

**Economic and Social Council**Distr.: General
30 December 2019

Original: English

Economic Commission for Africa
Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
Sixth session
Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, 24–27 February 2020

Item 6 (d) of the provisional agenda*

**Plenary round-table panels and parallel meetings on
in-depth review, peer learning and dialogue on the sub-themes
of the Regional Forum: parallel meeting on the sub-theme of planet****Background paper on actions and transformative
pathways towards a resilient planet under a
changing climate and depleting natural resources****Key messages**

1. The following are the key messages that emerge from the integrated analysis of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the corresponding goals of the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want covered by this sub-theme:

(a) Climate change poses an existential threat to Africa. Enhancing climate ambition in Africa is not enough. Concerted global commitment and ambitious actions to meet the goal of the Paris Agreement on climate change, while respecting the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, is mandatory to avert the looming climate emergency.

(b) Engaging and strengthening the capacity of subnational entities, local government and local communities provide huge opportunities for scaling up sustainable management and use of land, forest and biodiversity.

(c) It is crucial that the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), be held in Beijing in 2020, be characterized by renewed commitment. With agreement on ambitious goals and targets, and equally ambitious implementation mechanisms, incorporating innovative and financing solutions for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

(d) The economies of most African countries depend largely on natural resources, which provide key production inputs. Yet many countries are not taking the issue of responsible consumption and production seriously enough to reduce resource intensity and environmental footprints of development.

(e) Accelerating and stepping up the pace and scale of access to clean water and sanitation requires urgent efforts to establish good water governance; invest in data; adopt new financing mechanisms; enhance human and institutional capacities; invest in, and leverage, science, technology and

* ECA/RFSD/2020/1.



innovation; advance international cooperation; and establish multi-stakeholder partnership.

(f) Water is a resource without borders. Its effective management requires enhanced investment in accurate harmonized quality data of transboundary surface and aquifer water resources, and information access and sharing for effective management and equitable use, to build mutual trust among riparian States, and ensure peace and sustainable socioeconomic development, as well as the health of ecosystems.

(g) There is an urgent need for development and effective implementation of national strategies and policies for the development of a sustainable blue economy in Africa, including enhanced realization of the African Mining Vision in island and coastal Member States.

(h) Promoting and supporting an integrated and coherent approach to the development and implementation of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies are of paramount importance to reduce vulnerability and the building of resilience in people, economies and natural resources.

I. Introduction

2. This background paper was prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), with contributions from the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) as contributing organizations.

3. The strongly interconnected “5 Ps” – people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnerships – underpin the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, aimed at leaving no one behind, as well as the African Union’s Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.

4. This background paper focuses on the planet sub-theme of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This sub-theme aims to protect the planet from degradation through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing natural resources, and taking urgent action on climate change, so that the planet can sustain the needs of present and future generations – that is, attain sustainable life on land. The planet sub-theme thus includes Goals 6 (clean water and sanitation), Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production), Goal 13 (climate action), Goal 14 (life below water) and Goal 15 (life on land).

5. In Agenda 2063, the theme of planet is captured under the various aspirations, including Aspiration 1.10 on a prosperous Africa with the means and resources to drive its own development with sustainable and long-term stewardship of its resources and where, among others, its unique natural endowments, environment and ecosystems (including wildlife and land) are healthy, valued and protected with climate-resilient economies and communities. Aspiration 1.15 emphasizes the importance of Africa’s blue/ocean economy as a major contributor to continental transformation and growth. Aspirations 1.10 and 1.16 calls for climate action through adaptation and mitigation measures, while Aspiration 1.18 calls for equitable and sustainable use and management of water resources for economic development, regional cooperation and the environment.

6. While the Sustainable Development Goals under the sub-theme of planet are all strongly interlinked, they are also interlinked with all the other Sustainable Development Goals. Understanding the range of positive and negative interactions among Sustainable Development Goals is key to unlocking their full potential at any scale, as well as to ensuring that progress made in some areas is not made at the expense of progress in other areas.

7. For example, according to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, more than 62 per cent of the population in Africa depends directly on ecosystem services for food (Sustainable Development Goal 2), water (Goal 6), energy (Goal 7), health (Goal 3) and livelihood needs (Goal 1). Land degradation is also a threat to stability – and indeed peace and security (Goal 16) and resilience in the region – because it affects cultural identity and stability of some communities. Furthermore, forests absorb roughly 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide equivalent each year and are thus vital for mitigating climate change (Goal 13).

8. In terms of responsible consumption and production, the interlinkage with other Sustainable Development Goals are very strong. For example, efficient use of natural resources (Target 12.2 on efficient materials footprint, and domestic materials consumption) and reduction of per capita food waste and retail consumer levels and food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest (Target 12.3), benefit from successes from combined policy and legislation aimed at enhancing the following targets from other Sustainable Development Goals. Included in Sustainable Development Goal 14 are Target 14.4, aimed at reduced overfishing; and Target 14.2, aimed at sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems. Additional targets include Target 15.4, concerning conservation of mountain ecosystems, including biodiversity from Sustainable Development Goal 15; and Target 8.4, concerning resource efficiency in consumption and production from Sustainable Development Goal 8. Such improvements can support societies and economies to move to much more sustainable production and consumption patterns. In turn, improvements in Targets 12.2, 12.3 and 12.4 (management of chemicals and wastes through their life cycles) can accelerate progress on other Sustainable Development Goals, such as Goals 14 and 15, and serve as entry points for nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in Goal 13 on climate change. Increased scientific knowledge, research and development capacity, and transfer of marine technologies (Target 14.a), enhanced scientific research and technological capacity (Target 9.5), facilitating and enhancing sustainable and resilient technological and financial support to African countries (Target 9.a), enhancing clean energy research and technology (Target 7.a), and accelerating capacity to develop water technologies (Target 6.a) can allow African countries to boost their scientific and technological capacity (Target 12.a), and sustain a shift towards more sustainable patterns of production and consumption.

9. Climate change is a threat multiplier with strong interlinkage across the Sustainable Development Goals. The adverse impacts of climate change include irregular seasons, increasingly frequent and intense droughts, floods and heat waves, and the loss or shifting of habitats and agroecological zones. These impacts can, in turn, result in reduced agricultural production and productivity and thus impact Sustainable Development Goal 2; landslides (impacting Goal 15); infrastructure damage (Goal 9); armed conflict and human insecurity and displacement (Goal 16); the spread of vector-borne diseases (Goal 3); and availability and quality of water (Goal 6), among others. In the case of impact of climate change on water availability, the energy mix (Goal 7) of many African countries depends very much on hydropower, which in turn is very sensitive to climate. Climate change also increases warming of the oceans and this affects life below water (Goal 14). This increasing warming of the oceans displaces symbiotic algae, which results in massive bleaching of coral reefs in areas such as Seychelles, thus having impact on local economies, including tourism (Goal 8), as well as on fisheries.

10. The implicit interconnections among the Sustainable Development Goals – as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Agenda 2063 and the Paris Agreement – provide the opportunity for countries to nationalize

their own Sustainable Development Goals target and respective indicators in order to integrate climate change into their national development plans.

II. Key trends and progress

11. The 2019 Africa Sustainable Development Goal Index and Dashboard, published by the Sustainable Development Goals Centre for Africa and covering all African countries, shows that African countries perform comparatively well in terms of sustainable production and consumption (Sustainable Development Goal 12) and climate action (Goal 13), but perform poorly in goals related to human welfare (Goals 1–7, and 11).

A. Climate change

12. According to the Global Climate 2015–2019 report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), climate change is accelerating, with the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere increasing to record levels and locking in warming that will last for generations. However, cumulatively, Africa contributes only 6 per cent of the greenhouse gas emissions, with Egypt and South Africa alone accounting for close to half of those emissions. The average per capita emissions in Africa of 0.8tCO₂e/yr (tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per person per year) – mostly from agriculture, forestry and land use change – is significantly below the global mean of 5tCO₂e/yr. These per capita emissions compare with 5tCO₂e/yr for Asia, 10tCO₂e/yr for Europe, and 20tCO₂e/yr for North America.

13. The WMO report also shows that the period 2015–2019 was the warmest five-year period on record, and that the global average temperature has increased by 1.1°C since the pre-industrial period. However, Africa has been experiencing significantly higher and continuous warming, with huge economic, health, environmental and social consequences. During the 2015–2019 period, the WMO report shows that Africa incurred an estimated economic loss of \$2 billion and suffered a mortality of 2,600 owing to extreme events exacerbated by climate change. For example, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe suffered severe human and economic losses in March 2019 from the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Idai, which affected more than 2.6 million people and caused more than 700 deaths.

14. The Paris Agreement commits all countries to limit the increase in the global average temperature this century to “well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels” and to pursue efforts to “limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels”. All African countries have signed the Paris Agreement and as of November 2019, 51 of them have already ratified the agreement, with ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions to climate action (NDCs) requiring close to \$3 trillion of conditional and unconditional financing.

15. As an indication of the scope of financing needs for the NDCs, Benin will require some \$25 billion in assistance for conditional actions (\$10 billion for mitigation and \$ 15 billion for adaptation measures) and \$5 billion for unconditional actions. Namibia will require \$35 billion to uphold its nationally determined contributions, while Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal and Zimbabwe estimate that their financing requirements will be \$ 72 billion, \$ 50 billion, \$142 billion, \$ 59 billion, \$ 22 billion and \$90 billion, respectively.

16. There is a severe lack of data on the indicators for tracking progress towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 13 in Africa.

Table 1 provides a summary of indicators and targets, and the indicative progress achieved on the continent.

17. Following the voluntary national reviews for Sustainable Development Goal 13, in order to enhance implementation of the Goal, some African countries – such as Cabo Verde, Egypt and Kenya – highlighted the importance of research and innovation in tackling both adaptation and mitigation, particularly stressing the importance of scenarios and modelling at the national levels. National efforts towards low carbon transition, particularly in increased energy efficiency and use of renewable energy, were highlighted by Egypt, while Cabo Verde and Kenya outlined actions to improve education and awareness-raising on climate change.

Table 1

Summary of indicators and targets: Sustainable Development Goal 13

<i>Target</i>	<i>Indicators</i>	<i>Comments</i>
13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries	13.1.1: Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster per 100 000 people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to data provided by the Sustainable Development Goal Tracker, more than 18 million internal displacements occurred in Africa from 2009 to 2017, with more than 8 million displacements in 2012 alone Tropical Cyclone Idai affected more than 2.6 million people and caused more than 700 confirmed deaths across Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in March 2019
	13.1.2: Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24 countries in Africa have validated national disaster risk reduction strategies and plans aligned with the Sendai Framework
	13.1.3: Proportion of local governments that adopt and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national disaster risk reduction strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data for this indicator are being compiled and, to date, 11 African countries have started reporting against this indicator
13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and plans	13.2.1: Number of countries that have communicated the establishment or operationalization of an integrated policy/strategy/plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All African countries have signed the Paris Agreement As of March 2019, 48 African countries had ratified the Paris Agreement Of the 126 parties that had ratified the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol as of February 2019, only 31 were from Africa
13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning measures	13.3.1: Number of countries that have integrated mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning into primary, secondary and tertiary curricula	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although little data is currently available on these indicators, a number of initiatives across Africa are underway to improve data availability. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Global Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development, developed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization The coalition efforts by the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness, which brings together a number of agencies of the United Nations systems A call by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment for the creation of a platform for the integration of education and capacity-building for young people and women, with a view to supporting African countries in their efforts to combat climate change
	13.3.2: Number of countries that have communicated strategies and plans to strengthen institutional, systemic and individual capacity-building with a view to promoting climate adaptation, mitigation and technology transfer	

<p>13.A: Implement the commitment made by developed-country parties to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to mobilize US\$ 100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency in implementation, and provide adequate financial resources to ensure the full operationalization of the Green Climate Fund at the earliest opportunity</p>	<p>13.A.1: Resources mobilized with a view to upholding developed countries' US\$ 100 billion commitment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African countries have submitted nationally determined contributions that will require some US\$ 3 trillion in conditional and unconditional financial resources • Of the US\$ 10.2 billion pledged to fund the Green Climate Fund, approximately US\$ 7 billion has been received by the Fund, which began its first replenishment in 2018. African countries had received US\$ 2.3 billion (50 per cent of the Fund's funding) as of January 2019, which was being used to implement 36 projects • Only a small proportion of the pledged US\$ 100 billion a year to 2020 has been provided by developed countries; cumulative climate-related financial flows to Africa have only increased from US\$ 615 million in 2000 to approximately US\$ 408 billion in 2017
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B. Clean water and sanitation

18. Water has a central role to play in socioeconomic development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2063.

19. However, the Africa Sustainable Development Goal Index and Dashboard 2019 shows most African countries in general stagnating with progress on attaining Sustainable Development Goal 6, and these countries still have major challenges to overcome urgently if they are to make progress towards attaining the Goal. Yet, Africa is home to 9 per cent of the world's freshwater resources, 17 major rivers, 160 lakes (>27 km²) and roughly a third of the world's major international water basins (>100,000km²).

Table 2

Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets and progress in sub-Saharan Africa (as available on data portal, 2017)

<i>Indicators/Targets</i>	<i>Sub-Saharan Africa</i>	<i>World</i>
6.1.1. "Drinking water service" as % of safely managed water ^a	27	71
6.2.1a. "Sanitation" as % of safely managed water	18.5	45
6.2.1b. "Hygiene" as % of access to a basic handwashing facility	25	60.1
6.3.1. "Wastewater" as % of safely treated water	Not enough data (NED)	
6.3.2. "Water quality" as % of good ambient water quality	NED	
6.4.1. "Water use efficiency" in US\$/m ³	NED	
6.4.2. "Level of water stress" as % of freshwater withdrawal	NED	
6.5.1. "Integrated water management" as % of degree of integrated water resources management implementation	40	49
6.5.2. "Transboundary" as % of operational arrangement for cooperation	NED	59.02
6.6.1. "Ecosystems" changes in water-related ecosystem	233 457.33 ^b	2 727 520.54 ^b
6.a.1. "Cooperation" in US\$ of official development assistance	2 583.70 x 10 ⁶	8 846.62 x 10 ⁶
6.b.1. "Participation"	Positive	
^a Safely managed water means drinking water from an improved water source that is located on the premises, available when needed and free of faecal contamination.		
^b Spatial extent of water-related ecosystems from Earth observation data, lakes, rivers, estuaries and artificial water bodies (km ²). Available from www.sdg6data.org . Accessed on 3 January 2019.		

20. With increasing population and demand for water for competing socioeconomic activities, achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 targets become even more challenging, as more African countries face problems of water scarcity and dwindling clean water. Future decline in water resources is further compounded by predicted climate change impacts, and dwindling water resources will increasingly become a source of environmental degradation and vulnerability, and an issue of tension, conflict and threat to peace in Africa.

21. Identifying and understanding these interconnections is of particular importance to set water high on the political agenda and to identify follow-up priority actions that may increase policy coherence and effectiveness in addressing these interlinked issues in a holistic approach at a regional and national scale. Hence, the progress on Sustainable Development Goal 6 can be improved if Governments, businesses and citizens work together and put determination into achieving this Goal.

22. Integrated water resource management is vital in the management and use of water resources under a changing climate, considering the complex competing demands from sectors, including agriculture, energy, industry, navigation, portable water, urbanization and all forms of land use to ensure sustainable development and people's livelihoods.

C. Life on land

23. Sustainable Development Goal 15 (life on land) seeks to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems; sustainably manage forests; combat desertification; and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. This Sustainable Development Goal is closely aligned with Goal 7 of the African Union Agenda 2063, which is aimed at achieving environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient economies and communities in Africa.

24. A recent global assessment indicates that at least 3.2 billion people worldwide are negatively impacted by land degradation. Estimates are that some 20 per cent of Africa's land surface or (6.6 million km²) is estimated to be degraded because of soil erosion, salinization, pollution and loss of vegetation or soil fertility. Moreover, globally, land degradation represents an economic loss in the order of 10 per cent of annual global gross product (IPBES, 2018).¹ Africa lost a large forest area (about 81 million ha) over the period 1990–2015. The above trends notwithstanding, the Africa Sustainable Development Goal Index and Dashboard 2019 shows that, although many challenges exist, African countries are making significant progress with Sustainable Development Goal 15, as noted below.

25. Approximately 14 per cent (4 million km²) of the total land area of Africa is protected, including 6 per cent of biodiversity-rich tropical evergreen broadleaf forests (IPBES, 2018). Fifty-four African countries are parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, while 45 countries have signed and, of these, 32 have so far ratified the Revised African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Under the Bonn Challenge and the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100), as of November 2019, 27 African countries had made pledges to restore 111 million ha of degraded land by 2030. As of November 2019, 51 African countries had made commitments to land degradation neutrality targets under UNCCD. Other African initiatives being supported by UNCCD are the Great Green Wall of the

¹ Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) (2018). Summary for policymakers of the regional assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services for Africa of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. E. Archer, and others (eds.). Bonn, Germany: IPBES secretariat.

Sahara and the Sahel; the Initiative on Sustainability, Stability and Security (3S); and the TerrAfrica process, a multi-partner programme aiming at scaling up sustainable land management best practices, coordinated by the African Union Development Agency–New Partnership for Africa’s Development. The African Union has adopted the Strategy on Combating Illegal Exploitation and Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna and Flora in Africa. The Gaborone Declaration on Sustainability in Africa aims to ensure that the contributions of natural capital to sustainable economic growth, maintenance and improvement of social capital and human well-being are quantified and integrated into development and business practice.

D. Life below water

26. The continent of Africa is surrounded by oceanic expanses (Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean) and by two semi-enclosed seas (the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea), with a coastline of over 47,000 km.

27. The territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zones under the jurisdiction of African coastal and island States (39 countries) are very extensive, measuring some 13 million km².

28. These very extensive marine spaces constitute an area for international trading activities (more than 90 per cent of African trade is transported by sea) and also form an extraordinary reservoir of fishery resources needed to feed the population, as well as mineral and energy resources of use for every kind of industrial and economic activity.

29. According to studies by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and ECA, sea fish and freshwater fish make a vital contribution to food and nutritional security for over 200 million Africans, while providing a source of income for more than 10 million.

30. In terms of mineral resources, the Gulf of Guinea alone accounts for nearly 50 per cent of the African continent’s oil and gas production – a tenth of the world’s total. It is estimated that the oil reserves in this area could be as much as 24 billion barrels.

31. Despite the enormous potential of Africa’s ocean resources, the Africa Sustainable Development Goal Index and Dashboard 2019 shows that most African countries are stagnating in their progress towards attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 15, although a few countries – such as Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Namibia and Seychelles, among others – are making good progress.

32. However, the continent has developed and implemented key frameworks that, if properly implemented, could significantly enhance progress on the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal 14 targets. For example:

(a) The African Union Commission elaborated and adopted in 2009 the African Mining Vision, focusing on the need for sustainable exploitation of the mineral resources (onshore and offshore) in the interest of the protection of the ecosystems, the fight against poverty and the socioeconomic development of the African population.

(b) The African Union Commission also elaborated and in 2014 adopted the African Integrated Maritime Strategy for the Seas and Oceans Horizon 2050 (known as the 2050 AIM Strategy), promoting the blue economy and incorporating the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Sustainable Development Goal 14, as part of the key goals to be reached at the continental level. It also provides advisory services and technical assistance to Member States on the policy methods and best ways to achieve their blue economy strategies, and showing, inter alia, the links between the blue economy and the

achievement of the different Sustainable Development Goals (including Goal 14).

(c) The African Union Commission also adopted in October 2016 the Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (the Lomé Charter).

E. Responsible consumption and production

33. The Africa Sustainable Development Goal Index and Dashboard of 2019 shows that most African countries are making important progress on Sustainable Development Goal 12 on responsible consumption and production. A particular headway worth noting in this regard is the rolling out of the global 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns, which was approved by the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment in 2005.

34. Still, Sustainable Development Goal 12 remains generally underresourced and lacking in bold actions expected on the continent.

35. Overall, gross national expenditure in research and development, which is an important source of technologies, including green technologies, remains far below the 1 per cent GDP target that has been recommended by African Heads of State. The proportions of such expenditure devoted to green technologies are generally too marginal.

36. There is thus an urgent need to scale-up investments from public and private sectors to accelerate development of green technologies and related deployment in such economic areas as agriculture and land, water and resource-based manufacturing, to speed up countries' actions on cleaner production and consumption plans, and many other Sustainable Development Goals having strong interlinkage with Sustainable Development Goal 12. There is also a need to boost South–South and North cooperation to resolve shortcomings in such green technologies.

37. Many countries have increased efforts to reduce generation, and promote environmentally sound management of, hazardous waste. Countries have improved delivery on the restriction of transboundary movement of the waste pursuant to the relevant principles of environmental management and regulation. Nevertheless, significant effort is needed to improve scientific and managerial capacity to effectively monitor, evaluate and tackle the ecological toxicity of waste and other materials within jurisdictions and, particularly, accelerate implementation of the Bamako Convention on the Ban of the Import into Africa and the Control of Transboundary Movement and Management of Hazardous Wastes within Africa.

III. Gaps, constraints and emerging issues

38. The main gaps and constraints to protecting the planet from degradation through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing natural resources, and taking urgent action on climate change so that the planet can sustain the needs of present and future generations remain (a) the chronic lack of effective and adequate lack of means of implementation – finance, technology and capacity development; (b) a lack of reliable data to measure and track progress, including lack of clear methodologies, monitoring networks and data management; and (c) poor governance, weak institutions and lack of institutional arrangements for integrated implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

39. For the specific case of climate change, another key constraint is the lukewarm global effort to step up ambition. The 2019 Emissions Gap Report by the United Nations Environment Programme shows that the reported global rise in greenhouse gas emissions now shows signs of peaking. Without stepped-up global action on climate change, the temperature goal of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change will not be met, and Africa's development gains and objectives will be seriously at risk. There is thus urgent need for ambitious and enhanced action in all the provisions of the Paris Agreement to address the climate emergency and the most desirable paradigm shift towards low-emission and climate-resilient development.

40. There are serious inconsistencies and lack of coherence in the NDCs of many African countries, particularly in some key development sectors, such as water, energy and food. With the need for parties of the Paris Agreement to submit new or revised NDCs in 2020, there is urgency to support African countries in this process.

41. Cross-sectoral approaches are crucial to policy development in promoting joint implementation of both the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, and in harnessing the interlinkage between Sustainable Development Goal 13 and other Sustainable Development Goals, in speeding up implementation in generating direct benefits and co-benefits.

42. On life on land, a continuing challenge is that countries are not making enough effort to incorporate sustainable land, forest and biodiversity management in national and sectoral development and financing frameworks. Countries also have not adequately embraced multidisciplinary, holistic and landscape approaches to development. With multilevel and multisectoral land, forests and biodiversity, siloed and fragmented approaches impede their sustainable use and management. For example, African countries can only decouple urbanization from land and ecosystem degradation by adopting integrated land use planning to accommodate and foster nature-based solutions to social, cultural and economic challenges in urban and peri-urban areas.

43. On life under water, there is on the one hand a continuous deterioration of coastal waters owing to pollution (for example, hazardous and noxious substances or plastic waste) and on the other hand ocean acidification, which has an adversarial effect on the functioning of ecosystems and biodiversity. Yet, countries are not taking enough measures to tackle marine pollution with huge impacts on, for example, the development of fishery activities throughout the continent.

IV. Stepping up the pace and scale of implementation: opportunities for accelerated actions and transformative pathways

44. There is a global push for efficient use of natural resources in ways that conserve and protect the planet. A case in point is the global drive to phase out fossil fuel resources. This poses serious development challenges for African countries, which have contributed the least to climate change but now feel constrained to use hydrocarbon resources to address serious development challenges and deficits, thus rendering those assets and any investments therein stranded.

45. However, the 2018 report of the New Climate Economy on "Unlocking the Inclusive Growth Story of the 21st Century" shows that these challenges also present a tremendous opportunity where stepped-up action globally on climate change could deliver \$ 26 trillion in economic benefits by 2030, as well as delivering more jobs, health benefits through reduced air pollution, and better opportunities for women and youth.

46. With regard to life on land, huge opportunities for scaling up sustainable management and use of land, forest and biodiversity lie in engaging and strengthening the capacity of subnational governments and local communities, and in fostering investments in rural areas that involve small-scale producers – particularly women, youth and indigenous populations – and supporting their transition to more sustainable practices.

47. Also, tools for mainstreaming natural capital into strategic regional, subregional and national development frameworks need to be strengthened and implemented. Priority areas for integration of nature include development and financing frameworks for agricultural transformation, expansion of trade, industrial and urban development and expansion of infrastructure, including for energy, water and transport.

48. The Convention on Biological Diversity plays a crucial role in mobilizing and channelling concerted and global efforts to ensure sustainable use, conservation and management of ecosystems. It is therefore very important that the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), to be held in Beijing in 2020, be characterized by renewed commitment, and agreement on ambitious goals and targets.

49. Finally, integrated approaches and strengthened partnerships have the potential to leverage funding and other support – including financing, technologies and capacity development – for sustainable management and use of forests, land and biodiversity. Countries therefore need to strengthen integrated planning and mobilization of financing for the three Rio Conventions.

50. In terms of life under water, a stronger and more effective implementation of the African Mining Vision in the coastal Member States to sustainably enhance the exploitation of their marine and deep-sea mineral resources in the interest of their population and ecosystems would lead to more transformative outcomes for the Sustainable Development Goals.

51. Transformative actions to tap Africa's marine resources could be attained by enhancing the fight against the illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, including through the establishment of a global vessel database and tracking system; initiatives by African Governments to strengthen cooperation to effectively monitor illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in African waters; and developing harmonized and enforceable sanctions regimes.

52. There is a need to more rigorously implement the International Maritime Organization conventions about the fight against marine pollution, as well as the African special policies and provisions concerning the fight against piracy and criminal activities at sea.