



United Nations  
Economic Commission for Africa



**ARFSD 2022**

**Building Resilience to Multiple Shocks Alongside Accelerated implementation of  
SDGs and Agenda 2063: Highlights of the Outcomes of the Eighth session of the  
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD-8)**

**Jean-Paul Adam**

**Director, Technology, Climate Change and Natural Resources Management Division and Executive  
UN Economic Commission for Africa**

**November 2022**



**DECADE  
OF  
ACTION**

## A. Context

### The UN Secretary-General:

- Has laid out the contemporary challenges that we ought to tackle
- Calls for urgent and bold action on these challenges: **Our common Agenda and the 2030 Agenda are the Blueprints for action**



*In the words of the **UN Secretary-General, António Guterres:***

*“Countries are called upon to mobilize against a “five-alarm global fire”, i.e.,*

- **COVID-19**
- **The climate crisis**
- **An unprincipled global financial system**
- **Lawlessness in cyberspace, and**
- **a rise in violent conflict.**

## B. The Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD)

- Mandated by the UN General Assembly and ECA Conference of Ministers
- Is an annual Regional Platform for advancing implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063:
  - ✓ Sustaining commitment
  - ✓ Assessing progress against set milestones and
  - ✓ Bolstering multi-stakeholder engagement and synergies, and promoting concerted efforts
  - ✓ Identifying, promoting and building consensus on transformative actions, levers and partnerships to drive progress

In the 2030 Agenda and SDGs: we have a framework for people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnerships

The deadline for attainment of SDGs: looms closer- **Time of essence**

2022

2015

© Almost midway the set time frame for achieving SDGs  
© **Eighth session of ARFSD: Theme** - “Building forward better: A green, inclusive and resilient Africa poised to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”- **Spotlight on:** SDGs 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17

2030

## C. Trends and emerging issues: Highlights from ARFSD-8 (1)

1. The general trend in the region is to lag in implementation of the SDGs - **Impeding forces:**
  - ✓ COVID crisis a compounding challenge
  - ✓ Fiscal constraints,
  - ✓ Digital Divide
  - ✓ Climate change
  - ✓ Weak integration of SDGs in planning and budgeting frameworks
  - ✓ Inadequate quality data and statistics
2. Despite progress, the number of out of school children in Africa remains high: **At the current rate pace, it would take 100 years to achieve full school attendance for all children of primary school age.**
3. Lack of sex disaggregated data is a key challenge to the effective mainstreaming of gender equality and women's empowerment priorities into national development plans in Africa.
4. Mixed performance, but overall, not on track to achieve SDG 14.
5. Africa had the largest annual rate of net forest loss in 2010–2020: **The only region where net forest loss has increased in each of the last decades since 1990.**

## C. Trends and emerging issues: Highlights from ARFSD-8 (2)

### 1. Debt distress and large financing needs

- ✓ Poorer countries, most of which are in Africa, spend five times as much on debt repayments as they do on climate action
- ✓ Globally, \$4.3 trillion is needed per year - more money than ever before - to meet the SDGs
- ✓ Globally, extra funding of \$700 billion a year is needed to halt global biodiversity decline by 2030

### 2. Timely delivery of SDGs in line with the Decade of Action hinged on provision of results based-capacity development; leveraging technologies and mobilization of adequate finance - Seen as key are:

- ✓ Fulfilling promised financing under different mechanisms
- ✓ Adopting innovative solutions such as tools and capacity for innovative finance

### 3. Universal VNR coverage and scaled up VLRs needed to drive implementation: The remaining one country in Africa yet to conduct VNR, encouraged to do so; VLRs gaining traction, being rolled out with ECA-led regional VLR guide.

### 4. AfCFTA is an important tool to promote the adoption of sustainable technologies and infrastructure, and supporting inclusive green growth: vital for women economic empowerment, climate resilience, and sustainable management of marine and land resources

## D. Call for Action by ARFSD-8: Eight key areas (1)

- 1. Covid-19 vaccines:** African countries demand that developed countries facilitate equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines to enable African countries to recover faster from the COVID-19 pandemic
- 2. Education:** African countries should invest in developing more resilient education systems – Strengthen centres of excellence for and rollout STEAM education.
- 3. Gender and women empowerment:** Strengthen institutional arrangements, to enhance national ownership and responsibility for the effective implementation, monitoring and accountability of the gender-related goals and targets.
- 4. Marine and aquatic resources:** African countries to strengthen their institutional capacity for marine resources management: Member states and partners called to embrace and support the “Great Blue Wall” initiative.

## D. Call for Action by ARFSD-8: Eight key areas (2)

- 5. Forests, biodiversity and land management:** African countries and their development partners to strengthen the capacity for **valuation of natural capital**, and better integrate biodiversity into development planning and decision-making processes; and **increase investment** in forests, biodiversity and land management
- 6. Alignment of national development plans with SDGs and agenda 2063:** Member states and partners to strengthen integration of SDGs and Agenda 2063 in national and sectoral plans and policies – **Take advantage of the IPRT developed by ECA to support countries.**
- 7. Data and Statistics:** Scaleup investments in the generation and use of quality statistics to better address gaps in SDG implementation– **Invest in collection and management of Big Data**

## D. Call for Action by ARFSD-8: Eight key areas (3)

**8. Financing SDGs in the context COVID-19 and debt distress:** The finance crisis needs immediate multi-level interventions:

- Africa calls for the adoption of **reforms to the international financial architecture that integrate innovative financing mechanisms that are initiated and led by African countries** to ensure African debt sustainability and to support the development of nature-based solutions and a green and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ARFSD-8 calls for renewed vigor on the part of African Governments, UN entities and development partners in the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, especially **with regard to domestic resource mobilization.**
- Africa also calls on ECA, the AfDB and other partners to strengthen the capacity of African countries to leverage the **Liquidity and Sustainability Facility (LSF) and other innovative financing mechanisms**- LSF was launched by ECA and partners at UNFCCC COP26
- ECA and the United Nations system should help to establish a truly **developmental carbon market on the continent** – MOU adopted for supporting countries of the Congo Basin





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Ideas  
to  
Action