economic communities, the African Development Bank and other regional banks, and development partners:

(a) To prioritize and scale up support for rural communities and local and subnational governments through increased finance, strengthened capacity-building and the systematic expansion of voluntary national and local reviews linked to planning, budgeting and investment processes, acknowledging that the success of the Sustainable Development Goals ultimately depends on delivery at the local level;

(b) To place children, young people, women, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable communities at the centre of transformative action to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and the strategic objectives of the second 10-year implementation plan, recognizing that those communities are not only beneficiaries but also co-creators, leaders and drivers of sustainable development, including through measures:

(i) To institutionalize and strengthen mechanisms for the engagement of young people and women, in particular at the local level, and ensure that participation goes beyond consultation to collaborative decision-making and accountability, in line with the Declaration on the Right to Development;

- (ii) To integrate young people meaningfully into national, regional and local planning, implementation and review processes related to the Sustainable Development Goals, including voluntary national and local reviews;
  - (iii) To increase targeted investment in initiatives led by women and young people, social enterprises and innovation systems that deliver scalable solutions across efforts to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063;
  - (iv) To facilitate access for women and young people to finance, technology, mentorship and markets, including through blended finance and public-private partnerships;
  - (v) To align education, training and labour-market policies so as to equip young women and young men with future-oriented skills, including digital, green and entrepreneurial skills;
  - (vi) To strengthen support for young entrepreneurs by fostering an enabling environment that promotes innovation, facilitates the more widespread use of digital solutions and safeguards intellectual property rights, including through improved access to grants, venture capital, blended financing mechanisms and targeted capacity-building initiatives, in particular initiatives for young people at the local level;
- (c) To facilitate the diffusion of digital technologies to companies in the informal sector and to micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, including by leveraging and scaling up digital extension services, in collaboration with the private sector;
- (d) To combat illicit financial flows;

6. *Call upon* United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, working together with entities throughout the United Nations system at both the global and regional levels, including the Regional Collaborative Platform for Africa and its opportunity and issue-based coalitions, the African Union Commission, the African Union Development Agency-New Partnership for Africa's Development, the African Union Technical Working Group on Agenda 2063, the African Development Bank and other African multilateral banks, and other partners:

- (a) To intensify efforts to develop integrated plans and mobilize resources to implement those plans, with a view to accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals alongside the strategic objectives of the second 10-year implementation plan, focusing on the six areas in which transitions are needed to accelerate attainment of the Goals, namely inclusive food systems, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, and climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution;
- (b) To fully integrate reporting and accountability, including for private sector initiatives and solutions, through the systematic use of data disaggregated by sex, gender indicators and gender equality markers, while avoiding duplication and wastage of resources;
- (c) To work together and not in silos, as a basis for translating shared commitment into joint action at scale, with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the strategic objectives of the second 10-year implementation plan;
- (d) To support members of the Economic Commission for Africa in mobilizing resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, in alignment with the second 10-year implementation plan, the Domestic

Resource Mobilization Strategy 2025–2033 and the global development agenda;

(e) To support members of the Economic Commission for Africa in making domestic resource mobilization youth-centred, ensuring that such mobilization delivers tangible gains in terms of education, skills, jobs, entrepreneurship and digital inclusion;

(f) To advance climate-water-energy-food nexus approaches that strengthen policy coherence, whole-of-government delivery and finance, and that place water at the centre of resilience-building, expand sustainable energy access, support resilient and inclusive food systems, and minimize trade-offs across sectors and governance levels, with a view to accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of Agenda 2063;

7. *Request* the Government of Mauritius to present the key messages and the present declaration on behalf of Africa to the high-level political forum on sustainable development at its meeting to be convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council in New York from 7 to 15 July 2026, to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its thirty-first session, to be held in Antalya, Türkiye, from 9 to 20 November 2026, to the 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6, co-hosted by Senegal and the United Arab Emirates, to be held in the United Arab Emirates from 2 to 4 December 2026, to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit to be held in New York in 2027, and at other relevant global, regional and subregional forums, in order to advocate follow-up to the outcomes of the twelfth and previous sessions of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, in particular its second 10-year implementation plan.

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