



# Outcomes of the Special Session of the Regional Coordination Mechanism for Africa

United Nations- African Union Partnership in the implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda

ARFSD-6, Victoria Falls,  
27 February 2020



# Outline

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- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Key messages**
- 3. Recommendations**
- 4. Conclusion**



# Introduction

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- The meeting was co-chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina J. Mohammed, and the Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission, H.E. Ambassador Kwesi Quartey
- Main objectives:
  - To deliberate on accelerating the achievement of the SDGs and the Agenda 2063 goals in the context of the Decade of Action.
  - To provide a platform for rich exchanges on the African Union theme for 2020: *“Silencing the guns: creating conducive conditions for Africa’s development”*.



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# Introduction

## Main sessions

- Dialogue between the African Union and the United Nations on leveraging the decade of action in realizing the SDGs and implementing Agenda 2063
- Plenary session on the African Union theme for the year 2020 and the Sustainable Development Goals gateway
- Joint RCM-Africa-ARFSD-6 parallel special session on African youth engagement for the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development on the theme: UN@75 - The future is now



## **Key messages**

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- **Advancing the integrated implementation of Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is at the core of the work of RCM-Africa and shows the significance of the African Union as a strategic partner of the UN;**
- **At the subregional level, the SRCMs work with the RECs within the framework of the two Agendas taking into account the subregional specificities;**
- **Despite the tremendous work done and the productive relationship between the UN and the AU and its building blocks- the Regional Economic Communities, Africa is not on track to achieve the SDGs by 2030, and the goals of Agenda 2063;**



## **Key messages...**

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- **A coherent and coordinated implementation of the various AU-UN frameworks will contribute to accelerating the realization of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 goals, while addressing the development, peace and security and human rights nexus;**
- **The AU theme of the year 2020 “Silencing the Guns” calls for the mobilization of AU and UN entities around the continent’s peace and security agenda in a coherent fashion;**
- **The AU and UN reforms provide ample opportunities for strengthening the partnership between the two entities from regional, subregional to national levels.**



# Recommendations - Silencing the guns

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- **Strengthen partnership between the AU and UN in line with relevant resolutions, in particular UNSCR 2457 (2019), and in that regard, establish AU-UN teams to coordinate joint initiatives.**
- **RCs/UNCTs to support AU Member States and other stakeholders to develop and implement country-level strategies on silencing the guns, including supporting national structures to mainstream inclusive approaches for silencing the guns.**
- **UN to support the strengthening of capacities of the AU blue-print mechanisms for the promotion of peaceful societies, like the African Governance Architecture (AGA), the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA).**
- **National initiatives on conflict prevention should be mainstreamed into national development planning processes from macro to sectoral and different levels of Government. In that regard, they called for support for timely mediation of potential violent conflicts situations, right from the village, community, city to the national levels.**
- **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) reporting processes should integrate conflicts and peace and security issues as a way of addressing the peace-security- human rights and development nexus;**

- **Recognizing the increasing linkage between climate change and conflict, there is a need to mainstream the environment, natural resources and climate change challenges into peace and security initiatives;**
- **Leverage refugee-development nexus in view the former's potential and actual contribution to local economies;**
- **Strengthen cooperation in information sharing aimed at combating, among others, human, drugs and arms trafficking, terrorism and violent extremism, including whistle blowing. Implementate the African Union Peace and Security Council decision on naming and shaming.**
- **Prioritize combating terrorism and terrorist groups, these being a major source and factor for irregular migration, including by ensuring timely sharing of intelligence pertaining to terrorism and violent extremism.**
- **Encourage the international community to support adherence to the implementation of international instruments that prohibit the transfer of weapons into the hands of illegal end users, such as the Arms Trade Treaty, as a complimentary to the silencing the guns project.**



## **Recommendations- leveraging the Decade**

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- **Translate the AU-UN frameworks into action in order to make a difference in people's lives at regional and country levels in realising the goals of Agenda 2063 and 2030;**
- **Consult and engage AU at the design stage of initiatives to ensure that AU is in the driving seat and facilitate the involvement of Member States at the implementation stage;**
- **Ensure regional, sub-regional and country level interface in the new evolving collaborative framework between the AU and the UN at the regional level and actively engage Member States, Resident Coordinators and UNCTs in the new cooperation architecture;**
- **The IPRT provides a good framework to integrate the SDGs, Agenda 2063 and National Development Plans, which should be rolled-out at country level.**



## **Recommendations- Youth forum**

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- **Youth agency is important in development processes and as such, voice, power and participation must be accorded to young people;**
- **There should be inclusive youth policy processes;**
- **To harness the youth demographic dividend, there is need for significant investment in the youth, particularly in relation to innovation, technology, and skills development;**
- **More efforts should be made to involve Africa's young people from the design stage of development, peace and security policies and solutions;**

- **Poverty eradication strategies should be targeted at young people;**
- **There should be conscious efforts to promote the interests of young girls and their education and skills development in ensuring gender equality;**
- **Expanded access to quality and inclusive education for persons with disabilities; national-level budgeting to address the practical needs and strategic interests of persons with disabilities**



# Conclusion

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## Going forward:

- **The on-going reforms at the AU and UN provide an opportunity to recalibrate their partnership for effective delivery on Agenda 2063 and 2030 Agenda;**
- **The “decade of action” provides a basis for intensified efforts and commitment by the AU, UN and other stakeholders in realising Africa’s transformation through the SDGs and Agenda 2063;**
- **There is need for better involvement of the African Union and African actors in UN processes;**

- **There is need for sustained AU-UN engagement on the issue of “silencing the gun” in Africa, as durable peace is the bedrock of sustainable development;**
- **Youth agency should be given space and priority in realising Agenda 2063 and 2030;**
- **There is need to raise the ambition with a view to making collaboration work better among UN entities and with the AU**



# Thank you

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