Seventh session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

“Building forward better: towards a resilient and green Africa to achieve the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063”

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Acceleration of Sustainable Development Goals of both Global Agenda 2030 & Africa Agenda 2063

A Road-Map for Africa

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Context

Global level

*September 2019 (UN General Assembly)*

**Adoption of the Decade of Action for SDG Acceleration**

- Call for accelerating implementation of smart solutions
- Call to all the society to mobilise
- Global, local and individual action

Africa level

*February 2020 (6th ARFSD)*

**Victoria Falls Declaration**

- Renewed commitment to both agendas 2030 & 2063
- Call for acceleration measures
- Call the UN support for it
Rationale for a Road-Map

• Victoria Falls declaration: Call the UN for a Regional acceleration strategy

• Since the adoption of the SDG,
  • UN system developed several strategies and plans to support countries and partners for SDG achievements and Translation in major engagements (e.g. COP 21)
  • UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes developed specific strategies by domain; SDG related plans implemented from global to local level
  • Regional Economic and Development Communities, other development partners have their own strategies
  • States have medium to long-term Vision for their countries
  • New initiatives and partnerships raised (e.g. UN-EU Spotlight initiative on GBV)
• Acknowledging all the existing efforts and initiatives from global to national level

• In line with the UN reform aiming at more effectiveness and efficiency

• Considering the best allocation of resources

UNECA proposing instead of an additional strategy, a *Road-Map*

- to **support their implementation**, and
- more particularly **monitoring** the advancement towards SD goals
**Challenges**

- Diverse geographical breakdown
  - Overlap in programme and action / lack of efficiency
- Capacity of mobilising financial resources in shrinking donors engagement
  - Difficulties to implement strategies and programmes / the Road-map

**Risks**

- Political will on paper but not translated into action
- Increase in conflicts and terrorism
- Highly volatile political and economic environment
- Region prone to epidemics and natural disasters
  - Halt of, even regression in, progress
  - Resources diverted to crisis solving

**Opportunities**

- Renewed commitments on both Agendas 2030 & 2063
- Covid-19 response as a unique momentum for transformative change
- UN Reform
- Relevant expertise within and outside Africa

**Key mitigation measures**

- Advocacy, communication and partnerships
- Strengthened coordination and dialogue
- Pooling of resources (Expertise, Data, ITC...)
- Building on keys for acceleration
Keys for Acceleration
Key 1: Two agendas, Same goals

- Social, economic and environmental dimensions within and between them

- Action taken towards goals in one of the agenda, will have definite effect on the goals of the other one

- Monitoring and research will inform one-the-other, hence maximizing efficiency and economies of scale

- Implies joint accountability

Key 2: the Actors

- SDG the business of All
- Every one contributes at their level
- Everyone is accountable and severally liable
- The three groups interact for success
- Applies from the global to the local level
Key 3: Policy and Enabling Environment

- Leaving no one behind (LNOB)
- Inclusiveness
- Participation and societal ownership
- Human rights-based approach to development (HRBA)
- Gender equality and women empowerment
- Resilience
- Sustainability
- Accountability

Same *Grounding principles* in both agendas
• UN75 survey results "The future we want" reaffirms
  1. Access to basic services (health, education);
  2. Change in the economic patterns;
  3. Climate change and environment.
+ Peace and security in the top-5 priorities in African countries

➢ confirms the goals and principles of both agendas,
  ➢ obligation of
    o decision- and policy-makers to address them,
    o whole-of population to participate and contribute to,
    o development partners to support them in their efforts.
**Intersectionality of goals is a paramount**

Intersectionality reinforces
- the commonality of goals
- the multiplier effect of any action,

➢ hence efficiency/resources-saving

Must be systematically considered

Source: DESA Working Paper No. 141, Towards integration at last? The sustainable development goals as a network of targets, D. Le Blanc, March 2015
**Key 4: The UN Reform**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country level</th>
<th>Regional level</th>
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<tr>
<td>• New Resident Coordinator system; new era of development coordination</td>
<td>• Repositioning of the UN work at the regional level, on a region-by-region basis</td>
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<td>• New UN+Government framework, which transformed from 'assistance' to 'cooperation'</td>
<td>• Shifting from regional coordination mechanism to the Regional Collaboration Platform (RCP) and Opportunities and issue-based coalitions (O/IBC)</td>
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<td>• New approach to physical presence with appropriate criteria to ensure tailored responses to country needs and priorities</td>
<td>• RCP absorbing existing duplicative coordination mechanisms</td>
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**Key 5: A Momentum for Transformative Change**

A game-changer:
- immediate action worldwide and within Africa in response to the Covid-19 crisis
- among which the magnitude of economic response and establishment of partnerships to address its consequences

An extraordinary chance to:
- imagine more equitable, inclusive and resilient societies
- initiate the transformative changes for a better future

A unique momentum to size for:
- adopting new patterns and new ways of thinking / doing business
- adopting and implementing, without delay, ambitious and innovative policies and plans
- (re-)build better and boost the achievement of the goals of both agendas 2030 & 2063
- think about consumption habits and adopt environment-friendly behaviours

Source: UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery, UN, Nov 2020
The UN Africa Road-map
Strategic elements

The UN Africa Road-map
Vision

"An ongoing collaborative relationship between or among organisations from different stakeholder types, aligning their interests around a common vision, combining their complementary resources and competencies and sharing risk, to maximise value creation towards the Sustainable Development Goals and deliver benefit to each of the partners."

➤ Perfectly reflects the approach and vision of this Road-map
Building on existing strategies and mechanisms

• A general demand beyond the ARFSD ones, based on existence of the several strategies, action plans, frameworks, etc.

• In a policy integrated approach,
  o put all strategies and plans together,
  o Organised in a more systemic and systematic way, and
  o put in place means to ensure (true) acceleration/implementation, monitoring and accountability.

• Road-map intended to the UN at first. However, will consider other existing mechanisms, such as continental coordination platform (AUC, REC and AUDA-Nepad).

• Opportunity to establish/reinvigorate partnerships within Africa, but also from other part of the world, for learning of best practices and finding innovative solutions.
A bottom-up approach

Inclusive sustainable development

Africa
- African Union

Sub-Regions
- Regional Economic Communities, Inter-governmental Agencies
- UN Sub-Regional Teams

Countries
- Governments, National/local institutions
- UN RCO & UNCT

ARFSD
A-RCP
UNECA
African Union
Regional Economic Communities, Inter-governmental Agencies
Pooling the resources to save them

• **Competencies**
  
  Each actor has its own strength and added-value
  
  Need of pooling expertise and establishing/merging rosters

• **Data & Knowledge**
  
  'One-stop' portal(s) and less reporting tools, websites and mechanism
  
  Horizontal, vertical and internal coherence to organise and share
  
  Integrating other commitments in the monitoring of advancement
  
  Merging or building on the best/most advanced system

• **Other resources:** *Advocacy, Communication, Learning material, Partnerships*
  
  Speaking in a single voice for more effectiveness / easing learning
  
  Seeking new/combining partnerships within and outside Africa (e.g. Research centres, Think-tanks...)

  *Pooling resources*
  
  = *Saving time* ⇒ *acceleration*
  
  = *Preservation of the environment through reduce energy consumption*
The UN Africa Road-map

**Key Steps**
Road-map implementation

Foreseen to be

a living, agile and flexible process,

taking stock of progress and

able to address sudden changes or crisis
Since the ARFSD-6

UN Reform continuing:

• Transition towards the regional collaborative platforms (RCP) (second half of 2020)
• Establishment of the Opportunities and Issue-based Coalitions
• Guidelines and tools have been developed and implemented in complement of
  o the UN SWSD to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (July 2019)
  o the new Cooperation Framework ones, UN Reform and SDG acceleration
• 5 African countries have signed new Cooperation Frameworks

In response to the Covid-19 crisis:

• Swift mobilisation of competences and capacities
  o April 2020: Post Covid-19 framework disseminated
  o May 2020: Policy-briefs on the impact of Covid-19 (African to country level) outlining response measure and making recommendation for protecting gains and maximising recovery
  o UN Multi-sector Response plans developed in all African countries
  o November 2020: Publication of the UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery
• RCP and O/IBC started to engage with Member-States
• Work plan 2021 of the RCP Joint-secretariat finalised

• UNECA will liaise with the RCP Secretariat to
  • either integrate the Road-map in the RCP Work plan
  • or, develop a separate but complementing one
    (considering respective mandate and expertise; building on synergies and engagements; addressing bottlenecks)

First activities: mapping of existing strategies; identification of progress towards

• UNECA to study how to implement Knowledge hubs and Roster or experts
  ('One-stop' portal, not necessarily managed by UNECA)
As sub-regional and cross-borders levels have been reported to be more appropriate for decision/action,

- UNECA will study with partners how to have
  - Intermediate level of coordination
  - Mechanisms at the interface between continental (RCP) and country (RCO+UNCT)
• UN Reform implementation (new generation of CCA and CF) continuing

• Countries to
  o Undertake/up-date/review Goals prioritisation and integration in their national plans
  o Conduct or re-conduct VNR, if not done or out-of-date
  o Conduct DHS or MICS (if not or not recently done) to inform the process

• All countries to have mechanism/platform for the engagement of the whole-of society,
  o At each step of the process (planning, implementing, monitoring, reviewing...)
  o At all level from national to local ones
  o Hence, Advocacy, Communication and Learning strategy for SDG acceleration

Done

By End 2021
**2023 as a first milestone**, corresponding to at least five major events:

- the end of the first ten-year plan of the Agenda 2063,
- the mid-term of the SDG,
- the SGD summit,
- the Water decade conference,
- the High level meeting on Universal health coverage...
- Plus depending the findings of the activities conducted in 2021, the end of the Road-map 2022-2023 work plan

The occasion

- to **mutually grab knowledge**, 
- to **draw lessons**, and
- potentially to **renew or strengthen commitments**
• New milestones to be defined, every three-year on average, (2026-2027?)
  o taking into account majors events
  o building on the review of the previous work plan

• Final review/evaluation of the Road-map by end 2028/early 2029
  to inform the next agenda

• 2030
  o The proposed time-line of the Road-map
  o Momentum to harness and evaluate the SDG achievements, and
  o To engage in a new way
In lieu of Conclusion...

Last Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (December 2020)

• highlights *importance of considering climate-change and preservation of bio-diversity*
• reaffirms the *ambition of the SDG and their core and intangible principles*

Calls upon the United Nations system to

• strengthen the *quality of partnership and coordinated efforts* in Africa
• align its *support for the region to the specific needs and priorities* of Africa,

*Which is what the proposed road-map strives contributing to*
THANK YOU!

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