

Eighth Session of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

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

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Key messages of the major groups and other stakeholders

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On Goal 4: Quality Education

- 1) African governments should ensure that quality education is available and accessible to all children, and young people in all their diversities, especially girls, through multi-sectoral consultations that inform the development of gender-responsive education sector plans/strategies and budgets, to ensure no one is left behind.
- 2) African governments should design educational systems to bridge the gap between acquired skills and the job market to improve the employability of young graduates.
- 3) African governments should provide and promote digital technologies in their educational systems to bridge the digital divide and ensure the resilience of educational services during crises such as pandemics by providing the necessary infrastructure to ensure sustainable use. They should also offer training on skills for people to use the technology.

On Goal 4: Quality Education

4) African governments should enact/amend policies to ensure every child is guaranteed free safe, quality and compulsory education up to twelve years and should integrate the Sustainable Development Goals and corresponding aspirations of Agenda 2063 into their education systems to raise awareness of their implementation and contribute to their achievement.

5) African governments, the private sector, and development partners should ensure life-long learning and skills development through adult education and technical vocational to reskill and upskill workers to meet the changing job market requirements occasioned, among others, by digitization and climate action, as well as access to decent and climate-friendly jobs.

On Goal 5: Gender Equality

6) African governments should adopt a gender-responsive approach to the pandemic, considering that the pandemic has exacerbated gender inequalities and increased vulnerabilities faced by women. In this regard, African governments should pay particular attention to economic sectors that mostly employ women where the pandemic has disproportionately pushed women out of informal and formal employment.

7) Despite the pressing need to respond to the pandemic, African governments must prioritize sexual and reproductive health services for women and adolescents in all their diversities and uphold sexual and reproductive health rights.

8) African governments should commit increased funding to end all forms of gender-based violence, which worsened during the pandemic, including supporting and implementing survivor-centered and community-led and response programs.



On Goal 5: Gender Equality

10) African governments should implement concrete policies to ensure that women are adequately represented at all levels of decision-making, thus ensuring that public policies consider women's needs and priorities, including women's ownership rights to land, forests, and other natural resources.

11) African governments should adopt policies to promote an equitable share of domestic responsibilities between men and women, including paid parental leave for fathers and mothers and investing in childcare services to reduce the burden of child-care that disproportionately falls on mothers, thus making it harder to balance their professional personal lives.

On Goal 14: Life below water

12) African governments should adopt measures to stop marine pollution and stay cognizant of the ocean's interaction and life on land. Most ocean activities have their source on land, including the harmful activities to the ocean and lead to pollution.

13) African countries need to invest and support the engagement and inclusion of community groups, including women, youth, indigenous coastal communities, and marginalized groups, through ensuring access to finance, capacity building, and sustainable skills development in addressing life underwater.

14) African member states need to effectively enforce existing national, regional, and international policy and regulatory frameworks on life below the water while ensuring policy coherence.

On Goal 14: Life below water

15) There is a need for states to adopt a human rights-based approach in implementing SDG14 and include human rights considerations within the development and implementation of the blue economy.

16) Governments should ensure that protecting Oceans does not only serve as water surfaces but as CO2 reservoirs regulating climate change, home for fish and other aquatic life, including critical ecosystems of Mangroves, marine Seascapes, Marine plants, Coral Reefs, the Deep Blue, opportunities for transport and touristic potentials, etc.

17) Invest in and use the best available science, technology, and data, including indigenous knowledge, to inform policy solutions

On Goal 15: Life on Land

18) Governments need to take the lead on biodiversity, natural resource, and climate change resilience for Africa's humans and ecology.

19) Develop a biodiversity and climate nexus that works for the ecosystem and people's wellbeing, including women, youth, and marginalized groups.

20) African Governments must recognize the enormous role Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including women and youth, play in the stewardship of nature, and strengthen their collective capacity and support to engage in international policy processes meaningfully.

On Goal 15: Life on Land

21) African states need a universally ratified and fully implemented continent-wide legally binding instrument to protect forests and biodiversity. One that will guide the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

22) Global conferences need to adopt a multi-stakeholder approach that results in inclusive multi-sectoral and interdependence approaches whose recommendations will be forwarded to multilateral organizations for enforcement support.

On Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

22) Governments are responsible for implementing the 2030 Agenda; for that purpose, they should create space and provide resources for other actors (private sector, civil society organizations, volunteers, and other stakeholders) to support the process without leaving anyone behind.

23) It is crucial to develop Monitoring, Review, and Accountability Frameworks for the SDGs and Agenda 2063 at all levels (Local, National, Regional). Governments should facilitate National Statistical offices to develop national guidelines for generating and using citizen-generated data in line with the African Charter on statistics.

On Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

24) Adopt clear Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 financing mechanisms and compliance with the research and development commitments of the African Union, emphasizing domestic resource mobilization through a just tax system and responsible debt management, which implies establishing a transparent debt relief architecture with debt restructuring and cancellation while curbing illicit financial flows and monitoring private sector involvement.

25) A new global and regional governance model is needed, with policy coherence, to redress the current imbalance of power and uneven distribution of wealth at the international level: A truly inclusive multilateral system where social partners are on board and have a say.

On Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

26) African governments, AU, and the UN agencies should develop mechanisms and standards for harnessing volunteer resources, expertise, and time to deliver the leave-no-one-behind promise. Coordination, Inclusivity, and social dialogue are needed to ensure resilience is maintained in a people-centered spirit, with effective provision of essential services.



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Ideas
to
Action